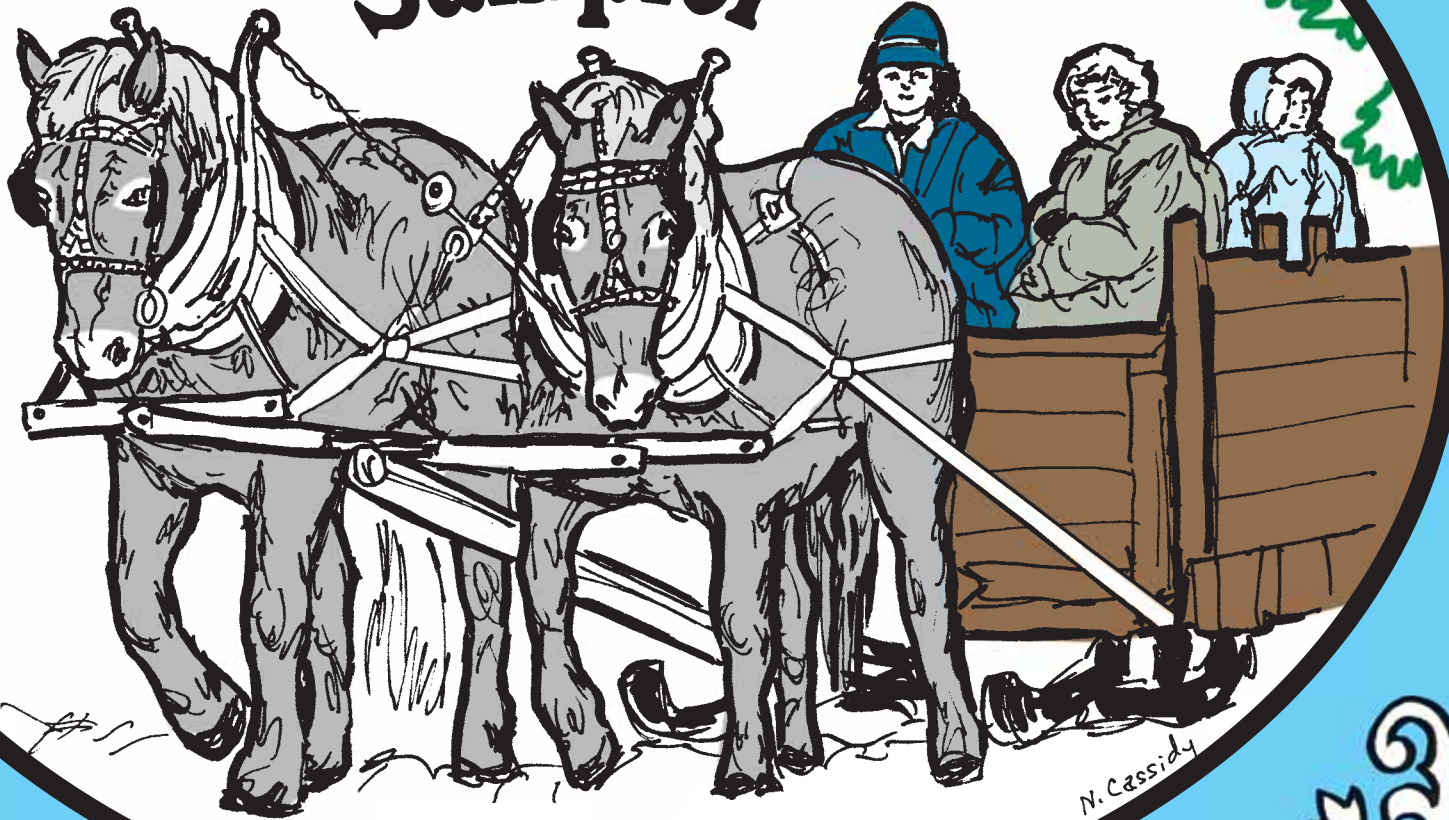


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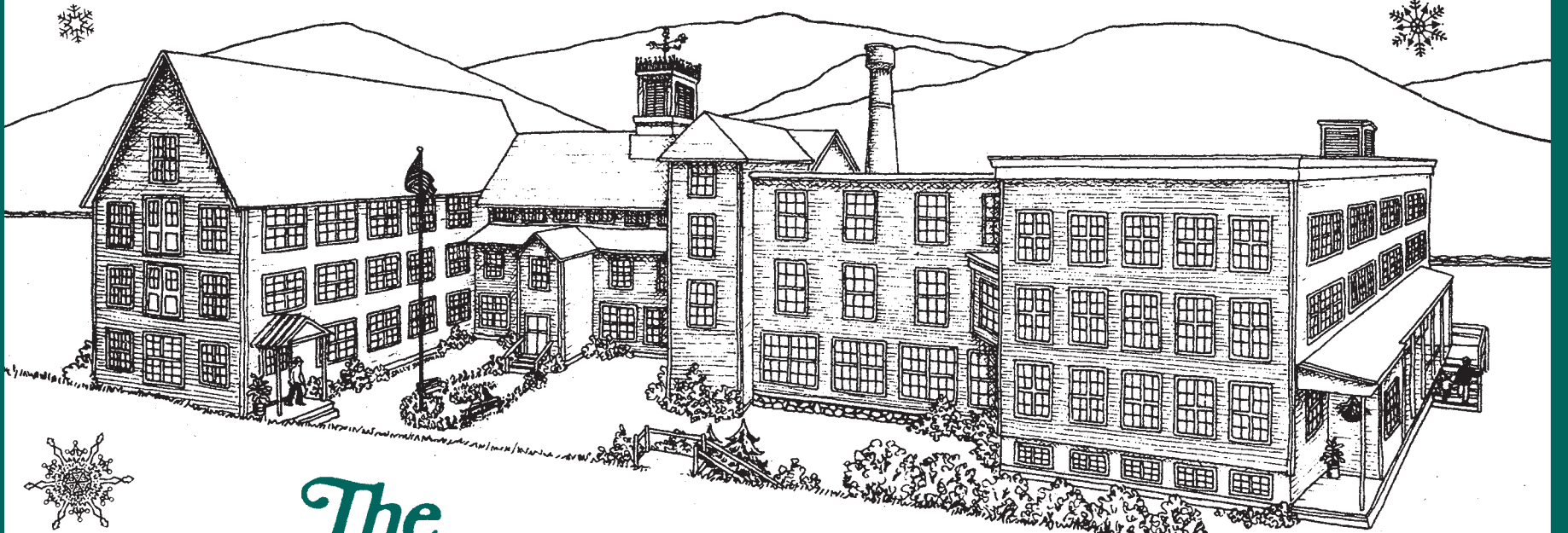
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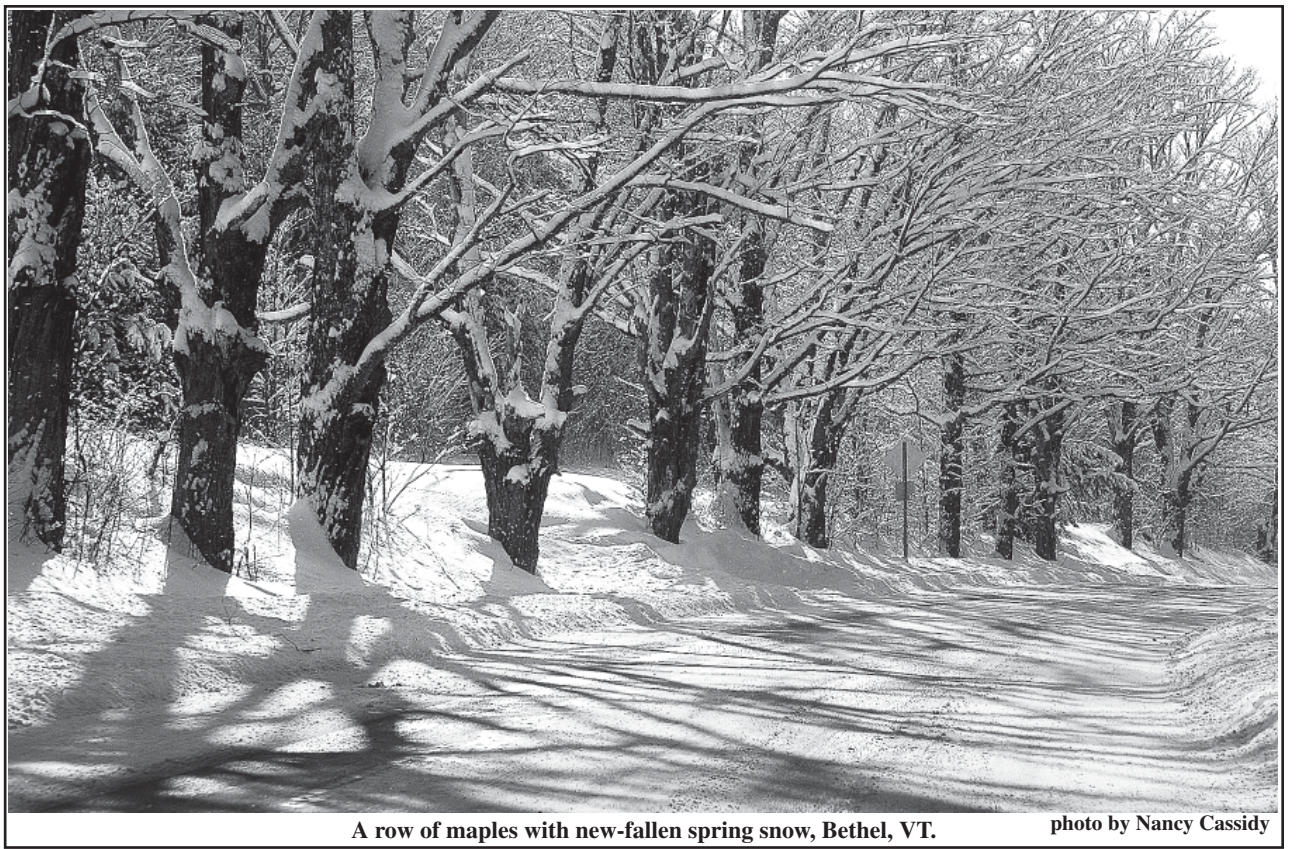
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Spring Call

Though it is only March, the sun
Was warm as June today.
Down by the pond I watched some boys
Sail little ships away.
And at the noon far roosters crowed
Away beyond the hill,
The cattle scratched
And stretched their necks
As all the cattle will
When they are feeling a warm sun
Beat in a kindly way
Upon their winter-coated backs.
Oh, everything today
Seemed calling, calling, calling me
To where the fragrant loam
Lies open to the warming sun
Around my valley home!

— NELLIE RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT, circa 1944



A row of maples with new-fallen spring snow, Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

12th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival

For the 12th year in a row, the town of Whitingham will host its annual spring celebration of Vermont's most famous export—maple sugar and maple syrup. This year, the festival will be held Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21, 2010.

Whitingham, VT, a town of 1,500 residents nestled in the southern Green Mountains, takes its maple seriously. It is in the blood; the first 14 settlers arrived in 1770, and by the early years of the next century, there were 45 sugar makers working nearly 40,000 taps. Today, there are still around 18 sugarhouses in town, turning out some 8,000 gallons of syrup in a good season. Many of the town's families have lived and sugared here for generations.

Plans for this year's festival include self-guided tours of local sugar houses (with plenty of opportunities for sampling), pancake breakfasts, luncheons, horse-drawn sleigh rides, a craft fair, maple recipe contest, sugar-on-snow baked ham dinner and more. There will be activities for children at the Whitingham School. And shops and galleries around Jacksonville and Whitingham will be open.

Visitors with a penchant for history might be interested to know that Whitingham is the birthplace of Brigham Young, the Mormon leader. Two monuments (one rather infamous locally) note Young's roots in the town, and are worth a side trip.

You can pick up a map and check the latest schedules at the Information Booth at Twin Valley Elementary School on Rt. 100 in Whitingham. The town is located on Route 100 in southern Vermont—between Bennington and Brattleboro, and about 20 miles north of Greenfield, MA.

Whitingham Festival Schedule

Saturday, March 20th

7:30–10:30—Pancake Breakfast by the Lions Club at the Jacksonville Municipal Center.

8:00–4:00—Information Booth is open at the Twin Valley Elementary/Middle School on Rt. 100 south.

8:00–5:00—Sugar House Tours at eight local sugarhouses, hours vary. Self-guided auto tour maps available at the Information Booth.

9:00–4:00—Craft Fair. Over 30 vendors at Twin Valley School.

10:00–2:00—Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides, snow or no snow (donations welcomed).

10:00–5:00—Local shops are open in the villages of Jacksonville & Whitingham. Antiques, crafts, pottery, winery, and much more!

10:00–3:00—“Kids Corner” at Twin Valley School with continuous activities for children's entertainment.

11:30–2:00—Lunch is served by the Whitingham Ladies Benevolent Society at the Twin Valley School.

1:00–3:30—Maple Recipe Contest judging at the Twin Valley School.

5:00–7:00—Sugar-on-Snow Ham Dinner by Unity Lodge #89 at the Jacksonville Municipal Center.

Sunday, March 21st

7:00–10:00—Pancake Breakfast by Whitingham Rescue at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville.

10:00–2:00—Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides, snow or no snow (donations welcomed).

10:00–3:00—Information Booth is open at Twin Valley School.

8:00–5:00—Sugar House Tours at local sugarhouses, hours vary. Self-guided auto tour maps are available at the Information Booth at Twin Valley School.

10:00–3:00—Craft Fair at Twin Valley School.

10:00–5:00—Local shops are open in the villages of Jacksonville and Whitingham.

11:30–2:00—Lunch is served by the eighth grade class at Twin Valley School.

11:00–2:00—“Kids Corner” at Twin Valley School with continuous activities for children's entertainment.

The Pancake Breakfasts are \$6 adults, \$4 for those 65+ years, children under five are free. The Sugar-on-Snow Ham Dinner is \$10 adults, children 5–12 are \$5, children under five are free. Food at the Craft Fair is priced by item since various organizations offer a variety of delicious lunch items.

Please check the latest schedule at the Information Booth at Whitingham School. For Craft Fair information contact Marilyn Hicks at (802) 368-7391. For further festival information call Maureen Dix at (802) 464-1154 or (802) 380-2093 or e-mail moehog@msn.com.

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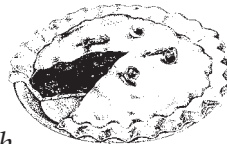
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Vermont Country Sampler

March 2010, Vol. XXIV

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A Vermont Almanac for Late Winter

by Bill Felker

In our hearts those of us who know anything worth knowing know that in March a new year begins, and if we plan any new leaves it will be when the rest of Nature is planning them too.

—Joseph Wood Krutch

The Running Maple Sap Moon and the Golden Goldfinch Moon

Blooming skunk cabbage always foretells the running of maple sap within a few weeks. Once the sap is flowing, then the snowdrops and aconites flower, and then the daffodils.

When sugaring time comes to a close, then finches gradually turn their spring and summer color, their gold appearing when daffodils are blooming and pussy willows emerge all the way. **February 28:** The Running Maple Sap Moon is full at 11:38 a.m. **March 7:** The Moon enters its final quarter at 10:42 a.m. (EST). **March 15:** The Golden Goldfinch Moon is new at 5:01 p.m. (EDT). **March 23:** The moon enters its second quarter at 7:00 a.m. (EDT). **March 29:** The moon is full at 10:25 p.m. (EDT)

The Sun's Progress

On February 18, the sun reaches halfway to equinox, entering Pisces at the same time. This event is called Cross-Quarter Day, and it brings in the changeable season of early spring. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 14 at 2:00 a.m., and spring equinox arrives at 1:32 p.m. (EDT) on March 20. Also on the 20th, the sun enters the stars of Aries.

The Weather Systems

Major cold waves are due to reach the Northeast on or about February 17th, 22nd, 25th and 28th. Storms are most likely to occur on February 3rd, 6th–9th, 14th–18th, and 24th–25th. In March, expect cold fronts to arrive in Vermont on March 2, 5 (usually the most severe front of the month), 9 (ordinarily followed by quite mild temperatures), 14, 19 (frequently the second-coldest front of March), 24 (often followed by the best weather so far in the year), and 29.

The Planets

Jupiter, having disappeared from the night sky early in the year, now returns with Venus before sunrise in Aquarius, low in the east. Saturn is in Virgo, rising after sunset and crossing the sky throughout the night. Mars travels with Cancer this month, following Orion into the dawn.

The Stars

The evenings of Late Winter and Early Spring bring Castor and Pollux of Gemini directly overhead. Cancer follows close behind, carrying Mars with it. Winter's Orion has moved into the western sky, and its outrider, the Pleiades star group, disappears into the horizon just after midnight. The pointers of the Big Dipper have moved deep into the center of the heavens and are pointing out the North Star to their northwest.

The Shooting Stars

Search the night sky for the Normid meteors, that shower reaching its peak on March 13–14.

Bill Felker observes and writes about our seasons for several periodicals. More of his almanack information is available at www.poorwillsalmanack.com. To hear his weekly almanack on the radio, visit www.wyso.org.



Sheep gazes out from his barn in late winter, Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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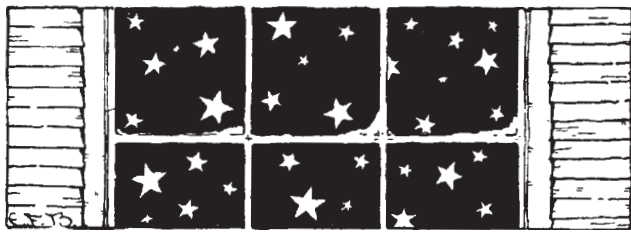
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Lions and Tigers and Grandfather

by Sally O'Kane McClintock

When my childhood friend, Alice, visited me from Maryland, I showed her our mountains and tall dark pine trees etched against an evening sky. She named the wild flowers for me, and taught me the bobbing of my clothesline outside the kitchen window meant a little bird had hopped onto it. Best of all, she discovered "The Cabin" on my bookshelf, a 1955 collection of nature essays by my grandfather, Walter Collins O'Kane, inspired by visits to his cabin in the mountains.

Alice began reading from the book, "The woodland neighbors of the cabin, the birds and small animals, the forest plants and the trees, are comfortable folk to have around." As I listened to her, I reminisced about childhood visits to my grandparents' home in New Hampshire where my father grew up. The grand colonial, built around 1780, was reached by a long tree-lined drive. Next to the house was the large tree I loved to climb, and past the barn and carriage house was Grandfather's writing cabin. Like his solitary cabin in the mountains, this one was private too, near a forest with foxes, close to home, though out of bounds for children.

I remember the house furnished with antiques, and a formal dining room where we sat around the table on chairs with prickly seats of horsehair. I remember more fondly Grandmother's bedroom. When my two brothers and I were about 2, 4, and 5, we would get in bed with her in the morning, in her room with the flowered wallpaper. We'd listen to her stories and thrill at hearing how she got struck by lightning right at her bedroom window.

My grandmother often said "Bless your heart!" and called me "a sugarplum." She'd help me up onto the kitchen counter to sit and watch her roll out dough or clean a chicken. She



Dick and Sally O'Kane, deep in discussion at their grandparents home in Durham, NH, circa 1932. Perhaps it was about the lions and tigers that lived in the attic.

sang while she cooked, and at the window, chickadees sang.

We moved around a lot during the Depression, staying with my grandparents off and on. First grade for me was in Tucson, Chicago, and then Durham at my grandparents' house. During one visit, I slept in the attic, with antique cradles, hobby horses, old furniture and books stored all around me. Although there was a grand double bed, curtains at the windows, and hand-hooked rugs, it was still an attic, with a stuffy attic smell and dark shapes around me at night.

I was able to make it through the night, but in the morning, I dressed as fast as I could, then ran down the carpeted steps with lions and tigers close behind me. One night I slept in my clothes so I could make a quick getaway. I even kept my shoes on. When I slammed the attic door against the lions and tigers, my mother exclaimed, "Why Sally, your dress is all wrinkled!"

I never did tell her about the lions and tigers, not even when I was in my twenties with a daughter of my own. When my mother phoned to tell me there had been a fire in that attic, she said, "What a shame—all those antiques destroyed." That's not all, I thought. The lions and tigers are gone now too.

We were not so close to Grandfather, a professor at the University of New Hampshire. His writing cabin was built far from the house so children would not disturb him. Though he would converse freely with the adults, he seemed formal and unapproachable to us. One day, my younger brother said boldly, "I dare to kiss Grandfather." He darted into the dining room and planted a kiss on Grandfather's astonished face.

Years later, on a trip to Maine, we stopped in Durham and I saw the old home again. After my grandmother died, my grandfather, then an emeritus professor, sold the whole property to the university for a token amount. We got directions and I knew we were on the right track when we came to that long tree-lined drive. There at the end of it was the house and the tree I had climbed, now huge. Mosquitoes were thick, so my companions stayed in the car, but I got out and walked slowly around the house, remembering. I gazed at the front door, the side of the house, the familiar terrace by the kitchen entrance, and even found the large rock I had used as my "horsie," saddled with my doll's quilt.

As I was lost in thought, a woman came out of a new building labeled "Child Development." I explained this was my grandparents' former home and she invited me to go inside and take a look around. The kitchen was just as I remembered it—the same counter I sat on, the window where the chickadees sang. I went into the formal dining room and saw children's art-work stacked along its walls.

She explained that the historic house was currently being used for storage of children's activities and living space for agriculture students. More art-work was stacked along the walls in my grandmother's bedroom, with-surprisingly—the same flowered wallpaper.

Outside again, I looked for the forest but found only a small stand of trees where I was told foxes still lived. Beyond came the new sound of a superhighway, replacing woods and fields. But the biggest change was in Grandfather's writing cabin, now expanded and encircled by a fence. I opened the gate and went up the steps into the "forbidden" cabin and found it equipped with little tables and chairs and children's toys. The off-limits writing cabin had been transformed into a day-care center! I assumed Grandfather would be shocked at this new use of his cabin. Or would he?

