

Vermont Country Sampler



Free

December 2011

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

N. Cassidy

X-C SKIING • SNOWSHOEING • 1,300 ACRES



THREE STALLION INN

at the  Green Mountain Stock Farm

A great spot to gather.

For all ages.

*To celebrate weddings, birthdays
and family reunions.*

An Outstanding Place to Connect.

~ Only 3 miles from Exit 4 / I-89 ~

802-728-5575 www.3stallioninn.com

Lower Stock Farm Road • Randolph, Vermont

The Sammis Family, Owners

"Best Dining Experience in Central Vermont"

WEDDINGS • REUNIONS • RETREATS • CONFERENCES

FITNESS CENTER • SAUNA • WHIRLPOOL • GOLF • BIKING

LIPPITT'S RESTAURANT • MORGAN'S PUB



photos by Nancy Cassidy

The town of Woodstock celebrates its 28th Annual Wassail Weekend on December 9, 10 & 11, 2011. The highlight is the 27th Annual Equestrian Parade on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Billings Farm & Museum Invites You to Christmas at the Farm

Discover the traditions of a late 19th century Vermont Christmas with a visit to the Billings Farm & Museum, in Woodstock, VT this December. Christmas at the Billings Farm will be featured on weekends in December and December 26 – January 1, 2012, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tours of the authentically decorated farmhouse, visits to the dairy farm for interactive programs, holiday activities, plus the Academy Award® nominee film, *A Place in the Land* will be offered.

Highlights of the Holiday Season

December 3 & 4, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Making Christmas silhouettes & poppers; candle dipping.

December 9, 10, & 11: 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Woodstock's Wassail Celebration. Making historic Christmas ornaments and pomanders; candle dipping. Saturday 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. will feature traditional holiday music. Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides.

December 17 & 18: 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Making Christmas silhouettes & poppers, candle dipping.

Christmas Week: December 26 – January 1: 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Making historic Christmas ornaments, pomanders, and snowflakes; candle dipping. Sledding with jack jumpers, if snow conditions permit.

Like most New England states, Vermont did not widely celebrate Christmas until late in the 19th century. It was not until 1890, when the farmhouse at the Billings Farm was completed, that Christmas became recognized as a holiday in all states. At that time, celebrations were much simpler than they would become in the 20th century. Families enjoyed the holiday, but still had cows to milk, ice to cut, and wood to saw. A few gifts, a special meal, and the gathering of friends, were noteworthy in an otherwise typical day.

Decorations of the period included fresh greens draped over mantels, windows, and staircases throughout the house. Small trees, packed in a jar or butter tub and placed on a tabletop were common. Many of the ornaments reflected an agricultural tradition, including strands of cranberries, popcorn, or dried apples that circled the tree. Apples studded with cloves, "exotic" oranges, silvered (foil-covered) chestnuts, painted pinecones, and acorns complemented

the handmade paper ornaments, which rounded out many a tree's decorations.

In Woodstock, turn-of-the-century businesses advertised their wares for Christmas gifts. Most gifts were useful domestic items: fabric, clothing, umbrellas, linens, crockery, and carpet sweeps. Homemade, handcrafted items including fancy mittens, satin bows, and stockings filled with candies, nuts, and raisins were the most common gifts given on Christmas Day.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm, owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., that continues a century-long tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

Open daily May 1 through October 31, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekends Nov. – Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission: adults: \$12; 62 & over: \$11; children 5-15: \$6; 3-4: \$3; 2 & under: free. The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Route 12. For information call (802) 457-2355 or visit www.billingsfarm.org.



Sleigh Rides

Karl Pfister • 802-824-4663
Landgrove, VT

Vermont Country Sampler

December 2011, Vol. XXVI

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

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

Advertising rates available upon request. Deadline the 15th of the preceding month.

Vermont Country Sampler

P.O. Box 226, Danby, VT 05739 • (802) 293-5752
info@vermontcountry sampler.com
vermontcountry sampler.com

Flames Stables

Route 100 South, Wilmington, VT
(802) 464-8329

Scenic Year-Round
Trail Rides: \$20 for 40 Min.

Children Over 6 Can Ride Alone
Pony Rides for Younger Children

~ by reservation ~

Great Family Fun at the Lowest Prices Around!



Visit Taylor Farm



A New Vermont Tradition!

Visit our Farm Store for Vermont cheeses, raw milk, baked goods, honey, syrup and more.

Come for a seasonal horse-drawn sleigh or wagon ride!

825 Rt. 11 West, Londonderry, VT

(20 min. from Manchester or Stratton)

(802) 824-5690 • taylorcheese@comcast.net

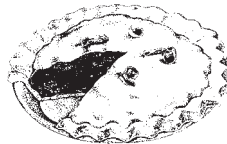
www.taylorfarmvermont.com

Grandma Miller's ~ Homemade Pies ~

24 Delicious Assorted Varieties!

Fresh Baked or Oven Ready
Take One Home Today!

Cran-Apple • Pumpkin • Pecan • Apple
Strawberry • Apple Crumb • Blueberry-Apple
Raspberry-Apple • Raspberry-Peach • Blueberry • Cherry
Mincemeat • Caramel-Apple • Maple Walnut



"Have a cup of coffee or tea and a pastry in our cafe area and enjoy the view!"



David Nunnikoven,
Baker & Owner



Pies also available at:

Winhall Market
in Bondville

The Colonial House
Inn & Motel in Weston
Clearbrook Farm
in Shaftsbury

River Valley Market
in Wilmington

River Bend Market
in Townshend

Quiche, Lasagna

Chicken Pot Pie & Shepard's Pie.

Coffee Cake, Sticky Buns, Cookies, Breads, and Soups.

Special Orders Welcome (802) 824-4032.

Come Visit Our Retail Store

At Hearthstone Village, Rt. 100, 2 mi. S. of Londonderry, VT
Open Monday-Saturday, 8 am – 5:30 pm

A Vermont Almanack for Early Winter

by Bill Felker

*But let the months go round, a few short months,
And all shall be restored. These naked shoots
Barren as lances, among which the wind
Makes wintry music, sighing as it goes,
Shall put their graceful foliage on again
And more aspiring and with ampler spread
Shall boast new charms, and more than they have lost.*

—William Cowper

EPHEMERIS FOR DECEMBER

The Phases of the Sandhill Crane Migration Moon and the Camel-Back Cricket Moon

By the time sandhill cranes complete their migration into the Deep South, harvest is usually over, and the land and its creatures burrow in against the cold. Among the insects finding safety in your home are the camel-back crickets that often emerge on winter nights, bringing—some people believe—good luck. *December 2:* The Sandhill Crane Migration Moon enters its second quarter at 4:52 a.m. *December 10:* The moon is full at 9:36 a.m. *December 17:* The moon enters final quarter at 7:48 p.m. *December 24:* The first moon of 2012, the Camel-Back Cricket Moon is new at 1:06 p.m.

The Lunar Eclipse

The only lunar eclipse of 2011 visible in North America will occur at moonset, near dawn on December 10. This will be a partial eclipse, so watch the edge of the round full moon as it sinks into the west.

The Sun's Progress

The sun reaches a declination of 22 degrees, 22 minutes, approximately one degree from its declination at winter solstice, on December 5. The sun will remain within a degree of solstice until January 8, producing a period of solar stability similar to the one between June 4 and July 8. Winter Solstice occurs on December 22 at 12:30 a.m. The sun enters its Middle Winter sign of Capricorn at the same time.

The Stars

At bed time, find Taurus right in front of giant Orion. Then look behind Orion for the two bright stars of Castor and Pollux, the anchors of Gemini. Behind Gemini comes Cancer. On the far eastern horizon, the largest star is Regulus, which tells you that you are looking at the constellation of Leo (the apparent source of the Leonid meteors). In the west, Cygnus the swan leads the Milky Way down the path the sun took just five hours earlier. Summer's Vega finally disappears into the northern horizon.

The Shooting Stars

On December 13–14 after midnight, the Geminid meteors fall through Gemini (just to the east of Orion). It is likely that the moon will cause you problems as you try to locate meteors this month. If you are patient, however, and search the eastern sky once Orion has moved into the west, you should find your Geminids. Between December 17 and 25, the Ursid meteors will appear late at night deep in the northeast around the Big Dipper and Little Dipper, the Ursid or Bear Constellations. The later in the month you watch, the less interference you will receive from the waning moon.

The Planets

Venus in Sagittarius is absent from the night sky this month. Mars comes up in Leo after midnight, moving near the center of the heavens by sunrise. Jupiter finally leaves Aries for Pisces high in the southwest at sundown. Saturn



Winter snow on the gazebo in Ludlow, VT.

photo by johndavidgeery.com

remains in Virgo, rising after midnight and moving almost overhead by sunrise.

Meteorology

Severe weather is most likely to occur during the following periods: December 1–3, 24–26, 31–January 1. It is probable that new moon on December 24 will intensify the Christmas cold front and complicate travel. Full moon on December 10 will bring stronger-than-average storms to the United States as Early Winter begins. In most states, average high temperatures fluctuate only about two to three degrees

between December 21 and the approach of Early Spring in the third week of February.

Bill Felker's Poor Will's Almanack for 2012 is now available. Send \$20 (includes s/h) to Poor Will, P.O. Box 431, Yellow Springs, OH 45387. Bill's weekly radio essays are broadcast on National Public Radio's WYSO Ohio (available by podcast at www.wyso.org). His websites, www.poorwillsalmanack.com or www.poorwillsalmanack.net provide excerpts from his daybook and weekly Almanack updates.

GIFT BOXES!



Order Now to Send or Take-Home
Your Choice or Ready-Made.

We Ship Anywhere!

Already-Picked & Pick-Your-Own Apples.
Our Own Vermont Maple Syrup, Honey,
Vermont Cheddar, Jams, Jellies and more.

— Open 7 Days, 8-5 —

Harlow's Sugar House
Rt. 5, 3 miles north of Putney, VT
(802) 387-5852

**KLICK'S
ANTIQUES & CRAFTS**
Bought & Sold
SPECIALIZING IN RAG RUGS,
COUNTRY ANTIQUES, FOLK ART.
Watch rag rugs & placemats being made
Open Mon-Fri 10-5 or by appointment
29 Westminster St • Bellows Falls, VT
Just south of the square • (802) 463-9656



The Holidays are Here!

**Balsam Christmas Trees
Wreaths & Evergreen Roping**
We have cut-your-own and pre-cut trees
and make-your-own and ready-made wreaths.

Visit Our Gift Shop
Fresh Cider, Apples, Cider Donuts, Homemade Apple
and Pumpkin Pies – be sure to order ahead!
Mail Order Apple Gift Packs

Horse-Drawn Sleigh/Wagon Rides
By Reservation, weather permitting.
Fun for the Whole Family!

130 West Hill Road, Putney, VT
(Exit 4, I-91) Look for signs in Putney Village
Open daily 9 am – 5:30 pm • (802) 387-5851
greenmtorchards.com

Open 7 Days a Week • 9 am - 7 pm



Come Shop in Our Greenhouse!

Gorgeous Selection of Vermont-Grown Christmas
Trees, Wreaths, Roping, Greens, & Poinsettias

Cider Donuts, Pies, & Cookies
Made Fresh Daily

Premium Wine, Beer, Cheeses & Maple Syrup

Exit 5 off I-91 • Westminster, VT • 802-722-3395

Tickle Your Pickle Palate!

With Hickin's Pickles

Maple Icycle • Mustard Crock • Cooler Dill
Bread & Butter • Maple Cinnamon • Dilly Bean
Peppered Pickles

Jams &
Jellies

Holiday
Sweet Breads



1999 Black Mountain Rd, Dummerston, VT 05301
(802) 254-2146

Visit us at hickinfarm.com

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market—a Holiday Tradition

Share the joy of local food and beautiful handcrafted gifts with your family and friends from the Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market at the Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St. On Saturdays, Dec. 3, 10 & 17, the market will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for an extra hour of holiday shopping.

The Market will also be open for your last-minute holiday shopping on Dec. 24 & 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Still unsure what to gift your family for the holidays? Need a fragrant pine wreath for your holiday decorating? The Winter Farmers' Market has what you are looking for—a wide selection of locally grown and homemade gifts.

Thirty-five vendors will be offering maple syrup, delicious jams, exquisite

jewelry, holiday wreaths, local wines, handmade soaps, hand thrown pottery, hand knit and hand sewn hats, beautiful woodworking gifts and much more.

Come for the local farm produce, and beautiful homemade products and stay for a tasty lunch, live music and the warmth of community. There is something at the market for everyone.

The Winter Farmers' Market is sponsored by Post Oil Solutions and offers produce, eggs, locally-raised grass-fed meats, baked goods, local preserves, and much more.

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market is open every Saturday through March 31, 2012. For more information contact us at farmers-market@postoilsolutions.org or call (802) 869-2141.



Dashing through the snow in a sled pulled by Belgian draft horses at Taylor Farm in Londonderry, VT. photo by gregnesbit.com

Worn Again

A Christian Resale Shop

Located in the St. Edmund of Canterbury Church Basement
Main Street, Saxtons River, VT • Open Thurs & Sat 9 am to 3 pm



Telecom Services: Experience, dependability and a commitment to total customer satisfaction.

"Sovernet was very timely, flexible and very helpful to me. I am delighted with Sovernet." - Valerie, Bellows Falls

(877) 877-2120 • www.sover.net

The Pizza Stone



Vermont Style Pizza

- Live Music
- Open 7 Days
- Beer Bar w/Wine

291 Pleasant St. (VT Rt. 11)
Chester, VT • (802) 875-2121
pizzastone@vermontel.net

Grafton Valley Arts Guild
And Chef Bryce LeVan Cushing Present:

Mondays at the Chapel

GVAG Fundraising Dinners

Every 1st & 3rd Mondays
At the White Chapel, 4 Main St, Grafton, VT
Open Seating: Serving 5:30-9 p.m.

Gourmet dishes prepared with the freshest local Vermont faire of the season.
Four Course, Prix Fixe Menu changes for every event, and includes: Soup, Salad, Entree and Dessert.
Full table service, no alcohol permitted.

\$15 Suggested Donation

Critically Acclaimed
Classical Jazz Guitarist
Draa Hobbs @ 7 p.m.



GRAFTON VALLEY
ARTS GUILD
(802) 843-GVAG
grafftonvalleyartsguild.com

WINTER MORNING

It comes thundering out of the night.
The eastern sky is barely light.
With a tearing, a grating, a deep rasping growl,
The snow plow.

There's no use trying to go back to sleep.
That sweet dream, starting, will have to keep.
The dogs are hungry and want out. Now.
And the kittens yowl.

The snow and wind have worked all night
And created a frigid icing delight.
Such beautiful stuff.

I go out and shovel and dig and sweat.
My feet are cold, my hands are wet.
Enough is enough.

The birds are a-twitter, they want their grub.
It must be cold 'neath their snow-draped shrub,
But they survive.

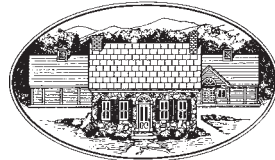
My stoves are hungry and so are the dogs.
I dish out some Kibble and shove in some logs
To keep us alive.

Now there's a dog beside me in my easy chair,
And a cat on my lap and she doesn't care,
She doesn't have to go out.

My coffee is hot and the muffin is sweet.
There's sheepskin slippers on my feet
And nothing to worry about.



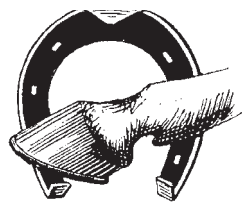
—KIT HEWES



Stone House ANTIQUES CENTER

A multitude of antiques, collectibles and crafts.
Over 250 booths featuring fine furniture, folk art, quilts,
jewelry, primitives, farm implements, books and bottles.

Open Daily 10 am to 5 pm. (802) 875-4477.
Route 103, Chester, VT. 8 miles west of Exit 6, I-91.



Horseshoeing & Cattle Trimming

Specializing in Draft Shoes
for Hayrides, Sled Rides,
and Woods Work.

We Trim Anything with Feet!

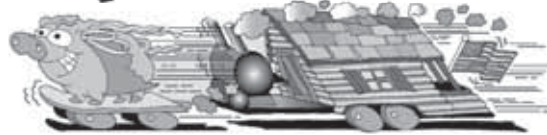
Goats, Sheep, Cattle, Pigs, Llamas,
Oxen, Alpacas and More.

Blacksmith Shop. Portable Stocks and
Stationary Stocks On-Site at Shop.

Roland L. Church • (802) 875-1034
3668 VT. Rt. 103N, Chester, VT 05143

— Drafts to Minis —

Squeels on Wheels



Wood-Roasted BBQ —Take-Out & Catering—

Pig Roasts • Pitmaster 'Tump' Smokin' Meats & Ribs
Full Boar's Head Deli & Vermont Products

Located at the Ludlow Country Store
471 Rt. 103 S., Ludlow, VT • 802-228-8934

Open Sun, Mon, Wed, Thurs 7 am-5 pm
Fri & Sat 7 am-7 pm, closed Tues
squeelsonwheels.com

Good Karma Thrift & Gift

Thrift Clothes for the Whole Family
Consignments
Handmade Local Items, Play Area
Chester, VT • On-the-Green • (802) 258-1820
Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10 am to 3 pm
Mention this ad for 10% off!



THE HUGGING BEAR

Folkman's Puppets,
Collectibles, Gund,
Muffy Vanderbear,
Webkinz, and more.

B&B and Teddy Bear Shoppe

244 Main St., Chester, VT (800) 325-0519
www.huggingbear.com

Come visit the Water Music Art Gallery
In our newly opened Carriage House

Morsø Wood Stoves

from Denmark



157 year old
family run
foundry

10 Year
Warranty



Cummings Hardware & Country Store

Since 1958 • Over 10,000 Items on Display
Route 103 • Chester Depot, VT
802-875-3342

Prize-Winning Gouda Cheese from Taylor Farm

by Charles Sutton

Long before agri-tourism became a means to help save farms, the Jonathan Wright family of Londonderry VT were selling homemade baked goods, offering Belgian horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides, and putting visitors up in a guest house at their Taylor Farm. Still hard-pressed to make ends meet, Jon, unlike many other dairymen who just called it quits, became one of early farmers in Vermont to go into the cheese-making business. The 'milk check' never seemed to cover costs, and milk converted to cheese seemed like a good way to go.

Jon chose the semi-firm Gouda cheese because he said "I just like how it looks and tastes" and it had a longer shelf life compared to other popular cheeses. He started his venture into cheese making in 1999.

He is still the state's only Gouda producer and is currently making between 50,000 and 70,000 pounds a year. These hand-made cheeses are Vermont homestead Gouda, maple smoked Gouda and aged Gouda. Flavored varieties include Chipotle, nettle, garlic-cumin and caraway. His smoked Gouda has won national prizes and according to Henry "The Cheeseman" Tewksbury, author of Vermont Cheeses, "even smoked Gouda from Holland does not compare with the excellence of this local product."

How cheese is made

Cheese-making using raw milk from Holsteins and Jerseys takes place twice a week from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., usually on Mondays and Fridays. Visitors are always welcome at Taylor Farm, but one should call ahead to make sure cheese is being made that day.

Today there are at least 40 Vermont farms producing farmstead cheeses from cow, sheep, goat and even water buffalo milk! Jon explains that the milk is warmed so it can separate into curds (solids) and whey (liquid). Starter cultures—a lactic acid bacteria—are added. The mix depends on the type of cheese being made. Rennet (a group of enzymes) also is added to allow casein (one of the proteins in milk) to curdle. After setting up for two hours the curdled milk is cut with a tool called a harp which releases the whey. Harder cheeses like Gouda come from very fine curds. Further processing includes packing the curds into stainless steel molds (for 1 or 5 lb. cheeses), a brine bath, and then into the cooler for aging.

Sleigh rides

Depending on weather conditions Taylor Farm offers sleigh rides from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and daily during holiday weeks. Riders are encouraged to create their own bread, cheese, and dessert picnics at the Farm Shop to have on the sleigh ride. One also can bring their own snacks and hot cider (marshmallows are provided). Picnic cheeses include Taylor Farm's Gouda and other Vermont cheeses, and homemade cookies, tea cakes and scones. There's a choice of artisan breads.

Two teams of Belgian horses and one team of Percherons are available for wagon and sleigh rides. These friendly large draft horses are a familiar sight at the farm complex. A flock



photo by gregnesbit.com

The Farm Store at Taylor Farm in Londonderry, VT. Come inside for all sorts of delicious things to eat!

of chickens are especially tame, and they often leave their nests in a sawdust bin to greet visitors. The farm's menagerie includes goats, pigs, ducks and one mini-donkey as well as a herd of 100 cows.

Giant new barn

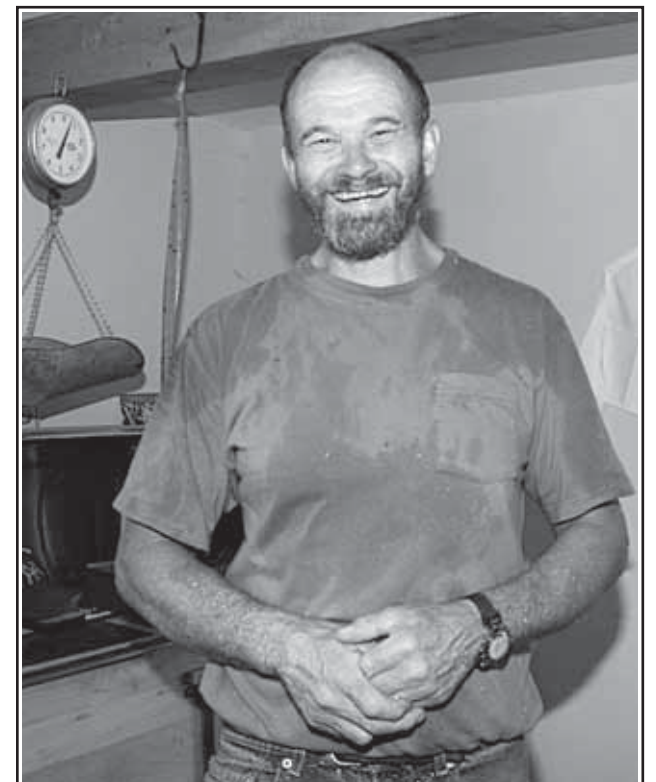
That's a lot of animals to have under one roof, but Jon has provided for them with the building of a new football-field-sized 'loose-housing' structure to replace the barn that was destroyed in 2009. This barn is open to the East and its back wall is closed to protect the animals from northwest winter breezes.

In 2001 most of the farm was put into conservation through the Vermont Land Trust and the remaining portion was kept by the Wright family with a commitment to continue to practice sustainable agriculture on the entire property. Cows are never treated with growth hormones and are rotationally grazed on pastures or hayfields treated only with natural fertilizers. There are now 700 Vermont farms in the Trust committed to preserving the land for agricultural use.

The Farm Shop, open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., features home baked breads and pies, jams, jellies, preserves, apple-sauce, caramel sauce, and other locally-produced Vermont products including maple syrup, honey and Vermont cheeses, raw milk, and farm-fresh eggs.

The farm is also dog-friendly and as many as six may be counted at one time. Some are Jon's and the people who work there often bring their dogs from home.

Taylor Farm is located at 225 Rt. 11 in Londonderry, VT. For sleigh ride reservations or other information call (802) 824-5690 or visit www.taylorfarmvermont.com.



© joan beard photography 2011. All rights reserved.

Jon Wright at Taylor Farm.



© joan beard photography 2011. All rights reserved.

Tamry Bratton makes gouda cheese at Taylor Farm in Londonderry, VT.

CHERRY HILL FARM
— Springfield, VT —
Order Your Gift Boxes!
Vicki Day's Preserves—Handmade in Vermont
Seedless Black Currant • Seedless Red Currant
Red Currant • Black Currant with Red Raspberry
Just So Vermont—Our Own Bottled Juices
Black Currant & Lime and Black Currant & Ginger
802.885.5088 • cherryhillfarmvt.com

Willow Farm Pet Services
Grooming & Boarding...Naturally
Doggie Daycare
Training Classes & Pet Supplies
"The Red Barn" at #21 Route 106
N. Springfield, VT • (802) 886-5000
Mon-Fri 8-6, Sat 8-4
willowfarmvermont.com

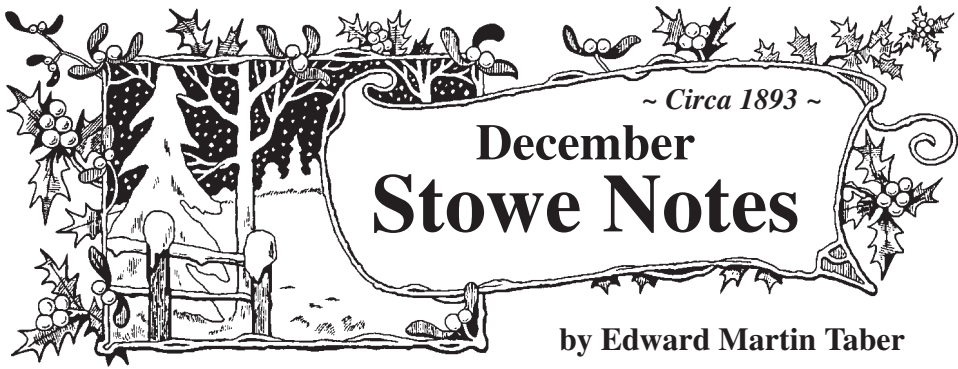
Est. 1952
R. B. Erskine, Inc.
Grain & Supplies
Chester Depot, VT
Mon-Fri, 7:30-5:00; Sat 7:30-3:00 802-875-2333

Rural Needs From A To Z

Poulin Grain
Nutrena Excellence Inside
MORRISON'S Custom Feeds Certified Organic
GREEN MOUNTAIN FEEDS Certified Organic

Special Orders
Good Service
Everyday
Low Prices
Much, Much More

A...Ax & Adze Handles
B...Bulk Bird Seed
C...Chimney Pipe, 3"-10" & fittings
D...Diamond Farrier Tools
E...Electric Deicers & Dog Bowls
F...Fence Panels: 1/4Wire, 16', 3 Styles
G...Good Gloves
H...Heat Tape
I...Ice Walkers: Stabilizers & Yak Trax
J...Jolly Balls & Jiffy Pots
K...Kids' Gloves & Mittens
L...Leader Evaporator Dealer
M...Metalbestos Chimney
N...No GMO Seed In Our Catalog
O...Organic Feeds & Fertilizers
P...Pet Food & Supplies
Q...Quality Hand Tools
R...Rosin
S...Stabilizers from Maine
T...Tanks, Tubs, Totes, & Tiedowns
U...UVM Soil Test Kits
V...Vibram Dog Toys Made in USA
W...Wire: Welded & Woven
X...Xtra Service
Y...Yard Hydrants & Parts
Z...ZipLock Freezer Bags up to 2 Gal.



by Edward Martin Taber

It is an unspeakable delight to be out today, to feel the rush and hear the tumult of the wind. This afternoon the wind blew steadily, but with a soft touch, from the southwest. Out walking in the west pasture, the evergreens are tossed violently in the wind, the pines turn pale. The hemlocks are touched with silver, only the spruces never change color; there is something admirable in their unchanging vividness of hue, a suggestion of sturdy indifference. The hemlocks seem to acknowledge a chill in the wind; as it stirs in their branches with a silvery gleam, they seem to shiver. How velvety they appear, looking north on the side exposed to the ruffling gust!

The mountains are sharply outlined—Camel's Hump rises into the exultant windy sky, against the broken golden lights, under the clouds southward. To the north the sky is open, crossed by massive scattered clouds. From time to time the sun bursts out, with a strength that fairly

"It is an unspeakable delight to be out today, to feel the rush and hear the tumult of the wind."

makes one open one's eyes. The landscape glows; every hint of color is revealed to the utmost. I come upon two old balsam poplars of considerable size, whose ragged acute-angled boughs are interesting against the sky—the moving clouds. I notice a chickadee on a dead tree, and afterward flying among the evergreens. He is not lugubrious today, with his hoarse "deedeedeede." He flies blithely, uttering an elastic chirp. He is busy earning his living—or getting his dessert. He earns it by his beauty and his courage. He is an admirable spectacle of courageous innocence; a lovely little bird.

Just before sunset there was a strong golden glow upon the woods northward, and the shadows became, by contrast, a clear blue.

I was going to say a memorable sunset; but it is difficult to keep a sunset in memory, no matter how deeply one may be impressed at the time. It is as if an exquisite and complex melody should be played only once.

There are sunsets that seem peculiar to the

season, and some that express a mood appealing to certain emotions: it may be that it is a matter of memory and association. But this sunset (as all sunsets that disclose, beyond heavy clouds, a clear and pale illumined space an unfathomable, illimitable sea of light) is, in my mind, as the background and atmosphere of Romance.

I was suddenly aware of the crescent moon, white when I first spied it, but after I had gone indoors it shone with a clear and cold splendor.

Long after the heavier masses of clouds had lost their gold edges and were left in outer darkness, small shredded fragments, apparently behind them, were of a delicate pink, against the blue and lovely green of the illumined sky.

Last night there was an exceedingly high wind with some snow—a good deal drifted.

The following noon I saw a flock of whitewings sweep across the garden, truly like large snowflakes,

only they sped in the eye of the wind. The direction they took was southwesterly. I walked over the south pasture to the wood, in hope of getting another glimpse of them, but without success. As soon as the thermometer sinks to the neighborhood of zero (its highest was eight degrees, from noon to half-past three) and the winds bluster, as soon as the climate becomes temperate from their point of view, they come speeding down from the terrible arctic solitudes.

Stepping out into the wind today was like a plunge in cold water—it took my breath away. This southwest wind sometimes develops a spirit too boisterous for the comfort and safety of many of Nature's children.

The white pine in front of the door lost one of its heavy under-branches, which, being weighted with ice, snapped in too rough a greeting of the wind. Yet they seem on excellent terms—nevertheless it is the steady icy flow of the north wind that induces the pine's best music.

