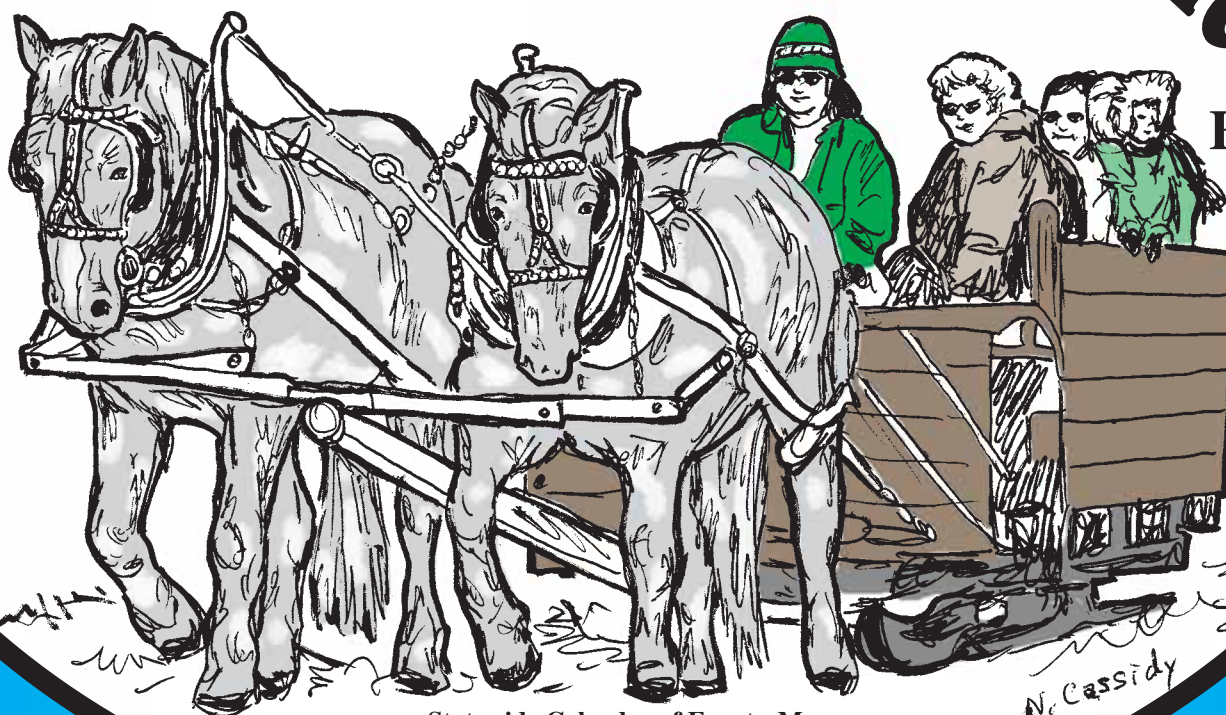


Vermont Country Sampler

January 2014

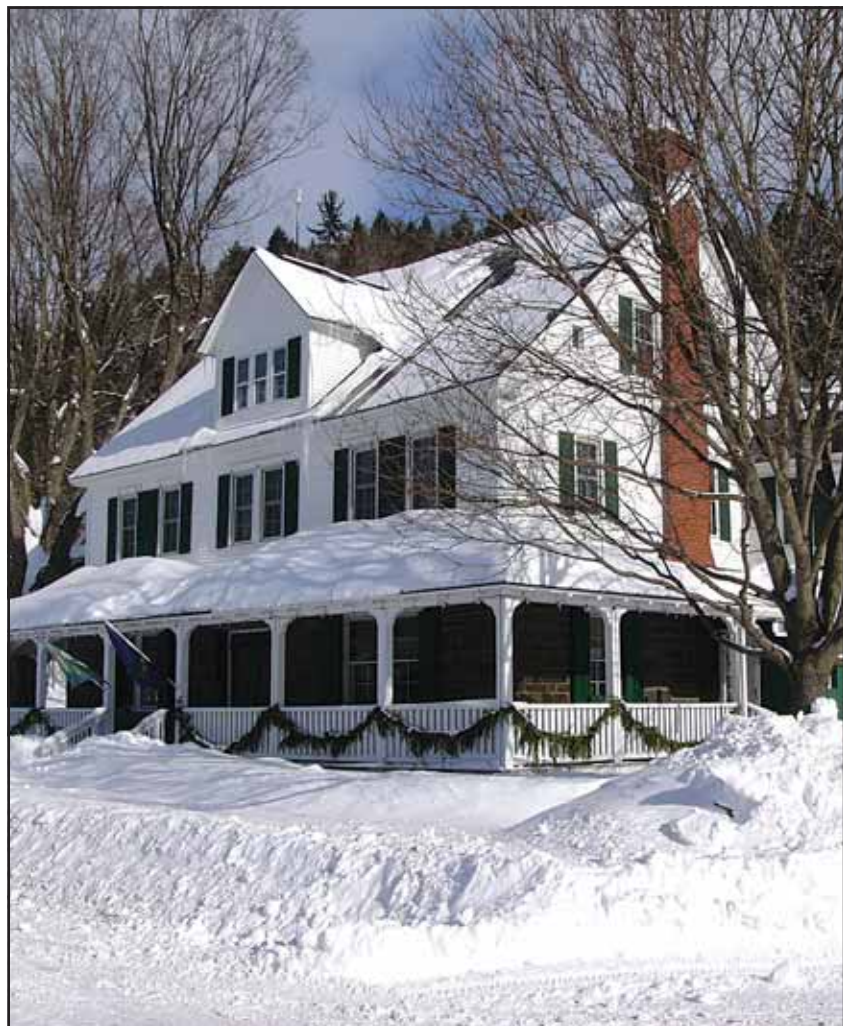
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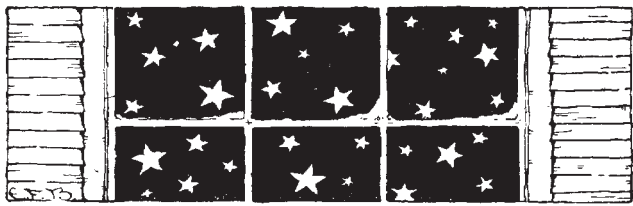
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Dividing Winter

by Bill Felker

My windows look out onto a new geometry of bare locust, hackberry, mulberry and walnut branches. The houses next to me intrude again, the hermitage barrier of forsythia and honeysuckles thinned. The sounds of the cars (and the sounds of time between the cars) become clear, unfiltered by foliage.

When I go out to walk Bella, my border collie, in the middle of the morning, I find bittersweet fruit fallen to the sidewalk. When I look at its vine tangled above me in the maple, all the red berries appear inside their spreading hulls.

In the woods, garlic mustard has grown beneath the crust of ice, its leaves still bright. Sleek skunk cabbage protrudes, speckled purple,

all over the swamp, some plants even opening just a little: dark eyes of March peering out at me.

At home I haven't raked the grass; green glows through, widens as the leaves decay; then everything is covered with the snow. The gray fruit of the New England asters cedes to finches. The phlox plants are already empty, pointed, lanky sepals curling.

I am already counting days to spring, attempting to shrink the time ahead. A divided, finite winter is already in my hand.

Soon it will seem too short for retreat and recollection, the hibernation not long enough. Grieving for summer and autumn comes apart in the cold. I look for what is promised instead of what is gone.



Armand Aromin performs at the Northern Roots Festival in Brattleboro, VT on January 25, 2014.

Brattleboro, VT

Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival

Southeastern Vermont's Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival will take place on Saturday, January 25, 2014 in Brattleboro, VT.

Now in its 7th year, the Brattleboro Music Center's annual festival brings together local and regional musicians representing the best of various northern musical traditions. This year's festival features over twenty musicians and the rich traditions of Ireland, Scotland, England, New England and French Canada.

The Northern Roots Festival is a day-long event featuring workshops, performances, pub sessions, a dance band, and a family dance, all of which culminate in an evening performance honoring the best of the northern musical traditions.

It is a celebrated opportunity for Brattleboro's vibrant community of traditional musicians to come together to share their music with each other and the community at large. The festival also draws on talent in the broader region, with players from throughout New England coming to perform, teach and participate in informal sessions.

A stellar line-up of celebrated musicians

Among the musicians featured in this year's evening performance and daytime workshops are Irish fiddler Armand Aromin from Rhode Island; the Maine based, fun-loving, folk singing, banjo playing Gawler Family; Irish flute and whistle player Dan Restivo; Scandinavian and English Country Dance fiddle and nyckelharpa player Lydia Levins; Swedish fiddler Andrea Larson; traditional English folk singer Tony Barrand; French Canadian guitar, mandolin, piano and foot percussionist Keith Murphy; folk singer Megan MacArthur; Douglas Cox, violin maker; and local Vermont musicians Carol Compton, Doug Creighton, Andy Davis, Louisa Engle and Lissa Schneckeburger.

Also returning for this year's evening performance is the ever-changing, crowd-pleasing Traddleboro ensemble. With a name reflecting the rich presence of traditional players in Brattleboro, Traddleboro is a shifting conglomeration of local musicians who each year create and perform a set of music specifically for the Northern Roots Festival. This year's Traddleboro ensemble includes fiddlers Randy Miller and Becky Tracy, with guitarist Roger Kahle.

Workshops in instrument, song and dance

The daytime schedule includes several participation workshops including French Canadian Fiddle, Irish Fiddle Ornamentation, Irish Flute Workshop, Approach to Fiddle Practicing, Accompanying Maine Fiddle Tunes; Accompanying Irish Tunes on Guitar, Harmony Singing; and for all instruments Irish Polka, and Scandinavian Tune workshops; as well as a Dance Band Prep workshop.

Daytime performances include Harmony Singing, and Matching Fiddles with Players.

The Gawler Family will present a Family Concert that promises to engage the youngest followers of traditional music and their counterparts of all ages. The Family Concert will be followed by a Family Dance featuring an exciting dance band that will evolve in a workshop earlier in the afternoon.

Since its inception the Northern Roots Festival has provided vehicles for engaging youth. This year's festival continues to showcase youth talent with a daytime performance.

Welcoming all musicians, and rounding out the daytime activities are a slow jam, Irish and French Canadian sessions, and a pub sing.

Terrific venues

The majority of the festival events happen at the New England Youth Theatre, a state-of-the-art downtown venue, with multiple teaching sessions occurring simultaneously throughout the building along with performances in the main theater and a family dance on the stage. McNeill's Brewery, only a couple of blocks away from NEYT, provides the perfect setting for a rollicking afternoon of jam sessions.

Tickets for the Northern Roots Festival (combination day & evening \$35, daytime only \$20, evening only \$20; youth combination day & evening \$15, youth day only \$10, youth evening only \$10) are available from the Brattleboro Music Center (www.bmct.org, 802-257-4523). Advance ticket purchase is recommended; seating for the evening performance is limited. Admission at 3 p.m., for the Family Concert and Family Dance only, is \$5 per person at the door.

On Saturday, during the festival, tickets can be purchased at New England Youth Theatre, 100 Flat St. in Brattleboro, VT, with doors opening at 11:30 a.m.

For directions and the complete festival schedule of events visit the Brattleboro Music Center website at www.bmct.org or call (802) 257-4523.



Vermont Country Sampler

January 2014, Vol. XXX

The Vermont Country Sampler is distributed free over-the-counter in and out of Vermont. Back issues, \$2 per issue, first class. Subscriptions \$24/year.

Calendar of Events published free of charge. Mail or e-mail your information to us by the 15th of the preceding month.

Charles Sutton, Publisher

Vermont Country Sampler

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Skiing in Vermont—a favorite winter pastime, whether downhill or Nordic. Here skiers are enjoying the glades in Bolton Valley.

Vermont's Top Winter Events

As you create your own path to Vermont, consider making some of Vermont's legendary events part of the festivities. Here are some of the best. This year's Top Vermont Chamber Events feature time-honored traditions as well as contemporary experiences.

Stowe Winter Carnival

Stowe, VT • January 18 – February 2, 2014

Chill out with ice carving demonstrations and competitions, or jump into ski races, snow golf and snow volleyball, as a spectator or a challenger. Young smiles abound at the zany Kids Carnival Kaos; the evening brings Carnival "melt-down" parties for adults. More than 15 competitive sporting events dominate the snowscape as Stowe comes together to ride, glide, and putt the winter away. Free to the public; participant entry fee for sporting events. www.stowewintercarnival.com, (802) 777-5510.

Special Olympics Vermont Penguin Plunge

Newport, VT • February 16, 2014, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Do you have 32 degrees of courage and a whacky costume to boot? Thousands of brave souls don their February best and jump into icy Vermont lakes to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Vermont, providing year-round sports training and athletic competition to children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Other plunges occur earlier in the month in North Bennington (Feb. 1) and Burlington (Feb. 8). Participant registration fee \$25 with additional fundraising minimums, www.penguinplunge.org, (802) 863-5222.

Chester Winter Carnival

Chester, VT • February 15-16, 2014

The town of Chester opens its heart in mid February. True community spirit in classic Vermont plays out with sled races, dog sled rides, outdoor skating, broom hockey, and more. A biathlon sled race and laser shooting match is followed by a bonfire to light up Saturday, and Sunday's highlight is the snowmobile club poker run and a broom hockey tournament. Free. www.yourplaceinvermont.com, (802) 875-2693.

18th Annual Magic Hat Mardi Gras Weekend

Burlington, VT • February 28 – March 1, 2014

Magic Hat's Mardi Gras weekend thaws the icy spirits of the Northeast with a unique celebration that could be dubbed New Orleans North. Friday night, kick up your feet and boogie down at Higher Ground. On Saturday, downtown Burlington turns up the heat with pre-parade musical performances, a costume contest, and family-friendly activities. Join the inspired audience; grab your share of beads, MoonPies, and Lake Champlain Chocolates as the parade kicks off with dozens of floats in grand style. Enjoy live and local music on the Church Street Stage after the parade. www.magicchat.net, (802) 658-BREW.

Vermont Chili Festival

Middlebury, VT • March 8, 2014, 1:30-8 p.m.

Warm up with the 6th Annual Vermont Chili Festival. Taste the best of the best from over 50 restaurants and caterers around the state, flocking to historic downtown Middlebury. Check out this beautiful downtown, home of Middlebury College, and cast your vote for the award-winning chilis!

The event includes entertainment for all ages, face painting, street performers, live music and a beverage tent with local cider and brews. Admission \$5, www.vtchilifest.com, 802-388-4126.

24 Hours of Stratton

Stratton Mountain, VT • March 15-16, 2014

Noon to Noon

The chair lifts run through the night with hundreds of skiers and riders passing the bib to teammates as they rack up runs in an event with a heart for the Stratton Foundation, helping families and supporting programs providing food, housing, and heat. In 2013 participants tallied six million vertical feet and raised \$172,000. Live music, games, a midnight NAS-TAR race and more, building to a noon finish line frenzy on Sunday. www.stratton.com, 1-800-STRATTON.



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Terrific Classical Concerts Slated for January

Pianist Jonathan Biss:
Brahms, Chopin, Beethoven
Friday, January 10, 7:30 pm

Brattleboro Music Center Chamber Music Series
 Centre Congregational Church,
 193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT

American pianist Jonathan Biss is widely regarded for his artistry, musical intelligence and deeply felt interpretations, winning international recognition for his orchestral, recital, and chamber music performances and for his award-winning recordings. Biss made his New York Philharmonic debut in 2001, and since then has appeared with the foremost orchestras of North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Tickets: \$30, \$20, \$10.

Brattleboro Concert Choir:
"Ecstatic Visions"

Saturday, January 11, 7:30 pm
Sunday, January 12, 3 pm

First Baptist Church, 190 Main St., Brattleboro, VT

Susan Dedell, Director, will lead the Brattleboro Concert Choir in a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Richard Blackford's *Mirror of Perfection*. Britten sets the ecstatic poetry of Christopher Smart (1722-1771) in the festival cantata *Rejoice in the Lamb*. Richard Blackford's *Mirror of Perfection* captures the passion and compassion in the little-known poetry of St. Francis of Assisi and builds a powerful cantata of lavish beauty, clothed in a radiance of strings, harp, and horns. Tickets are \$15, \$8 students.

Windham Orchestra:
Bruckner & Sibelius

Friday, January 17, 7:30 pm

Vermont Academy, Saxtons River, VT

Sunday, January 19, 3 pm

Latchis Theatre, Brattleboro, VT

Hugh Keelan directs the Windham Orchestra in performances of local citizen composer Jan Norris' *Melting Spring*; Sibelius' *The Swan of Tuonela* featuring James Adams, English Horn; Bruckner's Symphony No. 4, *Romantic*; and von Suppé's Overture *Light Cavalry*. *Melting Spring* by local citizen composer Jan Norris (from Delectable Mountain on Main Street in Brattleboro) is very comfortable in a program with Bruckner and Sibelius. Name Your Ticket Price: \$5 to \$65.

Purchase tickets at the Brattleboro Music Center at (802) 257-4523, or visit bmcvt.org. The Brattleboro Music Center is located at 38 Walnut St. in Brattleboro, VT. For more information call (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org. On Facebook.



Jonathan Biss will be performing in Brattleboro on January 10.

Food Security Collaborative Hosts Winter Workshop Series

The Food Security Collaborative (formerly the Greater Falls Community Garden Collaborative) is pleased to announce its Winter 2014 series of workshops designed to help participants become more local food sufficient.

All workshops are free (except those where a modest materials fee is required). Because space is limited, pre-registration is required: call Tim Stevenson, (802) 869-2141.

The series will begin with a Cooking and Freezing Local Food workshop on Sunday, January 12, 1 p.m. at the Immanuel Episcopal Church in Bellows Falls. Featuring carrots and broccoli, Westminster farmer, Rachel Ware, will demonstrate to attendees how to first freeze vegetables from blanching through the freezing process, then to take the blanched vegetables and add them to three different recipes, and finally the best packaging and reheating techniques for the three different prepared meals.

Community herbalist and educator, as well as founder of Earth Angel Herbs, Rebecca Golden, will lead a workshop on Local Herbal Remedies, Sunday, January 26, 1 p.m.,

United Church of Bellows Falls This hands-on workshop will feature making elderberry syrup for participants to take home with them, as well as a discussion (and tasting) of other easy to grow and harvest herbs. There is a \$5 materials fee for this workshop.

On Sunday, March 23, Lisa Holderness will offer Part I of a two-part workshop on Extending the Season. The first one will be held at the United Church of Bellows Falls, 1 p.m., and will include a slide discussion, handouts and a hands-on demonstration of a mini-hoop and her very low-tech seeding and lighting system. Lisa will share important concepts of solar growing and hoop house design.

For those who are ready for the next step, Lisa is offering Part II, Sunday, April 6, 1 p.m., at her Deer Ridge Farm, where people can bend their own pipes and cut plastic, see small and large house set-ups, and get deeper into season extension/greenhouse principals for energy efficiency. There will be a materials fee for Part II.

Finally, Rachel Ware will return with a Small Scale Self-Sufficiency workshop at her AlpineGlo Farm in Westminster, on Sunday, April 27, 1 p.m. Her focus will be on gardening and raising chickens for both eggs and meat. Again, this workshop is free.

The Food Security Collaborative is a project of Post Oil Solutions and is active in the communities of Rockingham, Bellows Falls, Westminster, Saxtons River, Cambridgeport, Grafton, and Athens. Its mission is to achieve greater food security through the development of a garden-based local food system resulting in enhanced civic pride, a stronger local economy, and a more sustainable environment.

For more information call Tim Stevenson at (802) 869-2141. Visit www.postoilsolutions.org.

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Stories from a Century Past

A Day with the Teamsters

by Norman C. Tice, 1917

There is a creak of sleds and a jangle of bells as the logging teams swing round the bend in the road on a frosty January morning. The horses are white with their congealed breath and the men are hoary bearded as if the hand of Time had left its blighting mark upon them.

The sleds come creaking onward down the hill across the Flat and pause near the ice bound bridge that arches the meadow brook. The singing stream is uncovered and gurgles cheerfully along between the high banks of crusted snow. The teamsters lower the bucket repeatedly until the thirst of the horses is quenched.

The men stamp their feet and clap their hands together for warmth and make remarks concerning the weather. Then lighting their pipes they jump upon the passing sleds and are away to the mountains.

There are lights gleaming from the darkened kitchens where the house wives are preparing the early breakfast for the family and the sounds from the awakened stock and poultry in the barns echo upon the crisp morning air.

“The sun appears as the horses slowly and patiently ascend the rising slopes of the foothills.”

The jangle of bells fades away as the teams reach the woodroad that leads from the main highway to the lumber lot. On either side of the woodroad are low spruces heavily covered with their loads of frosty snow and bent into graceful arches. The alders beside the silent stream snap in their icy coat and draperies of frost like lace hang pendulous from their slender branches. A few snow birds and chickadees are present with their incessant chirpings and a downy woodpecker taps energetically upon a decayed stub.

The sun appears as the horses slowly and patiently ascend the rising slopes of the foot hills. The trees glitter in their icy coverings and the wraith like lace that draped the alders vanishes beneath the gaze of the winter sun. By noon the lumber lot and the snow covered camp is reached.

The horses are blanketed and the feed bags are adjusted. The men build a roaring brush wood fire and eat their dinners in its cheerful blaze. They warm their coffee upon the coals and as they drink it from tin cups relate reminiscences of past lumbering seasons. Unusual amount of skid ways, champion loads of logs, narrow escapes to both driver and horses are related enlarged and believed or doubted by the men.

When the repast is over two men shovel out a skidway which was deeply covered with snow. They throw the icy cakes in huge cubes to the right and to the left until the ends of the logs are exposed. Then the cant hooks are clashing amid the shouted directions of the skidway boss and passing feats of strength and endurance are exhibited. As the logs come rolling down the incline the heavy mantle of crusty snow topples over and is ground into powder by the passing of the ice covered trunks. At last the sleds are all loaded with huge pyramidal piles of logs, the chains are adjusted, and the binder firmly fixed. Then the teamsters turn their horses homeward.



Belgian draft horses pulling a sled full of visitors at Taylor Farm in Londonderry, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

The short day is already fading and a frosty chill is settling down upon the mountainside. Cling clang ring the bells as the teams wind down the wood road toward the valley. The stars appear as the foothills are reached and lights again twinkle in the windows of the farmhouses.

A sleigh containing a merry party of boys and girls waits by the roadside until the long line of logging teams has passed, then they continue their journey amid the jingle of bells and the merry laughs of the young people.

The sled brakes creak in the crusty snow as the loaded sleds strive for headway down the hills. At length the bank of the lake is reached. The sleds are unloaded. The logs bound over the icy banks and with a hollow boom strike the ice. The echo dies away in the frosty evening air. The last sled is unloaded and the tinkle of the bells fades away as each teamster hurries homeward toward the ruddy light streaming from the windows in a welcome glow.

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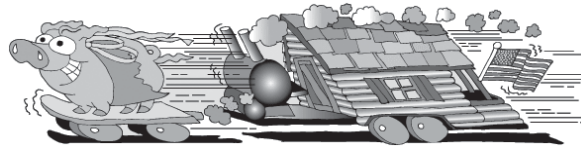
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A Vermont Almanack for Deep Winter

by Bill Felker

If we are to live in the present, being truly alive, then everything recedes except these simple things that we observe, these particular movements that we make, a walk in the garden, the watching of birds.

—Robert Orwell, O.S.B

The Phases of the Tufted Titmouse Moon And the Snowdrop Moon

After the tufted titmouse sings through January, then cardinals and doves join in, all that chorus leading to the first snowdrops pushing up beneath the snow. *January 1:* The Tufted Titmouse Moon is new at 5:14 a.m. *January 7:* The moon enters second quarter at 10:39 p.m. *January 15:* The moon is full at 11:52 p.m. *January 24:* The moon enters its final quarter at 12:19 a.m. *January 30:* The Snowdrop Moon is new at 4:39 p.m.