Seeking a deeper understanding of my grandfather, I took the book from Alice and studied its pages, searching for

some clue to his true feelings. If my lions and tigers turned out to be imaginary, might I also have been wrong about grandfather? I found him writing fondly about little forest

creatures that came close to his cabin in the woods—a young rabbit, a woodpecker, a squirrel. He even welcomed a mouse. "There is one small animal of the woods who always sees to it that he has the use of the cabin—the little white-foot mouse—but he is not a disagreeable visitor."

If he could return as an animal, Grandfather wrote that he would choose to be a chipmunk for its "buoyancy, cheerfulness, and unceasing industry." And one more significant thing he would choose:

"I would ask for the gift of continuous interest in all that goes on around me, in the activities of all creatures, large and small, not because they contribute to my welfare but because they, too, are living their lives in their own way, and because that way can never be less than a challenge to me in my life."

Perhaps Grandfather would have been up to the challenge of little children in his writing cabin after all.

"I dressed as fast as I could, then ran down the carpeted steps with lions and tigers close behind me."

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“Pudding Chomeur” Maple Pudding Cake

1¼ cups maple syrup ¾ cup heavy whipping
2 tsp. cider vinegar cream
½ cup sugar 6 tbsp. softened butter
1 large egg ½ tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. baking powder 1 cup cake flour

Put oven rack in upper third of oven and preheat oven to 350. Stir together maple syrup, heavy cream, cider vinegar and a pinch of salt in a small saucepan and bring to a boil, then remove from heat. Beat together butter and sugar in a bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy, about one minute. Add the egg and vanilla, then beat until just combined (batter will be thick). Sift flour and baking powder together into egg mixture and stir with a rubber spatula until just combined. Pour ½ cup syrup mixture into baking dish. Divide batter in bowl into six mounds with rubber spatula and spoon each mound onto syrup mixture in eight-inch square (two-inch deep) baking dish, spacing mounds evenly. Pour remaining syrup mixture over and around the mounds. Bake until topping is golden and firm to the touch, 25 to 30 minutes. Serve warm, with creme fraiche or sour cream if desired. *Serves six.*



Honey Hill Farm in the winter, Barnard, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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UVM Extension’s Center for Sustainable Agriculture is pleased to present this exciting art show highlighting painters, sculptors, photographers, textile and video farming artists from around the state. Please join us for food, music, art and artists talks as the exhibition travels throughout Vermont.

February 22 – March 30.
The Currier Gallery at the Putney School, Putney, VT. (Opening reception Feb. 26.)

April 1 – April 24. Creative Space Gallery, Vergennes, VT. (Opening reception April 8, 6–8 p.m. Co-hosted by the VT Arts Council. Entrance fee of \$40 includes membership in the Council.)

For more info contact Rachel Schattman at (802) 656-9140 or rschattm@uvm.edu. UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 106 Highpoint Center, Ste. 300, Colchester, VT 05446.

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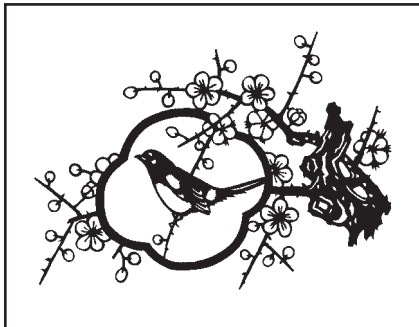
Forcing Flowering Branches

by Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor
University of Vermont

Trick your spring-flowering trees and shrubs into thinking it's spring this winter, and into blooming. This is what you do by cutting branches and bringing indoors. The process is called "forcing."

Trees and shrubs, which bloom in spring, form their flower buds the previous fall. After at least eight weeks of cold outdoors (under 40°F), their branches are capable of blooming if you provide the right conditions. To make sure they receive enough cold, don't cut branches until after January 1 in a "normal" year or after January 15 in a "mild" year. Branches harvested in late winter often come into bloom indoors sooner than those harvested earlier.

Carefully prune out branches so not to injure the plant or ruin its shape. Use sharp pruners, and cut branches at least 12 inches long. Select branches with a large number of flower buds. These are often on younger branches. Make sure you are looking at flower buds and not leaf buds. The flower buds are usually larger and rounder. If in



doubt, cut a few buds open to look for leaf or flower parts inside. Branches force more readily if cut on a sunny afternoon or when temperatures are above freezing.

Bring the cut branches indoors, placing the stem ends immediately in water. If branches are in a bucket, mist them frequently the first few days or enclose in a plastic bag out of direct sun. If possible, submerge the whole stems in water, such as in a bathtub, overnight. This allows buds and stems to quickly absorb water and begin to break dormancy.

The old recommendation was to smash the stem ends with a hammer to improve water uptake by the stems. Sometimes this works, but it may have the opposite effect if stems are mashed too hard. And the mashed ends may make the water more dirty, which will decrease water uptake. The best method is to make a slit or two in the bottom of the stem before placing in the water, such as in a cross or star pattern as viewed from the bottom.

Keep branches in a bucket of water in a cool area (60 to 65°F). Warmer temperatures cause buds to develop too rapidly and not open properly. Change the water every 2 to 3 days to ensure it stays clean.

Low humidity, common in many homes in winter, also may cause buds to fall off. Try to

keep branches near a humidifier, or misted. Direct sunlight also may cause buds to fall, so keep in bright but indirect light.

Once the flower buds show color, the branches can be used in arrangements. Use of floral preservatives, available at many garden stores and florists, may increase the life of the branches (the "vase life"). Once again, keep stems in bright, but indirect, light. Moving arrangements to a cool location at night (40 to 60°F) will help them last longer.

In February, consider forcing Forsythia (yellow flowers, one to 3 weeks to force), Witch Hazel (yellow flowers, one week to force), Willow (catkins, 2 weeks to force), the Red Maple (pink to red unusual flowers followed by leaves, 2 weeks to force), Alder (catkins, one to 3 weeks to force), Amelanchier or Serviceberry (white flowers, 1-3 weeks to force), Apples and Crabapples (white, pink and red flowers, 2 to 4 weeks to force with doubles slower than singles), Birch (long lasting catkins, 2 to 4 weeks to force), Quince (red to orange flowers, 4 weeks to force), Cherries (white and pink flowers, 2 to 4 weeks to force), Rhododendrons and Azaleas later in the month (many colors, 4 to 6 weeks to force), and Pussy Willow (well-known furry flowers, one to 2 weeks to force).

Then in March, consider cutting branches of Hawthorns (white, pink or red flowers, 4 to 5 weeks to force) but be careful of the thorns, Deutzia (white flowers, 3 to 4 weeks to force), Honeysuckle shrub (white to pink flowers, 2 to 3 weeks to force), Mockorange (white flowers, 4 to 5 weeks to force), Oaks (catkins, 2 to 3 weeks to force), Lilacs (many colors, 4 to 5 weeks to force), and Spirea (white flowers, 4 weeks to force with double flowers lasting longer).

Cut various branches, at various times, for a succession of blooms and color indoors during our long winters. It's one way to help spring come early in the North!

Leonard P. Perry, Extension Professor, Department of Plant and Soil Science, can be contacted at 11 Hills Building, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405, (802) 656-0479, Fax: (802) 656-4656. Check out Perry's Perennial Pages at www.uvm.edu/~pass/perry/.



Belgian draft horses pull a sled full of visitors on a sunny March day at Taylor Farm in Londonderry, VT. photo by Charles Sutton

First Annual Gorgeous Gardens & Green Living Show in Manchester, VT

Green Works, The Vermont Nursery & Landscape Association (VNLA), is presenting Gorgeous Gardens & Green Living at Hunter Park in Manchester, VT on Saturday, March 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Featured are four central landscaped displays filled with the sights and smells of Spring! Choose from 25 seminars and workshops on horticulture, agriculture, and sustainable homes and gardens. Hear a keynote presentation by Julie Moir

Messervy award-winning landscape designer, lecturer, and author of Home Outside: Creating the Landscape You Love.

Would you like to produce your own honey? Maddie Sobel of Vermont Beekeepers Association will be teaching the basics of starting a bee colony to encourage pollination of summer vegetables, flowers and other plants.

Kerry Ann Mendez of Perennially Yours will lead a workshop with tips for great looking and ever-blooming perennial gardens.

Concerned about energy independence? Paul Myers will use his energy efficient home as an example of how to build or rebuild your home

to be more energy efficient at the lowest possible cost.

Visit over 40 vendors including garden centers, landscapers, artists, jewelry, composting supplies, garden accessories, tools, herbalists, organic farmers, beekeepers, home orchardists, local vineyard, wind energy, solar panels, energy efficient home building products, green roofs, and educational exhibits.

Admission is \$12 per person, all ages welcomed. Riley Rink at Hunter Park is on Rt. 7A just north of town in Manchester, VT. For more information call (888) 518-6484. www.greenworksvermont.org. www.rileyrink.com.



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Branch Out Burlington! 3rd Annual Tree Sale

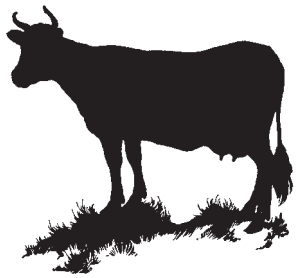
For the third year in a row, Branch Out Burlington is offering a sale of bare-root trees at unbelievable prices. Trees are 5-6 feet and branched. Order early! These trees have sold out for the past two years. Trees must be picked up at The UVM Horticultural Farm in So. Burlington, VT during the Annual Burlington Community Tree Nursery Planting, which takes place on Saturday morning May 1st between 9 and 11 a.m.

The choice of trees available this year (planting instructions provided), sold bare root and branched includes: Brandywine Maple, 5 ft.; Robynson Crab, 6 ft.; Donald Wyman Crab Apple, 6 ft.; Japanese Tree Lilac - Snowdance, 5 ft.; and Heritage River Birch, 6 ft. For more information about bare

root planting and descriptions and photos of each tree visit www.branchoutburlington.org.

All trees are \$39 each. Full payment by check or money order must accompany your order. Please make check payable to: Branch Out Burlington and mail to: Kyle Albee, 55 Bartlett Bay Rd., So. Burlington, VT 05403. Please list which substitutes you would prefer if we run out of the variety you have ordered. Orders must be received by April 20th.

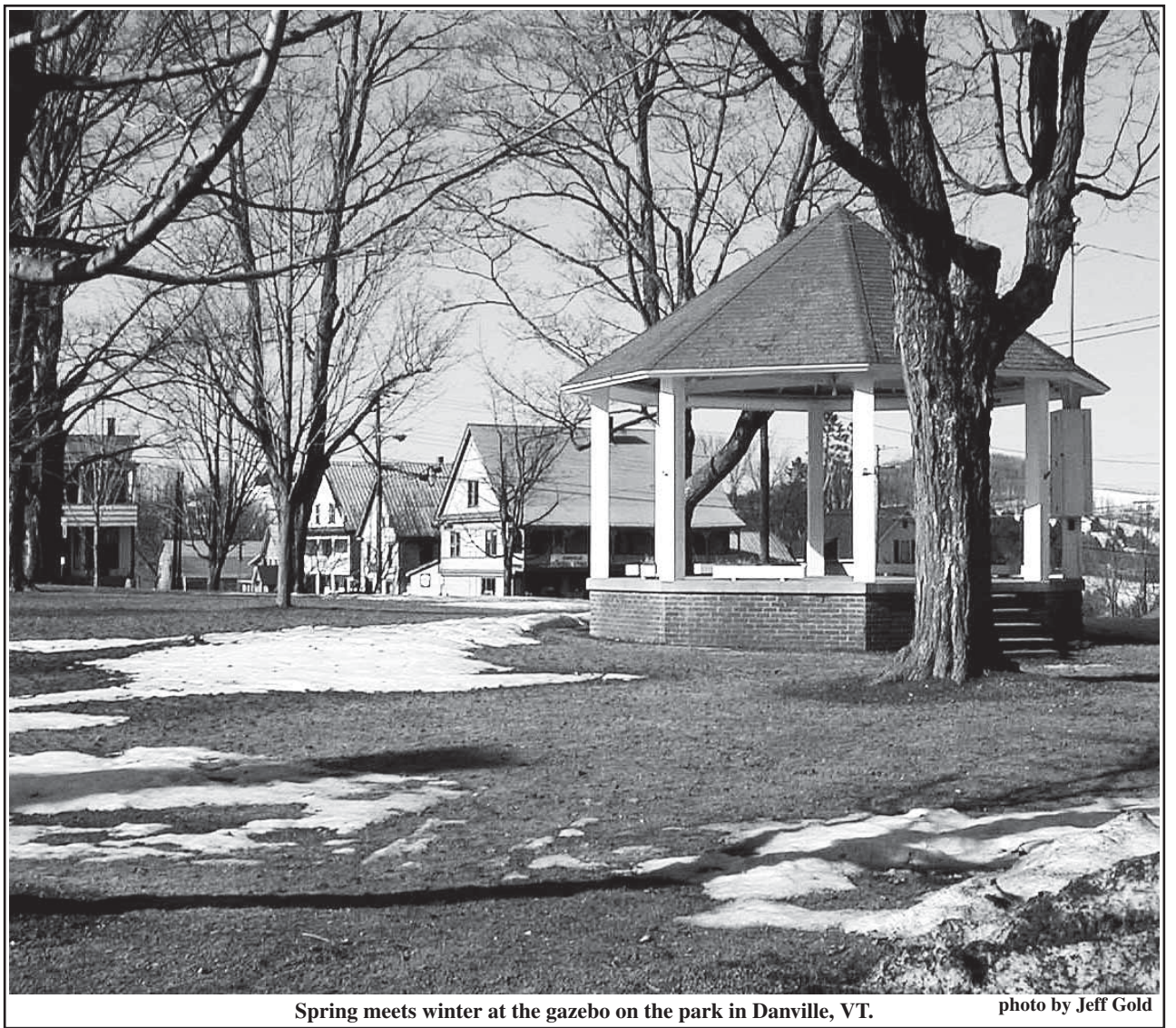
The Hort Farm is at 65 Green Mountain Dr. in So. Burlington, VT. Go south on Rt. 7, then right at the sign for the "Horticultural Research Complex." www.friendsofthehortfarm.org. branchoutburlington.org.



WATERING THE COW

I led the red Guernsey from her stable out into glistening daylight. She stood at the trough gulping pailfuls of ice cold water. Her broad back caught and held perfect snowflakes on the ends of her long, winter hair. They formed a gallery of crystal shapes. She was silver laden. We walked back carefully with our exquisite burden. We entered the dark, warm barn. Our treasure vanished. She shook, tumbling the stars.

—WILLIAM MUNDELL



Spring meets winter at the gazebo on the park in Danville, VT.

photo by Jeff Gold

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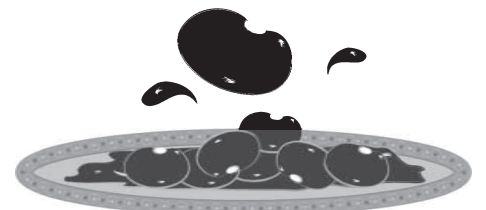
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The Maple Gene

by Burr Morse

Last spring I was going to write about some special maple sugarmaker friends but I ran out of time. You see, sugarin' ended suddenly and writing about sugarmakers when they're not practicing their art is like, well, gatherin' all the sap and never boilin' it...the fun's in the boilin'; the cracklin' fire, the beaming faces, the tiny batches of syrup blessed by huge amounts of pride. These friends are all small-time, "put-your-feet-up-by-the-evaporator-and-have-a-beer" type sugarmakers...the kind I envy. They're not all Vermonters but contrary to common thought, the "maple gene" can show up anywhere and even though Vermont syrup is the best, the maple gene is the maple gene.

A young master sugarmaker

Todd and Thomas Parker are both Vermonters but when Thomas "puts-his-feet-up", it better be sans the beer...he's only nine. Thomas got the maple gene the natural way, from his dad, Todd, who lives, breathes, and dreams maple. I knew Todd as a small boy and every spring, a few special trees around his parents' house over on Vincent Flats would blossom with a rag-tag collection of milk jugs, lard buckets or anything else that would hold water. That "blossoming" was a rite of spring and the whole neighborhood knew that little Todd was sugarin'. Todd went on to become a heating expert and, through his job, has inherited a rather unique way of boiling sap. For every oil burner he services, there is a small amount of disposable fuel oil that drains from the old filters. He takes that home and pours it in a barrel. Over the course of a year, that barrel fills with enough free oil to replace an otherwise, sizeable woodpile. "Not romantic like a crackling fire," you say? "Maybe not," I say, "but it's sure being smart, like a Yankee trader!"

Last year I went over to visit the Parker boys in their sugarhouse one night after I had shut my own evaporator down. I drove east, through the mud-season ruts of East Montpelier's Barnes and Dodge Roads, to the same place on Vincent Flats where Todd grew up. As I drove into the yard, I noted the absence of a traditional, pitched roof sugarhouse. Upon opening my car door, however, my olfactory



photo courtesy of Vermont Historical Society
Men gather sap with a team of oxen, in the late 1800s.

senses directed me to the end of a long tool shed, where the heavenly fragrance of boiling sap spewed from a makeshift cupola. Inside, Todd Parker stood (no feet up this time) at his "Papa-sized" evaporator beaming at Thomas nearby at his own "Baby Bear" evaporator...both rigs were oil fired and boiling to beat the band. Before I left that night, I asked young Thomas if he truly loved sugarin' or if he was just doing it to please his dad...I knew he couldn't fool me. His smile radiated sweetness and his eyes crinkled with a seasonal glow. I knew that I had just received an "affirmative" from Young Parker, master sugarmaker and holder of the maple gene.

For love of maple

The other special sugarmaker is a gal named Patty Hebert, admitted Boston-born flatlander. I first met Patty a few years ago when she and her family came into our store. I've witnessed thousands of folks entering that same door but will always remember Patty in particular because she had that "maple" look about her...yes, there's such a thing as "the maple look." The maple look takes many forms but, and I swear on a stack of evaporator catalogues, when Patty Hebert from Framingham, Massachusetts came in, a "medium amber halo" hovered inches above her head! When she opened up about her short-lived but no less sweet maple experiences, I knew she had the maple gene.

Patty claims her maple gene got jump-started six years ago on a trip to Vermont. While she and her husband, Chris (who is a Vermonter), were up here, they visited the Maple Museum down in Pittsford, VT. There she bought seven taps and the book, "Backyard Sugaring" and went home. Patty said the minute she put the book down from reading it cover to cover, she went right out and tapped those seven

trees. She only had plastic milk jugs to hang on the spouts and a turkey fryer to boil her sap on but when you have the maple gene, "country crude" is fine because you're livin' on love...the love of maple.

I e-mailed Patty last spring to ask her if she had any funny stories to tell about steaming off the wall paper or burning a pan. It was her reply that absolutely proved her maple legitimacy to me: "Thank God! and I mean it, Thank God, I've never burned a pan. A sugarmaker's pans are sacred!" That's what convinced me...you see, only a maple sugarmaker can lie like that...we've all burned a pan or two but for a sugarmaker, burning a pan is a shame equal to sampling Aunt Jemima once years ago and saying "it's not that bad"! We always lie about that time we turned our back on a boilin' batch and scorched the pan to the point of meltdown...nice job, Patty...sweet lie...you got it down!

Sugaring awaits us...

We haven't had any booming sap runs around here yet. Yesterday I boiled a small amount of sap on a tiny "hobby" evaporator we have here at Morse Farm. Being a carrier of the "maple gene" myself, it felt wonderful to get that first whiff of sweetness...yea...I made it another year! My best goes out to all sugarmakers for the upcoming season, especially the two Parker boys and Patty Hebert from Framingham, Massachusetts. I hope your 2010 season is blessed by many tiny batches and huge amounts of pride.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is open to the public and is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. For maple products and more, call (800) 242-2740 or visit www.morsefarm.com. You're especially invited for the food and festivities during the statewide Maple Open House Weekend, March 26, 27 & 28, 2010.

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(Rain Date: May 8th—12 noon)

2nd Gymkhana: Sun, May 8th—12 noon

(Rain Date: May 15th—12 noon)

3rd Gymkhana: Sun, May 16th—12 noon

(Rain Date: May 22nd—12 noon)

4th Gymkhana: Sun, May 23rd—12 noon

(Rain Date: May 28th—12 pm)



All Spring and Summer Gymkhanas are on Sundays at 12 noon. We'll have a barbecue after the games with hot dogs, hamburgers, and soda on us. If you're planning on eating just bring a side dish.

All Gymkhanas have a \$10 entry fee, spectators free.

We'll have trail riding with your own horse as much as possible this season. It's free, so come join the fun. Happy horsing!

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Steam rises from this sugarhouse in Bethel Gilead, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Mud, Sun, Snow and the Glories of Sugaring!

Visit a Vermont Maple Sugarhouse This Spring!

Vermont is the leading producer of maple syrup in the United States with an annual average yield of half a million gallons. While many sugar houses have gift stores open year-round, the actual tapping of maple trees and boiling of sap is limited to the early spring.

The sugaring season begins in southern Vermont in late February and continues through March and well into April in northern Vermont. The sap flows when weather conditions provide the right combination of freezing nights and warmer days. To make one gallon syrup sugarmakers must boil down approximately forty gallons of sap.

Sugarmakers will have their welcome mats out for visitors this season, to watch the sap being boiled. Be sure to call ahead whether it is just to look around or to arrange a sugar-on-snow party. Some sugar makers offer horse and sleigh or wagon rides, and some have other scheduled festivities.

Here is a sampling of the many Vermont sugarhouses that welcome your visit. Wear warm and weatherproof clothing for touring sugarhouses and the sugarbush, and bring your sweet tooth!

Vermont Sugarhouses

Danville—Sugar Ridge Farm, Stephen & Diane Jones. 566 Stannard Mt. Rd., Danville, VT 05828. (802) 748-2318, 1-800-748-0892. sugarridgevt@juno.com. A short walk through the woods to an historic old sugarhouse with modern all stainless steel equipment. 7000-tap family operation. Maple syrup, sugar, cream and candy. Mail order our specialty, free brochure. Vermont Seal of Quality.

Dummerston—Dwight Miller Orchards, D. Read Miller. 511 Miller Rd., E. Dummerston, VT 05346. (802) 254-9635. Open year round. Mail order. Organic maple syrup, maple sugar. Also organic fruits: apples and cider year round.

