

Vermont Country Sampler

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- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
- Entertainment, Book Reviews
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February
2011

N. Cassidy

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87th Annual Harris Hill Ski Jumping Competition

Brattleboro, Vermont will be jumping with excitement on Saturday and Sunday, February 19 and 20 at the Annual Harris Hill Ski Jumping Competition.

New England's only 90 meter jump, Harris Hill was founded in 1922. Over the years the event has grown to draw jumpers and spectators from around the world. After the 2005 event, the jump was shut down while an intensive fundraising campaign resulted in a new 90-meter ski jump, reopening to record crowds in 2009.

Situated on the edge of a Brattleboro cornfield, the brand new jump was totally re-built to FIS (International Federation of Skiing) specifications and is sanctioned by the U.S. Ski Association (USSA).

Approximately 40 top jumpers from the United States and Europe—the biggest field Harris Hill has seen in years—will compete this year. Harris Hill offers spectators the thrill of this

Olympic sport. Watch the jumpers up close as they launch from the top of the jump—so close one can hear the “whoosh” as they take off and soar more than 300 feet at speeds of nearly 60 mph!

The festival atmosphere of the event is enjoyed by fans of all ages. There will be concessions, a bonfire, a beer tent and souvenirs all on-site.

The 85th Annual Harris Hill Ski Jumping Competition is presented by Pepsi-Cola, powered by Entergy, powdered by Mount Snow and protected by the Richards Group.

The Harris Hill Memorial Ski Jump is located in Brattleboro, VT on Cedar St., off Rt. 30 or off exit 2, I-91.

Events run from 11 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. with gates open at 10 a.m. Tickets at the gate are \$15 adults, \$12 kids, age 5 and under are free.

For more information, including advance ticket locations visit www.harris-hillskijump.org.



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

photo by Nancy Cassidy

A Rough Timetable for the Calling of Crows

Early this morning crows flew westward over the prairie, cawing in the fresh, temperate air, their voices as always filling the morning with the promise of spring.

—August Derleth
A Countryman's Journal

The world is well kept...Her undertakings are secure and never fail.

—Henry David Thoreau

Among the most consistent companions to early risers are its crows. They leave their roosts and call about 15 to 20 minutes before sunrise throughout the year, and are especially welcome between September and January when most other birds have either stopped singing or have left for the South.

Although crows are not as precise in the timing of their vocalizations as cardinals, they do provide a relatively predictable clock for the year. In something of the same way

that bells on churches or public buildings announce the passage of the hours, the crows call out the passage of the year.

When the land is coldest, the crows usually awaken between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m., depending on temperature, cloud cover and precipitation. As the sun begins to rise earlier, however, they follow a more rigorous timetable a little like the following:

January 1—sunrise 8 a.m., crow calls 7:45 a.m.
February 1, sunrise 7:45 a.m., crow calls 7:20 a.m.
March 1—sunrise 7:10 a.m., crow calls 6:50 a.m.
April 1—sunrise 6:20 a.m., crow calls 6:00 a.m.
May 1—sunrise 5:30 a.m., crow calls 5:15 a.m.
June 1—sunrise 5:05 a.m., crow calls 4:50 a.m.
July 1—sunrise 5:10 a.m., crow calls 4:55 a.m.
August 1—sunrise 5:35 a.m., crow calls 5:15 a.m.
September 1—sunrise 6:00 a.m., crow calls 5:45 a.m.
October 1—sunrise 6:30 a.m., crow calls 6:16 a.m.
November 1—sunrise 7:05 a.m., crow calls 6:50 a.m.
December 1—sunrise 7:35 a.m., crow calls 7:25 a.m.

If the murder (that's the name for a crow flock) of crows awakens and cries out the break of day at slightly different times, no matter. It is, I believe, not so important to know exactly when they call than it is to hear what they have to say: that we are not really as alone as we might think, and that the world is still well kept, her undertakings secure.

—W. L. Felker

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Vermont Country Sampler

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An Almanac for Late Winter & Earliest Spring

by Bill Felker

*What light is tenderer
Than this of early February
At 5:05 p.m. or so,
Just trying brightness out?*

—John Updike

FEBRUARY

The Moon

Across the Southwest, Texas Bluebonnets announce the blooming of the desert, an event that is paralleled by the rising tide of Jessamine across the South and the gradual advance of Late Winter across the North. **February 2:** The Bluebonnet Moon is new at 9:31 p.m. **February 11:** The moon enters its second quarter at 2:18 a.m. **February 18:** The moon is full at 3:36 a.m. **February 24:** The moon enters its final quarter at 6:26 p.m.

The Sun

On February 18, the sun reaches halfway to equinox, entering Pisces at the same time. This event is called Cross-Quarter Day, and it brings in the changeable season of Early Spring.

The Planets

Venus moves retrograde into Sagittarius this month, visible low on the southeastern horizon near dawn. Mars, in Capricorn, continues to follow Venus just before dawn. Jupiter stays in Pisces in the far west after sundown, and Saturn remains in Virgo, overhead a few hours after midnight.

The Stars

Early mornings in early February bring May's planting star, Arcturus, overhead. To the east, the constellations of the Dog Days are rising: Lyra and Cygnus. Deep in the southeast, red Antares is glowing. Regulus leads Leo's Sickle into the west.

MARCH

The Moon

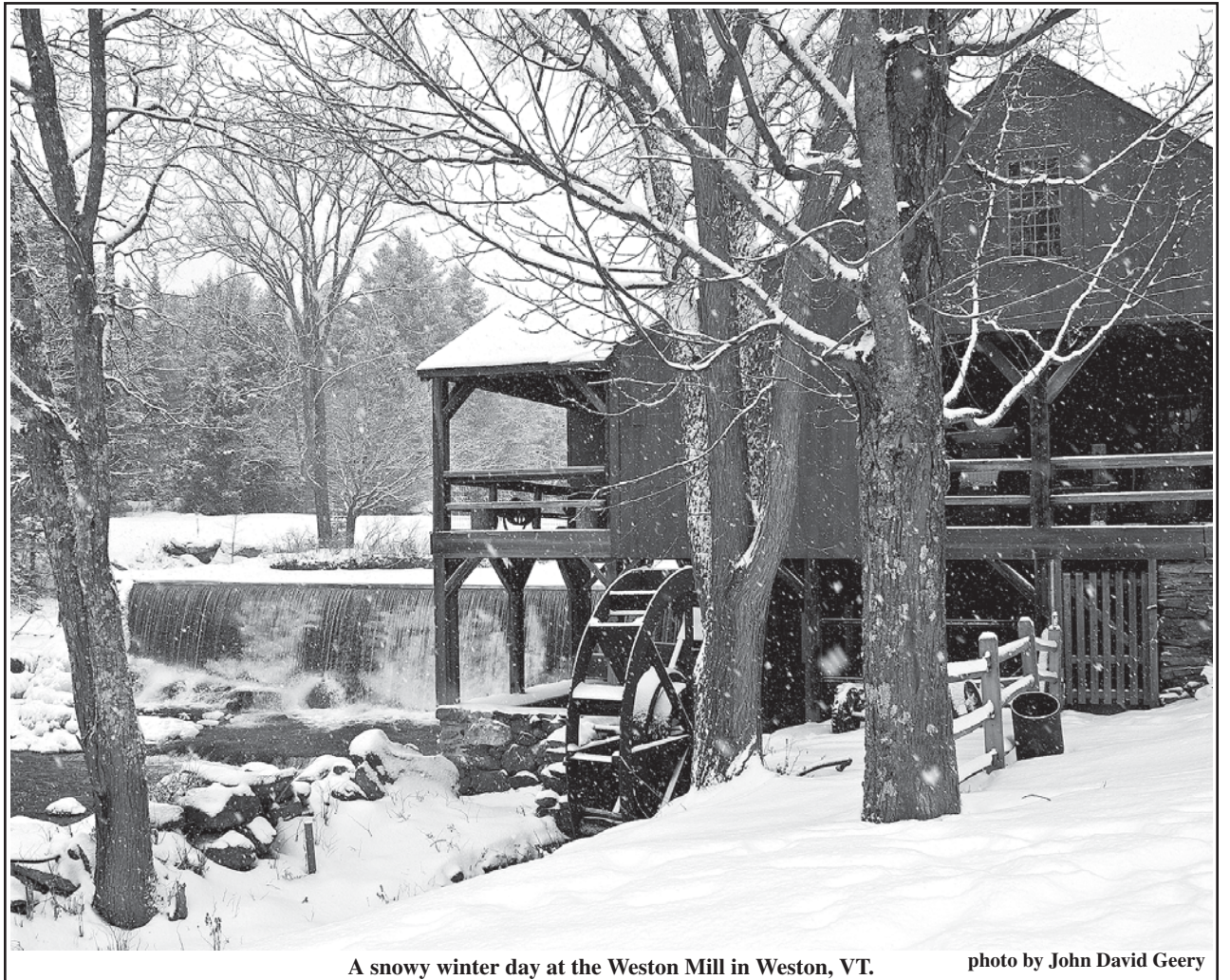
Depending on the weather and their location, pussy willows begin to open from the middle of January through April. Along the 40th Parallel, they emerge all the way at the beginning of March, but no matter when they open, they announce the arrival of Early Spring. **March 4:** The Pussy Willow Moon is new at 3:46 p.m. **March 12:** The moon enters its second quarter at 6:45 p.m. **March 19:** The moon is full at 1:10 p.m. **March 26:** The moon enters its last quarter at 7:07 a.m.

The Sun's Progress

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. Set your clocks ahead an hour on Saturday night. Spring equinox occurs on March 20 at 1:32 p.m., just when the sun is entering its Middle Spring sign of Aries.

The Planets

Venus continues to move retrograde during March, coming into Capricorn and continuing its reign as the morning star. Mars also moves retrograde, leaving Capricorn to Venus and takes up residence in Aquarius. Jupiter stays in Pisces, rising just before dawn and moving across the sky to end up very low in the western sky at dusk. Saturn is still in Virgo, emerging from the east before midnight and reaching far into the west before sunup.



A snowy winter day at the Weston Mill in Weston, VT.

photo by John David Geery

The Stars

Deep Winter's Orion has moved off to the west by 10:00 p.m., and Corvus, May's corn and soybean planting constellation, appears on the horizon. Spica, which will be centered in the southern sky as peak planting ends this spring, emerges from the east. Before dawn, all the constellations that ride the Milky Way into summer lie in the east. To the far north, Cassiopeia zigzags towards Cepheus, the house-shaped constellation just east of the North Star. Following the Milky Way to the south, find Cygnus, the Northern Cross above you. Below Cygnus is Aquila, with its brightest star Altair. Below Altair: summer's Sagittarius.

The Weather Systems of February and March

Major cold waves are due to reach the Northeast on or about February 4, 8, 13, 17, 22, 25 and 28. Storms are most likely to occur on February 3, 6-9, 14-18, and 24-25. In

March, expect cold fronts to arrive in Vermont on March 2, 5 (usually the most severe front of the month), 9 (ordinarily followed by quite mild temperatures), 14, 19 (frequently the second-coldest front of March), 24 (often followed by the best weather so far in the year), and 29.

Bill Felker's Poor Will's Almanack for 2011 is available for \$20 (includes s/h). Mail 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.

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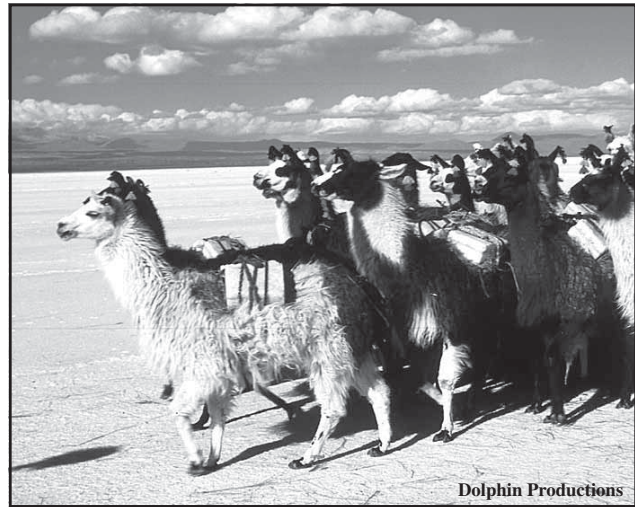




Woodstock Vermont 2011 Winter Film Series

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage, will host the Woodstock Vermont Film Festival Winter Series beginning on January 29 and continuing on select Saturday afternoons through April. In partnership with the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, the oldest and largest showcase for environmental films in the United States, six films and documentaries have been selected for the "big screen" in the museum's newly renovated theater, with its state-of-the-art HD digital cinema and Dolby® surround-sound technology. All films are open to the public and accessible to people with disabilities. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door, seating permitting: six-film packages: \$50 or \$10/film. Billings Farm members receive a discount.

exchanging salt for other products of the Andes and interacting with the indigenous cultures seemingly untouched by modernity.



Dolphin Productions

The Gift of the Pachamama Saturday, February 12, 3:00 p.m.

This is a spiritual docudrama set in Bolivia, where a 13-year-old boy lives a traditional life with his family near Uyuni, a salt lake. One spring, he goes with his father on his first caravan. With blocks of salt strapped to their herd of llamas, they travel "The Salt Trail" for several months,



Jory Sutton © 2007 Frozen River

Frozen River Saturday, March 5, 3:00 p.m.

A desperate single mother living in upstate New York resorts to smuggling illegal immigrants into the U.S. as a means of making ends meet, in this emotionally wrenching drama, winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Best Dramatic Feature at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. Broke, Ray Eddy reluctantly teams up with street-smart Lila Littlewolf, a Mohawk who lives on a reservation that straddles the U.S.-Canadian border, and the two begin making runs across the frozen St. Lawrence River, carrying illegal Chinese and Pakistani immigrants in the trunk of Ray's Dodge Spirit. Though the work provides the women with much-needed money, each trip puts them in peril, and their fates become forever intertwined in ways that neither could have anticipated.



© 2007 Celeste Heiter

The Cave of the Yellow Dog Saturday, March 19, 3:00 p.m.

The Cave of the Yellow Dog is an engaging portrait of life in a Mongolian nomad family, set in the northwest province of Altai. The film hinges on the conflict between sheep-tending father Urjindorj and his six-year-old daughter Nansal, over a puppy she discovers in the wild. Nansal is expected to get rid of her new pet in case it attacks the family's sheep and goats, but the dog then saves a human life. What's rewarding

is the filmmaker's focus on the hardworking Batchuluuns' everyday lives, their values and beliefs, and how they tirelessly adapt to nature. Gold Award for Outstanding Children or Youth Film—German Film Awards.



The Garden

Saturday, April 2, 3:00 p.m.

South Central Farm is the largest community garden in the U.S.-14 acres located at 41st and Alameda in South Central Los Angeles. Started as a form of healing after the devastating L.A. riots in 1992, the South Central farmers have since created a miracle in one of the country's most blighted neighborhoods: growing their own food, feeding their families, and creating a community. Through the eyes of the farmers, owners, and challengers to South Central Farm—we follow the farmers' struggle to preserve their livelihood despite unspeakable odds. Academy Award® Nominee film.



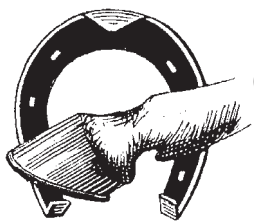
Rabbit-Proof Fence

Saturday, April 16, 3:00 p.m.

Australia's aboriginal integration program of the 1930s broke countless hearts—among them, those of young Molly, Gracie, and Daisy, who were torn from their families in 1931 while living in their community of Jigalong and placed in the Moore River Native Settlement, north of Perth. The film follows the girls as they walk for nine weeks along 1,500 miles of the Australian rabbit-proof fence to return home. Numerous film nominations and awards, including Best Film: Australian Film Institute.

For a complete list of screenings and ticket information visit www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest or call (802) 457-2355. Billings Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Route 12.

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



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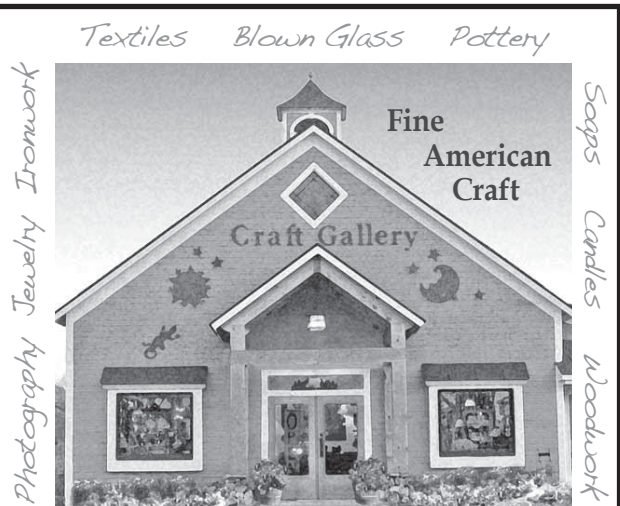
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Billings Farm & Museum Sleigh Ride Week

February 19–27, 2011

Climb aboard a Billings Farm sleigh for a brisk ride through the snowy winter farm fields. Bring the kids try your hand at sliding downhill with an old-fashioned jack jumper sled!

Billings Farm & Museum's Sleigh Ride Week is scheduled for February 19–27, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In addition to the horse-drawn sleigh rides and sledding with jack jumper sleds, the popular winter family event features tours of the Jersey dairy farm and restored farmhouse, and other interesting interactive programs.

On the weekends, in commemoration of President's Day, you can sample the favorite cookies of the Presidents, including John Quincy Adams's Soft Molasses Cakes, Ronald Regan's Vienna Chocolate Bars, Grover Cleveland's Snickerdoodles, and Grace Coolidge's Ice Box Cookies.

Exploring the farm in winter

In the barns, discover Vermont dairying—past and present—and learn about the development of the Billings Farm, still one of the best Jersey farms in America. The horse barn, calf nursery, milk room, cow barn, and sheep barn are stops along the self-guided tour. Up-close programs with the livestock will be offered.

The restored and furnished 1890 Farm House will be open for touring, featuring the farm office, family living quarters, creamery, and ice house.

Sleigh Ride Week admission includes the sleigh rides and sledding, the farm tours, the farm house and activities, plus viewing of *A Place in the Land*, an Academy Award® nominee film.

"John Quincy Adams: Spirit Unconquerable"

Billings Farm & Museum is hosting "John Quincy Adams: Spirit Unconquerable" on President's Day, Monday, February 21, at 3 p.m. in the Farm & Museum's theater. This Vermont Humanities Council program is free and open to the public. It is accessible to people with disabilities.

Meet John Quincy Adams, 6th President of the United States as he sits for his final portrait. Portrayed by actor Jim Cooke, the "one man show" illuminates the last ten years of Adams extraordinary life.

The first President who was the son of a President, John Quincy Adams in many respects paralleled the career as well as the temperament and viewpoints of his illustrious father, John Adams. A brilliant diplomat and Senator, in 1808 he was appointed the first Minister to Russia and is considered one of our greatest Secretaries of State—arranging with England for the joint occupation of the Oregon country, obtaining from Spain the cession of the Floridas, and formulating with the President the Monroe Doctrine.

After serving one term as President, he was defeated for reelection by his nemesis, General Andrew Jackson. Adams continued his political career in the House of Representatives



Draft horses pull a sled full of winter visitors at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum



VERMONTERS



These are the people living in this land; proud and narrow, with their eyes on the hills. They ask no favors. Their lips defend with speech close-rationed their hoarded souls.

You cannot love them or know them at all unless you know how a hardwood tree can pour blond sugar in a pegged-up pail in the grudging thaw of a February day.



—DILYS BENNETT LAING
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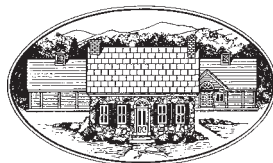
as a powerful leader, fighting for eight years for the repeal of the "gag rule," which provided that the House automatically table petitions against slavery.

Seating is by reservation: e-mail reservations@billingsfarm.org or call (802) 457-2355.

