

# Vermont Country Sampler

Free

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

November 2021

N. Cassidy

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**GREEN MOUNTAIN STOCK FARM**  
RANDOLPH, VERMONT





## A Phenological Guide to Early Winter

“When...Then”

by Bill Felker

When all the sugar maple leaves come down, then most bird migrations for the year are complete.

When the last aster flower withers in the fields, then grazing season is usually over for livestock.

When goldenrod and thimbleweed are tufted like cotton, then look for witch hazels to come into bloom.

When poinsettias appear in the market, then the crab harvest is approaching along the Pacific coast.

When the Leonid Meteors fall near the middle of November, work gypsum into the soil where salt, used to melt winter's ice, may damage plantings.

When all your leaves are down, then fertilize trees, the garden and pasture. Remove tops from your everbearing raspberries.

When the last monarch butterfly of the year leaves your garden, then honeysuckle leaves are almost all down, and red honeysuckle berries are prominent throughout the understory.

When bluebirds disappear south, then sparrow hawks appear on the high wires, looking for mice in the fields.

When you see cabbage butterflies in late fall be sure to check your collards, kale and broccoli for green caterpillars.

When you see crows coming together in great flocks, then deer are mating in the woodlands.

When the last of the golden beeches and oaks come down, then the Christmas tree harvest has begun.

When spruces grow new needles, then look for your garlic shoots planted in early October to be about six inches high.

When camel crickets emerge in your kitchen (those harmless crickets often live in your crawl space), expect a cold wave and good luck. If a camel cricket comes to you on New Year's Eve, the good luck is even more likely to occur!

When you find antlers in the snow from white-tailed bucks, then you know mango trees are flowering in southern Florida and that early spring is only 60 days away from St. Louis.

When solstice arrives, then mark the place on the horizon where the sun rises and sets; watch spring move toward you as dawn and sunset slowly travel south. Or measure the length of the shadow of a stick or tree (making a “gnomon” of it) and then watch it lengthen a little every day throughout the next six months.



Polly Montgomery at the Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshop in Chester, VT.

### Chester, VT

## St. Luke's Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops

St. Luke's Church in Chester, VT is sponsoring its annual Wreath Decorating Workshops this November. Bring on joyous holiday spirit by decorating a premade evergreen wreath!

Open to the public, the workshops will take place November 18, 19 & 20 in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, on Main Street in Chester, and will benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.

The number of wreath-decorating workshops has been increased this year, but the number of participants in each session has been decreased to enable safe social distancing. As of this moment, masks will be required.

Participants may choose from an impressive array of

especially collected greens, berries, nuts and other natural materials, bow material, and different embellishments that they would like to add to their fresh, premade evergreen wreath. Wire, glue guns, and other supplied equipment make the decorating easy and successful.

Space per session is limited, so participants must pre-register early to be assured of a wreath and a preferred session. There are eight different workshops: Thursday November 18, 9-10:30 a.m.

or 1-2:30 p.m. or 6:30-8 p.m.; Friday November 19, 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. or 6:30-8 p.m.; and Saturday November 20, 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. Each session will offer all the essentials to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Men and women are welcome to

come alone or to register with a friend or group, and participants are encouraged to bring clippers and glue guns if they have them.

A \$5 early-bird discount on the tentative fee of \$50 per wreath will apply to those who pre-register and pay by Friday November 5. Checks should be made out to St. Luke's Church, designated in the memo line for the desired wreath workshop, and mailed to Lillian Willis at PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

This is a great opportunity to support two good causes, start getting ready for the holidays, and have fun doing it safely! Please spread the word to family and friends.

Save the Date for St. Luke's Christmas Market:

Culinary Classics & Crafts to Go on December 4th offering a wide variety of practical and beautiful gifts for people and pets, such as frozen soups and meals, baked goods and preserves, handmade chocolates, pet treats, Christmas-oriented decorations, and artistic or handmade creations. For more information closer to the date, visit [www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org](http://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org).

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

For additional information and registration, please contact Lillian Willis, (802) 875-1340 or [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net).

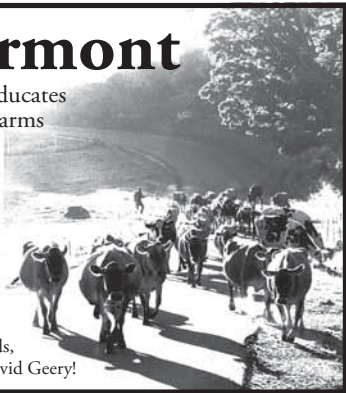
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## Digging

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

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

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

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



—EDWARD THOMAS  
1878-1917, London, England

## Vermont Country Sampler

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Basting the Thanksgiving turkey on an old wood cookstove in the 1890s Farmhouse at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

**Woodstock, VT**

# November at Billings Farm & Museum

The fall is a special time at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. The leaves have gone but there is still the color of oaks and evergreens on the sombre hillsides. All is quiet in anticipation of the coming winter. Explore the farm and 1890's Farmhouse. And treat yourself to hot cider, local cider donuts.

**November Weekends**

Did you know that all three daughters of Frederick Billings oversaw the operations of the farm and estate after their father's death in 1890? And that Elizabeth Billings, as an amateur botanist, collected 1,128 specimens within a six-mile radius of the Billings estate? These fascinating women are featured in a special program throughout the month of November.

Billings Farm & Museum is open November 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Weekend guests can:

- Learn about the Women of Billings Farm and the important roles they had in the farm, offered at 12 pm & 2 pm.
- Meet one of our prizewinning Jersey cows, get up close and experience brushing a cow in our Gentle Jersey program at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- See the afternoon Milking of the Herd beginning at 3:15 p.m.
- Meet our Jersey cows, draft horses, chickens, sheep, and goats.
- Families can make a paper pumpkin or apple to take home, hunt for the hidden pumpkins in the Farm Life Exhibits and enjoy the Giving Thanks StoryWalk along the pasture fences.
- Warm up by the fire pit with hot cider and cider donuts.
- Explore what life on the farm was like in late 19th century Vermont through the Farm Life Exhibits and the 1890 Farm Manager's House, considered state-of-the-art when it was built.
- Learn about the families and history of Billings Farm in the Upon This Land Exhibit.
- Go deeper into Vermont's place in conservation history with *A Place in the Land*, the Academy Award® – nominee film which chronicles the development of Billings Farm.

**Thanksgiving Traditions on the Farm**

Billings Farm is also open Thanksgiving Weekend, Friday through Sunday, November 26, 27 & 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Discover how Thanksgiving was observed at the Billings Farm in the 1890s. The weekend will feature the traditional farmhouse Thanksgiving table setting, holiday programs and activities. Find out the history of foods typically served on the Farm for this holiday.

The Thanksgiving festivities continue with horse-drawn wagon rides around the farm on Friday & Saturday and tractor-drawn wagon rides on Sunday.

Guests can sample Billings Farm cheddar cheese and make a mini pie. Families are encouraged to share their own stories and traditions on our "Sharing Wall."

Outdoor experiences include a "Thankfulness Walk" around the farm. Families will also enjoy holiday-themed crafts, the Farm Life Exhibit scavenger hunt, Thanksgiving-themed children's stories in the Theater and the Giving Thanks StoryWalk along the pastures.

**Visiting safely**

For the continued safety of our staff and guests, all guests over the age of 2 are required to wear a face covering in all indoor spaces. All guests must wear masks when around people and unable to maintain 6' physical distances outdoors. No entry is permitted without a face covering. Visit [billingsfarm.org/safety](http://billingsfarm.org/safety) for details.

Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution.

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

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

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



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# Getting a Jumpstart On Spring

by Judith Irven

Gardens are built on the past. In large part, the garden we enjoy today is determined by what we did months or even years ago. And likewise what we do in the garden today sets the table for the garden of the tomorrow.

With this in mind I would like to suggest that late fall is the perfect time to ready your garden for spring.

## Adding compost: a rite of fall

Compost is the elixir of a productive garden. It is that magic ingredient which enriches every kind of soil.

Here is just a partial list of compost's benefits for the garden:

- It provides both macro- and micro- nutrients that promote good plant growth, releasing these nutrients gradually throughout the growing season.
- It improves the soil structure, enabling a clay soil to drain properly while helping a sandy soil hold valuable water.
- It acts as a chemical buffer, neutralizing both overly acidic and overly alkaline soils
- It fosters diverse forms of soil life—including earthworms, bacteria and other micro-organisms—all facilitating healthy plant growth.

Composting is also nature's recycling system. All my herbaceous garden clippings are consigned to four large compost 'cubes'—4-foot square by 3-foot high wire enclosures. Here, in its own good time, this garden 'waste' rots down to form that rich organic soil additive we call 'compost'. Kitchen left-overs (vegetable scraps, paper products etc), plus coffee grounds from the friendly local coffee shop in Brandon, go into four smaller enclosed plastic cubes, conveniently set near the house.

Here in Vermont I find autumn is the most opportune time to give my garden the gift of nutritious compost. I know that in winter the ground, and my compost cubes, will freeze deeply, and come spring I must wait until they are both unfrozen and warm before digging—which up here in the mountains is not until mid-May.

But all too often in May I find reality thwarts my best intentions. The weather can be chilly and uncooperative, sometimes raining for days on end. And on the days when the sun is out I am typically off helping clients plan THEIR gardens. So by the time June arrives all the weeds are growing mightily and definitely winning the war.

Last November, long after a killing frost had halted the growing season, we enjoyed a spell of pleasant mild weather, when I was able to completely prepare my vegetable garden for the coming of spring. And this summer my efforts were rewarded with the most wonderfully productive, and essentially weed-free, garden.

## Fall clean-up recipe for the kitchen garden

First gather your ingredients:

- Lots of reasonably well-aged compost (any final breakdown will occur over the winter)
- A big stack of old newspapers (discarding all the colored inserts)
- Enough mulch hay to cover your entire veggie garden to a depth of 3-4 inches (about 1 bale per 100 square-feet)

Now follow these simple steps:

- Cut and remove all annual weeds that are setting seed. For any with mature seed-heads, gently cut the plant tops without spilling the seed on the soil (which also should not go into compost pile). However, since annual plants themselves will not make it through the winter, you can leave those that have not yet started to set seed.



A rite of fall: adding compost to the garden in Goshen, VT.

photo by Judith Irven

• Remove all perennial weeds...dandelions, field grasses, ground ivy and the like. Try to remove the entire root system; otherwise next summer the offending weed will surely regrow from its roots and return to haunt you.

• Spread up to four inches of compost over the whole surface of the bed.

• Using a garden fork, gently incorporate the compost into the top few inches of soil and rake it smooth.

• Cover the entire bed with about six layers of newspaper... overlapping the sections somewhat. If you use boards for a path, tuck the newspaper under them too. If the wind insists on blowing the newspaper about, a quick douse of water will keep it in place.

• Mulch everything with several inches of hay.

## Hay as mulch??

Hay is readily available from the farms around here and makes an inexpensive mulch for the veggie garden. By next fall the hay will have decomposed to create additional compost.

However hay sometimes includes unwanted weed seeds. So check that the hay you are getting does not contain visible seed heads from field grasses or other undesirables.

Straw, which should not contain weed seeds, is a somewhat more expensive alternative.

## Why the newspaper??

The main purpose of the newsprint is to keep the light away from the soil, which in turn stops weed seeds already in the soil from germinating. It also prevents any weed seeds, either in the hay or out of the air, from getting a foothold in the soil. I find my six layers of newspaper remain reasonably intact

throughout the summer, but by this time of year they can be dug back into the soil.

## Next spring: reap the benefits!

Your bed can sit without any further attention until YOU are ready to plant it out. No more worrying about the spring-time race against the germinating weeds.

Select the best planting time for any particular crop—for instance: peas in April, salad greens and spinach in early May, and Memorial Day for heat-lovers like beans, tomatoes and squash!

*To plant individual seedlings:* pull back the hay, with a trowel cut a hole through the newspaper and plop your seedling into the nice fluffy soil beneath. Water well and reposition the hay.

*To plant a row of seeds:* pull back the hay and along the length of the row cut a slot through the newspaper and down into the soil. Plant the seeds in the furrow.

*And for warm-weather crops:* If you are concerned that the mulch is preventing the soil from warming up enough for crops like tomatoes, just pull the entire mulch sandwich to one side for a week or so to expose the soil to the sun. After you actually get around to planting, tuck everything back around your young plants.

## What could be easier??!

Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT. You can subscribe to Judith's blog about her Vermont gardening life at [www.northcountryreflections.com](http://www.northcountryreflections.com). Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer. To see his photographs go to [northcountryimpressions.com](http://northcountryimpressions.com).

## Butternuts

There's more than red fox and brown deer  
 In Vermont woods this time of the year,  
 There's a shower of butternuts at dawn  
 That frost has sharpened its scissors on.  
 The nuts are velvet and green brown  
 So much like leaves that they hardly show,  
 With a shell like the granite underground  
 From which the nut trees grow.  
 A tree itself could cover a field  
 With saplings from its butternut yield  
 But there'll be none when the autumn's done  
 For chipmunks gather them one by one  
 And people getting their hands all black  
 Crowd the nuts in a gunny sack  
 Knowing a cure for the agues of winter  
 Is the sound of butternuts under a hammer.

—ELIZABETH JANE ASTLEY  
1937



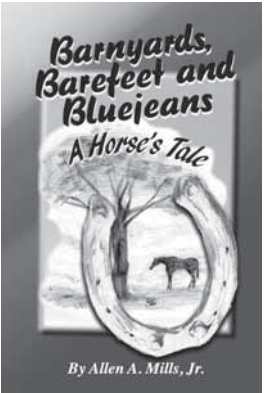

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# Putney Craft Tour Celebrates 43rd Anniversary Thanksgiving Weekend

Spend this Thanksgiving weekend on Putney's Artisan Trail where local studios are stocked up with fine artisan craft and open for business.

The 43rd Annual Putney Craft Tour takes place on November 26, 27 & 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

The oldest continuing craft tour in the country is timed to coincide with Thanksgiving and holiday shopping. It sprang from the happy confluence of the back-to-the-land movement and the rise of American craft. Vermont's agrarian heritage created a culture of craft and an appreciation of the hand-made, which continues to this day.

One of the founders is potter Ken Pick who arrived in Putney in 1969 after receiving a Master of Arts in Teaching from Antioch-Putney Graduate School. But pottery was never far away from his heart, and in 1973, he began to earn his living from his craft.

"This year there are 19 artists on the tour. It's never been more than 28. There was an agreement that that size was good. We wanted to bring in new young people who arrived in the area," Pick says. He adds that the date of the Thanksgiving weekend was chosen carefully—it's the start of the gift-buying season.

"This year we hope to welcome many new Vermonters who've moved here during COVID from outside Vermont."

Connections are what it's all about, both for the artists and the people who visit their studios. Visitors and locals move through the studios over the course of three days and engage with the artists, the real draw of such tours, as well as the distinctive, original pieces for sale. People say it's more interesting and exciting to see something in a studio where it was created and to speak to the artist who made it.

Silver jeweler Jeanne Bennett, who has been on the tour for over 16 years, appreciates the feedback she gets. "It's nice to get the work out in public. I'm up in the woods and I love hearing everyone's feedback." In addition to first-timers, Bennett, like most of the artists, has repeat customers that come back "to see what's new and add to their collection."

The tour is great entertainment. Driving the back roads and finding the studios is an adventure in itself although the studios are well marked and maps provide clear directions.

Erica Noyes from Boston says, "I have been coming on the tour since I was in high school. (I graduated in 1994.) I grew up in Maine, but have family in Vermont, so that is how I started attending. I went to Bennington College, so it was easy for me to do the tour those years. I live in Boston now, but try to make it up every year with my husband. I tell everyone that it is the best event of the year!"

Putney also reflects the power of the creative economy. Pick says, "Local shop owners say it's their biggest weekend because of the tour."

For the last four years, the tour has been partnering with the Sandglass Theatre and Next Stage Arts in Putney to put on special performances. This year Next Stage will present



Robert Burch works on a piece of hand blown glass in his studio in Putney, VT. Kelly Fletcher photo

"Zoo Story", Edward Albee's one-act masterpiece on November 26th and 27th, at 7:30 p.m. ([www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org)). Sandglass Theater is also creating an event for the weekend. Check their website at [www.sandglasstheater.org](http://www.sandglasstheater.org) closer to Thanksgiving for details.

The tour includes wine and cheese tastings as well as demos. Visitors may start at Putney Winery & Spirits at 8 Bellows Falls Rd. for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works.

Sponsors include Hidden Springs Maple, Putney Diner, and the Putney Food Co-op.

For a complete list and background of artisans on the tour including images of their work, and any updates regarding COVID as it relates to the studios, please go to [www.putneycrafts.com](http://www.putneycrafts.com).



Clare Adams at work in her studio.

## Brattleboro, VT

### 16th Annual Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market Opens

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market opens on Saturday, November 6 and will run through March 26 in the C.F. Church Building at 80 Flat St. in downtown Brattleboro, VT. Market hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We are one of the few weekly indoor Vermont farmers markets open for in-person shopping for the extended winter season. With continued health and safety concerns related to the pandemic, be in "Shop 'n Go" mode, limiting the number of customers in the space at one time, and encouraging

customers to make their purchases and move on so others can do the same. Check our website for the most up-to-date details.

We plan to put a few cafe tables and chairs outside where you can enjoy ready-to-eat market goodies. Our vendors will be offering a wide array of locally grown and locally produced foods, handmade soaps, jewelry and more. Customers utilizing SNAP food benefits can turn \$10 into \$30 with Crop Cash Coupons and our Boost Your Bread coupons.

Masks will be required to

enter the market and all market vendors will be masked.

If you can't wear a mask for medical reasons or are unable to come to the in-person market due to medical concerns, contact us. We'll work out an alternate plan so you can still get your local carrots, fresh bread and more!

The Brattleboro Winter

Farmers' Market is sponsored by Post Oil Solutions, a local nonprofit grassroots group working to promote sustainable communities.

For info contact Sherry at (802) 275-2835, [farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org). Visit [www.brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org](http://www.brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org).



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# A Vermont Almanack for Autumn

by Bill Felker

*Exciting new vistas have been opened by the wind, and dry leaves are rustling everywhere. How beautiful is a bare tree, a symbol of the tautness and simplicity of winter!*

—Harlan Hubbard

## The Sun's Progress

On November 22, 2021, the Sun enters its Deep Winter sign of Sagittarius. Daylight Saving Time ends on November 7 at 2:00 a.m..

On November 20, the sun leaves the Late Fall sign of Scorpio and enters the Early Winter sign of Sagittarius, three fourths of its way from autumn equinox to winter solstice. At the end of November, sunset has reached to within just a few minutes of its earliest time throughout the nation. The latest sunrise, however, is still about half an hour away.

## Phases of the Deer Rutting Moon

Late Fall is the time for deer to come into estrus, and mating takes place throughout the last months of the year. Combined with the end of Daylight Saving Time, deer rutting makes this period one of the most dangerous of the year for driving.

**November 4:** The Deer Rutting Moon is new at 4:15 p.m.

**November 5:** Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closest to Earth): 5:00 p.m.

**November 11:** Second Quarter: 7:46 a.m.

**November 19:** Full Moon: 3:57 a.m. and Partial Lunar Eclipse visible in most of the United States

**November 20:** Lunar Apogee (when the Moon is farthest from Earth): 9:00 p.m.

**November 27:** Last Quarter: 7:38 a.m.

## The Planets

Jupiter and Saturn are Evening Stars in Capricorn. Venus moves once again during November, this time into Sagittarius, visible at dusk deep in the southwest, a third and the brightest Evening Star. Mars in Libra becomes visible as a Morning Star later in the month.