East Montpelier—Bragg Farm Sugarhouse & Gift Shop, Douglas & Barbara Bragg. P.O. Box 201, East Montpelier, VT 05651. (1005 VT Rte. 14 North, 1 mi. north of East Montpelier Village, 5 miles from Barre or Montpelier.) 1-800-376-5757, (802) 223-5757. www.braggfarm.com. Open year round, daily from 8:30 am – 6 pm. Visit a tra-

ditional family-operated sugarhouse, 5 generations! 2,200 buckets, boiled with wood-fired arch. Large gift shop with food and maple products right on Rte. 14N. Mail order. Free tours and tasting, educational video, maple museum. Maple trail to walk. Maple creemees Fri, Sat & Sun. Public is welcome to enjoy our sugar-on-snow parties during March and April!

Ludlow—Green Mountain Sugar House, Ann & Doug Rose. 820 Rte. 100 N, Ludlow, VT 05149. (North of Ludlow on Rte 100 N. on the shore of Lake Pauline in the scenic lakes district.) (800) 643-9338, (802) 228-7151. gms@tds.net. www.gms.com. Open daily, year-round, 9–6. Easy-to-find sugarhouse, with charming gift shop attached with a very red roof! Sugaring parties arranged. Complimentary sugar-on-snow and other maple treats. Come see maple syrup being made and take some home.

Manchester—Dutton Farmstand, Paul and Wendy Dutton. Rt. 11/30, Manchester Center, VT 05255. (Rts. 11/30, up the mountain from center of Manchester Center, on left hand side across from Red Sled Motel.) (802) 362-3083. duttonbf@sover.net. www.duttonberryfarm.com. Open every day. 2,400 taps, buckets and tubing. Complete tour of sugarhouse and surroundings. Public welcome to our sugarhouse whenever we are boiling. Free syrup and cider samples. Farmstores open in Manchester and Newfane year round, W. Brattleboro from Spring on. Produce, greenhouses, maple products, baked goods and much more!

Montpelier—Morse Farm Maple Sugar Works, Burr Morse. 1168 County Road, Montpelier, VT 05602. (Follow signs north on Main Street in Montpelier. We are 2.7 miles from center of Montpelier.) (802) 223-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. Open seven days a week, in winter 9 am – 5 pm, in summer 8 am – 8 pm. The seventh and eighth generation of Morses currently produce syrup from 3000

maple trees. Large gift shop with maple products and goodies. Maple creemees. Sugarhouse tours and multimedia slide show—Morse Farm video. Woodshed Theater. Morse Farm Ski Touring Trail System, rentals available. Stop at the sugarhouse for a free voucher to ski. See our folk art sculptures and dioramas depicting Vermont farm life. Sugar-on-snow parties from noon to 4 p.m. every weekend in March.

Poultney—Green's Sugar House, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd., Poultney, VT 05764. (Take Rte. 140 east to East Poultney. Go 2 miles up Finel Hollow Rd. Sugarhouse is on the right.) (802) 287-5745. www.greensugarhouse.com. Open daily while boiling sap. Friendly family operation. 5,000 taps. Free syrup samples. Mail order. Maple syrup, maple cream, maple candy, maple fudge, and granulated maple sugar.

Putney—Harlow's Sugar House, Donald Harlow, 556 Bellows Falls Rd., Putney, VT 05346. (3 miles north Putney Village on Rte. 5, Exit 4, I-91.) (802) 387-5852. Open March 1 – Dec. 31 from 9 am – 5 pm. A family farm with working sugar house during the month of March. Year-round complete farm gift shop and seasonal farm stand and mail order.

There are many more sugarhouses to explore in Vermont. For a complete brochure of Vermont Sugarhouses contact Vermont Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Markets, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901. (802) 828-2500. Or visit these websites: www.vermontmaple.org, www.vermontagriculture.com.

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Favorite Old-Time Maple Recipes

by Ella Shannon Bowles
and Dorothy S. Towle

It is always a miracle when spring comes back to New England. Long before the first bluebird saucily skims by the kitchen window there are faint hints of the return of spring. You feel it in your bones even when the stone walls are hidden under deep drifts of snow. If you live in sugar country, early in February before the freezing nights and thawing days of sugar weather set in, you begin to think of sap dripping in the buckets hung on the maples, of sweet steam rising from the sugarhouse evaporator, of new maple molasses on breakfast pancakes.

New Englanders have used maple sugar since pioneer days. They learned the secrets of making it from the Indians. In fact, methods of making maple honey and sugar have not changed in their essentials since the Indian women hung elm bark buckets on the trees to receive, the "sweet water," and threw hot stones into the sap to make it boil.

A century ago and more, maple, as most people called it, was commonly used on the table to sweeten the breakfast porridge and the evening cup of tea. It was a staple pantry item. Children were given pails of maple sugar for their own use, and their mothers were lavish with it in their cooking. And a few pennies bought delicious heart-shaped sugar cakes and crinkly edged patties.

SUGAR-ON-SNOW

Here is a rule for Sugar-on-Snow, or leather aprons or frogs, if you prefer the country names. This is always served at sugaring-off parties held in the sugarhouses. But you can have sugar-on-snow even if you are miles from a maple orchard. All you need are a can of maple syrup and a pan full of clean snow. Fill large pans with closely packed snow. If you cannot get snow, use a flat cake of ice. Boil the maple syrup until it will wax, that is form a "soft" hard ball when dropped in cold water. Drop the syrup by large spoonfuls on the snow. It will form into shapes that may be twisted on forks or wooden skewers and lifted from the pan. Serve with plain doughnuts, pickles, and coffee.

MAPLE BUTTERNUT MUFFINS

If you have not tried maple sugar or maple syrup in muffins and rolls, you have a treat in store, particularly if butternuts are added. Butternuts are a natural combination with anything maple but you can also use pecans or walnuts.

2 cups flour	3 tbsp. melted shortening
2½ tsp. baking powder	1 egg
½ tsp. salt	1 cup milk
2 tbsp. maple spread	½ cup butternuts or pecans

Sift the dry ingredients. Mix the maple spread with the melted shortening and add the egg. Stir together until smooth. Mix in the milk gradually, and add to the dry ingredients. Remove the black skins from the butternuts. Chop the nuts and add them to the muffin mixture, and stir in quickly. Turn the batter into well-greased muffin tins and bake twenty minutes in a hot oven, 425°F. Makes one dozen muffins.



Sap buckets hang from an old maple at Green's Sugarhouse in Poultney, VT. photo by Pam Green

MAPLE PINWHEEL ROLLS

Use your favorite recipe for yeast rolls or for baking powder biscuits. Turn the dough on the bread board and roll out to about half-an-inch thick. Brush with melted butter and cover with one-half cup of shaved maple sugar. Sprinkle with chopped butternuts or walnuts. Roll up like a jelly roll and slice. Set the slices on end in a well-greased baking pan and spread the tops with butter. Bake in a hot oven, 475°F, for about twenty minutes.

OLD-FASHIONED MAPLE SUGAR 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.

FLO'S MAPLE CUSTARD PIE

3 eggs	Pinch of salt
1 teaspoon flour	3 cups milk
2 teaspoons white sugar	Uncooked pie shell
½ cup soft maple sugar	

Beat the eggs slightly. Mix the flour with the white sugar and combine with the maple sugar. Stir into the eggs and add the salt. Heat the milk and pour slowly over the mixture. Arrange the pie shell in a deep nine-inch crockery pie plate. Build up the edges and flute them with the thumb and forefinger. Prick the bottom and sides of the pie shell with a fork. Turn in the egg mixture and bake in a hot oven, 400°F, for ten minutes,

then reduce to 325°, and bake until the custard is set. The secret of this pie is not to beat the eggs too much, to heat the milk, and to get the pie shell baked during the first ten minutes of baking. If you prefer, prick the pie shell with a fork and bake for a few minutes in a hot oven. Then remove and turn in the filling and continue baking like custard.

NEW ENGLAND BUCKWHEAT CAKES

2 cups buckwheat	1 cup graham flour
1 teaspoon salt	Warm water
½ yeast cake	2 tablespoons molasses

Start the batter the night before you plan to serve the cakes for breakfast. Mix the buckwheat, graham flour, and salt with enough warm water to make a thick batter. Dissolve the yeast cake in a little lukewarm water and add with the molasses to the mixture. In the morning, if the batter seems too thick, thin it with warm water. If it smells at all sour, add one-fourth teaspoon soda dissolved in a little warm water. Stir the batter down, and when it rises again pour from the pitcher to form large cakes on a hot griddle. Bake like griddlecakes. Serve with butter or syrup. Makes twenty-four cakes.

MAPLE PANOCHA CANDY

1½ cups white sugar	Pinch of salt
1 cup maple sugar	½ teaspoon almond flavoring
1 cup milk	¾ cup chopped butternuts
1 tablespoon 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.

NUT CREAM MAPLE DISKS

2 cups sugar	1 cup water
¼ teaspoon cream of tartar	1 cup maple syrup
1 cup cream	2 cups walnuts

Mix the first five ingredients. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Boil without stirring to the soft ball stage. Take from the fire and cool by setting in a pan of cold water. When cool, beat until creamy. Add the walnut meats and drop by the spoonful onto waxed paper.



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GONE AWAY

BY CHARLES MALAM

When you forget, and all of us forget,
Until long dead are all the things we did
And what we said and tried to say here, yet,
Yet will there be in these fields where we hid
A wind blowing, and a sun in clover,
And an old muttering blackbird flying over,
And all, just as we left it last.—And they
Won't seem to mind that we have gone away...

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Ninth Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend

The Ninth Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend will be held at sugarhouses throughout Vermont, March 26-28, 2010. The Open House Weekend is a celebration of the maple syrup season in Vermont and an opportunity to visit sugarhouses throughout the state to learn about Vermont's first agricultural crop of the year.

Activities during Open House Weekend are different at each sugarhouse but include the opportunity to watch maple syrup being made (weather permitting) and to often sample syrup and other maple products. Some sugarhouses offer tours of their sugarbushes and some have special activities for children. There may even be horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides.

No two sugarhouses are the same so people are encouraged to visit more than one. "There is nothing

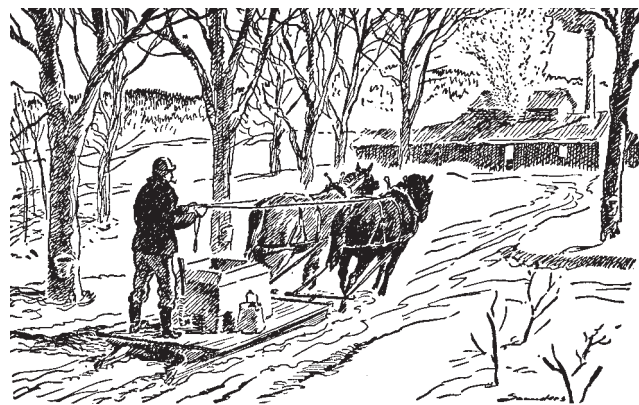
sweeter than visiting a local sugar house. From the tree to the table, you'll see firsthand why Vermonters make the finest maple syrup in the world," said Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Roger Allbee. There are approximately 2000 maple producers in Vermont which is the largest U.S. producer of maple syrup, producing 920,000 gallons of syrup in 2009.

Information about all of the participating maple syrup producers including which of the three days they will be open and directions to their sugarhouses can be found on www.vermontmaple.org or in the "2010 Vermont Ski & Year-round Maple Syrup Guide" which can be picked up at any Vermont Welcome Center, or by calling the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing at (800) 837-6668.



photo courtesy of Whitingham Maple Festival

The sap is boiling at this sugarhouse in Whitingham, VT!



Sugarmaker's Secrets

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So how about:

- On grapefruit, hot cereal and granola, for get up and go...
- Over plain yogurt for a healthy lunch...
- On winter squash or sweet potatoes—even the kids will like them...
- As a glaze on meat, especially ham and chicken, but also super in stir fry...
- Over ice cream—best on vanilla, because it lets the true maple flavor "come through." The most traditional Vermont dessert. An elegant choice for gourmet dining...
- In coffee, milk, or a milkshake (you gotta be a little naughty!)...
- On pancakes, waffles, and French toast (Sugarmakers are known to bring maple syrup with them when they travel so they won't have to stoop to using the artificial stuff)...

The use of Vermont Maple is limited only by your imagination. For a healthier and flavorful alternative, try it in place of white sugar. Experiment, you'll find it enhances many of your favorite dishes.



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Way Up In Old Vermont

There's a smell of maple sugar,
An entrancing steam of sap,
Tho' as yet the world-old mater
Holds big snow-banks on her lap.
And the wind is fit to chill us
And slaps us in the face
But we can stand the challenge
With good and silent grace.
We can easy bear the burden
Of things we do not want,
For we are making sugar
Way up in old Vermont.

March winds have
Raved and blustered,
To Spring they hold the key,
And the trumpet of the blue-jay
Calls up the chickadee.

And here's to recollections
Of childhood's kettle black
That held the seething nectar
In bubbling sweetness back!
The smoke pursued and blinded,
But nothing could us daunt,
For we were sugar-making
Way up in old Vermont.

We scraped the snow-crust neatly,
To spread the varnish thin,
Till a "hunk" of pork was needed
To keep it 'neath the rim.

We did the trick by sprinting,
Tho' chilblains pinched our toes,
While bright-hued freckles got in line
And marched across our nose.

But nothing mattered—life was young
And all a merry jaunt,
For we were sugaring for keeps
Way up in old Vermont.

It may have been the flavor
Of stick, or leaf, or bark,
That makes our mouths to water now
And words to memory hark.
It may have been the home folk,
It may have been the time—
It all was good and hot and sweet—
Thrilled through our veins like wine.

Ah, well! 'tis past, but the same sun
Throws shadows long and gaunt
And still we're making sugar
Way up in old Vermont.

—EVA EDGERTON AMES, 1924

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Springtime Concerts at Rutland's Grace Church

Grace Congregational Church will present a Concert of Spirituals on Sunday, March 7th at 7 p.m.

Under the direction of Rip Jackson, this concert features The Grace Church Festival Choir with soloists, trios, quartets and jazz piano. The program will include beautiful a cappella African-American spirituals, gospel music, African drumming and dancing, and South African freedom songs.

The Festival Choir will be

joined by Drum Journeys of the Earth, directed by Gary Meitrott, and The Studio Bliss African Dancers, led by Shelby Jones.

Pre-concert music by Drum Journeys of Earth will begin at 6:45 p.m. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the New Start Orphanage in Zimbabwe.

On Saturday, March 20th, the Grace Church Children's Choir and Joyful Noise (the teen choir) will present a Showcase of Talent at 7 p.m.

Classical and Broadway solo and choral singers, instrumentalists and dancers will celebrate the performing arts.

This variety show is being produced as a benefit for the RAVNA Hospice Program and Jenn Wright's Heal The Children Foundation. A free

will offering will be accepted.

Grace Congregational Church is located at 8 Court St. in downtown Rutland, VT.

For more information call (802) 775-4301, e-mail arborcelt@aol.com or visit www.gracechurchvt.org.

Annual "Let's Go Fishing" Instructor Training

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's "Let's Go Fishing" program is hosting its annual day-long Instructor Training Workshop on Saturday, March 13, 2010.

This year's workshop will be held at the Edward F. Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton, VT. The day's events begin with coffee and registration at 8:30 a.m.

The department is looking for individuals who have an interest in sharing their enthusiasm for fishing and teaching kids and their fami-

lies about it. As a certified instructor you can go back to your community and develop fishing clinics that are both fun, and state-certified.

There is no cost for the workshop but pre-registration is required. Call the Let's Go Fishing office at (802) 747-7900 or e-mail trish@gwriters.com to request an application form.

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25th Annual Festival of Quilts Comes to Rutland, VT

The Maple Leaf Quilters Guild will hold their 25th Festival of Quilts on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28, at the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, VT. In celebration of the silver anniversary show, there will be a display of viewers' choice quilts from earlier shows, along with Guild memorabilia.

Over 100 quilts, including traditional, contemporary, pieced, and appliquéd will be on exhibit. Guild member Paulette Martel of Cavendish, VT is the Featured Guild member, showing her used of mixed media techniques as a quilter. The featured quilter is traditionally a present or former Guild member.

Jane Masenas of Essex Junction, VT, is the Invitational Quilter. She creates unique crazy quilts, both traditional and contemporary in sizes from miniatures to larger wall hangings. She will be showing her newest quilt, "A Busy Garden" for the first time at a public event.

Embellishing with meticulous embroidery, beads and buttons, Masenas considers her crazy quilts to be a "green art." She finds treasures and inspiration for her quilts at antique stores, flea markets and yard sales. From old men's ties to vintage black beadwork panels "rescues" important pieces of someone else's past that otherwise might be lost. Gallery talks by Masenas are scheduled on both Saturday and Sunday.

Masenas is an active member of the Champlain Valley Quilt Guild, of Essex Junction, VT. Her quilts, and accompanying articles, have been published in Miniature Quilts magazine.

The antique quilt show, coordinated by Maxine Garfinkel of Rutland, will be scrap quilts and vintage butterfly quilts. Over 25 quilts are on loan from Guild members and friends of the Guild.

On display will be the Guild's 2010 Butterfly Fundraiser Quilt. Member Sue Ianni of West Rutland recently inherited approximately 1800 vintage butterfly appliqué pieces that had been carefully cut out many years ago by her mother and great aunt. Ianni offered a number of these butterflies to be used for the Fundraiser Quilt. Members assembled the butterfly quilt, which is professionally quilted by fellow member Janet Block of Rutland.

New this year is a Consignment Boutique where show attendees will find a variety of treasures. Potential items include antique quilts and quilt tops, vintage fabrics, contemporary fabrics, and new items created by the MLQ quilters.

Show highlights also include vendors, tea room, and a ticket auction of gift-filled baskets. There will be ongoing demonstrations by vendors and Guild members. Guild volunteers will be on the exhibit floor to answer questions.



Marcia Shipman preparing quilts for hanging in the show.

photo by Diana Paquette

The Festival of Quilts is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday and is handicapped accessible. There is an admission charge.

Directions to The College of St. Joseph in Rutland, VT: from Rt. 7 going south of the intersection of 7 & 4, turn right onto Madison St. through the traffic light onto River St. Follow River St. over the tracks to the end, turn right and the college is a short distance around the corner on your left.

The Maple Leaf Quilt Guild was formed in 1981 to encourage the art of quilting in the Rutland area. For additional information call (802) 273-3064, email mlqshow2010@yahoo.com or visit the MLQ website at www.mapleleafquilters.org.

A Stitch in Time Saves Nine...

I'm quite content to sit and mend,
And mend the tears in the pants of those
Who hurry about and stretch and bend,
And reach and pull and rip their clothes.

To do brave deeds. For derring-do
Can't do so well with seams apart,
Bare skin for patches, peeking through—
Can upset anyone's apple-cart.



A patch of sunshine, patch of blue,
What about patchwork in days of yore?
The Hathaway man with his eye-patch too,
Patches on blue jeans—haute couture?

And what of The Thinker, hand on chin,
Does he need patches and stitches too?
Will his thoughts flow thick, and his blood grow thin
If his fundament with a chill turns blue?

The seats of the mighty, do they need mending?
The seat of learning, is it threadbare?
I've been stitching in time, times without ending,
Where are the nines I've been saving, oh where?

—ELISABETH DOREN



Visitors view the quilts on display at the Festival of Quilts in Rutland, VT. photo by Diana Paquette

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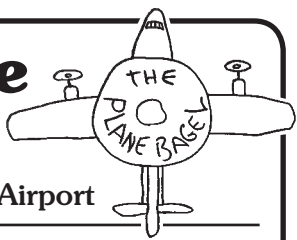
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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

STATEWIDE. Ninth Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. Visit sugarhouses all over the state. Special activities, tours, samples. Look for roadside signs or plan where to go with a copy of the "2010 Vermont Ski & Year-round Maple Syrup Guide" which can be picked up at any Vermont Welcome Center, or by calling the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing at (800) 837-6668. Or visit www.vermontmaple.org. *March 26-28.*

BARRE. Exhibits: "Give Us Some Blues" and "Installation and Multimedia Works" by Emily N Wilson. *March 2 through April 17.* Free. Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-4. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

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

BENNINGTON. Exhibit: "Vermont Impressions." Drawn from the Bennington Museum's permanent collection, this exhibition features paintings in the impressionist vein dating largely from 1900 to 1950. Admission: adults, \$9; seniors, \$8; students through grade 12, free. Open daily, 10 am - 5 pm, closed Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org. *Through April 30.*

BRADFORD. Exhibit: "Rural Vermont's Activist Farmers—Photos & Stories." Featuring photos & interviews telling the stories behind Rural Vermont's farmer-activist Board of Directors. On display at the Bradford Public Library. Free opening night reception with refreshments and live storytelling about the farmers and foods sustaining rural communities, on Wed, March 3rd, 6:30-8 pm. For more info call (802) 223-7222 or visit www.ruralvermont.org. *March 3-31.*

BRANDON. Sixth Annual "Art in the Snow" Winter Weekend Celebration of the Arts. Over twenty artist studios and galleries: folk and fabric artists, potters and painters, sculptors, jewelers, open studios. Demonstrations, artist talks, wine tasting parties, evening music, snow sculpture in the park. Free admission. Sat. 11 am - 4:30 pm, Sun. 11 am - 2:30 pm. Throughout the village. (802) 247-4956. www.artinthesnow.com. *February 27 & 28, March 27 & 28.*

BRATTLEBORO. 19th Annual Women's Film Festival. Over 30 Vermont, US and international films by or about women. Admission. See web site for full schedule of films and locations. At Latchis, Hooker-Dunham, and New England Youth Theaters. (802) 257-0098. buhlmann49@gmail.com. www.womensfilmfestival.org. *Through March 12-21.*

BRATTLEBORO. 4th Annual Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market. Over 30 vendors. Fresh local produce, cider, baked goods, jewelry, crafts, holiday wreathes, hot lunches, live music, cafe seating. 10 am to 3 pm at the Winter Garden, downtown on Main St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. *March 13 and 27.*

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Area Shape Note Singing. Everyone welcome to come sing, potluck snacks. 1:30-4:30 pm each third Sunday. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 16 Bradley Ave. For information please call Peter Amidon, (802) 257-1006. www.fasola.org.

