

# Vermont Country Sampler

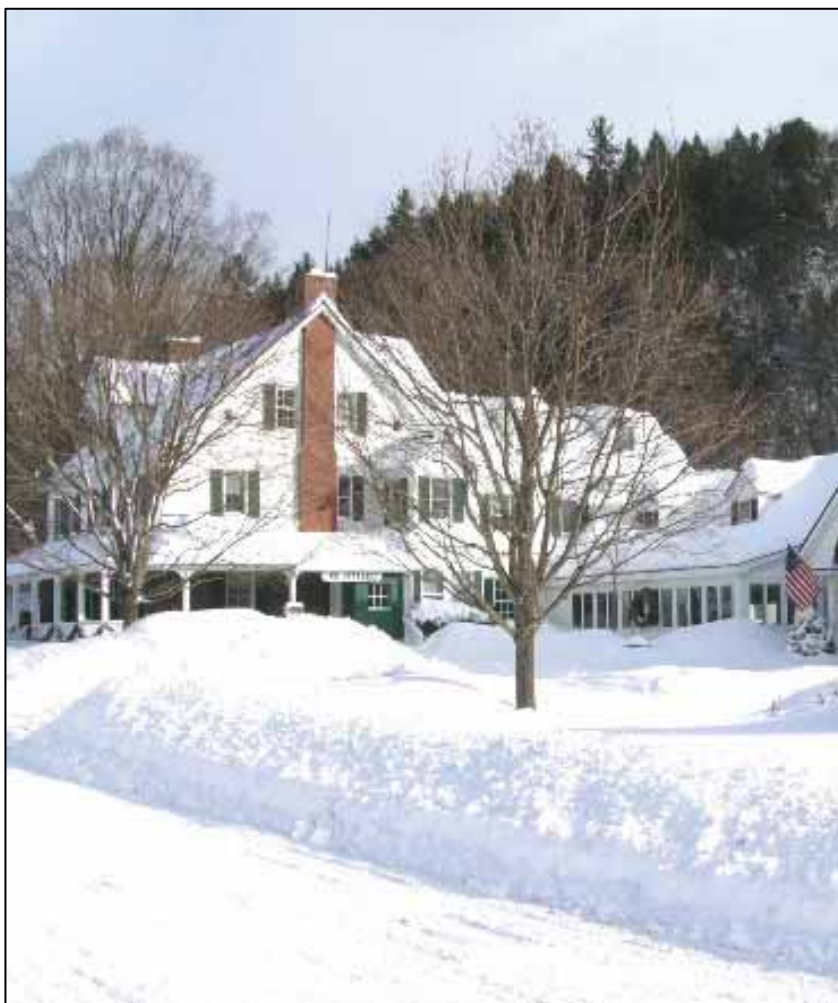
Free

February 2013

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

N. Cassidy

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## February Notebook

The days are lengthening a minute every day, but it is still hard for me to believe in spring. In the garden, daffodils and snowdrops budded in December before the snow. Pussy willows are emerging with every thaw.

But I always want more, and I want it sooner, and I think that it is accepting just part of the whole that causes my problem. Considering just warmth and green as normal and good: That is what makes it hard to wait.

The big psychological mistake is rejecting harsh weather or bare trees or withered zinnias, thinking that heat is better than cold, that leaves are better than empty branches, thinking that blooming flowers are better than spent flowers.

Such prejudice is like jealousy or anger or regret: it eats away at me and makes me think that something is wrong with the world.

Luckily, the world is just fine. Everything is whole, both inside and outside, and both loss and gain are part of the whole. Unluckily, it is often hard to see that perfection, and it is even harder to accept it and the pain that it includes. It is so easy to forget that all together, things make sense. They are made that way, to be taken all together, accepted without reserve or denial, nothing left out, and unless I pick and choose, unless I cheat and leave out the cold and the hurt, they can carry me forward into other seasons.

—Bill Felker



Wild turkeys pecking through the snow for something to eat in Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

### ROCKINGHAM ARTS AND MUSEUM PROJECT (RAMP)



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### Bellows Falls, VT

## Garden Collaborative Sponsors Worm Composting Workshop

As the opening event of its Spring Workshop Series, the Greater Falls Community Garden Collaborative is pleased to announce that it will sponsor a workshop where participants will learn to build a worm composting kit—by doing so! The workshop will be held on Sunday, February 10, 1 p.m., at the United Church of Bellow Falls in Bellows Falls, VT.

One of the consistent challenges in vermiculture (using worms to compost household compostables) has been the worms' intolerance to cold, thus limiting the ability to house a year-round composter outside. While some homes have basements that could house the critters over the winter, this is not an option for those houses without basements, or for apartment dwellers.

In this workshop, we will build a compact, portable composter that promotes worm health to efficiently turn your kitchen scraps into beautiful black gold compost year-round. It runs nearly odor-free, so you can keep the composter in the house where it's warm. The design is large enough for a typical 2- or 3-person household; for larger loads simply add more composters.

We'll supply all of the materials you'll need to build a composter, and even the worms to get you started.

Participants are encouraged to bring a power drill. Tea and coffee will be available.

Participation in the Worm Composter Workshop is limited to 10 people, and pre-registration is required. The workshop is free; however,

there is a \$25 materials (and worms!) fee.

Future Collaborative workshops will include: Gardening I, Sunday, February 17; Gardening II, Sunday, March 3; Root Cellaring Sunday, March 10; 9 x 12 Gardening with Henry Homeyer, Sunday, April 7; and Container Gardening, Sunday, April 14.

The Greater Falls Community Garden Collaborative was founded in 2011. It

serves Athens, Bellows Falls, Cambridgeport, Grafton, Rockingham, Saxtons River, and Westminster.

To register for the workshop call Tim Stevenson at (802) 869-2141.

For more information about the collaborative call Kari Gypson at (802) 282-8669. The United Church of Bellow Falls is located at 8 School St.

## 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  
Norwich, Vermont



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## Vermont Country Sampler

February 2013, Vol. XXIX

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

Calendar of Events published free of charge. Mail your information to us by the 10th of the preceding month.

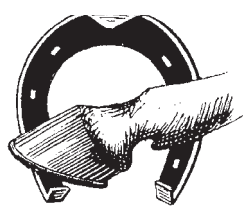
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Visitors to Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT enjoy a brisk ride around the farm in a horse-drawn sled. photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

## Woodstock, VT

# Winter Festivities at Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm is an operating dairy farm that continues a 142-year tradition of agricultural excellence, offering farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's heritage and values. Since 1983, the Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage. It is owned and operated by the Woodstock Foundation, Inc.

Billings Farm & Museum's Sleigh Ride Week is scheduled for February 16-24, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Woodstock, VT. The week will feature horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides (depending on the weather), sledding with jack jumpers, tours of the dairy farm and farmhouse, and a variety of family-friendly activities.

Climb aboard the Billings Farm sleigh or wagon for a ride through the frosty farm fields, pulled by the farm's beautiful draft horses.

On the weekends, in commemoration of Presidents' Day, sample favorite cookies of the Presidents, including the Franklin Pierce New Hampshire Seed Cookies, John Quincy Adams Soft Molasses Cakes, John F. Kennedy Chocolate Almond Tuiles, and Woodrow Wilson Edith Bolling Wilson's Tea Cakes. Hands-on activities will include making presidential silhouettes and presidential trivia.

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 all 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 sleigh or wagon rides, jack jumper sledding, the farm house, and activities,

plus *A Place in the Land*, an Academy Award nominee film which chronicles the development of the Billings estate, is shown each hour in the theater.

### Winter Weekends at Billings Farm

Every weekend in February, Billings Farm & Museum will be open Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Visit the operating dairy farm featuring the Jersey herd, calf nursery, draft horse teams, sheep, and oxen. Tour the restored 1890 Farm House, for demonstrations and programs and view the film, *A Place in the Land*. Warm up with a cup of hot-spiced cider in the Visitor Center.

### February Films

Billings Farm & Museum is hosting the 3rd Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. February's screenings include *The Station Agent* on Saturday, February 9, at 3 p.m. and

*Baraka* on Saturday, February 23, at 3 p.m. The films and documentaries are shown on the big screen in the museum's theater, with high definition digital projection and Dolby surround-sound. All films are open to the public and accessible to people with disabilities. Ticket prices are: adults 16 & up \$11 per film; children ages 3-15 \$6 per film. For a complete list of screenings and ticket information call (802) 457-2355 or visit [www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest](http://www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest).

*Billings Farm & Museum is open daily April 27 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and weekends November through February, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission: adults \$12; 62 & over \$11; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; 2 & under free.*

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

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# Vermont Chamber Selected Winter Events

Vermont is truly a four-season state. There is as much to do in the sparkling cold winter as the green, green summer. The Vermont Chamber of Commerce selects events each season that are not to be missed. Even though winter is half over, there are still five of this year's ten events left to enjoy. So pack up the family and head out to one or all of these.

## Chester Winter Carnival

Chester, VT • February 15-17, 2013

The town of Chester opens its in mid-February. Community spirit in a classic Vermont town is in abundance with sled races, a scavenger hunt, dog sled rides, outdoor skating, a pancake breakfast, and more. The weekend kicks off with a Winter Carnival Dinner on Friday. A biathlon sled and laser shooting match followed by a bonfire lights up Saturday, and Sunday's highlight is the snowmobile club poker run and a broom hockey tournament. Free admission. (802) 875-2693. [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com)

## Wright's Northeast Kingdom Ice Fishing Derby

Newport, VT • February 21-24, 2013

Fishing in the winter? You bet! Observe or compete to catch the big one on the ice with Wright's Northeast Kingdom Fishing Derby. Hook awards in the salmon, trout, walleye, and pike categories. Derby locations on a dozen lakes and ponds near the Canadian border, including Lake Memphremagog. Open from 12 noon –midnight. \$25 fee. (802) 334-6115. [www.wrightssports.com](http://www.wrightssports.com).

## 18th Annual Magic Hat Mardi Gras Weekend

Burlington, VT • March 1-2, 2013

Music, mayhem, and more! Magic Hat's Mardi Gras weekend thaws the icy spirits of the Northeast with a unique celebration that could be dubbed New Orleans



This Vermont kid is out sledding in the new snow in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

North. Friday night, kick up your feet and boogie down at the Higher Ground. On Saturday, enjoy pre-parade musical performances, a costume contest, free photo booth, and other fun, family-friendly activities along Church Street. Grab your share of beads, MoonPies, and Lake Champlain Chocolates as the parade kicks off with dozens of floats in grand style. Church Street Marketplace. (802) 658-2739. [www.magicchat.net](http://www.magicchat.net).

## 5th Annual Vermont Chili Festival

Middlebury, VT • March 9, 2013

Middlebury is full of beans with more than 50 local and regional restaurants on hand starting at 1 p.m. to compete for awards. Enjoy chili created with Vermont sourced ingredients and cast your vote: Best Beef, Chicken, Pork, Game, Veggie, Kitchen Sink, and Best Overall. Stroll down Middlebury's historic Main Street in a carnival of street jugglers, face painting, live music, and more. Warm up in the Cocoa Cabana with hot cocoa and cider, and attend the award ceremony

in the beverage tent. \$5 per person. (802) 377-3557. [www.bettermiddleburypartnership.org](http://www.bettermiddleburypartnership.org).

## Green Mountain Film Festival

Montpelier, VT • March 22-31, 2013

Culture reigns at the Green Mountain Film Festival with screenings on a wide range of subjects, interesting and often unexpected guests, and a convivial atmosphere. Meet filmmakers from around the world and experience the the Vermont arts community. Trot around the globe without leaving Vermont! Admission fee at some events. (802) 262-3423.

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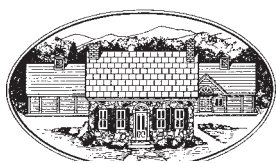
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# Politicians Not

by Burr Morse

Lately I've been involved in a couple of "legislative" issues. Although both my grandpas were legislators, I'm not a politician and for certain will never be one! I choose to spend my "legislative" time in the safety zone of music and friendship, playing with the East Bay Jazz Ensemble at Farmers' Night down in the House Chamber of the Vermont State House.

Farmers' Night was founded back in the early 1900s by an organization called the Farmers' Club and is, in my opinion, one of the most important activities at the Vermont Legislature. It offers music, poetry and drama instead of budgets, bickering, and countermanding. Over the years, I've played with several different musical groups for Farmers' Night but none was more enjoyable than recently when we serenaded our audience with strains from Ellington, Miller, Brubeck and Basie.

On another "legislative" note, I was a page boy way back in the 1961 session. Back then the Vermont Legislature was populated heavily by farmers, held every other year on the "odd" year, and, oddly for

into their Suburban and headed south toward Leadville, Byron Hathorn a bit leadfooted, Burr Morse a bit white-knuckled. We weaved our way clear to Durango where their friend Jackson graciously hosted us overnight at his mountain cabin. The next day we wound our way back to Vail through, for this still white-knuckled Vermont farm boy, the most spectacular countryside I'd ever seen!

Naturally Byron and I recalled lots of memories from the old page boy days. One in particular was in the summer of 1961. The legislature had so much to do that year that a special session was called and we all found ourselves back at the Statehouse in July. One day in particular we'd all "had it" with both stifling heat and hot politics. A couple of legislators, Sanborn Partridge from Proctor and Phil Hoff from Burlington decided to play hooky and take a ride in Sandy's Jeep. They invited Byron and me to go along.

As we left Montpelier, Phil Hoff asked me, the local boy, if I could recommend a good place to go. I said "Sure" and led them up County Road to the hills of Calais. We went past our old farm and continued beyond,

**"Back then the Vermont Legislature was heavily populated by farmers, held every other year on the "odd" year, and served Vermont's needs very well."**

where the road turns to little more than a cow path. When we reached an old abandoned homestead, I suggested we stop. I knew where there was a big patch of wild raspberries a short hike away.

some folks no doubt, served Vermont's needs very well. I look upon my tenure as page boy fondly and made some great friends back then. One of them was fellow page boy Byron Hathorn who grew up on a farm in Hartford, Vermont. Last winter, Byron and I re-connected with each other through the Internet after fifty years! He and I were great buddies as pages, maybe because of our common farm roots and the fact that we both have family ties to Calais, Vermont.

Byron has spent most of the interim in the field of construction and development and has done very well for himself. He and his wife Scooter spend six months of the year living in Thetford, Vermont and the other six at their home a "stone's throw" from the gondola in Vail, Colorado. He recently sent me an invitation to pay them a visit there in Colorado. I said I'd come if they wouldn't make me ski—"At my decrepit stage, skiing's off limits," I emailed. I could almost see his wink when he emailed back, "What happened to you—I'm still young and ski every day!" I flew out there a couple weeks ago, picked up a car in Denver, and drove the fascinating 100 miles west to Vail. When I pulled into their yard sometime after dark, Byron and Scooter welcomed me with open arms. He said "Skiing stinks so we're going on a road trip down to Durango." I knew it had everything to do with being good hosts and nothing to do with the quality of skiing in Vail. The next morning the three of us piled

dered out to the brambles and ate our fill until rain forced us back to the Jeep and a hurried return to the legislature. The following year, Phil Hoff became governor of Vermont.

It was great renewing my friendship with Byron after all those years. We had some good talks, drank a few beers, and parted with plans for a get-together next summer in Vermont. There's been a lot of "bills in the th'old hopper" since 1961 and, looking at it from our now "senior" prospective, we concluded many have not been good ones.

Memories, however, are always good, like road trips in Colorado, Jeep rides in Vermont, and telling a future governor both "where to go" and giving him the "raspberry" all on the same day!

We've been tapping trees the last few days here at Morse Farm although we don't expect much sap to accumulate for a couple weeks. The way this mild winter has been, though, makes us think spring might well announce itself early this year and we'll be ready!

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open all year. Come visit! For maple products call (800) 242-2740. [www.morsefarm.com](http://www.morsefarm.com).



photo by Nancy Cassidy

A stream runs through the winter woods after a snowfall in Bethel, VT.

## CHESTER WINTER CARNIVAL

2013  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Winter Carnival Dinner  
\* American Legion \*  
Cocktails at 6pm; Dinner at 7pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8:00am - 10am Kick-off Breakfast, American Legion  
American Legion Ladies' Auxiliary

10:00am Disc Golf, Pinnacle

11:00am Sled Races, Pinnacle

11:00am Cross Country Ski Race, Pinnacle

12:00 noon Snow Sculpture Judging

12:00 noon - 3:00pm Dog Sled Rides, Pinnacle  
Braeburn Siberians offering free rides

1:00pm Biathlon Sled/Shooting Match, Pinnacle  
courtesy of Grafton Ponds - 100% safe laser guns

12:00 - 4:00pm Scavenger Hunt - \$100 prize to winning team  
Registration and maps at Chester Hardware

6:00pm Bonfire, Cobleigh Field  
Winners announced for Scavenger Hunt and Snow Sculpture Contest

6:00 - 8:00pm Ice Skating Party, Cobleigh Field

6:30pm Fire Sculpture by Barre Pinske, Cobleigh Field

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9:00am Chester Snowmobile Club Poker Run, Pinnacle

10:00am Broom Hockey Tournament, Cobleigh Field

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## Equinox Preserve Winter Naturalist Workshops and Hikes

This winter the Equinox Preservation Trust in Manchester, VT is joining with local organizations to host workshops and hikes focusing on the natural history of the Equinox Highlands. All programs are free and open to the public.

The Equinox Preserve covers 914 acres of forest lands on the eastern slopes of Mount Equinox in Manchester, VT. It is open to the public for year-round, non-motorized recreation.

### Winter Tree ID

*Saturday, January 26, 2013, 9-11 a.m.*

Bennington County Forester Kyle Mason will lead participants on an interpretive hike along Preserve trails to teach the elements of winter tree and shrub identification. Look for subtle variations in bark, buds and tree shape and learn to identify trees without using the leaf. No dogs allowed on this workshop. Meet at Red Gate parking lot on West Union St.

### Owls of Vermont

*Friday, February 22, 2013, 7 p.m.*

Join Mike Clough of the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum for this presentation featuring live owls and owl artifacts! Learn about the diets, adaptations and behavior of several native owl species, including Barred, Saw-whet and Screech owls and enjoy the opportunity to see them up close. Join us for a short nocturnal visit to the Equinox Preserve to listen and call for owls. Equinox Resort conference room is TBD, contact Equinox Preservation Trust for details. Co-sponsored by The Vermont Bird Place and Sky Watch

### Winter Tracking and Observation

*Saturday, March 9, 2013, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

What can you learn from observing tracks and signs in the snow? Veterinarian and master ecologist Alcott Smith will lead a day-long workshop on the slopes of the Equinox Preserve, teaching participants how to interpret the subtle signs animals leave behind on their daily routine.

This workshop will be outdoors all day and will require strenuous, off-trail travel. Snowshoes are recommended. Registration is required for this workshop, and class size is limited to 15. No dogs allowed on this workshop. Meet at the Red Gate parking lot on West Union St. Co-sponsored by The Mountain Goat and New England Forestry Foundation

### Tales from the Wildflowers

*Saturday, April 27, 2013, 9-11:30 a.m.*

Williams College professor Dr. Henry Art has conducted research regarding the extent to which natural and human-use disturbances have played a role in shaping the present patterns of communities and ecosystems. Join Dr. Art for a hike on the Equinox Preserve where we will focus on the distribution of spring wildflowers and what this information can tell us about the past land use. No dogs allowed on this hike. Meet at Red Gate parking lot on West Union St.

For more information contact Rick LaDue, Equinox Preserve Forest and Trails Steward, at (802) 366-1400 or e-mail at rick@equinoxpreservationtrust.org. Visit [equinoxpreservationtrust.org](http://equinoxpreservationtrust.org).



Snowy woods and icy brook in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

### Bennington, VT

## The Valley We Live In Program Series

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The events are free and open to the public. Reservations are accepted, call us!

### Program Schedule

**The History of Maple Sugaring with Bill Clark. Thursday, February 7, 7-9 p.m.** Bill Clark is an icon of the Maple Sugar industry in Vermont, and has presented programs around New England on the history, methods, equipment, and evolution of the Maple Syrup industry. He is a producer of syrup and has been recognized as an honorary member of the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association. Hearing Bill's anecdotes about the industry he knows, loves and has helped shape will make for an enjoyable evening!

**Tales and History of the Benmont Mill with Jon Goodrich. Thursday, February 21, 7-9 p.m.** Local residents have all been by the Benmont Mill, on the way to visiting to visit one of the local businesses, and as we drive past this iconic landmark, we wonder about the history of this grand old building and what has gone on before. Jon Goodrich, owner of the Benmont Mill, has a lot to teach us about the mill, when it was built, the uses of the building over the years, the current uses today, and what might be in store for the future! Come and explore the nooks and crannies of a true Bennington landmark with one who knows it best!

**An Evening with Mark Twain Presented by John Pogson. Thursday, March 7, 7-9 p.m.** John Pogson is a fantastic Mark Twain impersonator, and brings to life Mark Twain at the height of his esteemed career. John has performed at the White House, the Smithsonian, New York City, and Saratoga, and we are grateful to have an Evening with Mark Twain here in Bennington. Mark Twain was a great American writer. All of us are familiar with his classics. Twain was famous for his "Twain Talks" and traveled across the country speaking and sharing his humor. This promises to be a truly unforgettable evening.

**New England Imagery in Robert Frost's Poetry: Birch Trees, Stone Walls, and a Drunken Cow, with Dr. Lea Newman. Thursday, April 4, 7-9 p.m.** Lea Newman earned her Ph.D in Literature at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She is Professor Emerita at the Massachusetts

College of Liberal Arts, is currently working on a book about Emily Dickinson's poetry, and has written books and essays on Hawthorne, Melville, Dante, and Robert Frost. She is a founding member and vice-president of the Friends of Robert Frost who operate the Robert Frost Stone House Museum in Shaftsbury, VT. Lea is one of the foremost experts on Robert Frost. She will present a program on Frost's life and work as he related to the natural beauty of Southwestern Vermont.

**The Western Abenaki—History and Culture, with Jeanne Brink. Thursday, April 18, 7-9 p.m.** Who were the native people of Vermont and how did they live? This lecture by Jeanne Brink examines the importance in Abenaki society of elders and children, the environment, and the continuance of lifeways and traditions. Jeanne A. Brink lives in Barre, VT, and draws upon her Abenaki family history and experience serving as Native American consultant to schools and organizations. She is a traditional basketmaker and co-author of a Western Abenaki language guide. She holds a master's degree in Native American Studies. The program may include discussion and demonstrations of Abenaki language, dance, games, family stories, and basket-making.

**Genealogy and Family History—Getting Started Tracing your Roots, with Bill Budde. Thursday, May 2, 7-9 p.m.** No history is as relevant to you as your history! Arlington resident Bill Budde will explore the distinctions between family history and genealogy, and share some beginner's resources to begin the process of tracing your family roots.

Bill Budde is curator of the Russell Vermontiana Collection and a genealogist. He has extensive experience in local and New England genealogy research. He is coordinator and presenter of the New Hampshire Highland Games Scottish Genealogy, History, and Culture Seminars. He has worked as assistant librarian and archival technician at the Bennington Museum; as an instructor for Introduction to Genealogy with the CCV and Bennington County CDC; and is an instructor at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation, Mt. Carroll, IL. He is also Historian for the 355-year-old Scots' Charitable Society and the New England Commissioner for Clan Dunbar USA, Inc. Presentation topics include migration and immigration, Ulster Scots immigration into New England, Introductory Genealogy, The Genealogical Proof Standard, Arlington, VT in the Revolutionary War, and more.

One World Conservation Center is located at 413 US Rt. 7 South, Bennington, VT. For information call (802) 447-7419. Visit [www.oneworldconservationcenter.org](http://www.oneworldconservationcenter.org). [www.netrop.org](http://www.netrop.org).



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# 9th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon

This year's 9th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon will be held on February 9th, and 10th, 2013, at the Old Skinner Hollow Farm on Route 7A in Manchester, Vermont.

A Primitive Biathlon is similar to an Olympic Biathlon in that it involves trekking through the woods, and target shooting. But that is where the similarities end! In a Primitive Biathlon the competitors travel on wooden snowshoes, and shoot using antique styled muzzle loading firearms instead of skis and modern target rifles.

As a tribute, many participants will arrive and compete dressed in period attire representing Colonial Frontiersmen, Native Americans, and Early Militia. Competitors travel through the woods on a 1 to 2 mile course, and stop to test their shooting skills at designated shooting stations along the way. Competitors not only have to be able to shoot well, but also must be able to manually load their firearms swiftly and accurately. Scores are calculated using travel time through the course and the number of hits made while shooting.

### Classes for all ages and levels of ability

There are specific classes available for Men, Women, Youths under 16, Elders over age 60, and an untimed class for people who do not wish to run or use snowshoes. Participation in this event is open to the public, but one does not have to be a runner or competitor to enjoy this event.