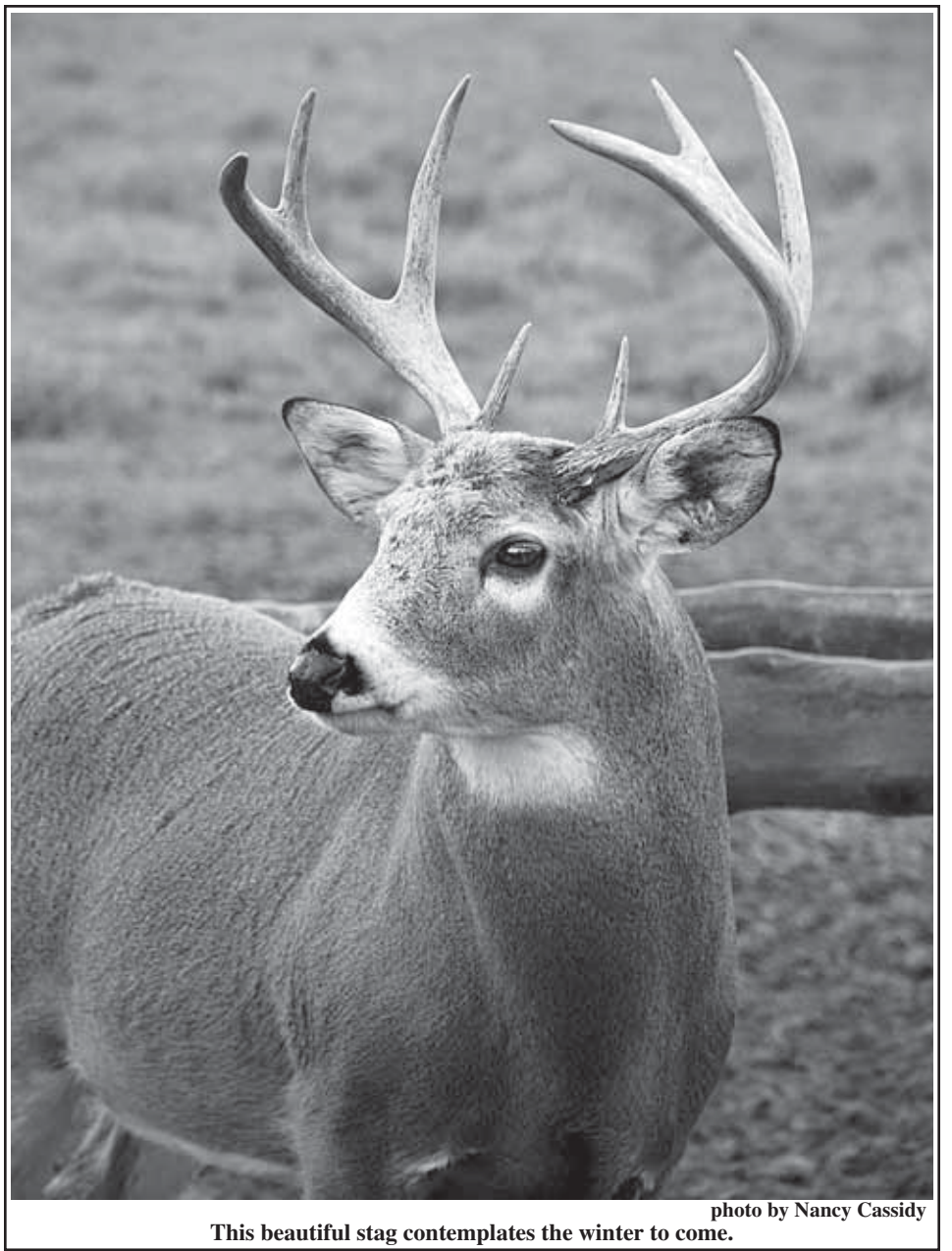


photo by Nancy Cassidy

This beautiful stag contemplates the winter to come.

The Bennington Museum Celebrates December

In 1911, photographer Lewis Hine visited the city of North Adams, Massachusetts, where he photographed child workers at the Eclipse Mill. Conceptualized and coordinated by Ralph Brill of Brill Gallery, "The Mill Children" Project revisits the lives of child mill workers, interpreting the experience of these children from a contemporary perspective.

On December 10 at 1:30 pm an educational presentation by Realist Painter William Oberst and Abstract Painter Dawn Nelson,

who both created artistic responses to the photos taken by Lewis Wickes Hine, along with Joe Manning, Historian, Anne Thidemann French, Educator, and Steven Borns, Filmmaker takes place at the Bennington Museum's Ada Paresky Education Center. Each presenter will be available for questions and further discussion at the Artists' Opening which directly follows the Education Program. The Education Program is included with admission to the museum. The Artists' Reception is free.

On view through December 31 is the Festival of Trees, "A New England Holiday," a unique exhibit of community-created Christmas trees. The Club Muse Holiday Dance Party takes place Friday, December 16 from 8 to 11 p.m. Call for tickets. The Museum has the largest

public collection of Grandma Moses paintings in the world as well as the largest collection of 19th century Bennington pottery. In the other seven galleries, the museum presents a 1924 Wasp Touring Car, one of only twenty produced, military artifacts, one of the earliest 'stars and stripes' in existence, fine and decorative arts, and more.

The Bennington Museum is located at 75 Main Street (Route 9) in Bennington, VT. The museum is open every day but Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students over 18. No admission is charged for younger students or to visit the museum shop and café. Visit the museum's website: www.benningtonmuseum.org or call 802-447-1571 for more information.

Specialty Cookies Made with Local Ingredients



Perfect for....

- Holidays
- Wedding Favors
- Special Occasions
- Corporate Gifts

We ship throughout the United States
Store Hours: Fridays 2:00-6:00 pm. Call or Visit our Website.

Historic Route 7A, Shaftsbury, Vermont
(Across from Paulin Inc.)
802-375-9943 • vermontmoonlightcookies.com



Bakkerij Krijnen Pastry Chef Owned and Operated

Krijnen's Dutch Bakery

wij spreken Nederlands

1001 Main Street, Route 9E
Bennington, VT

Open daily in December, 7am - 7pm
(closing at 5pm 12/24 & 12/31, closed 12/25)

802.442.1001

scratch-baked artisan sourdough breads,
exquisite pastries and authentic Dutch treats made using
local, organic, and all natural ingredients as much as possible

The Pharmacy, Inc. The Pharmacy-Northshire

Your community pharmacy for over 40 years

Corner of North & Gage Streets
Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 442-5602

34 Ways Lane
Manchester Center, VT 05255

(802) 362-0390

- ◆ Full Service Pharmacies
- ◆ Medical Supplies
- ◆ Orthopedic Supports
- ◆ Veterinary Products
- ◆ Delivery Available
Monday through Friday

Hours:
8am-7pm Monday-Friday
8am-6pm Saturday
9am-12:30pm Sunday-Bennington
9am-3pm Sunday-Manchester



Faller Music Co.

SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS

- Percussion
- Pianos
- Keyboards
- Guitars
- Printed Music
- Amps
- Band & Orchestral Instruments

"Life's too short, Don't forget to play"

170 N. Main St., "Downtown" Rt 7, Bennington, VT
802-442-4977 • 800-544-6792

Crazy Russian Girls

NEIGHBORHOOD
BAKERY

Made from Scratch
802-442-4688

443 Main Street, Bennington, VT
Open Mon-Fri 7 am - 6 pm, Sat 8 am - 5 pm, Sun closed

Eat-In or Take-Out

Bread, pastries, and international baked goods to order.
Also soups & sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and pierogies.

Christmas at Hildene in Manchester, VT

Hildene is an historic home built in Manchester, VT in 1905 by President Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln's son, Robert Todd as a summer residence. The Lincolns were often reluctant to leave Hildene as autumn waned and as a result the family spent several Christmases here, celebrating their own holiday traditions.

This year, from December 1 through January 2, Hildene will be decorated and staged as though it were Christmas Eve 1912, one of the years Robert Todd Lincoln, Mary Lincoln, and the family spent the holidays at their Vermont retreat.

For the past three decades visitors have come to see Hildene, all festooned for Christmas as the Lincolns would have had it. Candlelit windows, winterberries and greenery that greet guests at the port cochere, the center hall yuletide floral arrangement, bursts of evergreen fastened with burgundy satin ribbon, and a Christmas tree replete with Victorian ornaments give a sense that the Lincoln family is preparing for Christmas morning. Greeting cards, stockings hung on the mantle, wrapped parcels and even the menu for Christmas dinner portend of wonderful things to come on Christmas day. During regular hours, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., interpreters and staff are on hand to answer questions about Hildene's history and its famous residents.

Museum Store and Welcome Center

The Museum Store welcomes neighbors and new friends alike to the warmth of the Lincoln family's one hundred year old restored carriage barn dressed in all its holiday finery. The spirit of the season abounds in this historic place with the crisp fragrance of pine boughs, the sounds of the season and the mood set for a unique holiday shopping experience. Visitors will find distinctive items for holiday gift giving that are sure to please young and old alike, from Victorian Era ornaments and holiday cards to choices for children from books to bees. All conspire to create a unique holiday shopping experience. On Sunday, December 18 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., members of Burr and Burton Academy's Advanced Vocal Ensemble under the direction of choral director, Julie Freebern, will sing carols in the Welcome Center.

Enjoy walking on the grounds and cross country skiing and snowshoeing, weather permitting. Visit the Nordic Center and rentals and lessons. In the winter months, the Ski Pavilion adjacent to the Welcome Center becomes a Warming Hut and rental shop. Our 8 km of walking trails on the estate become ski trails with varying levels of difficulty. We offer ski rentals for children and adults, snowshoe rentals, and lessons by appointment. For rates and information, see hildene.org.

Holiday Music

Throughout December weekends, the melodious sounds of the season will resonate throughout Robert and Mary's home from the pipe organ and Steinway piano.

Saturday, December 10, 10:30 – noon. Pianist and composer Gary Schmidt of Vital Spark North and the Green Hill Studio will play the Lincolns' Steinway piano. From 1pm – 3pm, Stephen Morse plays the Lincoln's Steinway piano and Aeolian organ. Stephen plays and preaches at



The front door welcomes you to Hildene in Manchester, VT. photo courtesy of Hildene

Adamant United Methodist Church in Montpelier once a month and plays the organ for the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ as well as the United Federated Church of Williamstown, VT.

Sunday, December 11. Annette Cohen returns to Hildene to play the Lincoln's Aeolian organ from 10:30 a.m. to noon. From 1-3 p.m. Michael Gallagher plays the Lincolns' Aeolian organ. Michael is the organist and music director for Christ Our Savior Parish in Manchester, VT.

Saturday, December 17, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Alan Dann and Deirdre Donaldson, fine musicians from Brattleboro, VT, will play the Lincolns' Aeolian organ and Steinway piano. From 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. local voice coach and performer Joanne Beck plays the Lincolns' Steinway piano.

Sunday, December 18. From 1-3 p.m. local voice coach and performer Joanne Beck plays the Lincolns' Steinway piano. From 1:30-2:30 p.m. members from Burr & Burton Academy's Advanced Vocal Ensemble, under the direction of choral director Julie Freebern, will sing carols in the Welcome Center.

December Bird Walk

On December 10, The Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct the monthly survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. For more

information, please call Randy Schmidt at (802) 362-2270 or email randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. Meet at the Welcome Center Parking Lot at 8 a.m. This bird walk is free.

Admission to the house and grounds including the Hildene Farm and Pullman car, Sunbeam, is \$16 for adults and \$5 for youth 6-14, under 6 are free. Memberships are available. Admission is not required for visitors to the Welcome Center and The Museum Store. Hours are from 9:30 to 4:30 daily except December 24 & 25.

Hildene is located off Rt. 7A just south of the village of Manchester, VT. For information call (802) 362-1788. Visit hildene.org.

BOB'S MAPLE SHOP

Visit our display area and shop at
591 RICHVILLE RD, MANCHESTER, VT
At the Red Barn, 3.3 miles from Rt 11/30

The Best Pure Vermont Maple Syrup!
BEST PRICES!

Decorative Glass • Maple Candy
Maple Sugar • Gift Baskets

OPEN DAILY • (802) 362-3882

Bob Bushee, Owner

www.bobsmapleshop.com

Christmas Bells—1864

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then from each black accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

—HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW



THE MARKET WAGON



Bulk Foods
Deli Meat & Cheese
Jams and Jellies
Bakery
Vermont Maple Syrup
Open Monday – Saturday 9-5 • (802) 440-9946
**1896 Harwood Hill, Rt. 7A
Bennington, VT**
1/4 mile north on Rt. 7A off exit 2

Second Chance



Animal Center

Dogs, Cats & Other Pets Available for Adoption

Tuesday 11-3:30
Wednesday 11-7
Thursday 11-3:30
Friday 11-7
Saturday 11-3:30
Sunday open house 12-3
Closed Monday

6779 Rt. 7A, Shaftsbury, VT
(802) 375-2898
www.2ndchanceanimalcenter.org

Christmas Trees Wreaths

Evergreen Roping
And Pinecone Wreaths

Come join the season's festivities!
Watch us make our own wreaths and roping.

Tag Your Christmas Tree (Manchester only)
Special Wreath Orders Welcome!

Order Your Holiday Baked Goods—Pies,
Cookies, Bread, Our Own Maple Syrup,
Jams, Honey, Vermont Cheeses.

Fresh Harvest Produce—Winter Squash
50# Bags of Potatoes, Gilfeather Turnips,
Cabbage, Broccoli, Carrots, Beets,
Lettuce, Herbs, and all your favorite
fresh vegetables! Fruit Baskets.

Apples From Our Own Orchard
Over 12 Varieties!

Sweet, Fresh Cider
Free Hot & Cold Samples.

Homemade Fudge in 20 Varieties
—Gift Certificates—

Dutton



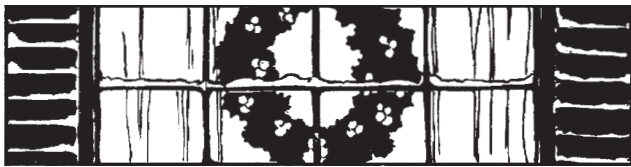
Farm Stand

Rt. 11/30,
Manchester, VT
(802) 362-3083

Rt. 9, W. Brattleboro, VT
(802) 254-0254

Rt. 30, Newfane, VT
(802) 365-4168

"Buy Direct From a Farmer"
Open Year-Round, 9 am – 7 pm Daily



Recipes for Candied Fruits

CANDIED ORANGE PEEL

Cut the orange peel in long, fourth-inch strips, put in a saucepan, cover with cold water and bring to boiling point. Repeat this process three times, then measure the orange peel; add an equal quantity of sugar and hot water to cover, and cook until the white of the skin is translucent. Then drain from the syrup, roll in granulated sugar and put on plates to dry. Use the syrup in a gelatine or fruit cup.

CANDIED CRANBERRIES

1 pint large cranberries ⅔ cupful water
1¾ cupfuls sugar

Make a syrup by boiling the water and sugar together for five minutes, add the cranberries and let stand a few hours. Then cook them gently till clear, drain, put on a large enamel dripping pan dusted with granulated sugar, sprinkle a little more sugar over them and dry very slowly in an oven at about 120°.

CANDIED KUMQUATS

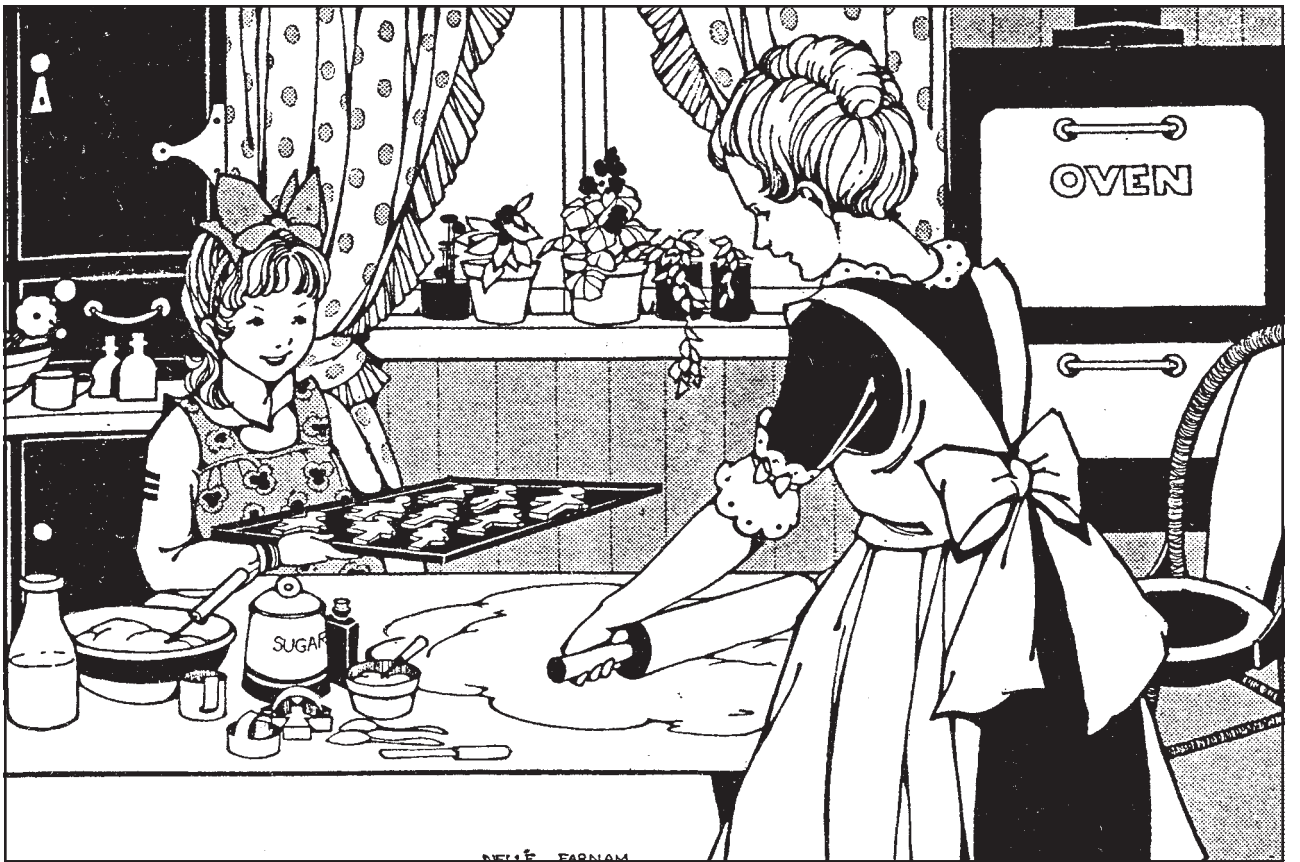
Wash the kumquats thoroughly, then put them on in cold water and boil up once. Drain and repeat three times. To a pint of kumquats add a cupful of granulated sugar and a half cupful of honey, with hot water to cover. Simmer very slowly for two hours and a half, then drain from the syrup and dry for a few hours. When they are still a little sticky, roll in granulated sugar. They will keep indefinitely in a tightly covered box.

CHRISTMAS JOYS

1 cupful figs 1 cupful candied cherries
1 cup English walnut meats 1 tablespoonful lemon juice
½ cup candied orange peel 1 cupful stoned dates

Put the fruits and nuts through the food chopper, add the lemon juice and knead until thoroughly mixed. Toss on a board well-dusted with powdered sugar, roll out to ¼ inch thickness and cut into rounds with a small cutter. When they have stiffened, frost the tops with a plain orange icing, and decorate with bits of angelica and red cherries to for holly.

Recipes from Mrs. Allen's Cookbook by Ida C. Bailey Allen, 1917.



Christmas Cookies from 1917

FROSTED GINGER NUTS

4 tablespoonfuls butter 1 cupful pastry flour
1½ tsp. baking powder ½ cupful sugar
2 egg yolks ¼ teaspoonful salt
2 tablespoonfuls milk ¾ cupful chopped candied
½ teaspoon lemon extract ginger

Cream the butter, add the sugar, egg yolks, well-beaten, the milk and the extract. Mix together the flour, salt, baking powder and the ginger. Add to the mixture and drop by teaspoonfuls on a well-oiled pan, three inches apart. Bake in a moderate oven, and, when cooled, frost with plain white icing and decorate with candied cherries and angelica if desired.

"SPRITBAKELSER"

¾ cupful butter 2 teaspoons baking powder
¾ cupful sugar About 3 cupfuls pastry flour
2 tbsp. minced almonds ¼ teaspoonful salt
2 eggs 1 tsp. grated orange rind

Cream the butter and sugar, add the eggs, well-beaten, then the almonds and orange rind. Mix and sift the baking powder with a cupful of the flour and beat it in. Add the remaining flour as needed to roll. Cut in fancy shapes and decorate, if desired. Bake in a quick oven.

AFTERNOON CRISPS

½ cupful butter 1 egg yolk
1 cupful sugar Pastry flour
Grated rind 1 orange Candies, nuts, etc., for
1 tablespoon lemon juice decoration
1 egg

Cream the butter and stir in the sugar, orange rind and lemon juice and the eggs. Beat in flour till stiff enough to knead. Chill over night, then roll very thin and cut into fancy shapes. Brush over with the remaining egg white, slightly beaten with 2 tablespoonfuls of cold water, and decorate to simulate wreaths, poinsettia blossoms, etc., with nuts, pistachio meats, candied cherries, violets, rose leaves, etc.

OLD-TIME SEED COOKIES

6 tablespoonfuls butter 3 tablespoons caraway (seed)
1 egg 1 cupful sifted confectioner's
½ teaspoonful rose extract sugar
¾ cupful pastry flour

Cream together the butter, sugar and eggs. Add the flavoring and caraway seed, and beat in the flour. Drop by teaspoonfuls on an oiled pan two inches apart, and bake in a moderate oven until the edges are brown. It is a good plan to sprinkle the cakes with a few caraway seeds just before baking. Remove from the pan immediately, when taken from oven.

LAKE'S LAMP SHADES



60 School St., Pawlet, VT
802.325.6308
www.lakeslampshades.com
judylake@vermontel.net

SOMEDAY FARM
e. dorset, vt.
FARM FRESH
TURKEYS
FREE RANGE 29th year!
taking orders now
802-362-2290

ALL-RIGHTNESS

Snow slanting all around
Lighting the kitchen with its whiteness.
The kettle simmering on the stove,
A welcome sound:
I shall have tea.
And suddenly,
In my all-rightness
The room becomes too small
To hold my love,
And I must call
To you beyond this :
Oh, bless you, bless you all.

—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1953



Got a story to tell?

The Public Press can be
the shortest distance
between the author's brain
and the printed page. For
more information visit us at
ThePublicPress.com



H.N. Williams Store

Quality, Service and Selection since 1840



DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS!

Come in and see Ali and Michelle in our deli. Whether you are stopping in for lunch or grabbing dinner to go, you'll enjoy the great food that we prepare!

Newly Renovated

Stop by to see all of the work that we did to our building. We have 3 floors of shopping with quality goods from floor to ceiling. Come and wander through our maze of inventory. You'll find VT Goods, rugged clothing and footwear, hardware and much more...

171 Years of Business

For 6 generations our family has been pleasing one customer after another. Our shopkeepers are dedicated to serving our customers and offering great quality merchandise.



Six miles north on RT 30 from Manchester Ctr. in Dorset VT
802-867-5353 M-F 7:30-6, Saturday 7:30-5, Sunday 9-4 • Deli 802-867-0405

Come and see us

Call to sign up
for ongoing classes.

Black Sheep Yarns, 25 Stonewall Lane
just off Route 30, in Dorset, VT.

Open daily 10-5, closed Tuesdays. (802) 362-2411.



"Help Bring Some
Joy to Vermont
Shut-Ins!"

Join The
**Vermont
Sunshine
Society**

• **Volunteers Needed**
• **Monthly Newsletter**
• **Free Memberships**

Contact:
Bev Grimes
225 Plateau Acres
Bradford, VT
05033



Old-Fashioned Holiday Desserts

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

1 cupful chopped suet	1 teaspoonful cinnamon
½ cupful sugar	1 teaspoonful clove
½ cup Barbadoes molasses	½ teaspoonful salt
1 cupful sour milk	¼ cupfuls chopped raisins
1½ teaspoonfuls soda	3 cupfuls chopped currants
1 egg	½ cupful chopped figs
3½ cupfuls flour	½ cupful chopped candied orange peel
½ cupful chopped walnut meats	

Mix together the flour, spices, prepared fruits and salt. Combine the soda, sour milk and molasses, add the suet, sugar and the egg, unbeaten, and then beat in the flour mixture. Steam in a well-oiled and floured mould for four hours, then serve garnished with holly surrounded by portions of hard sauce, sprinkled with chopped pistachio nut meats, and capped with candied cherries. The pudding will be more attractive still, if blazing when brought to the table. Pour over three tablespoonfuls of good brandy, and ignite it just before sending to the table. This amount will serve twelve people.

Hard Sauce

½ cupful butter	½ teaspoonful vanilla
2 cupfuls powdered sugar	¼ teaspoonful brandy

Beat the butter to a cream, and gradually work in the sugar and flavoring.

LITTLE FIG PUDDINGS

1 cupful milk	4 eggs
2 cup stale bread crumbs	Grated rind & juice 1 lemon
¾ cupful sugar	½ teaspoonful salt
½ cupful chopped suet	2 tsp. baking powder
½ cup chopped walnut meats	½ cupful flour

Scald the milk and crumbs together, then add the sugar, salt and lemon, and the egg yolks, well beaten. Mix together the flour, baking powder, salt, nuts and figs, then add to the first mixture. Lastly, fold in the egg whites, well beaten. Turn into individual tin or aluminum moulds or cups; set in a steamer top, cover with a piece of paraffine paper and steam an hour and a half. Serve with sweetened whipped cream and stewed or preserved figs. This amount will serve twelve people.

INEXPENSIVE DARK FRUIT CAKE

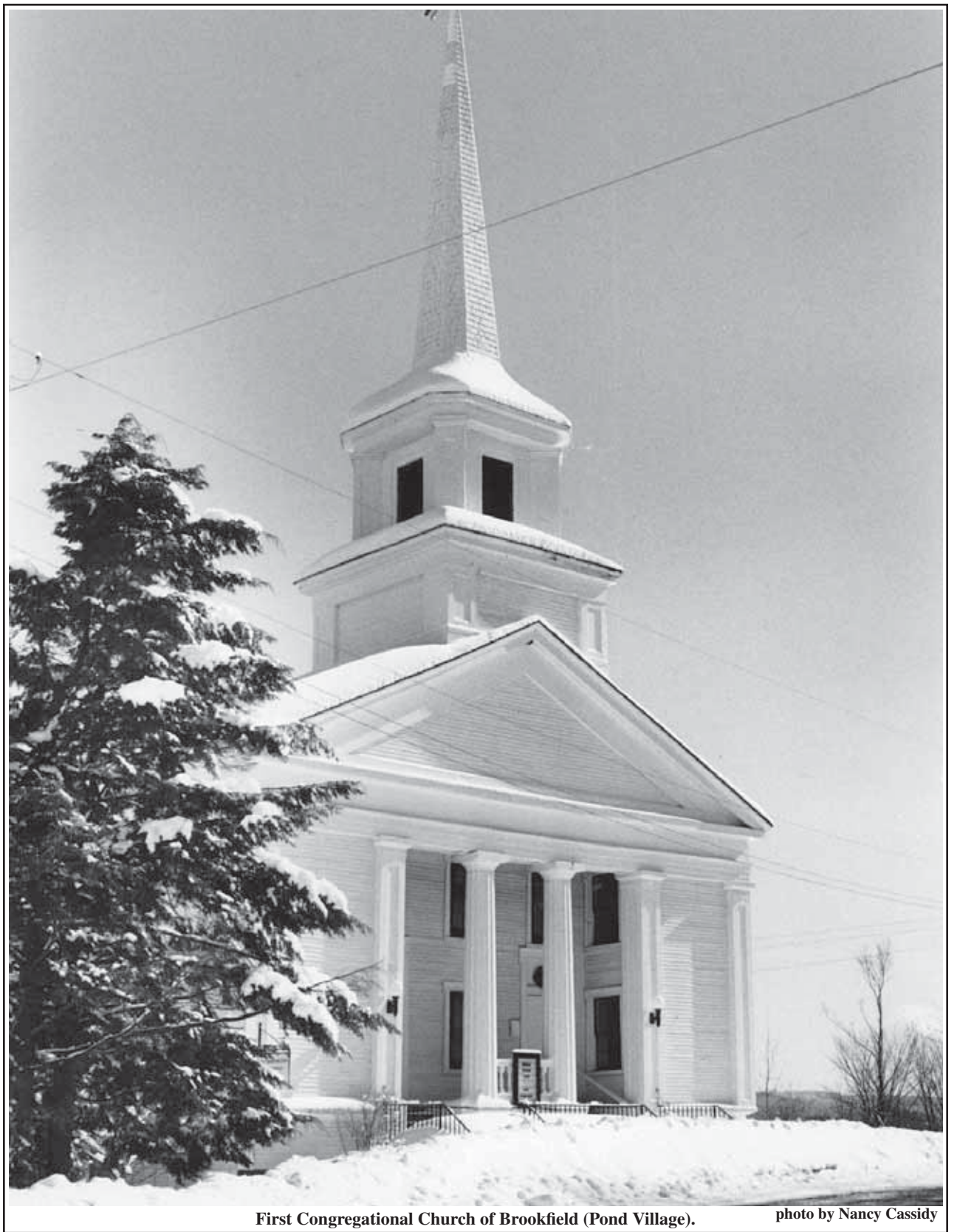
½ cupful butter	½ cupful milk
2 cupfuls pastry flour	¾ cupful brown sugar
½ teaspoonful salt	1 cupful raisins, seeded
1 teaspoonful soda	¼ cupful chopped, candied orange peel
1 teaspoonful cinnamon	1 cupful washed currants
½ teaspoonful allspice	½ cupful citron, minced fine
⅓ teaspoonful mace	½ cup Barbadoes molasses
¼ teaspoonful clove	3 eggs
½ teaspoon orange extract	

Mix the flour with the salt, soda and spices, and add all the prepared fruit to it. Cream the butter, and beat in the sugar and eggs and the flavoring and molasses. Add the flour alternately with the milk to the mixture till all is in. Oil the pans thoroughly and line with paper. Pour in the mixture and steam an hour. Then set in a slow oven for a second hour. Keep several weeks before using. Do not ice until ready to use.