## The Stars

In the evenings of Late Fall, the Milky Way runs from east to west, cutting the sky in half. Cassiopeia is now due south of Polaris. The Big Dipper hugs the northern horizon then, its pointers lying northeast-southwest.

Summer's Hercules is setting in the west., and the Great Square of autumn is moving in behind it. Cygnus, the swan of the Northern Cross and the gauge of autumn's progress,



Old farm equipment resting in the autumn woods in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

is disappearing south. October's Pegasus and Andromeda fall away behind it.

Outriders of winter, the Pleiades have moved almost overhead, leading on the Hyades and the red eye of Taurus, Aldebaran. Orion towers in the southeast, followed by Sirius and Procyon. Castor and Pollux, the rulers of January, stand above Orion's hounds.

## Meteorology

Weather history suggests that the cold waves of Late Fall usually cross the Mississippi River on or about November 2, 6, 11, 16, 20, 24 and 28. Snow or rain often occurs prior to the passage of each major front. Although climate change

may tend to soften some of these fronts, storms related to lunar influence may actually increase their strength.

For example, new moon on November 4 and lunar perigee on November 5 create a definite pattern for freezing temperatures deep into the Border States and at higher elevations throughout the country. Blizzard conditions are probable across the West and Great Plains. Look for a killing frost at full moon time, November 19, throughout the Northeast.

## The Shooting Stars

The Leonid meteor shower reaches its best on the night of the 16th-17th. Expect no more than 30 shooting stars per hour.

## Farming and Gardening Notes

by Bill Felker

*When the misty vapors starts to freeze  
And the sheep and goats do sneeze and wheeze,  
Then, quick! With herbs ward off disease:  
Hollyhock root and raspberry leaves,  
Peppermint and chamomile, if you please.*

The Christmas market, while not as lucrative as the Easter market, still offers opportunities to sell small milk-fed lambs and kids. The Jewish feast of Hanukkah takes place between December 25th and January 1st and increases your options. If you have goats, now is the time to be building kidding boxes and a holding box for disbudding kids, time for completing fall vaccinations and for trimming feet. If you are treating your herd for mites, get all the goats at once—since mites are contagious!

See if you can get along without snow removal salt this winter—at least in any area frequented by livestock or by your pets. Some products have a moderate level of toxicity and are bad for flowers and landscape plantings.

Deer hunting seasons occur at various times through November and December. If you know the exact dates in your area, you can be sure your animals are out of the line of fire. Having goats in the woods before the season, for example, makes sense - they can get the tender shoots before the deer do. Once the hunters come, however, the livestock needs to be in the barn.

One of the best ways to turn goat's milk into cash is to fatten calves and piglets with it. The turnaround time for weaner pigs can be between three and five months. If you are going to fatten piglets with your goat's milk, however, you might want to have two pigs instead of just one. Pigs like to have company.

In the dark moon of the first and last weeks of November, take care of routine maintenance activities such as clipping hair and feet, worming, cleaning stalls, tattooing, and giving vaccinations.

As the weather becomes colder, watch for declines in livestock milk production that are not related to feed changes or drying off; these declines could be due to health or other stress factors. Maintain good ventilation in the barn (but no drafts), and watch for problems from overcrowding.

Planning to expand your herd or flock? Under ideal circumstances, one acre of permanent pasture can support up to 1,000 pounds of animal.

Under November's waxing moon, put in the last winter grains. Test the soil of the field, pasture and garden, adding the correct nutrients for late autumn and early spring growth.

Cool-weather pastures (like many warm-weather pastures) may or may not produce the kind of nutrition you need for your livestock. Just because a pasture is green doesn't mean

it will let you get by without feeding grain. And once animals come in from pasture, they have to have hay or other roughage to live. Don't switch them suddenly to a grain mix.

Keep visiting relatives under control around the pregnant ewes, does and heifers. You don't want kids (or adults) making a lot of noise and causing your animals stress. If you are finishing up last-minute building or repair projects, give special attention to keeping the pregnant animals as far as possible from the sound of power tools and pounding.

All the pregnant animals need to get their exercise. That's especially important in northern states when snow and ice and bitter winds can keep a herd or flock in close quarters.

Save your best quality feed supplies for the colder months and the months closest to birthing time.

Try to keep your water for pregnant livestock between 50 and 60 degrees. Animals should drink more if the water isn't too cold.

Order your pasture seeds and schedule your pasture frost seeding for January and February—the time that dramatic thaws can occur well into the North (just before the really bad storms).

If you are slaughtering and butchering your animals at home this year, do it when the weather is cold but not too cold. You want to chill the carcass, but avoid having it freeze. Ideal chilling temperature for lambs, pigs, feeder calves - and deer—is between 30 to 0 degrees.

Rheumatism in livestock and people increases during the cold and damp weather of winter, especially prior to the arrival of cold fronts. A tablespoonful of paprika and one of molasses per day are considered helpful by some in reducing joint stiffness.

December lambs and kids may arrive during the moon's third quarter, even if they are not scheduled to be born exactly at that time. In fact, more creatures give birth during the moon's third quarter than in any other quarter.

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Ram in the autumn woods in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

## Late Autumn Journal

by Bill Felker

### Part I

I wake up to leaves from the redbud tree and the white mulberry tree all over the lawn where I raked yesterday. Today, I will just look and listen.

When I am sitting on the porch, I hear two Osage fruits fall into the great open palms of the Lenten roses near the west fence. At the pond, our five koi lie low on the bottom, subdued by the autumn. Pale grape leaves streak the honeysuckle hedge. Even though the hummingbird food slowly disappears, it seems that the bees are the only ones drinking. One white bindweed has blossomed near the trellis, and Ruby's white phlox have a few new flowers. All the finches at the feeders have turned for winter.

Into the woods, the canopy opening in front of me: zigzag goldenrod and all the asters are half gone; smartweed is blanched by the frost; drifts of snakeroot have gone to seed, brown and gray; deep patches of goldenrod all rusted, flowers and leaves matching now; wood nettle is spotted, drooping; wingstem and ironweed are twisted, sagging, brittle; climbing bittersweet is undressed, bright; the pale underside of blackberry leaves turn over in the warm east wind.

And this varied, mottled land reflects the motion of the sky, tells the rising of Orion up into the night, this leaf following red Antares, that leaf prophesying Betelgeuse. Open bittersweet along the path uncovers the Milky Way above me. Myopia takes everything in hand. In the glow of ripeness, the stars of November fall around me. Everything is here. All the facts are in. I need look no further than the undergrowth for Taurus and the Pleiades.

### Part II

As late autumn deepens, hardy forsythia and honeysuckle leaves are giving way to the chill. Sugar maples and silver maples gradually drop their foliage. Almost every dark-eyed junco has arrived for winter. Indoors, Christmas cacti are budding, and the most precocious plants are flowering. In the fields, most winter wheat sprouted in the warm October and is tall enough to quiver in the wind.

Walking in the parks on mild November days, the sky streaked with high cirrus, the sun low and almost white, I can find the woods floor bright with the foliage of chickweed, moneywort, buttercup, mint, ground ivy, and garlic mustard.

In the swamps, new dark green ragwort, new dock, purple skunk cabbage and fresh watercress fill the streams. If I walk across the spongy surface of marsh land on clumps of green grass, I can see lanky thistles between the foliage of the spring iris, the old stalks of dishevelled cattails, and the sprawling remnants of angelica.

I remember such a place one April, cowslip and toad

trillium in full bloom, buckeyes leafing out, first garlic mustard flowering, first phlox, toothwort and spring beauties in patches, wild iris up and budding, ferns unravelling, purple and yellow and white violets everywhere.

And now in November, the absence of those flowers can seem more illusion than truth. The landscape is like the turning firmament, and its particles and fruits are earth stars that revolve through memory, each season containing the recollection and therefore the soul of all those other seasons which preceded, and which are to follow.

### Part III

The fields are cold across the valley, brambles tangled in thistle and milkweed down, blackberries gone to jam and brandy. Most of the ginkgos and white mulberry trees have shed their golden leaves. The silver maples and the oaks thin out. Forsythia turns deep red and yellow from the frost. Poplars shrivel.

Beeches and pears and willows weaken. Osage fruits are all down, standing out chartreuse, at random, on the forest floor. Tangled orange bittersweet is open along the fencerows. Bright pink coralberries are shine through the undergrowth.

In the warmer evenings, opossums, skunks and raccoons increase their activity. Improvident woolly bear caterpillars, the latest of the year, hurry across the roads when the sun shines. The first junco may appear below your bird feeder late in the week. Robins still work the honeysuckle berries, but the chances of mornings in the teens and twenties grow quickly as November wind takes down the most tenacious leaves, changing the tattered appearance of Late Fall into the purity and simplicity of winter.

### Part IV

I debate with myself sometimes whether or not this is the most beautiful time of the year. I always decide, finally, that it is not. But there are afternoons, the warm and rainy ones in the deeper woods, that argue convincingly for their place at the pinnacle of the year.

Sometimes I can still find water striders in the sloughs this week. A few daddy longlegs are left in the old wood nettles and touch-me-nots. A few bees still come out, and moths and an occasional cabbage butterfly emerge when the temperatures rise to the 60s.

The last honeysuckle leaves, dogwood, spicebush, boxwood, and a few elms, stubborn sugar maples, garlic mustard, sweet Cicely, yarrow, and aster leaves glow pale green with an April light.

Altogether, they produce in me a feeling of renewal without the trauma of winter, a sudden reprieve, an immediate, sweet

compensation for the death of the year. I feel all of the hope of spring, but none of its demands.

### Part V

A few weeks ago I was walking Bella, our border collie, through the alley around a quarter after nine in the morning. The maples had lost their leaves by then, the hackberries and oaks half down. I could hear starlings and grackles ahead of me to the north, and I hurried down to see them.

Past the apple tree, I came under the cries and the rushing of the great flock. They knew where they were going: southeast, stopping in the branches above me for a just few seconds, calling to one another, looking out above the high canopy, then hurrying, diving on, one after another,

I was swept away and then held tight in their direction and their certainty. They covered me up, it seemed, in their numbers. Their whirring, chortling migration filled the space between the street and the silver maple where I stood.

The tent of this flock's passage was such a safe place against the cold ahead. The coverlet was force enough, fortification against what would surely come, filtering and sorting through, in just this instant in the alley, the daunting approach of the winter, and giving me a balance like the birds themselves must have felt, pulled by time and context out into the autumn sky.

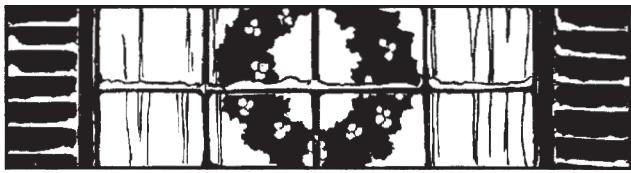
Surrounded, I had no place left to turn: the starlings and the grackles had taken all the options. I stood loved, cradled, suspended, caressed, enfolded in a blanket of pinions, here on this familiar ground, in the presence of the white asters with red centers and the violet asters with arrowhead leaves.



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**Bennington Holiday and Winter Farmers Markets** at Bennington High School cafeteria. Saturdays, November 6 to April 16. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Daniel Strohl, (802) 733-6559. benningtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org.

**Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market.** At C.F. Church Building, 80 Flat St. Saturdays, November 6 through March 26. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. www.brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org.

**Burlington Farmers' Market** at 345 Pine St. Saturdays, November 20, December 4 & 18. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Hannah Stearns, (802) 560-5904. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org@gmail.com. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

**Dorset Winter Farmers' Market.** At J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory, 1430 VT Rt. 30. Sundays, October 17 through May 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Helen Wood, (802) 384-4499. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

**Middlebury Winter Farmer's Market.** At VFW Post, 530 Exchange St. Saturdays, November 6 through April 30. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

**Montpelier—Capital City Winter Farmers' Market.** At the 133 State St. parking lot. Every 2nd and 4th Saturday, January 8 through April 30. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Keri, (802) 498-8214. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.capitalcityfarmersmarket.com.

**Morrisville Holiday Farmers Market.** In front of Hanford, 80 Fairground Plaza. Saturday, November 20. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. movillefarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.morrisvillefarmersmarket.org.

**Northfield Winter Farmers' Market.** At 165 VT Rt. 12 south. Wednesdays, November 1 through April 27. Crystal Peterson. (802) 485-5563. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. www.northfieldfm.eatfromfarms.com.

**Norwich Farmers' Winter Market** at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Saturdays, November 20, December 11 & 18, January 8 & 22, February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26, and April 9 & 23. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org.

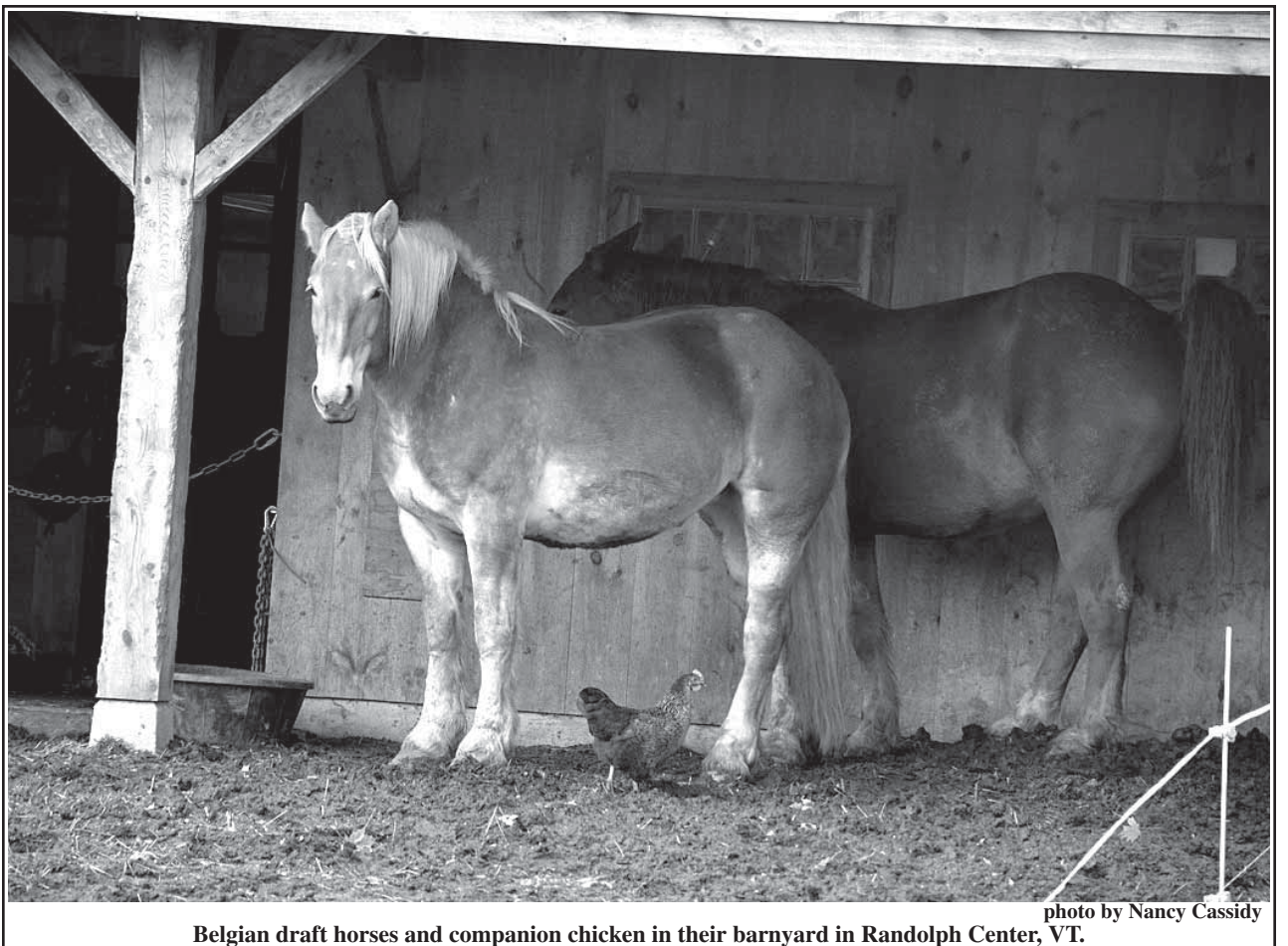
**Putney Holiday Markets.** At Green Mountain Orchards, 130 West Hill Rd. Sundays, November 21 through December 19. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. www.putneyfarmersmarket.org.

**Rutland—Vermont Winter Farmers' Market.** At Food Center Building, 251 West St. Saturdays, November 6 through April 30. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rachel Yoder, (802) 417-8661. vfmrutland@gmail.com. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

**South Hero—Champlain Islands Holiday Farmers Market.** At the South Hero Congregational Church, 24 South St. Saturdays, November 6 & 20; December 6 & 18. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Accepts EBT, Debit, Credit, Crop Cash. www.champlainislandsfarmersmarket.org.

**St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Winter Farmers Market.** At St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 51 Depot Square. First and third Saturdays, November 1 through April 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. cfmamanager@gmail.com. www.caledoniafarmersmarket.com.

**Stowe Farmers Market.** At Stowe Cider, 17 Town Farm Lane. Saturdays, November 17, December 11. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. www.stowefarmersmarket.com.



Belgian draft horses and companion chicken in their barnyard in Randolph Center, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

## Circa 1884

# Dr. Chase's Old-Time Cold-Weather Recipes

## Pumpkin Butter As Made in the North Woods

Take out the seeds of one pumpkin, cut it in small pieces and boil it soft; take three other pumpkins, cut them in pieces and boil them soft; put them in a coarse bag and press out the juice; add the juice to the first pumpkin and let it boil 10 hours or more to become the thickness of butter; stir often. If the pumpkins are frozen the juice will come out much easier. *Remarks*—All I have to guide me as to the "North Woods" manner of making is that on the back of the slip cut from some newspaper; there was the date of the paper: Feb. 7, 1880, also "Sleighting fair," and "Loggers feel better," therefore, to know that "loggers felt better," they must have that class of persons among them; and hence it was from some northern paper, where loggers in the winter do congregate. It will make a good butter if boiled carefully to avoid burning. I should say boil the juice at least half away before putting in the nicely cut pieces of the one pumpkin, boiling it soft in the juice of the three other ones, after its reduction one-half. It makes a very good substitute for cow's butter, and for apple butter, too. But I must say if I used frozen pumpkins to obtain the juice from, I should not want the one frozen that was to be cut up to make the butter of. If any of these butters are too sour add good brown sugar to make it sweet enough to suit the taste.

## Boston Baked Beans

An excellent and favorite dish with every New England family, if carefully prepared. Get a red, earthen jar (I believe the red ones are unglazed and, therefore, preferred). It should be 14 to 16 inches deep, with a wide mouth. Get the beans at a first-class grocery, lest they should be old or poor in quality; pick, wash and soak them over night in plenty of cold water; scald them the next day with a teaspoonful of soda; they should not boil unless they have been long stored. Drain off the water twice, at least, to remove the taste of the soda, and to each 3 pts. of beans, before soaking, allow 1½ lbs. of good, sweet, salt pork—a rib piece, not too fat, is best. Let the beans cover all but the top of the pork, which must have been freshened if very salty, the rind scraped and scored; adding hot water enough to cover the beans, in which half a small cup of molasses has been dissolved. They should be put in the oven at bed-time, while there is still a moderate fire remaining. They will be ready in the morning. If the pork is not very salt, add a little salt to the water in which the beans are baked.—*Boston Herald.*

## North Country Bean Soup

As I look upon bean soup as the *best* of old soups, I will give a receipt taken from "A Book of the Sea," which, having had it made several times, I can say it can be depended upon. It was given by a sailor.