The Billings Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Route 12. For information call (802) 457-2355 or visit www.billingsfarm.org.

Open daily May 1 – Oct. 31, 10 a.m. to 5 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.

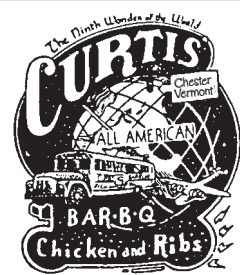
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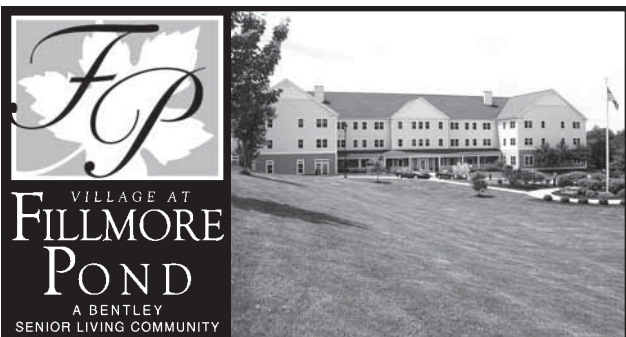
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photo by Carl Severance

Primitive biathletes trek in the woods in Manchester, VT. From left to right are Brook Aldrich from Florence, VT; Lloyd Church from Cambridge, VT; and Brook's wife Carol Aldrich.



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Primitive Biathlon at Skinner Hollow Farm

by Charles Sutton

Wintry weather should only heighten the enthusiasm of those hearty souls taking part in the annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon on February 12 and 13 at Skinner Hollow Farm located on Route 7A in Manchester, VT.

Unlike their Olympic-style counterparts who travel on cross-country skis with high-tech rifles, these marksmen will be on wooden snow shoes and using only black powder rifles or muskets.

About 150 contestants and an equal number of spectators are expected. In addition to the primitive biathlon, additional shooting events include 'Absolute Martsman,' 'King of the Hill,' and '5-Card Draw Shoot.' And there are also shooting events for youths, women and elders.

Participants trek through a scenic mile-and-a-half course, stopping at four shooting areas while still chasing the clock. A hit on a target means five minutes taken off their final timing. Marksmen are allowed two shots each at the first three areas and three final shots in a field setting open to spectators. They fire at 6-inch hanging steel targets (about 50 yards away) which make a loud gong noise when they are hit. Competitors must load their rifles for each shot, and are not allowed to carry a loaded weapon while on the move. Judges at each firing station stay warm with their own campfire, also used for cooking. Because they are usually also hunters, one may find them roasting some venison or other game from last fall's hunting season. But no one goes hungry as the Manchester Fire Dept. has a food concession offering hot soups, chilis, and other cold weather foods.

Most participants wear period clothing in addition to their antique rifles, powder horns, and other equipment.

Brew Moscarello of Manchester, an event organizer, said about 25 participants are avid competitors and do a full biathlon circuit. Other events coming up are the Dalton Gang Primitive Biathlon in Dalton, NH, February 19-20; and the Wabanaki Run Biathlon in St. Johnsbury, VT on February 26. The Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon takes place each year the end of January.

Brew said one year he had a first place after one day, but a competitor at home in Sunapee, NH saw his standing on the internet and came back the next day and took over first place!

"Most of us are just out for a good time," Brew said. He's also one of a few who camp out overnight at the site in heated tents. Last year four participants from Ohio joined the small 'tent city.'

The marksmen don't go home empty-handed as many area businesses, organizations and individuals have contributed door prizes, trophies, and raffle items suitable for the contestants. These include snowshoes and bindings, fishing equipment, gun scopes and other accessories, backpacking tent, a Vew Do balance board, shooting bags, gun powder and caps, knives, gift certificates and much more. These goods and services are valued at more than \$2,500.



Happy compatriots all! Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon competitors (from left to right) Steven Gougeon, Ashfield, MA; Mark Davis, Conway, MA; and Richard Gougeon, Ashfield, MA seem pleased with the day. The two Gougeons are father and son, and Mark is their good friend.

The SVTPB is a non-profit, community service event with many volunteers helping out. To date the primitive biathlon has contributed \$3,400 to the Green Mountain Conservation Camps and an additional \$4,600 to Manchester Rod and Gun Club's scholarship fund for the same camps, all benefitting Vermont youth.

The event site opens at 8:30 a.m. Shooting competitions are held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

For information about the Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon visit www.svtpb.org, call Brew Moscarello at (802) 362-2893, or contact Eric Severance at Skinner Hollow Farm, PO Box 240, Manchester, VT 05255, (802) 362-2893.

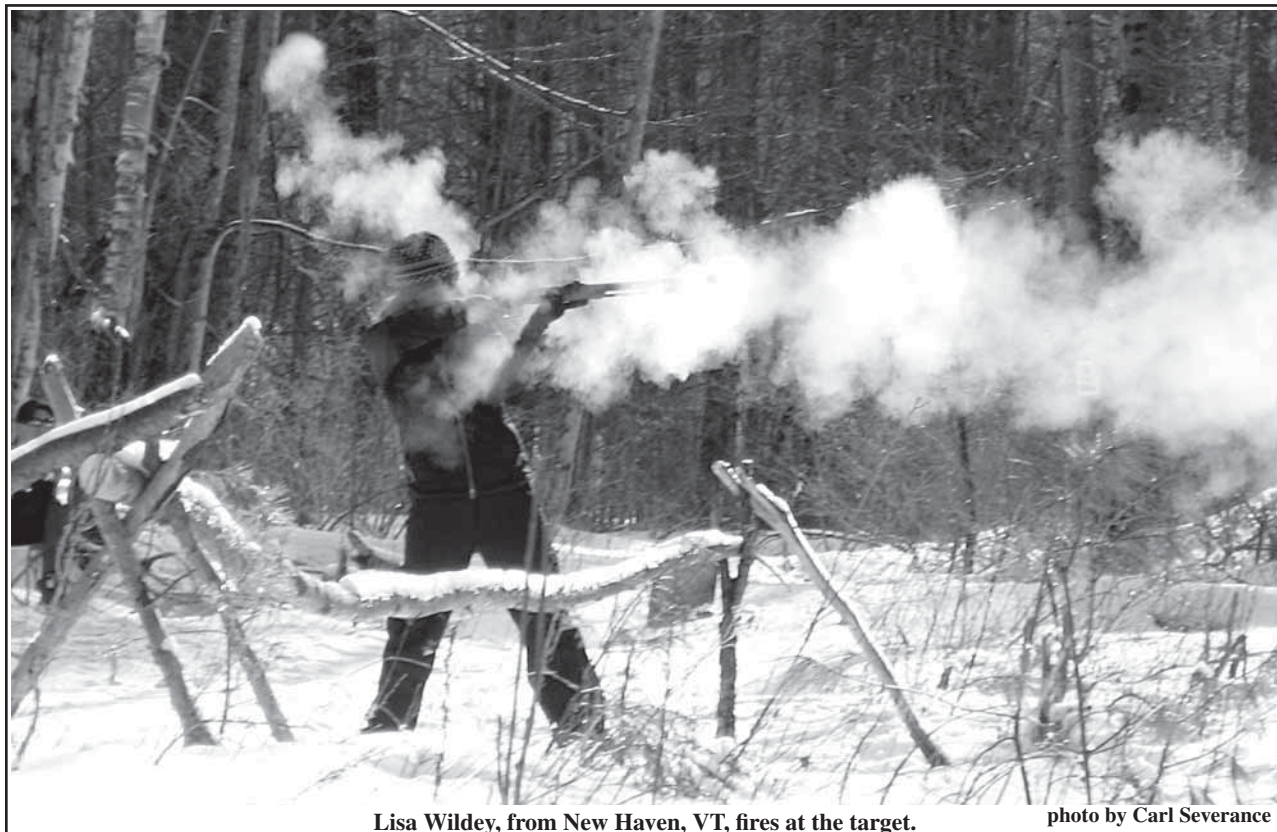
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Lisa Wildey, from New Haven, VT, fires at the target.

photo by Carl Severance

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Up Clay Hill

by Burr Morse

There's something about our Vermont winter that brings total awe from traveling folks: "How do you survive in the winter? Can you get out at all? Do they even try to plow the snow or is there simply too much?...those are the questions they ask in the same tone as if puzzling craters on the moon. I, seventh generation Vermonter, am always tempted to milk it. "Hell no—we just put on some extra fat and hibernate." But, being a Vermonter, I always tell the truth. "Vermonters are pros at winter," I say.

Oh, there are those who use snow storms as a good excuse to shun work or school, but there's rarely a time when we can't get out and go with the best of 'em. "Snow days" are what they call it when schools shut down but I say "pshaw" to that! It's an insult to our warriors of the blizzard battle, road crews who fight twenty-four-seven and always win! Winter time in Vermont has a lot to do with motivation, high boots, and physics, "the science that deals with matter and motion." Yes, our partnership with physics is a great winter equalizer, a fact that totally escaped Mr. Henry Ford and all his American counterparts until recent times. I'm talking about the anatomy of automobiles—cars with engines in the front and drive wheels in the back make as much winter sense as shoveling snow with a pitchfork, but when I was a kid, that's the way all cars were.

Memories of those days came drifting back recently when I returned home from Montpelier in the middle of a blizzard. These days we think nothing of Clay Hill, the steepish part of Main Street that culminates in a ninety-degree curve at the top. In the old days, however, conquering Clay Hill required skill, strategy, and white knuckles. A typical scene would have presented cars queued up at the bottom. Some folks would be under their cars "chaining up," feet sticking recklessly close to traffic.

Others would be just sitting, pondering strategy, waiting their turn. Sans chains, our greatest hope of making Clay Hill was sheer speed and to accumulate enough of that, we'd need to start clear down by Kellogg Hubbard Library. At that point there was a half-mile of flat street which could, in the best of circumstances, get us up to 50 mph before the hill started. In the worst of circumstances, however, we'd either "wipe out" on the curve where Spring Street begins or encounter some motorist who would enter Main Street from Spring Street just in front of us. In that unfortunate event, we'd have to abort our "run for the hill," go back and wait our turn again.

My education started when I was so small I could hardly see over the dashboard of our '55 Plymouth. My mother and I were coming home from the A&P with a trunk full of groceries. The blizzard had caught us, pants down, in



Maples in winter line a snowy Christian Hill Rd. in Bethel, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

downtown Montpelier. As we waited by the library, Mom sat as rigid as a bowling pin, white knuckling the wheel. She told me to hang on extra tight (there were no seat belts in those days) and suddenly it was our turn. She dropped the Plymouth into gear and headed out. We "sailed" into the Spring Street curve lucking out with conflicting traffic. Mom skillfully compensated from a couple of skids and shifted into high for the final run on Clay Hill. We were half-way up and

"Mom skillfully compensated from a couple of skids and shifted into high for the final run on Clay Hill."

"just a' smokin'" when she exclaimed, "curses, that pill is pulling out in front of us!" She spat the word "pill" like the guy had just snatched her purse. Another car had entered Clay Hill from Emmons Street and forced us to slow down. Mom had to abort the run and return to the queue line! I forget how we finally got home that day but I remember being so proud of Dot Morse's skill behind the wheel!

I had become proficient at Clay Hill myself when, beginning with the Volkswagen Beetle, cars started being built with engines over the drive wheels. Following the Beetle, an array of Japanese front-wheel drives evolved and, just like that, the need for skill in winter driving evaporated like snow under a hot iron. Fitted with four good-quality winter tires, modern front-wheel drive cars will go anywhere.

In some cases, the advent of front-wheel drive cars came sooner than native Vermonters' ability to adapt. Betsy and I had just gotten married and had acquired a Toyota when fall brought the need for snow tires. She'd been told that these modern cars needed snow tires all around but I, being a thrifty Yankee and expert winter driver, said, "hell no, Betsy! You only need traction on the drive wheels." I prevailed. We bought just two and the first time I took that car out on a snowy road, all of a sudden my world started spinning out of control, and I ended up off the road with a wrecked car on my hands!

To this day, I'll always "wear" four winters and go everywhere in every storm, thanks to the grace of God, a little common sense, and the anatomy of automobiles.

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

Vermont Snow

It's dangerous business now, I know,
To speak a word in praise of snow,
The "solid whiteness" that we knew
In Whittier's time is now tabu;
Earth's natural coverlet of down
Is scraped and carted out of town,
And soon, no doubt, with squirtguns dire,
We'll roast it off with liquid fire.

In putting up this wicked fight
With snow, we've double-crossed delight;
The general uplift needed so
This time of year is in the snow.
We need the thrill of falling flakes,
The hoorah boys a snowstorm makes.
We need the tang of frosted air
That gets into our breath and hair.

Without these days of hoop-la stress
The winter world would be a mess.
We need the sleigh-bells tinkling notes
To start the singing in our throats;
High-stepping nag and coon-robed sleigh
Would "draw" a girl most any day.
And he was certainly a lout
Who'd let a pretty girl fall out.

The varnish on our plush-red sleigh
Still glares as in my dapper day.
Reflected there the hitching-posts
And watering troughs skip past like ghosts.
The painted lady on the dash
Still looks she'd sell a kiss for cash;
Heaven bless the sleigh Nell Newcombe chose
To tote me through the leap-year snows.

Delicious snow, kind-hearted snow,
I'm sorry that I had to go
And leave the pangless pains you brought,
The bitter-sweet, or so I thought.
Come on, sift down while we're asleep
And bury earth a yardstick deep,
But leave our jolly straw-ride pung
Just where it was when I was young.

—DANIEL L. CADY

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Lots of Fresh Local Produce, Friends, Fun & Bargains!

by Charles Sutton

A few winters ago it was almost unheard of to find a farm stand open on a Saturday afternoon where one could purchase locally-grown vegetables and other Vermont farm produce. However, with the advent of a growing number of winter farmers markets, shoppers can now get locally-produced vegetables, meats, cheeses and other products year-round. This year there are 23 winter farmers markets through the state!

One of the biggest and most active is the Rutland Winter Farmers Market, with 40 vendors. It operates from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays in the old Strand Theater which one enters through the Rutland Area Food Co-op located downtown at 77 Wales St.

During the spring through the fall, 90 or more vendors fill to capacity an outdoor downtown area in Depot Park with two market days on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The markets generate a festive feeling with musicians playing, ethnic foods being cooked, colorful displays of fruits, vegetables, baked goods, crafts, and traditional Vermont products like cider, maple syrup, jams, jellies and honey. There are seasonal crops—fiddleheads, strawberries, corn, tomatoes, apples, and much more.

One can soon notice the results of new ventures on the family farm. We see a variety of artisan cheeses and breads, wines from Vermont vineyards and specialty foods like mushrooms, garlic, organic and natural meats (beef, chicken, pork and even quail, rabbit and goat) and free-range chicken eggs. Crops like spinach, chard and other greens are now being raised locally during the winter using newer cold-weather methods rather than in heated greenhouses. Imagine—fresh, local greens grown right here in Vermont in the middle of winter!

Bill Clark, president of The Vermont Farmers Market (which puts on the Rutland Winter and Summer Farmers Markets, the Poultney Farmers Market and the Holiday Farmers Markets) and long-time maple syrup producer, said the markets provide a much-needed source of income for farmers during winter months. He estimates that this winter's market should gross about \$350,000. Last year the winter, summer, and three holidays markets grossed \$800,000.

Clark said there are other positive outcomes from the markets:

—Vendors get a test start for their products. He cited Ana's Empanadas (a stuffed Latin American meat/veggie pastry) as one business that has expanded into its own shop on Strongs Avenue; and Casleton Crackers, an early vendor who is now distributing nationally.

—Much of the farmers market surplus is being distributed to the needy through food banks. And food can be purchased with food coupons and EBT (Electronic Banking Transfer) wooden tokens. Clark mentioned that local Rutland's Thomas Dairy is helping out by supplying cooler space for left-over produce while it's being distributed.

Because both summer and winter markets are filled to capacity with other vendors wanting to get in, Clark said that in the near future larger sites might have to be found. He noted a trend elsewhere where a Food Hub provides a processing center where vendors prepare, cook and freeze their surplus or sell it to grocers, chefs, and others in the food business.

Rutland winter market manager Greg Cox operates nearby Boardman Hill Farm. He is now growing baby spinach and other greens through the winter, and has plans to expand his meat offerings including homemade sausage. "I'm also an apprentice meat-cutter." Looking at his mostly emptied bins of potatoes, turnips, beets, and other root vegetables at a recent Saturday market, Greg said he is continually amazed at the demand for Vermont produce.

The Rutland Farmers Winter Market operates Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through the last week of April. The outdoor markets will start May 8 and run Saturdays and Tuesdays through October 30.

For more information call Greg Cox at (802) 683-5791 or Bill Clark at (802) 325-3203. Visit vtfarmersmarket.org.



photo by Nancy Cassidy
Holstein dairy cows enjoy a winter turn-out at Lynn and Alice Wakefield's farm in E. Braintree, VT.

Kitchen Rhapsody

Freshly scrubbed potatoes
In an old black pan
I really think are beautiful—
Believe it if you can!

Quivering eggbeater,
Feeling of bread dough,
Cutting of asparagus—
These things I like and know.

There's beauty in the eating
Of a dinner rich and fine,
But in its preparation—
That beauty all is mine!

—MIM HERWIG
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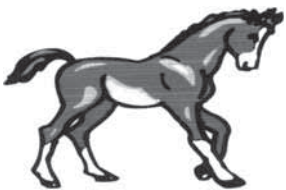
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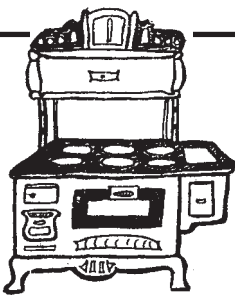
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Join us for Saturday morning walks at Hawk Hill—the ridge behind Otter Valley High School in Brandon—this winter and spring. The Hawk Hill Committee, who maintains the property, and the Staying Connected Initiative, a group with the goal of spreading awareness about a local wildlife corridor, are co-sponsoring this free series. Except for a bird walk, which begins at 8 a.m., most of these Saturday walks begin at 10 a.m. and last approximately two hours. Families are welcome. For all walks, please meet at the southwest end of the Otter Valley High School parking lot.

February 26th—Tracks and Wildlife On the Hill. Did you know that Hawk Hill—and much of Rutland County—is part of a wildlife corridor connecting the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks? Join a few veteran Moosalamoo Center students and Monica Erhart, of the Staying Connected Initiative, to discover some of the wildlife of Hawk Hill. No dogs, please.

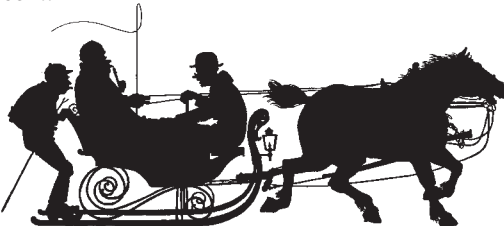
March 26th—Clues of the Forest. Every landscape changes over time, and as it does, clues are left in the forest that tell a bit about a place's history. Eric Hansen, Rutland's County Forester, will lead an exploration of the Hawk Hill forests, pointing out some of the ways you can visualize the changes that the land has seen over time.

April 16th—Hawk Hill History. While Hawk Hill is now filled with forests and trails, it was once the site of a thriving community. Join historian Bill Powers to learn about some of the history of Old Brandon.

April 30th—Rocks, Cliffs, & Glaciers. One of the most striking features of Hawk Hill is its steep cliffs. What formed these cliffs? Why is Hawk Hill so steep, while the surrounding landscape is so flat? Castleton State University geology professor Helen Mango will lead a walk around Hawk Hill to take a closer look at the area's rock formations and geologic history.

May 21st—Wings on Hawk Hill. Spring is finally here! In addition to being a great time of year for a hike, this is a great season for taking a look at the area's birds. While residents are busy calling for mates and beginning nests, it is the only time of year when we see some of the migrants still heading farther north. Take a look at some of the birds living on or passing through Hawk Hill with local birder Sue Wetmore. No dogs, please. Wearing bright colors is recommended, since this is turkey hunting season.