CRANBERRY AND RAISIN TART

2 cupfuls cranberries	½ cupful cracker or dry bread crumbs
½ cupful seeded raisins	1 egg
1 cupful sugar	Pastry
1 tablespoon orange juice	

Add a half cupful of water to the cranberries and raisins, and simmer gently until the cranberries pop open. Sweeten, cool, add the orange juice, crumbs and egg, and turn into a pie plate lined with pastry. Finish the top with crisscross strips of pastry to represent lattice work and bake according to general directions.



First Congregational Church of Brookfield (Pond Village).

photo by Nancy Cassidy

hand forged iron
Vermont Forgings
Come See a Working
Blacksmith Shop
& Gallery
41 Cook Dr. at Rt. 7, just south of Wallingford, Vt
Open daily — 802 446 3900 — vermontforgings.com

Current Road Conditions A Phone-Call Away

1-800-ICY-ROAD

A Free Service of the Vermont State Police

For all your on-the-road needs!
Mt. Tabor Country Store
Rt. 7, Mt. Tabor, VT • (802) 293-5641
Everyone is Welcome!
Groceries, Cold Beer & Soda, Ice, Videos.
Citgo Gas, Diesel, Self-Storage Rentals.
Store Open 6 am - 8 pm, Sunday 7 am - 7 pm
Full Deli: Pizza, Hot Dogs, Salads, Cold Cuts, Sandwiches Made to Order
Daily dinner specials including: meatballs, shrimp, chicken fingers, deluxe hamburgers.
Open till 7:30 daily, 6:30 Sunday.

Mom's Country Kitchen
Freshly Prepared Homecooked Foods
Open Monday-Saturday
6:30 am - 2 pm, Sun 7 am - 1 pm.
Come & Enjoy! Breakfast Served All Day.
5 Main Street, Wallingford, VT • (802) 446-2606

The Tinmouth Contra Dance
Friday
January 27
8-11 p.m.
No Dance in December
For info call (802) 235-2718
www.tinmouthvt.org
All dances are taught.
Come on time if you are a beginner.
Exuberant dancers of all ages welcome.
\$9 adults, \$7 teens, \$3 for 12 and under.
Tinmouth Community Center
573 Rt. 140 in downtown Tinmouth, VT

1820 House of Antiques
82 South Main Street
Danby, Vermont 05739
802-293-2820
Open Daily 10-5

CHIPMAN STABLES
Trail Rides, Kids Camps,
Lessons, Boarding,
Horses for Sale.
New Indoor Arena.
Open Daily—Reservations Appreciated
33 Danby-Pawlet Rd., Danby Four Corners, VT
(802) 293-5242 • www.chipmanstables.com

Ann's Pin Cushion
238 South Main St., Wallingford, VT
Ann M. Lattuca, proprietor
(802) 446-2693
anpincushn@vermontel.net
www.annspincushion.com
~ Custom Fitted Sterling Silver Thimbles ~
Always Something on Sale!

Vermont Country Dining at its Best

As always we serve real good, real food.

We still bake our own bread and pies, and we serve our famous chicken and biscuits every Wednesday.



**Breakfast,
Lunch & Dinner
Every Day**
- Daily Specials -
Full Service Bar

Just Over the Hill in Benson, VT • (802) 537-2755
"Wheel" Cater to You. Let us bring our famous food to your next party.



Fashion Corner

*Bridal Gowns • Bridesmaid Gowns
Mother of the Bride Dresses
Flower Girl Dresses • Tuxedos
Shoes • Prom Dresses • Special
Occasion Jewelry & Invitations*

**4325 Main St. • Port Henry, NY
(518) 546-7499**

Hours: Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-3

**All in One Exchange
BUY-SELL-TRADE**

New and used electronics, tools, games, musical instruments, sports equipment and much more!

12 Main St., Granville, NY • (518) 345-5031

Open: Mon-Wed 12-5,
Thurs-Sat 11-7, closed Sunday

Sandy's Antiques & Collectibles

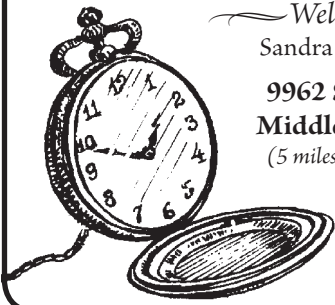
Welcome Friends

Sandra Whitney, Owner

9962 State Route 22
Middle Granville, NY
(5 miles north of Granville)

(518) 642-1242

Open Wed thru Sat 10-5
Closed Sun, Mon, Tues



Roscoe Merrill with a bobcat in Bethel, VT, early last century.

Rathbun's MAPLE SUGAR HOUSE RESTAURANT

Open
Sat & Sun
7 am - 1 pm
518-642-1799



Off Rt. 22 in North Granville, NY. Watch for signs!
www.rathbunsmple.com

Specializing in Homemade Pancakes
with our own Pure Maple Syrup...
French Toast and Waffles

Gift Shop

Rathbun's is family-owned operating since 1961. A place where people are greeted with a smile and feel the comforts of home.



Matthew's Solo Cam Bows
Lacrosse Boots
Archery • Guns & Ammo

Mart's Sporting Goods
Hunting & Fishing Supplies

-Open 7 Days-

**85 Main St., Poultney, VT
(802) 287-9022 • Martin VanBuren Jr.**



**Christmas
Trees**

Just west of Rt. 30
Route 4A, Bomoseen VT

Open 7 Days a Week

Hours: Mon-Sat 5 am - 6 pm, Sundays till 3 pm
(802) 265-8654 • tomsbait@comcast.net • Rob Steele



December Breakfast Special

*The Nest Egg—Two eggs over easy, topped
with American cheese, served on
a nest of hashbrowns.*

\$2.99

Homemade Daily Specials at Old Fashioned Prices
Special gifts for the folks back home. 99¢ greeting cards!

Open 4:30 am to 9:00 pm, 7 days a week

20 Main St., Granville, NY • (518) 642-3365

(just over the border from W. Pawlet, VT.)

47 South Main Street, Fair Haven, VT



COSTUME
Rentals & Sales

(802) 265-3345

fabianscostumes.com

*Reserve Your
Christmas
& Holiday
Rentals Now*

Rena's Garden Market

Christmas Trees & Wreaths,
Garland by the foot, Kissing Balls.
Honey & Maple Syrup.
Oriental Food Products.

Rt. 30, Wells, VT • (802) 287-2060
Open daily 10-5, Nov. 25 - Dec. 23



**STONE
VALLEY**
COMMUNITY MARKET

We have bulk spices
By the pinch or by the pound

Sunday-Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-8



**216 Main Street
Poultney, VT 05674
(802) 287-4550**

stonevalleymarket.com

Herbs With a Holiday History

by Dr. Leonard Perry

Extension Professor, University of Vermont

Although any aromatic herb is ideal for holiday decorations, wreaths, and table centerpieces, four have biblical links with Christmas. Many crafts shops and florists carry these dried herb plants along with the baskets, bowls, and other trimmings needed for decorating. You may find live cut sprigs of them at florists and garden stores during the holidays, perhaps even plants in pots.

English Pennyroyal, a perennial herb, was said to have been placed in the manger on the night of the Christ child's birth and burst into bloom the moment the child was born. English pennyroyal adds a fragrant aroma to wreaths but can be toxic if ingested, so keep out of reach of pets and children. It is often used in potpourri and cosmetics and is native to southern Europe and western Asia.

Rosemary is one of the most beautiful and fragrant of the seasonal herbs. According to folklore, rosemary will bring happiness for the coming year to anyone who smells it on Christmas Eve. During the flight into Egypt, Mary is said to have spread her child's garments on a rosemary plant to dry. The flowers, originally white, turned blue and acquired the sweet scent they have today.

Another legend claims that at midnight on January 5, the "old Christmas Eve," rosemary plants will simultaneously burst into flower in celebration of Christmas. Rosemary plants add attractiveness and fragrance to holiday wreaths and are especially suitable for tussie mussies, which are small bouquets made with dried flowers, doilies, and ribbons for use at individual place settings on the holiday dinner table.

Rosemary plants are one of the most common holiday herbs you can find in pots, often trained into various shapes such as wreaths or

hearts or topiaries. Look for the trailing or pendulous selection which you can try training on a wire or support into such a shape.

Given a cool location with light, such as a minimally heated hallway with windows, or unheated room or garage (but not freezing, around 50 to 60°F is ideal), they can be kept indoors overwinter. You'll be rewarded with their light blue flowers through much of fall. Put your potted rosemary outside in summer, gradually increasing the amount of light over a period of weeks to help them acclimate. Keep watered but not too wet. I've kept such a plant for over 20 years in this manner.

Wild thyme, a pungent herb and member of the mint family, was collected from the fields outside of Bethlehem to make a soft bed for Mary during the birth of her child. It is thought to have antiseptic properties and was burned as incense later in history by the Greeks. Today thyme is a popular culinary seasoning but can be used in dried flower arrangements, bouquets, and potpourri during the holiday season. Plant thyme next spring in raised beds or rock gardens.

Lavender is said to have been used by the Virgin Mary to dye her newborn's swaddling clothes by spreading them on a bed of wild lavender. This herb, also of the mint family, grows as a small evergreen shrub (but isn't hardy outdoors in much of the cold north). It has grey-green leaves, light purple flowers, and a sweet floral scent. When dried it can be used whole for wreaths and centerpieces or crushed to use in sachets for closets or drawers or to scent a bath.

For more articles by Dr. Leonard Perry, visit Perry's Perennial Pages at www.uvm.edu/~pass/perry.

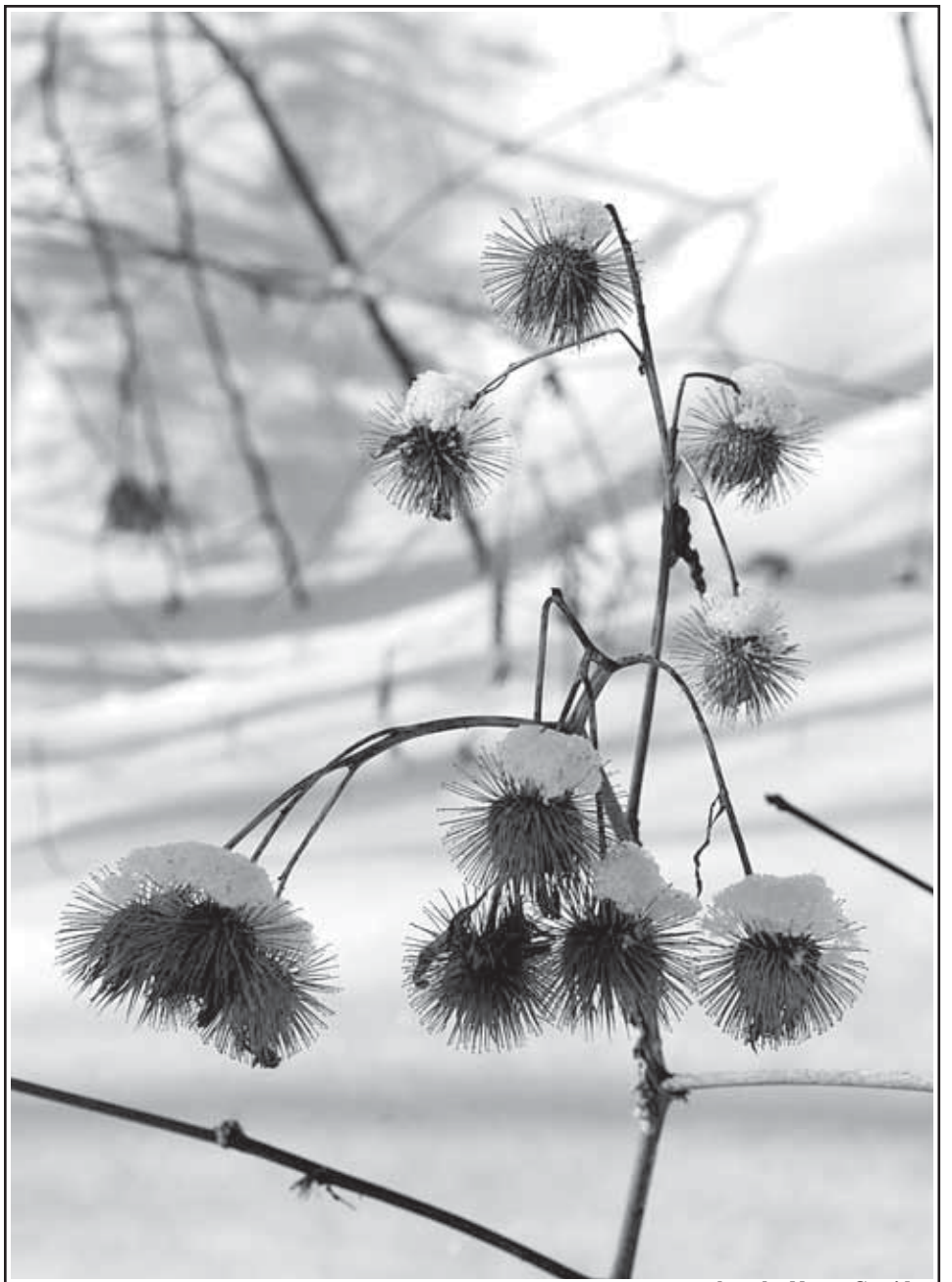


photo by Nancy Cassidy

Burdocks under a blanket of snow in Randolph, VT.

Children's Classes at the Chaffee Studio School

The Chaffee Studio School at the Chaffee Art Center in Rutland, VT is gearing up for a new year of classes and afterschool programs for kids.

With the opening of Lucy's Room, a children's art studio, comes a whole new set of children's programs including Creation Tales, a literacy-based arts program for toddlers and preschoolers led by Rosemary Moser. Students can sign up for a 6-week session starting Wednesday, January 4, 9-10 a.m. for toddlers (1.5-3 years) or 10:30 a.m. - 12

p.m. for ages 4-8 for \$45. For older kids, Mikki Lane will be re-introducing the Budding Artists Series. Learn about some favorite artists in this afterschool program for grades 6-8 on Wednesdays from January 11 through February 15, 3-5 p.m., a six-week session for \$65.

To finish the 2011 season, the Chaffee Studio School is offering two winter break camps with local artist and educator Christine Mix, Tuesday, December 27 through Friday December 30. From 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. there

will be a Magical Creatures Camp for students in grades 1-3. From 1-4 p.m. there will be a Comic Camp for students in grades 4-7. The winter break camps are \$100 per student.

Chaffee Art Center is located at 16 S. Main St., Rutland, VT. Sign up early as the classes fill up. Call (802) 775-0356. For more info visit www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

"Help Bring Some Joy to Vermont Shut-Ins!"

Join The **Vermont Sunshine Society**

- Volunteers Needed
- Monthly Newsletter
- Free Memberships

Contact:
Bev Grimes
225 Plateau Acres
Bradford, VT
05033

"Supporting Local Farms, Fresh Food, Healthy Communities"



For more information or a copy of our Locally Grown Guide, contact:

Rutland Area Farm & Food Link
(802) 417-7351
rutlandfarmandfood@gmail.com
www.rutlandfarmandfood.org

The Shoppe at 105 Main
—Poultney, VT—

Furniture, Collectibles, Books, Antiques, Home Decor, Bed & Bath, Kitchenwares, Jewelry, Clothing, Knits, etc.

A walk back in time.

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm
Wednesday & Friday afternoons by chance
(802) 287-2239 (H) • (518) 744-9352 (C)

The Station
—DELI-CAFE—

Boar's Head Meats • Baked Goods

Open 7 days: 7-5 Sun thru Thurs, 7-7 Fri & Sat
28 Depot St, Poultney, VT
(802) 287-4544

THE ORIGINAL VERMONT STORE

Gifts of All Kinds!

Now stocking Byer's Choice, Melissa & Doug, Solmate Socks, And Kybek Outer Wear.

Homemade Fudge and Maple Syrup.



163 Main St., Poultney, VT • (802) 287-9111
Open Mon-Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 11-3
www.vermontnooksandcrannies.com



HAZEL'S GIFT SHOP

Dolls • Doll Houses
Toys • Home Made Items

Open daily 10 am to 9 pm
Fair Haven, VT • 802-265-4437

At the corner of Prospect St.,
One mile east of the Welcome Center on Old Rt. 4A

Freshly Cut Christmas Trees | Wreaths
See Us for the Holidays | Bridal Accessories
Bicycles and Bike Repairs

It's Always Maple Time at

GREEN'S SUGARHOUSE

1846 Finel Hollow Rd., Poultney, VT 05764
802-287-5745
www.greenssugarhouse.com

Many Quality Maple Products to Choose From.
Gift Boxes • Mail Order Catalog • We Ship

BROWN'S ORCHARD & FARMSTAND
— Christmas Trees, Wreaths & Swags —



Christmas arrangements.
Order holiday pies now!
Maple syrup, jams, jellies,
honey, Vermont cheddar.

Homemade pies, pastries, cider donuts, & sweet cider
Rt. 30, 1 mile south of Castleton Corners, VT
at Brown's 4 Corners • Open daily • (802) 468-2297

The Craft Seller

Depot St. Poultney, VT

at The Old Freight Depot—with the quilt on the wall
Hours: Thurs-Sat 10-3 or by chance or appointment

Traditional handcrafted gifts, quilts, toys,
& table settings. Fabric & notions.

(802) 287-9832
vermontcraftseller@gmail.com • www.vermontcraftseller.com

Whaleback Vineyard & Winery

Our Own VT-Made Wines Homebrew & Wine Making Supplies

Tastings Available

Open 11-5 Wed-Sun or call (802) 287-0730
202 Old Lake Rd, Poultney, VT
2 miles south of Poultney on Rt. 30
whalebackvineyard.com • whalebackvineyard@myfairpoint.net

CINCO GRINGOS

QUESADILLAS
TACOS • BURRITOS
NACHOS & MORE
BEER & WINE



E at-In / Take Out • (802) 278-4090
Open Tues-Thurs 4-9, Fri & Sat 4-10,
Closed Sunday & Monday

912 Rt. 4A, In the Hydeville Plaza, Hydeville, VT

Designer Fashions at unbelievable prices!

DEJA NEW CONSIGNMENT SHOP



Open Monday-Sat

CALVIN KLEIN • J. JILL • ANN TAYLOR • KATE SPADE
BCBG • COACH • MANOLO BLAHNIK & VINTAGE TREASURES

802-779-8341 • www.dejanewconsignments.com

Stony Brook Plaza, 162 North Main St • Rutland, VT 05701



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



Hours: Wed 12-7, Thurs-Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues closed
765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT
(802) 483-6700 • www.rchsvt.org

Vermont Made

Snow Shoes



Low Prices

MIKE'S COUNTRY STORE

Rt. 7 Clarendon, VT (Just So. of Rutland) • (802) 773-7100

Outdoors In Motion

www.outdoors-in-motion.com

Victory MOTORCYCLES U.S.A.



Ph. 802-773-4334

Fax: 802-773-7334

1236 Route 4 East • Rutland, Vermont 05701

Vermont Canvas Products



- Handcrafted on Premises
- Customizing Available
- 25% Below retail on Over 100 Styles of Canvas & Cordura Bags
- Repair Service • Brochure Available

Celebrating Our 40th Anniversary in August!

Bring in one of our old bags for a new one—40% off! (One per customer). Sign up for door prizes.

~ FREE GIFT WITH THIS COUPON ~

Hours: Mon-Sat 9-5:30
(802) 773-7311 • (800) 477-7110

259 Woodstock Ave., Rt. 4 East, Rutland, VT



Enviro Multi-Fuel Pellet Stoves

Cast Iron or Steel as well as Fireplace Inserts

Complete Majestic—Vermont Castings Product Line • Metal Chimney Systems
Fireplace & Stove Furnishings

COUNTRY STOVES

43A Woodstock Ave, Rutland, VT
(Across from Rutland High School Football Field)
(802) 775-6289 • Alan Currier, owner
Open Fri & Sat 10 am - 5 pm



RUTLAND AREA Food Co-op

Fresh = Local Whole Organic Foods

Come visit! Open 7 days & always open to the public.
Cooperatively owned by hundreds of local member-owners.

Produce • Dairy • Meat • Bulk Foods • Groceries
Frozen Foods • Bread • Vitamins & Supplements
Body Care • Household Goods • & Much More!

Downtown Rutland, 77 Wales Street
(802) 773-0737 • www.rutlandcoop.com

Interlude

I'll dream the northern winter through,
And hope to waken in the spring
When that first faint soft twittering
Comes in my elm beside the way,
When piles of snow slip fast, and gray
Of winter turns to sunny hours,
And little buds swell full to flowers,
And roses bloom, for they too slept
And waited while the winter crept
Upon them in their blooming prime.

So I shall sleep through winter time
And wake, earth's nectar in each vein
When Spring comes winging North again!

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
1936



ALDOUS FUNERAL HOME & Cremation Service

Cremation: Get the Facts

Many people are unaware of their options for cremation through a funeral home. We will gladly provide information on our services and pricing.

44 No. Main St., Rutland, VT • (802) 773-6252
www.AldousFuneralHome.com • Aldous@comcast.net
Joseph Barnhart ~ Christopher Book ~ George Hopp, Jr.

MAPLE & CHEESE
Gift giving easy and always in good taste.
Large Selection of Vermont Foods & Gifts
CUSTOM GIFT BOXES we ship
Our Vermont Breakfast Gift Box \$11.95
the Seward Family
GIFT & DAIRY STORE
at the restaurant, 224 N. Main St. Rutland, VT (802) 773-2700

Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

BARRE. Exhibits, classes, events and workshops. Free. Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-4. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. www.studioplacarts.com.

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

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

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday and Winter Farmers Markets at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St. Holiday Market Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Winter Markets every third Saturday: January 21, February 18, March 17 & April 21 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum—Exhibits and Public Programs, Founding Documents, Fine Art, Grandma Moses, and more. See Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Fine Art, Vermont Furniture, and the Bennington Flag – one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Open 10 am to 5 pm everyday, closed Wednesdays. 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. Art Exhibit: Impressions of New England. This nationwide annual exhibition includes images captured in paint and bronze. Seashores, rolling hills, foliage, and New England wildlife are depicted in over seventy fine works of art. Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org. *Through December 18.*

BERLIN. West African Dance. Dance instructor Pape Ba from Senegal teaches a variety of dances to live drumming. Every Wednesday from 6:30-8 pm. All levels welcome. Capital City Grange Potluck—share delicious food with your friends and future friends, starting about 6:30 each First Saturday, all are welcome, no charge. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org.

BRANDON. Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace. Also houses the Brandon Visitor Center with public restrooms, which is open daily 8 am – 6 pm, 365 days a year. The museum is at 4 Grove St., next to the Baptist Church at the corner of Routes 7 and 73 West. (802) 247-6401. info@brandon.org. brandon.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Exhibits and programs. Open 11-5. Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Admission \$6/\$4/\$3. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Hay Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Rustic heated greenhouse available for your event. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" on Upper Dummerston Rd. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

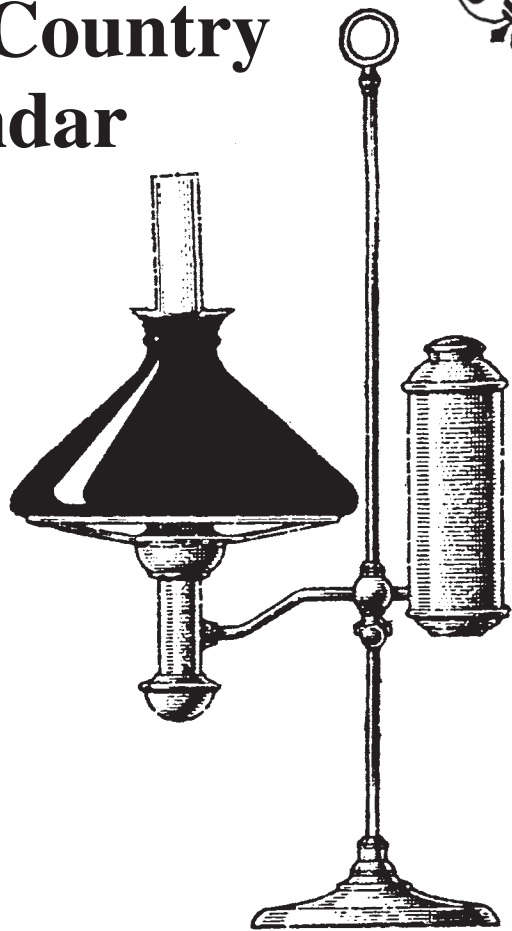
BRATTLEBORO. Gallery Walk. Monthly celebration of the arts in downtown and nearby locations. 40-50 or more exhibit openings, many with meet-the-artist receptions and live music, plus occasional readings, dance, circus arts, theater, and more. Free. First Fridays from 5:30-8:30 pm. (802) 257-2616. www.gallerywalk.org.

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

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Indoor market featuring local farms products including produce, apples, eggs, grass-fed meats, cider, syrup, preserves, locally grown house plants, baked goods, local wines, pottery, jewelry, handmade soaps, hats, scarves and more. Delicious lunches featuring locally grown foods, and live music in the lunch cafe. A project of Post Oil Solutions. Open every Saturday November-March from 10 am – 2 pm (extended hours to 3 pm Dec. 10 & 17). At the River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org. www.postoilsolutions.org.

BURLINGTON. Exhibit. Grossology—The Science of the Human Body, *through January 8*. Workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3 - 17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. Monday–Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. Every third Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. from November 2011 through March 2012. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.



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

CENTER RUTLAND. The Rutland Railroad Museum. Housed in the Rutland Depot, built in 1917. See railroad artifacts and historical exhibits including HO & N scale model railroad layouts and a children's layout. The museum is also available to educational groups and schools for tours by appointment. Open Saturdays from 11 am – 1 pm. Rutland Railway Association, 79 Depot Lane. rra@rutlandrailway.org. www.rutlandrailway.org.

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

CHESTER. Peace of Paradise—Holistic Wellness Emporium. Wellness services and products. Reiki, acupuncture, massage, meditation, yoga and drumming. Classes, workshops and seminars. Events, groups and gatherings. Locally-made creations, yoga mats, drums, jewelry and art. Open Thurs–Sun 10 am – 5 pm. On the Village Green. (802) 875-8008. peaceofparadisevt.com.

CHESTER. High Tea at Inn Victoria. Afternoon savories, sweets, fruit, and a variety of teas. \$19.99 per person. Open by reservation on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3-4:30 pm. Inn Victoria, 321 Main St. (802) 875-4288. innkeeper@innvictoria.com. www.innvictoria.com.

CHESTER. Activities at Gassetts Grange Hall. Craft workshops, Thursdays 2-4 pm, everyone welcome, free refreshments and coffee, info: Bonnie, (802) 875-3500. Bingo Thursdays 6-9 pm. Dance and monthly community breakfast buffets first Saturdays. Monthly Country Jamboree. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For information call Dave (802) 875-2637.

CHESTER. Gallery 103. Dedicated to promoting fine American Craft and Design, with an exclusive showroom of Junker Studio Ironwork. Monthly "Featured Artists." Owned and operated by Elise & Payne Junker. Gallery is open every day 1-5 pm (often later) closed Tuesdays. On Rt. 103, just south of town. (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

CRAFTSBURY. Craftsbury Winter Market at Sterling College, Simpson Hall on Craftsbury Common. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., November through March. Carole Drury, (802) 533-2359.

DANBY. Mountain View Ranch & Sun Bowl Ranch. Horse-drawn wagon rides, all-season trail rides, lessons, boarding, special events. 502 Easy St. off Brook Rd. Call to reserve. (802) 293-5837. riding@mountainviewranch.biz. www.mountainviewranch.biz.

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

DANBY FOUR CORNERS. Chipman Stables, 33 Danby-Pawlet Rd. Trail rides, kid's camps, lessons, boarding & horses for sale. New indoor arena. Open daily, reservations appreciated. (802) 293-5242. www.chipmanstables.com.

DORSET. Dorset Winter Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays from 10 am – 2 pm through February 19. Nicole Henry (802) 867-7080. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

EAST CHARLESTON. NorthWoods Stewardship Center. Programs, workshops and special events in all seasons. Public is welcome. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

Don't miss Vermont's first, largest and most diverse all-winter market!
Weekly November 5 through May 5 every Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm



THE RUTLAND WINTER FARMERS MARKET

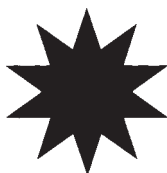
Offering a wide variety of produce, baked goods, specialty foods, meats, wines, cheeses, arts & crafts.

77 Wales St., enter thru Food Coop, Rutland, VT
(Wales St. is off lower Washington St. – see signs)
Info: Greg (802) 638-4606 • Web: vtfarmersmarket.org



\$10 Gift Certificates for the Market are available for an \$8 purchase price.

EBT and Debit cards accepted.



Pyramid
Holistic Wellness Center

Salt Cave & Speleotherapy Clinic

Massage Therapy • Homeopathy • Detox
Mental Health Counseling • Acupuncture
Hypnosis • Personal Training • Classes

New Fitness Center with Halotherapy
Room and Oxygen Bar now open
at 79 Merchants Row.

– Open 7 days –

120 Merchant's Row, Rutland, VT
(802) 775-8080

www.pyramidvt.com • kellew@pyramidvt.com

Solar & Wind

Central Vermont Solar & Wind
Sales, Installation and Service of
Solar Electric (PV) & Wind Power Systems

Help Make Rutland Solar City!



Owner John Blittersdorf and helper install a solar panel

30% Federal
Tax Credit
State
Incentives
Still Good
Till January

104 River Street, Rutland, VT
(802) 747-0577 • www.cvsolar.com



Free Sample Copies?

We'll be glad to mail a FREE copy of the Vermont Country Sampler to the name you list below. The Sampler can be picked up free of charge in Vermont or subscriptions are available by mail, \$24 for 12 copies.