He says: "The fact is, that bean soup at sea is such a stand-by that the sailor-man on shore sometimes gets quite mad when it's offered him, and still, bean soup is a mighty good thing, and all according to the way you make it. Now, you get a lot of swells on board, and make 'em soup, and call it *haricot* (in England, this name is still used for beans) and not beans, which is vulgar, and if you know how to turn it out, they will take three platefuls.

"First, you get a *pint and a half* of good sound beans—I don't think there is much difference in beans, whether they are *big* or *little*—and pick 'em over and stand them for an hour in a bowl of cold water. Take three pounds of meat or a shin-bone, and put the beef in four quarts of cold water, and let it boil. Fry an onion and put that in, with six white cloves and a dozen peppers (the small cayenne peppers, the same that are used in making pepper sauce), and some parsley, with a tablespoon of salt. Let it boil for two hours, and you keep skimming. As fast as the water boils away, you keep adding a little hot water. When the concern is cooked, take a colander and strain your soup through it, mashing up the beans and keeping out the meat and the bean shin. If you want to be superfine, you can hard boil an egg, and slice white and yellow through, and put them in the tureen; likewise some slices of lemon. Bits of toast don't go bad with it."


## Hunter's Pudding

This is a boiled pudding that will keep for months. Ingredients are flour, suet finely chopped, raisins chopped, and English currants, each, one lb.; sugar, ¼ lb.; the outer rind of a lemon, grated; six berries of pimento (all-spice) finely powdered; salt, ¼ teaspoonful; when well mixed add 4 well beaten eggs, a ½ pint of brandy, and one or two tablespoonfuls of milk to reduce it to a thick batter; boil in a cloth nine hours, and serve with a brandy sauce.

This pudding may be kept for six months after boiling, if closely tied up; it will be required to be boiled 1 hour when it is to be used.

*Remarks*—This, for hunters going out upon a long expedition, would be a very desirable relish to take along. There is not a doubt as to its keeping qualities, as it contains no fermentive principles; and the fruit and brandy are both antiferments, while the long boiling is also done to kill any possible tendency to fermentation. I should, however, boil it in a tin can, having a suitable tight-fitting cover, if intended for long keeping, on the principle of air-tight canning, as well as to be safe from insects, and convenience in carrying.

Do not think, however, that it would be very nice for present use with only four or five hours' boiling, using the sauce freely, as it is made quite dry for the purpose of long keeping.



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# Merck Forest & Farmland Center Fall Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Fall Event Schedule

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

**November 13. Second Saturday Hike. 4-5:30 p.m.** Enjoy a guided hike with a MFFC staff member who will discuss the ecology, history, farming culture and forestry of the area. Wear proper hiking footwear for our rugged trails, and bring water, snacks and bug spray. Please arrive 15 minutes before hike begins at 4 p.m. Fee: \$5 per person, pre-registration is required. The event will only be canceled in case of extreme weather.

**December 11. Second Saturday Hike. 4-5:30 p.m.** Enjoy a guided hike with a MFFC staff member who will discuss the ecology, history, farming culture and forestry of the area. Wear proper hiking footwear for our rugged trails, and bring water, snacks and bug spray. Please arrive 15 minutes before hike begins at 4 p.m. Fee: \$5 per person, pre-registration is required. The event will only be canceled in case of extreme weather.

**December 11. Wreath-Making Workshop. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 1-3 p.m.** One of our favorite holiday events! Join Merck Forest elves in creating a holiday wreath from greens sourced at Merck Forest. Ribbons for bows and natural materials for decorating are provided. Bring along your own decorations to embellish your wreath. This is an indoor activity with limited registrations; masks and COVID certification will be required of all participants. Pre-register.

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

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



A woodland walk at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT. photo courtesy of Merck Forest & Farmland Center.

## 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.

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.

—ELLA WARNER FISHER  
1853-1937, VERGENNES, VT,



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...

## The Community Asylum Seekers Project

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



Find out how you can help this effort at [www.casvpt.org](http://www.casvpt.org)



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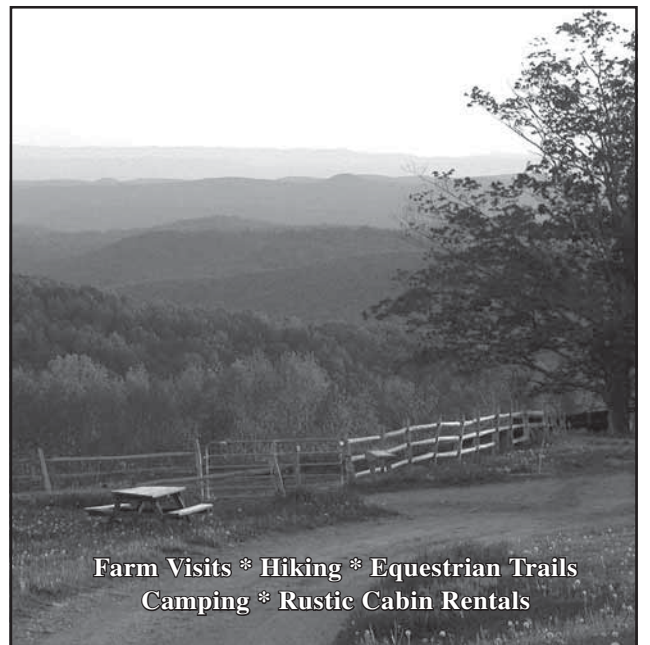


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# Ripton Community Coffee House on the Road

The Ripton Community Coffee House on the Road welcomes Kalos to the stage on Saturday November 6th at 7:30 p.m. at Burnham Hall in Lincoln, VT.

Performing as Kalo, Ryan McKasson, Eric McDonald and Jeremiah McLane are masters of tradition who purposefully explore the dark corners floating on its edges of spontaneous musicality. An air of mystery pervades a sound compelling enough to transcend boundaries and appeal to music lovers of all stripes.

Devon Leger of Hearth Music says, "This trio really shows how masterful musicians listen and play off each other."

Their mutual attitude stretches beyond the music. They are good friends and this is present in their live performances, which are full of organic banter and good humor. Despite living active musical lives thousands of miles apart these musicians work together to forge a new musical path.

We have suspended the open mic portion of the evening for the time being. Kalos will play two sets.

Please remember your proof of vaccination. Masks required. Thank you!

Doors open at 7 p.m. Mu-

sic at 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$20 generous admission, \$10 general admission at the door only.

The show will also be live-streamed! Tune in on our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/RiptonCommunityCoffeeHouse](http://www.facebook.com/RiptonCommunityCoffeeHouse).

## Ripton Community Coffee House on the Road

The Ripton Community Coffee House, based in Ripton, Vermont has been presenting regional and nationally/internationally touring musicians on the first Saturday of the month for over 25 years. Traditionally held in the Ripton Community House, built in 1868, the series has now gone "on the road" due to the unventilated nature of building.

We look forward to returning to our home in Ripton in the future, but for now, you can find "Ripton Community Coffee House on the Road" at Burnham Hall in Lincoln, VT, where there is better ventilation and room for social distancing.

*Burnham Hall is located in Lincoln, VT, at 52 E. River Rd. For more information please contact us at [rechfolks@gmail.com](mailto:rechfolks@gmail.com) or call (802) 388-9782. Concert details, videos and upcoming shows at [www.rech.org](http://www.rech.org).*



Kalos featuring Jeremiah McLane, Eric McDonald and Ryan McKasson will perform in Lincoln, VT on November 6.

## Green Mountain Gardener

# Winterberry—Our Native Holly

by Dr. Leonard Perry

Horticulture Professor Emeritus, University of Vermont

If you are looking for an easy care, native ornamental plant to add color to the late fall and early winter landscape, consider the winterberry. Also known as winterberry holly or North American holly (*Ilex verticillata*), this relative of the evergreen hollies is "deciduous" (losing its leaves in winter). It loses its dull green leaves in autumn, leaving an abundance of attractive scarlet berries on every stem and branch. These are attractive in arrangements, or just left in the landscape, if they aren't devoured by birds.

Native populations of winterberry can be found from the eastern Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and New Brunswick south to Virginia and as far west as Michigan. This shrub is generally found in swampy areas, wet thickets, and low woodlands, and is often seen in masses. Winterberry can grow up to 10 to 15 feet tall, although they are generally half that height. Cultivars for landscape situations generally range in height from 3 feet up to 6 feet.

Winterberry is hardy for USDA hardiness zones 4 to 9 (to -20F average minimum temperature in winter, or lower), which includes much of New England except for the coldest regions. Plant in full sunlight. This plant prefers acidic to slightly acidic, wet soil—conditions which mimic its natural habitat. Planting it near a pond or stream is perfect. However, it also can be grown in drier soil or partial shade.

It is ideal for wildlife landscaping as its dense, twiggy growth provides nesting sites for songbirds. Fruit are eaten by red squirrels, cedar waxwings, catbirds, thrushes, and other birds. It is surprisingly disease-resistant, prone only to occasional leaf spots or powdery mildew.

You will need to plant both male and female plants for fruit production. Purchase at least one male plant for every three to four female plants, and plant close together.

Think about placement in the garden as this shrub is at its most attractive stage from September through mid-winter when its branches are covered with brightly colored berries. In summer, this plant has only tiny white flowers.

Many cultivars (cultivated varieties) of winterberry grow well in this part of the country. In trials a few years ago at the University of Vermont, the best were 'Jolly Red', 'Maryland Beauty', 'Winter Red', and the hybrid 'Sparkleberry'.

'Winter Red' is a favorite for cutting for arrangements as it is multi-stemmed with an abundance of bright red, medium-sized berries and dark green leaves that turn bronze in autumn. It can grow to nine feet tall. 'Winter Gold' has a similar growth habit and produces attractive peach to gold-orange berries that get paler as they age. A good male cultivar for pollinating these is 'Southern Gentleman'.

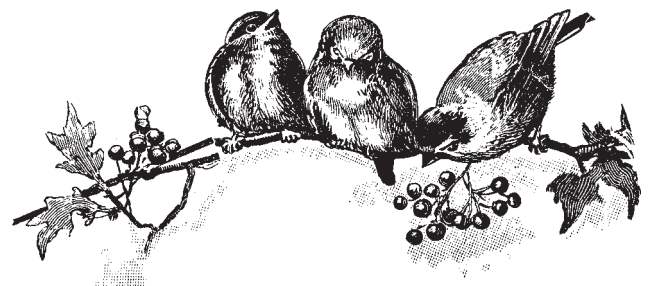
For a low hedge or mass planting, choose 'Red Sprite' with its tight branching and mature height of only 3 to 5 feet, which you may also find as 'Nana'. It was the 2010 Holly of the Year of the Holly Society of America. 'Afterglow' too is rather low, only reaching about 6 feet at most, and has lovely orange-red berries. 'Jim Dandy' is a good male pollinator for these, as well as for the 5-foot 'Maryland Beauty', the 8-foot 'Stoplight', or the 9- to 10-foot 'Jolly Red'.

'Maryland Beauty' has dense clusters of dark red fruit along stem, developing color early. It is the cultivar often grown commercially for its cut stems, and was Holly of the Year for 2008. 'Jolly Red' is an older cultivar, originally from Connecticut, with large berries. 'Stoplight' and 'Hopperton' are names for the same plant—a newer cultivar.

'Sparkleberry' is a hybrid of the winterberry species with an Asian species, the finetooth holly (*serrata*), bred in the 1970's by the USDA. The result is a shrub, 10- to 12-foot high, with young leaves that are plum colored, and large glossy fruit that ripen early. But it is not as hardy (USDA zone 6 reliably, or -10°F) as the other winterberries. Use the hybrid cultivar 'Apollo' for pollination.

These are only a few of the good winterberries available. Check with your local full service garden center or nursery for their recommendations.

*Dr. Leonard Perry, Horticulture Professor Emeritus, served as an Extension Horticulture Specialist at the University of Vermont for 35 years until his June 2016 retirement. Visit Perry's Perennial Pages at [www.perrysperennials.info](http://www.perrysperennials.info).*



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# Autumn The Time of Memory

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Autumn is the powerhouse time of year, when the world is full of warmth and light, of dark and sadness—as some poem says, when a shadow lies across the sundial. It's the time of memory.

Another world comes close, and I have always felt mystery around me. When I walk along Castleton's rail trail, I hear the thrum and buzz of cicadas, a few bird chirps and a sharp bird cry. The world vibrates with sounds. But at mid-day there's a singing-silence under the bright, still, arc of a cloudless sky.

At the trail edges, summer's plants have climbed up, collapsed over, and slumped together in a dying swoon and become a pale ropy tangle. The red-brown sumac leaves, purple asters, the, now-silver, goldenrod, the milk weed pods, swollen and bursting, a thin carpet of brown and old-gold leaves under foot, the air dusty and warm.

The dying world is so filled with a sense of the richness of life.

My last child was born halfway through September. An old rocker of my grandmother's became my nursing chair, and my husband carried it out and set it up in our back yard so that mid-mornings the two of us could be under the ash.

That golden autumn we rocked together in the old tree's filtered-leaf-light. I remember looking down at my daughter's little head. I remember thinking, 'This is a fleeting wonder.'

All summer, my husband and I drive to Benson for a Sunday night supper at the incongruously-named West Coast Tacos, a little yearly pop-up in the middle of sweeping hay fields.

The business is precarious because the woman who runs the place isn't in good health, but she's been open every week this summer, and we've sat out at a picnic table and watched the distant flash of big-rig milk, and fuel tanker, trucks going north on Rt. 22-A.

Now when we drive there on a golden late afternoon, the little place is closed, a drooping flag, an empty gravel parking area, the surrounding fields dotted with round bales casting long shadows.

Over forty years ago, we bought a cottage on the west side of Lake Bomoseen. At that time, there were old cottages on either side of us, on one side a sort of family compound, two little buildings, one very small, probably put up in the 1930s, and a larger one built in the 1960s.

These places were owned by the Blakemans, an elderly couple from New Hampshire who spent their summers on the lake. At the end of every season, Mrs. Blakeman's son drove



Sherman's Beach on Lake Bomoseen. The original house burned some time ago; this replacement is a private cottage. photo by John Rehlen

three very elderly lady friends over to join her for a week-end. Late afternoons, we'd hear laughter and little cocktail hour hoots coming from the 1930s cottage front porch.

Then one year, the old pair didn't return. The ladies' annual reunion was no more, and the son and his wife took over the place for a few summers.

Finally, the son's three sons and their wives visited for a while, but no one liked the cottages in the way that the old couple had, and the property was put on the market and sold and the two insubstantial little buildings razed.

On the other side of us, The Knight family owned a rambling, Adirondack-style, camp, one of Bomoseen's oldest buildings, built on a point of land with a panoramic view up and down the lake.

Between the times they rented their place out in order to have money to pay the local property taxes, most of the big Knight family, with their mother Joyce, traveled up from Philadelphia for raucous, and what sounded to us next door, like riotously-happy vacations.

It was always a precarious situation financially. When Joyce died, the family had to sell, and the rambling building they all loved on its spectacular point of land went to one of their former renters and was torn down.

But on golden autumn days when I would drop my young children off at school and drive out to the cottage to be by myself, the old places on either side of me were still there, boarded-up, dreaming in the sun.

So there was no sense of anyone anywhere around me. I was intensely alone. Sometimes, I went down to the shore and sat in the clear, shallow water by our dock, hearing the distant motor-sound of a lone bass fisherman's boat far out on the lake. The sun burned down; there was a steady murmur of cicadas.

After awhile, I got up and walked back through the bleached grass, over warm slate outcroppings, into our cold, shadowy cottage which smells like my grandfather's barn.

Long ago, I put this up over my desk: "We are always seeking something profound that eludes us. We sense mystery

*"...the old places on either side of me were still there, boarded up, dreaming in the sun."*

## 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 inkling 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  
1799–1845, London, England

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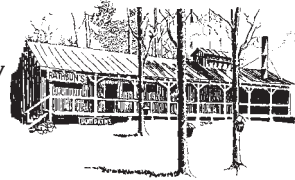
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around us and know it's true. Although we have to put this aside to live, we come up against it in life's events."

In the fall, the memory—and mystery—of my life comes close.

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

All back issues of these columns can be read in the archives, usually on p. 11, at [www.vermontcountrysampler.com](http://www.vermontcountrysampler.com).

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## Vermont Genealogy Library

# Help Available in Your Search For Your Family History

Have you started your genealogy but gotten stuck along the way? The Vermont Genealogy Library in Essex Junction, VT invites you to join us in your search for your family history. Memberships are only \$40 per year, \$48 for two people in same household. Members may use our library any time it is open for research. Visitors are welcome and non-members may use our library for a fee of \$10 a day. You can register to visit our library on our website.

The new facility on River Rd. in Essex Junction has lots of room: a main library room, the classroom, the computer room, and our break room. The computer room has a dozen computers set up with free access to seven major genealogy databases including Ancestry, FindMyPast and MyHeritage. Volunteers will help guide your research.

The Vermont Genealogy Library presents classes to help you in your family search. You can register at [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org) preferably the Friday before the class. For library hours, questions, more information or to register for a class, visit our website or call us at (802) 871-5647. Classes for the VT Genealogy Library are held via Zoom on Saturdays, 12-1:30 p.m. Fee for classes is \$10.

### Vermont Genealogy Library Class Schedule

**Finding the Story of Your French-Canadian Ancestors, November 20, 2021.** Led by Lynn Johnson. You might be just starting to research your French-Canadian ancestors, or maybe you have names and dates for many, but finding the stories that go with the names can greatly enrich your appreciation for their lives. Using examples from her family lines, Lynn Landry Johnson will introduce you to an array of sources that can help you uncover their stories starting in the States and going back to New France in the 1600's. While the examples will be specific to French-Canadian ancestors the general principles can be applied to any line of inquiry. To learn more, and to register for the classes visit [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

**Finding Our Place: Mapping for Genealogy, December 11, 2021.** Led by Suzanne Blanchard. Our last class of the Fall is all about maps: finding them, using them, making them, and sharing them. Maps are records with invaluable information about our ancestors. We all know historic maps can help us find our ancestors, but what we may not realize is that mapping technology has now made it possible for even the armchair genealogist to travel the world in search of their ancestors and collaborate globally, all without an advanced degree. Join us to explore the world through maps and mapping. To learn more, and to register for the classes visit [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

The Vermont Genealogy Library is located at 57 River Rd. (Rt. 117), Pinewood Plaza in Essex Junction, VT. Mailing address: P.O. Box 65128, Burlington, VT 05406. (802) 871-5647. [mail@vtgenlib.org](mailto:mail@vtgenlib.org). For more information go to [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org) or visit our Facebook page.

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# Vermont Map



# Vermont Country Calendar

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

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2021

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

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Bellow Falls Third Fridays (BF3F). Some merchants stay open later. Bellow Falls Opera showing movies. Greater Falls Farmers Market 4-7 pm. (802) 460-2333. [bellowfallsvt.org](http://bellowfallsvt.org). *Third Fridays*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BURLINGTON.** Spirit of Ethan Allen. Daily cruises on Lake Champlain. (802) 862-8300. [spirit@soea.com](mailto:spirit@soea.com). [www.soea.com](http://www.soea.com).