Please visit www.stayingconnectedgrnsadks.wordpress.com for additional information. For questions, please call Monica Erhart at (802) 446-7030 or email monica.erhart@gmail.com.



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photo by Barbara Griffith
Allison Henry snowshoes through the woods in the High Pond Preserve in Sudbury, VT, on a winter outing with the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club.

Green Mountain Club Winter Outings

Saturday, February 26

Tamarack Notch to Brewers Corners Mendon, VT

Moderate snowshoe; about 4 miles. 10 a.m. Leader: Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185.

Saturday, March 5

Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, Chilson, NY

Explore ponds and forests. Snowshoes may be needed. It may be very wet. Moderate, 5 to 6 miles. 8:30 a.m. Leader: Allison Henry, (802) 775-1627.

For more information about Green Mountain Club events, membership and activities contact the Club at (802) 244-7037 or gmc@greenmountainclub.org. Visit www.greenmountainclub.org.

Sunday, February 6

Hot Dog Roast, Shrewsbury, VT

Join us at Minerva Hinchey Shelter on the Long Trail for our annual cookout. Bring your own hot dogs or whatever you want to roast over our campfire. Hot drinks will be provided. Snowshoes may be needed, and we'll have a short hike to work up an appetite. 10 a.m. Leaders: Steve & Roma Pulling, (802) 773-6997.

Saturday, February 12

Rail-Trail, West Rupert, VT

We'll snowshoe or walk, depending on the weather conditions, on a rail-trail and on old roads. Moderate pace, 3 to 5 miles. Leave at 9 a.m. Leaders: Viv Bebee & Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855.

Saturday, February 19

Rail-Trail, West Pawlet, VT

Cross-country ski (or walk if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate; call leader to inquire) on the D & H Railroad route from West Pawlet, VT to Granville, NY. An easy, 8 miles. We'll meet at 10 a.m. at the West Pawlet Post Office. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510.



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STONEHOUSE

Half my wintertime life, or so it seems, I spend standing beside our old Round Oak stove—which stands at the center of our house—hands behind my back, resting on my butt, palms out, warmth of the fire in the woodstove working its way into my body. Then turn around and bake the other side. Too hot? Just move a step or two away. It's so simple, easy. And all you've got to do is work all year, sweat and heave and groan to make this little moment happen.

Now I praise primordial fire, I praise heat in its most basic form: this blessed warmth that comes from our old, wood burning, Round Oak stove.

Now I sing the praises of a wood fire, of the heat this smoky burning liberates, this dry heat that keeps us warm all winter, even when it's 35 below.

—DAVID BUDBILL

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Vermont offers some terrific ice fishing in its many lakes throughout the state, and the action is great beginning in mid-January, depending on the weather. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department recommends at least six inches of solid ice for safe ice fishing.

Vermont's premier fishing destination, Lake Champlain, offers many ice fishing opportunities. According to Vermont Fish & Wildlife, ice anglers can find quality fishing for many species on this 120-mile-long lake, including landlocked salmon, lake trout, northern pike, yellow perch, white perch, walleye, crappie, and smelt.

"Lake Champlain attracts twice as much fishing activity during the winter as during the summer, particularly in the northern third of the lake," said State Fisheries Biologist Brian Chipman. "The plentiful yellow perch is the mainstay of the winter fishery, but many ice anglers also find good fishing for other species."

Traditional northern pike hotspots include Lake Champlain's Kelley Bay, Missisquoi Bay, Dillenbeck Bay, Carry Bay, Keeler Bay, St. Albans Bay, the shallow flats south of the Sandbar Causeway between Milton and South Hero, and the area south of the Champlain Bridge from Addison to Benson.

Later, as more ice forms, landlocked salmon and smelt will be caught in the Inland Sea north of the Sandbar Causeway. There is no closed season for trout and salmon on Lake Champlain.

If cold weather provides good ice on the deep-water areas of the lake, lake trout will be found off the west shore of Grand Isle and in Outer Mallets Bay, Shelburne Bay, Converse Bay, and Button Bay south to the Champlain Bridge. Smelt can be caught in several of these areas, as well as at other sites between Thompsons Point and Button Bay. While walleyes can show up anywhere in Lake Champlain, the most consistent winter action can be found in the southern end of the lake off Benson and Orwell, as well as the northern end in Swanton and Alburg.

Yellow perch and other panfish are being caught throughout Lake Champlain in the bays and shallows as well as on many other Vermont waters.

Vermont's ice fishing season for trout, salmon and bass starts January 15 and continues through March 15 on 41 other large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 58 of the 2011 Vermont Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws and Guide, available where licenses are sold and at www.vfishandwildlife.com.

For more information, contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0501. Telephone (802) 241-3700 or e-mail: fwinformation@state.vt.us.

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

For a list of Vermont approved bait dealers, go to www.vfishandwildlife.com or contact Fish & Wildlife for a copy of the list.



Ice fishing on Lake Champlain is great family fun!

photo by Tom Jones

Ice Fishing Derbies in the Lakes Region of Vermont

Ice fishing derbies offer cash and other prizes and a chance for some winter fun for all ages. Here are some in the lakes region of west-central Vermont.

Benson hosts the Lake Champlain Down Home Fishing Derby on Feb. 5-6.

The 18th Annual Lake Hortonia Ice Fishing Derby takes place Feb. 12-13 in Hubbardton. (802) 345-8099.

On Feb. 19 there's the 33rd Annual Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Call Tom's Bait at (802) 265-8654.

The Great Benson Fishing Derby with over \$10,000 in cash prizes is headquartered at Crystal Beach in Castleton on Feb. 26-27. This derby is open to all Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. The derby hotline is (802) 273-FISH.

And what to do with all that fish? Rounding out the season is the The Castleton Lions 8th Annual Fish Fry on March 13 at Trak-In in Bomoseen. Call Lion Stan Patch by Mar. 9 at (802) 468-5001 for tickets, \$15 per person.

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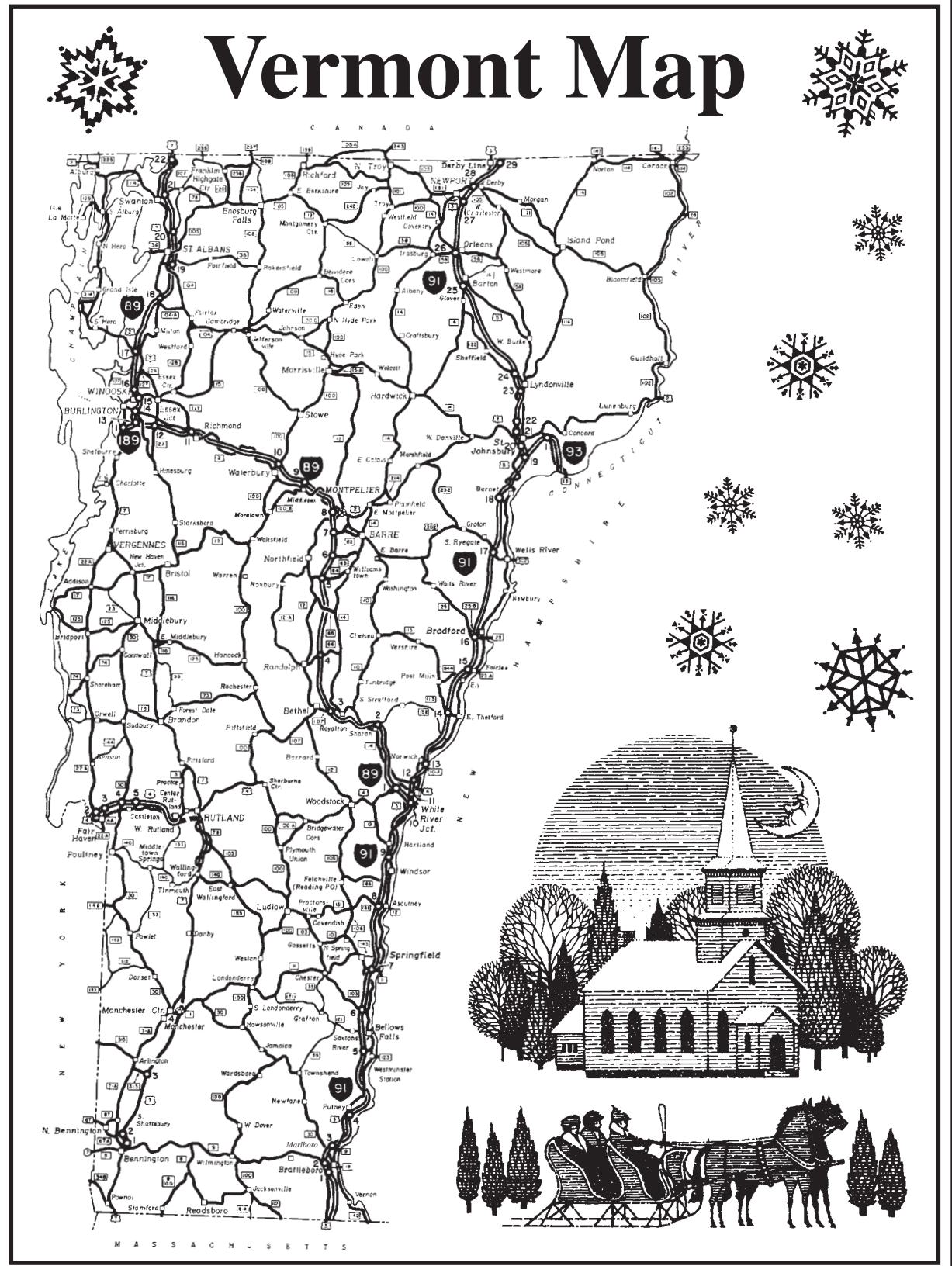
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Vermont Map



Mice in the Mug

*Wee, sleekeet, cowran, tim'rous beastie,
 O, what panic's in thy breastie!
 Thou need na start awa sae hasty,
 Wi' bickering brattle!
 I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,
 Wi' murd'ring pattle!*

—Robert Burns

I keep my birdseed in plastic container inside a small shed behind the house, and the other morning I forgot to put the cover back on the container.

When I went out to feed the birds the following day, I discovered at the bottom of the near-empty container, a mouse peering out from the coffee mug I used to scoop the seed. Its nose was quivering like a dog's (at least I remember it that way), and its eyes were huge and black. It had fallen into the container, hulled numerous sunflower seeds, but then had been unable to climb out.

So I took the container outside to dump the cup and mouse, and feed the birds. But when I looked down once more, a second mouse appeared from out of the cup and then a third: three fat, frightened mice packed into a coffee mug, coming out to look at me and then retreating back into the highly inadequate shelter, stuffing themselves so tightly that only their tails stuck out.

I stood in the snow, imagining their panic and their dread. Certainly, they might have known I was their adversary. I had killed so many of their kind in traps winter after winter

when they had invaded my porous house to find warmth and crumbs. They had little reason to hope for clemency.

But the more I thought about what they might be feeling, the more I became entangled with myself. Shamelessly I anthropomorphized those mice, projecting my own fears and regrets upon them. Suddenly their predicament stood for all the foolish, reckless, thoughtless, ill-advised things I had ever done in my life, things so stupid that I try to forget them all the time but never quite succeed.

I made a general confession of my failures to the mice, telling them things I had hidden for so long, admitting to them things I could not have told a human soul. And it felt so good, talking to these compatriots in crime, that, for just a moment, it seemed a fearsome burden had been lifted from me and that my transgressions had been absolved.

Slowly I reached down and lifted the cup, spilled its contents close to a space under the shed where the mice could escape. They stood for an instant in the sun and the snow, their pelts shining, priestly dark, their fat black eyes searching mine, then scurried for safety.

"Go, and sin no more," I told them (and myself), placing a little extra seed around the hole into which they disappeared.

For a few days, they were on their best behavior. I decided that they must have understood all I told them, that they had learned from their mistakes and mine, and that they had realized, as Robert Burns wrote, how "the best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men./Gang aft agley,/An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain./ For promis'd joy!"

Then yesterday, I found a small hole gnawed into the side of the seed container near the tightly fastened lid. This time, there were four mice in the mug.

—W. L. Felker

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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. info@studioplacarts.com. www.studioplacarts.com.

BARRE. BarreTown Radio Controlled Car Racing—Nascar Style. Every Sunday through March 20. NASCAR-style racing on a banked, carpet, oval. Great fun for all ages. Free to spectators. Doors open at 8 am with racing from 11 am – 4 pm. 15 Sherman Dr. (802) 839-7171.

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.*

BENNINGTON. Exhibit: Founding Documents—Commemorating the Settlement of Bennington. Archival documents will be on view. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. info@benningtonmuseum.org. www.benningtonmuseum.org. *Jan. 30 through May 30.*

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Feb. 19, Mar. 19, April 16. 10 am – 2 pm. First Baptist Church at 601 East Main St. For more information contact Sarah Sanfilippo. (802) 688-7210. info@walloomsac.org. www.walloomsac.org.

BRANDON. Chess Club every Sunday at 12:30 pm. French Roundtable every Saturday at 9:30 am. Ball & Chain Cafe at the Briggs Carriage Bookstore, 16 Park St. (802) 247-0050. info@briggscarriage.com. briggscarriage.com. snakemountainbluegrass.com.

BRATTLEBORO. 5th Annual Winter Farmers' Market. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions. Over 30 vendors offering local produce, eggs, locally-raised grass-fed meats, cider, fresh baked goods, local preserves, hand-made soaps, jewelry, pottery. Lunch, live music, certified herbalist, and much more. EBT and Debit cards accepted. Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm at the Robert H. Gibson River Garden, downtown on Main St. For more info contact Sherry Maher, manager, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org. *Saturdays through March 26.*

BRATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Hay & Sleigh Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$12, 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. off Rt. 30. (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. Open Mic. Longest running in the area! 7:30-11 pm at Adagio Trattoria, 123 Main St. Hosted by Kevin Parry. To sign up for a 20 minute slot call (802) 254-6046. kevinparrymusic.com. *Every Thursday.*

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. Exhibits at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Open 11-5. Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

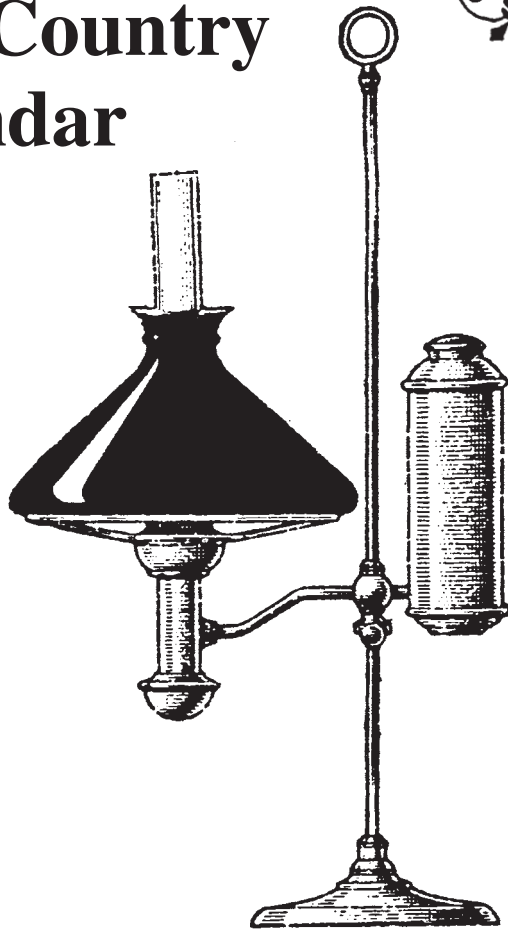
BURLINGTON. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Daily 10 am – 5 pm. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3 - 17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. One College St. (802) 864-1848. www.echovermont.org.

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

BURLINGTON. Exhibit: "Raise the Roof." A look at buildings and what makes them stand up and what makes them come down. Visit the Down Draft House, the Demolition Theater, and the Earthquake Shake Table. Free. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (877) 324-6386. www.echovermont.org. *Through May 1.*

BURLINGTON. Exhibit—"Paper." Works by Elise Whittemore-Hill and other artists that use paper's possibilities for explorations in collage, sculpture, pattern, and fashion. Free. Fri 12-8, Sat 12-6, Sun 12 am – 4 pm. 215 College Gallery, 215 College St. (802) 863-3662. www.215collegegallery.com.

CHESTER. Monthly Public Astronomy Meetings for the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group. Second Tuesday of the month – free to the public at Whiting Library. September-May, 7 pm: June-August, 8 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. 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. Country Jamborees, monthly community breakfast buffets. 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 Thurs-Mon, 10 am - 5 pm. On Rt. 103, just south of town. (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

DANBY. Mountain View Ranch & Sun Bowl Ranch. Wagon rides, all-season trail rides, lessons, special events. 502 Easy St. 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. Trail rides, kid's camps, lessons, boarding & sales. New indoor arena. Open daily, reservations appreciated. 33 Danby-Pawlet Rd. (802) 293-5242. www.chipmanstables.com.

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

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 Tues thru Sat 10-5, Sun 1-4 pm. Admission \$5. Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

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

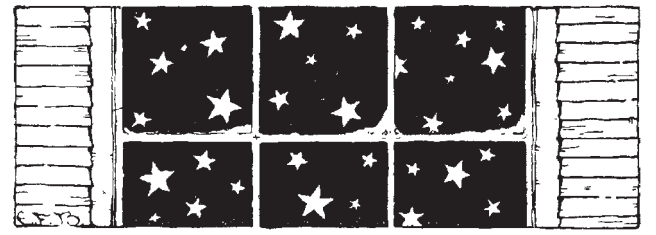
LEBANON, NH. ValleyNet Community Technology Center. 10-seat computer lab in the new Grafton County Senior Citizens Council building, Campbell St., downtown. Walk-ins 9 am - 4:30 pm, Mon-Fri. Free. (802) 649-2126.

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. 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.

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. Historic Hildene. Tour Robert Todd Lincoln's mansion. Special activities, lectures, bird walks, museum store, cross-country skiing. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Tickets: \$13 adults, \$5 youth under 14, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. (802) 362-1788. hildene.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Brown Bag Lunch History Talks. Bring your lunch; desserts and beverages provided; fee \$2. Museum open Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm and Sun 1-5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, One Park St. (803) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org. *Every second Tuesday of the month, September through June.*



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.

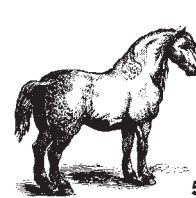
—KIT HEWES

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(Ongoing events continued)

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Arts Walk. Second Friday of every month. Art, music, food and fun. 40 venues will be displaying art from 5 to 7 pm—stores remain open, becoming galleries displaying the work of dozens of area artists. (802) 388-7951.

MONTPELIER. Homeschool Wednesdays. For children ages 6-12. Call to register. 1-3 pm. The Vermont Historical Society Museum, 109 State St. on the first floor of the Pavilion Building. (802) 828-2180. www.vermonthistory.org.

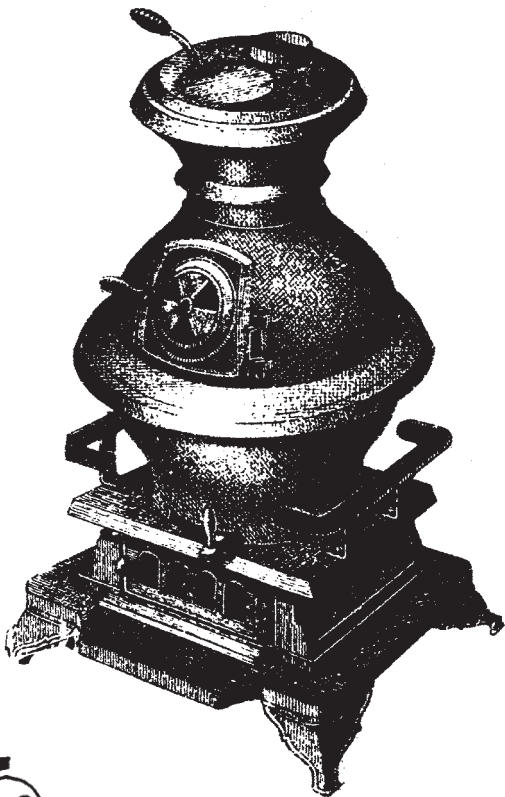
MONTPELIER. Capital City Winter Farmers Market. Produce, meats, cheese, eggs, crafts, baked goods, and prepared foods to snack on! 10 am – 2 pm at the Montpelier High School, Bailey Ave. (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. montpelierfarmersmarket.com. 1st & 3rd Saturdays thru April.