There will be a food concession provided by the Galle Family of The Shaftsbury Country Store, and a few vendors (or Sutlers as they were once called) on hand distributing their wares. There is a long list of sponsors who have donated in-kind services for the event, and merchandise for a large door prize giveaway at the end of the event. You need not be present to win.

### Local event, national interest

The Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon was started in 2005 by a small group of people to meet a unique demand for this type of event in this part of the State. This two-day event has grown in the number of participants every year since. Several events like this have sprung up around New England and Eastern New York in the last 15 years. These events have attracted enthusiasts from all around the country. The event is hosted by the Manchester Rod and Gun Club, Brew Moscarello of Vew-Do Balance Boards, and the Severance Family at the Old Skinner Hollow Farm in Manchester, Vermont.

Many local sponsors, who have supported this event since it's inception include Orvis, RK Miles, Dorr Septic Service, Northshire Bookstore, Marty's Sports and Gunsmithing, Doug's Auto Parts, H & H Homes, Charlie Well's Gun Shop,



Three competitors at the Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon travel on the course through the woods.

The Reel Angler, Hopkins and Sons Contracting, The Mountain Goat, HN Williams Store, Lawrence Grant Excavating, Tom's Lawn Care, Miles Lumber of Arlington, Manchester Hot Glass, and many, many more.

### A benefit for area youth

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Manchester Rod and Gun Club's Youth Conservation Camp Scholarship Fund. The Green Mountain Youth Conservation Camps are a summer camp network owned by the State of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. Week-long camp stays are available to youth's 12-16 years of age, with an emphasis on teaching Vermont's Wildlife Ecology. Every summer

The Manchester Rod and Gun Club sponsors 25-40 youths from the area to attend these camps. To date the Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon has raised over \$10,000 for this scholarship fund.

The Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon is open to spectators at no charge. It is a fun way to spend a day with some fine and interesting people and take a brief look into our past. Families are welcome.

To find out more about this and other primitive biathlons, Green Mountain Youth Conservation Camps, or the Manchester Rod and Gun Club please visit our website at [www.svtprb.org](http://www.svtprb.org).



Competitors cross a bridge over a stream travel on their course through the woods.



A Sutler selling furs talks with a competitor.

Photos by Carl Severance  
Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon

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# A Vermont Almanack for Late Winter

by Bill Felker

I prefer to take 'landscape' as a collective term for the temperature and pressure of the air, the fall of light and its rebounds, the textures and surfaces of rock, soil and building, the sounds (cricket screech, bird cry, wind through trees), the scents (pine resin, hot stone, crushed thyme) and the uncountable other transitory phenomena and atmospheres that together comprise the bristling presence of a particular place at a particular moment.

—Robert Macfarlane, *The Old Ways*

## The Spinning Cranefly Moon and the Red-Winged Blackbird Moon

As the thaws move north, they bring the red-winged blackbirds to the wetlands all across the northern half of the United States. When the red-wings arrive, then maple sap is moving in the maples and most of the lambs and kids are born in the night.

*February 3:* The Spinning Cranefly Moon enters its last phase at 8:56 a.m. *February 10:* The Red-Winged Blackbird Moon is new at 2:20 a.m. *February 17:* The moon enters its second quarter at 3:31 p.m. *February 25:* The moon is full at 3:26 p.m.

## The Sun's Progress

On February 18, Cross-Quarter Day, the sun reaches a declination of 11 degrees 53 minutes, its halfway point to equinox. It enters the Early Spring sign of Pisces at the same time.

## The Planets of February

Moving into Capricorn, Venus remains the morning star until the middle of the month, when it blends with the sunrise and disappears from view; it reappears as the evening star at the end of the first week in May. Mars is lost in the sunset during the second week of February, remaining out of sight until it comes back before dawn in June. Jupiter is still the evening star this month, and Saturn keeps its position in Libra, leading Sagittarius through the dark early mornings.

## The Stars

The Great Square will be setting in the west before midnight as February deepens. Perseus follows Cassiopeia into the northwest. Spring's Regulus will be well up in the sky on the other side of the horizon in the constellation Leo. Early Summer's planting guide, Arcturus, is visible just before midnight in the northeast on February 12th. When you get up to feed the dog or check on the chickens, look due south above the distant tree line. The square-like formation you see will be Libra. Above it, the stars of Serpens lead toward the Corona Borealis, a formation that looks like a bright stellar necklace. In the far west, Regulus is the brightest star. In the east, the brightest one will be Vega.

## Weather Trends

Late Winter contains five to six cold fronts and lasts from January 26 through February 18, at which time cold waves typically become weaker and warm fronts stronger. A relatively long season of eight to ten major fronts, Early Spring lasts from mid-February through the end of March. If strong storms occur this month, they will be most likely to strike on



Hereford cattle out sunning themselves on the rocks in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

or around February 2-4, 6-9, 14-18 and 24-25. New moon on February 10 and full moon on February 25 are likely to increase the intensity of the weather systems that typically arrive near those dates.

## The Seasons of February Across the Country

**Week 1**—In the first week of February, natural history shows the growing power of the spring. Like the steady shifting of the sun south, precedents make promise and potential for the fledgling season. Almost every year, Skunk Mating Season begins in the Groundhog Day Thaw. The bobbing blue jays announce Blue Jay Courting Season. Doves called occasionally throughout December and January; now the Dove Calling Season swells the predawn songs of cardinals and titmice.

Along the Gulf of Mexico, Violet, Wintersweet, Winter Honeysuckle, Lenten Rose, Strawberry and Jasmine Blooming Seasons are beginning. In northern Mexico, Monarch Butterfly Migration Season move the monarchs toward the Texas border. They will arrive in the United States during mid to late March, and their descendants will find Vermont later in the summer. Four months ahead of the Ohio Valley, Firefly Season starts in southern Florida.

**Week 2**—This is the week that the day's length becomes a full hour longer than it was on December 26th, and the brighter afternoons give impetus to Groundhog, Opossum, Raccoon and Beaver Mating Seasons.

In Arkansas, Rhubarb Leafing Season coincides with Henbit Blooming Season in Lexington, Kentucky. Throughout the southern and central states, people are tapping trees in Maple Sap Season.

Meadowlark, Eagle, Killdeer, Horned Lark, Red-winged Blackbird and Duck Migration Seasons accelerate the appearance of spring as Steelhead and Walleye Fishing Seasons gradually unfold in the Great Lakes.

**Week 3**—On the 18th day of the year's second month, the sun reaches a declination of almost 12 degrees, the halfway point to equinox. The sun enters Pisces at the same time and initiates the Season of Early Spring, a six-week period of changeable conditions that finally bring the maple trees and early bulbs to bloom.

The benign thaws of early spring initiate Wren Nesting Season. Aconite, Snowdrop and Snow Crocus Seasons become more visible as Pussy Willow Opening Season reaches its peak.

Pollen Season, which ended with early winter, begins again across the South with the blooming of mountain cedar, acacia, smooth alder, bald cypress, American elm, red maple, white poplar and black willow. Throughout Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana, Redbud and Azalea Seasons color the roadways and yards.

**Week 4**—The final week of February brings the Season of Snowdrop Winter to the region, slowing the advance of early spring, but still allowing other seasons to continue. Even in cold Montana, Bald Eagle Egg Laying Season marks this time of year.

Throughout Georgia, Bee Season follows Pollen Season as honeybees and carpenter bees collect pollen from dandelions, yellow-flowered wild radishes, red maples, blue toadflax, white clover and mouse-eared chickweed. Azaleas are blooming in Alabama. All across the Southwest, Desert Wildflower Season occurs whenever the rainfall allows.

Throughout the Ohio Valley, Daffodil Budding Season spreads beside Early Dandelion Blooming Season and Silver Maple Blooming Season. Throughout the country, Horse Breeding Season begins on ranches as mares show signs of estrus in the lengthening days.

## The Tinmouth Contra Dance

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How quiet in the hollow night  
The frosty sickle moon does glow  
And all the hills asleep in light  
And all the silent towns below.

Now men behind the guarded door  
Dream summer when the crops increase  
And earth in silver tries once more  
The unfamiliar gown of peace.

—CHARLES MALAM



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# Memories of Dudley

by Charles Sutton

Most people measure their lifetime in years, decades, or accomplishments. Some of us measure it in dogs we can't forget. Dudley was that dog for me.

When looking for a family pet, we've learned the best dogs or cats (and probably other animals, too) can be found at animal shelters.

One such memorable rescue was this male puppy from a litter, reportedly, of Portuguese Water Dogs that had been turned in to the local pound, separated from their mother far too early. Why someone would do such a thing we can only guess and never know. (This rarer breed has now been made famous when President Obama got "Bo" for his daughters from the Kennedy family)

Dudley, weaned too young, began to fail almost as soon as we got him home, refusing to eat regular puppy food, even warm milk. Our veterinarian recommended a homemade "mother's milk" substitute made of evaporated milk, cool water, raw egg and white Karo syrup. This may have helped a little as well as my daughter taking Dudley to bed with her wrapped in a bath towel and a hot-water bottle.

Still, he wasn't doing at all well. Then by some miracle when I made some homemade beef-vegetable soup, I had the good sense to give him a bowl of the broth. He lapped it up and wanted more! Almost overnight he thrived and we continued him on a diet of 'people' food.

When Dudley was a little older he let us know for sure that he was a "water" dog.

My wife was taking a bath in a long four-claw bathtub when in Dudley jumped! Water was water even if soapy and occupied.

His next venture also caught us by surprise. We were living in the country where cars and trucks rarely drove slow. So we always walked Dudley on a leash. In the town square

was an old horse drinking fountain—left over from horse and buggy days. Dudley yanked and yanked in that direction and once there jumped in.

After that we took him to the nearby river for a swim. He wanted to go even more than our children. He had a good vocabulary of human language and 'go for a swim' was high on his list.

Later we were able to have a new home on property that bordered the river. We could be accused of purchasing the place there more for Dudley than for us.

**"Most people measure their lifetime in years... some of us measure it in dogs we can't forget."**

He had the good sense not to go in the river when there was ice or the roaring spring runoff. But in the summertime he would charge into the river and swim in circles barking his head off for joy. The current would carry him downstream but he knew when to get out and come back through the woods—in time to go again. I would sometime swim with him, but I had to keep my distance as his splayed dog paddling feet could give one a hearty scratch.

Dudley had two other pleasures: he liked to play stick and would chase one and bring it back countless times—if the stick were big and awkward, all the better. He also enjoyed baying—only I would have to do the first one, and then he would tilt his head backwards, and let loose. We two were quite a sight—and sound!

Dudley may have been a rescued dog, but he himself made an unusual rescue once which I was fortunate enough to have witnessed. Ever since Dudley had been hit by a car (not seriously injured), he was very road shy, and never ventured there. But one day a small female stray dog, a mixed breed, which had decided to live with us, had wandered into the road before an on-coming truck. Dudley, who was near by, charged into the side of the dog, pushing her off the road into a ditch just in time. If the little dog could



Charles with Dudley, and little Barky, many years ago.

speak, she would have scolded, "what's that all about? Why me?"

Dudley must have been aware of the saying about being man's best friend. When I was away working during the day he would sleep or mope. He had an eerie way of knowing when I was about to come home. He would sit in a chair by a living room window watching and waiting, the same time every day. But when I was to be late, he somehow knew, and didn't sit in his waiting chair until I was nearby.

Like so many of our pets Dudley grew old and died. We buried him near the river he so loved.

I have had other marvelous rescued dogs since, but Dudley will always have a special place in my heart.

One final memory: He was no stranger to the bed as he slept on my side of it all winter, our house being old and drafty. There was a small stairway leading from our bedroom up to the bathroom. Dudley, starting in the bathroom, would run and come flying over the stairs landing in the middle of the bed. We'd say, "Good Dog!" He was so pleased with himself, he would run back up the stairs and fly through the air again.

Fun for sure, but not so much as taking on the river!

## Northern Harmony World Music Concert in Tinmouth, VT

Northern Harmony, the unique world music vocal ensemble based in Vermont will perform February 27 at 7:30 at Tinmouth Community Church in Tinmouth, VT.

The thirteen sparkling young singers, led by Larry Gordon, present a thrilling mix of world harmony traditions including South African songs and dances, traditional polyphony from Georgia, Corsica, and the Balkans, American shape-note singing and quartet gospel, and

medieval motets. Fresh from their fifteenth European tour, Northern Harmony has a reputation for their remarkable command of the different singing styles appropriate to these different traditions.

Northern Harmony is the highest level performing group under the umbrella of the world music organization Village Harmony, which sponsors singing camps and workshops in New England and many parts of the world. The singers are primarily

brilliant young graduates of Village Harmony singing programs, and most have studied traditional singing styles first hand with native teachers in South Africa, Bulgaria, Corsica and Caucasus Georgia.

Admission to the concert at the door is \$15, \$10 for students. For more information call (802) 426-3210.

The Tinmouth Community Church is located in the center of Tinmouth, VT at the intersection of VT Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. For directions visit [www.tinmouthvt.org](http://www.tinmouthvt.org). For information contact Cathy Reynolds at (802) 446-2928 or [eworks@vermontel.net](mailto:eworks@vermontel.net).

For more information about Northern Harmony visit [villageharmony.org](http://villageharmony.org).

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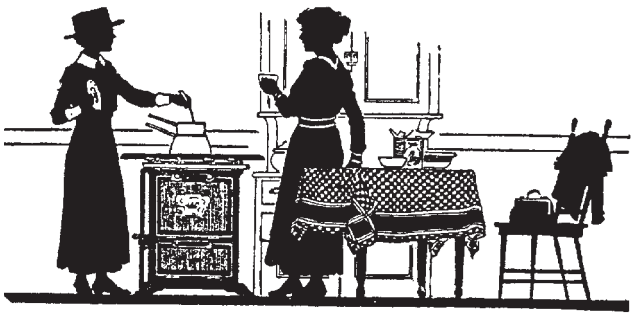
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Open till 7:30 daily, 6:30 Sunday.





# Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

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

You'll find all sorts of winter veggies, jams & jellies, apples & cider, cheeses, meats, baked goods and crafts. At some markets you can enjoy live music and have a snack while you shop. And of course visit with friends, old and new.

**Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market** at the Bellows Falls Railroad Station, Depot St. Third Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m., February 15, March 15. Rachel Ware, (802) 463-2018. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. www.bf farmersmarket.com.

**Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday and Winter Farmers Markets** at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. Winter Markets the first and third Saturdays: February 2 & 16, March 12 & 16 & April 16 & 20 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (802) 688-7210. info@walloomsac.org. www.walloomsac.org.

**Bradford Farmers Market**, Grace United Methodist Church. Second and fourth Saturdays through April 27. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-5434. hellobradfordfarmers@gmail.com. facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket.

**Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market** at River Garden, 153 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through March 2013. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilssolutions.org. www.postoilssolutions.org.

**Burlington Winter Farmers' Market** at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. Every third Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through March. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. chriswag31@gmail.com. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

**Champlain Islands—South Hero Winter Farmers' Market** at South Hero Congregational Church. Third Fridays through March. 4-7 p.m. Denise Boutin, (802) 372-3291. www.champlainislandsfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

**Craftsbury Winter Farmers Market** at Sterling College, Simpson Hall, Craftsbury Common. Third Saturdays, 4-7 p.m., through April. Kristin Urie (802) 755-6878.

**Dorset Winter Farmers' Market** at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays from 10 a.m. – 2



Horses out eating hay in their snowy winter pasture in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

p.m., through February 24. Nicole Henry (802) 353-3539. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

**Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market** at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., from October through May. Jennifer Bone, (802) 584-4067. grotongrowers@gmail.com.

**Ludlow Winter Farmers' Market** at the corner of Main and Andover Streets. Every Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. through March 2. Jerry Milligan, (802) 734-3829. lfmkt@tds.net. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org.

**Middlebury Farmer's Market** at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Closed in February. Open every Saturday in March & April, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jeremy Gildrien, (802) 247-4699. gildrienfarm@gmail.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

**Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market.** At Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 36 College St., 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. First and third Saturdays in January & March; second and third Saturdays in February; first and fourth Saturdays in April. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

**Norwich Farmers' Winter Market** at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 2nd Saturdays January through April. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

**Rutland Winter Farmers' Market.** New location at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through May 4. Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org

**Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Markets** at Sharon Elementary School. Winter Festival, Feb. 9. Chili Cookoff, Mar. 9. Garden Workday, May 11. 10 am – 1 pm, local lunch 11:30 am – 1 pm. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

**St. Johnsbury Winter Markets** at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First Saturdays, January through April. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. elizabethverts@yahoo.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

**Waterbury Winter Farmers' Market** at Thatch Brook Primary School Gym, Stowe St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 13. Michele Boucher, (802) 522-5965. waterburyfarmersmarket.com.

**Windsor Winter Farmers Market** at the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave., just off Depot Ave. (look for signs on Main St.). Noon to 3 p.m. every first and third Sunday through April. Steve Proctor, (603) 675-5840. mountain skyline@myfairpoint.net. Facebook. www.windsorfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

**Woodstock Winter Farmers' Market** at The Masonic Hall, 30 Peasant St. Fourth Saturdays and April 20, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. through May. Anne Dean, (802) 457-3889, anneldean@gmail.com.

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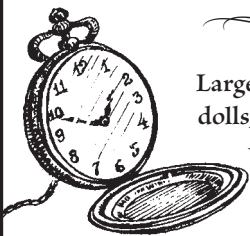
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## JENNY KISSED ME

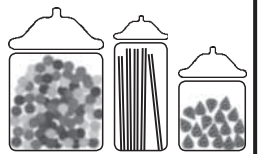
Jenny kissed me when we met,  
Jumping from the chair she sat in.  
Time, you thief! who love to get  
Sweets into your list, put that in.  
Say I'm weary, say I'm sad:  
Say that health and wealth have missed me;  
Say I'm growing old, but add—  
Jenny kissed me!

—LEIGH HUNT  
1784-1859

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# Ice Fishing Opportunities are Great Where Ice is Safe

Vermont offers great ice fishing on lakes throughout the state when ice conditions are safe. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife 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 the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, 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 can 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 between Thompsons Point and Button Bay. While walleyes can show up anywhere in Lake Champlain. The most consistent winter action is at 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 at sheltered Lake Champlain bays and shallows as well as on some other Vermont waters.

Vermont's ice fishing season for trout, salmon and bass starts January 19 and continues through March 15 on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 55 of the 2013 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

An Internet search for "Vermont ice fishing" also will yield helpful information from several websites.

For more information visit the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

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



Ice fishing in Vermont can produce big fish like this northern pike as well as fun-filled memories to last a lifetime photo by VT Fish and Wildlife

## Poultney, VT

### Torchlight Snowmobile Parade Kicks Off Winter Weekend

Winter Carnival weekend is coming to Poultney, VT on February 1 & 2, 2013.

The Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, February 1, 2013 from 5-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 108 Main St. in downtown Poultney.

The menu includes all-you-can-eat Italian spaghetti with your choice of meat or plain sauce, bread and rolls, salad, coffee, tea, and soft drinks, and desserts of many varieties. Purchase your tickets at the door or in advance at Tot's Diner on Main Street. Adult tickets are \$8, children 6-12 \$5, and children 5 and under free.

The Chamber is holding this dinner in conjunction with the "Snowmobile Torchlight Parade" sponsored by the Poultney Valley Snowmobile Devils. Line-up for the parade is at the East Poultney Green from 5:40-6 p.m. The parade starts promptly at 6 p.m. and progresses west to Poultney's Main Street and the spaghetti dinner at the Methodist Church on Main St.

The following day, on Saturday, February 2nd, the Winter Carnival takes place at Bob Chestnut's Garage on York St. Ext. in Poultney. Sponsored by the Poultney Valley Snowmobile Devils, the family event is free and open to all!

There will be games, sledding and snowmobile rides. See antique Model-T snow machines. Hot food—hot dogs, hamburgs, soups, French fries—hot and cold drinks, and dessert goodies, are all free!

Bob Chestnut's Garage will be heated so you can come in and warm up.

A Snowmobile Poker Run is offered for \$10 a hand to benefit the Poultney Food Shelf. You can buy your hand from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The 30-mile snowmobile run ends at 3:30 p.m.

There will be activities for the whole family to enjoy.

For further information about the Spaghetti Dinner call Steve Broughton at (802) 884-8136.

For more about the Poultney Valley Snowmobile Devils, the Winter Carnival, and the Poker Run go to [www.poultneysnowdevils.com](http://www.poultneysnowdevils.com) or call Ernest DeMatties at (802) 287-9755.



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[draftanimalpowernetwork.org](http://draftanimalpowernetwork.org)







## Winter Vermont Farmers Market in Rutland Heats Up!

Hot news from the Winter Vermont Farmers Market in Rutland, VT.

The new heating system is now in place, thanks to the assistance of Keyser Energy. Keyser Energy's crew of heating technicians installed two "hot dog" heating units in the market space. These units are propane powered and blow hot air downward. Six ceiling fans distribute the heated air evenly throughout the building. Chris Keyser, General Manager, donated the units at cost, and the crew, on their own time, did the installation at 1/3 of the labor cost.

Don't come to the market in your shorts and T-shirt; it's still cool inside but certainly much more comfortable to shop at the market.

We have new vendors at the Winter Market. Big Lenny is there with samples of his famous hot dogs and Kielbasa covered with his delicious sauces. You can buy his Sweet Red Onion Sauce or Sweet—with a hot kick—Relish in single jars or sampler packages to take home with you. Sorry, no actual hot dogs or sausages to eat; no room for his cart at the market.

Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company, who just bought out Castleton Crackers, has many of their cheeses for sale. They're a farm to table company and use raw milk from six breeds of cows to make their Cheddar

cheese. The Ale House Cheddar, made with Harpoon Ale, the actual stuff you drink, is a must try. Lillé, the brie, which is a bit thicker than the cheese you might buy in the store, is outstanding. Try it on Oh La La's French Bread for lunch.

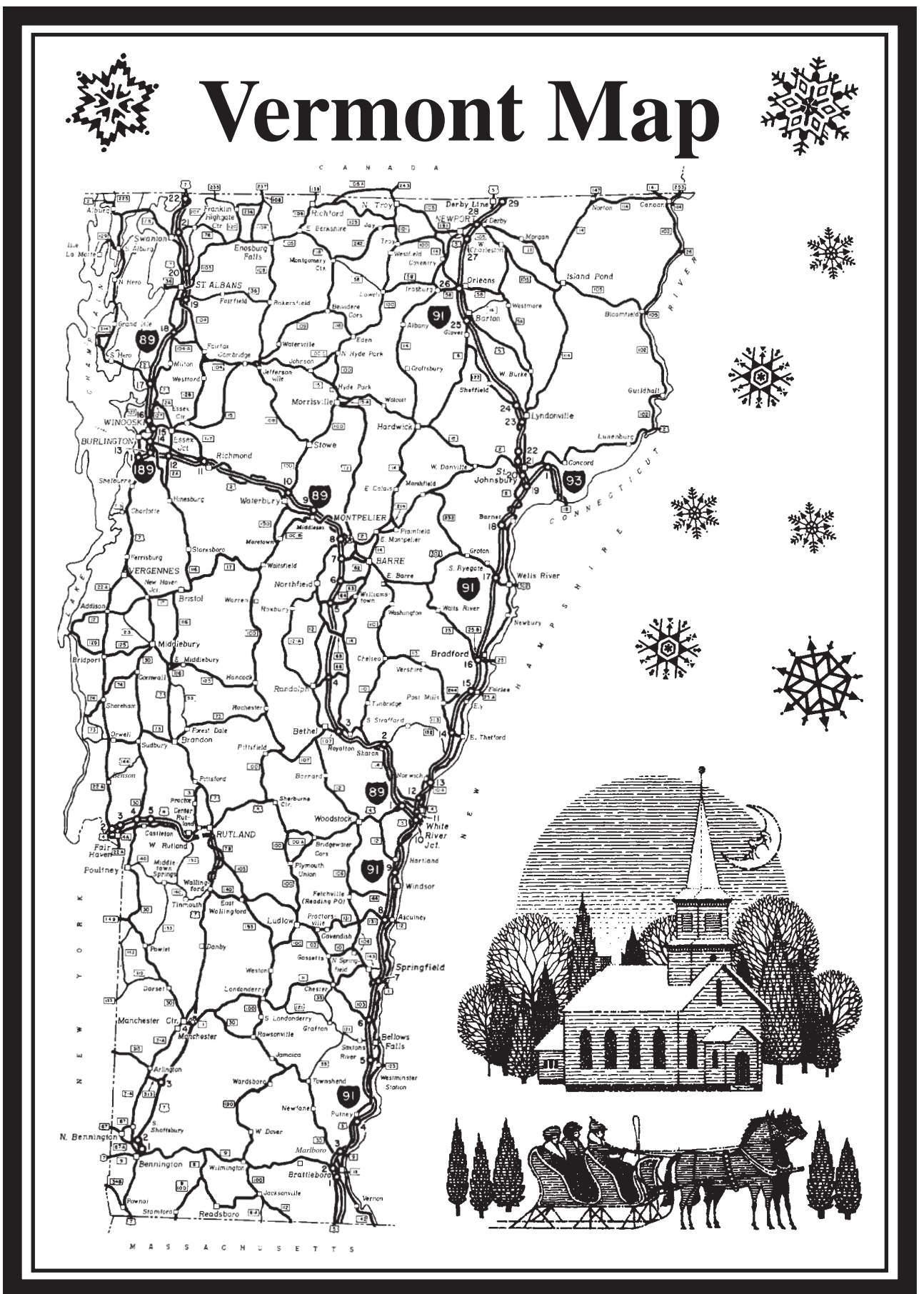
At work right at the market, Joe Tourigny is creating his Vermont Mountain Man jewelry, crafted from old silver coins into works of art. His Trees of Life, Butterflies and Snowflakes, would all make a treasured gift. The market is excited to have such a gifted craftsman as a new vendor.