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

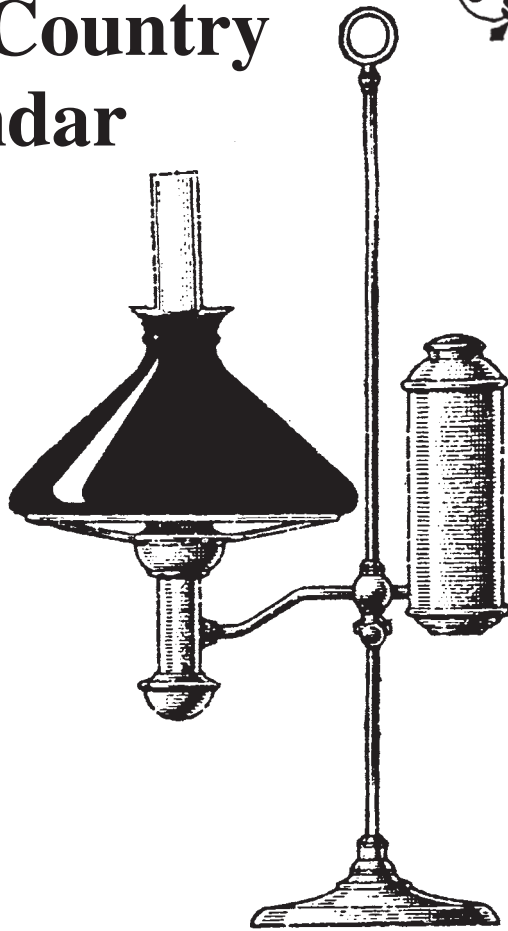
BRATTLEBORO. Gallery Walk. Monthly celebration of the arts in downtown and nearby locations. 40-50 or more exhibit openings, many with meet-the-artist receptions and live music, plus occasional readings, dance, circus arts, theater, and more. Free. First Fridays from 5:30-8:30 pm. (802) 257-2616. www.gallerywalk.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Open Mic. Longest running in the area! 7:30-11 pm at Adagio Trattoria, 123 Main St. Hosted by Kevin Parry. To sign up for a 20 minute slot call (802) 254-6046. www.kevinparrymusic.com. *Every Thursday.*

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

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

BURLINGTON. Play: *Shipwrecked.* An Entertainment—The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (as Told by Himself). \$27 adults, \$24.30 students. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. vtstage@vtstage.org. www.vtstage.org. *March 10-28.*



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

CHESTER. Activities at Gassetts Grange Hall. Bingo, with refreshments on sale in the kitchen, every Thurs 6:30-9 pm, doors open at 4:30 pm. Craft workshops, everyone welcome, every Thurs 2-4 pm, free refreshments and coffee, info: Bonnie, (802) 875-3500. Monthly community breakfast March 6, 8-10 am, \$5 donation. Squaredance March 6, 7-11 pm with music by Green Mountain Express and Friends, Arnold Stoddard caller. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For more information call Dave (802) 875-2637.

CHESTER. Gallery 103. Dedicated to promoting fine American Craft and Design, with an exclusive showroom of Junker Studio Ironwork. Monthly "Featured Artists." Owned and operated by Elise & Payne Junker. Gallery is open Thurs-Mon, 10 am - 5 pm. On Rt. 103, just south of town. (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

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

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

EAST CHARLESTON. NorthWoods Stewardship Center. Programs, workshops and special events in all seasons. Programs in Jan and Feb include: Tai Chi, Snowshoe Hikes, Cheese-Making at Home, Winter Birding, Winter Tree ID, Ski Touring, and Mitten Felting. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

EDEN MILLS. Dog Sledding. Tour the woods and meadows with friendly home-raised Alaskan Huskies on specially designed trails. Overnight lodging available. Eden Dog Sledding at Eden Mt. Lodge, off Rt. 100 north of Morrisville. Call Jim Blair for rates and reservations. (802) 635-9070. www.edendogsledding.com.

GRAFTON. Exhibit: Art and Nature Photographs by Jeff Scott. Family programs and activities. Open Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 1-4. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. lillianwillis@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, and gift shop. Open Tues thru Sat 10-5, Sun 1-4 pm. Admission \$5. Museum is downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

GREENSBORO. SKI-INN at Highland Lodge. Group ski every Thursday through March 11. Highland Lodge, 1608 Craftsbury Rd. (802) 533-2647. info@highlandlodge.com. www.highlandlodge.com.

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

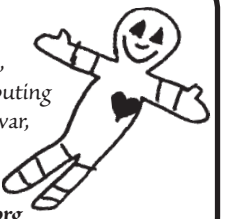
LEBANON, NH. ValleyNet Community Technology Center. 10-seat computer lab in the new Grafton County Senior Citizens Council building, Campbell St., downtown. Center is open for walk-ins 9 am - 4:30 pm, Mon-Fri. Free. (802) 649-2126.

LEBANON, NH. Slow Fiddle Jam. Any traditional style, any instrument. 7-8 pm every Monday at the Upper Valley Music Center, 63 Hanover St. (603) 4448-1642. www.uvmusic.org.

Rag Dolls 2 Love

A non-profit organization dedicated, through volunteers, to making and distributing soft cloth dolls to children affected by war, natural disaster, or serious illness.

Elizabeth Winters, Director
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Vermont Cou

(Ongoing events continued)

LEBANON, NH. The Lebanon Winter Farmers' Market. Fresh food products, winter vegetables, free music. Every third Saturday through April. 10 am - 1 pm. Lebanon United Methodist Church. (603) 448-5121. lebanonfarmersmarket.org.

LEBANON, NH. Exhibits year-round. Free admission. The galleries at AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117 or www.avagallery.org.

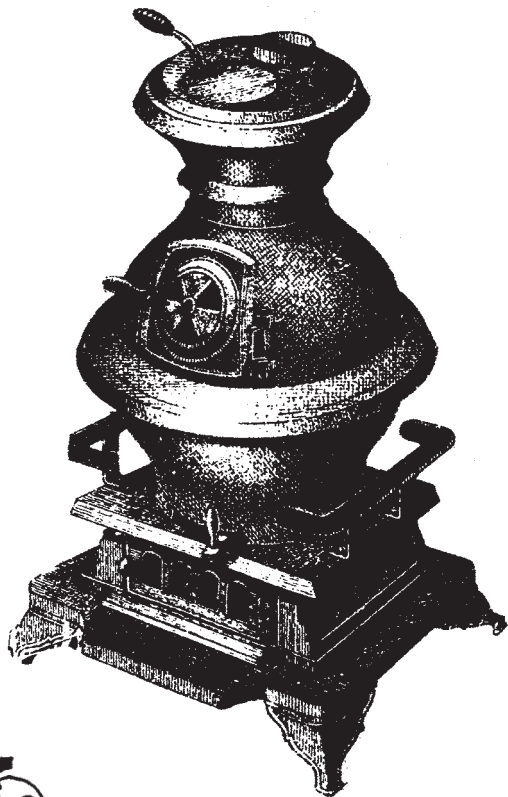
LUDLOW. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts. Classes and workshops. For information or to request a catalog, contact (802) 228-8770. www.fletcherfarm.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Project Snowman 2010. The Wildflower Inn is encouraging families to get together this winter to build a snowman. Open to anyone anywhere. To be entered in a drawing to win a free seven-night stay at the inn, families need to submit a photo of themselves and their snowman! Bentley Village at The Wildflower Inn, 2059 Darling Hill Rd. (802) 626-8310. www.projectsnowman2010.com. www.wildflowerinn.com. Through March 31.

MANCHESTER. Visit historic Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln. Mansion, grounds and walking tours. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Programs and holiday events. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Tickets: \$12.50 adults, \$5 youth, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene. www.hildene.org.

MANCHESTER. Riley Rink. Southern Vermont's largest indoor skating facility with area's only Olympic-sized ice rink. Public skating hours, hockey leagues, ice skating programs, skate rentals, pro shop. Great food concession—breakfast, lunch and dinner. Riley Rink at Hunter Park, off Rt. 7 just north of town. (802) 362-0150. info@hunterpark.com. www.rileyrink.com.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Art Center. Exhibits, special events, workshops. Off West Rd. (802) 362-1405. info@svac.org. www.svac.org.



MIDDLEBURY. Exhibit: American Paintings and Prints from Shelburne Museum. 30 works representing American artists working in urban and rural areas before 1900. Works by Thomas Cole, Edward Hicks, Fitz Hugh Lane, Martin Johnson Heade, and George Durrie, and others. Free. Middlebury College Museum of Art. (802) 443-5000. CFA@middlebury.edu. www.middlebury.edu. February 12 through June 6.

MIDDLEBURY. Exhibit: "Greece vs. Rome. The 18th-Century Quest for the Sources of Western Civilization." Piranesi prints of ancient Rome and plates from Stuart and Revett's Antiquities of Athens document the debate that pervaded Rome during the Middlebury College Museum of Art. (802) 443-3168. January 7 through April 18.

MORRISVILLE. Lamoille Valley Year-Round Farmers Artisan Market. 3-6:30 pm. River Arts. manager@farmersartisanmarket.com. www.farmersartisanmarket.com. Every Wednesday.

NORWICH. Montshire Museum. Exhibits, workshops, events, and family activities year-round. 10 am - 5 pm. Montshire Museum, One Montshire Place, off Rt. 5. (802) 649-2200. montshire@montshire.org. www.montshire.org.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Opening for Spring on March 13, 10 am - 4 pm. On Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. www.maplemuseum.com.

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

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

PROCTORSVILLE. Sit n' Knit. Bring your fiber project (knit, crochet, spin, felt, quilt, etc) share expertise, bring questions, sip tea. Free. 6-9 pm at Six Loose Ladies Shop, #7 Depot St., On-The-Green. (802) 226-7373. www.fiberartsinvermont.org. Continues every Thursday.

PUTNEY. Art Show! Bounty: A Celebration of Vermont's Farming Artists. Opening reception on February 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sponsored by UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture. At The Currier Gallery at the Putney School. (802) 656-9140 or rschattm@uvm.edu. February 22 - March 30.

QUECHEE. VINS Nature Center. Nature Store open 10 am - 5 pm, exhibits till 4 pm. Admission: adults \$10, seniors \$9, youth (3-18) \$8, children 2 and under free. 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Open year round, dawn to dusk. Annual Maple Festival March 27. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. ArtHop Rutland: Second Friday Night, Art & Culture Event. 5-8 pm. Downtown and around town (guides available at participating locations). arthoprutland.blogspot.com. arthoprutland@gmail.com

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

RUTLAND. Exhibits, Workshops, Classes. Chaffee Art Center/Rutland Area Art Association, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. WalkRutland. Get out and get your exercise with friends and neighbors in volunteer-led groups. Lots of great locations and convenient schedules. Call for the schedule in your town or to volunteer. (802) 775-0555. www.WalkRutland.com.

RUTLAND. Winter Farmers Market. The downtown Rutland Farmers Market moves indoors till Spring! Produce, prepared food vendors, artisanal cheeses, varied crafts, eggs, meats, mushrooms, peanut brittle, breads, baked goods, sweet breads, cider, wine, maple, live local entertainment. 10 am to 2 pm every Saturday through May 8. Located in the Old Strand Theater (enter through the Rutland Natural Food Co-Op at 77 Wales St.). For more info call Greg Cox (802) 683-4606. vtfarmersmarket.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main St. Arts. 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. Sleigh rides while there's snow. Eight miles of walking trails in woodlands and meadows. Walkers, check in with the Welcome Center. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

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

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

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. First Wednesdays Lecture Series. 7 pm. Also seminars, exhibits, writers' group, scrabble club. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. Free. (802) 748-8291. www.stjathenaeum.org/events.htm. igelber@stjathenaeum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Winter Farmers Market. Seasonal produce, Vermont-made products, art, crafts. Welcome Center, Railroad Street. (802) 592-3088. On the first Saturday of each month through April.

STOWE. Winter Exhibit. Wafaa Bilal: "Agent Intellect." Questions our ever increasing dissolution of reality we are exchanging for virtual landscapes. Adults \$5, seniors and students \$3, children free. Wed-Sun 12-5 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. mail@helenday.com. www.helenday.com. January 21 through April 4.

STOWE. Vermont Fine Art Gallery 10th Anniversary Winter Show. Tues-Sat 10:30 am - 5:30 pm, Mon 11:30 am - 3:30 pm. Sun by Appointment. Vermont Fine Art Gallery in the Gale Farm Center, 1880 Mountain Rd. #3. (802) 253-9653. vtfineartgallery@aol.com. www.vermontfineartgallery.com. February 1 through March 31.

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

WALLINGFORD. Lunch at the First Congregational Church of Wallingford. Come alone or bring a friend or neighbor. Free. Thursdays beginning Feb. 26, 11:30 am - 1 pm. (802) 446-2817. www.wallingfordvt.com.



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*See store for details.

Country Calendar



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

BARRE. 4th Annual Kaleidoscope of Talent. Local vocalists, instrumentalists, comedians and dance groups. 7-9 pm. Spaulding High School Auditorium. (802) 229-9532. nzorn@gmunitiedway.org. www.gmunitiedway.org.

BRANDON. Sixth Annual "Art in the Snow" Winter Weekend Celebration of the Arts. Over twenty artist studios and galleries: folk and fabric artists, potters and painters, sculptors, jewelers, open studios. Demonstrations, artist talks, wine tasting parties, evening music, snow sculpture in the park. Free admission. Sat. 11 am - 4:30 pm, Sun. 11 am - 2:30 pm. Throughout the village. (802) 247-4956. www.artinthesnow.com. Also February 28, March 27 & 28.

CHESTER. Craft Fair & Flea Market. 9 am - 4 pm. The Green Mountain Banquet & Conference Center, Rt. 103 South. (802) 875-6009. Also February 28.

HARTLAND. Famous Annual Roast Beef Suppers. Prime Rib, homemade rolls, potatoes, gravy, cole slaw, homemade pies, beverages, and more. \$12 adults, \$6 children 10 and under. No reservations. 5-7 pm. Hartland Congregational (Brick) Church, off Rt. 5. (802) 436-2792. Saturdays through March 13.

JAMAICA. Winter Snowshoe Outing. West River Trail to the Ledges Overlook. Three miles, moderate. Start at 9 am. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Dave Charis-Mink, (802) 874-4275, jwolf@sover.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Winter Carnival & Chili Contest. Free chili, free live music, and free treats for all! Over 50 different kinds of chili to sample. Ice skating, snowshoe races, dogsled demo. (802) 388-4126. www.middbiz.org.

MIDDLEBURY. A Capella Performance: *Voices*. Combines unique, international vocal tones and techniques—such as Tuvan throat singing, Balinese monkey-chanting, and hip-hop's beat-boxing—with the rich sounds of diverse a cappella singing styles, including doo-wop, Bulgarian choirs, barbershop quartets, South African miners' songs, and Gregorian chants. Admission. 8 pm. McCullough Social Space, Middlebury College. (802) 443-3168. CFA@middlebury.edu. www.middlebury.edu.

NORWICH. Muskeg Music Contradance. Led by Ruth Sylvester, music by Cuckoo's Nest. Bring a clean, soft-soled shoes. All dances taught, no partner necessary, and beginners welcome! Admission \$8, under 16 are free, and over 60 by donation. 8 pm. At Tracy Hall. Info: Rick Barrows (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Also March 27.

QUECHEE. Full Moon Family Foray. Venture out on snowshoes under the light of the full moon. Special raptor visit from our own "Tiger of the Night." Fee: \$8, please register by Feb. 20. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000 x 223. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. Presentation and Discussion: Under Our Skin with Dr. Court Vreeland. Are you a hunter, hiker or outdoor person? Do you unusual symptoms that don't make sense? Have you been diagnosed with Lyme disease? Refreshments. \$10 per person. Movie at 1 pm, discussion follows. Held at Three Stallion Inn, Stock Farm Rd. Please call to reserve by 2/24: (802) 649-3122. For more information: www.vreelandclinic.com.

RICHMOND. Little River History Hike. Hike or snowshoe to visit the remnants of the abandoned settlement west of Waterbury Reservoir. The trails follow ancient roads. Stone fences, cellar hole, and cemeteries remain, but only one building. Easy hike, leisurely pace, seven miles. Meet us at the Richmond Park and Ride at 9 am sharp. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Joe Frank, (802) 862-1817 or jefrank2@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Garden Program: Design a Mixed Border Using Native Plants. Presented by Charlotte Albers. Sponsored by Friends of the Horticulture Farm. Fee \$10. 10 am - noon. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. RSVP to (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthhortfarm.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The 10th Annual Northeast Kingdom's Wabanaki Run—A Primitive Biathlon Winter Shoot. Participants and spectators welcome. Vendors, food, outdoor family fun. Sponsored by the The Caledonia Forest and Stream Club. 8 am - 3 pm. Rain or shine. 4-1/2 miles north of St. Johnsbury on US Rt. 5, then across the bridge on Pierce Rd. (802) 748-2113.

STOWE. XC Ski at Stowe Mountain Cross-Country Ski Center. All abilities, various distances. Meet at Montpelier H.S. at 9 am, or after lunch at 1 pm at the ski center. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Marilyn Wilson, (802) 229-9851. www.greenmountainclub.org.

STRATTON. Ski Grout Pond. Reliable snow at elevation, suitable for beginners. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call George Roy at (603) 399-7756.

THETFORD. Snowshoe or XC Ski in Thetford State Park. Free. For details call Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Family Program: Winter by Moonlight. A guided hike (bring snowshoes if you have them) followed by hot chocolate, cookies, and sledding by torchlight. All ages welcome—dress warmly! Fee: \$4. Please pre-register. 7 pm at the Bonneyvale Environmental Education Center on Heifer Hill. (802) 257-5785. www.beec.org.

WEST NEWBURY. Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing, squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller. 8 pm at the Community Hall on Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 484-7719 or adamboyce@juno.com. Continues every fourth Saturday.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

BRANDON. 6th Annual Art in the Snow. A Winter Weekend Celebration of the Arts. Over two dozen artists open their studios with more exhibits throughout the village. Specials from merchants, restaurants and inns. 11 am - 2:30 pm. (802) 247-4956. www.artinthesnow.com.

WEST NEWBURY. Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller. 8 pm at the Community Hall on Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 484-7719 or adamboyce@juno.com. Fourth Saturdays.

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

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

WEST RUTLAND. Exhibit: "In Flanders Fields." The artist's attempt to add her "silent scream" to the human chorus of those for whom war is anathema. Free. Open Sat and Sun, 1-4 pm, or by appointment. Carving Studio & Sculpture Center Gallery, 259 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. info@carvingstudio.org. www.carvingstudio.org. Through March 28.

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Public Sitting & Walking Meditation. Free meditation instruction at most of these times: Sun 9 am - 12 noon, Mon 6-6:30 pm (ages 18-35), Tues 5:30-6:30 pm, Wed 5:30-6:30 pm, Thurs 12-1 pm. Shambhala Meditation Center of White River, 158 South Main St. (802) 785-4304. whiteriver.shambhala.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Listen Community Dinner. Free nutritious meals served 5:15-5:45 pm every Monday and Wednesday, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave. (603) 448-4553.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Second Hand Rose Shop at the United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. is open Wednesdays from noon to 3 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio. 85 N. Main St., Suite 160. (802) 295-5901. www.tworiversprintmaking.com.

WILMINGTON. Adams Farm. Tour the livestock barn, see the animals, and visit the farm store. Special events and sleigh rides. Call for rates and reservations. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com.

WILMINGTON. Sleigh Rides at Adams Farm. Ride in a horse-drawn sleigh through the countryside; then stop at a cozy log cabin in the woods for hot cocoa and music from the antique player piano. Tuesday through Sunday, weather permitting. Call for reservations. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com.

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

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

WOODSTOCK. Maple Sugaring Season at Sugarbush Farm. Free admission, lots of samples. Open daily 9-5. Sugarbush Farm, 591 Sugarbush Farm Rd. (802) 457-1757. sugarbushfarm.com. March 1 - April 11.

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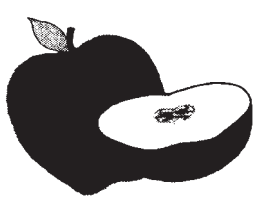
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Vermont Country Calendar

(February 28 continued)

BROWNINGTON. Old Fashioned Kitchen Junket & Sliding Party. Bring your skis and sleds to slide on trails around the museum grounds. Fiddling and dancing in the kitchen of the Hall House. Refreshments. Old Stone House Museum, 109 Old Stone House Rd. (802) 754-2022. www.oldstonehousemuseum.org.

CHESTER. Craft Fair & Flea Market. 9 am - 4 pm. The Green Mountain Banquet & Conference Center, Rt. 103 South. (802) 875-6009.

HARDWICK. Adam Boyce presents "Old Time Rules Will Prevail: The Fiddle Contest in Vermont" at the Jeudevine Memorial Library starting at 3 pm. Free. For information, contact jeudevine@hotmail.com or call (802) 472-5948.

KILLINGTON. Hike to Gifford Woods on the Long Trail & Appalachian Trail. Snowshoes will be needed. Moderate, 3.5 miles. A joint outing with the Ottauquechee and Killington Sections of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Dorothy Sullivan, (802) 436-2019. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Pianist Natasha Kovel-Paden performs an all-Chopin program in honor of his 200th birthday. Free. 4 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, Middlebury College. (802) 443-3168. CFA@middlebury.edu. www.middlebury.edu.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich (Carol Compton, Thal Aylward, and guests), calling by Chris Levey. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners welcome! Bring refreshments to share at break. Admission \$7, \$4 under 25. 3-6 pm. At Tracy Hall. Info: Chris at (802) 785-4121. Also March 28, April 11.

STOWE. 65th Annual Stowe Derby. 16km downhill cross country adventure down Mt. Mansfield and into Stowe! Includes a 6km race perfect for kids 5 and up. Kick sleds races, games, food. Register 8-10:30 am. Fee. Stowe High School for bib pick up. 413 Barrows Rd. (802) 253-7704. stowederby@teammmsc.org. www.stowederby.com.