Complete & Mail in this Coupon

Please send a free sample copy to:

Name _____

Address _____

Comments _____

Mail to:

The Vermont Country Sampler
P.O. Box 226, Danby, VT 05739

Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

GRAFTON. Grafton Valley Arts Guild invites you to visit the Cricketers Gallery in historic Grafton Village at 45 Townshend Road. Current exhibit, Autumnal Tumble, through November 15. Open Wednesday thru Sunday from 10 am – 4 pm. (802) 843-4824. graftonvalleyartsguild.com.

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center offering Nordic skiing with snowmaking, snowshoeing, Biathlon, special events & snow tubing in winter. Dog Days: Grafton Ponds' trails are dog-friendly every Monday and Thursday (owners responsible for keeping the trails "clean.") Rental equipment available. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. Visit graftonponds.com.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Exhibits, gift shop, family activities, and special events. Admission: adults \$5, seniors/student \$4, children 3-12 \$3, family \$15. Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 1-4. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, and gift shop. Museum is open Tuesday through Friday 1-5 pm, and Saturday 10 am – 4 pm. Admission \$5. Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

GROTON. Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm thru May. Mary Berlejung, (802) 584-3595. grotongrowers@gmail.com.

HARTLAND. Upper Valley Seed Savers Meetings. You're welcome to join us. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. Saving seeds is an ancient skill, preserved over the centuries by farmers and backyard gardeners. This group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 5 pm. If you are interested in attending meetings or finding out more about the Upper Valley Seed Savers, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net.

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

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

LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. Discussion includes an in-depth look of at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. Meets the first Thursday of each month and is open to all levels. 1-3 pm at Taconic End Farm. For more info call Annie Claghorn, (802) 247-3979. foxclag@gmavt.net.

LUDLOW. Ludlow Farmers' Market at Ludlow Teen Center at Goodman's American Pie, 106 Main St. Every Saturday 10 am – 1 pm. Jerry Milligan, (802) 734-3829. lfmkt@tds.net. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org. November 19 through March 3.

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Ongoing exhibits, classes, lectures, and workshops. Fletcher Farm School, 611 Rt. 103 South. For information or to request a catalog, contact (802) 228-8770. www.fletcherfarm.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndonville Winter Farmers' Market at Tom Breslin Community Center on Main St. (Rt. 5). Second Saturdays from 10 am – 1 pm, November through April. Brian Titus, (802) 533-7455. info@woodedgefarm.com. www.lyndonfarmersmarket.com.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Arts Center Exhibitions. Gallery, special events, concerts, gift shop, and café. SVAC, Yester House Gallery, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org.

MANCHESTER. 17th Annual Little Picture Show. Works in paint, mixed media and photography on a smaller-than-usual scale, no more than 8" x 10" in size. Yester House Galleries at Southern Vermont Arts Center. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org. November 19 – January 8.

MANCHESTER. Visit Historic Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln. Special activities, lectures, bird walks, museum store, Nordic center, holiday programs. Tickets: \$13 adults, \$5 youth under 14, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. hildene.org.

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

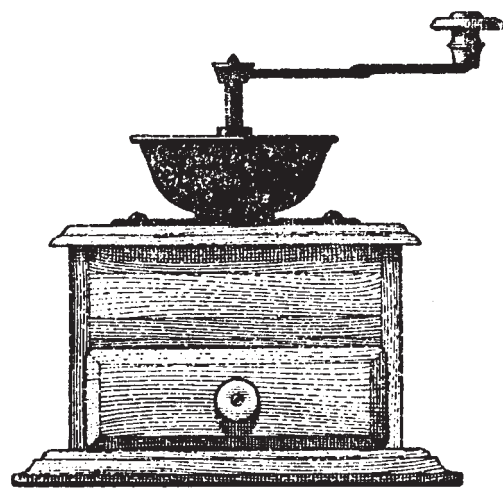
MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Arts Walk. Join us on the second Friday of every month. More than 40 venues will be displaying art. Stores remain open, becoming galleries displaying the work of dozens of area artists. 5-7 pm. Free. Downtown Middlebury. (802) 388-7951 x 2.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Farmer's Market at American Flatbread Restaurant in the Marbleworks. Every Saturday in December from 9:30 am – 1 pm. Second and fourth Saturdays from 9:30 am – 1 pm, January through May. Pam Taylor, (802) 388-0178. middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm and Sun 1-5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Exhibits, gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat, 10 am – 5 pm. At 88 Main St., downtown. (802) 388-4964. vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Art Exhibit. Grace Brigham's agricultural murals are on display. Her holsteins are now grazing in the hallway at the Vermont History Museum. Museum admission: adults \$5; families \$12; students, children and seniors \$3; members and children under 6 are free. The exhibit is open to the public Tues-Sat 10 am – 4 pm at 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. www.vermonthistory.org.



The Vermont Farmer's Market presents its "Grand Finale" CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FAIR

Holiday Inn Conference Center
Rts. 7 & 4 South, Rutland, VT
SAT., DEC. 10TH, 9 AM - 4 PM

OUR "PREMIERE" FAIR

Sixty vendors will bring you the art and flavor of Vermont. It's always "a touch of home" from the spirit of the Green Mountains. We think that you will also find our prices more satisfying than those found in "high profile" tourist areas of the state.

DISTINCTIVE CRAFTS

Christmas decor, folk art, paintings and prints, fabrics, knits, felt hats and quilts. Woodenware, bowls, barnboard cabinets, bead and silver jewelry, lighted wire stars, glassware and ornaments. Alpaca yarns, doll clothes, fleece socks, body & bath products, wooden toys, birdhouses, pottery, beeswax candles, and organic goat soaps. Bittersweet and fresh balsam wreaths.

FROM OUR COUNTRY BAKERS

Maple yeast and quick breads, a variety of pies, fudge, pastries, cookies, cider donuts, and chocolate specialties.

PREPARED FOODS—Quiche, pot pies, and empanadas.

GOURMET SPECIALTY FOODS

Maple syrup, sugar, and maple specialties. 100 varieties of jams & jellies, honey, farmstead cheeses, pickles, relishes, salsas, herbs, marinades, and dessert sauces. Apples, cider, Brussels sprouts, squash, potatoes and onions. Dog and pet treats.

GIFT BASKETS MADE, OR YOU MAKE—MAIL ORDER ALWAYS FREE ADMISSION

Info: Jamie (802) 287-9570. Web: vtfarmersmarket.org.

This is the largest Farmers Market Christmas Fair in Vermont!

SIMON ^{the} TANNER

Your Family Outfitters

Boots • Shoes • Sneakers
Slippers • Hikers • Casuals



for the whole family

19 Center St., Rutland, VT • Across From the Paramount Theater
(802) 282-4016 • Mon, Tues, Wed 11-6, Thurs 11-8, Fri 11-3

Voted "Best Carpet & Flooring Store in the Rutland Area" by Market Surveys

Harte's Flooring

One Scale Avenue, Building 6W
Howe Center, Rutland, VT • (802) 747-9955

Custom tile, laminate, carpet, hardwoods.

Professional installation of everything we sell or we'll install your material. Restretching and repairs. Flood damage—we'll remove and replace damaged floors and rugs. Free estimates.

Open Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm,
Sat 8:30 am - 1:00 pm, Sunday by appointment.

Vermont Country Calendar

MONTPELIER. Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market at Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 9 am – 1 pm on first and third Saturdays, December through April. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

MORRISVILLE. Lamoille Valley Farmers' Artisan Market at River Arts Center on Pleasant St., in Morrisville. Second Saturdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., October through April (no January). Amy Walker, fammanager@gmail.com. farmersartisanmarket.com.

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market. Local/organic produce, meats, cheeses, eggs, handicrafts, baked goods, prepared foods, and live music. Saturdays 10 am – 1 pm. Holiday Markets on Dec. 10 & 17. Winter Markets on Second Saturday of each month, from Jan. 14 through April 14. Rt. 5, one mile south of Norwich village. (802) 384-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Open daily May 20 – October 31, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm; November 1 – December 23, 10 am – 4 pm. On Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

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

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

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

PUTNEY. Holiday Farmers' Market. Holiday gifts and produce by 26 vendors. Delicious prepared foods: savory and sweet crepes and South Indian food and beverages. Make your own wreaths. Live music. 11 am – 2 pm. An indoor market at Green Mountain Orchards on West Hill Rd. Directions: west at Putney General Store, left after 1 mile on West Hill Rd., 3/4 mile on right. (802) 387-4234. putneyfarmersmarket.org. Dec. 4, 11, & 18.

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards Farm Store open all year with local apples and cider. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtorchards.com.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$10.50, seniors \$9.50, youth (3-18) \$8.50, children 3 and under free. 10 am – 5:30 pm, 7 days a week. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

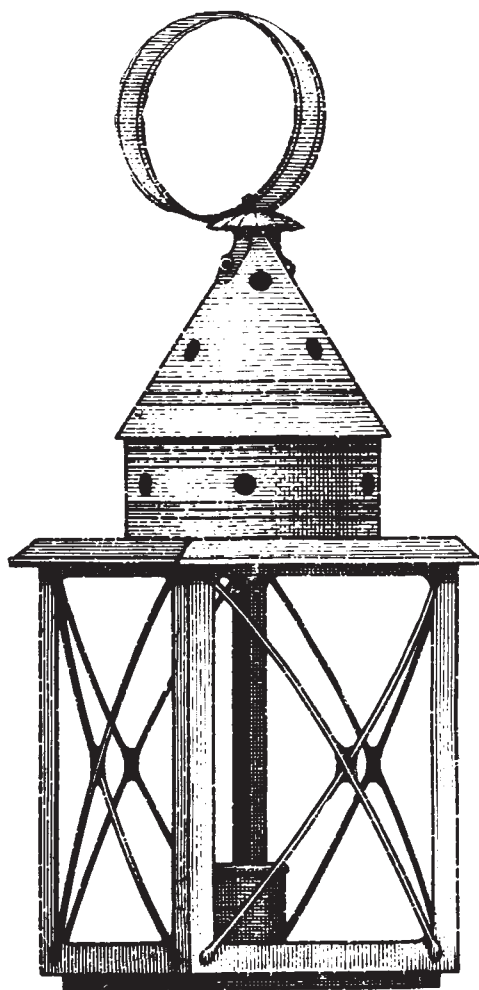
RANDOLPH. PAWS for Reading. Families looking for a friendly, furry experience are invited to visit the library. Specially-trained owners and their specially-trained dogs will be here the first Saturday of each month, to share a relaxing reading experience with interested children. Kimball Public Library, 67 Main St. (802) 728-5073.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Turkey Hill Farm. Farmer's Kitchen cooking classes. Farm skills workshops. "Moo-tique" farm store, raw milk micro-dairy, pasture-raised meats, local farm products, and books. Spacious farm-stay apartment for short-term stays. Chapter meetings for the Weston A. Price Foundation. Stuart and Margaret Osha, 55 Turkey Hill Rd. For schedules and information call (802) 728-7064. www.turkeyhillfarmvt.com.

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

RUTLAND. Christmas and Holiday Lights Tour. Brought to you by Vermont Backroad Tours. \$15 per person for a two-hour tour. Tours at 4:30 & 6:30 pm in December. Get a group of 10 together and we will pick you up at any single location within five miles of Rutland City. Advance reservations necessary. (802) 446-3131. VermontBackroadTours.com.

RUTLAND. Fifth Annual Winter Farmers Market. The downtown Rutland Winter Farmers Market is indoors on Saturdays through April 28! Over 40 vendors, selling fresh salad greens, locally-grown apples, grass-fed meats, artisan cheeses, freshly baked organic breads, honey, jellies & jams, pickles, maple syrup & maple products, hot foods, wines, wools, glasswork and jewelry—a great place to shop, eat and visit. Live entertainment. Come have lunch and meet your friends. 10 am to 2 pm. Located in the Old Strand Theater (enter through the Rutland Natural Food Co-Op at 77 Wales St.). For more info call Greg Cox (802) 683-4606. coxveg@hotmail.com. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 28.



RUTLAND. Trinity Episcopal Church invites everyone to join us for a hot meal every second Saturday of the month. By donation, if able. 11:30 am – 1 pm. 85 West St., Nourse Hall. (802) 775-4368.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center—Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings. Gallery open Wednesday through Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 12 noon until 4 pm. 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Himalayan Salt Cave. Come relax in the only public Himalayan Salt Cave in North America. Mon–Fri 10 am – 8 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am – 6 pm. \$10. Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, 120 Merchants Row. For reservations call (802) 775-8080. www.pyramidvt.com.

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

SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market at Sharon Elementary School. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Feb. 11, Mar. 10, Mar. 31, May 12. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

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

SMUGGLERS NOTCH. Christmas Holiday Fun at Smugglers' Notch Resort. The holiday week is full of special activities. Christmas Eve begins with Santa Claus and his elves arriving at 7 pm followed by a torchlight parade and fireworks with the snow-covered Green Mountains as a backdrop. The evening's festivities conclude with a candlelight service. (802) 644-8851. www.smuggs.com. December 18-25.

SOUTH HERO. South Hero Winter Farmers' Market at South Hero Congregational Church. Saturdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Dec. 3 & Dec. 17. Saturdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Feb. 4, March 4, April 7. Denise Boutin, (802) 372-3291. cmdecker@myfairpoint.net. champlainislandsfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

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

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

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



December Journal

On winter mornings along the river, when cumulus clouds move quickly across the sky in the north wind, the water shines with ripples and small, brisk waves, silver, then momentary blues, then grays. The oaks are black against patches of snow. The colors deepen then lighten, depending on the thickness of the clouds.

Below the osage on the hillsides grow hardy green chickweed and wild onion, garlic mustard, henbit, hemlock. The sun brings them to life, brightening and enriching. The ground is sown with their reassurance that there is enough time. The new year

will never be longer than it is now, will never be slower or more simple. There is no need to hurry. There is enough time for all my plans.

From the ridge tops, the rivers are paths of radiance. But sometimes as I walk, a sudden patch of fog blurs the divisions between the hills, and the brilliant curves of light disappear. The enclosure of enveloping fog shows both the confinement and the freedom of the valley. I have no landmarks, but there are no limits. There is no other side to the river. Like year's end, the opposite bank seems infinitely distant.

—Bill Felker

Wood & Pellet Stoves & Boilers



New Location:

162 S. Main Street, Rutland, VT
(802) 747-0440 • (802) 293-5213

Open most afternoons, call for hours. Closed Sunday.

Jump Fore Fun

Indoor Family Fun & Party Center



Indoor Mini-Golf
10 Bounce Houses
Party Rooms

Howe Center Building #10
Rutland, VT • (802) 772-7339
www.jumpforefun.com

Public Play Hours: Thurs & Fri 4-8, Sat & Sun 9:30-12:30

Fun Educational Toys

Children's Clothing
Infant to Tweens
Gifts & Furnishings



FROGS & LILY PADS

25 Center St., Rutland, VT
(802) 770-1882

443 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT
(802) 748-2975

Open Mon–Sat, hours vary by store location



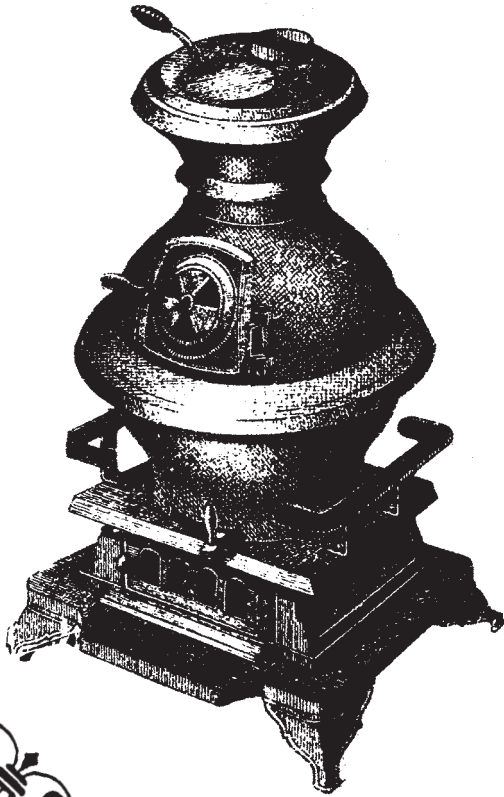
Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

ST. ALBANS. St. Albans Northwest Farmers' Market at St. Albans City Hall. Saturdays 10 am – 1 pm on December 10, January 21 and February 11. Marnie Barry, (802) 373-5821. www.nwvtfarmersmarket.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Winter & Holiday Farmers Markets at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. Every first Saturday from 10 am – 1 pm, November through March. Holiday Market December 17 from 10 am – 1 pm. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. elizabethverts@yahoo.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Open Mon-Sat 10 am – 5 pm and Sun 11 am – 4 pm. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (802) 748-2700. info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.



TINMOUTH. Contra Dance every fourth Friday. Admission \$8, \$6 for teens, \$3 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org.

WALLINGFORD. Lunch at the First Congregational Church of Wallingford. Come alone or bring a friend or neighbor. Free. Thursdays 11:30 am - 1 pm. (802) 446-2817. www.wallingfordvt.com.

WESTFORD. Westford Holiday Market at Brick Meeting House, 1 Common Rd. December 2, January 6, and February 3 from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Heike Meyer (802) 370-4077. westfordfarmersmarketvt.org

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

WEST RUTLAND. Free Financial Fitness Classes by NeighborWorks® of Western Vermont. Topics covered include: Basic Budgeting, Using a Checkbook, Saving and Investing, Borrowing Basics, Credit, and Renting in Vermont. Call to find out the dates of topics that interest you. 3-5 pm Thursdays at the NeighborWorks office at 110 Marble St. (802) 438-2303 x 216.

WEST RUTLAND. Reiki Experience. Classes at 11 am with Sivvie Lio and open-share healings at 3 pm. All are welcome. Herbal remedies and teas, crystals and stones. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. www.vermontherbal.com. *The last Sunday of each month.*

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Public Sitting Meditation. Free meditation instruction is available at most of these times. Noon to 1 pm. Shambhala Meditation Center of White River, 158 S. Main St. (802) 785-4304. whiteriver.shambhala.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Co-op's First Friday Celebration. Live music by local artists, samples of local foods, 5% off all purchases for every shopper. 4-6 pm at the Upper Valley Food Co-op. The First Friday of every month is celebrated by businesses in White River Junction. (802) 295-5804. Kye@upervalleyfood.coop. www.upervalleyfood.coop.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Northern Stage Presents "Annie." Family musical, live professional theater, New York actors. Most days at 7:30 pm with many 2 pm matinees. Briggs Opera House, 12 North Main St. Tickets start at \$35. Call (802) 296-7000 x 15. boxoffice@northernstage.org. www.northernstage.org. *December 7 through January 8.*

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

WILMINGTON. Sleigh Rides. Belgian draft horses will pull the sleighs through the 100-acre hillside farm across an open meadow to a log cabin in the woods to warm up by a wood fire. Participants will sip a steaming cup of hot chocolate and can sing to the tunes of an ol' player piano. Afternoon and evening rides offered weather permitting. Also, private Morgan horse-drawn sleigh rides for two. Reservations required. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill. (802) 464-3762. adamsfamilyfarm.com. *December 13 through March 10.*

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery. Winter hours are for Gallery only: December – April by appointment. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. ciderhillgardens.com. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilk.com.

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. Vegetarian dinner 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance at 6 pm; potluck dessert at 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-10:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation, under 18 free. Temporary location: Pomfret Elementary School, 1071 Pomfret Rd., South Pomfret. (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. *Third Fridays September through May.*

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

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Rides at Sugarbush Farm. Bundle up and enjoy a 45-minute sleigh ride through the maple woods. Learn from the sugar maker how these trees are tapped in March and how sap is boiled. Belgian draft horse sled rides from 11 am – 3 pm by reservation. Farm is located outside Woodstock & snow tires are suggested. Warm up with cheese slices and hot drinks afterwards in the farm house. Farm store open 9 am – 5 pm. Sugarbush Farm, 591 Sugarbush Farm Rd (gravel). (802) 457-1757. www.sugarbushfarm.com. *December 16 through February 29.*

2011/2012 season



natalie MACMASTER - Christmas in Cape Breton.....	DEC 1
golden dragon ACROBATS.....	DEC 9
clifford THE BIG RED DOG.....	JAN 6
the capitol STEPS.....	JAN 21
cirque MECHANICS: Boomtown.....	FEB 17
celtic NIGHTS: Journey of Hops.....	MAR 6
rockapella.....	MAR 9
the irish COMEDY TOUR.....	MAR 10
the SHIRELLES & the DRIFTERS.....	MAR 24
monty python's SPAMALOT.....	APR 1
vermont authors IN PLAY.....	APR 13
an evening with BRUCE HORNSBY.....	APR 20
jungle JACK HANNA.....	APR 21
the glenn miller ORCHESTRA.....	APR 22
joan RIVERS.....	APR 27
seussical THE MUSICAL.....	MAY 5
an evening with CAPTAIN SIG and the crew from DEADLIEST CATCH.....	MAY 12
whose live ANYWAY.....	MAY 26

PARAMOUNTLIVE.org

30 CENTER ST, RUTLAND, VT CHARGE BY PHONE 802.775.0903



Mr. Twitter's Garden & GIFT EMPORIUM

For an Old-time Holiday Feeling for Gifts and Treats and Treasures...

Amid the Spirit and Sparkle of the Season, We beckon with Necessities and Pleasures

Fresh Vermont WREATHS and GREENS... \$2.00 of each Wreath - In Store or Shipped, will be donated to Your Choice of Irene Relief Fund

Holiday Collectables & What You least Expectibles HOME & GARDEN ACCENTS

Find us on Rt 7 at the Northend of Rutland, Vt. OPEN Year Round look for the PURPLE picket fence mrtwitter.com 773-0795/800-924-8948



GIFT BASKETS Ready Made or CUSTOMIZED

CLOTHES LIVE Wonderful wearables for women who want both COMFORT & Style

FREE GIFT WRAPPING Local Delivery & Shipping Service

Vermont Country Calendar

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, festivities and museum. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Winter hours: open weekends November through February 10 am to 3:30 pm and Christmas and February vacation weeks 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

MOUNT HOLLY. The 7th Annual Festival of Lights. Silent auction, holiday wreaths, trees and much more. 5-8 pm. At Mount Holly Historical Museum, Belmont Corners. For tickets call Doris Reiser at (802) 259-2722. Also December 3.

RUTLAND. Rutland County Holiday Farmers Market at College of St. Joseph. 10 am - 5 pm. Bob Murphy. www.rutlandcountymarket.org. Also December 3.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

RUTLAND. Rutland County Holiday Farmers Market at College of St. Joseph. 9 am - 4 pm. Bob Murphy. www.rutlandcountymarket.org.

SHREWSBURY. Silent Auction and Cookie Swap. Holiday celebration with many unique auction items, live music and cookies! Make a batch or two of cookies to swap. 7 pm. Shrewsbury Library, 98 Town Hill Rd. (802) 492-3410.

WALLINGFORD. Wallingford Elementary School's 35th Annual Holiday Craft Fair. This event will feature crafters, artisans and fresh evergreen wreaths. Homemade luncheon of soups, sandwiches and desserts. Lots of door prize giveaways. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. 126 School St. (802) 446-2141.

WESTON. An Old-Fashioned Vermont Christmas. Town-wide celebration with Santa, song, food and events for every member of the family. 11 am - 5:30 pm. (802) 824-3669. www.westonvt.com.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

PUTNEY. Putney Holiday Market at Green Mountain Orchards, 130 West Hill Rd. 11 am - 2 pm. Kristina Israel, (802) 387-4234. pcoopmarketing@gmail.com. www.putneyfarmersmarket.org. Also December 11 & 18.

RUTLAND. Handel's Messiah. Rutland Area Chorus, soloists and orchestra will perform under the direction of Rip Jackson. Free will offering. 3:30 & 7 pm. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. www.gracechurchvt.org.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

RUTLAND. Holiday Book Sale. Buy-one-get-one on all books under \$1. 4-8 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

SWANTON. Community Breakfast. \$2.50 per person. 7-9 am. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7195. holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. www.holytrinityswanton.org.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

BURLINGTON. Candle Making Workshop. With City Market General Manager Clem Nilan. Just in time for the holidays, everyone will learn to make and take home their own beeswax candles. Free. 6-7 pm. City Market/Onion River Co-op, 82 S. Winooski Ave. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

BURLINGTON. Italian Cooking Workshop Series: Biscotti. Learn a tried and true recipe for making delicious homemade biscotti for friends and family. Adele Dienno will go through the steps to make this easy Italian cookie and then show variations to this festive dough. These cookies store and travel well! Free. 6-7:30 pm. The Sustainability Academy, 123 North St. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

HARTLAND. Upper Valley Seed Savers Meeting. You're welcome to join us. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. This group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 5 pm. If you are interested in attending meetings or finding out more about the Upper Valley Seed Savers, contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

KILLINGTON. Vermont Holiday Festival. 100 decorated trees to be raffled off, free sleigh rides and cocoa for the whole family, musical performances, Vermont artisans, children's crafts at Santa's Workshop. Admission \$5, children 5 and under free. Friday 4:30-9 pm, Saturday, 12-9 pm. At the Killington Grand Hotel. (802) 773-4181. Also December 10.

NORTH TUNBRIDGE. Contra Dance. Traditional contras and quadrilles. Hosted by the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. Open to the public, all dances taught, no partner necessary, children welcome. Refreshments available. Admission \$5. 7:30-10:30 pm at the North Tunbridge Grange. (802) 436-2444. Clydo46@gmail.com. edlarkincontradancers.org. Second Fridays through May.

NORWICH. Winter Snowshoe or Hike Outing. Multi-use loop designed by John Morton. Three mile, hilly, twisty, winding. Moderate, with lots of steep ups & downs. Snowshoe or hike, based on conditions. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Leader: Kathy Astraukas, (802) 785-4311. www.greenmountainclub.org.

RUTLAND. The Bells of Joy—28th Annual Christmas Concert. Original handbell compositions and adaptations of traditional Christmas carols. Features guest clarinetist, David Klock, and the Stoodley Quartet ringing an endearing arrangement of 'Coventry Carol'. Lessons will be read by Alan Betts. Directed by Karen James. 7:30-8:40 pm. Chapel of the United Methodist Church, 71 Williams St. (802) 773-2460. www.gbmg-umc.org.

RUTLAND. Annual Gingerbread House Contest Reception. Participants will exhibit their creations and the winner will be announced. 5-8 pm. The Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend at Billings Farm. Visit the 1890 Farm House, authentically decorated for the season. Make an historic ornament to bring home. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 10 & 11.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend. Enjoy a magical holiday celebration. Traditional horse and carriage parade, wassail cafe, yule log, caroling, over 400 luminaries, the lighting of the Memory Tree. Holiday house tour sponsored by Pentangle, craft sale and readings. The Ten perform on Saturday and Messiah Sing on Sunday. Skate with Santa at Union Arena, the magic of Christmas with Christmas Visions at the Rec. Center. (802) 457-3555. info@woodstockvt.com. www.woodstockvt.com. Through December 11.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

BELLOWS FALLS. Holiday Open House. Music, refreshments, raffle drawings, and everyone is welcome! 3-5 pm. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org.

BRANDON. Classical Concert. Peter Sievwright, world renowned concert pianist performs works by Antonio Vivaldi, Edward MacDowell, Louis Glass and others. Tickets \$15. 7-9 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. www.brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. Ethan and Fanny Allen's Winter's Eve Celebration. Lantern-lit tours of Ethan Allen's home. Colonial dancing, book signing, and live music with the Fiddleheads. Admission \$5, children 6-12 \$3, under 6 free. 4-7 pm at Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. Call or visit website for directions. (802) 865-4556. info@ethanallenhomestead.org. www.ethanallenhomestead.org.

FAIRLEE. Book Signing and Reading. Bert Dodson, Illustrator, and Carole Kitchell Bellew, publisher, present the children's book, *Helping Santa: My First Christmas Adventure with Grandma*. Willem Lange will present his book, *Favor Johnson*. And Henry Homeyer will talk about his book, *Organic Gardening (not just) in the Northeast*. 2 pm at Chapman's Store, 491 Main St. (802) 333-9709. www.bunkerhillpublishing.com.

GRAFTON. Early Season Nordic Clinic. For all ages & abilities (both classic & skate). Fee. Rental equipment available. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

HANOVER, NH. Holiday Concert with the Freelance Family Singers. 2 pm at Rollins Chapel, 98 College St. By donation to benefit Woodstock Food Shelf. (802) 457-3980.

HARTLAND. Christmas Cookie Sale. Fill a box, or fill a bag and be ready to welcome all guests with seasonal sweets. 10 am to 2 pm. First Congregational Church Ladies Benevolent Society, Station Rd. (802) 436-2792.



KILLINGTON. Vermont Holiday Festival. 100 decorated trees to be raffled off, free sleigh rides and cocoa for the whole family, musical performances, Vermont artisans, children's crafts at Santa's Workshop. Admission \$5, children 5 and under free. 12-9 pm. At the Killington Grand Hotel. (802) 773-4181.

MANCHESTER. Holiday Horse & Wagon Rides. Festive caroling as David Lively and his champagne draft horses take you on a holiday tour through Manchester Village. 1-2:30 pm. Reservations required. Call the Chamber to reserve your spot, (802) 362-6313

MANCHESTER CENTER. Annual Holiday Open House at The Inn at Ormsby Hill, 1842 Main St. 12-4 pm. (802) 362-1163. www.ormsbyhill.com.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Annual Christmas Book Signing with Jon Katz. The author of *The Soul of a Dog*, *Izzy & Lenore*, *Dog Days*, *A Good Dog*, and *The Dogs of Bedlam Farm* autographs your favorites in time for the holidays. Free admission. 2 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Wildlife Walk with the Middlebury Area Land Trust & Otter Creek Audubon. Help us survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Meet at 8 am at the parking area of Otter View Park at Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. (802) 388-1007. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MILTON. Annual Holiday Open House. Enjoy festive music, food as well as special holiday activities and exhibits. Free and open to the public. 1-4 pm. Milton Historical Museum, 13 School St. (802) 893-7387.