The market has some spaces available. If your winter market is ending or you're a new business wanting to find an inexpensive way to introduce your products to the public, please contact Doug, our market manager. You can sign up for the second half of the season, or come in as a daily vendor.

*The Rutland Winter Market is located at 251 West St., Rutland, VT. It is open every Saturday through May 4. After that the Summer Market starts back up downtown in Depot Park.*

For more information or to sign up for a space contact market manager Doug Patac at (802) 753-7269 or [dpatac@gmail.com](mailto:dpatac@gmail.com).

Like the market on facebook or visit [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org).



## Visit the Vermont State Parks This Winter

The buildings are locked, the staff is gone, and in some cases, the gates are closed in the 50+ state parks around Vermont. But don't let appearances deceive you; the

state parks are open for winter fun. This land belongs to the people of the State of Vermont, and they can recreate here any time they wish.

The Catamount (cross

country ski) Trail traverses the length of the Green Mountains and touches on park land in several locations (most notably Camel's Hump State Park.) But some of the best winter routes for cross country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts are the park roads and nature trails that offer miles of brush-free paths in the snow.

Other park trails may require some ingenuity for safe parking (most park entrances and lots are not plowed in winter), but these trails offer the best opportunities for solitude and nature study.

Several state parks contain major snowmobile routes maintained by the Vermont Association of Snow Travel-

ers (VAST). VAST trails can be found on both state forest and state park lands.

State parks on lakes and ponds may offer public access for ice fishing, ice boating and skating. Whatever your winter outdoor interest, you can find an opportunity in a state park!

For information on winter recreation opportunities in a park near you, contact Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation at (802) 241-3650, [www.vtfrpr.org](http://www.vtfrpr.org).

To find out more about VAST trails, call (802) 229-0005, [www.vtvast.org](http://www.vtvast.org).

Call Catamount Trail for more info at (802) 864-5794, [www.catamounttrail.org](http://www.catamounttrail.org).



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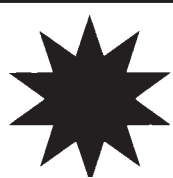
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# Vermont Country Calendar

## ONGOING EVENTS

**BARRE.** Exhibits, classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Free. Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-4. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

**BARRE.** Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, broadsides, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items of ephemera which shed light on the lives and times of past Vermonters. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org.

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

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

**BENNINGTON.** The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Dolls and dollhouses, puppets, trucks and trains, toys, and educational displays. Museum shop. Admission is \$2 for children three and older, \$4 for adults and \$10 for families. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

**BENNINGTON.** Art exhibits, permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org.

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

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Fresh winter vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, meats, crafts, and more. Entertainment and prepared foods. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm every two weeks through April. At the First Baptist Church on Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. walloomsac.org.

**BERLIN.** Afro-Caribbean Dance. With live percussion every Thursday from 10:30 am – 12 pm. All levels welcome. Also Capital City Grange Potluck—share delicious food with your friends and future friends, starting about 6:30 each first Saturday, all are welcome, no charge. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 985-3665. capitalcitygrange.org.

**BOLTON VALLEY.** Bolton After Dark. Start your evening off by skiing and riding on Vermont's most extensive night skiing terrain from 4-8 pm for \$19. At Fireside Flatbread starting at 4 pm, enjoy \$2 flatbread slices and \$2 sodas or drafts. At 8 pm, join us for a free showing of a ski/snowboard flick. Bolton Valley, 4302 Bolton Valley Access Rd. (877) 936-5866. www.boltonvalley.com. *Every Saturday night through March 30.*

**BRANDON.** Sustainable Living Book Exchange. Self-service—take a book, leave a book. Donations accepted. Neshobe Farm, 142 Steinberg Rd. off Rt. 7 just north of the village. (Come to the house). For more information call (802) 310-8534.

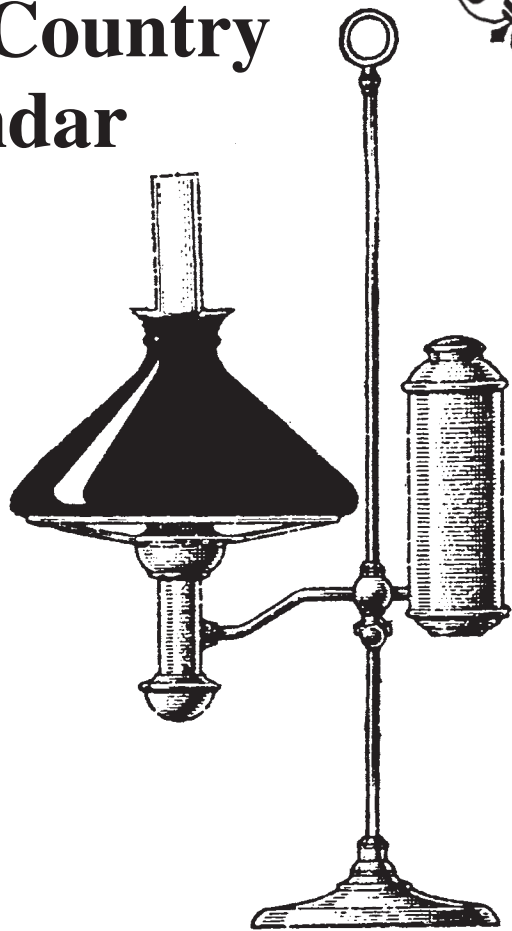
**BRANDON.** Brandon Visitor Center. Information and public restrooms, open daily 8 am – 6 pm, 365 days a year. 4 Grove St., next to the Baptist Church at the corner of Routes 7 and 73 West. Also houses the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace open mid-May through mid-October. (802) 247-6401. brandon.org.

**BRANDON.** First Fridays. Our restaurants and merchants are keeping their doors open till 9 pm the first Friday of each month. Visit "indie" shops, galleries, and restaurants. (802) 247-6401. www.brandon.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival. A ten-day festival from February 15-24 with something for everyone. Free admission. Check website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. www.brattleborowintercarnival.com. www.commonnews.org. *February 15-24.*

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

**BRATTLEBORO.** Fair Winds Farm Wagon & Sleigh Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" at 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. www.fairwindsfarm.org.



**BRATTLEBORO.** Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. 7-9 pm. Kidsplayce, 20 Elliott St. For information e-mail cuvlever@gmail.com. *First and third Thursdays.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 3-5:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. Information: laurat@crocker.com. *Third Sundays.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. In the River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org. *Through March.*

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

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

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

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Stage Company Present's "Time Stands Still." Written by Pulitzer prize-winning Donald Margulies. Wed - Sat 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 2 pm. Tickets \$27-\$32.50. FlynnSpace, (802) 863-5966. www.flynnntix.org. www.vtstage.org. *January 30 through February 17.*

**BURLINGTON.** First Friday Art Walk. Visit over 30 galleries, studios, and interesting venues all around town. Free. 5-8 pm. Map available. (802) 264-4839. www.artmapburlington.com.

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

**CHESTER.** Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts. Art Exhibits, Programs and Music. Free admission. Wednesday through Sunday 11 am – 6 pm. Vtica, 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. info@vtica.org. www.vtica.org.

**CHESTER.** Chester-Andover Family Center Food Shelf and Thrift Shop. Great selection of clothes for the entire family including shoes and accessories, household items, books, videos, puzzles, games, etc. Food Shelf and emergency financial assistance to those in need. Thrift shop hours: Tues. 10-4, Wed. 1-7, Fri. 10-4, and Sat. 9-2. 908 Rt. 103 South. (802) 875-3236. cafc302@gmail.com. chesterandoverfamilycenter.weebly.com.

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

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

**CHESTER.** High Tea at Inn Victoria. Afternoon savories, sweets, fruit, and a variety of teas. \$19.99 per person. Open by reservation. Inn Victoria, 321 Main St. (802) 875-4288. innkeeper@innvictoria.com. www.innvictoria.com.

**CHESTER.** Gallery 103—an Artisan Marketplace. Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch Chocolates and VT Maple products. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open every day but Tuesday 10 am – 5 pm. Located on Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

**CRAFTSBURY COMMON.** Community Dinner. On the third Wednesday of every month, we gather for a free community supper. The fellowship is wonderful—and you don't have to wear fancy clothes! 6 pm. United Church of Craftsbury, 7 Church Lane. (802) 586-8028.

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

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

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

**DORSET.** Dorset Winter Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays from 10 am – 2 pm. Contact Nicole Henry (802) 353-3539. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. Through February 24.

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

**GLOVER.** Bread & Puppet Museum, Rt. 122. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world. Events and exhibits. Open in the winter by appointment. Free admission, donations welcome. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

**GLOVER.** The Museum of Everyday Life. New exhibition, "Healing Engine of Emergency—the incredible story of the Safety Pin." A self-service museum, open every day from 8 am - 8 pm. At 3482 Dry Pond Rd. (Rt. 16) a short distance south of the Shadow Lake Rd. For more information call (802) 626-4409. www.museumofeverydaylife.org.

**GRAFTON.** The Nature Museum at Grafton. Programs for all ages. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, mounted specimen, wildlife garden. Take a hike in the Village Park behind the museum. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 3 to 12, 2 and under free, \$15 for families. Winter hours: Thursdays 10-4 or by appt. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

**GRAFTON.** Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. Mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing. In the winter enjoy cross country skiing with snowmaking, snowshoeing, and snowtubing. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

**GRAFTON.** Grafton Valley Arts Guild invites you to visit the Cricketers Gallery in historic Grafton Village at 45 Townshend Road. Open Thursday thru Sunday from 10 am – 4 pm. (802) 843-4824. www.graftonvalleyartsguild.com.

**GRANVILLE, NY.** The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, First Fridays, and gift shop. Tues-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am – 4 pm. Admission \$5, under 12 free. Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 7-9:30 pm. Hanover Friends Meeting House, 43 Lebanon St. Information: danhertzler@gmail.com. Second Thursdays.

**HUNTINGTON.** Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Help monitor bird populations in the different habitats at the Green Mountain Audubon Center. Beginning birders learn bird song basics. Intermediates fine tune their field mark identification. Donation appreciated. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. Vermont@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org.

**HUNTINGTON.** Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. Nov. 1 through April 30, open by appointment. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org.

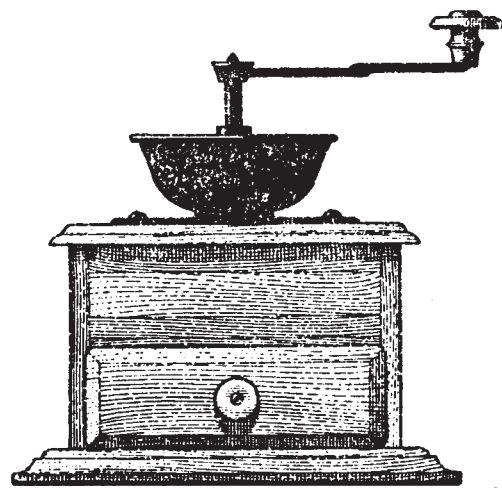
**LANDGROVE.** Horse-Drawn Wagon and Carriage Rides. Rides leave on the hour from Landgrove Inn. Call for reservations. (802) 824-4663. www.karlpfistersleigh.com.

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

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

**LEICESTER.** Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. Discussion includes an in-depth look of at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. Meets the first Monday of each month and is open to all levels. 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at Taconic End Farm. For more info call Annie Claghorn, (802) 247-3979. foxclag@gmavt.net.

**LUDLOW.** Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Woodworking, oil and watercolor painting, kirigami and much more. Winter classes. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Rt. 103 South. (802) 228-8770. info@fletcherfarm.org. www.fletcherfarm.org.



## Classic Rocker Eddie Money To Headline at the Paramount

The Paramount Theatre in Rutland, VT will be hosting multi-award winning, platinum-selling classic rocker Eddie Money on Saturday, February 2 at 8 p.m.

Eddie Money grew up on Long Island in a large Irish Catholic family where his father, grandfather, and brother worked for the NYPD. He followed suit and was an NYPD trainee and a police officer for two years before leaving to pursue his dream of rock 'n roll fame in California.

In 1977, Money released his self-titled debut record and struck Double Platinum with hits such as: "Baby Hold

On" and "Two Tickets To Paradise."

His follow-up album, *Life For The Taking*, also reached Platinum status. In 1982, he topped the charts numerous times with singles such as "Shakin'" and "Think I'm In Love." With another Platinum record under his belt and the introduction of MTV and the music video, Money's over-the-top narrative videos made him a household name.

With over 28 million records sold worldwide, Eddie Money's trademark raspy, husky voice is easily recognized today. His most recent release, "Gimme Some Water" featured Vince Gill and

was a top download in 2008.

In June 2009, Eddie Money's autobiographical musical, *Two Tickets To Paradise—The Musical*, debuted in New York to rave reviews. He is currently working on taking it to Broadway.

Still touring after 30 years, Eddie Money is frequently joined by his vocalist daughter Jesse. Eddie and his wife Laurie also have four sons.

Tickets for the Rutland show are on sale for \$49.50, \$44.50, \$39.50.

*The Paramount Theatre is located at 30 Center St. in downtown Rutland, VT. For information call (802) 775-0570. For tickets visit the theatre or call the Box Office at (802) 775-0903 or go online at www.paramountlive.org.*

### Hear Ye, Hear Ye

Brothers and sisters,  
daughters and grandmothers,  
Hear me.  
No more of your songs.  
The village does not need your music.  
Politicians are coming.  
Ring the bells, start the drumming.  
Artists, muffle your colors.

—SALLY McCLINTOCK



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**LYNDONVILLE.** Snowflake Festival. Two weeks of family wintertime fun! Sleigh rides, ski races, torchlight parade, spaghetti suppers, pancake breakfasts, quilt show, chowder fest, and more! In Burke and Lyndonville. Call or visit the website for details and locations. (802) 626-9696. [www.lyndonvermont.com](http://www.lyndonvermont.com). *February 16 through March 3.*

**MANCHESTER.** Southern Vermont Art Center. Galleries, exhibits, classes, performances, gift shop, café, botany trail. Free admission to some exhibits. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. [www.svac.org](http://www.svac.org).

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Southern Vermont Winter Sampler Guided Tour. Enjoy the beauty of winter on the backroads of Vermont in an eight-passenger vehicle. Daily 12:30 pm. Tour meets at Adams Park, 5080 Main St. Please reserve in advance. Call (802) 362-4997. [bckrddisc@aol.com](mailto:bckrddisc@aol.com). [www.backroaddiscovery.com](http://www.backroaddiscovery.com).

**MANCHESTER.** Visit Historic Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln. Special activities, lectures, bird walks, museum store, visitor's center, and walking and x-c ski trails. Tickets: \$16 adults, \$5 youth under 14, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. [info@hildene.org](mailto:info@hildene.org). [www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org).

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

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

**MIDDLEBURY.** Vermont Folklife Center. Exhibits, gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Mon-Sat, 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 11 am – 4 pm. At 88 Main St., downtown. (802) 388-4964. [info@vermontfolklifecenter.org](mailto:info@vermontfolklifecenter.org). [www.vermontfolklifecenter.org](http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org).

**MONTPELIER.** Bethany Bowl. A community meal that is free to all. 9 am – 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. [www.bethanychurchvt.org](http://www.bethanychurchvt.org). [UCCBethany@comcast.net](mailto:UCCBethany@comcast.net). *Every Tuesday.*

**MONTPELIER.** Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 9 am – 1 pm. weekly on Saturdays. Held in the Montpelier High School Gym on Bailey St. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 223-2958. [montpelierfarmersmarket.com](http://montpelierfarmersmarket.com).

**MONTPELIER.** 7th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. Up to 24 Dealers from all over New England in a relaxed setting. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, 1 Country Club Rd., just past the rotary and junctions of Rts. 2 & 302. (802) 751-6138. [montpelierantiquesmarket.com](http://montpelierantiquesmarket.com). *2nd & 4th Sundays through March.*

**NEWPORT.** Snow & Ice. A retrospective of the story of winter and its sports in the greater Newport area through photos, stories and works by member artists of the MAC Center. Opening reception on February 1st from 5-7:30 pm. Music by the Newport Area Community Orchestra Wind Ensemble, wine & cheese. Free. MAC Center for the Arts, 158 Main St. [memphremagartscollaborative.com](http://memphremagartscollaborative.com). (802) 334-1966. *February 1 through March 23.*

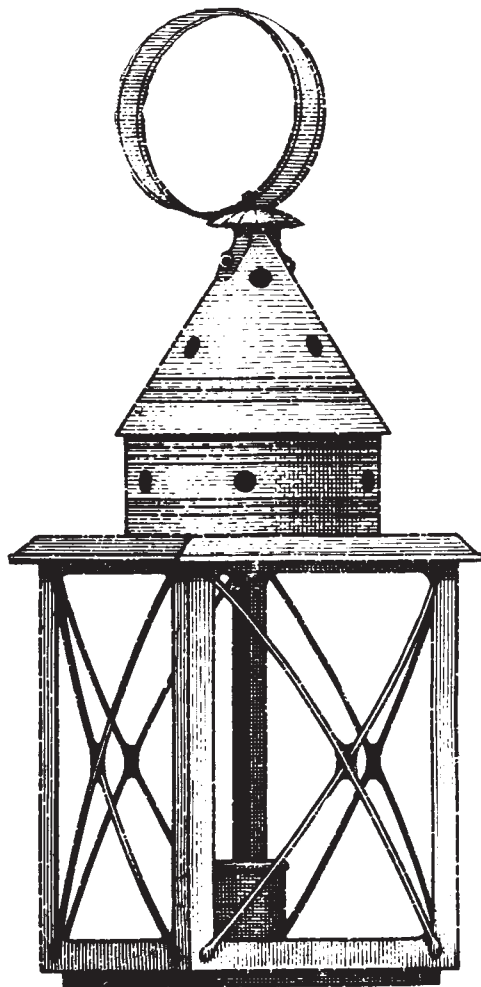
**NORTH BENNINGTON.** Free Equine Seminars. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through February presented by Arlington Equine and Whitman's Feed Store, at the feed store at 1873 Route 67 West. (802) 442-2851.

**NORWICH.** Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 1:30-4:30 pm. Parish Hall of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 262 Main St. For info contact Daniel Hertzler, [danhertzler@gmail.com](mailto:danhertzler@gmail.com). *Fourth Sundays.*

**NORWICH.** Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am – 1 pm at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 384-7447. [manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org](mailto:manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org). [norwichfarmersmarket.org](http://norwichfarmersmarket.org). *February 9, March 9, April 13.*

**NORWICH.** Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibits, trails, programs, and museum store open 10 am – 5 pm daily. Admission \$12 adults, \$10 children 2-17, under 2 free. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. [montshire.org](http://montshire.org).

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



**POULTNEY.** Free Historical Audio Walking & Driving Tours. View and learn about Main Street Poultny, East Poultny Village, and the Quarries, Farms & Forests. (802) 287-5252, (802) 287-2010. [www.poultneyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.poultneyhistoricalsociety.org). [www.poultneyvt.com](http://www.poultneyvt.com).

**PUTNEY.** Green Mountain Orchards Farm Store. Apples and cider year round. Horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides year-round by reservation. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. (802) 387-5851. [www.greenmtorchards.com](http://www.greenmtorchards.com).

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$12, seniors \$11, youth (4-17) \$10. 10 am – 4 pm, 7 days a week. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org). [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org).

**QUECHEE.** Birds of a Feather Art Exhibit. With the works of Jeanette Fournier, a wildlife artist whose watercolor paintings are inspired by nature, particularly the mountainous areas of New Hampshire and Vermont. At the VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5001 x 223. [www.jfournierart.com](http://www.jfournierart.com). *Through March 31.*

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Turkey Hill Farm. Farmer's Kitchen cooking classes. Farm skills workshops. Farm-stay apartment for short-term stays. Chapter meetings for the Weston A. Price Foundation. Stuart and Margaret Osha, 55 Turkey Hill Rd. (802) 728-7064. [localfood@turkeyhillfarmvt.com](mailto:localfood@turkeyhillfarmvt.com). [www.turkeyhillfarmvt.com](http://www.turkeyhillfarmvt.com).

**ROCHESTER.** Art Exhibits. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. [www.bigtowngallery.com](http://www.bigtowngallery.com).

**RUPERT.** Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Help with animal chore—meet at the pig barn at 3:30 pm sharp. Assist Merck staff in taking care of the chickens, pigs, sheep and draft horses Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. [merckforest.org](http://merckforest.org).

**RUTLAND.** Winter Maple Sugar Tour. Tour the beautiful Vermont back roads past farms and fields and over covered bridges to visit a working sugarhouse with native Vermonter Kelly Socia. Sample and buy fresh maple sugar products. \$50 pp leaving daily by appointment. Pickups in various locations in Rutland, Killington, Ludlow, and Manchester. (802) 446-3131. [kelly@vtbackroadtours.com](mailto:kelly@vtbackroadtours.com). [www.vtbackroadtours.com](http://www.vtbackroadtours.com). *February 1 through April 15.*

**RUTLAND.** Chaffee Art Center—Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings, gift shop. Gallery open Tues-Sat 10 am to 5 pm. 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

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

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors. Winter produce, meats, cheeses, baked goods, maple, crafts, prepared foods. Now more heat. Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. New location at 251 West St. For information contact the market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). *Saturdays through May 4.*

## Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

Rutland County Audubon recommends a list of places to go birding in our area—places that are special to us and are representative of the variety of habitats we are fortunate to have in our area.



The Pittsford Trail Network encompasses several trails that are easy walking and located in scenic areas throughout town. One is especially productive for birding—the Cadwell Loop.

The trail is an easy 2.4 mile loop that covers a variety of habitats. Located at the confluence of the Furnace Brook and Otter Creek, the Cadwell Loop passes brushy areas, small ponds and open fields with the riparian habitat attracting a wide variety of species.

In early spring, if there has been a heavy snowfall, the area can be flooded, and at any time there can be muddy patches. But by late February or early March, however, ducks and blackbirds pour into the area. The first Song Sparrows return while the American Tree Sparrows are still present. Mixed flocks of sparrows, including White-Crowned, Lincoln's and Fox, can be found during spring and migration.

Year-round the area is reliable for Red-bellied Woodpecker, along with all our

other woodpeckers. Eastern Bluebirds are also present during the whole year. Carolina Wrens are frequently heard. Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks the most common raptor species.

May and September can be good for migrating flocks of warblers with Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler hanging around for summer nesting activities. Baltimore Orioles can be found along the Otter Creek in May and June. And when the leaves are gone, it is easy to spot the used nests.

Parking is a pull-off just east of the Cooley Bridge on Elm Street. From there you can start the loop in either direction.

Printable maps are available near the parking area and also from the Pittsford Trail Network at [trails.pittsfordvermont.com](http://trails.pittsfordvermont.com).

For more information visit *Rutland County Audubon Society's website* at [www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org](http://www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org).

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[Jennifer@makeitsewvt.com](mailto:Jennifer@makeitsewvt.com)

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

**RUTLAND.** The Market Place. A new market in town. Growers presenting their best. Producer-only vendors. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm. West St. across from Little Harry's Restaurant. For info call Diane Heleba at (802) 353-0893. Through February 23.

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

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

**SOUTH WALLINGFORD.** Bingo every Wednesday at 6 pm, doors open at 4 pm. There will be a jackpot! Maple Valley Grange #318 Hall, Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Exhibition: Light & Space at The Great Hall. Featuring art by Sabra Field, South Royalton, VT; Karen Mullen, Poughquag, NY; Pat Musick, Manchester VT; Dan O'Donnell, Springfield, VT. At The Great Hall, entrance off Pearl St. or One Hundred River Street. (802) 885-3061. www.facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield. Through May 10.