MOUNT SNOW. Indian Vegetarian Buffet Dinners. 2nd weekend each month on Sat & Sun on the weekends of Feb. 12, Mar. 12, April 9. \$16.95/adult and \$11.95/child. 5:30-9 pm. Austrian Haus Lodge, 6 Abroad Rd. Call for reservations. (802) 464-3911. *Through April 11.*

NORTH BENNINGTON. Free Open Studio for Teens. Explore art, working with paint, pastel, wood, plaster, cement, fabric inks, mixed media and more. Every Tuesday 3-5 pm during the school year. Vermont Arts Exchange at the Sage Street Mill. (802) 442-5549. www.vtartxchange.org.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Free Equine Seminars. 6:30 to 8 pm Wednesdays January through February presented by Arlington Equine and Whitman's Feed Store, 1873 Route 67 West. (802) 442-2851.

NORWICH. The Norwich Farmers Markets. We have moved downtown and indoors for the fall and winter. Fresh produce, storage vegetables, eggs, cheese, baked goods, crafts and clothing all produced by your neighbors. Winter Markets from 10 am – 1 pm at Tracy Hall on Feb. 12, March 12 & April 9. (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.



NORWICH. Young Scientists Program. Weekly preschool/ kindergarten program fosters your child's natural curiosity with a different topic presented each week. For ages 4 through kindergarten. Spring session (12 weeks): Wednesdays, February 23–May 18, 9:30–11:30 am or 1–3 pm. Fee: \$365. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. montshire@montshire.org. www.formstack.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 Poultney, East Poultney Village, and the Quarries, Farms & Forests. (802) 287-5252. poultneyhistoricalsociety.org. poultneyvt.com.

PUTNEY. Coyote's Path Wilderness Program. Monthly nature immersion program for ages 6 to 16. All day, one Saturday per month. (802) 254-5800. ifnaturallearning.com. *Through June 4.*

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards Farm Store open all winter 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. Winter hours (through April 15) are 10 am – 4 pm, 7 days a week. Admission: adults \$10.50, seniors \$9.50, youth (3-18) \$8.50, children 3 and under free. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of the Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. Art Exhibit. Featuring new works by weaver Bhakti Ziek and ceramist Holly Walker. Free gallery talks on Jan. 30 and Feb. 13, 1pm. Th 4-6 pm. Sat & Sun 1-3 pm or by appointment. Chandler Gallery, Chandler Arts Center, 73 Main St. (802) 431-0204. chandler-arts.org. *Through February 20.*

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 farm stays. Chapter meetings for the Weston A. Price Foundation. Call for schedules or visit website. Stuart and Margaret Osha, 55 Turkey Hill Rd. (802) 728-7064, (802) 431-3028. localfood@turkeyhillfarmvt.com. turkeyhillfarmvt.com.

RICHMOND. "More than Snow" Exhibit. Original photographs by Scott & Kelly Funk. Free. Gallery hours by chance or appointment. Gallery 160, 160 E. Main St. (802) 434-6434. kellyfunk@gmavt.net. www.vermontfunk.com. *Through Feb 28.*

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. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Fourth Annual Winter Farmers Market. The downtown Rutland Farmers Market moves indoors till Spring! Over 40 vendors, selling everything from fresh salad greens in January to locally-grown apples in March. Local wools, grass-fed meats, artisan cheeses, freshly baked organic breads, honey, jellies & jams, maple syrup & maple products, hot foods, wines, glasswork and jewelry—a great place to shop, eat and visit! 10 am to 2 pm every Saturday through early May. 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. vtfarmersmarket.org.

RUTLAND. Annual Full House Art Exhibit. Through February 13 followed by Made in Vermont Exhibit opening February 18. Wed – Sat, 10-5; Sun 12-4. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Trinity 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.

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. Reservations. (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.

SAXTONS RIVER. Foreign Language Potluck Suppers. Spanish, French, and German conversations and food. Free and open to the public. 6 pm, Main Street Arts. Call for schedule. (802) 869-2960. msa@sover.net. www.MainStreetArts.org.

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

SOUTH ROYALTON. Winter Farmers' Market. Many processed foods, produce, baked goods and locally-made crafts. Bread, pickles, relishes, maple syrup, pottery, jewelry, woodenware. Open rain or shine, wheelchair accessible, bathroom available, parking. Every Thursday from 3-5:30 at the Red Door Church on the Green. Info contact Bushrod Powers, (802) 763-8087. bushrod.powers@valley.net.

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 information 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. Webmaster@Stellafane.com. www.stellafane.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Exhibit: "Words of Wisdom from Martin Luther King, Jr." and "Angel Artwork" by Stephen Huneck. Free. 10 am – 4 pm daily. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. (800) 249-2580. www.dogmt.com.

STOWE. Paintings & Sculpture Show. Angelo Arnold and Peter Fried exhibit in the East Gallery. Also an exhibit of paintings by Mickey Welsh through April 17. Donation. Wed-Sun 12-5 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 5 Pond St. (802) 2538358. mail@helenday.com. www.helenday.com. *Through February 27.*

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance every fourth Friday of the month. 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) 446-2928. 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. wallingfordvt.com.

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Country Calendar



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. For info call Mitzi Queen, (802) 429-2316 or adamrboyce@juno.com. *Continuing 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 Sylvie Lio and open-share healings at 3 pm. All are welcome. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermontherbal.com. 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 in Westminister. The simple meal is free, with donations accepted. (802) 722-4148.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Public Sitting & Walking Meditation. Free meditation instruction is available at most of these times. Sun 9 am - 12 noon, Tues 5:30-6:30 pm. Thurs 12-1 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. For more information call Kye Cochran at (802) 295-5804.

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) 448-4553.

WILMINGTON. Adams Farm. Wintertime sleigh rides pulled by Belgian draft horses, Tues thru Sun afternoons and evenings, weather permitting, by reservation, thru March. Tour the livestock barn, see the animals, and visit the farm store. Special events and farm activities. Call for rates and reservations. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. adamsfamilyfarm.com.

WOODSTOCK. Contradance and Dinner. Every third Friday of the month. 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; evening contradance 8-10:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation, under 18 free. Don't bother cooking, you can just come and dance! At the Little Theater, 54 River St. For more info call Steve at (802) 785-4039. *Every third Friday.*

WOODSTOCK. First Run Movies at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Old-fashioned movie-going experience with state-of-the-art Dolby Digital sound system and the largest movie screen in the Upper Valley! Fri-Mon, 7:30 pm. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, under 12, \$6. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

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

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum February 19-27. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy barn and restored farmhouse, and programs. Sample favorite cookies of the Presidents on the weekends. Woodstock Film Festival with monthly showings. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Adm. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

BENSON LANDING. Lake Champlain Down Home Fishing Derby. On Lake Champlain waters south of the Champlain Bridge. 5 am - 6 pm. Sponsored by the Benson Fish & Game Club. (802) 537-3044, (802) 537-2468. tbarthol@shoreham.net. *Also February 6.*

BURLINGTON. 19th Annual Burlington Winter Festival. Fun activities for all ages. Free. Church Street Marketplace. (860) 670-1816. emilykalen@yahoo.com. burlingtonwinterfestival.wordpress.com.

NORTH HERO. Great Ice in Grand Isle! All day ice skating and snowshoeing open to the public. Chili cook-off, sled dog demos and rides, bonfire with food and beverages. (802) 372-8400. info@champlainislands.com. www.champlainislands.com. *Also February 6, 11, 12, 13 & 20.*

WATERBURY CENTER. 15th Annual Green Mountain Club Snowshoe Festival! Enjoy your favorite trails on guided hikes - easy, medium and challenging. Bring friends and family for indoor and outdoor kids' activities, nature walks, workshops, raffle, snacks, cocoa, and more. Admission \$10, children under 12 free. Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 244-7037. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

RUTLAND. Annual Winter Outing and Hot Dog Roast. Join the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club at the Minerva Hinchey Shelter on the Long Trail. Bring your own hot dogs or whatever you want to roast over our campfire. Hot drinks will be provided. Snowshoes may be needed, and we'll have a short hike to work up an appetite. Leave at 10 am. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leaders, Steve & Roma Pulling at (802) 773-6997.

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH. 10th Annual Northern Vermont Snowshoe Race. A family snowshoe festival—treks, walks and races on snowshoes. Smugglers' Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Adventure Center, 4323 VT Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-1173. smuggs@smuggs.com. www.smuggs.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

BONDVILLE. Cross-Country Ski The Catamount Trail. Meet at 9 am at Citizen's Bank in Bondville for a moderate trek to Stratton Pond, about six miles. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leader, Dave Charis-Mink at (802) 874-4275. jwolf@sover.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Huun-Huur-Tu Tuvan Throat Singers. Tickets \$6, call (802) 728-6464. 4:30 pm at Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

CHESTER. Open Mic. A new venue! Come to listen and play. 2nd and 4th Fridays. 8 pm. Stone Hearth Inn, 698 VT Rt. 11 West. (802) 875-2325. stonehearthinnvermont.com. *Also February 25.*

LUDLOW. Lovin' Ludlow Winter Carnival. Fun for all ages with multiple events daily. (802) 228-2126. *Through February 13.*

RANDOLPH. Dance—Jeannie & the Hi-Tops. Dance the night away with this popular Central Vermont band, a high-energy fusion of reggae, soul, R&B and Tex-Mex. Cash bar and light refreshments. Admission. 7:30 pm. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464 x 0204. tickets@chandler-arts.org. www.myspace.com/jeannethehitops.

RUTLAND. Performance: FDR starring Ed Asner. Television icon Ed Asner stars in this one-man show that takes us through FDR's White House years including the Depression and WWII. \$25.50/\$36.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

TUNBRIDGE. Contra Dance. Hosted by the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. Harold "Chuck" Luce and Adam Boyce, fiddlers. Open to the public, all dances taught, no partner necessary, children welcome. Refreshments available. Admission by donation. 7:30 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall. edlarkincontradancers.org. *Also March 11.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

BARTON. Overnight Excursion to Wheeler Pond Camp. We'll ski and snowshoe in, staying overnight at a heated Green Mountain Club cabin near Lake Willoughby. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Leader Rich Windish: (802) 457-2123.

BURLINGTON. NOFA-VT Winter Conference. Join over 1500 farmers, homesteaders, gardeners, localvores, educators, and citizens. Over 70 workshops, children's conference, an intensive for commercial growers, exhibitors' fair, Saturday night social, and fabulous meals. Davis Center at University of Vermont. For tickets call (802) 434-4122. nofavt.org. *Through Feb. 14.*

FAIRLEE. 2nd Annual Taste of the Lake. A progressive culinary competition among local restaurants, taking place along the Lake Morey Skate Trail. Fun for all! Tickets \$10/person, under 5 free. 11 am - 1 pm. Lake Morey Resort, Clubhouse Rd. For more info and tickets call (800) 423-1211. lakemoreyresort.com.

FAIRLEE. Skate Vermont. A celebration of the lake, ice and all things winter on Lake Morey's Skate Trail, the longest maintained trail in the US. Ice skating, speed skating marathons and free workshop, recreational racing, sledding, sleigh rides, torch light skating parade. Free speed skate rentals. Expert skaters and equipment specialists onsite. Food and live entertainment. From 9:30 am on at Lake Morey Resort, Clubhouse Rd. (800) 423-1211. marathonskating.org. lakemoreyresort.com. *Also Feb. 13.*

HARTLAND. Annual Roast Beef Supper. Menu: prime roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, homemade rolls, cole slaw, and homemade pies. Tickets \$12 adults, \$6 ages 10 and under. Serving 4:30-7 pm or sold out, whichever comes first. Hartland Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792. frazerl@nationwide.com. *Also February 19, 26 and March 5, 12 & 19.*

HUBBARDTON. 18th Annual Lake Hortonia Ice Fishing Derby. Lots of prizes for kids and adults, raffle. Tickets \$15 (under 12 free) available until Feb. 12 at 1 pm, on sale at Tom's Bait & Tackle, Ed's Bait, Dave's Bait, Fishman's, LHCS, Gilmore's, Hawk's. Derby runs from Sat. 6 am through Sun. 3 pm. For information call Jody Gale at (802) 345-8099.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(February 12 continued)

LUDLOW. Lovin' Ludlow Winter Carnival. Fun for all ages with multiple events daily. Parade, movies, cart & dart tournaments, on-snow events. Join us at Dorsey Park for the evening bonfire and spectacular fireworks. (802) 228-2126. *Through February 13.*

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Quilt and hooked rug show opens for two weeks at the Cobleigh Public Library on Depot St. (802) 626-9696. vermontsnowflakefestival.com. *Events through February 26.*

MANCHESTER. Snowshoe on Bromley Mountain. Meet at 9 am at Rt. 11/30 AT/LT parking lot. A moderate six miles. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Leader: Alyson Grzyb: (802) 362-6108. alruby@gmail.com.

MIDDLEBURY. After Dark Music Series Concert. Chris Smither – blues, Americana singer-songwriter. Light meals and desserts on sale before the concert. First come, first seating. Tickets \$20. Doors open at 6 pm, concert at 7 pm. The United Methodist Church, Rt. 7, Seminary St. (802) 388-0216. aftdark@sover.net. *afterdarkmusicseries.com*.

MILTON. Milton Community Winter Festival. Join your friends and neighbors for breakfast at the Apollo Diner in Milton. Berrypatch Daycare will be providing face painting for the kids. 9–11 am. Apollo Diner, 3 Southerberry Drive. (802) 893-4922. milton.govoffice2.com. *Also Feb 13.*

NORTH HERO. Great Ice in Grand Isle! Flapjack breakfast 8:30-10:30 pm at North Hero House, \$7 per person. Public ice skating. F-frozen Chosen Bike Regatta, 11 am – 3 pm. Over-and-Back Trek to Knight Island sponsored by VT Dept. Parks and Rec 11 am. Pick-up hockey game 4 pm. Valentine's Dinner Dance at North Hero House 6 pm, for reservations call (802) 372-4732. The Logger with Rusty Dewees, 8 pm at the North Hero Community Hall. (802) 372-8400. info@champlainislands.com. www.champlainislands.com. *Also February 13 & 20.*

NORWICH. Hawaiian Night Contradance with Northern Spy. David Millstone caller, guest musician Doug Creighton on flute and concertina. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners and loud shirts welcome. Clean, soft-soled shoes only. Admission \$8, under 16 free, over 60 by donation. 8 pm. At Tracy Hall. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu.

RUPERT. Monthly Knitting Workshop. Experienced knitters and newcomers welcome. 1-3 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 VT Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836.

RUTLAND. Concert. The Michele Fay Band—Original Folk/Bluegrass. Coffee House Concert Series. Tickets \$10 advance at Tattersall's, on Merchant's Row in downtown Rutland. At the door, tickets are \$12 adults, \$7 seniors, \$4 children. 7:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 117 West St. (802) 492-2252. www.michelefayband.com.

RUTLAND. Big Flicks at the Paramount. *Mary Poppins* starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke. It's supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! Adults: \$6, 12 & under: \$4. 3 pm & 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

TINMOUTH. Tinmouth Community Church Valentine Breakfast. Bring your sweetie and the kids! Indulge in waffles, pure VT maple syrup, whipped cream, egg strata, Wallingford Locker bacon and sausage, homemade donuts, muffins, juice, coffee and hot chocolate. \$8.50 per person with children 5 years of age and under free. 8-10:30 am at the Tinmouth Community Center. For info and directions contact: Meredith Pratt at (802) 446-2093 or rmpratt@vermontel.net. tinmouthvt.org.

TOWNSHEND. 4th Annual Free Community Sledding Party. Winter fun for the whole family! The sledding hill is public, so there is no time limit for sledding. Free hot chocolate and s'mores offered to sledders 1-3 pm! Some sleds available, bring your own if you can. Hosted by Grace Cottage Hospital. 1-3 pm at Townshend Dam Recreation Area, Rt. 30. (802) 365-9109. gracecottage.org.

WATERBURY. Trek to Camels Hump—Dogs OK. We'll follow the Monroe Trail to the clearing and then the Long Trail south to the summit. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash on the fragile alpine vegetation zone around summit. Moderate, 6.8 miles, 2600' elevation gain. Group limit 8 people, 4 dogs. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leader Feb. 10: Suzanne Daningburg at (514) 935-4770. suzannedaningburg@yahoo.ca. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WEATHERSFIELD. Winter Snowshoe Excursion. This is a joint outing with Ascutney Trails Association on Little Ascutney Mountain. Meet at Downer's Store at 9:30 am at the corner of Routes 106 and 131. Moderate, some steep sections. Sponsored by the Ottaquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leader, Harry Temple at (802) 738-8405. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WEST PAWLET. 8th Annual West Pawlet Woodchuck Festival. A winter gathering of artists and handcrafters (potters, knitters, woodworkers, jewelers, photographers and more). Collectibles and even one-of-a-kind rugs in an indoor

setting. Outdoor activities include the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Woodchuck Rescue Challenge, open to all Fire Departments and Rescue Squads. Play our very own Cow Plop Bingo and Rescue Challenge Games. Free. 9 am – 3 pm. Mettawee Community School, Rt. 153. (802) 645-9224. twfequines@yahoo.com.

WEST RUPERT. Winter Outing on the Rail-Trail. Snowshoe or walk, depending on conditions, on a rail trail and on old roads. Moderate, 3-5 miles. Leave at 9 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leaders, Viv Bebee & Larry Walter at (802) 775-3855.

WOODSTOCK. Film—*The Gift of the Pachamam*. A spiritual docudrama set in Bolivia, where a 13-year-old boy lives a traditional life with his family near Uyuni, a salt lake. Part of Billings Farm & Museum's Woodstock Vermont 2011 Winter Film Series. Shown on the "big screen" in the museum's newly renovated theater. 3 pm at Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. Tickets \$10. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

BURLINGTON. NOFA-VT Winter Conference. Join over 1500 farmers, homesteaders, gardeners, localvores, educators, and citizens. 70 workshops, children's conference, exhibitors' fair, Saturday night social, and fabulous meals. Monday intensive for tomato growers. Davis Center at UVM. (802) 434-4122. nofavt.org. *Also Feb. 14.*

EAST MONTPELIER. Cross-Country Ski at Morse Farm. Groomed trails. Fee with discount for seniors and Catamount Trail Association members. Sponsored by the Ottaquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members welcome. For information contact leader, Iris Berezin at (802) 295-2294. www.greenmountainclub.org.

