

Vermont Country Sampler

October
2021

Free

- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate

Plenty of Good Reading!

N. Cassidy

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**GREEN
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RANDOLPH, VERMONT



October Journal

The Thin Time

by Bill Felker

*This is the thin time
the world turns inward
and the chilling air grows thick
with dreams and mystery*

—Carole Mathys

Many people consider the transition period from one season to another to be a “thin time,” a porous stage not only between phases of the year but between the spheres of the living and the dead. Some believe that in autumn’s thin time, ghosts of creatures who once lived in the body, return to earth. In the thin time of late March, crossing to the spirit side may be easier, and the sick who struggle to stay alive through the winter often slip away just as spring is immanent.

The cycle of seasons is easy to connect with the cycles of human life. The growth and disappearance of foliage and flowers reflect a simple, clear pattern to which all living things conform.

But the parallel time of second spring, when the buds and the first sprouts of next year’s April grow back alongside the remnants of the old year, is also exemplary. Second spring offers the reassurance of rebirth. It is a manifestation of the order that the poet Boethius invoked, “that which doth within itself embrace / The births and ends of all things in a round.”

The parallel of endings and beginnings in natural history creates more than

a space-through-metaphor; it forms a thin interval of illusion in which the senses are not always certain of their place in time. The border between the landscape of November and the landscape of April is often more open than a linear calendar suggests. Sometimes the tree line shines orange like it does when hepatica first blossoms beneath it. November hedge-rows sometimes glow yellow in the rain like rows of tall sweet clover or forsythia in bloom. Waterleaf is strong along the rivers. Celandine, dandelions, chickweed and violets bloom in the alleys. Seeds sprout in rotting logs. The last leaves of dogwood show through the undergrowth, as soft and pink as dogwood flowers. The low sun sets the grass and plants glowing like they glow in April, and when the sky is clear blue and the air is warm, reality contradicts linear reason.

All of this produces in me a feeling of healing reprieve and of compensation for the death of the year.

I walk the woods, and I turn inward to the mystery. I willingly touch the emotional confusion, willingly misread the signs that allow passage to both memory and fantasy.

Dummerston, VT

Dummerston Apple Pie Sale

The Dummerston Congregational Church will be having a drive by Apple Pie Sale on Saturday and Sunday, October 9th and 10th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day. Pies are on sale for \$20 each and serve 6 to 8 people. Due to living in uncertain times with the COVID 19 pandemic, this is a scaled back version of our usual Apple

Pie Festival which we hope will return in 2022! Join us this year for the sale. We can give you a kit with plates, forks, and a knife to take your pie to some place beautiful to enjoy a fall day in Vermont!

Dummerston Congregational Church, 1535 Middle Rd. Call (802) 257-0544 with any questions.



Newfane Heritage Festival on the Green in Newfane, VT is coming this October 9 & 10.

Newfane, VT

Newfane Heritage Festival Golden Anniversary

Since 1970 volunteers have made the Newfane Heritage Festival a fall season destination in the heart of historic Newfane village. This year the Festival is back to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Once again, people will celebrate community, crafts, food and entertainment. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday, October 9th and 10th, rain or shine.

Over 60 juried artists and craftspeople will display and sell their work in the tents set up in front of the Windham County Courthouse and the Union Hall. This year vendors range from original prints and paintings to stained and blown glass to specialty foods to pottery to jewelry to woodenware to toys to metalwork to cozy knitwear to whimsical ceramics to all natural soap to handbags. Samatha Harlow reports that some vendors have been coming for over 40 years. A vendor who has been coming for 48 years plans to offer a commemorative painting of the Newfane green as one of its wares.

Food! There will be lots of it! The outdoor food booth will serve breakfast sandwiches hot off the grill to go with your morning coffee, not to mention the warm homemade donuts. Later in the day they will serve chili, chowder, burgers, dogs, baked potatoes with a variety of toppings, cider and of course, apple pies. According to Maggie Bills, who heads up service at the outdoor booth, “all will be served up with a smile by the faithful volunteers, some of whom have been working in the tent for 15 years.” Maggie will be supported by Ann Allbee and Sandy Hamm, among others, from the kitchen of the church.

A new feature will be a booth sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Newfane that will present Newfane Heritage Festival memorabilia for sale, including a



Plenty of arts and crafts at the Newfane Heritage Festival.

commemorative 50th Anniversary Cookbook, coordinated by Cheryl Liston. The booth will also offer Festival hats, tee-shirts and mugs.

The Super Raffle, formerly held in the Union Hall, will be replaced by an online auction scheduled for November 1st through 14th. The Super Raffle features donated items from vendors; gift certificates; merchandise from local inns, retailers, ski resorts and service providers; items handcrafted by the local community; and books written and signed by local authors. A variety of entertainers will provide music and fun for festival goers of all ages.

Proceeds of the event go to benefit the wider missions of the First Congregational Church of Newfane, including community support. During Covid, the church became a site for “Share the Bounty” and “Everyone Eats”. The church’s mission is to make a difference in lives worldwide and in our community.

For more information, go to the Newfane Heritage Festival page on Facebook or the website: www.newfaneheritagefestival.org or call the Newfane Church at (802) 365-4079.

Be well, stay safe, we're here for you!



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Vermont Country Sampler

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Current and back issues of the Sampler
and calendar are available online at
www.vermontcountrysampler.com



Belgian draft horses pull a wagon full of visitors around the fields on a fall foliage ride at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Autumn at Billings Farm & Museum

The fall harvest is a special time at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT! Enjoy themed weeks featuring fall foods from the garden, learn how foods are preserved, take part in an old-fashioned barn dance, tour a special photography exhibit highlighting barns throughout Vermont and celebrate A Family Halloween. Treat yourself to hot or cold cider, local cider donuts and Billings Farm cheese, available daily at the Dairy Bar.

Autumn Events

Wagon Ride Weekend—September 25 & 26

Capture the beauty of a Vermont autumn on a ride around the farm fields, Saturday and Sunday, September 25 & 26. Enjoy the farm's scenic landscape with three wagon ride options: a 10-minute tractor-drawn wagon ride through the pastures from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; a 10-minute horse-drawn wagon ride from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; or a narrated 20-minute tractor-drawn wagon ride from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Each wagon ride features a different route—ride one or ride all three! No reservations are necessary, however, visitors are required to wear masks on the wagon and in the boarding line.

See butter churning demonstrations at 11 a.m., 1 & 3 p.m. Try the pedal tractor obstacle course for kids. Make a popsicle stick horse craft. Watch harvest-themed recipe demonstrations in the Learning Kitchen and sample Butternut Squash Gnocchi and Pumpkin Bread. Families can stroll along the pasture fences and follow the children's Story Walk

Harvest Weeks at the Farm.

As the end of the gardening season approaches, learn about harvest activities and preserving foods through interactive demonstrations and food tastings each week:

• **Apples—September 27-October 3 and October 11-17.** There are 2,500 varieties of apples grown in the United States. Find out which ones are grown locally here in Ver-

mont. Sample several varieties and taste the differences. See how we make Mini Apple Pies—enjoy a sample and take home the recipe!

• **Pumpkins & Squash—October 4-10 and October 18-24.** Did you know pumpkins and squash are actually considered a fruit? Learn about the different varieties of these two fruits and how they are stored for the winter. See a demonstration of our Squash Gnocchi recipe and enjoy samples.

• **Putting Food By—October 25-31.** Help harvest food from our gardens. Learn methods to preserve food to last through the winter, including canning, drying, and pickling. See a quick pickling demonstration and enjoy a sample.

• **Voices from the Land—September 18-October 20.** In this exhibit of 22 large-format photographs by celebrated Vermont photographer Jim Westphalen, each picture tells a story, through indelible images of rural structures and landscapes of Vermont.

Harvest Celebration—October 9 & 10.

See demonstrations of 19th century harvest activities including pressing cider and shelling beans. Enjoy a rousing barn dance with live traditional music. Learn about pumpkins and squash, try your hand at pumpkin bowling and make a leaf rubbing craft. Sample harvest recipes as well as Billings Farm cheese with local apples. Hot cider and local apple cider doughnuts. Squash soup made by the chefs at the Woodstock Inn & Resort will also be available for purchase.

A Family Halloween—October 24.

Trick or treat at Billings Farm! Children are invited to show off their Halloween costumes in a costume parade and enter to win the costume contest. Get in the Halloween spirit: listen to spooky Halloween stories, visit the spooky Sunflower House and make a spooky spider web necklace. Families can also enjoy a wagon ride around the farm and

try pumpkin bowling. Warm up with hot cider and local apple cider doughnuts. Hot grilled cheese sandwiches made fresh by the Woodstock Inn & Resort will also be available for purchase.

Visiting safely. For the continued safety of our staff and guests, all guests over the age of 2 are required to wear a face covering in all indoor spaces. For outdoor spaces, mask wearing is optional for fully-vaccinated persons; unvaccinated persons must wear masks when around people and unable to maintain 6' physical distances. No entry is permitted without a face covering.


Billings Farm & Museum is located at 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock, VT.

Visit www.billingsfarm.org, or at [facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum/](https://www.facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum/) and [instagram.com/billingsfarm](https://www.instagram.com/billingsfarm). (802) 457-2355. Open May 31 to October 31, daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekends 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., November through February.

Admission: adults 16-61 \$16; 62 & over \$14; students 16 & up \$9; children 4-15 \$8; children 3 and under are free.


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Plan Ahead, Be Safe, Have Fun!



Brattleboro, VT

2nd Annual Circus in Place

Come see the international award-winning contemporary circus Nimble Arts in collaboration with Circus Minimus at the 2nd Annual Circus in Place in Brattleboro, VT. The performances take place on October 16 & 17 with three shows daily at 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. daily. Tickets are \$15.

This all-ages event brings together community, artists and the land that sustains us in a unique festival of performances from circus, dance, puppetry, storytelling, music & theatre.

There are multiple stages for audiences to enjoy the woods and nature alongside performances from entertainers. Be welcomed by an Abenaki singer/songwriter sharing his story of Nda-

kinna place, marvel at an aerialist dancing in the trees, be riveted by a storyteller bringing 10,000 years of geology to life, and laugh as jugglers share awesome dexterity while tickling our funny bones.

Bring your own blankets for socially distanced seating and walking shoes for the woods path between stages. The event will happen rain or shine and the event is out of doors so dress accordingly.

We will follow all Vermont COVID protocols for outdoor events. Please maintain social distance.

2nd Annual Circus in Place takes place at 420 Meadowbrook Rd. in Brattleboro, VT. Tickets are available at www.nimblearts.org.



Visitors watch as Nimble Arts and Circus Minimus present performances on multiple stages in the woods. photos by Michelle Frehsee

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Annual Heirloom Apple Day at Scott Farm

Gather at Scott Farm Orchard in Dummerston, VT on Sunday, October 10th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to celebrate apples of all shapes, colors, tastes, and history. There will be apple tastings and talks, as well as activities for families.

Come celebrate with Scott Farm, rain or shine, as they showcase many of the over 130 varieties grown on the farm—fresh, baked, and squeezed!

Every year, Scott Farm welcomes visitors of all ages from near and far for Heirloom Apple Day. The event room in the Apple Barn is opened for an heirloom apple tasting celebration. Guests learn about the enlightening history of the orchard and some of its varieties of ecologically-grown fruits.

After the talk and tasting, guests can fill totes with the heirlooms they liked best, to purchase and take home,

along with freshly pressed heirloom cider. Food vendors will be cooking so guests can enjoy lunch at picnic tables overlooking the Farm's scenic ponds and mini-covered bridge. Guided dry stone wall tours will be offered by The Stone Trust at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. New kids' activities this year include a Make-Your-Own Caramel Apple Station and Scavenger Hunt! The Pick-Your-Own orchard and Farm Market will also be open. Admission and activities are free. Rain or shine. No dogs please.

Visit Scott Farm for Crêpe Night on October 13 at 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$15 adult, \$10 child. Call for reservations.

Scott Farm Orchard and Market is located at 707 Kipling Rd. in Dummerston, VT. (802) 254-6868. simon@scottfarmvermont.com. www.scottfarmvermont.com.



In the autumn orchard at Scott Farm in Dummerston, VT. photo by Kelly Fletcher Photography

"The Apple-Sauce Man"

There lived in New England a long time ago
A man of queer habits as seldom you'd know;
He sold apple-sauce by the quart or the can,
And the people all called him "The Apple-Sauce Man."

He lived on a hill, and he used to come down
With the berries he picked and sell them in town;
And the boys, when they saw him, they always began
To shout and hurrah for the "Apple Sauce Man."

A sort of philosopher was he in truth,
And took jokes most kindly from old folk and youth:
"My dears, always take all the comfort you can
For life is so short"—said the "Apple Sauce Man."

"Make the most of this world, you're not sure of another;
Eat, drink and be merry, my sister and brother.
Remember my counsel and follow my plan,
And you'll always be blessed," said "The Apple Sauce Man."

He died years ago, and I haven't a doubt
The truth of his theory he has found out;
But, wherever he is, I wouldn't dare bet
That he is not selling his apple sauce yet!

—SAMUEL SLAYTON LUCE
1819-1908, Stowe, VT

Brattleboro, VT

14th Annual Domino Toppling Extravaganza

The Domino Toppling Extravaganza returns to Brattleboro Museum & Art Center for the 14th year in a row. This year it's on Sunday, October 17 at 5 p.m. both in person and online.

Veteran domino toppler and YouTube superstar Lily Hevesh and other domino artists will arrive in Brattleboro 48 hours in advance to begin setting up the big show. Correctly guess how many dominoes are set up, and you could start the entire chain reaction!

Watch the video of BMAC's 2020 Domino Toppling, which featured 23,000 dominoes. Admission is free

for children 8 and under, \$3 for BMAC members, \$5 for all others. Purchase tickets in advance or at the door. Watch live online for free via Facebook Live starting at 5:15 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Free event parking is available at 28 Vernon St. Please do not bring backpacks or strollers to the event.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center is located at 10 Vernon St., in Brattleboro's historic Union Station at the foot of Main St. in downtown Brattleboro, VT. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

Orchards

"Orchards are even more personal in their charms than gardens, as they are more nearly human creations. Ornaments of the homestead, they subordinate other features of it; and such is their sway over the landscape that house and owner appear accidents without them. So men delight to build in an ancient orchard, when so fortunate to possess one, that they may live in the beauty of its surrounding. Orchards are among the most coveted possessions; trees of ancient standing, and vines, being firm friends and royal neighbors forever. The profits, too, are as wonderful as their longevity. And if antiquity can add any worth to a thing, what possession has a man more noble than these, so unlike most others which are best at first, and grow worse till worth nothing; while fruit trees and vines increase in worth and goodness for ages."

—Amos Bronson Alcott (1799–1888)

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The Natural Calendar In the Field & Garden Seasons of October

by Bill Felker

Week One of October

As grazing season ends, livestock owners gradually move their animals to supplements and hay. Avoid sudden changes in diet which can cause problems with all your animals.

Before you forget what bloomed where, put identification markers around your perennials. Plants and bulbs intended for spring forcing should be placed in light soil now and stored in a place where temperatures remain cool (but not freezing).

Watch out for oak leaves as well as for fallen acorns, peaches and plums which may be harmful to your herd or flock. That may mean keeping animals out of a woodlot in which they have grazed through much of the summer.

As your animals move in toward the barnyard with the colder weather, be sure that they don't become overcrowded – a condition which can cause stress and complicate the breeding process.

Good hygiene is also especially important at this time: treat for external and internal parasites and keep hooves trimmed.

Under the dark moon, complete fall pruning and bulb planting in October's remaining mild weather.

Week Two of October

Hormonal changes in sheep and goats follow the shortening days, creating the peak of autumn breeding season.

Test soil after harvest is complete in field and garden. Plants and bulbs intended for spring forcing indoors should be placed in light soil now and stored in a place where temperatures remain cool (but not freezing).

The heaviest time of Halloween market sales begins in the middle of October. Be ready to fill your roadside stand with gourds, pumpkin and Indian corn.

Cull wormy fruits to make sure they don't bring insects and disease next year.

October is the month when this year's litters of coyotes usually begin their attacks. Be on guard to protect your farm animals.

Week Three of October

November's sales opportunities include turkeys for Thanksgiving. Gourds and dried flowers complement the season at farmers' markets.

Don't forget to check and fertilize the berry and rhubarb patches, the horseradish, and the other herbs which will winter over.

Start thinking about supplements for your livestock: pastures not only produce less forage in the fall, but the pasture that manages to grow contains less nutrition when soil temperatures drop near 40 degrees.

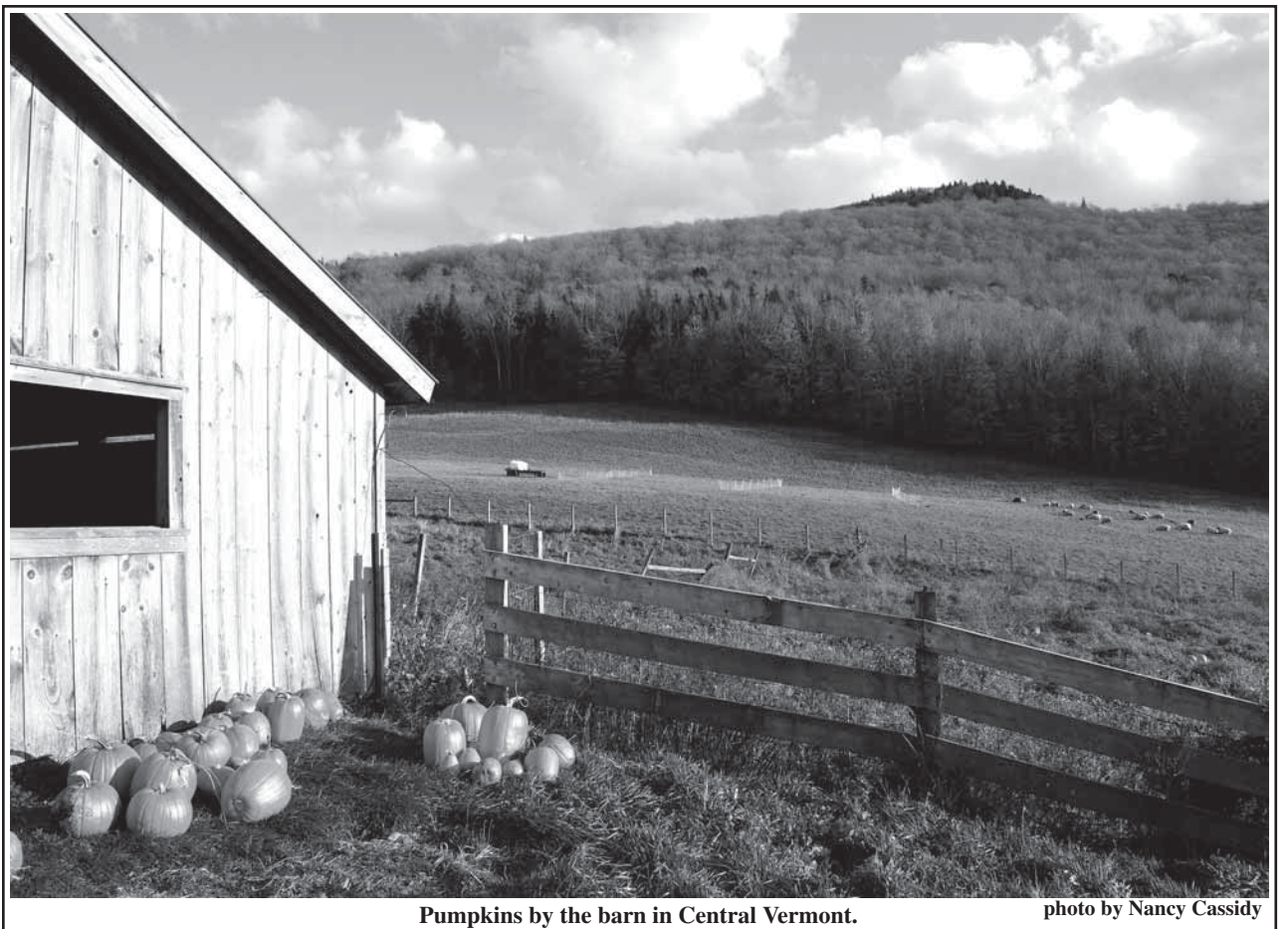
Do as much planting and harvesting as possible between now and November 5. After that date, the best weather of the year is over, and the chance of precipitation and of cloudy, chilly days increases dramatically.

Watch the sky and the thermometer and be prepared to store your green tomatoes in boxes between layers of newspaper as frost approaches. Entire pepper plants can be brought indoors in pots and, if kept well watered, should bear to maturity most of the fruits that are set at the time of digging.

Bedding plant season can begin in a month or two; there is time to purchase a grow light, planting medium and seeds with which to nurture new sprouts for the New Year.

Week Four of October

After full moon, lunar conditions for planting root crops, setting spring flower bulbs and transplanting perennials are ideal. Dig up cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias and gladiolus prior to heavy frost. Put in autumn landscape shrubs and trees.



Pumpkins by the barn in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Spread manure on the field and garden: wait until all the leaves have fallen to feed trees, perennials and shrubs. Dig onions; cut flowers and herbs for drying. Get your woodpile covered, too.

As the moon wanes, divide peonies, lilies, and iris, then plant crocus, daffodils, tulips, snowdrops, and aconites before November turns the weather much chillier.

Dig up onions; remove the mum tops; cut flowers and herbs for drying. Get your woodpile covered, too. Transplant roses, pussy willows and perennials. Put in new shrubs and trees.

The sales seasons of budding Christmas cacti, amaryllis

and paperwhites begin near Thanksgiving. Bring your plants to the farmers' markets.

Begin watering of shrubs and trees and continue through mid-November in order to provide plantings – especially new transplants – full moisture for the winter months.

Prepare mulch for November protection of sensitive plants and shrubs. Wrap new trees with burlap to help them ward off winter winds. Complete fall field and garden tillage before the November rains. Testing of stored forage soon pays dividends by helping you prepare balanced winter rations for your flock and herd.

Middle Autumn Journal

Part I

The days continue clear and bright. Two weeks ago, much of the landscape was still deep, late-summer green. Now, ashes are gold and burgundy, a few maples and dogwoods are orange, or red. Cottonwoods and catalpas and sweet gums and shagbark hickories are yellow. Grape vines and nettles are bleached with age. Locust leaves drizzle steadily to the undergrowth. The serviceberries are almost bare. The black walnut trees keep only their last fruit. Purple poison ivy and Virginia creeper outline the changes.