**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.

**STATEWIDE.** Salvation Farms. Volunteer opportunities to glean and process Vermont raised, surplus fruits and vegetables for use by vulnerable populations. For more information contact (802) 522-3148. info@ourfarmsourfood.org. www.salvationfarms.wordpress.com.

**SWANTON.** Taize Evening Prayer. Meditative Prayer service with music from the Taize Community, Scripture readings, sung and spoken prayer and silence. Free. 6:30-7:30 pm. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Chapel of the Annunciation, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185 x 10. www.holytrinityswanton.org. First Wednesdays through March 6.

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

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

**WALLINGFORD.** Men's Breakfast. First Sunday at 9 am. First Congregational Church, S. Main St., Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

**WEST BRATTLEBORO.** Cai's Dim Sum Teahouse at C.X. Silver Gallery. Dine with art all around. More than 30 authentic unique dishes, la carte with many vegan, gluten-free, and wheat-free options. Walk-ins welcome on second Sundays from 10 am – 8 pm or evenings throughout the month with reservations—call one or two days in advance. C.X. Silver Gallery, 814 Western Ave. (802) 579-9088. www.dimsumvt.com.

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

**WEST PAWLET.** West Pawlet Community Farmers Market. Good food, good hospitality, good neighbors. Every Friday from 4-7 pm, indoors and outdoors, year-round. West Pawlet Fish & Game Club (next to the Post Office), 2849 Rt. 153. "Like" us on Facebook and watch for weekly market menus and specials. wpcfmkt@gmail.com.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Reiki Healings. Herbal remedies and teas, crystals and stones. All are welcome. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. www.vermontherbal.com.

**WEST RUTLAND.** Home Buyer Education Classes. Call for schedule. NeighborWorks office at 110 Marble St. (802) 438-2303 x 216. www.nwvt.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Public Sitting Meditation. Free meditation instruction is available at most of these times: Tues 5:30-6:30 pm, Thurs 12-1 pm, Sun 9 am - 12 pm. Shambhala Meditation Center of White River, 158 S. Main St. (802) 785-4304. whiteriver.shambhala.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at the Upper Valley Food Coop in White River Junction during the winter months. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. For information, or if you can't come to meetings but would like to receive a monthly email with our minutes which contain information on our projects, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one significant and telling a story about human beings and the universe we are part of—an alternative experiment in material culture studies. Open Thurs-Sun 1-6 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. mainstreetmuseum.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Upper Valley Co-op's First Friday Celebration. 4-6 pm at the Upper Valley Food Co-op. The First Friday of every month is celebrated by businesses in White River Junction. (802) 295-5804. Kye@uppervalleyfood.coop. www.uppervalleyfood.coop.

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

**WILMINGTON.** Scenic Horseback Trail Rides. \$25/40 minutes. Children over 6 can ride alone. Pony rides for younger children. Year round by reservation. Flames Stables, Rt. 100 south. (802) 464-8329.

**WILMINGTON.** Adams Farm. Horse-drawn day and evening sleigh rides. Also romantic private rides for two in a vintage sleigh. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Rd. For reservations call (802) 464-3762. adamsfamilyfarm.com.

**WINDSOR.** Winter Farmers Market. Noon to 3 pm every first and third Sunday through April 2-13 at the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave., just off Depot Ave. (look for signs on Main St). Market manager: Steve Proctor, (603) 675-5840. mountainskyline@myfairpoint.net. windsorfarmersmarket.blogspot.com. Facebook. Through April 2013.

**GOLD SPONSORS:** RUTLAND HERALD, CARRIS FEELS, SEASON SPONSORS: Citizens Bank, GE Aviation, FOLEY, GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER

**POPOVICH COMEDY Theatre** FRIDAY FEB 8 2013 7:00 PM

**The Full Monty The Musical** FRI/SAT FEB 15 & 16 2013 8:00 PM

**THE PEKING Acrobats** FRIDAY MAR 1 2013 7:30 PM

**Celtic Nights** FRIDAY MAR 15 2013 8:00 PM

**VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring **PETER Yarrow** Songs of Freedom SATURDAY APR 6 2013 7:30 PM

**THE UGLY Duckling** SATURDAY APR 13 2013 2:00 PM

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## Winter Outings With the Green Mountain Club

Get out and enjoy this winter weather while we have it. You're invited to come along on an outing with the various sections of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members are welcome and it is free. Call the leaders listed for more information. Visit the website www.greenmountainclub.org for more statewide outings.

**February 9. Rutland, VT.** Outing to Rutland State For-

est. XC ski (or hike if there's no snow). Sponsored by the Worcester Section of the GMC. Park at Whitehall Pond. Leader Dick Kisten after 7 p.m. at (508) 747-3551.

**February 16. Rutland, VT.** Outing to Wallingford Pond. Snowshoe or ski depending on conditions. Explore a beautiful pond in winter. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the GMC. Call to confirm date. Leader:

Tom Copps, (802) 282-1675.

**February 18. Manchester, VT.** Family snowshoe hike around Equinox Pond. This is a family friendly, easy hike. Bring your children. Don't have snowshoes for them? You can rent them at EMS in Manchester Depot. Meet at the Red Gate Trailhead (end of West Union Street, behind Burr & Burton Academy) at 9 a.m. Leader: Alyson Grzyb at alyruby@gmail.com or (203) 414-4370.

**February 21. Manchester, VT.** Equinox Mountain snowshoe. Meet at the Congregational Church parking lot in Manchester Village at 9 a.m. to car pool to the trail head—moderately difficult, seven-mile round trip, about 2000 feet elevation gain. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Leader: Steve Gryzb, (203) 645-7465.

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# Vermont Country Calendar



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

**WINDSOR.** All-You-Can-Eat Brunch Buffet. Menu includes pancakes and eggs, sausage, fruit salad, homemade bread, desserts and more. Adults \$7.50, 8 and under \$3. 11 am to 1 pm. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 State St. (802) 674-6461. *The first Sunday of each month.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Third Friday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. Dinner (soup, cheese and bread, coffee and tea) 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance 6 pm; potluck dessert 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-9:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation includes dinner, under 18 free. The Little Theater, 54 River St. (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. *Every third Friday thru May.*

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, festivities and museum. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Winter hours: open weekends through February, 10 am to 3:30 pm and February vacation week, Feb. 16-24, 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Woodstock Winter Farmers' Market. Fourth Saturdays and April 20, 10 am – 1 pm, through May. At The Masonic Hall, 30 Peasant St. Info call Anne Dean at (802) 457-3889. anneldean@gmail.com. *Through May.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Hand-in-Hand Community Meal. Free, donations accepted. Every Thursday, 5-7 pm in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Church, 7 Church St. (802) 457-2557.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert: Middlebury College Orchestra performs Beethoven's Overture Lenore no. 2 and the Fourth Symphony. Free. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

**RANDOLPH.** Stand-up Comedy with Jason Lorber. Cash bar available. 7:30 pm. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

**STOWE.** Stowe Winter Carnival. Stowe Super-G Schuss. Come ski or watch at Spruce Peak, 12 noon. Ice Carving Demonstration 9 am – 6 pm on Main St. and Mountain Rd. (802) 777-5510, (802) 253-3000. stowe.com.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

**BENSON.** Lake Champlain Down Home Ice Fishing Derby and Kid's Derby. Sponsored by Benson Fish and Game Club. All Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Headquarters at Benson Town Office on Stage Rd. (802) 537-2468.

**BRATTLEBORO.** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. Day-long celebration brings together local and regional musicians representing Irish, Scottish, English and French Canadian musical traditions. Tickets: day \$20, eve \$20, both \$35; youth under 12, day \$10, eve \$10, both \$15; 3 pm family concert and dance \$5 at the door. At McNeil's Brewery and New England Youth Theater. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org.

**CHESTER.** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual New Voices. A literary event sponsored by Misty Valley Books. Hear five newly published authors talk about their work. For 2013 this includes Carole DeSanti, *The Unruly Passions of Eugenie R.*; Dr. Eben Alexander, III, *Proof of Heaven*; Jessica Maria Tuccelli, *Glow*; Maryanne O'Hara, *Cascade*; Kieran Shields, *The Truth of All Things*. Free, public invited. 2 pm at the First Universalist Church in Stone Village. Also x-c ski and snowshoe with the authors in the morning at Grafton Ponds (trail fee), meet the authors at a reception after the readings (free) and have drinks and/or dinner with the authors in the evening at the Fullerton Inn (\$\$). For information call (802) 875-3400. Visit www.mvbooks.com.

**JEFFERSONVILLE.** The Eighteenth Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon. Held on the grounds of the Sterling Ridge Inn and Log Cabins. More than 200 entrants. Involves muzzleloading rifles, snowshoes, and period dress. Spectators welcome. Info: weekdays (802) 644-8232, evenings & weekends (802) 933-4880. www.primitivebiathlon.com. *Also January 27.*

**LEBANON, NH.** Annual Winter Concert: A January Thawbreaker. With the Upper Valley Community Band. Tickets at the door: \$8/\$5/preschoolers free. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

**NORTH BENNINGTON.** Annual Bennington Winter Festival. Penguin plunge at Lake Paran at 11 am. After-plunge party. Ice sculpture contest, indoor carnival at the graded school 12-4 pm, children's story time, pet fashion show, games, wagon rides, and fun for the entire family. Drink and food specials at local restaurants along with music. 8 am – 11 pm at locations throughout town. (802) 447-3311. www.bennington.com.

**QUECHEE.** Family Full Moon Fun. Enjoy the beauty of a full moon in winter while snow-shoeing through the woods at the VINS Nature Center. Bring your snowshoes—limited snow-shoes available. Fee: \$10. 6:30-8:30 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. *Register by Jan. 25.* (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Pianist Simone Dinnerstein. Performing Bach's Goldberg Variations. A free reception follows the performance. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464.

**RUTLAND.** Jesters Basketball Game. The Annual World Famous Court Jesters Comedy Basketball Team will play the Rutland Police Explorer All-Stars. Bring the whole family for a great night of entertainment. \$10 donation. 6 pm at Keefe Gymnasium, 67 Library Ave.

**SHELburne.** Evening Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Join Pat Palmer of Thornapple Farm and his team of Percheron draft horses for a winter evening of star gazing. 6:00. 6:45 & 7:30 pm (weather permitting.) \$15/adult, \$10/child age 3-13; children under 3 free. Pre-registration required. Call (802) 985-8686 or e-mail jpenca@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org. *Also February 14.*

**SMUGGLERS NOTCH.** Heritage WinterFest. Guided snowshoeing nature walk, sleigh rides, children's story hour, a lasagna dinner, family contra dance, bonfire and fireworks. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 VT Rt. 108 South. (800) 419-4615. smuggs.com. *Through January 27.*

**STOWE.** Stowe Winter Carnival. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Nationally-Sanctioned Ice Carving Competition, 12-4 pm, at Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center. For info call (802) 777-5510. Snowvolleyball Tournament, 10 am – 4 pm at the Sunset Grille and Tap Room. (802) 244-8001. stowe.com.

**WARREN.** 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Robert Burns Supper. An evening of dinner, dancing, bagpipes and a wee dram of single malt, celebrating Scottish poet Robert Burns, recognizing the 254<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Scottish bard. Tickets \$50. Advance purchase required. Red Barn, West Hill House B&B, 1496 West Hill Rd. (802) 496-7162. www.westhillbb.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Admission. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also January 27.*

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

**BOLTON VALLEY.** Get Out and Backcountry Ski Festival. Learn the basics of backcountry skiing or how to improve your telemark technique. A limited supply of backcountry and telemark equipment will be on hand to demo. Fee: \$60. 9 am – 4:45 pm. Bolton Valley Resort. (802) 864-5794. www.catamounttrail.org. www.boltonvalley.com.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Concert: The Windham Orchestra—Psalms & Fireworks. Tickets \$15/\$10. 3 pm. Brattleboro Union High School. (802) 257-4523. www.bmcvt.org.

**JEFFERSONVILLE.** The Eighteenth Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon. Held on the grounds of the Sterling Ridge Inn and Log Cabins. Involves muzzleloading rifles, snowshoes, and period dress. Spectators welcome. Information: weekdays (802) 644-8232, evenings & weekends (802) 933-4880. primitivebiathlon.com.

**MONTPELIER.** Winter Festival: Ice on Fire. Parades, storytelling, winter games, songs, readings, and outdoor theater. Admission \$3 adult, \$1 child, \$5 family. 2-5 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**MONTPELIER.** Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture Announces It's Winter Semester of Classes. Adult classes are Beginner Ukelele, Beginner Banjo and Intermediate Clawhammer Banjo, Klezmer, French and Quebecois, Swing Band, Improvisation, Merle Travis Style Fingerpicking, Recording Basics For Women, Western Swing Steel Guitar, Songwriting, Old Time Music Band, Beginner Mandolin, and Alternate Guitar Tuning Methods. Fee: \$200 for 8 weeks. Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. www.summit-school.org.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Vermont Farm Show. Plan to visit agricultural displays, farm product contest, annual meeting of commodity groups, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. 9 am to 5 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.vtfarmshow.com. *Also January 30 & 31.*

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Vermont Farm Show. Plan to visit agricultural displays, farm product contest, annual meeting of commodity groups, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. Tonight is Consumer Night. 9 am to 7:30 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.vtfarmshow.com. *Also January 31.*

**LEBANON, NH.** Banff Mountain Film Festival. International film productions on mountain themes ranging from mountaineering to ice and rock climbing to wildlife and environmental issues, as well as mountain sports such as skiing, kayaking, snowboarding, and much more. Tickets \$23. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Vermont Farm Show. Plan to visit agricultural displays, farm product contest, farm machinery, commercial farm exhibits. Dairy Banquet. 9 am to 4 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.vtfarmshow.com.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**BENNINGTON.** Sacred Harp Sing & Contra Dance. Hosted by Bennington College singing school students. David Kaynor, caller. 7-9 pm at the Deane Carriage Barn at Bennington College off Rt. 67A. For info contact Joanne Fuller at (518) 854-3391.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Ladysmith Black Mambazo. 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets call (802) 863-5966. www.flynnntix.org.

**COLCHESTER.** 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Colchester Winter Carnival. Indoor and outdoor games. Food booth. Fee: \$5. Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane. (802) 264-5640. www.colchestertv.gov. *Also February 2.*

**EAST POULTNEY.** Annual Torchlight Snowmobile Parade! Poultney Valley Snowmobile Devils line up at 5:40-6 pm on the Green in East Poultney. The Club provides the torches, and the parade leaves 6 pm and progresses to the Chamber's Spaghetti Supper at the Methodist Church in Poultney. For info call Ernest DeMatties at (802) 287-9755. www.poultneysnowdevils.com.

**ISLAND POND.** Annual Island Pond Winter Carnival. Ice skating, bonfire and refreshments on the ice. (802) 723-9889. islandpondchamber.org. *Through February 3.*

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. B.A. Shapiro presents an exhilarating literary thriller, *The Art Forger*. Inspired by the largest unsolved art heist in history, the 1990 robbery of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**POULTNEY.** Spaghetti Supper. Sponsored by the Poultney Chamber of Commerce. Italian spaghetti with meat or plain sauce, bread and rolls, salad, coffee, tea, and soft drinks, and desserts of many varieties. Adult tickets are \$8, children 6-12 \$5, and children 5 and under free. 5-8 pm at United Methodist Church, 108 Main St. For info call Steve Broughton at (802) 884-8136.

**RUTLAND.** Performance: The Capitol Steps. Political satire and song parodies. Tickets: \$39.50/\$29.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**BARNET.** Third Annual Collectors Fair. Meet, swap, and share great information about what you collect or want to collect. We welcome displays of anything, but no firearms, weapons, or jack knives (we're in a school building). Refreshments and door prizes. A no-cost event, free to exhibitors and free to the public. 9 am – 2 pm. At the Barnet School. davewarden37@hotmail.com.

**BURLINGTON.** 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Burlington Winter Festival. Winter fun and family activities all over town. Many events are free. (802) 864-0123. www.enjoyburlington.com.

**BURLINGTON.** 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Vermont Symphony Orchestra Symphony Ball. The annual gala benefit includes cocktails (cash bar) and silent auction beginning at 6 pm, with an elegant dinner and complimentary wine, and dancing from 7 pm until 12:30 am. Tickets are \$175 per person. Grand Maple Ballroom, top floor of Dudley Davis Center at University of Vermont, 590 Main St. (800) 876-9293 x 25. vso.org.

**CHESTER.** Community Breakfast. Menu: bacon, sausage, eggs, home fries, pancakes, all the fixings, and beverages, buffet style from 8-10 am. \$5 donation at the door. The Green Mtn. Express hosts a round and square dance from 7-11 pm. Refreshments sold in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale. \$5 donation at the door. At Gassetts Grange, jct. Rts. 10 & 103N. For more info call Dave at (802) 875-2637.

**CRAFTSBURY COMMON.** 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual TD Bank Craftsbury Cross-Country Ski Marathon. The largest nordic ski event in the East. Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767. www.craftsbury.com.

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Jr. Iron Chef Vermont. A cooking competition for middle and high school students from all across Vermont. Admission \$3-\$5. 9 am – 3 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 434-4122. www.jrironchefvt.org. nofavt.org.



# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 2, continued)

**ISLAND POND.** Annual Island Pond Winter Carnival. Snowmobile tours, snowmobile parade, snow sculpture competition, whiffle ball tournament, free coffee and cookies, sugar-on-snow, book signings. (802) 723-9889. [www.islandpondchamber.org](http://www.islandpondchamber.org). Also February 3.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Biographers Michael Gorra and Irene Price-Goldman examine Henry James and Edith Wharton—their lives, friendships, and literary legacies—in their books, *Portrait of a Novel* and *My Dear Governess*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).

**POULTNEY.** Winter Carnival. Sponsored by the Poultney Valley Snowmobile Devils. The family event is free and open to all! Games, sledding and snowmobile rides. See antique Model-T snow machines. Hot food—hot dogs, hamburgers, soups, French fries—hot and cold drinks, and dessert goodies, are all free! Snowmobile Poker Run, \$10/hand. 9 am – 3:30 pm. Bob Chestnut's Garage on York St. Ext. For info call Ernest DeMatties at (802) 287-9755. [www.poultneysnowdevils.com](http://www.poultneysnowdevils.com).

**RUTLAND.** 11th Annual Winter Fest! This event is free with activities for the whole family. Snowshoeing demos, snow carving, curling clinic, paintball course, obstacle course, story walk, snow maze. 11 am – 2 pm at Giorgetti Park, 2 Oak St Extension. Giorgetti Arena will be open from 2-4:15 pm. Participate in three activities and skate for free. (802) 773-1822.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Eddie Money. Blue collar rock 'n roll. Tickets: \$49.50/\$39.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [www.paramountvt.org](http://www.paramountvt.org).

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors. A great place to shop, eat and visit. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm. 251 West St. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). Saturdays through May 4.

**SHELBURNE.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Leaves the Welcome Center every half hour, 11 am – 2 pm; fee: \$8/adult, \$6/child, under 3 free. Put on your woolies, bring your family, and brave the winter for one of these half-hour rides, and bring a thermos with a warm beverage. Also private rides by reservation at 2:30 & 3 pm for \$95 per sleigh. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). Every Saturday and Sunday through February 24.

**WATERBURY.** 17th Annual Showshoe Festival and Winter Party. Snowshoe hikes and nature walks, workshops and demonstrations, children's activities, bonfire, s'mores & cocoa. Dog sledding, winter cooking and camping, animal tracking, massages, face painting, snowflake making. Winter party with live music, refreshments, raffle, and prizes, 3-5 pm. Festival 8:30 am – 3 pm. Admission \$10, kids under 12 free. Green Mountain Club Visitor's Center, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 244-7037. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WEST PAWLET.** Tenth Annual Woodchuck Festival and Fireman's Rescue Challenge. Children's games, face painting, real handcrafts, home style foods by Ladies' Auxiliary, and many vendors. The all-volunteer event raises funds for West Pawlet Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary. From 9 am – 3 pm at Mettawee Community School, Rt. 153. For more information contact Eli Norman at (802) 645-9224.

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Tour the 1890's farm house. Admission. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Also February 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 23 & 24.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**ISLAND POND.** Annual Island Pond Winter Carnival. Cardboard sled races, snow sculpture judging. At locations throughout town. (802) 723-9889. [islandpondchamber.org](http://islandpondchamber.org).

**RUPERT.** Sweetheart Sleigh Ride. Enjoy a scenic ride in a sleigh just for two through the forest on Old Town Road and around Hundred Acre Meadow with great views. Fee: \$150 for one-hour ride. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. Reservations required. Call (802) 394-7836. [merckforest.org](http://merckforest.org). Also February 3, 10, 17, 24.

**SHELBURNE.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Leaves the Welcome Center every half hour, 11 am – 2 pm; fee: \$8/adult, \$6/child, under 3 free. Private rides by reservation at 2:30 & 3 pm for \$95 per sleigh. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). Every Saturday and Sunday through February 24.

**WINDSOR.** All-You-Can-Eat Brunch Buffet. Menu includes pancakes and eggs, sausage, fruit salad, homemade bread, desserts and more. Adults \$7.50, 8 and under \$3. 11 am to 1 pm. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 State St. (802) 674-6461. The first Sunday of each month.

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Tour the 1890's farm house. Admission. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). Also February 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 23 & 24.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**GRAFTON.** Grafton Ponds XC and Snowshoe Dog Days. The trails are dog friendly every Monday and Thursday. Grafton Ponds, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. [graftonponds.com](http://graftonponds.com).

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Venice Baroque Orchestra. Acclaimed as one of Europe's premier "period instrument" ensembles. Performing Vivaldi, Bach, Handel and Telemann. Tickets \$40/\$25/\$17. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**MANCHESTER.** Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays Lecture: "An Evening of George Gershwin." In this performance lecture, pianist Michael Arnowitz explores the music and era of American composer George Gershwin and performs *An American in Paris* and *Rhapsody in Blue*, among other compositions. Free admission. 7 pm. First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. (802) 362-2607. [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org).

**RUTLAND.** Program: McKibben on Climate Change. Author and environmentalist Bill McKibben explains how both the science and politics of climate change have unfolded and are unfolding, here and around the globe. 7-8:45 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org).

**SWANTON.** Community Breakfast at Holy Trinity. Hot and cold breakfast items. Come and bring a friend. Fee: \$2.50. 7-9 am. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185 x 10. [holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net](mailto:holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net). [www.holytrinityswanton.org](http://www.holytrinityswanton.org). Also February 20, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17, May 1 & 15, June 5 & 19.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**BENNINGTON.** Program: The History of Maple Sugaring with Bill Clark. Bill is a producer of syrup and has been recognized as an honorary member of the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association. Free. 7-9 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. [www.netrop.org](http://www.netrop.org). [www.oneworldconservationcenter.org](http://www.oneworldconservationcenter.org).

**BRANDON.** Jazz Concert: Jonathan Lorentz Trio. A daring and creative improviser who blends modern jazz with blues, rock, and the avant-garde. Tickets \$15. A dinner & show package is available for \$30. Venue is BYOB. Call for reservations. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. [info@brandon-music.net](mailto:info@brandon-music.net). [brandon-music.net](http://brandon-music.net).

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## Brandon Music Hosts the Jonathan Lorentz Trio

Brandon Music will host the saxophonist Jonathan Lorentz with bassist John Hunter and drummer Tim Gilmore on February 7 at 7:30 p.m. The concert is part of the jazz series held in the Music Cafe at Brandon Music in Brandon, VT.

Jonathan Lorentz plays with a sound that is warm in tone and rich in melodic complexity. He is a daring and creative improviser who blends modern jazz with blues, rock, and the avant-

garde. Jon's recent album *Borderlands* (his first for the UK's Métier Jazz label) was released to critical acclaim in 2010, and is receiving airplay on radio stations throughout the world.

In March of 2011 *Fanfare Magazine's* Lynn René Bayley remarked that "Jonathan Lorentz has really got it: a great style, an explorative mind, and a concept for this album that goes beyond the usual fare you hear from jazz sax trios."

Lorentz is celebrated for having a "real big sound on tenor" (by jazz legend Dave Liebman), and has performed with Dave Calarco, John Menegon, Judi Silvano, Bob Gullotti, Hezekiah Walker, Mike Dillon, Delfeayo Marsalis, Harry Allen, Bruce Gertz, John Lockwood and Yoron Israel. Jon holds a PhD in Jazz Studies from New York University and works as an arranger, transcriber and engraver for Jaz-zlines Publications. He is the founder and director of "NH Jazz Presents" and was recently elected to the board of directors of the Seacoast Jazz Society.

The Jazz series at Brandon Music is coordinated by NH Jazz Presents,

Admission is \$15. Reservations are encouraged. A dinner & show package is \$30. The venue is BYOB.