FAIRLEE. Skate Vermont. A celebration of the lake, ice and all things winter on Lake Morey's Skate Trail. 50k race at 9 am. Lake Morey Resort, Clubhouse Rd. (800) 423-1211.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Pancake breakfast 7-11 am at the Lyndonville United Methodist Church, by donation. Lyndon SnoCruisers-NEK snowmobile drag race at 10:30 am on Rt. 114 N. (www.lyndonsnocruisers.com). Ski & Ride at Lyndon Outing Club 12-4 pm. 2nd Annual Chowdah Fest at Lyndon Outing Club 4-6 pm, \$5 to taste all the chowdahs and vote! Listen to local fiddlers by a cozy fireplace and enjoy skiing and riding under the lights at Lyndon Outing Club from 6-9 pm. Door prizes, bingo. (802) 626-9696. skilyndon.com. vermontsnowflakefestival.com. *Events through February 26.*

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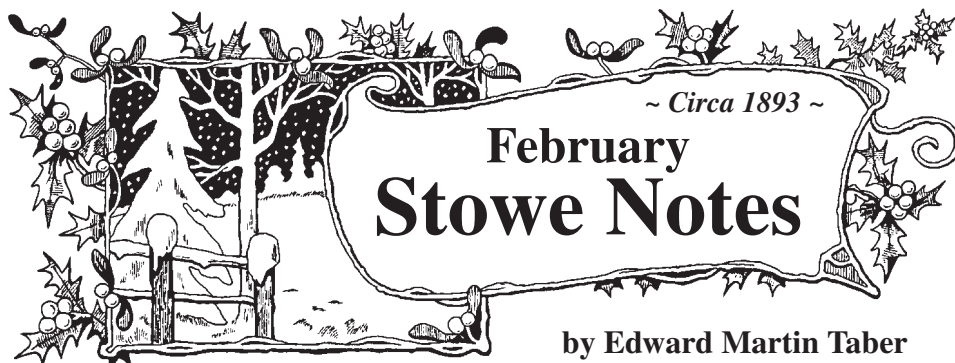
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by Edward Martin Taber

This morning about ten o'clock the thermometer stood at four degrees, and I think it did not go much higher in the course of the day, which was overcast, snowing, and with a steady north wind. I noticed it again at five, and it had gone down a degree.

From about three to four o'clock I walked in the west pasture. I went for the purpose of collecting some balsam boughs, which, being laid on the top of the stove, exhaled a pleasant odor.

The walking was very difficult, owing to the loose snow drifted in between the hummocks and hiding the underlying ice.

The brook could be heard but faintly, muttering under a double covering of ice and snow.

The spruces and balsams were heavily weighted; a touch would send the feathery mass scattered like powder from the ends of the branches.

I passed up on the edge of the old road through a small group of balsams, and on to the ridge among the branching sumacs. The position of the sun might be occasionally detected by an obscure gleam in the gray expanse of the sky. The fine snow sped almost horizontally on the steady wind.

Coming home by the pines, I was stopped by a faint note. I saw a bird that I took at first for a blue jay rise from the ground and slip behind an evergreen. Almost at the same moment, with a soft and broken cry, a vermilion-hued bird flew close above my head, swerved suddenly to one side, and disappeared in the boughs of a spruce close by. In the swift glance upward I saw distinctly the reddish chest, pale belly, and ashy under tail-coverts of the pine grosbeak.

This disappearance was immediately fol-

lowed by the passage of one darker tinted, that with a powerful and easy flight swept across the pasture and settled in the top branches of a sumac. I waited patiently for the reappearance of the first, for although I knew they were the male and female pine grosbeak, I wanted another glimpse of the vermilion plumage. Had I not seen them, I think I should have recognized the note, so strange, so plaintive.

Casting a glance after the one departed (the female), I was startled to see a flock rise suddenly above the thicket of sumac where she had settled. They rose high into the air, and descended fluttering among the evergreens on the crest of the hill.

I immediately set out in pursuit, but before I had retraced my steps to the pine, they were up again, this time sweeping down toward me, over the snowy undulations. They passed within a rod of me, a considerable flock flying rather low. The males were brilliantly tinted—a deep red, almost crimson, on the crown; the females, flying, showed an orange spot on the rump.

Sometimes a thin lisp intermingled with their twitter, which latter sound reminded me somewhat of the distant chant of frogs, sometimes a cry, like the jay's, but fainter and softened, more like a sea bird's but not so plaintive. They appeared to me to be as large as robins.

They seemed mightily at home. It was a beautiful spectacle. They lit in the pine's swaying boughs, scattering the snow, the bright males contrasting finely with the dark green foliage.

My last sight of them was in the air, making a descent a little farther along the slope, fluttering, falling and changing place.

Vermont Country Calendar

LUDLOW. Lovin' Ludlow Winter Carnival. Fun for all ages with multiple events daily. (802) 228-2126.

MANCHESTER. Teddy Bear Tea Party. Partygoers, bears included, dress in Valentine's Day finery and enjoy juice, tea, and sweet treats as well as art and craft projects, a book reading, Valentine's Day games, and photo corner. Admission \$28/pair. Reservations required, space is limited. 2-4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 262-1405 x 32.

MARSHFIELD. Presentation: Sprightly Steps—Vermont's Contra & Square Dancing Tradition. Musician and local historian Adam Boyce will discuss the musical styles and dances kept alive by those who love these traditions. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 2 pm. Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St. (802) 426-3581. jaquithpubliclibrary@hotmail.com.

NORTH HERO. Great Ice in Grand Isle! A family festival at various locations in the village. Public ice skating, ice golf championship. The Logger with Rusty Dewees at 7 pm at the North Hero Community Hall. (802) 372-8400. info@champlainislands.com. www.champlainislands.com. Also February 20.

NORWICH. Upper Valley International Folk Dance. Traditional music and dances of many cultures, including line, circle, and couple dances from Eastern and Western Europe, Scandinavia, the Mediterranean, and beyond. Everyone welcome. Dances taught, bring a friend and clean soft-soled shoes. Admission \$8, newcomers and students \$4 (rates vary with live music). 3-6 pm at Tracy Hall, just past the Green. (802) 436-2151. barthoj@vermontel.net. Next dance March 13.

RUTLAND. Big Flicks at the Paramount. *Chicago* starring Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renee Zellweger and Richard Gere. Winner of 6 Academy Awards! Adults: \$6, 12 & under \$4. 1 pm & 4 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

SOUTH POMFRET. 8th Annual Vermont Antique Ski Race. Compete against Vermont's finest in a two-run slalom. Racers can register 8:30-10 am in the base lodge in three categories: wood, metal/fiberglass, or strictly vintage. All skis must predate 1975 and strictly vintage must have pre-1975 boots, bindings, and skis. Registration fee. 8:30 am - 3 pm at Suicide Six, 247 Stage Rd., Rt. 12, three miles north of Woodstock. (802) 253-9911. (802) 457-6661. info@vermontskimuseum.org. www.vermontskimuseum.org. suicide6.com.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

BURLINGTON. Musical: *Cats*. One of the longest running shows in Broadway's history! Tickets \$24-\$64. 7:30 pm at Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flyntix.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Free skiing at the Lyndon Outing Club. Fireside photos with your Valentine sweetheart in the lodge. Burke Mt. Carter Country Sledding Hill open from 5-8 pm for ages 5 and up, \$5 per person (bring your own sled and helmet or rent our helmets for \$5). (802) 626-9696. (802) 626-8465. www.skilyndon.com. www.vermontsnowflakefestival.com. Events through February 26.

WILMINGTON. Valentine's Day Sleigh Rides. A romantic vintage sleigh for two pulled by a Morgan horse. Call for rates and reservations. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

MIDDLEBURY. Concert. Paul Lewis, piano, performs Schubert's Sonata no.15 in C, Drei Klavierstücke, and Sonata no.17 in D. Tickets: \$24/18/6. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-6433. cfa@middlebury.edu. www.middlebury.edu.

WOODSTOCK. Cross-Country Ski on Mt. Tom. Bring a snack to share, beverage, and candles for the cabin. Moderate difficulty with 360-degree views. Sponsored by the Ottaquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leader, Dick Ruben at (802) 333-3707 or Kerry Rosenthal at (802) 457-1796. www.greenmountainclub.org.

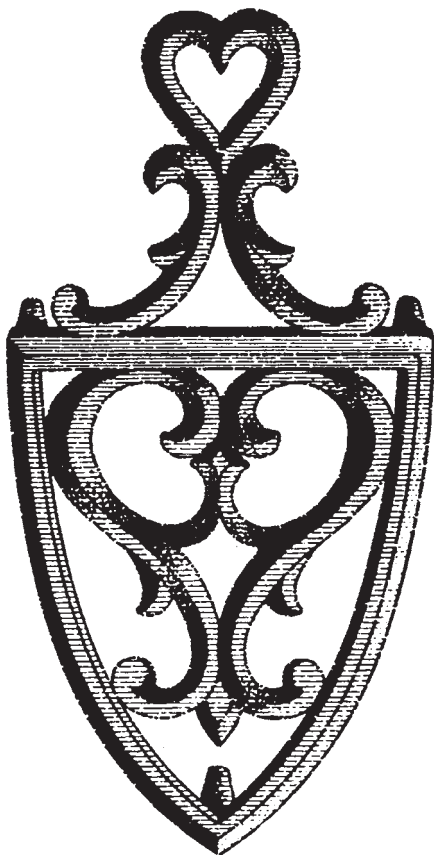
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

RUTLAND. Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre—Presenting Alan Ball!! Four biting short one-act comedies by American Beauty screen writer, Alan Ball. \$15. Feb. 16-19, 7:30 pm; Feb. 20, 2 pm. The Brick Box at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org. Through Feb. 20.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

BURLINGTON. Play: Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Presented by the UVM Theatre. Thur, Fri, Sat at 7:30 pm; 1st Sat, 2nd Sunday at 2 pm. Royall Tyler Theatre, 116 University Place. For tickets call (802) 656-2094. theatre@uvm.edu. www.uvmtheatre.org. Through February 27.

EAST CHARLESTON. Owl Moon Snowshoe. Explore the forests by moonlight, meet Oberon, our resident barred owl and do some owl of your own. Hot drinks and warm woodstove to follow. Bring flashlight/headlamp, warm layers and a snack. Fee: \$10. Snowshoe rentals \$5. 7 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

CHESTER. Annual Winter Carnival. Old-Fashioned family winter fun. Ice skating party from 7-9 pm and a bonfire at 7 pm, at Cobleigh Field. Free. (802) 875-2693. chester.govoffice.com. Through February 20.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: World Music Percussion Ensemble. The kora of Mali, West Africa, and the guitar of the American South team up to make great music. Tickets \$16/\$8. 8 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Burke Mt. Carter Country Sledding Hill open from 5-8 pm for ages 5 and up, \$5 per person (bring your own sled and helmet or rent our helmets for \$5). (802) 626-9696. vermontsnowflakefestival.com. Events through Feb. 26.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Kevin Behan talks about his new book. *Your Dog is Your Mirror* opens the door to a whole new world of communication and understanding between species, and perhaps a whole new understanding of ourselves. Free, everyone welcome. 7 pm at Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com. naturaldogtraining.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Marshall Crenshaw. It's been over 25 years since his 1982 debut and era-defining pop hit "Someday, Someway." Crenshaw still has an indelible sense of melody with a rich warmth and intimacy on every song. \$25. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. tupelohallvermont.com.

WOODSTOCK. Contradance 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; evening contradance 8-10:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation, under 18 free. Don't bother cooking, you can just come and dance! At the Little Theater, 54 River St. For information call Steve at (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. Every third Friday.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

BENSON. 2nd Annual Benson Chowder Cook-Off Challenge With a Twist. Sponsored by Family Days Committee. \$5 buys you a sample of all the entries plus you get to vote for your favorite! Cook-Off from 8 am - 3 pm. Doors open at 1 pm. At the Benson Community Hall. To enter call (802) 537-2063.

BOMOSEEN. 33rd Annual Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. \$3,400 in prize money and drawings. Food concession. Entry fee \$20. Tickets available at Tom's Bait and Tackle, Rt. 4A, Castleton. Fishing begins 6 am Sat. through 3 pm Sun. Headquarters at Crystal Beach Recreation Area, Rt. 30. Questions call Tom's Bait, (802) 265-8654. Also Feb. 20.

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Harris Hill Ski Jumping Competition. New England's only 90 meter jump, founded in 1922. See top ski jumpers from the U.S. and Europe compete on the newly rebuilt 90-meter jump. Tickets are \$15 adults, youth \$12 (age 6-12 years), five and younger free. Refreshments. Harris Hill Ski Jump, Cedar St. (802) 837-6668, (877) 254-4565. harrishillskijump.com. Also February 20.

CHESTER. Annual Winter Carnival. Kick-off breakfast 8-10 am at the American Legion. Sled races at Pinnacle at 11 am, food vendors on hand. Free dog sled rides by Braeburn Siberians at Pinnacle Park, 11 am - 4 pm. Biathlon Sled/shooting match at 1 pm at Pinnacle (using 100% safe laser guns). Winter Carnival Roast Pork Dinner Dance (\$9 per person) at 7 pm, with cocktails at 6 pm, at the American Legion Post 67. (802) 875-2693. Also February 20.

—Wise Thoughts from 1833—

- Better ride alone than have a thief's company.
- If you wish to have a good memory, always speak the exact truth.
- It is the worst clandestine marriage, when God is not invited to it; wherefore, beforehand beg his gracious assistance.
- Proportion thy expenses to what thou hast in possession, not to thy expectations.
- He that falls into sin, is a man; that grieves at it, is a saint; that boasteth of it, is a devil.
- Scoff not at the natural defects of any which are not in thier power to amend.
- Oh, it is cruelty to beat a cripple with this own crutches.

—CHRISTIAN ALMANAC, 1833



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Vermont Country Calendar

(February 19 continued)

EAST CHARLESTON. 7th Annual Kingdom Classic Wild and Woolly Ski and Snowshoe Races. Annual winter open house & 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off. Backwoods celebration of wool, wood and wax. Guided tours, prizes, great food. 5 & 10K races. Free rentals. 10 am – 2 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551.

HARTLAND. Annual Roast Beef Supper. Menu: prime roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, homemade rolls, cole slaw, and homemade pies. Tickets \$12 adults, \$6 ages 10 and under. Serving 4:30-7 pm or sold out, whichever comes first. Hartland Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792. frazerl@nationwide.com. Also February 26 and March 5, 12 & 19.

JAMAICA. Goat School. Topics include choosing your new goat, management, breeding, kidding, medical, nutrition, hoof trimming, milking, tattooing, paperwork, record keeping, and emergencies. Buffet lunch included both days. \$200 per person, \$100 per partner or spouse. At Cold Moon Farm. For info call Irene Glazer, (802) 297-3258.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Bill Schubart, author of *The Lamoille Stories*, presents his new book, *Fat People*, an entirely unique fictional look at the emotions and experiences of those who live to eat. Free, everyone welcome. 7 pm at Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. schubart.com. northshire.com.

MARSHFIELD. Cross-Country Ski at Beaver Brook Farm. 23K of groomed trails, all abilities. Meet at 1 pm at the Old Schoolhouse Common parking lot to carpool. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leaders, Cynthia Martin and George Longenecker at (802) 426-3874. marlong@fairpoint.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MONTPELIER. Capital City Winter Farmers Market. Produce, meats, cheese, eggs, crafts, baked goods, and prepared foods to snack on! 10 am – 2 pm at the Montpelier High School, Bailey Ave. (802) 223-2958. Continues 1st & 3rd Saturdays, thru April.

NORTH FAYSTON. Full Moon Snowshoe Outing on Hedgehog Brook Trail to Burnt Rock Mountain. We'll start around 8 pm. Expansive views. If the weather is awful, the backup plan is for Friday night. A 4-5 hour trip, moderate terrain and pace, 5.2 miles, 2100' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Contact leader by Feb. 17, Darryl Smith, at (802) 522-2516.

PERU. Bromley Mountain February Festival. Torchlight parade, live music, dancing, a desert tasting, silent auction and vacation raffle, and magnificent fireworks display! At Bromley Mountain, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com.

QUECHEE. VINS Owl Festival. Meet some owl ambassadors up close. Dress warmly as activities will be both inside and outside. Fee: adults \$10.50, seniors \$9.50, youth (3-18) \$8.50, children 3 and under free, 1-4 pm. Also pre-register for the Owl Prowl, 7-8 pm for \$5. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RUTLAND. BrewHaHa—Beer & Laughs! We are building a comedy club right on stage and inviting new faces from the Boston comedy scene! \$25 gets you four 4-oz. samples of Long Trail Brewing Company brews, a souvenir pint glass, and a whole lot of laughs! Cash bar with Long Trail beer, wine, and soft drinks. (21+, please). 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

SALISBURY. Winter Wildlife Tracking Workshop. Identify wildlife travel corridors in your town. For members of conservation commissions and other groups who want to start their own winter wildlife tracking program. Held by the Salisbury Conservation Commission. Free admission, lunch, and materials. 9 am – 4 pm at Salisbury Community School. For information and registration call Chris Fastie at (802) 352-9028. www.conservation.townofsalisbury.org.

STARKSBORO. Winter Excursion on the Jerusalem Trail. Snowshoe loop partway up the Jerusalem Trail across a logging road to views of the Adirondacks and back through a newly-created sugaring operation. Moderate with approximately 500 ft. elevation gain in about four hours. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leader Cecilia Elwert for meeting place and time: (802) 453-8447. ceciliaelwert@yahoo.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

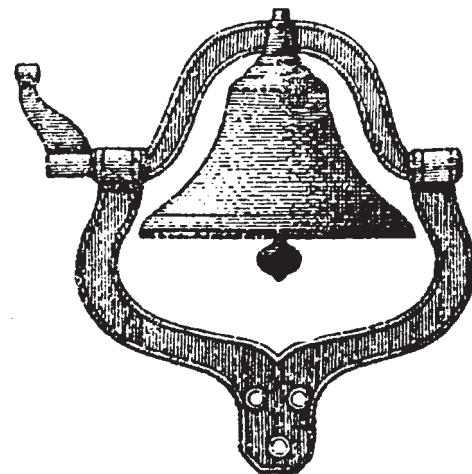
STOWE. Concert: The Wailers. Bob Marley's group will perform their classic 1980 reggae album *Uprising*. \$45/\$65. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 5781 Mountain Rd. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

WEST PAWLET. Cross-Country Ski or Hike on the Rail-Trail. We'll take the D & H Railroad route from West Pawlet, VT to Granville, NY. An easy, eight miles. Meet at 10 am at the West Pawlet Post Office. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leader, Herb Ogden at (802) 293-2510. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Performance: Tupelo Night of Comedy. Featuring Dave Andrews, Johnny Joyce, and Dave Decker. Dave Andrews' act is his own blend of humor, music and nostalgia. Dave Decker performs regularly at clubs from Boston to New York City. Johnny Joyce is a 15-year veteran of the comedy scene. \$18. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

WILLIAMSTOWN. Presentation: The Old Country Fiddler—Charles Ross Taggart. Having grown up in Topsham, VT, Charles Ross Taggart went on to a forty-year career performing in countless stage shows across the country. Fiddler Adam Boyce portrays Mr. Taggart circa 1936, sharing recollections of his life and career interspersed with live fiddling and humorous sketches. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 2 pm. The Gardens at Williamstown Square, 2844 VT Rt. 14. (802) 433-5887. ainsworthpl@yahoo.com. ainsworthpubliclibrary.wordpress.com.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Enjoy a sleigh ride through frosty farm fields and take a turn with a jack jumper sled. Tour the barns and restored farmhouse. In commemoration of Presidents Day, sample favorite cookies of the Presidents. 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. Through February 27.



Brandon's Arts & Wine Festival

Art in the Snow

February 26 & 27, 2011

Every winter, Brandon's many artists open their studio doors and hundreds of visitors flock to witness the creative process in action. This year's "Art in the Snow" takes place on February 26 and 27 throughout the town.

One may paint, make pizza, join the Wine Trail—it's a town-wide celebration for everyone's enjoyment!

Brandon is a classic Vermont village with over 240 houses on the National His-

toric Register, and is host to a vibrant art community. Visit the open studios and talk with the artists. There will be classes, workshops, and demonstrations.

Famed folk artist Warren Kimble will lead a painting class and chef Robert of the much celebrated restaurant, Café Provence, gives a pizza-making lesson. Workshops include earring making, cooking a "localvore" meal, and children's painting.

An exciting addition to this year's "Art in the Snow" is The Wine Trail brought to Brandon by the Vermont Grape and Wine Council. Five wineries are presenting a host of tastings to delight the wine lover.

A Saturday afternoon open house reception takes place at the brand-new Warren Kimble Gallery and a cabin-fever dance at the Brandon Inn in the evening features the local band, The Avant-Garde Dogs.

For those wishing to make a weekend of it, Brandon's country inns and B&Bs beck-

on. Shops and restaurants will be offering specials and there is even an open house at nearby Maple View Farm Alpacas.

The weekend is filled with exciting possibilities for young and old.

