

# Vermont Country Sampler



November  
2017

Free

M. Cassidy

- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
- Plenty of Good Reading!

## FOR SALE

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## November Journal

### Taking Stock

by Bill Felker

At the end of August, I took inventory of what was happening around the yard and in the alley. When I compared my notes with the observations from the same day in previous years, I found that little had changed one year to the next.

My seasonal inventories are like that. They often recreate the past; sometimes they also heighten my awareness of the present and give me a feel for the future. The repetitions of events reinforce a sense of grounding. They bring few surprises or disappointments.

This year, someone asked me if I could give an excuse for my listings, some practical application for writing down the same phenomena year after year. I made up a response on the spur of the moment about the metaphorical quality of all nature, but later I thought about Einstein's statement about insanity as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. And so then I asked myself: What is doing the same thing over and over and expecting

the same results—even being excited at the same results?

Fifty years ago, I was always hungry for new sensations. I did everything I could just to do it, just because it was different from what I had done before.

These days, I find novelty in repetition. I am glad to find the same plant in the same place blooming at the same time year after year. I am glad to hear the cicadas and the katydids summer after summer.

If each year is generally like the previous year, next year may well be the same as this year. But I am never completely sure, and so I live in a low-grade state of cosmological suspense. There is much at stake, it seems to me, in tracking the recurrence of the most common events; maybe even sanity is at stake.

And there is always compensation enough in doing the experiment one more day. Each time, I am reassured and reaffirmed by the results: I can know at least a portion of the future. It is a place I have visited before. It is familiar ground. It is home.



photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Basting the turkey for Thanksgiving in the farmhouse at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT

### Thanksgiving

I can see my mother stand,  
Tallow candle in her hand,

As some fifty years ago she used to be;  
"Now wake up, boys," she is saying,  
"It has snowed enough for sleighing";

Then we rub our eyes and listen, Bert and me.

"Baby Ernest is asleep,  
Very quiet you must keep  
As you dress and come to breakfast right away;  
You remember it's Thanksgiving,  
And sure as you are living  
We will drive to 'little grandpa's' in the sleigh."

Now I hear the sleigh bells ring,  
Keeping tune with hearts that sing,  
As we smoothly glide along the pathless road.  
While our hearts are beating wildly,  
We express the truth but mildly,  
As we boys exclaim, "I'm awful glad it snowed."

Now I see my grandma stand,  
Signs of flour on her hand,  
And I guess she's just been making chicken pie;

Grandpa, too, with hearty greeting,  
Uncles, aunts, and cousins meeting;  
And the dinner will be coming by and by.

Now the longed-for time is here:  
"You may sit right there, my dear"—  
Such a feast as this was never seen before.  
O, I never shall be able  
To describe that loaded table,  
Everything you ever heard of and some more.

"I'll bet I'll eat more than you!  
We will weigh when we are through,  
To discover who the champion may be."  
Now at last the meal is over,  
And we give the bones to Rover;  
"Guess the dog is most as glad as you and me."

Grandpa shows his pigs and cows,  
And the hay that fills the mows;  
Then we play and visit till we have to go.  
Once again the bells are jingling,  
Frosty air sets faces tingling;  
Then we fall asleep beneath the buffalo.

—NATHANIEL MOODY  
Waterbury, VT 1844-1893



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## Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: [vermontvacation.com](http://vermontvacation.com)  
Vermont Chamber of Commerce: [visitvt.com](http://visitvt.com)  
Vermont State Parks: [vtstateparks.com](http://vtstateparks.com)  
Green Mountain National Forest: [fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl](http://fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl)  
Discover Vermont Vacations: [discoververmontvacations.com](http://discoververmontvacations.com)  
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: [voga.org](http://voga.org)

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**Vermont Country Sampler**  
November 2017, Vol. XXXIII

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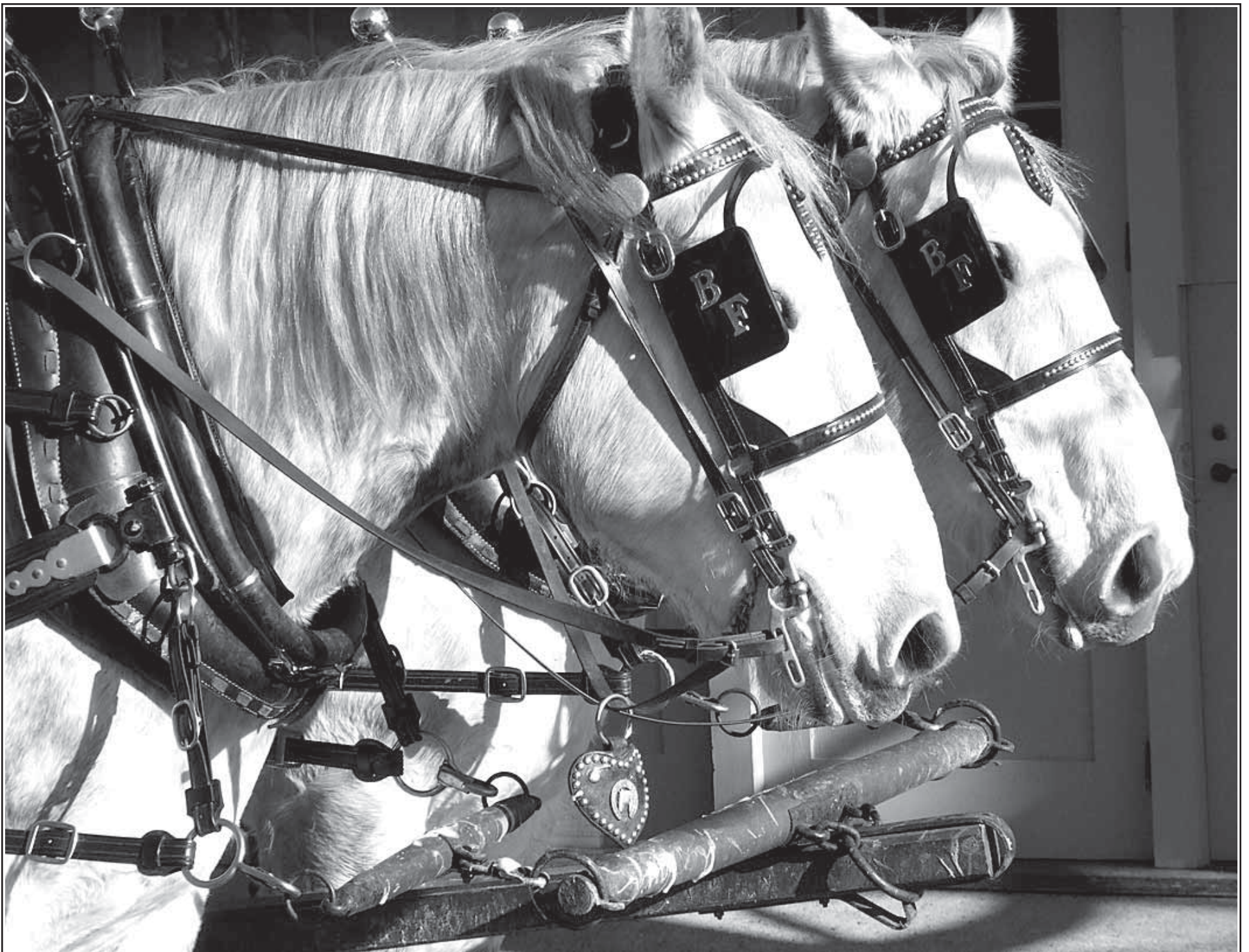
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Draft horses hitched up and waiting to pull a wagon full of visitors around the farm at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum

**Woodstock, VT**

# Celebrating Thanksgiving Traditions at Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, will be open for Thanksgiving Weekend, Friday-Sunday, November 24-26, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The weekend will feature traditional cooking demonstrations in the farmhouse, horse-drawn wagon rides, farm tours, Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd programs and hands-on food preparation and preservation activities.

You'll be welcomed to Frederick Billings' farmhouse, where farm manager George Aitken and his family lived and worked from 1890 to 1910. Visit with costumed interpreters as they demonstrate preparing traditional Thanksgiving fare in the kitchen. Relax in the Victorian parlor and learn how our American Thanksgiving traditions have evolved. Enjoy a cup of spiced cider before boarding the wagon pulled by a team of draft

horses for a ride around the farm. In the education room, hands-on activities for all ages include "making the perfect pie crust" and peeling apples for drying.

**November Weekends**

Enjoy Billings Farm during the late fall as our season winds down, the brilliance of foliage has softened, but the weather is still pleasant.

Come visit on November 4 & 5, and 18 & 19. Our livestock barns, 1890 Farm House and Farm Life Exhibits will all be open, with daily activities and programs.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., a charitable non-profit institution. Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 146-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and

values. The Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage for over 1.7 million visitors and 340,000 of the region's school children.

Open daily April 1 through October 31, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekends Nov. - Feb., and Christmas & Presi-

dents' weeks, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission: adults: \$15.00; 62 & over: \$14.00; children 5-15: \$8.00; 3-4: \$4.00; 2 & under: free. The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Route 12. For information: (802) 457-2355 or [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).



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**Putney, VT**

**Annual Putney Craft Tour On Thanksgiving Weekend**

The Putney Craft Tour traditionally takes place around Putney, VT on the long Thanksgiving weekend November 24, 25 and 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and gives shoppers, visitors and collectors another reason to be thankful. The 39th annual tour is the oldest continuing craft studio tour in North America.

Local community, tour goers, and tourists are invited to celebrate the love of food in addition to the love of cultural activities during Putney Craft Tour's Craft, Culinary and Performance Weekend.

For the last four years the Putney Craft Tour, Next Stage Arts Project and Sandglass Theatre have joined forces in a special Thanksgiving Weekend of Arts.

Area restaurants create a Putney Craft Tour lunch or dinner "special."

Visitors can visit the studios during the day, enjoy Putney Craft Tour specials at participating restaurants and enjoy a performance at night.

Putney is a wonderful craft rich area and the tour is an opportunity to meet the 24

working artists and buy that special one of a kind gift direct from the artist who made it.

Visitors can visit glass blowers, potters, jewelers, weavers, woodworkers—even artisan cheesemakers, a custom bicycle maker, wine-makers, encaustic artists, farm art artists, and one artist who makes drums, rattles, masks and more from gourds.

Part of the fun is meandering through the beautiful Vermont countryside, following the map to find these prominent craftspeople and view the works where they are conceived and created.

For the fourth year in a row, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce has named the annual Putney Craft Tour as a Top Ten Winter Event (2017/18).

Visitors may start at *The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main Street, Putney* for information, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. [www.putneycrafts.com](http://www.putneycrafts.com). [www.facebook.com/putney-craft-tour](https://www.facebook.com/putney-craft-tour).



Dena Gartenstein Moses at her loom. Visit her studio during the Annual Putney Craft Tour on Thanksgiving weekend.

**Brattleboro, VT**

**Brattleboro Museum & Art Center to host Tenth Annual LEGO Contest & Exhibit, November 9-12**

The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) invites creators of all ages to design and build original LEGO sculptures and display them at the museum in BMAC's Tenth Annual LEGO Contest & Exhibit, taking place November 9-12. This popular annual event is generously sponsored by People's United Bank, Brattleboro Ford Subaru, G.S. Precision, Inc., and Don Robinson Builder. Prizes include gift certificates to Toy City in Keene, NH.

Every entry that is submitted will be displayed at BMAC. A panel of judges will award prizes based on creativity and craftsmanship in six age groups. Other prizes will be awarded at the judges' discretion. Every contestant will receive a personalized certificate of participation and complimentary admission passes to BMAC.

According to BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld, memorable entries from past years have included a replica of BMAC, an amusement park, a model of Brattleboro's Harris Hill ski jump, a working pinball machine, and a Bernie Sanders campaign rally. "One thing we want to emphasize," Lichtenfeld said, "is that, although it's a contest, no one is really focused on the competition. It's all about celebrating creativity and having fun at the museum."

Entries must be delivered to BMAC on Tuesday, November 7, 4-6 p.m., along with an entry form and \$5 entry fee. The opening reception and awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 9 at 5 p.m. All entries will remain on display at the museum through Sunday, November 12. Contest guidelines and entry forms are available at [www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org) or by calling (802) 257-0124 x 101.

Founded in 1972, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center presents rotating exhibits of contemporary art, complemented by lectures, artist talks, film screenings, and programs.

*The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center is located in historic Union Station in downtown Brattleboro, at Main St. and Rts. 119 and 142. The museum is wheelchair accessible. (802) 257-0124 or visit [www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org).*

*The museum's galleries and gift shop are open every day except Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for students. Members and children 18 and under are admitted free of charge.*

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**The Night Is Freezing Fast**

The night is freezing fast,  
To-morrow comes December;  
And winterfalls of old  
Are with me from the past;  
And chiefly I remember  
How Dick would hate the cold.

Fall, winter, fall; for he,  
Prompt hand and headpiece clever,  
Has woven a winter robe,  
And made of earth and sea  
His overcoat for ever,  
And wears the turning globe.

—A.E. HOUSMAN  
*Cambridge, England 1859-1936*

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# Vermont Voices at Phoenix Books Misty Valley

Each fall, Phoenix Books Misty Valley invites Vermont authors to come to Chester, VT to share their work. This year, the series is taking

*Solace of Trees* and Katherine Arden talked about her new novel, *The Bear and the Nightingale*.

Vermont Voices events take place at 2 p.m. at the bookstore, and are free and open to the public. Copies of the featured title will be available for attendees to purchase and have signed.

Three events remain in November, featuring both prose and poetry.



Bill Schubart

**Bill Schubart**  
— November 5th —

Bill Schubart will give a talk on the novel *Lila and Theron* on Sunday, November 5th. Set in rural America and spanning much of the 20th century, *Lila & Theron* captures the spirit of the American rural experience, as it relates to their personal stories of love and sacrifice.

Schubart is an award-winning novelist and political and cultural commentator heard weekly on Vermont Public Radio and a frequent public speaker on writing and entrepreneurship. He grew up in a small town in Lamoille County in Northern Vermont. In his largely French Canadian family, he heard countless stories which stood him in good stead in creating his own.

**Dede Cummings, James Crews, and Megan Buchanan**  
— November 12th —

The November 12th event will feature three poets: Dede



Dede Cummings

*Sleep*, and the following weekend, debut Vermont author Robert Madrygin discussed his new book, *The*



Phoenix Books Misty Valley on the Green in Chester, VT.

Cummings, Megan Buchanan and James Crews.

Cummings is the author of a book of poems *To Look Out From*. Her poetry has been published in *Made-moiselle*, *The Lake*, *Inquire*, *Vending Machine Press* and others. She lives in Brattleboro, VT, where she designs



James Crew

books and runs the startup Green Writers Press. [dedecummingsdesigns.com](http://dedecummingsdesigns.com).

In *Telling My Father*, James Crews explores familial bonds, memory and grief through a beautifully written collection of poems. Crews' work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Poet Lore* and *The New Republic*, among other journals, and he is a regular contributor to *The (London) Times Literary Supplement*. He lives on an organic farm with his partner in Shaftsbury, VT and regularly leads Mindfulness & Writing workshops throughout New England.

Megan Buchanan's *Clothesline Religion* chron-

icles twenty years worth of adventures in the life of an artist as young single mother. Buchanan's poems have appeared in such as journals as *The Sun Magazine*, *make/shift*, *A Woman's Thing*, and anthologies including *Dream Closet: Meditations on Childhood Space* and *Roads Taken: Contemporary Vermont Poetry*. She is currently an English Language Arts faculty member at The Greenwood School in Putney, VT. [www.meganbuchanan.net](http://www.meganbuchanan.net).

**Daniel Lusk**  
— November 19th —

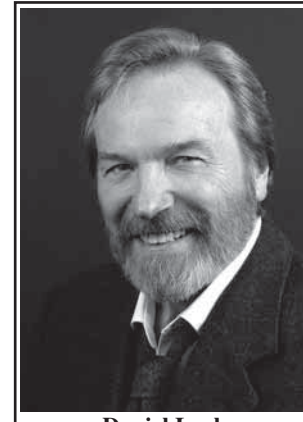
This year's Vermont Voices series will conclude on November 19th, with an event featuring Daniel Lusk. The Pushcart Prize-winning poet will read from his sixth book of poetry, *The Shower*



Megan Buchanan

*Scene from Hamlet*. In this collection, the poet is at his mature best, creating portraits and literary collages from the lives of artists, ec-

centrics and infamous public figures that ricochet across a millennium of the world's art and cultural history. Lusk blends extraordinary facts



Daniel Lusk

and rumors about personalities long dead with intimate glimpses of his own peripatetic past for the enjoyment of readers. He lives in Burlington, VT. [www.carraigbinn.com](http://www.carraigbinn.com).

**About Phoenix Books**

Phoenix Books was established in 2007 on the principles of social responsibility, community, and sustainabil-

ity, and is a proud member of Local First Vermont and Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility. Phoenix Books Essex, Phoenix Books Burlington and Phoenix Books Rutland and Phoenix Books Misty Valley are Vermont-owned, independent bookstores. Whenever possible, Phoenix Books sources eco-friendly products from Fair Trade/Green Certified companies. Seven Days readers voted Phoenix Books the "Best Bookstore" for the newspaper's 2013-2017 Daysie Awards, and Rutland Herald readers voted Phoenix Books the 'Best Local Bookstore' for the newspaper's 2016-2017 Best of the Best awards.

*Phoenix Books Misty Valley is located at 58 the Common in Chester, VT. For information call (802) 875-4300 or visit [www.phoenixbooks.biz](http://www.phoenixbooks.biz).*

*The bookstore is open Sunday-Monday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

**Chester, VT**

## Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops on November 16-18

Get ready for the holidays by decorating a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments, plus all the wire, glue guns, and equipment necessary to make the decorating fun and successful.

Open to the public, the workshops will take place in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, in Chester, VT and will once again benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.

Space is limited, so participants must pre-register and are encouraged to bring clippers and glue guns if they have them. Choose from four different workshop sessions: Thursday evening November 16, 6:30-8 p.m.; Friday November 17, 9-10:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m., and Saturday November 18, 9-10:30 a.m. Each session will offer homemade refreshments, great camaraderie, and all the essentials to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Men and women are welcome to come alone or register with a friend or group.

A \$5 early-bird discount on the fee of \$40 per wreath will apply to those who pre-register and pay by Monday November 6.

Checks should be made out to St. Luke's Church, designated for the wreath workshop, and mailed to Lillian Willis at PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. For additional information and registration, contact Lillian Willis, (802) 875-1340, [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net).

*Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church is located at 313 Main St. (Rt. 11) in Chester, VT.*

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**Billings Farm & Museum**  
*Gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage*

## Thanksgiving Celebration

**Fri. - Sun., Nov. 24-26, 2017**  
**10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Visit the 1890 Farm House and watch costumed guides prepare traditional Thanksgiving fare in the farmhouse kitchen.

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Woodstock, VT

## 8th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, is hosting the 8th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. The first film, *Harry & Snowman* was shown on October 28. The screenings continue on November 4 with *Tickling Giants* and then on selected Saturday afternoons through April 7, 2018 featuring two screenings at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. (unless otherwise noted).

Fifteen award-winning films and documentaries from around the world have been selected for the big screen in the museum's theater, with high definition digital projection and Dolby™ surround-sound. These diverse films reflect the museum's founding philosophy of an appreciation for nature, beauty, and place as essential to culture, community, and personal wellbeing. Complimentary refreshments included! All films are open to the public and accessible to people with disabilities.

Tickets prices: adults (16 & up): \$132 for 15-film package or \$11 per film. For a complete list of screenings and ticket information go to [www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest](http://www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest) or call (802) 457-2355.

### 2017/2018 Film Series Schedule

**November 4: *Tickling Giants*.** The Arab Spring in Egypt: from a dictator to free elections, back to a dictatorship. One comedy show united the country and tested the limits of free press. This is the story of Bassem Youssef, a cardiologist turned comedian, "the Jon Stewart of Egypt," and his television show "The Show." Tribeca Film Festival: Best Documentary Feature Nomination. Second show: 5:15 p.m.

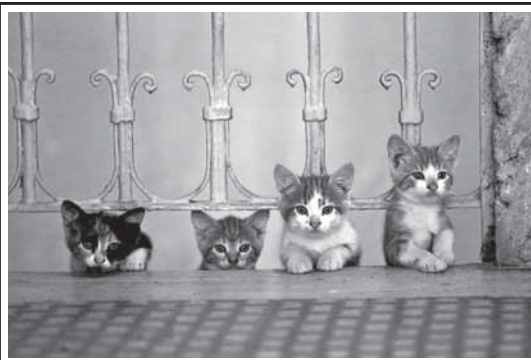
**November 18: *A Man Called Ove*.** (PG-13) Ove, an ill-tempered, isolated retiree who spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave, has finally given up on life just as an unlikely friendship develops with his boisterous new neighbors. Academy Awards: Best Foreign Film Nomination. Additional 13 wins and 21 nominations. Second Show: 5:15 p.m.

**November 25: *Festival Express*.** (R) To watch the biggest stars of their time in casual conversation, trading riffs and passing bottles, without benefit of publicists, handlers, and security is to relive an innocent, anarchic time in the entertainment business when music, not marketing, was at the center of the enterprise. – Dave Kehr, *New York Times*. Vancouver Film Critics Circle: Best Documentary Nomination.

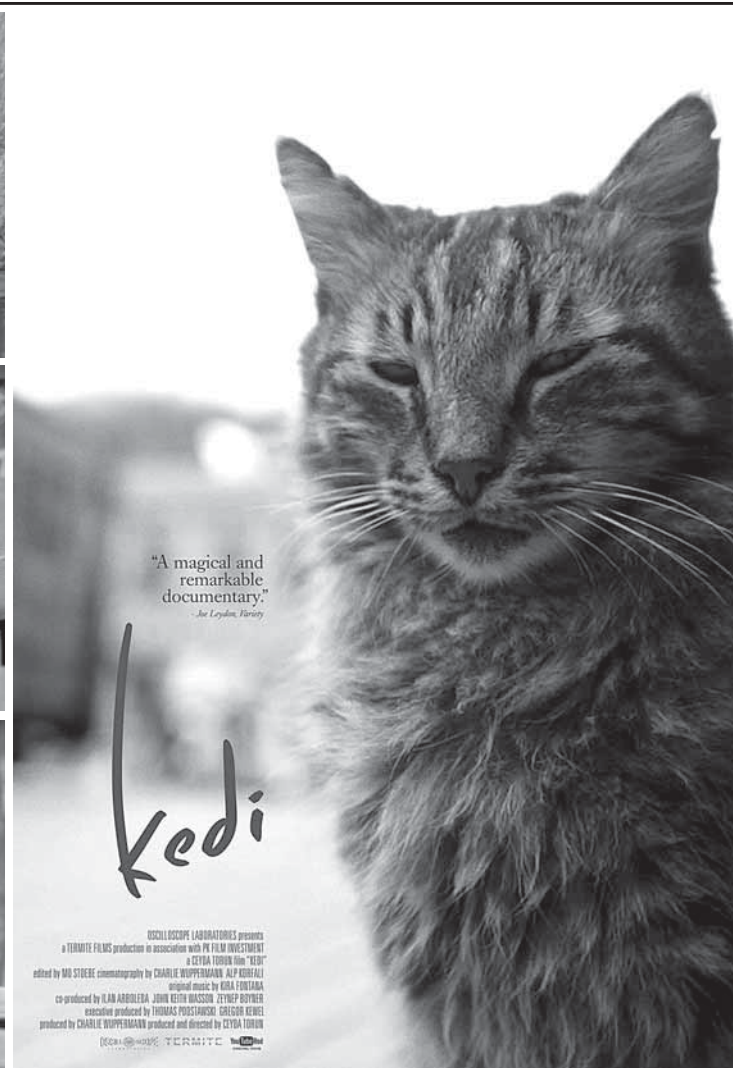
**December 2: *The Babushkas of Chernobyl*.** In the radioactive Dead Zone surrounding Chernobyl's Reactor No. 4, a defiant community of women scratches out an existence on some of the most toxic land on Earth. They share this hauntingly beautiful but lethal landscape with an assortment of scientists, soldiers, and even young thrill-seekers. Why the film's central characters chose to return after the disaster, defying the authorities and endangering their health, is a remarkable tale about the pull of home, the healing power of shaping one's destiny, and the subjective nature of risk. Santa Fe Independent Film Festival: Best Documentary Feature; additional seven wins.