The Sun

In 2014, solar perigee (the Earth's position closest to the sun) occurs on January 4 at 12:00 p.m. The sun enters its sign of Aquarius on the 20th, ushering in the last subseason of winter (aptly called "Late Winter").

The Planets

Venus is the evening star for a week after New Year's Eve. By the 8th of the month, it drops below the western horizon and reappears in the east as the huge morning star in January's third week. Trading places with Venus, Jupiter is the morning star until January 5, disappears from the predawn sky on that date, only to return in the evening sky. Look for Mars rising in Virgo after midnight. Saturn will follow the Red Planet in Libra.

The Stars

Now, with Orion in the center of the southern sky at 10:00 p.m., the nights are some of the most glorious of the year. The Milky Way stretches from the northwest, through Perseus, between Gemini and Orion, and down into the southeast. In the far east, the spring planting star, Regulus, is rising, and in the northeast, the pointers of the Big Dipper are aligned east-west. In the west, autumn's Great Square is setting.

The Shooting Stars

Look for the Quadrantid Meteors in the northeast after midnight on the 1st through the 5th. On the 3rd and 4th, you might see up to 40 shooting stars in an hour.

Peak Activity Times for Livestock, Fish, Game and Dieters

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are more active as the barometer is falling one to three days before the weather systems that arrive near January 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 25, 31. Fishing and hunting may be most rewarding and dieting could be most frustrating near these dates at midday when the moon is new, in the afternoon and evening when the moon is in its first quarter, at night when the moon is full and in its third quarter, in the morning when the moon is in its fourth quarter.

Weather Trends

The season of Deep Winter begins January 1. This season has six to seven significant cold waves, and it lasts from New Year's Day through around the 25th of January. Average temperatures in this season are the lowest of the year everywhere in North America. If strong storms occur this month, weather patterns suggest that they will happen during the following periods: January 1-2, 8-12, and 19-24 (the transition time to Late Winter). New moon on January 1 and full moon on January 15 are likely to intensify the weather systems due around those dates. The coldest January days usually fall between the 7th and the 10th, as well as between the 15th and the 18th.



A stream winds through the winter woods in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Seasons of January

by Bill Felker

The Week That Deep Winter Arrives

The texture of the deep winter is visible in the tone of the weather and the state of wildflower foliage. It is gauged by milestones of birdsong and opossum sightings, and by the steady shifting of the sun. The motions are slow and easily measured. This is a simple place to begin to know the year.

January scatters the last of the wildflowers, or it feeds them to the sparrows and downy woodpeckers. Milkweed pods are empty now. Almost all the goldenrod and aster seeds are gone. Only a few wingstem and ironweed kernels still hang to their stalks.

During the warmer Northern winters and across the South, fresh foliage of columbine, dandelion, garlic mustard, sedum, wild onion, ground ivy, leafcup and celandine appears in sheltered areas. Skunk cabbage, dock and ragwort can be growing in the swamps. Watercress is bright green in the streams. New mint grows back under the protection of a southern wall.

In the pastures, spring thistles, sweet rockets, and great mullein add basil leaves when the weather is temperate. Parsley and kale could be holding out in the garden. Three inches below the mulch, blanched daffodils are pushing up.

The Week Foxes Mate

As the sun starts to rise a little earlier, mating time approaches for foxes. Watch for them playing and courting in the fields. Owls have established their territories, and the earliest ones are nesting. Sometimes hyacinths are up an inch or so in yards throughout the Border States, and sometimes crocus foliage and day lily spears are three inches tall. Forsythia and clematis can show a leaf or two.

Even snowdrops can be out of the ground when the sun starts to rise earlier. Moss lengthens a fraction of an inch in each thaw. There can be fresh poppy leaves in the garden, new pyrethrums and wrinkled lemon verbena. Pine trees pollinate, and henbit can bloom any time an afternoon gets into the 50s. A few pussy willow catkins open slightly in the thaws. Moss lengthens just a fraction of an inch, and the

buds of motherwort and multiflora roses become longer, some unraveling.

The Week Crows Migrate

When the North lies exactly in the middle of its peak snow period and average temperatures are the lowest of the year, then the advance of spring quickens, and the night starts contracting by two to three minutes each day all the way into June. Crows know all about the expanding daylight. Their migration cycle typically starts at the early edge of the night's retreat. Junco movement begins in mid-January too.

This is also the week opossums and raccoons become more active, and they appear at night along the back roads. Once you sight these small mammals, then you know for sure late winter is on the way. Sometimes a fly will hatch in your automobile or sunroom. Winter-blooming hellebores and Chinese witch hazels blossom as far north as the Great Lakes.

The Week That Cardinals Sing

By the end of January, deep winter moves to its close, and late winter is carried across the Mississippi by the lengthening days and the relentless passage of south winds that always follow each cold spell. By the end of the month, normal averages break their stagnation, edging up a full degree. And at the same time that averages start to climb in Vermont, they come up almost everywhere above the Tropic of Cancer. Local thermometers not only see the progress within their own microclimate, but almost everywhere else, too.

The fourth week of January is also the time of the January Thaw, the brisk pace of winter high pressure systems often growing sluggish and stalling somewhere between the 21st and the 26th, bringing a major warm-up to most of the country. Snowfall is normally the lightest of any other week this month, and a day in the 70s suddenly becomes possible above the Mason-Dixon Line (at least once or twice in a century). A thunderstorm even occurs ten percent of all the years.

Influenced by these massive meteorological changes, cardinals, start mating calls half an hour before dawn. By the end of the month, the first major waves of robins and bluebirds reach the Northeast. And resident crows, sparrows, starlings and blue jays become more active, contributing to a substantial increase in the volume of morning birdsong. The full onslaught of change now starts to ride over the land, momentum building inexorably and mightily, pulling the Northern Hemisphere with the godlike energy of the entire solar system back toward summer.



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Woodstock, VT

Visit Billings Farm On Winter Weekends

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT will be open Saturdays and Sundays in January & February, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage for over a million visitors.

A visit to Billings Farm includes touring the operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities. *A Place in the Land*, the recently remastered Academy Award® nominee film which chronicles the development of the Billings estate, will be shown in the theater.

Warm up with a cup of spiced cider in the visitor center. On weekends in January the Farm & Museum will host the exhibit, "Emancipation and Its Legacies," included with regular admission.

Annual Sleigh Ride Weekend January 18, 19 & 20

Horse-drawn sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, and programs and activities for all ages will be featured at the Billings Farm & Museum's Sleigh Ride Weekend on Saturday, Sunday, & Monday, January 18, 19, and 20 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Climb aboard the horse-drawn sleigh and enjoy a scenic ride through the frosty farm fields. Warm up with a visit to the operating dairy farm and learn more about the Jersey herd and calves, draft horses, oxen, and Southdown sheep. In the Visitor Center, enjoy a cup of hot cider.

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, the 21-minute, award-winning documentary film by Charles Guggenheim Productions, Inc., *Nine From Little Rock*, will be shown on the hour, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the museum's theater each day. Sleigh Ride Weekend admission includes all activities.

Exhibit: Emancipation and Its Legacies

Billings Farm & Museum will host the exhibit, Emancipation and Its Legacies, each Saturday and Sunday in January and Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (Saturday – Monday), 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The exhibit is included with regular admission to the Farm & Museum.

The end of slavery in the United States is a critical turning point in America's constitutional, political, and social history. This small exhibition examines the story of Emancipation from 1850 to 1964, focusing on how the Civil War became an "abolition war"; how the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments transformed the U.S. Constitution, and the continued debate about the legacies of slavery and emancipation. Emancipation and Its Legacies was developed by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Admission to the Emancipation and Its Legacies is included with regular admission to the Farm & Museum, which features the operating dairy farm, orientation exhibit, the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities.

Emancipation and Its Legacies was developed by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in partnership with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to the improvement of history education. The Institute has developed an array of programs for schools, teachers, and students that now operate in all 50 states, including a website that features the more than 60,000 unique historical documents in the Gilder Lehrman Collection.

4th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series

Billings Farm & Museum is hosting fourteen films and documentaries from around the world on the big screen in the museum's theater, with high definition digital projection and Dolby™ surround-sound. Inspired by the surrounding countryside, the Woodstock Vermont Film Series transports viewers to distinctive cultures and destinations that share a strong sense of place. Through the medium of cinematography, we celebrate the diversity and joy of humanity and the powerful influence of place in our lives. All films are open to the public and accessible to people with disabilities. The series runs through April 2014. Two films will be shown in January:

Saturday, January 11: *The Lives of Others*. 3:00 p.m. The film begins in East Berlin in 1984, five years before the fall of the Berlin Wall and ultimately takes us to 1991, in what is now reunited Germany. The film traces the disillusionment of Captain Gerd Wiesler, a highly skilled agent of the Stasi, East Germany's secret police, who carefully and dispa-



photo by Billings Farm & Museum
The Percheron draft horses pull a sled full of visitors around the farm fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

sionately investigates people who are considered a possible threat to the state. In the course of his duties, Wiesler commits the cardinal sin: he lets his job become personal. Subtitled, Rated R. Academy Awards: Best Foreign Language Film; additional 66 wins and 25 nominations.

Saturday, January 25: *The Singing Revolution*. 3:00 p.m. Featuring a special appearance by filmmakers, Jim and Maureen Tusty. After enduring Hitler's brutality, then decades of repressive Soviet dictatorship, the tiny Eastern European nation of Estonia began to declare its independence from Communist rule in the late '80s. Over a five-year period, hundreds of thousands of Estonians repeatedly and systematically gathered in public venues to sing (illegal) patriotic songs, declaring their desire for national independence. Some subtitles.

Ticket prices: Members: Adults 16 & up: \$9 per film. Chil-

dren 3-15: \$5 per film. Non-members: Adults 16 & up: \$11 per film. Children: ages 3-15: \$6 per film. For a complete list of screenings and ticket information visit www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest or call (802) 457-2355.

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

Billings Farm & Museum is open daily, May 1 through October 31, 2014, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends Nov. – Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission: adults \$14.00; 62 & over \$13; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under free. The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. For information (802) 457-2355 or www.billingsfarm.org.

Ski Vermont Helps You Learn to Ski and Snowboard

January is Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month nationwide, and we know that there is no better place to experience the thrill of learning to ski or ride than here in Vermont. We have some of the best instructors in the world, and plenty of terrain for those starting out. Learning to ski and ride month isn't only for those who have never been on snow before. You, too, can learn a new snow sport through Learn to Ski and Snowboard month.

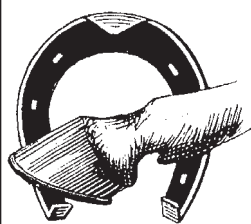
What's the Deal?

Ski Vermont will be offering \$29 lift, lesson and rental in January 2014 for the third year. In the spirit of spreading the love of winter to new enthusiasts, the majority of our member resorts will be participating for the month of January, excluding holiday periods in January. The beginner package includes equipment rental as well as a lesson with a professional instructor (lesson duration varies by resort) and access to the beginner terrain. Due to the deeply discounted price, only one beginner package per person.

Participating Resorts

Bolton Valley, ages 4 and over. Sugarbush Resort, ages 6 and over. Smugglers' Notch Resort, ages 6 and over. Q Burke Mountain Resort, ages 7 and over. Bromley Mountain Resort, ages 8 and over. Mount Snow Resort, ages 13 and over. Stratton Mountain Resort, ages 13 and over. Jay Peak Resort, ages 18 and over. Mad River Glen, ages 19 and over. Okemo Mountain Resort, ages 7 and over. Stowe Mountain Resort. Killington Resort. Pico Mountain.

For more information visit www.skivermont.com/events-and-deals.



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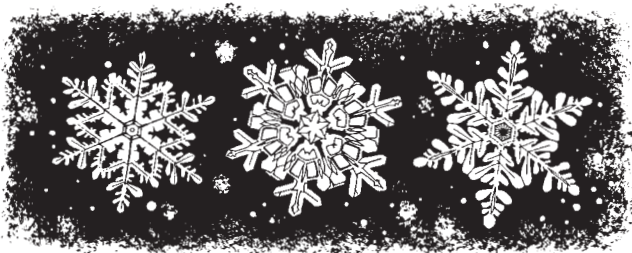
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Manchester, VT

Winter at Hildene

The winter experience at Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, VT begins and ends at the Welcome Center, but what happens in between is an adventure of the visitor's own making.

Guests can walk, ski, or snowshoe (weather permitting) to all venues: from the Welcome Center and The Museum Store to the historic Lincoln family home to the Pullman palace car, Sunbeam and interactive exhibit, "Many Voices" (a site featured on the new Vermont African American Heritage Trail) to the Rowland Agricultural Center at Hildene Farm and along many a beautiful trail.

The story at The Lincoln Family Home focuses on the lives of those who lived there for 70 years, three generations of President and Mrs. Lincoln's direct descendants, starting with the home's builder, presidential son, Robert Lincoln. Robert, president of the Pullman Company, the largest manufacturing corporation in America at the turn of the 20th century, built his ancestral home in Manchester in 1905. He was the only child of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to survive to adulthood. More than 50,000 guests visit the family's 412 acre estate annually.

There is cause for great excitement at Robert and Mary Lincoln's Vermont home this winter. The iconic stovepipe hat that belonged to Robert's famous father is back home at Hildene after being nearly 3,000 miles away in California at The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. The hat, one of only three in existence, had been on loan to the library for the exhibit "A. Lincoln: From Railsplitter to Rushmore." The installation, devoted to Lincoln, featured 250 artifacts including a Lincoln-signed Emancipation Proclamation and 13th Amendment, and sets from Dreamworks' film, "Lincoln".

Hildene Executive Director, Seth Bongartz points out that, "In many ways just as Lincoln belongs to the entire country so does the hat. We were pleased to share it for such a worthy exhibit and recognize that its presence in California helps spread the word about Hildene."

From tracks to trails and guided by its mission, *Values into Action*, Hildene offers the opportunity for adventure and learning. Guests will find the Lincolnesque values of integrity, perseverance and civic responsibility manifested in the venues and programs on the property while enjoying a winter's day in a beautiful place steeped in history and preserved for generations to come.

Hildene is located off Rt. 7A just south of the village of Manchester, VT. Hildene, It is open daily, year round, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call (802) 362-1788. Visit www.hildene.org or find us on Facebook.



Historic Hildene, home to the Lincoln family, at rest under the winter snow in Manchester, VT. photo courtesy of Hildene

The Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club Invites You on a Winter Outing in the Mountains and Beyond

Newcomers and nonmembers alike are welcome to join the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club on its year round outings. There is no charge.

Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Unless otherwise noted, trips leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland, VT. Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

Saturday, January 4, 10 a.m.

Long Trail Hike, Killington, VT

We will hike south on the Long Trail to the Churchill Scott shelter, with optional add-on of another mile to the Mendon lookout. Moderate to difficult, 4 miles (6 miles if we go to the Mendon lookout). *Leaders: Vivian Bebee & Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.*

Saturday, January 11

Shrewsbury Ramble, Shrewsbury, VT

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in Rutland or 10 a.m. at the Shrewsbury Town Offices on Cold River Rd. Hike or snowshoe depending on conditions in the Shrewsbury area. Moderate, mileage to be determined. *Leaders: Gerry & Cheryl Martin, (802) 492-2244.*

Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m.

Emerald Lake State Park, North Dorset, VT

Meet at the Park gate. Hike or, if snow permits, snowshoe or cross-country ski on the Meadow Trail, returning on the Lower Trail and the Nature Trail. Easy, two miles, except moderate difficulty for skiers. Elevation gain 400 feet. Optional add-on of 1.6 miles. Good views! *Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510.*

Saturday, January 25, 10 a.m.

Phillips & Cadwell Trails, Pittsford, VT

Snowshoe or cross-country ski from a covered bridge along Otter Creek and through farm fields. Very picturesque. Easy to moderate, 2 1/2 miles. *Leader: Sue Thomas (802) 773-2185.*

Winter Sleigh Rides at Merck Forest & Farmland Center

Sweetheart Sleigh

The sweetheart sleigh is a sleigh built for two! From December 21 until March 30 rides will be offered at 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Over the course of an hour, you will tour around the wintry landscape of the farm and forest. Registration is required; please call at least 24 hours in advance to book. Cost: \$150/hour.

Group Sleigh

Horse-drawn sleigh rides around the farm are available Monday-Friday, December 23-27 (closed Christmas);

Monday-Friday, December 30 to January 3 (closed New Year's Day); Monday-Friday, January 20-24.

Groups are welcome to rent the 12-person sleigh, or we will try to accommodate smaller groups together. The group sleigh can be booked ahead of time for another date. Registration is required. Call at least 24 hours in advance to book. Cost: \$15 adult, \$12 child 2-12 years, and under age 2 free.

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Strategies of Winter

by Judith Irven

One of my special winter delights is sipping morning coffee as I bask in the warmth of our wood stove and watch the busy chickadees flocking to the sunflower feeders outside the window.

I never cease to marvel at these little birds. They remain up here in the Green Mountain National Forest throughout the entire winter. And, with only their downy feathers for insulation, every night they endure fifteen long hours in the wind and snow without food. Meanwhile I am indoors, warm, cozy and well fed, and I get to spend each night under a large fluffy comforter.

Chickadees and a few other small birds have developed a unique acclimatization strategy to survive the long cold nights of a northern winter. It is a physiological response called 'nocturnal hypothermia' which means that each evening the birds' body temperatures drop dramatically to conserve precious energy. The next morning, before heading off to their preferred food source, the birds literally shiver themselves awake to raise their internal temperatures back up to the level needed for daytime foraging.

Winter acclimation strategies

Unlike chickadees, most birds rely on behavior rather than physiology to survive winter, many by removing themselves from the worst weather. Some, like robins and bluebirds, just move to a lower elevation such as the Champlain Valley for the coldest months, returning to the mountains in April in time for nesting. Other birds, like swallows and hummingbirds, migrate to warmer climates entirely, which is in itself an amazing feat.

A few birds, notably owls, grouse, woodpeckers, and bluejays, and some years goldfinch and pine grosbeaks, remain up in the mountains throughout the year and manage to find sufficient food, whether it be berries, seeds or the occasional rodent.

I still remember, a few years back, as Dick and I were snowshoeing in the forest with our dog, how we encountered a large grouse that had completely buried itself down into the deep snow; presumably the fluffy snow was an insulation against the biting wind. As the surprised bird flew off with strong wingbeats I am not sure who was more startled—the grouse, the dog or the people!

Sometimes we even have winter visitors from Canada at our feeders. Some years a swarm of feisty redpolls will take up residence for a month or so. And one year we were delighted to have a group of crossbills. Since crossbills primarily eat the seeds of conifers—their beaks are a special adaptation to facilitate this—they were probably attracted to our particular location by the stand of Norway spruce growing up the hill behind our house.

Of course land-based animals, both vertebrate and invertebrate, cannot escape the brunt of winter by just relocating. So the various species have developed their own distinctive techniques to survive winter while staying in place.

Large herbivores like deer and moose just tough it out, browsing on anything growing above the snow-line. Other creatures, such as bears and chipmunks, escape the cold by hibernating in a den or nest.

With cold-blooded amphibians and reptiles, as the external temperature falls, their body temperature drops commensurately. And, as their body temperature begins to fall, they instinctively burrow deep into the mud and become dormant until spring.

And then there are the sub-niveans, little animals like the mice and voles, which create their own living spaces beneath the snow. The snow acts as an insulator against the even colder air above. And as the snow melts in springtime, the observant human can see the remains of their tunnels going hither and thither across the ground, revealing their private winter lives.

Plants acclimatize for winter too

And of course all plants that live in these parts, whether in our gardens or in the wider landscape, have their own physiological techniques of acclimatization which, in my view, are equally interesting. Like the chickadee, the crab apple you see in this picture can survive bone-chilling nighttime temperatures of minus 25°F.

Each fall, triggered primarily by the increasing hours of darkness and, to a lesser extent, by falling temperatures, most plants enter a state of dormancy that allows them to withstand the rigors of our New England winters.

We all know that each year in October all our deciduous trees and shrubs drop their leaves, while the entire above-ground portions of perennials die off completely.

At the same time, although less visible to people, the plants store any excess sugars in their roots and their metabolic processes (photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration) either cease or slow dramatically. Finally the chemical composition



Both the chickadees and the crab apples have their own special strategies for surviving a bitterly cold Vermont winter. photo by Dick Conrad

of the individual cells changes, reducing the likelihood the cells will freeze (like antifreeze on a microscopic level).

In the spring everything reverses. In the woody plants it starts when the sap returns to the branches and the cells revert to their non-dormant structure. This causes buds to grow into leaves and the plant's metabolic processes to resume. Meanwhile perennial plants respond to the warmer temperatures by pushing out new growth directly from the roots.

Evergreen trees and shrubs are actually the exception that proves the rule. Since their leaves remain, their winter dormancy is only partial, and they continue to lose some water through their leaves throughout the winter months. This is why it helps if your evergreens start winter well watered and why you should plant them where they will be less exposed to the drying effects of afternoon sun and wind.

Choosing plants for a cold climate

The ability of different plants to withstand cold winters varies hugely, and is heavily influenced on where they naturally grow. Some plants—think about the tropical shrub Bougainvillea—will die if the temperature drops even a bit below freezing (to 30°F), whereas others—such as our Vermont Sugar Maple—can survive bitterly cold winter weather (below minus 30°F). However for most plants the lowest temperature they can survive is somewhere in-between.

So naturally great effort has been expended to determine just how much winter cold a particular plant can take, and a numeric scale—the Plant Hardiness Rating—has been developed to specify this.

In reference books, websites and at the nursery you will see a zone designation associated all long-lived plants—shrubs, trees and perennials—which tells you the lowest winter temperature they can take. The Sugar Maple, hardy to below minus 30°F, is designated Zone 3b. But another New England native, the Eastern Redbud, only hardy to minus 15°F, is designated as Zone 5b.

So you need to choose plants for your garden based on the coldest temperature you anticipate. Obviously in a state like Vermont this varies from place to place. If you live down

south or near Lake Champlain, it may be minus 15°F for a night or two during an especially cold winter. But if you live in the mountains or further north you can anticipate it will may be 15°F colder. All this has been quantified in the on-line interactive USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, based on 30 years of historical data.

So what about climate change, you may ask? Well, based on my own observations, it seems that while our average temperatures are surely rising, we still may experience the occasional bitterly cold winter extreme—and that is all it takes to decimate a tender plant.

So, while I may take a gamble with the hardiness of an inexpensive plant, before I invest in a costly plant I like to research whether it will tolerate coldest temperatures I can expect where I live.

Judith Irven is a landscape designer who lives with her photographer husband, Dick Conrad, in Goshen, VT. Her northcountry reflections.com website is devoted to her garden writings.



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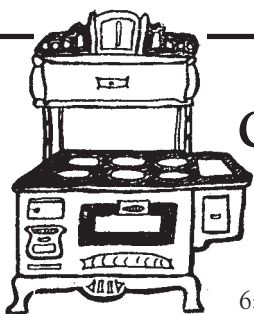
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Vermont Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Ice Fishing Safety Tips

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has some ice safety tips for those of you who will be going ice fishing this winter.

“Once we have sustained cold weather to form good 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 motor 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 floatation 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 fully-charged 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 you can purchase them at stores that sell fishing supplies.
- Carry a safety line that can be thrown 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.

For more information contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department at (802) 828-1000 or visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



Ice fishing on Lake Bomoseen.

photo courtesy VT Travel Div.

Vermont’s New Free Ice Fishing Day

Always wanted to go ice fishing but couldn’t find a good excuse to get away? The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has found that excuse for you: a “free ice fishing day” on the fourth Saturday in January.

Saturday, January 25, 2014 is Vermont’s new free ice fishing day—a day when anyone, resident or nonresident, may go fishing without a fishing license.

“We worked with the Leg-

islature to create a free ice fishing day to encourage individuals, friends and families to get out and try one of the most popular fishing methods enjoyed in Vermont,” said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry.