In Midwestern gardens, the virgin's bower is done flowering. White boneset and New England asters are in decline, but the cabbage moths still swarm around them. A few rose of Sharon and Japanese honeysuckle blossoms hold on. The last jumpseeds still jump when my fingers stroke them. Craneflies swarm, a fraction of their winter size. Dragonflies still hunt in the Metropark ponds. Monarchs and painted ladies and swallowtails come by each day.

In the woods this afternoon, kingfishers were screaming up and down the river throughout my walk. Late goldenrod was still in bloom, along with white snakeroot and the small white asters and the violet heart-leaved asters. The zigzag goldenrod, orange jewelweed and the blue-stemmed goldenrod still blossomed at the far side of their season.

I looked for buzzards circling above the woods. They used to come here by the hundreds, waiting on the high currents for October. I saw only one today. Driving south near dusk, I noticed the milkweed pods were open, their silk shining in the last light.

Part II

Since I started my record of the weather and natural history, I have my kept notes together for each day of the year – for example, all the October 2nds from 1979 through 2021 in one place. With that organization, I've been able to see how, in spite of the separate character of each 12-month cycle, and the possible changes in the climate, the progress of the seasons remains nearly identical from one year to the next.

That arrangement of observations also makes clear the replicable nature of the days themselves instead of their linear succession away from one another. In my daybook, the notes from one afternoon are often interchangeable with those of another afternoon, the same day 10 or 20 years later.

After my father died decades ago, I began to look at time

in a different way. Dad was no longer physically aging, no longer becoming more remote. Instead, with his death, all the phases and periods of his life took on the same distance from me. His childhood seemed no more distant than his middle age or dying. Taken off the track of horizontal time, his complete life became more accessible.

For so long, I concentrated on growth, and on the leaving behind, and the progress toward, as if that process would culminate in something other than its specific decisions and actions. Time was a series of independent steps on top of and away from what I had done before. Instead of living on the spinning earth, I was riding a meteor into space, never passing the same place twice.

With the lessons from the daybook, I go back and I look at my life; the crises of the years have gone by like so many storms in the weather record. It seems I'm like the woods and my father, the same for all the changes.

Part III

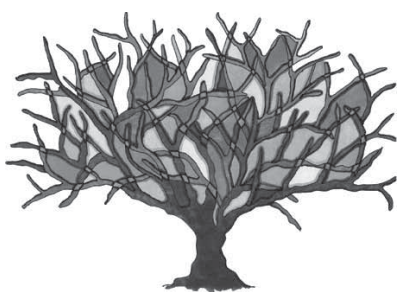
I went out into the woods and fields this morning: Small cups of gossamer were shining with dew, hanging to the tips of the dry wingstem. In the mist, the grass was yellowing, and the woods appeared like it does in April, bright leaves like new flowers.

Seeds were sprouting in rotten tree stumps, the sweet smell of autumn ground all around me. The low sun rested in the treetops. The silver winding river, the fallen logs invisible in summer, lay below me.

I saw a small flock of robins at the riverbank, and then further upstream, the trees were full of robins. Fat green Osage fruit lay all over the ground. In one dark patch of ironweed stalks, a few blue tall bellflowers were blooming; off to the side, parsnips were flowering, and some red clover and small white asters. In the bottomland, poison hemlock was growing back, with chickweed and sedum. A peppercress plant was blossoming as though spring were going to arrive in a few weeks.

In one corner of the pasture, wild lettuce plants, leaves shriveled, displayed dozens of prominent white seed heads, each maybe an inch and a half in diameter. When I touched the heads, they dissolved between my fingers.

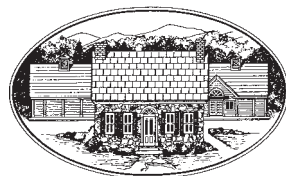
Blackbirds and starlings passed over the woods heading southwest before lunch. One monarch butterfly came by early in the afternoon, sailed over my head, the sun shining through its wings. A few loud, slow katydids sang tonight, maybe their last songs of the year.



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A Vermont Almanack for Middle Autumn

by Bill Felker

*'I'm just going out to check the ewes,'
I said, but then I found
October dancing on the hill,
her robust fullness gowned
in scarlets, golds, and brassy browns,
seducing with her hat of blue,
her perfume heady, humming tunes,
giving nuts and apples too.*

—Pat Elliott

The Sun

October 23 is Cross Quarter Day, the halfway mark between autumn equinox and winter solstice. The Sun enters Scorpio at the same time.

Phases of the Travelling Toad & Frog Moon

When temperatures cool for autumn, toads and frogs begin to look for places to spend the winter, traveling considerable distances at times to find the right location.

October 6: The Travelling Toad & Frog Moon is new at 6:05 a.m.

October 8: Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closest to Earth): 12:00 p.m.

October 12: Second Quarter: 10:25 p.m.

October 20: Full Moon: 9:57 a.m.

October 24: Lunar Apogee (when the Moon is farthest from Earth): 10:00 a.m.

October 28: Last Quarter: 3:05 p.m.

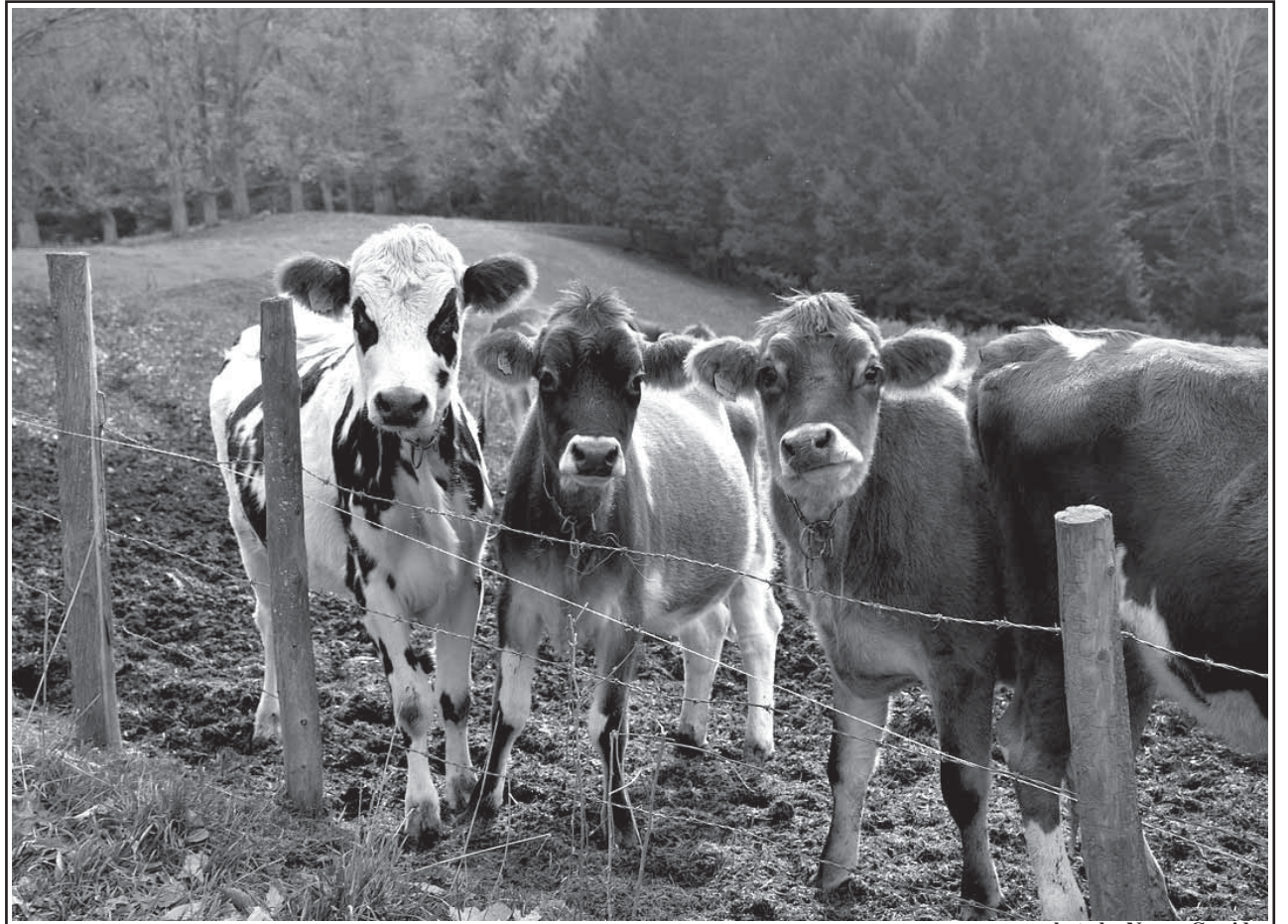
The Planets

Venus travels retrograde into Ophiuchus, becoming more visible as the Evening Star than last month. Mars, however, remains in Virgo, becoming too close to the sun for October viewing. Saturn and Jupiter stay in Capricorn, following Venus into the western horizon after midnight.

The Stars

The Pleiades, and the Hyades of Taurus lie on the eastern horizon well after dark announcing Middle Autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. Nonetheless, Summer's Milky Way is still directly overhead, June's Corona Borealis has still not set by ten o'clock.

Cygnus, the swan, is still high above you, along with August's Aquila and Lyra. Orion is fully visible at midnight,



Heifers in an autumn pasture in central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

and is centered in the south by 5:00 a.m. The pointers of the Big Dipper point north-south at 10:00 p.m. Find them deep in the northern sky, right along the horizon.

The October Weather Outlook

Weather history suggests that the cold waves of Middle Fall are likely to cross the Mississippi River on or about October 2, 7, 13, 17, 23 and 30. October's pattern of frost-threatening days will be similar to that of September. New Moon

on October 6, within two days of lunar perigee, will bring more than a 50 percent chance of frost to states all across the northern half of the United States. Full moon on October 20 repeats those chances for a freeze and brings the first chance of an early blizzard to the West.

The Shooting Stars

The Orionids, active much of the month, peak on October 21 and 22 at the rate of about two dozen in an hour.

The Milestones of Middle Fall

by Bill Felker

The Week of the Final Asters

The transition time to Middle Fall is the week the woodland asters end their blooming season. Goldenrod is seeding now, pods of the eastern burning bush are open, hawthorn berries redden, wild grapes are purple, and the tree line that seemed so deep in summer just days ago is suddenly poised to break into its final color of the year.

When asters die back, streaks of scarlet appear on the oaks, shades of pink on the dogwoods. The ashes all show red or gold; the catalpas and the cottonwoods blanch. Shagbark hickories, tulip trees, sassafras, elms, locusts and sweet gums change to full yellow, merge with the swelling orange of the maples to create a variegated archway into Middle Fall.

When the asters disappear, the terns and meadowlarks, yellow-rumped warblers and purple martins migrate. Hawks move south, resting on fences and high wires to look for prey. Titmice chirp, and sometimes cardinals sing. Robins give their short migration clucks.

As the canopy thins, hemlock, ragwort, yarrow, waterleaf, violets, wild ginger and sweet Cicely grow back. Mums are at their best, and the slowest raspberries ripen. Pussy willows that have lost their foliage to leaf miners sometimes make new leaves. But the tall sedums begin to relinquish their petals, and autumn crocuses die back. August's jumpseeds are jumping, touch-me-nots popping, thimble plants unraveling. The toothed leaves of beggarticks darken overnight. Buckeye fruits have fallen, and three-seeded mercury has lost its seeds.

Cabbage butterflies become more reckless in their search for nectar. Aphids disappear in the chilly nights. The last cicadas die. Japanese beetles complete their season. Daddy longlegs disappear from the undergrowth. Damselflies are rare along the rivers now.

The Time of Skunk Cabbage

Throughout the swamps, skunk cabbage comes up again as Middle Fall deepens. In the garden, red knuckles of rhubarb sometimes push to the surface.

Going from one woods to the next, you move from summer to fall and back again. One woodlot can be fully green, no signs of change. Then down the path a mile, there is a whole

other season of the canopy, brighter or thinning.

Wind comes in ahead of the first real cold of Middle Fall, pulling off foliage from box elders, buckeyes and sycamores, hickory, blowing chinquapin oak leaves into the rivers.

Between now and March shorebirds, such as dowitchers, yellowlegs and black-bellied plovers, feed in the salt marshes of southern Georgia

In the undergrowth, zigzag goldenrod is still open, and most white and violet asters, and some scattered white snake-root. But along backroads, the ironweed seeds are becoming brown and soft. Drying tall goldenrod blends with the dead Bermuda grass, foxtail, timothy, smooth brome, and orchard grass. Nettles are bleached with age, the last, spreading, silver orbweaver spider webs hanging in the brittle wingstem shining in the early morning sun.

The Japanese beetles are gone now. Taking their place, cucumber beetles hide in the late roses. Cricket song has completely replaced cicada song. Yellow jackets become more numerous, cabbage butterflies search for nectar and favorable sites to lay their eggs. Aphids disappear in the colder nights.

The Passage of the Last Monarchs

The last monarchs depart for Mexico as the high canopy collapses and the burning bush turns scarlet. The ashes, rebuds and hickories shed quickly, and the land enters full maple-turn and Middle Fall. Many catalpas are down, beans left swinging in the wind. Ginkgo fruits, which will be on the ground by late November, are turning pink. Box elders, poplars, elms, red mulberries and sycamores are mottled.

Chimney swifts, wood thrushes, barn swallows and re-eyed vireos move south. Flocks of blackbirds and robins migrate across the countryside. Woolly bear caterpillars suddenly multiply.

Half the goldenrod has rusted, and many varieties of asters deteriorate all at once. The brown seeds of the beggartick plants stick to your pants. Watercress blooms one more time. Henbit that sprouted a month ago is two inches tall. The tips

of spruce trees are putting on pale, fresh growth. The low October sun brings a golden, second-spring glow to the grass.

The Great Leaf Fall

The chemical changes in the foliage that became noticeable in Early Fall accelerate until the fragile landscape turns all at once. Shagbark hickories, maples, sweet gums, oaks, sassafras, and sycamores reach peak color. Black walnuts, locusts, buckeyes, box elders, hackberries, pussy willows, ashes and cottonwoods are almost bare. Blueberry bushes are completely red. Vineyards are yellow and brown, only a few grapes left. Some ginkgos are pale golden green, some just a little faded. Large patches of sky shine through the tattered canopy.

In the cooler, wetter nights, crickets and katydids are weakening. Only a few swallowtails and fritillaries visit the garden, and just a few fireflies glow in the grass. Out in the fields, almost all the wildflowers have gone to seed. Wild cucumber fruits are dry and empty. Wild asparagus yellows by the roadsides. The final sedum blossoms close.

Quickweed still provides a deep green border to the paths, and a few lance-leaf and zigzag goldenrod still hold. Pink smartweed keeps blossoming, and catchweed flowers again. Impatiens, petunias and geraniums that have escaped the frost still bloom, along with the hardier mums and pansies. Wild asparagus yellows by the roadsides.

Some years, houseflies still get in the back door. The last crickets sing in the milder afternoons and nights. Small moths play in the sun. The goldfinches have lost all their bright plumage; they are brown for winter.

As foliage thins, eastern phoebes, catbirds, turkey vultures and house wrens depart. Vast flocks of robins are fluttering, chattering, whinnying, and moving south through the high trees along the river valleys.

Starlings cackle and whistle. The last cabbage butterflies look for cabbages. The last daddy longlegs hunt in the flowerbeds. At night, crickets fill in for the silent katydids. Cattails begin to break apart. The last raspberries of the year redden.

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Equine-ized

by Allen A. Mills

For many years on our Whipple Hollow Farm, other than a small Ford tractor, a team of work horses was the primary source of power to move equipment and heavy loads that we could not move without them.

When you think of this creature allowing us to climb on its back or hitch it to a heavy load and carry or pull us, it is absolutely amazing.

Of all the things I have seen horses do in my seventy-six years, it is my recent connection with the Rainbow Riding Center in Belmont, VT, that I appreciate the most. It is here that physically and emotionally challenged children are allowed to groom and ride horses, letting them connect with this very special animal.

By observing an expert and patient instructor and her great group of volunteers work with these children and horses, I have seen miracles happen.

Respecting their privacy, I will not name anyone except for a few very special individuals: Cutie, Fonda, Frosty, Arrow and Chip. Those are the horses, and they are the main characters in this very special story.

One day, with a little boy on the horse I was leading, the child was guiding the horse with his reins. I was holding the lead very loosely as only a precautionary measure. The instructor then told the children to place the reins on the front of the saddle and spread their arms out at shoulder height and as they were riding, to guide the horse by where they looked and the twist of their body in the saddle. This was to teach balance and confidence to the children. It was very special to me when I heard the little boy shout in his small voice, "He's doing it! I'm doing it!"

I saw a little girl approach her horse after her last ride of the season, and the horse lowered his head to her. With tears running down her cheeks, she placed her little hands on the sides of his face and said, "Frosty, I'm really going to miss you."

Another little girl said as she sat on her horse, "I feel like a princess up here." And a little boy said, "I wish I could stay up here all day!"

I watched a little boy after he had brushed his horse, lightly touch the horse's neck. I could see the horse's skin quiver beneath his tender touch. He then felt the velvet of the muzzle and held his hand to feel the breath of Arrow's nose. He said, "I want to hug Arrow." The horse stood still as the small boy, with his arms spread as wide as he could, his forehead pressed against Arrow's flank, hugged his horse.

Equine-ized is not a word you will find in the dictionary or



Children on a therapeutic guided trail ride at Rainbow Riding Center in Cuttingsville, VT. photos courtesy Rainbow Riding Center

used in our common everyday speech, but if you have ever been lucky enough to spend some time, like these children, with a horse you know what it means.

The horse may be the most unappreciated creature on earth. We divide animals, although somewhat inaccurately I feel, into either fight or flight categories. The horse is said to be a flight animal in that it will run away from danger.

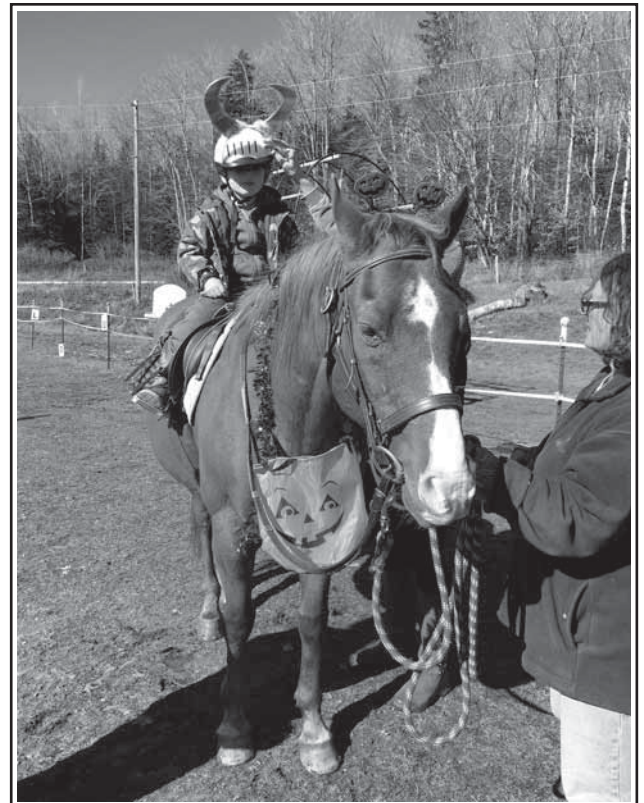
Without the horse, I have to wonder what civilization would have accomplished. Horses have carried us on their backs and pulled us and our heavy loads, hooked to harnesses, over most every nation on the earth.

This beautiful, gentle flight animal has helped us fight in our wars, explore this nation, and move us and our belongings from coast to coast. The horse has also given everything it has in our races and games of sport.

I have never spent time with a horse and not felt better for it, and I am sure that these children at the Rainbow Riding Center also feel the same way. They, too, have been "Equine-ized".

Reinbow Riding Center, 892 Tarbellville Rd, Belmont, VT 05730. (802) 236-2483. The Reinbow Riding Center thanks these donors who have made this program possible: United Way Rutland County, GE Aviation, Carris Reels, Congregation of Notre Dame, Okemo-Vail Resorts, Rotary Club of Rutland, and many friends.

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



Johnny on Jet, all decked out for Halloween.



Joey on Cutie (l.) and Alexandra on Chip (r.).



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Page 8 Vermont Country Sampler, October 2021

Merck Forest & Farmland Center Fall Activities

Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT invites you to enjoy our autumn family activities.

Visit the farm, venture into the forest or stay overnight in a rustic cabin or lean-to. Take a hike—ride your horse—ski or snowshoe in the diverse landscapes and breathtaking views of the Taconic Mountains. There are over thirty miles of trails on 3,100 acres! Visit the website for recommended hikes.

Eight cabins and three shelter and tent sites may be rented, by reservation. Dispersed camping sites are for backpacking only. See website for rates and details.

The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

To learn more about an event, call the Joy Green Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836 or stop by. Advance reservations are recommended.