"Art in the Snow" is a partnership event between the Brandon Artists Guild and the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce.

For further information, and to pre-register for classes please call (802) 247-6401 or e-mail info@brandon.org. Visit www.artinthesnow.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

BOMOSEEN. 33rd Annual Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. \$3,400 in prize money and drawings. Food concession. Entry fee \$20. Tickets available at Tom's Bait and Tackle, Rt. 4A, Castleton. Fishing begins 6 am Sat. through 3 pm Sun. Headquarters at Crystal Beach Recreation Area, Rt. 30. Questions call Tom's Bait, (802) 265-8654.

BURLINGTON. 21st Anniversary GospelFest Concert Celebration. Presented by the New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church. Tickets: \$16. 4 pm at Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnntix.org.

CHESTER. Annual Winter Carnival. Chester Snowmobile Club Poker Run at Pinnacle at 9 am. Broom hockey tournament at Cobleigh Field at 10 am with Rotary Club chili and hot dogs. Winter carnival wrap-up at Stone Hearth Inn at 3 pm. Roast marshmallows and hot chocolate. Horse-drawn sleigh rides. Free. On-the-Green, Pinnacle Park & throughout the village. (802) 875-2693. cheshdwre@vermontel.net. www.chester.govoffice.com.

HANOVER, NH. Concert. Dartmouth Wind Symphony presents their Tango Nuevo Show. The ensemble is joined by New York-based professional tango duo Andriana Salgado and Orlando Reyes as well as acclaimed bandoneon player Juan Pablo Jofre. Part of the Dartmouth Tango Festival. Tickets \$18/\$10. 2 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Crash Test Dummy Race at 2 pm at Lyndon Outing Club. Northeast Kingdom Skating Club Ice Show at Fenton Chester Ice Arena at 5 pm, by donation. Skiing and riding from 6-9 pm, under the lights at the Lyndon Outing Club. (802) 626-9696. (802) 626-8465. www.skilyndon.com. www.vermontsnowflakefestival.com. Events through February 26.

NORTH HERO. Great Ice in Grand Isle—A family festival! Night skating with refreshments for sale from 4-6 pm. (802) 372-8400. info@champlainislands.com. www.champlainislands.com.

STOWE. Snowshoe Outing to Taylor Lodge via Nebraska Notch Valley—Dogs Welcome. Don't let February in Vermont give you cabin fever! Bring your friends and dogs for a mid-winter snowshoe hike to the Taylor Lodge and enjoy cookies and conversation before meandering back to our cars. We might need snowshoes or microspikes. A moderate 4.5 miles. Group limit 10 people, 4 dogs. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Contact leader by Feb. 18: Kelley Mackison Christie at (802) 999-7839. kelleychristie@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WEST DOVER. 2nd Annual Snowshoe for Knowledge! Experience the beauty of nature with friends, family, visitors and local community, for all ages. Presented by The Deerfield Valley Health Care volunteers. Registration fee. Hosted by The Hermitage—A Country Inn, 25 Handle Rd. For info call (802) 464-6467. snowshoeforknowledge@together.net.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Enjoy a sleigh ride through frosty farm fields and take a turn with a jack jumper sled. Tour the barns and restored farmhouse. At 3 pm, Billings Farm will host the Vermont Humanities Council program "John Quincy Adams: Spirit Unconquerable" (free admission to program, reservations recommended.) Sample favorite cookies of the Presidents. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Adm. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Through February 27.

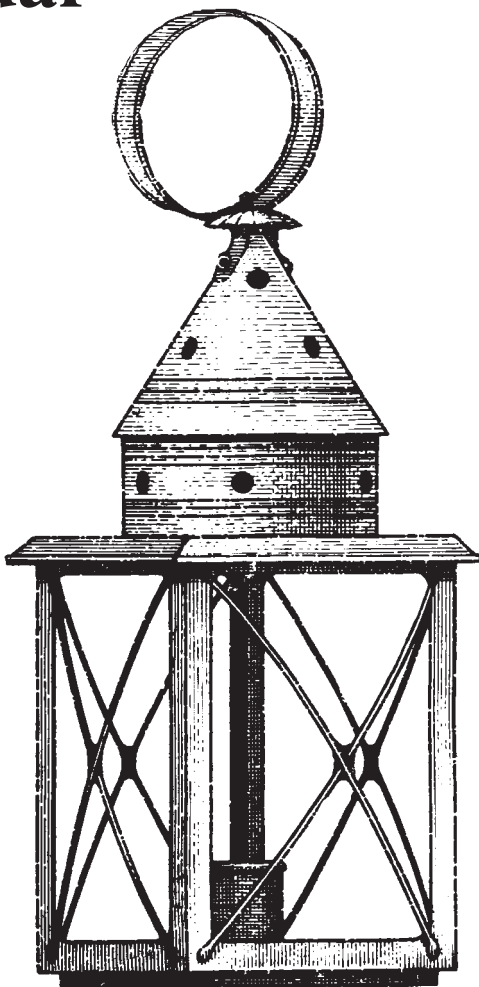
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

BRATTLEBORO. 4th Annual Domino Toppling Extravaganza. The popular Perucci brothers return to Brattleboro to build, then topple, an original domino course. 5:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

QUECHEE. VINS Great Backyard Bird Count. Activities for all ages from 11 am - 2 pm, Raptors Up Close at 2 pm. Fee: adults \$10.50, seniors \$9.50, youth (3-18) \$8.50, children 3 and under free. Center open from 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org.

WOODSTOCK. Presentation: John Quincy Adams—Spirit Unconquerable. Jim Cooke portrays John Quincy Adams, the 6th president, in the final decade of his life. See him defend the Amistad Africans before the Supreme Court and fight the slave-master's Gag Rule in the House of Representatives. Truly, he was "Old Man Eloquent!" A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 3 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, Visitor Center Theater, 5302 River Rd. (802) 457-2355 x 26. billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy barn and restored farmhouse, and programs. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Adm. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Through Feb. 27.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Wildflower Inn on Darling Hill offers free sledding, snowman-making, hot chocolate and bonfire from 3-5 pm. (802) 626-9696. www.vermontsnowflakefestival.com. Events through February 26.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Snowshoe to Prospect Rock. Meet at 9 am at Bistro Henry parking lot on Rts. 11/30. A moderately easy four miles. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leaders, Steve and Alyson Grzyb at (802) 362-6108. alruby@gmail.com.

VERSHIRE. Back-Country Cross-Country Ski Excursion. Podunk Pond, Vershire and South Stratford VT. Varied terrain, some uphill stretches, moderate to difficult, 8-10 miles. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leaders, Heinz and Inge Trebitz at (802) 785-2129. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy barn and restored farmhouse, and programs. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Adm. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Thru Feb. 27.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

GREENSBORO. Sugar-on-Snow and Sledding Party. Part of Highland Lodge's Family and Nature Week. 2-3 pm. Highland Lodge Caspian Lake, 1608 Craftsby Rd. (802) 533-2647. highlandlodge.com.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy barn and restored farmhouse, and programs. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Adm. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Thru Feb. 27.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

BURLINGTON. 13th Annual Vermont Dairy Producers Conference. \$25 before Feb. 10, \$45 thereafter, \$65 at door. 8:30 am - 4:15 pm. Sheraton Hotel Conference Center. For registration call Peggy Manahan, (800) 639-2130. peggy.manahan@uvm.edu.

LONDONDERRY. Winter Snowshoe Outing on Lower Little Michigan Trail. Meet at 9 am at Clark's IGA. An easy two miles. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leader, Marge Fish at (802) 824-3662. marge.fish@gmail.com. greenmountainclub.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Family night at the Lyndon Outing Club—bonfire and wienie roast with free hot dogs, s'mores, and hot chocolate! Night ride & ski tickets \$5 per person. (802) 626-9696. (802) 626-8465. www.skilyndon.com. www.vermontsnowflakefestival.com. Events through Feb. 26.

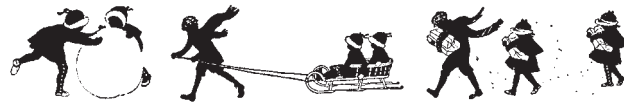
SMUGGLERS NOTCH. Disney FamilyFun Magazine Winter Carnival. Always a family favorite! Music and live entertainment, face painting, games, a bonfire, giveaways and outdoor barbecue. Free. 2-5 pm. Smugglers' Notch Resort Village Green, 4323 VT Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-8851.

GLARE ICE

I have assumed
the dignity of years.
I wear it well,
walking the waxen shine
of ice-clad ways
with careful steps.
No one suspects

the presence of a girl,
galoshe buckles jingling
as she runs,
joyously sliding down
the glare ice of
remembered winters.

—MARY LOU HEALY



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Vermont Country Calendar

(February 24 continued)

STOWE. Mad Science Presents Star Trek Live! An action-packed, interactive spectacle that is out of this world where audience members join the newly formed Starfleet Academy! \$20 adults, kids \$13. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 5781 Mountain Rd. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org. Also Feb. 25, 26, 27.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Railroad Earth. \$24. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. tupelohallvermont.com. railroadearth.net.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy barn and restored farmhouse, and programs. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Adm. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Through February 27.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

BROOKFIELD. Winter Cape Breton Fiddle and Dance Camp. With Wendy MacIsaac, Andrea Beaton and Beth Telford. Held in Pond Village. For more information and fees call Beth Telford at (802) 728-6351. Through Feb. 28.

FAIRLEE. Snowmobile Event: Top Gun Shoot Out of Ice. Ice drag racing and shoot-out with radar runs and lots of speed. Open to everyone. Live entertainment, lakeside dining and seasonal resort amenities make this a weekend not to miss. Call for rates and information. (800) 423-1211. www.lakemoreyresort.com. Through February 27.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Lecture and discussion by Jay Craven, filmmaker about the Roosevelt Presidency and its impact. Free. 7 pm at Cobleigh Library. (802) 626-9696. vermontsnowflakefestival.com. Events through February 26.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Wendy MacIsaac and Andrea Beaton. An intimate evening of terrific Cape Breton fiddling featuring traditional and original tunes, story telling, and a dessert potluck. 7:30 pm. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464 x 0204. tickets@chandler-arts.org. www.wendymacisaac.com.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Admission \$8, \$6 for teens, \$3 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info call (802) 446-2928. Tinmouthvt.org. Every fourth Friday.

TUNBRIDGE. The Tannahill Weavers at the Tunbridge Town Hall. Presented by MountainFolk. Contact mtnfolk.org or (802) 431-3433.

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. For info call Mitzi Queen, (802) 429-2316 or adamrboyce@juno.com. Continuing fourth Saturdays.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Jesse Cook. He has recorded six critically acclaimed studio albums and traveled the world exploring music traditions that he has blended into his style of rumba flamenco. \$30. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. tupelohallvermont.com.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy barn and restored farmhouse, and programs. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Adm. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Through February 27.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

BRANDON. Walk & Talk—Tracks and Wildlife on the Hill. Did you know that Hawk Hill, and much of Rutland County, is part of a wildlife corridor connecting the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks? Join veteran Moosalamoo Center students and Monica Erhart, of the Staying Connected Initiative, to discover some of the wildlife of Hawk Hill. No dogs, please. Free, everyone welcome. 10 am – 12 pm. Meet at the southwest end of the Otter Valley High School parking lot. For more info call Monica Erhart at (802) 446-7030. monica.erhart@gmail.com.

BRANDON. Annual Art in The Snow—Brandon Art and Wine Festival. Visit studios and talk with local artists while participating in workshops, lectures, and demonstrations. Enjoy world class food at restaurants, inns and B&Bs. Five wineries will be set up at galleries around town. Sign-up for classes in advance at the website. Pickup map and schedule at Brandon Inn. 11 am – 4:30 pm throughout town. (802) 247-8002. artinthesnow.com. brandon.org. Also February 27.

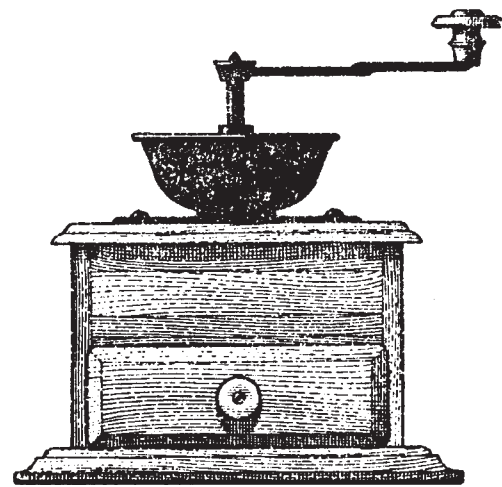
BRANDON. Maple View Farm Alpacas Open House. Visit the farm and learn more about alpacas, raised for their luxurious fiber, which is softer and warmer than wool. Free. 11 am – 3 pm. Maple View Farm, 185 Adams Rd., 2.5 miles north of Brandon. (802) 247-5412. mvfalpacas@earthlink.net. www.artinthesnow.com. www.mapleviewfarmalpacas.com.

BRATTLEBORO. 5th Annual Winter Farmers' Market. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions. Over 30 vendors offering local produce, eggs, locally-raised grass-fed meats, cider, fresh baked goods, local preserves, hand-made soaps, jewelry, pottery. Tasty prepared lunches, live music and much more. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm at the Robert H. Gibson River Garden, downtown on Main St. For info contact Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org. Saturdays through March 26.

CASTLETON. The Great Benson Fishing Derby. Over \$10,000 in cash prizes! All Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary Club. Tickets \$25, under 12 \$5 at local bait shops or derby headquarters at Crystal Beach, East Shore of Lake Bomoseen, 3727 Rt. 30N. Derby hotline: (802) 273-FISH. Also February 27.

COLCHESTER. Living Traditions—A Winter Encore Concert. Presented by Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival. For tickets contact www.flynmtx.org or (802) 863-5966. 7:30 pm at Elley-Long Music Center, Saint Michael's College, 223 Ethan Allen Ave. (802) 846-2175. lccmf.org.

ESSEX. Children's Workshop: Who Left This Footprint? Children age 6 and up learn about critter tracking. Please dress in layers and boots as we will be exploring the fields in the surrounding area after our inside informational talk! 2 pm at Phoenix Books & Café at Essex Shoppes & Cinema. (802) 872-7111. www.phoenixbooks.biz.



Claire Fitts' Winter Fare

Slippery roads, grey skies, and nary a growing plant to be found. Winter in Vermont can be awfully dreary and rarely makes folks think of the bounty of our soil. Thank goodness for farmers with fabulous means of storing vegetables for us poor root-cellarless folk! Most stored veggies are some shade of brown, beige, or brownish beige. But carrots are bright orange! Ok, I realize that I might be winning some obvious-points there, but carrots bring a brightness and sweetness that truly makes me happy to be eating locally.

When I really want a winter punch, I have to make a Carrot Ginger Soup. It's warm, spicy, a little sweet and just right for the season. Feta might seem like an odd touch for a soup like this, but trust me, it's delicious. Feta cheese was a staple in my house growing up, so I know my feta, and the goat feta from Sage Farm Goat Dairy available at the Montpelier Winter Farmers Market is just spectacular. It adds a nice little salty tang that rounds out the bite of the ginger.

CARROT GINGER SOUP

1 large yellow onion	1 lb carrots (about 5 med.)
1 tbs olive oil	1 tsp salt
1½ tbs grated ginger	3 cups chicken or vegetable broth
¾ cup whole milk	feta cheese (optional)
salt & pepper to taste	

Slice the onion and carrots and add them to a medium size saucepan with the olive oil and 1 tsp salt. Cook at medium high heat, stirring occasionally, until the onions are soft (about 10 minutes). Add the ginger and broth to the pot and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium, cover the pot and let cook until the carrots are soft (about 10 minutes). Remove the pot from the heat and, with an immersion blender, puree the soup until smooth. Return the pot to the heat and let the soup come back up to a boil. Remove the soup from the

heat and stir in the milk plus salt and pepper to taste. After portioning the soup into bowl, sprinkle each serving with crumbled feta cheese.

Winter Mexican Black Bean Soup is delicious, hearty, and fulfilling. I love it. This isn't quite as local as I would want, since I'm using canned black beans and canned tomatoes. But if you have access to local beans that you can soak and cook separately and you canned summer tomatoes yourself, then the soup is plenty local. And there is nothing in this recipe that you can't get in the winter without breaking the bank. Enjoy!

WINTER MEXICAN BLACK BEAN SOUP

2 tbs olive oil	2 small onions, sliced
1 tsp salt, plus more to taste	4 cloves of garlic, diced
1 tsp red pepper flakes (optional)	1 (14oz) can of diced tomatoes
1 (25oz) can of black beans	6 large red potatoes, cut into ½ inch cubes
7 cups water	1 bouillon cube
1 bouillon cube	2 tbs lime juice
1 tsp coriander	½ tsp cumin
½ tsp black pepper	

Over medium high heat in a large soup pot, saute the onions, olive oil and salt until the onions start to brown, stirring occasionally. Add the garlic and red pepper flakes and reduce the heat to medium. Cook for an additional 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the tomatoes, black beans (with water from the can), potatoes, water and bouillon. Bring the soup to a boil, reduce the heat to medium low and let cook, covered for 20 minutes. Mix in the lime, coriander, cumin and black pepper. Let cook for an additional 10 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

—Claire Fitts, Butterfly Bakery, Montpelier, VT
www.butterflybakeryvt.com



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Vermont Country Calendar

LUDLOW. 8th Annual Comedy Night with Bob Marley. Benefits the Okemo Community Challenge. Doors 7 pm, show 8 pm. No one under 21 admitted. Tickets at the door \$28. Okemo Mountain Base Lodge, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-8877.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Movie night 6-9 pm at Lyndon Outing Club—free popcorn and cocoa. Ski and ride under the lights. Also Sled Dog Dash benefit auction. (802) 626-9696. (802) 626-8465.

HANOVER, NH. Performance. Dartmouth Chinese Dance Troupe—2011 Year of the Rabbit. Chinese New Year celebration with traditional East Asian dances, among them the Chinese Lion Dance, and the Filipino Tinikling Dance. Free. 11 am at Alumni Hall. (603) 646-2422.

HANOVER, NH. Concert. Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra performs Stravinsky's music for the 1911 ballet Petrushka and Beethoven's Third Symphony "Eroica." Tickets \$28/\$22/\$20. 8 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HARTLAND. Annual Roast Beef Supper. Menu: prime roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, homemade rolls, cole slaw, and homemade pies. Tickets \$12 adults, \$6 ages 10 and under. Serving 4:30-7 pm or sold out, whichever comes first. Hartland Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792. Also March 5, 12 & 19.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Neil Goodwin talks about his new book, *We Go as Captives*, a fascinating look at the historic Royalton Raid. Free, everyone welcome. 7 pm at Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

MENDON. Mendon Snowshoe Outing. A moderate trip, about 4 miles, from Tamarack Notch to Brewers Corners. Leave at 10 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information and directions contact leader, Sue Thomas at (802) 773-2185. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MOUNT HOLLY. Catamount Trail Overnight. Ski from Healdville to Ninevah Four Corners, an 8.5 mile trail section with lunch at Brooklyn (snowmobile/biker) Pub en route. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information call leader and Brooklyn native Dot MacDonald at (802) 257-7657. greenmountainclub.org.

NORWICH. Contradance with Cuckoo's Nest. Ruth Sylvester caller. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners welcome. Clean, soft-soled shoes only. Admission \$8, under 16 free, over 60 by donation. 8 pm. At Tracy Hall. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu.

RIPTON. Snowshoe on the Spirit in Nature Trails. An easy two miles along gently rolling trails through woods and along the Middlebury River. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Call Ruth Penfield for meeting place and time: (802) 388-5407. Map and directions also available at www.spiritinnature.com.

RUTLAND. Big Flicks at the Paramount. *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. \$6/\$4. 3 pm & 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903.