Vermont’s premier fishing destination, Lake Champlain, offers many ice fishing opportunities. Quality fishing for many species is easy to find on this 120-mile long lake, including landlocked

salmon, lake trout, northern pike, yellow perch, white perch, walleye, and crappie.

“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. “The plentiful yellow perch is the mainstay of the winter fishery, but many ice anglers also find good fishing for other species.”

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 can 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. 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 18 and continues through March 15 on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 60 of the 2014 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

To locate places to stay and help on the latest fishing activity, go to the Vermont Outdoor Guides Association website (www.voga.org) and click on “ice fishing.”

An Internet search for Vermont Ice Fishing also will yield helpful information from several websites.

If you would like to learn more about ice fishing, be sure to attend the free fishing day ice fishing festival being held January 25 at the Larabee Point Fishing Access Area on Lake Champlain in Shoreham. Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff and experienced volunteer ice fishing enthusiasts will be there from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. to help everyone, young and old, learn how to enjoy this unique and popular type of fishing.

For info contact Nicole Corrao at (802) 318-1347 or Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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Hunkering Down In January

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

This is a tough time of year. Not much is going on in Castleton, VT. It's cold and it's dark. Everything looks dirty and neglected. The Castleton State College students are out on a long mid-winter break.

But it's always been like this. I remember January at the college in the 1960s when the school was a lot smaller. Almost all the students were Vermonters, and many of them were Rutland commuters. Weather-wise, they weren't fazed by much of anything. It often comes to me how stoical everyone was back then.

When I was in school, I always got sick in January, and I remember being really, seriously sick with a strep throat and a hallucinations-inducing high temperature and being visited in my Leavenworth Hall dorm room by the elegant school nurse, Pauline Young. She lived on Route 4-A, several miles to the east of Castleton and always walked into town and back home at night.

She told me I was going to have to be seen by Dr. Stannard, the Fair Haven general practitioner, a genial character whom I'd known all my life. He came and gave me a shot, and following a coma-like week in bed I was recovered.

After I was married and settled in town, I remember how quiet it was. Maybe that was because the houses along Main Street were lived in by old Vermonters, mostly women, who were always home. There was never any bustle of people going out to work.

My Aunt Ruth and Uncle Stan Gibbs lived in the former Ellis house just down from us at the end of Main Street. Julia McCann and her niece Mildred Graham were our neighbors to one side, and the Handley sisters, Loretta and Ann, Ann called 'Baby,' were on the other. All these are now in their eighties—old women who were retired after years teaching out of state.

Helen Brown lived in the grand 'Maples.' Sisters-in-law Belle and Laura Langdon lived across the street next to the Federated Church. Bea Marshall Graziano, my father's high school girlfriend, was down at the west end of town near Bessie Ransom and Hulda Cole. Martha Towers lived on South Street.

In 1973, my husband and I bought Ballards, the general store in the center of town from writer Keith Jennison and his Rutland brother-in-law Bob Franzoni.

Bob wanted to establish a ski shop and Keith a book store so they were always at cross purposes and probably glad to finally unload the place on a couple of kids.

And we were kids. We were feeling our way. In the wintertime, we heated with an old pot bellied chunk stove. My husband drove a 1955 Chevrolet pick up truck to Hubbardton to cut fire wood on land which had once been owned by my Great Grandfather Gibbs.

Because it was an old truck with a worn gear box, there was a lot of play in the Chevy's steering wheel. It drifted, and often he barely made it back to Castleton, sometimes passing Doc Stannard's brother George, the Fair Haven banker, who stood and watched him, laughing heartily and mimicking my husband's huge, arm-swinging wheel corrections.

January mornings, my job was to come down to the dark, frigid store, build a fire in the stove and ring up our few sales. We often took in less than \$100.

In those days, people came in to connect with each other, to

Come to the January Pancake Breakfast in West Pawlet, VT

The New Year's first charity event of the West Pawlet (VT) Volunteer Fire Department, a Pancake Breakfast, will be held on Sunday, January 12th, served at the West Pawlet Firehouse from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. All are welcome!

The breakfast is The menu includes regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry pancakes as well as waffles, scrambled eggs, home fries, sausage and bacon. Coffee, milk and orange juice are also available. Prices are \$7 for 12 years and up, \$5 for

5-12 years and free to children under the age of 5 years.

The West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department looks forward to more events in 2014. The volunteers appreciate the community's support and fellowship. New members and volunteers are always welcome and are appreciated.

Located on Rt. 153 (Main Street) in West Pawlet, VT, the Firehouse is a handicap accessible site.

For more info call Antonio Landon at (802) 345-4312 or e-mail wp5801@yahoo.com.



Piles of snow line Main Street in Castleton, VT.

photo by Andrew Donovan

find out what the weather was going to be, and to talk about what it was right then. My Uncle Stan had recently moved back to Castleton, and he was always looking for snow. He wanted snow like in the old days.

And we often had snow like in the old days. We'd have weeks of sullen skies, dull, numbing cold, and then an exciting blizzard. Uncle Stan would be euphoric.

I remember once driving into Rutland to the DES (Department of Employment Security) office, at that time under the West Street roller rink, carrying my snow-suited son, swathed in blankets as extra protection against the howling-wind blizzard conditions outside. We were there in order to have a Mr. Alexander straighten out the 940 store tax form that was crucial to get completed and sent in by the end of the month.

But mostly when we had bad weather, I stayed home. I read big, arcane books like Edmund Wilson's Collected Letters, and the endless Chips

Cannon diaries. I drove to, and bought a lot at, the annual January book sale at the Vermont Book Store in Middlebury. But other than that, I just hunkered down. Everyone in town was hunkered down. Not much was expected of anyone that time of year.

I miss those days.

Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written all of her life and lived most of that life in Castleton. She is the author of many stories, articles, essays and magazine features and of two books: The Blue Cat and the River's Song, and The Vanished Landmarks Game: Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye.

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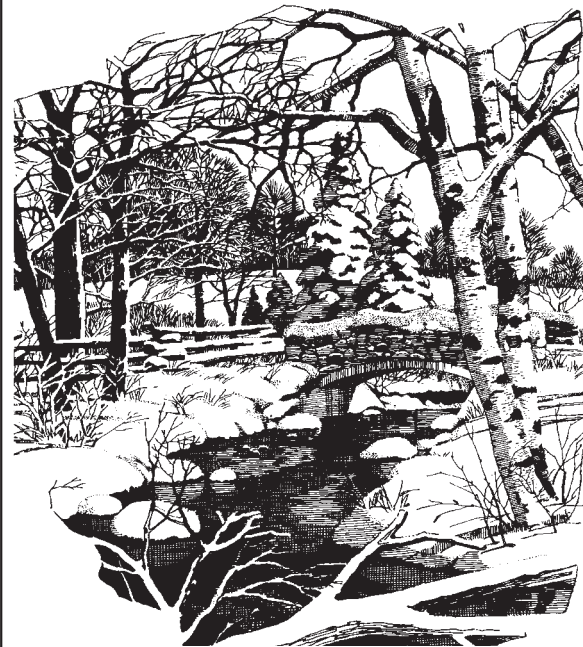
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—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1975

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His cattle snugly sheltered,
The season's work is done,
His toil throughout the summer
A competence has won.

Heaped high the lean-to shed
With knot, with stick and splinter,
Whose captive heat and ruddy glow
Defy the blasts of winter.

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—FRANK H. CRAIG
Waits River, VT, 1928

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Ron Krupp's Applesauce Cake

One of my favorite desserts is applesauce cake. I am one of those people who can't follow directions, but I'll give you the ingredients. My mother was one of those great bakers who also never followed directions because she said it was in her hands.

2 cups of sifted flour	Some maple syrup
1 teaspoon baking soda	1½ cups applesauce
¼ teaspoon salt	Spices
1 egg	

Bake at 350°. Taste the batter to see whether you need to add more spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, or sweetening. Bake for about 30–35 minutes and, voila!, you have The Woodchuck Applesauce Cake.

This recipe is shared with you from The Woodchuck's Guide to Gardening, by Ron Krupp which has more recipes and some good food storage ideas.

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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Fresh winter vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, meats, crafts, and more. Entertainment and prepared foods. January through April, first and third Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. At the First Baptist Church, 600 Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org.

BRANDON. Sustainable Living Book Exchange. Self-service—take a book, leave a book. Donations accepted. Neshobe Farm, 142 Steinberg Rd. off Rt. 7 just north of the village. (Come to the house). For more information call (802) 310-8534.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org. *Through March.*

BRATTLEBORO. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. 7-9 pm. Kidsplayce, 20 Elliott St. For information e-mail cuvvlever@gmail.com. *First and third Thursdays.*

CHESTER. Monthly Public Astronomy Meetings for the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group. Second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm—free to the public at Whiting Library. Star parties and other events. For membership and information contact the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group, PO Box 424, Chester, VT 05143. www.sovera.org.

FAIR HAVEN. Breakfast Buffet. \$7 adult, \$3.50 children. 8-11 am. Sponsored by the American Legion Post #49, 72 S. Main St. (802) 265-7983. *Continues every second Sunday of the month.*

HANOVER, NH. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 7-9:30 pm. Hanover Friends Meeting House, 43 Lebanon St. Information: danhertzler@gmail.com. *Second Thursdays.*

KILLINGTON. Ars Poetica. Fourth Wednesday of the month. Free. 6-8 pm. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Rd. (802) 422-9765. sherlib.wordpress.com.

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.

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Woodworking, oil and watercolor painting, kirigami, basketry, and much more. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Rt. 103 South. (802) 228-8770. info@fletcherfarm.org. www.fletcherfarm.org.

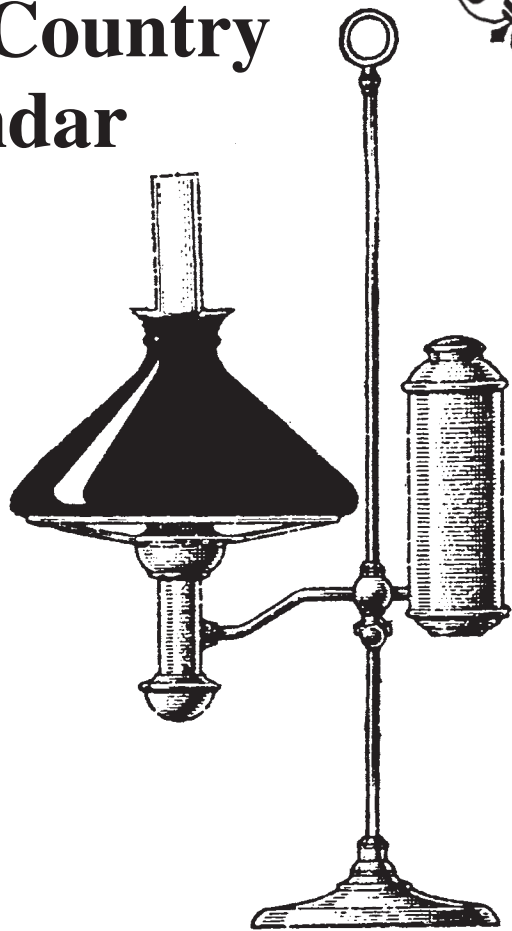
MANCHESTER CENTER. Winter Sampler Tour. An alternative to ab afternoon of skiing or shopping. Daily 1-3:30 pm. Led by local guide in a comfortable eight-passenger tour vehicle. Admission. Reservations necessary. Meet at Manchester Visitors Center, 39 Bonnet St. (802) 362-4997. bckrddisc@aol.com. www.backroaddiscovery.com.

MONTPELIER. Summit School Players Jam. Share music, a meal, and help Summit School sustain its programs! Suggested Donation \$5. 6-8 pm. Call or email for confirmation of schedule. Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. www.summitschool.wix.com/summitschool. *Every fourth Thursday.*

MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A community meal that is free to all. 9 am – 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org. UCCBethany@comcast.net. *Every Tuesday.*

MONTPELIER. Kellogg-Hubbard Book Sale. Thousands of books, from shiny new bestsellers to antique curiosities. Also find CDs, DVDs, maps, sheet music, and more. Books are organized by subject for easy browsing. Hardcover \$2 each, softcovers \$1 each. Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 am - 8 pm, Fri 10 am - 5:30 pm, Sat 10 am - 5:30 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.kellogg-hubbard.org. *Through January 18.*

NORWICH. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 1:30-4:30 pm. Parish Hall of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 262 Main St. For info: DanielHertzler@danhertzler@gmail.com. *Fourth Sundays.*



PLAINFIELD. Monthly Sacred Harp Sing. A free event, with beginners and loaner books available. The second Sunday of every month at 3 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center above the Co-op in Plainfield. For more information, contact Lynnette Combs at (802) 426-3850. lynnnetcombs@gmail.com.

POULTNEY. Free Historical Audio Walking & Driving Tours. View and learn about Main Street Poultny, East Poultny Village, and the Quarries, Farms & Forests. (802) 287-5252, (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyhistoricalsociety.org. www.poultneyvt.com.

RUTLAND. Winter Tour. Tour the beautiful winter countryside in our touring van or bus. Experience the winter beauty of Vermont. 2-hour tour \$30 pp, 3½-hour tour \$50 pp. Rutland, Killington, Ludlow, Manchester. Various pickup locations. (802) 446-3131. kelly@vtbackroadtours.com. www.vtbackroadtours.com. *January 1 through March 31.*

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. www.stellafane.com.

STATEWIDE. January is Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month at Vermont Ski Resorts. Beginners get \$29 lift ticket for the beginner area, lesson/and equipment rental. Some restrictions apply, must reserve in advance. For details visit skivermont.com/learn.

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

STATEWIDE. Vermont's Ice Fishing Season for trout, salmon and bass. Runs from January 18 through March 15 on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 60 of the 2014 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. For more info, contact Nicole Corrao, (802) 318-1347. Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

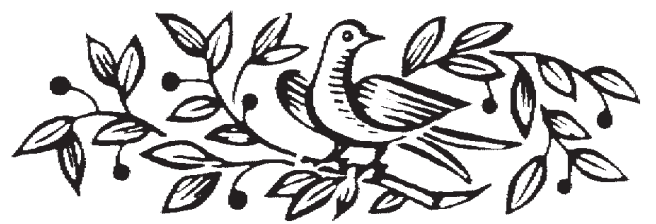
ST. ALBANS. Book Cellar—Library Used Book Sale. \$3 per bag of books! Sponsored by Friends of the St. Albans Free Library. Tuesdays from 10 am - 8 pm. Held in the library basement. St. Albans Free Library, 11 Maiden Lane. (802) 524-1507. www.stalbansfreelibrary.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Tai' Chi Gung intro classes. Reiki healings, Chinese ear coning, handmade herbal remedies, teas, and lotions. Crystals, stones, and books. All are welcome. Open Tues & Wed 1-6, Thurs-Sat 12-6, Sun 1-4, closed Fri. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermontherbal.com. www.vermontherbal.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Home Buyer Education Classes. Call for schedule. NeighborWorks office at 110 Marble St. (802) 438-2303 x 216. www.nwwvt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Listen Community Dinner. Free nutritious meals served at 5 pm every Monday through Friday. Take-home available. LISTEN Community Dinner Hall, 42 Maple St. (603) 448-4553. www.listen.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Public Sitting Meditation. Free meditation instruction is available at most of these times: Tues 5:30-6:30 pm, Thurs 12-1 pm, Sun 9 am - 12 pm. Shambhala Meditation Center of White River, 158 S. Main St. (802) 785-4304. whiteriver.shambhala.org.



Joan Hoffman, Artist/Naturalist To Speak at Chaffee Gallery

On January 28, 2014, at 7 p.m., Joan Hoffmann, artist and naturalist, will present "The Art of Birding" at the downtown Chaffee Art Gallery. Narrating a slideshow of her oil and watercolor paintings, she will highlight the connections between nature, birds and culture. She paints birds in their habitats, but unlike Audubon, the renowned 19th century bird artist, she paints them as she momentarily sees them in nature. Ms. Hoffmann will also show David O. Brown's Cornell Lab YouTube video on the reintroduction of the Atlantic Puffin on Eastern Egg Rock Island in Maine.

Joan Hoffmann's impressionistic plein air field paintings reflect her adventures in remote and wild landscapes. She is integrally connected to the land by teaching, painting and preserving the wild places that she explores. She has through-hiked the Colorado Trail, body-floated the Barranco del Cobre (Grand Canyon) of Mexico and rafted numerous rivers in the American West. This past summer, while on an "Art of Birding" fellowship at Audubon's Hog Island Camp in Maine, she worked alongside other nationally recognized artists and naturalists such as Atlantic Puffin expert

Steve Kress, bird artist and author Julie Zickefoose, and author Scot Wedensaul. In September, she was invited to present "The Art of Birding" to the Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition Sandhill Crane Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

As a tireless advocate for understanding habitats and wilderness, she lectures and writes on the history of American landscape painting, national parks and public lands and has been artist in residence at Yosemite. She hosts painting retreats in Utah, Colorado, and the Sierras and teaches at the Point Reyes National Seashore Field Institute in California.

Her paintings can be viewed at joanhoffman.com books and her books are available at amazon.com. You may follow her blog at www.birdingwithwatercolors.blogspot.com.

This will be an enjoyable, inspiring presentation for artists, birders and nature lovers. Refreshments will be provided. The Rutland County Audubon Society and the Chaffee Art Center are co-sponsoring this event.

Chaffee Downtown Art Center, 75 Merchants Row in Rutland, VT. For information call (802) 747-4466.

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Vermont Country Calendar

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at Upper Valley Food Coop, through the winter. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. For information, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

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) 457-2557.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

BARRE. First Show Art Series Exhibits—2014. Chaos—Main floor gallery; Leah Sophrin and Katy Sudol—2nd floor gallery; Robert W. Brunelle Jr.—3rd floor gallery. Reception January 25, 3-5 pm. Classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Free. Tues, Wed & Fri 10 am - 5 pm, Thurs 11 am - 7 pm, Sat 9 am - 5 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N Main. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, broadsides, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items of ephemera which shed light on the lives and times of past Vermonters. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Mon-Fri, 9 am - 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. BF3F—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.*

BELMONT. Mount Holly Community Historical Museum. Open year-round on second weekend of the month. Tarbellville Rd. (*turn right immediately after the Belmont Store, museum is on your right*). (802) 259-2460. www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org.

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

BENNINGTON. Art exhibits, permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. New exhibits starting December 10 and running through the middle of May include: "On the Move, When I Think of Home," and "Great Cats—Big and Small." Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Fri, Sat & Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum—Exhibits and Public Programs, Founding Documents, Fine Art, Grandma Moses, and more. See Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Fine Art, Vermont Furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Festival of Trees through December 30. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Concerts, exhibits, classes, readings, and other events. Exhibit: Photography by Melanie Considine through January 11. Take-out café is open Monday through Friday 11 am - 4 pm; to place an order call (802) 465-4071. Studio space available. 250-seat concert hall. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. info@cmactv.org. cmactv.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Exhibit—Your Space: Chance. Inspired by Jerry's Map, this hands-on exhibit illustrates how artists have used chance operations to create artwork in a wide range of media. Join in an ongoing chance-based game and art-making experience. Many other programs and exhibits. Admission \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, children under 6 free. First Fridays free after 5:30 pm. Hours: Sun, Mon, Weds, Thurs 11 am - 5 pm; Fri till 7 pm; Sat 10 am - 5 pm; closed Tuesdays. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Through March 8.*

BURLINGTON. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. 10th Anniversary celebration with special exhibits and programs on June 1 & 2. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3 - 17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. Monday-Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. At Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. www.echovermont.org.

CENTER RUTLAND. The Rutland Railroad Museum. Housed in the Rutland Depot, built in 1917. See railroad artifacts and historical exhibits including HO & N scale model railroad layouts and a children's layout. The museum is also available to educational groups and schools for tours by appointment. Open Saturdays from 11 am - 1 pm. Rutland Railway Association, 79 Depot Lane. For information call John Schaub at (802) 768-8427. www.rutlandrailroadmuseum.org.

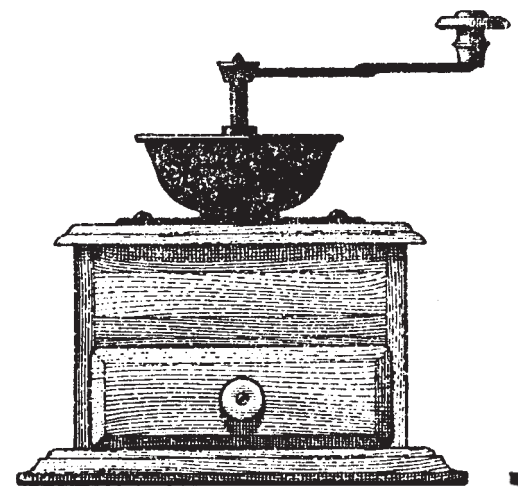
CHESTER. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts. Art exhibits, programs and music. Exhibit: "Something to Celebrate" on view through January 19. Free admission. Wednesday through Sunday 11 am - 6 pm. 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. info@vtica.org. www.vtica.org.

CHESTER. 103 Artisans Marketplace. (Formerly Gallery 103). Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch Chocolates and Vermont Maple products. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open every day 10 am - 5 pm, closed Tuesday. During first two weeks of January, open Fri, Sat, Sun. Located on Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

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

ENOSBURG FALLS. Exhibit: Works by fine artist Natalie Larocque-Bouchard, potter Alex Costantino and decorative painter Kitten Ellison. Artist In Residence Gallery, Main St. (802) 933-6403. www.artistinresidencecoop.com.

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world. Events and exhibits. Free admission, donations welcome. Georgian singing workshops on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. Open 10 am - 6 pm daily. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. *Open winters by appointment.*



Join Fellow Birders at the Rutland County Audubon Society

The Rutland County Audubon Society invites you to join them for birding events throughout the year. Here are a few of the happenings for this winter.

Saturday, December 28, Christmas Bird Count and Potluck. The highlight of the year for RCAS, this CBC will be Rutland County's 40th! Field and feeder watchers needed! The countdown supper will be held at the Proctor Library at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share. Utensils and beverages will be provided. *Contact Roy Pilcher (802) 775-3461.*

Saturday, January 11, Winter Regular & Rarities in the Champlain Valley. This annual trip takes birders to

various points along Lake Champlain to seek out winter visitors such as Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike and Snow Bunting as well as waterfowl on the lake. Dress for the weather and bring lunch. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Mobil station on Rte 7 in Brandon. *Leader Sue Wetmore (802) 247-3037.*

Thursday, January 16, West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk. A monthly bird monitoring walk. To date 145 species, from Least Bittern to Rusty Blackbird, have been recorded at this Important Bird Area (IBA). Join us for this 3.7-mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway). Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 a.m. *Leader Roy Pilcher (802) 775-3461.*

Thursday, January 16, RCAS Board of Directors Meeting. Monthly meeting of the chapter's board of directors. The meeting is open to all. Please check back for any change in date or place. Union Parish Hall, Proctor, 6:30 p.m. *Contact Marv Elliott (802) 775-2415.*

February 14-17, Great Backyard Bird Count. Join birdwatchers across North America to count birds at your feeders and beyond. For more information, go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

Saturday, February 15, West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk. A monthly bird monitoring walk, this month's walk is held in conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count. To date 145 species, from Least Bittern to Rusty Blackbird, have been recorded at this Important Bird Area (IBA). Join us for this 3.7-mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway). Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 a.m. *Leader Roy Pilcher (802) 775-3461.*



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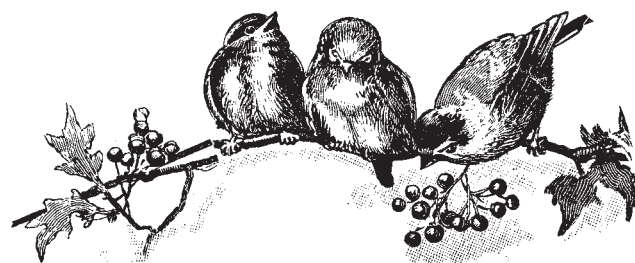
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Vermont Country Calendar



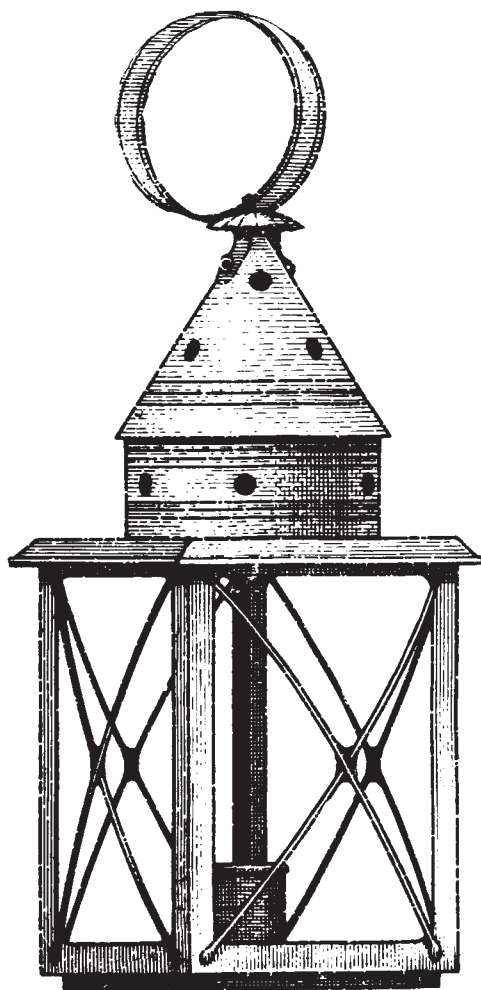
The Snow-Bird

When all the ground with snow is white,
The merry snow-bird comes,
And hops about with great delight
To find the scattered crumbs.