UNDERHILL CENTER. Snowshoe on Mansfield Ridge. From Underhill State Park, we'll head up Sunset Ridge to the Mansfield Chin (summit), then follow the ridge to the Forehead and return via Maple Ridge and the CCC road. Sponsored by Burlington Section of Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Call David Hathaway by 2/25 at (802) 899-9982 or David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 1

BRATTLEBORO. Domino Toppling III. The Perrucci Brothers of Perkasio, Pennsylvania build, then topple, an original domino course made up of tens of thousands of handmade dominoes. Admission. 5:30 pm. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

POULTNEY. Special Matinee Screening of "How Green Was My Valley." In honor of St. David's Day and the local Slate Valley's Welsh heritage. Open to the public, freewill offering. 1:30 pm at Tiny Theater, Poultnery's newest movie theater, 153 Main St. (802) 287-9511.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

BENNINGTON. Lecture: "Alpaca: From Commodity to Branded Luxury." Sandra Jordan developed a green business plan to benefit local economic development while producing treasured Alpaca fiber in her native Peru. Free. 2:45 pm. Southern Vermont College, Everett Mansion Theatre, 982 Mansion Dr. (802) 447-6388. communications@svc.edu. www.svc.edu.

CLARENDON. Traditional Election Day Pot-Luck Supper. Food provided, just bring your appetites! Tickets at the door: adults \$6, children \$3, under 3 free. 4:30 pm until all are served. At the Clarendon Grange Community Center, Moulton Ave. (Rt. 7B). (802) 773-7861.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy: Masters of the Fiddle. Foot-tapping rave-ups, heart-wrenching ballads, and world-class step dancing. Tickets \$45. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-9878. tickets@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org. Also March 3.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

BRADFORD. Free Opening Night Reception for the Exhibit: Rural Vermont's Activist Farmers—Photos & Stories. Refreshments and live storytelling about the farmers and foods sustaining rural communities. 6:30-8 pm at the Bradford Public Library. For more info call (802) 223-7222 or visit www.ruralvermont.org. Exhibit March 3-31.

MONTPELIER. Theater: "A Room of One's Own." Reenactment of Virginia Wolff's life, in period dress, through the eyes of her sister, Vanessa Bell. In a monologue by Sarah Payne in three dramatic scenes, the audience is introduced to the Bloomsbury artists and writers, Wolff's writing, and finally her friendship with the notorious Vita Sackville-West. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 1 pm. Noble Lounge, Vermont College of Fine Arts. (802) 223-1763.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy: Masters of the Fiddle. Foot-tapping rave-ups, heart-wrenching ballads, and world-class step dancing. Tickets \$45. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. tickets@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

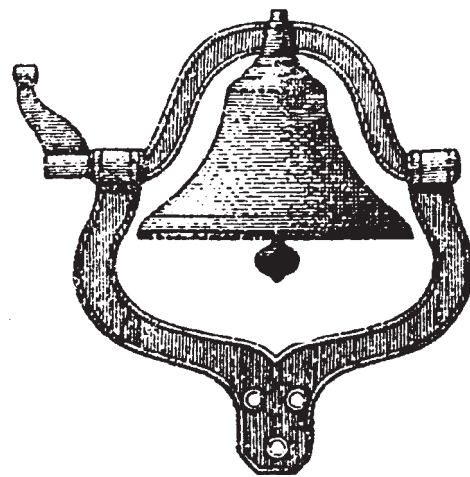
ST. JOHNSBURY. First Wednesdays Lecture Series: "Problem Solving in the Middle East and South Asia." Retired CIA Chief of Counterterrorism Haviland Smith considers the regional rivalries and conflicts. Free. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 748-8291. www.stjathenaeum.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

JOHNSON. Performance: *Dear Edwina*. A bright, fast-paced musical about 13-year old Edwina Spoonapple and friends, who put on an advice-giving show for the neighborhood in Edwina's garage. Admission. 7 pm. Johnson State College, Dibden Center for the Arts. (802) 635-1476. jscdibden.boxoffice@jsc.edu. www.jsc.edu/DibdenCenterForTheArts/. Through March 6.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

BURLINGTON. Classical Concert. Haochen Zhang performs. This 19 year-old Van Cliburn Gold Medalist was the youngest participant in the competition. First prize winner of the 2007 China International Piano Competition. Admission. UVM Recital Hall. (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu/laneseries.



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Stowe Notes, March 1913

by Edward Martin Taber

There's so strong a spring feeling, so little prospect of a rally on the part of the defeated Winter, that I fear I have had my last sight for the year of the mountains—the blue, blue, snow-covered hills sleeping in the golden afternoon sunlight.

In the valley the cocks are crowing. I was in the sugarwood for some time, both in the morning and afternoon. Active preparations for sugaring had begun. A tub was set on a slight eminence about fifty yards from the sugarhouse, and in this the sap is to be emptied from a wagon in which the pails are collected. A tin pipe runs from this tub to the large wooden vats serving as reservoirs, stationary in the building. The temperature was about twenty-nine

degrees, the wind was raw, from the northeast a slight snowfall sifted through the boughs.

A strange, silent, echoless place is the sugarwood. The men were there drawing out lumber—shadowless but substantial forms, they concentrated in their persons all the color of the colorless scene—the leathery hue of their faces, the yellow of their sheepskin leggings, their homespun blue overalls and blouses. The oxen were a yellowish white and the red flecking was conspicuous.

In the afternoon the wind came up sharp and blustering from the northwest, dispersing the clouds. The fields looked dry and gray; the ruts began to freeze. But after I got home the wind had gone down. The air was pleasantly cold. I walked through the swamp and across the rocky part of the west pasture, following a fox's track.

The golden afternoon light brought out colors vividly. It was profoundly silent, except that the escape of air or water below the

ice I stood upon made a soft popping sound. There was a singing in my ears like the hum of flies; the air was slightly damp. There was an indescribable suggestion of Spring in the air, its charm more delicate than that of any other season.

Even while these thoughts were in my mind, came the winter note of a chickadee, the faint lisp and "day-day-day." Coming home, I noticed the tracks of hares.

Back inside two gnats danced in the room at twilight, up and down, up and down, up and down, then suddenly horizontally, then

the vertical motion again, like visible points on an invisible leader's baton.

After dinner, somewhere about seven o'clock, the west was still alight

with a singular arrangement of clouds. Over Sterling there was a white mist like snow; the north looked bleak and inhospitable. Twilight closed in early. The snow was sifting over the fields on a southwest wind, that about three o'clock blew boisterously.

I went out driving around by Gold Brook. It was typical March weather; the roads were actually drying off in the wind. The fields looked their palest, most dry and colorless was all the landscape. It being Monday, which I take to be a universal washing day, clothing flapped upon the lines.

It began to snow as I crossed the pastures to the south wood, a dense and blinding storm. The large and slowly falling flakes, whirling down out of the gray sky, seemed to weigh down my eyelids, causing my glance to decline with them to the ground.

Of late, on these gray cloud-tattered skies, an Indian file of crows, clamoring as they go, gives a wild kind of charm.

"There was an indescribable suggestion of Spring in the air, its charm more delicate than that of any other season."

Vermont Country Calendar

MIDDLEBURY. Concert with Iris Dement. One of our most celebrated country-folk performers. Born in rural Paragould, AK, the youngest of 14 children, she made her recording debut in 1992 with *Infamous Angel*, and recorded four duets with John Prine earning her a Grammy nod. Sponsored by After Dark Music Series. Tickets \$30. 7 pm at the The Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row. (802) 388-0216. aftdark@sover.net. www.afterdarkmusicseries.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Musical: *The Gondoliers*. Main Street Arts 11th Annual Gilbert & Sullivan Production. Advance tickets \$15 adults and \$10 students; at the door \$17 and \$12. On sale at Main Street Arts, Village Square Booksellers, Brattleboro Books, Putney Books or Misty Valley Books or online at MainStreetArts.org/tickets. Performance also on March 6, 11, 12, and 13 at 7:30 pm, Sunday matinees March 7 and 14 at 3 pm. (802) 869-2960. www.MainStreetArts.org.

SHELburne. Two-Day Workshop: ABCs of Farm Education. Develop agricultural education programs with easy-to-use activities from Project Seasons. Learn to market your farm program to schools and the community. Fee: \$200, including materials & meals. Scholarships available. Shelburne Farms, 1161 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-0325, ecurry@shelburnefarms.org. farmbasededucation.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Art of Action Statewide Exhibition. A collaboration with Lyman Orton, Janice Izzi, and the Vermont Arts Council, this project commissions visual artists to create works that address issues identified by Vermonters as essential to our state's future. Free. 8-5 pm. St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. (802) 751-2366. mreis@stjacademy.org. www.stjohnsburyacademy.org. Through March 12.

WATERBURY CENTER. Turkey Take-Out Dinner. Menu: turkey and gravy, stuffing, potato, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls and dessert. Pick-up your dinner between 4-6 pm. Tickets \$8. Waterbury Center Community Church, next to Cider Mill, Rt. 100. For reservations call (802) 244-8089. bbtravelers@aol.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Art Class: Etching Basics with Rachel Gross. Meet on four Fridays. 10 am - 1 pm. Fee: \$185 plus \$20 materials fee. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 N. Main St. (802) 295-5901. www.tworiversprintmaking.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

HARTLAND. Famous Annual Roast Beef Suppers. Prime Rib, homemade rolls, potatoes, gravy, cole slaw, homemade pies, beverages, and more. \$12 adults, \$6 children 10 and under. No reservations. 5-7 pm. Hartland Congregational (Brick) Church, off Rt. 5. (802) 436-2792. Also March 13.

HINESBURG. Screening: *Once in Afghanistan*—a film by Jill Vickers & Jody Bergedick. Returned Peace Corps volunteers recall their experiences as female members of Afghan male vaccination teams in the late 60s. Free and open to the public. 7 pm at Brown Dog Books & Gifts, 22 Commerce St., #3. (802) 482-5189. nml1961@yahoo.com. www.indiebound.org.

JOHNSON. Performance: *Dear Edwina*. A bright, fast-paced musical about 13-year old Edwina Spoonapple and friends. Admission. 7 pm. Johnson State College, Dibden Center for the Arts. (802) 635-1476. jscdibden.boxoffice@jsc.edu. www.jsc.edu/DibdenCenterForTheArts/.

RUTLAND. The Jungle Jack Hanna Show. Returning after two sold out shows last season! Animal expert Jack Hanna has become a household name. His live show features many of his favorite animal friends, as well as fascinating stories and footage from his adventures around the world. Tickets: \$24.50; 18 & under, \$19.50. 1 & 6 pm at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903 or www.ParamountTickets.org. www.jackhanna.com.

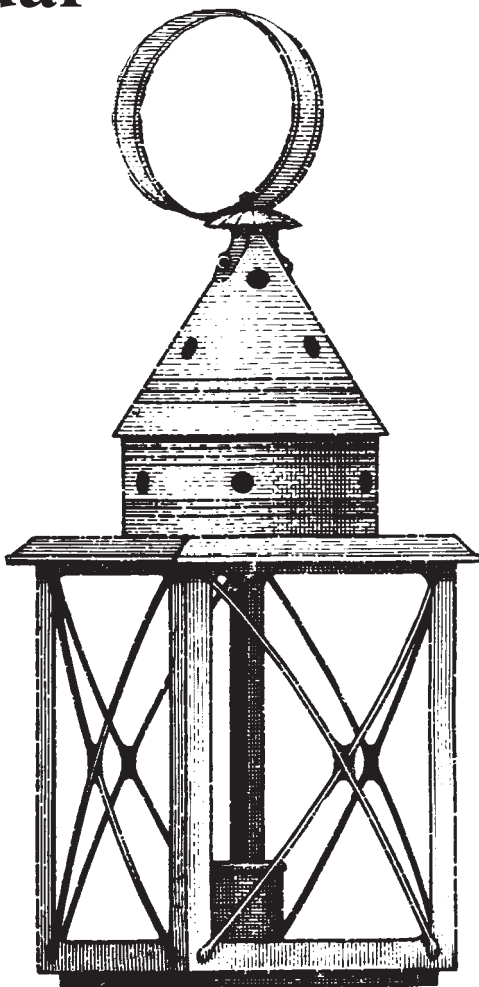
SAXTONS RIVER. Musical: *The Gondoliers*. Main Street Arts 11th Annual Gilbert & Sullivan Production. Advance tickets \$15 adults and \$10 students, at the door \$17 and \$12. Available online at MainStreetArts.org/tickets. Performance also on March 11, 12, and 13 at 7:30 pm, Sunday matinees March 7 and 14 at 3 pm. (802) 869-2960. www.MainStreetArts.org.

STOWE. American Cancer Society's 7th Annual Relay-For-Life NordicStyle. The only NordicStyle Relay in the country. Form a team or join an existing one to cross-country ski and snowshoe the night away. Free. Race starts on Sat at 2 pm and goes through Sun at 6 am. Trapp Family Ski Touring Center, Trapp Hill Rd. (802) 872-6304. vtnordicstyle@yahoo.com. www.relayforlife.org/nordicstylevt. Also March 7.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Art Workshop: Monoprints and Drypoint—Color and Line with Lois Beatty. Combat winter greys with the intense colors of monoprint! 10 am - 4 pm. Fee: \$185 plus \$20 materials fee. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 N. Main St. (802) 295-5901. www.tworiversprintmaking.com. Also March 7.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

BARRE. Celebration Series Piano Concert with Ignat Solzhenitsyn. One of today's most gifted artists. Tickets \$10-\$26. 3 pm at the Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.



BRATTLEBORO. New England Bach Festival Musicians' Reunion Concert. Chamber music program includes Bach and Handel. Featured soloists: Peggy Spencer, violin, Susan Rotholz, flute, Stephen Taylor, oboe, and Carl Albach, trumpet. Tickets \$50, \$15, \$7. 3 pm at the Latchis Theatre. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Workshop: Building Soil, Mulch, Pest Management & Basic Hand Tools. Led by Robert King. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions. Fee: sliding scale, \$2/\$20. Light refreshments. 1 pm in the Rotch Building, School for International Training, Kipling Rd. Please pre-register. Call (641) 715-3900 x 85789. www.postoilsolutions.org.

POULTNEY. Annual Frosty Derby. Ice fishing at Lake St. Catherine sponsored by the Poultney Fish & Game club. Prizes awarded to adults and children for largest pike, trout, perch, and bass. It will be a fun-filled day for the entire family. For more information contact Steve Saltis at (802) 287-9742.

RUTLAND. Concert of Spirituals. With the Grace Church Festival Choir directed by Rip Jackson. Beautiful, uplifting a cappella African-American spirituals, gospel music, South African freedom songs, African drumming by Drum Journeys of the Earth, and Studio Bliss African Dancers. Free will offering to benefit New Start Orphanage in Zimbabwe. 7 pm at Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. www.gracechurchvt.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Musical: *The Gondoliers*. Main Street Arts 11th Annual Gilbert & Sullivan Production. Advance tickets \$15 adults and \$10 students, at the door \$17 and \$12. Available online at MainStreetArts.org/tickets. Sunday matinee March 7 & 14 at 3 pm. Also on March 11, 12, and 13 at 7:30 pm. (802) 869-2960. www.MainStreetArts.org.

STOWE. American Cancer Society's 7th Annual Relay-For-Life NordicStyle. The only NordicStyle Relay in the country. Form a team or join an existing one to cross-country ski and snowshoe the night away. Free. Sat 2 pm through Sun 6 am. Trapp Family Ski Touring Center, Trapp Hill Rd. (802) 872-6304. vtnordicstyle@yahoo.com. www.relayforlife.org/nordicstylevt.

MONDAY, MARCH 8

FAIRLEE. Paddlemaking Workshop. Led by master craftsman, Geoffrey Burke of Chicorua Boatworks. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Fee including all materials & lunch is \$95. At Hulbert Outdoor Center. Call to register. (802) 333-3405. deb_williams@alohafoundation.org. Visit www.alohafoundation.org/hulbert.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

JOHNSON. Film Screening: F.W. Murnau's *Nosferatu* with the Alloy Orchestra. The silent vampire film classic with live music. Three-man musical ensemble Alloy Orchestra combines found percussion and state-of-the-art electronics to produce sounds that range from classic symphonies to radio signals from Mars. Admission. 8 pm. Johnson State College. (802) 635-1476. www.jsc.edu.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

BRATTLEBORO. Post Oil Solutions Community Conversation. Discuss how to advance sustainability and build community. 2nd Wednesdays. Free. Light refreshments. 7 pm at the Elliot Street Cafe. (802) 869-2141. info@postoilsolutions.org. www.postoilsolutions.org.



Brandon Hosts Sixth Annual Winter Celebration of the Arts

You are invited to come to Brandon, VT for a town-wide winter weekend celebration of Vermont's arts and artists. The Sixth Annual Art in the Snow takes place on February 27 & 28, and March 27 & 28.

With over 20 studios and galleries open to the public, Brandon's winter weekends are a perfect opportunity to visit this classic Vermont village and experience its bustling art scene.

Watch demonstrations in a variety of visual arts—painting, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, photography, folk art, fabric and glass art. There will be artist talks, colorful galleries to peruse, wine tasting parties, evening music, fine gourmet cuisine and casual dining, snow sculpture in the park, antiques, and a chance to buy books and gifts.

Plan to make a weekend of it and stay at one of Brandon's romantic inns or charming B&Bs.

Maps showing the location

of the participants are available at the Brandon Artists Guild at 7 Center St. Get the back of the map stamped at the participating artists, merchants, inns and restaurants and be eligible for a drawing of works of art at 3 p.m. each of the Sundays at the Brandon Artists Guild.

Stroll the streets of this historic town, enjoy gourmet cuisine or casual dining, partake in a wine tasting, take advantage of specials and discounts offered by many local merchants, inns and restaurants. And be sure to take a quiet moment to glance up and watch the sunset turn the Green Mountains into shades of purple and pink.

For more information including a map of the studio locations, contact the Brandon Artists Guild at (802) 247-4956 or the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce at (802) 247-6401 or info@artinthesnow.com. Visit www.artinthesnow.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(March 10 continued)

BURLINGTON. Irish Music Open Session. Come to play or come to listen—but come join us! Part of the 15th Annual Irish Heritage Festival. Admission free. 9 pm - 12 am. Radio Bean, 8 N. Winooski Ave. info@vtirishfestival.org. www.vtirishfestival.org.

ESSEX. Phoenix Books Knit Night (Crocheters, too!). All skill levels welcome. Free. 6-8 pm. Phoenix Books and Café, 21 Essex Way. (802) 858-4654. phoenixbooks.biz.

JOHNSON. Concert with The Anthony Geraci Sextet. Anthony Geraci (piano), Taryn Noel (vocals), Paul Ahlstrand (saxophone), Barrie Ries (trumpet), Anthony Santor (acoustic bass), and Gabe Jarrett (drums), will be playing a mix of originals and jazz standards from their new CD, *The Gift*. Free. 8 pm. Johnson State College. (802) 635-1476. jscdibden.boxoffice@jsc.edu. www.jsc.edu.

LUDLOW. Winter Snowshoe Hike to Okemo. Healdville Trail to Okemo. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Start at 8:30 am at the carpool site. For details contact Dave Ratti, (802) 366-8252. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MONTPELIER. Program: "You Come, Too—British Poets." Examine selected works of twelve great British poets with Vermont Humanities Council Executive Director Peter Gilbert. Free. Refreshments served. 5:30 pm at the Vermont Humanities Council, 11 Loomis St. RSVP. (802) 262-2626.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Garden Program: Speaking Naturally about Organic Soils. Mike Ather, a naturalist, photographer and wild edible enthusiast leads this discussion. Learn how to apply these principles to your own yard and garden. Sponsored by Friends of the Horticulture Farm. 6-8 pm. Blasberg Building at the UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. off Rt. 7. RSVP to (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

STOWE. Vermont Humanities Council Program: World War II-American Perceptions and Historical Realities. Historian Mark Stoler compares our standard perceptions of the war with what some scholars now maintain. Free. 1:30 pm. Town & Country Resort, 876 Mountain Rd. (802) 253-8475.

WATERBURY CENTER. Green Mountain Club Cold Weather Trekking Workshop. We will discuss food, clothing, equipment, hydration, boots, and crampons. Fee: \$40. 6:30-9:30 pm at the GMC Visitor's Center, Rt. 100. Register at least two weeks in advance. Call (802) 244-7037. www.greenmountainclub.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

GROTON. Snowshoe Around Kettle Pond. Easy, three miles. Snack at a lean-to. Meet at Lenny's Shoe Store in Barre, VT at noon. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call leader: Steve Lightholder, (802) 479-2304. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Musical: *The Gondoliers*. Main Street Arts 11th Annual Gilbert & Sullivan Production. Advance tickets \$15 adults and \$10 students, at the door \$17 and \$12. Available online at MainStreetArts.org/tickets. Sunday matinee March 14 at 3 pm. Evenings on March 12, and 13 at 7:30 pm. (802) 869-2960. www.MainStreetArts.org. Through March 14.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Art Workshop: Adobe Photoshop and Solarplates with Sheri Hancock-Tomek. 10 am - 4 pm. Fee: \$95 plus \$20 materials fee. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 N. Main St. (802) 295-5901. www.tworiversprintmaking.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

BARRE. Celebration Series Concert with Beoga. Traditional Irish music from a new band. Tickets \$10-\$26. 8 pm at the Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 19th Annual Women's Film Festival. Over 30 Vermont, US and international films by or about women. Admission. See web site for full schedule of films and locations. At Latchis, Hooker-Dunham, and New England Youth Theaters. (802) 2570098. buhlmann49@gmail.com. www.womensfilmfestival.org. Through March 21.

BURLINGTON. 15th Annual Irish Heritage Festival Lecture: Spirituality and Stones. Western Ireland is rich with many stone circles. In this lecture Reverend Dr. Jim Gorman shares his passion for archeology and Ireland by delving into the significance of these sites on the Irish spiritual life. Admission: free, donations welcome. 12-1 pm at the Community Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. info@vtirishfestival.org. www.vtirishfestival.org.

FAIRLEE. 2nd Annual Winter Doe Camp—A Winter Retreat for Adventurous Women. Women ages 18 and up can spend the weekend learning winter outdoors skills while staying in the lovely, heated cabins by Lake Morey! Dog sledding, fire making, traditional winter camping, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing and more will be offered. Outdoor education in a supportive environment. Cost (all inclusive) \$260. Day fees, discounts and scholarships. Hulbert Outdoor Center. (802) 425-6211. www.voga.org.