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

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

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

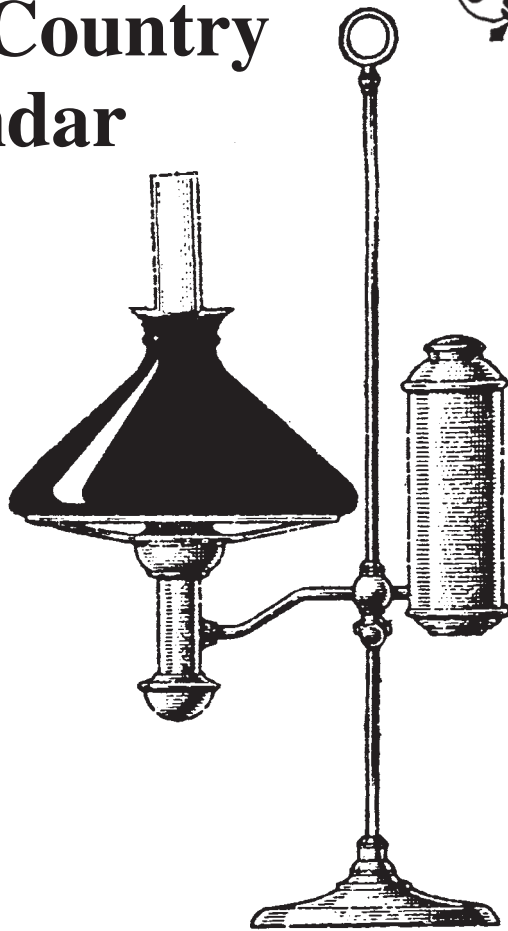
**CHARLOTTE.** Clemmons Family Farm. 148-acre historic farm, African-American owned land and cultural heritage resource. Visit website for more info. (765) 560-5445. [www.clemmonsfamilyfarm.org](http://www.clemmonsfamilyfarm.org).

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

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

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

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



## 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  
1859-1936, Cambridge, United Kingdom

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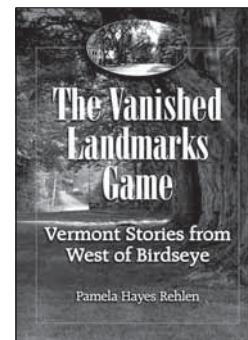
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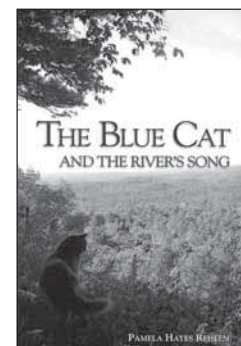
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen  
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# Vermont Country Calendar

Ongoing Activities 2021, continued

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

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

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

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

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

**ONLINE.** Exhibit. Pattern & Purpose: American Quilts from the Shelburne Museum. The museum presents 20 textile masterpieces from its collection from the 1800's to 21st century. Free. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. info@shelburnemuseum.org. shelburnemuseum.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**QUECHEE.** VINS Nature Center's Outdoor Exhibits. Daily with educators presenting. Halloween at VINS abd Hoots & Howls both on October 30. Adults \$17.50, seniors (62 plus) \$16.50, college students \$16.50, educators & vets \$16.50, youth 4-17 \$15, kids 3 & under free. Open daily 10 am - 4 pm. Covid protocols. 149 Natures Way off Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

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

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

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

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

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays November 6 through May 7, 2022.*

**RUTLAND.** Chaffee Art Center. Annual Gingerbread House Contest, November 20 through December 11. Exhibits, workshops, classes, gift shop. Wed, Thurs & Fri 12-4 pm and Sat 10 am - 2 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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

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

**SHELBURNE.** Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum. See the Museum's buildings and campus bedecked in beautiful holiday lights. Adults \$15, ages 3-17 \$10, 2 and younger free. 5-8 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org/visit/winter-lights. *November 26 & 27 and weekends through January 1.*

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Big Blue Express Not So Scary Halloween Train Ride. Come one, come all to the not-so-scariest Halloween train ride in Vermont! Stop by the 2nd level of the University Mall Parking Garage and take a ride on the Big Blue Express. Unlimited rides for \$10 per passenger. 2:30-7:30 pm. University Mall Parking Garage 2nd Level, 155 Dorset St. (802) 343-3302. www.thebigbluetrunk.com/events. *Through October 31.*

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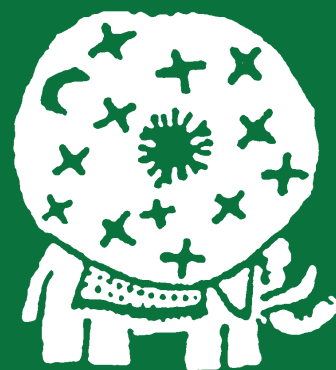
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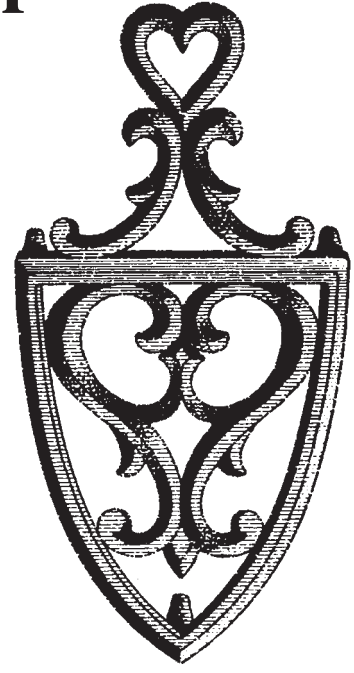
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# Vermont Country Calendar



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

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont State Parks. Vermont has 55 developed and staffed state parks and other undeveloped state park lands to use and enjoy. (888) 409-7579. [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com).

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild. A Cooperative Craft & Fine Art Gallery. Backroom Gallery exhibits change every six weeks. Open Tues-Sat 10:30 am – 5:30 pm. Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, 430 Railroad St. (802) 748-0158. [nekartisansguild.com](http://nekartisansguild.com).

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections, Star Space Astronomy Tours. Adults: \$12, seniors (65+) and children 5-17 \$8, 4 and younger free. Planetarium admission: \$7. Wed. thru Sun. 10 am – 5 pm. COVID protocols. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. [www.fairbanksmuseum.org](http://www.fairbanksmuseum.org)

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Hike the trails, open seven days dawn to dusk! Gallery and Dog Chapel open Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am – 5 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. [contact@dogmt.com](mailto:contact@dogmt.com). [www.dogmt.com](http://www.dogmt.com).

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

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

**STOWE.** Exhibits. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. [helenday.com](http://helenday.com).

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

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

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Free Community Dinner. LISTEN's hearty three-course community dinners are served in the dining hall and on a "to go" basis. Free. Monday-Saturday 4:30-5:30 pm. LISTEN Community Dinner Hall, 42 Maple St. [www.listen.org](http://www.listen.org).

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Woodstock History Center. Free admission. Open Wed-Sat. Woodstock History Center, 26 Elm St. (802) 457-1822. [www.woodstockhistorycenter.org](http://www.woodstockhistorycenter.org).

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

**WOODSTOCK.** November at the Farm. Meet our farm animals and travel through time in the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Enjoy crafts, cooking demonstrations and daily farm activities. Admission: adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 and under free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt.12, just north of the village. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). *November 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21.*

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

**BARNARD.** Haunted Village Theater. Ghost stories and short plays at Silver Lake, Dorothy Thompson Memorial Common, the apple orchard behind Town Hall, the First Universalist Church and BarnArts. Families 5-7 pm, and adults 7-9 pm. \$5-\$20. (802) 234-1645. [barnarts.org](http://barnarts.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Halloween Howl Hayrides. Performances, kid-orientated activities. Tickets \$5 per person. 2-6 pm. North Beach Campground, 60 Institute Rd. (802) 864-0123. [enjoyburlington.com/event/halloween-howl](http://enjoyburlington.com/event/halloween-howl).

**BURLINGTON.** Fright by Flashlight. Adventurous youngsters become experts in vintage ghost hunting techniques. Admission \$12-\$18. 6 pm. Lakeview Cemetery, 455 North Ave. (802) 863-2075 [mail@queencityghostwalk.com](mailto:mail@queencityghostwalk.com). [www.queencityghostwalk.com](http://www.queencityghostwalk.com). *Also October 29.*

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Grand Reopening Party. The night culminates in a performance by Afro-pop superstar Angélique Kidjo. Tickets \$125, online only. 7:30 pm. Flynn Theater, MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741. [hello@vso.org](mailto:hello@vso.org). [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org).

**EAST FAIRFIELD.** Concert. Will Patton Ensemble. Suggested donation \$10 for those 17+. 5 pm. The Meeting House on the Green, 53 School St. (802) 827-6626. [www.meetinghouseonthegreen.org](http://www.meetinghouseonthegreen.org).

**GRAND ISLE.** Haunted Hayrides. A scary trip into the reality of fairy tales. Tickets \$17.25 available on website. 6-10 pm. Rain or shine. Wagons hold 20 people and run about every 15 to 20 minutes. Breakaway Farm, 16 US Rt. 2. (802) 372-8491. [reins@breakaway-farm.com](mailto:reins@breakaway-farm.com). [www.breakaway-farm.com](http://www.breakaway-farm.com). *Also October 29, 30 & 31.*

**MILTON.** The Miniature Farm Harvest Festival. Games, wagon rides to the pumpkin patch, silent auction, pony paddy bingo, food trucks, face painting, live band. Admission varies. 10 am – 4 pm. The Miniature Farm, 247 Mears Rd. (802) 238-8883. [www.theminifarmvt.com](http://www.theminifarmvt.com).

**NORTH BENNINGTON.** Harvest Festival. Free. 4-7 pm. Park McCullough Historic Governor's Mansion, 1 Park St. (802) 442 5441. [info@parkmccullough.org](mailto:info@parkmccullough.org). [www.parkmccullough.org](http://www.parkmccullough.org).

**PANTON.** Pasture Walk at Scuttlefish Farm. See how their pastured poultry is rejuvenating overgrazed fields and a barnyard remodel. Admission \$10. 1-3 pm. Scuttlefish Farm, 81 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 870-0554. [www.scuttlefishfarm.com](http://www.scuttlefishfarm.com).

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2021, continued)

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

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

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

**SHELBURNE.** Borderlands – Halloween without the Howl. Walk through the wild woods where faeries dwell and magic whispers in the wind. The mile-long trail begins and ends in the woods by the Coach Barn. Storytelling, dance, poetry, puppetry, singing and music by elves, fairies, and other woodland creatures. Adults \$20, 2-12 for \$10, under 2 free. Tickets are for a 20-minute time-window, and groups leave every few minutes 12-4 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-1124. [treewild.org/borderlands](http://treewild.org/borderlands). *Also October 30 bad weather dates the following Sunday.*

**WARDSBORO.** Gilfeather Turnip Celebration. Live music, kid activities. Stock up on the Official State Vegetable, Gilfeather baked goods, and turnip-themed apparel. Free. 10 am – 1 pm. Wardsboro Public Library, 170 Main St. (802) 896-3416. [www.friendsofwardsborolib.org/turnip-fest](http://www.friendsofwardsborolib.org/turnip-fest).

**WEST BRATTLEBORO.** The Forest of Mystery. Halloween-themed interactive performance taking place in scenes staged along a beautiful candle-lit trail. Tickets \$7-\$18. 6:15-8:30 pm. Bonneyvale Environmental Education Center, 1223 Bonnyvale Rd. (802) 257-5785. [www.beec.org](http://www.beec.org).

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

**BURLINGTON.** A Halloween-Themed Open UVM Horse Barn. Outside and no food or candy. Masks required. \$3 donation recommended. 12-2 pm. South Farm House, 500 Spear St. (802) 656-3131. [uvm.edu/cals/asci](http://uvm.edu/cals/asci).

**MANCHESTER.** Hildene Farm Wagon Rides. Morning or early afternoon ride. Registration required. \$50 for a group of up to 8 persons. (802) 367-7960 or [stephanie@hildene.org](mailto:stephanie@hildene.org). Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A. [www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org).

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

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market. 1-5 pm, downtown at Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org).

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

**FAIR HAVEN.** Vermont Outdoor Summer Farmers' Market. 3-6 pm. In Fair Haven Park. (802) 747-8264. [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org).

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

**ST. ALBANS.** Hard'ack Halloween Hike. A walk in the woods at Hard'ack. Wear your costume! Free. 4-6 pm. 179 Congress St. (802) 524-1559. [k.viens@stalbanstv.com](mailto:k.viens@stalbanstv.com). [stalbanstv.com](http://stalbanstv.com).

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

**BURLINGTON.** Fright by Flashlight. Adventurous youngsters become experts in vintage ghost hunting techniques. Admission \$12-\$18. 6 pm. Lakeview Cemetery, 455 North Ave. (802) 863-2075 [mail@queencityghostwalk.com](mailto:mail@queencityghostwalk.com). [www.queencityghostwalk.com](http://www.queencityghostwalk.com).

**BURLINGTON.** UVM Lane Series Concert: Hawktaill. Four of the best acoustic musicians in America. Tickets \$33.50 adult, \$5 student. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall at Southwick Music Building, 384 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. [uvm.edu/laneseries](http://uvm.edu/laneseries).

**FERRISBURGH.** Program. Spirits of Rokeby. Each program session lasts about an hour, limited to 10 people per group. Program times: 5 pm, 5:45 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:15 pm. Tickets \$20. Must be purchased in advance. Held at Rokeby Museum in the Historic Robinson Home, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. [www.rokeby.org](http://www.rokeby.org).

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

**MONTPELIER.** The Enchanted Forest. Jack-o-lantern lit trail and a forest filled with art, music, song, and magic. Tickets \$15 adult, \$7 kid, \$35 family. 4:30-7:30 pm. Hubbard Park Dr. (802) 223-9500. [Sophie.Halpin.VISTA@gmail.com](mailto:Sophie.Halpin.VISTA@gmail.com). [www.montpelier-vt.org](http://www.montpelier-vt.org).

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

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

**VERGENNES.** Scarefest at the Vergennes Opera House. A two-day film festival culminating in a halloween-themed dance party and costume contest. Enjoy Micky Keatings' "Darling" starring Sean Young followed by Robert Mooklers' "Like Me". Tickets \$10-\$50. 6:30-11 pm. The Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. [info@vergenesoperahouse.org](mailto:info@vergenesoperahouse.org). [www.vergenesoperahouse.org](http://www.vergenesoperahouse.org).

## Florence, VT

# Hunting and the Reward It Brings

by Allen A. Mills

Although I have taken many small game animals and a great many deer in my many years of hunting, most of the best experiences of my life associated with hunting has nothing to do with taking game itself.

I can remember as a small child following my father, whom I considered to be the best hunter I ever knew, as he hunted partridges in the woods on our valley farm. While I was still being startled by the sudden eruption of the bird's flight, in a single motion my father would quickly, as if it were a physical part of him, bring his double barrel 12-gauge to his shoulder and drop the partridge from the sky.

More important than hunting skills, though, while I followed him he would teach me about the plants and trees. He would teach me about the animal tracks and the paths they would travel, how to look for them in the woods and listen for the noises they made. His best lesson though was that he knew the woods was the animals' home and to always respect them and where they lived.

In the early years our farm in Whipple Hollow would become the center of activity during deer season. The farmyard would be full of parked cars of friends and relatives who would be out in the woods hunting.

My mother always had a cookie jar full of her "Deer Hunting Cookies" as she called them and extra pies and always a huge pot of soup or stew heating on the stove for the hunters when they came in from the woods.

Most of the hunters would stop at the farmhouse to share their hunting stories. If a hunter had missed while shooting at

a deer, my mother would grab her shears and cut off a piece of the hunter's shirt tail and pin it to a beam in the kitchen. She had many more trophies than the hunters did.

Many deep and lasting friendships were formed over some aspect of hunting. It was more than fifty years ago now that I met my wife at a party for her brother who was married to my sister. I arrived late and my mother cooked a venison dinner for me. My sister's sister-in-law arrived a little later and my mother invited her to share my dinner. I couldn't help noticing how cute and attractive she was and how easily we talked together as we ate, with her gently picking at the venison. I

*"All these trophies sit on the shelves of my memory having nothing and everything to do with hunting."*

thought to myself, a pretty girl, great conversationalist and she likes venison; this might work. What I didn't know then and after all those years later, she would still just as soon eat the neoprene sole of her shoe as a piece of venison.

My best friend, Sonny Poremski, and I still get together and swap stories of hunting and experiences in the woods. My cousin, Ron Smith, and I would head out into the woods heavily armed with our Daisy Red Rider BB guns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition for hunting adventures.

One of my first hunting experiences was coon hunting with my grandfather, Harley Mills. We used my mother's

pampered little house dog, Tippy, who had no more desire to hunt racoons than pink flamingos, and as for being a coon hound, he wasn't even a hound dog.

I asked my grandfather how we were going to get a coon if we didn't have a gun. He held up his cudgel as he called it. It was his walking stick, but I knew my grandfather had gotten every kind of critter from a field mouse to a grizzly bear with one swing of his cudgel. "How were we going to get the racoon out of the tree after Tippy has treed it?" I asked. "Oh, you can climb the tree and shake the racoon out of the tree" he said.

Needless to say, we got no racoons that night but the hunt with my grandfather, I will remember forever.

While hunting, I have had many close encounters with wildlife by just being still and quiet in their home. I have shared my trail mix with a field mouse and watched a chipmunk as he sat on the toe of my boot. I have had a huge barred owl fly in and land on a limb very close to me. I have seen bobcats and once had a coyote come sneaking in as I called for a turkey. I saw the terror in the eyes of a red squirrel who was being chased by a white weasel though the snowy woods.

While hunting turkeys, I saw a small hawk fly down and grab a blue jay in its talons. He then flew down and sat on the ground in front of me to kill his prey, realizing my close presence, he loosened his grip and the Jay flew away. I stood wondering with mixed feelings, had I saved the blue jay or deprived the hawk of his meal.

Another time, I was sitting in the woods when a huge bear suddenly came into view. I carefully shouldered my rifle as it was legal to take a bear during that part of deer season.

Strangely though, as I drew a bead on the bear, it was as if the bear said to me, "You don't have to do this" and a thought came back to me, "No, I don't have to do this". Just then two small cubs came up by her side and I was elated to think I had not shot her. The two cubs played in front of me for some time as the mother watched me carefully, maybe not knowing what I was. The mother bear finally ambled off through the woods with the two cubs trailing along behind her. I listened for a long time hoping not to hear a rifle shot in the direction she had taken.

All of these trophies sit on the shelves of my memory having nothing and everything to do with hunting.

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

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**WINOOSKI.** Halloween in Winooski. Rotary Park will be filled with pumpkins, decorations, kids activities, and more. Full schedule on the website. Free. 5-8 pm. 32 Mallets Bay Ave. (802) 655-1392. communications@winooskivt.gov. downtownwinooski.org/halloween.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

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

**BRATTLEBORO.** Educate-Open-Strengthen Concert: Speaks of Rivers. Join the EOS Project and BMC faculty member Heather Sommerland and listen to music from music composers of a variety of minorities and experience how music and social justice can combine. Admission \$20, purchase in advance. 7-8:30 pm. Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

**BRISTOL.** Pumpkins in the Park. Grab a free pumpkin and help us decorate the Town Green for Halloween! Pumpkins provided by Local Farms. Free. 1-3 pm. Bristol Town Green. www.facebook.com/bristolrec.

**BURLINGTON.** Choctober Fest. Fall favorites and a one-of-a-kind tasting extravaganza! Free admission. 12-4 pm. Lake Champlain Chocolates, 750 Pine St. (800) 465-5909. www.lakechamplainchocolates.com.