How glad he seems to get to eat
A piece of cake or bread!
He wears no shoes upon his feet,
Nor hat upon his head.

But happiest is he, I know,
Because no cage with bars
Keeps him from walking on the snow
And printing it with stars.

—FRANK DEMPSTER SHERMAN



GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Programs for all ages. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, mounted specimen, wildlife garden. Hiking trails in the Village Park behind the Museum. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 3 to 12, 2 and under free, \$15 for families. Open Thurs, Sat & Sun 10 am – 4 pm. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, First Fridays, and gift shop. Tues-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am – 4 pm. Admission \$5, under 12 free. Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 10 am – 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Open by appointment November 1 through April 30.

LUDLOW. Black River Academy Museum. Exhibits and programs. Admission \$2, seniors and students \$1. Winter hours by appointment. 14 High St. (802) 228-5050. info@bramvt.org. www.bramvt.org.

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

MANCHESTER. Visit Historic Hildene. The Lincoln Family Home. Visit the Rowland Agricultural Center at Hildene Farm or board the Pullman palace car, Sunbeam. Admission: \$16 adults, \$5 children 6 to 14, under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene. www.hildene.org.

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, under 5 free. Open 10 am – 5 pm on weekends in the winter. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury College Museum of Art. Exhibit: Observing Vermont Architecture, January 7–March 23, 2014. Free. Tuesday through Friday 10 am–5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12–5 pm, closed Mondays. 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. museum.middlebury.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$ 12, under 6 free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117.

MIDDLEBURY. The Midd-Vermont Train Club's Holiday Model Train Exhibit. Elaborate electric train layout is sure to delight all ages. The backdrop of the Green Mountains painted by local artist Gayl Braisted adds atmosphere. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$ 12, under 6 free. Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org. Through January 7, 2014.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Exhibits, gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. New Lives/New England Exhibit through February 8, 2014. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. At 88 Main St., downtown. (802) 388-4964. info@vermontfolklifecenter.org. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: Interpreting the Interstates. Aimed at understanding how the construction of the Interstate Highway System changed Vermont's culture and landscape. Photographs from the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration taken from 1958 to 1978. Admission fee gives access to Vermont History Museum and Vermont Heritage Galleries. Adults \$5; families \$12; students, children, seniors \$3; (802) 828-2291. www.vermonthistory.org. Through April 2014.

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibits, trails, programs, and museum store. Exhibit: "Toys—The Inside Story" through January 19. Earth and Space Day, January 25. Igloo Build, February 15. Take Apart Day, March 29. Open 10 am – 5 pm daily. Admission \$14 adults, \$11 children 2-17, under 2 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200.

QUECHEE. Vermont Toy Museum. Collection of more than 100,000 toys. Toy and gift shop. Free admission to the museum. 10 am - 5 pm daily except holidays. On the 2nd floor inside Quechee Gorge Village, Rt. 4. (802) 295-1550 x 102. vermonttoy.com. quecheegorge.com.

RANDOLPH. Art Exhibits. Open Fri 3-6 pm, Sat & Sun noon to 3 pm or during Chandler events. Free admission. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. outreach@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

ROCHESTER. Exhibit: Juice Bar Winter Show. Annual rotating Gallery Members Show, an Oasis of bright and beautiful art! Hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. BigTown Gallery, 99 North Main St. (802) 767-9670. info@bigtowngallery.com. www.bigtowngallery.com. Through April 5.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11 am – 6 pm, Friday and Saturday 11:30 am – 7 pm. Chaffee Downtown Art Center, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Concerts, workshops, lectures, and classes for adults, teens, and children. Something for every interest. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Museum. Home to the finest museum collections of 19th-century American folk art, quilts, 19th- and 20th-century decoys, and carriages. Pizzagalli Center & Museum Store only, through May 10, 2014 (when the regular museum reopens for the season). Admission through May 10, 2014: adults \$10, children (ages 5-18) \$5, children (under 5) free, family day pass \$26. Tues thru Sun 10 am - 5 pm, closed Mon. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346.

SHOREHAM. Shoreham Bell Museum. See 5-6,000 bells collected from all over the world. Open most afternoons by appointment or chance year round. Free admission, donations accepted. Shoreham Bell Museum, 127 Smith St. off Rt. 74 west. For information call Judy Blake at (802) 897-2780. www.shorehambellmuseum.com.

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: Earth as Muse—Beauty, Degredation, Hope, Awakening. Paintings and sculptures by artists Fran Bull, Jenny Swanson, Pat Musick, Harry Rich, and Richard Weis. 9 am – 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Great Hall Public Art Showcase, 100 River St. (802) 258-3992. bobf@springfielddevelopment.org. Facebook. Through April 30

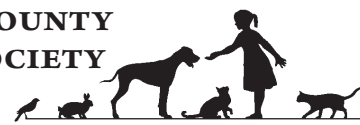
SPRINGFIELD. Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center. Featuring fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Exhibits, classes, workshops. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections. Admission: adults \$8, seniors and children under 17 \$6, under 5 free. Winter hours: Tues-Sat 9 am – 5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Hot cocoa in the Gallery. Winter hours: Thursday through Monday 11 am – 4 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one significant and telling a story about human beings and the universe we are part of—an alternative experiment in material culture studies. Open Thurs-Sun 1-6 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. www.mainstreetmuseum.org.

RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



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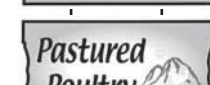
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Vermont Country Calendar

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Art Gallery. Free. Fri-Sun, 10 am - 5 pm. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd. (802) 674-6825. www.ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com.

WOODSTOCK. ArtisTree Community Art Center. Exhibits, classes, music, special events. Tues 11 am - 8 pm, Wed-Sat 11 am - 4 pm. Mount Tom Building, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500. info@artistreevt.org. www.artistreevt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Exhibits, programs, barn, restored 1890 farmhouse, films, and special events. Visit the operating dairy farm featuring the Jersey herd, calf nursery, draft horse teams, sheep, and oxen. Exhibit: *Emancipation and Its Legacies*, examines the story of Emancipation, on display through January. Sleigh Ride Weekend January 18, 19 & 20. Open weekends November - February, and Christmas & February vacation weeks from 10 am - 3:30 pm then daily May 1 through October 31, 10 am - 5 pm. Adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

PERFORMANCES, PLAYS & MOVIES

WOODSTOCK. 4th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. Tickets prices: adults (16 & up) \$132 for 14-film package or \$11 per film. Children ages 3-15, \$6 per film. For a complete list of screenings and ticket information go to www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest or call (802) 457-2355. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through April 2014*.

WOODSTOCK. First Run Movies at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Old-fashioned big-screen movie-going experience. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, students \$6. Famous maple popcorn! (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

COMMUNITY DANCES AND MUSIC

BERLIN. Afro-Caribbean Dance. With live percussion every Thursday from 10:30 am - 12 pm. All levels welcome. Drumming and dance from Mali Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Also Capital City Grange Potluck—share delicious food with your friends and future friends, starting about 6:30 each first Saturday, all are welcome, no charge. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 985-3665. capitalcitygrange.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. 7-9 pm. Kidsplayce, 20 Elliott St. For information e-mail cuvvlever@gmail.com. *First and third Thursdays*.

BRATTLEBORO. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 3-5:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. laurat@crocker.com. *Third Sundays*.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. 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) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org. Every fourth Friday.

WEST NEWBURY. Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. All dances taught. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller, Donna Weston on piano. Admission by donation, all ages welcome. 8 pm at the Community Hall at 219 Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 429-2316 or adamrboyce@juno.com. *Fourth Saturdays*.

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance. Join The Old Sam Peabody Band with caller Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. Bring a pair of clean soft-soled shoes for dancing. Dance workshop for instruction at 6:45 pm. Dance with pot luck dessert break 7-10 pm. Suggested price \$8, kids and seniors by donation. The Little Theater, 54 River St., right next to the Recreation Center. For more info call Steve Hoffman, (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. Delia Clark, (802) 457-2075. Facebook/OldSamPeabody

HORSEBACK RIDING WAGON & SLEIGH RIDES

BRANDON. Painted Woods Farm provides sleigh and wagon rides through beautiful fields and forest where you can experience some of Vermont's splendid scenery and perhaps glimpse some wildlife. Looking for a romantic evening adventure? Well a carriage ride for two down a quiet country lane would be for you. For info call Donna and Anthony Peduto at (802) 247-4917.

BRATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Sleigh and Wagon Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" at 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. fairwindsfarm.org.

LANDGROVE. Karl Pfister Horse-Drawn Sleigh, Wagon and Carriage Rides. Rides leave on the hour from Landgrove Inn. Call for reservations. (802) 824-4663. www.karlpfistersleigh.com.

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards. Horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides year-round by reservation. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtorchards.com.

RUPERT. Winter Sleigh Rides. In a Sweetheart Sleigh built for two. Over the course of an hour, you will tour around the wintry landscape of the farm and forest. Fee \$150/hour. Saturdays and Sunday, reservation required. Group sleigh rides in a 12-person sleigh January 20-24, \$15 adult, \$12 child 2-12, under 2 free. Call to reserve. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

WILMINGTON. Scenic Horseback Trail Rides. \$25/40 minutes. Children over 6 can ride alone. Pont rides for younger children. Year round by reservation. Flames Stables, Rt. 100 south. (802) 464-8329.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Weekends. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, jack jumper sledding. Admission: \$14 adults, \$13 seniors, \$8 children 5-15, \$4 children 3 & 4. Open 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *January 18, 19 & 20; February 15-23*.

RECREATION & NATURE CENTERS

EAST CHARLESTON. Northwoods Stewardship Center. Outdoor programs, outings, workshops, classes, and more. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115.

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. In the winter enjoy cross-country skiing with snowmaking, snowshoeing, and snowtubing. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400.

HUNTINGTON. Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Help monitor bird populations in the different habitats at the Green Mountain Audubon Center. Our monthly walks gather long-term data on the presence of bird species, their abundance, and changes in populations. Donation appreciated. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. www.vt.audubon.org.

MONTPELIER. North Branch Nature Center. Programs and workshops, hikes, bird counts. 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$13, seniors \$12, youth (4-17) \$11. 10 am - 4 pm, 7 days a week through January 5. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile w. of Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000.

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You white sky of snow:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

You deep killing freeze:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you seeds, scattered and longing:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you leaves taken from summer:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you shriveled colors and scents,
Petals and blossoms and berries and fruits:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you ragweed, ironweed, goldenrod broken,
blackened euonymus,
burdock and pokeweed,
hollow and empty,
sweet rocket, ragwort, celandine, poppies and thistles
curling and waiting:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you frogs and all of you toads,
Burrowed and patient, hidden and mute:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you silenced cicadas and katydids,
All of you crickets still prowling the dark,
All of you ravening mice in the cupboards:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you creatures gone or to come,
All of you wings of the birds that have vanished,
All of you mating calls still to be sung:
Pray for us, Pray for us, Graciously hear us.

All of you crocus, ready to rise,
Snowdrops, hepaticas, twinleaf, and bloodroot,
Anemonies, cress and bluebells and squills:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

—BILL FELKER

Vermont Country Calendar

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. Free admission. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.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.

DAILY EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

EAST CHARLESTON. Solstice Snowshoe over Moose Mountain. A community snowshoe hike, approximately four miles. Bring a picnic lunch, a hot drink, and warm layers. Registration required. Snowshoes available. Cost: \$15. 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Drive. (802) 723-6551 x 115. events@northwoodscenter.org. www.northwoodscenter.org

LUDLOW. Book and Author Event. Archer Mayor will talk about *Three Can Keep a Secret*, the latest Joe Gunther mystery. Free. 7 pm. Cornerstone Room at Okemo Mountain Resort's Jackson Gore. (802) 228-3238. www.thebooknookvt.com. www.okemo.com.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

MANCHESTER. Holiday Concert with VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint. 4 pm at First Congregational Church. Tickets at Northshire Bookstore, (802) 362-3565 or Vermont Symphony Orchestra, (800) 876-9293. www.vso.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Annual Messiah Sing. College-Community Chorus and led by conductor, Jeff Rehbach. Donation at the door (\$5 adult/\$10 family). 2 pm. Middlebury Congregational Church, corner of Rt. 7 and Main St. (802) 989-7355. rehbach@middlebury.edu. www.middlebury.edu.

RUTLAND. Ballet: Albany Berkshire Ballet performs the holiday favorite "The Nutcracker." Tickets \$39.50 adults, 29.50 students. 2 & 6 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

BRANDON. Holiday Concert with VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint, Nathaniel G. Lew, Conductor. 7 pm at Brandon Congregational Church. Tickets at Lake Sunapee Bank, Brandon, (802) 247-5771 or VSO (800) 876-9293. www.vso.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. 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) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org. *Every fourth Friday.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

RUPERT. Snowshoe in Merck Forest. Trail to be determined depending on snow conditions. Intermediate hike. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members and newcomers welcome. Meet at Shaw's in Manchester Center at 8:30 am or at Merck Forest visitors center parking lot at 9 am. Contact leader, Keld Alstrup, at (802) 362-1422 or keld@alstrup.us. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

ARLINGTON. Messiah Sing-a-long. 3-4 pm. St. James Episcopal Church, Rt. 7A. (802) 375-9952. www.stjamesarlingtonvt.org.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

BELMONT. New Year's Eve at Star Lake. Welcome in the New Year with good friends, good cheer, fireworks, a bonfire and ice skating. Co-sponsored with the Mount Holly Sno* Drifters. Free! 9 pm. Star Lake. (802) 259-2562.

MANCHESTER. New Year's Eve Concerts. The Manchester String Ensemble with special guest, Peggie Telscher, Mezzo Soprano featuring the music of Bach, Piazzolla and more. Family concert at 4 pm—tickets: adults \$30; 18 and under free. Full concert at 6 pm—tickets: adults \$30; 18 and under \$13. At the First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. For tickets or information call (802) 362-1956. www.mmfv.org.



NORWICH. Special New Year's Eve Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. Ruth Sylvester, caller. All dances taught. Beginners welcome—no partner necessary. Bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. Potluck finger food at the break and singing at midnight! Admission \$15, students \$10, under 16 & seniors half price. 8 pm, beginners session 7:45 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Every fourth Saturday.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. 21st Annual First Night. A New Year's Eve celebration of the arts. Free activities at Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium 6-9 pm. More than 220 entertainers performing at 18 venues on and near Main St. Street entertainment, free pancake supper, fireworks, food, free shuttle. Pre-event button admission \$13, \$20 on 12/31. 4 pm – 12 midnight. (802) 223-6304 x 114. awarnke@acluvt.org. www.catamountarts.org.

WAITSFIELD. New Year's Eve Celebration and 4th Annual Dog Parade at Sugarbush Resort. Bark in the New Year with your K9 friend in his/her most festive costume. The \$10 registration fee goes towards PAWSitive Pantry. Keep the night rolling with a New Year's Eve Celebration that includes a torchlight parade, fireworks, live music and more. www.sugarbush.com.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

NORWICH. Mid-day New Year's Hike & Bonfire at Happy Hill Shelter. With marshmallows! Hikes of various lengths to get there (2-5 mile round trip). Free. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leader, Kathy Astraukas, at (802) 785-4311 for meeting place and time. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms Sleigh Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn sleigh rides. Seats are first-come, first-served. \$10 adult, \$8 child, children under 3 free. 11 am – 2 pm. For private 20-minute sleigh rides at 2:30 pm and 3 pm, reservations are required. Private sleigh rides are \$95 per sleigh, and can accommodate 14 people. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

SWANTON. Taize Evening Prayer. 6:30 pm in the Chapel at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185 x 10. holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. holytrinityswanton.org. *First Wednesdays through March.*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

RUTLAND. Concert: Burlington Ensemble "American Made." Program includes Copland's The 12 Poems of Emily Dickinson, and A. Foote's Piano Quintet in A minor, Opus 38. Tickets \$20 18+, \$10 youth. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. www.burlingtonensemble.com.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

BURLINGTON. Young Tradition Vermont Reunion Concert. A variety show and benefit concert featuring young musicians and dancers. Tickets \$20. 7 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 233-5293. mark.sustic@gmail.com. www.youngtraditionvermont.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

BRANDON. Concert: Caitlin Canty. Caitlin's pure, nuanced singing and folk sound with a Western tone, backed by Matt Lorenz, a one-man-band who plays the guitar, percussion, violin, and harmonies. Show \$15; Dinner & Show \$30; BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. Reservations highly recommended: (802) 465-4071. info@brandonmusic.net. www.brandonmusic.net.

CHESTER. Monthly Community All-you-can-eat Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, pancakes, real Vermont maple syrup, toast, and beverages. \$7 donation at the door. 8-10 am. Also Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *First Saturdays.*

New School Cookbook Features Local, Seasonal Recipes

Vermont FEED, Vermont Agency of Education, and School Nutrition Association of Vermont celebrate the release of a new cookbook of national significance—*New School Cuisine: Nutritious and Seasonal Recipes for School Cooks by School Cooks*. The cookbook, developed by Vermont school nutrition professionals with support from the New England Culinary Institute meets USDA dietary guidelines,

includes kid-tested and approved recipes that meet new USDA dietary guidelines and feature local, seasonal foods.

The book is a collaboration of three Vermont non-profits: Food Works at Two Rivers Center, NOFA-VT, and Shelburne Farms.

VT FEED c/o Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482. Call Anne Bijur, (802) 985-0318. abijur@shelburnefarms.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

NEWPORT. Swinging Epiphany Concert. Swing North Big Band presents a program of lessons and carols re-telling the Christmas story accompanied by jazz carol arrangements and swing standards. Admission. 7-8:30 pm. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 44 2nd St. (802) 274-5240. stjazz@sover.net. www.stjazz.org.

STOWE. Young Tradition Vermont Reunion Concert. A variety show and benefit concert featuring young musicians and dancers. Tickets \$20. A portion of each admission is donated to the Tom Sustic Fund, supporting families with children with life-threatening illnesses. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 7320 Mountain Rd. (802) 233-5293. mark.sustic@gmail.com. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

THETFORD. Winter Outing—Snowshoe, Ski or Hike. Mimi's Trail, designed by Thetford's John Morton, former Olympic biathlete. Nice views from summit. Approximately five miles, moderate difficulty. Free. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers welcome. Contact leaders, Heinz & Inge Trebitz, at (802) 785-2129 for meeting place and time.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

WINDSOR. All-You-Can-Eat Brunch Buffet. Menu includes pancakes and eggs, sausage, fruit salad, homemade bread, desserts and more. Adults \$7.50, 8 and under \$3. 11 am to 1 pm. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 State St. (802) 674-6461. *The first Sunday of each month.*

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

BELLOWS FALLS. Cooking Class: Steaks—Many Cuts of Beef—Best Ways to Cook and Best Sauces. Chef John Marston is excited about conducting this informal class and sharing his experience with others. We'll provide knives and aprons to assist your hands on preparation. 6-8:30 pm. Fee, call to register. Leslie's Tavern, 660 Rockingham Rd. (802) 463-4929. www.lesliestavern.com.

LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. Discussion includes an in-depth look of at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. Meets the first Monday of each month and is open to all levels. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Taconic End Farm. For more info call Annie Claghorn, (802) 247-3979. foxclag@gmavt.net.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Listen Community Dinner. Free nutritious meals served 5-6 pm every Monday and Wednesday. Take-home available. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave. (603) 398-2780. www.listencs.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

HANOVER, NH. Performance—Play and Play: An Evening of Movement and Music. Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company with live music by The Borromeo String Quartet. Program contains intervals of full nudity. \$22.50-\$50. 7 pm. Moore Theater, The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu. *Also January 8.*

LEBANON, NH. Listen Community Dinner. Nutritious free meals served from 5-5:30 pm every Tuesday and Thursday. At Sacred Heart Church on Hough St. (603) 448-4553. www.listencs.org.

MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A community meal that is free to all. 9 am - 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org. UCCBethany@comcast.net. *Every Tuesday.*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

BRATTLEBORO. First Wednesdays Lecture: "What If Poor Women Ran the World?" Labor historian Annelise Orleck tells the story of nine African-American union maids in Las Vegas during the 1970s. Sponsored by Vermont Humanities Council. Free. 7 pm. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. (802) 254-5290. www.vermonthumanities.org.

HANOVER, NH. Performance—Play and Play: An Evening of Movement and Music. Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company with live music by The Borromeo String Quartet. \$22.50-\$50. 7 pm. Moore Theater, The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

MONTPELIER. Fourth Annual Winter Folk Music Festival, 'Spice on Snow'! Presented by The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture at various locations in downtown Montpelier including Bethany Church, Threepenny Taproom, NECI, Skinny Pancake, Summit School. Stellar lineup includes The Revelers, Bruce Molsky (world renowned fiddler and folk musician) Richie Stearns and Rosie Newton (Ithaca, NY Old-time musicians extraordinaire), and Pete Sutherland (our local gem). Concerts, jams, contras, cooking! Admission. (802) 917-1186. summitschool.wix.com/summitschool. *Through January 12.*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

BRATTLEBORO. Chamber Music Series: Pianist Jonathan Biss performs music of Brahms, Chopin, and Beethoven. Tickets: \$30/\$20/\$10. Lowest price tickets have limited viewing. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church. For tickets and information contact Brattleboro Music Center at (802) 257-4523 or visit www.bmctv.org.

MONTPELIER. Fourth Annual Winter Folk Music Festival, 'Spice on Snow'! Presented by The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture at various locations in downtown Montpelier. Lineup includes The Revelers (featured on the TV series 'Treme', and Anthony Bourdain's 'No Reservations'), Bruce Molsky (world renowned fiddler and folk musician) Richie Stearns and Rosie Newton (Ithaca, NY Old-time musicians), and Pete Sutherland. Concerts, jams, contras, cooking! Admission. Check website for schedule. (802) 917-1186. director@summitschool.org. www.summitschool.wix.com/summitschool. *Through January 12.*

PERU. Program—Peru Trackers Foot Morphology Class. Evening class with Susan Morse of Keeping Track, who will be bringing her vast collection of freeze-dried mammal feet. Potluck dinner from 5:30-6 pm, followed by the class from 6-9 pm. For information and location call Tracy Black, (802) 379-1362. wwxski@myfairpoint.net. keepingtrack.org.