**December 16: *Kedi*.** Kedi (the Turkish name for cat) is a magical and immensely endearing documentary film about the respect, love, and adoration the people of Istanbul show toward the stray cats that roam freely on the city's streets. The cat embodies the indescribable chaos, the culture, and the uniqueness that is the essence of Istanbul. Without the cat, Istanbul would lose a part of its soul. – F. & M.A. Brussat, *Spirituality and Practice*. Sidewalk Film Festival Jury Award.

**December 30: 2001: A Space Odyssey.** (G) Only a few films are transcendent and work upon our minds and imaginations like music or prayer or a vast belittling landscape... Alone among science-fiction movies, 2001 is not concerned



*Kedi*, a charming movie about street cats in Turkey, will be screened at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT on December 16.



with thrilling us, but with inspiring our awe. – Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun Times*. Academy Award: Best Special Effects; Academy Award Nominations: Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Art Direction; additional 13 wins and 10 nominations. Second Show: 6 p.m.

**January 6: *Obit*.** As this riveting documentary demonstrates, the New York Times staff who chronicle the passing of both heroes and villains strive to make sure their stories have next to nothing to do with death and everything to do with life. Portland International Film Festival: Best Documentary Nomination.

**January 13: *I Am Not Your Negro*.** (PG-13) This Oscar-nominated portrait of writer James Baldwin uses the author's words to bridge the civil-rights past with our racially incendiary present. It's unmissable and unforgettable. – Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*. Academy Awards: Best Documentary Feature Nomination; additional 21 wins and 40 nominations.

**January 27: *Our Nixon*.** An eye-opening documentary about the Nixon White House as seen from the inside, this triumph of editing is composed of home movies shot by the president's staff, accompanied by later TV interviews and priceless audio from the secret tapes. – *Variety*. Seattle International Film Festival: Documentary Award; additional three wins and four nominations.

**February 10: *Tanna*.** Tanna is the first feature shot entirely in the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu, whose customs and lifestyle have changed little for centuries. None of the "cast" had ever acted before, but astonishingly, they passionately and naturally re-created this real-life story from recent tribal history as if they had had years of training. Academy Awards: Best Foreign Language Film Nomination; additional seven wins and 17 nominations. Second Show: 5:15 p.m.

**February 24: *The Eagle Huntress*.** (G) Thirteen-year-old Aisholpan trains to become the first female in twelve generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle huntress. Viewers jaded by daily doses of digital dazzlement might not fully register the reality of the wonders they are witnessing. But that doesn't, in the end, make *The Eagle Huntress* any less wonderful. – A.O. Scott, *New York Times*. BAFTA Awards: Best Documentary Nomination; additional 8 wins.

**March 3: *Fire at Sea*.** An incisive, poignant, and deeply moving portrait of the small, windswept Mediterranean island of Lampedusa—and the humanitarian crisis occurring in the seas around it. Situated 150 miles south of Sicily, Lampedusa is the first port of call for hundreds of thousands of African and Middle Eastern refugees hoping to make a new life in Europe. The film slowly builds a breathtakingly naturalistic portrait of the Lampedusan people and the events that surround them. The result is a lyrical, poetic, and searingly powerful documentary that casts neither judgement nor aspersions, but simply shows the world to the viewer—to utterly devastating effect. Academy Awards: Best Documentary Feature Nomination; additional 14 wins and 24 nominations. Second Show: 5:15 p.m.

**March 17: *Once*.** (R) Its low-key effect and decidedly human scale endow *Once* with an easy, lovable charm that a flashier production could never have achieved. The formula is simple: two people, a few instruments, 88 minutes and not a single false note. – A.O. Scott, *New York Times*. Academy Awards: Best Song; Sundance Film Festival: Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize Nomination; additional 22 wins and 30 nominations.

**March 24: *Pop Aye*.** On a chance encounter, a disenchanted architect bumps into his long-lost elephant on the streets of Bangkok. Excited, he takes his elephant on a journey across Thailand, in search of the farm where they grew up together—only to discover the truth about himself. Sundance Film Festival: Screenwriting Award and Grand Jury Prize Nomination; additional 3 wins and 6 nominations. Second Show: 5:15 p.m.

**April 7: *Marathon: The Patriot's Day Bombing*.** Free film, courtesy of HBO. Incidents of ordinary bystanders stepping up and being heroic are as much of a constant in *Marathon* as stories of the exceptional resilience the survivors exhibited in the face of debilitating injury. Proving not for the first time, that the worst of times can bring out the best, is one of the things this strong documentary is all about. – Kenneth Turan, *LA Times*. Newport Beach Film Festival: Audience Award for Best Documentary. Second Show: 5:30 p.m. Admission is free for the general public but reservations are strongly recommended!

*Billings Farm & Museum is open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends November–February, and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: adults: \$15; 62 & over: \$14; children 5-15: \$8; 3-4: \$4; 2 & under: free.*

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

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# Filmmaker Jay Craven Presents a Howard Frank Mosher Tribute Tour with *Where the Rivers Flow North* Screening

Vermont filmmaker Jay Craven is hitting the road this fall for an extended series of film screenings and personal reflections to pay tribute to his 30-year collaborator, Northeast Kingdom writer, Howard Frank Mosher. Craven will screen his film *Where the Rivers Flow North* and present reflections on his work with Mosher at the Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT on Sunday, November 12th at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is by contribution to the Hurricane Maria Relief Fund.

"After a successful summer tour, we're extending our tribute events into the fall," said Craven. "Howard Mosher died pretty unexpectedly in late January. And many Vermonters already miss him for his laugh-out-loud humor and fertile imagination of our place. Writers miss him, too, because no one was more generous with his time and support."

Craven will open the evening with prepared and off-the-cuff reflections that explore his long collaboration with Mosher. He will then present a 25th Anniversary screening of his first Mosher feature film, *Where the Rivers Flow North*, starring Academy Award nominee Rip Torn, Native American actress Tantoo Cardinal (*Dances with Wolves*, *Legends of the Fall*), and Michael J. Fox.

"Howard was much more than a source for our film stories and characters," said Craven. "He was also a constant ally, a ready source of laughs, and a steadying influence in times of strain. This was especially crucial during our struggles with headstrong actor Rip Torn on the filming of *Rivers*." I will tell a few tales that have not been publicly shared before—because they capture a rarely seen side of Howard and his work."

Set in 1927 in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, *Where the Rivers Flow North* tells the story of an old logger, Noel Lord, and his Native American mate, Bangor, who face the extinction of their way of life when the local power company plans to build a giant hydro dam that will flood them off their land. Lord and Bangor face emotional and physical challenges as they struggle with the power company, Vermont's unforgiving terrain, and their own thorny relationship.

*Where the Rivers Flow North* played more than 30 festival dates including Sundance, Seattle, Avignon, Vienna, and Vancouver. The picture was also one of three U.S. finalists for Cannes International Film Festival's Critics Week.

Admission to the screening of *Where the Rivers Flow North* and the Howard Frank Moser Tribute Tour is by contribution to the Hurricane Maria Relief Fund. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call (802) 457-2355 or visit [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

The Mosher Tribute tour is produced by Hotel Vermont



photo courtesy of Kingdom County Productions  
Jay Craven and Howard Frank Mosher.

and Kingdom County Productions with sponsorship support from Vermont Public Radio. For more information contact Jay Craven at [jcraven@marlboro.edu](mailto:jcraven@marlboro.edu).

*Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 146-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values. The Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage.*

*Billings Farm & Museum is open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends November - February, and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: adults: \$15; 62 & over: \$14; children 5-15: \$8; 3-4: \$4; 2 & under: free.*

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



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Rafters of ice now wedge the brittle reeds.  
The cold, banked air has let the dry leaves fall  
And the black-browed bird has shaken  
Without hope all the empty-podded weeds.  
The quivering rabbit lies beneath the wall.  
The frozen apple bends its bough untaken.

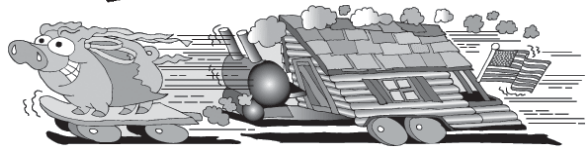


Winter will come, as this bright autumn came.  
The cobweb silver twigs against the hill  
Will catch the snow and spill it stem by stem  
Upon heaped leaves that none would chide or blame  
For having shriveled, on the roots that still  
Are maple roots though change drift over them.

Be brave. Change does not matter. None are wise,  
But all are fortunate, and fortune falls  
Least on the careful mind, most on the heart  
Content with repetition, on the eyes  
That dare look often at the same four walls,  
The same four seasons ending where they start.

—RAYMOND HOLDEN  
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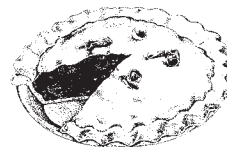
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## Poor Will's Guide To Farming and Gardening

*Rain and wind gust...The landscape was transformed. Only a touch of color remained here and there, the hills were austere and dark. Autumn was blown away like a shroud of dust, the earth was uncovered to the sky.*

—Harlan Hubbard

**November 1** – Start paperwhites and amaryllis bulbs for holiday blossoms (and selling). Move your gourd crop to market for Thanksgiving sales.

**November 2** – The upcoming full moon, lunar perigee, the end of Daylight Saving Time, erratic behaviour from deer in estrus and the likely arrival of the first cold fronts of the month create “perfect storm” conditions for bad weather and problems on the road and on the farm.

**November 3** – Complete planting of flower bulbs before the ground freezes.

**November 4** – The Deer Mating Moon is full today. Lunar influence should stimulate rutting in deer throughout much of the United States and Canada.

**November 5** – The end of Daylight Saving Time is often associated with automobile accidents, due to changes in commuting times in morning and evening.

**November 6** – Lunar perigee (when the moon is closest to Earth) occurs today as the second cold front of November arrives, increasing the chances for cold and snow.

**November 7** – Acorns increase in importance for whitetail deer as other sources of food disappear. White oak acorns are typically consumed first, then the deer move on to the red oak acorns—some of their favorite autumn treats.

**November 8** – The nutlets of the goldenrod attract deer, especially after acorns are gone. Cranberries are popular as long as they last.

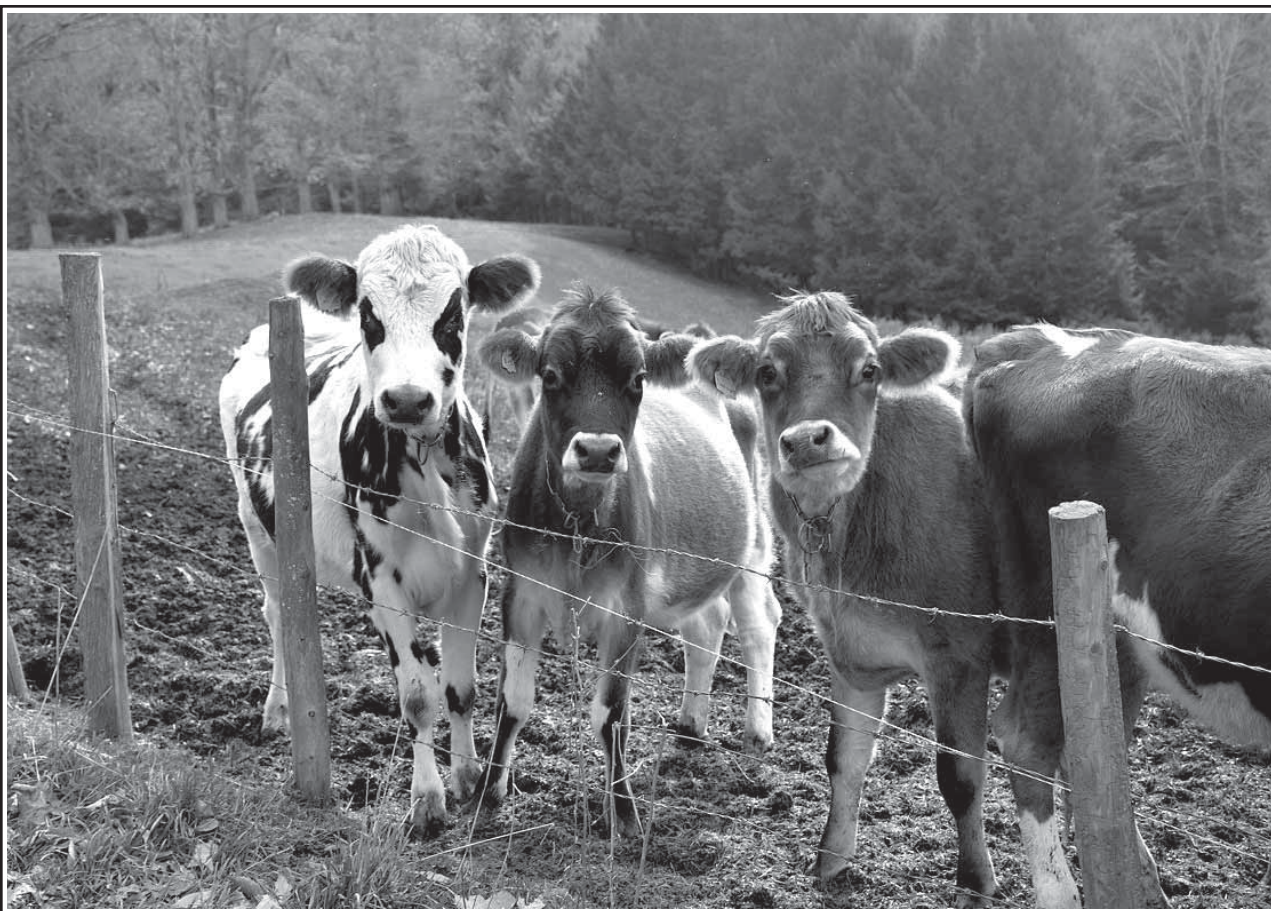
**November 9** – Major leafdrop of most hardwood trees has occurred by this time in the year, but foliage of the undergrowth may still complicate scouting for game until well into December.

**November 10** – The moon enters its final quarter today, and lunar forces that create stress finally weaken for the next few days.

**November 11** – Purchase and prepare seeds and flats for the first bedding plant seeding for 2018.

**November 12** – Cover round bales of hay with heavy tarps before the late fall rains and snows intensify.

**November 13** – Poinsettias should be ready to deliver to market.



A mixed herd of young heifers out in their fall field in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

**November 14** – Consider cutting and selling a few Christmas trees this year.

**November 15** – The mid-November weather system is likely to be increased by the approach of the new moon.

**November 16** – The power of the moon increases in the final days of its cycle. Seeds planted now often sprout earlier and grow more vigorously than seeds sown at other lunar times.

**November 17** – The end of the first rutting period for deer occurs at about the middle of the month.

**November 18** – The Paperwhite Moon is new today: Seed bedding plants. Prepare to market your Christmas cacti and herbs. Plant flower seeds under warm lights for spring.

**November 19** – Rheumatism increases as the winter grows colder, often foretelling precipitation.

**November 20** – The cold front due near this date may be softened by tomorrow's apogee, and the change in barometric pressure may increase activity in fish, wildlife and livestock.

**November 21** – The moon's position now softens its power and contributes to relatively mild conditions for Thanksgiving week.

**November 22** – More garden cleanup; burn foliage of plants that were damaged by insects, destroying their eggs.

**November 23** – Winter generally brings the highest prices for goat's milk.

**November 24** – Breeding of sheep and goats for next year's Easter market should now be complete.

**November 25** – Set up a fourteen-week Advent-like wreath, lighting a candle each week until the end of winter is in sight.

**November 26** – The moon enters its gentle second phase. Order bedding plant seeds for December new moon planting.

**November 27** – A secondary rutting period for deer begins near the end of November and lasts until early to mid December.

**November 28** – Early-sprouting winter wheat could bring deer to those tender green shoots. Staghorn sumac fruit clusters can also be very attractive to game.

**November 29** – All the major harvest is complete; fall seeding should be done; the garden's pretty well picked clean and the cover crops have sprouted. Supplies and feed are lined up for the winter, hopefully enough to weather the worst January cold spells.

**November 30** – Be ready for Supermoon Day, December 3. Full moon and perigee are likely to bring stress to livestock and family, very cold weather and difficult travel conditions.

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# A Vermont Almanack for Late Autumn

by Bill Felker

*When all the snowy hill  
And the bare woods are still,  
When snipes are silent in the frozen bogs,  
And all the garden garth is whelmed in mire,  
Lo, by the hearth, the laughter of the logs,  
More fair than roses, lo, the flowers of fire!*

—R. L. Stevenson

## The Sun's Progress

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 5. Set clocks back one hour at 2:00 a.m. On November 23, the sun enters its early winter sign of Sagittarius.

## Phases of the Deer Mating Moon and the Paperwhite Moon

**November 4:** The Deer Mating Moon is full at 12:23 a.m. **November 6:** Lunar perigee (when the moon is closest to Earth). **November 10:** The moon enters its final quarter at 3:36 p.m. **November 18:** The Paperwhite Moon is new at 6:42 a.m. **November 21:** Lunar apogee (when the moon is farthest from Earth). **November 26:** The moon enters its second quarter at 12:03 p.m. **December 3:** The Paperwhite Moon is full at 10:47 a.m. and reaches perigee, its position closest to Earth, this day, as well. This is the only "Supermoon" (full at perigee) of 2017.

## The Planets

Now in Libra, Venus reaches conjunction with Jupiter on the 13th (the best Venus-Jupiter display of the year), and it hugs the eastern horizon before sunrise until the middle of the month, when its brilliance is overcome by the sun. Mars in Virgo is the red morning star, higher than both Venus and Jupiter. Saturn becomes more and more difficult to see as it rides Ophiuchus into the sunset.

## The Stars

The morning sky is always four months ahead of the evening sky. Eight hours after you see Orion looming up to foretell the coldest weather of the year, he has gone. In four hundred eighty minutes, eight hours, the stars have moved one hundred twenty days from winter, deep into the time of daffodils.

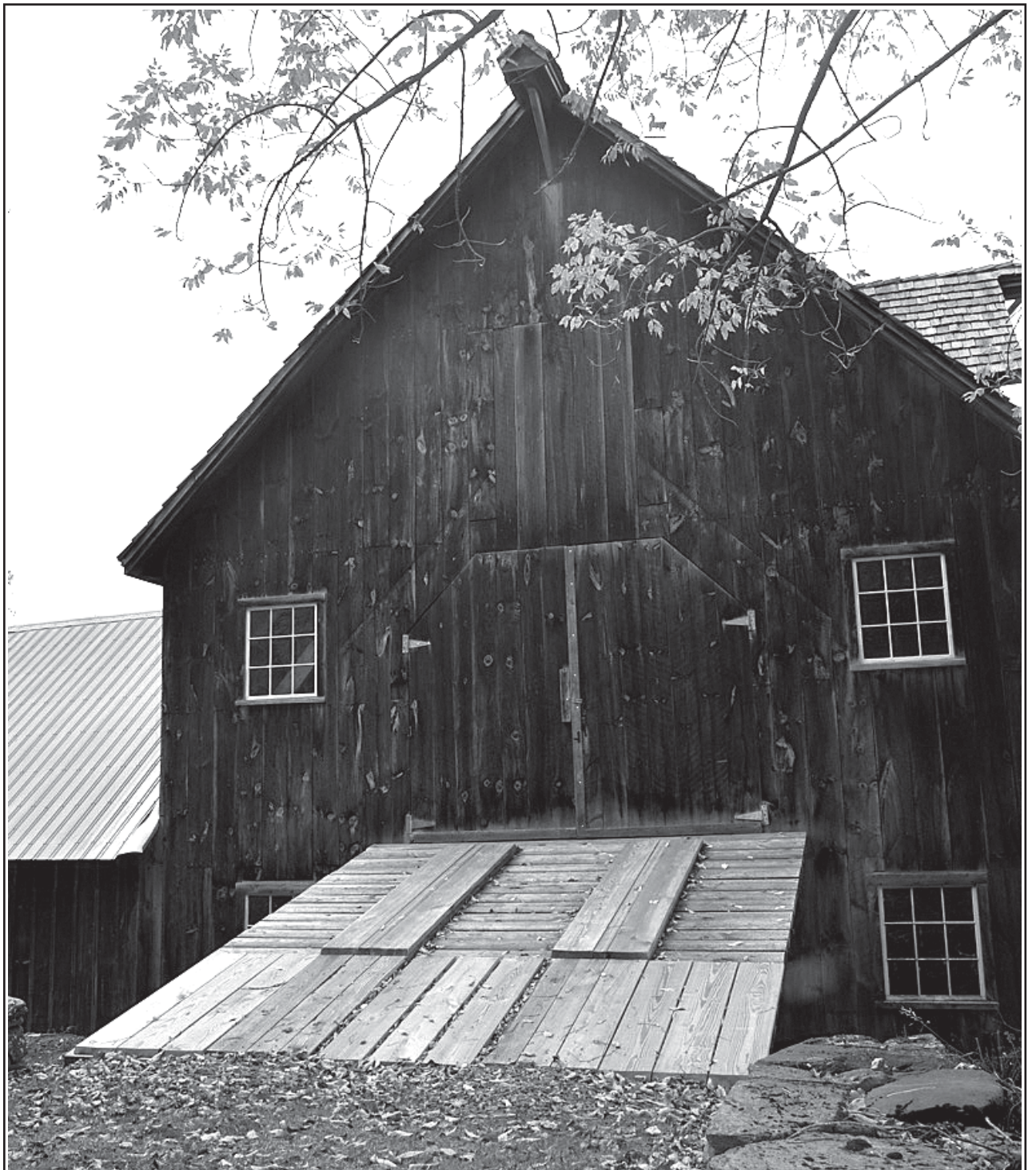
## The Shooting Stars

In November, the Taurid shower brings only a handful of meteors per hour on the 4th and 5th, but the Leonids (at the rate of about 15 per hour) should be more rewarding. Watch for them after midnight on the 17th and 18th.

## Meteorology

Weather history suggests that old waves usually reach Vermont on or about November 2, 6, 11, 16, 20, 24 and 28. Snow or rain often occur prior to the passage of each major front.

It is probable that full moon on November 4 and December 3 (with perigee), lunar perigee on November 6 and new moon on November 18 will bring stronger-than-average storms to the Northeast.



Old barn in the autumn in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy



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# Honoring Gen. Stannard, a Vermont Civil War Hero

by Liam McKone

On Saturday, November 4, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Hall in Essex village will again be the scene of activities connected with Vermont's Civil War soldiers. After decades of other uses, the sturdy brick building built by the veterans in the GAR will once more honor the sacrifices of those who served in the Union Army. Following a meeting of the revived Stannard Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans (SUV) in the morning, the doors of the hall will open to the public at noon to attend presentations, view displays, and take part in activities from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Entry to the event is free, though donations in support of the patriotic effort are appreciated.

## Gen. Stannard

The afternoon program focuses on Gen. Stannard and his key role in the battle of Gettysburg. Speakers will describe the epic march of his 2nd Vermont Brigade from Virginia to the battlefield, the crucial moment of decision when he committed his forces to two bold moves, and the aftermath of the battle.

The restoration of Gen. Stannard's house in Milton, VT is described in an exhibit that details his important career in the military and afterward, showing the various monuments and historical plaques dedicated to his memory.

Stannard's protégé Captain John Lonergan, who led the charge of the Vermonters into Pickett's flank on Cemetery Ridge, earns his own display that includes his biography, *Vermont's Irish Rebel*, for sale. Other Civil War books may also be purchased with a portion of the proceeds going to the goals of the SUV.

## Vermont in the Civil War

Few people realize today the large proportion of Vermont's eligible men who enlisted to fight the Civil War from 1861-65, with over 30,000 soldiers mustered from a population of 330,000. Sadly, more than 5,000 never returned to the Green Mountain State as disease and battle took their lives. Many survivors, however, kept up connections with the comrades who had shared the life-altering experience of war-time service, holding unit reunions and joining veterans' groups.

The largest such organization was the GAR, formed in 1866 and at its peak claiming over 400,000 members nationwide. Almost one hundred local chapters or "posts" sprang up across Vermont as a prominent feature of communities large and small. Dedicated GAR buildings could be found scattered in towns and villages in every part of the state, often providing the venue for lively social activities. Of these halls, only four still exist in Vermont. The Essex Memorial Hall is an excellent representative of the original purpose, with its granite slab over the front door listing all the men from the town who died in the war.

## Researching your ancestors

Help will be provided to those seeking ancestors in the Vermont units and certificates issued to descendants. We can also assist in establishing blood lineage for those who want to join the SUV or the ladies' Allied Orders.



The Michael Middleton painting of Gen. Stannard's and the 13th Regiment's military assault on Gen. Pickett's Confederate troops at Gettysburg. Stannard is on horseback waving his hat. The painting hangs in the Vermont State House in Montpelier, VT.

Displays about the history of the GAR, the successor SUV, and even the GAR Highway will enlighten visitors about these organizations.