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert. World premier of Suad Bushnaq's cello concerto *Sampson's Walk on Air*. Admission. 7:30 pm. Flynn Theater, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741. www.vso.org.

**EAST FAIRFIELD.** Music Series Concert: The Oleo Romeos. Tyrone, Will, Jerry and George will deliver a show that's sure to please, wear a costume, win a prize! Admission \$10, kids under 16 free. 7 pm. The Meeting House Green, 53 School St. (802) 827-6626. www.meetinghouseonthegreen.org.

**EAST THETFORD.** Fire Building and Singalong. A morning of fun around a fire-building demonstration and learn the safe science of fire building, costume encouraged! Admission \$15 per child, register ahead of time. 10 am - 12 pm. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. (802) 785-4737. www.cedarcirclefarm.org.

**EAST THETFORD.** Pumpkin Patch. Pick pumpkins from a local pumpkin patch! Pumpkin bowling, spider-toss, pumpkin tic-tac-toe, farm scavenger hunt. Guero's Taco Truck, 10 am - 4 pm. Free admission, pumpkin prices vary. 9 am - 5 pm. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. (802) 785-4737. cedarcirclefarm.org.

**ESSEX.** Community Halloween Celebration. Fun Halloween alternative features treats, games, prizes, entertainment and the giant Spooky Maze! Sponsored by Essex and Essex Junction Parks and Rec. Free. 4-8 pm. 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-1342. mberry@essex.org. www.essexvt.org/823/Essex-Trick-or-Treat-Trail.

**FERRISBURGH.** Program. Spirits of Rokeby. Each program session lasts about an hour, limited to 10 people per group. Program times: 2 pm, 3:30 pm, 4:15 pm, 5:45 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:15 pm, 8 pm. Tickets \$20. Must be purchased in advance. Held at Rokeby Museum in the Historic Robinson Home, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org.

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

**HANOVER, NH.** Community Dinner in Hanover. To-go meals available upon request. Free. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. office@oslchanover.org.

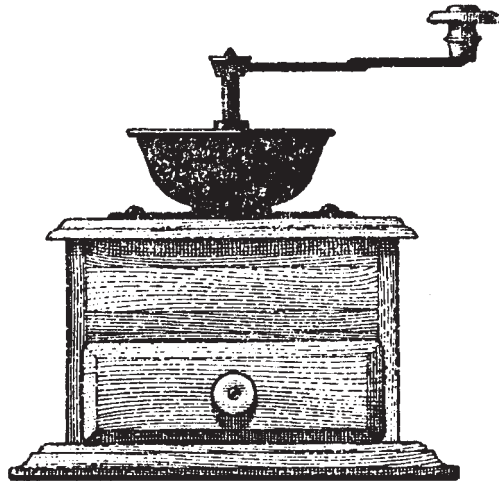
**HANOVER CENTER, NH.** Takeout Chicken Pie Supper. Menu: chicken, gravy, biscuit, squash, cooked onions, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and apple pie. Admission \$15, must register in advance. 5-7 pm. First Congregational Church of Hanover Center, 6 Parade Ground Rd. (603) 359-7455. hawk8@myfairpoint.net.

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

**MONTPELIER.** The Enchanted Forest. Jack-o-lantern lit trail and a forest filled with art, music, song, and magic. Tickets \$15 adult, \$7 kid, \$35 family, 3:30-7:30 pm. Hubbard Park Dr. (802) 223-9500. Sophie.Halpin.VISTA@gmail.com. www.montpelier-vt.org/1249/11492/Enchanted-Forest.

**NEWPORT.** Halloween Monster Bash. Creep over to Newport for tricks, treats, games and plenty of activities for the whole family! 1-3 pm. Main St. (802) 334-6345.

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



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

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

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

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

**SHORHAM.** Orchard Spooktacular Halloween Festival. Funs and games, pumpkin to take home, hot cider. Wear a costume. 6-8 pm. Fee \$10. Douglas Orchard, 1050 Rt. 74. (802) 897-5043.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Community Glow Walk. 6-8 pm. Stormwater Pond, Market St. (802) 846-4108. secure.rec1.com/VT/south-burlington-vt-recreation-parks/catalog.

**SOUTH POMFRET.** Spooktacular Fun. Costume parade, pumpkin carving (BYO pumpkin), decorating, scavenger hunt treats. \$5 suggested donation. 10 am. Artistree, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. artistreevt.org.

**STOWE.** Stowe at Night Lantern Tour. Carry your candlelit lantern as you hear entertaining stories of the resident ghosts of Stowe. 8 pm. Tickets: adult \$12, students 10-18 \$6, under 10 free. Stowe Visitor Center, 51 Main St. NewfTed@aol.com. www.stowelanternstours.com.

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

**SWANTON.** Halloween in the Park. A fun filled event with trick or treating and a special live performance! Free. 4-6 pm. Village Green. (802) 868-7200. halloween@swantonchamber.com. www.swantonchamber.com.

**VERGENNES.** Scarefest at the Vergennes Opera House. Watch "The Ranger" starring Jeremy Holm, followed by a Halloween Dance Party with tunes by DJ Fatty B. The Antidote will be slinging drinks, and don't forget to wear a costume and possibly win a prize! Tickets \$10-\$50. 6:30-11 pm. The Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. www.vergennesoperahouse.org.

**WILLISTON.** Pumpkin Carving on the Green. Free, pre-required. 10:30 am - 12 pm. Williston Library, 21 Library Lane. (802) 878-4918. jill@williston.lib.vt.us.

**WINOOSKI.** Halloween in Winooski. Rotary Park will be filled with pumpkins, decorations, kids activities, and more. Full schedule on the website. Free. 3:30-8 pm. 32 Mallets Bay Ave. (802) 655-1392. communications@winooskivt.gov. downtownwinooski.org/halloween.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

**BURLINGTON.** Halloween Bike Ride. Join riders for a Halloween party, featuring a three-mile meandering ride through town, costume contest and bike portraits! Masks must be worn at all times. Free. 1:30-4 pm. Starts at City Hall Park. (802) 864-0123. www.enjoyburlington.com.



Vermont deer brought down by father and son circa 1908.

## 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  
*Dumfries, Scotland 1759-1796*



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, October 31, continued)

**DANVILLE.** Danville Trick or Treat Trail. Join Girl Scout Troops 58251, Lori's Jammin' Daycare, and the Danville Chamber of Commerce for an open-air, socially distanced, singular direction, trick or treating trail through Danville Village! Free admission, but donation and canned goods are strongly encouraged. 4-7 pm. Walk begins at Passumpsic Bank, 53 US Rt. 2.

**DORSET.** Dorset Players Trick or Treat. Series in front of the fire, movies, haunted house and yard, trunk-or-treat, and candy station. Free. 4-7 pm. Dorset Players, 104 Cheney Rd.

**HANOVER, NH.** Film: "Boris Karloff – The Man Behind the Monster". This new documentary explores the life and legacy of cinema legend Boris Karloff. Admission \$8-\$12. 4-5:30 pm. Black Family Visual Arts Center, Loew Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 22 Lebanon St. (603) 646-2422. hopkins.center@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**HANOVER, NH.** Trunk or Treat. An alternative to door-to-door trick-or-treating or an add-on to traditional trick-or-treating. Free. 1-3 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. office@oslchanover.org.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury Spooktacular. Drive-thru trick-or-treating. Bonus walk-thru area downtown! Free. 5-8 pm. Middlebury Town Green. (802) 388-8666. www.experiencemiddlebury.com.

**MONTPELIER.** Fall Festival and Trick-or-Treating. Enjoy the Trick-or-Trot One-Mile Fun Run, carnival games, live family-friendly entertainment, a costume parade, downtown trick-or-treating, and tons of fun! Free. 1:30-5:30 pm. Main St. (802) 223-9604. director@montpelierlive.org. www.montpelierfallfestival.com.

**NORTH BENNINGTON.** Concert. Bennington Baroque. 18th-century music by Bach, Rameau, Dornel and more. Admission \$20. 2 pm. Park McCullough Historic Governor's Mansion, 1 Park St. (802) 442 5441. www.parkmccullough.org.

**RICHMOND.** Halloween on the Green. Walk through a one-way path lined with decorated tents decorated where goodies are handed out. Enjoy other Halloween festivities! Free. 12-4 pm. Volunteers Green. halloweenonthegreenvt@gmail.com. facebook.com/Halloweenonthegreenvt.

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

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

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

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Trick-or-Treating in St. Johnsbury. Put on your scariest, prettiest, or funniest costume and join other trick-or-treaters and entertainers. Free. 5-8 pm. Main St. st.j.halloweenparade@gmail.com. stj.halloweenparade.com.

**STOWE.** Annual Halloween Party. Halloween goblins, princesses and superheroes can be found scaring up some fun! Free. 5-8 pm. Stowe Elementary School, 254 Park St. (802) 253-2264. mmcintosh@townofstowevermont.org. www.townofstowevt.org.

**VERGENNES.** Trunk-or-Treat. A safe alternative to trick-or-treating done in a roped-off area of the Legion parking lot. Free. 2-3 pm. American Legion, 100 Armory Lane. (802) 349-0229. marsulli@aol.com. On Facebook.

**WILLISTON.** Harvest Party at Ignite Church. Free food and candy, games and indoor bounce houses so everyone can stay warm! Free. 4-6 pm. 1037 S Brownell Rd. (802) 862-2108. ignitekids@ignitechurchvt.com. www.ignitechurchvt.com.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

**NORWICH.** Fall Road Walk. Upper Turnpike/Needham Road loop. Some paved, mostly dirt, 2-3 miles, leisurely pace. Sponsored by the Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place contact leader Inge Brown, (802) 280-8017. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Concert. KCP Presents: Shake and Holla. Featuring foot-stomping Mississippi "hill country" blues and the funky, syncopated sounds of New Orleans brass. Hosted by Catamount Film and Arts. Tickets \$15-\$52, students free. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury Academy, Fuller Hall, 1000 Main St. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Shake & Holla. Hitch a ride down Highway 61 with Grammy-nominated Southern rock lifers the North Mississippi Allstars and the strutting, freewheeling jazz group Rebirth Brass Band. Tickets: \$30-\$55, online only. Main Stage, The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

**WEST DANVILLE.** Autumn Bike Ride. Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Meet & start at Joe's Pond, West Danville off Rt. 2; end in St. Johnsbury off Rt. 5 near I-91, exit 20. 17 beautiful miles, not paved but smooth. Hybrid bikes recommended. Car spot will be arranged. For further details call leaders Heinz & Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. www.greenmountainclub.org.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

**ONLINE.** Lecture. Will Amidon: "Breadloaf and Battell Wilderness Through the Laser Lens". Middlebury College Geology Professor Will Amidon will discuss a new technique to visualize landscapes using high-resolution topographic images of Earth's surface. Held by Zoom. 12-1 pm. Registration fee \$5.50. Henry Sheldon Museum, One Park St. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Audubon West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk. Join us for the full 3.7 mile loop in this National Audubon IBA (Important Bird Area), or go halfway. Grow your birding skills with our friendly and accomplished birders. Meet at the marsh boardwalk on Marble Street at 8 am. More info at birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**DOVER.** Carnage 24—Vermont's Tabletop Game Convention. A weekend of role playing games, collectible & living card games, board games, miniatures, war games, & LARPs. Ticket prices vary, purchase online. 7 am – 1 am. Mount Snow Resort, 400 Mountain Rd., Rt. 100. (802) 624-0862. info@carnagecon.com. carnagecon.com. Also November 6 & 7.



photo by Nancy Cassidy  
Friends settle in for winter in a pasture in central Vermont.

## The Cow

'Let it be winter now,' says the cow. 'I am all haired in for cold weather  
The grass is all dried up, I'm getting tired of moseying around the pasture.  
Let the cold come.

'Let the cold come,' says the cow. 'Everything is ready for it.  
I see where the mow is all full of clover and cornstalks for me to eat,  
And the barnyard is all full of straw for me to sleep on.  
I smell chopfeed and oilmeal in the feeding aisle.  
Let her come cold.

'What's keeping the winter, anyhow?  
By this time of year you'd expect every morning to be frosty  
And you'd expect to see the sky hanging over the world  
Like a pewter bowl over an old plate.  
Something's gone wrong somewhere.  
I hope it gets straightened out before there's another generation of flies.

'I remember last spring how sick and tired I was of the barn.  
All you can do in a stable is stand a while and lie down a while.  
It got to be so that it was a pleasure  
To go out into the cold in the evening in the ice.  
And drink water out of a hole chopped  
Next spring, if I'm still living, I'll feet the same way.  
Now I wish it would freeze in.

'If it could always be summer,' says the cow, 'That would be fine.  
I would like it when the grass grows high  
So I can get me a bellyful in an hour.  
That leaves the cream of the day  
For standing under the tree with your feet in the water.  
Listening to birds, watching the snake-feeders,  
Thinking things over.

'Summer is all right. Spring is good for awhile, because you're sick of winter,  
Fall is no good at all. Fall is just waiting for winter.  
The flies bite hardest in fall. And the grass gets toughest.

'At night in winter, after the lantern goes and the lights go out in the house,  
After the old dog rounds a nest in the hay-pile,  
There will be feelings to feel.

'Feelings that make the hair prick where it sticks in the hide —  
Feelings that make the old dog growl out  
And the horses stamp in the stable.  
When I was a heifer I bawled when the cold ghosts came.  
Now I am old, and I get so I like the feeling.

'Let it get cold,' says the cow. 'What's keeping winter?'  
The world has been biding its dread like a man coming down with sickness,  
Let the cold come, so we know what we're in for.'

—HERMAN FETZER AKA JAKE FALSTAFF  
1899-1935, Maple Valley, OH



# Vermont Country Calendar

**HANOVER, NH.** Performance: Juilliard String Quartet. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

**HANOVER, NH.** Community Dinner in Hanover. Prepared by the Hanover Community Kitchen, to-go meals available upon request. Free admission. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. office@oslchanover.org.

**LEBANON, NH.** Musical: *Xanadu*. A musical adventure following the journey of a magical Greek muse, Kira, who descends from the heavens of Mount Olympus to Venice Beach, California in 1980. Presented by Trumbull Hall Troupe. Reservations online at www.trumbullhalltroupe.org. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org. Also November 6 & 7.

**LEBANON, NH.** The Anonymous Coffeehouse. Several acoustic acts. Baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks are available. Free admission, donations welcome. 7:30 pm. At First Congregational Church of Lebanon, 10 S. Park St. (603) 448-4281. church@fcclb.org. Also November 19 and December 3.

**ONLINE.** "The Garden as a Place of Collaboration, Stewardship & Connection". The conference is for everyone who loves to garden in Vermont and beyond, providing advanced education for Extension Master Gardeners and garden enthusiasts! Registration is \$45. 12-3:30 pm. (802) 656-5665 x 3. eventregistration@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/comhortconference.

**STOWE.** Performance. Boston Ballet II Presents "A Suite from the Nutcracker." Tickets \$28 adults, \$13 children 12 and under. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center. (877) 291-3781. sprucepeak.com. Also November 6.

**WOODSTOCK.** Mt. Tom Autumn Outing. An easy walk to the picturesque Lake ("The Pogue") on easy terrain via Cemetery Rd, Upper Meadow Rd, & Mountain Rd. Side jaunt to South Summit of Mt. Tom with view of Woodstock Village, then back down a side trail to Billings garden. 3.5 mi, 550' elev. gain. For meeting time and place contact leader Bill Corson at billcorson59@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

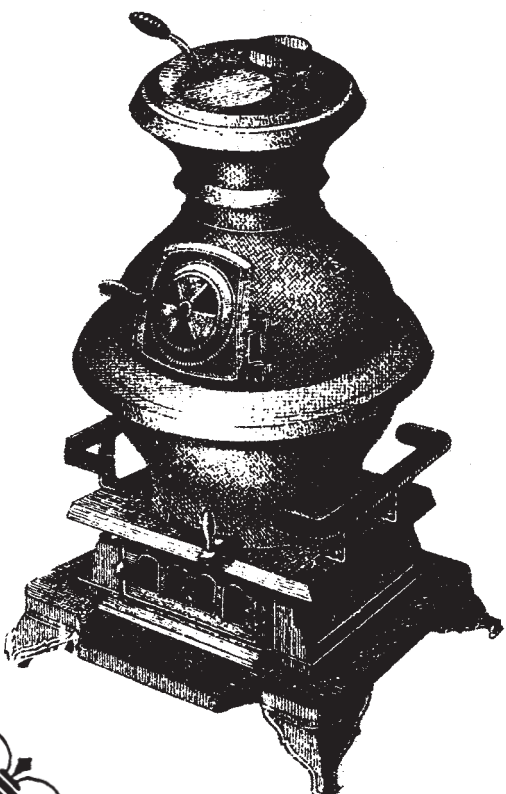
## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

**BENNINGTON.** Rededication Event for Veteran's Day. Join the American Legion Post 13 and Bennington Museum to honor all veterans and rededicate the Civil War Memorial followed by a day of gathering and education. Free. Museum admission: adults \$6, seniors \$5, veterans, active military, and their families, those under 17 are free. 1-3:30 pm. Civil War Memorial, Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. administration@benningtonmuseum.org. benningtonmuseum.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Chamber Concert. Jennifer Koh. A forward-thinking violinist dedicated to exploring a broad and eclectic repertoire, while promoting diversity and inclusivity in classical music. Tickets \$25, purchase in advance. 7:30-9 pm. Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysé Way. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcbvt.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs, cheese. Yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful handmade gifts. Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. Saturdays through March 9.

**BURLINGTON.** Performance. Cartography. Journey with four young people as they leave their worlds behind and begin anew. Tickets \$10-\$20, online only. 7:30 pm. Main Stage, The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.



**GRAFTON.** Mastering the Art of the Outdoor Fire. Join director Nikolas Katrick for a hands-on learning experience on how to safely build low-impact fires. Admission \$15-30, ages 16+. 10 am - 12 pm. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

**GREENSBORO.** Concert. Patti Casey with the Wicked Fine Players. Masks and proof of vaccination or test within 72 hours are required. Tickets \$20. 7 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. www.highlandartsvt.org.

**LEBANON, NH.** Musical: *Xanadu*. Presented by Trumbull Hall Troupe. Reservations online at www.trumbullhalltroupe.org. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. Also November 7.

**LINCOLN.** The Ripton Community Coffee House on the Road. Kalos, masters of traditional music, will perform. Featuring Jeremiah McLane, Eric McDonald and Ryan McKasson. Admission at the door: \$10/\$15/\$20. 7:30 pm. Live at Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. (802) 349-3364. For concert information, covid guidelines and streaming links go to www.rcch.org or contact rcchfolks@gmail.com.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Live Streamed Jazz Concert: Matthew Whitaker Quartet. At just 20 years old, jazz keyboardist Matthew Whitaker is a once-in-a-generation musical talent. Tickets \$15. 7:30 pm. Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Screening. Vermont Premiere of "The Underdog". The curiously optimistic tale of Doug Butler—a hardscrabble Vermont dairy farmer who risks losing the only home he's ever known to chase his dreams of dog mushing in Alaska. Tickets \$15. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. tickets@townhalltheater.org. www.townhalltheater.org.

**NORTHFIELD.** Autumn Paine Mountain Hike. Tour the historic landscape of Paine Mt. forest to farms and back to forest on a mixture of trail and old woods roads. Contact leaders: Dana Lawrence, (802) 371-9610 or Nancy Thomas, (802) 272-6650, hikeski51@gmail.com for meeting time and place. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**NORWICH.** A Day of Flight. Explore the concepts behind the Air Works exhibition and build a variety of contraptions that can soar through the museum. Admission \$14-\$17, children under 2 free. 10:30 am - 4 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, 1 Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. montshire@montshire.org.