SOUTH HERO. Free Community Supper. 5:30-7 pm. Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC, 24 South St. (802) 372-4962. *Second Friday of each month.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

BRANDON. Birding Expedition: Winter Regular & Rarities in the Champlain Valley. This annual trip takes birders to various points along Lake Champlain to seek out winter visitors such as Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike and Snow Bunting as well as waterfowl on the lake. Dress for the weather and bring lunch. Meet at 8 am in the parking lot behind the Mobil station on Rt. 7. Leader: Sue Wetmore, (802) 247-3037. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir: "Ecstatic Visions." Works by Benjamin Britten and Richard Blackford. Admission. 7:30 pm. First Baptist Church, 190 Main St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.brattleborotix.com. *Also January 12.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book and Author Event: Bruce Seifer and Ed Antczak *Sustainable Communities*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MONTPELIER. Fourth Annual Winter Folk Music Festival, 'Spice on Snow'! Presented by The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture in downtown Montpelier. Lineup includes The Revelers, Bruce Molsky, Richie Stearns and Rosie Newton, Pete Sutherland. Concerts, jams, contras, cooking! Admission. (802) 917-1186. director@summitschool.org. Schedule on website. www.summitschool.wix.com/summitschool. *Also January 12.*

Caitlin Canty Performs in Brandon January 4th

Brandon Music in Brandon, VT welcomes back Caitlin Canty for a performance on Saturday, January 4th, 2014.

This show is special for a couple of reasons. For the first time in Vermont, Canty will be backed by the ambidextrous Matt Lorenz, a one-man-band and fellow Vermonter who simultaneously plays the guitar, percussion, violin, and harmonies. They have been writing songs and playing shows together for years, but this is the first time they've brought their show to Vermont.

Canty will also debut songs from a new album, just recorded, also featuring Lorenz. The album was produced by Jeffrey Foucault and is to be released in the spring.

Caitlin Canty receives high praise locally: the Ripton Coffee House cheers, "Can-

ty's lyrical insight is razor sharp. The imagery in her songs is so rich that you can feel the rain on your cheeks and see the sun reflecting off the snow," while the Rutland Reader says, "Authenticity always stands out, and Canty has that in spades."

Raised in Vermont and now based in NYC, singer/songwriter Caitlin Canty's sophomore album *Golden Hour* was a fan-funded album and blends her folk roots with a Western tone and an alt-country flavor.

Canty collaborates with several bands, including Darlingside, a string rock band, and serves as one-half of the duo Down Like Silver with Peter Bradley Adams, which released its debut EP in 2011. Caitlin has independently released several EPs including *Neon Streets* (2010) and the full-length album, *Green* (2007), which



Caitlin Canty

she recorded and mixed in her home studio.

Matt Lorenz is part of the roots-rock/junk-folk trio Rusty Belle as well as the one-man-band Suitcase Junket. He will accompany Caitlin on guitars, fiddle, banjo and percussion.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. General admission is \$15 with a pre-concert

dinner also available for \$15. Reservations are required for dinner! The venue is BYOB.

Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd., Brandon, VT 05733. Call (802) 465-4071 or e-mail info@brandon-music.net for reservations or information. www.brandon-music.net. www.caitlincanty.com.



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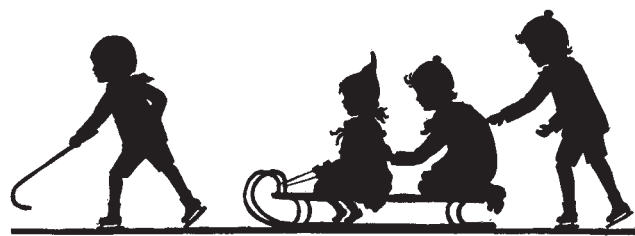
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Vermont Country Calendar



Buckwheat Griddle Cakes

For ordinary buckwheat cakes, we give one in rhyme, which may be relied upon as safe to follow:

If you fine buckwheat cakes would make
One quart of buckwheat flour take;
Four tablespoonfuls then of yeast;
Of salt one teaspoonful at least;
One handful Indian meal and two
Good tablespoonfuls of real New
Orleans molasses, then enough
Warm water to make of the stuff
A batter thin. Beat very well;
Set it to rise where warmth do dwell.
If in the morning, it should be
The least bit sour, stir in free
A very little soda that
Is first dissolved in water hot,
Mix in an earthen crock, and leave
Each morn a cupful in to give
A sponge for the next night, so you
Need not get fresh yeast to renew.

In weather cold this plan may be
Pursued ten days successfully,
Providing you add every night
Flour, salt, molasses, meal in right
Proportions, beating as before,
And setting it to rise once more.
When baking make of generous size
Your cakes; and if they'd take the prize
They must be light and nicely browned,
Then by your husband you'll be crowned
Queen of the kitchen; but you'll bake,
And he will, man-like, "take the cake."

Remarks—When buckwheat cakes are made without molasses, as is often done, if a small spoonful of molasses is added, each morning, to the cake batter, they will take a much nicer brown, being careful, however, not to burn them.

—Dr. A.W. Chase, 1884

MONTPELIER. Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. Our transect will most likely cover the lower portion of the Winooski River, where several eagles often over-winter. Free. 9 am – 4:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy and caller David Millstone. No partner necessary. Beginners and singles always welcome. All dances taught and called. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8 (Students \$5, under 16 free). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Second Saturday dances continue through June 2014.*

PERU. Program—Peru Trackers Local Field Workshop. Team members should bring appropriate winter clothing and footwear (wool and wicking fabrics; hiking boots with strong ankle support suggested; snowshoes if conditions warrant). Pack a bagged lunch and hot drinks. 8:30 am – 4 pm. For information and location call Tracy Black, (802) 379-1362. wxcski@myfairpoint.net. keepingtrack.org.

PLAINFIELD. Monthly Sacred Harp Sing. A free event, with beginners and loaner books available. 3-5 pm at the Community Center above the Co-op in Plainfield. For more information, contact Lynnette Combs at (802) 426-3850. lynnetcombs@gmail.com. *Second Sundays.*

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH. Winter Trails Day. Annual celebration of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Free rentals and short instructional sessions for first-time snowshoers and cross-country skiers. Cross-country ski sessions on the hour and snowshoeing sessions on the half hour. Free. 12 noon - 4 pm. Smugglers' Notch Resort Nordic Ski and Showshoe Adventure Center, 4323 Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-1173. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com.

STOWE. Race to the Cabin. 5k classic point-to-point from Trapp Family Lodge Outdoor Center to Slayton Pasture Cabin. Race starts 10 am; day-of registration opens 9 am. Classic Technique. Awards and after-party at the Trapp Brewery. Register online at www.skireg.com. \$25 entry fee includes beverage of choice of the Trapp Brewery. Trapp Family Lodge Outdoor Center, 700 Trapp Hill Rd. (802) 253-5755. trappfamily.com.

STOWE. Ladies Nordic Ski Expo. Join the Catamount Trail Association for a full day of traditional nordic (skate & classic), backcountry, and telemark instruction for women by women. Fee \$105 includes instruction, lunch in the Trapp Family Lodge dining room, post-lunch guest speaker presentation, après ski wine, cheese and chocolate social, raffle ticket and trail pass. Ski rentals and lodging available. 8:30 am – 5:30 pm. At Trapp Family Lodge, 700 Trapp Hill Lodge. (802) 864-5794. www.catamounttrail.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir: "Ecstatic Visions." Works by Benjamin Britten and Richard Blackford. Admission. 3 pm. First Baptist Church, 190 Main St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.brattleborotix.com.

CHESTER. Green Mountain Express hosts Monthly Open Mike Country Jamboree. All musicians and singers, bands and singles welcome. Refreshments, raffles and 50/50 tickets on sale. Admission \$5 donation. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rte 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Continues 2nd Sundays.*

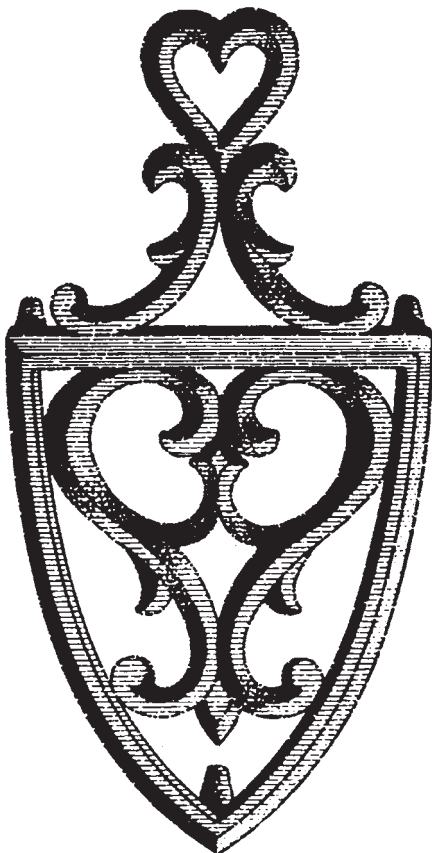
FAIR HAVEN. Breakfast Buffet. \$7 adult, \$3.50 children. 8-11 am. Sponsored by the American Legion Post #49, 72 S. Main St. (802) 265-7983. *Continues every second Sunday of the month.*

MONTPELIER. Fourth Annual Winter Folk Music Festival, "Spice on Snow"! Presented by The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture in downtown Montpelier. Concerts, jams, contras, cooking! Admission. Check website for schedule. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. www.summitschool.wix.com/summitschool. *Also January 12.*

MONTPELIER. Capital City Concerts: "Rural Refrains." Music of Schubert, Roussel, Berlioz, Libby Larsen and more, featuring soprano Hyunah Yu with an ensemble of fine instrumentalists. Admission. 3:30 pm. Unitarian Church of Montpelier, 130 Main St. (802) 223-6743. info@capitalcityconcerts.org. www.capitalcityconcerts.org.

SOUTH ROYALTON. Ninth Annual Direct Marketing Conference. Marketing help for farmers and farmers market organizers. Sponsored by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont. 16 workshops, inspiring speakers, and networking. Fee \$50, lunch made with local ingredients and refreshments included. At Vermont Law School. For more information and to register, visit www.nofavt.org/dmc. (802) 434-4122. caitlin@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org.

WEST FAIRLEE. Snowshoe or Winter Hike in the New Brushwood Community Forest. Explore the old forests and new trails. There will possibly be some bushwhacking. A moderate three-four hours. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leaders, Jane & Skip Brown, at (802) 333-4541 for meeting place and time. www.greenmountainclub.org.



WEST PAWLET. Pancake Breakfast. Sponsored by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department. Menu includes regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry pancakes as well as waffles, scrambled eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, coffee, milk and orange juice. \$7 for 12 years and up, \$5 for 5-12 years and free to children under 5. All are welcome. From 7:30-11 am at the West Pawlet Fire House, Rt. 153. For info contact Antonio Landon at (802) 345-4312. wp5801@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

EAST MONTPELIER. Cross-country Ski Outing. Various distances. Morse Farm Ski Touring Center has groomed trails for all abilities. Trail fee. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Meet at Morse Farm, 1168 County Rd. Contact Reidun and Andrew Nuquist at (802) 223-3550 for meeting time. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WOODSTOCK. Cross-country Ski & Swim. At Woodstock Country Club/Spa. All levels & all distances, from easy to challenging. Fee. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leader, Inge Brown, at (802) 296-5777 for meeting time. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Community Dinner. We gather for a free community supper. Really; it's free! We have a great time with old and new friends. The food is great; the fellowship is wonderful—and you don't have to wear fancy clothes! 6 pm. United Church of Craftsbury, 7 Church Lane. (802) 586-8028. *Continues on third Wednesdays.*

NORWICH. Book and Author Event. Phyllis Katz reads new poems from *Migrations*. Free. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main Street. Reservations are recommended. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. www.norwichbookstore.com.

NORWICH. Moonlight Outing on Gile Mountain. Snowshoe or hike, depending on conditions, from Turnpike Rd. to fire tower at summit. 1.8 mile round trip, 400' elevation gain. Short but steep. Free. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leader, Kathy Astruckas, at (802) 785-4311 for meeting place and time. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms Full Moon Sleigh Rides. Join Pat Palmer of Thornapple Farm and his team of Percheron draft horses for a winter evening of star gazing. Put on your woolies, and don't forget to bring a thermos with a warm beverage. Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 child, children under 3 free. Pre-registration required. 5:30 pm, 6:05 pm & 6:40 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. registration@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

BURLINGTON. Book Launch. Jessica Hendry Nelson discusses her new book, *If Only You People Could Follow Directions*. Free. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. info@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Alan Benoit Sustainability Series Presents: "Home Efficiency Basics." Come hear Alan Benoit, local architect, take the mystery out of energy efficiency and present it in a way that is easy to digest. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com. www.sustainabledesignofvt.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Performance: Garrison Keillor. The charming, witty, and always-entertaining writer, humorist, and celebrity speaker. Tickets \$49.50, \$59.50, \$69.50. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Marsh Monthly Monitoring Bird Walk. To date 145 species, from Least Bittern to Rusty Blackbird, have been recorded at this Important Bird Area. Join us for this 3.7-mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway). Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 am. Leader: Roy Pilcher, (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WOODSTOCK. Film: National Theatre Live—Alan Bennett's acclaimed play *The Habit of Art* about Benjamin Britten. Tickets \$20 for adults, \$12 for students. 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org. Also January 23.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

FAIRLEE. 18th Annual Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference. Day-long intensive sessions on Friday with a keynote; 24 workshops on Saturday. Topics include grazing impacts on soil health, animal handling, parasite management, adding value, and more. Cost: \$45-\$70. 9 am - 5 pm. Lake Morey Resort. (802) 656-0858. jcolby@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu/pasture. Through January 18.

MONTPELIER. Full Moon Snowshoe Hike. Explore Montpelier's hillsides with NBNC staff. Night activities will illuminate how wildlife survives the long nights of winter. Snowshoes and hot chocolate provided. Fee \$10. 7 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206.

RANDOLPH. Concert: The April Verch Band. Canada's Ottawa Valley meets old-time Appalachia with fiddling, stepdancing, and great vocals. Admission. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Concert: Bruckner Symphony No. 4. Windham Orchestra's 44th season. 7:30 pm at Vermont Academy. For tickets call (802) 257-4523.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Freddie Bryant Kaleidoscope Quartet. A Tribute to VJC Founder, Attila Zoller. Guitarist Bryant is a master of many styles and a United Nations Jazz Ambassador. Tickets: \$20 general admission; students \$15. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

COLCHESTER. A Classical Celebration of Community Concert. Burlington Chamber Orchestra performs Mozart & Haydn, with violinist Soovin Kim & conductor Karina Canellakis. \$25 adults, \$10 students at the door or online at www.flynntix.org or call (802) 863-5966. 7:30 pm. McCarthy Arts Center at Saint Michael's College, 1 Winooski Park. (802) 999-8881. bco@bcovt.org. www.flynntix.org.

MANCHESTER. Free Bird Walk. The Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. For info call Randy Schmidt at (802) 362-2270 or email randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. Meet at 8 am at the Welcome Center parking lot. Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7961. www.hildene.org.

MONTPELIER. Lake Champlain Birding. Explore the wetlands, fields and water bodies of the Champlain Valley for waterfowl and winter birds: Rough-legged Hawks, winter waterfowl, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Short-eared Owls, and more. Fee \$25. 8 am - 4:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

NORTH DORSET. Snowshoe or X-C Ski Outing at Emerald Lake State Park. Hike or, if snow permits, snowshoe or cross-country ski on the Meadow Trail, returning on the Lower Trail and the Nature Trail. Easy, two miles, except moderate difficulty for skiers. Elevation gain 400 feet. Optional add-on of 1.6 miles. Good views! Free. 10 am - 1 pm. Meet at the Park gate. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leaders, Lois & Max Kraus, at (802) 293-2510.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Pianist Simone Dinnerstein. Benefit performance for Chandler's Steinway concert grand. A free reception follows the concert. Admission. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main Street. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Social Knitting Circle. Join fellow knitters, all skill levels welcome. Ideal for those who want to get started on a project, continue a project or have a question and need advice. Just show up! Open to all ages. Free. Meets at the Joy Green Visitor Center. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. Also February 15, March 15 and April 19.

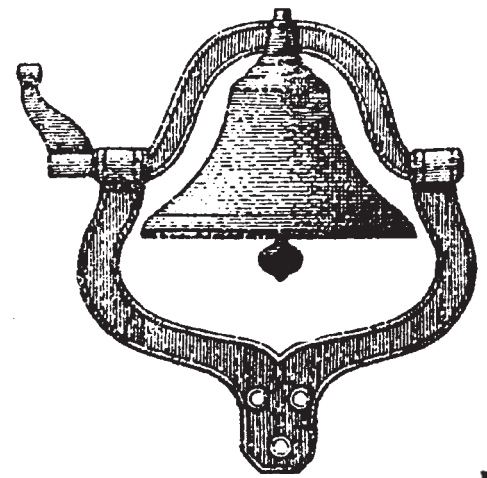
SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Market. Local vendors will offer meats, poultry, eggs, breads, pies, quiche, herbs, canned produce, Greek specialties, and a selection of handmade crafts in gym from 10 am - 1 pm at Sharon Elementary, exit 2 off I-89. Info: Keenan Haley at (802) 763-7425. www.sharon.owsu.org. Third Saturday of every month.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms Winter Wildlife Detectives. Learn about animals who are active in the winter time and then go exploring for signs of those animals around the Farm. Dress warmly for the outdoor portion of this program. Fee: \$12 adult & child, \$6 each additional child. Pre-registration required. Ages 5 and up. 10 am - 12 pm. Education Center, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. registration@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 3 pm. Knights of Columbus, 2 Berard Dr. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. Also January 19.

STOWE. Stowe Winter Carnival. Enjoy ice carving demonstrations and competitions, ski races, snow golf and snow volleyball, as a spectator or a challenger. Kids Carnival Kaos. Carnival "meltdown" parties for adults. More than 15 competitive sporting events. Free to the public; participant entry fee for sporting events. (802) 777-5510. www.stowewintercarnival.com. Through February 2.

STOWE. Tour De Trapp 30K/15K Skate Marathon (Zak Cup). A great season opener for distance racing. The 2- or 4-lap mass start skate race will occur on the race course. Fee \$40. 8 am. Trapp Family Lodge, 700 Trapp Hill Rd. (802) 253-5721. trappfamily.com



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Upper Valley

Revels Kids 2014: Cajun and Creole Traditions

Revels North celebrates the turning of the seasons through the power of traditional song, dance, storytelling and ritual. Based in the Upper Valley region of neighboring states Vermont and New Hampshire, they gather local communities together with national and international artists to produce seasonal shows. You may have seen the recent Christmas Revels performed at Dartmouth College's Hopkins Center.

The Revels Kids program is about to begin for the year. It introduces children in 1st through 8th grades to world cultures through music, dance, percussion, & storytelling. Children meet weekly through the winter. At any given "rehearsal" you might see them playing theater games; learning words or phrases in foreign languages; experimenting with new rhythms on traditional drums; or just plain having fun dancing and singing.

In January 2014, the Revels Kids program will take your children on a journey into the bayous and countryside of Louisiana to explore the rich heritage of Cajun and Creole traditions. Laissez les bons temps rouler!

The Revels Kids experience understanding not only how each of these cultures has a unique background, but also how they have influenced one another over the years. By

the conclusion of the program in March, your children will be singing songs in French, experimenting with the rhythms of the Creole rubboard (or frottoir), dancing the two-step to Cajun tunes, and giggling at the antics of the trickster character, M. Lapin.

They will be guided on this cultural adventure by our dynamic Revels Kids faculty, including Anna Alden, Maureen Burford, Carol Cronce, Abigail Fleming, Sharon Groblicki, Katie Kitchel, Jenn Langhus, Melinda Ricker, and Kim Rheinlander. Guest artists we are hoping to invite this year include Andy Stewart and Mary Jo Slatery of the Offshore Aces Cajun Band as well as Suzanne Wozniak from Planet Zydeco. Join your children in song at a Community Sing-Along, and enjoy your children's work at a culminating performance. The eight-week program will fly by in a flurry of song, dance, acting, and, of course, fun and friendship.

Won't you join us in January 2014? How can you not?!

For children in first to sixth grades (Kindergarten by special permission) who are looking for a rich exploration of musical traditions, we recommend our Revels Kids programs in Bradford and Norwich.

New this year is an enhanced Revels "Big Kids" program for children in fifth to eighth grades (4th graders by special permission). This program—hosted in Hanover, NH—will have a stronger focus on performance.

Revels Kids offers programs at the following sites:

- Mondays in Bradford, VT at Grace United Methodist Church from 4-5:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays BIG Kids program in Hanover, NH at the Hanover Friends Meeting House from 4-5:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays in White River Junction, VT at White River School from 3:30-5 p.m.
- Thursdays in Norwich, VT at the Grange Hall from 4-5:30 p.m.

All programs begin the week of January 27th and run through March 30th.

To learn more, or to enroll your child, please visit our website at www.revelsnorth.org/revels-kids.

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Sleigh Ride Weekend

January 18, 19, & 20, 2014
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Weekend. Horse-drawn sleigh rides through the frosty farm fields and sledding with jack jumper sleds. Visit the dairy farm and restored farmhouse, farm programs and hands-on activities. Adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 20.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

BELLOWS FALLS. Mandolin Chamber Music Concert. August Watters will perform with New England Mandolin Ensemble and participants in the Festival of Mandolin Chamber Music II. Admission. Tickets \$17, senior/child \$13. 3 pm. Immanuel Retreat Center, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. sca-irc.wildapricot.org.

BOLTON VALLEY. Backcountry Ski on Woodward Mountain Trail. Follow a ridge down to Little River State Park from the top of Bolton Valley Resort's Vista Quad. This trip will require a car drop and may require the purchase of a single-ride lift ticket. Otherwise free. Difficult terrain, moderate pace, 5.6 miles, 2650' elevation loss. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leader, Chase Rosenberg, by 1/16 at (614) 425-5027 or rosemtextpress@gmail.com for meeting place and time. www.greenmountainclub.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert. Windham Orchestra's 44th season. Citizen Composer: Jan Norris, "Melting Spring" Bruckner, Symphony No.4. 3 pm at the Latchis Theatre. For tickets call (802) 257-4523. www.windhamorchestra.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 3-5:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. Information: laurat@crocker.com. *Third Sundays.*

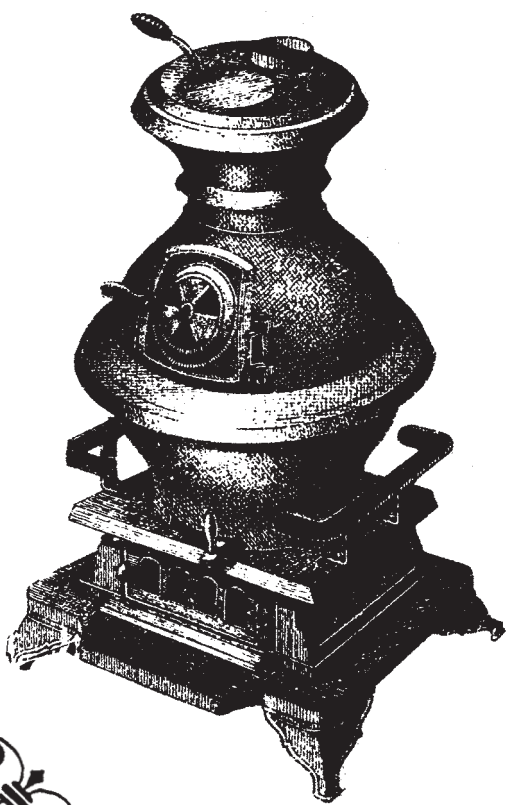
SHELBURNE. High Bionutrient Crop Production Workshop. Innovative and reliable principles and practices for producing more nutritious food crops that lead to healthier lives. Cost for a two-sessions workshop: \$150. Pre-registration required. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. registration@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org. bionutrient.org/workshops. *Through January 20.*

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 3 pm. Knights of Columbus, 2 Berard Dr.. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Weekend. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, and programs and activities for all ages plus the award-winning documentary, *Nine From Little Rock*. Admission: \$14 adults, \$13 seniors, \$8 children 5-15, \$4 children 3 & 4. Open 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also January 20.*

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

BELLOWS FALLS. Cooking Class: French Cooking. Chef John Marston is excited about conducting this informal class and sharing his experience with others. We'll provide knives and aprons to assist your hands on preparation. 6-8:30 pm. Fee, call to register. Leslie's Tavern, 660 Rockingham Rd. (802) 463-4929. www.lesliestavern.com.