A display will show the on-going effort to preserve and maintain graves and monuments. Civil War era clothing and uniforms, along with military equipment, can outfit visitors for a photo opportunity as they discuss reenacting.

Additional details of the event will be posted on the Stannard Camp VT Facebook page, along with information on how to sign up for groups, such as the GAR Civil War Round Table that will hold discussions at various locations along the GAR Highway.

The GAR Memorial Hall is located at 5 Towers Rd., at the intersection of VT Rt. 15—named the GAR Highway—and VT Rt. 128 in Essex Junction, VT. For more information call Liam McKone at (802) 324-9631 or e-mail McKone37@comcast.net.



General George Jerrison Stannard of Georgia, VT. Gen. Stannard became the first Union Army Volunteer from Vermont.

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The GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Memorial Hall in Essex village, just off VT Rt. 15, the GAR Highway.

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Friday, Nov 24th  
8-11 p.m.  
Admission \$10-\$12  
Free for 12 and under  
(802) 235-2718  
tinmouthvt.org  
Tinmouth  
Community Center  
573 Rt. 140

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## Store Kids

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Years ago, when we were know-nothing youngsters just out of school, my husband and I bought Ballard's Store in the middle of downtown Castleton, VT. Over the following decades, this business—renamed the Castleton Village Store, but universally known as the Village Store, or Rehlen's—was going to become the center of our lives, and the four children we subsequently produced were going to grow up as Store Kids.

I'd always known the Ballard family, and I'd always seen Teddy Ballard and his sister working for their parents. They all lived above the store. Coming down a dim, rear, staircase behind the greeting cards and a jumble of hardware and farm tools, different Ballards would appear to wash up at the lunch counter, sweep the floors, bundle newspapers, or scoop ice cream.

The kids were conscientious workers. They had to be, because the family store was close cousin to a family farm, and their economic survival depended on it.

I think that the younger Ballards were probably glad to get out of the store business. It was never-ending work.

**“...when my husband and I bought Ballards, what were we thinking? What were we going to get our children into?”**

In the sleepy era when I grew up, Ballards was a useful, center-of-town institution, but from what I now know about general stores profitability, I don't think it could have made much money.

The early seventies wasn't a good time for downtown Castleton. Tiny next door Harold Eddy's Grocery Market was struggling. Up the hill, the former teachers', not-too-selective, college was small. Downtown looked run-down and rough.

The Ballards sold their business to Bob Franzoni, from Rutland, and Keith Jenison, a pair who had ambitious plans to create a sports shop, but that didn't work out, and these two brothers-in-law sold to us.

Soon after we bought the store, I had our first child, Mary, and then we had three more. Our house was, and still is, close by. In the winter time I'd often come down, and then customers would observe and encourage our second child, Baby Wenger, or our third child, Baby Gibbs, as they staggered around on the store's old uneven floors learning to walk.

When I was up at Porter Hospital delivering Inza, my last child, our long-time employee, Elaine Danyow, put a big sign in the front window proclaiming to the town, “It's a Girl.”

Ours was a one-store operation when Mary was small, but later we bought the next-door gas station, opened a pizza place, and then bought the diner. Running multiple businesses gave our later-children much-too-easy access to a whole range of goods and services.

Gibbs never took advantage of this. Gibbs was like the daughter in Jessica Mitford's semi-autobiographical novels, continually dreaming of running away and escaping her eccentric household. Gibbs said as soon as she could she was going to move to Wales. Instead, as soon as she graduated from UVM, she moved to Italy.

Life connected to the store brought out a fearless independence in our last-born Inza, who would get tired of waiting for her older brother to take her to Dewey Field, and one day equestrian-Inza went out to our standard-shift store truck, rounded up some pillows to put on the front seat, and drove herself down to the O'Rourke Horse Show.

When Castletonian Lois Ladd saw Inza masterly driving past—head barely showing above the side window—she

from Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,  
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.

—EDWARD FITZGERALD  
1859

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Wenger, Inza, and Gibbs Rehlen on the front steps of the Castleton Store on the first day of school in 1994.

told me she'd thought, “Is that Inza? It can't be Inza. Inza is only eleven.”

Our son Wenger could fix things, and the store's dusty back shelves were weighed down with products useful for his ongoing pet project, which was rebuilding my 1962 VW in the bottle redemption shed behind the store.

When he was at the Village School, I arranged to have him released at noon to come home for lunch, but usually he didn't come home. He just biked across the street to get back to working on the Bug.

He loved a new computer class Mrs. Anderson taught, but I counseled him that computer science was a passing fad, nothing more than a game. I was proved wrong on this one. When Wenger graduated from UVM, we put him in charge of our next-door pizza place, a responsibility that suited him so spectacularly poorly, that he left for Colorado.

When Inza graduated from UVM, she traveled out West, loved everything she saw, and didn't come back. But Wenger did come back and wound up in the office, second in command, sometimes first in command, running the businesses.

Now I'm gratified when Mary, on her way to Rutland, arrives to pick up store deposits, and Wenger sits at a desk surrounded by the computer screens that vindicate long-gone Mrs. Anderson.

Mary has her five-year-old son with her, and he races out to talk with customers, sneak something from a lower shelf, and see who's running the register.

He's another generation of Store Kids, and I sometimes wonder, how did it happen? So long ago when my husband and I bought Ballards, what were we thinking? What were we going to get our children into?

Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, Vermont. She is the author of stories, articles, essays, magazine feature, 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, VT 05735, and at a number of Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-2213.

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## The Turkey Trot Contra Dance In Tinnmouth on November 24

Dance off all that turkey and bring your friends and family to the 13th Annual Turkey Trot Contra Dance in beautiful downtown Tinnmouth, VT on Friday November 24 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Tinnmouth Community Center in Tinnmouth, VT. Dance to the splendid tunes of Shindy—The Excellent Band with David Kaynor calling.

All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner. If you are a beginner, come right at 8 p.m. for a beginner's lesson to learn the moves. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Enjoy

live music, enthusiastic swinging and dancing, refreshments and a fun night.

Admission is \$10-\$12, \$8 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Shine up those dancing shoes and bring a couple of friends to dance with or just bring yourself! See you in Tinnmouth.

*The Community Center is at 573 Rt. 140 in the center of Tinnmouth, VT, five miles west of Wallingford. For more information go to [tinnmouthcontradance.org](http://tinnmouthcontradance.org), [tinnmouthdance@gmail.org](mailto:tinnmouthdance@gmail.org). Like us on Facebook at Tinnmouth Contra Dance.*

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Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye  
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen  
\$20 (plus \$5 s&h)

Old-time and present-time people and places from west of Vermont's Birdseye Mountain. Here are their stories.

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by Pamela Hayes Rehlen  
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The Blue Cat was first immortalized in an embroidered carpet from 1836, later in Catherine Coblenz' 1949 children's story, *The Blue Cat of Castle Town*. Now he returns to tell his mesmerizing tale of the past 150 years.

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# Vermont Map

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Christmas Craft Fair  
November 24 & 25, Poultney High School Gym

## My Heart's In the Highlands

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here;  
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer;  
Chasing the wild deer, and following the roe,  
My heart's in the Highlands wherever I go.  
Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North,  
The birthplace of valour, the country of worth;  
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,  
The Hills of the Highlands for ever I love.

Farewell to the mountains high covered with snow;  
Farewell to the straths and green valleys below;  
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods;  
Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods;  
My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,  
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer;  
Chasing the wild deer, and following the roe,  
My heart's in the Highlands wherever I go.

—ROBERT BURNS  
1759-1796

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# Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities and museums, exhibits, and galleries.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Halloween Tricks & Treats. Fur and feathers camouflage and call attention to the diverse creatures in our displays. Compare claws and fangs as you get ready for the great St. Johnsbury Halloween Parade which starts at 5:45 pm. 4-6 pm. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**BURLINGTON.** Author Appearance and Live Music: Join Ray Padgett for a conversation about his new book, *Cover Me: The Stories Behind the Greatest Cover Songs of All Time*, followed by live covers of songs from the book performed by Mark Daly (of Madaila) and Eric Olsen and Amanda Gustafson (of Swale). Tickets: \$3, with a coupon for \$5 off a copy of the book. Proceeds go to the Vermont Foodbank. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Open Wall Exhibit: "Magical Light." Open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am - 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleyvault.org. Exhibit runs through December 28.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Yo-Yo Ma & Kathryn Stott perform a repertory of Russian composers, including Stravinsky, Prokofiev, and Rachmaninoff. Tickets: \$25-\$150. 7:30 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flynnitix.org.

**HIGHGATE CENTER.** The Polar Express—Yearly PJ Story Time. Ages 1-9. Lighted hay ride around town with caroling and Santa. Children are dropped off at the North Pole (library) for a reading of the beloved book, *The Polar Express*. Hot cocoa and cookies. Tickets: \$10 donation. Tickets are required at boarding time. 5-6:30 pm. Highgate Public Library, 17 Mill Hill. (802) 868-3970. highgatelibrary.wordpress.com. Also November 3 & 9.

**SHELburne.** Engaging Farm Visitors: Tours, Camps and Animals. An agritourism workshop for farmers and agricultural service providers. Hands-on activities and speakers followed by chili and cornbread supper. Fee: \$10; supper \$25. 2-5:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. go.uvm.edu/agritourism2017.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

**BARRE.** Performance: Bob Marley, Comedian. Tickets \$27.50. 8 pm. Barre Opera House, City Hall, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** The Sixth Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. Showcasing more than 20 dramatic features, documentaries and shorts of all genres from the U.S. and around the world. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 254-8169 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. Through November 12.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: St. Lawrence String Quartet. Part of the UVM Lane Series. Tickets \$40, students \$5. Pre-show artist talk in hall at 6:30 pm. Concert 7:30 pm. University of Vermont Recital Hall, Southwick Music Building, 384 S. Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. uvm.edu/laneseries.

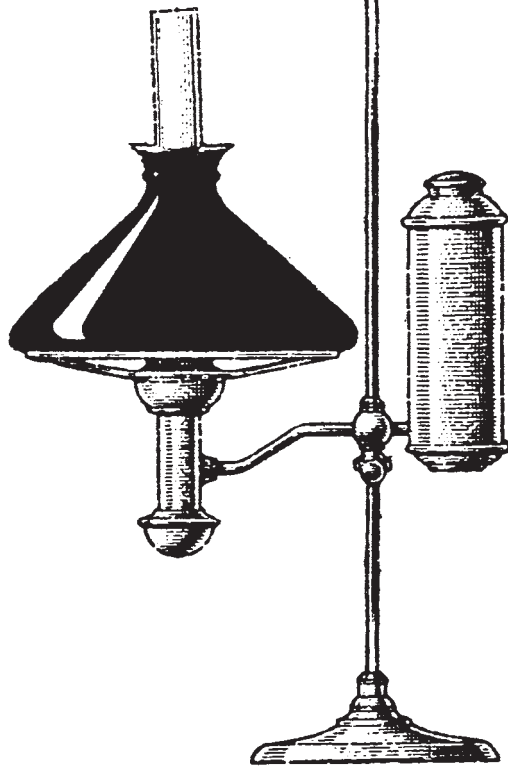
**HANOVER, NH.** Musical: *Cabaret*. The show focuses on the loves and losses of a group of artists and performers who struggle to live in a world on the brink of fascism. Tickets: \$10-\$15. 8 pm, Sunday 2 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. Also November 4, 5, 9, 10.

**HIGHGATE CENTER.** The Polar Express—Yearly PJ Story Time. Ages 1-9. Lighted hay ride around town with caroling and Santa. Children are dropped off at the North Pole (library) for a reading of the beloved book, *The Polar Express*. Hot cocoa and cookies. Tickets: \$10 donation. Tickets required at boarding time. 5-6:30 pm. Highgate Public Library, 17 Mill Hill. (802) 868-3970. highgatepublic@comcast.net. highgatelibrary.wordpress.com. Also November 9.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert: The King's Singers, the world's most renowned a cappella ensemble, present a program surveying five decades of King's Singers repertoire, plus new works commissioned for this anniversary year. Tickets: \$30. 8 pm. Mead Memorial Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. (802) 443-3168.

**POULTNEY.** Opening Reception for Guild of Vermont Furniture Makers Exhibit. Dozens of exquisite handcrafted pieces from tables and chairs to mirrors and bowls, chests and desks and many other surprises. Live music, refreshments, and a chance to meet the artists. 5-8 pm. Feick Arts Center, Green Mountain College. (802) 287-8398. www.vermontfurnituremakers.com. Exhibit runs through December 9.

**READING.** First Friday at Hall Art Foundation. View our exhibitions without a guide and at your own pace. Wood-fired pizza available from La Pizza Lupo. Prepared in a vintage truck with an Italian-made wood-burning oven, with local, seasonal and artisanal ingredients. 5-8 pm. Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Route 106. (802) 952-1056.



**RUTLAND.** Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Most items \$.25-\$3. This month's highlight: Family recipes from community cookbooks. All holiday books (crafts, food, novels): Buy One, Get One Free. 10 am - 4 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. Also November 4.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

**BRANDON.** Annual Bird Seed Sale and Rutland County Audubon Society Membership Drive. No need to pre-order. Cash or check only. 10 am - 2 pm. Blue Seal Feeds, Rte. 7. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Soovin Kim & Gloria Chien. Violin concertos of Charles. Presented by Ives Flynn Center and Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival. Tickets: \$35. 8 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flynnitix.org. Also November 5.

**BURLINGTON.** 24th Annual West African Dance & Drum Festival. Presented by Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater. Guinea Dance, Ivory Coast Dance, Sabar Drum, Senegal Dance, Solo Sana. Class fee: \$19. 8:30 am - 7 pm. Dance party to follow from 8:30 pm - 1 am at the Skinny Pancake. Contois Auditorium, City Hall, 149 Church St. (802) 859-1802. jehkulu@yahoo.com. www.jehkulu.org. Also November 5.

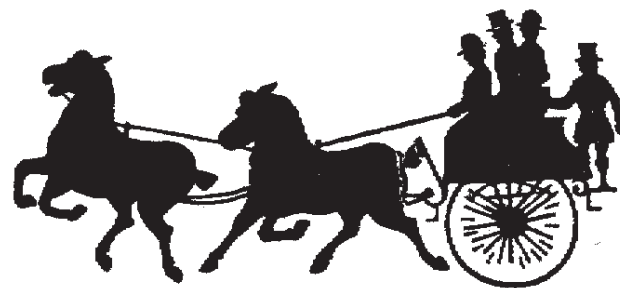
**CHARLESTOWN, NH.** Native American Heritage Weekend. Descendants of the Native American tribes of the Charlestown area share stories and history. Price: \$6-\$10, under 5 free. 10 am - 4:30 pm. Fort at No. 4, 267 Springfield Rd. (603) 826-5700. info@fortat4.com. Through November 5.

**CHESTER.** The Hearse House Museum is Now Open. This mini museum features the Town's handsome horse-drawn hearse at the white, clapboarded Hearse House, next to the Public Tomb and across from the Town Green. View exhibits at the Hearse House and look inside the empty Public Tomb, where those who had died during the winter, but could not be buried because of frozen ground, could lie peacefully and securely awaiting the coming of spring and thawing of the ground. While the museum can only be open seasonally because it is not heated, it will be open for a couple of November weekends. Saturdays and Sundays 1-3 pm. For questions e-mail lbwillisc@comcast.net. Also November 5, 11 & 12.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Honoring a Vermont Civil War Hero. Speakers will describe the epic march of General Stannard's 2nd Vermont Brigade from Virginia to the Gettysburg battlefield. Help seeking ancestors in the Vermont units and certificates issued to descendants. Display of on-going efforts to preserve and maintain graves and monuments. Civil War era clothing, uniforms, and military equipment. Free, donations appreciated. 12 noon - 5 pm. Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Hall, 5 Towers Rd., at the intersection of VT Rt. 15 and VT Rt. 128. (802) 324-9631. McKone37@comcast.net.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Genealogy Class: EXCEL-erate Your DNA Research. Taught by Patti Malone. Fee: \$10. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library, 377 Hegeman Ave. (across from the State Police) in Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 310-9285. www.vtgenlib.org. On Facebook.

**GRAFTON.** Kindred Spirits: Native Ways and Giving Nature Thanks. Review the traditions of Native peoples of living in balance with the natural world. Learn the lessons of interdependence and gratitude. Fun outdoor scavenger hunt in the forest. Rain or shine. Registration encouraged, drop-ins always welcome. Admission donation. 10-11:30 am. The museum open to explore until 4 pm. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.



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Do Your Holiday Shopping Here. Everything For Your Holiday Table!

Fresh, Locally-Grown Farm Products and Hand-Crafts! Winter Squash, Pumpkins, Onions, Potatoes, Kale, Broccoli, Cabbages, Carrots, Beets, Lettuces, Herbs, Apples, Pears, Cider, Jams & Jellies, Pickles, Maple Syrup.  
Home Baked Goods including Gluten-free.  
Farm Fresh Eggs, Poultry and Range-fed Meats.  
Many kinds of Vermont Wine and Cheese.  
Delicious prepared foods, eat here or take home.  
Crafts, Jewelry, Knits, Live Entertainment.

Order Your Native Vermont Thanksgiving Turkey!

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, November 4, continued)

**MIDDLEBURY.** Play: *The Crucible*. Presented by the Middlebury Community Players. Tickets \$17. 7:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. Also November 5.

**NORTHFIELD.** Darn Tough Sock Sale. Deeply discounted, Vermont-made socks, athletic socks for skiing, snowboarding, hiking, running, as well as military socks. 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Cabot Hosiery Mills, 364 Whetstone Drive. (802) 485-6078. contactus@darntough.com. www.darntough.com. Also November 5, 11 & 12.

**PAWLET.** Roast Pork Dinner. The menu includes: roast pork baked with topping, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, hot vegetables, cabbage, salad, applesauce, fruited jello, rolls with butter, and hot and cold beverages, and this month's special dessert. \$12 adults, \$6 children up to 12, free for 5 and under. 5 pm at the Pawlet Community Church, 38 VT Rt. 133. Takeout orders can also be made on the day of the dinner by calling the church at (802) 325-3022.

**PLAINFIELD, NH.** Annual Christmas Bazaar. Sponsored by Blow-Me-Down Grange 234 The Attic Shop. New and used items include antiques, books, gift items, collectables, jewelry, furniture, artwork, glassware, and gently used clothes. Free coffee. 10 am – 3 pm. Free admission. 1107 Rt. 12A. (603) 448-0773. Every Saturday through November.

**PROCTOR.** 48th Annual Church Bazaar Handcrafts, Christmas ornaments, holiday items, antiques, collectibles, white elephants, decorated furniture, baked goods, jams, pickles, relishes jewelry, gifts, and a luncheon. 10 am – 2 pm. Union Church of Proctor, 5 Church St. (802) 459-3546. andreal.varney@gmail.com.

**RICHMOND.** Cochran's Ski & Ride Sale. Lots of gear for sale including Alpine, snowboard, telemark, cross-country, hockey skates and equipment, boots, clothing, and more. In addition to the great deals on second-hand gear, there will also be lots of new equipment for sale from many regional vendors. 8 am – 4 pm. Camel's Hump Middle School, 173 School St. (802) 434-2479. www.cochranskiarea.com. Also November 5.

**RIPTON.** Concert: Michael Chorney and Hollar General. Guitarist and vocalist Michael Chorney, bassist Robinson Morse and drummer Geza Carr have worked together for years. Preceded by an open mic. Delicious homemade baked goods, tea & coffee. \$10 general admission, \$15 generous admission, \$3 kids under 12. Doors open at 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Ripton Community Coffee House, Route 125. (802) 388-9782. rcch.org.

**RUTLAND.** Annual Bird Seed Sale and Rutland County Audubon Society Membership Drive. No need to pre-order. Cash or check only. Stop by for some birding banter! 8 am – 1 pm. Garland's Farm and Garden, Park St. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

**RUTLAND.** The Really Big Show XXII. Local youth and adults: singers, dancers, bands and other acts benefits the United Way of Rutland County. Tickets \$20. 7 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Wednesdays 3-6 pm and Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays and Saturdays through April.

**RUTLAND.** Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Most items \$.25-\$3. This month's highlight: Family recipes from community cookbooks. All holiday books (crafts, food, novels): Buy One, Get One Free. 10 am – 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

**SHARON.** Concert: "Blowin' in the Winds". Trios for oboe, bassoon and piano, with Margaret Herlehy, oboe; Janet Polk, bassoon; and Daniel Weiser, piano. Part of the Starry Nights Concert Series. Tickets: \$20, youth 18 or younger free with an adult. 7:30-9 pm. Seven Stars Arts Center, 5126 VT Rt. 14. (802) 763-2334. sevenstarsarts.org. classicopia.org.

**SHELBURNE.** Moonlight Wagon Rides. A moonlit evening is a great time to get outside and enjoy Shelburne Farms by horse drawn wagon ride! Celebrate this magical time of year with lights snacks and activities. Fee: \$10 adults, \$7 children under 12, children 2 and under free. Registration required. 5:15 pm, 6 pm, 6:45 pm, 7:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

**SO. BURLINGTON.** Workshop: Herbal Stocking Stuffers, with Kelley Robie, of Horsetail Herbs. Learn how to make skin care products from Vermont-grown herbs. Recipes, hand-made goodies and gift making ideas. Fee: \$25 includes materials cost. 9 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

**STATEWIDE.** Youth Deer Weekend. Successful hunters 15 years or younger should report to a Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. biological reporting station 9 am – 7 pm. Deer to be examined and aged by a biologist. Youth hunters will receive a 2017 Vermont Hunter Cooperator Patch. Participants must have passed a hunter education course, have a hunting license and free youth hunting tag. (802) 828-1000. john.hall@vermont.gov. www.vtfishandwildlife.com. Also November 5.

**WILLISTON.** Williston Craft Show. Over 100 crafters, artists and specialty food vendors showcasing their handmade products. Children's Crafting Corner. Breakfast and lunch options available for purchase. Free admission. 9:30 am – 4 pm. 195 Central School Dr. wsdcraftshow@cvsdvt.org. willistonfap.wixsite.com.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert: Cameo Baroque in Benefit Concert for Puerto Rico. Celtic and Folk String Quartet performs 18th-century Baroque masterworks. Admission by free will offering. 2 pm. Stone Church Arts, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. stonechurcharts.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Soovin Kim & Gloria Chien. Violin concertos of Charles. Presented by Ives Flynn Center and Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival. Tickets: \$35. 2 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flynnitix.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Special Veterans' Town Hall. Community forum to establish a greater understanding between local veterans and the friends and neighbors they fought for. Seating is first come, first served, please RSVP. If you are a veteran and would like to speak, mark that preference when you register. 1 pm. Contois Auditorium, City Hall. www.btvvetstowhall.eventbrite.com.

**BURLINGTON.** 24th Annual West African Dance & Drum Festival. Presented by Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater. Guinea Dance, Senegal Dance, Kids classes. Class fee: \$19. 9:30 am – 4 pm. Location TBA. (802) 859-1802. jehkulu@yahoo.com. www.jehkulu.org.

**CHESTER.** Book & Author Event. Bill Schubart discusses his book, *Lila and Theron*. Set in rural America and spanning much of the 20th century, Lila & Theron captures the spirit of the American rural experience. Part of Vermont Voices. 2 pm. Phoenix Books Mistry Valley, 58 Common St. (802) 875-3400. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

**CHESTER.** The Hearse House Museum Now Open. This mini museum features the Town's handsome horse-drawn hearse at the white, clapboarded Hearse House, next to the Public Tomb and across from the Town Green. View exhibits at the Hearse House and look inside the empty Public Tomb, where those who had died during the winter, but could not be buried because of frozen ground, could lie peacefully and securely awaiting the coming of spring and thawing of the ground. While the museum can only be open seasonally because it is not heated, it will be open for a couple of November weekends. Saturdays and Sundays 1-3 pm. For questions e-mail lbwillist@comcast.net. Also Nov. 11 & 12.

## Rutland, VT

### Vermont Farmers Market Moves Indoors for Winter!

November is an exciting month for the Vermont Farmers Market. On November 4th till May, we move from Depot Park in Rutland over to the Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. for our six months indoors, which means no more worries about the changeable weather! The indoor market is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our mid-week market continues on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m., from November 8th till May, also at the Vermont Farmers Food Center.

Come to these markets to stock up on fall and winter produce. You can even order a Vermont-grown turkey for Thanksgiving!

No sooner will the excitement of opening day end than it will be time for the annual holiday fairs!