**RUTLAND.** Annual Audubon Bird Seed Sale. Stock up on birdseed and save some dough. Garland's Farm and Garden at 70 Park Street. 9 am - 2 pm. Membership in Audubon not required, but you can join at the sales. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am to 2 pm. At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays thru May 7.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Community Fire. This monthly fire is an open invitation to meet the people living around you. \$5 suggested donation. 5:30-8:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. www.mainstreetarts.org. First Saturdays.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Fused Glass Holiday Ornaments Workshop. Festive ornament-making session. Tickets \$55. 12-2 pm. Davis Studio, 916 Shelburne Rd. (802) 425-2700. skruk@kaylasdirectory.org. davisstudiouv.com.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Class. Painting the Vibrant Fall Colors in Watercolor. Join Instructor Robert O'Brien as you learn to paint New England's famous autumnal colors with watercolors and professional techniques. Cost \$85, register by October 30. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. www.galleryvault.org.

**STOWE.** Performance. Boston Ballet II Presents "A Suite from the Nutcracker." Tickets \$28 adults, \$13 children 12 and under. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center. (877) 291-3781. sprucepeak.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** November at the Farm. Meet our farm animals and travel through time in the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Enjoy crafts, cooking demonstrations and daily farm activities. Admission: adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt.12, just north of the village. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also November & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

**LEBANON, NH.** Musical: *Xanadu*. Presented by Trumbull Hall Troupe. Reserve online at www.trumbullhalltroupe.org. 3 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

**LOWELL.** Autumn Hike on Tillotson Peak & Belvidere Mountain. Up the Frank Post Trail to Tillotson Camp and on to Tillotson Peak, then go back south on the Long Trail to Belvidere Mountain, and return on the Forester's Trail. A moderate to strenuous 8.5 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Reserve by Nov. 5. Contact leader David Hathaway at david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or (802) 899-9982. www.greenmountainclub.org.

## Chaffee Art Center Sponsors Gingerbread House Contest

You are invited to participate in the Annual Gingerbread Contest sponsored by Chaffee Art Center in Rutland, VT this November 20th through December 11th. Everyone—kids, adults, students, bakers, and groups—is invited to submit their imaginative Gingerbread creations.

Entries will be on display in our historic 1890's mansion from the Gingerbread Showcase Reception on November 20th, 12-2 pm until December 11th. Awards are in a variety of categories for People's Choice!

Gingerbread creations must be delivered to the Chaffee Art Center on November 17th or 18th between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Entry fee is \$10. Registration is not required, but appreciated.

The entries be made from gingerbread, no kits permitted. Major components must be made of gingerbread. The rest can be constructed and decorated with edible material. Royal icing is strongly recommended for durability. Internal structural support for large gingerbread entries do not have to be edible as long as it is not visible. Designs may be 2D or 3D.

The contest is open to all ages, individuals, and groups. Complete details and entry form can be found at www.chaffeeartcenter.org. Happy Baking!

The Chaffee Art Center is located at 16 S. Main St., Rutland, VT. For more information call (802) 775-0356. Visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, November 7, continued)

**QUECHEE.** Fall Loop Hike. See different tree types, a stream, foundation, stone walls, ledges. Interpretive signs: info on geology, area's early inhabitants, remnants of settlements, two-three hours. For meeting time and place contact leader Iris Berezin at (802) 295-2294. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** November at the Farm. Meet our farm animals and travel through time in the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Also Nov. 13 & 14, 20 & 21.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Nella. Musical twists and turns from one of Latin music's most intriguing emerging artists. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 4 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. [hop.box@dartmouth.edu](mailto:hop.box@dartmouth.edu). [www.hop.dartmouth.edu](http://www.hop.dartmouth.edu).

**QUECHEE.** Hike from Quechee Gorge to Dewey Pond. From Rt. 4 to pond, out-and-back. Woods and meadows, gentle grades. Leisurely pace, two miles. Option to descend on accessible path to bottom of gorge; adds one more mile. For meeting time and place contact leader Inge Brown at (802) 280-8017. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**HANOVER, NH.** Veterans Day Autumn Loop Hike. Field, trails, woods, road. An easy to moderate four miles. Fully vaccinated participants only. No dogs. For meeting time and place contact leader Lynne Miller, (603) 643-6194. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**LYNDONVILLE.** Jukebox Quartet Concert. Join Vermont Symphony Orchestra with Vermont songstress Moira Smiley for an evening of classical, folk, and rock repertoire, curated by Matt LaRocca. Tickets \$10. 7 pm. Alexander Twilight Theater, 1001 College Rd. (802) 235-1219. [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert. Schumann Quartet and Diana Fanning, piano. Mendelssohn's Quartet in A Minor and Ravel's Quartet in F Major. Tickets \$25. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. [coyne@middlebury.edu](mailto:coyne@middlebury.edu).

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**HANOVER, NH.** Community Dinner in Hanover. To-go meals available upon request. Free admission. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. [office@oslchanover.org](mailto:office@oslchanover.org).

**LEBANON, NH.** Rosanne Cash Concert. The eldest daughter of Johnny Cash carries on her family's legacy with her own unique voice and a poetic mixture of multiple music genres. Tickets \$48-\$68. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. [lebanonoperahouse.org](http://lebanonoperahouse.org).

**MONTPELIER.** "All Together Now!" A new musical revue. Brings audiences and artists (actors, singers, dancers, musicians, technicians) back to Lost Nation Theater. Tickets \$35, \$25 student & senior, \$30 livestream. 7:30 pm. Lost Nation Theater, 39 Main St. [www.lostnationtheater.org](http://www.lostnationtheater.org). Also November 13 & 14.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story. Tickets \$35-\$45. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [www.paramountvt.org](http://www.paramountvt.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Workshop. Billings Backyard: Homemade Felted Soap. Learn how to make your own felted soap! Admission \$15 per person, register by November 12. 10 am - 12 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12, just north of the village. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

**BRADFORD.** Makers on Main Artisan Market. Hosted by The Space on Main, second Saturday of each month. Free admission. 11 am - 3 pm. The Space On Main, 174 Main St. (802) 449-6246. [thespaceonmain@gmail.com](mailto:thespaceonmain@gmail.com). [www.thespaceonmain.org](http://www.thespaceonmain.org). *Second Saturdays*.

**BRANDON.** Screening and Performance: 'College'. Composer Jeff Rapsis improvises a live score to a 1927 silent comedy starring Buster Keaton as a bookish college student who tries to become an athlete to impress his girlfriend. Admission by donation. 7 pm. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square. (603) 236-9237. [www.brandontownhall.com](http://www.brandontownhall.com).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs cheese and other farm products. Yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful handmade gifts. Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. [farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org). *Saturdays thru March 9.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Hike at Mink Brook Nature Preserve & Tanzi Tract. Join Hanover Conservancy staff for a guided fall hike of our Mink Brook Nature preserve and the Town of Hanover Tanzi Tract. Free, register online. 10-11:30 am. Meet at the gate at Brook Road entrance, 11 Brooks Rd. (603) 643-3433. [www.hanoverconservancy.org](http://www.hanoverconservancy.org).

**MONKTON.** Fall Hike to Raven Ridge Natural Area. This area is under the protection of the Nature Conservancy of Vermont. A pleasant but expert two-mile hike up to a ridge with valley views and geological formations. Start at a boardwalk across a swamp, then up to the ridge, returning on a loop trail through the woods. Wear appropriate clothing; bring water, hiking poles if desired and, depending on weather, microspikes or snowshoes. To register, contact leader Ruth Penfield at [ruthpenfield@gmail.com](mailto:ruthpenfield@gmail.com) or (802) 388-5407. [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).

**NORTHFIELD.** Annual Darn Tough Sock Sale. Cabot Hosiery's factory sock sale - merino wool socks, cold weather hunting socks, run, bike, ski and snowboard socks, novelty holiday socks, military surplus and plus size socks. Sock prices vary. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Cabot Hosiery Mills, Inc., 364 Whetstone Dr. (802) 485-6078. [tharris@darntough.com](mailto:tharris@darntough.com). [www.darntough.com](http://www.darntough.com).

**NORWICH.** Fall Hike on Ballard Trail. An easy four miles one way (car spot), passes by the "Grand Canyon of Norwich", short ups and downs. For meeting time and place contact leader Iris Berezin, (802) 295-2294. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

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

**RUTLAND.** Concert. Monster Energy Outbreak Tour Presents: Laine Hardy. Tickets \$22. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**RUTLAND.** Fall Holiday Fair. Distinctive crafts, handmade clothes, baked goods, fudge, gourmet specialty foods, wreaths & holiday decorations, maple syrup, cider, squash. Hosted by The Vermont Farmers Market. 9 am - 4 pm. At the Holiday Inn, Rt. 7. (802) 282-2163. [specialshowsmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org](mailto:specialshowsmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org). [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org).



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am to 2 pm. At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). Saturdays thru May 7.

**WOODSTOCK.** November at the Farm. Meet our farm animals and travel through time in the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Also November 14, 20 & 21

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

**BRATTLEBORO.** Concert: Steve Kimmock & Friends. Regarded as one of the great guitar improvisers of his generation Tickets \$45-\$50. 8 pm, doors open 7:30 pm. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. [stonechurchvt.com](http://stonechurchvt.com).

**MANCHESTER.** Soap Felting Workshop. Make decorative felted goat milk soap (scrubbies). Fee: \$20, plus \$15 materials fee which includes soap plus all fiber and tools. Limited spaces - register by November 10. 1-3 pm. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (802) 367-7960. [stephanie@hildene.org](mailto:stephanie@hildene.org). [hildene.org](http://hildene.org).

**THETFORD.** Autumn Hike on Mimi's Trail. Designed by Thetford's John Morton, former Olympic biathlete. Nice views from summit, a moderate five miles. (Wear blaze orange if possible.) For meeting time and place contact leaders Kathy Astraukas & Bob Hagen at (802) 785-3201. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** November at the Farm. Meet our farm animals and travel through time in the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Also November 20 & 21

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: The Handel Society. The 100-member group performs. Tickets \$25, purchase online. 7:30 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 12 Lebanon St. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**SPRINGFIELD.** Festive Fall Centerpiece. Create a fall centerpiece to add to your décor. Free. 5-6:30 pm. Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street. (802) 885-3108. [stlib@vermontel.net](mailto:stlib@vermontel.net). [www.springfieldtownlibrary.org](http://www.springfieldtownlibrary.org).

**WILDER.** Hazen Trail Hike. From US Rt. 5, out-and-back, a moderate 2-3 miles, small ups and downs, leisurely pace. For meeting time and place contact leader Inge Brown, (802) 280-8017. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

**GRAFTON.** Presentation: Eyes on the Arctic and Climate Change. Author Kieran Mulvaney tells of the great treasure the Arctic and how it is rapidly vanishing right before our eyes. Sponsored by The Nature Museum. Register online. 7-8 pm. Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St. (802) 843-2111. [www.nature-museum.org](http://www.nature-museum.org).

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Badfish: A Tribute to Sublime. With special guests, The Roots of Creation. Tickets: \$35. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [www.paramountvt.org](http://www.paramountvt.org).

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

**BURLINGTON.** UVM Lane Series Concert: Michelle Cann. Michelle Cann made her orchestral debut at age fourteen and has since performed in chamber and solo recitals throughout the world. Tickets \$33.50 adult, \$5 student. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall at Southwick Music Building, 384 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. [uvm.edu/laneseries](http://uvm.edu/laneseries).

**BURLINGTON.** Performance: Theo Von - Return of the Rat Tour. Theo Von can be seen weekly on his podcasts This Past Weekend, and King and the Sting, which each garner millions of listens/views a month. Brought to you by Higher Ground. Tickets: \$37.75-\$59. online sale only, eight ticket limit. 7 pm. Main Stage, The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [www.flynnvt.org](http://www.flynnvt.org).

**HANOVER, NH.** Community Dinner in Hanover. Prepared by the Hanover Community Kitchen, to-go meals available upon request. Free admission. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. [office@oslchanover.org](mailto:office@oslchanover.org).

**LEBANON, NH.** The Anonymous Coffeehouse. Features several acoustic acts. Baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks are available. Free admission, donations welcome. 7:30 pm. At First Congregational Church of Lebanon, 10 S. Park St. (603) 448-4281. [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org).

**SOUTH POMFRET.** Concert. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Jukebox Quartet. Tickets \$40. Show starts 7:30 pm. Grange Theater, 65 Stage Rd. (802) 457-3500. [www.artistreevt.org](http://www.artistreevt.org).

**SOUTH POMFRET.** Performance. Woman of the Woods with Vicki Ferentinos. One woman's hilarious journey on how she went from the suburbs to the city to the woods. Tickets \$40. 8 pm. Grange Theater, 65 Stage Rd. (802) 457-3500. [www.artistreevt.org](http://www.artistreevt.org).



**WOODSTOCK.** Mt. Tom Hike. From Prosper Rd. Trailhead hike West Ridge Trail, Maple Trail, Acer Loop, Red Pine Loop, The Pogue, and North Ridge Loop. Some really nice views during the four miles. (No Hunting Area except possibly a small bit on private land). For meeting time and place contact leader Iris Berezin, (802) 295-2294. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

**BRATTLEBORO.** Concert. Sarasa - Kaleidoscope. Experience colorful, ever changing shapes in music with Rimsky-Korsakov, Purcell, and CPE Bach. 7:30-9 pm. Tickets: \$20, student \$10, under 12 free. Purchase in advance. Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. (802) 257-4523. [www.bmcvt.org](http://www.bmcvt.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs, cheese. Yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful handmade gifts. Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. [farmersmarket@postoilsoilutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@postoilsoilutions.org). Saturdays through March 9.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert. Little Feat performs on their By Request Tour with special guest Jack Broadbent. Brought to you by Higher Ground. Tickets: \$59-\$287 online sale only. 8 pm. Main Stage, The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [www.flynnvt.org](http://www.flynnvt.org).

**GREENSBORO.** Concert. Le Vent Du Nord. This award-winning band is a leading force in Quebec's progressive francophone folk movement. Masks and proof of vaccination or test within 72 hours are required. Tickets \$25-\$40. 7 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. [boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org](mailto:boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org). [www.highlandartsvt.org](http://www.highlandartsvt.org).

**HANOVER, NH.** Late Fall Road Walk. Lovely, bucolic Dogford Road from cemetery in Etna to Hanover Center, NH. A moderate 4.7 miles, all paved, some hills, short car spot. For meeting time and place contact leaders Kathy Astraukas & Bob Hagen, (802) 785-3431. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**MANCHESTER.** Bird Walk. The public is welcome to join a local birding group to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene, attendees asked to wear a mask. Free admission. 8 am. Meet in the Welcome Center parking lot, Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (802) 367-7960. [stephanie@hildene.org](mailto:stephanie@hildene.org). [www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org).

**ONLINE.** Craft Vermont Show. Vermont Hand Crafters invites you to an interactive, online fine craft and art event. (802) 872-8600. [officemanager@vermonthandcrafters.com](mailto:officemanager@vermonthandcrafters.com). [www.vermonthandcrafters.com](http://www.vermonthandcrafters.com). Also November 21.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Made in Vermont Marketplace. An extraordinary opportunity to peruse Vermont-made furniture, specialty foods, clothing, wines and more! Free admission. 9 am - 6 pm. (802) 863-8038. [www.madeinvermontmarketplace.com](http://www.madeinvermontmarketplace.com). Also November 21.

**WINOOSKI.** Annual Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair. Crafters, vendors, a raffle, a bake sale, and lunch sponsored by the 8th grade class. Free. 9 am - 3 pm. Saint Francis Xavier School, 5 St. Peter St. (802) 655-2600. [homeandschool@sfxvt.org](mailto:homeandschool@sfxvt.org). [www.sfxvt.org](http://www.sfxvt.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** November at the Farm. Meet our farm animals and travel through time in the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Also Nov. 21

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

**ARLINGTON.** Presentation. The History, Practice, and Use of Cultivating Mindful Awareness. Marlboro College professor William Edelglass traces the history of mindfulness from multiple traditions, with early religious texts and ending in modern day times. Free. 2 pm. Martha Canfield Library, 528 E. Arlington Rd. (802) 375-6153. [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org).



## We Gathered Pine Cones

We gathered pine cones, he and I,  
Up in God's Acre, where  
The trees had dropped them, and the winds  
Had swirled them here and there.  
They were a sunlit, golden brown,  
Each petal tipped with grey.  
We gathered pine cones, he and I,  
One November day.

We gathered pine cones, he and I...  
I made a wreath today  
Out of some pine cones, golden brown,  
Each petal tipped with grey.

—NELLYE RICHARDSON  
1876-1970, Springfield, VT



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, November 21, continued)

**BRATTLEBORO.** Chamber Music Concert. Adam Golka. This Polish-American pianist first performed all of Beethoven's Piano Sonatas when he was 18 years-old, and he continues to perform the 32 masterpieces to this day. Tickets \$25, purchase in advance. 4 pm. Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moyse Way. (802) 257-4523. www.bmvt.org.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Documentary Screening. "Street Gang: | How We Got to Sesame Street". Watch a documentary at the local town hall. All attendees must wear a mask. Presented by MNFF Selects. 2 pm. Tickets adult \$16, child under 12 \$7. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. tickets@townhalltheater.org. townhalltheater.org.

**ONLINE.** Craft Vermont Show. Vermont Hand Crafters invites you to an interactive, online fine craft and art event. (802) 872-8600. officemanager@vermonthandcrafters.com. www.vermonthandcrafters.com.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am to 2 pm. At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 7, 2022.

**WOODSTOCK.** November at the Farm. Meet our farm animals and travel through time in the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Adults \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 and under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

**BURLINGTON.** Itty Bitty Public Skating. Teaching skills of standing and marching on the ice, gliding, swizzles and stopping, games and activities will be used to practice skills. \$170 resident, \$190 non-resident. 10:30-11:30 am. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 865-7558. eweifer@burlingtonvt.gov. www.enjoyburlington.com.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

**HANOVER, NH.** Pine Park Hike. An easy loop, some ups and downs, two miles, leisurely pace. For meeting time and place contact Leader Inge Brown at (802) 380-8017. www.greenmountainclub.org.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

**STRATTON.** Gobble Gobble Wobble 5k. This Thanksgiving Day Race is a family-friendly 5K. Begins in the courtyard, loops around the resort, and concludes back in the Village. \$55 Fee. 7 am - 12 pm. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (802) 297-4000. www.stratton.com/things-to-do/events/annual-gobble-gobble-wobble-5k.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

**SHELBURNE.** Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum. Visitors get to see the Museum's buildings and campus bedecked in beautiful holiday lights. Adult tickets are \$15, ages 3-17 are \$10, those 2 and younger are free. 5-8 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. info@shelburnemuseum.org. shelburnemuseum.org/visit/winter-lights. Also November 27 and weekends through January 1.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. Saturdays through March 9.

**GREENSBORO.** Bread and Puppet Theater: The Domestic Resurrection Obligation Show. Features paper mache specialists and domestic resurrectionists hard at work, assisting naked humanity in its fight against the established one-directional culture. The Bread & Puppet Press Store and Cheap Art Emporium will be open after the performances. Masks and proof of vaccination or test within 72 hours are required. Tickets \$15. 7 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. highlandartsvt.org. Also November 28.

**HUNTINGTON.** November Bird Monitoring Walk. Birders welcome! Bring binoculars, dress for weather. Face masks required when within six feet of each other. 7:30-9 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org.