MONTPELIER. The Seventh Annual Touch of Vermont Holiday Gift Market. With nearly 50 Vermont artisans. Buy your holiday gifts from Vermont crafts people while helping to raise money with an amazing raffle benefiting OUR House of Central VT. There are raffle prizes from every single vendor as well as grand prizes worth over \$250. Admission is free. 9 am - 4 pm. Montpelier City Hall, 39 Main St. (802) 310-1725. www.touchofvt.org.

NORTH FAYSTON. Winter Outing. We will take the Hedgehog Brook Trail to the summit of Burnt Rock Mountain and return the same way. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Contact leader by 12/9. Call Sheri Larsen, (802) 878-6828.

NORWICH. Ballard Trail Excursion. Four miles one-way (car spot). Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Leader: Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. www.greenmountainclub.org.

POULTNEY. Gathering of the Clans Christmas Celebration, Gathering & potluck dessert bar, featuring video of "A Child's Christmas in Wales", the award-winning classic Dylan Thomas poem. Bring a dessert to share. Free will offering. 1-4 pm. Young At Heart Senior Center, 206 Furnace St. (802) 287-9729.

ROYALTON. Christmas Concert. By donation. 7-8:30 pm at the First Congregational Church, 4226 Rte 14. (802) 763-7812.

RUTLAND. Holiday Food & Bake Sale. 9 am to 12 pm. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hillside Rd. (802) 773-9659.

Give the Gift of
MOBILITY
this season!

Give a gift your loved ones
may never give themselves...
A loving helping hand
that they'll appreciate
for many years to come!



Lift
Chairs
on SALE
\$499
NOW THRU
CHRISTMAS

Smilin' Steve's

RUTLAND PHARMACY
75 Allen St., Rutland, VT • 802-775-2545
SPRINGFIELD PHARMACY
262 River St., Springfield, VT • 802-885-6400
LUDLOW PHARMACY
Okemo Marketplace RT 103,
Ludlow, VT • 802-228-2500



www.smilinsteve.com

Vermont Country Calendar

(December 10, continued)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

RUTLAND. Breakfast with Santa. 8-10 am. At Applebee's Restaurant, 225 Woodstock Ave. To benefit Christ the King School. \$6 per person. For tickets call (802) 773-0500.

RUTLAND. Rutland Holiday Fair. Sponsored by the Vermont Farmers Market. Arts, crafts, holiday greens, jams, maple, jewelry, and so much more! Accepting EBT and debit cards. 9 am - 4 pm. Holiday Inn, Route 7. Jamie Condrell, (802) 287-9570. jdc71203@aol.com. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

STRATTON MOUNTAIN. Stratton Mountain Resort celebrates the history of snowboarding at Stratton with a week of events including a Burton pilot program, on-snow demos, clinics with pros and movies, starting off with a Dec. 10 moonlight hike up Suttanner, just as Jake Burton did when he was developing his first snowboard. (800) 787-2886. stattonsupy@intrawest.com. *Through December 18.*

WEST FAIRLEE. Christmas Concert. 3 pm at the Congregational Church. (802) 685-3141.

WEST RUTLAND. Marsh Monitoring Bird Walk. Now in our 11th year, this is a monthly bird monitoring exercise. To date over 1,400 participants have tallied 144 species from Least Bittern to Rusty Blackbird. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 am. Leader Roy Pilcher (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend at Billings Farm. Visit the 1890 Farm House, authentically decorated for the season. Make an historic ornament to bring home. Traditional music at noon. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also December 11.*

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend. Traditional Horse and Carriage Parade at 2 pm. Wassail cafe, yule log, caroling, over 400 luminaries, the lighting of the Memory Tree, all on the Village Green. A Holiday House Tour sponsored by Pentangle. Craft sale and traditional readings. The Ten perform in concert. Skate with Santa at Union Arena, Christmas Visions at the Rec. Center. (802) 457-3555. info@woodstockvt.com. www.woodstockvt.com. *Also December 11.*

BRANDON. Annual Christmas Carol Concert. Brandon Festival Singers perform. Free will offering. 3-5 pm. Brandon Congregational Church, 2 Carver St. (802) 247-0180.

BURLINGTON. Workshop: Indoor Gardening with Peter Burke. Grow a steady supply of fresh greens indoors with only a cupboard and a windowsill. Grow greens great for salads and stirfries with sunflower, radish, buckwheat, pea and broccoli shoots. Ready to harvest in just 7-10 days, indoor gardening is a great way to grow fresh greens and comes in handy just when the regular season is ending. Everyone will take a planted tray home from class. Fee: \$10. 2-3 pm. City Market/Onion River Co-op, 82 S. Winooski Ave. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Nowell Sing We Clear—A Pageant of Midwinter Carols. John Roberts, Tony Barrand, Fred Breunig and Andy Davis perform their popular program of unusual songs, carols, stories, and customs. 4 pm at the Unitarian Church. For tickets contact www.flynnitix.org, (802) 863-5966. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org. www.youngtraditionvermont.org.

CHESTER. Hen & Rooster Holiday Recipe Exchange Party. Sweet or savory. Come with your recipe on a card and a tray of goodies made with local ingredients. Chat & chew and have a good time! 11 am - 2 pm. W.A.A.W.W.E. Farms Market, Rt. 10 & Rt. 103, Gassetts Corner. (802) 875-3663. Follow us on Facebook.

MIDDLEBURY. 40th Anniversary of Lessons and Carols. This program includes Bible readings of Advent and Christmas and carols for choir, organ, and congregation, modeled after a long-standing European tradition. Music by Tomas Luis de Victoria, William Matthias, Herbert Howells, David Willcocks, and Canadian composer Eleanor Daley. Each service is preceded by performances on the chapel carillon. 5:30 pm. Mead Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu.

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS. Christmas in the Park. Live nativity, caroling, and Christmas tree lighting. Warm up inside the Historical Society building with hot cocoa, delicious treats and good conversation! Hosted by The Middletown Springs Grange and the Community Church. 6 pm. On the Green. (802) 235-2436.

MILTON. The Milton Community Band Holiday Concert. Also featuring A Brass Act, a five-member brass ensemble, and a reading of *T'was the Night Before Christmas* by John Lindsay, accompanied by the Band. Christmas carol sing-along. Free admission. 2 pm Milton Middle/High School Auditorium, Rebecca Lander Dr. (802) 893-1398. www.miltonband.net.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. Holiday Open House at President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Many of the museum buildings will be open free of charge from 10 am to 4 pm. The Coolidge Birthplace will be decorated as it would have been in 1872. Holiday organ and piano music from 1-4 pm by Steve Morse. At 1 pm Carol Collins will read winter-themed poems accompanied by old-time fiddler Adam Boyce. Horse-drawn sleigh (or wagon) rides, wreath making, traditional craft demonstrations, cheese & wine tastings, holiday shopping, lunch served by the Tyson Ladies Aid, lighting ceremony at 3 pm. (802) 672-3773. www.HistoricVermont.org.

PUTNEY. Putney Holiday Market at Green Mountain Orchards, 130 West Hill Rd. 11 am - 2 pm. Kristina Israel, (802) 387-4234. pcoopmarketing@gmail.com. www.putneyfarmersmarket.org. *Also December 18.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert. Bizet's Children's Games, the March of the Toys from Babes in Toyland, excerpts from Hansel & Gretel, and of course the Little Drummer Boy. After the Nutcracker's Mouse King does battle with the tin soldiers, we debut a fractured fairy tale composed by a Vermont teenager. "Sleighride" and an audience sing-along are musical stocking stuffers! 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. For tickets call (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. A Service of Lessons and Carols. The Festival Choir, an expanded group of choristers including the Sanctuary Choir and other singers, will sing anthems, carols, and other music with the Downtown Brass. At the 10 am service. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. www.gracechurchvt.org.

WEST FAIRLEE. Backcountry Outing. On class IV roads. Ski, snowshoe, or hike depending on conditions. 5-10 miles. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Leader: Dick Ruben, (802) 333-3707.



Boardman Hill Farmstand

Locally Owned & Grown Organic Produce & Plants

399 Business Rt. 4, Rutland, VT (802) 747-4442

(Between Trader Rick's Furniture & The Village Snack Bar)

Open Daily 9-6 until Christmas

Fresh Locally-Grown Balsam Christmas Trees & Roping Handmade Wreaths

In-Season Vegetables • Local Cheeses • Apples Cider • Organically Raised Pork and Chickens Pickles & Relishes Make Ideal Christmas Gifts!




GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

LONG TRAIL VERMONT

Join the Adventure

Join the **Green Mountain Club!**

Green Mountain Club
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd.
Waterbury Center, VT 05677
(802) 244-7037
www.greenmountainclub.org

THE FIRST SNOW IN VERMONT

There's nothing anywhere I go
That beats a batch of country snow,
The sort for which you don't prepare,
But when you wake you feel its there;
There's lots more light inside the room,
That noise is grandpa with his broom;
A-towards the barn your eye you cast
And say, "Well, wife, it's here at last;
The way the hitching post sticks through
It's sifted down a foot or two"—
There's nothing like it, high or low,
A fall of good domestic snow.

You hunt your frock and belt your form
And bring the headstalls in to warm;
A crop of snow is jest the thing
Until the wind begins to sing;
The dog jumps in and makes a track
Around the little barn and back;
The stock enjoy it, every head,
The colt wakes up and kicks the shed;
The hens come out, the flirty things,
And powder up their bills and wings,
Jim Blood goes by with face aglow,
Hurrah! for good, old-fashioned snow.

The chores done up—it's middling still—
You guess you'll slip a grist to mill,
And drive around and see Sim Dorr
And get that buck you bargained for,
And find Mel Meiggs, he's pretty good
At helping haul the winter wood,
And fetch the mail and 'range with Rice
To blacksmith up for snow and ice;
It's some expense, but what of that!
A hoss can't haul that's laying flat;
The snow is here and wise men know
That there's a business side top snow.

Tomorrow, if the stage gets through,
You'll see the wood teams starting, too;
You'll see the boys with dovetailed heads
Discussing various sorts of sleds,
And talking 'bout the outs and ins
Of wooden versus iron pins;
Besides, 'twill take 'em several days
To settle on the neatest sleighs;
But life's a joy, though chillblains bite,
The world is loveliest when it's white;
There's nothing from LaMotte to Stowe
That beats good, old, domestic snow.

—DANIEL L. CADY

Christmas at the Billings Farm

Gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage

Dec. Weekends & Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Discover the traditions and simplicity of a late 19th century Christmas in Vermont.

1890 Farm House • Dairy Farm
Holiday Activities and Programs
A Place in the Land film - remastered!

Horse-drawn sleigh rides included:
December 26th - January 1st
Rte. 12, just north of the village green
Woodstock, VT • 802-457-2355 • www.billingsfarm.





CHAMPLAIN ORCHARDS

Farm Store Open!

Year 'round, 10 am - 4 pm daily

Apples, Sweet Cider, Hard Cider, Ice Cider, Apple Pies, and other farm and local products.

Holiday Gift Boxes

Order Gift Boxes from Our Online Store at www.champlainorchards.com

Custom-made selections include apples, organic apple butter, apple cider syrup, cider donuts and dried apple slices.

(802) 897-2777 • www.champlainorchards.com

Rt. 74, 4 miles west of Shoreham village,
(One mile east of the Ticonderoga-Larrabee's Point Ferry)



Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend at Billings Farm. Visit the 1890 Farm House, authentically decorated for the season. Make an historic ornament to bring home. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend. Enjoy a magical holiday celebration. Messiah Sing on Sunday afternoon. (802) 457-3555. www.woodstockvt.com.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

BURLINGTON. Workshop: Herbs for Winter Wellness with Guido Masé. Learn simple herbal recipes for both preventing and treating common viral respiratory infections of winter. Incorporate useful plants into soup stocks and teas for daily health and tonification. Free. 5-6 pm. City Market/Onion River Co-op, 82 S. Winooski Ave. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

NORWICH. Second Saturday Contradance with Northern Spy. David Millstone, calling. Enjoy live music and experience these traditional social dances. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners welcome. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8, students \$5, under 16 free. 8 pm. At Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Second Saturdays through June 2012.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

BERLIN. Winter Outing on Irish Hill. Explore local trails in the area. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Meet at 1 pm at Staples parking lot off Paine Turnpike. Leader: Steve Lightholder. (802) 479-2304. www.greenmountainclub.org.

BURLINGTON. Workshop: The Pennywise Pantry. A well-stocked pantry is the key to pennywise meals. In this shopping tour, create a custom template for filling your fridge, freezer, and cupboard with affordable foods that are close to nature, nutritious, varied, and plentiful! Free. 3-4 pm. City Market/Onion River Co-op, 82 S. Winooski Ave. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

CASTLETON. Concert. The Castleton Wind Ensemble will present "Hymn Tunes." Inspired by the composition "Journal for a Soldier" by Brian Balmages, it tells the story of a courageous father serving overseas who also longs to be home with his daughter. Directed by Glenn Giles. Free, but tickets required. 8 pm. Castleton State College. (802) 468-1119.

CHESTER. Lecture: "How To Purchase a Telescope." Those considering buying a scope for themselves or as a gift will find helpful information. The Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) presents this informational session for the public at its December meeting. Free. 7 pm at the Whiting Library. www.SoVerA.org.

WILMINGTON. Sleigh Rides. Belgian draft horses will pull the sleighs through the 100-acre hillside farm across an open meadow to a log cabin in the woods to warm up by a wood fire. Participants will sip a steaming cup of hot chocolate and can sing to the tunes of an ol' player piano. Afternoon and evening rides offered weather permitting. Also, private Morgan horse-drawn sleigh rides for two. Reservations required. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill. (802) 464-3762. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com. *Through March 10.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

COVENTRY. Beyond Milk: Raw Dairy Processing Workshop: Farmhouse Cheddar Curds, Mozzarella, Yogurt & Butter. Fee: \$20-\$40 sliding scale, advance registration required. 1-4 pm at Apple Ledge Farm. Contact Shelby at RuralVermont, (802) 223-7222. info@nofavt.org.

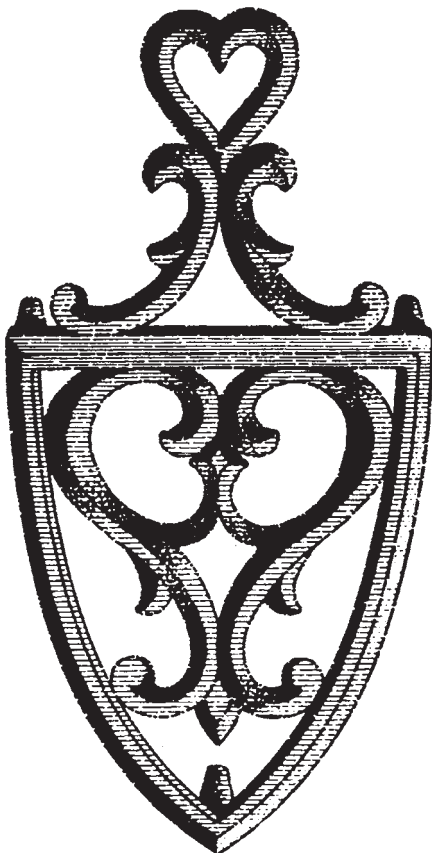
MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. James Howard Kuntsler presents his book, A Christmas Orphan. Free admission, everyone welcome. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

RUTLAND. Tales to Tails—Kids Reading to Gods. Meet, greet, and read to our friendly, fabulous therapy dogs. Free and open to all. Collect each dog's bookmark. 4-4:45 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

BURLINGTON. Workshop: A Mosaic of Flavors: Burmese Beef & Potato Curry and Bok Choy. This is a fantastic dish to bring to a holiday party. Led by Htun Sein who moved from Burma to Burlington about eight years ago. His recipes will be featured in Vermont Refugee Resettlement's upcoming cookbook, A Mosaic of Flavors. Free. 6-7 pm. City Market/Onion River Co-op, 82 S. Winooski Ave. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

HANOVER, NH. The 37th Annual Christmas Revels: An Elizabethan Celebration of the Winter Solstice. Travel with the multi-generational cast to England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, as the Queen goes visiting the countryside on the eve of the winter solstice. Tickets \$33-\$15. 7 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. www.revelsnorth.org. *Also December 16, 17 & 18.*



ISLAND POND. 38th Annual Island Pond Christmas Bird Count. A century-old tradition involving thousands of volunteers throughout the western hemisphere. Beginners are welcome. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Beach Conger, MD presents his new book, It's Probably Nothing. Free admission, everyone welcome. 6:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. "Night Fires." A winter solstice celebration rooted in ancient traditions. Music, poetry and dance of many cultures, directed by Marianne Lust. Tickets \$20; seniors \$18; children under 18, \$15. 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. *Also December 16 & 17.*

WARREN. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet & Counterpoint Holiday Concert. Nathan Lew leads the ensemble in a festive combination of brass and choral works. Free admission, but tickets required. Tickets available beginning December 1 at the Bradley House in Warren. Performance at 7:30 pm at the Warren United Church. For info call (802) 496-3865 or visit www.vso.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

BELLOWS FALLS. Holiday Farmers' Market at Boccelli's on the Canal. 4 to 7 p.m. Mandy Walsh, (802) 376-5784. ffarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.bffarmersmarket.com.

CHESTER. Jane Austen's Birthday Celebration. Join us at Inn Victoria for our annual, regal celebration weekend. The two night-two day affair includes three-course gourmet breakfasts, High Tea, an English-style Christmas dinner, and much more. Dress in Regency wear for the High Tea and Christmas dinner. Relax and enjoy live music of the Regency period by pianist Walter Sayer. Inn Victoria, 321 Main St. (802) 875-4288. www.innvictoria.com. *Also December 17 & 18.*

HANOVER, NH. The 37th Annual Christmas Revels: An Elizabethan Celebration of the Winter Solstice. Travel with the multi-generational cast to England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, as the Queen goes visiting the countryside on the eve of the winter solstice. Tickets \$33-\$15. 7 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. www.revelsnorth.org. *Also December 17 & 18.*

HARTLAND. Winter Farmer's Market. We feature locally grown produce and hand-picked music. 4-7 pm at Damon Hall, Rts. 5 & 12. (802) 436-2500. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

JAY. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet & Counterpoint Holiday Concert. Nathan Lew leads the ensemble in a festive combination of brass and choral works. Tickets \$20/\$10. Performance at 7:30 pm at the International Room at Jay Peak Resort. For info call (802) 864-5741 or visit www.vso.org.

MIDDLEBURY. "Night Fires." A winter solstice celebration rooted in ancient traditions. Music, poetry and dance of many cultures, directed by Marianne Lust. Tickets \$20; seniors \$18; children under 18, \$15. 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. *Also December 17.*

RUTLAND. Rutland Youth Theatre presents Miracle on 34th Street, The Musical. A full Broadway production with live orchestra. Tickets: adults \$10, under 18 and seniors \$8, + tax. 7 pm at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. *Also December 17.*



Horizons Far and Near

Why am I so happy here on Judevine Mountain?
My friends say I should travel, see the world.

They say I would improve myself, broaden my perspectives, expand my horizons. Why can't

they understand I don't want to go anywhere except out into my woods, down the hill, across

the brook and up into the stand of big white pine about a half a mile from here.

—DAVID BUDBILL

Timberloft Farm Store

LOOK FOR THE BIG FARM MARKET ARROW
JUST OFF RT. 4B IN WEST RUTLAND, VT



Open daily noon - 6 pm til December 24

Wreaths & Sprays

— Handmade by Mary —

Christmas baked goods, jams,
jellies, pickles and crafts
including aprons & neck warmers.

Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist,
The Vermont Herbal General Store has all the answers you need!

Usul & Karuna Reiki
Healings & Classes
Chinese Ear Coning
Animal Healings w/Remedies
House or Barn Calls

The Vermont
Herbal
GENERAL STORE

Handmade Herbal Medicines
Crystals & Gemstones • Teas, Lotions, Capsules

578 Main St., W. Rutland, VT • (802) 438-2766

Open Wed thru Sat 12-6, some Sundays, or call for appointment.
See us on Facebook and Twitter • www.vermontherbal.com



We have...

Flags of All Nations...
And All 50 States... & More!

Flags, Poles, and
Accessories are the
World's Best Gifts!

Always in style
Always the right color
Always fits
Never need batteries

Gift
Certificates!

**M GREEN
MOUNTAIN
AWNING, INC**

36 Marble St., W. Rutland, VT
802-438-2951

Vermont Country Calendar

(December 16, continued)

SAXTONS RIVER. Songs for a Winter's Eve. A 14-voice adult chorus performs songs of the season and the children's chorus will add its own magical touch. Community sing, readings, duets, quartets and solos and concludes with the traditional Celtic blessing sung to a special light display. The Jelly Bean Tree crafts cooperative will be open. Free admission, donations are welcome. 7 pm. Main Street Arts. (802) 869-2960. mainstreetarts.org. Also December 17.

WOODSTOCK. Holiday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. Vegetarian dinner 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance at 6 pm; potluck dessert at 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-10:30 pm. \$8 donation includes dinner, under 18 free. Masonic Lodge on Rt. 4, 1/4 mile east of the Green. (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. *Third Fridays September through May.*

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Rides at Sugarbush Farm. Bundle up and enjoy a 45-minute sleigh ride through the maple woods with Belgian draft horses. Learn from the sugar maker how these trees are tapped in March and how sap is boiled. Warm up with cheese slices and hot drinks afterwards in the farm house. 11 am - 3 pm by reservation. Farm store open 9 am - 5 pm. Located outside Woodstock, snow tires suggested. Sugarbush Farm, 591 Sugarbush Farm Rd (gravel). (802) 457-1757. www.sugarbushfarm.com. *Through February 29.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

BARRE. The Green Mountain Nutcracker. Moving Light Dance Company presents this classic story with an original made-in-Vermont flair. Set in a rustic log cabin with contra dancing and music. See the Maple Sugar Fairy and the spectacular Waltz of the Leaves. Tickets \$24/\$12. 7 pm at the Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org. Also December 18.

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday Farmers Market. Stock up on winter produce, baked goods, fresh meats, roaster chickens, eggs, jams, teas, soaps, crafts! Live music. 10 am - 2 pm. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St. (802) 688-7210. walloomsac.org. Also January 21, February 18, March 17 & April 21.

BURLINGTON. The Nutcracker Ballet performed by the Vermont Ballet Theater. Follow the adventures of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince as they conquer the evil Mouse King and travel to the Land of Sweets where the Sugar Plum Fairy reigns. Sat. 2 & 7 pm and Sun. 1 & 6:30 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Main St. (802) 878-2941. www.vbts.org. Also December 18.

BURLINGTON. Workshop: Homemade Butter: Hands-on Activity at the Burlington Farmers' Market. Free. 10 am - 2 pm. Memorial Auditorium, 250 Main St. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

CHESTER. Jane Austen's Birthday Celebration. Join us at Inn Victoria for our annual, regal celebration weekend. The two night-two day affair includes three-course gourmet breakfasts, High Tea, an English-style Christmas dinner, and much more. Dress in Regency wear for the High Tea and Christmas dinner. Relax and enjoy live music of the Regency period by pianist Walter Sayer. Inn Victoria, 321 Main St. (802) 875-4288. www.innvictoria.com. Also December 18.

COLCHESTER. Concert With Peace Theme. Vermont Youth Orchestra Chorus & VT Youth Concert Chorale perform works that exemplify peace from different perspectives, traditions, ways of life. Jeffrey Buettner, conductor, and Annemieke Spoelstra, accompanist, in works of Hans Leo Hassler, Rachmaninoff, Eric Whitacre, and Haitian-born composer Sydney Guillaume. 7:30 pm. Elley-Long Music Center, 223 Ethan Allen Ave. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnitix.org

GRAFTON. Wine & Cheese Snowshoe Tour. Fee: \$15. Rental equipment available. 1 pm at Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. Please call to reserve. (802) 843-2400. graffonponds.com. Also December 24, 26, 28, 30 & 31.

GRAFTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet & Counterpoint Holiday Concert. Nathan Lew leads the ensemble in a festive combination of brass and choral works. Free admission but ticket required, available at Grafton Village Market. Performance at 5 pm at The White Church. For info call (802) 864-5741 or visit www.vso.org.

HANOVER, NH. The 37th Annual Christmas Revels: An Elizabethan Celebration of the Winter Solstice. Travel with the multi-generational cast to England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, as the Queen goes visiting the countryside on the eve of the winter solstice. Tickets \$33-\$15. 2 & 7 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422 or hop.dartmouth.edu. www.revelsnorth.org/xmas-revels. Also December 18.

HINESBURG. Winter Farmer's Market at Hinesburg Town Hall, corner of Rt. 116 and Charlotte Rd. 9 am - 2 pm. Wendy Ordway, (802) 482-3848.

HUNTINGTON. Winter Outing. Hike or snowshoe to the top of Camels Hump from the Huntington side. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Contact leader by 12/16. Call Peter Cotrell, (802) 879-0755. www.greenmountainclub.org.

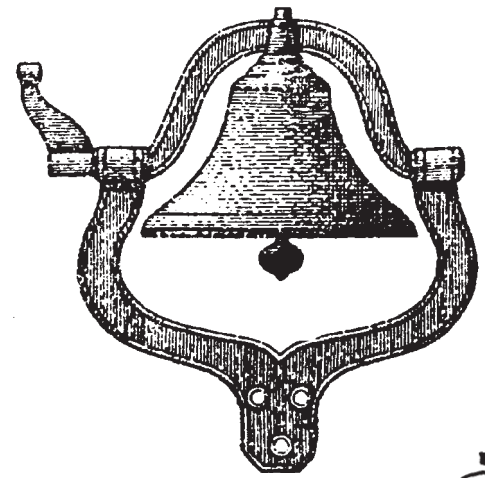
LUDLOW. The Feminine Tone Annual Holiday Concert. Hanukkah music, American gospel, jazz, a sacred and Latin American sets. Free. 7 pm. United Church of Ludlow, 48 Pleasant St. (802) 484-5097. www.femininetone.com.

LYME, NH. Winter Ski or Snowshoe Outing. Explore some lovely countryside, woods and fields, ups and downs. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Leader: Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. The Posh Pups Parade. Benefits Meals on Wheels of Bennington County. Sponsored by Manchester Designer Outlets, pups and their owners will vie for prizes for the best costume, most congenial pup and best trick. Noon. Crystal Palace to Manchester Square, Depot Street. (802) 362-3736.

MANCHESTER. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet & Counterpoint Holiday Concert. Nathan Lew leads the ensemble in a festive combination of brass and choral works. Tickets \$21, seniors and students \$18, under 18 free with adult ticket. Performance at 4 pm at the First Congregational Church. For info call (802) 864-5741 or visit www.vso.org.

MANCHESTER. The Stratton Foundation 50th Anniversary Winter Gala. Celebrate the mountain we all love! Cocktails, wine tasting, sit down dinner, live auction, silent auction, and dancing to The Knee Jerks. 7-11 pm at Stratton Base Lodge. Tickets \$125 per person. For reservations call (802) 297-2096. strattonfoundation.org.



Blueberry Ledges

(Formerly Hillbilly Flea Market)

—Antiques & Collectibles—
At Reasonable Prices

Clarence Walker (802) 342-6331

Open Daily 10-6 • bblac2008@yahoo.com

Route 4, Bridgewater, VT



Certified Organic Feeds By Vermont Organic Farms

21% Poultry Starter Grower Mash	16% Pig Grower Pellet
17% Poultry Grower Pellet	16% Pig Grower Mash
19% Broiler Grower Crumbles	Expelled Soybean
20% Calf Starter	Whole Roasted Soybean
Cracked Corn	16% Sheep & Goat Pellet
Whole Corn	26% Turkey Starter Mash
16% Dairy Pellet	21% Turkey Grower Pellets
20% Dairy Pellet	Whole Barley
13% Horse Feed	15% Whole Grain Mix
Natural Advantage 12 - Pellet	Whole Oats
16% Layer Mash	Molasses (1/Lb)
16% Coarse Layer Mash	Redmond Salt
16% Layer Pellet	Redmond Blocks (44 lbs)
	Kelpmeal • Scratch

Call for your nearest Wholesale Dealer.
All product available in standard 50# bags.

Bulk available upon request

Green Mountain Feeds

65 Main Street, Bethel, Vermont 05032

Phone: (802) 234-6278 • Fax: (802) 234-6578



Store Hours:
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

www.greenmountainfeeds.com

Christmas Morning

If Bethlehem were here today,
Or this were very long ago,
There wouldn't be a winter time
Nor any cold or snow.

I'd run out through the garden gate,
And down along the pasture walk;
And off beside the cattle barns
I'd hear a kind of gentle talk.

I'd move the heavy iron chain
And pull away the wooden pin;
I'd push the door a little bit
And tiptoe very softly in.

The pigeons and the yellow hens
And all the cows would stand away;
Their eyes would open wide to see
A lady in the manger hay.

If this were very long ago
And Bethlehem were here today.

And Mother held my hand and smiled—
I mean the lady would—and she
Would take the woolly blankets off
Her little boy so I could see.

His shut-up eyes would be asleep,
And he would look like our John,
And he would be all crumpled too,
And have a pinkish color on.

I'd watch his breath go in and out.
His little clothes would be all white.
I'd slip my finger in his hand
To feel how he could hold it tight.

And she would smile and say, "Take care,"
The mother, Mary, would, "Take care";
And I would kiss his little hand
And touch his hair.

While Mary put the blankets back
The gentle talk would soon begin.
And when I'd tiptoe softly out
I'd meet the wise men coming in.

—ELIZABETH MADOX ROBERTS



RAMUNTO'S BRICK & BREW PIZZA

Real New York Pizza
Awesome Pizza, Salads, Sandwiches

Open Mic
Tues Night

Thurs 5-8 • All-You-Can-Eat
Pasta, Garlic Knots,
Caesar Salad

20 Draft Beers • Pizza by the Slice
3 Flat Screen TV's

Mon-Thurs 11 am - 10 pm, Fri & Sat 11 am - 11 pm, Sun 11 am - 9 pm

Located at the historic Bridgewater Mill

Rt. 4 Bridgewater, VT • 802-672-1120

Poulin Grain Dealer



Maple Leaf
Farm & Garden
Supply, Inc.