The Fall Holiday Fair is coming to the Holiday Inn on Rt. 7 just south of downtown Rutland on Saturday, November 18th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 50 vendors will be offering unique crafts, home-baked goods, local specialty foods, seasonal favorites and decor, and more for your

holiday needs. The regular Saturday Farmers Market will be running at the same time, which means between the two locations nearly 100 local vendors will be ready and waiting to serve you.

Bring home one-of-a-kind handmade and homemade items for your Thanksgiving table and under the tree! It's never too early to get started on Christmas shopping!

The second fair, the Christmas Holiday Fair, is coming up on December 16th, again at the Holiday Inn in Rutland, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join us and enjoy some

holiday atmosphere. Do a little last-minute shopping. Folks love receiving Vermont gifts, something that is really grown or made in America.

When you buy from Vermont Farmers Market vendors, you have the pleasure of making a personal connection with the artisan or grower behind the product. Some of the vendors will even ship your gifts for you! And many vendors do custom orders, so if you want something special, it never hurts to ask! Start making those plans and inquiries now.

The Vermont Farmers Market Holiday Fairs are the largest holiday shows of their kind in Southern Vermont and are always free admission and free parking.

—Gabriella Mirollo

Vermont Farmers Market is located for the winter at the The Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West Street in Rutland, VT. For more information call (802) 342-4727, e-mail wintermarketmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org or visit www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Check the Vermont Farmers Market Facebook page for updates on special happenings and lots of photos.

The Fall Holiday Fair and Christmas Holiday Fair are at the Holiday Inn, across U.S. Rt. 7 from Diamond Run Mall, two miles south of downtown Rutland. (518) 282-9781 or (802) 342-4727. specialshowsmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.



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Wednesdays 3-6 pm, starting November 8th

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**GREENSBORO.** 6th Annual Harvest Barter Fair. Bring items that you have grown, preserved, baked, or raised to swap with neighbors. Items will be swapped on a one for one basis. Bring items with an estimated value of \$5, or \$5 increments. 2-4 pm. Lakeview Union School, 189 Lauredon Ave. (802) 755-6336. swapsisters@gmail.com.

**LUDLOW.** 8th Annual Big Buzz Chainsaw Carving Festival. One-hour Quick Carves will be held at 1 pm. Food and beverages will be available. Close to 30 artists attending with three carvers coming from Europe this year. Admission \$6. 10 am – 5 pm. Held at the Ice House at the Jackson Gore Resort, Okemo Mountain. (508) 965-3211. barrepinske@hotmail.com. On Facebook.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Play: *The Crucible*. Presented by the Middlebury Community Players. Tickets \$17. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

**NORTHFIELD.** Darn Tough Sock Sale. Deeply discounted, Vermont-made socks, athletic socks for skiing, snowboarding, hiking, and running, as well as military socks. 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Cabot Hosiery Mills, 364 Whetstone Dr. (802) 485-6078. contactus@darntough.com. www.darntough.com. Also November 11 & 12.

**NORWICH.** Fall Concert: Camerata New England Piano Quartet. Bach, Mahler, and Dvorak. Tickets \$28, children 18 and under free with purchase of adult ticket. Norwich Congregational Church, 15 Church St. (802) 785-4833. www.cameratanewengland.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: The Gibson Brothers, the premiere bluegrass brother duet of the genre, following in the footsteps of such legendary acts as the Stanley Brothers. Opening are the VT Bluegrass Pioneers featuring three longtime luminaries, brothers “Banjo Dan” and Willy Lindner of the beloved Banjo Dan and the Midnight Plowboys, with Danny Coane, guitarist and lead singer with the Starline Rhythm Boys. Tickets: \$23 advance, \$25 day of show. 2 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

**RICHMOND.** Cochran’s Ski & Ride Sale. Lots of gear for sale including Alpine, snowboard, telemark, cross-country, hockey skates and equipment, boots, clothing, and more. In addition to the great deals on second-hand gear, there will also be lots of new equipment for sale from many regional vendors. 10 am – 4 pm. Camel’s Hump Middle School, 173 School St. (802) 434-2479. www.cochranskiarea.com.

**WALLINGFORD.** Needle Felting Workshop. Led by Amy Wulfing-Norton. \$50 per person includes the three-hour class and materials. Learn the basics of needle felting making a three-dimensional figure using Going Gnome!’s popular kit. Felting supplies and kits available in our shop. Fee: \$50, call to reserve. 2-5 pm. The Sparkle Barn Loft, 1509 US Rt. 7. (802) 446-2044. thesparklebarnshop@gmail.com. www.thesparklebarnshop.com.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

**NORWICH.** Suds & Science. Each month join Vermont Center for Ecostudies scientists and colleagues at the Norwich Inn for a cold brew and interesting conversation. This month’s topic will be backyard crickets and tropical katydids—the amazing world of insect sound and vibration. Speaker: Laurel Symes of Dartmouth College. 7-8 pm at the Norwich Inn. (802) 649-1431. www.vtecostudies.org. First Tuesday of every month.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

**BRATTLEBORO.** The Sixth Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 254-8169 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. Through November 12.

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Sally Pinkas, piano, with Patricia Shands, clarinet. Program includes 20th-century pieces, Brahms, and a new work by Cuban-born composer Ileana Perez-Velazquez. Tickets: \$17–\$27. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers’ Market. EBT and debit cards. Wednesdays 3-6 pm and Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Through April.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**BRATTLEBORO.** The Sixth Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 254-8169 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. Through November 12.

**BURLINGTON.** Musical: *A Christmas Story*. Presented by Lyric Theatre Company. Tickets \$42/\$34/\$24. 7:30 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flyntix.org. Thru November 12.

**HIGHGATE CENTER.** The Polar Express—Yearly PJ Story Time. Ages 1-9. Lighted hay ride around town with caroling and Santa. Children are dropped off at the North Pole (library) for a reading of the beloved book, *The Polar Express*. Hot cocoa and cookies. Tickets: \$10 donation. Tickets are required at boarding time. 5-6:30 pm. Highgate Public Library, 17 Mill Hill. (802) 868-3970. highgatepublic@comcast.net. highgatelibrary.wordpress.com.

**PITTSFORD.** Program: “Whiskey on the Lake—Smuggling on Lake Champlain.” Dr. Scott McLaughlin discusses how Lake Champlain was an important thoroughfare for smugglers during the Prohibition era. Free and open to the public. 7 pm. Maclure Library, 840 Arch St. (802) 483-2972. bonnie@maclurelibrary.org. www.maclurelibrary.org.

**RUTLAND.** Book and Author Event: Join Stephen P. Kiernan for a talk on his new novel, *The Baker’s Secret*, a shimmering tale of courage, determination, optimism, and the resilience of the human spirit, set in a small Normandy village on the eve of D-Day. Free and open to all. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Hunter Access Seminar for Vermont Landowners. Who hunters are and what hunting is and is not; landowner rights, laws and regulations. Forum about hunters or hunting on your property. Pre-registration not required. 6:30–9 pm. Springfield State Office Complex, 100 Mineral St. Main Floor conference room (enter through front doors and turn left). (802) 343-5487. chris.saunders@vermont.gov. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**BRATTLEBORO.** The Sixth Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 254-8169 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. Through November 12.

**BURLINGTON.** Musical: *A Christmas Story*. Presented by Lyric Theatre Company. Taking place in the 1940s Midwest, it is warmly nostalgic and darkly comic as Ralphie tries to convince his parents to let him have a Red Ryder BB Gun. Tickets \$42/\$34/\$24. 7:30 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flyntix.org. Through November 12.

**BURLINGTON.** 3rd Annual Wild About Vermont Annual Game Dinner. In partnership with Lake Champlain International and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife. Moose, deer, trout, salmon, bear, bobcat, pheasant and muskrat; all game that has been offered at past HVT game dinners. The meats will be paired with local vegetables and grains, in addition to beverage pairings featuring local producers. Tickets: \$102.18. 6 pm. Juniper Bar and Restaurant at the Hotel Vermont, 41 Cherry St. (888) 377-4510. www.diginvt.com.

**CASTLETON.** Coffee Hour. Enjoy homemade goodies, hot brew and good company. Free. 9-11 am Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St. (802) 468-3093. Every Friday.

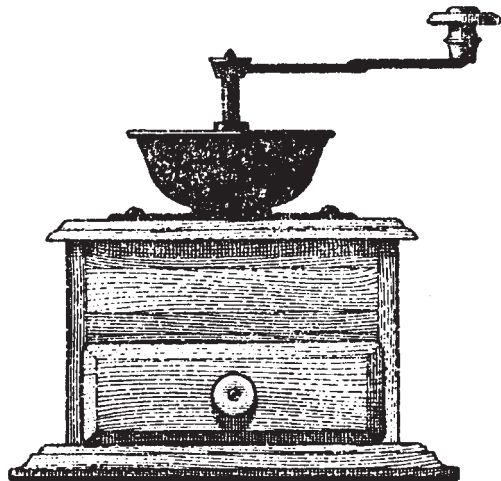
**SAXTONS RIVER.** Musical: *Into the Woods*. Take your imagination on a wild ride and see this famous musical re-imagined. All actors are on stage all the time, although they may be playing music, creating effects, or being a part of the scenery as they imagine it. Tickets: \$20, youth \$10. 7:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. www.mainstreetarts.org. Also November 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19.

**WOODSTOCK.** Free Admission to Billings Farm & Museum for All Veterans During Veteran’s Day Weekend. D-Day Remembered, a documentary by Charles Guggenheim, at 11 am and 2 pm. Dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits open for touring, with daily programs and activities. Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd programs at 3:15 pm. Horse-drawn wagon rides. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Through November 12.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**BARRE.** Concert: Rosanne Cash, one of the country’s pre-eminent singer/songwriters. Tickets: \$25–\$56. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. (City Hall). (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert: Castlebay, Music of New England and Celtic Lands. Poignant ballads interspersed with joyous dance tunes played on Celtic harp, guitar, fiddle and tin whistle. Tickets: advance \$20, seniors \$15; at the door \$25, seniors \$20. 7:30 pm. Stone Church Arts, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. www.stonechurcharts.org.



## Rutland, VT

### Author Peter Miller to Speak At Phoenix Books Rutland

Join Peter Miller for a talk on his new book, *Vanishing Vermonters* on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Phoenix Books Rutland in Rutland, VT. The event is free and open to all.

*Vanishing Vermonters: Loss of a Rural Culture*, is the newest and most important of Peter’s five books on his home state. He recorded 23 Vermonters on how they cope in one of the most expensive states in the Union. The book includes 91 photographs that display life in Vermont rather than its iconic beauty. This book came about due to the number of letters and emails Peter received after writing a short history of the changes he’d noticed while photographing Vermont between 1950 and 2013.

Peter Miller began his career in 1959 as a reporter for *Life Magazine*. He left *Life* to move to his home state of Vermont where he became a freelance photographer and writer. For 20 years he was a contributing editor to *Ski Magazine* and a

freelance writer for *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian* and many travel magazines. He became a stock photographer for The Image Bank, Iconica and Picade.

Miller has authored nine books including *Vermont People*, *Vermont Farm Women*, *People of the Great Plains* and *The First Time I Saw Paris*. He has won numerous awards for his books, his photography, and was named Vermonter of the Year and honored by the Vermont Legislature for his work in documenting the culture of Vermont. He has had exhibitions of his work in New York, Paris, and Tokyo.

His books may be viewed at petermillervermont.com and his black and white photography may be viewed at petermillerphotography.com. He lives in Colbyville, Vermont.

Phoenix Books Rutland is located at 2 Center St. in Rutland, VT. (802) 855-8078. info@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, November 11, continued)

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Music Center Chamber Music Series Concert with Musicians from Marlboro. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** The Sixth Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 254-8169 or visit [www.brattleborofilmfestival.org](http://www.brattleborofilmfestival.org). Also November 12.

**BURLINGTON.** Musical: *A Christmas Story*. Presented by Lyric Theatre Company. Taking place in the 1940s Midwest, it is both warmly nostalgic and darkly comic as Ralphie tries to convince his parents to let him have a Red Ryder BB Gun. Tickets: \$42/\$34/\$24. 2 & 7:30 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flyntix.org. Also November 12.

**CHELSEA.** Holiday Market. Do your holiday shopping amidst lots of handicrafts and delicious goodies. Chili cookoff. Hosted by the Chelsea Farmers Market. 9 am - 2 pm. Chelsea Public School Gymnasium. (802) 299-1280. [www.chelseafarmersmarket.org](http://www.chelseafarmersmarket.org).

**CHESTER.** The Hearse House Museum Now Open. This mini museum features the Town's handsome horse-drawn hearse at the white, clapboarded Hearse House, next to the Public Tomb and across from the Town Green. View exhibits at the Hearse House and look inside the empty Public Tomb, where those who had died during the winter, but could not be buried because of frozen ground, could lie peacefully and securely awaiting the coming of spring and thawing of the ground. While the museum can only be open seasonally because it is not heated, it will be open for this November weekend. Saturday and Sunday from 1-3 pm. For questions e-mail [lbwillis@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillis@comcast.net). Also November 12.

**DUMMERSTON.** Holiday Harvest Pie Workshop. With Laurel Roberts Johnson. The quintessential holiday pie, made with apples, pears, and quince poached in cider and honey, in a flaky pastry crust. Fee: \$50, includes the pie you bake, the dough you make, and a tote of heirloom baking apples, pears and quince. Reservations required. 10 am - 1 pm. Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. [events@scottfarmvermont.com](mailto:events@scottfarmvermont.com). [www.scottfarmvermont.com](http://www.scottfarmvermont.com).

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Genealogy Class: Online Searches at the 95 Regional Archives of France. \$10. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library, 377 Hegeman Ave. in Fort Ethan Allen (across from the State Police). (802) 310-9285. [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

**LEBANON, NH.** St. Helena Church Bazaar. Raffles, kids activities, crafts, candy and bake sale, lunch, soups, pastries, jewelry, gift baskets and a penny social. Handicapped accessible. 9 am - 2 pm. St. Helena/Sacred Heart Church Hall, 2 Hough St. (603) 448-1262. [sthstm@gmail.com](mailto:sthstm@gmail.com).

**LEBANON, NH.** Concert: Shawn Colvin and Her Band, A Few Small Repairs. 20th Anniversary Tour. Tickets: \$47.50, \$57.50, \$62.50. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. [lebanonoperahouse.org](http://lebanonoperahouse.org).

**MONTPELIER.** Summit School Sampler's Cajun Dance, with Cajun band Chaque Fois, with the rhythms of Cajun twin fiddles, guitar, and accordion. Admission: \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. 7:30-9:30 pm. Montpelier Senior Activity Center, 58 Barre St. (802) 485-9242. [yazbozz@gmail.com](mailto:yazbozz@gmail.com).

**NORTHFIELD.** Darn Tough Sock Sale. Deeply discounted, Vermont-made socks, athletic socks for skiing, snowboarding, hiking, running and other outdoor sports, as well as military socks. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Cabot Hosiery Mills, 364 Whetstone Drive. (802) 485-6078. [contactus@darntough.com](mailto:contactus@darntough.com). [www.darntough.com](http://www.darntough.com). Also November 12.

**PAWLET.** 49th Annual Wild Game & Chicken & Biscuit Supper. Menu includes venison roast, bear roast, venison stew, mooseballs, chicken and biscuits and veggie salads topped off by homemade pie. Water, milk, coffee and milk also available. \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 10-6; 5 and under free. 5 pm. Pawlet Firehouse, Rte. 133. (802) 325-3222. [pvfd155@gmail.com](mailto:pvfd155@gmail.com). [pawlet.org](http://pawlet.org).

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Howard University Gospel Choir. Contemporary and traditional gospel, church hymns, spirituals, and classically arranged anthems. Tickets: \$30 advance, \$32 day of show. 7 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. [outreach@chandler-arts.org](mailto:outreach@chandler-arts.org). [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org).

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Puddles Pity Party. The "sad clown with the golden voice" has captivated audiences and media from around the world - the softhearted crooner continues to wander the world with melancholic pop anthems and free hugs for all the party people. Tickets \$25-\$30. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountlive.org](http://paramountlive.org).

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Live music. EBT and debit cards. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). Saturdays through April.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Musical: *Into the Woods*. Tickets: \$20, youth \$10. 7:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. [www.mainstreetarts.org](http://www.mainstreetarts.org). Also Nov. 12, 17, 18 & 19.

**SHOREHAM.** Annual Lobster/Ham Dinner. Menu: Lazyman's lobster or baked ham, baked potato, winter squash, salad, beverages, and homemade pies for dessert. Cost: \$22 lobster dinner (\$20 for seniors and veterans), \$12 ham dinner (\$10 for seniors and veterans). Seatings at 5 pm or 6:30 pm; reservations required. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. To make your reservation call Judy at (802) 349-9957.

**STATEWIDE.** Opening of Deer Rifle Hunting Season 2017. Limit one legal buck this season. (802) 828-1000. [john.hall@vermont.gov](mailto:john.hall@vermont.gov). [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Through November 26.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Pancake Breakfast Buffet. Sponsored by Hiram Lodge #101, F&AM, and Gilman Chapter #88, OES. Pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, omelets, bacon, sausage, home fries, corned beef hash, coffee, juice, tea, milk, and whatever else that seems appropriate. Cost is \$9 adults and \$3 under 6 years old. 8-11 am. Masonic Lodge, 63 Franklin St. (802) 775-2204.

**WOODSTOCK.** Free Admission to Billings Farm & Museum for All Veterans During Veteran's Day Weekend. D-Day Remembered, a documentary by Charles Guggenheim, at 11 am and 2 pm. Dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits open for touring, with daily programs and activities. Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd programs at 3:15 pm. Horse-drawn wagon rides around the farm. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also November 12.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**BRATTLEBORO.** Concert: Windham Orchestra—"Music and Life". Program includes Britten, Haydn, and Copland. Tickets \$5-\$50. 3 pm. Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. (802) 257-4523. [bmcvt.org](http://bmcvt.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** The Sixth Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 254-8169 or visit [www.brattleborofilmfestival.org](http://www.brattleborofilmfestival.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Musical: *A Christmas Story*. Presented by Lyric Theatre Company. Tickets: \$42/\$34/\$24. 2 pm & 6:30 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. [flyntix.org](http://flyntix.org).

**CHESTER.** Annual Vermont Voices Series: Three Poets. A discussion of Dede Cummings' book, *To Look Out From*, Megan Buchanan's book, *Clothesline Religion*, and James Crews' book, *The Book of What Stays*. Free. 2 pm. Phoenix Books Misty Valley, on the Green. (802) 875-3400. [phoenixbooks.biz](http://phoenixbooks.biz).

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# Vermont Country Calendar



**CHESTER.** The Hearse House Museum Now Open. This mini museum features the Town's handsome horse-drawn hearse at the white, clapboarded Hearse House, next to the Public Tomb and across from the Town Green. View exhibits at the Hearse House and look inside the empty Public Tomb, where those who had died during the winter, but could not be buried because of frozen ground, could lie peacefully and securely awaiting the coming of spring and thawing of the ground. While the museum can only be open seasonally because it is not heated, it will be open for this November weekend. Sunday from 1-3 pm. For questions e-mail lbwillist@comcast.net.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert: The Howard University Gospel Choir. Tickets \$27. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

**NORTHFIELD.** Darn Tough Sock Sale. Deeply discounted, Vermont-made socks, athletic socks for skiing, snowboarding, hiking, running and other outdoor sports, as well as military socks. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Cabot Hosiery Mills, 364 Whetstone Drive. (802) 485-6078. www.darntough.com.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Roseanne Cash. One of the country's pre-eminent singer/songwriters. Tickets \$40-\$45. 7 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Musical: *Into the Woods*. Tickets: \$20, youth \$10. 2 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org. Also November 17, 18 & 19.

**SHARON.** Concert: Camerata New England presents Fall Quartets. Bach's "Double Violin Concerto," Mahler's "Piano Quartet in A minor," Dvorak's "Piano Quartet No. 2 in E flat major". Part of the Starry Nights Concert Series. Tickets: \$20, youth 18 or younger free with an adult. 2 pm. Seven Stars Arts Center, 5126 Rt. 14. (802) 763-2334. sevenstarsarts.org. cameratanewengland.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Chamber Music Concert: The Adaskin String Trio performs Beethoven's "String Trio in C Minor (Op. 9, No. 3)" and Taneiev's "Trio in D Major". Free. 2 pm. Woodstock Unitarian Universalist Church, 7 Church St. (802) 457-2557. www.northchapelvt.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Screening of *Where the Rivers Flow North* & Howard Frank Mosher Tribute, with filmmaker Jay Craven. Admission by contribution to the Hurricane Maria Relief Fund. Reservations are strongly suggested. 4 pm and 7 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Free Admission to Billings Farm & Museum for All Veterans During Veteran's Day Weekend. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Semer Ensemble performs *Rescued Treasure*, recovered Jewish music thought destroyed in Kristallnacht. Part of the UVM Lane Series. Tickets \$30, students \$5. Pre-show artist talk in hall at 6:30 pm. Concert 7:30 pm. University of Vermont Recital Hall, Southwick Music Building, 384 S. Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. uvm.edu/laneseries.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

**BURLINGTON.** Performance: An Evening with Vermont Abenaki Artists Association. Traditional and contemporary Abenaki music, storytelling, and drumming. Tickets: \$12. 7:30 pm. FlynnSpace, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flynnntix.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Joe Bonamassa. Blues-rock guitar. Tickets: \$158-\$95.50. 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. flynnntix.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Handel Society of Dartmouth College perform Robert Levine's new reconstruction of the Mozart Requiem, with Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna. Tickets: \$10-\$20. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April.*

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Musical: *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. Presented by Northern Stage. 2 & 7:30 pm. For tickets call (802) 296-7000. The Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St. www.northernstage.org. *Through January 7.*

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

**CHESTER.** Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops. Decorate a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments. Bring clippers and glue guns if you have them. Homemade refreshments. Fee: \$40 per wreath; \$5 early-bird discount if registered by November 6. 6:30-8 pm. Willard Hall, St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. (Rt. 11 W). (802) 875-1340, lbwillist@comcast.net. Also November 17 & 18.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Audubon West Rutland Marsh Walk. Kids, new birders and non-members always welcome. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 am. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

**BARNARD.** Community Contra Dance and Potluck. Sponsored by BarnArts. Music by Old Sam Peabody with Delia Clark calling. All dances taught. Admission free. Potluck at 5:30 pm, dance from 6-8:30 pm. Barnard, VT Town Hall, 115 North Rd. www.barnarts.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Silver Medalist, Kenneth Broberg. Performing music by Frank, Barber, Bach, and Liszt. Tickets \$35. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, Southwick Music Bldg., 384 S. Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. uvm.edu/laneseries.

**CHESTER.** Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops. Decorate a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments. Bring clippers and glue guns if you have them. Homemade refreshments. Fee: \$40 per wreath; \$5 early-bird discount by November 6. 9-10:30 am. Willard Hall, St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. (Rt. 11 W). (802) 875-1340, lbwillist@comcast.net. Also November 18.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Friday, November 17, continued)

**CLAREMONT, NH.** *A Christmas Story—The Musical.* River Theater Co. Adults \$15, students \$13. 7 pm, Claremont Opera House, 58 Opera House Square. (603) 542-4433. claremontoperahouse.info. *Thru November 19.*

**LEBANON, NH.** Concert: Johnny Gandelsman, violin. Best known for his work with Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble and genre-bending string quartet Brooklyn Rider, Gandelsman tackles Bach's *Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin* from memory. 7 pm. Tickets: \$30. First Congregational Church of Lebanon, 10 S. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

**RANDOLPH.** 16th Annual Holiday Artisans Market. Juried show. Wednesday-Sunday 12 noon - 6 pm, Christmas Eve 12 noon - 3 pm, and during performances. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org. *Through December 24.*

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Musical: *Into the Woods.* Tickets: \$20, youth \$10. 7:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. mainstreetarts.org. *Also November 18 & 19.*

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

**BARRE.** Second Annual Fall Model Railroad Show. Sponsored by the Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association. Multiple operating layouts, over 75 tables of exhibits and vendors. Activities for children, food stand. HO layout depicting the central Vermont area. Adults \$5, children 6-12 \$1, under 6 free; \$5 per family with active military ID. 10 am - 4 pm. Barre City Auditorium, 20 Auditorium Hill. Exit 7 off Interstate 89. (802) 598-0905. ronpiro@aol.com. nvwrrailroad.org.

**BRADFORD.** 62nd Annual Wild Game Supper. Menu includes bear, moose, buffalo, elk, venison, wild boar, rabbit, pheasant with rice, pulled venison; along with potatoes, squash, rolls, cabbage salad, beverages and gingerbread with whipped cream. Tickets: \$30, children under 10 \$15, advance reservations preferred. 2 pm. United Church of Christ vestry, 245 N. Main St. (802) 222-4034. www.bradforducc.org/wild-game-supper.