**PAWLET.** Coffee House Open Mic. Sign up right away to be included on the roster for this two-hour coffee house event. Free. 7 pm. Pawlet Town Hall, 122 School St. (802) 325-3123.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am to 2 pm. At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays thru May 7.

**SHELBURNE.** Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum. See the Museum's buildings and campus bedecked in beautiful holiday lights. Adults \$15, ages 3-17 \$10, 2 and younger are free. 5-8 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. info@shelburnemuseum.org. shelburnemuseum.org/visit/winter-lights. Also weekends through January 1.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Heron Rookery Hike. See an old beaver pond with nine heron nests on two dead pine trees. Nice moderate woods walk mostly on former logging roads, 3.6 mi., 720' elev. gain. Leader Dick Andrews, (802) 885-3201. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Thanksgiving Weekend. 19th-century Thanksgiving traditions. Admission: \$16 adults 16-61, \$14 seniors 62 and over, \$9, students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 4-15, free for children 3 and under. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also November 28.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

**GREENSBORO.** Bread and Puppet Theater: The Domestic Resurrection Obligation Show. Paper mache specialists and domestic resurrectionists hard at work, assisting naked humanity in its fight against the established one-directional culture. The Bread & Puppet Press Store and Cheap Art Emporium open after the performances. Masks and proof of vaccination or test within 72 hours required. Tickets \$15. 7 pm. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. www.highlandartsvt.org.

**THETFORD.** Campbell Flats Loop Walk. Ompompanoosuc River and Union Village Dam, a moderate six miles, mostly dirt roads, several steep hills. Contact Leaders Kathy Astruckas & Bob Hagen, (802) 785-4311 for meeting time and place. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Thanksgiving Weekend. 19th-century Thanksgiving traditions. Admission: \$16 adults 16-61, \$14 seniors 62 and over, \$9, students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 4-15, children 3 and under are free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Hot Tuna with special guests the David Grisman Trio. Tickets: \$48.50 - \$69.50 online sale only. 8 pm. Main Stage, The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org.

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### Book News

## New E-Book Inspires Pollinator Gardening

Pollinator-friendly gardens not only provide a source of nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects but can add beauty and diversity to a home landscape.

To help gardeners and homeowners understand the role of pollinators in food production and provide strategies for creating pollinator habitat, a group of University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Gardener volunteers have developed Gardening for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects. The e-book, available now for garden planning this winter, can be downloaded for free at <https://go.uvm.edu/garden-4pollinators>.

In addition to identifying some common pollinators and beneficial insects, the authors also delve into the causes of pollinator decline and provide insight into why choosing native plants is so important for providing proper habitat for pollinators.

The e-book includes a number of tips for creating an effective pollinator garden, such as planting a minimum of 10 native plants with different colors, shapes and bloom times and selecting at least three varieties each for early, mid and late season bloom. Links to a pollinator plant palette chart, nurseries and several native plant databases are provided for help with plant selection.

Other sections cover additional recommended features, such as a water source, for creating an inviting garden and tips for being a good host to insects, including planting tall native grasses and interplanting vegetables with flowers. The e-book also is packed with links to resources on native plants, pollinator-friendly garden planning and pollinators and beneficial insects, as well as the UVM Extension Master Gardener Program.

For more info about the Master Gardener Program in Vermont, visit [www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener).



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# Where All That Writing Began

by Charles C. Sutton

Before I began a life-long career in journalism I had completed a three-year stint in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and thought I would like to join the U.S. Foreign Service.

It was no surprise that the three-days entrance exams given in New York City would be demanding, but afterwards I felt I had “aced” them. But not so! Though I got my best grade in economics (which I knew very little about) my worse and failing grade was “my ability to write and express myself in English.”

I figured out later that my handling of the required essay was unacceptable as it was just too humorous and even smart-assed. I thought I was being clever and original. But I had been warned previously that I was in over my head. My English teacher in high school wrote my parents. “His mark is adequate, but often marred by confused thinking and inarticulate or awkward expression.”

Criticism was also leveled at me again in collage concerning a scholarly paper I had written on relations between ancient Russia and Scandinavia. I may have earned a 75 for my work but I was told it had two weaknesses: lack of clarity and style of writing. Also, spelling. I knew I was a poor speller, still am.

The same professor had this to say about my handling of *The Church in Pre-Mongolian Russia*: “you certainly did the necessary work, but there is a striking lack of precision in many of your ideas, and still a lack of ability to choose the proper word for your idea. Learn by all means, to think and write with clarity.” The paper still earned a 75 grade. (Flunking started at 60).

Actually my writing began as a youngster keeping diaries and journals. Later my words ‘went public’ through school newspapers and yearbooks.

## Short stories

Writing short stories began in college and reaped a long string of rejection slips—thanking me but, in short, saying the story did not fit their needs. They never urged me to try again.

A few stories were accepted in little literary magazines which rarely paid much but I did get a few checks for \$5 or \$10.

*Seventeen Magazine* almost accepted my story about a boy and girl around that age sneaking into a private swimming pool in the middle of the night, and running off when the owners came. An editor wrote me that *Seventeen* had really wanted to print the story, but didn’t say why not.

During the Korean War I was a naval crypto-linguist and my writing was put on hold. When I became a civilian again I started applying for writing jobs at The World Bank, United Nations, refugee organizations, and even *Time/Life*.

## First journalism job landed

The rejections that followed were polite and officially signed but offered no encouragement. But to my amazement a lady at *The N.Y. Times* called and after an interview offered me a job as copyboy. The pay was only \$40 a week, but my newspaper career could begin!

Even at that level there were opportunities to write and prove oneself, like covering church or synagogue services. These write-ups appeared in a church column in Monday’s *N.Y. Times*. Covering a church service added \$10 to the paycheck.

## 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

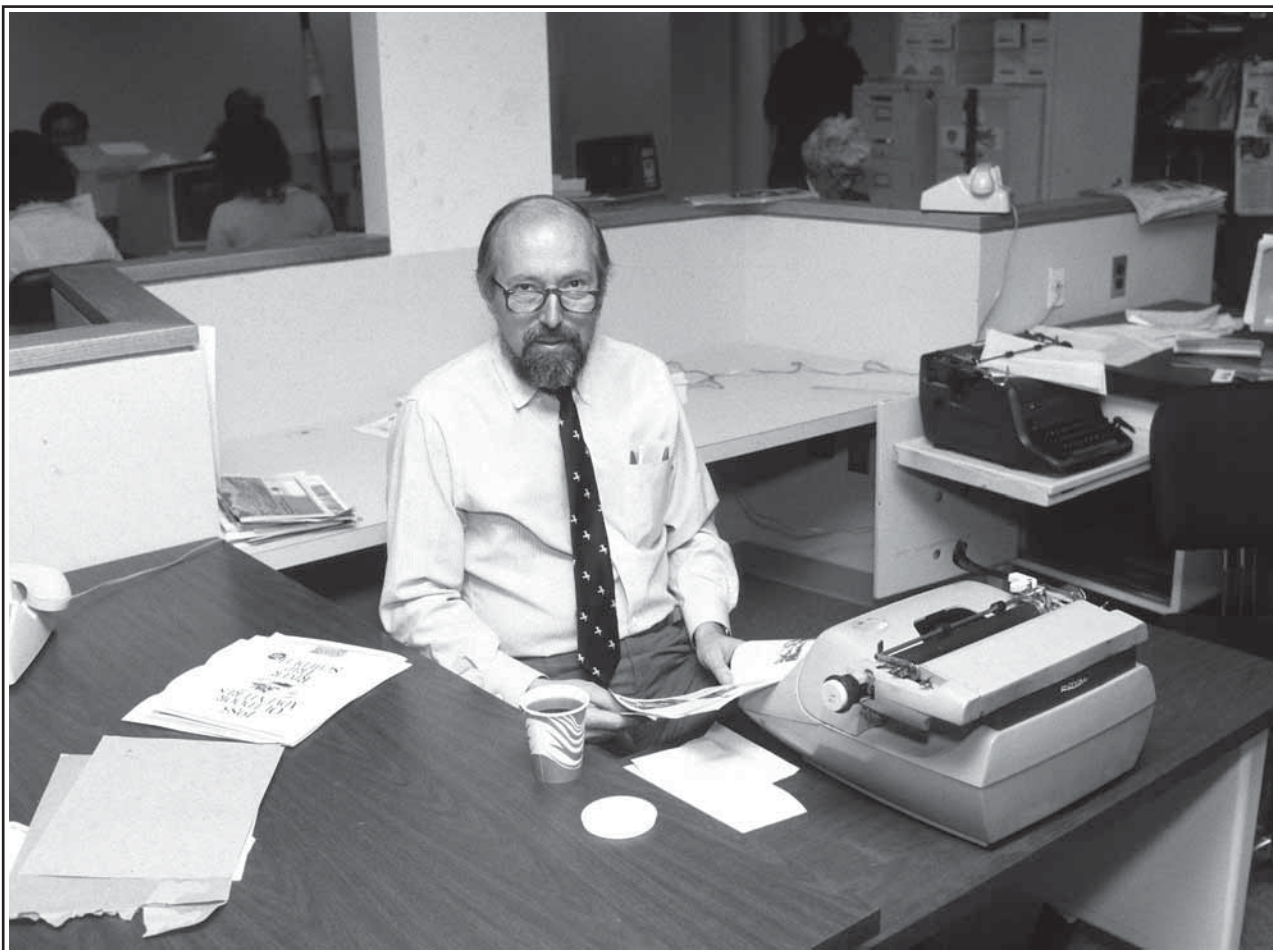
Their many treasures, with the harvest done—

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  
Lanark, ILL, 1889-1968



Charles Sutton, news editor at the Bridgeport Post in Bridgeport, CT, circa 1985.

I wasn’t in the newsroom for long before I was reassigned to the editorial department—quite a change in venue from the noisy smoke-filled environment to a sedate, scholarly place. The editorial writers, about a dozen of them, had their own offices. You handled their mail and got them coffee or snacks and publications, especially a copy of the *Times* when it came off the press. I really did “run copy.”

One editor, to my surprise, was Harry Schwartz who had taught a course on Soviet Economics which I had taken while a student at Cornell. Even a copyboy could submit an editorial, although considering the competition, that seemed foolhardy. You left your submission on the corner of the desk of Charles Mertz, editorial page editor, said nothing and left quickly. I had three editorials accepted and printed—one I was most proud of celebrated Austria’s independence.

## U.N. assignment

I was offered a position as news assistant in the *Times’* United Nations Bureau for 15th General Assembly (1960-61), but with no assurance of another job afterwards. The starting pay was \$83.05 a week.

That assembly will be remembered for the drama caused by then Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev when he took a shoe off and pounded it repeatedly on the desk during an assembly session.

World leaders who also addressed the assembly (but not on the same day) were U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower and Cuban leader Fidel Castro. I didn’t get to see them in person but all of us working there will never forget that memorable time.

I was given the responsibility of writing the daily *Proceedings at the U.N.* This was a schedule but didn’t include any actual reporting on what happened. That would be covered by reporters. But I did have a typewriter and my copy was looked over and then wired across Manhattan to the *Times’* newsroom.

The U.N. cafeteria was a bonus. Diplomats from all over the world missed their foods from home, so the cafeteria kitchen created and served a variety of ethnic foods from all over the world. I enjoyed these, too.

## At the Washington Bureau

When that general assembly ended I was offered a job as news clerk in the *Times’* Washington Bureau. This job included the usual copyboy duties. I ran a lot of errands and put in time being a ‘legman’—the person who goes and waits for something to happen and then calls the reporter to come at the appropriate moment. There were no cell phones then

so part of the job was to know where the nearest phone was.

Some of the materials I collected at the Commerce Department were daily railroad freight car loadings—an indicator of how the economy was doing. Today probably the indicator would be about container ships.

The copy desk editors gave me a few writing jobs and occasionally a little feature. One of these included new revelations about Christopher Columbus from the Smithsonian Institute. Amazingly to me, the news desk in New York put my story on Page One and asked whose byline to use. News clerks weren’t given bylines, probably to avoid having them expect reporter’s pay. My story did get a line that read ‘Special to the New York Times.’ Well, that was a special event for me.

After about a year I was anxious to become a full-time writer so I asked the bureau chief, Scotty Reston, about taking me on as a cub reporter. He said he never offered reporting jobs to anyone in my position, saying if an opening occurred, he would hire an experienced person from another newspaper or wire service, adding “you don’t get to play for the Yankees being bat boy.”

He suggested I work for a daily newspaper, preferably in a state capital. That’s how he had started as a general assignment and sports writer at the Springfield, Ohio, *Daily News*.

## On to the rest of my life

Being a skier, I applied to newspapers in state capitals near ski areas. The first offer came from the *Daily Kennebec Journal* in Augusta, Maine, saying no interview needed, just come.

On my first day there I interviewed a sailor who had been on a U.S. nuclear submarine under the Arctic ice cap for several weeks. The story made Page One. My pay was now \$70 a week and I was on my way!

This was 58 years ago and the intervening years have been filled with the joys of a journalism and publishing life, contrary to the comments of my early mentors.

Charles C. Sutton is the co-publisher with Catherine O’Kane, of the *Vermont Country Sampler*, now in its 37th year. He recently turned 90.



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# North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Tales of Late Autumn and Thanksgiving!

Summer is gone, it's late autumn and everything and everyone is getting ready for winter. We are looking forward to Thanksgiving and the month of leaf drop and crisp fall weather that precedes it. Here are some stories that will help you and your younger readers prepare for the coming dark time of the year.

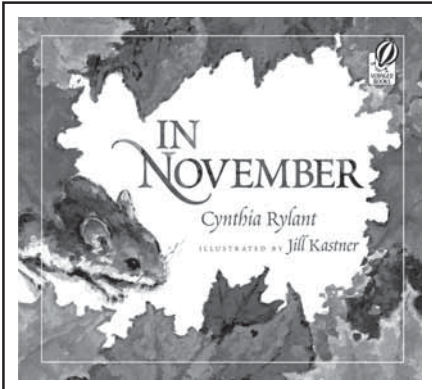
Thanksgiving may get center stage during the month of November but there are other things to be thankful for, too. In this colorful and charming book aptly titled *In November* by Cynthia Rylant and illustrated by Jill Kastner (\$18.99. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. [www.hmhco.com](http://www.hmhco.com)), we are treated to happenings in the inside and outside worlds. And she writes: notice that the "smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and a pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up the house in the morning, and pull everyone from bed in a fog. Food is better in November than any other time of the year."

We are reminded of the transition that animals have to make for the change from fall to winter. Artist Jill Kastner fills large two-page color-bright spreads with animals, wild and domestic, getting ready for winter days ahead. Seeking shelter are small creatures like mice making nests and birds on their way south. "In November, at winter's gate, the stars are brittle. The sun is a sometimes friend. And the world has tucked her children in, with a kiss on their heads, til spring."

Cynthia Rylant is the author of more than 100 books for children including the novel *Missing May* which received the John Newbery Medal. She lives on an island in Puget Sound in the State of Washington. [www.cynthiarylant.com](http://www.cynthiarylant.com).

Thoughts about Thanksgiving always conjures up a roast turkey with all the trimmings followed by homemade pumpkin pie. For more than 150 years that tradition has been portrayed in *Over the River and Through the Wood, A Thanksgiving Poem* by Lydia Maria Child. This edition is beautifully illustrated by Christopher Manson (\$14.95, board book, NorthSouth Books, [www.northsouth.com](http://www.northsouth.com)).

Full-page woodcuts in color recall the mid-19th century era



when winter travel was by horse and sled. Other reminders of an earlier time are old-fashioned ice-skates, all-wood sleds, and of course, grandmother and grandfather preparing and serving dinner. See grandma carrying the pumpkin pie!

This famous poem was first published in a three-volume anthology for boys and girls, *Flowers for Children* (1844-1846). The poet John Greenleaf Whittier included it in *Child Life* (1871). The book includes the poem set to the musical score of the holiday song we all know. Happy Thanksgiving!

For a spell-binding large picture book for all seasons enjoy reading and looking at *Little Witch Hazel—A Year In The Forest* by Phoebe Wahl (\$24.99. Penguin Random House. [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)). Witch Hazel may

be a witch but she uses her magic powers to do worthwhile things for forest creatures big and small. Join her for this season's The Haunted Stump adventure seeking the source of eerie howls coming from the forest. For her detective work she is joined by two mole sisters, a mouse papa and his three mouselings, and a newt that shows them a nearby stump where the howling, yowling and bellowing wail is coming from. Little Witch Hazel bravely opens one its door only to discover the tiniest troll she has ever seen, who is miserable because she has no friends to share her dinner. Witch Hazel and her entourage join in and eat a delicious meal of fungus soup with pine needles and moss with promises to visit again soon. Witch Hazel's other adventures include saving and hatching out an orphaned egg which results in a pet owl and making house calls with all-natural remedies to forest dwellers.

Author and illustrator Phoebe Wahl works in a variety of mediums from watercolor and collage to fabric sculpture. Marvel at her full-page eye-catching drawings. See more at [www.phoebewahl.com](http://www.phoebewahl.com).

Many families can boast of having someone who is a great knitter and has knitting needles in their hands working day and night, round the clock. In *Sweater Weather* by Matt Phelan (\$17.99. Harper Collins. [www.harpercollins.com](http://www.harpercollins.com)) the master knitter is a papa bear who knits warm sweaters for his seven cubs. When he feels it's time for "sweaters on" none of the cubs think it's time to do so. The cubs make fun out of whole thing fooling with the sweaters rather than putting them on. But they readily wear them on a cool fall night when the family goes outside the see a shooting comet. Then it's back to bed—sweaters off! All scenes are drawn in a humorous way.



Children's Book Review by Charles Sutton

### Clarice the Brave

by Lisa McMann

Illustrated by Antonio Caparo

(\$17.99. G.P. Putnam's Sons. [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com))

Most cat 'n mouse stories rarely have happy endings as mice get a bad rap and are treated liked rodents. But in this dramatic thriller two seafaring mice unbelievably survive assaults by cats, humans, and predatory animals including chickens and hawks.

What makes this story so poignant is that the sisterly mouse, Clarice, and her shy brother, Charles Sebastian, get separated during a mutiny and end up on different ships.

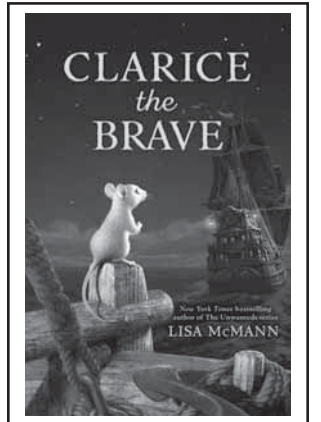
Clarice's new home is a launch with one ratty sail and few provisions of food and water. The crew of men and women are unfriendly to themselves and to each other, and includes an aggressive cat name Special Lady. Their launch was cut off from the main ship, The Coletta.

On the three-masted bark, The Coletta, brother Charles Sebastian has his own life-threatening problems. In addition to two hungry cats, Robin and Marigold, and ever rough and angry sailors, some large egg-laying chickens roam the decks in search of food.

Charles being the "runt" of a litter had been protected from the real world by his mother, now deceased, and sister Clarice and was ill-prepared for the drama ahead. He is befriended by an alleged mutinous 15-year-old girl sailor, Benjelloun, who is chained inside a cage with hands and ankles bound with

rope. When they become friends Charles Sebastian gnaws off the rope freeing her arms. She had been hiding him in her cage and sharing her grog.

The survival of both mice depended on staying forever out-of-sight. Very carefully Clarice finds the courage to share stolen rations of dried sea biscuit and salted cod with Special Lady in exchange for some friendship and not being eaten (Special Lady had indeed killed and eaten her sister Olivia). The



cat gradually realizes Clarice is saving her life and gives her water when she has none.