JOHNSON. Concert: Sugar Ray and the Bluetones. A high-energy, no-holds-barred performance. Free. 8 pm. Johnson State College, Dibden Center for the Arts. (802) 635-1476. jscdibden.boxoffice@jsc.edu. www.jsc.edu/dibdencenterforthearts.

SAXTONS RIVER. Musical: *The Gondoliers*. Main Street Arts 11th Annual Gilbert & Sullivan Production. Tickets \$17 and \$12. Advance tickets \$15 adults and \$10 students online at MainStreetArts.org/tickets. Also March 13 at 7:30 pm, and March 14 at 3 pm. (802) 869-2960. www.MainStreetArts.org.

SHELBURNE. Contra Dance. With Nils Fredland (caller) and music by Sarah Blair and Colin McCaffrey. Presented by Queen City Contras. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. 8 pm at the Town Hall, beginners' session at 7:45 pm. (802) 371-9492, (802) 343-7165. www.queencycontras.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: An Evening with Neko Case. Special guest Anais Mitchell. Neko's *Middle Cyclone* has been nominated for the Best Contemporary Folk Album Grammy. 8 pm. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. For tickets call (802) 748-2600. info@catamountarts.org. www.catamountarts.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Play: *Blithe Spirit*. Marble Valley Players present Noel Coward's classic British comedy. Fri. & Sat. 3/12 & 3/13, 3/19 & 3/20 at 8 pm. Sun. matinee 3/14, 2 pm. At West Rutland Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$12 at the door, at the W. Rutland Town Office, Paramount Box Office or www.paramountvt.org. (802) 775-0903.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

BARRE. Blues Bash. Give Us Some Blues art exhibit with music by Bob Wagner and the Book 'em Blues Band, and Seth Yacovone. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and silent auction. Tickets \$15 advance/\$25 door. 7-9 pm at Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BENNINGTON. Fifth Annual Bennington Museum Appraisal Fair. Bring family heirlooms or the odd, quirky piece and let an expert panel of art and antique appraisers explain and evaluate your items. Appraisals are \$5.00 per item, with a limit of five items. Fee \$5 per item with a limit of five items. Admission. 1-4 pm at The Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Jazz Concert: Whirrr! The Music of Jimmy Guiffre with the Harrison/Schuller Sextet. Tickets \$20. 8 pm, Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

In Sugarin' Time

It's sugarin' time up country, and settin' here in town
I seem to hear the "drip, drip, drip" of sap a tricklin' down,
Into them wooden buckets in our old sugar place;
Afore Josiah died, and our only daughter Grace,
Insisted 'twasn't no ways safe for me to live alone
Up in that old brown farm-house that long's I live I own.

And naught would do but I must come and stay along o'her
Where sugarin' might be hayin' time, and all this bustlin' stir;
Where smells o'spring, and tricklin' sap, and wild flowers never come.
There ain't no chance for such things around Grace's city home;
And sugarin' time no different ain't from summer or from fall.
I wisht Josiah'n me was back—a-workin' hard and all.

The children on these brick-paved walks they make me think o'Jim,
What we had hoped would stay by us—the farm was meant for him.
He died when he was twenty. Yes, there was young Josiah,
Professor in a college now, with hope of something higher.

And Grace, our girl, she married what they called a railroad king,
And lives on Beacon Street, in all the styles that she can swing.

But all the same when April comes, I see 'em all agin,
Jest runnin' wild around that farm, them three, and in
All sorts of mischief daily, from early spring to fall.
I wisht that we was back there now—a-workin' hard and all.

I seem to see the tassels shakin' out upon the trees,
I seem to smell the perfume of the May-flowers in the breeze.
I seem to feel the summer a-coming 'crost the hills.
I seem, up in the pastur', to hear the sharpen' of the blades.
I hear the cattle lowin', I go berryin' in the glades;
I smell the harvest ripenin' over in the corner lot.
I see Josiah bringin' home that last new pair he bought.

I remember how together, when the children went away—
Grown big and married—by the fire we sat at close of day.
And how together we had lived there fifty year—come fall.
I wisht Josiah'n me was back—a-workin' hard and all.

* * *

It's sugarin' time up country, but never once agin
Shall I, now goin' on eighty, see the spring a-comin' in
The old way, thru' the maple trees, 'crost the pasture's brown;
For I must stay—in sugarin' time—on Beacon Street in town.

The children never, as of old, shall I tuck in at night,
Their little feet so tired, but their happy hearts so light.
They wouldn't go back if they could, and I'm too old they say,
And since Josiah isn't there, I let them have their way.

It's sugarin' time up country, though, and memories, like the sap,
Start up and set me longin' for Mother Nature's lap—
And him, and Jim—the farm, the hens, the horses in the stall,
It's sugarin' time up country, I'm homesick—that is all.

—HELEN M. WINSLOW



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Vermont Country Calendar

BRISTOL. Snowshoe Outing to Abbey Pond. Dog-friendly, leisurely pace. The trail follows a brook and ends at small wilderness pond and wetlands with a view of Robert Frost Mountain. Carpool from Shelburne town offices at 9 am. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Ted Albers, (802) 985-9064 or ted@ted-albers.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

BURLINGTON. 15th Annual Irish Heritage Festival Programs. Children's stories and crafts from 10 am - 12 pm. Film "The Celts" from 12-3 pm. Pennywhistle Workshop from 1-3 pm (to register e-mail Cindy Hill at wordwomanvt@yahoo.com). Free. Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. info@vtirishfestival.org. www.vtirishfestival.org.

CRAFTSBURY. Concert: Atlantic Crossing. Traditional songs and acoustic instrumental music from New England. Tickets are \$10, students \$5, seniors \$5 and kids under 16 free. 7 pm at the Music Box, 147 Creek Rd. (802) 586-7533. www.themusicboxvt.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. March Madness Roller Derby Bout. The Green Mountain Derby Dames v. Central New York Roller Derby! Children's games and entertainment, 50/50 raffle, food and drink. Tickets \$15, \$8 under 12: FlynnTix.org. 6 pm at Champlain Valley Exposition, Robert E. Miller Center, 105 Pearl St. (802) 863-5023. www.gmderbydames.com.

HARTLAND. Famous Annual Roast Beef Suppers. Prime Rib, homemade rolls, potatoes, gravy, cole slaw, homemade pies, beverages, and more. \$12 adults, \$6 children 10 and under. No reservations. 5-7 pm. Hartland Congregational (Brick) Church, off Rt. 5. (802) 436-2792.

HINESBURG. Book & Author Event. Allison Hooper will read from her book, *In a Cheesemaker's Kitchen*, and share samples of her products from Vermont Butter & Cheese Company. Free. 7 pm. Brown Dog Books & Gifts, 22 Commerce St. (802) 482-5189. www.indiebound.org.

MANCHESTER. Gorgeous Gardens & Green Living Show. Four landscaped displays, 25 seminars and workshops, keynote presentation by award-winning landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy, and over 40 garden and green energy vendors. Tickets \$12. Riley Rink at Hunter Park, Rt. 7A north of town. (888) 518-6484. www.greenworksvermont.org. Also March 14.

MIDDLEBURY. Harmony Singing Workshop. With Brendan Taaffe. 10 am - 2:30 pm at the Champlain Valley UU Church. For fee and information contact Brennan Michaels and John Beattie at (802) 352-4416.

MONTPELIER. Waltz Night. Benefit for Green Mountain Youth Symphony. Live orchestra, all ages, fancy dress optional. Complimentary desserts, silent auction, door prizes. Admission: \$12 adults, \$6 students and seniors, children under 5 free. 7-10 pm, free dance instruction at 7 pm. Montpelier City Hall, 39 Main St. (802) 454-0188. info@gmys-vt.org. www.gmys-vt.org.

MONTPELIER. Scottish Country Dance Social. Featuring Peter Macfarlane, Joanne Garton and Aaron Marcus. 2 pm at the Capitol City Grange. For more information contact mdkent@comcast.net.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy. Bring a clean, soft-soled shoes. All dances taught, no partner necessary, and beginners and loud shirts are welcome! Admission \$8, under 16 are free, and over 60 by donation. 8 pm. At Tracy Hall. Info: Rick Barrows (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Next dance on April 10.

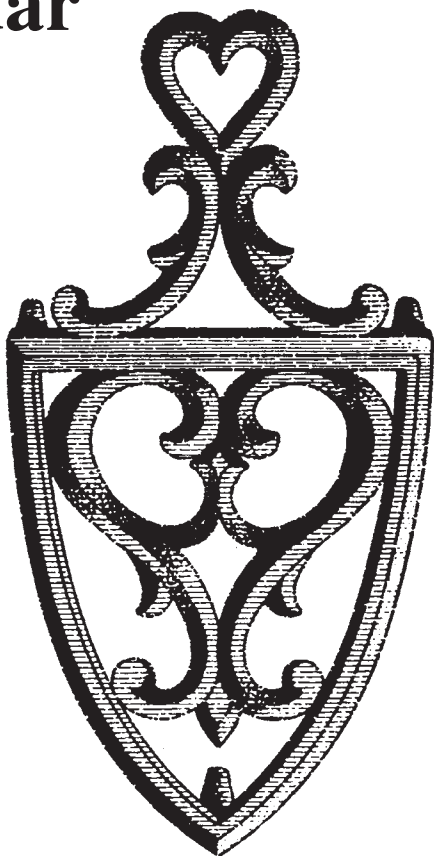
PAWLET. Lampshade Workshop with The Lampshade Lady. Judy Lake will share all the tricks of the trade from her new book, *The Lampshade Lady's Guide to Lighting Up Your Life*. Fee. 11 am - 5 pm. Lake's Lampshades, 60 School St. (802) 325-6308. judylake@vermontel.net. www.lakeslampshades.com.

RUPERT. Full Moon Overnight Excursion in Merck Forest. Skiing and snowshoeing to a heated cabin. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Bonnie and Rob Cramp at (802) 348-7158. www.greenmountainclub.org.

RUTLAND. Classical Concert with Jose Franch-Ballester. A native of Moncofa (Valencia, Spain) Jose Franch-Ballester, is one of the most promising clarinetists of his generation. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 students. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903 or www.ParamountTickets.org. www.josefranchballester.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Musical: *The Gondoliers*. Main Street Arts 11th Annual Gilbert & Sullivan Production. Tickets \$17 and \$12. Advance tickets \$15 adults and \$10 students online at MainStreetArts.org/tickets. 7:30 pm. Also a matinee March 14 at 3 pm. (802) 869-2960. www.MainStreetArts.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Vermont Humanities Council Program: The Neolithic World of Stone. Who built Stonehenge and why? Bob Manning will discuss monuments found throughout Europe as well as outer related matters in this lecture illustrated with slides of Stonehenge, as well as Newgrange, Avebury, Orkney, Callanish, and Cornwall. Free. 3-4:30 pm. Catamount Arts, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600.



WAITSFIELD. Signs of Spring Snowshoe Excursion. The days are getting longer, migratory birds begin to make their first appearance, and the maple sap is flowing! Join us on this easy outing to investigate the latest sightings of spring. 10:30 am - 1:30 pm. Mad River Glen Cooperative Base Area. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. www.madriverglen.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Play: *Blithe Spirit*. Marble Valley Players present Noel Coward's classic British comedy. Performances also on March 19 & March 20 at 8 pm. Sunday matinee March 14, 2 pm. 8 pm at West Rutland Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$12 at the door or at www.paramountvt.org. (802) 775-0903.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Dance to Benefit the Foodshelf. "The Moonlighters" Big Band presents an evening of great music and dancing at the American Legion Post #26, Ballroom on Main St. Complimentary dance lesson at 7 pm, dance from 8-11 pm. Cash bar, raffle and dance demos. Admission \$12 each or \$20 per couple. For more information call (802) 436-2069. www.moonlightersbigband.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

BENNINGTON. Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Floats and marching bands, fire trucks, and seven candy-throwing Old Ladies. The festivities will continue at Carmody's immediately following the parade. 1 pm on Main St. (802) 442-5758. admin@betterbennington.com. www.betterbennington.com.

BURLINGTON. The Fourth Annual Burlington Irish Music Showcase. Part of the 15th Annual Irish Heritage Festival. Tickets \$15 at the door. 6 pm at Contois Auditorium, Burlington City Hall. info@vtirishfestival.org. www.vtirishfestival.org.

BURLINGTON. Festival Ceili. Enjoy Irish stepdancing and some of Vermont's finest Celtic musicians. Area musicians are welcome to bring their instruments and join in for a lively seison. Part of the 15th Annual Irish Heritage Festival. Admission: free, donations are welcome. 1-3 pm at Contois Auditorium, Burlington City Hall. info@vtirishfestival.org. www.vtirishfestival.org.

BURLINGTON. Performance: Women in Irish Music and Dance. Featuring Sarah Blair, Hiliari Farrington, Claudine Langille, McFadden Academy of Irish Dance, Katrina Gibson, Cindy Hill, Laura Markowitz and others. Presented by the 15th Annual Irish Heritage Festival and Young Tradition. Admission free. 6-8:30 pm. Contois Auditorium, Burlington City Hall. mrksustc@together.net. www.vtirishfestival.org.

DUXBURY. Snowshoe Outing. Long Trail south from Winooski River to Duxbury Window. Moderate. 3.2 miles round trip. Bring lunch and beverage. Dress for weather. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details and for meeting time and place, please call leaders: Reidun and Andrew Nuquist at (802) 223-3550. www.greenmountainclub.org.

JEFFERSONVILLE. Winter Outing to Camels Hump. Snowshoe to the top of the third highest peak in Vermont. Great views of three states on a clear day. Difficult, 7.3 miles, 2600' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Contact leader by 3/12: Kathy Adams, (802) 399-8687 or hikeradams@hotmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

KILLINGTON. Snowshoe on Bucklin Trail to Killington. Start at 9 am at carpool site. Sponsored by the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call leader Dave Ratti, c/o marge.fish@gmail.com, (802) 366-8252. greenmountainclub.org.



Summertime campers canoe the waters of Lake Bomoseen at Kehoc—a Green Mountain Conservation Camp.

Apply Now for Summer Green Mountain Conservation Camps

If you are 12 to 14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills next summer, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps.

The one-week camp program is held at two locations—Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Students are taught about fish and wildlife conservation, forestry, orienteering, swimming, canoeing, fishing, gun safety, and more in an attractive outdoor setting. Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and directed by Fish & Wildlife Department professionals—the same people who

manage Vermont's fish and wildlife resources. Working biologists, foresters, game wardens and conservation educators teach young people about Vermont's forests, wetlands and wildlife.

Conservation Camps open June 20 and continue until August 20. Camp tuition is \$200 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment. Fish & Wildlife urges anyone interested to print a copy of the camp application from their website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com and send it in with a check.

For more information about Green Mountain Conservation Camps contact: fwinformation@state.vt.us or call (802) 241-3700.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(March 14 continued)

MANCHESTER. Gorgeous Gardens & Green Living Show. Four landscaped displays, 25 seminars and workshops, and over 40 garden and green energy vendors. Tickets \$12. Riley Rink at Hunter Park, Rt. 7A north of town. (888) 518-6484. www.greenworksvermont.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Musical: *The Gondoliers*. Main Street Arts 11th Annual Gilbert & Sullivan Production. Tickets \$17 and \$12. Advance tickets \$15 adults and \$10 students online at MainStreetArts.org/tickets. 3 pm. (802) 869-2960. www.MainStreetArts.org.

TUNBRIDGE. Concert. The Battlefield Band, from Scotland performs. The band pioneered the integration of bagpipes with fiddle, keyboards, guitar and voice, mixing old songs and tunes with new self-penned material. 7:30 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. For tickets (\$25) and more information call (802) 431-3433. www.mtnfolk.org. www.battlefieldband.co.uk.

WAITSFIELD. 35th Annual North American Telemark Festival. The world's largest and oldest gathering of Telemark skiers. Special tickets must be purchased to participate in festival events. Mad River Glen Cooperative Base Area. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. www.madriverglen.com.

WAITSFIELD. Wildlife Tracking Trek. Explore the wild side of the Green Mountains in search of tracks and sign of Vermont's animals and birds, while learning about their ecology. 10:30 am & 1:30 pm. Mad River Glen Cooperative Base Area. (802) 496-3551. www.madriverglen.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Play: *Blithe Spirit*. Marble Valley Players present Noel Coward's classic British comedy. Matinee at 2 pm, West Rutland Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$12 at the door or www.paramountvt.org. (802) 775-0903. Also March 19 & 20.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

BURLINGTON. Concert with Dervish. Traditional music with an original flair, punctuated by the gorgeously pure soprano of lead singer Jordan. Admission. UVM Recital Hall. (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu/laneseries.

BURLINGTON. St. Patrick's Day Concert. Dervish, a dynamic, high-spirited, six-member band from Ireland's County Sligo. Part of the 15th Annual Irish Heritage Festival. 7:30 pm at Flynn Theatre, Main St. Tickets start at \$24. Flynn Box Office: (802) 863-5966. info@vtirishfestival.org. www.vtirishfestival.org.

JOHNSON. Program: *The Yes Men*. The political pranksters discuss their project. Free. 8 pm at Johnson State College. (802) 635-1476. jscdibden.boxoffice@jsc.edu. www.jsc.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. St. Patrick's Day Concert: Francois Clemmons and Friends. Wear something green and come prepared to sing along to this annual concert featuring lively Irish tunes. Clemmons is an esteemed tenor with a long and colorful career. Free. 8-10 pm. Middlebury College Centre for the Arts Concert Hall. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu.

MONTPELIER. St. Patty's Party with Summit School. Featuring Pete Sutherland, Benedict Koehler and Hilari Farrington. 8-10 pm at the Langdon Street Café, 4 Langdon St. (802) 223-8667. www.langdonstreetcafe.com.

MONTPELIER. Annual. Farmers' Night Concert: "The Luck of the VSO." The Vermont Symphony Orchestra performs favorites from the British Isles, including Irish Tune from County Derry, Brian Boru's March, Molly on the Shore, and works by Holst, Elgar, Purcell, Grainger, and Boyce. Concert in the State House Chambers at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public, first-come, first-seated. (802) 985-2507. www.vso.org.

WAITSFIELD. St. Patrick's Day Festivities. With Peter MacFarlane and Rick Klein. 7 pm the Big Picture Theater and Café, 48 Carroll Rd. off Rt. 100. (802) 496-8994. www.bigpicturetheater.info.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

BURLINGTON. Booked for Lunch. Luella Bryant, author of *While in Darkness There Is Light* will discuss her book. You are welcome to bring a bag lunch; cookies and beverages are provided, donations appreciated. 12-1 pm. Fletcher Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. (802) 863-3403. www.fletcherfree.org.

RUTLAND. Concert with Natalie MacMaster—Virtuoso Cape Breton Fiddler. An electrifying performer with a signature sound that has resonated with world audiences through 10 albums, multiple gold sales figures and 27 years. She has a reputation as one of Canada's most captivating performers. Tickets: \$27.50 - \$39.50. 8 pm. At the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.ParamountTickets.org. www.nataliemacmaster.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

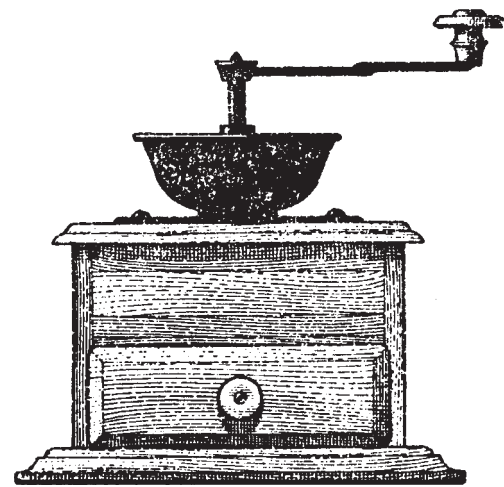
BARRE. Workshop: In the Steps of Winslow Homer. Students analyze and replicate parts of Winslow's paintings. Demonstrations, painting time and lecture. Admission. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BENNINGTON. Lecture: "Presidents, Family and Culture—Rethinking History." Presented by Annette Gordon-Reed, American historian, author and professor who won the Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award for her book, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. Free. 7-9 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 447-6388. www.svc.edu.

BENNINGTON. Art Exhibit and Sale—One Hundred for \$100. Over one hundred pieces of art by over two dozen artists for \$100 apiece. See the exhibit-only collection of fine needle art that was 50 years in the making. Admission. Friday 5-6 pm opening reception and 6-9 pm exhibit and sale. Saturday 12-4 pm. The Cone Building, 441 Main St. (802) 442-5758. director@betterbennington.com. www.betterbennington.com. Also March 20.

FAIRLEE. Singing Weekend with John Harrison, Moira Smiley and Brendan Taaffe. A three-day singing retreat at the Hulbert Outdoor Center. Fee: \$300. Presented by Turtle Dove. For information and registration call (802) 770-0857. sing@turtledoveharmony.org. www.turtledoveharmony.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Concert: Music For Mankind with Kelly Moore with Hillary Smith & Anne D'Olivo of Emerald Dreams. Benefit Concert for Manchester Community Food Cupboard. This is a live webcast event—come be part of the show! Donation. 6:30-8:00 pm. Al Ducci's Café, Elm St. (802) 362-3806. info@musicformankind.net. www.musicformankind.net.



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"Tarry for a While" in Audubon's Sugarbush

"Now, good reader, should you ever chance to travel through the maple grounds—and there meet with a sugar camp, take my advice and tarry for a while."
—John James Audubon

When the steam rises from the Green Mountain Audubon Center Sugarhouse along the Richmond-Huntington Road in Huntington, VT, it's the time of year to visit their "maple grounds" and take part in a sweet Vermont tradition—Sugar-on-Snow. Audubon's 40th annual Sugar-on-Snow parties will be held this year on March, 27th and 28th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On each of these sweet days visitors to the Center may spend an afternoon participating in a variety of activities throughout the sugarbush. Audubon Vermont Teacher/Naturalists lead tours for visitors demonstrating the sugar-making process from tapping a tree to tasting the sweet syrup. The tour also includes a stop at the Center's replica Abenaki wigwam, where the legend of Manabozho is recounted and the methods native peoples used to turn sap into sugar cakes is enacted.