MONTPELIER. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Program—The Problem with Slavery in Vermont. UVM Professor Harvey Amani Whitfield will present the results of his research as he uncovers the true history of slavery in Vermont. His new book on the topic, *The Problem of Slavery in Vermont, 1777-1810*, will be published by the Vermont Historical Society in February 2014. 12-1 pm at the Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 828-2180. amanda.gustin@state.vt.us. www.vermonthistory.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Weekend. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, and programs and activities for all ages plus the award-winning documentary, *Nine From Little Rock*. Admission: \$14 adults, \$13 seniors, \$8 children 5-15, \$4 children 3 & 4. Open 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

MANCHESTER. Snowshoe Outing on Equinox Mountain via Beartown Road Trail. Climb to summit of Equinox Mountain, 3.8 miles each way, total 7.6 miles, elevation gain of 2300 feet to Lookout Rock and another about 200 feet to the summit. A difficult trek. Be sure to bring extra layers for the lunch stop. 8 am - 4:30 pm. Meet at the parking area behind the Congregational Church in Manchester Village at 8 am. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leader, Steve Gryzb, at (802) 362-6108 to confirm date. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A community meal that is free to all. 9 am - 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org. UCCBethany@comcast.net. *Every Tuesday.*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

COLCHESTER. A Classical Celebration of Community Concert. Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival Winter Encore Concert. Works by Mendelssohn, Kodaly, and Pierre Jalbert. 7:30 pm. \$25 adults, \$10 students at the door or online at www.flynntix.org or call (802) 863-5966. Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael's College, 223 Ethan Allen Ave. (802) 846-2175. www.lccmf.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Workshop: Enrolling Your Land in Current Use (UVA). Our land management consulting staff will give an overview of the program and will answer your questions about enrolling your land. We'll also discuss land management plans—the documents that guide you in caring for your forest or farm. Cost \$5. 6-7:30 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. www.northwoodscenter.org.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

MONTPELIER. Summit School Players Jam. Share music, a meal, and help Summit School sustain its programs! Suggested Donation \$5. 6-8 pm. Call or e-mail for confirmation of schedule. Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. www.summitschool.wix.com/summitschool. *Every fourth Thursday.*

WOODSTOCK. Film: National Theatre Live—Alan Bennett's acclaimed play *The Habit of Art* about Benjamin Britten. Tickets \$20 for adults, \$12 for students. 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. (802) 457-3981.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

MONTPELIER. Superbowl of Birding XI. Check out our trip report from 2013 or 2012 for more about the birds we see. Teens, let us know early if you're interested in joining the team. Fee TBD. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org. *Through January 25.*

MONTPELIER. Program: Dark Times for Bats. Wildlife biologist Mollie Matteson, a conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity, will talk about why bats are important and the multiple threats to bat survival, including disease, pesticides, climate change and large-scale wind energy. \$5 suggested donation. 7 pm. Unitarian Church of Montpelier. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. 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) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org. *Every fourth Friday.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

BRATTLEBORO. Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. Daytime participation and performance activities, including workshops, panels, mini-concerts, pub sessions, dance band prep, and a family dance. Evening performance featuring musicians representing the best of the northern musical traditions. Admission. 12 noon - 10 pm. New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

BURLINGTON. A Classical Celebration of Community Concert. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus with Robert DeCormier performing Bernstein, Chichester Psalms; and Brahms, A German Requiem, Op. 45. \$25 adults, \$10 students at the door or online at www.flynntix.org or call (802) 863-5966. 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org.

Green Mountain Gardener

Cleaning Bird Feeders

And Other January Gardening Tips

by Charlie Nardozzi, *Horticulturist*
and Leonard Perry,
UVM Extension Horticulturist

Cleaning bird feeders, giving your houseplants proper water, and checking your inventory of seeds and supplies are some of the gardening activities for this month.

It's midwinter, and birds have been visiting your feeder for months. But unless you've been cleaning your feeder regularly, it could be making some of these wild birds sick. To minimize the spread of disease, empty and disinfect the feeder monthly with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water. Clean droppings off the perching area and make sure your bird food isn't moldy. If you don't like to use bleach, a household disinfectant such as Lysol works too, diluted half with water. Soak for 15 minutes, then rinse thoroughly.

If your indoor fig (*Ficus*) tree is starting to drop leaves, it may be due to your watering schedule. This includes the common Benjamin fig and rubber plant. Don't over water, and don't let the plant stand in a saucer of water for an extended length of time or its roots may be damaged. On the other hand, don't let soil dry out completely either. Try to keep the soil evenly moist, watering thoroughly and then allowing the excess water to drain. Wait until the soil dries out slightly to the touch before watering again.

If your houseplants are growing tall and leggy, they probably need some supplemental light to help compensate for the short days. You can use fluorescent tubes, or most any spot lamp. Best are those listed as "full spectrum" or "daylight" or similar wording. I like to use light fixtures that clamp onto a bookcase or similar surface. Place the lights 4 to 6 inches above the tops of the plants, and keep them on for about 16 hours a day using a timer available at hardware stores.

It's time to dust off the seed-starting equipment. Take inventory of trays, pots, and six-packs from past years and discard any that are cracked. Reduce risk of disease by soaking them in a solution of 10 percent bleach and water, or half-strength household disinfectant, then air dry.

Do a germination test on stored seeds to see how viable they are. Place 10 or 20 seeds between two sheets of moist paper towel and tuck into a loosely tied plastic bag. Place in a warm area, and check every few days. If germination is less than 80 percent, consider purchasing new seeds of that crop.

Winter is when you'll get seed and plant catalogs in the mail. Looking through these, and online, is a great way to spend many hours during our short winter days and long cold nights. Look for new introductions but make sure they'll be hardy in your area unless annuals. You can see online how some of the newer annuals have performed in Vermont at pss.uvm.edu/ppp/aaswp.html.

Charlie Nardozzi is a nationally known horticulturist, author, gardening consultant, and garden coach. Visit Charlie Nardozzi.com. Leonard Perry is an Extension Professor at the University of Vermont. Visit his website at www.perrysperennials.info.

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Vermont Country Calendar

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Masterworks Concert. Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem. Adults \$61/\$48/\$32/\$16, students \$9. 8 pm at Flynn MainStage. (800) 876-9293. vso.org.

CHESTER. 20th Anniversary New Voices. Authors who will be speaking are Rebecca Walker, *Ade* (New Harvest Press); Elaine Neil Orr, *A Different Sun* (Berkley/Penguin); Shahan Mufti, *The Faithful Scribe* (Other Press); Rhonda Riley, *The Enchanted Life of Adam Hope* (HarperCollins); and Peter Swanson, *The Girl With a Clock for a Heart* (William Morrow). 9 am—cross country skiing/snowshoeing at Grafton Ponds Cross Country Ski Touring Center. 2-5 pm—readings at the Historic Stone Church (Rt.103 North) with reception & book signing afterwards, tickets \$10. 6-8 pm—wine & cheese reception (cash bar) and dinner at The Fullerton Inn (call for reservations) (802) 875-2444 and price). 8 pm—socialize with authors in front of the fire at the inn. (802) 875-3400. mvbooks@vermontel.net. www.mvbooks.com.

EAST CHARLESTON. Ski Tour the Kingdom: Ski to Dinner. 5-km cross country ski from Echo Lake to the Northwoods Center. Appropriate for intermediate and adventurous beginner skiers. End at Northwoods for a homemade dinner. Bring extra layers and a hot thermos. Limited skis available. Cost: \$20, includes dinner. 2-6 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. www.northwoodscenter.org.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum sponsors its monthly bird monitoring walk from 8-10 am on the Museum's property, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-register by e-mailing museum@birdsofvermont.org or call (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book and Author Event: Abigail Carroll talks about her book, *Three Squares: The Invention of the American Meal*. A history of how the American meal has been invented and reinvented as a result of changes in the nature of work and developments in technology. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

NORWICH. Earth and Space Day. Celebrate science, the wonders of the Earth, and our place in the universe. All day programs and workshops. Families welcome. Free with museum admission. 10 am - 4:30 pm. 6:30 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, 1 Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.

NORWICH. Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. All dances taught. Beginners are welcome—no partner is necessary. Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, students \$5, seniors by donation, under 16 are free. 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Fourth Saturdays thru May.*

PITTSFORD. Snowshoe or Cross-country Ski Excursion. 10 am - 1 pm. Free. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leader, Sue Thomas, at (802) 773-2185 for meeting place and time. www.greenmountainclub.org.

PLAINFIELD. Vermont Vaudeville. All-ages community show that features local talent and world-touring professionals performing circus, comedy, magic, puppetry, music and more. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 kids. 7 pm. Haybarn Theatre at Goddard College, 123 Pitkin Rd. (802) 322-1685. www.goddard.edu.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Tim Eriksen and the Trio de Pumpkintown. Songs from an imaginary New England village. Love songs of the sea, fiddle tunes, ballads. Admission. 7:30 pm. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Winterfest. Enjoy a day of wintery activities: sledding, snow play and tasty treats! Donations accepted for Shelburne Parks & Recreation Dept. Sleigh rides \$2/person. 12 noon - 3 pm. Farm Barn Courtyard, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. registration@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SHOREHAM. Free Ice Fishing Day Festival. Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff and experienced volunteer ice fishing enthusiasts will be there from 1-4:30 pm to help everyone, young and old, learn how to enjoy this unique and popular type of fishing. At the Larrabee Point Fishing Access Area on Lake Champlain. For more information, contact Nicole Corrao, (802) 318-1347. Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH. Heritage WinterFest. Saturday, guided snowshoeing nature walk at Smugglers' Nordic Center, and sleigh rides, children's story hour, a lasagna dinner, family contra dance, bonfire and fireworks in Jeffersonville. Primitive Biathlon on Saturday and Sunday at the Sterling Ridge Inn. Spectators welcome. Fee for some events. Smugglers' Notch Resort Nordic Center and Sterling Ridge Inn. (802) 644-8851. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com. *Through January 26.*

STATEWIDE. Free Ice Fishing Day. A day when anyone, resident or nonresident, may go fishing without a fishing license. Vermont's ice fishing season for trout, salmon and bass runs from January 18 through March 15 on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 60 of the 2014 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. For more information, contact Nicole Corrao, (802) 318-1347. Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us.

WOODSTOCK. Fourth Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series: "The Singing Revolution." Over a five-year period, hundreds of thousands of Estonians gathered in public venues to sing (illegal) patriotic songs. Special appearance by filmmakers, Jim and Maureen Tusty. Tickets: adults (16 & up) \$132 for 14-film package or \$11 per film; children ages 3-15, \$6 per film. For a complete list of screenings and ticket information go to www.billingsfarm.org or call (802) 457-2355. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

BOLTON VALLEY. Get Out & Backcountry Ski Festival. Bolton Valley Resort. A full day of backcountry instruction and exploration! Classes for every ability level and some of the best instructors in the state! Nordic BC, Tele, AT. For more information go to catamounttrail.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Youth Orchestra performs their winter concert with VYO alumni Soovin Kim, violin and Pierre Jalbert, composer. \$17 adults, \$12 students at the door or online at www.flynnitx.org or call (802) 863-5966. 3 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 652-4500.

CHITTENDEN. Annual Paintball Biathlon. Featuring the children's BKL race. Competition combines cross-country skiing and shooting at targets. Admission. Mountain Top Inn & Resort Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-6089. www.mountaintopinn.com.

MONTPELIER. 8th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. Up to 24 dealers offering primitives, furniture, art, toys, books, photos, and ephemera from the New England area. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks Country Club, 1 Country Club Rd., just off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. *2nd & 4th Sundays through March.*

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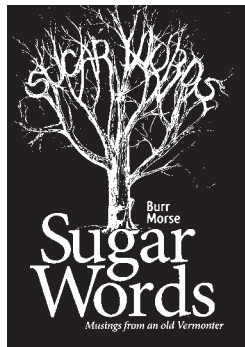


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The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture Presents The Fourth Annual Winter Folk Music Festival

Winter is cold in Vermont! The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture will heat things up by hosting 'Spice on Snow' Winter Music Festival January 9-12th, 2014.

The festival will take place in various locations in downtown Montpelier including:

Bethany Church, Threepenny Taproom, NECI, Skinny Pancake, Summit School.

We are bringing nationally known acts to our small capitol city of Montpelier, including a very special Cajun cuisine expert and chef, Toby Rodriguez. Our stellar lineup of musical perform-

ers will include The Revelers (featured on the TV series 'Treme', and Anthony Bourdain's 'No Reservations'), Bruce Molsky (world renowned fiddler and folk musician) Richie Stearns and Rosie Newton (Ithaca, NY Old-time musicians extraordinaire), and Pete Sutherland (our local gem). We are so excited to celebrate the winter with dances, cooking classes, music workshops, and concerts. We plan on a weekend finale brunch at the Threepenny Taproom, a local favorite eatery, with live mu-

sic and tasty Cajun breakfast foods catered by Toby.

Ticket prices: an all-weekend pass is \$175, Saturday only pass is \$90, cooking pass \$100 for all-weekend cooking immersion.

The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture is located at 46 Barre St., Montpelier, VT.

For information and tickets contact the Katie Trautz at (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. www.summitschool.wix.com/summitschool.



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Vermont Country Calendar

MONTPELIER. Winter Festival: Ice on Fire. Wonderful winter activities including a parade, storytelling, winter games and outdoor theater. Suggested donation: \$3 adult, \$1 child, \$5 family. 2-5 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich, Caller Chris Levey. Bring a snack or drinks to share at the potluck dessert break. All dances taught, no partner needed. All are welcome. Clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes only (or socks). Admission: \$8 Adults, \$4 ages 25 and under. 1-4 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD. *Dances continue through April 20.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus 20th Anniversary Concert. Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, and the Brahms Requiem. Tickets \$9-\$32. 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. www.vso.org.

UNDERHILL. Snowshoe Hike to Taylor Lodge. Pleasant winter outing past a large beaver pond to Taylor Lodge, a good place to get out of the wind for lunch. Easy to moderate, slow pace, approx. 4.2 miles (shorter if road is open to Stevensville Road parking lot). Free. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. For meeting place and time contact leader, Dot Myer, at dotmyer@myfairpoint.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

BELLOWS FALLS. Cooking Class: Pasta and Sauces. Chef John Marston is excited about conducting this informal class and sharing his experience with others. We'll provide knives and aprons to assist your hands on preparation. 6-8:30 pm. Fee, call to register. Leslie's Tavern, 660 Rockingham Rd. (802) 463-4929. www.lesliestavern.com.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

HYDE PARK. Downton Abbey Dinner and Etiquette Talk. A comfortable dinner and a detailed explanation of table settings, etiquette history, and properly managing everything. Admission. 7 pm. Governor's House, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. info@OneHundredMain.com. www.OneHundredMain.com. Also January 29 & 30.

MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A community meal that is free to all. 9 am - 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org. UCCBethany@comcast.net. *Every Tuesday.*

RUTLAND. Artist Discussion. Joan Hoffmann, plein air artist and naturalist will show her oil and watercolor paintings and discuss her inspiration and work highlighting connections between culture and nature. Refreshments provided. 7 pm at Downtown Chaffee Gallery, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 747-4466. www.birdingwithwatercolors.blogspot.com.

SHELburne. Evening Knitting Circle. Knit, relax, and chat with fellow knitting enthusiasts, and enjoy a simple dessert. Experienced knitters will be on hand to answer questions, but there is no formal program. All levels welcome. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$5. 7-9 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. registration@shelburnefarms.org. shelburnefarms.org. Also February 11.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

BURLINGTON. University of Vermont Lane Series Concert: Nordic Voices. This six-member a cappella group performs a repertoire that ranges from medieval plainchant to specially commissioned new works. \$30 adult. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. lane.series@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu.

JAY. Farmers' Appreciation Day. Free skiing and riding for local Vermont farms. Four free lift tickets per farm. Sign up in advance by emailing or calling Luke; have your Co-op/Farm ID ready. Rentals for just \$10. 8 am - 5 pm. New Stateside Day Lodge at Jay Peak Resort. Luke Sussdorff: (802) 327-2596. lsussdorff@jaypeakresort.com. jaypeakresort.com.

MONTPELIER. Program: Vermont's Bird Atlas—A Story from 56,000 Observations. Rosalind Renfrew will share results from the state's largest inventory of bird life, with a focus on changes in Vermont's bird communities during the last 30 years. \$5 suggested donation. 7 pm. Unitarian Church of Montpelier. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

PITTSFIELD. 2014 Peak Winter Death Race. 48+ hour event that is created to break you physically, mentally, and emotionally. Only consider this race if you have lived a full life to date. Admission. Ameer Farm, 4275 Rt. 100. (928) 503-4249. thomas.a.villarreal@gmail.com. winterdeathrace14.eventbrite.com.

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH. Rails for Ryan. Under the lights rail jam to benefit the Flyin' Ryan Foundation. Entry free, with suggested \$5 donation. Compete or just join us for a good time. Prizes awarded. 6 pm at the Madonna/Sterling Mountains Base Lodge. Registration at 5 pm under the Smuggs tent at Base Lodge. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-8851. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

BENSON. Second Annual Benson Polar Bear Eight-Hour Obstacle Challenge. Over 5+ miles, 45+ obstacles, trail running, hills, mud, ice, and snow. All the braggin' rights go the person who can complete the most laps in eight hours. Admission. 7 am. Shale Hill Adventure Farm, 517 Lake Rd. (802) 537-3561. shalehilladventure@aol.com. www.shalehilladventure.com.

BONDVILLE. Snowshoe Outing up Stratton Mountain from North Brookwood. Snowshoe via two snowmobile trails and the Long Trail to the south summit fire tower, then north to the north summit with the ski area, and back down via the Wanderer Trail. About 5 1/2 miles, about 1300 feet elevation gain, moderate difficulty. 8 am - 3:30 pm. Meet at the Bondville Post Office on Rt. 30 at 8 am. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Leader: Dave Ratti, (802) 366-0698. www.greenmountainclub.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 11th Annual Collegiate A Cappella Concert. This year's lineup features six great groups, including fan favorites the Dartmouth Aires and Tufts Beelzebubs. Tickets: \$25/\$35/\$75 available exclusively through Brattleboro Tix: brattleborotix.com. 7:30 pm. Latchis Theater. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BURLINGTON. Young Adventurers Cross-Country Ski at the Intervale. Kids can be on skis or in a carrier, but let's get them out to enjoy another great winter activity. Easy pace, approximately two miles. 9-11 am. Free. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Contact leader, Kelley Christie, by 1/30 at (802) 999-7839 or kelleychristie@gmail.com for meeting place and time. www.greenmountainclub.org.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Winterfest 2014. Special Olympics Penguin Plunge. Live music, pet parade, ice carving, hayrides, dog sled rides (weather permitting), indoor children's carnival, storytelling, arts and crafts, vendors and more. Donation. 11 am - 6 pm. Throughout the village. (802) 447-3311. lindyslynch@yahoo.com.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Fifth Annual Chili Tasting Event. Over 20 varieties including vegetarian, white chili, chicken, sausage, chicken and sweet potato, venison in addition to the traditional hot, medium, and mild beef chilies. Live music and cash bar. Donation. 11:30 am - 2 pm. Vermont Art Exchange, 29 Sage St. (802) 442-0380. norshaftlions@aol.com.

RUTLAND. Concert: Aleksey Semenenko. 23-year-old Ukrainian violinist. Tickets \$20/\$10. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. www.vso.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: Groundhog Day Ornament. Instructor: Sue Carey. For marmot lovers and non-marmot lovers alike, this workshop uses a hands-on approach to needle-felting a cute little animal—and what could be cuter than a baby woodchuck especially if it is in somebody else's lawn and not your garden. The body will be soft while the arms and legs will be firmly attached. Suitable for beginners and intermediate felters. Workshop fee: \$25, material fee \$25. 12-4 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. www.galleryvault.org.

WATERBURY CENTER. Green Mountain Club Annual Winter Trails Festival. Winter hikes & nature walks, workshops & demonstrations, free snowshoe demos, and indoor and outdoor activities for all ages, including bonfire, s'mores and cocoa. Party 3-5 pm. Whole day \$10 for general public, kids get in free! Become a GMC member at the event and receive free admission. 8:30 am - 3 pm. Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 244-7037. www.greenmountainclub.org.



A Shut-In's Sport

Cracks in a wall
Can be absorbing:
I recall
One that has stared at me
Through the winter's long captivity.
I've traced it (being bored, perhaps)
As one might trace the Rio Grande on maps.
The source located,
First I follow windings in and out.
Those unnamed brooks to right and left
Contribute to the widening cleft;
And moving on (imagination deft),
I visualize on either side
High palisades
And ruins of castles in disguise
Where knights in armor ride
Through leafy glades.
Then on the long way back
I find to my surprise
That one can dramatize—
(If tenses themes go slack)—
An old wall's crack.

—MARION MEISEL
1939



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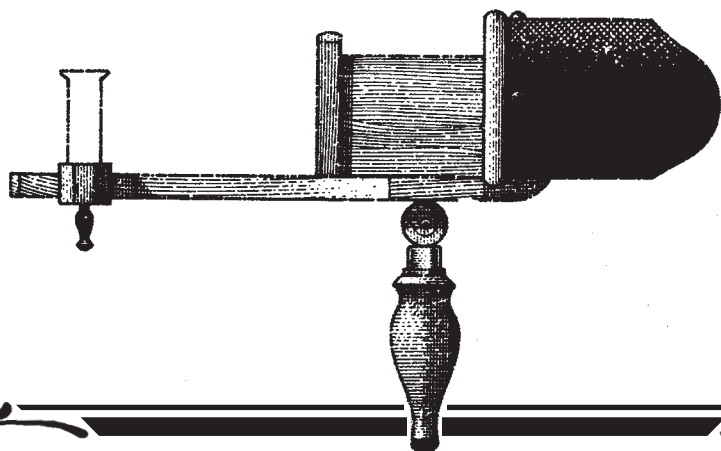
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Pianist Simone Dinnerstein Performs at Chandler Music Hall

On Saturday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m., acclaimed pianist Simone Dinnerstein will perform a benefit concert for the Chandler Center for the Arts' Steinway concert grand piano restoration.

Randolph's audiences have developed a special relationship with the extraordinary pianist through her regular performances at Chandler. Dinnerstein will be performing J.S. Bach's *Two-Part Inventions*, George Crumb's *Eine Kleine Mitternacht Musik*, and the Vermont premiere of Nico Muhly's *You Can't Get There From Here*. The audience is invited to a complimentary reception following the concert.

Dinnerstein said, "I have had the pleasure of performing at the Chandler Center several times in the past few years and I always look forward to returning. It is a beautiful, woody hall in a warm and vibrant community – exactly the perfect atmosphere for making music! I am so happy to help with their efforts towards restoring their Steinway. Improvements to the instrument will truly make it a perfect concert venue."

The concert coincides with the release of Dinnerstein's newest album, a recording of J.S. Bach's *Inventions and Sinfonias*, released on Sony Classical on January 14, 2014 in the US and internationally on January 6, 2014.