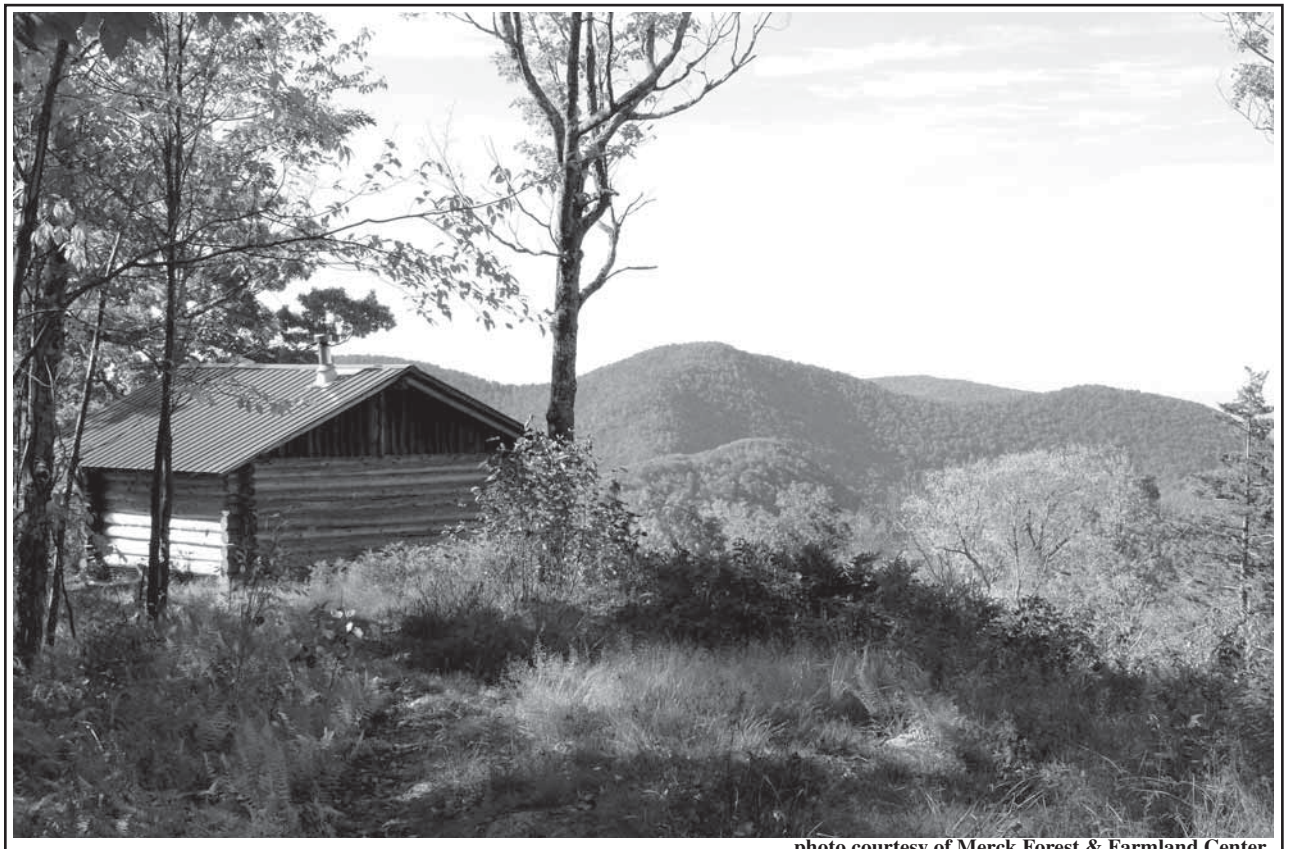
Our farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store. We offer pastured pork, grass-fed lamb, wool & fleece products, maple syrup, MFFC baseball caps, and vintage snowshoe mirrors!

Fall Event Schedule

October 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Project Learning Tree Workshop Project Learning Tree, an award-winning environmental education program, uses trees and forests in activities and resources to engage children in learning about the environment. The workshop is designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12, and is offered at no charge to participants. For more information, email Chris at christine@merckforest.org.

October 9, 2-4 p.m. Second Saturday Hike. Enjoy a guided hike with a MFFC staff member who will discuss the ecology, history, farming culture and forestry of the area. Wear proper hiking footwear for our rugged trails, and bring water, snacks and bug spray. Please arrive 15 minutes before hike begins at 2 p.m. Fee: \$5 per person, pre-registration is required. The event will only be canceled in case of extreme weather. Due to the low cost of the program, refunds are not available, unless event is canceled by MFFC.

October 14, 6-8 p.m. Connected Taconics Block Gathering. Do you live in the Northern Taconic mountains of Vermont between Rupert, Dorset, Manchester, Sunderland, Arlington, and Sandgate? What do you feel when you think of your lands and those around you? What is your vision for the future; what challenges do you see and what resources are needed to help achieve your vision? These questions and more reflect your land ethic and collectively set the stage for



Woods and mountains at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

photo courtesy of Merck Forest & Farmland Center.

the future that will define our natural and human community.

We invite you to join with your neighbors for an evening of facilitated reflection and exploration of our connection to the lands and waters that surround us, with staff from Merck Forest & Farmland Center, Audubon Vermont, and Vermont Woodlands Association. All participants will receive a free copy of Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac as well as a free dinner of regionally sourced foods.

This is a free event with 20 spaces available on a first-come-first-served basis. Please pre-register. Location: The Frank Hatch Saphouse at Merck Forest & Farmland Center.

October 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteer Work Party. From mulching raspberries to maintaining trails, volunteers work side-by-side MFFC staff in stewarding the land. Come give a hand, and learn while you work! Free. Please pre-register.



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

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

October Notes

Stowe, VT circa 1883

by Edward Martin Taber

This afternoon in the swamp, the south wind stirred the remaining leaves of the birches and lifted the flat sprays of hemlock and fir. Looking southward the light was soft and glittering on the moving foliage, and made of the naked twigs a silver net, like a spider's web. The voices of the red squirrel, of the snowbird, and the nuthatch and the drum of the woodpecker were heard.

From beneath a fallen spruce a rabbit started and leaped in a wide circle, pausing at shelter by a hemlock stump or among the debris of a fallen tree, sitting erect with ears laid back. No hint yet of winter in her coat. A young white pine tree, smooth of bark, slim and tapering, with boughs of a bright green—the brightest piece of color in the swamp—lay half-up-

rooted by the heavy wind of last Saturday.

Tonight there was a filmy thickening of the air, a blue haze upon the mountains, soft but bright. Against this, the dark forms of young spruces, the curving lines and triangles of bare boughs, the pale surface of the pasture; above, a moon less bright, but more golden in color, and surrounded by a circle of faint radiance.

The sunset very beautiful, lilac, purple, magenta, those reposeful combinations of red and blue predominating—the clouds long, flimsy, scattered and wild in distribution, like mares' tails.

Much charm in the evening, something caressing yet startling in the soft but gusty wind. There is mystery with repose, and yet a sense of hurry and flutter.

The End of Summer

When poppies in the garden bleed,
And coreopsis goes to seed,
And pansies, blossoming past their prime,
Grow small and smaller all the time,
When on the mown field, shrunk and dry,
Brown dock and purple thistle he,
And smoke from forest fires at noon
Can make the sun appear the moon,
When apple seeds, all white before,
Begin to darken in the core,
I know that summer, scarcely here,
Is gone until another year.



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

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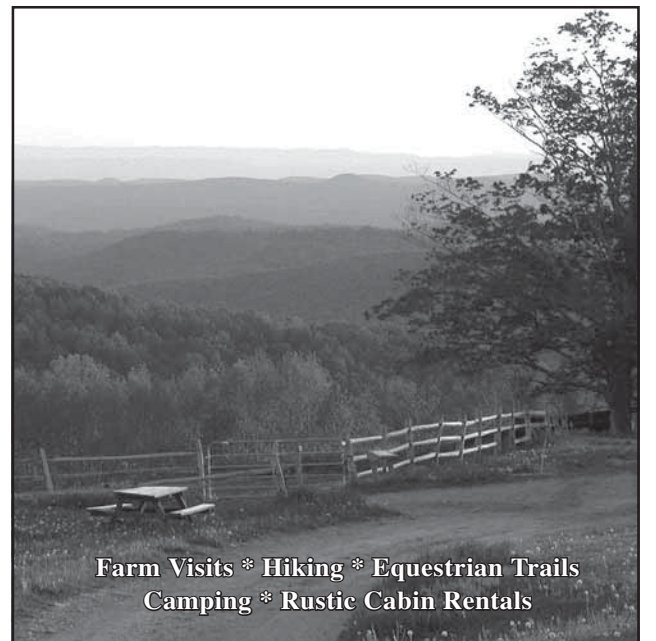


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Sunday

Dorset. Dorset Farmers Market. Sundays, 10 am – 2 pm. H.N. Williams Store, Rt. 30. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 10.*

Glover. Glover Farmers Market. Sundays, 11 am – 2 pm. Glover Town Green. (802) 525-4051. gloverfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.gloverfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 3.*

Putney. Putney Farmers Market. Sundays, 11 am – 2 pm. Putney Food Co-op Green, 8 Carol Brown Way. (802) 777-2228. putneyfarmersmarket@gmail.com. putneyfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 31.*

Stowe. Stowe Farmers Market. Sundays, 10:30 am – 3 pm. Snowdrift/Stowe Motel field, 2043 Mountain Rd. stowefarmersmarket@gmail.com. stowefarmersmarket.com. *Through October 10.*

Winooski. Winooski Farmers Market. Sundays, 10 am – 2 pm. Winooski Falls Way in front of Champlain Mill, 20 Winooski Falls Way. farmersmarket@downtownwinooski.org. *Through October 3.*

Tuesday

Burlington. Old North End Farmers Market. Tuesdays, 3-6:30 pm. Dewey Park, Spring St. oldnorthendfarmersmarket@gmail.com. onefarmersmarket.com. *Through October 26.*

Northfield. Northfield Farmers Market. In-person shopping 3-6 pm on the Town Common. Online Store: order Thursday through Sunday for pick-up at the market on Tuesdays from 4:30–5:30 pm. (802) 485-8586. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. northfieldfm.eatfromfarms.com. *Through October 12.*

Wednesday

Danville. Summer Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Danville Town Green, off US Rt. 2 between the Danville-Peacham Rd. and Park St. (802) 592-3088. cfmanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *Through October 6.*

Rutland. Vermont Outdoor Wednesday Summer Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 27.*

Woodstock. Woodstock Market on the Green. Wednesdays, 3-6 pm. Village Green. (802) 457-3555. info@woodstockvt.com. woodstockvt.com/events/market-on-the-green. *Through October 13.*

Thursday

Fair Haven. Fair Haven Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. Fair Haven Park. vfmrutland@gmail.com. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 28.*

Jericho. Jericho Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. Mills Riverside Park, 338 VT Rt. 15. (802) 825-8612. jerichofarmersmarket@gmail.com. jerichofarmersmarket.com. *Through October 7.*

Manchester. Manchester Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. Adams Park, 5048 Main St. mfmvermont@gmail.com. manchesterfarmers.org. *Through October 7.*

Royalton. Royalton Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. South Royalton Town Green. (802) 763-8302. royaltonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. *Through October 9.*

Vergennes. Vergennes Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3-6 pm. City Hall Park, 120 Main St. (802) 233-9180. vergennesfm@gmail.com. *Through October 7.*

Friday

Brandon. Brandon Farmers Market. Fridays, 9 am – 2 pm. Central Park. (802) 273-2655. cijka4@gmail.com. *Through October 8.*

Hardwick. Hardwick Farmers Market. Fridays, 3-6 pm. Atkins Field, 100 Granite St. hardwickfarmersmarket@gmail.com. hardwickfarmersmarketvt.com. *Through October 8.*

Hartland. Summer Farmers Market. Open for online and in-person Fridays May 28-September 24. 4-7 pm every Friday, rain or shine. In front of the Hartland Public Library. (603) 252-1288. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. hartlandfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 8.*

Killington. Killington Farmers Market. Fridays, 3-6 pm. Killington Sports at Rt. 4. killingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. *Through October 8.*

Lyndon. Lyndon Farmers Market. Fridays, 3-6 pm. Bandstand Park. (802) 274-1411. lyndonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. *Through October 8.*



Jersey heifer in a fall field in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Richmond. Richmond Farmers Market. Fridays 3-7 pm. Volunteers Green, 286 Bridge St. (802) 881-1249. richmondfarmersmarketvt.org. *Through October 15.*

Rochester. Rochester Farmers Market & Exchange. Fridays, 3-6 pm. Rochester Park, 16 Park Row. rochesterfimt@gmail.com. *Through October 15.*

West Townshend. Townshend Farmers Market. Fridays, 4:30-6:30 pm. West Townshend Country Store, 6573 VT Route 30. west-river-community-market.myshopify.com. *Through October 8.*

Saturday

Bennington. Summer Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. At the Deer Park, 100 Veterans Memorial Dr. benningtonfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 30.*

Brattleboro. Brattleboro Area Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Route 9 by the Creamery Covered Bridge. (802) 254-8885. farmersmarket05301@gmail.com. brattleborofarmersmarket.com. *Through October 30.*

Burlington. Burlington Farmer's Market. Rain or shine. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. 345 Pine St. (802) 310-5172. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 30.*

Craftsbury. Craftsbury Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. Craftsbury Common. (802) 586-8022. mama.kris.coville@gmail.com. craftsburyfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 2.*

Grand Isle. Champlain Islands Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. St. Joseph's Church, Rt. 2. champlainislandsfarmersmkt@gmail.com. champlainislandsfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 30.*

Londonderry. West River Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Junction of Rt. 11 & Rt. 100. (802) 297-7775. westriverfarmersmarket@gmail.com. westriverfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 9.*

Middlebury. Middlebury Farmer's Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 12:30 pm, at the VFW at 530 Exchange St. (802) 673-4158. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 30.*

Montpelier. Capital City Farmers Market. Saturdays,

9 am – 1 pm. 133 State St. capitalcityfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 30.*

Morrisville. Morrisville Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Hannaford's Green Lawn. morrisvillefarmersmarket.org. *Through October 9.*

Newport. Newport Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. The Causeway. (802) 274-8206. breezyhillacresszych@yahoo.com. *Through October 16.*

Norwich. Summer Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Norwich Farmers Market Grounds, 281 Rt. 5 South. (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 30.*

Pomfret. Mt. Tom Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. Suicide Six Ski Area Parking Lot, 247 Stage Rd. (802) 763-2070. oxxfarm22@gmail.com. *Through October 16.*

Randolph. Randolph Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Gifford Medical Center Green, 44 S. Main St. randfarmmarket@yahoo.com. *Through October 2.*

Rutland. Vermont Outdoor Saturday Summer Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 27.*

Shelburne. Shelburne Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Palmers Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-2472. shelburnefarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. sbpvt.org. *Through October 9.*

St. Albans. Northwest Vermont Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Taylor Park. nwfmnc@gmail.com. facebook.com/05478NorthwestFarmersMarketVT. *Through October 30.*

St. Johnsbury. Outdoor Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. In the parking lot behind Anthony's Restaurant near Eastern Ave. and Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. cfmanager@gmail.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *Through October 30.*

Waitsfield. Waitsfield Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. Mad River Green, Route 100. (802) 472-8027. waitsfieldmarket@yahoo.com. waitsfieldfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 16.*

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Searching For the Murphys

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

In the early fall when the light turns golden and sad and full of remembrance of lost things, I like to make vacation-visits to old places. Ten years ago, my husband and I started going to East Hampton—that became our favorite early-fall old place. We stay at the Main Street Hunting Inn, a big white once-rooming-house with The Palm, a destination steakhouse, taking up most of its first floor.

Now, Rose Marie who runs the place, sitting behind a switchboard in a cool and shadowy reception area that only comes alive with a raucous celebrity clientele after we've gone to bed, knows us and puts us in our choice of ten very-similar all-white rooms more or less insulated from the downstairs din.

The Hunting Inn is a pretty 19th century house with a big lawn and a little patio, never used. Throughout the day, a line-up of oversize New York City jitney busses roar and tremble at the curb out in front.

We've gotten to feel at vacation-home here. Each day we go for a drive along Rte. 27—the Montauk Highway—past the packed-with-customers farm stands, past the Ferrari dealership, past the South Fork wineries and the winery-tasting rooms, past the 1950s Carvel stand, the spin cycle gyms, a much-visited psychic's bungalow, the many Golden Pear breakfast branch locations, and, finally, under a leafy canopy of silver maples, past the hidden-in-the-trees Jewish Center. Then we're back in tranquil duck-pond and ancient-cemetery East Hampton.

One morning, I go downstairs to visit Rose Marie, a small, 50ish, woman-of-the-world with blue-black hair and an unexpectedly soft side, who always keeps herself behind the reception desk and regularly mentions that she, "grew up in the city."

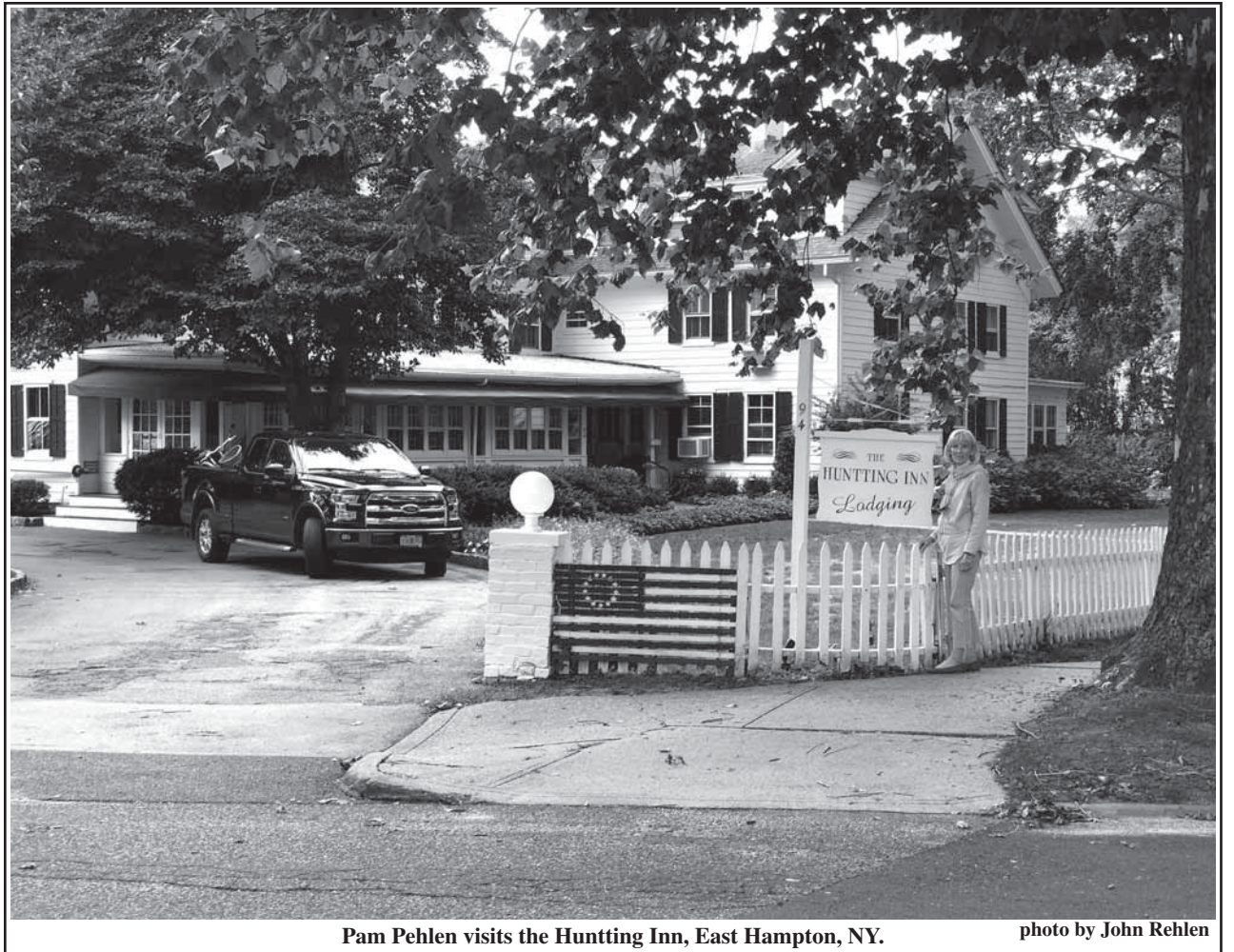
I confide that I've come to realize I like staying at the Hunting Inn in a room above the restaurant and bar because there's always a nice buzz.

She stares at me, simply incredulous. "A nice buzz? I grew up in the city, even I can't take it here."

"But," she continues, collecting herself, "you're very sweet." She pulls me across the reception counter and kisses me tenderly on both cheeks European-style.

In the late afternoons, my husband and I bike over to Main Beach and find people exercising their small, wildly-excited dogs. The wind, chilly at the edges, tears along in front of vast ocean rollers, the sun slants low making long, dune-grass-shadows. The refreshment stand/store/bath house is locked up, a forest of signs warning against illegal parking.

We bike back into town past the early houses, past the duck pond, past the cemetery filled with 17th and 18th century graves, including the medieval-style tombstone of Lion



Pam Pehlen visits the Hunting Inn, East Hampton, NY.

photo by John Rehlen

Gardiner, once lord of nine-mile-offshore Gardiner Island. At night in our bedroom—undistracted by dull thuds and occasional shouts from downstairs—I read Steven Gaine's *Philistines at the Hedgerows*, a chronicle of Hamptons social history.

That's where I learn that Gerald and Sara Murphy, the "living well is the best revenge" semi-expatriates who spent the 1920s on the French Riviera, befriending and inspiring F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, are buried in East Hampton.

The next evening, when the sunlight is long and low, I clamber over a stile in a cemetery at the end of town next to what I believe to be the Hook windmill and start

to search for the Murphy graves. I go from headstone to headstone. Eventually, I move on to the East Hampton green and the duck pond. I feel like Nancy Drew. This oldest cemetery is where I find death's head and winged angle stones, so lichen-blurred that they've become unreadable.

But I never find the Murphys. Not that year. In the course of searching, I remember a lot that I'd once read about this couple, the inspiration for so many jazz-age writers and painters.

I remember that Sara Murphy was a Wiborg, and her immensely wealthy family built a summer place—razed in 1941—called The Dunes, on six hundred East Hampton acres. Part of that land became the Wiborg Beach we visit. Near the end of their lives, after the house was gone, Gerald and Sara were living—probably very comfortably—in a refurbished Wiborg barn.

And then one day, when I least expected to, I find the Murphys, two, identical, tiny, gray stones in longish grass, easily overlooked, and seemingly unvisited, Gerald dead in 1965, Sara a decade later.

My husband and I head back elated, and see The Palm valet parking attendants girding themselves for the routine Saturday night celebrity throw-downs. Rose Marie is standing ankle deep in the front lawn pachysandra, probably thinking to herself, 'Even though I grew up in the city, I can't take much more of this.'

But she catches sight of us and gives a big wave. At this

point she knows, and more-or-less accepts, my Vermontish quirks, but I don't think I'll push it and tell her how triumphant I feel about finding the Murphys.

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

All issues of these columns can be read in the archives, usually on page 11, at vermontcountrysampler.com.

"I remember a lot that I'd once read about this couple, the inspiration for so many jazz-age writers and painters."