Jonathan Lorentz

Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd. in Brandon, VT. For reservations or information call Brandon Music at (802) 465-4071. Visit [www.brandon-music.net](http://www.brandon-music.net). For schedules for the jazz concerts go to [www.NHJazz.com](http://www.NHJazz.com).

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- MARCH 23rd & 24th Franklin Conference Room at The Howe, 1 Scale Ave. Rutland, VT 05701
- APRIL 27th & 28th Amer. Legion #27, 1 Boardman St. Middlebury, VT 05753
- SEPTEMBER 7th & 8th Franklin Conference Room at The Howe, 1 Scale Ave. Rutland, VT 05701
- SEPTEMBER 28th & 29th American Legion # 67, Rt 103, Chester, VT 05143
- NOV 30th & DEC 1st CT Valley Auto Auction Ctr, 1567 Route 14 Hartford, VT 05047

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**GREENSBORO.** 5th Annual Seed Swap. You do not need to bring seeds to participate; there will be extra to share. 7-9 pm at the Greensboro Library. (802) 755-6336.

**LUDLOW.** 3rd Annual Lovin' Ludlow Winter Carnival. Snow sculptures, scavenger hunts, fun races, downhill sledding, Warren Miller film festival, wine tastings, ice skating, ski & snowboard fashion show, Poker tournament, ugly sweater contest, blazing bonfire with fireworks, Chowda' Challenge and more! (802) 228-5830. [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com). *Through February 9.*

**MONTPELIER.** Potluck Traditional Music Workshop Series. A different instructor and workshop every Thursday in February. Bring something to share (food), play some music together, and listen in to one of four different presentations on a variety of traditional music forms! Payment plans are available. Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. [director@summit-school.org](mailto:director@summit-school.org). [www.summit-school.org](http://www.summit-school.org). *Also February 14, 21 & 28.*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. A Grammy Award-winning group with programs ranging from Bach to Bluegrass. 7:30-10 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St. For tickets call (802) 656-4455. [www.uvm.edu/laneseries](http://www.uvm.edu/laneseries).

**LEBANON, NH.** Ballet: "Romeo and Juliet." Performed by the State Ballet Theater of Russia. Tickets \$55/\$45/\$35. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. [lebanonoperahouse.org](http://lebanonoperahouse.org). *Also February 9.*

**LUDLOW.** 3rd Annual Lovin' Ludlow Winter Carnival. Snow sculptures, scavenger hunts, fun races, downhill sledding, Warren Miller film festival, wine tastings, ice skating, ski & snowboard fashion show, Poker tournament, ugly sweater contest, blazing bonfire with fireworks, Chowda' Challenge and more! (802) 228-5830. [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com). *Through February 9.*

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Richard Ford presents his book, *Canada*. From one of our greatest writers, a true masterwork of haunting and spectacular vision. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).

**NORTH HERO.** 6th Annual Great Ice Celebration in Grand Isle. Christmas Tree Bonfire and chili contest on the ice on the North Hero House Pier, 5-7 pm. Cash bar, buffet at North Hero House after the bonfire. \$2 buys a cup for tasting and judging! Free parking. (802) 372-8400, (802) 372-4161. [www.champlainislands.com](http://www.champlainislands.com). [www.heroswelcome.com](http://www.heroswelcome.com). *Also February 9, 10, 15 & 17.*

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Seth Glier. The 22-year-old Grammy-nominated singer, pianist and guitarist shines with his powerful falsetto and melodic prowess. Cash bar available. 7:30 pm. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org).

**RUTLAND.** Popovich Comedy Pet Theatre. A family-oriented blend of the unique comedy and juggling skills of Gregory Popovich and the extraordinary talents of his performing pets. Tickets: \$24.50/\$19.50. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**TUNBRIDGE.** Contra Dance. Traditional contras and quadrilles. Hosted by the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. Open to the public, all dances taught, no partner necessary, children welcome. Refreshments available at the break. Admission \$5. 7:30-10:30 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, 271 Rt. 110. (802) 436-2444. [Clydo46@gmail.com](mailto:Clydo46@gmail.com). *Second Fridays (excluding June & September).*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**COLCHESTER.** Concert: Burlington Civic Symphony —A Night at the Pops. 8 pm. Elley-Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College, 223 Ethan Allen Ave. For tickets call (802) 839-9067. [info@bcsovt.org](mailto:info@bcsovt.org). [www.bcsovt.org](http://www.bcsovt.org).

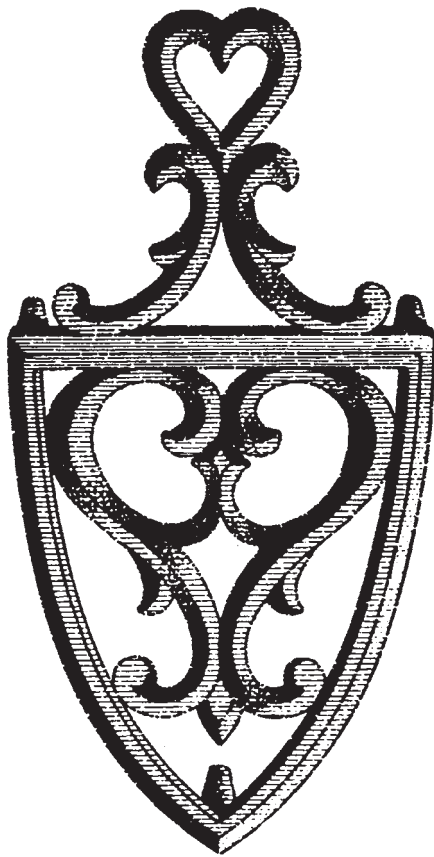
**DANVILLE.** Old Time Contra Dance. With Chip Hedler (caller) and music by Hull's Union String Band. Fee: \$5. 8-11 pm. Danville Town Hall. For information contact David Carpenter at (802) 563-3225 or [samlyman@fairpoint.net](mailto:samlyman@fairpoint.net). *First Fridays through May.*

**HANOVER, NH.** 37th Annual Dartmouth Winter Carnival Concert. Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble with special guest Gregorio Uribe. Tickets \$16/\$10. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**LAKE ELMORE.** Lake Elmore Polar Splash. Fundraiser by Morrisville Rotary Club and Lamoille Community Food Share. Spectators free. 11 am. Lake Elmore Beach House, Beach Rd. (802) 730-2461.

**LEBANON, NH.** Ballet: Romeo and Juliet. Performed by the internationally acclaimed State Ballet Theater of Russia. Tickets \$55/\$45/\$35. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. [www.lebanonoperahouse.org](http://www.lebanonoperahouse.org). *Also February 9.*

**LUDLOW.** 3rd Annual Lovin' Ludlow Winter Carnival. Snow sculptures, scavenger hunts, fun races, exhilarating downhill sledding, Warren Miller film festival, wine tastings, ice skating, ski & snowboard fashion show, ugly sweater contest with great prizes, blazing bonfire with fireworks, Chowda' Challenge. (802) 228-5830. [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com).



**MANCHESTER.** 9th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Wilderness competition of target shooting and snowshoeing open to all muzzleloading firearm enthusiasts, regardless of skill level or athletic ability. Spectators are welcomed and encouraged to view portions of the course. Skinner Hollow Farm, Rt. 7A. For more information call Eric Severance at (802) 362-2666, or [brew@vewdo.com](mailto:brew@vewdo.com). [www.svtpb.org](http://www.svtpb.org). *Also February 10.*

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. *Crossing the Borders of Time: A True Love Story of War, Exile, and Love Reclaimed.* Leslie Maitland returned to Europe throughout the nineties in search of her mother's lost love. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).

**MONTPELIER.** Capital City Concerts presents Violinist Rachel Barton-Pine. Program includes Beethoven, Villa-Lobos, Fairouz, Strauss. 7:30 pm. Unitarian Church of Montpelier, 130 Main St. For tickets call (802) 793-9291 x 9291. [kkevra@sover.net](mailto:kkevra@sover.net). [www.karenkevra.com](http://www.karenkevra.com).

**MONTPELIER.** 7th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, One Country Club Rd., just off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. [montpelierantiquesmarket.com](http://montpelierantiquesmarket.com). *Also February 24.*

**MONTPELIER.** Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 9 am - 1 pm. Weekly on Saturdays. Held in the Montpelier High School Gym on Bailey St. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 223-2958. [montpelierfarmersmarket.com](http://montpelierfarmersmarket.com).

**NORTH HERO.** 6th Annual Great Ice in Grand Isle. Marathon Skating International inaugurates the Champlain Islands Ice Marathon races at City Bay. Register at [www.marathonskating.org](http://www.marathonskating.org). Nordic Skating with Jamie Hess from 2-4 pm. Free demos and use of skates. Hot food at Hero's Welcome General Store. Free parking. (802) 372-8400, (802) 372-4161. [www.champlainislands.com](http://www.champlainislands.com). [www.heroswelcome.com](http://www.heroswelcome.com). *Also February 10, 15 & 17.*

**NORWICH.** Contra Dance with Northern Spy. Caller David Millstone. Annual Hawaiian Night dance, loud shirts encouraged, tropical-themed decorations! Please bring a separate pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing and pot-luck finger food for the break. Admission \$8, students \$5, seniors by donation, under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. *Second Saturdays through June 2013.*

**NORWICH.** Winter Farmers' Market. 10 am - 1 pm at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 384-7447. [manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org](mailto:manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org). [www.norwichfarmersmarket.org](http://www.norwichfarmersmarket.org). *Also March 9 & April 13.*

**PUTNEY.** Concert: Patty Larkin. Tickets \$23. 8 pm. Next Stage at 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. [extstagearts.org](http://extstagearts.org).

**RUPERT.** Saturday Sleigh Rides and Snowshoeing. Draft horses, Ellie and Daisy, take you for a ride across the snowy landscape. Stop by the fire ring to warm up your hands, and have a hot drink! Fee: \$20 adult; \$10 children 5-12; 4 and under free. 11 am - 2 pm on the hour. Reservations are required. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. [merckforest.org](http://merckforest.org). *February 16 & 23*

**RUTLAND.** The Market Place. A new market in town. Producer-only vendors. Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm, West St. across from Little Harry's Restaurant. Call Diane Heleba or more info at (802) 353-0893. *Through February 23.*

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors. A great place to shop, eat and visit. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. [www.vtfarmersmarket.org](http://www.vtfarmersmarket.org). *Sats thru May 4.*

Burlington, VT

## NOFA Organic Farming Winter Conference

As snowdrifts bury the last remnants of the 2012 growing season, spring may feel far away. But seed catalogs are on their way, compost piles are readily decomposing and registration for the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) Winter Conference has opened.

NOFA-VT's 31st Annual Winter Conference, "Generations of Innovation," will take place on February 15-17, 2013 at the University of Vermont in Burlington.

For over three decades, growers from Vermont, Quebec and beyond have come together to encourage their green thumbs, inspire their culinary arts and share the challenges and successes encountered in organic agriculture in the backyard, and the back 40.

### Friday Intensives

The conference kicks off with five intensive workshops taking place on Friday, February 15 on the waterfront in downtown Burlington.

Farmer and author Shannon Hayes of Sap Bush Hollow Farm, West Fulton, NY is delivering one such intensive, "Stretching Your Meat Dollar." Hayes will teach several delicious and economical ways to get the most out of healthy, grass-fed animals, including techniques for grilling, roasting, braising, preparing broths and offal, and using animal fat.

Other Intensives include "Fermenting the Harvest," a day-long, demonstration-based workshop on the tasty biological processes and historical narratives surrounding lacto-fermented foods. "Farming for Resiliency in a Changing Climate," "Improving Blueberry Yields & Longevity," and "Increasing Strawberry Profits" are intended for commercial growers and will bring in experts from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Middlebury College, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service, as well as experienced local farmers. Fees for the Intensives include a catered lunch.

### Generations of Innovation

The Saturday and Sunday portion of the conference will take place at the University of Vermont. Clara Coleman, daughter of organic gardening pioneer Eliot Coleman, will deliver Saturday's keynote address, as well as a workshop co-presented with her father. Like her father, she is a proponent of the "small is better" model of farming, advocating business growth through improved efficiency, innovative production methods, farmer collaboration and direct customer marketing, rather than physical expansion. Clara will share the inherent challenges and uncertainties of the farming lifestyle, and show how the young farmer movement continues the legacy of innovation.

Inspired by the "TEDTalks" format of brief but excellent presentations on "ideas worth spreading," we're excited to replace the traditional Sunday keynote address with several shorter talks featuring dynamic innovators.

### Something for everyone

There will be a second annual seed swap, a collective art project with local art legend Bonnie Acker, lots of time for networking, and, of course, plenty of good food! Saturday night there is a NOFAvore Dinner & Dance. On Sunday at 5:15 enjoy an Ice Cream Social!

Whether you're interested in the economics of commercial high tunnel production or advanced garlic production, the art of home gardening or slow democracy, pastured poultry or farm-based education, sourdough baking, micro-dairies, hops, oats, oilseeds or shiitake mushrooms, with over 70 workshops, this conference will supply you with innovative ideas to carry into the spring.

NOFA Vermont is member-based organization working to grow local farms, healthy food, and strong communities in Vermont. Our members are farmers, gardeners, educators and food lovers of all sorts.

*Conference pre-registration closes on February 2, 2013. Walk-in registration will be available. Learn more about the Winter Conference at [nofavt.org/conference](http://nofavt.org/conference).*

*For more information about the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA Vermont) call (802) 434-4122, e-mail [cailin@nofavt.org](mailto:cailin@nofavt.org) or visit [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org).*

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 9, continued)

**SHARON.** 6th Annual Winter Fest and Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market. Free indoor and outdoor activities for all ages from 10 am to 2 pm. Skating, sliding, snowmobile rides, snowshoeing, games and crafts. Farmers' market from 10 am - 1 pm. Local lunch from 11:30 am - 1 pm. At Sharon Elementary School, 75 Rt. 132. (802) 763-8280.

**SHELBURNE.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Leaves the Welcome Center every half hour, 11 am - 2 pm; fee: \$8/adult, \$6/child, under 3 free. Private rides by reservation at 2:30 & 3 pm for \$95 per sleigh. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). Every Saturday and Sunday through February 24.

**STOWE.** Menagerie Goes Tailgating!—North Country Animal League Benefit. Join emcee Rusty Dewees. Sports-themed food & cocktails, silent & live auction, friends, fun and dancing. \$90 per person. At Stoweflake Resort & Spa. For tickets call (802) 888-5065 x 106. [ncal.com](http://ncal.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Tour the restored 1890's farm house. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also February 10, 16 & 17, 23 & 24.

**WOODSTOCK.** Concert: John Jorgenson Quintet. Classic "gypsy jazz." Opening set at 7 pm by WUHS Jazz Ensemble. Tickets \$35. 7:30 pm at Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** 3rd Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. Screening: *Station Agent*. On the big screen in the museum's theater with high definition digital projection and Dolby surround-sound. Tickets: adults \$11, children ages 3-15, \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest](http://www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest). Continues on alternate Saturdays through April 6.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**BRATTLEBORO.** Chamber Music Concert Series. The Brattleboro Music Center presents Pamela Frank, violin; Arnold Steinhardt, violin; John Dalley, viola; Michael Tree, viola; and Peter Wiley, cello. Program includes Bartok Duets for Two Violins. Mozart String Quintet in C Major, K. 515. Dvorak String Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 97. Tickets \$30/\$20/\$10. 3 pm. Centre Congregational Church. (802) 257-4523. [brattleborotix.com](http://brattleborotix.com). [bmcvt.org](http://bmcvt.org).

**FAIR HAVEN.** Breakfast Buffet. \$7 adult, \$3.50 children. 8-11 am. Sponsored by the American Legion Post #49, 72 S. Main St. (802) 265-7983.

**HANOVER, NH.** Performance: "The Civil War." Presented by Theatreworks USA. Weaving stirring period songs and actual events into a fictional narrative. Tickets \$23/\$18/\$13. 3 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**MANCHESTER.** 9th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Wilderness competition of target shooting and snowshoeing open to all muzzleloading firearm enthusiasts, regardless of skill level or athletic ability. Spectators are welcome. Skinner Hollow Farm, Rt. 7A. For more info call Eric Severance at (802) 362-2666, [brew@Vewdo.com](mailto:brew@Vewdo.com). [www.svtpb.org](http://www.svtpb.org).

**NORTH HERO.** 6th Annual Great Ice in Grand Isle. Marathon Skating International inaugurates the Champlain Islands Ice Marathon races at City Bay. Races open to the public, or just watch. Register at [www.marathonskating.org](http://www.marathonskating.org). Ingrid Bower's sled dogs will be doing demos and offering rides from 1:30-4:30 pm. Free demos and use of skates. Hot food at Hero's Welcome General Store. (802) 372-8400, (802) 372-4161. [www.champlainislands.com](http://www.champlainislands.com). [www.heroswelcome.com](http://www.heroswelcome.com). Also February 16 & 17.

**RUPERT.** Sweetheart Sleigh Ride. Enjoy a scenic ride in a sleigh just for two through the forest on Old Town Road and around Hundred Acre Meadow where you may see wildlife and great views. Fee: \$150 for one-hour ride. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. Reservations required. Call (802) 394-7836. [merckforest.org](http://merckforest.org). Also February 17, 24.

**SHELBURNE.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Leaves the Welcome Center every half hour, 11 am - 2 pm; fee: \$8/adult, \$6/child, under 3 free. Private rides by reservation at 2:30 & 3 pm for \$95 per sleigh. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8442. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org). Every Saturday and Sunday through February 24.

**SMUGGLERS' NOTCH.** 12th Annual Northern Vermont Snowshoe Race and Family Snowshoe Festival. Treks, walks and races on snowshoes. There's something for everyone: a 1/2-k kids' fun run, a 4-k fun run/walk, and an 8-k race that is a qualifier for the 2012 US Snowshoe Association National Championship. Rentals available. Smugglers' Notch Resort Nordic Ski and Showshoe Adventure Center, 4323 Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-1173. [smuggs.com](http://smuggs.com).

**TUNBRIDGE.** Breakfast & Bake Sale. Hosted by the Tunbridge Recreation Committee and the Tunbridge Central School 8th Grade Class. 8 am - 12 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 889-5521. [www.tunbridgevt.com](http://www.tunbridgevt.com).

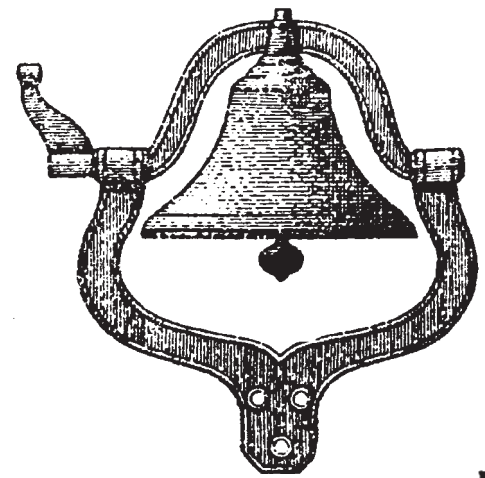
**WEST BRATTLEBORO.** Cai's Dim Sum Teahouse at C.X. Silver Gallery. Dine with art all around. More than 30 authentic unique dishes, la carte with many vegan, gluten-free, and wheat-free options. Walk-ins welcome on second Sundays from 10 am - 8 pm or evenings throughout the month with reservations—call one or two days in advance. C.X. Silver Gallery, 814 Western Ave. (802) 579-9088. [www.dimsumvt.com](http://www.dimsumvt.com).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Concert: Gandolph Murphy and the Slabovian Circus of Dreams. V Tickets: \$25. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. [www.tupelohallvermont.com](http://www.tupelohallvermont.com).

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Tour the restored 1890's farm house. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also February 16 & 17, 23 & 24.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**MANCHESTER.** Program: "Mr. Lincoln's Gift." Children ages 8-11 are invited to a birthday gathering for the nation's greatest president, Abraham Lincoln. Children's author, Whitney Stewart's book, *Mr. Lincoln's Gift* will be featured including a dramatic reading, clues and gifts, artifacts scavenger hunt, games and pizza. Pre-registration required. \$3 per child. 1:30-4 pm, Check-in at the Welcome Center. Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7961. [www.hildene.org](http://www.hildene.org).



## Come Celebrate Owls at Quechee's Vermont Institute of Natural Science

### Owl Prowl

Saturday, February 16, 2013, 6:30-8:30 pm

Whooo's out there making raucous noises in the nighttime forest? Join a Vermont Institute of Natural Science educator to discover the amazing life of our wild nocturnal residents while snowshoeing through the woods of the VINS Nature Center. Whooo knows, maybe you'll hear one! Please dress warmly—a headlamp is also recommended. Fee: \$10. Please pre-register by February 13. For registration call (802) 359-5000 x 223.

### Owl Festival

Saturday, February 23, 2013, 1-4 pm

Can owls see in the dark? How can they fly without making a sound? Give a hoot about owls and unravel their mysterious lives through hands-on activities and exciting games. Meet some of VINS' owl ambassadors up close and discover what it's like to care for an owl in our rehabilitation clinic. Make your own tasty owl pellet snacks and owl crafts. Wrap up the afternoon listening to owl tales around the fire while drinking hot chocolate. Dress warmly, as activities will take place both inside and out!

The Owl Festival is included with admission to VINS Nature Center: adults: \$12, seniors (65 plus) \$11, youth (4-17) \$10, children 3 and under are free.

While you are here for the festival, visit the VINS Nature

Store. Your purchases will support the work of VINS. The Nature Store offers a variety of nature-related items for all ages, including: apparel, audio and video, bird-friendly coffee, bird houses and feeders, books, candles, Danforth Pewter, gift ideas, green gifts, green science kits, jewelry, posters, yoys, games and kits, and more! You can also shop online at our eNature Store at [shop.vinsweb.org](http://shop.vinsweb.org).

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center & Nature Store are located at 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rte. 4, Quechee, VT. We are just west of Quechee Gorge and east of Quechee Village.

VINS winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 7 days a week, through April 14 (closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.) Parking is free. Many winter activities are offered.

For information call (802) 359-5000. [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org). Visit our website at [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org).

### Reading About Owling

#### Owl Moon

by Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr

If you'd like to have a little of the magic of owling at home, to read about when you can't go into the woods, *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr (Philomel Books, \$16.99, [www.us.penguinroup.com](http://www.us.penguinroup.com)) will enchant you.

In this award-winning classic, a little girl goes into the night woods with her father in search of an owl, and narrates their journey. "I didn't ask what kinds of things hide behind black trees in the middle of the night. When you go owling you have to be brave."

Their quest is rewarded with a sighting and she reflects, "When you go owling you don't need words or warm or anything but hope. That's what Pa says. The kind of hope that flies on silent wings under a shining Owl Moon."

*Owl Moon* was the winner of the 1988 Caldecott Medal for John Schoenherr's exquisite watercolors. It was inspired by Yolen's husband who frequently took their children owling. Schoenherr also went owling with his children. In fact, the farm in the illustrations was his farm.

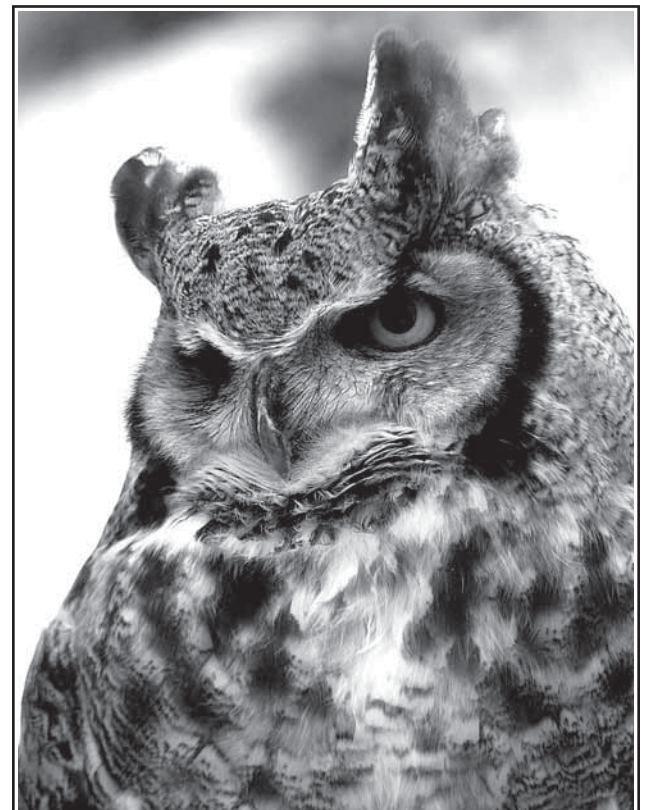


photo courtesy of VINS

Our resident one-eyed owl is usually hanging out on the leather gloved hand of one of our volunteers and hooting away, non stop. This very personable and lovable owl is a big hit with visitors, twisting his head around in all directions and taking in the scenery.