**CHESTER.** Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops. Decorate a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments. Bring clippers and glue guns if you have them. Homemade refreshments. Fee: \$40 per wreath; \$5 early-bird discount by November 6. 9-10:30 am. Willard Hall, St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. (Rt. 11 W). (802) 875-1340. e-mail lbwillisct@comcast.net.

**CLAREMONT, NH.** *A Christmas Story—The Musical.* River Theater Co. Tickets: adults \$15, students \$13. Friday & Saturday 7 pm, Sunday 1 pm. Claremont Opera House, 58 Opera House Square. (603) 542-4433. levesjeanie@gmail.com. claremontoperahouse.info. *Through November 19.*

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Genealogy Class: Les Filles du Roi. \$10. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library, 377 Hegeman Ave. in Fort Ethan Allen (across from the State Police). (802) 310-9285. www.vtgenlib.org.

**LEBANON, NH.** Raqs Salaam Dance Theater's 13th Annual Dance Showcase: *East of Egypt.* This 2 hour show will feature over 70 dancers performing dance styles from Iraq, Persia, Afghanistan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt and more! Tickets \$25/\$30. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

**PITTSFORD.** Holiday Craft Fair. Please join us for some great local vendors and take care of your holiday shopping. Sponsored by the Pittsford Recreation Department. 1- 3 pm. Lothrop Elementary School Gym, 3447 US Rt. 7. (802) 483-6351. (802) 483-6500. recreation@pittsfordvermont.com. www.pittsfordvermont.com.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: David Crosby and Friends, Sky Trails Tour 2017. Crosby is a two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and co-founder of the Byrds and Crosby, Stills & Nash. Tickets \$55-\$75. 8 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

**RUTLAND.** Author Appearance: Join us for a story time with Rutland's own Mary Crowley, author of *ABC Fun with Penelope and Grammy* and *I Love to Visit My Grammy*. Free and open to all ages. 2 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April.*

**SHOREHAM.** Monthly Breakfast. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, home fries, beverages, and a surprise. Cost: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12, and \$20 for families with small children. 8-10 am. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 349-9957.

**STOWE.** Concert: John McEuen & Friends. Nitty Gritty Dirt Band founding member John McEuen and his unique cast of iconic Americana string wizards share the music and memories of their incredible 50-year career and the landmark *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* platinum album. Tickets: \$20-\$55. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

**TINMOUTH.** 49th Annual Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department Game Supper. One of Vermont's longest running game suppers. All-you-can-eat gourmet menu includes venison and moose sauerbraten, game cornbread chili, secret marinated roasts of venison, moose, and bear, smoked moose, wild Italian meatballs. Also chicken and biscuits, mashed potatoes and squash, salads, rolls, beans. Over 100 homemade pies to choose from! Coffee, cider, and milk. Take-outs available. We serve over 500 people and no one has to wait outside. Tickets \$15, children 6-12 \$10, under 6 free. 4-7 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, 573 VT Rt. 140. (802) 235-2718.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Bellows Falls Santa Express. Green Mountain Flyer, Bellows Falls to the North Pole (Chester Station) and back again. Tickets \$25 adults, \$20 kids 2-12, free under 2 on your lap. For tickets call (802) 376-9534 or visit www.sustainablevalleygroup.org. 10 am and 2 pm. Bellows Falls Union Station Bellows Falls. (802) 376-9534.

**CHESTER.** Book & Author Event. Join Daniel Lusk for a reading from his new collection of poetry, *The Shower Scene from Hamlet*. Part of Vermont Voices. Phoenix Books Misty Valley, 58 Common St. (802) 875-3400. phoenixbooks.biz.

**CLAREMONT, NH.** *A Christmas Story—The Musical.* River Theater Co. Adults \$15, students \$13. 1 pm. Claremont Opera House, 58 Opera House Square. (603) 542-4433. claremontoperahouse.info.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real plus Nikki Lane. Hear his originals that draw on his country and rock lineage including literate Texas songsmiths like his father Willie Nelson, and 'uncles' Kris Kristofferson and Waylon Jennings. Tickets \$22.50. 7 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Wednesdays 3-6 pm and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays and Saturdays through April.*

**SHELBURNE.** Story Hour. Bring your young children for story hour every Wednesday at the Flying Pig. New books, crafts, and activities each week with Miss Gretta. Babies welcome. Free. 11 am. The Flying Pig Bookstore, 5247 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3999. flyingpigevents@gmail.com. www.flyingpigbooks.com.

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## Way Back Then

## Polar Plunge into November

by Charles Sutton

We had moved into a cottage on a cove on Little Sebago Lake in North Windham, Maine, in September in the early Sixties. I had just married and along with my first wife I inherited her three children ages 7, 9, and 11.

There would be continuing challenges in this new life, but one we chose ourselves for the fun of it—a family contest—was to last until the lake froze over.

All of us would go into the lake, never missing a day, and the last person to go in regardless of how cold the water was would be the winner.

My new family members

all gave it a try, but they dropped out one after the other, until by October I was the only one left going into the lake. That might have made me the winner but I continued the daily dive on into the fall, man against the weather.

It wasn't as difficult as one might think as you got hardened off with each plunge into the increasingly colder water. Making it easier was a wood furnace in the cottage's cellar only a few yards from the water for warming up before and after the quick swim.

As the days went by I noticed the three children,

home from school, would often stare at me from upstairs windows. I imagined they wondered what kind of a 'crazy' man did their mother marry.

My last in-and-out quick dunk was in early November and already there was skim ice along the shore.

Then one day shortly after that I was standing on the shore when suddenly there was an eerie metallic crinkling sound as the whole cove became turbulent for a few seconds and then became a solid shield of ice. What a sound and what a sight. Thank you Little Sebago Lake!

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# Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

**BURLINGTON.** 24th Annual Free Thanksgiving Community Dinner and Coat Drive. Coat drive starts at 8 am (last year 1000 were given away). Dinner from 10 am – 5 pm. Sweetwaters, 120 Church St. (802) 864-9800. [www.sweetwatersvt.com](http://www.sweetwatersvt.com).

**MONTPELIER.** 45th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Everyone is welcome. Hosted by Washington County Youth Service Bureau. For delivery to the homebound in the Montpelier area, for more information, to volunteer or to make a donation, call (802) 229-9151. 11:30 am – 2 pm. Bethany Church, 115 Main St. [www.wcysb.org](http://www.wcysb.org).

**WELLS.** Free Thanksgiving Dinner. Turkey and all the fixings, along with dessert and drinks. Donations of food accepted prior to that day. Takeouts available, and deliveries in Wells. Please call ahead so we know how many turkeys to cook. 3 pm. Wells Village School, Route 30. (802) 645-0934.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

**BROOKFIELD.** Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. [www.lhstrees.com](http://www.lhstrees.com). Also November 25, 26; December 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23. Open Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 24 through Dec. 23

**PUTNEY.** 39th Annual Putney Craft Tour. Meander through the beautiful Vermont countryside, following the map to find these 24 prominent craftspeople and view the works where they are conceived and created. 10 am – 5 pm. Brochure and map available online. Visitors may start at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. in Putney for information, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. (802) 387-4032. [putneycrafttour@gmail.com](mailto:putneycrafttour@gmail.com). [www.putneycrafts.com](http://www.putneycrafts.com). Also November 25 & 26.

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Brewhaha featuring Rusty DeWees. We are building a comedy club right on stage and inviting some of the funniest folk we know to bring the laughs. Seating is limited! Tickets \$44. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountlive.org](http://paramountlive.org).

**TINMOUTH.** 13th Annual Turkey Trot Contra Dance. Music by Shindy—The Excellent Band, David Kaynor calling. All dances taught, no partner needed. 8 pm beginner's lesson to learn the moves. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Refreshments. Admission: \$10-\$12, \$8 for teens, free for children 12 and under. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, 573 Rt. 140 in the center of Tinmouth, five miles west of Wallingford. [tinmouthcontradance.org](http://tinmouthcontradance.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Celebrate Thanksgiving Traditions at Billings Farm & Museum. Costumed interpreters demonstrate preparing traditional Thanksgiving fare. Enjoy spiced cider. Hands-on activities for all ages—making the perfect piecrust and peeling apples for drying. Horse-drawn wagon rides, farm tours. Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd programs. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Through November 26.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

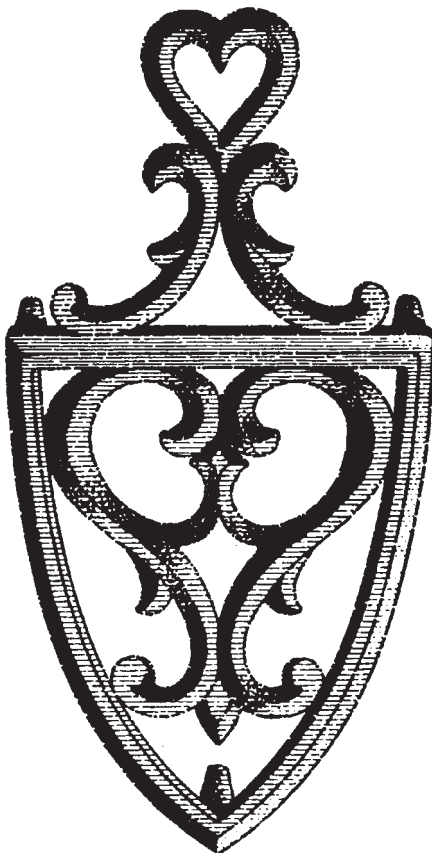
**BROOKFIELD.** Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. [www.lhstrees.com](http://www.lhstrees.com). Also November 26; December 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23. Open Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 24 through Dec. 23

**DUMMERSTON.** Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Christmas Tree Sales. Ready-cut or cut-your-own. Country Store open with fresh certified organic produce. Open Saturdays and Sundays 10 am – 4 pm, Mondays through Thursdays 12-4 pm, Fridays 12-7 pm through December 24. Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Tree Farm, 209 Knapp Rd. (802) 254-2051. [elysianhillstreefarm.com](http://elysianhillstreefarm.com). Through December 24.

**LYNDONVILLE.** Northeast Kingdom Craft Fair. Handmade Vermont products and artisan pieces. pottery, wood and metal works, specialty foods, quilts, home décor, knitted items, maple products, jewelry, VT wreaths, photos, basket weaving and more. Relax with a treat in the Rotunda Café. Free and open to the public. 9 am – 3 pm. Rita Bole Gym, Lyndon State College. (802) 274-8935.

**MIDDLEBURY.** The Bow Wow Film Festival. Tickets \$10, children 12 and under \$5. 2 & 5 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. [www.townhalltheater.org](http://www.townhalltheater.org).

**NORWICH.** Revels Traditions & Community Contra Dance. 12:30-2:30 pm, Revels Teens. 2:30-3:40 pm, Revels Singers. 3:45-5 pm, Band of Fools. 5-5:30 pm, Revels Singers and Band of Fools collaboration. 5:30-6:30 pm, potluck dinner. 6:30-7:30 pm, community dance. Dress lightly, wear your most comfortable pair of flat-soled shoes. Free by donation. Tracy Hall, 30 S. Main St. (866) 556-3083. [revelsnorth.org](http://revelsnorth.org).



**PUTNEY.** 39th Annual Putney Craft Tour. Craft, Meander through the beautiful Vermont countryside, following the map to find these 24 prominent craftspeople and view the works where they are conceived and created. 10 am – 5 pm. Brochure and map available online. Visitors may start at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. in Putney for information, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. (802) 387-4032. [putneycrafttour@gmail.com](mailto:putneycrafttour@gmail.com). [www.putneycrafts.com](http://www.putneycrafts.com). Also November 26.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Live music. EBT and debit cards. 10 am – 2 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). Saturdays through April.

**ST. ALBANS.** 9th Annual Festival of Trees. Annual tree lighting in Taylor Park. A family event with a Gala, Christmas movies, music, and more. All downtown. 5 pm. (802) 309-4487. [festivaloftreesvt.com](http://festivaloftreesvt.com). Thru December 3.

**WOODSTOCK.** Celebrate Thanksgiving Traditions at Billings Farm & Museum. Costumed interpreters demonstrate preparing traditional Thanksgiving fare. Enjoy spiced cider. Hands-on activities for all ages—making the perfect piecrust and peeling apples for drying. Horse-drawn wagon rides, farm tours. Dairy programs. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also November 26.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

**BROOKFIELD.** Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. [www.lhstrees.com](http://www.lhstrees.com). Also December 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23. Open Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 24 through Dec. 23

**DUMMERSTON.** Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Christmas Tree Sales. Ready-cut or cut-your-own. Fresh Balsam wreaths, centerpieces, and greenery! Country Store. Free hot cider, hot chocolate & pretzels. Open Saturdays and Sundays 10 am – 4 pm, Mondays through Thursdays 12-4 pm, Fridays 12-7 pm through December 24. Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Tree Farm, 209 Knapp Rd. (802) 254-2051. [elysianhillstreefarm.com](http://elysianhillstreefarm.com). Through December 24.

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**WOODSTOCK.** Celebrate Thanksgiving Traditions at Billings Farm & Museum. Costumed interpreters prepare traditional Thanksgiving fare. Enjoy spiced cider. Hands-on activities for all ages. Horse-drawn wagon rides, farm tours. Dairy programs. Adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

**BURLINGTON.** Cider Monday. Ditch your digital shopping cart and join us in person at Phoenix Books to enjoy doughnuts and a free cup of hot cider while you find great gifts for everyone on your shopping list. 10 am – 9 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. [www.phoenixbooks.biz](http://www.phoenixbooks.biz).



## Hunter's Moon

Hang lazy and amorous, hunter's moon.  
Over a world racked and rifled like a bride after childbearing:  
Hang low and friendly, toper's moon,  
Drunk on the autumn juices.

Lonesome and warm the hunter walks in the night,  
His gun in the hollow of his elbow.  
His grave dog at his side.  
The toper sits by the stove with a mug of cider.

The sign of autumn is V.  
The wild geese, crying, crying,  
Wild geese flying by night across the moon's old red mirror,  
Will you return in spring, will you, returning,  
Tell the roan brooklets to swell, bursting the ice-walls,  
Tell the roan brooklets to leap, winging the floodgates?

It will be long, wild geese, long, long.  
Long as the day after death, longer than loneliness;  
The hunter will find what he hunts, and the toper will sleep,  
But it will be long until April  
Marches along this road,  
With the wild-goose V on her forehead.

Nights in autumn are gold, old gold new-minted.  
Like an old man who has waited too long,  
The old world spends it,  
Running ahead of the horse, tossing largesse.

(The fruit that waited in vain for its plucking  
Fell from the trees, and under the crust of the ground  
The good fruit waits for its rot.

The household gardens,  
Trim and precise in the spring, and matronly in the summer,  
Are blowsy and gaudy now, blowsy and lavish,  
Taken in middle age with unseemliness.)

Hang amorous over them, hunter's moon;  
Hang long over the lonely hunter;  
Hang like giant grapes over the head of the toper;  
Hang like a pumpkin over the wide-walking skunks.

There has been wind (and rain on the wind) already;  
There will be nights when the clouds will fly in frenzy;  
There will be nights when the clouds will gather and marry;  
There will be a blizzard.

It will be long to the end of this night  
And long to the end of this winter,  
Hang low, hunter's moon.

—JAKE FALSTAFF  
Akron, OH 1899-1935

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Monday, November 27, continued)

**CHESTER.** Cider Monday. Ditch your digital shopping cart and join us in person at Phoenix Books to enjoy doughnuts and a free cup of hot cider while you find great gifts for everyone on your shopping list. 11 am – 4 pm. Phoenix Books Misty Valley, 58 Common St. (802) 875-3400. [www.phoenixbooks.biz](http://www.phoenixbooks.biz).

**ESSEX.** Cider Monday. Ditch your digital shopping cart and join us in person at Phoenix Books to enjoy doughnuts and a free cup of hot cider while you find great gifts for everyone on your shopping list. 9 am – 7 pm. Phoenix Books Essex, 2 Carmichael Way. (802) 872-7111. [www.phoenixbooks.biz](http://www.phoenixbooks.biz).

**RUTLAND.** Cider Monday. Ditch your digital shopping cart and join us in person at Phoenix Books to enjoy doughnuts and a free cup of hot cider while you find great gifts for everyone on your shopping list. 10 am – 6 pm. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. [www.phoenixbooks.biz](http://www.phoenixbooks.biz).

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

**BRATTLEBORO.** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Cotton Mill Open Studio and Holiday Sale. 50+ artists and artisans. Culinary delights, exhilarating circus acts, music and dance performances, and pottery demonstrations. Shop the three floors of the mill for a variety of artistic creations. Free admission and raffle. An elevator operator is available for handicap accessibility. 11 am – 4 pm. Cotton Mill, 74 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 257-7731. [www.thecottonmill.org](http://www.thecottonmill.org). *Through December 3.*

**BROOKFIELD.** Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. [www.lhstrees.com](http://www.lhstrees.com). *Also Dec. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23. Open Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 24 through Dec. 23*

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy—A Celtic Family Christmas. Cape Breton fiddling tradition. Tickets: \$15–\$52. 8 pm. MainStage, Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (888) 974-3698. [flynnntix.org](http://flynnntix.org).

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Vermont International Festival. Crafts from all over the world, ethnic and gourmet foods, and international music, dance and stories. Admission: \$7, seniors and children \$5, under 6 free. 5-8 pm at Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 863-6713. [www.vermontinternationalfestival.com](http://www.vermontinternationalfestival.com). *Through December 3.*

**SHELBURNE.** Annual Tree Lighting and Christmas Caroling on the Village Green. 5:45 pm Caroling, 6 pm Tree Lighting followed by Santa's arrival. Visit with Santa, hot beverages and refreshments in the Town Hall. Free. (802) 985-5111. [www.shelburnenews.com](http://www.shelburnenews.com).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** A Tribute to Howard Frank Moshier: Screening of *Where the Rivers Flow North*, with Rip Torn, Tantoo Cardinal, and Michael J. Fox; director Jay Craven will be our guest. 7:30 pm; prescreening benefit reception at 6:30 pm. Briggs Opera House, 5 South Main St. (802) 478-0191. [info@wrif.org](mailto:info@wrif.org). [www.wrif.org](http://www.wrif.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Concert: Thetford Chamber Singers. The choral music program "On This Earth Together." Includes seasonal choral favorites. Tickets: \$8/\$15. 7:30 pm. First Congregational Church, (802) 870-6362. [www.thetfordchambersingers.org](http://www.thetfordchambersingers.org).

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

**BRATTLEBORO.** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Cotton Mill Open Studio and Holiday Sale. 50+ artists and artisans from the Cotton Mill and surrounding communities. Shop the three floors of the mill for a variety of artistic creations. Free admission and raffle. An elevator operator is available for handicap accessibility. 11 am – 4 pm. Cotton Mill, 74 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 257-7731. [www.thecottonmill.org](http://www.thecottonmill.org). *Also December 3.*

**BROOKFIELD.** Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. [www.lhstrees.com](http://www.lhstrees.com). *Also December 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23. Open Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 24 through Dec. 23*

**DUMMERSTON.** Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Christmas Tree Sales. Ready-cut or cut-your-own. Fresh Balsam wreaths, centerpieces, and greenery! 10 am – 4 pm. Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Tree Farm, 209 Knapp Rd. (802) 254-2051. [elysianhillstreefarm.com](http://elysianhillstreefarm.com). *Through December 24.*

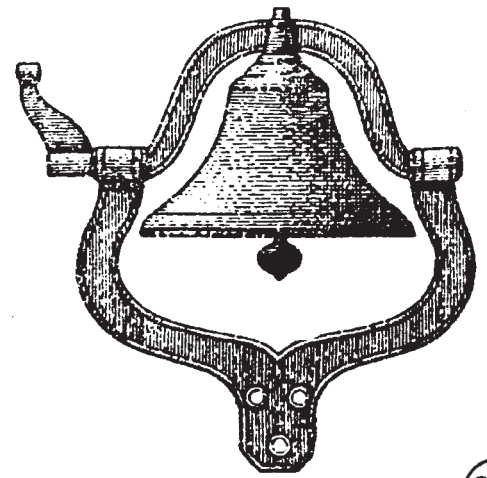
**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Genealogy Class. Quebec Coroner's Inquests: A Unique Genealogical Resource. 10. 10:30 am – 12 noon. Vermont Genealogy Library, 377 Hegeman Ave. in Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 310-9285. [aljohn1927@aol.com](mailto:aljohn1927@aol.com). [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Vermont International Festival. Crafts from all over the world, ethnic and gourmet foods, and international music, dance and stories. Admission: \$7, seniors and children \$5, under 6 free. 5-8 pm at Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 863-6713. [www.vermontinternationalfestival.com](http://www.vermontinternationalfestival.com). *Also December 3.*

**LYNDONVILLE.** The North Pole Express. Fully enclosed and heated vintage coaches travel to The North Pole to pick up lively elves, Mrs. Claus and, of course, Santa Claus. Snuggle in (pajamas are encouraged but not required) for narration, hot cocoa, gingerbread cookies and caroling. Santa boards the train and greets all passengers and presents them with a special gift. Tickets: \$25. Reservations required. 12 noon, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm. Lyndon Freighthouse, 1000 Broad St. (802) 626-1400. [www.thelyndonfreighthouse.com](http://www.thelyndonfreighthouse.com). *Also December 3.*

**MANCHESTER.** Our House for the Holidays? Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home, is decorated throughout the month as they might have done in 1912. Museum Store, 100 year old Carriage Barn. Apple cider, Vermont tastings & fresh cider doughnuts. Distinctive items for holiday gift giving. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Museum Store, Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. [www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org). *Also December 3.*

**PLYMOUTH.** Coolidge Holiday Open House. Kick off the holiday season in one of Vermont's most scenic villages. Visit the Coolidge Birthplace, decorated as it would have been in 1872 when Calvin was born. Winter exhibits at the Museum & Education Center, Aldrich House, Plymouth Cheese Factory, and 1924 Summer White House office. Sleigh rides, old-time music, craft demonstrations, chocolate making & sampling with The Chocolatorium, lunch at the Wilder House Restaurant, special cancellation at the historic Plymouth post office, and children's holiday activities. 10 am – 4 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100A. (802) 672-3773. [william.jenney@vermont.gov](mailto:william.jenney@vermont.gov). [historicsites.vermont.gov](http://historicsites.vermont.gov).



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## Old-Time Recipes

### Let's Stay Indoors and Bake—Here are Some Ideas From the 1890s

#### Snow Pancakes

Freshly fallen snow can be used instead of eggs in making batter for pancakes. Care must be had that the snow is as pure as possible. The batter should be made rather thick, and the snow mixed with each pancake, just before it is put into the pan. Two tablespoonfuls of snow will be equal to one egg. Graham gems can also be made by substituting snow for eggs, but putting three parts of snow to two of graham. Put into a hot oven and bake quickly.

—V. A. Washington

#### Tasty Scones

Two cupfuls of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, one-half of a teaspoonful of salt, one-third of a cup of sugar, three tablespoonfuls of butter, one egg, currants if desired. Add enough milk to make a soft dough, divide in half, flatten with the hand into a round cake the thickness of a biscuit, mark with a knife into four scones and bake quickly. Serve with jam and butter.

—Mrs. N. T. Morden

#### Lemon Waffles

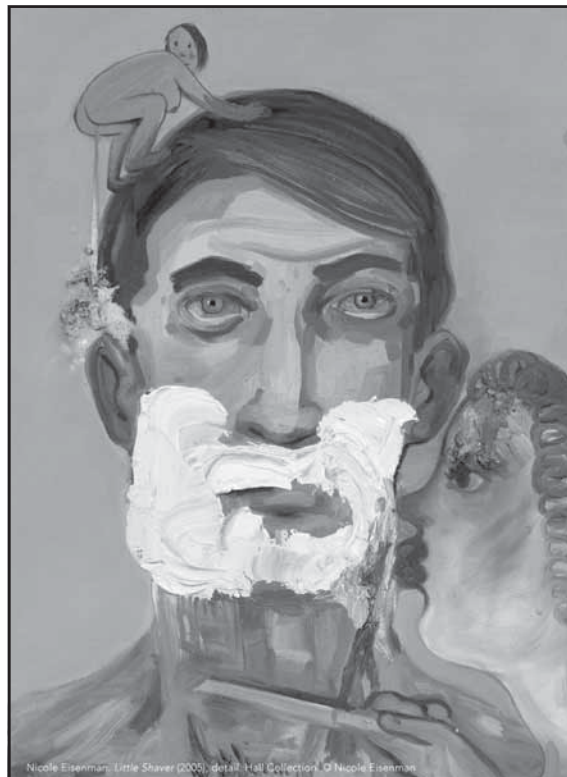
Mix one quart of flour with three tablespoonfuls of sugar, two large teaspoonfuls of baking-powder and one-half of a teaspoonful of salt; work in two tablespoonfuls of lard or butter and add four beaten eggs with one pint of milk and the grated rind of a lemon. Beat into a smooth, stiff batter and bake in hot, well-greased waffle-iron. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.