Wild Geese Fly By

Thus would I pass, that men where I went by Would have their silence touched, yet scarcely broken, By a faint sound, and turning to the sky From whence it came, by sight know I had spoken, And say in their own tongues what they were knowing Because they read a symbol in my going.

—CHARLES MALAM
1922-1981, South Ryegate, VT

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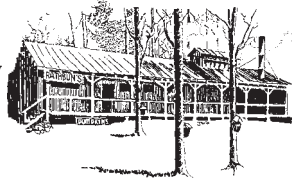
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Cuttingsville, VT

Tap to Table
An Autumn Market

Stewart Maple in Cuttingsville, VT will be hosting Tap to Table—An Autumn Marketplace on their Green on Sunday, October 3rd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine

Set in the valley of Shrewsbury with Stewart Maple's sugarbush in full fall foliage as a backdrop.

Enjoy shopping over 35 local vendor booths with specialty food products and artisan pottery, art, and gifts while listening to live music and eating from Vermont-owned food trucks. Meet the makers and shop all your favorite Vermont brands.

There will be plenty of room to sit back and just enjoy the day (perhaps while snacking on some of your

finds, or enjoying lunch from Vermont Bliss or Creed's Food Truck) Bring along a picnic blanket.

Vermont Bike and Brews will be on site and booking scenic two-hour e-bike tours through the town of Shrewsbury. Pre-registration is encouraged, or book on site (make sure you're wearing appropriate riding gear!)

Follow along on our facebook page for updates. We'll see you at Tap to Table!

The Stewart Maple Marketplace is located at 5444 VT Rt. 103 in Cuttingsville, VT. (802) 282-8072. alyssa@stewartmaple.com. www.stewartmaple.com. www.facebook.com/TapToTable.

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Wednesdays 3-6 pm • through October 27th
Depot Park, Rutland, VT

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2021

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

BARRE. Art Exhibits. Wednesday-Friday 11:30 am - 5 pm, Saturday 11:30 am - 4 pm, and by appointment. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. www.studioplacart.com.

BELLOWS FALLS. Bellow Falls Third Fridays (BF3F). Some merchants stay open later. Bellows Falls Opera showing movies. Greater Falls Farmers Market 4-7 pm. (802) 460-2333. bellowsfallsvt.org. *Third Fridays.*

BENNINGTON. 24th Annual North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show (NBOSS). Large-scale outdoor works throughout the historic village of North Bennington, at the Hiland Hall Gardens, and on the 10-acre campus of Bennington Museum in Old Bennington. 50 internationally recognized and emerging artists. Sculptures for sale. Map available. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. benningtonmuseum.org. *Through November 7.*

BENNINGTON. Bennington Battle Monument. Gift Shop. Free admission (ground level only, observation level closed). Friday-Monday, 10 am - 5 pm. Bennington Battle Monument, 15 Monument Circle. (802) 447-0550. historicsites.vermont.gov. *Through October.*

BENNINGTON. Summer Farmers Market. Live music. Every Saturday 10 am - 1 pm. At the Deer Park, 100 Veterans Memorial Dr. benningtonfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 30.*

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Museum shop. Admission \$4 adults, \$2 children three and older, \$10 families. Please wear masks inside museum. Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm. 212 Union St., corner of Valentine St. (401) 578-9512. jcmintv@hotmail.com. dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Works by Grandma Moses. Admission: adults \$12, seniors (62+) and students \$10, under 18 free. Friday-Monday, 10 am - 4 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Farmer's Market. Every Friday 9 am - 2 pm, except the first Friday of the month when it is 2-6 pm. Central Park, 20 Park St., downtown. (802) 273-2655. cijka4@gmail.com. *Fridays into October.*

BRANDON. The Guild Gallery. Fine art and crafts from 30+ member-artists. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. (802) 247-4956. brandonartistsguild.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Five New Exhibits. Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124 x 113. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Through October 11.*

BRATTLEBORO. Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Visit website for schedule. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. stonechurchvt.com.

BRATTLEBORO. First Friday Gallery Walk. 5-8 pm. Pop-Up Art Stations at Patio by the River, Pliny Park, and the Museum Lawn. (802) 257-4886. brattleboro.com/downtown/gallery-walk. *First Fridays through October.*

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Jazz Center. Concerts online and in-person, classes, workshops. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

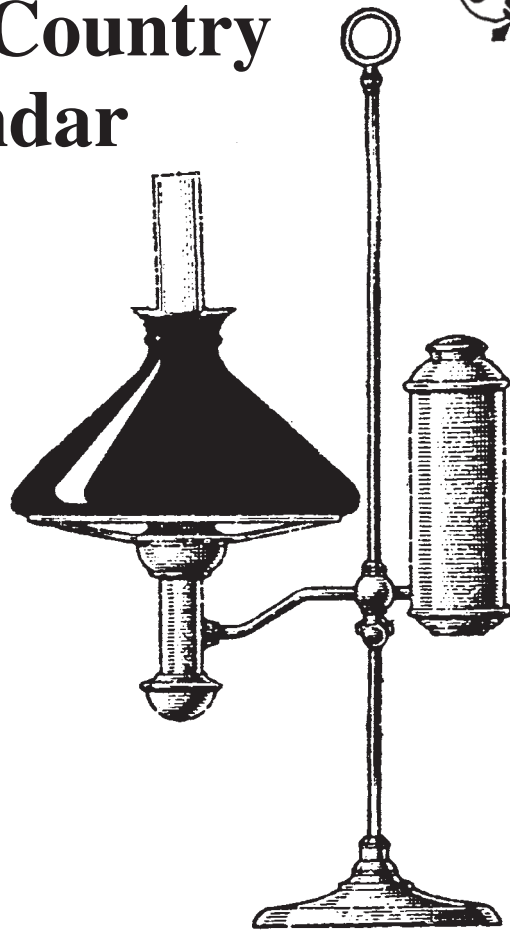
BRATTLEBORO. Retreat Farm. Labyrinth garden, arts installations, walking paths and trails. Historic cow tunnel, pollinator pathway. Meadows waterfront trail. Forest playground, storybook walk. Living sculpture. Learn about the significance of this site to the Abenaki people. No restrooms or public facilities.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

BURLINGTON. Spirit of Ethan Allen. Daily cruises on Lake Champlain. (802) 862-8300. spirit@soea.com. www.soea.com.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Farmer's Market. Rain or shine. Saturdays, 9 am - 2 pm. 345 Pine St. (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October.*

BURLINGTON. Contemporary Art Gallery. Thursday-Saturday 11 am - 5 pm, and by appointment. Soapbox Arts, 266 Pine St., Suite 119. (802) 324-0014. info@soapboxarts.com. www.soapboxarts.com.

BURLINGTON. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Exhibits, workshops, programs, museum store. For all ages. Hands-on interactive camps for kids. Adults \$18, students & seniors \$16, children 3-17 \$14.50, children 2 and under free. Open seven days a week! ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org.



BURLINGTON. Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. A site dedicated to the Revolutionary War hero. Outdoor tours include The Allen House, A recreated Abenaki Encampment, and the Heritage Garden. Admission: \$12, students 5-17 \$6, under 5 free. Open Thursday-Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. Allen Homestead Museum, 1 Ethan Allen Homestead. (802) 865-4556. ethanallenhomestead.org. *Through October 31.*

CABOT. Old Time Jam Session. Anchored by a handful of local stalwart fiddle and banjo players. The style of tunes leans toward the repertoire of West Virginia and North Carolina with a trace of Ithaca, N.Y. attitude and a smattering of New England and Quebecois thrown in depending on players in attendance. All levels of proficiency are welcome. As per session etiquette, if you are an absolute beginner, please play on the periphery. Check out our tune lists and links to references. Sunday afternoons, 12-2 pm. At Harry's Hardware, 3087 Main St. (802) 563-2291. www.cabotarts.org. *Every Sunday afternoon.*

COLCHESTER. Sam Mazza's Farm Market. Pumpkins and holiday decor. Home-grown produce. Bakery, ice cream, fudge, wines and specialty foods. Corn maze. Open 7 am to 7 pm. 277 Lavigne Rd. (802) 655-3440. www.sammazzafarms.com.

CHARLOTTE. Clemmons Family Farm. 148-acre historic farm, African-American owned land and cultural heritage resource. Visit website for more info. (765) 560-5445. www.clemmonsfamilyfarm.org.

CRAFTSBURY. Craftsbury Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm. Route 14, Craftsbury Common. (802) 586-8022. craftsburyfarmersmarket.com. *Every Saturday.*

DANVILLE. Farmers Market. Wednesdays 9 am - 1 pm. Located on the Danville Town Green. (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket. *Thru Oct.*

EAST MONTPELIER. Bragg Farm Sugarhouse & Gift Shop. Tours. Maple Ice Cream Parlor. Maple syrup, candies & cream. Mail orders welcome by phone or online. (802) 223-5757. 1005 Rt. 14. www.braggfarm.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Genealogy Library. Classes, archives, research, books. Open Tuesday 3-9:30 pm and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd. (Rt. 117). mail@vtgenlib.org. www.vtgenlib.org.

FAIRFAX. Fairfax Fridays Farmer's Market. Farmers' market begins at 4:30 pm; live music 6:30-7:30 pm. At the Community Center, 1210 Main St. (802) 849-6111. fairfaxrecreation.com/fridays. *Every Friday.*

FERRISBURGH. Rokeby Museum. Exhibit: "Free & Safe", interpretive trail, and agricultural outbuildings. Exhibit: "A Modern Artist - The Commercial Art of Rachael Robinson Elmer" through October 24. Special Museum Days every Tuesday 1-5 pm through October, pay what you can. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, students \$8, under 5 free. Daily 10 am - 5 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org.

GLOVER. Bread and Puppet Theater. Open for drop-in visits to see museum puppets, masks, costumes, paintings, buildings, and landscapes. Bread and Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Rd. (802) 525-3031. breadpup@together.net. www.breadandpuppet.org.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Fairy House Festival September 25 & 26. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, and mounted specimens. Pollinator garden, Village Park trails, Fairy House Trail, pond dipping, backyard picnics. The Magic Forest Playscape, designed for all ages, open from dawn to dusk daily. Free admission. Open Friday through Sunday through fall, 10 am - 4 pm. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.



Rutland, VT

61st Annual Halloween Parade

Come to downtown Rutland on Saturday, October 30th at 6:30 p.m. for one of the largest and longest running Halloween Parades in America! Tom Fagan, known as "Mr. Halloween", who passed away in 2008, started this historic parade in 1960. He was responsible for its superhero theme and as Master of Ceremonies he dressed as Batman.

You will see every manner of spooks, ghouls, perhaps a brigade of dancing skeleton, floats, witches, and goblins. Candy will be passed out along the way. Bring your little ones for a phantasmago-

rical great time! It is suggested you come early to secure a good watching place. Line up is at 5:30. There will be street closures. The Parade Route goes along Madison St. & Strongs Ave. to Wales St., left to West St., left onto Merchants Row ending at the plaza.

Want to help out with the parade? We are looking for volunteers to help with staging entries prior and crowd control during. Contact Aprilc@rutlandrec.com.

For more info go to www.rutlandrec.com/halloweenparade.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2021, continued)

HARDWICK. The Vermont Curators Group Itinerary. Hardwick to Waitsfield. Five exhibitions. Meandering scenic route on a trip through at least 11 towns. 251 Club of Vermont. vt251.com. vermontcuratorsgroup.com.

HOLLAND. Live at The Barrage. Original live music. Doors 6 pm, music 7-9. Tickets \$10 cash or venmo. All ages & all stars and stripes. b.y.o. be responsible. Follow signs saying "Barrage" near Stearns Brook Rd. in beautiful Holland, VT, the last exit in America. (802) 922-1503.

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

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Discover birds: indoors as lifelike woodcarvings, and outdoors in their wild feathered selves. Programs, bird walks, museum store. Wednesday through Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. 100 acres of trails are always open. Adults \$7, seniors \$6, children 3-17 \$3.50. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. *Thru October.*

LEBANON, NH. AVA Gallery and Art Center. Exhibits, classes, programs. Tues-Fri 11 am – 6 pm, Sat-Sun 11 am – 4 pm. 11 Bank St. www.avagallery.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene – The Lincoln Family Home. Tour the home, gardens, farm, walking rails. Masks and social distancing. Admission: \$23 adults, \$6 youth, under 5 no charge. Thurs – Mon, 10 am – 4 pm. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of village. (800) 578-1788. hildene.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene Farm Wagon Rides. Morning or early afternoon ride. Registration required. \$50 for a group of up to 8 persons. (802) 367-7960 or stephanie@hildene.org. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. *Sundays September 5 through October 24.*

MANCHESTER. Art Exhibits, Classes, Programs. Wednesday-Saturday 10 am – 4 pm, Sunday 12 noon – 4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Dutton's Farmstand. Pumpkins, fruits, and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, pies, bread, cookies, creemees! Daily 9 am – 7 pm. Dutton's Farmstand, 2083 Depot St., Rts. 11/30. (802) 362-3083. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

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

MIDDLEBURY. Free Little Art Gallery. Create a mini-work of art in any medium. Bring your art and place it in the Free Little Art Gallery. Take home a piece of art. At the front of the garden, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. mmanley@henrysheldonmuseum.org. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Farmer's Market. 9 am – 12:30 pm. VFW at 530 Exchange St. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October.*

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum. Open 10 am to 5 pm. Wednesdays-Saturdays. 109 State St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org/museum.

MONTPELIER. Cross Vermont Trail Association. A project to build a multi-use, four-season path across the width of Vermont, following the Winooski River and Wells River valleys. (802) 498-0079. crossvermont.org.

MONTPELIER. Nature programs online and in person. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Northeast Wilderness Trust. Forever-wild conservation is about freedom...for wildlife, natural processes, and the untrammeled evolution of the landscape. We work with partner organizations and landowners to evaluate land for wilderness conservation. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. newildernesstrust.org.

NEWFANE. Dutton's Farmstand. Fall pumpkins, fruits and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, pies, bread, cookies, creemees! Dutton's Farmstand, 391 & 407 Rt. 30. (802) 365-4168. duttonberryfarm.com.

NEWFANE. The West River Railroad Museum. Old Depot and Water Tank House both built in 1880. Free. Sat & Sun 12-5 pm. Cemetery Hill Rd. historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org. *Through October 10.*

NEWFANE. The Windham County Museum. Free. Sat. and Sun. 2-5 pm, Wednesdays 10 am – 4 pm. www.historicalsofwindhamcounty.org. *Thru Oct. 10.*

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. All ages. Adults \$18, children 2-17 \$15, under 2 free. Reservations. Tues-Fri 10 am – 5 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Road off Rt. 5. (802) 649-2200. montshire.org.

NORWICH. Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. 281 Rt. 5 South. (802) 384-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October.*

NORTH BENNINGTON. Park McCullough Historic Governor's Mansion. Adults \$15, seniors \$12, students \$8, 8 & under (with an adult) free. Friday-Sunday, 10 am – 2 pm. Park McCullough Historic Governor's Mansion, 1 Park St. (802) 491-7677. parkmccullough.org.

NORTH SPRINGFIELD. Displays and exhibits about the town's history. Free. Saturdays 1-4 pm, or by appointment. Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Rt. 106. (802) 886-7935. sahs@vermontel.net.

ONLINE. Northern Forest Canoe Trail's 2021 Online Auction. Everything from canoes to canoe trips, wooden bird sculptures to wooden paddles. northernforestcanoetrail.org. *Through November 28.*

ONLINE. Birding Hotspots in Rutland County. Publicly accessible places, variety of habitats. Visit these places and report your sightings to www.eBird.org. Rutland County Audubon. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org/hotspots.

ONLINE. Outdoor Radio. Over 50 episodes online, with topics ranging from birds to bats and beavers to peepers. Co-hosts: Kent McFarland and Sara Zahendra. Find the episodes on the VCE website Vermont Center for Ecocostudies. vtecostudies.org.

ONLINE. Forevergreen: A Vermont Adventure in Music. Bringing the music of Vermont and the artists who have an affinity for the Green Mountain State directly to you. All shows stream live at 7 pm on Vermont Tourism YouTube and Facebook. vermontvacation.com/forevergreen.

ONLINE. Solstice Seeds 2021 Catalogue of Open Pollinated Seeds. Solstice Seeds, Hartland, Vermont. solsticeseedsvt@gmail.com. solsticeseeds.org.

ONLINE. 2021 Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses Available Online. License gift certificates also available. John.Hall@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

ONLINE. 4-H at Home. University of Vermont Extension programs for kids of all ages on veterinary science, civic engagement and environmental leadership to gardening and nutrition, babysitting and learning to code. Free. uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home.

ONLINE. Interactive All-Vermont Band Guide. Big Heavy World. (802) 865-1140. bigheavyworld.com/band-guide.

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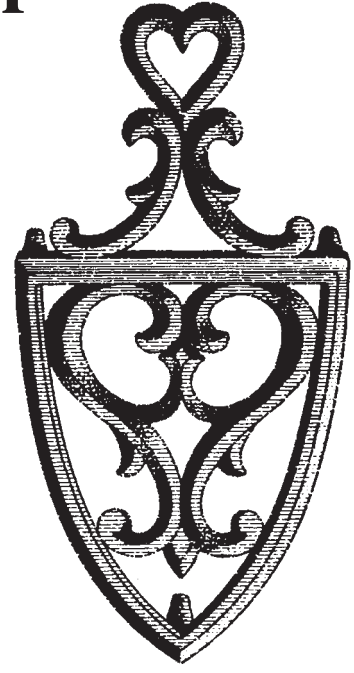
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Vermont Country Calendar



ONLINE. The Lake Champlain Digital Museum: Digital Exhibits, Virtual Shipwreck Tours. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. (802) 475-2022. lcmmm.org.

ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. Exhibits. Six miles of walking and hiking trails, one suitable for outdoor wheelchairs and strollers. Gift shop. Adults \$5, children under 5 free. Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. historicsites.vermont.gov. Open through October 10.

PETERSBURG, NY. Monthly Farm Tour. We use Afro-indigenous agroforestry, silvopasture, wildcrafting, polyculture, and spiritual farming practices to regenerate 80 acres of mountainside land. By reservation. 3:30 pm. Soul Fire Farm, 1972 NY Hwy 2. (518) 880-9372. love@soulfirefarm.org. soulfirefarm.org. Third Fridays.

PLAINFIELD, NH. 10th Annual Plainfield Pumpkin People. Roadside extravaganza! Drive around Meriden, East Plainfield and Plainfield to see displays of our famous autumn Pumpkin People. Free. (603) 558-2400. PlainfieldPumpkinPeople@gmail.com. www.pumpkinpeople.org. September 27-October 30.

PLYMOUTH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Exhibits, buildings, gift shop, and walking trails. Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Adults: \$5 (Museum only), \$8 (Museum & tour of Homestead), children under 15 free, f Family pass (up to 8 people) \$25. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. william.jenney@vermont.gov historicsites.vermont.gov. Open through October 17.

POULTNEY. Gallery hours: Sundays 1-4 pm, Fridays 5-7:30 pm by appointment. Stone Valley Arts Center at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St. stonevalleyarts.org.

QUECHEE. VINS Nature Center's Outdoor Exhibits. Daily with educators presenting. Adults \$17.50, seniors (62 plus) \$16.50, college students \$16.50, educators & vets \$16.50, youth 4-17 \$15, kids 3 & under free. Open daily 10 am – 4 pm. Covid protocols. 149 Natures Way off Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

READING. Exhibits: "Deep Blue". Works by 70 artists from the Hall Art Foundation collections. Katherine Bradford: "Philosophers' Clambake". Clark Derbes, Vermont sculptor, through November 2021. Admission: \$10. Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm, self-guided visits. Reservations. Hall Art Foundation, 544 Route 106. www.hallartfoundation.org. Thru November 28.

ROXBURY. Roxbury Fish Culture Station. Producing 25,000 pounds of fish, and 60,000 brook and rainbow trout annually for stocking in state waters. Outdoor grounds open; covid protocols. Art installation: "The Origin of the River" by Vermont sculptor Sean Hunter Williams features a single spawning female wild brook trout enlarged six times. Roxbury Fish Culture Station, 3696 Roxbury Rd. (802) 461-6019. chris.ingram@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Workshops, events, children's activities, hiking trails. 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Hathaway Farm Moonlight Madness. 13-acre corn maze at night. Admission \$12 for ages 12 & over \$10 for ages 4-11 & seniors 3 & under are free. 5-9 pm. Hathaway Farm and Corn Maze, 741 Prospect Hill Rd. (802) 775-2624. hathawayfarm.com. Saturday nights through October 30.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes, gift shop. Art in the Park October 9 & 10 in Main Street Park. Open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 12-4 pm and Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland County Audubon Art Show: "Nature Revealed." An opening reception with light refreshments will be held at the Chaffee on September 21 from 5-7 p.m. The show is free, but donations will be accepted. Open 12-4 pm Wednesday through Friday, and 10 am – 2 pm on Saturdays. At the Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356, www.chaffeeartcenter.org. Through October 29.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. Saturdays 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Through October.

RUTLAND. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Fri-Sun, 10 am – 12 noon and 2-4 pm. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. (802) 282-2678. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

SHAFTSBURY. Robert Frost Stone House Museum. The house, built circa 1769, was considered historic even before the Frost period. It sits on seven acres and still retains some of Frost's original apple trees. Adults \$10, seniors & students \$6, under 18 \$5, children under 10 free. Friday-Monday, 10 am – 4 pm. 121 Historic Rt. 7A. (802) 447-6200. www.bennington.edu. Through October 31.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms. Walking trails. Programs and activities for the whole family. Welcome Center parking lot. Admission by donation, visit website for details. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SHELBURNE. Exhibit. *New England Now: People*. Admission. Wednesday–Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. www.shelburnemuseum.org. Thru October 17.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farmer's Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm. 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-2472. sbpavt.org/the-market. Through October 9.

SPRINGFIELD. Open Wall Art Show – *Full Spectrum*. Classes and workshops. Art for sale. Wednesday and Saturday 11 am – 5 pm, Friday 11 am – 7 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org. Through October 13.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Atlas of Life. Lectures, field trips, events for naturalists to get together. Vermont Center for Ecostudies. www.vtecostudies.org. inaturalist.org/projects/vermont-atlas-of-life.

STATEWIDE. Vermont State Parks. Vermont has 55 developed and staffed state parks and other undeveloped state park lands. (888) 409-7579. vtstateparks.com.