## Billings Farm & Museum

Gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage

### Sleigh Ride Week

February 16 - 24, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



### Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

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Sledding with Jack Jumpers



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**MORRISVILLE.** Cajun Fat Tuesday Party with Yankee Chank. Cajun Fat Tuesday Feast from Susanna Keefer with beads and masks. Admission \$15. 7 pm. River Arts, 74 Pleasant St. (802) 888-1261. riverartsvt.org

**RUTLAND.** Program: Bobolinks—From Vermont to Bolivia. Dr. Rosalind Renfrew, Conservation Biologist with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, will talk about one of our grassland favorites, Bobolinks. 7 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library. (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**GRAFTON.** Grafton Ponds Valentine's Day. Bring your Valentine and one x-c skis for free. Please reserve. Grafton Ponds, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400.

**GRAFTON.** Grafton Ponds Kids Ski Free Day. Kids 17 and younger x-c ski for free. Rental not included. Call to reserve. Grafton Ponds, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com. Also February 16 & 17.

**MONTPELIER.** Potluck Traditional Music Workshop Series. Bring something to share (food), play some music together, and listen to traditional music. Payment plans are available. Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. www.summit-school.org. Also February 21 & 28.

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Taste of the Arts: Tales from a Community. House Blend, a self-led capella chorus, entertains with "An Evening of Love Songs." Admission, includes dinner, \$15; children \$5. 6 pm. Main Street Arts. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. www.mainstreetarts.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at the Upper Valley Food Coop in White River Junction during the winter months. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. For information, or if you can't come to meetings but would like to receive a monthly email with our minutes which contain information on our projects, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

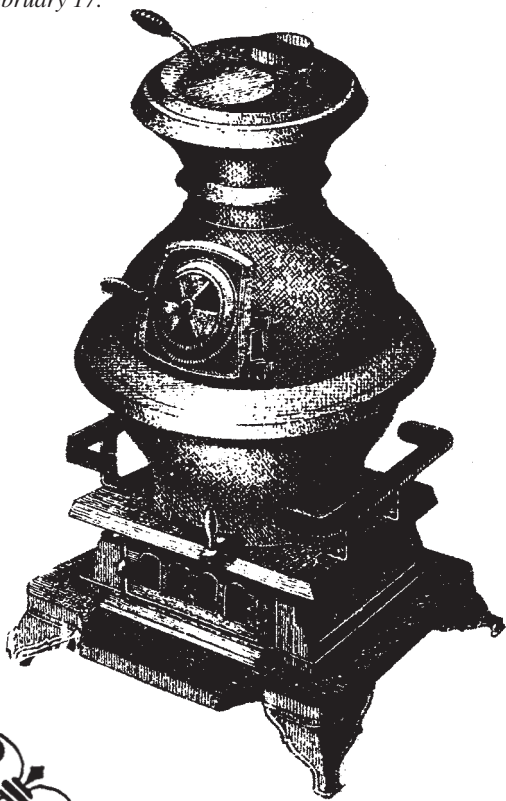
**BELLOWS FALLS.** Stone Church Arts Concert. José Manuel Lezcano, guitar, and Franziska Huhn, harp, perform "Bards and Troubadours: Mostly Mediterranean Music." Fee: \$20. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. stonechurcharts.org.

**BENNINGTON.** Meeting House Café Concert: Modern Grass Quintet. Bluegrass music. Tickets \$15. 8 pm. Meetinghouse Cafe of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 108 School St. (802) 440-9816. info@uubennington.org. www.uubennington.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival. A ten-day festival with something for everyone. Free admission. Check website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. brattleborowintercarnival.com. commonsnews.org. Through February 24.

**BURLINGTON.** 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Winter Conference. Friday Intensives on blueberries, strawberries, resiliency during climate change, meat, and fermenting the harvest. At the University of Vermont. Call or check website for registration and details. (802) 434-4122. www.nofavt.org. Also February 17.

**CHESTER.** Annual Winter Carnival Dinner. Cocktails at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm at the American Legion (802) 875-2693. yourplaceinvermont.com. Winter Carnival through February 17.



**RUPERT.** Saturday Sleigh Rides and Snowshoeing. Let our draft horses, Ellie and Daisy, take you for a ride across the snowy landscape. Fee: \$20 adult; \$10 children 5-12; 4 and under free. 11 am - 2 pm on the hour. Reservations are required. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. February 23.

**RUTLAND.** Performance: The Full Monty. Tickets: \$20/\$15. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. Also February 16.

**WOODSTOCK.** The Vermont Flurry: Woodstock Snow Sculpture Festival. A celebration of winter and the visual arts! Free. Refreshments served. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org. Through February 17.

**WOODSTOCK.** Third Friday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. Dinner (soup, bread and cheese, coffee and tea) 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance 6 pm; potluck dessert 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-9:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation includes dinner, under 18 free. At The Little Theater, 54 River St. (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. Third Fridays through May.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**BERLIN.** Contra Dance. All levels are welcome. 8 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 985-3665. capitalcitygrange.org. Continues monthly every third Saturday.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Carnival Sleigh or Wagon Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$6, 3-12 yrs \$4. 1-4 pm. Rain or shine. Fair Winds Farm, Upper Dummerston Rd. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. www.fairwindsfarm.org. Also February 17, 18, 21, 22, 23.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Jazz Concert: Ray Vega's NY Latin Quintet. Tickets \$25. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Harris Hill Ski Jumping Tournament. Harris Hill Ski Jump is the only 90-meter ski jump in New England and one of only six in the USA of our size and caliber. harrishillskijump.com. Also February 17.

**BURLINGTON.** 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Winter Conference. Join us for a weekend of over 70 workshops, roundtables, seed swap, local and organic food, and good conversation. Keynote speaker: Clara Coleman. At the University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. www.nofavt.org. Also February 17.

**CASTLETON.** 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by Castleton Lions Club. Sign-ins at Crystal Beach landing on Lake Bomoseen, Rt. 30 N. Eligible species: bass, northern pike, perch and trout. Entry fee \$15, all ages. For more information call Stanley Patch at (802) 468-5001. Also February 17.

**CHESTER.** Annual Chester Winter Carnival. Kick-off breakfast 8-10 am at American Legion. Disc golf, sled races, cross-country ski race, snow sculpture judging, dog sled races, biathlon sled/shooting match, and scavenger hunt at the Pinnacle. Free dog sled rides. Bonfire at 6 pm, ice skating party 6-8 pm, and fire sculpture by Barre Pinkske at 6:30 pm, all at Cobleigh Field. Free admission. (802) 875-2693. yourplaceinvermont.com. Also February 17.

**HANOVER, NH.** Performance: Candide by Leonard Bernstein. A fully-staged production by the Dartmouth College Glee Club. Tickets \$22/\$18/\$10. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**HARTFORD.** Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 5 pm. CT Valley Auto Auction Center, 1567 Rt. 14. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. Also February 17.

**LAKE CHAMPLAIN.** Annual Lake Champlain Ice Fishing Derby. For information call (802) 372-5600. Also February 17.

**LUDLOW.** Book & Author Event. Local Plymouth, VT author Jon Clinch reads from and signs his latest novel, *The Thief of Auschwitz*. Free, everyone welcome. 2 pm. The Book Nook, 136 Main St. (802) 228-3236. www.thebooknookvt.com.

**NORTH HERO.** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Ice in Grand Isle. Free Kids Ice Fishing Derby for kids 14 and under, 10 am to 1 pm, North Hero Village. Prizes, trophies, food. F-f-frozen Chosen Regatta—human powered machines race on the ice, 1-3 pm. \$10 registration, teams welcome, go to www.heroswelcome.com to register. Valentine Sweetheart Boogie—dance to benefit the North Hero Community Hall at 8 pm. Hot food at Hero's Welcome General Store. For updates call the Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce at (802) 372-8400 or Hero's Welcome General Store at (802) 372-4161. www.champlainislands.com. www.heroswelcome.com. Also February 17.

**PERU.** Bromley February Festival! Torchlight at 7:15 pm followed by the fireworks. Then it's dancing in the Wild Boar, the silent auction, vacation raffle, dessert tasting and all of the other frivolity from 8-11 pm in the base lodge. Bromley, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com.

## Guided Cross-Country Ski Tours on the Catamount Trail

The Catamount Trail Association sponsors a wide variety of single and multi-day tours and special events. Our Day Tours are free and open to non-members. CTA's guided ski tours are a great way to discover new sections of the Catamount Trail and make new ski friends.

Check the CTA calendar of events on the website, www.catamounttrail.org for new and rescheduled tours. Here are some of the outings offered.

**Thetford, VT—Mimi's Trail. Saturday, February 2.** Join us for an easy intermediate 5.2-mile morning ski. Mimi's trail offers a gradual climb to the top of Houghton Hill, where we'll enjoy the view before heading back down. The trail is wide and may be groomed, with several sharp switchbacks at the top. For those who'd like, there are options for afternoon skiing. Contact: Karen Heinzmann, karen.heinzmann@thet.net or (802) 333-9772.

**Weston to Healdville, VT—Greendale. Monday, February 4.** This intermediate 13-mile tour on Section 9 is mainly on snowmobile trails in the national and state forests. The last two miles have been moved off snowmobile trails to an adventurous descent through the woods on the backside of Okemo Mountain. Contact: Bob Jordan, bobjrd@earthlink.net or (802) 869-2784.

**Readsboro, VT—Harriman Dam to Route 100. Sunday, February 10.** This tour is a good introduction to backcountry skiing for novice skiers. It is a delightful, easy three miles on a slightly downhill backcountry railroad grade in Section 2, along the Deerfield River. A short, steep section in the first half-mile is easily walked by novices. Our pace will accommodate the slowest skier. Contact: Sam Bartlett, sam@barttech.com (Put CTA in subject line) or call (413) 624-0192.

**Ripton—The Secret Trails of Ripton. Sunday, February 17.** Explore the hidden beaver meadows and beautiful forest in Ripton! With clear skies, we'll get views of several local peaks. This 8-to-10 mile intermediate tour explores the secret hand-tracked trails north of Rikert Ski Touring Center's groomed network. Wider back-country skis are not recommended. Contact: Andy McIntosh, andymac@together.net, or call evenings (802) 388-8376 or weekdays (802) 236-2488

## English Dance Series



Music by Trip to Norwich  
(Carol Compton, Thal Aylward & guests)  
with Chris Levey calling

All dances taught, no partner necessary, all are welcome!  
Bring a separate pair of clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes or socks. Bring refreshments to share at the break.

3-6 pm, Sunday, February 24,  
March 24, April 28

Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT



Admission \$8, under 25 \$4  
Info: (802) 785-4121 (Chris)  
Sponsored by Muskeg Music



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in our  
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# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 16, continued)

**QUECHEE.** Owl Prowl. Join a VINS educator to discover the amazing life of our wild nocturnal residents while snowshoeing through the woods. Fee: \$10. *Pre-register by February 15.* 6:30-8:30 pm. VINS Nature Center & Nature Store, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org).

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Mayfly. Katie Trautz and Julia Wayne, perform New England and Appalachian and original music on guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo and vocals. Cash bar. 7:30 pm. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. For tickets: (802) 728-6464. [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org).

**RUTLAND.** Performance: The Full Monty. Tickets: \$20/\$15. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [www.paramountvt.org](http://www.paramountvt.org).

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors. 10 am – 2 pm. 251 West St. (802) 753-7269. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). *Saturdays through May 4.*

**WESTON.** 13th Annual “Vermont & Beyond” fine art exhibit with music and refreshments. Free. 11 am – 5 pm at the Weston Playhouse. [www.westonvt.com](http://www.westonvt.com). *Also Feb. 17.*

**WOODSTOCK.** The Vermont Flurry: Woodstock Snow Sculpture Festival. On the Village Green. Free. (802) 457-3981. [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org). *Also February 17.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Sleigh Ride Week from Feb. 16-24 with sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers and other activities. Admission. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, off Rt. 12 (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). *Also Feb. 17, 23 & 24.*

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**BELMONT.** Book & Author Event. Jon Clinch will present a reading and talk about his latest novel, *The Thief of Auschwitz*. Free, everyone welcome. 4 pm. The Mount Holly Library, 26 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-3707. [mounthollyvt.org/library](http://mounthollyvt.org/library).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Carnival Sleigh or Wagon Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn rides through fields and woods. Adults \$6, 3-12 yrs \$4. 1-4 pm. Fair Winds Farm, Upper Dummerston Rd. (802) 254-9067. [www.fairwindsfarm.org](http://www.fairwindsfarm.org). *Also February 18, 21, 22, 23.*

**BURLINGTON.** 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Winter Conference. A weekend of over 70 workshops, roundtables, seed swap, local and organic food, and good conversation. At the University of Vermont. For registration and details: (802) 434-4122. [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org).

**CASTLETON.** 35th Annual Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by Castleton Lions Club. Sign-ins at Crystal Beach landing on Lake Bomoseen, Rt. 30 N. Entry fee \$15, all ages. Info: Stanley Patch at (802) 468-5001. *Also February 17.*

**CHESTER.** Annual Winter Carnival. Chester Snowmobile Club Poker Run 9 am at the Pinnacle. Broom Hockey Tournament, 10 am at Cobleigh Field. Free admission. (802) 875-2693. [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com).

**HARTFORD.** Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am – 3 pm. Connecticut Valley Auto Auction Center, 1567 Rt. 14. For info call (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. [www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com](http://www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com).

**NORTH HERO.** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Ice in Grand Isle. Flapjack Breakfast at North Hero House, 8:30-10 am, \$7 per person. Over and Back Trek to Knight Island, sponsored by VT State Parks, donation suggested. Two miles each way—ski, skate, snowshoe, or take your snow machine. Hot drinks at Knight Islands. Free, families welcome. Pick-up hockey, 1-3 pm, donation suggested. Hot food at Hero’s Welcome General Store. Free parking in North Hero. Information: (802) 372-8400 or (802) 372-4161. [www.champlainislands.com](http://www.champlainislands.com). [www.heroswelcome.com](http://www.heroswelcome.com).

**ORLEANS.** 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Collector’s Fair. Collections of all sorts, including old photos, small engines, antique tools, kitchen implements, and sap spouts will be displayed on long rows of tables. Free admission. Lunch available. Door prizes. Sponsored by the Orleans County Historical Society. 9 am – 2 pm. Orleans Elementary School Gym. Call for info or to reserve a table. (802) 754-2022. [oldstonehousemuseum.org](http://oldstonehousemuseum.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Tour the farm and the restored 1890 farm house. Sleigh Ride Week from Feb. 16-24 with sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers and other activities. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). *Also February 23 & 24.*

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Black Arm Band. Bringing together many of Australia’s top Aboriginal musicians, performing the U.S. premiere of *dirtsong*, a series of musical “conversations” in which the artists reflect on their country. Tickets \$15/\$12. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu).

**MONTPELIER.** Farmers’ Night. Join us for an evening of history, music, and poetry as we tell the story of the decade that led to the founding of the Vermont Historical Society in 1838. Free and open to the public. 7 pm. Vermont State House. (802) 828-2180. [www.vermonthistory.org](http://www.vermonthistory.org).

**NORWICH.** Book & Author Event. Poet Laureate of Vermont, Sydney Lea, shares his reflections on rural existence in his book, *A North Country Life—Tales of Woodsmen, Waters, and Wildlife*. Free, reservations recommended. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. [norwichbookstore.com](http://norwichbookstore.com).

**SWANTON.** Community Breakfast. Bring your family, bring a friend. \$2.50 per person. 7-9 am. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7195. [www.holytrinityswanton.org](http://www.holytrinityswanton.org). *Also March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17, May 1 & 15, and June 5 & 19.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**BENNINGTON.** Program: Tales and History of the Benmont Mill. Have you wondered about the history of this grand old building and what has gone on before? Jon Goodrich, owner of the Benmont Mill, has a lot to teach us about the mill, when it was built and the uses of the building over the years. Free admission, everyone welcome. 7-9 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. [netrop.org](http://netrop.org). [oneworldconservationcenter.org](http://oneworldconservationcenter.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Carnival Sleigh or Wagon Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$6, 3-12 yrs \$4. 1-4 pm. Rain or shine. Fair Winds Farm, Upper Dummerston Rd. (802) 254-9067. [fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org](mailto:fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org). [www.fairwindsfarm.org](http://www.fairwindsfarm.org). *Also February 22, 23.*

**NEWPORT.** Wright’s Northeast Kingdom Ice Fishing Derby. Observe or compete. Derby locations on a dozen lakes and ponds near the Canadian border, including Lake Memphremagog. Open noon to midnight. midnight. \$25 fee. (802) 334-6115. [wrightssports.com](http://wrightssports.com). *Through February 24.*



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## MontPolar Frostival Comes to Montpelier!

Montpelier Alive will present the MontPolar Frostival February 1-3, 2013 in venues throughout downtown Montpelier, VT. This will be a grand winter celebration with events the whole community can participate in, promoting physical movement while combating cabin fever.

The first Art Walk of 2013, on Friday, February 1st kicks off the Frostival. This Art Walk will also premiere the Voices of Montpelier Oral History Project at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center.

For more Friday fun, sign up to perform at the Trinity Church coffee house or enjoy a dance concert by the Allison Mann Jazz Septet. For something really out of the ordinary, attend the Snow Ball. This creative black tie dance is the first event of Lost Nation Theater’s Winter Fest Series. With something for every musical taste, The Snow Ball begins with waltzes by the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra, followed by the foot-stomping sounds of the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra, and winding up with a five-piece band, Sideshow Bob.

Saturday will be packed with fun activities. Join a team to create a snow sculpture, or try the scavenger hunt. Central Vermont New Directions and Community Connections with equipment provided by Onion River Sports, will create a snowshoe obstacle course on the State House lawn. Try a quick game of Ultimate Frisbee in the snow, or go to North Branch Nature Center for a hike to learn about animals in winter and enjoy StoryWalk, following the pages of “The

Animals’ Winter Sleep”. Central Vermont Runners will host the Frostival 5K, with the starting line at City Hall. There will be ice skating and hockey demonstrations by CVSA at the VCFA “green”.

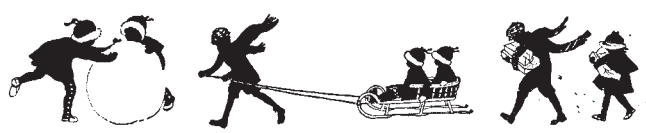
Come in from the cold for some Saturday exercise classes. At Contemporary Dance and Fitness Studio, try the Afro Jazz workout or watch a class by the Capoeira kids. Learn Fitness Hooping, Scottish Country Dancing, Ballroom Dancing or Middle Eastern Belly Dance during lessons at the Unitarian Church.

Continuing the Saturday fun, The City Center will hold several demonstrations, as well as face painting by MHS juniors for a substance-free prom. Enjoy a visit from Skip, the Mountaineers Mascot, and a hip hop performance by the CDFS BBoys. Saturday morning will find children’s storytelling at the Kellogg Hubbard Library, with Jane Napier, Ben Matchstick and Tim Jennings.

Saturday evening, see the Montpelier Movement Collective’s Dance Premiere at Lost Nation Theater. Catch Central Vermont’s Extempo Tell Off at the American Legion, attend the first Saturday Contra Dance at the Montpelier Grange, or Capital Soccer’s Wild West Casino Fundraiser at the Capitol Plaza. There will be Saturday babysitting services at Montpelier High School.

MontPolar Frostival events are primarily free. There will be an entrance fee for fundraisers and some other events including Capital Soccer Casino Night, MHS babysitting, x-c skiing at Morse Farm, the Contra Dance, the Snow Ball and the Montpelier Movement Collective Saturday premiere. The MMC will give an encore matinee performance on Sunday afternoon for no charge, with donations accepted. Advance tickets, including package deals, are available.

For more information contact Montpelier Alive at (802) 223-9604. Visit [www.MontpelierAlive.org](http://www.MontpelierAlive.org).




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# Vermont Country Calendar

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**LUDLOW.** Lost Ski Areas Talk and Book Signing with Jeremy Davis. Have you ever wondered what happened to your favorite ski area? Why did it close? What was the history behind it? Join author Jeremy Davis as he discusses the Lost Ski Areas of New England. Davis is the author of the book, *The Lost Ski Areas of Southern Vermont* and founder of the New England Lost Ski Areas Project. Free, everyone welcome. 7 pm. Co-sponsored by Okemo and Ludlow's own indie bookstore, The Book Nook at 136 Main St. Lecture takes place in the Cornerstone Room, Jackson Gore, Okemo Ski Resort. (802) 228-3236. www.thebooknookvt.com.

**MANCHESTER.** Program: Owls of Vermont. Join Mike Clough of the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum for this presentation with live owls and owl artifacts! 7 pm at the Equinox Resort conference room. (802) 366-1400.

**MONTPELIER.** Full Moon Snowshoe Hike. Under a full moon, with the trees free of leaves, and surrounded by sparkling snow, let's snowshoe by lunar light! Snowshoes and hot chocolate provided. Fee: \$10. 7-8:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Talich Quartet. One of Europe's finest chamber ensembles performs Beethoven's Quartet in G Major, Op. 18, No. 2; Janacek's Quartet No 1, "Kreutzer"; and Dvorak's Quartet in C Major, Op. 61. A free reception follows the performance. Tickets: \$35. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

**SWANTON.** Open Door Community Dinner. Free. 5:30-6:30 pm. Nativity St. Louis Parish, 65 Canada St. (802) 868-7185 www.holytrinityswanton.org. Also March 22.

**TINMOUTH.** Contra Dance. Bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission. Refreshments available. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140. (802) 235-2718 or (802) 446-2928. www.tinmouthvt.org. *Continues every fourth Friday.*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Carnival Sleigh or Wagon Rides. 20-minute horse-drawn rides through fields and woods. Adults \$6, 3-12 yrs \$4. 1-4 pm. Rain or shine. Fair Winds Farm, Upper Dummerston Rd. (802) 254-9067. fairwindsfarm.org.

**CASTLETON.** Great Benson Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary. All Vermont waters and all legal species of fish. Check-in at Crystal Beach landing, Rt. 30 N. Bob Day at (802) 468-5004 or Dan Wood at (802) 468-2726. Also February 24.

**MONTPELIER.** 7th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, One Country Club Rd., just off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. www.montpelierantiquesmarket.com. *2nd & 4th Sundays through March.*

**NORWICH.** Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. Ruth Sylvester calling. All dances taught. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, students \$5, under 16 free, seniors by donation. 8 pm, beginners session 7:45 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. *Fourth Saturdays thru May.*

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science Owl Festival. Activities inside and out—dress warmly! Adults \$12, seniors (65 plus) \$11, youth (4-17) \$10, children 3 and under free. 1-4 pm. VINS Nature Center & Nature Store, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000 x 223. vinsweb.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Performance: Made in America—Voices of American Labor in Word & Song. Rochester resident Susie Smolen presents a one-woman show highlighting labor songs written between 1897 and 1983. 7:30 pm. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

**RUTLAND.** The Market Place. Producer-only vendors. 10 am - 2 pm. On West St. across from Little Harry's Restaurant. Contact Diane Heleba for more info at (802) 353-0893. *Saturdays through February 23.*

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors. A great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 4.*

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

**SHELBURNE.** Owl Prowl. Enjoy an evening walk to explore the world of Vermont's winged nocturnal predators. Hot refreshments indoors and a meeting with OFES live owls. Or stay inside and just join us for the second portion of the evening. Fee: \$10, child age 10 and up \$5. Pre-registration required. 7-9 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** 13th Annual Wabanaki Run—A Primitive Biathlon Winter Shoot. Sponsored by the The Caledonia Forest and Stream Club. 9 am to 3 pm. Rain or shine on the club's grounds. Refreshments available. A great family day with free spectator. *Directions:* go 4½ miles north of St. J. on Rt. 5, then across the bridge on Pierce Rd. Follow signs for .7 mile, then turn left onto Field and Stream Rd. (802) 748-4016

**WILMINGTON.** Harriman Reservoir Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Deerfield Valley Sportsmen's Club. At Harriman Reservoir. Check in at Fairview Avenue Boat Landing. For information contact: Paul Tobits at (802) 855-7495, (802) 855-7495 (evenings).

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers and other activities. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Film screening of *Baraka* at 3 pm, adults \$11, children \$6. Billings Farm & Museum, off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**CASTLETON.** Great Benson Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary. All Vermont waters and all legal species of fish. Check-in at Crystal Beach landing, Rt. 30 N. Bob Day at (802) 468-5004 or Dan Wood at (802) 468-2726.

**PERU.** Kare Anderson 28th Annual Telemark Race. Watch some of the best tele skiers in the East! Bromley, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. bromley.com.