—Hilda Jones

#### Corn Muffins

Sift together one and two-thirds cupfuls of flour, one cupful of corn-meal, either white or yellow, whichever you like, and three level teaspoonfuls of baking-powder. Beat to a cream two tablespoonfuls of butter with three tablespoonfuls of sugar and add to them three well-beaten eggs. Dilute this with a pint of milk, add a little salt, beat hard and put into two dozen small, well-buttered gem-pans. Serve hot. They bake in a few minutes.

—C. E. Silloway



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**RUPERT.** Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop. Ring in the holidays with this marvelous family event. Fee: \$20 per wreath. 10 am – 12 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

**RUTLAND.** Catamount Radio's Santa Train 2017. Trains depart downtown Rutland from the Amtrak station for a 45-minute ride through Santa's Village. Our beautifully decorated Santa Train will include refreshments, stories, songs and more. Board 1/2 hour before departure times. Entrance located across the street from the train station. Cost: \$18. 10 am, 12 noon, 1:30 pm, 3 pm, 4:30 pm. 25 Evelyn St. Call for tickets. (802) 775-7500. www.catamountradio.com.

**RUTLAND.** Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Live music. EBT and debit cards. 10 am – 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April.

**RUTLAND.** Festival of Trees. Auctioneer Bob Prozzo will present a huge selection of assorted auction items including vacation getaways, sport ticket packages, gift certificates, one-of-a-kind experiences, home furnishings and more. Catered by Roots the Restaurant. Tickets \$10. Doors and cash bar at 5:30 pm, live auction at 6:45 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

**SHELburne.** Deck the Halls at Shelburne Museum. Festive trees and holiday villages, art activities, explore the grounds and view the Museum. Admission: adult \$10, youth (ages 5-17) \$5, child under 5 free, active military free. 10 am – 4 pm. Shelburne Museum, Rt. 7. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org. Also December 3.

**Stowe.** Concert: Ian Ethan & The Earth Suite Orchestra. Multi-instrumentalist Ian Ethan Case is best known for his innovative approach to the 18-string acoustic double-neck guitar. Tickets: \$25. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

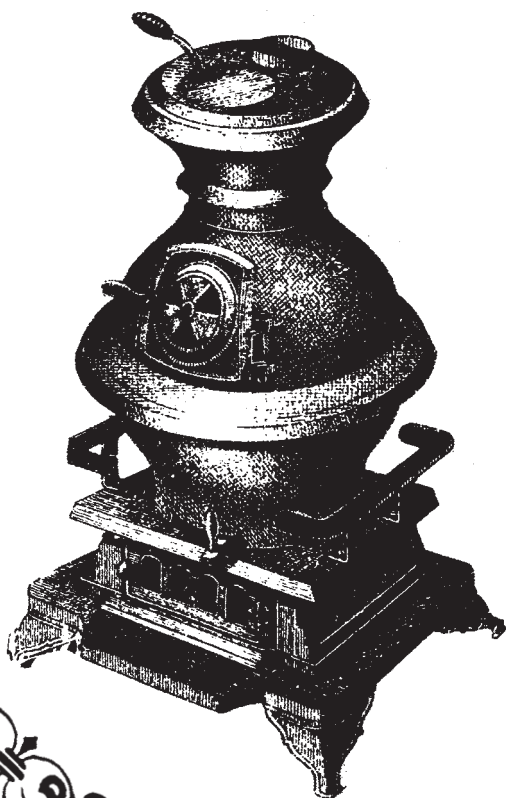
**Waterbury.** 8<sup>th</sup> Annual River of Light Parade. Bring your lanterns and join the parade or line the parade route for an enchanting evening of music, light, and community spirit. Free. 5 pm. Visit website for parking areas around town. Departs from the Thatcher Brook Primary School on Stowe St. www.ariveroflightinwaterbury.org.

**Weston.** Christmas in Weston. Experience an Old-Fashioned Vermont Christmas. Visit shops, galleries and restaurants. Museum tours, horse drawn wagon rides, caroling, petting zoo, Santa, crafts and activities for the whole family. 11 am – 5 pm. In the village. (802) 824-0034. weston-vermont.com.

**Woodstock.** Christmas at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Woodstock. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, and Dec 26-Jan 1.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

**BRATTLEBORO.** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Cotton Mill Open Studio and Holiday Sale. 50+ artists and artisans from the Cotton Mill and surrounding communities. Culinary delights, exhilarating circus acts, music and dance performances, and pottery demonstrations. Shop the three floors of the mill for a variety of artistic creations. Free admission and raffle. An elevator operator is available for handicap accessibility. 11 am – 4 pm. Cotton Mill, 74 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 257-7731. info@thecottonmill.org. www.thecottonmill.org.



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**DUMMERSTON.** Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Christmas Tree Sales. Ready-cut or cut-your-own. Fresh Balsam wreaths, centerpieces, and greenery! 10 am – 4 pm. Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Tree Farm, 209 Knapp Rd. (802) 254-2051. elysianhillstreefarm.com. Through December 24.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Vermont International Festival. Crafts from all over the world, ethnic and gourmet foods, and international music, dance and stories. Admission: \$7, seniors and children \$5, under 6 free. 5-8 pm at Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 863-6713. www.vermontinternationalfestival.com.

**LYNDONVILLE.** The North Pole Express. Fully enclosed and heated vintage coaches travel to The North Pole to pick up lively elves, Mrs. Claus and, of course, Santa. Snuggle in (pajamas are encouraged but not required) for narration, hot cocoa, gingerbread cookies and caroling. Santa boards the train and greets all passengers and presents them with a special gift. Tickets: \$25. Reservations required. Train rides: 12 noon, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm. The Lyndon Freighthouse, 1000 Broad St. (802) 626-1400. thelyndonfreighthouse.com.

**MANCHESTER.** Our House for the Holidays? Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home, is decorated throughout the month as they might have done in 1912. Museum Store, 100 year old Carriage Barn. Apple cider, Vermont tastings & fresh cider doughnuts. Distinctive items for holiday gift giving. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Museum Store, Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. hildene.org.

**SHELburne.** Deck the Halls at Shelburne Museum. Festive trees and holiday villages, art activities, explore the grounds and view the Museum in a new light. Free with museum admission: adult \$10, youth (ages 5-17) \$5, child under 5 free, active military free. 10 am – 4 pm. Shelburne Museum, Route 7. (802) 985-3346. info@shelburnemuseum.org. www.shelburnemuseum.org.

**THETFORD.** Concert: Thetford Chamber Singers. The choral music program "On This Earth Together" includes seasonal choral favorites. Tickets: \$8/\$15. 4:30 & 7:30 pm. First Congregational Church of Thetford Hill. (802) 870-6362. thetfordchambersingers.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Christmas Bazaar. Crafts, knit items, food, baked goods, cookie walk, white elephant, jewelry and silent action. Breakfast with fresh fruit cup. 9-10:30 am. St. Anthony's Church, 15 Church St. (802) 295-2225.

**WOODSTOCK.** Christmas at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Woodstock in the farmhouse and linger in the cozy kitchen as treats are baked in the woodstove. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, and Dec 26-Jan 1.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2017

**BENNINGTON.** The Festival—Time for the Holidays! Closed-bid auction of original works by regional artists, as they respond to Nichols Goddard's Musical Clock, ca.1810. Paintings, woodwork, textiles, sculpture, and more. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org. Nov. 24 through Dec. 30.

**CHESTER.** Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Breakfast 8-9:30 am for \$7. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. Monthly on first Saturdays.

**PLAINFIELD, NH.** The Attic Shop. New and used items include antiques, books, gift items, collectables, jewelry, furniture, glassware, artwork, and gently used clothes. Free coffee. Free admission. 10 am – 3 pm. Blow-Me-Down Grange, 1107 Rt. 12A. (603) 448-0773. Every Saturday.

**POULTNEY.** Weekly Game Night. Games for young children as well as adults. Bring your own or play ours. Experienced game players help new players get started. 7-10 pm. Poultnery Public Library, 205 Main St. (518) 282-9089 or (802) 287 5556. poultnerypubliclibrary.com. Ongoing every Thursday.

**PUTNEY.** Hidden Springs Maple. Family maple farm where they started making maple syrup over 50 years ago. Our sugar bush spans over 1,000 acres. Maple Syrup Tasting Table, samples, hand-dipped ice cream, sales table, gifts. Hidden Springs Maple, 162 Westminster Rd. (802) 387-5200. www.hiddenspringsmaple.com.

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17): \$12.50, children 3 and under free. Open April 9-October 31: 10 am – 5 pm. November 1-April 8: 10 am – 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org.



## Yorkshire Pudding Rules

The tin must not gleam. Must never be new.  
If there is dried sweat somewhere in its metal  
It must be your mother's. The flour must be strong  
And white as the face of Uncle Jack  
When he came back from the desert. The eggs  
Must come from an allotment. The allotment  
Must belong to your father-in-law.  
The eggs have to be broken  
With one swift movement over the bowl.  
If there is dried sweat somewhere in its Pyrex  
It must be your mother's. The milk  
Must have been delivered by Colin Leech  
At 0430. The fork has to be an old one. The wrist  
Must, simply must, ache after the mixing.  
The flour must introduce itself to the yolk of the egg.  
The egg has to be allowed to talk to the flour.  
The milk must dance with them both:  
foxtrot, then quickstep.  
The pepper must be scattered, black on off-white.  
The oven has to be hotter than ever.  
The lard has to come in a tight white pack.  
The lard must almost catch fire in the oven.  
The oven door must open and you must shout  
JESUS CHRIST as the heat smacks you in the chops.

Follow these rules  
And the puddings will rise to heaven  
And far beyond.

BY IAN McMILLAN  
@IMcMillan

## BarnArts Contra Dance Coming To the Barnard Town Hall

BarnArts Community is family friendly, just fun!  
Contra Dance and Potluck Partners mix and match with  
takes place November 17 each new dance—everyone  
at the Barnard Town Hall included!  
in Barnard, VT. The dance Admission is free. Dona-  
features music by Old Sam tions are welcome.  
Peabody with caller Delia  
Clark. A potluck begins at  
5:30 p.m. and the dancing  
goes from 6-8:30 p.m. If you  
can walk, you can dance! All  
dances will be taught. This  
Barnard Town Hall is lo-  
cated at 115 North Rd. in  
Barnard, VT. For information  
e-mail info@barnarts.org.  
Visit www.barnarts.org.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2017, continued)

**RANDOLPH.** 16th Annual Holiday Artisans Market. Juried show. Wednesday–Sunday 12 noon – 6 pm, Christmas Eve 12 noon – 3 pm, and during performances. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. chandlermarket@gmail.com. www.chandler-arts.org. November 17 through December 24.

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

**RUTLAND.** Himalayan Salt Cave. Come relax in the only public Himalayan Salt Cave in North America. Mon–Fri 10 am – 7 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am – 6 pm. \$12. Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, 120 Merchants Row. For reservations call (802) 775-8080. pyramidvt.com.

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. Every Saturday and Sunday.

**ST. ALBANS.** Book Cellar—Library Used Book Sale. Tuesdays from 10 am – 8 pm. St. Albans Free Library, 11 Maiden Lane. (802) 524-1507. www.stalbansfreelibrary.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Northern Vermont Songwriters. Bring a song to share, performed live for the group, or a recording. Bring 6 copies of lyrics. Or bring lyrics only, or simply listen and comment. Free. 6:45–8:30 pm. Catamount Outback Artspace, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 467-9859. jakarns33@gmail.com. Third Thursday of every month.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Vermont Herbal General Store. Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist. Tai' Chi Gung classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 pm at the store. Free intro classes. Meditations at the store Wednesdays at 5 pm. Usul & Karuna Reiki Healings & Classes. Handmade Herbal Medicines, Oils, Essences, Crystals, Gemstones & Books. Teas, Lotions, and Capsules. All are welcome. Open Tuesday & Wednesday 1-6, Thursday 11 am – 4:30 pm, Saturday 1-6 pm, Sunday 1-4 pm, closed Friday and Monday. Vermont Herbal General Store, 578 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermontherbal.com. On Facebook and Twitter. www.vermontherbal.com.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Newberry Market. A year-round, public indoor market with vendors offering local products, cheeses, clothing, gifts, pottery, and specialty foods. Free admission. Open every Thursday year round 11 am – 6 pm. Newberry Market, 19 South Main St. For information contact: Betsy Briggs Wheeler at (802) 299-0212. newberrymarketwrj@gmail.com. newberrymarketwrj.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm & Museum. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. Adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. 20 miles of trails and carriage roads are open year-round. Gardens and mansion. Vermont's only national park. Guided tours \$4/\$8, under 15 free. Walk the grounds free. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 x 22. nps.gov/mabi.

## MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

**BARRE.** Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. One admission fee for both the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Monday through Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. info@vermonthistory.org. www.vermonthistory.org.

**BENNINGTON.** The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Exhibit: "Advertising Dolls". More than two dozen advertising dolls, all of them from the collection of the late Earlene Smith of Londonderry. Dolls and dollhouses, puppets, trucks and trains, toys, and educational displays. Museum shop. Admission \$2 for children three and older, \$4 for adults and \$10 for families. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. (802) 681-3767. dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Center for the Arts. Small Works Show, May 13 – December 23. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors & students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Wed–Mon, 10 am – 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. shirley@thebennington.org. www.thebennington.org.

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Museum. Exhibit: *Photographs by Laura Gilpin and Her Circle: Gertrude Käsebier, Clarence H. White, and Clara Sippell*, October 7 through December 30. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films. Adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. Open 10 am – 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

**BRANDON.** Compass Music and Arts Center. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. Open Monday–Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Exhibit: "Constellations". The colorful, rigorously patterned paintings of Roger Sandes, through January 8. Open daily 11 am – 5 pm, closed Tuesdays. Admission \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, free for youth 18 and under. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

**BURLINGTON.** ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Adults \$9.50, 3-17 \$7, seniors and students \$8, under 3 free. Monday–Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center at Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. www.echovermont.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Fleming Museum of Art. More than 20,000 objects that span the history of civilization, from early Mesopotamia through contemporary America. Adults \$5, family \$10, students and seniors \$3, children 6 and under free. Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Wed 10 am – 7 pm, Sat–Sun noon – 4 pm. Fleming Museum of Art, 61 Colchester Ave. (802) 656-0750. www.flemingmuseum.org.

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

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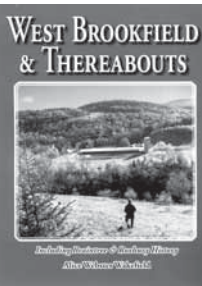
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## No!

No sun—no moon!  
No morn—no noon—  
No dawn—no dusk—no proper time of day—  
No sky—no earthly view—  
No distance looking blue—  
No road—no street—no "t'other side the way"—  
No end to any Row—  
No indications where the Crescents go—  
No top to any steeple—  
No recognitions of familiar people—  
No courtesies for showing 'em—  
No knowing 'em!  
No travelling at all—no locomotion,  
No inking of the way—no notion—  
"No go"—by land or ocean—  
No mail—no post—  
No news from any foreign coast—  
No park—no ring—no afternoon gentility—  
No company—no nobility—  
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member—  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,  
November!

—THOMAS HOOD  
London, England 1799–1845

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Cracked Corn	21% Turkey Grower Pellets
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# Vermont Country Calendar

**CHESTER.** 103 Artisans Marketplace. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open Thursday through Sunday 10 am – 5 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday by chance. Open House November 24-26. Located at 7 Pineview Dr. and Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. 103artisansmarketplace.com.

**LEBANON, NH.** AVA Gallery and Art Center. 11 am – 5 pm. 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117. avagallery.org.

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

**MANCHESTER.** Hildene Holiday House Tours. Robert and Mary Lincoln's home is decorated throughout December as it might have been during the holidays in the early 1900's. Dressed in holiday finery, the spirit of the season abounds in our 100-year-old carriage barn! Apple cider, Vermont tastings & fresh cider doughnuts. Tours daily at 2 pm with a prior reservation, not recommended for children under 10. Admission \$20 adults; children 6 to 14, \$5; under 6, free. A fee of \$7.50 for the tour is added to the general admission. No admission charged for Welcome Center and Museum Store. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, Rt. 7A, south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.org. hildene.org.

**MARLBORO.** Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under are free. Open 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 10 am – 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury College Museum of Art. Free. Tuesday through Friday 10 am–5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12–5 pm, closed Mondays. 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. museum.middlebury.edu.

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

**MIDDLEBURY.** Vermont Folklife Center. Gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Folklife Center, 88 Main St. (802) 388-4964. info@vermontfolklifecenter.org. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

**MONTPELIER.** Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier and the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre. Admission: adults: \$7; families: \$20; students, children, seniors: \$5; members and children under 6: free. Open 9 am – 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. info@vermonthistory.org. www.vermonthistory.org.

**NORWICH.** Montshire Museum of Science. Trails, programs, and museum store. Open 10 am – 5 pm daily. Admission \$14 adults, \$11 children 2-17, under 2 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.

**POULTNEY.** Guild of Vermont Furniture Makers Exhibit. Dozens of exquisite handcrafted pieces from tables and chairs to mirrors and bowls, chests and desks and many other surprises. Gallery hours: Monday–Friday 9 am – 5 pm, Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Feick Arts Center, Green Mountain College. (802) 287-8398. www.vermontfurnituremakers.com. November 3 through December 9.

**READING.** Exhibits: *Hope and Hazard: A Comedy of Eros* curated by Eric Fischl of over sixty-five artists from the Hall and Hall Art Foundation collections. *Ready, Fire! Aim.* curated by DJ Hellerman, exhibited in Reading, and also at BCA Center in Burlington. And a Solo exhibition by British artist David Shrigley in the newly opened visitor center. Outdoor sculptures by Richard Deacon, Olafur Eliasson, and Marc Quinn. Admission is free. Open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm, and unguided tours first Fridays from 5-8 pm. Box lunches for purchase 24 hours before your visit. Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Rt. 106. (802) 952-1060. vermont@hallartfoundation.org. hallartfoundation.org. Through November 26.

**ROCHESTER.** BigTown Gallery. "Sculpture, Relief & Prints" Works by Hugh Townley, through September 10. Exhibits, readings, events. Gallery hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

**RUTLAND.** Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday-Friday 12-6 pm, and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown Gallery, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 775-0062. chaffeeartcenter.org.

**RUTLAND.** Castleton Downtown Gallery. Free admission. Open Wed through Sat 1-6 pm. Center Street Alley. For info call Bill Ramage at (802) 468-1266. castletoncollegegalleries@gmail.com.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** River Artisans Cooperative. 50 craftspeople. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, in the center of Saxtons River on Main Street, across from the Saxtons River Inn, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Main Street Arts. Exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, and classes for adults, teens and children. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

**SHELBURNE.** Shelburne Museum. Renowned for its collection of American folk art and quilts. The paintings collection includes French Impressionists as well as over 400 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century American works. Over 20 gardens. Historic houses and community buildings. Admission: adult \$24, ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

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

**SPRINGFIELD.** Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center featuring fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Classes, workshops. Open Wall Exhibit: "Magical Light", November 1 through December 28. Tuesday – Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

**STOWE.** Helen Day Art Center. Exhibits and workshops. Free admission. Wednesday–Sunday, noon – 5 pm and by appointment. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. www.helenday.com.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections. Adults \$8, seniors and children under 17 \$6, under 5 free. Open every day 9 am – 5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Summer hours: Gallery open seven days a week. Dog Chapel open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. www.dogmt.com.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Carving Studio and Sculpture Center Gallery. Annual Members' Exhibition, June 10 through July 9. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am - 1 pm, or by apt. 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. carvingstudio.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one significant and telling a story about human beings and the universe we are part of—an alternative experiment in material culture studies. Open Tues & Wed 4-7 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. mainstreetmuseum.org.

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Adults \$14, age 62 & up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open April 1 through October 31, 10 am – 5 pm. Open January weekends and MLK Day and February 11-26. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

## MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

### Fall Model Railroad Show in Barre, VT on November 18

Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association will host its Second Annual Fall Model Railroad Show at the Barre City Auditorium in Barre, VT. The event will feature multiple operating HO, N, Z, G, and O-scale layouts, in addition to over 75 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroad-supplies and railroad videos and books! There will be hands-on train activities for children, and the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department will provide a food stand

open throughout the show. A special feature this year will be an HO layout built by the Barre City School STEAM class, depicting the central Vermont area!

Admission is \$5 adults, \$1 children 6-12, free under 6, \$5 per family with an active military identification. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Barre City Auditorium is located at 20 Auditorium Hill in Barre, VT. (802) 598-0905. ronpiro@aol.com. www.nwvrailroad.org.



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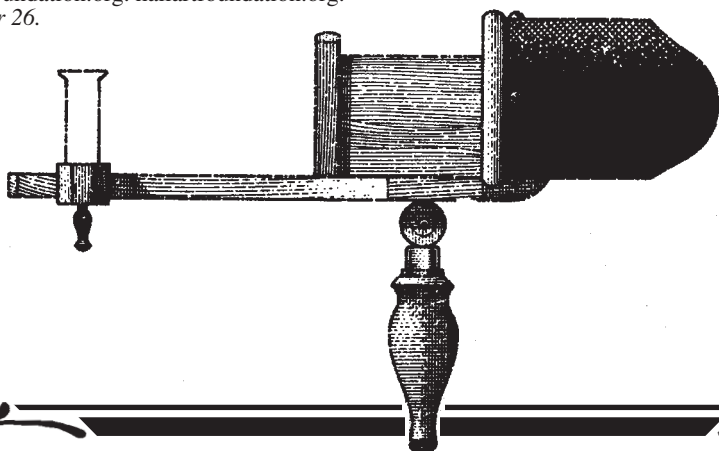


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# Howard University Gospel Choir Coming to Chandler

Internationally renowned Howard University Gospel Choir is set to raise the rafters in song at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on Saturday, November 11 at 7 p.m.

The Howard University Gospel Choir was founded nearly 50 years ago as the first collegiate choir of its kind in the world. Exceptional singers and musicians, the 20-plus members of the Howard University Gospel Choir have performed throughout the world.

Alumni of the ensemble include many luminaries in gospel and popular music, including Grammy Award winners Richard Smallwood, Coré Cotton of the Sounds of Blackness, and Elbernita "Twinkie" Clark of the legendary Clark Sisters, as well as R&B star Angela Winbush.

The Howard Gospel Choir has shared stages worldwide with many other stars, including Stevie Wonder, Patti LaBelle, and Tony Bennett, while performing at such auspicious venues as the White House, the U.S. Capitol, Constitution Hall, and the Washington National Cathedral.

In 2016, the choir was one of the featured artists at the Kennedy Center Honors celebration for R&B honoree Mavis Staples. That same year, the choir also appeared on ABC-TV's Taking the Stage program, which celebrated the grand opening

of the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

The choir's most recent recording, 2016's Glorious God, rode the Top 30 on the national gospel charts for more than 10 weeks, and was also nominated for two Stellar Awards and four Rhythm of Gospel Awards.

Singers from throughout the region are invited to participate in the Gospel Singing Workshop conducted by members of the Howard Choir in Chandler's Esther Mesh Room 2-4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, November 11. Participation is limited to 30 singers from central Vermont. Members of the Howard Choir will work with singers to prepare up to two songs that the locals will then perform with the Howard ensemble that evening.

Admission to the workshop is free, but you must purchase a half-price ticket for the concert upon registering for the workshop. To register call Emily Crosby at (802) 728-6464, weekdays 12-4 p.m.

*Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main Street in Randolph VT. (802) 728-9878. outreach@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org. For tickets call the Chandler Box Office at (802) 728-6464 12-4 p.m. weekdays, visit chandler-arts.org, or stop by Chandler any weekday 12-4 p.m.*



Howard University Gospel Choir will be performing at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on November 11, 2017.

## Randolph, VT

### 16th Annual Holiday Market at Chandler Gallery

The Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph invites you to come to its 16th Annual Holiday Artisans Market. The juried show offers a beautiful and eclectic selection of fine art, crafts, and local products.

The Holiday Artisans Market will run from Friday, November 17th, through Sunday, December 24th. The Market will be open Wednesdays through Sundays from 12 noon until 6 p.m. and on Christmas Eve, December 24, from noon until 3 p.m. It will also be open during performances at Chandler throughout the holiday season.

Occupying Chandler's

Main Gallery, The Holiday Artisans Market is in an elegant space perfect for showcasing handmade work.