ST. ALBANS. Northwest Vermont Farmer's Market. Saturdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Taylor Park. [Facebook.com/05478NorthwestFarmersMarketVT](https://www.facebook.com/05478NorthwestFarmersMarketVT). Saturdays through October.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2021, continued)

ST. JOHNSBURY. Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild. A Cooperative Craft & Fine Art Gallery. Open Tues-Sat 10:30 am – 5:30 pm. Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, 430 Railroad St. (802) 748-0158. nekartisansguild.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections, Star Space Astronomy Tours. Adults: \$12, seniors (65+) and children 5-17 \$8, 4 and younger free. Planetarium admission: \$7. Wed. thru Sun. 10 am – 5 pm. COVID protocols. 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. Hike the trails, open seven days dawn to dusk! Gallery and Dog Chapel open Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am – 5 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

STATEWIDE. The 251 Club. Since 1954, organization of Vermont enthusiasts whose objective is to visit the state's 251 towns and cities. (802) 233-8649. www.vt251.com.

STATEWIDE. Vermont State Parks. Visit 55 developed and staffed state parks and other undeveloped state park lands. (888) 409-7579. www.vtstateparks.com.

STOWE. Exhibits. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. helenday.com.

STRAFFORD. Justin Morrill Homestead. Guided tours, artwork, formal gardens, interpretive exhibits and walking trail. Fee: \$4, children 14 and under free. Self-guided tours of the garden at no cost. Saturday & Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. 214 Justin Morrill Highway. (802) 828-3051. morrillhomestead.org. *Through October 10.*

SWANTON. Swanton Food Truck Sundays. 12 noon – 5 pm. Swanton Village Green. *Third Sundays thru Oct.*

TICONDEROGA. Fort Ticonderoga's Heroic Maze: A Corn Maze Adventure. Explore a unique corn maze located on the shores of Lake Champlain. Getting lost in this life-size puzzle is part of the fun as you look for history clues among towering stalks of corn! The Heroic Maze is designed to be challenging but still allows visitors to exit quickly if needed. Tickets: adult \$24, senior \$22, child (5-15) \$12. Saturday & Sunday 10 am – 5 pm (last entry 4:30 pm). Fort Ticonderoga, 100 Fort Ti Rd. (518) 585-2821. info@fort-ticonderoga.org. www.fortticonderoga.org. *Saturday & Sunday through October 17.*

VERGENNES. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Outdoor exhibits. Replica schooner Lois McClure and gunboat Philadelphia II. Free admission. Open daily 10 am – 4 pm. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor. (802) 475-2022. lcmm.org. *Through October 17.*

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Dutton's Farmstand. Season's best fruits and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, creemees! Dutton's Farmstand, 308 Marlboro Rd. (802) 254-0254. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

WEST MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. 600 mounted specimens of native northeastern birds and mammals, close to 250 species represented. Northeastern Mineralogy Collection. Wed. thru Mon. 10 am to 4 pm. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Sculpture Exhibit: SculptFest21. Opening reception September 11, 5-8 pm, free and open to the public. Carving Studio & Sculpture Center, 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. info@carvingstudio.org. www.carvingstudio.org. *Through October 24.*

WEST TOWNSEND. Townshend Farmers Market. Every Friday 4:30-6:30. At the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Rt. 30. west-river-community-market.myshopify.com.

WESTON. Play. *The Mountaintop.* A playful and moving exploration of the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., set during the final night of his life. Tickets \$50-\$74. Fri & Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 3 pm. Weston Playhouse, 703 Main St. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org. *September 30 through October 23.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Junction – A Walking Tour. A walking tour of White River Junction. Using only a cellphone and a pair of headphones, individual audience members will be guided from one location to the next as audio scenes play out before them. Northern Stage. Courtyard Theater, Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St. (802) 296-7000. boxoffice@northernstage.org. northernstage.org. *September 24 through October 24.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Art Exhibits, Workshops. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 North Main St., Suite 160. (802) 295-5901. tworiversprintmaking.org.

WINDSOR. American Precision Museum. Exhibit: "Igniting Innovation: The Manufacturing Revolution in Precision Valley." Museum shop, learning resources. Admission \$10, seniors \$8, families \$20, children under 6 free. Daily 10 am – 5 pm. 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. americanprecision.org. *Through October 31.*

WOODSTOCK. Market on the Green. Wednesdays, 3-6 pm. Woodstock Village Green, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3555. woodstockvt.com. *Wednesdays thru October 13.*

WOODSTOCK. Woodstock History Center. Free admission. Open Wed-Sat. Woodstock History Center, 26 Elm St. (802) 457-1822. woodstockhistorycenter.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Meet our farm animals: sheep, pigs, calves, chickens in the small animal barn. Dairy operations. Farm Life Exhibits. Online film series. Admission \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4. Open Thursday through Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

RUTLAND. An Evening with David Sedaris, one of America's pre-eminent humor writers, a master of satire. Tickets: \$49.50. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

STOWE. Spruce Peak Summer Concert Series: Brett Dennen. No chairs allowed. Tickets: lawn seating \$40, table seating \$50. 7 pm. Green opens at 5 pm. Spruce Peak Village Green. (877) 291-3781. sprucepeak.com/concerts.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: High and Mighty Brass Band. Original music and fresh take on current and classic cover songs. Tickets: \$20. 8 pm, doors open 7:30 pm. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. stonechurchvt.com.

ELMORE. Words in the Woods with Bryan Blanchette. Abenaki singer-songwriter Bryan Blanchette leads an in-person visit to Elmore State Park. Free. 7 pm. Sponsored by Vermont Humanities. Elmore State Park, 856 VT Rt. 12. (802) 262-2626. redens@vermonthumanities.org. vermonthumanities.org. vtstateparks.com/elmore.html.

LYNDON. Concert. Grammy award-winning songwriter and musician Aoife O'Donovan with guests Hawktail. Tickets \$52, \$42, \$32, \$15. Students are free. 7 pm. Lyndon Institute Auditorium, 168 Institute Dr. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

BARRE. Concert: Tom Rush. Ballads and blues. Tickets: \$29-35. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

Cow Time

Cow time, and in October, in the days of long ago...
Come, Shep, old fellow, hurry up; I think you're very slow;
But then, too, I remember, I remember with a sigh,
That you've been dead for eighteen years and I, alas — well, I
Am older by a score of years than when we used to roam
Out to the fallow pasture old to drive the cattle home.

So, Shep, old dog, we'll go once more while memory still is bright;
We'll take the path out through the woods and fetch the cows to-night.
Here, you, no nonsense! Keep behind; you fool, where have you heard
That shepherd dogs are swift enough to catch a yellow bird?
What, found a track? I guess you have — a woodchuck's I declare
Ah, here's his hole. Go for him, Shep! We'll have him out of there.

Wait, dog; stand back, right where you are; I'll show that chuck a trick.
Stand back, I say, and wait a bit; I'll poke him with a stick.
Jab! Jab! It's deep, that woodchuck hole; see how it twists and bends.
Oh! there he runs! I should have known — some chuck holes have two ends.
I'm down; no matter, get him, Shep! He ran up on that knoll.
No use, come back; just as I thought, he's got another hole.

Come on. Hello! I didn't know the burs were open yet.
Lie down, old dog, I'll take a climb, there's chestnuts here to get,
A pocket full; that's pretty good, I've something now to chew.
You wag your tail; do you want some? Do dogs like chestnuts, too?
Well, take a couple; now we'll go. Hi! there's a squirrel; now we
Must catch him. Pshaw! He's got away up in a hemlock tree,

And we have lost him. Let him go. Now here's the pasture bars;
You find the cows and fetch 'em up, or we will see the stars
Before we see the milking yard; it's plump a half a mile;
So, sick 'em, Shep, and round 'em up and I will rest me while
I eat this Seek-no-further and this Pippin that I found
Out in that pile of apples where they're lying on the ground.

Ah, here you come. Have you them all? Here's Speckle, Spot and Jess,
Old Brownie, Molly, Lill and Dot, but not old bell cow, Bess.
So, sir, go back and find that cow; come, lively! You can tell
Just where she is, for she's the cow that wears the copper bell.
Some dogs know lots; he won't be long. I hear the bell, I think,
Down in the hollow by the spring where she has stopped to drink.

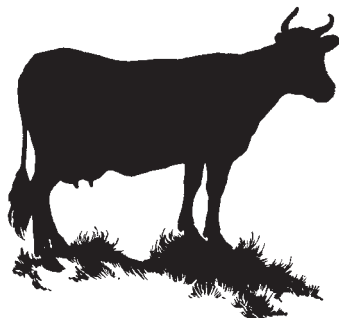
There, there! Don't run her; steady, now! Her heels — don't bite her nose.
She's through; just start them down the lane — I've got the bars to close —
And then we'll drive 'em slowly home, and stop our dreamy song,
For driving cows is not for men, nor dogs that's dead so long.

—WILLIAM TEMPLER BECKER
1852-1920, Schenectady, NY

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Vermont Country Calendar

BRANDON. Seventh Annual Brandon Has Talent Show. Fun for participants and audience. Tickets: \$5. 7-9 pm. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. (Rte 7). (802) 247-6401. www.brandon.org.

BRISTOL. 22nd Annual Bristol Harvest Festival. 45+ crafters and vendors, demonstrations, and live musical entertainment on the bandstand throughout the day. Co-hosted by the Addison County Chamber and the Bristol Recreation Dept. 10 am – 4 pm. West Street, on the street around the Bristol Town Green. (802) 388-7951. recreation@bristolvt.org. www.bristolharvestfest.com.

GRAFTON. Fairy House Festival, The Nature Museum's annual fundraiser. Volunteers create a fairyland of small structures built out of natural materials. Forested fairy house trail. Make your own fairy houses. Face painting, music, bubbles, crafts, and more. 10 am – 4 pm. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org. Also September 26.

HUNTINGTON. Audubon Bird and Barn Festival. Join us for a celebration of birds and the grand re-opening of our renovated education barn. Early-bird events happening before 10 am. Please pre-register. See website for full schedule. Please park in the Sugarhouse Parking Area. 10 am – 3 pm. Sugarhouse Field, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 214 Main Rd. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org.

HUNTINGTON. Bird Monitoring Walk. Birders welcome! Outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. Bring binoculars, dress for weather. Face masks required when within six feet of each other. 7:30-9 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. Also October 30.

LEBANON, NH. Comedy Performance: Justin McKinney. Tickets: \$29.50. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. lebanonoperahouse.org.

POULTNEY. 31st Annual Chili Cook-off. 11 am – 1 pm. Main St. poultneyvtrotary@gmail.com.

PUTNEY. Moss Walk with Sarah Cooper Ellis. Explore a wet limey outcrop along Brook Road. No dogs; children welcome. Bring hand lenses or other magnifiers. Registration required. 10 am – 12 noon. Park at one of several pull-offs on Brook road and meet where the old water barrel overflows. Brook Road Water Barrel, 66 Brook Rd. putneymountain.org. Rain date: September 26.

RICHMOND. Abenaki Land Link Harvest Festival. Food, ceremony, storytelling and field walks. Learn more about the Abenaki Land Link Project, a collaboration between the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT). Free. 11 am – 3 pm. Farm at Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, 1949 E. Main St. (802) 434-4122. erin@nofavt.org. nofavt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. Saturdays through October 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Through October.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Hort Farm Apple Fest. Come for a tour and tasting at peak harvest season and learn about this iconic Vermont crop. Fee: \$10. 10 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SOUTH POMFRET. Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals. Funny, fast-paced, and highly interactive variety show. Meet several larger than life, hand-crafted puppets... Perhaps a goofy moose, a heroic tiger, or a lovable bear. Maybe a dancing robot or flamingo, an adorable mouse, a stubborn goat, a shy dragon, or a singing dinosaur. Ages: 3-8. Cost: \$5. 10 am. Artistree Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. info@artistreevt.org. artistreevt.org.

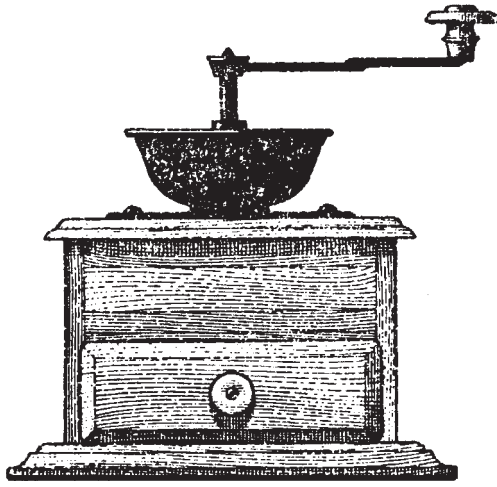
WEST HARTFORD. Annual David Chang Memorial Fly Fishing Event. Tie and cast flies and explore the fish habitat in the Callens' pond. Afterwards, enjoy a cookout supported by the Chang family, Trout Unlimited, and VINS. Free; RSVP by Monday, September 20, to Mary Daum, mdaum@vinsweb.org. 10 am – 2 pm. At the home of Judy Callens. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

WOODSTOCK. Wagon Ride Weekend. Enjoy fall foliage with a narrated wagon ride around the Billings Farm fields. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 north of the village. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also September 26.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

ESSEX JUNCTION. Wag it Forward: Nonprofit Festival for Pets. Local animal rescues and welfare groups, pet food and related vendors. Family and pet-friendly fun and activities. Dock diving with Ultimate Air Dogs. Local food trucks, live music, and much more. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 862-5514. ginny@pfwvt.com. pfwvt.com/wagitforward.html.

FAIRFAX. Class: European Pastries - with sourdough! Cost: \$125. 10 am – 2 pm. Brot Bakehouse School and Kitchen, 38 Meade Rd. (802) 370-4077. brotbakery.com.



GRAFTON. Fairy House Festival, The Nature Museum's annual fundraiser. Volunteers create a fairyland of small structures built out of natural materials. Forested fairy house trail. Make your own fairy houses. Face painting, music, bubbles, crafts, and more. 10 am – 4 pm. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene Farm Wagon Rides. Morning or early afternoon ride. Registration required. \$50 for a group of up to 8 persons. (802) 367-7960 or stephanie@hildene.org. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. www.hildene.org. Sundays thru October 24.

WOODSTOCK. Wagon Ride Weekend. Enjoy fall foliage with a narrated wagon ride around the Billings Farm fields. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 north of the village. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

BARRE. Concert: The Mersey Beatles. The world's only Liverpool-born Fab Four tribute band plays the hits. Tickets: \$31.50-42.50. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

RUTLAND. Concert. Blackberry Smoke: You Hear Georgia Tour. \$40-\$60. 8 pm. The Paramount, Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

EDEN MILLS. Nulhegan Abenaki Heritage Gathering. Singing, drumming, and dancing. Traditional games for adults and children. Vendors of authentic native crafts. Chief Don Stevens demonstrations of wampum belts and storytelling; public invited to ask questions. Rain or shine. No alcohol or drugs allowed. Free. 10 am – 5 pm. Wright Park, Seymour Street Extn. (802) 388-1007. info@maltvt.org. maltvt.org/tam-trek.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. Saturdays 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. May through October.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

BARNARD. Thursday Night Music at Feast and Field. DJ Sean Mixkings – Dance. Live music and a delicious dinner. 5:30-8 pm. Across the street at Fable Farm, 1544 Royalton Tpk. (802) 234-1645. barnarts.org.

BARRE. Fall Festival. Three-day event starts with Food Truck Thursdays and Concerts in Currier Park. Tent sales, hay rides, dining, sidewalk sales, dinner and dancing, fireworks! Free. Barre Downtown Historic District. (802) 477-2967. thebarrepartnership.com. Through October 2.

FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. Thursdays 3-6 pm. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Through October.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

CABOT. Cabot Arts Presents the Fall Foliage Festival Variety Show. A variety of performances by local talent including music, theater, dance and spoken word. Snacks and beverages. Admission by donation. All proceeds benefit Cabot Arts. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Program starts at 6 p.m. At the Rent-A-Tent on the Cabot Village Common, Main St. (802) 793-3016. director@cabotarts.org. www.cabotarts.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Opera Recital. Tchaikovsky's opera The Maid of Orleans about Joan of Arc sung in Russian. 2 pm. Middlebury Town Hall. Tickets are \$55, \$65 and \$80. (802) 382-9222. Also October 3, 7, 9 at 7:30 pm.

RUTLAND. Paramount Players Presents: *You've Got Hate Mail*. A hilarious broadband comedy of errors takes a hysterical look at the world of on-line hook-ups and break-ups. Tickets \$15. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Presentation on Female Birds & the Founding Mothers of Ornithology. Bridget Butler, the Bird Diva, presents a program on women and ornithology. Sponsored by Rutland County Audubon. Free. Masks required. 6 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 747-4466. rutlandcountyaudubon.org. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.



Brandon, VT

Brandon HarvestFest Coming

Gather at Estabrook Park for Brandon's Annual HarvestFest on October 3 from 1-4 p.m. This will be a great family afternoon with hayrides, a petting zoo, vendors, food prepared by the Walking Stick Theater Group, a bake sale by St. Mary's, free professional photographs, and live music. Admission is free.

We are excited to bring you our annual "Make Your Own Leaf Person" event as part of the festival. Visitors and townspeople, old and young, enjoy making "Harvest People" (a/k/a stick figures, scarecrows, leaf people). We supply all materials, accessories, and instruction on how to make your very own "Harvest Person". Event-goers

choose clothes, a hat, shoes, and embellishments to personalize their own "Person." Or bring your own clothes and have a personalized one. We could always shoes, hats and accessories, so bring 'em if you got 'em! Each "Harvest Person" is only \$5.00.

The "Harvest People" is sponsored by The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, Brandon Recreation Dept., Brandon Toy Project and the Brandon Library.

Estabrook Park is located at 930 Grove St. off Rt. 7 in Brandon, VT. For more information call (802) 247-6401. Email cwright@townofbrandon.com. Or visit www.brandon.org.

Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Vermont Recreation Planner: vermontvacation.com
Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
Vermont Rec & Travel: voga.org
Things to Do: findandgoseek.net



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Vermont Country Calendar

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

ADDISON. 19th Annual Dead Creek Wildlife Day. For people who enjoy hunting, fishing, birdwatching, or learning about Vermont's diverse wildlife and ecosystems. Free. 9:30 am – 4 pm. Dead Creek WMA, VT Rte. 17 about one mile west of the junction of Rte. 22A and Rte. 17. (802) 759-2398. fwinformation@vermont.gov. tfishandwildlife.com.

GROTON. Groton Fall Foliage Festival. Breakfast buffet, book sale, the Great Pumpkin Weigh-In, the annual parade, and possibly a hymn sing. Free. The day starts at 7:30 am. Groton United Methodist Church, 1397 Scott Hwy. (802) 584-3020. www.grotonccccc.org.

JEFFERSONVILLE. The Farms and Trails of Brewster Uplands. Get an overview of the rich history of this property and tour the two farms. After farm tours walk the Alden Bryan Brewster River Trail on your own. Free. Limited capacity. 9 am – 12 pm. (802) 223-5234. info@vlt.org. www.vlt.org/event/brewster-uplands-event.

LUDLOW. 37th Annual Harvest Fair. 10 am – 4 pm. Black River High School Front Lawn, Main St. (603) 219-3491 or ludlowptg@gmail.com. ludlowptg.wixsite.com/ludlowptg.

NORWICH. Archeology Day. Science meets history. A day full of ancient artifacts and hands-on demonstrations, with special guest, the Vermont State Archeologist. Admission \$17, children under 2 free. 10:30 am – 4:30 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, 1 Montshire Road. 802-649-2200. www.montshire.org.

ONLINE. 18th Annual Ducky Derby at Historic Ben's Mill in Barnet, VT. Held virtually this year on Saturday morning at 11 am – 12 pm. Ducks may be purchased at \$5/duck, \$20/5 ducks, or \$100/26 ducks. You may reserve ducks by sending a check to Ben's Mill, PO Box 50, Barnet, VT 05821. Please include your phone number. For late purchases in the last week, please call (802) 357-2010 for instructions. www.bensmill.com.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. 3rd Annual Coolidge 5K and 1-Mile Walk! Runners will explore the delightful grounds and surrounding areas of the historic Coolidge homestead. Non-runners are invited to take part in the "I Do Not Choose to Run" 1-Mile Walk. \$20 adults, 18 or younger are free. Starts at 10 am. Coolidge Foundation and State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3389. jrheads@coolidgefoundation.org. www.coolidgefoundation.org/coolidge-5k.

PUTNEY. Concert. Dar Williams. One of America's very best singer-songwriters. 3 pm. \$25, children under 12 free. Hosted by Next Stage Arts. At Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

RANDOLPH. Book Event. *Vermont Almanac: Stories Told From & For the Land*—an evening of readings. 10 authors featured in the first volume, accompanied by live music by the band Turnip Truck—a five-piece acoustic-roots band. Farmers' market in the Center. 7 pm. Admission is "pay what you can." Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 North Main St. (802) 278-9878. chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Paramount Players Presents: *You've Got Hate Mail*. A hilarious broadband comedy of errors. Tickets \$15. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. Saturdays 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. 2nd Annual Brewfest at Fairbanks Museum. Tickets \$30-\$40. 3-7 pm. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. agulkamillard@fairbanksmuseum.org. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. 20th Anniversary Celebration Dog Mountain Fall Dog Party. Four-legged friends and their two-legged companions gather for a romping good time. Live music. Food truck. Sweet treats from local vendors. Dog contests, games, doggie agility course, and more. Free, rain or shine. 12 noon – 4 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. dogmt.com.

SWANTON. Super Maple Adventure at Gagne Maple. Hay wagon rides to the woods. Learn how syrup is made, self-guided woods walk, children's challenge, and maple tasting. Free. 10 am – 5 pm. Gagne Sugar House, 4422 St. Armand Rd. (802) 370-4945. gagnemaple.com. *Also Oct. 3, 9, 10.*

TICONDEROGA, NY. Heritage, Harvest, and Horse Festival. Discover the historical importance of horses and other working animals during exciting demonstrations. Meet friendly oxen duo, stroll through Fort Ticonderoga's farmers' market, participate in family activities, and tackle the six-acre Heroic Corn Maze. Tickets \$24 adults, \$22 seniors, and \$12 ages 5-15. 9:30 am – 5 pm. Fort Ticonderoga, 102 Fort Ti Rd. (518) 585-2821. www.fortticonderoga.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

BRANDON. Brandon's Harvestfest. Enjoy making "Harvest People" (a/k/a stick figures, scarecrows, leaf people). Hayrides and pumpkins, apple pies, donuts, and all kinds of treats. a petting zoo, vendors, food prepared by the Walking Stick Theater Group, a bake sale by St. Mary's, free professional photographs, and live music. Free admission. Each "Harvest Person" is \$5. Estabrook Park, 760 Grove St. (802) 247-6401. www.brandon.org.