Vermont premiere of Muhly's new piece

Nico Muhly's *You Can't Get There From Here* is a meditation on *The Fitzwilliam Virginal Book*, an abstract collection of music by various composers. The piece is a collection of memories: a strange fragment of Tudor music here, a scrap of motor-music there, and a long, slow meditation on an uncredited piece of four-part harmony scrawled without note durations in the *The Fitzwilliam Virginal Book* manuscript. Muhly explains, "The piece is designed to be a navigation challenge for Simone Dinnerstein, who, aside from her technical prowess, has an emotional and interpretive virtuosity I was very interested in exploring."

Artistry recognized

Simone Dinnerstein is a searching and

inventive artist who is motivated by a desire to find the musical core of every work she approaches. NPR reports, "She compels the listener to follow her in a journey of discovery filled with unscheduled detours...She's actively listening to every note she plays, and the result is a wonderfully expressive interpretation." The New York-based pianist gained an international following because of the remarkable success of her recording of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, which she raised the funds to record. Released in 2007 on Telarc, it ranked No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Classical Chart in its first week of sales and was named to many "Best of 2007" lists including those of *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The New Yorker*.

Chart-topping classical albums

Dinnerstein's recent solo albums—*The Berlin Concert* (Telarc), *Bach: A Strange Beauty* (Sony), and *Something Almost Being Said* (Sony)—have also topped the classical charts. Dinnerstein was the bestselling instrumentalist of 2011 on the U.S. Billboard Classical Chart and was included in NPR's 2011 100 Favorite Songs from all genres.

In spring 2013, Simone Dinnerstein and singer-songwriter Tift Merritt released an album together on Sony called *Night*, a unique collaboration uniting classical, folk, and rock worlds. Other upcoming and recent highlights include Dinnerstein's debuts in Sydney and Melbourne; her debuts in Leipzig at the Gewandhaus and in Toulouse; the world premiere of Nico Muhly's *You Can't Get There From Here* at Symphony Hall in Boston; her third return engagement at the Berlin Philharmonie; and world premiere performances of Philip Lasser's *The Circle* and *The Child* with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

Performing around the world

Dinnerstein's performances have taken her around the world since her triumphant New York recital debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall in 2005 to venues including the Kennedy Center, Vienna Konzerthaus, Berlin Philharmonie, Metropolitan Museum, and Wigmore Hall; festivals including the



photo by Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

Pianist Simone Dinnerstein to perform at Chandler Music Hall.

Lincoln Center Mostly Mozart Festival, the Aspen, Verbier, and Ravinia festivals, and the Stuttgart Bach Festival; and performances with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Berlin, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Kristjan Järvi's Absolute Ensemble, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, and the Tokyo Symphony.

Giving back to the community

Dinnerstein has played concerts throughout the U.S. for the Piatigorsky Foundation, an organization dedicated to bringing classical music to non-traditional venues. She gave the first classical music performance in the Louisiana state prison system when she played at the Avoyelles Correctional Center, and performed at the Maryland Correctional

Institution for Women in a concert organized by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Dedicated to her community, in 2009 Dinnerstein founded Neighborhood Classics, a concert series open to the public hosted by New York public schools which raises funds for the schools.

Dinnerstein is a graduate of The Juilliard School where she was a student of Peter Serkin. She also studied with Solomon Mikowsky at the Manhattan School of Music and in London with Maria Curcio. She lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband and son.

Tickets for the concert are available online at www.chandler-arts.org or by calling the box office at (802) 728-6464. There is a special reduced price for tickets purchased before the day of the concert.

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St. in Randolph, VT. For more information call (802) 728-9878. Or visit www.chandler-arts.org.

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Grandmother

I never see the sun shining on a chair
 But what I think of Grandmother.
 She'd be sitting there with her white hair
 bent over somebody's mending.
 She could find the sun spots anywhere,
 somehow or other.
 When I have white hair and years of care
 have brought life near its ending,
 I want to find the sun spots anywhere
 like Grandmother.

— VERA DOYLE WILLARD, 1932

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19th Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon

The 19th Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon, will be held Saturday and Sunday, January 25th and 26th, 2014 on the grounds of the Sterling Ridge Inn and Log Cabins in Jeffersonville, VT. Start times are Saturday between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Sunday between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Long before there were ski lifts and the interstate, Vermont was populated first by Native Americans and later by pioneers. This event takes you back to what it must have been like to live here then, and for some people, what it's still like.

Muzzleloading rifles and snowshoes

This is the original Primitive Biathlon, and the largest such event held. Rather than the olympic-style target rifles and cross-country skis, this rather unusual event involves the use of muzzleloading rifles and snowshoes.

Eligibility for overall prizes is limited to single-barrel traditional style muzzleloaders—no in-lines or optical sights—and traditional wood-framed snowshoes, although modern equipment users are welcome to participate. In the primitive spirit of the event, and in the interest of fairness, the use of round-ball ammunition is requested.

Period dress is definitely encouraged, though not required. While this is a competitive event, it's also about getting out in the fresh air and greeting old friends or making new ones. Spectators are welcome.

Through the woods

The beautiful, mostly wooded course is approximately two miles and can be enjoyed by the average sportsman—you needn't be an olympic athlete! The route will be well-marked and will include four target stages with a total of nine shots. A mis-fire is a miss (Keep your powder dry!). Times will be adjusted based on shooting scores, putting an emphasis on accuracy. The final target stage will be in an open, spectator area where families of the entrants and anyone interested can watch.

This event will be held regardless of the weather—remember the concept of 'Primitive.' In the event of insufficient snow for snowshoes, bring a good pair of woods boots.

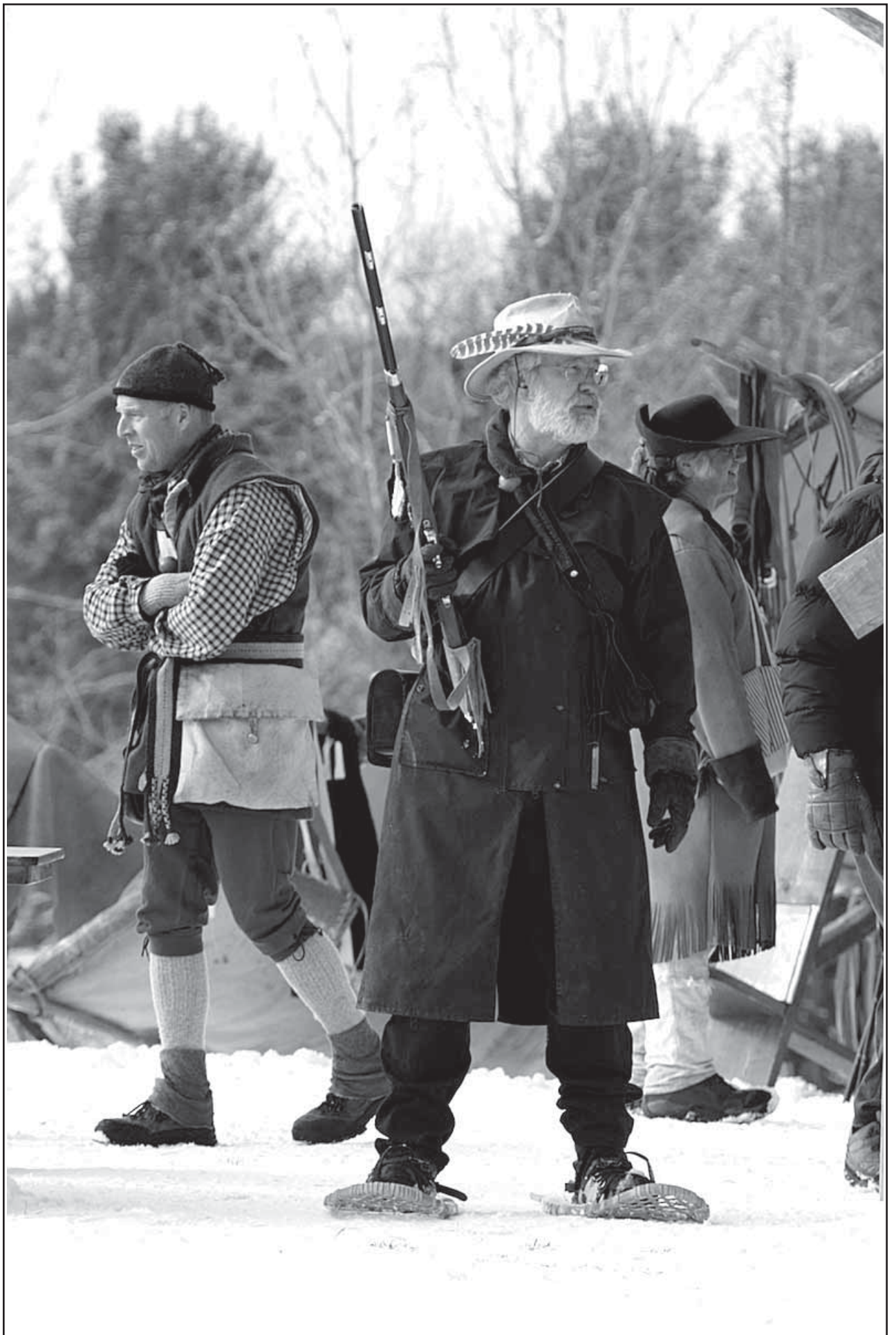
Awards and prizes

The overall winner will be awarded the Marilyn Grice Memorial Trophy, to be held for the year. Event trophies will be awarded for First, Second and Third Overall, First Smoothbore, First Woman (Any Age), First 'Elder' (60 and Over), First Junior (Under Sixteen), and First Pistol. We will also add a new class this year for those over age 70 scoring shooting only. A variety of merchandise prizes will be awarded by blind draw of all participants.


Traders of appropriate goods are welcome with the approval of the organizers. Fee is a merchandise prize.

The event is presented by the Smugglers' Notch Area Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by the Green Mountain Rifle Barrel Company of Conway, NH and The Ancient Ones of Maine.

For more info about the Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon call (802) 644-8232 weekdays, and (802) 933-4880 evenings & weekends. info@primitivebiathlon.com. www.primitivebiathlon.com.



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My Cup “Stealth” Over

by Burr Morse

Lately I've been going through our family archives and while doing it, an idea for my next column jumped out at me like the proverbial ghost from the past. The late Vermont historian Ellen Hill once sent me a packet of historical tidbits and among them were these words inscribed on a drinking cup at a roadside spring:

“Who so stealth this cup; may he be thirsty; and when the devil shall call for him may muddy water stop his breath.”

Wow! I'd say those old guys were pretty darned serious about their public drinking cups—as well they should have been! Back in those times, before stealing became an epidemic like it is today, folks put out a simple message: “Think before you do it and if you do it, you'll be sorry!” That simple message usually filled the bill—sure, there were a few horse thieves around and some bank robberies became food for folklore but back then, the average person was hard-working and honest. Those were the good ol' days!

I'm hardly qualified to write on this subject for lack of “hands-on” robbery experience—I just remember one time when I was about eight walking up Barre Street in Montpelier. There was an open convertible parked in a metered space and an open pack of Doublemint gum on the front seat; I impulsively reached in and took a stick from the pack. As I remember, the gum didn't taste very good and I discarded it before I even got it “worked in.” That was my one and only experience as a thief. Wish I could say that as a victim.

Once not long after my “gum” experience, I went into Sironi's Country Store down on Main Street in Montpelier. Typical of growing boys, I wore a hand-me-down coat, a plaid hunting jacket that hung big and loosely on me. Sironi's was a small store with only two or three aisles but I couldn't immediately find what I was looking for. As I perused the walls of merchandise, I suddenly realized that Mr. Sironi was “stalking” me like a wolf stalks its prey, his eyes following my every move. The sinking feeling of not being trusted hit me as hard as if the walls of canned goods had suddenly fallen down on me. I about-faced, walked a few steps to the surly-looking old storekeeper and with my changing voice croaked, “Just because I wear a big jacket doesn't mean I'm a thief!” His eyes got as big as saucers and his face flooded with, yes, embarrassment—Sironi suddenly knew that I was not about stealing. I walked out without buying anything and never went back in Sironi's Country Store again.

A few years ago while we all slept, thieves broke into our



Snow-laden trees frame the statue on Ceres atop Vermont's State House.

photo courtesy VT Travel Div.

store. When they figured out there was no security alarm (which, by the way, is no longer the case!) they went to work with sledgehammers and crowbars on our safe. Yes, they got some money and trashed much of our store but worst of all, they trashed our safe, Grandpa's safe. When I was a boy, Grandpa Morse would invite me “down cellar” in his house to the safe. He'd slowly work the combination and open it up to a musty smell and a magical, family collection of Civil War letters and ancient jack knives and pocket watches. When Grandpa died, his collections went in other family directions but I got the safe and all the precious memories. That night of the break in, those thieves left my safe in total ruins.

I truly think we've entered a new era of thievery and I pine for the good ol' days when theft of a drinking cup would

have been top on our list of worries. We've all had to “tighten up” our security of late and we're getting better at it all the time. I remain convinced that good will win over evil even in this world today. Although the police never did find the ones who broke into our store, I know they'll “pay a price” someday. Until that happens, I wish them heavy thirst and lots of “muddy water.”

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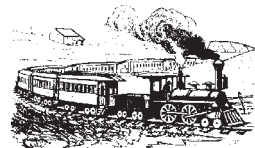
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Backcountry Skiing on the Catamount Trail

Winter and its cover of snow returns the mountains of Vermont back into a wilderness that may seem unreachable. But just as the summertime hiker knows the Green Mountains, the backcountry skier can too.

Maybe you've seen remnants of their activities. You arrive at a ski resort well before opening so you can snag first chair and notice that someone has already scored first tracks. Or maybe

you were out snowshoeing and noticed the distinctive swooshes through the snow left by someone who was obviously traveling on skis. You wonder who they were and where they were going and how they learned to go off into the middle of nowhere, not on a marked trail.

The phrase *backcountry skiing* encompasses many different modes of travel. The Catamount Trail Association's focus is on backcountry touring. This differs slightly from the skin up/ski down crowd in that we are typically going somewhere. Some people want to explore lower angle terrain on lightweight gear, or use telemark or alpine touring equipment to seek out the gnarliest terrain they can find—but every backcountry skier needs to start someplace.

Here at the Catamount Trail Association we've been working on backcountry skiing and developing events to

teach the skills of the sport.

Helping people get started has been a focus of the Catamount Trail Association. 2014 will mark the 6th anniversary of both the “Ladies Nordic Ski Expo” and our “Get Out & Backcountry Ski Festival.”

The “Ladies Nordic Ski Expo” is a women-only nordic and backcountry skiing instructional event taking place at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe on Saturday, January 11th.

The “Get Out & Backcountry Ski Festival” is a backcountry ski instructional event happening at Bolton Valley Resort on Sunday, January 26th. This festival is geared towards all types of backcountry travel including nordic touring, telemark and alpine touring.

The Catamount Trail is 300 miles long and offers many tours that allow a new skier to get outside, get comfortable, and develop their

skills. On the Catamount Trail Association website—www.catamounttrail.org—we have identified and highlighted a variety of tours that are appropriate for the developing backcountry skier. Our tour leaders are excited to be able to share their know-how and to help individuals new to the sport get outside and explore the woods.

The Catamount Trail Association's goal is to get as many people as possible outside and having fun on skis during the winter. *Never been on skis? Check out one of our instructional festivals. Been out a couple of times but still lacking confidence in your skills? Take a look at one of our Introductory Tours. Have skills and looking to explore? One of our multi-day tours might be just what you're looking for. Tired of skiing in Vermont? Then get out of here and explore out Maine or New Hampshire on one of our Northeast Hut Tours. Just want to hike up something so you can ski down it? We've got that too.*

For additional information please give us a call or check out our website.

For additional information contact the Catamount Trail Association, 1 Mill Street #350, Burlington, VT 05401. (802) 864-5794. gmaino@catamounttrail.org. catamounttrail.org.

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photo courtesy Catamount Trail Association

Skiers all lined to start the day at the Ladies Nordic Ski Expo at Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT. This year the festival is on January 11, 2014.

6th Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo in Stowe, VT

The 6th Annual Ladies Nordic Ski Expo is happening this year on January 11th, 2014 at Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT.

Join the Catamount Trail Association at their Ladies Nordic Ski Expo to meet other women who are looking for beginner instruction or advanced technique tips. Cultivate new winter friendships and share stories about how families are enjoying winter together. With Trapp Family Lodge providing a historic and exquisite backdrop, this event is one that no skiing woman should miss.

Women in the United States are making a name for themselves in the Nordic skiing world. Last winter, two members of the US team took home the top honor at the Quebec World Cup Relays. This summer, Olympian Liz Stephen set a new course record at the Catamount Trail Association's North Face Race to the Top of Vermont as she began her path to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

The Von Trapp history with Nordic skiing

The Von Trapp family, who created Trapp Family Lodge over 60 years ago, are rooted to their skiing heritage, and to this day, the women of the family are teaching and passing the tradition of winter sports down from generation to generation. Last winter we shared a cup of coffee with Kristina von Trapp Frame, granddaughter of Maria von Trapp, to learn about the women of Trapp Family Lodge. Kristina quickly noted that her mother was instrumental in making sure that she and her brother Sam participated in their family's culture of Nordic skiing. As children, they grew up in a sugar-free household, unless they skied all the way to the picnic knoll at Trapps, in which case they could earn bites of chocolate for their efforts. (Incidentally, women participating in CTA's Ladies Nordic Ski Expo on January 11th will also "earn" their chocolate, a treat from Nutty Steph's, provided fireside at the end of the day along with wine and cheese, in the welcoming Mozart room at Trapp Family Lodge.)

Maria von Trapp an enthusiastic skier

Kristina describes her grandmother Maria as a "strong and impulsive woman." Maria did not learn to ski until she was about 50 years old, but her passion, along with that of her son Johannes (Kristina's father), has led the Trapps Nordic skiing facilities to be among the best in the East. Their elite equipment and instruction mixed with rustic charm and

Austrian flavors has made the Nordic trails, the site for the Ladies Nordic Ski Expo, a favorite destination for skiers throughout the world.

Being raised in the rugged, yet peaceful environment of Trapps, Kristina became an avid skier, always searching for the "fun adventure" that Nordic skiing provides.

Kristina von Trapp an avid skier and coach

One of her most memorable accomplishments on snow was completing the Elk Mountain Traverse in Colorado. Starting in Crested Butte at midnight and skiing over 40 miles to Aspen, Kristina and her partner relished racing under a full moon in the silence of powder, deep in the Colorado backcountry. Her team finished in third place after about 10 hours on skis, a testament to her enthusiasm for winter adventures, which she now shares with her own young daughters, ages 8 and 10.

On Friday afternoons, Kristina helps coach her children's after school Nordic ski program at Trapps. Afterwards, her daughters mimic their mother and Uncle Sam, working in the ski shop for a few hours at the end of the day. Their reward for doing so takes them into the woods of Trapps, skiing home with their mom; school backpacks on, absorbing the silence and beauty of their own backyard. "It is important to them, too, now," Kristina described, showing how the von Trapp family tradition is continuing on to the youngest generation. "We take advantage of what we have in our back yard. It is important to love what we have."

The Stowe Derby is one of the family's newest traditions,

with Kristina taking a year off from competition recently to become the "support crew" for her oldest daughter who participated for the first time in the derby's youth Nordic race.

Nordic skiing, a tradition worth pursuing

Kristina von Trapp and her family are just one example of how skiing can bring together friends and families, keeping them healthy, happy and appreciative of Vermont's natural environment. Whether skiing with a toddler for the first time, spending the afternoon surrounded by fir trees and white snow along a backyard trail, or spending a weekend with friends taking lessons, Vermont is a state that caters to skiing camaraderie and adventure.

For more information about the Catamount Trail Association winter events or to sign up for the Ladies' Nordic Ski Expo, go to the Catamount Trail Association's website at www.catamounttrail.org. (802) 864-5794. gmaino@catamounttrail.org

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews

Snowy Tales for Deep, Deep Winter

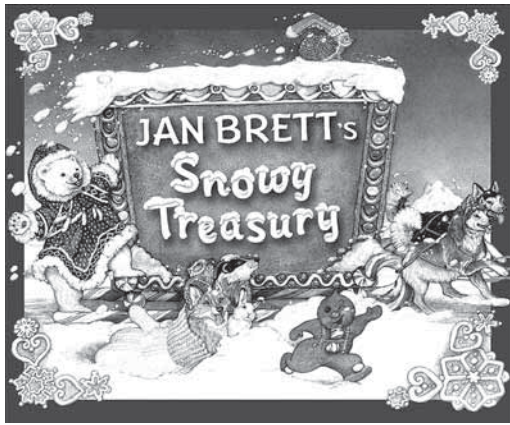
A fresh snowfall in the middle of winter always has been a joy and inspiration to children's book author and artist Jan Brett who lives in the Northeast where there is usually plenty of snow.

"If it is snowing, I hold my mitten out for snowflakes to fall on, and the most beautiful designs on earth appear for an instant, each one different from the rest," she tells us in the introduction to *Snowy Treasury* (\$29.99, www.penguin.com/youngreaders).

The treasury features four of her stories with her unusual and beautiful drawings in wintry places including a snowy Swiss forest in *Gingerbread Baby*; a Ukrainian setting for the folktale *The Mitten*; *The Hat* set in Denmark; and *The Three Snow Bears* in the Arctic.

All of the stories include animals—lots of them—whose manners, expressions and behaviors are intriguingly human. Many of her illustrations cover two-page spreads with their themes carrying over into smaller drawings on either side. These attractive border drawings give cameo-like appearances of the people and animals in the stories.

The author's sense of humor comes through in all her works, but we all will be amused following the half-baked baby gingerbread cookie on its rampage through the countryside with people and animals fast on its tracks. The lesson learned in *Gingerbread Baby* is don't take gingerbread cookies out of the oven too soon. And always give shelter to the small and half-baked people.



Your children will be careful not to lose their mittens after seeing the strange assortment of animals that squeeze into one lost white mitten in the aptly-named tale, *The Mitten*.

In *The Hat*, a hedgehog named Hedgeie is the laughing stock of many animals after a red stocking gets stuck on his prickles. See who gets the last laugh in this distressed animal on-the-move thriller.

In *The Three Snow Bears* a little Inuit girl Aloo-ki unwittingly takes refuge in the bear's giant igloo after she gets separated from her sled dog team, last seen afloat on a chunk of ice. The bears later rescue the dogs and forgive the girl for "making herself so at home," with their food, sleeping in baby bear's bed, and taking the bear child's boot.

Learning-to-count books are usually repetitious for a good reason, but in *Baby Bear Counts ONE* by Ashley Wolff (\$16.99, www.kids.simonandschuster.com) counting one to 10 is a game of fun while spotting the goings and comings of life in the natural world in preparation for winter.

What better animals to follow around than a mama and baby black bear who will be hibernating very soon. Colorful, full-page drawings help us all to join the count that includes crows, deer, honey bees, wild turkeys, beavers, and finally snow flakes. Count to ten and enjoy a restful winter with the bears!

For a beautiful dream-like fantasy set in a snowy setting follow little Lily on her outing to collect berries in *Snow Bears Never Lie*, a story by SAID and illustrated by Marine Ludin (\$17.95, www.northsouth.com). Lily accidentally awakes a giant snow bear asleep at the edge of the family's berry patch. Grateful to have been awakened in time to fly home on the wind, the bear grants the little girl her wishes never to be afraid of the dark and a flight through the air!

Lily is wearing a really long scarf brilliant against the white snow which she gives as a gift to the snow bear when he brings her safely home, with a basket of red berries.

This is an enchanting book, both story and illustrations, first published in Switzerland. It will help you appreciate the magic of childhood, and children will love it.



Misty Valley Books Presents The 20th Annual New Voices

Saturday, January 25, 2014

Misty Valley Books' annual New Voices event takes place on Saturday, January 25, at 2 pm, at the First Universalist Church in Chester's Stone Village. The 20th anniversary New Voices will present five promising debut authors to talk about their work. Seating is limited, however, and tickets (\$10) are available at the Bookstore.

New Voices is a program which has attracted national attention, and a number of Misty Valley New Voices—including Dennis Lehane, Colum McCann, Arthur Golden, Gregory Maguire, Jennifer Egan, Alex Berenson, Heidi Darrow and Dr. Eben Alexander—have gone on to considerable fame.