The Market presents a range of work that exemplifies the talent and creativity of area artisans and local food producers. It has earned a region-wide reputation as a rewarding place to shop for holiday gifts.

Chandler looks forward to presenting work by both perennial favorites and new exhibitors, offering a gratifying shopping experience to area residents and visitors alike.

The Holiday Artisans Market offers shoppers the opportunity to show sup-

port for local, independent businesses, while also helping to raise funds for future programming and exhibits at Chandler.

*Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main*

*St., in Randolph VT. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.*

*For more information, please contact Artisans Market Coordinator Anne Barrett at (802) 355-5557 or chandlermarket@gmail.com.*

### The Farmer's Field

The branches are bare and a sodden sky  
Hangs over the field where furrows lie  
In long straight lines of grey black soil,  
Turned, one by one, with patient toil.  
In the snug warm stable munching hay  
The old plow horses are tied away...  
The cows are milked and the barn closed tight,  
For the farmer says it will freeze to-night.

He eats his supper with a relish keen  
And talks to the family in between...  
"The fall's work is finished, the plowing done,  
To-morrow I'll take my dog and gun  
And a whole day off, if the weather is fair,  
To chase the red foxes away to their lair!"  
Then he goes to bed for a well earned rest  
And the clouds roll back from a star decked west.

Before the rising of the tardy sun  
The farmer is off with his dog and gun...  
A neighbor's boy his chores will do,  
In fact the neighbor goes hunting too.  
On the grey black furrows in the morning light  
The frost lies heavy...It glistens white...  
A herald of promise...The Farmer knows  
He welcomes the shield of winter snows.

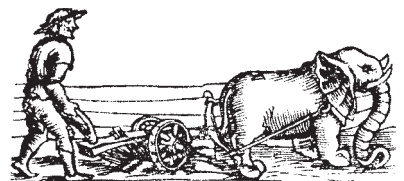
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by Bill Felker

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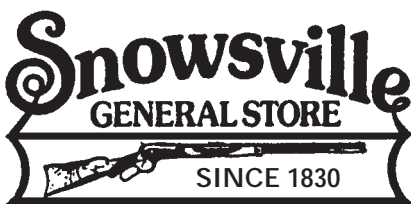
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*North Country Reflections*

# Readying the Garden For Winter

by Judith Irven

This year our first killing frost hit most of Vermont in mid-October. We awoke one morning to find a frosty lawn while, overnight, the leaves on tender plants like tomatoes and impatiens had turned a nasty black color. The growing season was drawing to a close!

Since the frost was widely forecast, I had spent the previous day harvesting the last tomatoes, covering my chard and raspberries to prolong their harvest in the warmer days ahead, and finally marching a number of plants that cannot take an outdoor Vermont winter—including my special collection of winter-flowering Camellias—into our cool greenhouse which will be their home for the next six months. I felt a little like a modern-day Noah!

However, as we all know, that initial frost did not signify the end of the gardening season. There will be plenty of crisp sunny days ahead and the ground will likely remain soft and workable until almost Thanksgiving. I think of November as the ‘evening of my gardening year’—and the perfect time to prepare my garden for its long winter slumber.

So, before I hang up my tools for the winter and head to the wood stove to read a good book, here are six outdoor chores I will be squeezing into this short window of time.

### Cutting back—selectivity

As soon as possible I like to cut back all the perennials that have become blackened by the early frosts, including garden stalwarts like salvia, hostas, daylilies and phlox. This quickly tidies up the garden, making it a much more pleasant place to work.

However there are plenty of other perennials—such as asters (*Nepeta*), blue star flower (*Amsonia*) to name just a few, as well as garden ferns—whose leaves continue to look great during the late fall. So typically I like to wait until at least mid-November before cutting these plants back for the winter.

And then there are still other perennials—including many elegant ornamental grasses, as well as astilbes, sedums, purple-cone flowers (*Echinacea*), black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia*) and barrenwort (*Epimedium*)—that both add interest to the garden in winter and also provide food and habitat for birds and other wildlife. Most of these I leave standing until next spring.

### Weeding the flowerbeds

As I cut back my various perennials it is easy to spot those sneaky perennial weeds like dandelions that may be lurking between the plants. Thus late fall is also an excellent time to dig them out—roots and all—and consign them to the compost pile.

However, rather than raking the ground bare, I like to leave a light covering of fallen leaves on my flower beds as winter protection for the plant roots.

### Planting bulbs

Each spring my snowdrops, scilla and narcissi are a pure delight as, seemingly like magic, they pop out of the cold ground to welcome the new season. But, if you want that magic next spring, you need to plant them in the fall.

Ideally most bulbs should be planted around the middle of October in order to give their roots adequate time to develop.

But if you still have some bulbs you have been meaning to plant—or indeed if you can’t resist a bargain at your local farm store—it is not too late to plant bulbs in early November. Get them in the ground as soon as possible, and then, to prevent the ground in that area from premature freezing, top off the soil with chopped leaves or finely ground bark mulch.

### Spreading compost

Compost is often called the gardener’s ‘Black Gold’—an elixir that creates healthy soil and promotes strong plant growth.

For instance, if you have heavy clay, then the organic matter in mature compost will lighten your soil, making it easier for you to cultivate around your plants, as well as for the roots of those plants to grow outwards into the soil and absorb the nutrients and water they need.

But, should you happen to have sandy soil, then compost will help it retain moisture and delay the soil drying out between rain showers.

In addition, whatever your soil type, compost contributes numerous valuable nutrients and micro-organisms to the soil, all of which promote strong healthy plants. Indeed, after many years of religiously adding compost to my garden each fall, I rarely use supplemental bagged fertilizers in any of my beds.

I maintain four closed compost cubes behind our woodshed where they are easily accessible from the kitchen. These act as a year-round repository for all our compostable kitchen waste, which I augment with coffee grounds that the kind



photo by Dick Conrad

Judith Irven pushes the wheelbarrow during her fall cleanup at her garden in Goshen, VT.

staff at Gourmet Provence in Brandon put aside for me each week.

I also maintain some considerably larger cubes up near the vegetable garden. Throughout the growing season, I will throw in any soft garden clippings and spent vegetables. I add fallen leaves at this time of year, as well as ash from the wood stove during the winter.

One of the final activities of my gardening year is to completely empty the contents of each compost cube onto a large tarp. After returning any recognizable scraps back into the bottom of the cube for further decomposition, I will thoroughly mix up my ‘black gold’ and deposit it around all my plants and across the vegetable garden.

### Preparing the veggie garden for next spring

Spring is always a busy time for me. So I like to do as much as possible in November that will reduce my workload in May

Each fall I clear the veggie garden of this year’s spent vegetables and then carefully remove any perennial weeds like dandelions that might be hiding between the plants.

Next I cover the entire surface of the soil with a winter mulch to prevent any weeds from getting a head-start on me next spring. Originally I would use about six layers of newspaper topped with several inches of hay as my winter mulch. Then, come springtime, as I was ready to plant a particular crop, I would uncover just enough soil for that crop and after everything was growing well pull the mulch back around the young plants.

However I discovered that this newspaper/hay technique slowed the soil warming in early spring, meaning I needed to delay planting my first crops—a problem in Vermont’s short growing season.

So more recently I invested in a number of inexpensive tarps in various sizes. Now every year in late fall, I will cover

all the available soil in my veggie garden with tarps held in place by sturdy tent pegs through the grommets. In early spring the tarps prevent the weeds from germinating while at the same time helping warm the soil. Thus I am able plant my crops a couple of weeks earlier.

As soon as I am ready to plant a particular section, I remove just the tarp in question and pop the seeds or young plants in the weed-free ground. Now I will apply my newspaper and hay mulch sandwich to help keep the weeds at bay for the remainder of the summer.

### Cleaning tools and tidying the toolshed

For many of us, our gardening tools represent quite an investment. So it behooves us to care for them well.

My final activity of the gardening season is to assemble all my tools, sharpen each cutting blade, and then rub the metal parts of every tool with a light lubricating oil to prevent rusting.

After that I carefully store each tool in its allotted spot in my toolshed. Then, come next spring, each tool will be easily available and ready for the new gardening season ahead.

With this accomplished I am ready to say the gardening season is finished for the year, and to settle down by the wood stove with a good book!

*Judith Irven and Dick Conrad live in Goshen where together they nurture a large garden. Judith is a landscape designer and Vermont Certified Horticulturist. She also teaches Sustainable Home Landscaping for the Vermont Master Gardener program. She writes about her Vermont gardening life at [www.northcountryreflections.com](http://www.northcountryreflections.com).*

*Dick is a landscape and garden photographer; you can see his photographs at The Brandon Artists Guild and at [www.northcountryimpressions.com](http://www.northcountryimpressions.com).*

*You can reach Judith at [judithirven@gmail.com](mailto:judithirven@gmail.com)*

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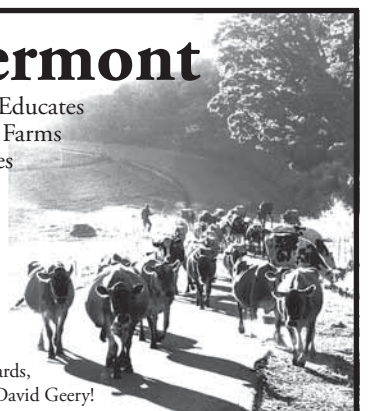
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# The Wild Turkey Contributed to Thanksgiving

One of our native wildlife species historically played an important role on Thanksgiving Day. North America's native wild turkeys were the ancestors of the Thanksgiving turkey on our dinner table.

Originally found only in the wild, turkeys now exist as meat-producing domesticated derivatives—the broad breasted white, broad breasted bronze, white Holland, bourbon red, and a host of other breeds—all of them descended from our native wild turkey.

The eastern subspecies of wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) is the most widely distributed and abundant of the five distinct subspecies of wild turkey found in the United States. They can also grow to be the largest.

## Turkeys make a comeback

Wild turkeys exist throughout Vermont today, but that wasn't always the case. Wild turkeys disappeared from Vermont in the mid-to-late 1800s due to habitat destruction and unregulated shooting. The land was cleared for farming, and only 25 percent of the state was covered by forest.

The wild turkeys we see in Vermont today originated from just 31 wild turkeys stocked in Rutland County by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department in 1969 and 1970. Vermont's forest habitat was once again capable of supporting turkeys. State wildlife biologists moved groups of these birds northward, and today Vermont's population of turkeys is estimated to be about 60,000.

## Wild turkey habitat

Wild turkeys are social birds and prefer to live and travel together in groups called flocks. The breeding season disrupts flocks to some extent, but throughout most of the year, hens and young birds live in flocks of up to 30 or more. Toms or jakes may gather together, forming a bachelor flock. They often stay close to a big flock of hens and young birds. Every turkey in a flock has a place in the social order, and there is usually one dominant male turkey.

Turkeys travel primarily on foot, with occasional short flights to escape trouble. Long, strong legs enable wild turkeys to run fast—as much as 25 miles per hour. Wild turkeys can fly at a speed of 30 to 35 miles per hour.

A typical summer day for a hen and her poults begins at dawn. They leave the canopy of trees where they spent the night roosting, and the family eats until midmorning. Then, they may take a dust bath. Dusting turkeys scratch dirt onto their bodies, ruffle their feathers, and wiggle in the dust. This may be a way turkeys deal with parasites.

The family may rest until early afternoon when another feeding period begins. At dusk, the turkeys fly up into a large tree to roost for the night and to protect themselves from predators. Poults begin to roost with their mother at about three weeks of age. Before this, they cannot fly well enough to get into the trees.

At first, the poults roost for the night huddled under the hen's wings. As summer goes on, they start roosting further and further away from her. By fall, the poults will be roosting in other trees near their mother.

Although turkeys roost in trees to avoid ground predators, avian predators, such as the great horned owl, are still



A flock of wild turkeys out for a stroll in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

a threat. When dawn begins to brighten the sky, turkeys fly down from their roost to search for food.

The area that a turkey lives in is called its home range. A turkey's home range may be from 400 to 4,000 acres. A turkey needs several types of habitat within its range:

- Forests which include trees that produce nuts for food, large trees for roosting, and evergreens for winter cover. Southern slopes are preferred because they are warmer in the winter and have less snow accumulation.
- Open fields provide nesting sites and insects during the summer.
- Croplands provide forage for food.
- Tall grass and shrubs provide both feeding habitat as well as areas for hiding nests.

Southeastern and south-western Vermont are dominated by hardwood stands and openings that provide the best habitat for turkeys in the state. The Champlain Valley also features excellent turkey habitat. Far northern Vermont has extremely cold winters and high snow fall that can limit the survival of turkeys. This is also true of the higher elevations of the Green Mountains.

## Reproduction

The reproductive cycle for the wild turkeys begins in spring. As days get longer and warmer, toms can be heard gobbling and seen strutting to attract hens. Turkeys are polygamous, mating with more than one partner, and a relatively few dominant gobblers do most of the breeding. No breeding is believed to be accomplished by one-year-old gobblers when adult gobblers are in the vicinity. The peak of turkey breeding in Vermont generally occurs in mid-April.

The nest is a slight depression in the forest litter situated near vegetation or under a brush pile that provides concealment. Turkey eggs are larger than chicken eggs and are tan

with brown flecks. An average clutch is 10 to 15 eggs laid over 12 to 18 days. Incubation takes 28 days. Hatching occurs during the end of May and early June.

Young turkeys move about with the hen shortly after hatching. During their first three weeks, a primary cause of mortality is cold, wet weather, although poults are also vulnerable to predators at this time. Soon, their acute vision, alertness, and ability to fly help them to avoid predators. An average of 11 poults born in the spring will probably be reduced to three to seven by fall.

Several hens and their poults often flock and travel together through the summer and winter. The next spring's breeding season disrupts the family group because the hens, both yearlings and older birds, disperse to raise a new family.

## Wild turkey diet

Young poults need high protein foods for rapid growth. The hen will take them to open fields and meadows to catch insects. Adult turkeys also eat insects. Turkeys also eat plants and seeds during the summer. By fall, wild turkeys eat fruits, nuts, and berries. Some favorite turkey foods are acorns, beechnuts, hickory nuts, grass, and corn. During Vermont winters, turkeys eat primarily mosses, buds, fern spores, seeds, and leftover corn found on farms.

Turkeys eat nuts during fall to build up fat, which helps keep them alive when food is buried under the snow. In years without many nuts, and if all other food is covered by deep, powdery snow, turkeys may have difficulty finding enough food to keep them alive.

During heavy snow cover, turkeys must rely on food found on top of the snow, the edges of pools of water, or on patches of bare ground. Turkeys will sometimes eat the buds off twigs and stems. Hard-crusting snow makes it easier for turkeys to move and find food, while deep powdery snow hinders their movement.

## Your Thanksgiving table

The restoration of Vermont's wild turkey population is just one of many wildlife restoration success stories we can be thankful for in 2017. Funding for Vermont's wild turkey restoration was derived from the sale of hunting licenses and a federal tax on hunting equipment.


Whether you get your Thanksgiving turkey from the woods, supermarket, or a Vermont turkey grower, this gift to our dinner table gives us a lot to be thankful for.

John Hall contributed to this piece. Vermont Fish and Wildlife can be reached at (802) 828-1000. Visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).



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## Pure Prose

by Burr Morse

As I've said before, being a writer was tops on my "when I grow up" list right up to the point I succumbed to the beckoning call from our family farm. Yup, I had visions of using those God-given talents several of my early teachers said I had, getting schooled in journalism and going to work for a big city newspaper. One of those early teachers recently surfaced right here at Morse Farm.

I was downstairs packing syrup when the message came that I had a visitor up in our store. I finished the jug I was working on, turned off the syrup valve, and went on up. "Probably just a salesman" I thought as I entered the store, rounded a corner, and almost ran into Joe McEntyre. I recognized him immediately because Joe, as opposed to me, seemingly hadn't aged since my seventh grade year at Four Corners School in East Montpelier.

The difference between a good teacher and a great one is the ability to "sniff out" a student's potential and begin

**"The demands of a young family and a family farm gave my professional writing a lag time of almost forty years."**

tweaking that student toward a matching goal. Joe McEntyre was that kind of great teacher. He was young, in fact, only a student teacher at the time, but he zeroed in on my writing talents early on and pushed me along almost painfully. Out of it, I got a message I've never forgotten; that I could be a writer.

The demands of a young family and a family farm gave my professional writing a lag time of almost forty years but finally it sputtered back into my life. It began with an email newsletter for our business and grew to include a newspaper column and on into three books that list me as the author. I feel very grateful for that first "shove" at Four Corners School and the never ending support from you, my wonderful readers.

Although I'm primarily a farmer, income from my writing has become important here at Morse Farm. It's especially gratifying when, through grueling hard work much like I do on the farm, I can see direct results from my writing...kind of ties the two "fields" together, in fact.

Back in early summer, once again, I was hailed to the front of our store for a lady who wanted to see me. When I got there, an elderly couple who I recognized from our neighborhood, sat out front on our patio chairs. The woman rose like a person twenty years younger, gave me a very warm hug, and kissed me on the cheek. "I've been needing to do that" she said, "ever since you wrote that column on Charley horses." She went on to say that painful Charley horses had plagued her at night for a much of her life. On



Burr Morse contemplates the autumn woods at Morse Farm Sugarworks in Montpelier, VT. photo by Claude Stone

an earlier column I had said that I occasionally have that Charley curse and I received a tip from one of my readers: "Sleep with a bar of soap in your bed...those Charleys'll go away." In fact, I received so many suggested remedies that I later wrote a whole column on the things. This woman had read my column in the newspaper, tried the "soap" cure, and, voila...she was "cured"!

Now, that is something to write about!

Recently I was shopping down at Shaw's Supermarket and a man came up to me. "You're Burr Morse aren't you... recognize you from the newspaper" he said. He went on to say that his wife had fought cancer for the last four years and my reported Charley horse "cure" had saved her huge amounts of agony. I told him how much I appreciated his report, wished his wife well, and walked away feeling glad to have helped.

*Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open year-round. Visitors welcome! Come see the Country Store with Vermont products and gifts, maple, and pasture-raised local beef and bacon. Tour the Sugarhouse, Woodshed Theater, Outdoor Farmhouse Museum and more. Order Cabot cheddar cheese, maple products, and Balsam wreaths at (800) 242-2740 or morsefarm.com.*

## Sixth Annual Harvest Barter Fair in Greensboro, VT

Come to the Sixth Annual Harvest Barter Fair hosted by the Swap Sisters. On Sunday November 5th we'll be swapping your season's bounty at the Lakeview Union School in Greensboro, VT, 2-4 p.m.

Did you have a bumper crop of potatoes this year, but never got around to making any jam? Do you long for a chance to try someone else's home-grown handiwork?

Bring items that you have grown, preserved, baked, or raised to swap with neighbors. Items will be swapped on a one for one basis. Bring items with an estimated value of \$5, or \$5 increments. For example: a quart of canned tomatoes, a jar of jelly, a bag of tasty baked goods, a large winter squash, a pound of frozen meat, a bag of tea or other herbal product, tubers or house plants. Please label

your items with ingredients.

Come and participate whether you have a little or a lot to share, and bring a friend. People of all ages are encouraged to participate. This could also be a good place to find homes for items like extra canning jars.

The Swap Sisters offer home-grown swaps of information, skills, seeds, plants, harvest bounty and more in the greater Hardwick, VT area. We believe in the power of homegrown solutions when facing big corporate-created crises. We seek to foster local independence based on neighborly interdependence.

*The Lakeview Union School is located at 189 Lauredon Ave. in Greensboro, VT. (802) 755-6336. swapsisters@gmail.com.*

## Autumn Rafters

Now rafters in the attic and the shed  
And smokehouse hold the magic stored away:  
The silvery green of sage, and peppers, red  
As sunset embers on the hills today,  
And golden rows of seed corn hung to dry,  
And hams and bacon, russet-brown, with beads  
Of salty flavor, and the dill, swung high,  
To peek from bundles with bright eyes of seeds.

Enticing fragrance joins the breath of sun  
Or wood smoke where the shadowy rafters hold  
Their many treasures, with the harvest done—  
Except where pumpkins mint the latest gold.  
And here the cobwebs add their silver strands,  
And cling a moment to our reaching hands.

—GLENN WARD DRESBACH  
1889-1968



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# North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Tales of Cold November and Late Fall Adventures!

The chill of Autumn is in the air and armchair adventures are in order. Snuggle up with the classic *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. This beloved story, now 28 years old, has sold over eight million copies and been translated into 18 languages. Available in many editions, choose one for whatever little kid is in your life, and discover the joy all over again.

The author Rosen adapted the story from an American folk song which he incorporated in his poetry and this book. Not surprisingly each of the book's chapter's begin with five kids out on a grand adventure chanting the refrain: "We're going on a bear hunt. We're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day! We're not scared."

They travel through tall grass, ford a river, wade through mud, cross a forest and make their way through a snowstorm. Then they come face to face with a giant bear in its cave! They all flee home, pursued by the bear. In the final scene the kids and their dog all safely hide in one big bed under a giant cover. They had sense enough to lock all the doors. Danger conquered.

Candlewick Press has published a special *We're Going on a Bear Hunt Snow Globe Edition* (\$16.99. [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)). The book includes pop-ups. The one with the bear will scare you, too. Candlewick also offers two companion books about the natural world as an alternative to time spent on electronic gadgets.

In *We're Going on a Bear Hunt—An Adventure Field Guide* (\$9.99) the same children and their dog from the original book are seen enjoying all kinds of adventures learning about cloud formations, examining the night sky, identifying different kinds of bugs and birds, rocks and fossils, residents of the sea and shore and much more. Different species of bears are introduced as well as other animals of the forest. There's even a safety tip: "If you spot a bear in real life, back away slowly. Walk, don't run, and make yourself as big as possible." This fact-packed book even has a recipe for making your own bear paw cookies!

*We're Going on a Bear Hunt—My Explorer's Journal* (\$14.99) provides 90 pages of space to write about, sketch,

and collect nature discoveries and memories. The book includes plenty of prompts and activities like making one's own rain gauge, paper snowflakes, a nature trail and even how to make rosewater. This journal is nicely laid out with many drawings of the original bear-hunting children.

It's very often the hunter and the hunted have an event that has a happy ending for only one of them. Consider this unusual hunting story, *The Wolf The Duck & The Mouse* by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Jon Klassen (\$17.99. *Candlewick Press*. [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)) where a wolf had consumed a duck who was very much alive in its stomach and has made a home down there.

One day the wolf came upon a mouse which was gobbled up and sent on its way to the duck. The two caught animals share meals and the duck confides "I live well! I may have been swallowed, but I have no intention of being eaten." The mouse is invited to stay and they celebrate with a dance. The ruckus makes the wolf's stomach ache.

The duck calls up with a cure: "Eat a hunk of good cheese. And a flagon of wine! And some beeswax candles." That night the mouse and the duck had a feast, but the wolf has a run-in with a hunter who fires and misses. Follow how the duck and the mouse then scare the hunter away in a "ride to defend our home." The hunter is scared off and the still alive wolf grants his survivors a surprising favor (guess what?) The drawings are as amusing as the text.

During the hunting season animals will do their best to avoid detection. In *Tiptoe Tapirs* by Hanmin Kim (\$15.95. *Holiday House*. [www.holidayhouse.com](http://www.holidayhouse.com)) you will be introduced to two tapirs, Tapir and Little Taper. They have elephant-like trunks, pig-like bodies and rhinoceros-like eyes, but they are very clever. They tiptoe about the jungle ever so softly so as not to disturb anyone or attract attention. However, one day they tiptoe to the Great Puddle to eat mud cakes. Suddenly from out of the blue they are attacked by a leopard, who was then shot at by a hunter. The leopard is on the ground so paralyzed with fear that he couldn't run away. Little Tapir offers to help. They teach the leopard to tiptoe, too, and all three escape.

"And from that day on, the leopard learned to move with a very soft step." The hunter, thinking the animals were all gone, left the jungle never to return. You will admire this South Korean author-artist's renderings of Tapir and especially Little Tapir, and the jungle scenes. The tapir is his favorite animal.

Sometimes going off on an adventure can be so much fun, one might forget where you are and get lost. So it is with *Little Sister Rabbit Gets Lost* by Ulf Nilsson and Eva Eriksson (\$17.95. *Floris Books*. [www.florisbooks.co.uk](http://www.florisbooks.co.uk)).

You will be right there as the tiny lost rabbit keeps finding the wrong burrows while looking for her own home. Among the wrong homes is one with rabbits with "long serious noses," another, the home of an old and very grand gentleman badger, and finally a foxes' den where three foxes were asleep under a quilt in one big bed.

Little Sister Rabbit is finally found by her Big Brother who comforts her and advises with feeling to be more careful and they hop along together for home.