CUTTINGSVILLE. Tap to Table, an Autumn Market. 35+ Vermont vendors, live music by Bill Brink and Ciarra Fragale, Vermont Bliss Catering and Creed's Food Truck. Vermont Bike & Brews E-Bike Tours, and more! Free admission. 10 am – 4 pm. Stewart Maple, 5444 VT Rt. 103. (802) 282-8072. stewartmaple.sales@gmail.com. www.stewartmaple. www.facebook.com/TapToTable.

DANVILLE. Autumn on The Green. With the feel of an old-fashioned exhibition. Over 200 vendors offer items from whimsical jewelry to dog biscuits. Original artwork, antiques, pottery. Musicians play from the bandstand. Free admission. 10 am – 4 pm. Danville Town Green, 420 Front St. (802) 626-8511. info@travelthekingdom.com. www.danvillevtchamber.org/autumn-on-the-green.

MANCHESTER. Hildene Farm Wagon Rides. Morning or early afternoon ride. Registration required. \$50 for a group of up to 8 persons. (802) 367-7960 or stephanie@hildene.org. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. www.hildene.org. *Sundays through October 24.*

MIDDLEBURY. Opera Recital. Tchaikovsky's opera *The Maid of Orleans* about Joan of Arc sung in Russian. 7:30 pm. Middlebury Town Hall. Tickets are \$55, \$65 and \$80. (802) 382-9222. *Also October 7 & 9.*

ONLINE. A Virtual Evening with David E. Sanger. Following his fascinating 2020 lecture on cybersecurity and HBO documentary, "The Perfect Weapon," New York Times National Security Correspondent and Pulitzer Prize winner David E. Sanger returns to Weston for a special conversation about Washington, America, and the World in 2021. Tickets \$65 online. 7 pm. (802) 824-8167. westonplayhouse.org.

RUTLAND. Paramount Players Presents: *You've Got Hate Mail*. A hilarious broadband comedy of errors takes an hysterical look at the world of on-line hook-ups and break-ups. Tickets \$15. 2 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

Way Back Then

Nocturnal Symphony Quieter Now

by Charles Sutton

There's plenty going on today to compare with the "good old days." Pick anything, like shopping malls replacing five & 10 cent stores or mom & pop businesses; cell phone magic with old land and party lines; and homogenized-pasteurized milk in cartons with raw milk in reusable bottles—its cream standing on top. There are countless other thens and nows.

One of the biggest changes is the decline in wildlife. What is most noticeable to me is fewer and fewer birds and less sounds and sights at night.

When I was a small boy growing up in southern Connecticut I slept next to three large screened windows in a room only big enough for a bed and not much more. This space was an afterthought for an outcropping on our colonial-era home.

This was a marvelous place at night to hear the sounds of the outdoors—a symphony of all kinds of music from bugs and insects as well as hooting owls, toad's shrilly voices, and even the chirping of bats. Out my windows I saw an array of blinking lights from fireflies. And there was the sound of ripe apples in our orchard dropping on the ground with a

thump in early fall. Among the many bugs and insects who blended into a large din were crickets, kadydids, cicadas and grasshoppers. Also where lights were on one could hear the fluttering of moth wings against windows and streetlights.

Sometimes this night drama would leave behind souvenirs like the outer shells of cicadas, a bug of various colors with big eyes and two pairs of wings. One species called Brood IV appears every 17 years with 2021 one of those years. My brother Fred and I would be most excited if we found cicada shells, usually attached to aging apple trees. To us they were as collectible a prize as our stamps and coins, matchbox covers and bottle caps.

Cicadas music comes from their vibrating abdomen, which acts like a drum creating a buzzing sound. One would expect insect noises to come from their mouths. But no. Most insects produce sounds by rubbing one part of their body against another.

The insect population is smaller and smaller, just note the fewer fireflies today, and I haven't seen cicadas' shells since childhood, even with this year's Brood IV.

Now years away from those times and living in Vermont, night still offers a variety noises: hooting owls, yipping coyotes, and croaking toads. We will always hear bears raiding bird feeders and raccoons rattling the lids of garbage cans. But as for insects, I hear an ensemble of their music, but not a symphony.

"My brother and I would be most excited if we found cicada shells, usually attached to aging apple trees."

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Vermont Country Calendar

SWANTON. Super Maple Adventure at Gagne Maple. Hay wagon rides to the woods. Learn how syrup is made, self-guided woods walk, children's challenge, and maple tasting. Free. 10 am – 5 pm. Gagne Sugar House, 4422 St. Armand Rd. (802) 370-4945. gagemaple.com. Also October 3, 9, 10.

THETFORD. Lake Fairlee Crop Walk in Post Mills. Proceeds help feed people in our own communities and around the world. Free, donations welcomed. 2-5 pm. Post Mills Church, 449 Rt. 244. ecjdix@gmail.com or MichaelKiessVT@gmail.com. <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/fairleevt>.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

POULTNEY. Endless Brook Bird Walk. 3 miles, 3 hours, easy to moderate terrain (250 ft elevation gain). Sponsored by RCAS and Slate Valley Trails. Free. Meet at the Endless Brook trailhead (Endless Brook Rd, on left, 0.9 mi in from VT Rte 30). (802) 598-2583. jptilley50@gmail.com. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

ONLINE. Presentation. *Bees Besieged by Our Changing Climate*. Author and backyard beekeeper Bill Mares will discuss how 20,000 species of bees worldwide are at risk as global climate change affects their forage, reproduction, and behavior. 7 pm. Advance registration required. First Congregational Church of Manchester. cworkman@mcvt.org. info@vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. Presentation: *Global Food*. Foodways researcher Veronica Limeberry describes how the global food system is marked by Black land loss, the dispossession of Indigenous territory, and violence against land defenders and how these communities honor the sovereignty of these peoples and ecologies. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. Wednesdays through October 27th, 1-5 pm, downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October*.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

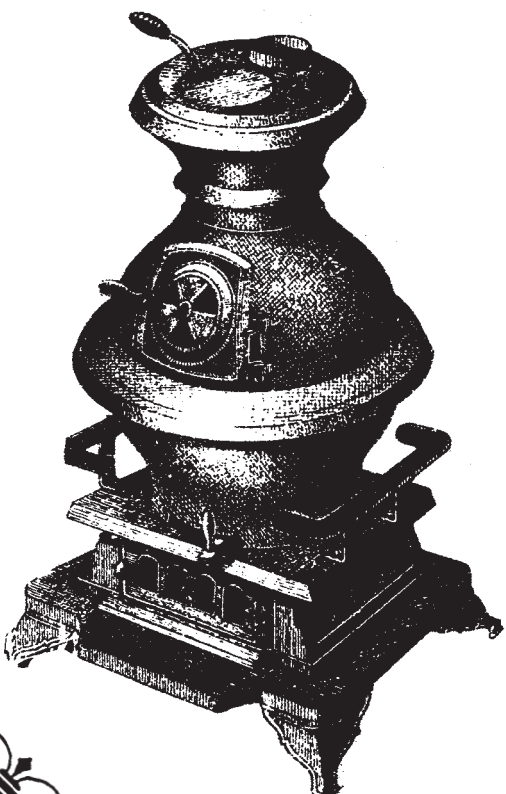
FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. Thursdays 3-6 pm. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October*.

HANOVER, NH. Fall 2021 Dartmouth College Glee Club Concert. Tickets \$12. 2 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 E. Wheelock St.. (603) 646-2422. hopkins.center@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Opera Recital. Tchaikovsky's opera *The Maid of Orleans* about Joan of Arc sung in Russian. 7:30 pm. Middlebury Town Hall. Tickets are \$55, \$65 and \$80. (802) 382-9222. Also October 9.

PEACHAM. Peacham Fall Foliage Event. Celebrate Fall with a variety of open venues: the Historic House, the Blacksmith Shop, the Roller barn, a Walking Quest. Craft fair in the gym. Library book sale. Take-out dinner will be offered by the church. 10 am – 6 pm. (802) 592-3051. bdcring@gmail.com. peacham.org.

RUTLAND. Comedian Ron "Tater Salad" White. Tales from his real life, ranging from growing up in a small town in Texas to becoming one of the most successful comedians in America. Tickets: \$99/\$89/\$79. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

AVERILL. Quimby's Cast and Blast Weekend. If you are an upland bird hunter or an angler, our Cast and Blast weekend is a great chance for you to getaway and hunt and fish in some of the most productive waters and best covers in New England. Fee: \$359 to \$449. Quimby Country, 1127 Forest Lake Rd. (802) 822-5533. info@quimbycountry.com. www.quimbycountry.com/cast-and-blast-weekend. *Through October 11*.

TUNBRIDGE. Jenny Brook BlueGrass Mini-Fest. Featuring: Grammy-nominated Po' Ramblin' Boys; five-time IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year, Dale Ann Bradley; IBMA's current and two-time recipient of the Male Vocalist of the Year, Danny Paisley with his band The Southern Grass; and many more. Your hosts, The Seth Sawyer Band. Tickets \$10 to \$130. 12-5 pm. Tunbridge World's Fairgrounds. 1 Fairground Lane off Rt. 110. (802) 518-2126. www.jennybrookbluegrass.com. Also October 9 & 10.

WESTON. The Weston Craft Show. Hand crafted goods from Vermont artisans. Admission is \$10 for those 16 and over. 10 am – 5 pm. Weston Playhouse, 703 Main St. (802) 824-8167. westonplayhouse.org. Also October 9 & 10.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

BRANDON. Concert. Twangtown Paramours. Tickets for the show are \$25 or for dinner and show are \$60. Please call to reserve in advance. Dinner 6 pm, concert 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Penibagosek: "When it is October". Although the stories of each Place still speak their truths, they may not be heard clearly outside of the cultural context that enveloped them. We will explore what it means to listen to the Land and Water, and to build a reciprocal relationship with this Place, Wantastegok. Free. Limited capacity. 10 am – 12 pm. Wantastegok Land. (802) 262-1204. www.vlt.org.

DUMMERSTON. Dummerston Apple Pie Sale. Drive-by. Pies are on sale for \$20 each and serve 6 to 8 people. We can give you a kit with plates, forks, and a knife to take your pie to some place beautiful to enjoy a fall day in Vermont! 10 am – 2 pm. Held on the Commons, Dummerston Congregational Church, 1535 Middle Rd. (802) 257-0544. townofdummerston@gmail.com. www.dummerston.org. Also October 10.

EAST FAIRFIELD. Music Series Concert at The Meeting House Green. Annie & The Hedonists. Admission \$10 adult, kids under 16 free. 5 pm. 53 School St. (802) 827-6626. www.meetinghouseonthegreen.org.

GRAFTON. Grafton Firefighters Annual Tag Sale. Free event with all kinds of interesting and worthwhile items for sale, hot dogs, hamburgers, baked goods, drinks and other food items will be available as well. Free. 9 am - 3 pm. Grafton Firehouse, 711 East VT Rt. 121. (802) 365-7506. kjerz@windhamcentral.org. On Facebook. www.unofficialtownshendvt.net. Also October 10, 9 am – 1 pm.

GRAND ISLE. Emmons Island Haunted Trail – Child Walk. The costume contest for a haunted trail experience. Free. 4:30-6 pm Emmons Island Haunted Trail, 1 Island Meadows Lane. (802) 372-4113. matthew.emmons@ymail.com. www.ihtrail.org/index.html.

GRAND ISLE. Emmons Island Haunted Trail (PG-13). A long running haunted trail experience. Tickets are seven non-perishable goods or \$10. 6:30-10 pm. Emmons Island Haunted Trail, 1 Island Meadows Lane. (802) 372-4113. matthew.emmons@ymail.com. www.ihtrail.org/index.html.

GREENSBORO. Concert. Bob Stannard & Those Dangerous Bluesmen with John Fusco. Admission. 7 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. www.highlandartsvt.org.

HUNTINGTON. Green Mountain Woodcarvers Carve-in Green Mountain Woodcarvers Carve-in and Annual Meeting. The Green Mountain Woodcarvers will be carving in the workshop. Stop in to watch a wood carver at work, ask a question, or learn about this carving club. 10 am – 2 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. www.greenmountainwoodcarvers.org.

MANCHESTER. Bird Walk on the grounds of Hildene. Meet in the Welcome Center parking lot, 8 am. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (802) 367-7960 or stephanie@hildene.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Opera Recital. Tchaikovsky's opera *The Maid of Orleans* about Joan of Arc sung in Russian. 7:30 pm. Middlebury Town Hall. Tickets are \$55, \$65 and \$80. (802) 382-9222.

NEWFANE. 50th Anniversary Newfane Heritage Festival. Share in the community, crafts, food and entertainment. A variety of entertainers will provide music and fun for festival goers of all ages. 10 am – 4 pm. Windham County Courthouse and the Union Hall, 7 Court St. (802) 365-4079. newfaneheritagefestival@gmail.com. newfaneheritagefestival.org.

PITTSFORD. Pittsford Benefit Craft Show and Chili Cook Off. 9 am – 2 pm. Free outdoor event. Pittsford Recreation Area, 223 Recreation Area Rd. located off of Furnace Rd. (802) 483-6688. recreation@pittsfordvermont.com.

Indian Summer

Lyric night of the lingering Indian Summer, Shadowy fields that are scentless but full of singing, Never a bird, but the passionless chant of insects, Ceaseless, insistent.

The grasshopper's horn, and far off, high in the maples The wheel of a locust leisurely grinding the silence, Under the moon waning and worn and broken, Tired with summer.

Let me remember you, voices of little insects, Weeds in the moonlight, fields that are tangled with asters, Let me remember you, soon will the winter be on us, Snow-hushed and heartless.

Over my soul murmur your mute benediction, While I gaze, oh fields that rest after harvest, As those who part look long in the eyes they lean to, Lest they forget them.

—SARA TEASDALE
1884-1933, St. Louis, MO





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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, October 9, continued)

RUPERT. Second Saturday Hike. Enjoy a guided hike with a staff member who will discuss the ecology, history, farming culture and forestry of the area. Wear proper hiking footwear for rugged trails, and bring water, snacks and bug spray. 2-4 pm. Free. Pre-registration required. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. christine@merckforest.org. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. 60th Annual Art in the Park Fall Foliage Festival. Juried fine artists, craftspeople, and specialty food producers, food vendors, live music, and demonstrations of works in progress held throughout the weekend. Sponsored by the Chaffee Art Center. Free. 10 am – 5 pm. Main Street Park, 5 S. Main St., Rt. 7. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Live in HD. Metropolitan Opera performs Boris Godunov by Mussorgsky. Bass René Pape, the world's reigning Boris, reprises his tremendous portrayal of the tortured tsar caught between grasping ambition and crippling paranoia. Tickets \$23. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. Saturdays through October 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Through October.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Pollinator Garden Workday. Help us clean up the pollinator garden and put it to bed for the season. 10 am - 12 pm. Free. Sponsored by The Friends of the Horticulture Farm. University of Vermont's 97-acre Horticulture Research and Education Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthefarm.org. www.fhfv.org.

STOWE. 10th Annual Leaf Blower Fall Classic Mountain Bike Festival. Admission \$24-\$198. 8 am. Ranch Camp, 311 Mountain Rd. (802) 253-2753. info@ranchcampvt.com. On Facebook.

SWANTON. Super Maple Adventure at Gagne Maple. Hay wagon rides into the woods. Learn how syrup is made from the tree, self-guided woods walk, children's challenge, and maple tasting. Free. 10 am – 5 pm. Gagne Sugar House, 4422 St. Armand Rd. (802) 370-4945. www.gagnemaple.com. Also October 10.

TUNBRIDGE. Jenny Brook BlueGrass Mini-Fest. Featuring: Grammy-nominated Po' Ramblin' Boys; five-time IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year, Dale Ann Bradley; IBMA's current and two-time recipient of the Male Vocalist of the Year, Danny Paisley with his band The Southern Grass; and many more. Your hosts, The Seth Sawyer Band. Tickets \$10 to \$130. 12-5 pm. Tunbridge World's Fairgrounds. 1 Fairground Lane off Rt. 110. (802)518-2126. jennybrookbluegrass@gmail.com. www.jennybrookbluegrass.com. Also October 10.

WEST DOVER. 23rd Annual Mount Snow Oktoberfest. Enjoy a selection of beers from German and domestic breweries as well as authentic German fare. 11 am – 5 pm. Admission \$42. Mount Snow Ski Resort, 39 Mount Snow Rd. (800) 245-7669. www.mountsnow.com.

WOODSTOCK. Harvest Celebration. Demonstrations of 19th century harvest activities including pressing cider and shelling beans. Rousing barn dance with live traditional music. Learn about pumpkins and squash, try your hand at pumpkin bowling and make a leaf rubbing craft. Sample harvest recipes and Billings Farm cheese with local apples. Hot cider, ocal apple cider doughnuts, and squash soup available for purchase. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also October 10.

WOODSTOCK. Workshop. Tree Identification: Fall Foliage & Phenology. Join us for a guided hike led by Jon Bouton, retired forester with over 40 years experience helping people see the forest and trees. Learn to identify different species of trees based on their fall foliage color. E-mail joseph_sullivan@partner.nps.gov to reserve your space (space is limited). Tell us how many are coming. Sponsored by Vermont Woodlands Assn. Free, donations welcome. 10-11:30 am. Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP. (802) 747-7900. www.vermontwoodlands.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

DUMMERSTON. Scott Farm Heirloom Apple Day. A celebration of the many shapes, colors and tastes of apples and the history of this orchard's 130 varieties of ecologically-grown fruit. Tastings and guided tours offered at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Make-your-own caramel apple station and scavenger hunt. Pick-your-own orchard and farm market open. Admission and activities free. Rain or shine. No dogs please. Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. www.scottfarmvermont.com.

DUMMERSTON. Dummerston Apple Pie Sale. Drive-by. Pies are on sale for \$20 each and serve 6 to 8 people. We can give you a kit with plates, forks, and a knife to take your pie to some place beautiful to enjoy a fall day in Vermont! 10 am – 2 pm. Held on the Commons, Dummerston Congregational Church, 1535 Middle Rd. (802) 257-0544. townofdummerston@gmail.com. www.dummerston.org.

HUNTINGTON. Gender Creative Kids Outing. Join us for a birdy/nature adventure with Outright Vermont's Gender Creative Kids Group. We'll listen for birds, look for signs of fall, marvel at mushrooms, and visit the pond to search for frogs, newts and tadpoles. 2-4 pm. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Main Rd. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene Farm Wagon Rides. Morning or early afternoon ride through the Hildene fields. Registration required. \$50 for a group of up to 8 persons. (802) 367-7960 or stephanie@hildene.org. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. www.hildene.org. Sundays through October 24.

MANCHESTER. Sunday Farm Concert: Funk on the Farm with Kotoko Brass + The Do Rights. Wood-fired pizza, cash bar, tickets \$15, students, farmers \$10, kids free. Outdoors, rain or shine. 5 pm. Earth Sky Time Community Farm, 1873-1951 VT Rt. 7A. south of the village. (802) 384-1400. earthskytime@gmail.com. www.earthskytime.com.

RUTLAND. 60th Annual Art in the Park Fall Foliage Festival. Juried fine artists, craftspeople, and specialty food producers, food vendors, live music, and demonstrations of works in progress held throughout the weekend. Sponsored by the Chaffee Art Center. Free. 10 am – 4 pm. Main Street Park, 5 S. Main St., Rt. 7. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

SWANTON. Super Maple Adventure at Gagne Maple. Hay wagon rides to the woods. Learn how syrup is made, self-guided woods walk, children's challenge, and maple tasting. Free. 10 am – 5 pm. Gagne Sugar House, 4422 St. Armand Rd. (802) 370-4945. gagnemaple.com.

TUNBRIDGE. Jenny Brook BlueGrass Mini-Fest. Your hosts, The Seth Sawyer Band. Tickets \$10 to \$130. 12-5 pm. Tunbridge World's Fairgrounds. 1 Fairground Lane off Rt. 110. (802)518-2126. jennybrookbluegrass@gmail.com. www.jennybrookbluegrass.com.



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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Harvest Celebration. Demonstrations of 19th century harvest activities. Barn dance with live traditional music. Learn about pumpkins and squash, try pumpkin bowling and make a leaf rubbing craft. Sample harvest recipes including apple butter and cider cake as well as Billings Farm cheese and with local apples. Hot cider, local apple cider doughnuts, and squash soup for purchase. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

CASTLETON. Castleton University Trails. Join others for an easy terrain hike. Sponsored by RCAS and Slate Valley Trails. Free. Meet at the D&H trail crossing on South St. (802) 598-2583. jptilley50@gmail.com. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

LEBANON, NH. Concert. Chris Thile. Grammy-winning mandolinist (Nickel Creek, Punch Brothers). 7:30 pm. Tickets \$10-\$25. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

DUMMERSTON. Scott Farm Crepe Night. Come dine on savory and sweet crepe, bring your friends and family. Gluten free options. Featuring local products and Scott Farm fruits. To benefit Groundworks Collaborative. A charge applies. 5:30-8 pm. Call for reservations. Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. www.scottfarmvermont.com.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. 1-5 pm, downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

BRATTLEBORO. 20th Annual Brattleboro Literary Festival. All virtual this year. 118elliott@gmail.com. www.brattleborolifefest.org. *Through October 17.*

FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. 3-6 pm. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

RUPERT. Connected Taconics Block Gathering. An evening of reflection of our connection to the lands and waters of the Taconic Mountains. With staff from Merck Forest & Farmland Center, Audubon Vermont, and Vermont Woodlands Association. Free copy of Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac and free dinner of regionally sourced foods. Limited to 20, pre-register. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. christine@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

BELLOWS FALLS. Book Event. Archer Mayo, author of *Marked Man*, will talk about his Joe Gunther series. Mayor, who lives in Newfane, is a death investigator for the state medical examiner and has 25 years of experience as a firefighter/EMT. 7:30 pm. Village Square Books, 32 The Square. (802) 463-9404. villagesquarebooks.com.