Rt. 100A, Bridgewater Corners, VT

Christmas Trees & Wreaths
2011 Maple Syrup, Fresh Eggs, Winter Squash,
Rock Salt, Bird Seed & Feeders

Open Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30, Saturday 8:30-12:30
(802) 672-6223 • Bruce & Alice Paglia

Vermont Country Calendar

MIDDLEBURY. Cross-Country Ski on the Middlebury Golf Course. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Meet at 1 pm. Leader: Nancy Morgan, (802) 388-9868.

MIDDLEBURY. "Night Fires." A winter solstice celebration rooted in ancient traditions. Music, poetry and dance of many cultures. Tickets \$20; seniors \$18; children under 18, \$15. 4 & 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Youth Theatre presents *Miracle* on 34th Street. The Musical. Tickets: under 18 and seniors \$8, adults \$10 + tax. 2 & 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Christmas Concert with the Curbstone Chorus. 6 pm. At the Book King Bookstore, 11 Center St. (802) 282-4465.

SO. BURLINGTON. "Goodnight Irene" CD Release Party. A music tribute started a few days after Hurricane Irene stormed up the Eastern Seaboard landing in Vermont and flooding her. \$12 donation includes the \$10 CD. Doors open at 7:30 pm with live music from 8 pm - 1 am. At The Higher Ground. (802) 583-1156. www.vermontirene.com.

ST. ALBANS. Ballet Performance. A Winter Illumination will feature Northern Vermont Ballet & 802 Professional String Quartet. Works by Vivaldi, Corelli and Tchaikovsky. Sat. at 8 pm, Sunday at 5 pm. St. Albans Performing Arts Center, 71 S. Main St. (802) 527-0868. theballetschoolonline.com. Also December 18.

SAXTONS RIVER. Concert: Songs for a Winter's Eve. Free admission, donations welcome. 3 & 7 pm. Main Street Arts. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. St. Johnsbury Holiday Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. 10 am - 1 pm. (802) 592-3088.

STRATTON MOUNTAIN. Carolers and Tree Lighting Ceremony. Blue Moon Carolers sing in the village. Tree lighting ceremony with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Stratton Mountain Resort. (800) 787-2886. nkfouy@intrawest.com. www.stratton.com.

WOODSTOCK. Woodstock Vermont Film Series Screening: Beethoven's Hair. Admission: adults \$10, children 3-15 \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the 1890 Farm House, authentically decorated for the season where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Enjoy holiday programs and activities and making historic ornaments. The dairy farm will be open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 18 & 24.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

BARNET. Children's Day and Winter Solstice at Karme Chöling. Come for this morning and afternoon of festivities, crafts, and a play starring the Karmê Chöling staff. All are welcome. 10:30 am - 3:30 pm. Karmê Chöling, 369 Patneude Lane. (802) 633-2384.

BARRE. The Green Mountain Nutcracker. Moving Light Dance Company presents this classic story with an original made-in-Vermont flair. Set in a rustic log cabin with contra dancing and music. See the Maple Sugar Fairy and the spectacular Waltz of the Leaves. Tickets \$24/\$12. 7 pm at the Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org.

BRANDON. Live Nativity Christmas Presentation. Food and refreshments will be served. Free. 6 pm. Brandon Baptist Church, 13 Champlain St. (802) 274-3339.

HANOVER, NH. The 37th Annual Christmas Revels: An Elizabethan Celebration of the Winter Solstice. Travel with the multi-generational cast to England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, as the Queen goes visiting the countryside on the eve of the winter solstice. Tickets \$33-\$15. 1 & 5 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422 or hop.dartmouth.edu. www.revelsnorth.org/xmas-revels.

HARTLAND. The Feminine Tone Annual Holiday Concert. Hanukkah music, American gospel, jazz, a sacred and Latin American sets. Free. 4 pm. Hartland Unitarian Universalist Church, Hartland Four Corners. (802) 484-5097. www.femininetone.com.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book Signing and Reading. Willem Lange, author, and Bert Dodson, illustrator, present their book, *Favor Johnson*, and Bert Dodson and Carole Kitchell Bellew present *Helping Santa: My First Christmas Adventure with Grandma*. Free. 1 pm - 3 pm. The Northshire Bookstore. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

NORWICH. Snowshoe/Hike the Appalachian Trail. Cossingham Rd. to Happy Hill Shelter. Lovely woods, lots of short ups and downs. Approx. four miles. Sponsored by the Ottawaquechee of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Leader: Kathy Astraukas, (802) 785-4311. greenmountainclub.org.

PUTNEY. Putney Holiday Farmers Market at Green Mountain Orchards. Come for the best fresh local winter produce, jams & jellies, eggs, maple & honey, apples, cider, baked goods, delicious prepared foods. Jewelry, crafts, fiber arts, and great locally-made holiday gift ideas. 11 am - 2 pm. 130 West Hill Rd. (Directions: go west on Kimball Hill Rd. to Westminster Rd. to West Hill Rd. Orchard is on right.) For more information call Kristina Israel, (802) 387-4234. pcoopmarketing@gmail.com. www.putneyfarmersmarket.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the 1890 restored Farm House, authentically decorated for the season, where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Enjoy holiday programs and activities and making historic ornaments. The dairy farm will be open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Open 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 24.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

BRANDON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet and Counterpoint Holiday Concert. Brass and voices join forces for a rich range of festive repertoire, traditional carols and Renaissance pieces. Tickets \$21 adults, \$18 students and seniors, free for children under 18 with adult ticket purchase. 7-9 pm. Brandon Congregational Church. (802) 465-4131.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Performance: Natalie MacMaster—Christmas in Cape Breton. Grammy-nominated Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster is one of the most versatile and exciting young musicians on both the Folk music and Celtic music scenes. Hosted by Kingdom County Productions. Tickets \$42/\$35/\$29. 7 pm. Fuller Hall. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

BURLINGTON. Workshop: Cheese & Chocolate Fondue. Savor the warmth and glow of fondue during the darkest days of the year. We will make a classic Swiss fondue, a Vermont cheese variation, and a chocolate fondue with delectable treats for dessert. Free. 6-7:30 pm. Sustainability Academy, 123 North St. (802) 861-9700. citymarket.coop.

HANOVER, NH. Snowshoe/Hike the Appalachian Trail. Trescott Rd. to Velvet Rocks. 4.5 miles, short car spot. Sponsored by the Ottawaquechee of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Leader: Kathy Astraukas, (802) 785-4311. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MANCHESTER. Holiday Open House. Join library staff for mulled cider, desserts, and holiday music! Free admission, everyone is welcome. Tues 10-6; Wed 10-8; Thurs 10-6. Mark Skinner Library, 48 West Rd. (802) 362-2607. Through December 23.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Nutcracker—The Bolshoi Ballet. In High Definition and surround-sound stereo. Hosted by Kingdom County Productions. Tickets \$15/\$6. 7 pm. Theater One. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

BRATTLEBORO. Fifth Annual Winter Solstice Celebration. Snuggle down in the horse-drawn sleigh. Watch stars that seem close enough to touch. Enjoy the beauty of a stream lit by candles and ice lanterns. Half-hour rides are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids under 12, no reservations needed. (Inclement weather night: Thurs. Dec. 22, check for message at (802) 254-9067.) 4:30-7:30 pm. Fair Winds Farm, 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30 just 2 miles from downtown. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

BURKE. Ski Touring the Kingdom: Early Bird Gets the Turn! Want to get your turns in early on the shortest day of the year? Join our group for a solstice skin up Burke Mountain—ascending about 1,500 feet to the summit fire tower and making turns down a groomed, intermediate trail. Fee: \$10. Meet at the Mid-Burke Lodge parking lot at 7 am. Sponsored by North Woods Stewardship Center. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

SHELBURNE. A Solstice Celebration. The Light of Creation Awakening One's Authentic Self and Receiving the Gifts of Heaven. Zacciah Blackburn, Ph.D., presents an in-depth practice to gain direct insight and access to one's higher states, or, realms of wisdom, through an ancient initiatory practice to activate our highest potential, or that known as the "Celestial Soul," our highest individual consciousness. 7-9:30 pm. All Souls Interfaith Gathering, 291 Bostwick Farm Rd. (802) 674-9585.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

BARRE. Concert: The Boston String Quartet. New England's leading contemporary string ensemble will perform a "Celtic Christmas Extravaganza." They will be joined by a full chorus and award-winning Celtic vocalist, Pan Morigan. Tickets \$25/\$18. 7 pm at the Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Steam Heat—A Holiday Extravaganza. Presented by Town Hall Theater Young Company Show Choir. A perfect holiday concert for the whole family! Tickets \$10; children 12 and under \$5. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. Also December 23.



Horse-Drawn Holiday Sleigh Rides at Shelburne Farms

For a picture-perfect 'winter in Vermont' holiday experience, listen to the sleigh bells jingle as you ride through the snowy fields of Shelburne Farms behind a team of beautiful dapple-grey Percheron draft horses.

Daily Holiday Sleigh Rides

Enjoy a 15-minute sleigh rides daily from December 22 through January 1 (except Christmas Day) between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and weekends through February. Seats are first-come, first served, and there aren't any reservations. The fee for the sleigh rides is \$8 adult, \$6 child and children under 3 are free. Call (802) 985-8442 for information.

Romantic Evening Sleigh Rides

Join Pat Palmer of Thornapple Farm and his team of handsome draft horses, for a winter evening of star gazing. Evening sleigh rides are offered on December 22, December 26, December 30, January 21, February 14 and February 25 at 6 p.m., 6:45 and 7:30. Put on your woolies and be ready for winter weather with a thermos of a warm beverage for a half-hour ride.

For members, the rides are \$15 for adults, \$10 for a child and free for children under 3. All rides are weather-permitting. For reservations call (802) 985-8686.

Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshop

Victoria Dilley, the floral magician who makes the spectacular arrangements for the Inn at Shelburne Farms, will share her design talents, helping you to decorate a special wreath for your holiday home. The Holiday Wreath Decorating workshop will be on December 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at Shelburne Farms.

You bring an undecorated wreath and transform it, using natural materials from the woods and fields of Shelburne Farms—materials we will provide for you. Fee for the workshop is \$15. Register by calling (802) 985-8686.

Kitchen Goodies & Gifts from the Land!

This popular family workshop for children with an accompanying adult takes place on December 10 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Youngsters will go home from Shelburne Farms with holiday goodies to share with their families or to give as gifts, and some "green" crafts for decorating the house.

Mix up easy, holiday goodies to give as gifts, and take home a recipe to continue the creative fun. There will be crafts inspired by natural 'found' objects, like a door decoration made from evergreen branches or a pencil holder made from a 'tree cookie.' It's a chance to have fun with others and be inspired to make thoughtful, handmade gifts this season.

The fee is \$23 for an adult and child, and \$17 for each additional child. Call (802) 985-8686 to register.

Shelburne Farms is located at 1611 Harbor Rd. in Shelburne VT. The Welcome Center, Farm Store, and Walking Trails are open for the winter. For information call (802) 985-0328. Visit us at www.shelburnefarms.org.

RIVERKNOLL – Rock Shop

554 VT Rt. 100 - Stockbridge, Vermont 05772



Gifts & Jewelry
Crystals & Mineral Specimens
Lapidary Equipment & Supplies
Gem Cutting Instruction
Collecting Equipment
Bead Restringing

The Gibsons

(802) 746-8198

Pittsfield Garden Center

Route 100

Christmas Trees

Wreaths • Kissing Balls

Fresh Holiday Arrangements.

Call or stop by (802) 746-8100

Vermont Country Calendar

(December 22, continued)

STOWE. 20th Annual Community Messiah Sing-In. Sing Handel's great choruses with a full orchestra. No rehearsal required. Singers and listeners both welcome. Scores available but bring your own if you have one. By donation. Doors open 6:30 pm, singing starts 7 pm. Stowe Community Church, Main St. (802) 253-7257. www.gostowe.com.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Steam Heat—A Holiday Extravaganza. Presented by Town Hall Theater Young Company Show Choir. Tickets \$10; children 12 and under \$5. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

MIDDLEBURY. New Year's Eve with The Horse Traders. Tickets \$15. 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

BERLIN. "Homegrown in the Tradition" Montpelier Contra Dance. Music by our own house band of friends and neighbors. Dessert potluck at the break. All levels of dancing welcome. No partner needed. Bring soft-soled shoes to save the floor. Admission. 8-11 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org. *Continues every other 4th Saturday.*

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Indoor market featuring local farms products including produce, apples, eggs, grass-fed meats, cider, syrup, preserves, locally grown house plants, baked goods, local wines, pottery, jewelry, handmade soaps, hats, scarves and more. Delicious lunches featuring locally grown foods, and live music in the lunch cafe. A project of Post Oil Solutions. 10 am – 3 pm at the River Garden, 153 Main St. For more information call (802) 869-2141. www.postoilsolutions.org. Also open every Saturday through March.

GRAFTON. Wine & Cheese Snowshoe Tour. Fee: \$15. Rental equipment available. 1 pm at Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. Please call to reserve. (802) 843-2400. grafonponds.com. *Also Dec 26, 28, 30 & 31.*

SMUGGLERS NOTCH. Christmas Holiday Fun at Smugglers' Notch Resort. The holiday week is full of special activities. Christmas Eve begins with Santa Claus and his elves at 7 pm followed by a torchlight parade and fireworks with the snow-covered Green Mountains as a backdrop. Festivities conclude with a candlelight service. (802) 644-8851. www.smuggs.com. *Through December 25.*

WILMINGTON. Christmas Eve Sleigh Rides. Enjoy a private sleigh ride for two snuggled up under our bearskin lap robe. This sleigh is pulled by a single Morgan horse through the woods, across the ridge of the mountain and back to the farm. Complete with German Sleigh bells, the ride lasts about 40 minutes and is available in the afternoon and evening (weather permitting). Christmas eve sleigh ride for a larger group is pulled by a team of Belgian draft horses to a log cabin in the woods for a cup of hot chocolate. Reservations required. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill. (802) 464-3762. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the 1890 Farm House, authentically decorated for the season where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Enjoy holiday programs and activities and making historic ornaments. The dairy farm will be open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

GRAFTON. Wine & Cheese Snowshoe Tour. Fee: \$15. Rental equipment available. 1 pm at Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. Please call to reserve. (802) 843-2400. grafonponds.com. *Also December 28, 30 & 31.*

WAITSFIELD. Holiday Week Naturalist Series. Join us this holiday week to discover what animals and trees are doing this time of year, and how they have prepared for the long cold months ahead. Easy to moderate difficulty, all ages welcome. 10:30 am and 1:30 pm each day. Mad River Glen Cooperative. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. www.madriverglen.com. *Through January 1.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the authentically decorated 1890 Farm House where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Make historic ornaments. Holiday programs and activities. Sleigh or wagon rides. Dairy farm open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also December 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and January 1.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

FAIRLEE. 23rd Annual New Year's Family Camp at Hulbert Outdoor Center. Explore the winter woodlands on snowshoes, learn about dogsledding, skate, listen to stories by the fire or spend a day skiing, and much more! Cabins and family-style meals. (802) 333-3405. www.alohafoundation.org. *Through January 1.*

LEBANON, NH. Cross-Country Ski or Walk the Lebanon Rail Trail. Four miles, flat, easy. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Leader: Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the authentically decorated 1890 Farm House where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Make historic ornaments. Holiday programs and activities. Sleigh or wagon rides. Dairy farm open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also December 28, 29, 30, 31 and Jan. 1.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

GRAFTON. Wine & Cheese Snowshoe Tour. Fee: \$15, 1 pm. Also Family Snowshoe Walk at 1 pm, fee: \$10 per person. Rental equipment available. At Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. Please call to reserve. (802) 843-2400. grafonponds.com.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the authentically decorated 1890 Farm House where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Make historic ornaments. Holiday programs and activities. Sleigh or wagon rides. Dairy farm open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also December 29, 30, 31 and January 1.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

GRAFTON. New to Nordic Skiing Clinic. Fee: \$20, 10 am. Also snowshoe around Bear Mountain, a more advanced hike, fee: \$10, 10:30 am. Rental equipment available. At Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. Please call to reserve. (802) 843-2400. grafonponds.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: New Riders of the Purple Sage. Tickets \$25. 8 pm at the Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. tupelohallvermont.com.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the authentically decorated 1890 Farm House where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Make historic ornaments. Holiday programs and activities. Sleigh or wagon rides. Dairy farm open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also December 30, 31 and January 1.*

Join the Adventure, Join the
Green Mountain Club!
Protecting and Maintaining
Vermont's Long Trail Since 1910
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, VT 05677
(802) 244-7037 • www.greenmountainclub.org

**Dandelion Acres
Garden Center**
Local Christmas Trees • Wreaths
Loads of Ornaments • Unique Gifts
Holiday Hours: closing Oct 31, reopening Nov 17-Dec 23
Bethel, VT • I-89 Exit 3, 1 1/2 mi. west on Rt. 107
(802) 234-6622 • (888) 234-6622 • Gift Certificates

Crazy Good Produce
Local & Hand Selected Products
Chef Prepared Meals
Chef's Market Grab-n-Go
Full Service
Boar's Head Deli
Chef's Market Catering
Vermont Handcraft Gallery

839 RT. 12 SOUTH, RANDOLPH, VT
SCOTT & TAMMY ARONSON • (802) 728-4202
Open: Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-3
www.chefsmarketvt.com
— SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS FIRST —

Current Road Conditions A Phone-Call Away
1-800-ICY-ROAD
A Free Service of the Vermont State Police

The Corner Frame Shop
Custom Frames & Matting
Readymade Frames & Mirrors
18 S. Main St., Randolph, VT
(802) 728-4426 • Mon, Wed, Fri 9-4 or by appt.
Shari Voghell • savoghell@yahoo.com • Est. 1994

Lamps • Stained Glass • Bears, Bears, Bears • Framed Prints
Royal Towne Gifts
Three floors of unusual crafts,
beautiful gifts, and home accessories.
Holidays Are Here!
Our Christmas Shop
Is Brand New
And Fully Stocked

Kringle, McCalls & Woodwick Candles • Linens
Twin Birch Bath & Body Mountain Country Soaps
Willow Tree Cards & Statues • New VT Food Lines
Silver Forest Jewelry • Braided & Hooked Rugs
New Greeting Card Lines • Bearington Bears
Gracious Journey Statues • Beautiful New Handbags,
Socks & Scarves Lines
Try Our Delicious Fudge in Homemade and Seasonal
Flavors including Cranberry and Candy Cane
Rt. 107, Royalton, VT
(802) 763-2537 • I-89 Exit 3 (Bethel)
Open Daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
We Ship • Credit Cards Accepted
Jewelry • Braided & Hooked Rugs • VT & NH Handcrafts

**GERRY L. WHITE
SNOWMOBILE
PARTS & SALES**
Biggest Inventory and Best Prices in the Area
Large Selection of OEM and Aftermarket Parts
& Accessories for All Makes and Models
Good Selection of Used Sleds & Parts.
Open Evenings & Weekends • (802) 234-9368
31 Arctic Cat Road, Bethel, VT
gwhite1948@myfairpoint.net

Mills Hardware
Main Street, Bethel, VT • (802) 234-7250
Vermont Castings
Wood & Gas Stoves • Grills • Parts
Authorized Dealer

Karen & Scott Mills
Hours: Mon-Fri 7-6, Saturday 7:30-5, Sunday 8-1

**Bethel
VILLAGE
SANDWICH
Shop**
Great Sandwiches
Your Morning Stop
For Pastries, Muffins
And Great Coffee by
Speeder & Earls
Open Mon-Fri 7 am – 4 pm, Sat 8 am – 2 pm
Call Ahead for Orders to Go
269 Main Street, Bethel VT
(802) 234-9910

FARM-ALL-FIX
Farm Machinery Repair
Specializing in Repairs & Restoration of Older Tractors
1236 Rt. 12N, Randolph, VT • (802) 728-3390
(Across from Mid-State Riding Rink)
"Oil Change to Overhaul"
Jonsered Chain Saws
New and Used Tractor Parts
Ariens Snow Blowers
Open Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-Noon
- Mike McPhetres -


Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the authentically decorated 1890 Farm House where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Make historic ornaments. Holiday programs and activities. Sleigh or wagon rides. Dairy farm open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 31 and January 1.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

BRATTLEBORO. Last Night Sleigh Rides. Along with Brattleboro's Last Night Celebration, we offer these rides on a no-reservations-needed basis. Sleigh or wagon, rain or shine, 20 minute rides. Adults \$6, under 12: \$4. Fair Winds Farm, 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30 just two miles from downtown. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Indoor market featuring local farms products including produce, apples, eggs, grass-fed meats, cider, syrup, preserves, locally grown house plants, baked goods, local wines, pottery, jewelry, handmade soaps, hats, scarves and more. Delicious lunches featuring locally grown foods, and live music in the lunch cafe. A project of Post Oil Solutions. 10 am - 3 pm at the River Garden, 153 Main St. For more information call (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilolutions.org. www.postoilolutions.org. Also open every Saturday through March.

BURLINGTON. First Night Burlington 2012. 29th New Year's Eve Festival of the Arts. Hundreds of artists and musicians, shows, activities. Buy a button and enjoy it all. Adults \$18.69, children \$4.67. Noon to midnight. (802) 863-6005. info@firstnightburlington.com. www.firstnightburlington.com.

GRAFTON. Happy New Year Celebration. A New Year's Eve bonfire party with s'mores for the whole family! Owl Prowl—snowshoe with a naturalist. Rental equipment available. 7 pm. Also Wine and Cheese Snowshoe Tour, fee: \$15, at 1 pm. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. Please call to reserve. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

LUDLOW. Okemo's Family New Year's Eve. Ice skating, snowtubing, snowshoeing, mountain coaster rides, horse-drawn wagon rides, cookie decorating, bingo games and trivia tournament. A DJ dance party, party games, a pizza party dinner, balloons, noisemakers and fireworks 8-9:30 pm. Activity wristband \$30; activities and roundhouse dance party, \$45 (ages 7 and up), \$39 for adults. 5-9 pm. Jackson Gore Base Area. (802) 228-4041. www.okemo.com.

MANCHESTER. Concert: The Manchester Festival Strings. Celebrate with waltzes, tangos, baroque favorites, and Auld Lang Syne. Family concert 4 pm, \$10 adults, children 18 & under free. Full program 6 pm, \$27 adults, \$10 students, followed by chocolates and bubbly. First Congregational Church. Tickets at www.mmftvt.org, at Northshire Bookstore, and at the door. (802) 362-1956. info@mmftvt.org.

MONTGOMERY. New Years with the Dogs! Montgomery Adventures invites you to a fun filled night of dog sledding, snowshoeing, sledding, and a huge bon fire. Hamburgers and hotdogs cooked on the grill, baked beans, coleslaw, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, sodas and lots of fun! \$85 per person, call to reserve. 9 pm till 1 am. Mt. Haven Sled Dogs, 262 Deep Gibou Rd. (802) 326-2021. Visit montgomeryadventures.com. mthavensledogs@yahoo.com.

MONTPELIER. 18th Annual First Night Montpelier 2012. Music, arts, and family activities in 14 downtown locations from noon to 10 pm. Performances begin at noon with all-time favorite Marko the Magician and Hypnotist at City Hall Arts Center. Among the returning artists are No Strings Marionettes, Willem Lange, Burr Morse, Starline Rhythm Boys, Karen Kevra, Tammy Fletcher, and the Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra. Newcomers include Michele Choiniere, Linda Warner & the Drumatics, Skellig and PuppeTree. One button gets you everything: \$18, kids 3 and under free. (802) 371-9242. montpelieralive.org.

NORWICH. New Year's Eve Contradance. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Enjoy live music and experience these traditional social dances easily learned by young and old alike. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners welcome. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$10. 8 pm. At Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Continues fourth Saturdays through May 2012.

STRATTON MOUNTAIN. New Year Eve Celebration. Fire works, torchlight parade, live music, family activities and much more. Ring in the New Year at Stratton. 6-10 pm at the base area. Stratton Mountain Resort. (800) 787-7666. nkfour@intrawest.com. stratton.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. 19th Annual First Night 2012. Family-friendly, alcohol-free festival of the arts—dozens of shows and venues. All kinds of music—folk, pop, rock, blues, bluegrass, Broadway, sacred, contemporary and classical, played and sung by soloists, ensembles, choruses, and bands. Ballet and breakdance, magic and hypnosis shows, juggling and comedy acts, and lots of food. Pancake supper at 10 pm, fireworks at midnight! Buy a button and do everything for \$17/\$12/pre-schoolers free. 4 pm to midnight. On and near Main St. (802) 748-2603. www.firstnightstj.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. First Night at the Fairbanks Museum. We'll tour the galaxy with special planetarium shows. Reserve your ticket - shows fill quickly. 7-10 pm. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org

WAITSFIELD. Mad River Glen—Tubbs Snowshoe Festival. Try out a pair of Tubbs snowshoes for free! Explore our snowshoe trail network at Stark Mountain or sign up for a Naturalist Program at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Free admission. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Mad River Glen Cooperative. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. www.madriverglen.com.

WARREN. Fireworks and Torchlight Parade. Beginning at 6:45 pm at Lincoln Peak, Sugarbush Resort. (802) 583-6300. sugarbush.com.

WESTMORE. Mt. Hor Hop. Join the fine folks from Memphremagog Ski Touring Foundation for their annual 5/10k freestyle race in one of the most breathtaking settings of all New England—Mt. Hor, at the edge of dramatic Lake Willoughby. Starts at 9 am. (802) 334-7144. www.nensa.net.

WEST RUTLAND. Annual Christmas Bird Count and Potluck. Join Rutland County Audubon Society for the birding highlight of the year. Consider joining one of the field teams or becoming a feeder watcher. The count is followed by a potluck supper (beverages and utensils provided) at the Proctor Library, 6 pm. Contact Roy Pilcher (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WILMINGTON. New Year's Eve Sleigh Rides. Enjoy a private sleigh ride for two snuggled up under our bearskin lap robe. This sleigh is pulled by a single Morgan horse through the woods, across the ridge of the mountain and back to the farm. Complete with German Sleigh bells, the ride lasts about 40 minutes and is available in the afternoon and evening (weather permitting). New Year's Eve sleigh ride for a larger group is pulled by a team of Belgian draft horses to a log cabin in the woods for a cup of hot chocolate. Reservations required. Adams Farm, 15 Higley Hill. (802) 464-3762. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com.

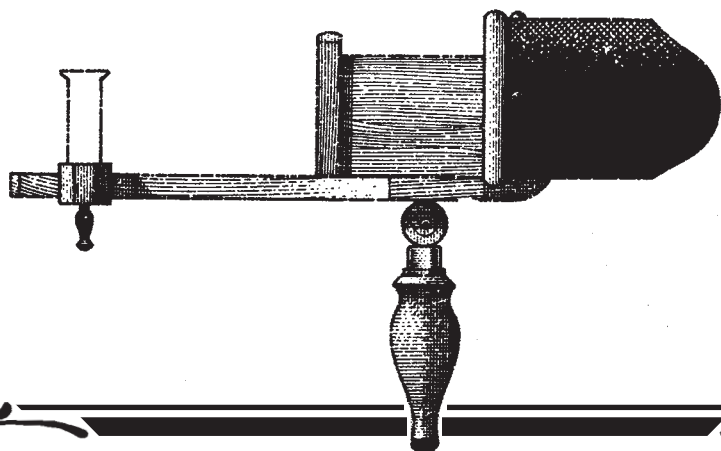
WOODSTOCK. Woodstock Vermont Film Series Screening: Troll Hunter. Admission: adults \$10, children 3-15 \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the authentically decorated 1890 Farm House where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Make historic ornaments. Holiday programs and activities. Sleigh or wagon rides. Dairy farm open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 1.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

CASTLETON. Science Pub. Hosted by The Friends of Castleton Library at area restaurants with Castleton State College. Join friends and neighbors for an informal afternoon of learning and drinks (free, except for the drinks), and consider staying for dinner. Topic: "Is Our War on Bacteria Making Us Sick?" 4-5:30 pm. Lakehouse Pub and Grill, Rt. 30 on Lake Bomoseen. (802) 468-5574.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Visit the authentically decorated 1890 Farm House where preparations are underway for the holiday meal. Make historic ornaments. Holiday programs and activities. Sleigh or wagon rides. Dairy farm open for touring. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.



It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears

Richard S. Willis



It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-ri-ous
Still thro' the clo-ven skies they come, With peace-ful
And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, Whose forms are
For lo! the days are has-tening on. By pro-phet-



song of old, From an-gels bend-ing near the earth
wings un-furled, And still the heav-en-ly mu-sic floats
bend-ing low, Who toil a-long the climb-ing way
bards fore-told, When with the ev-er-cir-cling years



To touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good
O'er all the wea-ry world: A-bove its sad and
With pain-ful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and
Comes round the age of gold: When peace shall o-ver



will to men, From heav-en's all-gra-cious King." The world in
low-ly plains They bend on hover-ing wing, And ev-er
gold-en hours Come swift-ly on the wing: O rest be-
all the earth Its an-cient splen-dors fling, And the whole



Route 66 Garden Center & Farm Stand

Open for the
Holiday Season.

Christmas Trees,
Wreaths,
Roping, Holiday
Decorations.



Randolph, VT • (802) 728-6222

Monday-Saturday 9-5:30, Sunday 10-4

For the Best
All Season Sports Equipment

Snowsville
GENERAL STORE
SINCE 1830

GUNS • HANDGUNS • AMMO • SCOPES

Large In-Stock Inventory of Hunting Rifles, Shotguns
and Handguns • Reloading Supplies • Buck Knives
Hunting & Work Boots • Muzzle Loading Supplies
and Accessories • Hunting & Fishing Licenses
Fishing Gear: Flies, Lures, Trilene Line,
Night Crawlers and Worms in Season

"We're the Capitol of Trades
Home of the Wheeler Dealer!"

Complete Line of Groceries & Beer.