This touching story about a caring family of rabbits is by an award-winning Swedish children's author and the drawings are by one of Europe's best-loved illustrators.



## Book News

### Vermont Wild

#### Adventures of Fish & Game Wardens, Vol. 5

by Megan Price

(\$19.95, *Pine Marten Press*, [www.vermontwild.com](http://www.vermontwild.com))

A startled skunk earned the front cover of the newly released *Vermont Wild, Adventures of Fish & Game Wardens, Volume 5* by Megan Price. The outdoor adventure series has been a Green Mountain best seller since its inception, featuring well-written campfire stories, read and enjoyed by ages 9 to 99.

Dangerous poachers who won't give up, a surprise find in an abandoned house, a strange tasting late night meal, a messy misstep, finding a needle in Lake Champlain and that skunk with his own agenda are among the stories in the eagerly anticipated new book of 300 pages. A former award winning journalist and state legislator, Price's "Wild" series has earned fans from California to Canada.

Each volume contains occasionally harrowing, but always humorous, true stories from retired fish and game wardens. Written in the first person, readers are drawn into the action as the wardens struggle to nab poachers, rescue wildlife and get themselves out of tight spots.

Price has been called a "folklore artist" for her skill in bringing these previously

unknown North Woods tales to life. Her books are used for bedtime stories, taught in school to encourage reading and writing, taken to hunting camp and read aloud in nursing homes.

The series is a 100 percent Vermont product. The stories, writing, editing, cover art and interior illustrations are all done by Vermont residents and the books are printed by L. Brown & Sons of Barre, Vermont.

*Vermont Wild* has been profiled on Vermont Public Radio, twice earned a mention on the Publisher's Weekly website and has been a best selling series since its inception.

Price earlier released *Maine Wild* which became an instant hit in the Pine Tree state as well. The complete six-book set is sold at all Vermont bookstores, Kinney Drugs and many Green Mountain gift shops and general stores.

*Vermont Wild, Volumes 1-5* and *Maine Wild* by Megan Price can also be ordered from *Pine Marten Press* online for \$19.95 plus shipping and handling and Vermont tax. To learn more, visit [www.VermontWild.com](http://www.VermontWild.com).

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# The Vermont Non-GMO Cookbook

125 Organic and Farm-to-Fork Recipes  
from the Green Mountain State

by Tracey Medeiros

(\$29.95, Skyhorse Publishing, Inc., [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com))

Have you noticed an ever-growing number of farmer's markets, food co-ops, farms producing only organic vegetables, meats, and dairy products, and cafes and restaurants serving a local "farm-to-fork" menu? Much of this food is now also GMO-free, enough so that it deserves its own cookbook!

In 2014 Vermont became the first state in the U.S. to pass a "no strings-attached" food labeling law requiring label's to note if the product contained genetically engineered crops. Just a few weeks after the Vermont law went into effect, Congress passed its own version of a GMO labeling bill that would nullify Vermont's labeling law.

Nonetheless, as can be seen by this handsome, encyclopedic 380-page book, much of Vermont's food industry from farm-to-table uses products that contain no GMOs. This is addition to foods being raised organically, naturally, and by other chemical-free methods like bio-dynamic gardening.

The Vermont Non-GMO Cookbook by Tracey Medeiros is not only an excellent cookbook but it is also an excellent guide to small, sustainable farms who participate in farmer's markets. Learn when and how they got started, their food-growing methods, whether they offer products by CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and if they are experimenting in growing something new and exceptional. For instance, many farms now grow artichokes which was unheard of in Vermont a few years ago. Look for more tropical fruits and vegetables grown here as the climate warms.

Many of these farms have names that "tell-it-all" or will make you curious.

Here's a few described in this book: Bear Roots Farm (South Barre), Earthwise Farm and Forest (Bethel), Footprint Farm (Starksboro), Golden Well Farm & Apiaries (New Haven), Kettle Song Farm (Worcester), Mighty Food Farm (Shaftsbury), Meeting Place Pastures (Cornwall), Meadows Bee Farm (Windham), Pedalbarrow Farm (Bridport), Runamok Maple (Cambridge) and 1,000 Stone Farm (Brookfield).

This is also an unusual cookbook because

its 125 recipes come from dozens of farmers as well as from cooks, chefs and owners of a variety of eating places, large and small. Here are some tempting dishes and their sources:

- Grilled Beef Tenderloin with Rutabaga Puree, Braised Cabbage and Horseradish Cream from Kismet Kitchen, Montpelier, VT.

- Roasted Peppers with Salsa Taquera, Queso Fresco, and Charred Sweet Corn Cream from The Farmhouse Tap and Grill, Burlington, VT.

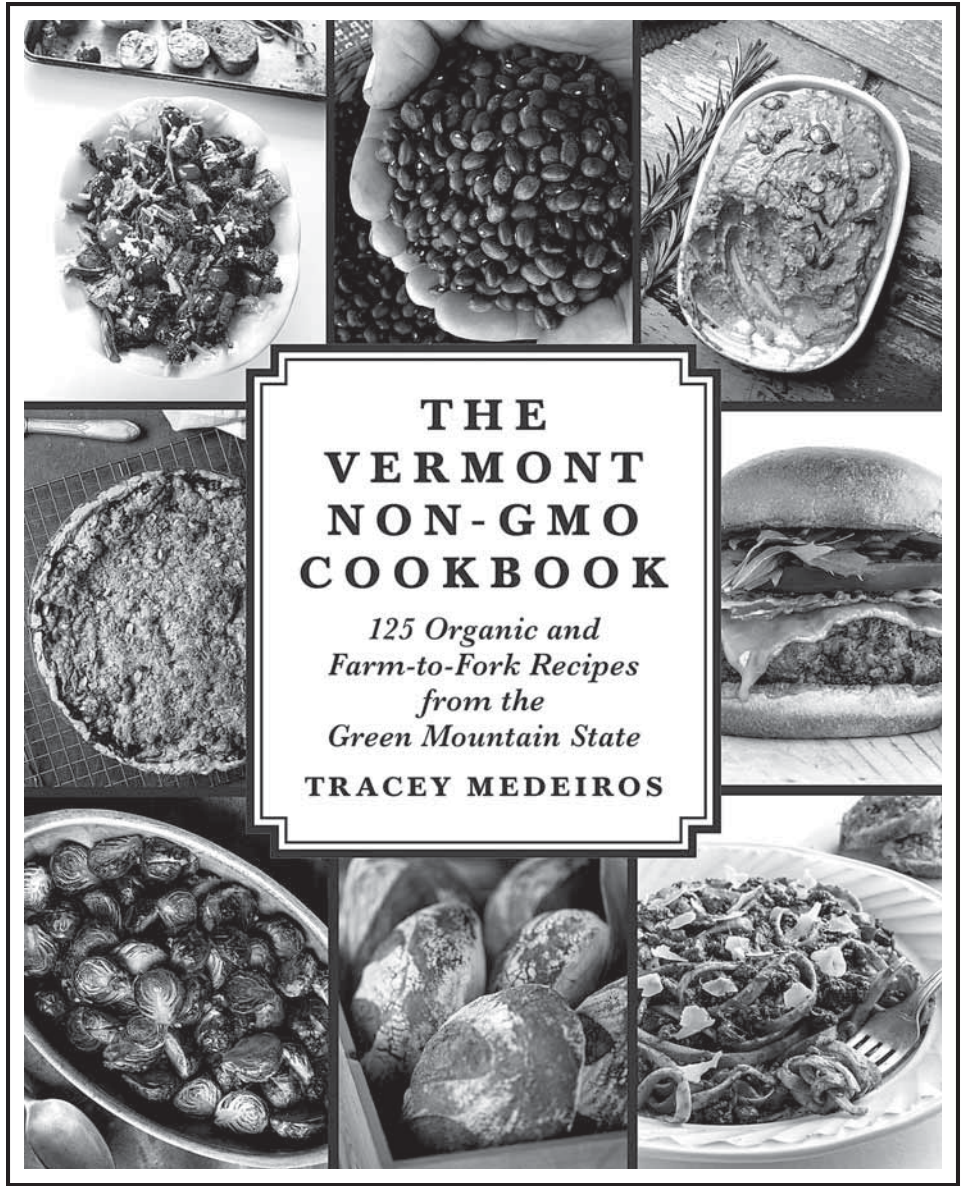
- Roasted Gilfeather Turnips, Beets, and Ferro Salad with Goat Cheese from Artisan Restaurant Tavern & Garden at Four Columns Inn, Newfane, VT.

- Maple Vanilla Cake with Almond Buttercream Frosting and Maple-Candied Pecans from Revolution Kitchen, Burlington, VT.

This cookbook book will inspire many of us to try recipes using foods that may be less well known. As a cook's bonus, the author Tracey Medeiros has added

write-ups on Arugula, Delicata Squash, Jerusalem Artichokes, Broccoli Rabe, Kohlrabi, Fiddleheads, Ramps, Rutabagas and Heirloom Tomatoes. Historical backgrounds, cooking tips, and health benefits are described. As an example we learn that the knobby tuber called Jerusalem Artichoke is high in fiber, has negligible amounts of fat and zero cholesterol. A good food for diabetics. She offers us one of her recipes for this vegetable, also called sunchoke, sunroot and earth apple: Creamy Jerusalem Artichoke Soup with Vermont Maple Smoked Cheddar Cheese. Tracey also shares a Ramp and Pea Pesto recipe.

Scattered among the profiles of farms and the recipes, the book introduces us to some interesting Vermont entrepreneurs in the food-to-table movement: Nitty Gritty Grain Co. in Charlotte, VT producing a flour from hard red winter wheat grown in Vermont with customers such as the Red Hen bakery in Middlesex, VT; Vermont Raw Nut Butter Co. in Bristol, VT producing six varieties of non-GMO nut butters; Vermont Switchel Co. in Cabot, VT producing a traditional hay-harvesting drink made out of maple



THE  
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from the  
Green Mountain State  
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syrup, apple cider vinegar, ginger, organic black strap molasses and lemon juice; Green Rabbit, a solar-powdered bakery in Waitsfield, VT who specializes in long-fermented breads. V Smiley Preserves located at Lil To Do Farm in Bristol, VT produces 50 flavors a year including ones made out of gooseberries, rhubarb, oranges, other fruits and aromatics; Full Sun Co. in Middlebury, VT processes sunflower and canola seeds into unfiltered oils can press 3,000 pounds of seed a day); and Benito's Hot Sauce, Morrisville, VT converts 4,000 pounds of Vermont organically-grown peppers into sauces.

If you are not cooking yourself and driv-

ing around Vermont the book has profiles on many cafes and restaurants where non-GMO foods are served. Among the several highlighted here are: Coleman Brook Tavern at Okemo Mountain; Freighthouse Market & Cafe, Lyndonville; JJ Hapgood General Store & Eatery, Peru; The Mint Restaurant and Tea Lounge, Waitsfield; Stowe Street Cafe, Stowe; 3 Squares Cafe, Vergennes; and The Village Roost Cafe & Marketplace, Wilmington

Tracey Medeiros also is the author of The Connecticut Farm Table Cookbook, The Vermont Farm Table Cookbook, and Dishing up Vermont. Visit [www.traceymedeiros.com](http://www.traceymedeiros.com).

## Book Review by Charles Sutton

### Summer Over Autumn—A Small Book of Small-Town Life

by Howard Mansfield

(\$16. Bauhan Publishing, Peterborough, NH, [www.bauhanpublishing.com](http://www.bauhanpublishing.com))

During the some 30 years author Howard Mansfield with his wife, writer Sy Montgomery, have been living in Hancock, NH, they noticed a special time of year when summer lingers but there is a glimpse of fall. The more familiar mud and black fly seasons have long passed and winter will be here soon enough. They called this in-between season summer over autumn and *Summer Over Autumn: A Small Book of Small-Town Life* is the title chosen by Howard Mansfield for this delightful collection of essays.

For people who have never lived in a small town they often picture such places as one might see on quaint postcards or from the paintings of folk artists like Grandma Moses. But beyond these facades, small towns are in many ways like other places, enduring the ups and down of life, changes in the economy, and sadly having their young people go off to wars or to seek futures elsewhere.

The small town at its best is where neighbors look after each other, pitch-in when misfortune or disaster strikes, and join together in community efforts—fundraisers, parades, school trips, church or grange suppers, even barn raisings.

The author takes us around such towns in New Hampshire which he writes about with understanding and often with humor. For instance, he and his wife like going to tag sales. We learn in the essay *On Going Late to Yard Sales*, "You won't come home with many treasures, but you will walk away with a glimpse of the riddles that are other people's lives."

Howard observes that, "In the last hour of a yard sale the sellers are exhausted...They are not cleansed by losing some useless things. Rather, they seem exposed, as if their junk—old chairs and blenders—was off with the new owners telling secrets on them."

But they did find one yard sale with a happy ending. An elderly farm couple were selling everything, glad to move on.

Howard also writes about going to sales at farmhouses where he immediately heads for the attic that he knows will be stuffed with chairs. And he writes in *The United States of Ruin*:

"The chairs stand obediently in rows, fading away into the dark recesses of the sloping attic walls. Many of them are still in their family groups of two, four, or even six. Each tagged, each an immigrant, they stand together as if they had been plucked in mid-sentence from their old kitchens and dining rooms. How many chairs? Three hundred, four hundred?... The attic is a dense and moving memorial to ordinary time, to breakfast-lunch-and-dinner, over and over, again and again...the chairs are witnesses that seem to be on the edge of speech. They are empty, but still carrying the weight of all the lives that had sat there. They have that quality we see in abandoned houses—call it an emptiness that is full, or the presence of an implied life. Someone has just left the room."


The book includes 20 stories of small New England town life. Among personal stories, *A Hog's Life* is one about his pet pig named Christopher Hogwood. With the first frost his gardening friends and others start unloading their left-over vegetables for the hog: "zucchini the size of baseball bats, tomatoes that were caught on the vine, broccoli that has bolted, squash going soft in one spot...Our pig is a Zen eater. He becomes his food. He is his food. He loves his food. No remorse." Worry not, Hogwood won't be killed and eaten. Howard found out like so many others that hogs can be much too intelligent, cunning and affectionate.

One essay, *My Winter in Politics*, relates the story of

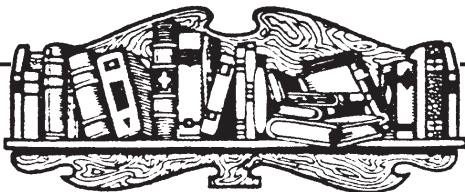
Howard running for library trustee, usually an uncontested position in the town of 1,500 people. He, the relative newcomer, was running against an opponent who had lived there "since the Year One." The campaign was fought over that hot-button issue: children's story hour. Howard was for it, his opponent thought it was a useless waste of time. His opponent campaigned hard, Howard kept his low-key. When the vote was in Howard won 327-140 and the "world was made safe for children's story hour."

Howard Mansfield is the author of eight books about preservation, architecture, and history, among them, *In the Memory House, Dwelling in Possibility*, and the children's book, *Hogwood Steps Out*. He has contributed to *The New York Times*, *the Washington Post*, *Historic Preservation*, and *Yankee*. He is on the Board of Trustees of the New Hampshire Historical Society. Howard and his wife, noted author Sy Montgomery, live in Hancock, NH. [howardmansfield.com](http://howardmansfield.com).

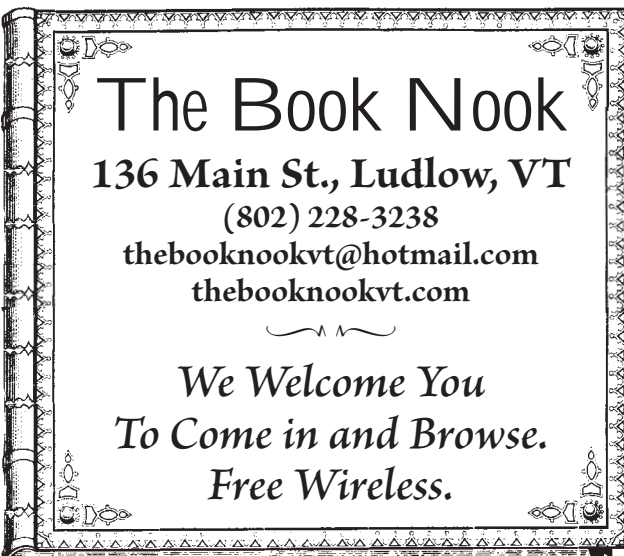
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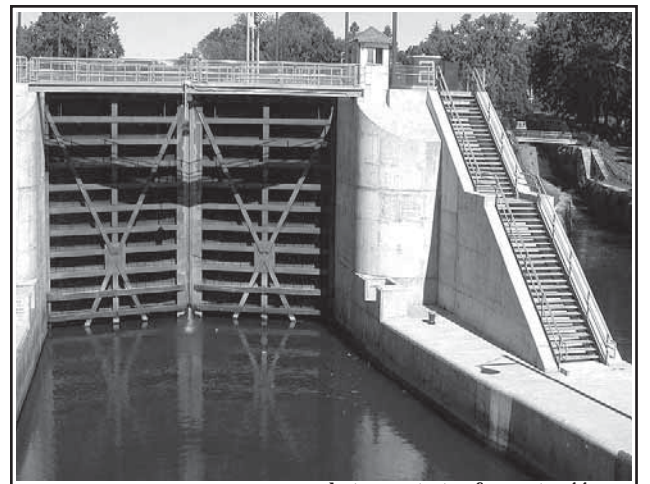


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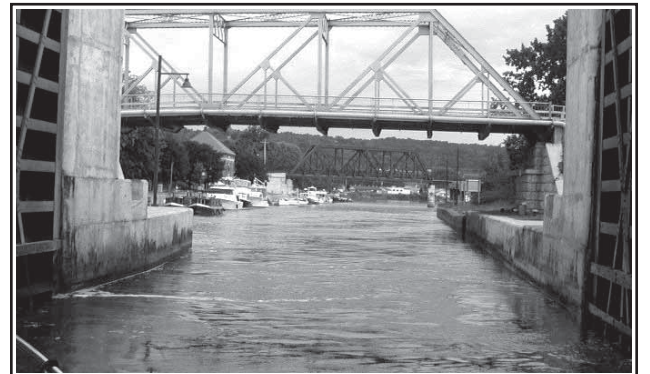




Tug 44 sits in the chamber of Lock E-5 with the lower doors of Lock 6 visible in the background. In the Flight, all 5 locks are right next to each other. photo courtesy of www.tug44.org



The entrance to Erie Canal Lock E-2 marks the start of the Erie Canal and the Waterford Flight Locks. Off to the right is a set of 5 old abandoned locks from the Champlain Sidecut, now used as a spillway for Lock E-2. photo courtesy of www.tug44.org



The view of the Waterford, NY pier as seen from the eastbound exit of Erie Canal Lock E-2. photo courtesy of www.tug44.org

# The Erie Canal, Two Hundred Years of History

## How it Transformed the Flow of Commerce by Opening the West

by Roger Allbee

It began just 200 years ago, on July 4th, 1817 when the beginning of a 40-ft. wide and 4 feet deep canal was begun, connecting the Hudson River to the Great Lakes, 363 miles long, in the town of Rome, New York. It was completed eight years and four months later at a cost of 7.1 million dollars. Tolls paid off its construction costs within eight years.

Connecting the West to the East was not a new idea, as the thought had been around since the 18th Century. However, federal funding for it had been rejected by President Thomas Jefferson, who is said to have stated that "talk of a canal 350 miles through wilderness is a little short of madness." It took the determination of De Witt Clinton, Governor of New York, and the New York legislature to make it a reality. Detractors, and there were many, called it "Clinton's big

ditch." But it was an immediate success when it opened on October 26, 1825, eight years and four months after the first shovel was placed into the ground in that small town outside of Albany, New York.

The canal quickly transformed North America, and was soon called the greatest engineering feat of the 19th Century in America. Some even marveled when it was completed that it was The Eighth Wonder of the World. It was, at the time, the longest artificial waterway and greatest public works project in North America. But how it transformed America was its greatest achievement.

It quickly turned New York City into a leading economic and commercial city and the most important seaport in North America. Its population quadrupled between 1820-1850. It opened the interior of the West to settlement from those in the East as well as those coming from Europe. Many have

concluded that this resulted in the demise of New England agriculture, as it was then known, to inexpensive goods from the Mid-west.

Farmers, loggers, miners, and manufactures now had quick access to the markets of the East. For example, a ton of wheat from the Mid-west to the Northeast before the Erie Canal cost \$100 per ton, and only about fourteen thousand bushels were shipped East. After the Canal, it cost \$10 per ton to ship a product and it took one-third of the time. In 1840, for example, about eight million bushels of wheat were shipped East from the Mid-west. The East began to rely on the Mid-west for food and other products, and New York City became the international gateway. The Erie Canal made the West accessible and valuable, unlocking the floodgates to western settlement.

Canal building mania lasted a decade or so after the completion of the Erie, with some 3000 miles of waterway by 1840.

The Champlain Canal, part of the New York system, was opened in 1823 and connected Lake Champlain to the Erie Canal. This, too, led to a further transformation of the Vermont agriculture and forestry economy and marked the end of the Champlain Valley's relative isolation from the outside world and its entry into the national economy.

Before the coming of the railroads, state legislatures chartered some of the most elaborate canal plans, many which were never developed. The first canal system in the United States was in Bellows Falls, Vermont with the Connecticut River being the first major waterway in the country improved for travel by 1810.

The coming of the railroads after the 1840's led to the economic demise of the canal system. Railroads were faster, cheaper and did not freeze over in the winter.

Today the Erie Canal still has some commercial traffic, but is primarily a recreational and tourism use system. In the year 2000, Congress created the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor to recognize the canal's historical significance in the transformation of North America.



Tug 44 sits at the town wall at Whitehall. Behind her is the Carillon which offers day cruises on the Champlain Canal and Lake Champlain. The building with the red roof is the Skenesborough Museum, which is worth a visit. In 2010, the electric and water were turned off (and remain off) after complaints from the 2 marinas below the lock, claiming unfair competition. photo courtesy of www.tug44.org

Roger Allbee is a former Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the State of Vermont. Information on the agricultural history of Vermont can be found on his blog at [www.whatceresmightsay.blogspot.com](http://www.whatceresmightsay.blogspot.com).



Tug Waterford poses for a photo as she passes. Notice the axeman on board, clowning around for the photo. Yep, there's some strange folks working on the canal, but they all have good hearts. photo courtesy of www.tug44.org





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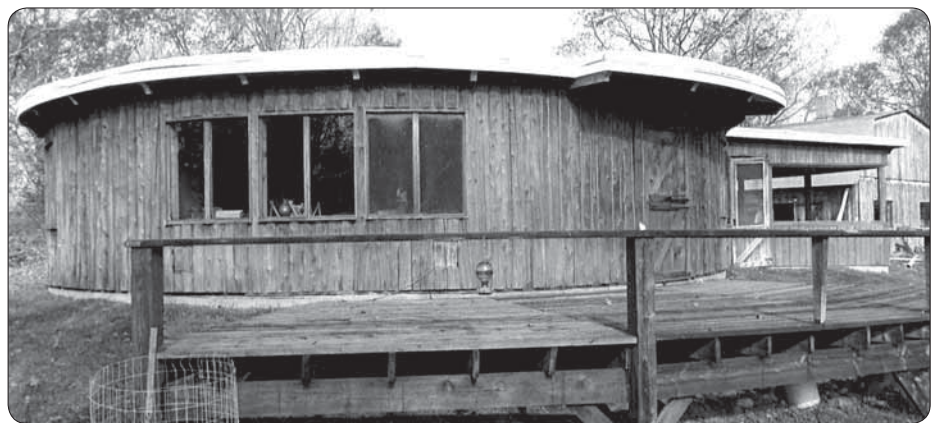
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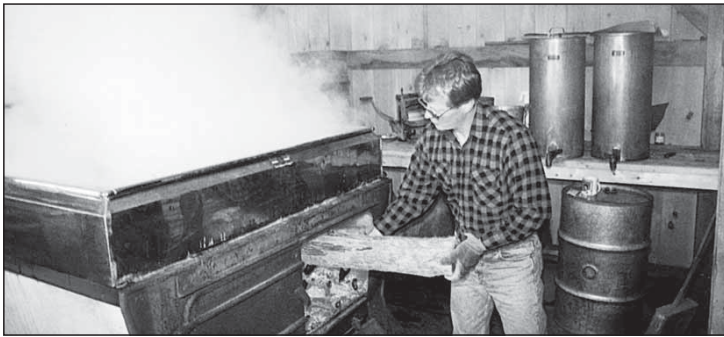
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