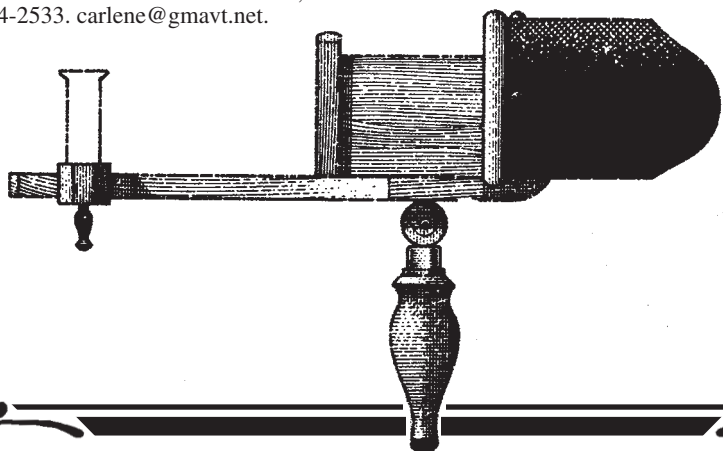
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: The Alternate Routes. A hybrid vibe of Rock n' Roll grit and ghostly, meaningful balladry. \$15. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

WINDSOR. Ski or Snowshoe at the Paths of Life Sculpture Garden. 18 sculptures, hemlock maze, interpretative maps available. Easy terrain. \$5 suggested donation. Sponsored by the Ottaquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leader Debbie Marcus at (802) 295-5128 or (978) 239-6193.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy barn and restored farmhouse, and programs. Sample favorite cookies of the Presidents. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Adm. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also February 27.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

BOLTON. Cross-Country Ski in Honey Hollow. Join us for a beautiful cross-country ski trek in the hills near Camels Hump. A moderate seven miles. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For information contact leader, Carlene Squires at (802) 434-2533. carlene@gmavt.net.



BRANDON. Annual Art in The Snow—Brandon Art and Wine Festival. Visit studios and participate in workshops, lectures, and demonstrations. Pickup map at Brandon Inn. 11 am – 2:30 pm throughout town. (802) 247-8002.

CASTLETON. The Great Benson Fishing Derby. Over \$10,000 in cash prizes! All Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary Club. Tickets \$25, under 12 \$5 at local bait shops or derby headquarters at Crystal Beach, East Shore of Lake Bomoseen, 3727 Rt. 30N. Derby hotline: (802) 273-FISH.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth Chamber Singers perform Bach, Britten and more. Tickets \$16/\$8. 2 pm at Rollins Chapel. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Northeast Kingdom Snowmobile Drag Races, 10:30 am on Rt. 114. Mardi Gras Day with King Cake, jazz, and jambalaya from noon to 4 pm and 6-9 pm at the Lyndon Outing Club, Hill St. and Lily Pond Rd. (802) 626-9696.

MIDDLEBURY. Organ Concert with Nathan Laube. Laubes' brilliant playing and audience-friendly programs have thrilled audiences across the US and in Europe. Professor emeritus of music Emory Fanning leads a behind-the-scenes organ tour at 2:15 pm. Tickets: \$24/18/6, 3 pm at Middlebury College, Mead Memorial Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. (802) 443-6433. middlebury.edu.

MORRISTOWN. Ski/Snowshoe Excursion and Annual Chili Party at Beaver Meadow Lodge. A moderate-difficult 4.6 miles. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For info contact leaders Andrew and Reidun Nuquist at (802) 223-3550, or Fred and Nancy Jordan at (802) 223-3935 before Feb. 25. www.greenmountainclub.org.

NORWICH. English Country Dancing. Chris Levey (caller) and Trip to Norwich (Carol Compton and Thal Alward) and guest musicians. All dances will be taught. No partner needed. All are welcome. Bring refreshments to share at the break. Clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes only (or socks). Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 3 pm to 6 pm at Tracy Hall. (802) 785-4121. \$7 admission, \$4 for under age 25. For info call Chris at (802) 785-4121.

PERU. Kare Anderson 26th Annual Telemark Race. Watch some of the best tele skiers in the East! Great tele events, games and fun for the entire family. 8:30 am – 4 pm. At Bromley Mountain, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522.

RANDOLPH. Evening Concert—Cape Breton Fiddle Music. Wendy MacIsaac and Andrea Beaton, two of Cape Breton's brightest fiddling stars perform. Cash bar available. Tickets \$17 in advance/\$20 at the door. 7 pm in the Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RANDOLPH. Free Ceilidh. Featuring music by Beth Telford's fiddle students who will have just completed Winter Cape Breton Fiddle and Dance Camp with Wendy MacIsaac and Andrea Beaton. 4 pm in the Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall. A potluck with the musicians follows at 5:30 pm. For more info call (802) 728-6351 or (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Big Flicks at the Paramount. *Mamma Mia*. Adults: \$6, 12 & under \$4. 1 pm & 4 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903.

STOWE. Stowe Derby. Ski from the Top of Mt. Mansfield to the Village of Stowe on a 20km course on the Auto Toll Road and the Stowe Rec. Path. Or skate on a short 6km course for all ages. 9 am – 3 pm. (802) 253-9216.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: James Hunter. His solo recordings feature rhythm & blues in the style of the 1950s, R&B, early rock and early soul. \$35/\$40. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumper sleds, tours of the dairy barn and restored farmhouse, and programs. Sample favorite cookies of the Presidents. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Adm. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Corporate Cup Race 2 pm; free horse-drawn wagon rides 2-4 pm; free spaghetti supper and 50/50 raffle at 5 pm; torchlight ski/ride starting 6:30 pm. Lyndon Outing Club, Hill St. and Lily Pond Rd. (802) 626-9696.

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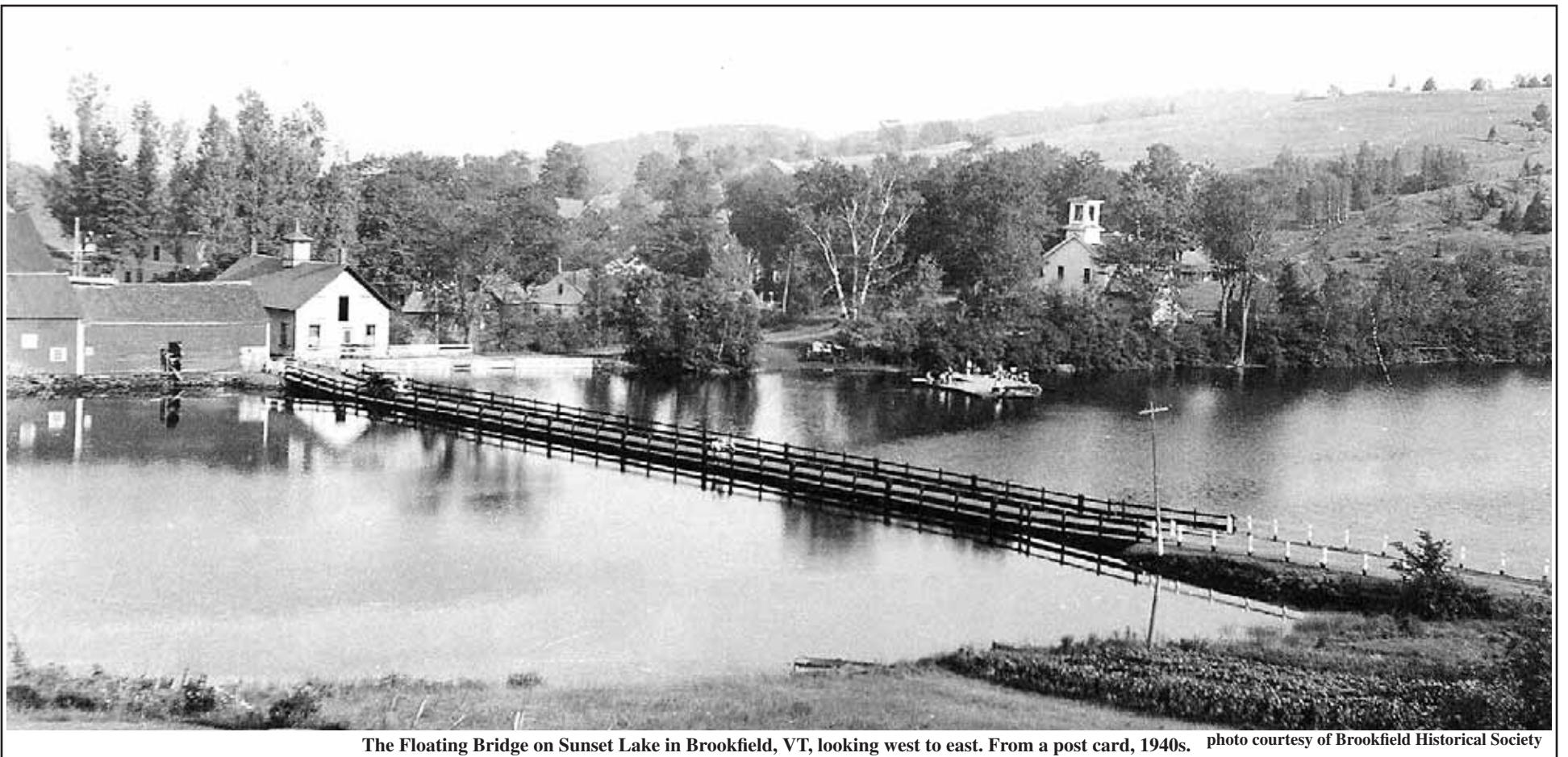
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The Floating Bridge on Sunset Lake in Brookfield, VT, looking west to east. From a post card, 1940s. photo courtesy of Brookfield Historical Society

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The Patterson family, 1910. Left to right are (?) Wood, Frank Patterson, Ike (the dog), Frank Holden, Anna (Patterson) Holden and Mary Patterson. The photo was taken at the family farmhouse, #355 East St., now the home of Michael Palmer.

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Encounter the Past in a History of Brookfield

by Edward P. Wild with Editorial Contributions
from Brookfield Residents (the 2010 Edition)
(Published by The Brookfield Historical Society)

The small village of Brookfield located in central Vermont may be known for its unusual floating bridge and annual ice harvests using antique tools and techniques on Sunset Lake, but it also has a fascinating history portraying pioneering spirit, ingenuity, and economic and physical survival through difficult times.

This latest updated history is the work of many life-long residents, sharing with us their stories, anecdotes, memories, and one-of-a-kind family photographs. It gives us a particularly accurate and detailed picture of what life was like 100 to 150 years ago in every small Vermont village.

Early settlers came from elsewhere in New England looking for cheap land and to avoid higher taxes. We learn that most were farmers "who brought all their worldly goods on ox-drawn sleds in winter over the ice-covered Connecticut River

Book Review by Charles Sutton

and followed the White River to its source in Brookfield."

Once the forests were cleared, early crops included wheat, oats, rye, buckwheat, Indian corn, potatoes, hay, flax, and hemp for making rope. An early source of cash for farmers was potash made from the ashes of burned logs.

In the early 19th century local farmers got in on the Merino sheep raising craze and got up to 94 cents a pound for their wool. In 1840 there were 1,700,000 sheep in Vermont, but 10 years later the wool market collapsed and Vermont farmers had to find other sources of income.

Most of the early enterprises still centered around farming. The manufacturing of its celebrated hay forks started in 1830. Equally popular were cant hooks (a traditional logging tool), hoes and rakes. This business was eventually sold to the American Fork and Hoe Co. in Wallingford, VT.

Another early business was the manufacturing of drag rakes nicknamed "bull rakes" as a man had to be strong as a bull to pull one. They were used to scoop up hay before horse-drawn rakes were invented. Ash lumber for the rakes came from local mills the rakes were four feet wide, extra long, and sold for about \$1 each.

This was an era for inventors and Brookfield had its share. In 1860 Joseph Newell obtained the patent for the Empire Washer. The purpose of the machine was to simulate human hands "rubbing, squeezing or pounding and turning the garments at the same operation."

Resident Aaron Cleveland was the first to utilize the waterpower from Colt's Pond (now called Sunset Lake) for a gristmill. We learn that cider mill operator Frank Peterson built a blanket size press where a giant hand-turned screw ground apples into pulp and the cider flowed through pipes to customer's barrels. He also had a large local market for boiled cider, a staple for apple pie making at that time.

Other local businesses that flourished during those years were a tannery, a clover mill, creamery and cheese factories, lumber mills, harness-makers, wheelwrights, a coffin and casket maker (prices ranged for \$25 to \$85), distilleries, and even an organ maker. The town also had a smelting factory.

It may be hard to imagine today, when nearly everyone drives by car to shopping centers or malls to shop, that Brookfield at one time supported three general stores that supplied all of the residents' needs including dry goods, groceries, agricultural supplies and feeds, hardware, notions, clothing, dried codfish, penny candy, kerosene, molasses and sugar, pipe and chewing tobacco, and much more.

One of the big events in the village every winter was harvesting ice from mile-long Colt's Pond. We learn that men spent the entire season in the bitter cold cutting ice for 25 cents an hour or five cents for each block of ice, usually measuring 1' x 1' x 1' and weighing 57 pounds. Back then it took 1,500 pounds of ice to cool the milk of one cow for a year! Needless to say local farmers filled their own ice houses, burying the ice in sawdust. Blocks of ice also were hauled to Randolph for milk trains bound for Boston, and the ice even was used for ballast in U.S. clipper ships going to India. Early ice harvesters used horse teams, sharp-shod for traction, to clear the pond of snow.

In the 1970s, Chris Williams, proprietor then of the nearby Green Trails Inn and Fork Shop, with the help of William Osgood of Northfield, organized ice harvesting demonstrations which have become an annual event to this day on the last Saturday in January.

Like other Vermont villages, Brookfield did its best to keep roads open in the winter using wooden snow rollers pulled by teams of horses or oxen in what was described as "never a colder or more miserable job than driving a team while sitting on top of the roller, exposed to wind, snow, and cold."

The early U.S. postal service also was done by man and



photo courtesy of Brookfield Historical Society
The Wardner Saw Mill on Route 12 in Brookfield, VT.

horse. In one of the many interesting and amusing tales in this book we learn that postman Clayton B. Fisk carried the mail for 13 years on his horse Old Gray, stopping at every mailbox even on the way to church on the Sabbath. The horse walked over 50,000 miles on the mail route, enough to circle the earth twice.

Other postal horses included black Morgans named Daisy and Bell; a trotting mare named Babe, a bay named Ned, and a Western saddle horse called Bess.

Fisk also devised a special sleigh called a "pung" to haul the mail through the snowdrifts between Randolph and Brookfield. A kerosene lantern at the driver's feet heated the rig.

With the advent of motorized vehicles, gasoline-powered tractors and V-plows cleared the roads, but there were no heated cabs. Pity the man who stayed outside to maneuver the wing up and down with a chain, to go past trees and fences. We are told he had to get off frequently to warm up by putting his hands on the exhaust pipe.

Brookfield probably is best known for its famous floating bridge, first made with a row of logs built on top of the ice in the winter of 1820. When the ice melted in the spring the town had its first floating bridge!

Logs were added as needed until 1884 when a new flotation system was built out of tarred, wooden kerosene barrels. The present, or seventh bridge, was built in 1978, using plastic containers filled with Styrofoam to replace the then existing 380 oak barrels. The bridge needs repairs today and is presently closed to heavy vehicles, but open to walkers.

Early Vermont towns like Brookfield were served by many small schools within the walking distance of groups of farms. The earliest schoolhouses were often crude log structures heated by wood stoves. There's a fine collection of photographs reproduced here of neatly-dressed children in their classrooms or posed outside the front door. Several graduates of these one-room schools have written lively and interesting stories about their school days there, learning the 3 R's from a lone teacher who boarded at a nearby farm.

More than 100 pages of this history include an intriguing

collection of compete family histories with many photographs of the original residents written by surviving family members. It seems the couples had many more children than they do today. There are also biographical sketches of the town's first residents. An example was David Bigelow who served in the American army as a teamster and met Gen. Washington several times. He came to Brookfield in 1783 and his biography tells us he was "always peaceable in his dealings with others; never sued a person or was sued." His family consisted of seven children.

The town's history also includes articles on its churches, cemeteries, organizations like the Masons and the Grange, post offices and public library.

The History of Brookfield was first printed in 1987, after a hand-written copy of the original Edward P. Wild manuscript was found by Alice Wakefield in the town vault while she was researching her book, *West Brookfield & Thereabouts*. In 2009 Alice, along with Elinor Gray, Jackie Wilder, Carl Bushey, Jr., and Gary Lord, started updating the work into this new, splendid 272-page edition. She worked closely with Nancy Cassidy of Randolph, VT in the design and production of the book.

The History of Brookfield, 2010 Edition, published by The Brookfield Historical Society, can be ordered from Alice Wakefield for \$40 post-paid at 4877 Rt. 12, Braintree, VT 05060 or call (802) 728-9749. Also available are two other books on local history by Alice Wakefield: West Brookfield & Thereabouts (\$29.00 post-paid) and Sunsets Over Lake Champlain—The Good Old Days in The Queen City of Burlington, VT (\$19.95 post-paid). These are also available from local Vermont bookstores.

"The horse walked over 50,000 miles on the mail route, enough to circle the earth twice."

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North Country Book News

Someone Walks By—The Wonders of Wildlife

by Polly Carlson-Voiles

(Published by Raven Productions, Ely, MN)

With all the deep snow this winter it is hard to imagine that there's much wildlife moving around. However, from this inspiring children's book you can see an array of animals making the best of winter above and below the snow line. More than two dozen animals or birds are attractively pictured in winter settings, even beneath a frozen pond, looking for food or just checking out the scene. The story teller-illustrator has given us an extra treat by attractively bordering many illustrations with animal tracks crossing in the snow.

Wildlife familiar to us in the Northeast are moose, deer, bears, otters, skunks, rabbits, mice, chipmunks, squirrels, voles, porcupines, owls, ravens and a variety of winter birds. Also shown are red foxes, wolves and lynx. This is more than a appealing picture book as the author has given us a fascinating insight into how these animals winter over. We may be familiar with bears hibernating, but we learn that's when their baby cubs are born during a period when the mother makes a furry tent for them by sleeping on her elbows.

Also looking after their young are adult beavers who live on fat stored in their tails and body. The branches collected under water in mud are primarily for their yearlings to eat.

Some animals like skunks, chipmunks, squirrels and porcupines sleep away most of the winter by lowering their body temperatures. As some of us may have experienced, skunks do come out from their winter nap in search of food and let us know from their pungent spray that they have been visiting.

Another species our naturalist-author tells us about is wood frogs who freeze into "frogsicles" by moving sugars from their livers to a protective solution that prevents their cells from rupturing. These sugars return to their livers when the frogs thaw out in the spring. One of the pictures shows chipmunks sleeping on a pile of nuts and seeds—ready-to-eat food for when they occasionally wake up to have a snack.

Colorful and ingenious collages depict the winter scenes, and little verses tell the story. How about the snowshoe hare who "makes herself a shadow beneath a whitened bush, brave in her winter dress, holding jittery quickness still, stone still."

Someone Walks By by Polly Carlson-Voiles can be purchased for \$12.95 (soft-cover) or \$18.95 (hard-cover) from Raven Productions, PO Box 188, Ely, MN 55731. Or call (218) 365-3375. Visit www.ravenwords.com for more titles.

Vermont Humanities Council

Vermont's Statewide Community Reading Program

In the 50th anniversary year of its publication, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee has been named the Vermont Reads 2011 book by the Vermont Humanities Council. Published in 1960, it won the Pulitzer Prize the following year, and was the inspiration for the Academy Award-winning film of the same title.

Each year, more than

sixty towns and cities take part in Vermont Reads. The next deadline for applying is May 16. To apply, contact Mark Fitzsimmons at mfitzsimmons@vermonthumanities.org or call (802) 262-2626 x 306.

To learn more about the Vermont Humanities Council, visit vermonthumanities.org or call (802) 262-2626.

Vintage Calendars

At Rockingham Library

Flourishes around head. For anyone looking for a unique "Made in Vermont" calendar this season, to keep or to give, check out the Rockingham Public Library's Calendar for 2011. Every month displays a vintage view of a Bellows Falls landmark, each hand-colored, from the Library's postcard collection. From the Arch bridge to the beautiful old Hospital to Hetty Green's house, the calendar highlights the bustling vibrancy

of the town and its beautiful bucolic setting on the river.