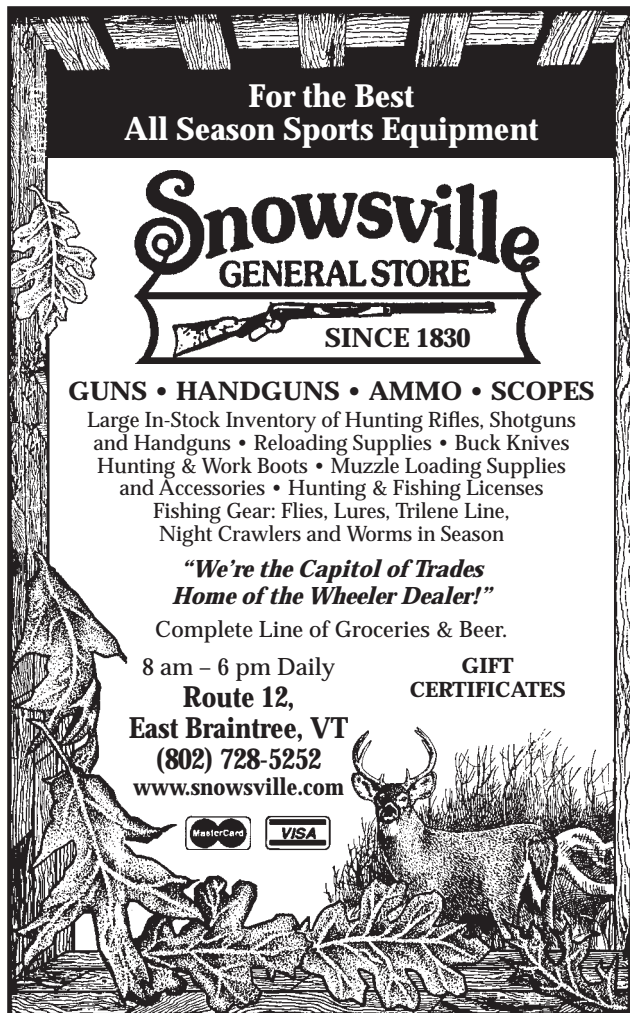
8 am - 6 pm Daily
Route 12,

East Braintree, VT
(802) 728-5252

www.snowsville.com



GIFT
CERTIFICATES



Gifts from the Farm

It's chilly December and the holidays are upon us, time to think about curling up with a soft Vermont-made mohair, wool, or alpaca blanket. Find out about the handmade, homegrown gifts that our friends and neighbors are creating for us—throws, comforters, blankets, mittens, scarves, yarn, sheepskins! The blankets are available in a variety of colors and styles—from natural browns and whites to dyed blankets. You can find these goods at a holiday fair or winter farmers market or you can order directly from the farm, sometimes with a visit. Be sure to call ahead.

Alpacas of Windmill Hill Farm

Laura M. Solomon, 842 Grassy Brook Rd., Brookline, VT 05345. (802) 348-9300. trelex88@gmail.com. www.windmillhillartisans.etsy.com. We use hand-spun yarn from our organically raised alpacas to hand-knit/hand-crochet blankets. Alpaca wool is warmer and softer than sheep's wool. Our custom-made blankets are available year round in all sizes in natural colors including grey, white, fawn, black, or a combination—100% Alpaca! Call to request size, color, and design then pick up by appointment between 10-5 at the farm. Shipping available. We can also provide kits to make them.

Broadbrook Mountain Farm

Holly Nash Wolff, 260 Nash Rd., Royalton, VT 05068. (802) 763-7282. bmfoctavia@valley.net. Natural-colored blankets made from premium, silky fleece from 100% purebred Romney Sheep. Sheep are naturally raised on grass and organic hay; no pesticides or chemicals used. Very strong fiber from a calm, healthy flock. Queen-sized blankets are \$325 each; single-sized are \$200. If interested, please email us to order and arrange payment.

Green Meadows Farm

Sharon Poitras and Joseph Plummer, 2720 Townshend Rd., Grafton, VT 05146. (802) 843-2452. joeingrafton@yahoo.com. www.greenmeadowsfarmvt.com. The Plummer family farms have been in existence for over sixty years, and take great pride in providing customers with the best-quality wool products at our farm store and on the web. We offer wool blankets, yarn, wool and animal fiber, fleece, hides, roving, and other wool products.

Laughing River Farm

Dori Galton, North Hartland, VT 05052. (802) 295-3252. dorigalton@valley.net. All the wool from my farm and a farm in Chelsea used to create our custom designed blankets, woven on vintage industrial 18-harness looms. Available year round in throw and queen-size—in natural shades of brown, chestnut and gray. To purchase, call for appointment then visit the farm.

Maple Ridge Sheep Farm

Linda Doane, 1187 Connecticut Corners, Braintree, VT 05060. (802) 728-3081. mrsf@mrsf.com. mrsf.com. We have America's first flock of Shetland Sheep, raised under grass-based, organic and humane guidelines. Our 60 x 80 blankets are handmade from our Shetland wool. They come in traditional coverlet weave (white with a natural color) or in checkerboard twill weave (white with red, green, blue, black, or gray). The blankets are currently available at the farm. Please call before visiting.



Grace Bowmer holds a lamb at Tamarack Tunis in Corinth, VT. Grace and her partner Ben Machin raise heritage Tunis sheep, one of America's oldest livestock breeds, on the farm.

Seldom Seen Farm

Dan and Nancy Martin, 24 Seldom Seen Farm Rd., Newbury, VT 05051. (802) 584-3132, fax: (802) 584-3132. appraisals@fairpoint.net. Year-round, we produce 100% wool blankets from the wool of our mixed flock of Romney and Suffolk sheep. The blankets come in a variety of colors and sizes. There are colored and natural patterns in queen-size (78" x 104") and lap/stadium (48" x 60"). To purchase, visit our farm after calling ahead.

Shepherd's Hill Farm

Ellen Terie, 25 Hartwood Way, Taftsville, VT 05073. (802) 457-3087, fax: (802) 457-3087. ellenterie@gmail.com. shepherdshillfarm.com. We produce high-quality agricultural products; grass-fed lamb, honey, eggs, wool, and wool blankets are available directly from the farm. We use sustainable farming methods as an alternative to factory farming to promote small local farms as well as agricultural and environmental awareness. B&B guests are welcome to participate in farm activities.

Stonethrow Farm

Katherine Smith, 136 Jack Perry Rd., Wallingford, VT 05773-9350. (802) 446-3325. katsmith@vermontel.net. I am a handspinner with a mixed flock of Angora goats, Blueface Leicester, Romney and Cormo sheep and their crosses. I have lustrous coated fleeces for handspinning as well as roving, clouds, and pin-drafted sliver. Three styles of luxury yarn, machine-spun using my homegrown soft mohair.

Limited amounts of handspun yarn and died mohair locks. Sheepskins. Registered breeding stock available as well as crossbred sheep for the handspinners flock.

Tamarack Tunis

Ben Machin and Grace Bowmer, 913 Young Rd., Corinth, VT 05039. (802) 439-3833. benandgrace@tamaracktunis.com. www.tamaracktunis.com. Tunis is one of the oldest American livestock breeds, dating to the 1700s. Tamarack Tunis is a grass-based farm raising heritage Tunis lamb. We produce wool comforters, eco-spun tunis yarn and tanned sheepskins. Visit our website or call for orders.

Vermont Grand View Farm

Kim and Chuck Goodling, 1638 Scales Hill Rd., Washington, VT 05675. (802) 685-4693. kimgoodling@yahoo.com. www.grandviewfarmvt.net. We raise purebred Romney sheep, angora goats, llamas, and angora rabbits for their fiber. We offer yarn, roving, and Romney lambs. We are a diverse fiber farm offering Vermont yarn CSA shares, B&B style farm stays, and fiber classes and camps. Visit our online store at woolhandcrafts.etsy.com.

For more listings and other useful information, subscribe to Tidbits, a free web publication of Valley Food & Farm. Call (802) 291-9100. Visit www.vitalcommunities.org.



Eaton's Sugar House Restaurant & Gift Shop

Vermont Maple Products & Cheese
Old-fashioned Toys, Unique Gifts, Local Books
One-Stop Shopping for the Holidays
Tons of Stocking Stuffers!
Open Daily 7 am - 3 pm
Royalton, VT • At Rts 14 & 107, east of I-89, exit 3
(802) 763-8809, eatonssugarhouse.com

Mid-State Draft Pony Association
Includes draft horses & ponies.
Your membership is welcomed.
Send \$5/yearly dues to:
Robert Tracy • (802) 234-5109
560 Stackpole Rd., Bethel, VT 05032

Mai Thai
AUTHENTIC THAI CUISINE

Come enjoy authentic Thai cuisine and relax in our comfortable dining room-lounge.

Thai Cuisine

Red, Green, Yellow, Masaman, Panang & Mai Thai Special Curries

Also, Meat & Seafood Specials:
Including chicken, beef, pork, and duck, and salmon, cod, catfish, scallops, squid and shrimp.

Open: Mon-Thurs 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri & Sat 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Phone (603) 643-9980
Fax (603) 643-9984
44 South Main St., Hanover, NH
www.maithaicuisine.com

Sticky Buns Bakery & Cafe L.L.C.

Homemade Pastries, Pies, Cakes, Breads. Catering. Special Orders Welcome.

190 Chelsea St., So. Royalton, VT 05068
Mon-Fri 7-6, Sat 8-6, Sun 9-3 • (802) 763-7070

Draft Animal Power Network

Become a Member!

Individual \$20, Family \$30, Farm/Business Member \$75, Founders Club \$100 or more. Please make checks out to: DAPNet. Send payment with name, address, phone, e-mail and web address to: DAPNet Membership, 271 Plank Rd., Vergennes, VT 05491. Questions: call Jean Cross at (802) 392-4504.

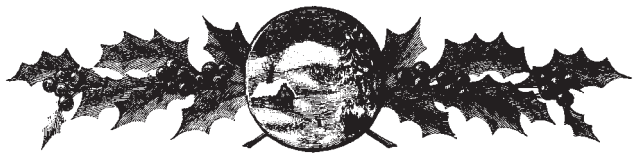
draftanimalpowernetwork.org

Bulk Foods Café
Local Meats Breads

Artisanal Cheeses Dairy Pet Foods

Local, organic, and conventional produce, a full selection of groceries, and home cooking. Check out our selection of wine and beer and the homebrew department.

Open Daily • 802.763.2400
On South Royalton's historic Village Green.
(Located between Exits 2 and 3 on I-89)
www.soromarket.com or SoRo Market on FB



Vermont Holiday Farmers Markets

Start your holiday shopping with a trip to a Farmer's Market and you'll be pleased at how much of your holiday table can be from Vermont, locally-grown and better tasting.

You'll find all sorts of crafts and evergreens, just in time for Christmas. At some markets you can enjoy music and entertainment and have a snack while you shop.

Bellows Falls Holiday Farmers' Market at Boccelli's on the Canal. Friday, December 16 from 4 to 7 p.m. Mandy Walsh, (802) 376-5784. www.bffarmersmarket.com.

Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday Farmers Market at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant Street. Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org.

Brattleboro Winter Holiday Farmers' Market at River Garden, 153 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Dec. 3, Dec. 10 & Dec. 17. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Dec. 24 & Dec. 31. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141.

Burlington Holiday Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. Saturdays, Dec. 3 & 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Champlain Islands—South Hero Holiday Farmers' Market at South Hero Congregational Church. Saturdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Dec. 3 & 17. Denise Boutin, (802) 372-3291. www.champlainislandsfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

Craftsbury Holiday Markets at Sterling College, Simpson Hall, Craftsbury Common. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31. Carole Drury, (802) 533-2359.

Dorset Holiday Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Dec. 4, 11 & 18. Nicole Henry (802) 867-7080. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Groton Growers' Holiday Farmers Market at Groton Community Gym. Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mary Berlejung, (802) 584-3595.

Hartland Winter Farmers' Market at Damon Hall, Rts. 5 & 12, Hartland Three Corners. Friday 4-7 p.m., December 16. Sharon Irwin, (802) 436-2500. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

Hinesburg Winter Farmer's Market at Hinesburg Town Hall, corner of Rt. 116 and Charlotte Rd. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17. Wendy Ordway, (802) 482-3848.

Lamoille Valley Farmers' Artisan Market at River Arts Center on Pleasant St., in Morrisville. Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Amy Walker. farmersartisanmarket.com.

Ludlow Farmers' Holiday Market at Ludlow Teen Center, 106 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31. Jerry Milligan, (802) 734-3829. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org.

Lyndonville Winter Holiday Farmers' Market at Tom Breslin Community Center on Main St. (Rt. 5) Saturday,



Barn and trees all asleep for the winter in Barnard, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Brian Titus, (802) 533-7455.

Middlebury Farmer's Market at American Flatbread Restaurant in the Marbleworks. Saturday, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pam Taylor, (802) 388-0178. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier Capital City Winter Holiday Farmers' Market. At Vermont College of Fine Arts gym. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3 & 17. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Norwich Farmers' Holiday Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Dec. 10 & 17. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Putney Holiday Market at Green Mountain Orchards, 130 West Hill Rd. Sundays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Dec. 4, 11 & 18. Kristina Israel, (802) 387-4234. www.putneyfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Holiday Fairs of Vermont, at Holiday Inn, Rt. 7. Sunday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Accepting EBT and debit cards. Sponsored by the Vermont Farmers Market. Jamie Condrill, (802) 287-9570. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland County Holiday Market at College of St. Joseph, Rutland, VT. Friday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Dec. 3, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Bob Murphy. www.rutlandcountyfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Winter Farmers' Market with access through the Rutland Food Co-op on Wales St. Saturdays, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Greg Cox, (802) 683-5791. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury Holiday Markets at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. December 17 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088.

Windfall Clothing & Consignment Shop

Open Tues-Sat 10-4

Elm House right next to Post Office

Rt. 10, Orford, NH • (603) 353-4611

Featuring Katie's Korner—Brand Name Teen Clothing!

McQueen Stables & Tack Shop

Over 400 Saddles!

Horses For Sale on Premises

New & Used Tack and Apparel Bought 'n' Sold
Courbette, Weaver, Devon-Aire, Pro Choice, Leanin' Tree, EQ

Compare My Prices • Open Your Hours

Kathy McQueen • 802-785-4493 • www.mcqueenstack.com
2 miles up Gove Hill Rd., off Rt. 132, Thetford, VT



Chapman's

Fine Wines
Unique Toys

VT Products, Yolo Stand Up Paddleboards
Jewelry, USGS Maps, Flies & Fishing Gear

Main St., Fairlee, VT • (802) 333-9709
Open Mon-Sat 8-6, Fri 8-7, Sun 8-3

WHISTLESTOP CAFE

176 US Rt. 5 North
Fairlee, VT
(802) 331-1000

Open 6 am – 7 pm,
Sundays 8-5 • Closed Wed

Cafe menu available for sit down or takeout • 6 am – 3 pm
Espresso & coffee, counter goodies, deli case,
salads & dinner specials, and wifi all day.

Nightly Hot-to-Trot Specials



Bailey's Tavern

Good Food • Good Friends • Good Times

Est. 2011

WEEKNIGHTS at BAILEY'S!


Tuesdays: Rib Night
Wednesdays: Pasta Night & Open Mic Night
Fridays: Karaoke Night

Bailey's is the Place for You!

Serving Lunch & Dinner
Tues-Sun, 11 am – 9:30 pm
Prime Rib on Fri & Sat Nights

Route 5, Fairlee, VT
802-333-3999


- Property Taxes
- Real Estate Prices
- Vermont Laws



When you are considering buying Vermont real estate, there are many factors to consider. Our bimonthly newsletter for owners and buyers of real estate here covers several: market trends, tax and legal matters, state news, listings of recent real estate sales, practical advice, more. Price is \$49.95 per year. Refund if not satisfied. Make check payable to "VPOR" and mail to:

Vermont Property Owners Report
PO Box 1564, Dept. CS,
Montpelier, VT 05601
(Or call (802) 229-2433 to order by credit card.)

SILVER MAPLE LODGE & COTTAGES



Silver Maple Lodge Circa 1920

Old Time Vermont Vacation Value

A Bed & Breakfast Country Inn Convenient to All Season Recreation,
Two Lakes, Golf & Tennis.

Hot Air Balloon Packages Year Round

\$69-\$109 dbl. occ. Call or write for brochure 1-800-666-1946 • www.silvermaplelodge.com
Route 5, S. Main St., Fairlee, VT 05045 • (802) 333-4326



Wooley sheep gather in the winter barnyard in Danby, VT.

photo courtesy johndavidgeery.com

One of Vermont's Most Spectacular
Staycation Destinations
 Natural ★ Cultural ★ Recreational ★ Unforgettable

Planning your Northeast Kingdom
 Vacation is easy when you visit

Interactive Map ◀
 Self-Guided Tour Itineraries ◀
 Event Listings ◀
 Vacation Packages ◀

TraveltheKingdom.com

the region's
 most
 comprehensive
 travel website
 with Online Booking,
 Travel Tools,
 & a Country Store

THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

Jesus our brother, strong and good
 Was humbly born in a stable rude
 And the friendly beasts around Him stood
 Jesus our brother, strong and good

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown
 "I carried His mother up hill and down
 I carried His mother to Bethlehem town"
 "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown

"I," said the cow, all white and red
 "I gave Him my manger for His bed
 I gave Him my hay to pillow His head"
 "I," said the cow, all white and red

"I," said the sheep with curly horn
 "I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm
 He wore my coat on Christmas morn"
 "I," said the sheep with curly horn

"I," said the dove from the rafters high
 "I cooed Him to sleep so that He would not cry
 We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I"
 "I," said the dove from the rafters high

Thus every beast by some good spell
 In the stable dark was glad to tell
 Of the gift he gave Emmanuel
 The gift he gave Emmanuel

—UNKNOWN

**Farmer Hodge's Roadside Stand
 & Country Christmas Shop**

A farm family enterprise
Over 60 years in the same location!
Buy direct from the farmer
and save Vermont's family farms!

We Are Not Just a Roadside Stand & Gift Shop.
 We Have Gardens & a Reg. Holstein Dairy Farm.

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS WREATHS!
 ~ We Ship Daily ~

—OLD FASHIONED COUNTRY GIFT SHOP—
Vermont foods, crafts, and gifts.
Garfield corn-cob-smoked bacon. Soldier beans. Our own jams, jellies, pickles,
and pancake mixes. Grafton, Cabot, and Plymouth cheeses (our cheddar is
aged and sharp!) Maple syrup. Gift baskets, Yankee Candles, dried flower
arrangements, greeting cards, and much more!
Gift Certificates.

**Christmas Trees
 & Hand-Tied
 Wreaths**

Winter Squash • Apples
 Dried Flowers

Open 7 Days a Week, 8:30-5:00
Route 5, Fairlee, VT
(802) 333-4483
(2 miles north on Rt. 5 off Exit 15, I-91)

We Ship UPS Anywhere

**Country
 Christmas Shop**
 Our Shop
 Is a Ten Room House
 Filled with
 Many
 Christmas Items.
Now Open

The Nature Conservancy
 OF VERMONT
Saving the Last Great Places

Preserving Vermont's
 Last Great Places
 Since 1960

27 State Street
 Montpelier, VT 05602
 Tel. 802/229-4425 • Website: www.tnc.org

**MORSE FARM
 MAPLE SUGARWORKS**

**Come for the Morse
 Farm Experience!**

Ski Touring Center
 Country Store • Sugar House
 Woodshed Theatre • Maple Trail
 Outdoor Farm Life Museum
 Whimsical Carved Folklife Characters

Original Maple Kettle Corn. Made Fresh Daily.
Don't miss our maple creamees!

**200 Years
 of Maple
 Experience**

Open to Visitors Daily
Year-round 9-5, summertime 8-8.
 We ship • (802) 223-2740 • morsefarm.com
 County Rd., Montpelier, VT
(Upper Main St., just 2.7 miles from downtown)

**Vermont
 Balsam Wreaths**
 Handmade and decorative with
 red berry clusters, pine cones,
 and a red velvet bow.

**Shipped Everywhere
 \$22.95.**

O Christmas Tree

by Burr Morse

I can't let a Christmas season go by without writing a column on the "psychology" of Christmas tree shopping. Over the past 44 years I've accumulated a whole forest full of stories (yes, it was way back in 1966 when Dad and I loaded our first retail Christmas tree onto an aging Studebaker!) And speaking of stories, I walk a very fine line these days being both a writer and a Christmas tree salesman.

A few years ago I wrote a column about a couple of gals who used to buy their trees from us. When they failed to show up one year, I asked around and found that out that my words had offended one of them and, you know, when I went back and read it, I had to agree. Although I was just trying to be funny and meant no harm, I, too, would have been offended. I started that story by crediting my father with getting folks to our farm with "suaveness and charm" and went on to say that "It was my job to figure out what they wanted, make sure there was plenty of it, and then stay out of the way." I'd say that offending someone publicly was hardly "staying out of the way" and so I'll make a public apology to the offended customer right now.

That brings me to an end of an era—no, I'm not giving up selling Christmas trees but, mark my words, I'll never use anyone's real name in a Christmas tree story again! So today I'm thinking of the "Balsams," a local family whose history of tree shopping brings a whole new meaning to the term "family tree." This couple started coming up here when their kids were just saplings and they required the real deal: no selecting from our displayed, pre-cut trees for them; they always brought their own saw and only needed access to the Morse wilds and a promise that there were big ones, huge ones out there.

I especially remember one of their treks. It was snowing hard that day and the Balsams had been gone a long time when the father suddenly immersed from the blizzard

"They always brought their own saw and only needed access to the Morse wilds and a promise that there were big ones, huge ones out there."

hunched over and looking stressed. "We're having a terrible time gettin' that tree down. Got a sharp saw we can borrow... and, oh...mind if I take th' Subaru out there?" I said "Hell, I don't care if y' go out with a bulldozer just as long's you fix up the mess." He thanked me, got in the Subaru and drove slowly back into the blizzard.

I was busy with other tree customers when suddenly a huge, prostrate conifer appeared in the distance. It seemingly moved without the aid of human hands or machine power and as it crept toward us, folks gasped like they were seeing a yule tide Trojan Horse about to invade the Morse tree lot. It had come out of the deep woods, following a path that is normally only tractor accessible. I knew it could only be the Balsam family. As it pulled up, a hand holding some cash reached out through massive boughs. "Keep the change," said a tired-sounding voice...I can't get out." I knew there was a Subaru in there somewhere and in the Subaru were a family of wide-eyed "saplings" who would always cherish the experience. We all watched as the "tree" turned south on County Road and headed off toward Montpelier.

The other day a young couple drove into our yard in a Saab with Massachusetts plates. I could see from a distance that the young man was one of the Balsam "saplings" now grown up and married. When they went to select their tree I backed off, extending them proper "Balsam" reverence. I only approached when I noticed they had made a selection and he was in the process of tying the large, perfect Fraser Fir on to the Saab's roof (no easy matter on a car with no roof rack). We exchanged pleasantries but I offered no help—offering Christmas tree help to a Balsam would be like asking Santa if he might prefer oxen to reindeer. I did note that the young man's wife remained rather aloof to the process and when he asked her for help, she declined. That's where I almost stepped in: "See here young lady," I would have said, "you're a Balsam now and Balsams support each other in this sacred process." Instead I made a joke about how it's always the passenger's job to reattach trees that fall off travelling cars. She smiled and then began helping.

They say that "practice makes perfect" so I truly hope that my writing gets better with every column and that I



never offend anyone again. I won't, however, stop writing Christmas tree stories because, damn it all, I enjoy it! Like my last customer yesterday. The woman had "very specific" requirements of her Christmas tree and she had me twirling just about every tree in the yard. She kept coming back to one in particular, however, but said "the top just doesn't 'work' for me...it's too sparse at the top." I developed my most angelic smile, tipped my hat and said "me too, but folks can still enjoy me." She laughed and bought the tree. With Christmas trees, there's a tale in every sale.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT, and is open year round. For maple products call (800) 242-2740 or visit www.morsefarm.com.



Robert's Thrift & Used Furniture Store
A Large Variety of Goods for the Whole Family!
Open Daily 9-5
 tel: 802-222-4053 • cell: 802-291-3704
www.connecticutvalleyfair.com
robert@connecticutvalleyfair.com
11 Welch Drive (Under Post Office)
Bradford, VT



Bunten Farmhouse Kitchen
The Old-Fashioned Way

Christine & Bruce Balch
 1322 Rt. 10, Orford, NH
 603-353-9252
www.buntenfarm.com

Producing dairy and food products from our herd of grass fed Heritage "Milking Devon" cows. Artisan cheese, yogurts, breads, and desserts, available from our "Pantry" Farm Store.
Open Daily

ARIANA'S RESTAURANT
At the Bunten Farm

Serving our special dairy items, fresh local produce, and sustainable, humanely raised meats.
Dinner Hours: Wed-Sat 5-9
And Sunday Brunch 10-2
 (603) 353-4405 • Reservations Requested

ROUND BARN

SHOPPE

Unique 16-Sided Building
New England Gift Ideas
 Candles • Dolls • Pewter • Paintings
 Candy • Garfield Smoked Bacon & Cheese
 Specialty Foods • Fine Cheeses • Maple Syrup, Candies, & Cream • Our Own Fudge
 Emu Products • Wooden Things & Tons More
 Great Stuff! We Ship our Fudge and Other Products You Have Seen Here!
Open Thurs-Sun 10-5
Jan-May: Sat-Sun 10-5
Rt. 10, Piermont, N.H.
(603) 272-9026

Piermont Plant Pantry

Farm Stand • Open Daily
Rte 25, Piermont, NH
603-272-4372

~ Abby, Ai & John Metcalf ~
info@piermontplantpantry.com

Christmas Trees, Balsam Wreaths, Garlands, Kissing Balls (Ready-Made or Custom).
 Order online: www.piermontplantpantry.com

~ Corn Barn Gift Shop ~
 Jams, Jellies, Pickles, Dried Flowers, Crafts
 Winter Squash • Gift Certificates

North Country Book News

Misty Valley Books, Chester, VT

18th Annual New Voices 2012

Misty Valley Books' 18th annual New Voices, a showcase of new authors, will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Yearly, the Chester, Vermont bookstore invites new talents from around the country whose work is promising to share their first books with Vermont audiences.

Past New Voices have included Dennis Lehane (Mystic River, The Given Day), Arthur Golden (Memoirs of a Geisha), Gregory Maguire (Wicked), Elena Gorokhova (A Mountain of Crumbs) and over 100 others.

The readings and discussions, open to the public free of charge, will take place at the Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts, a new venue, at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The schedule includes opportunities for the public to meet the authors skiing or snowshoeing at Grafton Ponds, at the reception after the readings, or at a wine and cheese reception followed by dinner at the Fullerton Inn on the Green in Chester. Many local inns will be offering special New Voices packages.

The New Voices 2012 authors are: Betty Shotton, Liftoff Leadership; Christopher Boucher, How to Keep Your Volk-

swagen Alive; Katharine Britton, Her Sister's Shadow; and Naomi Benaron, Running The Rift.

Schedule of Events

- 9:30 am—Cross-country ski or snowshoe with the authors at Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center.
- 2:00–4:30 pm—Readings and discussion at Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts.
- 4:30–5:30 pm—Reception and book signing at Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts.
- 5:45–6:30 pm—Wine and Cheese reception in front of the fire at The Fullerton Inn (cash bar).
- 6:30–8:00 pm—Dinner at the Fullerton Inn.

All events are open to the public and everyone is welcome to come meet the authors and enjoy the weekend with us!

Misty Valley Books is located on Main St. on the Green in Chester, VT. For more information, call (802) 875-3400. Visit www.mvbooks.com.

Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts is located at 15 Depot St. at the corner of Main and Depot St. (across from the Jiffy Mart) in Chester, VT. www.vtica.org.

Fullerton Inn is located on the Green next to Misty Valley Books in Chester, VT. For dinner reservations please call (802) 875-2444.

Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center is located at 783 Townshend Rd. in Grafton, VT. For ski and snowshoe rates call (802) 843-2400. grafftonponds.com.

Historic Bridges Calendar Offered at Rockingham Library

Next Year is here at the Rockingham Free Public Library! Each year the Friends of the Library offer a calendar featuring local images from the Library's archives. The 2012 calendar is a tribute to the historic bridges of Rockingham, including the majestic arch bridge in Bellows Falls, the simple and elegant Saxtons River iron bridge, and most notably, the Covered Bridge in Bartonsville that was lost during Hurricane Irene.

The calendar is available for \$10 at the Library and Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls. You can also pick it up at our Holiday Party and Raffle on Saturday, Dec. 10, 3-5 pm. Come join the festivities!

The Rockingham Free Public Library is located at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, VT.

For more information call (802) 463-4270. Visit www.rockingham.lib.vt.us.



Holiday Events at Northshire Bookstore in Manchester, VT

A bookstore is a wonderful place to visit for holiday browsing or shopping. Northshire Bookstore in Manchester, VT also offers a schedule of book & author events in December that you'll be sure to enjoy. Unless noted otherwise, these events will be held at the bookstore, free of charge.

Saturday, December 10, 1–3 pm. Archer Mayor, author of the highly acclaimed, Vermont-based series featuring detective Joe Gunther, will be signing his new release, *Tag Man* at the Inn at Ormsby Hill during their annual open house. Tickets for the benefit open house are \$5 per person. For more information please contact Chris Sprague at (802) 362-1163.

Saturday, December 10, 2 pm. New York Times best-selling author and animal advocate Jon Katz has written meaningfully about the bond between humans and animals—especially our intense connection to our pets. Join us when Jon comes by to chat and personalize any of his books.

Saturday, December 10, 7 pm. Susan Cooper presents *The Magic Maker* a personal and engaging look at the life of John Langstaff, founder of the beloved institution Revels. A friend and writer for the Revels, Cooper, traces its roots through the rhythms of Jack Langstaff's life. Along the way, his passion for music, ritual, and community fused to spark the incomparable Revels, a participatory celebration that promises to draw children of all ages for generations to come.

Wednesday, December 14, 6 pm. Northshire Cookbook Reading Group meets to sample dishes made from, *Handheld Pies: Pint-Sized Sweets and Savories*, by Sara Billingsley and Rachel Wharton. For more information e-mail Nancy at nscheemaker@northshire.com.