The cat and mouse become the closest of friends and later Special Lady in an unforgettable dramatic scene rescues both mice from a burning ship and possible drowning and brother and sister are reunited. The cat and both mice settle into a forever life on a pleasant South Seas island.

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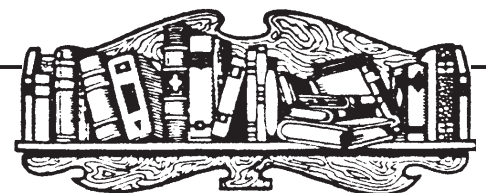
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# Thanksgiving

## How to Cook it Well

by Sam Sifton

(\$22. Random House. [www.randomhouse.com](http://www.randomhouse.com))

Thanksgiving is a time for thankfulness celebrated with a great meal. But it also can be a day of great stress—will the dinner turn out alright? Will what's-his-name drink too much? Can relatives get along for just this once? And, you the cook, must put on one sumptuous meal.

Helping you meet this challenge with good advice and cheer is Sam Sifton, national editor of *The New York Times* and its former restaurant and food columnist. During the past 25 years he has cooked the Thanksgiving meal for just a few people or for dozens.

For a few years Sifton spent Thanksgiving Day alone at the *New York Times* where he ran a Thanksgiving Day Help Line answering panicky questions from readers from all over world and America about what to do about burnt turkeys, still-frozen ones, a bland gravy, a last-minute cranberry sauce, too thick corn-puddings, underdone squash and what if "someone's aunt is vegan or this guest is a carnivorous boss".

Follow his advice and he will show you how to cook and serve a meal that will bring praise upon you like "showers of rose petals." But no short-cuts—"They are anathema to Thanksgiving."

### The Best Turkey

What kind of turkey should you get for Thanksgiving this year? Frozen supermarket or fresh? Organic or free-range? Heritage or Kosher. Brined or not brined?

Most families settle on the large, round supermarket turkey which was likely factory-farmed, fed antibiotics and flash-frozen to 0 degrees. It's usually sold at a bargain price, a so-called loss leader, to get you to purchase all the other fixings.

The author recommends an organic one for the best taste because it was grown with no chemical processing. He says beware of the "free range" marketing term that really means the birds "are shunted out of their pens into an open common area for a certain number of minutes a day where they court illness before returning to their feed."

### Cooking the Turkey

To fast cook a turkey, butterfly it, which the British call "spatchcocking." This means cutting out the backbone, flattening the bird, and roasting it breast side up with "a few pats of butter and some fresh herbs."

To try something different he has recipes for fried or deep-fried turkey, grilled turkey, smoke-roasted with and without herbs.

Unlike the usual recipe books that list ingredients with school-boy-like instructions, Sifton sometimes seasons his recipes with anecdotes. He tells of a near disaster using a fried-turkey rig from a home improvement store on a sidewalk in Brooklyn, NY, but misjudging the use of peanut oil, causing a fire. The scene was scary enough that police were called, and one cop told him "Your technique needs work." The fire may have endangered a bystander but she would later become his wife.

If you want to brine a turkey submerge the bird into a solution of salt and sugar and herbs (recipe given) which results in a moister turkey and is nearly always a success. He says this method is helpful if you suspect your turkey is too lean and dry.

The best and easiest recipe is a 325-degree oven for 15 minutes for each pound and baste

every 30 minutes. And "Do not overcook."

Sifton admits carving is an ugly business that gets messy fast. He gives very careful instructions, but for those who only carve meats once or twice a year and want to avoid disaster, he says head back into the kitchen and do your carving there.

### Turkey Stock

Sifton recommends boiling the turkey neck with onions, carrots and celery, and for a more "serious" stock use the drumsticks and wings and herbs. The stock can be used for soups and other dishes.

### Dressings and Gravy

In addition to traditional fresh bread stuffing, he offers ones made with cornbread; giblet, chestnuts and oysters; and a three-pepper sausage dressing using cornbread. He says bread stuffing can be used year-round with roasted chicken or pork chops.

His stuffing uses French or Italian bread, unsalted butter, Spanish onion, celery, two apples, sage leaves, fresh thyme, salt and paper, one egg and chopped parsley.

The surest way to ruin a Thanksgiving dinner is to serve gravy that is too thin, flavorless, gummy, too salty or "gravy made with anything that comes in a foil packet."

To make a delicious gravy use the pan drippings as its base. Sifton says confidence is required. "Those who believe their gravy will turn out well will turn out good gravy." To make sure you don't flub up and to create a must-be-perfect gravy he gives easy details from start to finish.

### Cranberry Sauce

The author opposes short-cuts and opening a can of cranberry sauce is a real no-no. He makes it easy to make your own out of a bag of fresh or frozen cranberries. His ideal sauce would be "sweet but not cloying, and tart without causing pucker and anguish." Also offered is a recipe for easy-to-make gingered cranberry sauce.

### Green Beans and Brussels Sprouts

To create a more festive dish the author recommends throwing in some changeups like sliced and butter-toasted almonds or pancetta and mint." He also has a recipe for cooking the green beans Southwestern-style in a smoked turkey stock.

Sifton's recipes for Brussels sprouts will "win hearts and minds." One calls for braising the sprouts in a pool of milk and cream with bits of bacon. The other recipe is braised Brussels sprouts with buttered bread crumbs. Bacon also can be added as well as shallots, garlic and fresh thyme.

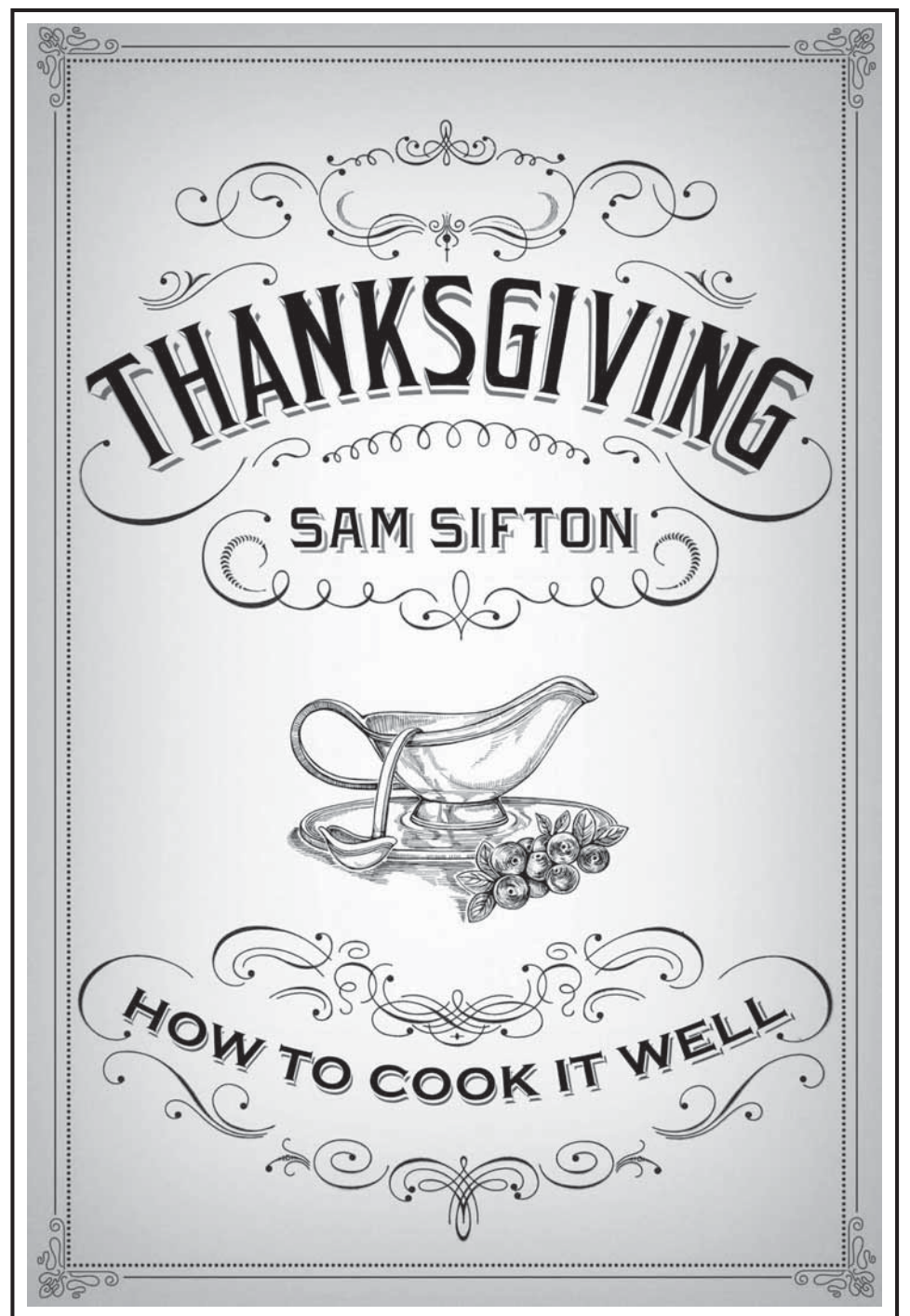
### Potatoes & Squash

For mashed potatoes he recommends Yukon Golds, Idaho or Russet. It's best to make them plain so don't add garlic and basil. He offers an alternative to mashed with a scalloped potato recipe using freshly grated nutmeg.

Additional dishes include spicy sweet potatoes, roasted butternut squash with butter and sage or steamed with butter and parsley.

### Desserts

Only traditional treats are recommended like pumpkin, apple or pecan pie, Indian pudding, and apple crisps. He says desserts



should not be extravagant or experimental—no parfaits, marshmallows, frosted cake or chocolate. "Save chocolate for nights of depression and anxiety—for New Year's Eve, or an unwelcome birthday."

### Appetizers

This author warns that it's a big mistake to serve appetizers while waiting for the dinner to finish cooking and be served. He remembers nothing more annoying than "spending an entire day cooking for people only to see them crush their hunger an hour before dinner by inhaling a pound of cheese, olives, or deviled egg." And they use up valuable stomach space.

Sifton make an exception for oysters that are a different matter entirely and he recommends that laying in a few dozen bivalves to eat while the turkey rests on the sideboard will abate the pre-dinner craving to eat. He tells how to open oysters—no easy task.

### Drinks & Drinking

He encourage guests to bring their favorite wine that they would like others to try. The author knows that Thanksgiving is not a time to judge what people drink, but to have enough beverages so that you won't run out during the Thanksgiving meal. One of his brothers demands eggnog (Christmas season starting?). And "my daughters demand hot apple cider. Some of my friends ask for mulled wine or hot butter rum" (recipes included here).

### Odds & Ends

This book is a treasure house of advice on making Thanksgiving dinner a success from start to finish. One chapter is devoted to setting the table and serving the food as well as some questions of etiquette. It makes for pleasant reading and an even pleasanter Thanksgiving.

Sam Sifton is an assistant managing editor of *The New York Times*, overseeing culture and lifestyle coverage; an "Eat" columnist for *The New York Times Magazine*; and the founding editor of *NYT Cooking*, an award-winning digital cookbook and cooking school. Formerly the newspaper's national news editor, culture editor, and chief restaurant critic, he is also the author of *See You on Sunday: A Cookbook for Family and Friends*.

He and his wife and two daughters live in Brooklyn, NY.

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# The Rutland Flood of 1947: A Farmer Remembers

Excerpted from Sherwin Williams Memoir  
by Charles Fish

“Get out quick, the East Pittsford dam has broken,” went the phone call from someone who saw it go. So begins Sherwin Williams’ memoir of the flood that devastated the Lester-Williams farm on U.S. Rt. 7 in Rutland Town and caused great damage in the city. It was Vermont’s most destructive dam failure.

The flooded stream was East Creek, the southern boundary of the farm. It would overflow its banks now and then, but “Even the 1927 flood, the worst one Vermont ever knew, didn’t do us any real damage.” This one was more threatening. While Sherwin did the evening milking, Grandma (his mother Pauline) “rolled up rugs, put bedding and books up higher, and in general got ready for what she thought might come.” And soon it did. As the phone rang, “The water was coming through under the old woodshed” into the yard with a terrible roar that Sherwin never forgot. Even years later the sound of high water gave him “a funny feeling in my stomach and my legs begin to get weak & rubbery.”

Sherwin had driven the cows into the north field instead of the flooded south pasture; it saved his herd. But now the people had to get out: Sherwin and his wife Ellrena, sons Larry (6) and Gareth (nearly 1), Grandma, her brother Milo Lester, and old Cak (Clarence Chaffee), long-time hired man, almost a member of the family. “Ellrena got Grandma and Larry & Gareth up the road to higher ground,” this in the old,

**“‘Get out quick, the East Pittsford dam has broken’ went the phone call from someone who saw it go.”**

balky ‘34 Chevrolet that started with the help of a prayer. Then came the crisis that could have drowned four people.

Sherwin was going to follow Ellrena in the truck with Uncle Milo in the cab and Cak in the back “when Cak thought he had better go back and get his boots. He got up on the porch and I guess became confused...maybe he wanted to get back in the house for some money he had in his room, but anyway I had to go and get him back in the truck. In the meantime water was rising fast” and the truck, wheels spinning in the soggy ground, wouldn’t move.

“What happened next was a kind and really a brave deed. The road running in front of the house was about a foot higher than the lawn, and a man and his wife had backed down just to see the high water, lucky for us. He saw the picklement we were in” and got out of his car to help. His wife took Uncle Milo up the road out of danger. “Old Cak still sat in the back of the truck. We went back to get him out, and each took an arm to get him up the road...It still is sort of like a nightmare. The roar of the water...water pretty well up to your hips, the damn boots I had on were full and



The farmhouse on the Lester-Williams farm on Rt. 7 in Rutland Town survived the 1947 flood, as it was blocked behind a rubble of trees.

kept dragging me down. But the man that helped me out was strong with a lot of courage and a sense of humor because I’m sure he told Cak to keep his tobacco dry. We floundered, struggled and half swam up the road. The water pulling and dragging at your legs and out of the corner of your eye you could see the water raging to our left. There were a lot of people watching up the road and I remember the crowd and then someone started to back down toward us through the water.” It was neighbor Merritt Thomas who “loaded us in and went for high ground.”

The family went to Uncle Henry Lester’s place on Grove Street, across the valley on a hill. There they could look down on the farm, but there was nothing to see. It was getting dark and “there was a foglike cloud blanket that covered the valley and the river...and all we could hear was this terrible grinding roar of rushing water.” The next morning was no clearer, and even as they walked down the road toward the farm, “The fog and the mist were so thick we couldn’t see the place so we didn’t know whether we had anything left or not.” The flood had torn and littered the roadway, and “we crawled over big trees, waded through good-sized brooks where the road had washed.”

To their great relief the house and big barn were there, saved by a dam of rubble that had built up against three elm trees behind the house. Gone were the hen house, pig barn, 36 of the 48 pigs, all but two of the 200 hens. The cows escaped when Richard Thomas cut the fence; they were milked by hand along with the Thomas herd for two weeks, then sold at auction.

What the flood left behind was worse than what it took away: a foot of mud on the first floor, the cellar full of it, furniture toppled, big trees and masses of debris everywhere, and worst of all, forty acres of “sand, gravel, small stones, big stones, trees, stumps, ditches, gullies, and all types of erosion.” The white river sand was up to four feet deep, calcium its only nutritional element. “Prior to the flood the soil was extremely fertile and had been kept in good shape through several generations.”

What to do? “A lot of people at the time figured we ought to forget it all, give up the mess and quit, but Ellrena and I didn’t see it that way. It did look at the time like an impossible task, but like a lot of stubborn old Yankees, we took the bit in our teeth and went to work.” With a lot of help from neighbors and others, the house and barn were cleaned up, meadows cleared, and, over several decades, the soil’s productivity was restored.

Odd events stick in the mind forever. When Sherwin and Ellrena made their way to the house, the farm dog Muggsie

was on the porch and a bullfrog was on the kitchen floor. One of the horses, freed from his stall and terrified, climbed up the stairs to join some pigs in the hay loft and had to be blindfolded to be urged back down. The “old white boar” survived the flood and “with his size and tusks was a real deterrent for people poking around to pick up things.” One pig swam all the way down to Mill Village. One of the two hens that survived continued to lay eggs. Brother-in-law Charles Fish Sr. shovelled through the mud and found all of Grandma’s precious silverware. Pools gouged out in the pasture held bullhead to be caught by son Larry and cousins John Fish and Charles Fish Jr.

But the major theme in this warm-hearted reminiscence is that of Sherwin and Ellrena’s gratitude for the help of friends and neighbors and of people who became good friends through hours of freely given labor. Uncle Henry and Mildred fed and housed them for two weeks; nephew Harlan Lester, fresh out of the Marines, dug out maple syrup and canned goods from the cellar mud; Orin Thomas Jr. kept them supplied with ice cream from his dairy bar; the Capens,

who became fast friends, shared their garden, even enough to can; Don Swan and Jarvis Russell, busy farmers, spent many hours cleaning up. “Mother always called people neighbors and the greeting

‘Hi, neighbor,’ if you think about it, means an awful lot. Over the years I have tried to follow her example because few things mean more than good neighbors.”

A similar account by Sherwin and Ellrena is found in The Rutland Town Bicentennial Sampler, 1776-1976 and at [www.rutlandtown.com](http://www.rutlandtown.com).

Gareth Williams, who provided a copy of the memoir, organized his father Sherwin Williams’ essays about farm life and donated them to the Rutland Historical Society. Visit [www.rutlandhistory.com](http://www.rutlandhistory.com)

The farm is the subject of Charles Fish’s book, *In Good Hands: The Keeping of a Family Farm*.

Ellrena Williams died in 1992 at 80, Sherwin Williams in 2008 at 95. The farm carries on as the Williams Farmstand run by grandson Paul and farm partner Tim Perry. Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 gouged out gullies and left mud on part of the land and in the cellar of the house but did not cause structural damage.

*Williams Farmstand is located at 1606 U.S. Rt 7 N, Rutland, VT 05701. (802) 773-8301. It is open seasonally and sells and grows local produce.*



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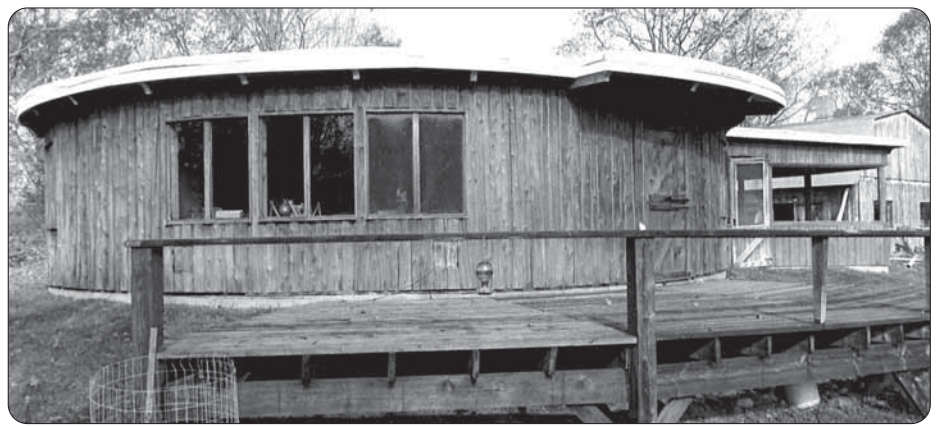
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