BRATTLEBORO. 20th Annual Brattleboro Literary Festival. All virtual this year. 118elliott@gmail.com. www.brattleborolifefest.org. *Through October 17.*

LEBANON, NH. Film Screening: *Nosferatu*. Pianist Bob Merrill provides live accompaniment for this 1922 silent horror movie. Ticket: \$10-\$25. 9 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

BELLOWS FALLS. Second Annual Southern Vermont Flannel Festival. Live music, pies, craft beers, food, flannel, and fun. Admission: \$6/day, 12 and under free. Wear your flannel for \$1 off. Saturday 11 am - 5 pm, Sunday 11 am - 4 pm. Rockingham Hill Farm, 34 Meeting House Rd. info@gfrc.org. gfrc.org. *Through October 17.*

BRATTLEBORO. 20th Annual Brattleboro Literary Festival. All virtual this year. 118elliott@gmail.com. www.brattleborolifefest.org. *Also October 17.*

BRATTLEBORO. Circus Time. Circus Nimble Arts and Circus Minimus hosting 2nd Annual Circus in Place bringing together community, artists and the land that sustains us in a variety of performances from circus, dance, puppetry, storytelling, music & theatre set up with multiple stages. Shows daily at 12, 2 & 4 pm. Tickets \$15. 420 Meadowbrook Rd. (802) 387-5566. www.nimblearts.org. *Also October 17.*

EAST POULTNEY. Horace Greeley Writers' Symposium. Dedicated to promoting the writer's trade and the spirit of public oration that was central to Greeley's life. Featuring keynote speaker, author Darcey Goehring. Presented by The Horace Greeley Foundation. Free. 9 am - 3 pm. United Baptist Church, 1500 E. Main St. (802) 287-2577. horacegreeleyfoundation.org.

JAY. Jay Peak's Annual Bean and Brew. Coffee and beer sampling, live music, food, give-a-ways and activities for kids and adults. \$30. 12-6 pm. Jay Peak Resort, 830 Jay Peak Rd. (802) 327-2198. jjtoland@jaypeakresort.com. www.jaypeakresort.com.



LEBANON, NH. Silent Disco with Livemixkings. Get ready to dance under the stars! We'll provide the headphones and the beats. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$15. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

PITTSFORD. Annual Tractor Parade. Enjoy a fun family day outdoors for the annual tractor parade. 9 am - 12 pm. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St. info@pittsfordvillagefarm.org. www.pittsfordvillagefarm.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. 9 am to 2 pm Saturdays, downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Thru Oct.*

SHELBURNE. Borderlands - Halloween without the Howl. Walk through the wild woods where faeries dwell and magic whispers in the wind. This year's theme is Hansel and Gretel. The mile-long trail begins and ends in the woods by the Coach Barn. Interactive performances including storytelling, dance, poetry, puppetry, singing and music by elves, fairies, and other woodland creatures. Adults \$20, 2-12 for \$10, under 2 free. Tickets are for a 20-minute time-window, and groups leave every few minutes 12-4 pm. (Strollers not appropriate, young children should walk or be carried). Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-1124. alisonjamesvt@gmail.com. treewild.org/borderlands. *Also October 23 & 30 with sleet and rain dates the following Sundays.*

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Woodland Ecology Walk and Talk. Ethan Tapper will give a presentation on forests, forest ecology and management during a walking tour. Fee \$35. 10 am - 12 pm. Friends of the Horticultural Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

STOWE. Trapp Lodge Mountain Marathon. A challenging half and full marathon distance trail run in the heart of the Green Mountains. Participants enjoy the beautiful Vermont fall colors and visit Oktoberfest in full swing. Full Marathon entry fee is \$105, Half Marathon fee is \$90. Starts at 8 am. Trapp Lodge, 700 Trapp Hill Rd. rd@catamountultra.com. www.trappmountainmarathon.com.

TOWNSHEND. Pumpkin Festival. A country fair with a craft show, pumpkin decorating contest, Halloween costume parade, pumpkin pie contest, food vendors, pony rides, and pumpkin pie sale. 9 am - 4 pm. Rain or shine. Townshend Common, Rt. 30. (802) 365-7506. townshendvermont.org.

WESTON. Play. *The Mountaintop*. A playful and moving exploration of the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., set during the final night of his life. Tickets \$50-\$74. Fri & Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 3 pm. Weston Playhouse, 703 Main St. (802) 824-5288. westonplayhouse.org. *Through October 23.*

WEST RUTLAND. Marsh Monitoring Walk. Join us for a 3.7 mile loop in this National Audubon IBA (Important Bird Area), or go halfway. Kids, new birders and non-members welcome. Meet at the marsh boardwalk on Marble Street at 8 am. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

BRATTLEBORO. 14th Annual Domino Toppling Extravaganza. Come to participate in and/or witness immense domino toppling. Admission \$3 for BMAC members, \$5 for all others, those 8 or younger are free. 5:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Circus Time. Circus Nimble Arts and Circus Minimus hosting 2nd Annual Circus in Place bringing together community, artists and the land that sustains us in a variety of performances from circus, dance, puppetry, storytelling, music & theatre set up with multiple stages. Shows daily at 12, 2 & 4 pm. Tickets \$15. 420 Meadowbrook Rd. (802) 387-5566. www.nimblearts.org. *Also October 17.*

BRATTLEBORO. 20th Annual Brattleboro Literary Festival. All virtual this year. 118elliott@gmail.com. brattleborolifefest.org.

Harvesting the Squash

Among the great surprises
Is harvesting the squash:
When I pull up my vines
I marvel at what rises
Out of dense leaves,
Weeds, grass:
Squashes unseen till now,
All different shapes and sizes,
All worthy to win prizes.



—JAMES HAYFORD
1913-1992, Orleans, VT



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, October 17, continued)

GREENSBORO. The Concert for Wildlife. A special benefit concert with The Mallet Brothers Band, Dave Mallett, and Tish Hinojosa. Tickets are \$25, students \$10. 3-5 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. highlandartsvt.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene Farm Wagon Rides. Morning or early afternoon ride. Registration required. \$50 for a group of up to 8 persons. (802) 367-7960 or stephanie@hildene.org. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. www.hildene.org. *Sundays through October 24.*

RUTLAND. 2nd Annual Trails for Tails. Join Rutland County Humane Society for 5k, fun run, and 5-mile bike ride! Join us in person or virtually as we walk, run, and bike on the beautiful trails of Northwood Park to raise money for the animals at RCHS. 9-11 am. Northwood Park, 195 Northwood Park Rd. (802) 483-9171. amelia@rchsvt.org. www.rchsvt.org.

TICONDEROGA, NY. Annual Bon Voyage Cruise on Lake Champlain. Enjoy the spectacular fall foliage aboard the 60-ft Carillon tour boat on its final cruise through the ancient warpath and trade route south from Fort Ticonderoga to Chipman Point, The Narrows, through Lock 12 in Whitehall, and the historic sites of the South Bay of Lake Champlain as it charts its course south for the winter. 1-4 pm. Tickets \$75. Limited tickets, first come first serve. At the Carillon Boat Dock, 102 Fort Ti Rd. (518) 585-2821. info@fort-ticonderoga.org. www.fortticonderoga.org.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

CHARLOTTE. Program. "Spiritualism and the Robinsons of Rokeby". Join Rokeby Museum director, Dr. Lindsay Varner, for a discussion on the Spiritualist movement of the 19th century. In the 1840s, the Robinson farm in Ferrisburgh (today Rokeby Museum) held a series of séances that were recorded by a close friend and preserved in the Museum's collection. Held at the Charlotte Library, 115 Ferry Rd., (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Terence Blanchard's "Absence". An icon of the New Orleans jazz scene, a composer of over 40 Hollywood film scores, and now the first

African American to stage an opera at the Met, Terence Blanchard celebrates his mentor and towering jazz genius Wayne Shorter. Tickets \$25-\$50. 7:30 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 12 Lebanon St. (603) 646-2422. hopkins.center@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. 1-5 pm. Downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Also October 27.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

BARNARD. Haunted Village Theater. Local artists to read ghost stories and perform short plays at Silver Lake, Dorothy Thompson Memorial Common, the apple orchard behind Town Hall, the First Universalist Church and BarnArts. Families 5-7 pm, and adults 7-9 pm. \$5-\$20 sliding scale. (802) 234-1645. barnarts.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Grand Reopening Party. Reunions, tributes, stories, and incredible music. The night culminates in a performance by Afro-pop superstar Angélique Kidjo. Grand reopening party after the show in the Main Stage lobby. Tickets \$125, online only. 7:30 pm. Flynn Theater, MainStage, 153 Main St. (802)-864-5741. hello@vso.org. www.vso.org.

EAST FAIRFIELD. Concert. Will Patton Ensemble. Will Patton has played all over the world, from Key West to Fairbanks, Alaska and from Paris to Rio. Suggested donation \$10 for those 17+. 5 pm. The Meeting House on the Green, 53 School St. (802) 827-6626. www.meetinghouseonthegreen.org.

RANDOLPH. Workshop. Leaf-off Invasive Plant ID at the Ellis Town Forest. With AJ Follensbee, the Windsor/Orange County Forester. Learn to identify invasive plants in late fall, when native plants have dropped their leaves. Outdoors rain or shine. Hiking one-half to one mile. Bring tick protection! Hosted by the Randolph Conservation Commission and Vermont Woodlands Assn. Free, donations welcome. 9-11 am. In the village of at the end of N. Reservoir Rd. (802) 747-7900. www.vermontwoodlands.org.

RUTLAND. Live in HD. Metropolitan Opera presents Fire Shut Up In My Bones by Terence Blanchard. Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Grammy Award-winning jazz musician and composer Terence Blanchard's adaptation of Charles M. Blow's moving memoir. Tickets \$23. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. Saturdays through October 30th, 9 am to 2 pm, and Wednesdays through October 27th, 1-5 pm, both downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

SHELBURNE. Borderlands – Halloween without the Howl. Walk through the wild woods where faeries dwell and magic whispers in the wind. This year's theme is Hansel and Gretel. The mile-long trail begins and ends in the woods by the Coach Barn. Interactive performances including storytelling, dance, poetry, puppetry, singing and music by elves, fairies, and other woodland creatures. Adults \$20, 2-12 for \$10, under 2 free. Tickets are for a 20-minute time-window, and groups leave every few minutes 12-4 pm. (Strollers not appropriate, young children should walk or be carried). Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-1124. alisonjamesvt@gmail.com. treewild.org/borderlands. *Also October 30 with sleet and rain dates the following Sundays.*

WARDSBORO. Gilfeather Turnip Celebration. Bring your friends and family to listen to live music, enjoy some fun kid activities, and stock up on the Official State Vegetable, Gilfeather baked goods, and turnip themed apparel. Free. 10 am – 1 pm. Wardsboro Public Library, 170 Main St. (802) 896-3416. friendsofwardsborolibary@gmail.com. www.friendsofwardsborolibary.org/turnip-fest.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

BURLINGTON. People's United Bank Vermont City Marathon and Relay. More than 7,500 runners, 20,000 spectators and 1,700 volunteers in the second largest marathon in New England and the largest marathon relay in the nation. Clover leaf course design allows spectators to easily see runners at various mileage points during the race. Registration fee \$105-\$275. 8 am. Race starts at Waterfront Park, 10 College St. (802) 863-8412. (800) 880-8149. www.vermontcitymarathon.org.

FAIRFAX. Class: British Tea Time Classics with Anna Mays & Heike Meyer! Cost: \$125. 1-5 pm. Brot Bakehouse School and Kitchen, 38 Meade Rd. (802) 370-4077. brotbakery.com.

MANCHESTER. Hildene Farm Wagon Rides. Morning or early afternoon ride. Registration required. \$50 for a group of up to 8 persons. (802) 367-7960 or stephanie@hildene.org. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. www.hildene.org. *Sundays through October 24.*

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Barre, VT

Barre Opera House Presents Stellar Entertainment

The Barre Opera House offers an upcoming season with an eclectic another lineup of performances by regionally, nationally and internationally-known artists traveling to the Granite City's historic stage.

In addition to the signature TD Bank Celebration Series, the recently refurbished historic theater has scheduled several "BOH Presents" events, to be added as the season progresses.

TD Bank Celebration Series

September 25 we kick it off with folk icon Tom Rush, who has been credited by Rolling Stone with ushering the era of the singer-songwriter. In addition to his

own compositions, his early recordings introduced the world to the work of Joni Mitchell, James Taylor and Jackson Browne.

October 23, it's Classic Stones Live. This premier Stones tribute band, featuring eight members, delivers all the raw energy of Mick and company's shows.

November 12. Tom Papa takes the BOH stage. With more than 20 years as a stand-up comedian, Tom Papa is one of the top comedic voices in the country, finding success in film, TV, radio and podcasts as well as on the live stage. He's the host of the daily "What A Joke With Papa and Fortune" on Sirius, has appeared regularly on "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me," "Live From Here (the rebooted Prairie Home Companion with Chris Thile)".

December 11. Còig performs their holiday concert. With the fiery Celtic high-energy style as its musical core, Nova Scotians, Còig, winners of the 2020 Canadian Folk Music Awards, easily shift between century-old tunes of past generations to original and upbeat compositions employing over a dozen instruments (vocals, fiddles, piano, guitars, banjo, mandolin, viola, bouzouki, whistles, and more).

January 22. We Banjo 3 will entertain. This is one of the most prolific and exciting bands to emerge from Ireland in recent years. This Galway and Nashville-based quartet comprises two sets of brothers, Enda & Fergal Scahill and Martin & David Howley, on banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, bodhran and percussion, with lead singer David Howley. Collectively the group holds over a dozen "All Ireland" titles and their first album took the "Best Traditional Album" prize from The Irish Times. Their recent album premiered at #1 on the Billboard charts. They have played at major festivals in the U.S.

February 12. Piano virtuoso and acclaimed recording artist A.J. Croce pays tribute to his late father, the legendary folk singer Jim Croce, with a heartfelt performance—Croce Plays Croce. A.J. has put together a set of Jim Croce covers mixed with his own works and songs that inspired them both.

March 5. Ye Vagabonds, will perform in Barre. Recipients of the 2019 BBC Best Traditional Track award and 2019 RTE Radio One award for Best Traditional Track, Best Group and Best Album. They occupy an important role in the current innovative and vibrant Irish folk scene.

BOH Presents Events

January 23. No Strings Marionettes presents one of their most beloved shows—*The Snow Maiden*. Winter appearances by Vermont's own No Strings Marionettes have become an annual tradition at the BOH.

February 18. Alan Doyle and his "Beautiful, Beautiful Band" perform. From the moment he burst onto the scene in the early 1990s Canadians fell in love with the pride of Petty Harbour, Newfoundland,

April 11. One Night of Queen with Gary Mullen and the Works return by popular demand. This is an incredible re-creation of Freddie Mercury and Queen in concert.

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Please read our COVID-19 Guidelines for visiting our trails and the museum.

Vermont Country Calendar

SHELburne. Saucony Field House Fall Half Marathon, 10K & 5K. Run through a wonderful Shelburne neighborhood, the countryside, Shelburne Farms, and Shelburne Shipyard, before turning down the Shelburne Bay Path and historic Ti-Path ending at the Shelburne Field House. Race fee: \$40-\$65. Starts 9:45 am, Half Marathon 11:45 am. Shelburne Field House, 166 Athletic Dr. rayne@racevermont.com. www.raceraves.com/races/saucony-field-house-fall-half-marathon-10k-5k.

WOODSTOCK. A Family Halloween. Trick or treat at Billings Farm! Children are invited to show off their Halloween costumes in a costume parade and enter to win the costume contest. Listen to spooky Halloween stories, visit the spooky Sunflower House and make a spooky spider web necklace. Enjoy a wagon ride around the farm and try pumpkin bowling. Hot cider and local apple cider doughnuts. Hot grilled cheese sandwiches for purchase. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, 3 and under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

LANDGROVE. Presentation: Big Freeze. Historian Howard Coffin will recall what Vermonters still call “1816 and Froze to Death,” a year of frosts every month, dark skies, and mysterious lights with failed crops and scarce food prompting a religious revival. 4 pm. Landgrove Town Hall, 88 Land Grove Rd. (802) 779-6797. randcbadger@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

PEACHAM. Presentation. African American Experience: South to North. Personal writing by African-American authors will be discussed concerning their self-reflection, becoming meditations on history, justice, and freedom from oppression. 7 pm. Peacham Library, 656 Bayley Hazen Rd. (802) 592-3216. www.peachamlibrary.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

HANOVER, NH. Sally Pinkas Performs from Brahms to Beaudoin Concert. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 12 Lebanon St. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers’ Market. 1-5 pm, downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers’ Market. 3-6 pm. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

HANOVER, NH. Performance. An Informal Evening with Joseph Keckler. Joined by pianist Matthew Dean Marsh, Keckler presents highlights from his body of work. Tickets \$10. 7:30 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

MIDDLEBURY. Haunted Jail Tour. The Jail was built in 1864, and hopefully the spirits will help us make it a scary memorable experience. Put on by the The ACSD and ACCS. Free, but donations greatly appreciated. 4-10 pm. Addison County Sheriff’s Office, 35 Court Street. peter.newton@vermont.gov

MORRISTOWN. Halloween Sip and Slurry. Create some spooky masks just in time for Halloween. Admission \$35. 6-8 pm. River Arts Community Arts Center, 74 Pleasant St. (802) 888-1261. info@riverartsvt.org. riverartsvt.org.

RUTLAND. Concert. Blue Öyster Cult. Acclaimed metal band. Tickets \$45-\$65. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

BENNINGTON. Fallapalooza. Walk the streets of Bennington and visit vendors and shops for fun activities and candy! Free admission. 215 South Street. (802) 442-5758. www.betterbennington.org/fallapalooza.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert. World premier of Suad Bushnaq’s cello concerto *Sampson’s Walk on Air*, with soloist principal cellist John Dunlop. Admission. 7:30 pm. Flynn Theater, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741. hello@vso.org. www.vso.org.

EAST FAIRFIELD. Concert. The Oleo Romeos. A show that’s sure to please, wear a costume and win a prize! All proceeds benefit youth programming at The Fairfield Community Center. Suggested donation \$10. 7 pm. The Meeting House on the Green, 53 School St. (802) 827-6626. www.meetinghouseonthegreen.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert. Mali Obomsawin Sextet + Coast Jazz Orchestra. Tickets \$12. 7:30 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 12 Lebanon St. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

HUNTINGTON. October Bird Monitoring Walk. Birders welcome! Outdoors on the Museum’s trails in forest and meadow. Bring binoculars, dress for weather. Face masks required when within six feet of each other. 7:30-9 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org.

PAWLET. Coffee House Concert Series: Film and TV composer Mason Daring and vocalist Jeanie Stahl perform together, celebrating over 40 years of musical collaboration. Advance tickets: \$5. 7-9 pm. Pawlet Town Hall Auditorium, 122 School St. (802) 325-3123. pawletpubliclibrary.wordpress.com.

QUECHEE. Hoots & Howls. Family-friendly guided tour. Visit different fun, non-scary stations around the VINS Nature Center. Admission. 5:30-8 pm. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org.

RUPERT. Volunteer Work Party. From mulching raspberries to maintaining trails, volunteers work with staff in stewarding the land. Give us a hand and join the fun. Free. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. christine@merckforest.org. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Farmers’ Market. 9 am to 2 pm, and Downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org.

SHELburne. Borderlands – Halloween without the Howl. Walk through the wild woods where faeries dwell and magic whispers in the wind. This year’s theme is Hansel and Gretel. The mile-long trail begins and ends in the woods by the Coach Barn. Interactive performances including storytelling, dance, poetry, puppetry, singing and music by elves, fairies, and other woodland creatures. Adults \$20, 2-12 for \$10, under 2 free. Tickets are for a 20-minute time-window, and groups leave every few minutes 12-4 pm. (Strollers not appropriate, young children should walk or be carried). Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-1124. alisonjamesvt@gmail.com. treewild.org/borderlands. *Sleet and rain date the following Sunday.*

STOWE. Spruce Peak Chamber Music Society “Spooky Soiree”. Come celebrate Halloween with hauntingly enchanting music. Tickets \$38. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. info@sprucepeakarts.org. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

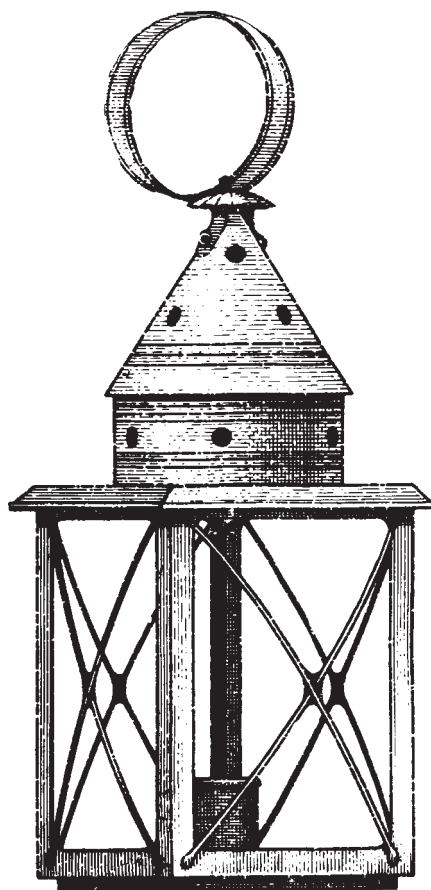
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

BURLINGTON. Queen City Ghostwalk. Join author and historian Thea Lewis for one of New England’s best haunted walks around the heart of Burlington. Admission \$20. 7-8 pm. Courthouse Plaza, 199 Main St., Democracy Sculpture. (802) 324-5467. www.queencityghostwalk.com.

RUTLAND. 61st Annual Halloween Parade. Line the streets of downtown to watch amazingly decorated floats and maybe catch some tasty candy. Parade route: Madison St. & Strongs Ave. to Wales St., left to West St., left onto Merchants Row, ending at the plaza. Free. 6:30 pm. (802) 774-1819. aprilc@rutlandrec.com. www.rutlandrec.com/halloweenparade.