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Judy Collins. Tickets: \$48.50, \$42.50. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

**STOWE.** 68th Annual Stowe Derby. The oldest downhill/cross-country ski race in North America! A race from the top of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak to the historic village of Stowe. Compete or watch. (802) 253-7704. stowederby.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers and other activities. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**WILDER.** Book & Author Event. Author Jodi Picoult launches her new novel, *The Storyteller*, which goes on sale on 2/26. We will be the first to hear Jodi talk about the book before she heads off on her national tour! Admission \$38 includes a copy of the book, coffee & tea and light refreshments provided by local baker. Advance reservation required. Sponsored by The Norwich Bookstore. 9 am at The Wilder Center, 2087 Taft Ave. (802) 649-1114. norwichbookstore.com.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**TINMOUTH.** Northern Harmony World Music Concert. Admission \$15, students \$10. 7:30 pm. Tinmouth Community Church, Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. (802) 426-3210. tinmouthvt.org. villageharmony.org.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**DORSET.** Free Winter Community Supper. Hosted by The United Dorset Church. Everyone is welcome. 5:30-7 pm at the church, 143 Church St. (802) 867-2260. *Also March 20.*

**MONTPELIER.** Potluck Traditional Music Workshop Series. A different instructor and workshop every Thursday in February. Bring something to share (food), play some music together, and listen traditional music! Payment plans available. Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. summit-school.org.



## Snow In the Trees

Snow is a sleepy motion in the trees  
That takes the eye with business ever witty.  
And I suppose it's snowing in the city  
Amongst the sheer rectangularities  
Of light-shot business and apartment blocks  
In avenues distinguished for their glitter.  
O' I am neither envious nor bitter;  
The city's fine, I would not change my walks.

I might be tempted to betake me there  
If city folk were minded to produce  
Elegance of equal or superior youth  
To, say, a Wren facade or a Mozart air.  
It must be I still have the old-style notion  
Our works should fill the air with cheerful motion.

—JAMES HAYFORD  
Orleans, VT 1953



## Hawaiian Night Contradance with Northern Spy

8 pm, Saturday, February 9th  
Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Admission \$8.00 (over 60 by donation, under 16 free!)  
All dances taught. Beginners welcome No partner necessary.  
Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing.  
For More Info Call: (802) 785-4607

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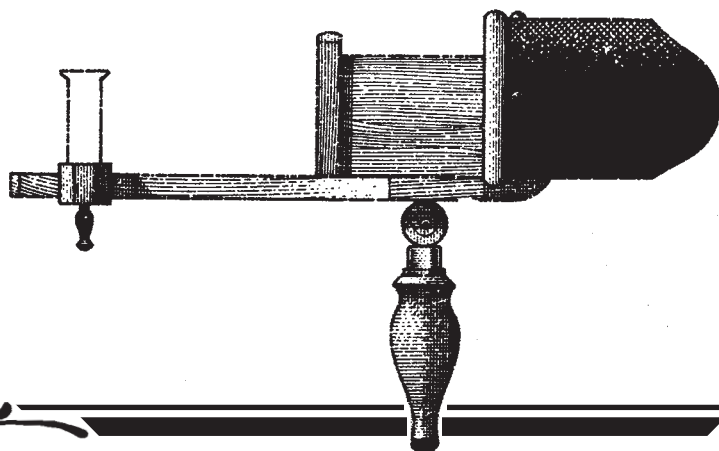
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Randolph, VT

# Winter Performances At Chandler Music Hall

**Seth Glier**

Friday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.,  
Chandler's Upper Gallery

MPress recording artist Seth Glier will grab you, if not with his powerful falsetto or his melodic prowess, then with what Performer Magazine calls his "intoxicating groove." The 22-year-old singer, pianist and guitarist—who abandoned studies at The Berklee College of Music after one year—aims straight for the gut & has quickly established himself on the national scene performing over 250 shows a year. A cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$16 in advance, \$19 the day of the show. [www.sethglier.com](http://www.sethglier.com).

**Mayfly**

Saturday, February 16, 7:30 p.m.,  
Chandler's Upper Gallery

Katie Trautz and Julia Wayne comprise Mayfly, a Vermont-based old-time and Appalachian duo that performs old-time New England and Appalachian music, as well as original songwriting on guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo and vocals. Mayfly has been performing for over 10 years, touring throughout New England and Canada. Mayfly intersperses close harmony vocals with strong instrumentals influenced by blues, ballads, and American roots music. A cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$13 in advance, \$16 the day of the show. [www.katietrautz.com](http://www.katietrautz.com).

**Made in America**

**Voices of American Labor in Word & Song**  
Saturday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Chandler's Upper Gallery

Rochester resident Susie Smolen presents a one-woman show highlighting labor songs written between 1897 and 1983. The voices of textile mill workers, coal miners, railroad men, union organizers, women and children, factory and mill owners, operators and union busters are brought to life in a powerful blend of storytelling and skilled musicianship. \$10 suggested donation at the door.

**Talich Quartet**

Friday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Chandler's Main Stage

The Talich Quartet has been evolving as part of a prestigious line of musicians for nearly 50 years, representing Czech musical art throughout the world. With its legendary name, the latest generation of the Quartet has been performing as a more youthful ensemble, led by Jan Talich, Jr., who took over the reins from his father. For several decades, the Quartet has been recognized internationally as one of Europe's finest chamber ensembles. A free reception follows the performance. Reserved tickets are \$32 in advance, \$35 the day of the show. [www.talichquartet.cz](http://www.talichquartet.cz).

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. To order online go to [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org). For info call (802) 728-9878.



Seth Glier

photo by Tom Moore

## ♥ Valentine Be Mine—Maple Treats for Your Sweetheart ♥

### Maple Foam Candy

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 cups shaved maple sugar  | 12 marshmallows, cut in bits |
| 1 cup brown sugar          | 2 egg whites                 |
| ½ cup water                | Walnut meats                 |
| ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar |                              |

Combine the maple sugar, brown sugar, and water. Stir in the cream of tartar. Boil to the hard ball stage. Add the marshmallows, cover and let stand five minutes. Beat the egg whites stiff. Pour the sugar mixture over the egg whites and beat until light and the mixture begins to harden. Drop by spoonfuls on waxed paper. Place halved walnut meats on each piece.

### Maple Panocha

- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1½ cups white sugar  | Pinch of salt               |
| 1 cup maple sugar    | ½ teaspoon almond flavoring |
| 1 cup ilk            | ¾ cup chopped butternuts    |
| 1 tablespoons butter |                             |

Cook the sugar, milk, butter, and salt to the soft ball stage. Set the saucepan in a dish of cold water, being careful not to jar the contents. When it begins to cook, add the flavoring and nuts. Beat until creamy.

### Old-Fashioned Maple Sugar Sour Cream Cake

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 cup maple sugar | ¼ teaspoon cinnamon    |
| 1 egg             | Pinch of salt          |
| 1 teaspoon soda   | 2 cups flour           |
| 1 cup sour cream  | Granulated maple sugar |

Mix the maple sugar with the egg and beat thoroughly. Dissolve the soda in a little cold water and stir into the sour cream. Combine the mixtures. Sift the cinnamon and salt with the flour and fold in. Sprinkle the top with granulated maple sugar. Bake in a seven-by-ten-inch pan for half an hour in a moderate oven, 350°F. Serve hot or cold, plain or with maple whipped cream.



## 6th Annual Winter Fest and Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market

The 6th Annual Winter Fest in Sharon, VT will take place Saturday, February 9, 2013 at the Sharon Elementary School. There will be free indoor and outdoor activities for all ages from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and enjoy skating, sliding, snowmobile rides, snowshoeing, games, crafts and more. Celebrate winter with us!

The Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a wide variety of farm offerings like winter vegetables, eggs, meats and poultry, canned produce, herbs and spices, Greek specialties, baked goods and more. There will be a nice selection of hand crafted items and a local lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Farmers' Market also takes place at the school.

The Sharon Elementary School is located at 75 Route 132 in Sharon, VT. For more information call Donna Foster at (802) 763-8280.

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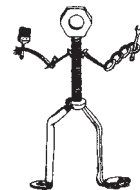
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# Legendary Stowe Derby Cross Country Ski Race

— February 24, 2013 —

Stowe, Vermont, a little picturesque town nestled in the Green Mountains has reason to brag about hosting the most legendary cross country ski race of its kind, the 68th edition of the Stowe Derby on Sunday, February 24.

This unique downhill ski event is the ultimate test of skiers' ability challenge and based on the amount of registrations already pouring in, organizers have ample reasons to believe 2013 could be a record breaking year for the one of a kind ski race.

The Stowe Derby is a Downhill Cross Country ski race, and is one of the oldest and most unique ski race in North America. It started in 1945 as a personal challenge between two amazing skiers—Austrian Sepp Ruschp, an alpine skier who was hired to come to America and head the new ski school at Stowe, and Erling Strom, a Nordic skier and world famous mountaineer from Norway. The challenge was the same as it is today: to race from the top of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak to the town of Stowe, on one pair of skis. Ruschp was the winner of the first Stowe Derby and a tradition was born.

Today, the race attracts hundreds of competitors, ranging from NCAA Champions to Masters competitors, to High School Team racers to recreational skiers and weekend warriors of all ages. While the race can be very competitive, it is also a fun race, and an experience guaranteed to generate enough memories and stories for a lifetime.

Over the course of the race, participants ski a total of 20km of challenging terrain, starting off with the exhilarating four-mile descent down the curvy Mt. Mansfield's AutoToll Road. The alpine skiers and stronger xc downhillers always shine in this portion of the race, but the Nordies are typically quick at making a comeback. Once the course connects on the Stowe Mountain Resort and Trapp Family Lodge cross country ski trails, sound cross country ski technique and perhaps a quick touch up on wax will change the outcome of the race.

Here the battle truly begins, one pair of skis, heavy legs, burning lungs, cross-country skiers, alpine downhillers, who will prevail? Once the racers reach the Stowe Recreation Path where cheering family and friends wave signs and bells, it's all fair game again for the last five miles leading to the finish in Stowe village. The course has a total vertical drop of over 2,600 feet and the winners will complete the course in under 45 minutes, while recreational skiers can take a couple of hours to go the same distance.

Skiers can select between a freestyle or a classic division. Experts have the option to do both back to back in the Derby Meister, and families with children ages six and up can enjoy the short 5km course along the Stowe Rec Path. The EverBank Team Challenge has been popular with groups of friends forming teams of four to battle it out for great prizes awarded after the race.

Online registration for the Stowe Derby is open, and racers who have competed in the past two year's race will get seeded by signing up before February 19th. All other entrants are entered in order of entry submission. To register visit [www.stowederby.com](http://www.stowederby.com).

The Stowe Derby is presented by Concept 2 of Morrisville, Vermont.

For more information contact Pascale Savard at (802) 253-9216. [stowederby@teammmsc.org](mailto:stowederby@teammmsc.org). [www.stowederby.com](http://www.stowederby.com).

## Potluck Dinner Music Series At Montpelier's Summit School

Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture introduces a new series, The Thursday Night Potluck Dinner Jam Session and Presentation, starting Thursday, February 7th and running for four weeks. There will be a different presentation each week. Sessions are from 6-8 pm at the school in Montpelier, VT.

On February 7, Mark Struhsacker, formerly of the WDEV Radio Rangers, presents a Flatpicking Workshop. Bring your instruments and stay for the informal jam following the presentation and meal.

Art Edelstein presents Carolan Irish Guitar on February 14. The presentations on

February 21 & 27 are with artists TBA.

The fee for the series is \$60, advance registration required. A portion of your fee will support the Vermont Foodbank.

Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture is located at 46 Barre St., Montpelier, VT. For registration and information, visit [www.summit-school.org](http://www.summit-school.org), e-mail [director@summit-school.org](mailto:director@summit-school.org) or call Mary Collins at (802) 917-1186.

Summit School, a non-profit, promotes cross-cultural understanding through music, dance and the exploration of diverse cultures through the arts.

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photo by Jim Fredericks/CTA

Cross-country skiers gather for the Annual Ladies' Nordic Ski Expo in Stowe, VT.

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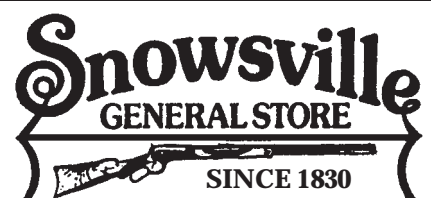
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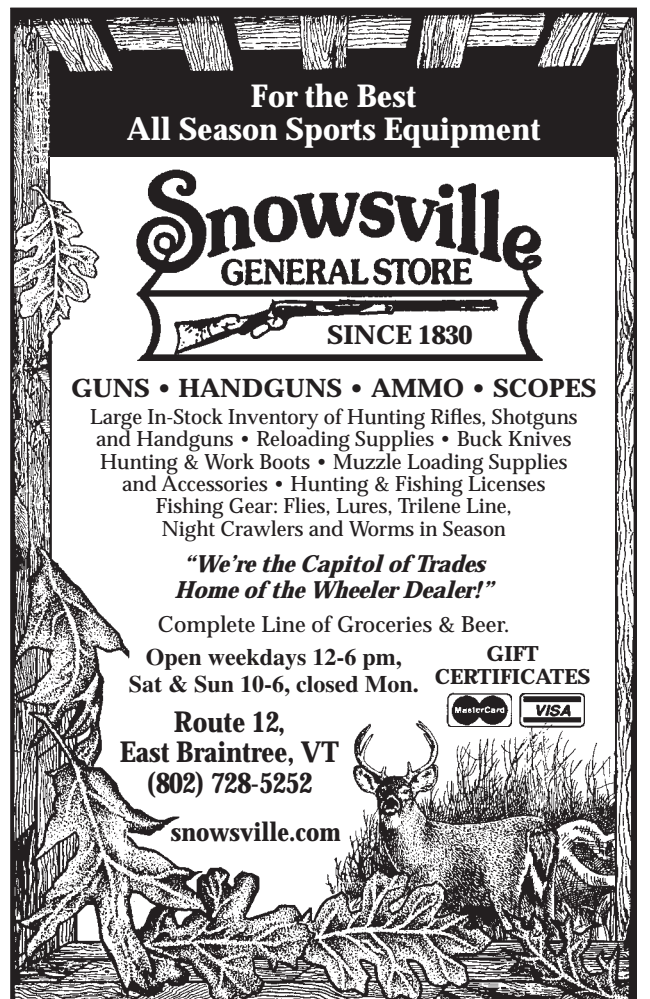
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## The 13th Annual Northeast Kingdom's Wabanaki Run

The Caledonia Forest and Stream Club is sponsoring The 13th Annual Northeast Kingdom's Wabanaki Run—A Primitive Biathlon Winter Shoot on Saturday, February 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is held rain or shine on the club's grounds in St. Johnsbury, VT.

A primitive biathlon takes place on snowshoes instead of cross-country skis and muzzleloading firearms instead of modern rifles.

This is a target shoot for traditional muzzleloaders, hunters, sportsmen, reenactors, shooters, and traders.

Period dress is encouraged—18th, 19th, 20th century soldiers, mountainmen, plainsmen, buckskinners, and settlers, etc.

The course is 1¼ mile long. There are four shooting stations. Classes are for

smooth bore and rifled bore with first place medals for women, seniors over 65, and juniors under 16. There are places to view the course and spectators are welcome. The club's fields and woodlands make for a great outdoor family day and spectator admission is free. Refreshments will be available.

*Directions:* go 4½ miles north of St. Johnsbury on US Rt. 5, then across the bridge on Pierce Rd. Follow the signs and go .7 mile then turn left onto Field and Stream Rd. and go a short distance to the field.

*For additional information and entry forms call (802) 748-4016 or write Arthur Wood, Caledonia Forest and Stream Club, PO Box 603, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. The club is also on Facebook.*



photo by Megan Chamberlain  
Doe Campers build a snowman before storming the castle at Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT.

## 12th Annual Collector's Fair On February 17 in Orleans, VT

The Old Stone House Museum will sponsor its Twelfth Annual Collectors Fair on Sunday, February 17, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Orleans Elementary School gym in Orleans, VT.

Collections of all sorts, including old photos, small engines, antique tools, kitchen implements, and sap spouts will be displayed on long rows of tables.

Collectors of all ages, with

all sorts of stuff are welcome. There is no charge to exhibit your collection and admission is free. Lunch will be available. Door prizes will be drawn at the end of the day.

*For information or to reserve a table call the Old Stone House Museum at (802) 754-2022, e-mail information@oldstonehouse-museum.org or visit www.oldstonehousemuseum.org.*

## A Winter Retreat in Fairlee For Adventurous Women

Vermont Outdoors Woman has begun registration for its Annual Winter Doe Camp at the Hulbert Outdoor Center, in Fairlee, VT. This year the weekend takes place from March 1-3, 2013.

Winter Doe Camp is a women's weekend retreat for outdoor skill development, adventure, health and just plain fun.

Participants can camp outdoors or stay in comfortable heated cabins at night and play in the snow all day.

Spend the weekend learning winter outdoors skills

while staying near the shores of Lake Morey!

Classes include Principals of Winter Survival and Winter Clothing, Introduction to Dog Sledding, Primitive Biathlon at the shooting range, Snowshoe, Nature Hike, Firearms Instruction and Safety, Wild Game Cooking, X-Country Skiing, Skijoring, Animal Tracking, Ice Fishing on Lake Morey, Introduction to Traditional Winter Camping, Winter Fire Building, Animal Tracking, Introduction to Backcountry Skiing, Snowshoeing, Nature Hike,

Nordic Skating, Ice Hockey, Massage Spa, and more.

Don't miss the opportunity to receive affordable outdoor education in a stress-free, supportive environment.

The participation age has been lowered to 15 years and older for Winter Doe Camp. This is a great opportunity for mother/daughter participation. Cost for the all-

inclusive weekend is \$290. Gift certificates, mother/daughter discounts and day fees are also available.

*For more information visit www.alohafoundation.org. To learn more about Vermont Outdoors Woman, call (802) 425-6211, e-mail vow@voga.org, or visit www.outdoorswoman.org.*

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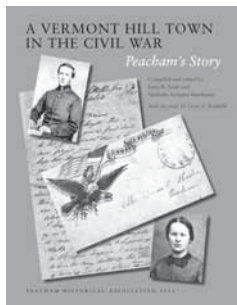
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*The Peacham Historical Association has been presented with the Vermont Historical Society League of Local Historical Societies Award of Excellence for their book, "A Vermont Hill Town in the Civil War: Peacham's Story."*

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Only I've never found the proper way!  
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And quaff the selfsame cup some other day.

But years have taught me that plain bread you share  
Tastes better than a feast on golden platter  
In lonely splendor. Now is this my prayer:  
Keep all the cake—it really doesn't matter.

—THELMA SPEAR

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# Winter Highlights In a Vermont Garden

*'Half your wood and half your hay  
You should have on Candlemas Day'*

As winter rounds the corner into February this old saying reminds us that spring is still many weeks away. February 2nd marks the Christian feast of Candlemas as well as the American folklore tradition of Groundhog Day. It is also winter's midpoint, since it falls halfway between the December Solstice, when winter officially begins, and the Vernal Equinox, considered the first day of spring.

I do not have any animals (except red squirrels) in the barn so I have no need to worry about hay, but I am comforted to see plenty of wood in the woodshed and a supply of produce from last summer's garden in the freezer—cooked fruit, roasted tomatoes, blanched kale and more—that will last into August and beyond.

Actually, for practical purposes, in my Vermont garden 'real winter' starts around the beginning of November or whenever the ground freezes solid, and ends in early May when the soil is warm enough to receive my first planting of peas. Thus the beginning of February also marks the halfway point of this gardener's winter season. And in February and March, as we come to sugaring time, the hours of sunshine increase and daytime temperatures rise, so being outdoors is truly pleasurable again.

Snowshoeing around the garden recently I marveled at the stark clarity of winter—so different from the visual clutter of summer. In addition to the obvious garden structures—pruned trees, the arbor draped with an abundant vine of Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis terniflora* or *C. paniculata*), and the gazebo—there are many smaller highlights to enjoy.

So, even though the ground is still covered with snow, I invite you to see some of my winter garden favorites.

## Art and artifacts

Not everything that is hand-made and precious needs to come inside for the winter. Certainly each October I lovingly transport our four large ceramic pots—made by friend and potter, Robert Compton of Bristol, VT—into the greenhouse to act as containers for some of the plants that live in that sheltered environment.

But metalwork remains outdoors all year round. With their clean lines and dark colors, metal objects show off even better in the snow than when they vie for attention against the busyness of summer.

We have four unique sculptures, all created from 'found metal' by Bill Heise—who for many years lived and worked in Burlington, VT. Three elegant birds stand tall in the flowerbeds. The fourth, a whimsical 'Spirit Keeper' with his sword and outstretched wings, looks down on us from his perch part way up towards the barn.

Other metalwork in the garden is of the mass-produced variety, including several obelisks, a row of freestanding trellises and a four-way rose arbor, all with the remains of summer vines clinging to their coils. And one of Bill Heise' birds is nestled under the rose arbor, definitely a snowy standout!

Our hardwood furniture also remains outside. From my study window I take pleasure in the group of chairs with their huge snow cushions, waiting for imaginary visitors. And at the far end of the pond, set beside the River Birch (*Betula nigra*) with its peeling shaggy bark, a bench is clearly visible against a stand of dark spruce trees.

On a chilly winter morning these beckoning seats are like the 'ghosts of summer past'.

## Lacey textures

I am very partial to the way fine-textured branches of shrubs catch and hold the fluffy snow, reminding me of hillocks of cotton. I like to plant them in groups where they will offer a distinct contrast to more massive trees.

The Bush Cinqufoil, *Potentilla fruticosa*, and cultivars of *Spirea bumalda*, like 'Anthony Waterer' and 'Goldflame' are among the best. They are tall enough to display their delicate flowers like a lacey black negligee resting on two feet of snow.

## Skeletonized perennials

For eons, the routine of 'putting the garden to bed' has been a rite of fall; by mid November all proper gardeners are supposed to have every last herbaceous plant consigned to the compost pile.

But with this compulsiveness we deny ourselves the pleasure of seeing their stalks and seed-heads dramatically silhouetted against the snow, or as even part of a snow-less winter picture.

So in my garden I leave the more robust grasses and perennials in place until spring. Many remain upright through the worst weather and look beautiful in the wintery landscape. And, as an added bonus, their seeds are an excellent source of food for the chickadees, goldfinch and other birds that keep us company through the coldest months.



photo by Dick Conrad

Within Judith Irven's rose arbor a snowy bird drinks at his birdbath—by Vermont sculptor Bill Heise.

Here is a partial list of perennials and grasses I leave standing in winter:

- Black-eyed Susans, (*Rudbeckia fuldiga*)
- Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
- Astilbe chinensis* 'Ostrich Plume
- Maiden Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)
- Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- Blue Oat Grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*)

## Highlights of red

Winter is by no means devoid of color, but it comes in smaller packages. Adding color to our winter gardens is a bit like putting ornaments on the Christmas tree—we need eye-catching decorations that will stand out against a quiet background.

In addition to the greens of coniferous trees and shrubs, some plants create red highlights. I have two species of red twiggled dogwoods here in Goshen. A group of the native Redosier Dogwood, (*Cornus sericea* or *Cornus stolonifera*), has established itself alongside the little stream that feeds our pond, and looks stunning in the afternoon sun. However, since they spread aggressively by underground stems (or stolons), Redosiers are not permitted inside my flowerbeds.

On the other hand, the Tatarian Dogwood, *Cornus alba* 'Ivory Halo', a non-native relative from Siberia and Manchuria, will not engulf its neighbors. It has attractive variegated leaves in summer and deep red stems in winter, and works well towards the back of the border. For greater impact, plant three bushes together, about five feet apart to form a triangle.

Do you love plants that are both good-looking and useful? Try blueberries. About a dozen ancient blueberry bushes—planted here about 60 years ago—occupy pride of place in our central flowerbed. I have pruned them carefully and

every summer these craggy five-foot high bushes produce loads of fruit. Each fall their bronze leaves rival those of the well-known burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), an invasive plant that is now banned for sale in Vermont. And, in the slanted light of winter, their bare branches glow a beautiful red. What more could a gardener desire?

Some shrubs, including Winterberries (*Ilex verticillata*) and American Cranberry bush (*Viburnum trilobum*) go into winter with fruit on their branches, adding to the outdoor scene and providing sustenance for the birds.

Many varieties of crab apple also maintain their fruit well in winter. I planted a 'Donald Wyman' crab apple near our kitchen window where I can see the red fruit in the coldest months of the year. And by March, I am happy when the visiting pine grosbeaks stop by to enjoy a feast.

## Helpful reference

The reference book, Landscape Plants for Vermont, lists trees and shrubs that will thrive in our climate, and is a truly useful reference for all Vermont gardeners. Written by a duo of UVM professors, it is available through the UVM Master Gardener website. And, as you consider what to plant for next winter, look at the listing of crab apple varieties for those with persistent fruit, as well as the chart of 'Plants with Multiple Seasons of Interest.'