And best of all—the enticing sweetness of Sugar-on-Snow. Volunteers serve up bowls of snow drizzled with boiling hot maple syrup. "Think of a warm, gooey, super-sweet mouth-

ful of syrup hitting your tongue. There's nothing that comes close! The smell and the taste are an invitation to smile and welcome spring," says Center Director Kim Guertin. "Follow that gooey mouthful up with a bite of a dill pickle and you've just experienced a great Vermont tradition."

There's no fee to attend the Sugar-on-Snow parties at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, and the tours and activities are also free of charge. Sweet treats like sugar-on-snow, donuts with syrup for dipping, and hot beverages will be on sale. And of course, there will also be plenty of this season's syrup for sale. All funds raised from the parties will help support the Green Mountain Audubon Center's sugaring operation and education programs at the Center.

The Green Mountain Audubon Center has been making syrup from the 700-tap sugarbush on the property since 1970. One of the remaining sugarbushes to tap trees with buckets, staff and volunteers must visit more than 400 trees following the tractor around emptying buckets into a large gathering tank.

For the entire month of March, the Center has close to 3000 maple sugaring related visitors, from preschoolers with their parents to bus loads of school children from surrounding communities, to the Sugar-on-Snow party goers. "Celebrating and experiencing the maple sugaring process is part of Vermont's culture. Through our programs at the Center, we hope to share with folks the history of maple sugaring and the connection Vermonters have with the land," says Doug Parker Audubon Vermont Executive Director.

Audubon Vermont is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Audubon Vermont has published a full-color brochure that explains how the habitat created by an active sugarbush fulfills the basic requirements for many species of birds. This brochure is available on the web at www.vt.audubon.org or by calling (802) 434-3068 or stopping by the Green Mountain Audubon Center, located at 255 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington, VT.

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Vermont Country Calendar



EARLY SPRING IN VERMONT

Winter's tune is up,
Spring is almost here;
Fourteen counties smile
To greet the greening year.
Countless stage-struck buds
Wait their turn as leaves —
Nature in Vermont
Never gets the peevies.

Mansfield and The Hump
Bore the winter well;
Both stand up as straight
As when the first snow fell.
Winooski and Lamoille
Sprout the best they can —
All good things will come
With the hired man.

E'en the crow's raw note
Doesn't sound so bad;
Devil though he is
He seems a little glad.
Listen how "the cars"
Make a different sound;

Seems as though
The wheels are glad
They're going 'round.
Hay will soon be cheap;
Soon the robins build;
Nothing much but sleds
And sleighs are winter-killed.
Soon the plough
Will grin through the
Greensward piece,
And the crying cart
Get a slap of grease.

Winter wan't so tough!
Smelt for breakfast food;
Now the syrup tastes
'Zactly jest as good.
Tomaters up in-doors,
Gardens half-way dry —
Nothing ails Vermont
When the sun runs high.

— DANIEL L. CADY

MONTPELIER. 13th Green Mountain Film Festival. 120 events over ten days, including discussions with film makers, writers, and other guests from the world of film. Premiere of *The Summer of Walter Hacks* at 6:15 pm. Tickets \$8.50, must be purchased in advance; some events free. Pavilion Auditorium. (802) 262-3423. greenmountainfilmfestival.org. *Through March 28.*

NORTH POMFRET. Program: New England Fiddle Music. Burt Porter explains New England fiddle music illustrated with lively fiddling, and a discussion of the factors that have shaped the music. A Vermont Humanities Council program. Free. 7 pm. Pomfret Town Clerk's Office, 5218 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-2877.

WEST RUTLAND. Play: *Blithe Spirit*. Marble Valley Players present Noel Coward's classic British comedy. Tickets \$12 at the door or www.paramountvt.org. 8 pm. West Rutland Town Hall Theater. (802) 775-0903. *Also March 20.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

BARRE. One-Day Cartooning Intensive. Robyn Chapman, from The Center for Cartoon Studios, will cover the essential skills. Fee. 10-3:30. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BURLINGTON. Travel Writing Workshop with Tim Brookes. Light refreshments served. 9 am - 4 pm. Fletcher Room, Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. Registration requested. (802) 863-3403. www.fletcherfree.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Series Concert: "Simple Gifts. A celebration of Spring" featuring VSO music director and acclaimed violinist, Jaime Laredo, with Sharon Robinson, cello; Sarah Hicks conducting. Works by Mozart, Richard Danielpour, De Falla, Delius and Copland's Appalachian Spring. 8 pm at the Flynn Theater. For tickets call (802) 86-FLYNN. www.vso.org.

GOSHEN. Snowshoe or Hike on Mt. Moosalamoo. Moderate pace, 2.3 miles. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Nancy Morgan, (802) 388-9868. www.greenmountainclub.org.

HINESBURG. Program. Kristen Needham of Needham Family Farm presents the Hinesburg Buy Local Powerpoint presentation featuring Hinesburg farmers. Free and open to the public. 7 pm at Brown Dog Books & Gifts, 22 Commerce St., #3. (802) 482-5189. nml1961@yahoo.com. www.indiebound.org.

JACKSONVILLE. 12th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast, sugarhouse tours, craft fair, horse-drawn sleigh rides, kid's activities, luncheon, maple recipe contest, local shops open, sugar-on-snow ham dinner. Information booth at Twin Valley School. (802) 464-1154. www.whitingham-maplefest.us. *Also March 21.*

MIDDLEBURY. After Dark Music Series Concert. Celtic singer/poet Connie Dover and cowboy singer/musician Skip Gorman blend interpretations of the traditional music of the American West, Ireland and Scotland. Light meals and desserts before the concert. First come, first seated. Tickets \$20. 7 pm at United Methodist Church, Rt. 7/ Seminary St. (802) 388-0216. afdark@sover.net. www.afterdarkmusicseries.com.

MONTPELIER. Celebrate Vermont Farm & Food National Agriculture Day. Community, county & statewide farm heritage. Displays, performances, and food sampling. Children parade costumed as hired hands, farm animals & crops. Recipe & seed sharing. Family fun! Hosted by Vermont Cuisine History & Cookbook Project. Free. 10:30 am - 2 pm. Vermont State House, State St. (802) 229-1532. diane@SliceofVermont.com.

MONTPELIER. Program: "Proust in Love." The letters, diaries, prose and music of author Marcel Proust and composer Reynaldo Hahn. Admission. Saturday 8 pm and Sunday 4 pm. T.W. Wood gallery & Arts Center, Vermont College of Fine Arts, 36 College St. (802) 828-8743. woodartgallery@vermontcollege.edu. www.wordstagevt.com. *Also March 21.*

MONTPELIER. 13th Green Mountain Film Festival. Tickets \$8.50, must be purchased in advance; some events free. Pavilion Auditorium. (802) 262-3423. greenmountainfilmfestival.org. *Through March 28.*

POULTNEY. Green Mountain College Choir Concert. Featuring Director James Cassarino and the choir for an informal concert and slide show of the Choir's 2010 Wales Concert Tour. 3:30 pm at the Poultny Welsh Presbyterian Church. On Grove St. (Rt. 30). (802) 287-8000.

RUTLAND. Concert: Possum Haw. Part of the Saturday Night Coffeehouse Concert Series. 7:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church on West St. Admission. (802) 492-2252.

RUTLAND. Showcase of Talent. A variety show with the Grace Church Children's Choir and Joyful Noise, the Teen Choir. Classical and Broadway solo and choral singers, instrumentalists and dancers. To benefit the RAVNA Hospice Program and Jenn Wright's Heal The Children Foundation. Free will offering. 7 pm at Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. arborcelt@aol.com. www.gracechurchvt.org.

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH. 2nd Annual Helly Hansen Big Mountain Ski Battle. Smugglers' three mountains are a regional competition site for this challenge featuring teams of two taking on big mountains across the US. Sign up for a team or come to watch. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-8851. www.smuggers.com.

WAITSFIELD. Backcountry Challenge presented by Wolaver's and Mad River Glen. This challenge pits you against the backcountry! This is not a race. There are no winners and no losers - only those who finish the course and those who don't. Registration at 9 am, race at 10 am. Mad River Glen Cooperative Base Area. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. www.madriverglen.com.

WALLINGFORD. Spaghetti Dinner. \$8 adult, \$5 child, family discounts available. To benefit the Youthworks Mission Trip. 5-7 pm at the First Congregational Church. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Play: *Blithe Spirit*. Marble Valley Players present Noel Coward's classic British comedy. Tickets \$12 at the door or www.paramountvt.org. 8 pm. West Rutland Town Hall Theater. (802) 775-0903.

WOLCOTT. End-of-Winter Gathering at High Mowing Organic Seeds. Founder and seedsman Tom Stearns gives an overview of seed production, a tour, and slide show. Pot-luck. Seeds available for purchase. Free, everyone welcome. 4-7 pm. At High Mowing Organic Seeds warehouse, Rt. 15, across from Fisher Bridge between Hardwick Center and Wolcott. (802) 472-6174 or visit www.highmowingseeds.com.

WOODTOCK. Vermont Antique Ski Race. Slalom ski race using antique ski equipment in three categories: wood, metal/fiberglass, or strictly vintage. A trained technician will fit the skis to the boot. The race down The Face, will begin at 10:30 am. Fee. Suicide Six Ski Area, 247 Stage Rd. (802) 253-9911 x 202. www.vermontskimuseum.org.

UNDERHILL CENTER. Mansfield Loop Snowshoe Outing to Butler Lodge. We'll snowshoe from the Stevensville trailhead to Butler Lodge on the south side of Mt. Mansfield. From Butler Lodge, we'll traverse the Wampahoofus Trail and then descend via Maple Ridge and Frost Trails. This snowshoe trip features an interesting, little-used trail and outstanding views. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details call Peter Cottrell, (802) 879-0755. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

BENNINGTON. Fifth Annual Bridal Fair. Meet with bakers, photographers, jewelers, calligraphers, site and tent renters, musicians, and more. Sample wedding cakes, try on wedding bands, and then enjoy the beautiful fashion show. Admission is \$5. 2-5 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. info@benningtonmuseum.org. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. Early Spring X-C Ski Trip. All day with moderate pace. Exact route depends on conditions, but with luck we'll ski on Redfield Brook and lunch in the sun at the Boiler. Meet at Rec. Center at 9:30 am. Sponsored by the Bennington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact leader Martha Stitelman at (802) 442-0864, mstitel@sover.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

HARTLAND. Program: "Reading Places—Art, Architecture & Gravestones in Early Vermont." Lecture and slide presentation by William Hosley. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 2 pm at Hartland Historical Society. (802) 436-3383.

HUNTINGTON. Early Spring Outing to Montclair Glen Lodge. A difficult, six-mile round trip. Possibly go on a winter side trail. Dress in layers, bring lunch and liquids. Leave from Montpelier High School at 9 am. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact Michael Chernick, (802) 229-0918 or chernick5@comcast.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

JACKSONVILLE. 12th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast, sugarhouse tours, craft fair, horse-drawn sleigh rides, kid's activities, luncheon, local shops open. Information booth at Twin Valley School. (802) 464-1154. www.whitingham-maplefest.us.

LYNDONVILLE. Book & Author Event. Leon Thompson will read from his latest book, *Not Too Awful Bad—A Storyteller's Guide to Vermont*, and sign copies. Free. Noon to 1 pm. Samuel Read Hall Library at Lyndon State College, 1001 College Rd. (802) 626-6459.

MONTPELIER. 13th Green Mountain Film Festival. Tickets \$8.50, must be purchased in advance; some events free. Pavilion Auditorium. (802) 262-3423. greenmountainfilmfestival.org. *Through March 28.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert. Guest conductor Sarah Hicks leads the orchestra in a salute to the vernal equinox. Program includes Copland's Appalachian Spring, Mozart's Overture to the Abduction from Seraglio, Richard Danielpour's A Child's Reliquary, De Falla's Suite No. 1 from The Three-Cornered Hat, Delius's On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring. Tickets: adults \$21-\$32, students \$9. 4 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.vso.org. paramounttickets.org.

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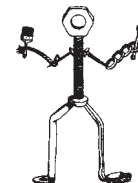
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Vermont Country Calendar

(March 21 continued)

WAITSFIELD. All About Bears Snowshoe Excursion. See the numerous signs of Black Bear activity at Mad River Glen on a moderate to difficult hike to our Nature Center (2.5 miles and 2-3 hours). Discover the facts and lore about winter hibernation, eating habits, and basic ecology. 10:30 am & 1:30 pm. Mad River Glen Cooperative Base Area. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. www.madriverglen.com.

WATERBURY. Late Winter Snowshoe on Mt. Hunger via the Waterbury Trail. A dog-friendly snowshoe outing! Get out and bring your eager dogs. Enjoy some beautiful views along the way. At the summit, enjoy camaraderie, hot chocolate and cookies! Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact leader by 3/19: Kelley Mackison, (802) 999-7839 or kelleymackison@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 22

RUTLAND. Concert: Bryan Adams—The Bare Bones Tour. Bryan Adams continues his highly successful solo-acoustic concert tour in select U.S. cities this winter. The new spin on his classic hits has been met with rave reviews from critics and fans alike. \$49-\$69. 8 pm at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. For tickets call (802) 775-0903 or visit www.ParamountTickets.org. www.bryanadams.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

BURLINGTON. Concert: Abby's Agenda. Master electric bassist Michael Manring joins VT trio Abby's Agenda for The Best of the B-Sides-The Best of the Basses performing songs lost, forgotten, left-by-the-wayside, from greats like Frank Loesser, Fats Waller, Johnny Mercer and Tom Waits. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. For tickets call (802) 425-2664. jim@abbysagenda.com. www.manthing.com.

MONTPELIER. 13th Green Mountain Film Festival. Tickets \$8.50, must be purchased in advance; some events free. Pavilion Auditorium. (802) 262-3423. greenmountainfilmfestival.org. *Through March 28.*

PITTSFORD. Program: "The Irish Wave in the Green Mountains." Vince Feeney, author of *Finnigans, Slaters and Stonepeppers: the History of the Irish in Vermont*, tells the little known story of the impact Irish immigrants had on Vermont life in the mid-19th century. Free. Sponsored by the VT Humanities Council. 7 pm at Maclure Library, 840 Arch St. (802) 483-2972.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

BARRE. Two-Session Art Class: Floral Silk Paintings. I No experience necessary. Fee. March 24, 5:30-8:30 pm and March 31, 5:30-7:30 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BARRE. Concert with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. Tickets \$28-\$32. 7:30 pm at the Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

RANDOLPH. Presentation on Lyme Disease. Dr. Court Vreeland will explain what Lyme disease is, where it comes from, the prevalence of it here in Vermont, and what can be done if you are diagnosed. 7:30 pm at the Randolph Fish and Game Club, 549 Lefebvre Rd. (802) 649-3122. www.vreelandclinic.com. www.randolphfishgameclub.com.

MONTPELIER. 13th Green Mountain Film Festival. Tickets \$8.50, must be purchased in advance; some events are free. Pavilion Auditorium. (802) 262-3423. greenmountainfilmfestival.org. *Through March 28.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

MONTPELIER. 13th Green Mountain Film Festival. Tickets \$8.50, must be purchased in advance; some events are free. Pavilion Auditorium. (802) 262-3423. greenmountainfilmfestival.org. *Through March 28.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

STATEWIDE. Ninth Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. Visit sugarhouses all over the state. Special activities, tours, samples. Look for roadside signs or plan where to go with a copy of the "2010 Vermont Ski & Year-round Maple Syrup Guide" which can be picked up at any Vermont Welcome Center, or by calling the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing at (800) 837-6668. Or visit www.vermontmaple.org. *Through March 28.*

BARRE. Annual Turkey Hunting Seminar. Learn turkey hunting secrets from the pros. Seminar is free and reservations not required. 6 pm at the Barre Elks Club Lodge on Jefferson Street. (802) 479-9151. rlarchery@aol.com. www.randlarchery.com.

BELLOWS FALLS. Family Fridays—Families are invited to come to Our Place Drop-in Center for an evening of family entertainment, with a free kid-friendly dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Board and card games will be available, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own favorite family games. The food shelf will be open from 5 to 8 pm for tours and groceries. Our Place is a daytime shelter and food shelf. 4 Island St. (802) 463-2217.

HINESBURG. Music Night with Rik Palieri & Friends! Free and open to the public. 7 pm at Brown Dog Books & Gifts, 22 Commerce St., #3. (802) 482-5189. nml1961@yahoo.com. www.indiebound.org.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks Open House. Pancake breakfast on Saturday. Hotdogs and eggs boiled in sap on Sat. and Sun. from noon on. Sugar-on-Snow all three days from noon to 4 pm. Directions: Follow Main St., north 2.7 miles from the center of town, veer right at the round-a-bout. Follow signs to Morse Farm, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. www.morsefarm.com. burr@morsefarm.com. *Through March 28.*

MONTPELIER. 13th Green Mountain Film Festival. Tickets \$8.50, must be purchased in advance; some events free. Pavilion Auditorium. (802) 262-3423. greenmountainfilmfestival.org. *Also March 28.*

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Mary Wesley calling, music by George Wilson and Brendan Taaffe. All dances taught, beginners welcome. Bring clean, non-marring shoes. Refreshments. Admission \$8, \$6 teens, \$3 children 5-12, under 5 free. 8 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. (802) 235-2718. www.brendantaaffe.com. www.Tinmouthvt.org. *Every fourth Friday.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

STATEWIDE. Ninth Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. Visit sugarhouses all over the state. Special activities, tours, samples. Look for roadside signs or plan where to go with a copy of the "2010 Vermont Ski & Year-round Maple Syrup Guide" which can be picked up at any Vermont Welcome Center, or by calling the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing at (800) 837-6668. Or visit www.vermontmaple.org. *Also March 28.*

BARRE. Workshop: Ukrainian Eggs. Pysanka is the process of decorating eggs, using wax and layers of colored dyes. It's fun to do and the results seem like magic. All ages welcome. Fee. 1-4 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BRANDON. Sixth Annual "Art in the Snow" Winter Weekend Celebration of the Arts. Over twenty artist studios and galleries: folk and fabric artists, potters and painters, sculptors, jewelers, open studios. Demonstrations, artist talks, wine tasting parties, evening music, snow sculpture in the park. Free admission. Sat. 11 am - 4:30 pm, Sun. 11 am - 2:30 pm. Throughout the village. (802) 247-4956. www.artinthesnow.com. *March 27 & 28.*

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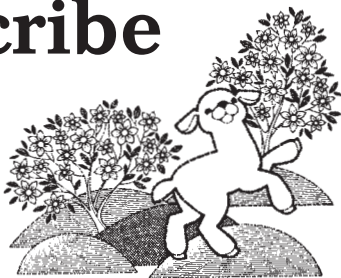
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Annual Farmers' Night Concert in State House Celebrates "The Luck of the VSO"

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra will present its popular annual concert in the State House Chambers in Montpelier on Wednesday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. The traditional David M. Wilson Memorial Farmers' Night Concert, this year entitled "The Luck of the VSO," is free and open to the public, first-come, first-seated. The doors will open at 6:45 p.m. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

with your Vermont Symphony. The Orchestra is indeed lucky to have Sarah Hicks to guest conduct a program of favorites from the British Isles, including Irish Tune from County Derry, Brian Boru's March, Molly on the Shore, and works by Holst, Elgar, Purcell, Grainger, and Boyce. Harpist Heidi Soons has promised to add some Irish jigs and reels.

Farmers' Night, a series of entertaining winter evenings

in the House Chambers of the Vermont Legislature, is an annual tradition in Vermont. The series began in 1923, long before the Interstate was built, when many legislators lived in Montpelier during the session and organized mid-week entertainment for themselves. The public is welcome to attend.

For additional information please call (802) 985-2507 or visit www.vso.org.



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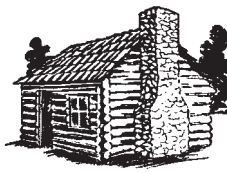


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Vermont Country Calendar

CABOT. Annual Maple Fest. Visit sugar houses and Cabot Creamery. Pancake breakfast, crafts, Cabot grilled cheese sandwiches, maple cotton candy, sugar-on-snow, children's activities. In this historic village on Rt. 216 off Rt. 2 near I-89 and I-91. cabotcoalition@fairpoint.net.

HUNTINGTON. Annual Sugar-on-Snow Party. Come celebrate the maple sugaring season out in the woods with sweet maple treats, free sugarbush tours, sugaring demonstrations, and a delicious taste of maple syrup! 10 am - 4 pm. For all ages. Free admission—the only charge is for food sold at the event. At Green Mountain Audubon Center's Sugarhouse on the Main Rd. Directions: Rt. 89 to Exit 11. Take Rt. 2 toward Richmond. Take Bridge St through Richmond and take sharp right onto Huntington Rd. Sugarhouse is 5-1/2 miles on right. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org. Also March 28.

LUNENBURG. Maple Festival. Full day of family fun, free door prizes, exhibits for history buffs, interactive displays, tree tapping demonstrations, tours of local sugarhouses, scavenger hunt, contests, homemade meals throughout the day. 8 am to 7 pm around the Common on Rt. 2. For information call (802) 892-6654. e-mail questions@topofthecommon.org. or visit www.topofthecommon.org.

MANCHESTER. Maple Open House. Old-time fiddle music with Ned Phoenix, Joseph and Sam Dutton, and Marvin Bentley from 12-2 pm. Family fun! Sugarhouse tours, free samples. Specialty foods, vendors, maple creamies and maple fudge. Dutton's Farmstand, Rts. 11/30 just east of town. (802) 362-3083. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks Open House. Pancake Breakfast (\$8.95 adults, \$4.50 kids under 12.) Sugar-on-Snow (\$5.45); Sap-boiled hotdogs (\$2) and eggs boiled in sap (\$1) to benefit the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, from noon-4 pm. Sugar House tours, Woodshed Theater, Country Store, Maple Trail, and more! Directions: Follow Main St., north 2.7 miles from center of town, veer right at the round-a-bout. Follow signs to Morse Farm, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. burr@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. Also March 28.