Over the years, New Voices has attracted thousands of loyal readers to hear well over 100 new authors read and discuss their work. This year's group includes writers whose debut subjects are crime, love, Africa (x2) and Pakistan. The authors will be introduced to the audience by local community members.

Here's what critics have said of New Voices 2014 books:

• Elaine Neil Orr, *A Different Sun* (introduced by Nancy Sharkey Fox): "Lush, evocative, breathtaking in its descriptions and deeply spiritual in its themes of love, forgiveness and transformation."—J. Reffner

• Peter Swanson, *The Girl With a Clock for a Heart* (introduced by Bill Dakin): "...a twisty, sexy, electric thrill ride."—Dennis Lehane

• Rebecca Walker, *Adé* (introduced by Jory Hearst): "Lush, sensual, seductive, *Adé* is written with as much love as the story it tells."—M. Johnson

• Rhonda Riley, *The Enchanted Life of Adam Hope* (introduced by Dr. Sarah Kemble): "...the most resonant and touching love story I've read in a very long time."—L. Groff

• Shahan Mufti, *The Faithful Scribe* (introduced by Dylan Bate): "If you want to understand Pakistan and the Pakistani-American relationship, read this book."—Ryan Crocker, former US Ambassador to Pakistan.

The public is invited to cross-country ski or snowshoe with the authors at Grafton Ponds on Saturday morning (trail fee), meet the authors at a reception at the church after the readings and then have drinks and/or dinner with the authors at the Fullerton Inn, on the Green next door to Misty Valley Books (full-course meal, prix fixe).

For more info stop by Misty Valley Books, on the Green in Chester, VT, call (802) 875-3400 or visit www.mvbooks.com or Facebook.



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E.B. White on Dogs

Edited by Martha White

(Tilbury House Publishers, Gardiner, ME)

Readers of all ages enchanted by E.B. White's classics *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*, can now also enjoy reading about how dogs were a joyful addition to the author's life and lived up to their reputation as "man's best friend."

Join White on his journey with such an amusing assortment of family dogs including collies, setters, Labrador retrievers, Scotties, terriers, dachshunds and many mixed breeds.

These dog stories have been gleaned from a wide assortment of E.B. White's writings by his granddaughter Martha White, who has inherited a love for dogs—many kinds, too, but with golden retrievers replacing dachshunds as the family's popular breed.

For years readers of the *New Yorker* magazine learned about White's dogs and their adventures on the streets of New York or on the family farm in N. Brooklin, Maine.

This collection includes writings in Harper's magazine and from his books—*One Man's Meat* and *The Second Tree from the Corner*, and the *Essays of E.B. White* and *Letters of E.B. White*.

Family photographs introduce us to family members and their many remarkable dogs. We see E.B. White and wife Katherine with Minnie, a dachshund; also White "interviewing" Minnie at the *New Yorker* office. A childhood photo shows White with Beppo, an Irish setter. Meet his son Joel (Martha's father) pictured with Raffles, a wire-haired fox terrier.

White's first dog was an "old-style collie, beautifully marked, with a blunt nose and great natural gentleness and intelligence. For six years he met me at the same place after school and convoyed me home—a service he thought up himself. A boy doesn't forget that sort of association." And he adds:

"It is a monstrous trick of fate that now, settled in the country and with sheep to take care of, I am obliged to do my shepherding with the grotesque and sometimes underhanded assistance of two dachshunds and a wire-haired fox terrier." He said he never dared get another collie for fear the comparison would be too uncomfortable.

Dachshunds were the main family pet. First was Fred—"next to myself he is the

greatest worrier and schemer on the premises and always has too many things on his mind...his interest in every phase of farming remains undiminished, as does mine...He wants to be present in a managerial capacity at every event, no matter how trifling or routine; it makes no difference whether I am dipping a sheep or simply taking a bath myself."

Fred would join in the egg-packing event in the cellar, awaiting "the fall of an egg to the floor and the sensual delight of licking it up—which he does with lips drawn slightly back as though in distaste at the strange consistency of the white."

Book Review by Charles Sutton

In White's essay *The Death of a Pig*, Fred makes himself indispensable in caring for a terminally pig, assisting White and a neighbor who comes to help, and finally in the preparations and burial. It was a sad day for both White and Fred.

White was concerned about how hard it was for the short-legged dachshunds to navigate stairways, especially the steep one in their farmhouse in Maine.

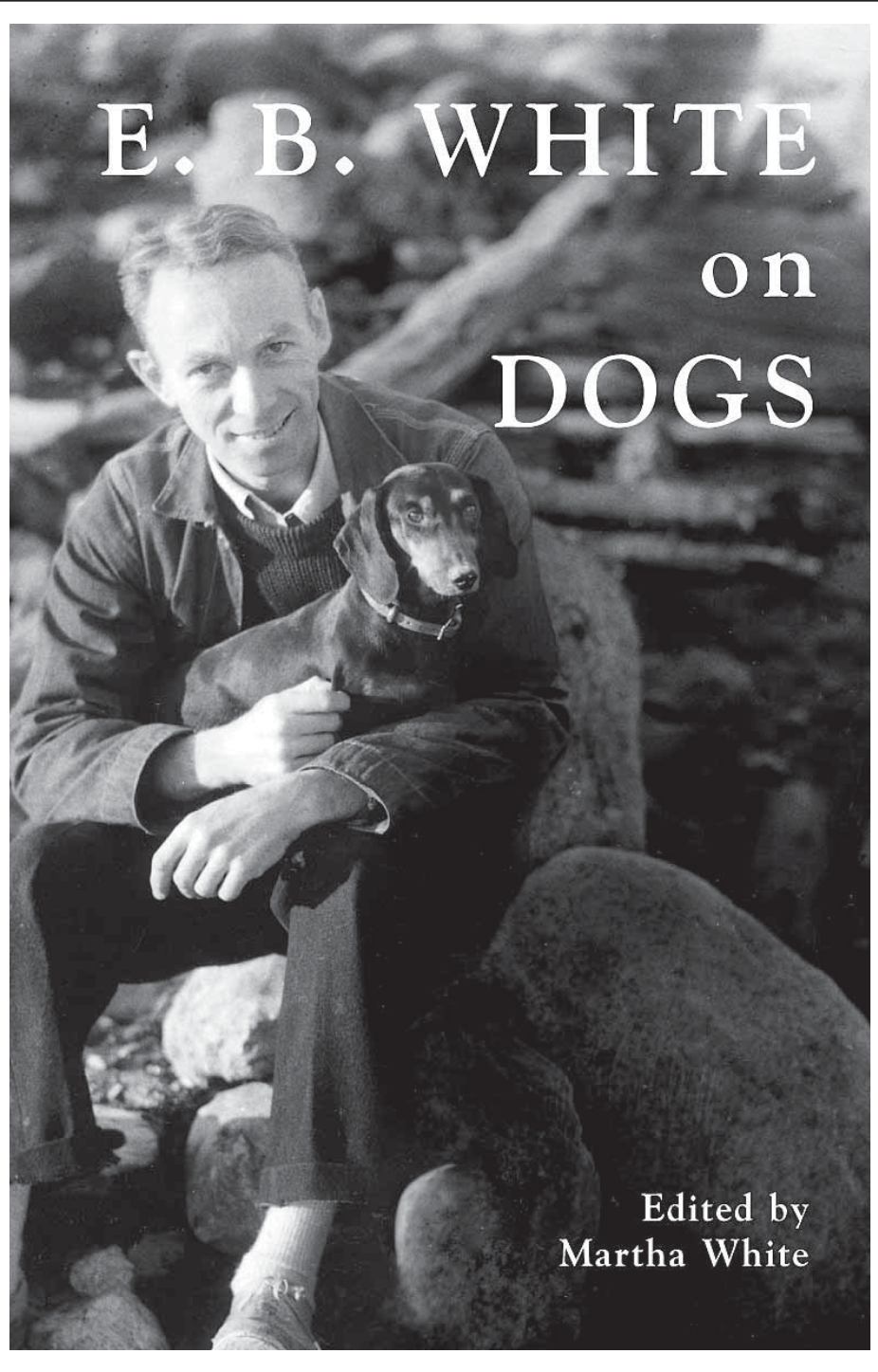
"We have a flight of rather steep back stairs in Maine, and Fred nosed over twice. After that he refused the stairs, and always went around and used the front stairs (which were much flatter) even when he was in a hell of a hurry."

This prompted White to do a line drawing of a dachshund safely going down a stairs which was featured on the family's 1950s Christmas card with a verse:

*"When you come down on Christmas morn,
Propelled by gravity and mirth,
We hope you find a world reborn,
Smelling of fir...and peace on earth."*

Fred lived for 13 years and was buried on White's saltwater farm.

Another dachshund Minnie suffered for years from night chills and would wake the family up at 4 a.m. with a sharp cry, "announcing she had sniffed fresh air and wouldn't be responsible for the consequences." Using his farming experience for keeping baby chicks warm, White devised a homemade brooder with a 25-watt bulb that placated the aging Minnie and finally let the Whites complete a night's rest.



White often used dogs as spokespersons in some of his humorous writings. For example, he had the ghost of the deceased dachshund Fred comment on the Russians putting a dog into space.

In the mid 1930s White notes that the grossly-maligned Pekingese were making a come back. "Associated by fate with dowagers and ladies in fur neckpieces, this valiant animal with the big round eyes and the churlish mouth has never impressed the world with his true character. We have known one or two Pekes, and they had gaiety and courage."

White's last dogs were West Highland white terriers, gentle Susy and wild-acting Jones. And we learn Jones hunted squirrels for six years and never bagged one and Susy once nabbed barn swallow on the wing.

White says the difference in possessing a dog at the turn of the century was one's dog was fed then on mashed potatoes and brown gravy and lived in a doghouse with an arched portal. "Today a dog is fed on scrap beef and Vitamin B1 and lives in bed with you."

Martha White edited the updated *Letters of E.B. White* as well as *In the Words of E. B. White: Quotations from America's Most Companionable of Writers*. Her articles and essays have appeared in *Yankee Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Boston Globe* and other publications. Martha's father Joel White, E.B. White's son, built wooden sailboats for many years in his boat yard in Brooklin, ME now

run by Martha's brother Steven White. Martha is married to boat builder Taylor Allen who operates a boat yard in Rockport ME, (started by his father), and the Front Street boat yard in Belfast, ME. The couple have four children, two in the boat business.



Editor's note: Book reviewer (and Vermont Country Sampler publisher) Charles Sutton especially enjoyed sharing this book with you. He roomed with Martha White's father Joel at Cornell University in the 1950's. He had a memorable visit with Joel and his parents E.B. and Katherine White at their saltwater home in N. Brooklin, went sailing with Joel in one of his hand-built sailboats, and saw the Whites, in their own offices just inside the front door of the farmhouse, busily doing their work for the *New Yorker*. Being writers and not liking to be disturbed they kept the phone in a hall closet.

E.B. White on Dogs edited by Martha White is available at your bookseller or can be ordered from the publisher for \$22.95 at (800) 582-1899 or www.tilburyhouse.com.

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photo courtesy of the Estate of E. B. White
E.B. White with dachshund Minnie, both at work in his New York office.

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Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market at the Bellows Falls Railroad Station, Depot St. Third Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m., January 17, February 21, March 21. Rachel Ware, (802) 463-2018. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. www.bffarmersmarket.com.

Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday and Winter Farmers Markets at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. First and third Saturdays: January through April from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Katherine Keys. (802) 681-3501. info@walloomsac.org. On Facebook.

Bradford Farmers Market, Grace United Methodist Church. Second and fourth Saturdays October 12 through April. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-4495. hellobradfordfarmers@gmail.com. facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market at River Garden, 153 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., November 2013 through March 2014. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org.

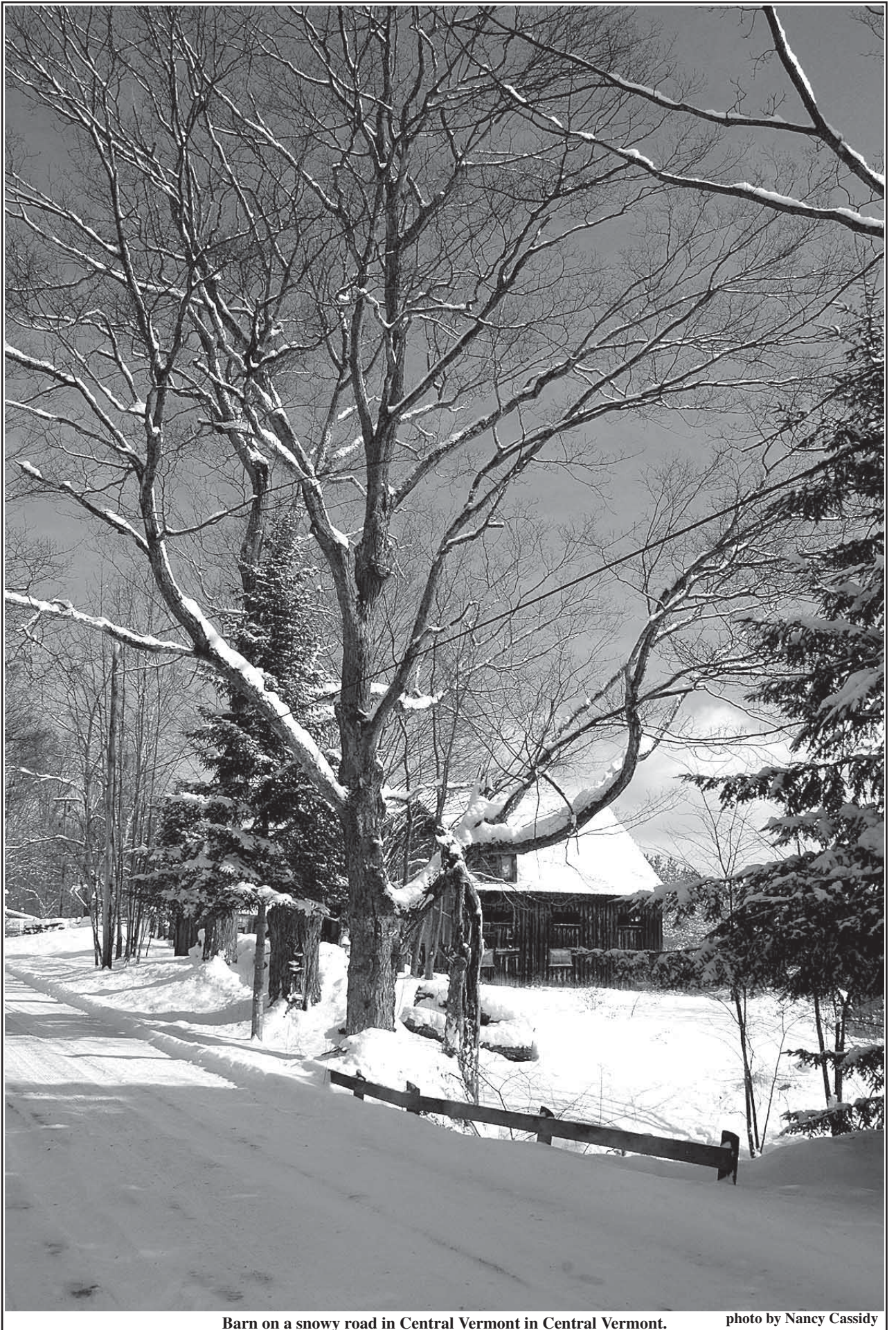
Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. January 4 & 18; February 1 & 15; March 1, 15 & 29. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Dorset Winter Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Every Sunday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., October 20 through April 27. Nicole Henry (518) 222-1149. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., from October through May. Mary Berlejung and Sandi Adams. (802) 584-3595 or (802) 633-3031. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org.

Jeffersonville Farmers' and Artisans Market, Rt. 108S and 16 Iris Lane on the way to Smuggs. At the Artful Cup Studio and Sunrise Cafe. 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. November through March. Deb Nevil. (802) 999-8486. jefffarmersandartisanmarket65@gmail.com. jeffersonvillefarmersandartisanmarket.com.

Middlebury Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays March & April, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. No market in January and February. Jeremy



Barn on a snowy road in Central Vermont in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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Gildrien & Sharon Kerwin, (802) 989-7223. middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 36 College St. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. January 11; February 8 & 22; March, 1, 15 & 29; April 12 & 26. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Northfield Farmers' Market. Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 1st Sundays. November 3 to April 6. Crystal Peterson. (802) 485-5563. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 2nd and 4th Saturdays January through April. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwich

farmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Peacham Farmers' Market, Peacham Guild Building, right next to the Peacham Store. Thursdays 3-6 p.m. through mid-April. Jane Alper. (802) 592-3161. janealper@gmail.com. peacham.net/market.

Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. Food Center Building at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., November 2 through May 3. Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org

Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Markets at Sharon Elementary School. February 15, March 15, and May 17, 10 am – 1 pm, local lunch 11:30 am – 1 pm. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First Saturdays, November through April. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. elizabethverts@yahoo.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

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2066 Chelsea. 3 bedroom camp – 1 full bath – large fireplace with heatolators, plus wood stove – small stream – 33 acres of land – nice lawn with apple trees – being sold furnished – good gravel road...**Price Reduced to \$99,500.**

2084 Braintree Hill. 3 Bedroom House – full cement basement – drilled well – 2 car garage – 3.5 acres of open field – excellent views of Braintree Mt. Range – close to Randolph...**Price only \$139,000.**

2093 Chelsea. 47.6 Acres Surveyed Woodland – small stream – very private – good hunting area – 1440 ft. frontage on gravel road...**Price \$89,500.**

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

2057 Chelsea. 207 acre farm – 2 barns – 4-bay storage building – plus 2 other storage buildings – good pond site, plus trout brook – large, old, 10 room cape with garage – very private...**Reduced to \$595,000.**



2095 Chelsea. 20x28' Camp – cement foundation – 3 rooms, plus loft – covered porch, gas lights, plus gas cook stove – wood stove for heat – 20 acres land – good gravel road...**Priced to sell \$78,000.**

2080 Vershire. 11.1 Acres surveyed land – excellent views – driveway and septic already in – frontage on two roads...**Priced at Town appraisal \$67,300.**

2081 Chelsea. Commercial Property – 33 self storage units – permits for 2 more buildings – 5 acres of land, plus mobile home, hook up, rental...**Price \$149,500.**

2086 Royalton. 2½ acre building lot – surveyed driveway and in-ground septic design – small stream – year-round gravel road...**Price \$49,900.**

2085 Royalton. 6 acres – driveway and pond – 24x18' horse barn – in-ground septic design – good gravel road...**Price \$74,900.**

2094 Chelsea. 30 acres of land – driveway and campsite on good trout brook – year-round gravel road – close to village...**Price \$44,900.**

2096 Orange. 34 acres land – mostly woodland – very private - very good hunting land...**Price \$39,500.**

2100 Corinth. Approx. 15 acres – mostly woodland – very private – good get-away and hunting land...**Price only \$16,900.**

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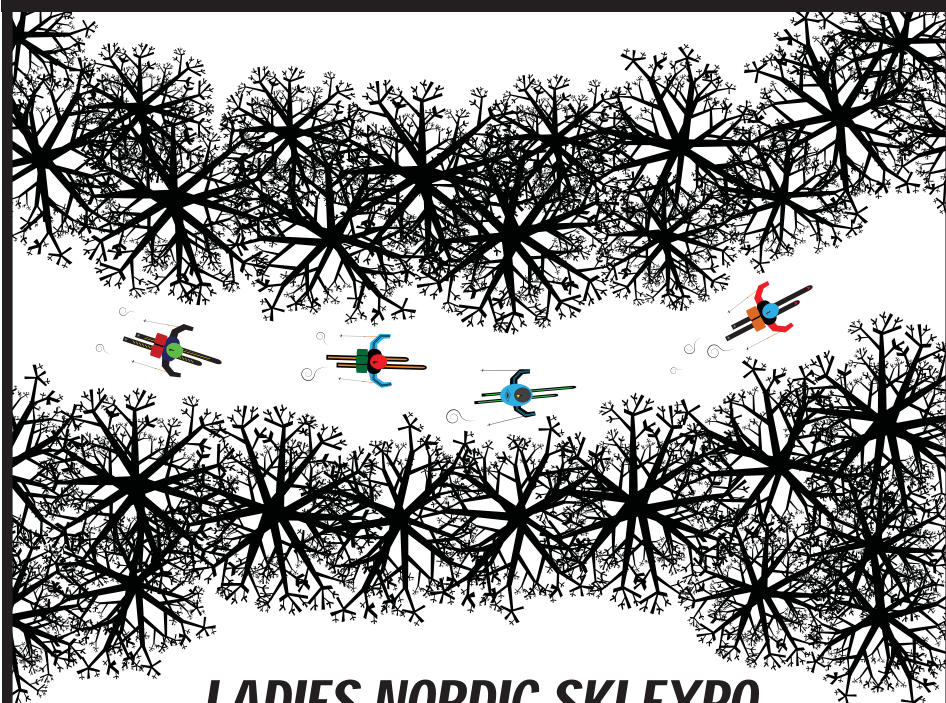
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the *Second Edition* or one of each (the two editions have
different recipes) please send \$5. To purchase larger
quantities of either cookbook, please contact Mary Croft.



The Christmas Bird Count is underway and goes through January 4. It is one of the longest-running citizen science projects in the country and possibly the world. Here's where you can still participate: Bennington, Dec. 28, 2013, Kevin Hemeon, mariekevinhemeon@msn.com; Rutland, Dec. 28, 2013, Roy Pilcher, shamwariVT@aol.com; Lamoille County, Dec. 29, 2013, Noel Dodge, noel.dodge@gmail.com; Barnet, Jan. 1, 2014, Charlie Brown, cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org; Hanover-Norwich, Jan. 1, 2014, Daniel Crook, dc178@hotmail.com; East Franklin County, Jan. 4, 2014, Eddy Edwards, eddy_edwards@fws.gov; Hinesburg-Huntington, Jan. 4, 2014, Paul Wiczorek, mgcpw@gmavt.net. For more information go to www.tinyurl.com/XmasBirdVT13.

photo courtesy of D. Andrew Saunders

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LADIES NORDIC SKI EXPO

Saturday, January 11th - Trapp Family Lodge - Stowe, VT

GET OUT & BACKCOUNTRY SKI FESTIVAL

Sunday, January 26th - Bolton Valley Resort - Bolton, VT

CATAMOUNT TRAIL CLASSIC TOUR

Sunday, March 9th - Trapp Family Lodge - Stowe, VT

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The Cardinal-Bird

Where snow-drifts are deepest he frolics along,
A flicker of crimson, a chirrup of song,
My Cardinal-Bird of the frost-powdered wing,
Composing new lyrics to whistle in Spring.

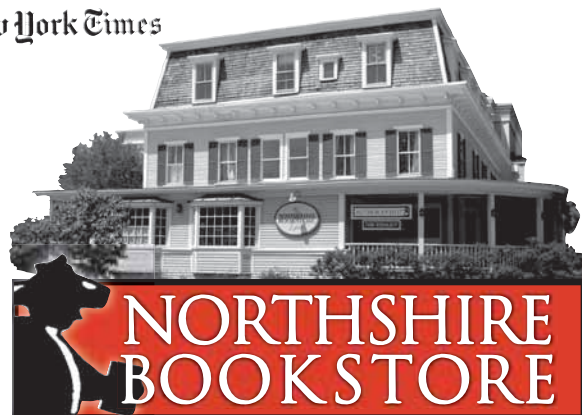
A plump little prelate, the park is his church;
The pulpit he loves is a cliff-sheltered birch;
And there, in his rubicund livery dressed,
Arranging his feathers and ruffling his crest,

He preaches, with most unconventional glee,
A sermon addressed to the squirrels and me,
Commending the wisdom of those that display
The brightest of colors when heavens are gray.

—ARTHUR GUITERMAN
1935



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