Judith Irven is a landscape designer who lives with her photographer husband, Dick Conrad, in Goshen, VT. Read more about her winter garden at [northcountrygardener.com](http://northcountrygardener.com).



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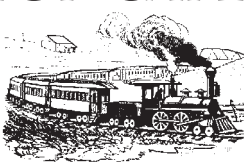
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# North Country Book News

## Children's Book Reviews

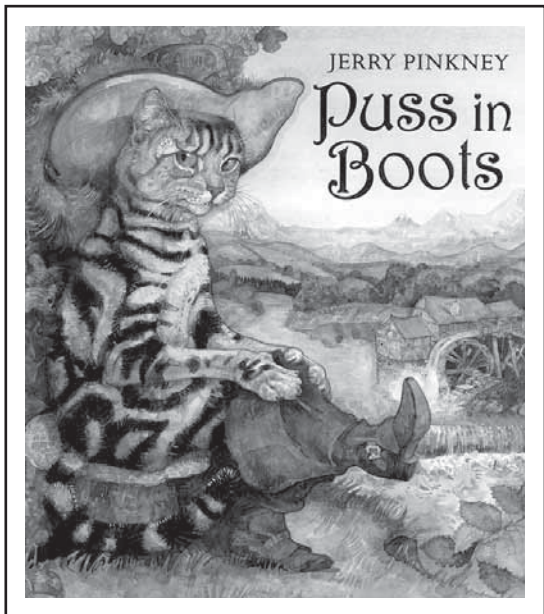
### Kitty Stories for Children of All Ages

We all know cats are a most unusual animal because of their cleverness, endearing ways, and the know-how to get what they want, even if it takes nine lives!

In *Puss in Boots* by Jerry Pinkney (*Dial Books for Young Readers*, \$17.99, [www.penguin.com/youngreaders](http://www.penguin.com/youngreaders)), this

exemplary and legendary cat dressed in dapper boots and a feathery hat has been reimagined for us in a most intriguing tale. Follow Puss as he easily tricks the country folk, the king and a sorcerer so that his master Benjamin, a deceased miller's son, can marry the princess.

The story is exquisitely illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, one of America's most admired children's book illustrators who has won many awards including The Caldecott Medal. The reader is treated to a mid-18th century France setting with its costumes, horse-drawn carriages, and castles. There is even one triple-sized fold-out full page illustration. You'll be spellbound by the drawings, but true-to-himself, Puss holds his own against such a background. It's a magical book you and your kids will read again and again.



about getting presents it doesn't want; going out in the snow for the first time (yuck!) and having no success in waking you up for breakfast, and no interest in eating it once you get up to fix it. The full-color illustrations show perfectly kitty's real feelings about each story. These are two slim, inexpensive paper cover books but the stories and pictures are so perfectly-kitty that you'll keep them in your permanent library.

If cats like to hear stories, they might also enjoy poetry, especially if it has been written by cats. In *I Could Pee on This and Other Poems by Cats* by Francesco Marciuliano (*Chronicle Books*, \$12.95 small format hardcover, [www.chroniclebooks.com](http://www.chroniclebooks.com)), the cat-composed poems have inviting titles such as *Nine Lives*, *Scratch*, *This is My Chair*, *Lick*, *Elegy For A Toy I Broke*. Poems even carry a message wrapped up in their words. In *Sushi* we read: 'Did you really think that you could hide fish in rice? Oh, the green paste burns!'

If you are baffled about what tricks your cat may play on you next, *It's All About Me-Ow—A Young Cat's Guide to the Good Life*, written and illustrated by Hudson Talbot (*Nancy Paulsen Books*, \$16.99, [www.penguin.com/youngreaders](http://www.penguin.com/youngreaders)), will enlighten and amuse you.

A wise older cat shows the newcomer kitten the ropes and along the way informs about cat history, legends, tips and tales, and the rest of the feline world, wild and domestic. Little kitty learns successful behavior, and a lot about how to bamboozle and get your way in a human household. And he picks it all up quickly, as kitties do.

We talk to our pets all the time, but did you ever think of reading them a story?

In *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Cat* and *Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Cat*, both by Sara Swan Miller and illustrated by True Kelly (*A Sandpiper Book by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*, \$5.99 in paper cover, [www.hmhbooks.com](http://www.hmhbooks.com)), you'll have the fun of reading to your cat

## Vermont Novelist Jon Clinch At the Mount Holly Library

The Mt. Holly Library in Belmont, VT and The Book Nook in Ludlow, VT will co-host an author event with Plymouth, VT novelist Jon Clinch on Sunday, February 17th at 4 p.m. The talk will take place at the library in Belmont.

Jon Clinch's first book, *Finn*, was named an Amer-

ican Library Association Notable Book and was short-listed for the National Book Critics Circle's first-ever Best Recommended List. *Finn* was also recognized in many national publications as the best book of 2007.

Clinch's second novel, *Kings of the Earth*, published by Random House in 2010

also received wide acclaim and was touted in Oprah magazine. After publication of his second book Jon took the leap of faith and decided to self-publish the book, *What Came After*, under the pseudonym Sam Winston. Jon's newest book, *The Thief of Auschwitz*, also self-published, has just been released and is available at The Book Nook in Ludlow, VT.

Jon has a fascinating story to tell. Born in upstate New York and educated at Syracuse University, he taught American literature and ended up creative director for various advertising agencies in the Philadelphia area. He now lives and writes in his beloved Vermont.

*The Thief of Auschwitz* is already receiving accolades from notables. Howard Frank Mosher said, "a stunning portrait of how love of fam-

ily, of freedom, and of art can triumph over pure, relentless evil. For my money, it's the best and most powerful work of fiction ever written about the Holocaust."

Jon will read from his new book, explain the reasons behind the story and will happily discuss his decision to self-publish and all its intricacies.

He will also be signing copies of his books at The Book Nook in Ludlow, VT on Saturday, February 16th from 2-4 p.m.

Mount Holly Town Library is located at 26 Maple Hill Rd. in Belmont, VT, right in the center of town. (802) 259-3707. Visit [www.mountollyvt.org/library](http://www.mountollyvt.org/library).

The Book Nook is at 136 Main St., Ludlow, VT. (802) 228-3236. Visit [www.thebooknookvt.com](http://www.thebooknookvt.com).



## Winter Events at Northshire Bookstore in Manchester, VT

Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center, VT offers many free and interesting programs exploring contemporary literature in talks with the authors, readings, and book signings. These events are presented at the bookstore and are free to the public unless otherwise specified.

### February Event Schedule

**Friday, February 1, 7 p.m.** B.A. Shapiro presents an exhilarating literary thriller, *The Art Forger*. Inspired by the largest unsolved art heist in history, the 1990 robbery of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

**Saturday, February 2, 7-9 p.m.** Off site event at Stratton Mountain—A Taste of Vermont, to benefit The Stratton Foundation. Cookbook authors & taste-off judges presented by The Northshire Bookstore are: Kathy Gunst, *Stonewall Kitchen Cookbooks*; Sarah Pinneo, *Skihouse Cookbook & Julia's Child*; Andrea Chesman, *Root Cellar & Roasted Vegetables*; Gesine Bullock-Prado, *Pie it Forward & Sugarbaby*. For tickets and information contact [strattonfoundation.org](http://strattonfoundation.org).

**Saturday, February 2, 7 p.m.** Biographers Michael Gorra and Irene Price-Goldman examine Henry James and Edith Wharton—their lives, friendships, and literary legacies—in their books *Portrait of a Novelist* and *My Dear Governess*.

**Friday, February 8, 7 p.m.** Richard Ford presents his book, *Canada*. From one of our greatest writers, a true masterwork of haunting and spectacular vision.

**Saturday, February 9, 7 p.m.** *Crossing the Borders of Time: A True Love Story of War, Exile, and Love Reclaimed*. Author Leslie Maitland returned to Europe throughout the nineties in search of her mother's lost love. She was possessed by a history that was not her own and with questions that remained unanswered for more than fifty years.

**Saturday, February 16, 7 p.m.** Rohan Anderson presents *Whole Larder Love* showing how to hunt, fish, forage, and grow and prepare your own food. For anyone interested in local, sustainable, fresh, organic, humane, or slow food.

Northshire Bookstore is located at 4869 Main St., Manchester Center, VT. For more information call (802) 362-2200 or visit [northshire.com](http://northshire.com).

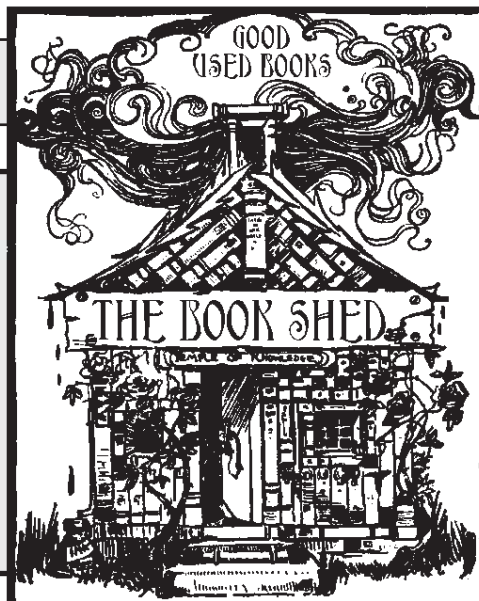
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# Lost Ski Areas of Southern Vermont

by Jeremy K. Davis

(Published by The History Press, Charleston, SC)

There should be a number of old-timers in Vermont who remember well learning to ski the old-fashioned way—on small hills serviced by rope tows using unwaxed wooden boards with awkward leather bindings. If the tows seemed a little dangerous (or too modern then) the skier then could still hike to the top of the hill by foot, as one did for many years before ski tows became popular in the mid-1930s.

Vermont has the honor of operating the country's first rope tow on January 23, 1934 on Clinton Gilbert's farm off Rt. 12 in Woodstock, VT. The rope operation was powered by a Motel-T Ford mounted on tractor wheels. The lift-served ski area called The White Cupboard Ski-Way charged only a dollar a day!

Shortly thereafter communities all over Vermont (and other states, too) opened ski areas served by rope tows. Many later also added more sophisticated T-Bars and J-Bars for their lifts.

In southern Vermont alone there were 60 of these areas in operation during the 1930's and into the 1940s, of which only 14 remain open and active today.

One had to be extra careful using a rope tow especially for the first few times. Balance and skis had to be just right before grabbing the tow. Some tows ran faster and jerked harder than others. However, even the most primitive ones had a safety gate at the top that if tripped by a skier would instantly shut the whole works down. Being embarrassed was better than being hurt.

Author Jeremy Davis, an avid skier and historian, visited all the 'lost' ski areas and has written about them in an informative way in his book, *Lost Ski Areas of Southern Vermont*. Descriptions are interspersed with photographs and reproductions of promotional materials like posters and cloth patches to sew on your ski jacket.

Davis attributes their decline to over-investment, competition from large ski resorts, weather variations, changing skier habits, insurance cost, and "just plain bad luck."

He is saddened to see many of these

once-popular slopes returning into forests with only decaying lifts a memory to their better days.

Davis, who has a lifetime goal of skiing on every existing ski area in New England (he has done 110 so far), is the creator of the New England Lost Ski Areas Project (1998) and is on the board of directors of the New England Ski Museum.

He is confident that the few remaining small ski areas served mostly by rope tows or T-Bars will stay in business and prosper.

For southern Vermont he has high praise for the 'family-friendly' Living Memorial Park in Brattleboro, which was closed for a number of years, but reopened in 1999. The ski area features two slopes, one of which has an introductory terrain park.

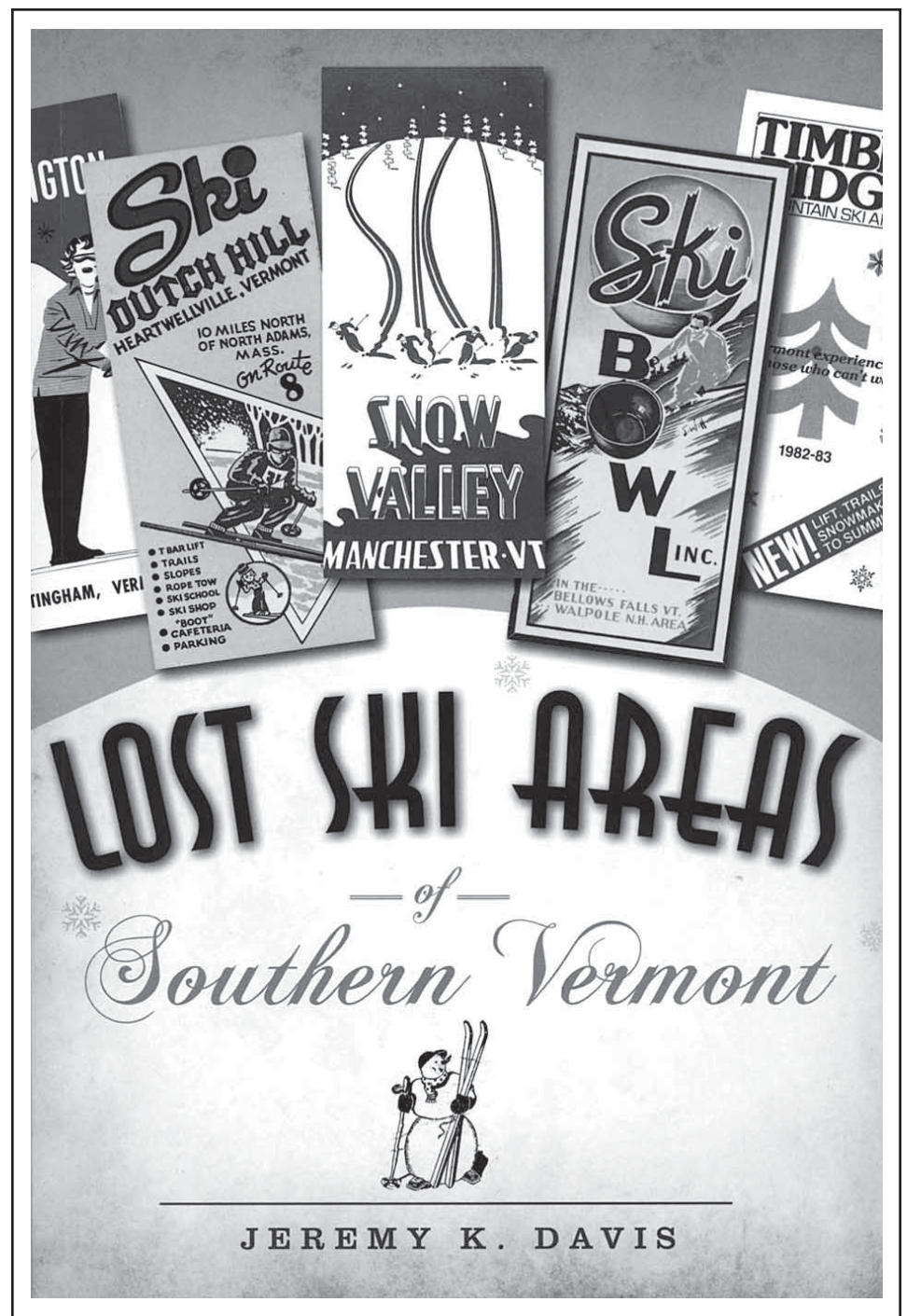
Also, he cites Rockingham's Recreation Department in Bellows Falls, VT for keep-

## Book Review by Charles Sutton

ing going Vermont's last publicly operated rope tow ski area. Davis says, "It features a wide-open, moderately steep slope and a woods trail, all served by a 950-foot-long rope tow—staffed by volunteers and open most weekends." A big bonus: lift tickets are only \$5 a day.

Others on Davis' survival list for Vermont include these areas, some of which may have been closed at one time, but have now reopened: Bolton Valley, Haystack in Wilmington, Magic Mountain in Londonderry, Pine Mountain in Goshen (private ski area now), Round Top in Plymouth Union, Timber Ridge/Glebe Mountain Farm in Windham. Also, Cochran's in Richmond, Hard 'Ack in St. Albans, Lyndon Outing Club in Lyndonville, Northeast Slopes in Cornith and Strafford Lions Club in South Strafford. Sonnenberg at Twin Farms in Barnard is also in operation but for guests only, who are taken to the top of the ski hill in a 9-passenger Snowcat.

Of all the small areas, Davis especially likes Cochran's where the daily fee is \$20 and whose food shack puts out some of the best burgers he has ever had! Here's a sample that some Vermonters may still remember:



## Book News

### Valentine Be Mine

by Jacqueline Farmer, illustrated by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy

The most romantic holiday of the year is coming up February 14, 2013. From school kids giving comic Valentines to everyone in their class to guys choosing frilly heart-shaped boxes of drugstore chocolates for their sweetheart, Valentine's Day is a celebration of love, candy, cards, and flowers!

In earlier times our mothers and grandmothers cut out red paper hearts and pasted them on a frilly white paper doily, inscribed with loving

sentiments to be placed on our breakfast table. And sometimes Mom made a jelly-filled spongecake with a powdered sugar heart-shaped silhouette on the top. It seems love and sweetness and red and white all go together.

*Valentine Be Mine* is a perfect guide to Valentine's Day. Readers will learn about its origins in Rome in the first century and all sorts of interesting tips and stories about the holiday. Interspersed are beautiful illus-

trated instructions on making Valentines and tissue paper flowers. All perfect for the ones you love!

*Valentine Be Mine* is published by Charlesbridge and is offered by your bookseller for \$17.95 (hc) and \$7.95 (pb). [charlesbridge.com](http://charlesbridge.com).

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You can choose from hundreds of properties including cabins, lakefront cottages, country farmhouses, and ski lodges statewide at [www.vermontproperty.com](http://www.vermontproperty.com). Here are some of the tempting places to stay.

## GUILFORD, VT

A Stunning Estate Set on 20 Acres in Guilford. Easy access to Brattleboro. A wonderful space for family holidays, small group get-togethers or an intimate wedding (by prior written approval only). Postcard views throughout the house which is a cultural mosaic. The rooms are decorated with folk art and handicrafts from around the world with handmade oriental rugs on most of the floors. Enjoy all the comforts and modern conveniences of this five-bedroom, four-bathroom country home that has been featured in Vermont Magazine. Sleeps 12-18. For larger groups, there is a second home on the property that can accommodate up to six more people. Bluestone patio with fieldstone fireplace and six-burner BBQ, rotisserie and granite work surface. A wisteria-covered arbor over the walkway winds from the front of the house to the patio. Lush gardens surround the patio which has seating for 13. Large deck with seven-person hot tub, table seating for eight and a teak porch swing. Ample outside parking and a three-car garage. Unparalleled views of the Vermont sky on a clear night. Contact Paul at (802) 272-8143. (Listing # 2062 at [VermontProperty.com](http://VermontProperty.com))

## STOWE, VT

Stowe Mountain Ranch Sleeps Up To 28. Ideally located within Stowe Mountain Resort. 400 yards from skiing and recently featured on HGTV. With mountain views in three directions this property doubles as both a horse ranch and a spa with 10 bedrooms, two sleeping lofts (sleeps 28 with 19 beds) and five full baths. There is a six-person outdoor hot tub and eight-person indoor cedar sauna. Two large great rooms with cathedral ceilings, two cooking area kitchens with seating for 10 and a separate dining room that seats 10. There are dozens of classic Vermont antiques. Each bedroom is uniquely theme-decorated and includes: Maple Sugar Shack (full bed), Sugarbush (two queens), Coyote Den (queen), Green Mountain Bunkhouse (three bunks = six beds), Sir Lancelot's Lair (king), Mad River Suite (one queen + two fulls), Morgan Horse Suite (pull out queen +



This country estate is great for a family or gathering—on 20 acres in Guilford, VT. (listing #2062)

one full), Camelot (queen + pullout queen), Jackson Hole (one Queen and one full) & Deer Run (full). This newer \$2,000,000 property has a team of Clydesdale horses and a black stallion. Contact Gerry at (802) 585-9006. (Listing # 1164 at [VermontProperty.com](http://VermontProperty.com))

## WAITSFIELD, VT

Circa 1850 Farmhouse. Six bedrooms, sleeps up to 17. Fully equipped for 19 persons but equally pleasant for two. Six bedrooms, three baths, dishwasher. Two living rooms with fireplace and piano. Sledding hill. Ten minutes to Mad River. Fifteen minutes to Sugarbush. Thirty minutes to Stowe.

\$550/night in winter; two-night minimum for weekend and midweek rentals. Please inquire about other spring, summer, fall, and winter rentals for longer options with negotiable terms. Contact William at (978) 922-6903. (Listing # 556 at [VermontProperty.com](http://VermontProperty.com))

## WAITSFIELD, VT

The Farm on Mad River—Wonderful Waitsfield Farm. A five-bedroom circa 1900 farmhouse, surrounded by the Mad River on 42 beautiful acres. Accommodates 10-12 people and is perfect for families or large groups wishing to ski at nearby Sugarbush Resort or Mad River Glen resort. Only 1.7 miles from Sugarbush Access Rd., five miles to Mad River Glen Ski resort. Two living rooms (one with fireplace); two full baths, dining room and professionally-styled kitchen. Two bedrooms with queen sized beds; two with double beds; one with two single beds and queen-sized pullout sofa in second living room. Internet, wifi, cable, multi-room stereo system. Excellent swimming in summer; cross country skiing on property in winter. Close to town, shopping, dining, entertainment; two cross country ski areas. Fully-equipped and well-appointed. Contact Bill or Bryant at (802) 496-7133. (Listing # 557 at [VermontProperty.com](http://VermontProperty.com))

## WILMINGTON, VT

The Inn at Quail Run Near Mount Snow. This southern Vermont inn has just been fully renovated and features a large family room/lounge, fieldstone fireplace, WiFi, washer/dryer, dining room, and industrial kitchen. The kitchen is fully equipped and will allow you to make large meals with ease. Enjoy the entire inn with 10 bedrooms with 10 private baths or just use three, four or six bedrooms, each with a private bath—whatever fits your needs. It's the perfect getaway for large groups, clubs, family reunions, weddings and corporate retreats, but still offers the privacy of a private bath in every bedroom. All the rooms will be set up with linens, but there will not be any daily linen service or prepared meals offered. There is also a private cottage as well as owners' quarters. All are located five miles south of Mount Snow. Contact Meiling at (732) 877-8009. (Listing #1159 at [VermontProperty.com](http://VermontProperty.com))

## WOODSTOCK, VT

Breathtaking Views, Luxury and Solitude Minutes from Woodstock Village & Suicide Six Ski Area. Cricklewood is located on a 24-acre estate situated off Rt. 12N just six minutes from the heart of Woodstock village. Five+ bedrooms and four bathrooms. Sleeps 10-14. As you enter the property you climb a paved, gently graded, private drive that ends at the mountain plateau upon which this stately home sits, with its lovely gardens, rolling hills and mountain slopes. The enormous parking area offers room for lots of vehicles and the attached, heated, three car garage offers a comfort and luxury seldom found in country homes. The breathtaking views of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park can be enjoyed from rocking chairs on the large front porch or from the comfy couch in the second story alcove loft that faces a large picture window. An attached 750 sq. ft. private apartment with a separate entrance can be added on to any rental for a modest additional charge. The apartment is fully furnished and sleeps two in a king-size bed plus two more in a pull-out sofa. Includes a surround sound stereo system, flat screen TV with cable, and internet. Call Amalia at (631) 965-1951. (Listing #1615 at [VermontProperty.com](http://VermontProperty.com))

For photos, rates, and more information about these vacation retreats, go to [vermontproperty.com](http://vermontproperty.com) and search by the listing number (provided above) on the home page or on the advanced search page. For information on many more Vermont vacation rentals, also visit [www.vermontproperty.com](http://www.vermontproperty.com).

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photo by Scott Sampietro

Keith Sampietro, of Montgomery Adventures (Mt. Haven Sled Dogs Guide Services and Outfitters) on a run through the woods with his Alaskan Husky sled dogs.

The dogs on front are Jupiter and his sister Tara (with the white in the face); the second set black dog is Grizzly, and Mercury looks like he is jumping behind Tara; and the last is Cowboy. The father of most of these dogs is Naugh-Tue (which means tough dog) who came from the

Redingtons in Manely Hot Springs, Alaska. Joe Reddington started the Iditarod. This picture was taken on a dog sled trail in the Deep Gibou of Montgomery Center, VT.

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Earth's moments thundering into years.

The lynx and wolf and shrewd fox pause  
For housing here till hunger gnaws.

What outpost stands with surer tread,  
Armored in hush, from foot to head?

Tonight the moon has garbed these firs  
Like Gothic kings and emperors.

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