Wednesday, December 14, 7 pm. James Howard Kunstler presents his book, *A Christmas Orphan*. This wonderful story of youth, misunderstanding, adventure and love is a perfect parable for the holiday season.

Thursday, December 15, 6:30 pm. Beach Conger, MD Talks about his new book, *It's Probably Nothing: More Adventures of a Vermont Country Doctor*.

Sunday, December 18, 1 pm. A modern American folktale, *Favor Johnson: A Christmas Story* has been a favorite radio story for twenty-five years. Willem Lange returns for his annual reading and signing.

Northshire Bookstore is located at 4869 Main St. in Manchester Center, VT. For more information call (802) 362-2200. Visit northshire.com.

The Eloquent Page

35,000+ Used & Collectible Books
In All Subjects for Readers of All Ages



23 Catherine St., St. Albans, VT
(802) 527-7243 • Tues–Sat 10–5:30

PETER KEYES ~ OXBOW BOOKS



Newbury, VT 05051
(802) 866-5940 • pbk@sover.net
www.oxbowbooksvermont.com

USED & RARE BOOKS
POST CARDS
EPHEMERA
Bought & Sold

By Chance or Appointment

The Book Nook

136 Main St., Ludlow, VT
(802) 228-3238
thebooknookvt@hotmail.com
thebooknookvt.com

We Welcome You
To Come in and Browse.
Free Wireless.

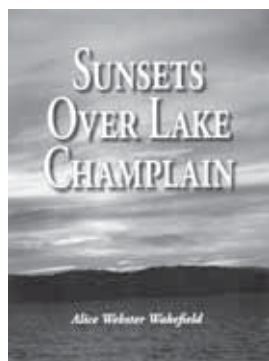


Got a story to tell?

The Public Press can be the shortest distance between the author's brain and the printed page. For more information visit us at

ThePublicPress.com

The Good Old Days in The Queen City of Burlington, VT



Sunsets Over Lake Champlain

\$19.95 post-paid

To order, write to:

Alice Wakefield

4877 Rt. 12

Braintree, VT 05060

Or call (802) 728-9749



Hermit Hill Books

Used, Rare, & Collectible Books
For the Whole Family

Buy • Sell • Book Searches

95 Main Street • Poultney, VT

(802) 287-5757

Open Tuesday–Saturday 10–5, Sunday 10–4



THE BOOK SHED

WE HAVE THE
BOOKS YOU WANT...

Open Wed–Sun 10–6

802-537-2190

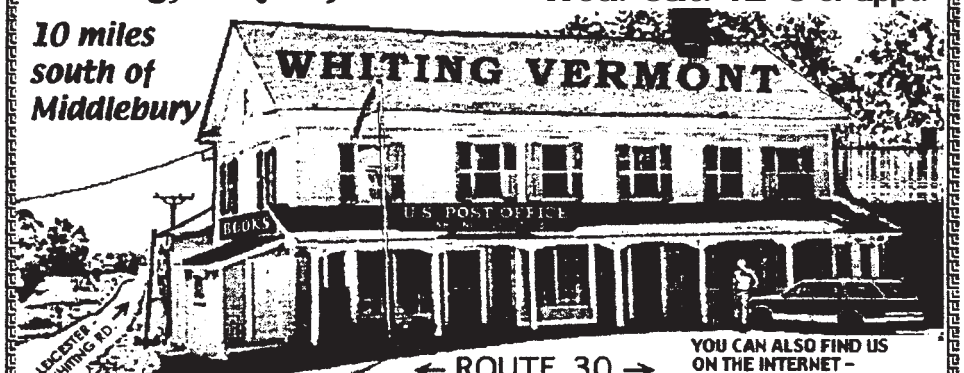
LAKE ROAD
BENSON, VT 05731

Shop thebookshed.com,
where the books are discounted
and Media Mail is free.

BULWAGGA BOOKS & GALLERY

Whiting, VT (877) 206-1357 Wed.–Sat. 12–6 or appt.

10 miles
south of
Middlebury



← ROUTE 30 →

YOU CAN ALSO FIND US
ON THE INTERNET –
middlebury.net/bulwagga

USED BOOKS AND ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW

Children's Christmas Tales

If you have doubts about a perfect Christmas gift, consider this story that shows us how a gift of a warm, winter coat can make Christmas for some children. In *Helping Santa: My First Christmas Adventure with Grandma* (published by Bunker Hill Publishing, www.bunkerhillpublishing.com, \$17.95), a young boy and his grandmother give a coat to another youngster who can't play outside with classmates in the winter because he has no coat. Grandma and the boy, as unofficial Santa's elves, purchase and sneak the nicely wrapped coat onto the boy's doorstep.

The story's author is unknown, but Bradford, VT artist Bert Dodson captures the spirit of the occasion with his wonderful watercolors. A contribution from a sale of this book will benefit One Warm Coat, a nationwide organization whose goal is to provide warm coats to anyone free-of-charge who needs one. Visit www.onewarmcoat.org.

Home for Christmas by Jan Brett (published by G.P. Putnam, us.penguin.com, \$17.99). In this latest book from the beloved children's author and illustrator, Jan Brett, a wild little troll runs away from home because he doesn't want

Children's Books Reviews by Charles Sutton

to do his chores. Rollo tries living with various woodland animals, but he finds out that there is no place like home, and returns to his family just in time for "the best Christmas ever."

Among the animals who take him in are an owl family, a mother bear and two rambunctious cubs, some playful river otters, a hungry lynx and a friendly moose family.

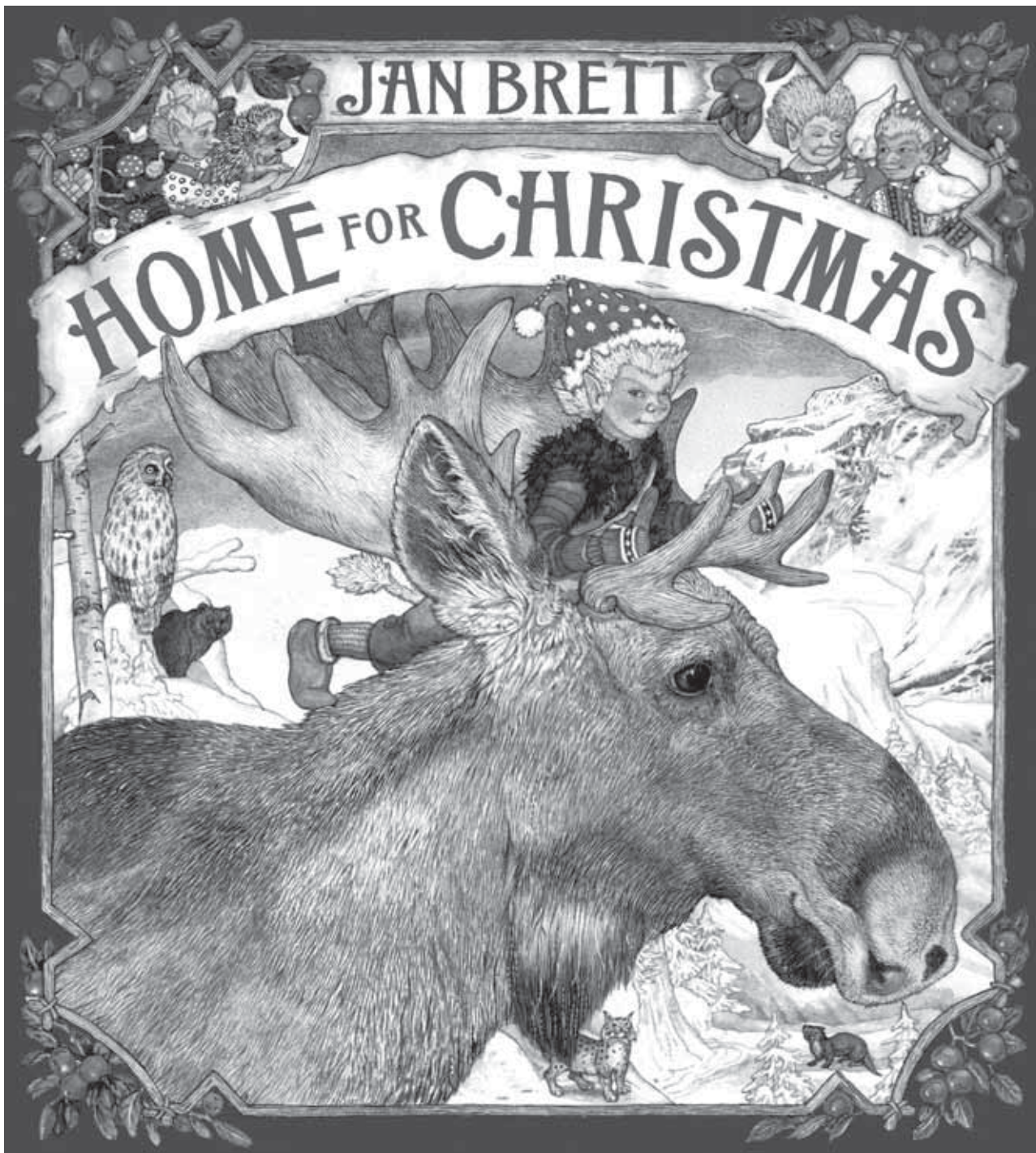
Jan Brett creates an irresistible, mischievous character that kids will recognize in themselves. Her signature borders depict the troll family missing Rollo, and many appealing animals. She has created a warm, fun-loving Christmas picture book for families to share.

The Christmas Rose by Sepp Bauer (published by Charlesbridge, www.charlesbridge.com, \$12.95). First published in Germany in the 1920s, this unusual advent book disappeared from print but was found in an antiquarian bookstore in Switzerland in 2006. Now republished and illustrated by Else Wenz-Vietor, the story relives the adventures of two children Fritz and Gretl on a perilous journey to find the Winter King's fortress in the far North. There they hope to obtain a white Christmas rose whose scent they were told would cure their dying woodsman father. Forest animals including deer, a wild goose, polar bear and white wolves carry and guide them to their destination.

Strega Nona's Gift by Tomie dePaola (published by Penguin Young Readers Group, www.penguin.com, \$17.99). Around the world we have special ways of celebrating Christmas. Here we join Strega Nona, who lives in the little Italian village of Calabria. She prepares the special feast-day foods starting with San Nicola on Dec. 6 through the Eve of Epifania on Jan. 6. Her son Big Anthony eats the turnips stuffed with greens and ceci (chickpeas) made specially for her goat. It was the custom on January 5 for villagers to give their animals such treats. The disappointed goat gets even by eating Big Anthony's blanket. It becomes his lucky day when Strega also makes the dish for him, but he gladly gives it to the goat. "Let's have a truce," he asks the goat. And presto, "the holiday season was over for another year."

The Twelve Days of Christmas by Laurel Long (published by Penguin Young Readers Group, www.penguin.com, \$16.99). Artist Long tells us that her version of The Twelve Days of Christmas is about the order and mystery of life, about nature with all its certainties and surprises. She certainly has a surprise for us as soon as we opens this spectacularly beautiful book, with its magical illustrations set in a Renaissance countryside. Each day and each painting brings a new gift ending in a breath-taking spread featuring all the animals, lords and ladies, and musicians. In an intriguing and clever gift to the reader she has hidden the previous gifts in the next illustration. If you have trouble finding them look inside the book jacket and there's a picture key to help you. This is a marvelous book! It will make your Christmas.

Jingle Bells by Iza Trapani (published by Charlesbridge, www.charlesbridge.com, \$15.95). Curious about how Christmas is celebrated in foreign countries? In this adventure story a large white horse-drawn sleigh soars through the skies to see how this special day is treated in Mexico, Sweden, the Philippines, Poland, Italy and Kenya. In these travels we feel we are in Poland for the 12-course feast on Christmas eve



where the table is packed full with tasty dishes. Even the family dog is at the table! In Mexico children take turns breaking open a piñata, a papier-mache animal filled with candy and small gifts. In Italy we learn about la Befana, an old woman with a broom who puts presents in shoes children leave on the doorsteps. Finally children from all these countries get to visit an American home for Christmas.

O Christmas Tree—Its History and Holiday Traditions by Jacqueline Farmer (published by Charlesbridge, www.charlesbridge.com, \$16.95). Ever wonder how the Christmas tree tradition got started? This informative book traces its roots from early Egyptian and Roman societies where palm branches symbolized the advent of winter. One legend has the first Christmas tree (decorated with flowers) displayed in

Latvia in 1510. Inviting and colorful drawings trace the trees' decorations over the centuries with candles, electric lights, ornaments, even candies and cookies. We learn about tree farms and the types of fir trees they produce. Find out how the trees became a White House tradition and when Times Square started displaying the biggest tree ever.

Over 18,000 Books
Special Orders
Gift Certificates
Book Searches



Black River Used Books

37 Main St., Springfield, VT 05156

Tuesday-Friday 10 am to 5:30 pm • Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

(802) 885-1819 • Bill & Linda Mattoon

Member of VABA

MORSE FARM MAPLE SUGARWORKS

Two Books by Burr Morse

A sugarmaker describes what maple and life in Vermont are all about.

Sweet Days & Beyond
\$24.95 plus \$5 s/h (hardcover)

*Golden Times:
More Tales Through the
Sugarhouse Window*

\$19.95 plus \$5 s/h (paper cover)

We ship • (802) 223-2740
morsefarm.com
County Rd., Montpelier, VT 05602



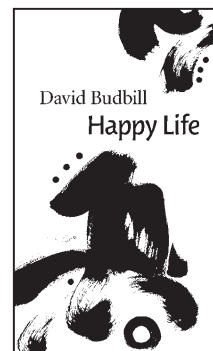
Happy Life

by David Budbill

\$16 paperback
Copper Canyon Press
877-501-1393 toll-free

Order direct:

www.coppercanyonpress.org
www.davidbudbill.com



Subscribe Now!



The Vermont Country Sampler

A Great Way To Stay In Touch With
The Vermont We All Know and Love

Please enter the following subscription.
I enclose payment of \$24 for 12 issues.

Name _____

Address _____

I picked up this issue of the Sampler at _____

Comments _____

12/11

Mail to:

The Vermont Country Sampler
PO Box 226, Danby, VT 05739



Bud & Bella's Bookshop, Ltd

27 N. Main St., Randolph, VT 05060

New & Used Books
Vermont Artists, Music,
Cards & Gifts

Special Orders Welcome

Tuesday-Saturday
10 am - 5 pm
(802) 728-5509

www.budandbellas.com

Vermont Books Including Many Signed Editions

Enlarged Children's Book Section

Plan a Vermont Winter Gathering

Whether you are here for the winter scenery or the recreation, Vermont can be just what you need to restore and renew. These two- to five-bedroom vacation rentals are all available for gatherings of a week or less in every season.

You can choose from hundreds of properties ranging in size from one bedroom to seventeen bedrooms, including cabins, lakefront cottages, country farmhouses, and ski lodges statewide at www.vermontproperty.com. Here are some of the tempting places to stay.

BRATTLEBORO, VT

Pet-friendly Vermont Log Home on 25 Private Acres with Pond. Near the southern border of Vermont, our very private and romantic log cabin rests beside a pond on 25 private acres surrounded by maple, oak, birch, and pine trees. From the front porch you can hear the rushing stream and waterfall just below the cabin through the woods. You may even catch a glimpse of the blue heron that visits the pond or the turkeys that visit our cherry tree and hawthorn tree. Snowshoe past the creek's natural pools and waterfall, or wander in the meadows and woods and listen to the natural noises of the forest. Peace and quiet is what you will find here. Comfortable charming interiors include spacious living room with large fireplace and piano, fully equipped kitchen, dining area, master suite, whirlpool bathroom, shower bathroom and sleeping loft. Sleeps six. Every window gives a view of trees, pond, and/or pasture. Our dog-friendly log home is located only two hours from Boston, four hours from NYC, 10 minutes from Brattleboro, 45 minutes from Mt. Snow/Haystack, and 70 minutes from Bennington. Weekly rentals, partial week possible. Contact Tom, VermontLogHome@yahoo.com. (Listing #48)

CHESTER, VT

Unique Custom Home Near Chester Village. Beautiful secluded setting on 27 acres with woods, meadows & views from spacious decks. One mile from downtown Chester, close to Route 11. This all-season paradise is convenient to skiing at Bromley, Magic, and Okemo. Three bedrooms sleep six maximum. 2-1/2 baths. Fully equipped kitchen, washer/dryer, woodstove/fireplace. Inquire about pets. Two-night minimum. Nightly rental rates. Contact Susan & Martin Reiter, (860) 873-8468 or (802) 875-3131. smreiter143@sbcglobal.net. (Listing #47)

LONDONDERRY, VT

Stratton, Bromley, Okemo: Available for the Winter Holidays. Nice, up-to-date contemporary home located in a quiet cul-de-sac in Londonderry, close to three ski areas, shopping and great restaurants. Three bedrooms (sleep six-eight), two full baths, dining room, full kitchen and washer/dryer. Fully-furnished home with stereo and DirecTV. Overlooking a very private and quiet wooded area. No pets. Nightly rates. Available holidays and selected non-holiday weekends and weeks. No additional charges for cleaning service after departure! Contact Rich, (860) 399-1877. richwall01@gmail.com. (Listing #549)



This rustic log home deep in the Green Mountains in Rochester, VT is perfect for a winter retreat. (Listing #1568)

LUDLOW, VT

Lakefront House: Skate or X-C Ski on Lake Rescue near Okemo. Year-round lakefront rental with three bedrooms and two baths. Sleeps six. Fully equipped kitchen, family room with fireplace, washer/dryer, cable TV/VCR. Quiet and secluded yet close to village. Ten minutes to Okemo, twenty minutes to Killington. Snowmobiling, ice skating, sledding, cross-country skiing on lake. Excellent swimming/fishing. Canoe is available for \$150/week. Minutes from Weston Theatre, factory outlets, golf, tennis, alpine slide and playground. Located on Route 100 foliage route. No pets please. Three-day minimum all year; weekly in summer. Discount adult lift ticket vouchers for January weekdays. Contact Mary Jane or Jim, (516) 971-5101 or (802) 228-8201. jcasey1005@comcast.net. (Listing #432)

PERU, VT

Walk or Ski to Bromley, Short Drive to Stratton and Magic! At Bromley, near Stratton & Magic Mountain, short drive to Manchester, Londonderry, Weston, or Dorset. Two bedrooms, one bath, dining room, kitchen, cathedral-ceiling living room (fireplace, sleeper sofa, TV/DVD/CD/FM). Sleeps seven. Great view of Stratton, Magic Mountain and the valley from front windows. Walk/ski to Bromley by road or trail. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, dishes, linens, towels, wood included. Central to theater and the arts. Many good restaurants nearby. Inquire about pets. Ski season rental available, or by weekend or week. Contact Bob & Lois Williamson, (718) 229-2766 (or when we are skiing mid-week, (802) 824-4551). weekendervermont@msn.com. (Listing #20)

ROCHESTER, VT

A Great Escape—Reminiscent of Idyllic Country Living. Beautiful rustic log house nestled in foothills of Central Vermont's mountains for the perfect getaway. Just off Rte. 100 on Rte. 73 in the Green Mountain National Forest. Just three miles from town, where you'll find everything you'll need for your retreat—wonderful restaurants, grocery and state liquor store. Local pond for ice skating with beautiful mountain views. Hiking/biking and VAST snowmobile trails nearby. Centrally located, yet secluded for a quiet, relaxing getaway. One-half hour to Killington or Sugarbush and 45 minutes to Okemo. Four bedrooms sleep 10. Main level has a queen bedroom and bath, great room with woodstove for cozy gatherings, sitting area with fieldstone fireplace by fully equipped galley-style kitchen with dishwasher. French doors open onto covered front porch. You'll find a fire pit off the deck for toasting marshmallows and storytelling around a crackling fire. Second level has master bedroom (queen) and private bathroom with shower, bedroom with two twin beds, and another room with bunkbed and two twin beds, and washer & dryer for your convenience. Three-night minimum. No pets. Contact Christine & Michael, (908) 479-4800 or (908) 319-0170. thorofare@embarqmail.com. (Listing #1568)

STOCKBRIDGE, VT

Hot Tub With House Attached on Eleven Secluded Acres. Spectacular views and outstanding foliage. Near Killington-Pico and Sugarbush for skiing, and adjacent to snowmobile trails. Just a hike to the Appalachian Trail and perfect for relaxing, with two large decks, one with hot tub. Five bedrooms, plus extra sleeping area, can accommodate 12. Two fireplaces, woodstove, satellite TV, VCR, stereo, washer/dryer, and fully equipped kitchen with dishwasher. Linens provided. Sorry no pets. Contact Harvey and Joan Goodman, (203) 353-8808. harveygoodman@sbcglobal.net. (Listing #76)

WINHALL, VT

Beautiful Stratton View—Available for Winter Holidays. Spacious and comfortable home, perfect for two families. Private home on three wooded acres in the exclusive Forest Farms neighborhood with spectacular mountain views, just five minutes to Stratton Resort. Spacious living room with cathedral ceiling, balcony, fireplace, and gorgeous views of the mountain, as well as TV, DVD, and stereo. Adjoining dining room is comfortable, sharing the same fabulous views. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops is well equipped. A 55-foot deck facing Stratton mountain spans the back of the house on the main level, with four glass sliders providing access and mountain views. A large family room downstairs has a bumper pool table, cable TV, DVD, stereo, and games—perfect for kids! There are four bedrooms, which sleep 12 total. On the main level, there are two master bedrooms with king beds, cable TV, adjoining bath, and glass sliders onto the deck. Upstairs, there are two bunk rooms, each with four beds and a shared bath. One of the bunk rooms has views of the mountain. Total of four baths. Washer, and dryer. Easy access and parking. Linens included. No pets. Available winter holidays—minimum number of nights vary. Contact Jan, (203) 866-0397. janschaefer13@gmail.com. (Listing #520)

If You Can Dream It, We Can Do It!



We Do Camps (pre-built)



We Do Barns



We Do Garages



We Do Cabins

Lumber & Lumber Packages for Cabins, Garages, Houses, Camps, Barns, Saunas, Sheds, Etc.

Dick Walker Sawmill, Etc.

Evergreen Rd., Fair Haven, VT 05743 • Phone & Fax (802) 273-2077

Check out our website—lots of pictures, plus map! www.dickwalkersawmill.com



Rural Vermont Real Estate

Northern Metal Recyclers

We Buy Copper, Brass, Aluminum, Bronze, Litho, Radiators, Stainless Steel, Wire, Etc., Etc.

TOP PRICES PAID FOR QUALITY METALS

Roll Off Service Now Available

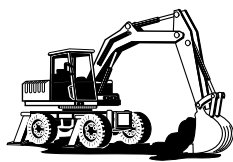
We Pick Up Large Quantities & Industrial Accounts

PO Box 26 • Route 7B • North Clarendon, VT
Open Monday thru Friday, 7:30-4:30; Saturday 8-12
(802) 773-3583 • northernmetalrecyclers.com

1837 Greek Revival House for Sale — Danby, VT



With post and beam antique carriage house. Buildings need restoration. Just under two acres, beautiful views, close to Long Trail. \$160,000. Call for details (802) 293-5752.



R.U. EXCAVATING

Septics • Foundations
Roads • Driveways

Free Estimates

Ronald & Emily Underwood
Rt. 100, Londonderry, VT
(802) 824-3597



Hearth & Cricket Stove Shop



Winter
Is Here!
Are You Ready?

East Wallingford, Vermont

Open all year. Call for hours & directions
802-259-2841

Great House on Hitchcock Hill Rd. Windham, VT



Set on 2.94 Acres – Near Tater Hill Country Club, Lowell Lake, and Magic Ski Area – Sold fully furnished – 3 Bedrooms – 2 Baths – Fire-place in living room. Super house for a second home, first home buyer or family home. Owner anxious to sell.

Asking \$169,900 – Open for Offers

Call Emily Underwood at 802-379-0514 for Showing!

Bean Group | Stratton

36 VT Rt. 30, Bondville, VT 05340

Emily.Underwood@beangroup.com

(802) 457-8192 • Fax (802) 297-3319



BEAN GROUP

FECTEAU Homes!



Custom Modular Homes
Double Wide & Single Wide
Trades Welcome • Financing
Sitework • Land Available
15 Homes on Display

Rt. 302 Barre-Montpelier Rd., Montpelier
(Next to Tractor Supply Company)

802-229-2721 • 800-391-7488 • www.fecteauhomes.com

Family Owned & Operated For Over 30 Years

Interest Rates Are Lowest in Over 40 Yrs



2066 Chelsea. 3 bedroom camp – 1 full bath – large fireplace with heatolators, plus wood stove – small stream – 33 acres of land – nice lawn with apple trees – being sold furnished – good gravel road.....**Price \$119,500.**



2064 Washington. 1 bedroom cabin – 10 ft. deck overlooking nice brook – electric power – 40 ft. storage building – 14.1 acres of land on maintained gravel road.....**Price \$55,000.**



2074 Chelsea. 20' Camp with two add-ons, plus deck – only about 10 yrs. old – 12.75 acres – 1586' frontage on good gravel road – large lawn – trout brook.....**Price \$52,500.**

2073 Washington. Large 2-Story Camp – dug well with pump – propane lights and cook stove – wood stove for heat – 50 acres of land, very private, with lots of open land – good views.....**Price \$139,000.**

2067 Chelsea. 35 acres – mostly open field – southern exposure – approx. 1400' frontage on good gravel road – electric power – nice property to build on.....**Price \$132,500.**

2057 Chelsea. 207 acre farm – 2 barns – 4-bay storage building – plus 2 other storage buildings – good pond site, plus trout brook – large, old, 10 room cape with garage – very private...**Price \$795,000.**



2061 Corinth. 24x24 ft. camp – ½ acre trout pond – septic system with flush toilet – gravity spring – large lawn – 12 acres surveyed – good gravel road.....**Price \$118,000.**

1874 Orange. 50 acres of woodland – about 10 acres open – small stream – over 2,000 ft. frontage on Rt. 302, plus class 4 road along the side – good views.....**Price \$49,000. \$39,500.**

2065 Vershire. 38 acres of high land – excellent views – long views to the south of several mountain ranges – mostly open field – over 2,600 ft. frontage on good, dead end, gravel road – view must be seen...**Price \$225,000.**

2062 Corinth. Private campgrounds – 2 camp trailers – gravity water – excellent access, with private drive – 14.19 acres surveyed – very private.....**Price \$45,000.**

2072 Chelsea. 2 Bedroom Home – built 1970 – new kitchen and bathroom – propane, plus wood heat – 1 car garage – 2 acres of land on gravel road...**Price \$112,500.**

BUTTON REAL ESTATE

Brian A. Button
Broker

Tel. (802) 685-4679 • Fax (802) 685-3001

Rt. 110, Chelsea, VT 05038

All sales subject
to owner's acceptance.
Write for free list

Please phone for appointment. Licensed Vt. Real Estate Broker for 41 years.



BREAD & PUPPET MUSEUM
 RTE 122, GLOVER VERMONT 05939
 OPEN IN THE WINTER BY APPOINTMENT

One of the Largest Collections
 Of Some of the Biggest
 Puppets in the World


Free admission, donations welcome.
 www.breadandpuppet.org • 802-525-3031




Join the Adventure,
 Join the
Green Mountain Club!

Protecting and Maintaining
 Vermont's Long Trail Since 1910

Send \$40 Individual Fee, \$50 Family Fee to the:
Green Mountain Club
 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677
 (802) 244-7037 • gmc@greenmountainclub.org
 www.greenmountainclub.org



Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association
 ~ More than 70 Dealers ~
 vermontisbookcountry.com



Contradance
 with
Northern Spy
 David Millstone, caller

8 pm, Saturday, December 10th
 Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Admission \$8 (students \$5, under 16 free!)
 All dances taught. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary.
 Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing.
 (802) 785-4607 • rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu

GALLERY 103 AN ARTISAN MARKETPLACE
 OVER 150 ARTISANS

WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR 5TH YEAR!!
 FESTIVITIES CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER

LOCATED IN CHESTER, VT
 RTE 103 & 7 PINE VIEW RD
 802-875-7400 * WWW.GALLERY103.COM

CANDLES

WOODWORK **TEXTILES** **JEWELRY** **METALART**

HANDMADE CHOCOLATE!

THE SNOW IS HERE
 BE OF GOOD CHEER!!



Open Every Saturday
 153 Main St. Brattleboro, VT
 At the River Garden

Through March 2012 • 10-2
 10-3 on Dec 3, 10 & 17 for holiday shopping. Open Dec 24 & Dec 31

Farm Fresh, Local, Handmade, Homemade
 Great Local Food Lunches & Live Music
 A wonderful selection of holiday gifts
 All you need for your holiday table
 Debit and EBT cards welcomed

Rural Vermont

Activates, Advocates and Educates
 for Living Soils, Thriving Farms
 and Healthy Communities

www.ruralvermont.org
 (802) 223-7222

Join Us in Giving Voice
 to Vermont's Family
 Farm Heritage!

Check out our local artist notecards,
 including this photo from John David Geery!



Inn Victoria
 In Beautiful Chester, Vermont



Ye Olde Shoppe at Inn Victoria

We invite you to visit our new gift shop and stay for High Tea

Home Goods • Gifts & Souvenirs
 Holiday Items • Artisan Wear
 Christmas Cards
 Christmas Tree Ornaments
 1500-Count Egyptian Cotton Sheets
 Vermont Products & Victorian Items
 Handmade Clothing
 Hand-Dipped Chocolates
 Tea Cups & Coffee Mugs
 A Variety of Teas and
 Our Own Private Coffee Blend

High Tea at Inn Victoria
 —Fri • Sat • Sun 3 pm—
 Reservations required

In traditional Victorian fashion
 we serve whole leaf tea and a seasonal
 assortment of savories & sweets.

Choose Your Cup
Choose Your Pot • Choose Your Tea





Innkeepers: Dan & Penny Cote
 321 Main Street • Chester, VT • 802-875-4288
 www.InnVictoria.com • innkeeper@innvictoria.com