SHELburne. Rotary of Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg Annual Halloween Parade. Celebrating 50 years of serving Charlotte, Shelburne, and Hinesburg. Join us for a night of candy and spirits – also an afternoon full of laughter, creativity, and fun. Free. 2-4:30 pm. Barkeaters Restaurant, 97 Falls Road. (802) 658-4061. rfox@foxlawvt.com. www.rotaryclubofcsh.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Tricks and Treats at the Delta Hotel. Vermont Magic is putting on a magic show featuring two great magicians, and every kid in a costume gets a bag of delicious treats. Admission \$10. 1-3:15 pm. Delta Hotels, 1117 Williston Rd. (802) 658-0250. contact@vermontmagic.com. www.vermontmagic.com.



Digging

Today I think
Only with scents—scents dead leaves yield,
And bracken, and wild carrot’s seed,
And the square mustard field;

Odours that rise
When the spade wounds the root of tree,
Rose, currant, raspberry, or gout-weed,
Rhubarb or celery;

The smoke’s smell, too,
Flowing from where a bonfire burns
The dead, the waste, the dangerous,
And all to sweetness turns.

It is enough
To smell, to crumble the dark earth,
While the robin sings over again
Sad songs of Autumn mirth.



—EDWARD THOMAS
1878-1917, London, England

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Blue Skies, Apple Pies, and Brisk Autumn Days!

Autumn is here! Time to celebrate blue skies, crisp apples, and colorful fall foliage. Coming back inside after a brisk day in the sun, it's time for a rest and a good story. Here are some that will entertain and satisfy.

When you ask the kids to rake up the fallen leaves this fall, they will have a new appreciation for the heart and soul of tree-bearing leaves after reading *Leif and The Fall* by Allison Sweet Grant and Adam Grant and illustrated by Merrilee Liddiard (\$17.99. Penguin Random House. www.penguin.com/kids).

If you have ever seen one lone leaf hanging on to its branch for dear life after all the other leaves have dropped, you will be amused by the tenacity of one such leaf called Leif. He is worried, he tells his friend Laurel, that in the fall he will bump his head and skin his knee. "I don't want to fall," he pleads. Laurel assures him that they will find a way for him to catch himself before he hits the ground. Other leaves taunt him and keep reminding him that "all leaves fall in the fall," and he is wasting time trying to soften the fall.

Lief and Laurel, nevertheless, create many clever ways to break the fall but none of them ever works in test trials. Among the safety nets they tried were a net of twigs, climbing down a vine, making a kite out of bark and moss, a swing, trampoline, parachute. With each failure they toss these devices to the ground. As cold fall winds arrive other leaves start a free-fall but a shivering and scared Lief hangs on with Laurel's help. But the wind is too strong and down they go. Miracle! They land safely in their pile of discarded ideas, strong enough to hold them, and then hand in hand the two friends clamber down to the ground below.

Readers will admire the facial looks on Lief and Laurel and on the other leaves who were so unhelpful claiming all leaves must take the fall in the fall.

Author Allison Sweet Grant is a writer published in The New York Times and The Atlantic. Co-author Adam Grant is a psychologist and the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Originals*. His TED Talk on original thinking has been viewed over 15 million times. Visit adamgrant.net.

The artist Merrilee Liddiard's blog, mermagblog.com, encourages kids to think outside the box. She has contributed to many magazines and illustrated several children's picture books.

October is National Apple Month and fittingly here is a book with fascinating stories about apples. *Apples* by Jacqueline Farmer and illustrated by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes (\$6.95. Charlesbridge. www.charlesbridge.com) is packed full of little-known information, anecdotes, apple history, and tempting recipes for apple pies. For instance, at your Halloween parties some of you will be bobbing for apples. That custom was started by the Romans in a game where

the one who grabbed an apple in his or her mouth would be the first to marry. In Greek times tossing an apple at a girl was a marriage proposal and if she caught it the answer was a yes. We learn Pilgrims brought in their own apples and seedlings as they didn't like eating native crab apples. Today the average American eats 65 fresh apples a year!

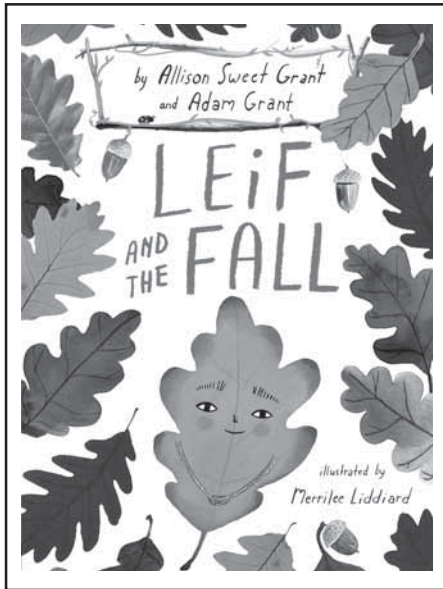
There are 7,500 varieties of apples worldwide with China the leading producer (41%). The United States is the second largest apple producer. While the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, and Washington are the biggest producers in the U.S., everyone knows nothing beats a Vermont-grown MacIntosh or Honey Crisp!

In *Pumpkins* by Jacqueline Farmer and illustrated by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes (\$7.95. Charlesbridge. www.charlesbridge.com) we learn that the pumpkin is really a fruit. Pumpkins were introduced to the Pilgrims by Native American Patuxet Chief Squanto, who taught them how to plant pumpkins for a food source for the long winters. They also showed them how to grow beans and corn with pumpkins and the grouping was called The Three Sisters.

Some interesting facts about pumpkins: The world's largest—2,020 pounds, 12 feet 4 inches in diameter was grown in New Bremen, Ohio, in 2005; and the world's champion carver Jerry Ayers of Baltimore, Ohio, in 1999 carved one ton of pumpkins with detailed design in 7 hour and 11 minutes! Readers will learn about the different pumpkin varieties, how to grow them, and how to carve one for Halloween. There is pumpkin lore, recipes, pumpkin trivia, and suggested reading and websites to visit. There is a new Spanish language edition and you can also learn how to say pumpkin in 12 foreign languages!

"Fantasy is the key that we give to our children, so they can unlock and reshape the present." That is the message of *The Land of Fairies* by Daniela Drescher (\$17.95. Floris Books. www.florisbooks.co.uk) and the theme of her latest of more than 40 stories about fairies and elves that she had imagined as a child playing in the hedgerows. In this beautifully illustrated narrative heightened by double-page spreads Daniela follows winged, child-like fairies through the seasons. For autumn the fairies are making glowing lanterns and dancing until the soft, golden dawn. As fall winds arrive and rustles in the trees the fairies help wildlife find berries, acorns, and other nuts and grains and the best leaves to act as blankets when winter's cold arrives. We will keep spring in mind as we view her drawings of fairies gathering in the sunshine to greet new flowers, flutter with the moths, and visit a hooting owl perched on a tree branch.

Daniela Drescher was born in Munich and trained in art therapy. She is the author and illustrator of twenty-four books for children including *In the Land of Fairies*, *In the Land of Elves*, *In the Land of Merfolk*, *What's Hiding in There?*, *Merlina and the Magic Spell*, *Little Fairy Can't Sleep*, *Little Fairy's Christmas*, *Little Fairy's Meadow Party*, and *Lily the Little Princess* (all Floris Books).



Children's Book Review by Charles Sutton

The First Blade of Sweetgrass A Native American Story

by Suzanne Greenlaw and Gabriel Frey
Illustrated by Nancy Baker

(\$18.95. Tilbury House Publishers. www.tilburyhouse.com)

Native Americans consider earth's resources as sacred and treat them with great care and respect. This is the message of this beautiful book.

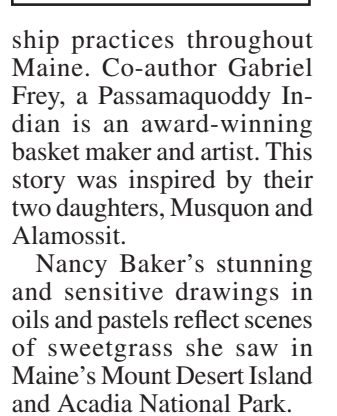
The story takes place in Maine, home to the Wabanaki Confederacy—People of the First Light.

A young girl, Musquon, is taught by her grandmother, Uhkomi, how to harvest sweetgrass from the salt marshland to be used to braid into baskets and for use as spiritual medicine.

Musquon must learn the difference between the purple stem sweetgrass with its shiny green tussle and blades from other grasses that look the same. Grandmother says, "It's important to remember that we never pick the first blade of sweetgrass we see. If we never pick the first blade, we will never pick the last one. We must make sure there will be sweetgrass here for the next generation."

Musquon had trouble finding the right grass as they all looked the same. Grandmother advises her to take her time and seek guidance from her ancestors. After she visualizes her ancestors picking sweetgrass with her in the same marsh, she is successful in finding beautiful emerald green-colored sweetgrass which she, too, will learn how to braid into baskets.

The book tells us about the Wabanaki Confederacy comprised of the Maliseet, ship practices throughout Maine. Co-author Gabriel Frey, a Passamaquoddy Indian is an award-winning basket maker and artist. This story was inspired by their two daughters, Musquon and Alamosit.



This book is a keeper, but if you lend it out make sure it's to someone you can count on to give it back!



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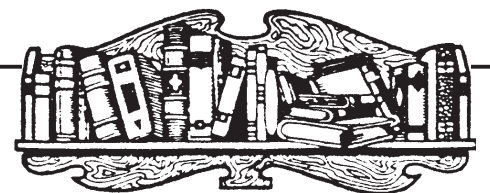
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New England 50 Hikes with Kids

by Wendy Gorton

(\$19.95. Timber Press. www.timberpress.com)

October is the perfect time to have an adventure in the ever-more colorful woods free of black flies and mosquitos. But make sure you take the kids!

Thanks to world-traveling author Wendy Gorton we now have her thoughtful guide for adventuresome hikes for kids throughout New England. Five of these are in Vermont.

In her preface Wendy notes “kids lead more structured lives today than ever before in history. I think you will be pleasantly surprised when you see how much they enjoy simply being let loose in wide-open spaces.”

Wendy has authored three other hiking books for kids (toddlers on up) covering California; Washington State and Oregon; and New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She is a global education consultant and researcher who has traveled to more than 50 countries to design programs with emphasis on the natural world. Wendy, her father, and other members of her family visited each site to make sure they were kid-friendly.

Unlike other guide books limited to a map with technical data on where, when and how, her guides also offer colorful pictures of animals, plants, and historical sites that can be expected on that hike.

As a bonus for each hike she offers a scavenger hunt for special treasures which

Book Review by Charles Sutton

could be a rock formation, scarce wildflowers, animal caves, and even a beaver dam. Youngsters often must hunt for different types of trees which, we know, will help them to become aware of threats to this “endangered” species which is now worldwide.

Assuring that the hike is suitable for kids of all ages, Wendy has carefully filtered out ones that are not suitable because of dangerous or too-challenging conditions.

All her hikes give levels of difficulty—easy, moderate, or challenging. The more difficult ones limit elevation gain to 300 to 1,000 feet. No trip is shorter than half-a-mile nor longer than five miles. Where the terrain is rough adults are advised this is “hand-holding” time with their kids if they are toddlers.

Wendy knows kids especially will need rests for food and drink, so she lists “power-stops” along each trail that also serves as a mini-milestone. She writes: “Be sure to pack snacks for kids to eat at these stops to keep blood sugar, energy levels and mood high. Often these power-stops are at points of interest: fun bridges, switchbacks before a small hill, or an overlook at a viewing point.”

To help you choose the right hike there is breakdown for each season and various types of outings with an emphasis such as geology or history, and others: adventure, flora and a fauna, caves, summits and views, rivers and streams, beach fun and campground by trailheads.

Here are her tempting hikes for us in Vermont.

Climb Mount Olga’s Tower—Located at Molly Stark State Park, east of Wilmington on VT Rt. 9. This is a 2-mile loop with gentle elevation. Highlight is climbing up the fire tower where you can view mountains in three states. You might see a fisher and in the spring the trout lily is very pretty. Be on the lookout for the yellow birch forest.

Go Wild at Lye Brook Falls—Locate the Manchester Ranger Station in the Green Mt. and Finger Lake National Forest by taking Rt. 7 to VT Rt. 30, then east and right on East

Manchester Road. Go south on Glen Road. One of the longer adventures (4.6 miles) with its trail running side by side Lye Brook. The reward is seeing its 125-foot waterfalls. In the spring find and collect birch bark peelings that feels like paper. For special flowers see great white trillium and Dutchman’s breeches. Today the 18,000 acres and its creek are protected from any development.

Glide to the Bottom of Quechee Gorge—Located at Quechee Gorge State Park, just south of Hartford on VT Rt. 4. Many visitors view this scenic gorge from an overlooking bridge, but for a different adventure take its 2-mile T-shaped hike that lasts about an hour. Hikers are urged to look for the American robin, Monarch butterflies and study the metamorphic rocks for glacier evidence.

Scale Wright’s Mountain—Take Goshen Road north of Bradford, turn left on Wright’s Mt. Rd. The 1.8-mile hike takes about an hour over easy terrain. View great fall colors. Trail became a National Recreation Trail in 2018 as part of the 50th anniversary of the National Trail System. For the scavenger hunt find some pieces of metamorphic rock made from ocean mud and clay. For wild-

life you may spot ruffed grouse, North American porcupines, and pileated woodpeckers.

Scale the Long Trail at Sunset Lodge—Located in Green Mt. National Forest. From VT Rt. 100, head west on Lincoln Gap Road for 4 miles. Trailhead is on the left. This is a 1.5-mile out and back hike with moderate difficulty. It is part of the famous Long Trail—the oldest and longest (272-mile) hiking trail in the U.S. Look for hobblebush shrub, purple trillium and black-capped chickadees. Maybe a shy black bear will disappear from any noises you make.

Make Your Way to Moss Glen Falls—In C.C. Putnam State Forest. From Stowe, take VT Rt. 100 northeast and turn right onto Randolph Rd. Half-mile later turn right onto Moss Glen Falls Rd. A short and easy .5-mile out and back hike to the stunning 125-ft. waterfalls on Moss Glen Brook. Look for a beaver dam, peregrine falcons and the late-summer blooming swamp aster.

Also be tempted to try the 45 hikes for the remaining New England States. Here is one in nearby New Hampshire:

New Hampshire—Seek the Shelter on Mount Major. The Granite State is so named because of its super-abundant mountains and is still 80% forested. We picked challenging 2.8 mile hike to climb the easternmost peak of Belknap Mountain Range. Admire Lake Winnepesaukee and look for juniper bush,



the red-spotted newt, and geological survey markers. For the scavenger hunt find the remains of shelter built in 1928 whose roofs were blown off twice in heavy winds.

Wendy Gorton grew up in the Pacific-Northwest and is a graduate of University of South California and has a master’s degree in education technologies from Pepperdine University. She has taught grade school in Los Angeles and New York City and has been done research projects including for GoNorthTeacher to study climate change in Finland and Sweden, and for Earth Watch studying Tasmanian Devils (marsupials) in Tasmania. She has written four hiking books for kids. Learn more about her at www.wendygorton.com.

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North Country Reflections

Fall—the Perfect Time For Garden Projects

by Judith Irven

Since spring is nature's time of renewal, it is hardly surprising that spring is also when most gardeners think about initiating a major garden project.

But, in reality, the best time for undertaking a substantial garden activity—such as creating a brand new garden bed or refreshing one that is badly in need of a makeover—is in October when the days are cool and the air is bug-free. A delightful time indeed to be outdoors in our gardens!

October is also when, as a direct response to the ever shortening length of days, as the leaves die back, our perennials gradually enter a state of dormancy. So, at this time of year, if you dig and move perennials from one place to another, there are no green shoots to damage, and the roots will not dry out while they are out of the ground. By contrast, in springtime, it is all too easy to inadvertently damage the young tender green shoots or shrivel the roots in the hot sun.

Furthermore, in October, after most plants have dropped their leaves, we can more readily see the underlying shapes of the garden's skeleton, making it easier to lay out a new bed or correct the shape of an existing one.

So let's look at three activities whereby we gardeners can make the most of the delightful month of October: first by feeding the soil, then by creating a brand new bed and finally by reviving a long-standing bed that has become messy and disorderly.

Feeding the soil

Fall is the perfect time to dismantle your existing compost cubes or piles and then sprinkle the contents across your vegetable and flower beds. You can either leave it on the surface or very gently work it into the top few inches of soil. Gradually over time the compost will become incorporated into the structure of the soil, where it will greatly improve its physical structure—often referred to as 'tilth'—while also contributing valuable plant nutrients.

And, once you are finished, you will have empty compost containers, ready to receive any leaves or cut perennial stems you may gather up around the garden, both now and throughout next season.

In my garden I actually go very lightly with the traditional 'fall clean-up', as I prefer to leave many perennials like Rudbeckia, Echinacea, and the ornamental grasses, standing in the garden until springtime. I like the winter interest they give for us humans, as well the food they provide to the birds during the coldest months of the year.

Creating a new flower bed

Fall is also a great time to create that new flower bed you have been planning.

First mark out the shape of the bed, using either landscape flags or a hosepipe. Check the shape from an upstairs window to make sure it is pleasing, and adjust it if necessary.

Then go to work. Using a flat garden spade or similar tool, skim off the top few inches of grass and soil, along with the roots of any weedy perennials like dandelions, all of which can be added to your compost pile.

Now, using a garden fork, loosen the top six to nine inches of soil and also remove as many stones as possible.

Next spread a layer of aged compost, at least two to three inches deep, over the entire bed. Whether your existing soil consists of clay or sand, or just lacks organic matter, adding compost will improve it immeasurably. The organic matter in the compost helps to create soil with good tilth and aeration which in turn promotes strong root growth.

You can start with your own compost and then augment it with a composted manure product (such as Moo-doo), preferably in bulk rather than bagged. However be sure to avoid fresh manure as it will most likely contain viable weed seeds.

Next, to prevent lawn grasses from encroaching into the bed I like to edge all my beds; over the long run I have found



Every fall Judith spreads her compost to help feed the soil!!

photo by Dick Conrad

this to be a significant time-saver. Look for 5" high plastic edging in convenient 60' rolls (Master Gardener brand is one product that I have found works well). Install it so that the beaded top is just at ground level; once the bed is mulched it will be almost invisible.

After preparing the soil, cover the whole area with a light layer of mulch. Mulch both minimizes returning weeds and it also helps to keep the soil moist.

To mulch an entire bed start by spreading several layers of newspaper over everything; newspaper will stop light from reaching the soil, thus preventing weed seeds from germinating.

Now add a couple of inches of double-ground bark mulch. (Finely ground bark mulch can often be obtained in bulk from local lumberyards.)

By putting down mulch right away you can will hold your new bed until you are ready to plant. At that point just pull the bark mulch to one side and dig directly through the newspaper.

You can plant trees and shrubs, as well as perennials in the fall, providing you do it about six weeks before the ground freezes for winter. You can also complete the planting in the early spring, giving your new plants enough time to get established before the hot weather starts.

I do not recommend using any landscape cloth (either fabric or plastic). It prevents you from digging in the soil, such as to add compost, install a new plant or remove a weed.

Also, as it breaks down over time, all landscape cloth creates a real mess in the soil. As the plants grow they become entangled in it, which then becomes impossible to remove.

Refreshing a tired flower bed

As our gardens mature and mellow, gradually our flower beds become a delightful mix of perennials that, over the

years gently merge together to form a beautiful and colorful tapestry. And, at the same time, as the desirable perennials mingle together, they start to shade the intervening spaces—and gradually crowd out the weeds!!

But what about the reverse nightmare situation where the weeds start to win out—resulting in an unsightly tangled mess that—little by little—begins to engulf our beloved perennials?

Fall is the perfect time to tackle this problem. After their leaves have died back for the season you can dig up all your existing perennials without harming them. If you want you can also divide their roots to create more plants, and then place everything in a plastic bag until you are ready for replanting.

And suppose you discover that the roots of grasses and other weeds are intertwined among the roots of the perennials you have dug? Just soak the entire root mass in a large container of water for a couple of hours, after which you will be able to easily disentangle the weedy roots from the roots of your plants.

Next you need to thoroughly dig through your entire bed to remove all the remaining weeds, carefully working around the roots of the existing woody shrubs as you go.

Then, once you are convinced the bed is weed-free, refresh the soil with compost and then replant all your perennial roots.

You may even find you have some to share with friends!!

Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT where together they nurture a large garden. You can subscribe to Judith's blog about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com. Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer. To see his photographs go to northcountryimpressions.com.

To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!

Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;

Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers;
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

—JOHN KEATS
1795-1821, London, England

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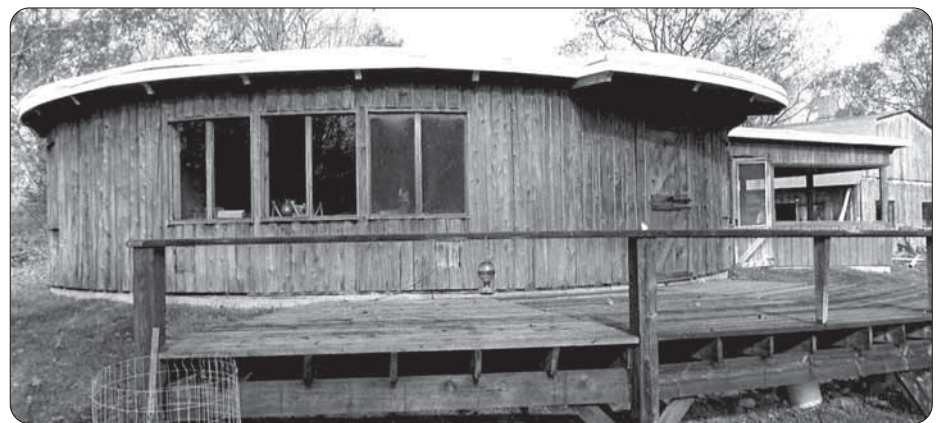
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A Vagabond Song

There is something in the autumn that is native to my blood—
Touch of manner, hint of mood;
And my heart is like a rhyme,
With the yellow and the purple and the crimson keeping time.
The scarlet of the maples can shake me like a cry
Of bugles going by.
And my lonely spirit thrills
To see the frosty asters like a smoke upon the hills.
There is something in October sets the gypsy blood astir;
We must rise and follow her,
When from every hill of flame
She calls each vagabond by name.

—BLISS CARMAN
1861-1929, Fredericton, Canada



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