Calendars are available at the Library and Village Square Booksellers for \$10.00. The Library also has handmade wooden bookmarks and sturdy attractive book totes available for gift-giving. All proceeds go to The Friends of the Library.

Rockingham Free Public Library is located at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, VT. (802) 463-4270.

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Snowshoeing in Vermont A Guide to the Best Winter Hikes

The Green Mountain Club, Inc. announces the publication of *Snowshoeing in Vermont: A Guide to the Best Winter Hikes (2nd Edition)*. Edited by Green Mountain Club Volunteers Mary Lou Recor and Chris Hanna, this edition showcases over 60 winter-time treks throughout the state divided by region.

The 165 page paper-back guide includes detailed maps and trail descriptions, hike distances and elevation gains, driving directions to trail-heads, winter hiking safety tips, and the new "Short and Sweet Hikes: scenic destinations in less than a mile." Colorful images of modern and historic snowshoeing adventures are sprinkled throughout the publication.

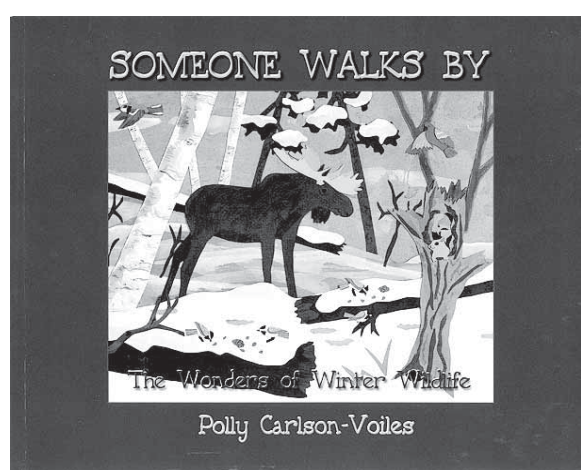
Snowshoeing in Vermont also marks the club's first publication available as an eBook, with GMC Publications Committee Chair Steve

Larose bringing the guide to Amazon Kindle.

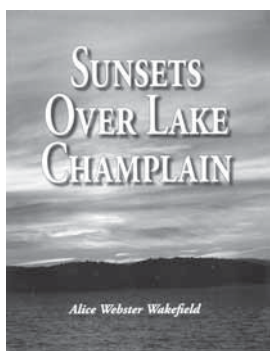
Reaching a 100-year anniversary this year, The Green Mountain Club is a member-supported and volunteer-powered nonprofit with a commitment to preserving and protecting Vermont's hiking trails since 1910. With nearly 10,000 members, the GMC is one of the largest hiking and conservation organizations in the country and maintains the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the nation, The Long Trail.

You can find the new snowshoeing guide at local outdoor outfitters, GMC's Waterbury-based Visitor Center, and the GMC website.

Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd, Waterbury Ctr., VT. (802) 244-7037. gmc@greenmountainclub.org. www.greenmountainclub.org.



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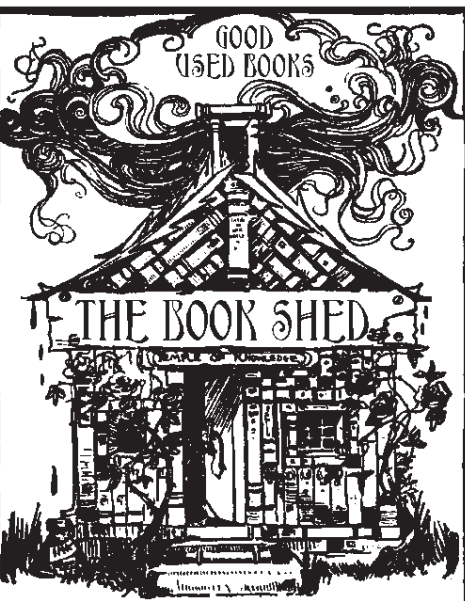
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Snow Secrets

by Lynn Levine

(Published by Heartwood Press)

One memorable day Vermont forester Lynn Levine was working in the woods with a logger who suddenly urged her to look down at some tracks. "Fisher," he said, easily identifying their maker.

For her, that was the beginning of a new and challenging adventure. Every time she goes into the woods, where she had been trained to "look up" to examine trees, she now also looks down for tracks and other signs of animals that have crossed her path.

Today, in addition to consulting landowners on how to manage forests with sustainable practices, Lynn who lives in East Dummer-

ston, VT, creates interpretative trails where walkers can learn firsthand about wildlife, trees, wildflowers, geological formations, and other gifts of the natural world. One such trail, open year-round, is at the Retreat Farm on Route 30 in Brattleboro, VT.

One of her goals is to motivate kids to spend more time outdoors, especially in the woods. She frequently takes upper elementary school students on a hands-on tracking experience into the woodlands and forests to identify animals through their tracks, scat, markings, or left-over clues like fir, bones and skulls.

To that end Lynn has written and published a wonderful little book, *Snow Secrets*, about two sixth-grade girls Sarah and Jasmine who venture into the woods with Tess, an Abenaki woman, to learn the art of tracking.

Sarah is a shy, bookish homebound girl whose main outdoors interest is to learn to ride a horse. Jasmine is a poor student but highly gifted in outdoor knowledge and skills. As the story unfolds the trio are able to identify the tracks of otter, bear, deer, snowshoe hare, gray squirrel, and other wildlife included a barred owl and pileated woodpecker.

The owling walk at night was particularly fun for the two girls. They were amazed at how Tess cupped her mouth and called out several times, her rich voice sounding like "who cooks for you aaaall?" It wasn't too long before a beautiful but ghostly return call is heard. A large owl appears and lands on a red oak tree branch that towers over the wetland.

The young girls feel safe with the wise woman Tess, but we find Sarah saving the day when the trio can't get home because of a flooding stream. She guides them over a fallen log using skills she learned as a

tightrope walker at a circus camp! Newly-learned tracking skills are later put to good use when Sarah returns home to find that her pet cat Boots is missing. The girls are able to track the cat to a tree and the rescue is made.

Lynn Levine is also the co-author, with naturalist Martha Mitchell, and publisher of a life-size, water-proofed tracking guide, *Mammal Tracks and Scat*. Lynn told us 9,500 copies of the guide have been sold, and one can see why this book is a must for anyone who ventures into the woods with curiosity about the wildlife there, even if it is hidden from sight.

The guide shows how to read animal movement patterns as well as the tracks and scat (drawings in actual size). The movement patterns include walkers and trotters like bobcats, foxes and coyotes; waddlers like bears, muskrats and beavers; hoppers like rabbits, squirrels, and mice; and bounders like weasels, minks and otters.

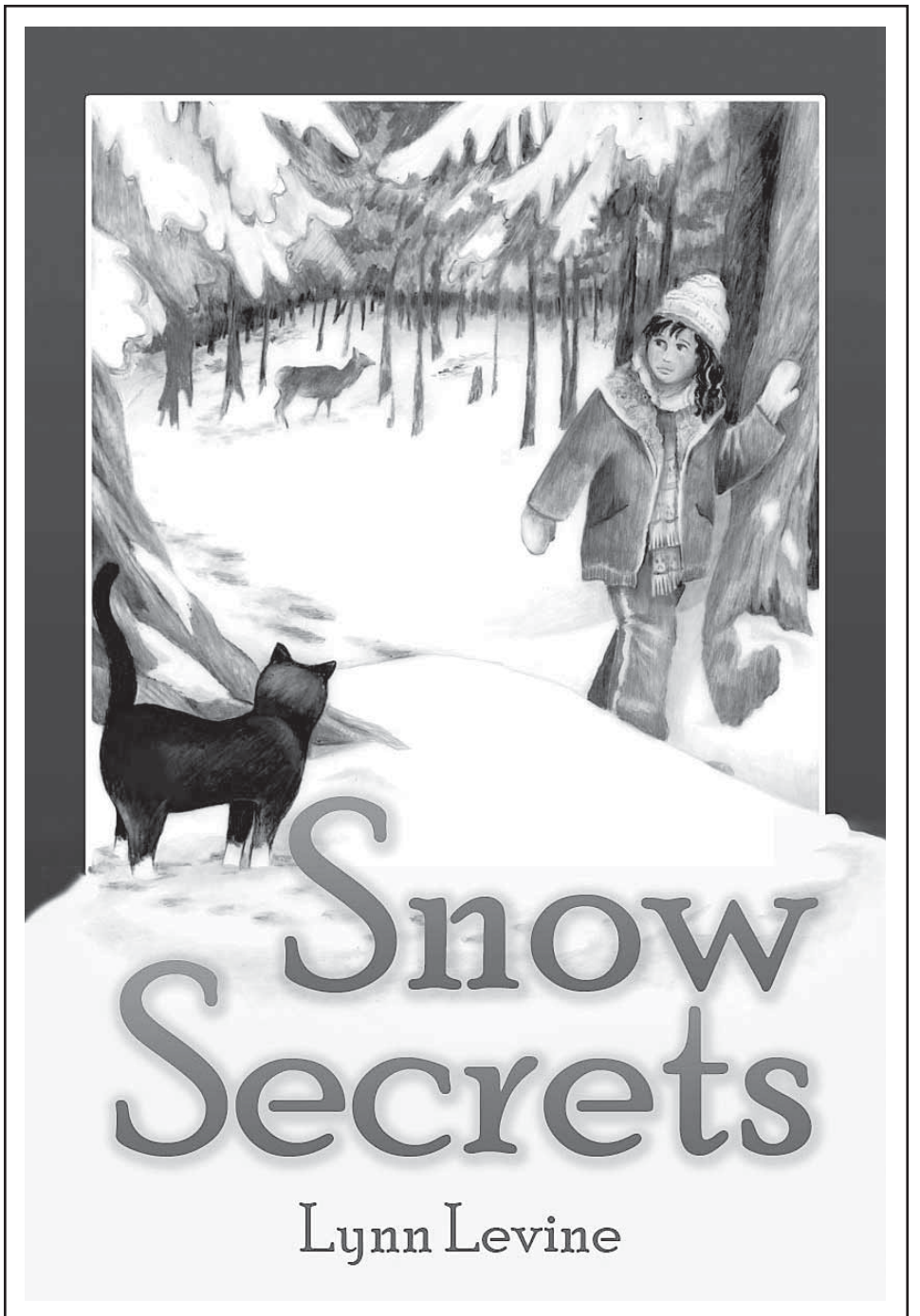
To aid in wildlife identification, the guide has drawings for scat from 29 species. Readers are taught how to examine scat with a tool to identify wildlife food sources like hair, bones, fish scales, seeds, twigs and other plant material. Scat is further identified by shape, size, color, abundance, smell, and the habitat in which it was found. It all helps in figuring out which species has been in the area.

Lynn Levine was born in Brooklyn, NY, and moved to Vermont in 1974. In 1978 she earned a master's degree in forestry from the University of Massachusetts and became the first female consulting forester in New England.

Thousands of people have gone into the forest with Lynn to learn about tracking and wildlife. She leads workshops for children and adults all over Vermont and surrounding states, sharing what she has learned about identifying the wildlife that inhabits the fields and forests we call home. She loves teaching the best, because "I keep learning, too."

Snow Secrets by Lynn Levine and *Mammal Tracks and Scat* by Lynn Levine and Martha Mitchell are available at Vermont bookstores. *Snow Secrets* can also be ordered on Amazon for \$7.95.

Mammal Tracks and Scat can be ordered for \$19.95 from Heartwood Press, 221 Partridge Rd., East Dummerston, VT 05346 or www.heartwoodpress.com.



Book Review by Charles Sutton

150th Anniversary of the Civil War Book of Days E-Newsletter

The Vermont Humanities Council announces the launch of its Civil War Book of Days e-newsletter to commemorate the Civil War's 150th anniversary. The weekly newsletter, sent electronically to anyone for free, will mark what happened that week 150 years ago. Three issues can be seen at www.vermonthumanities.org.

The project is anticipated to run through April 2015—the full length of the Civil War sesquicentennial. The first Civil War Book of Days

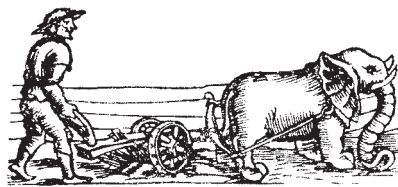
e-newsletter shares the story of a young girl who wrote Abraham Lincoln in October 1860, asking the soon-to-be president to "let your whiskers grow." Later, on the way to his inauguration, he met the girl face to face...wearing the beard that he kept the remainder of his life.

For more information about VHC or to sign up for the free Civil War Book of Days e-newsletter go to www.vermonthumanities.org or call (802) 262-2626.

Poor Will's Almanack for 2011

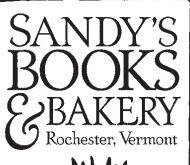
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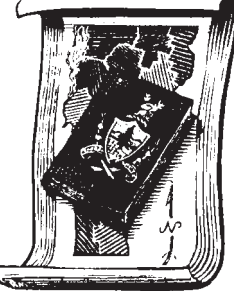
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Best of Jay! Ski-in, Ski-out Luxury 2 BR, 2 BA Village Condo. Newly built. Just steps away from the skiing/hiking trails and a short walk from the Ice Haus, Nordic Centre and other resort facilities. Sleeps 6-8 comfortably. Spacious master suite has king-size bed and bath; second bedroom has twin over double bunk with separate twin; queen-size sofa bed in living room. Fully equipped, modern kitchen to cater for 8 luxuriously, with breakfast bar and separate dining table. Living room with gas fireplace, cable TV with DVD & VCR, free high-speed internet, ipod docking system, games table, washer/dryer, balcony with views of the valley. Jay is a perfect winter retreat from anywhere. The condo is a short walk or shuttle bus from vibrant bar, beautiful restaurant and relaxing spa/gym facility. Also convenient are the brand new Ice Haus skating rink and Nordic Centre, offering ice skating, stick and puck sessions and cross country skiing, a beautiful bar and patio to enjoy those magical apres ski moments with friends and family. The condo is perfect for families and small groups alike. No smoking, no pets. Two-night minimum stay. Discount lift tickets available. Susan & Andrew Townshend, (914) 248-5349. susie.townshend@gmail.com. (Listing #1152)

JOHNSON, VT

Multi-Level Chalet with Hot Tub. Welcome to the Arrière! Enjoy a delightful, whimsical, eye-catching getaway house overlooking a gorge and stream on 10 very private acres. Many decks view surrounding hills and mountains. Pleasantly wooded with brooks, waterfalls. Detached sauna house, hot tub. Rustic brick/cedar interior, 2 woodstoves, deck. Sleeps 6-10 persons comfortably. Main house: 5 stories of sheer delight. Many balconies, marble brick, hardwood floors, nooks, architectural details, books galore. Elegantly furnished with lived-in antiques. 3 BR, 1.5BA, sleeping loft, built-in crib, queen-sized convertible. washer/dryer, satellite HDTV/DVR/DVD. Central heat. Free wireless internet. Well-equipped kitchen. Near Stowe, Smugglers' Notch, convenient to shopping. Cleaning, bed linens & towels included. All seasons: weekend, weekly. Miriam Bourin O'Keefe, (917) 841-0995 or (845) 677-0334. mirre@verizon.net. (Listing #503)

WILMINGTON, VT

Lake Raponda Ski Chalet. Only a 15-minute drive from Mount Snow Ski (and snowboarding) Resort. This 4BR, 2BA vacation home sleeps 10 and has everything you need for a great stay. The feel is rustic with the natural wood walls and cathedral ceilings, a huge floor-to-ceiling fireplace in the living room, and a wood stove in the family room. But you will also find most of the luxuries of home such as two cable TVs with DVD/VCRs, a small collection of movies, a stereo with hook-up for your iPod or MP3 player, dishwasher, microwave, washer, dryer and more. Winter renters—weekend and midweek rates; summer weekly. For warm weather renters: only a 10-minute walk through the woods (or a two-minute drive) to the privately owned lake front area that we share with neighbors. A dock for relaxing, a canoe, and a wood swim raft for sun bathing or jumping in the lake. Call 12 noon-11 p.m. EST. (510) 409-4223. vacationvt@sbcglobal.net. (Listing #320)



Snuggle up by the fireplace at this rustic Lake Raponda ski chalet in Wilmington, VT, after a day on the slopes. (Listing #320) photo by Lisa Plourde

JAMAICA, VT

Immaculate Year-Round Vacation Home on 11.5 Scenic Acres. Last-minute rentals welcome. Minutes from Stratton, Mount Snow, Bromley, and Magic Mountain. Perfect for large families or multiple families, this 3-BR home sleeps 8-10 comfortably with three full baths. Fully equipped kitchen, washer/dryer, free internet access, and security alarm. Cable TV in all rooms. Master bedroom has queen bed, skylight, steam shower and romantic fireplace on second level. Second bedroom on second level: 2 full beds & full bath. First-level bedroom: 2 twin beds and seating area. Futon sofa bed in great room with huge cathedral ceiling and brick fireplace. Wraparound deck with mountain views. Seasoned firewood. Gas grill. Ski and snowboard racks inside walkout basement/garage. Awesome rental home available year round by the weekend, week or month. Book with us and let your vacation begin. Caretaker minutes away for your assistance. Contact Chris & Felicia, (413) 575-9266. FBuendo@charter.net. (Listing #518)

WAITSFIELD, VT

Private Chalet, Sleeps 12-14—Ski, Golf, Swim. Enjoy the wonderful views of the mountains. Only ten minutes from Sugarbush resort facilities. Fireplace, dishwasher, fully carpeted, washer/dryer. Master bedroom. Three bunkrooms with sinks. Two baths. A 42" television and DVD. Outdoor chiminea. Nearby to restaurants, stores, golf, biking, tennis, hiking, swimming, fishing, hunting, antiques, riding, soaring, sports/fitness center, and downhill and cross-country skiing. Fantastic fall foliage views. Overlooking three ski areas. Convenient to everything—Burlington and Shelburne Museum; Montpelier and the state capitol; the Vermont Granite Quarries; Middlebury College; the Morgan Horse Farm; Alpine Slide at Stowe, and much more. Stop at Ben & Jerry's on your way in Waterbury. Week, weekend rentals. Contact Mrs. E. McLaughlin, (518) 434-8024, (518) 339-3155. emclaunch@nycap.rr.com. (Listing #561)

WARDSBORO, VT

A True Vermont Log Cabin with Hot Tub. Four Bedrooms, Sleeps 11. Perfectly tucked away in the majestic Green Mountains, our authentic spacious Vermont-style house is complete with an appliance-packed kitchen, three satellite TVs, wireless internet, large hot tub, game room, pool table, and washer/dryer. Four bedrooms on second floor, and two full baths. Get toasty warm by the pass-through wood-burning fireplace. Conveniently located between Mount Snow & Stratton for skiing. Bring your snowmobiles and jump onto the VAST trails. Our winter visitors love the fireplace, so we have plenty of firewood stored in the wood shed and it is free to our guests. In other seasons, visitors may enjoy the tennis courts and heated pool or go to the nearby lakes, parks and golf courses. Contact Mark & Diane Coppinger, (860) 537-1376. markdiane1@juno.com. (Listing #293)

For photos, rates, and more information about these vacation retreats, go to vermontproperty.com and search by the listing number (provided above) on the home page or on the advanced search page.

For information on more Vermont vacation rentals, visit www.vermontproperty.com, write Vermont Vacation Rentals, PO Box 1564, Montpelier, VT 05601 or call (802) 229-2433.

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photo by Phil Hazen.
 Yes, this is Vermont! Several trails access the summit of Mount Mansfield, at 4,393 feet the tallest peak in Vermont. Here, Kathy Adams, on right, and Lynda Hutchins, on left, are snowshoeing on the Adam's Apple side trail on Mount Mansfield near Underhill, VT. This view is from the Adam's Apple to the Chin and was taken by Green Mountain Club Burlington Section President Phil Hazen during a GMC Snowshoe Festival.

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