MONTPELIER. 13th Green Mountain Film Festival. Screening of *The Summer of Walter Hacks* a new Vermont-made film. 2:15 pm. Tickets \$8.50, must be purchased in advance. Pavilion Auditorium. (802) 262-3423. greenmountainfilmfestival.org. pastureproductions.com. Through March 28.

NORWICH. Muskeg Music Contradance. Led by Ruth Sylvester, music by Cuckoo's Nest. Bring a clean, soft-soled shoes. All dances taught, no partner necessary, and beginners welcome! Admission \$8, under 16 are free, and over 60 by donation. 8 pm. At Tracy Hall. Info: Rick Barrows (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Also March 27.

POULTNEY. Annual Maple Fest. Enjoy a celebration of all things maple. There will be a pancake breakfast, open sugar house tours, horse-drawn wagon rides, a maple bake contest, family nature walk, library story hour, silent auction, a bag sale at local shops and much more. For more information contact the Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce at (802) 287-2010.

RUPERT. Maple Open House Weekend. Pancake breakfast, wagon rides, family fun, entertainment, and farm tours. Open from 9 am until 4 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Route 315. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org. Also March 28.

RUTLAND. 25th Annual Maple Leaf Quilters Festival of Quilts. Show and sale of antique and contemporary quilts. Special exhibits, demonstrations, vendors, and a Tea Room. Consignment boutique offering quilts and quilted gift items. Admission \$6. Sat 9 am - 5 pm & Sun 10 am - 4 pm. College of St. Joseph, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 273-3064. mlq2010show@yahoo.com. www.mapleleafquilters.org. Also March 28.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Crabapple/Apple Pruning Workday. Mark Biercevicz, Crabapple Collection Curator and Terry Bradshaw, Apple Technician and co-director of the UVM Hort Farm will display proper pruning techniques. 9 am - noon. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. off Rt. 7. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

STOWE. Snowshoe Outing to Taylor Lodge. A dog-friendly excursion. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For details contact leader by 3/25: Kathy Adams, (802) 399-8687 or hikeradams@hotmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WAITSFIELD. Full Moon Snowshoe Trek. Enjoy the beauty and magic of the moonlight on snow, while exploring the nature of Stark Mountain! Mad River Glen. (802) 496-3551. www.madriverglen.com. Also March 28.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Family Program: Secrets of the Night Sky. Learn how to read star maps, and use binoculars and telescopes. Fee: \$8. Please pre-register. 7-9 pm at the Bonneyvale Environmental Education Center on Heifer Hill. (802) 257-5785. www.beec.org.

WEST NEWBURY. Eastern Square Dance. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller. 8 pm at the Community Hall on Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 484-7719 or adamboyce@juno.com. Fourth Saturdays.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

STATEWIDE. Ninth Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. Visit sugarhouses all over the state. Special activities, tours, samples. Look for roadside signs or plan where to go with a copy of the "2010 Vermont Ski & Year-round Maple Syrup Guide" which can be picked up at any Vermont Welcome Center, or by calling the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing at (800) 837-6668. Or visit www.vermontmaple.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: African-American Spirituals. Program includes vocal soloists, a performance by the Windham Orchestra's 2010 High School Concerto Competition winner, a youth choral group, and a sing-along with the orchestra. Tickets \$30, \$20, \$10. 3 pm at the Latchis Theatre. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org.

CHESTER. Springfield Community Chorus Concert: Songs to the Moon and Stars. Directed by Candace Montesi. The Keene Pops Choir will join the concert. Admission by donation. 4 pm at the auditorium at Green Mountain Union High School, 716 Rt. 103 South. (802) 885-5475. hmcw@vermontel.net.

HUNTINGTON. Annual Sugar-on-Snow Party. Come celebrate the maple sugaring season out in the woods with sweet maple treats, free sugarbush tours, sugaring demonstrations, and a delicious taste of maple syrup! 10 am - 4 pm. For all ages. Free admission—the only charge is for food sold at the event. At Green Mountain Audubon Center's Sugarhouse on the Main Rd. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks Open House. Sugar-on-Snow (\$5.45); Sap-boiled hotdogs (\$2) and eggs boiled in sap (\$1) to benefit the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, from noon-4 pm. Sugar House tours, Woodshed Theater, Country Store, Maple Trail, and more! Directions: Follow Main St., north 2.7 miles from center of town, veer right at the round-a-bout. Follow signs to Morse Farm, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. burr@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com.

MONTPELIER. 13th Green Mountain Film Festival. Tickets \$8.50, must be purchased in advance; some events free. Pavilion Auditorium. (802) 262-3423. greenmountainfilmfestival.org. Through March 28.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich (Carol Compton, Thal Aylward, and guests). Calling by Chris Levey. All dances taught, no partner needed. All are welcome. Clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes only (or socks). Bring refreshments to share at break. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Admission \$7, \$4 under age 25. 3-6 pm. At Tracy Hall. For info call Chris at (802) 785-4121. Also April 11.

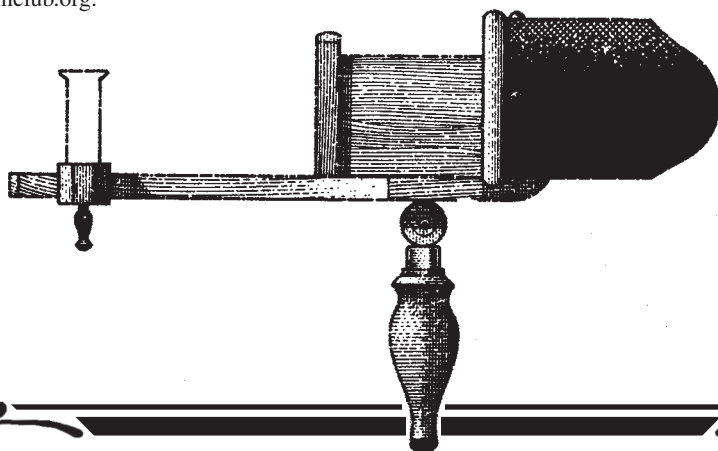
RUTLAND. 25th Annual Maple Leaf Quilters Festival of Quilts. Show and sale of antique and contemporary quilts. Special exhibits, demonstrations, vendors, and a Tea Room. Consignment boutique offering quilts and quilted gift items. Admission \$6. 10 am - 4 pm. College of St. Joseph, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 273-3064. mlq2010show@yahoo.com. www.mapleleafquilters.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 29

BURLINGTON. Choral Services at the Cathedral. Evening Prayer in the style of the Community of Taizé. Free. 7:30 pm. Church Nave, St. Paul's Cathedral, 2 Cherry St. (802) 864-0471. www.cathedralarts.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

BARRE. Slide Lecture: "Bearing Witness—Art as Social Commentary" The role of visual artists in bearing witness to the injustices and horrors of the world is the focus of this slide lecture with works by Goya, Kathe Kollwitz, Grant Wood, Picasso and others. Free. 1 pm. Aldrich Library, 6 Washington St. (802) 223-1763.



MARCH

March is the time for many things;
For blustering winds and bluebirds' wings,
For thawing snow and muddy boots,
For cleaning house and crocus shoots.
March spells beginning to all springs.

March is the time for sugar-on-snow,
When pussywillows start to grow,
For hot town meetings, alleys, too,
And—you will always find this true—
Spring fever comes when March winds blow!

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CERTIFICATES

Help for Key East-West Wildlife Corridor in Vermont

A helping hand is being given to wildlife habitat protection for northern Vermont. Called the Worcester-to-Northeast Kingdom conservation project, the effort is being spearheaded by the Northeast Regional Center of the National Wildlife Federation and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

The Worcester Mountain range is a crossroads for wildlife stretching from Middlesex, north and east toward Elmore. The Worcester Mountains have been identified by biologists as an important corridor for flora and fauna, as they connect the Green Mountains to the largely undeveloped forests of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

The 30-town initiative is designed to safeguard key wildlife habitats within a large area of land inhabited by creatures big and small, from moose and black bear to warblers and salamanders.

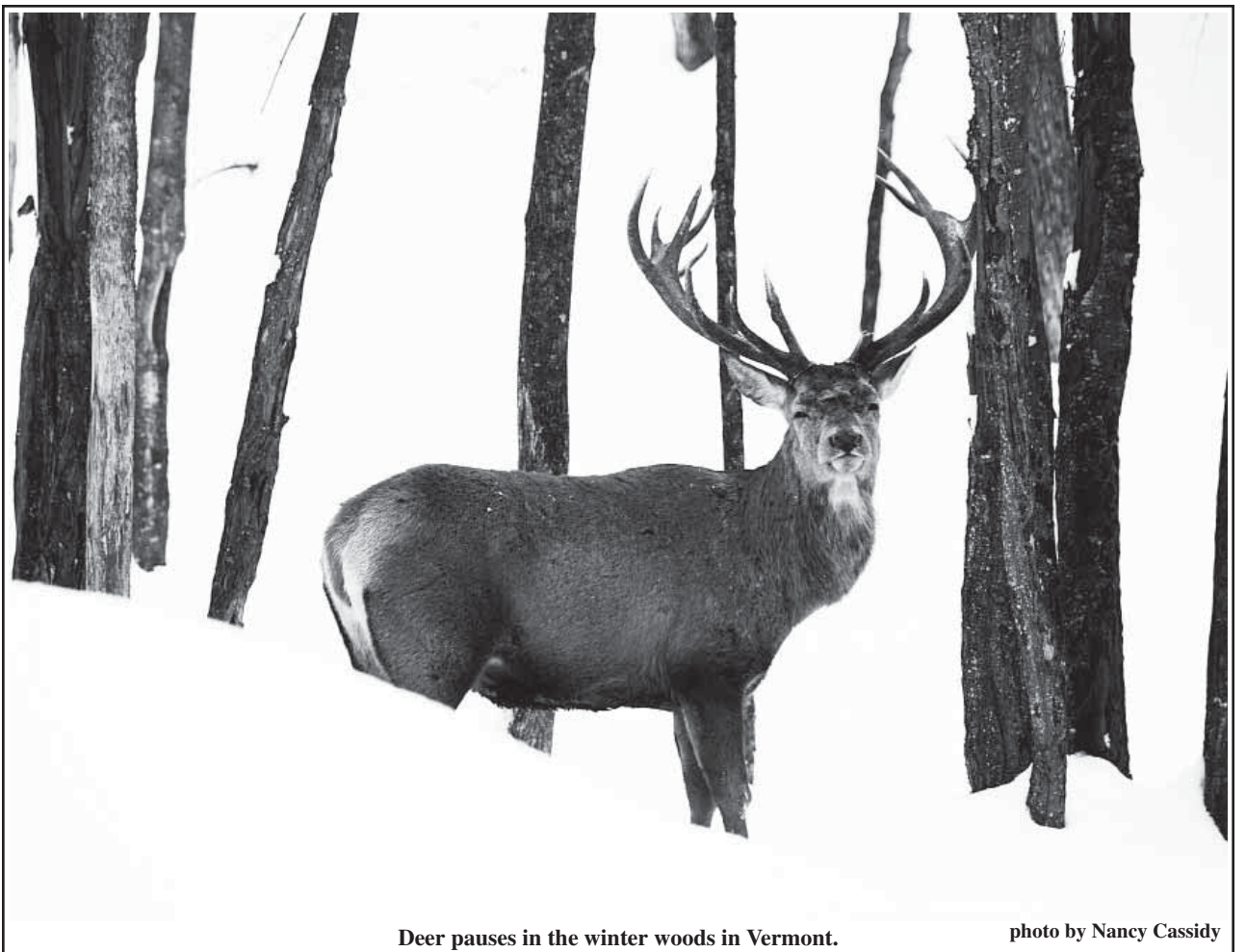
A wide range of partners—including local conservation commissions and hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation groups—are joining in the effort. The project is part of a regional Staying Connected initiative across the Northeast, and will build on

work already being done in the area by landowners as well as national, regional, statewide and local conservation and outdoor recreation organizations.

"This area acts as sort of a Grand Central Station for wildlife moving through the Northern Forest," said Chip Knight, leader of the National Wildlife Federation work on the Worcester-to-Northeast Kingdom project. "We've got our own wildlife transportation hub right here, and it's one of the few remaining places where northeastern wildlife can roam and thrive, but only if we protect it."

Knight, a three-time Olympic alpine skier, will organize and lead a series of public gatherings and conversations on maintaining and enhancing the biological integrity, recreational opportunities and local values within the region. A schedule of events will be announced soon.

For more information about this conservation project contact Chip Knight, National Wildlife Federation, (802) 552-4331, KnightC@nwf.org; and Jens Hilke, Vermont Fish & Wildlife (802) 476-0126.



Deer pauses in the winter woods in Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Lunenburg Maple Festival Coming March 27

Visit Vermont's Northeast Kingdom during sugaring for the Lunenburg Maple Festival on March 27. The day will be filled with many free activities—a family can have an enjoyable day out together without it costing more than the gas to get there! (Lunenburg is located east of St. Johnsbury on Rt. 2.)

The meals and displays will be in the Lunenburg Elementary School. The school is accessible and restrooms are available. Doors open at 8 a.m., with a pancake breakfast served from 8:30–11 a.m.

Lunch is served at noon with homemade soups, breads and desserts. Dinner is served at 5 p.m. Menu includes chicken and biscuits with gravy, peas, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and homemade dessert. All meals are very modestly priced. Free contests are held at the school—guessing jars, free door prizes, a baking contest, and more.

The area sugarhouses are open for self-tours from 10 a.m. through the mid-afternoon. Maps and instructions for the tours are available at the greeting table in the

school. There are three sugarhouses within five minutes of the school and more beyond. Tapping demonstrations will be given on the town common at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Lunenburg Historical Society is holding a quilt raffle this year with a lap quilt made from entries in last year's quilt square contest, and a wall hanging made from the first place quilt square. There will be historical exhibits and a sale table of historic and maple-theme items sponsored by the Historical Society and Top of the Common Committee.

The local 4-H clubs will have free samples of maple baked goods available throughout the day.

The festival is being hosted The Top of the Common, a community organization formed to restore the Con-

gregational Church and the Old Town Hall at the top of the park in the center of Lunenburg village. The church is reputed to be the most-photographed church in the U.S. and is being restored for use as a cultural center hosting small concerts and other events. The Old Town Hall will become an historical museum with space for public seminars.

The drive to Lunenburg is scenic whether you're coming from nearby or farther away. Plan to join us for a friendly day of sugaring, good food, and springtime activities.

To get to Lunenburg, VT go east from St. Johnsbury on Rt. 2. For more information call (802) 892-6654. questions@topofthecommon.org. www.topofthecommon.org.



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High Mowing Organic Seeds End-of-Winter Gathering

You're invited to a free End-of-Winter Gathering at High Mowing Organic Seeds warehouse in Wolcott, VT on March 20 from 4-7 p.m.

High Mowing Organic Seeds' founder and seedsman Tom Stearns will offer an overview of seed production happening here in Vermont and afar. There will be a tour of the facility, slide show, and pot-luck get-together. This fun, free and informative event will provide an opportunity for growers to gather and learn more about vegetable varieties and the process of commercial seed production and distribution.

Schedule

4-5 p.m.—Tour the seed warehouse, packing facility, testing lab and seed mill with Tom Stearns, founder and president of High Mowing Organic Seeds.

5-6 p.m.—Potluck dinner. Meet other growers and share organic growing tips and techniques. Please bring a dish or drink to share, as well as your own plate, cup and utensils to reduce waste from the event. Or, just bring

yourself. Don't let your lack of a potluck item stop you from joining us at this relaxed, informational event.

6-7 p.m.—A slideshow and discussion of vegetable varieties. Learn about the results from our extensive HMS variety trials, how to select the best varieties for your specific growing conditions, how to conduct your own variety trials—followed by a slideshow of seed production featuring High Mowing Organic Seeds' own farm as well as other seed producers in Vermont, out west and around the world.

High Mowing Organic Seeds' warehouse is located on Rt. 15, across from the Fisher Bridge, between Wolcott center and Hardwick, VT. Guests are welcome to join in at anytime. You can get a start on your spring garden planning—there will be a retail seed rack with seeds available for purchase.

For more information on High Mowing Organic Seeds, please call (802) 472-6174 or visit www.highmowingseeds.com.

Winter Doe Camp—A Retreat For Adventurous Women

The Second Annual Winter Doe Camp at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT will take place March 12-14, 2010. Women can spend the weekend learning winter outdoors skills while staying in lovely, heated cabins by Lake Morey! Classes such as dog sledding, fire-making, traditional winter camping, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing and many more will be offered.

Sponsored by the Vermont Outdoors Woman, the retreat is a great opportunity for affordable outdoor education in a supportive environment. The fee for the all-inclusive weekend program is \$260. Day fees, discounts and scholarships are available.

For more information call (802) 425-6211 or e-mail vow@voga.org. www.voga.org/winter_doe_camp.htm.



Planting seed crops in the greenhouse at High Mowing Organic Seeds in Wolcott, VT. photo courtesy of High Mowing Organic Seeds

The First Fly of Spring

Part One: A large black fly emerged in the greenhouse early in the year, and eventually proceeded to explore the rest of our home, partial to the kitchen and the bathroom.

I was uneasy about hunting down and killing a harbinger of spring and was, therefore, remiss in my duty to get rid of the visitor. Maybe she will just go away, I said.

But as I sat in the greenhouse, typing up some notes two hours before sunrise, the fly was not only still here, she had become quite friendly, had taken a liking to me and to my colorful computer screen. She kept reminding me of my duty to protect her, and of the dire meteorological and personal consequences of any aggression.

She zoomed back and forth from my desk to the lamps in two other parts of the room, enjoyed the air around the warm wood stove, returned after a few minutes to check up on me. Once in a while she buzzed. Sometimes she was quiet.

She was both coy and obtrusive, elusive and forward. It was early in the morning, and we were alone, no one to see us together. Momentarily free from social expectations and responsibility, I could accept and embrace the first fly of the year without remorse or guilt, smile at her attention, identify with her excitement at being alive in the artificial summer of my tomato and pepper plants, listen for her secret message.

Part Two—One Week Later: Last week, I wrote about a fly that hatched in my house on a sunny day, and with which I made friends the next morning. She was the first fly of the new year, and I felt protective of her. She seemed, at the time, like some risen Christ, a miracle of life sprung from winter, an exuberant, buzzing promise of spring.

My romantic Franciscanism faded, however, as her brothers and sisters emerged from their hidden eggs. One fly I could befriend. Lots of pushy, loud and aggravating flies were something else again. And the spur of this great epiphany

that took me from an idealized spring to a one of flesh and blood was the fly that ran into my cheek as I was working at the computer, ricocheted into my mug of tea, and screamed frantically for me to save her.

A week ago I would have rushed to pluck this comrade from certain death. Not so now. The affection I felt for the sacred first fly of the year was gone.

Now I only saw the flies of everyday life, and they pledged not only the warmth and the clear skies of April, but hoards of other flies, and then Japanese beetles and carpenter bees and yellow jackets, cabbage worms and bean beetles, old enemies of mine, enemies who comforted me sometimes by their existence, but who were adversaries nonetheless.

I realized I would be lonely without them; they were, in a sense, guardian spirits, allies. But then too, I realized I had to set their limits. I, not they, had to be the God of this place. My heart hardened. Last week, I might have reached in to the coffee mug and rescued the buzzing prophet. This week, the romance was gone.

—W. L. Felker



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North Country Book News

If You Know a Horse-Crazy Kid, Get Them *Horse Crazy!*

Everybody knows (or has been) a horse-crazy kid—the ones who read all the horse books, would rather spend time at the stable than at the mall, would rather ride a horse than ride a bike, who would rather clean a stall than clean their room. Every parent of a horse-crazy kid is looking for a one-stop resource filled with horse knowledge to keep those kids busy with their favorite subject, and *Horse Crazy!* is the perfect choice. Award-winning author Jessie Haas is certifiably horse-crazy herself and has compiled almost 400 pages of horse trivia and information for any kid who's idea of a perfect day is one filled with manes, tails, neighs, and stalls.

Horse Crazy! is divided into three sections, "In the Know: Essential Equine Information for the Truly Obsessed," "In the Saddle and In the Stall and In the Show Ring," and "In the Spotlight: The Arts, The Environment, and Some Equine Extras."

"In the Saddle" offers practical information on horse handling: Western vs. English riding, success in the show ring, how to choose a horse camp, having fun in the horse world, and much, much more.

"In the Spotlight" unleashes the creative impulses of the horse enthusiast. Write a horse story, draw in the stable

while visiting your best friends, or walk through a horse show with a camera.

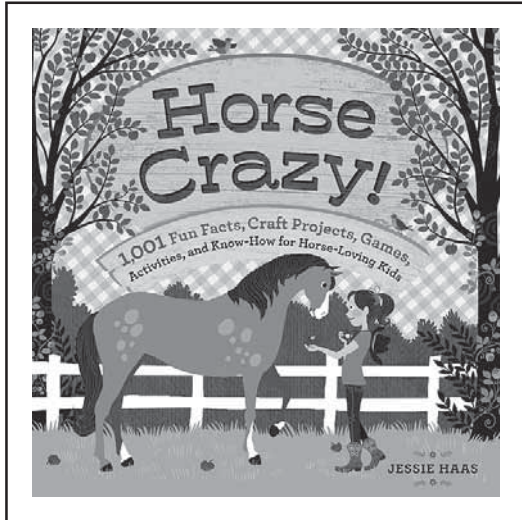
"In the Know" teaches kids about equine anatomy, history, eating habits, and ways to make horses your friends.

Horse Crazy! isn't just for horse-owners; any kid who loves horses will love this encyclopedic book filled with fun. Every page has sidebars, crafts, fun facts and lore, movies about and starring horses, the best and most beloved horse books through the ages, and activities to share with other horse-crazy friends. Jewelry-making, knot-tying, horse show information, and profiles of out-of-the-ordinary sports like jousting, cowboy mounted shooting, and skiing are in its pages as well as activities that can be done with or without horses.

A large resource section will lead readers to equine careers, horse clubs, riding groups, and other horse facts found in the book. It's one-stop shopping for horse-crazy kids who never want to stop learning!

Jessie Haas is the award-winning author of over 30 books of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for children and young adults, including *Safe Horse, Safe Rider*. A lifelong horse-crazy kid, she has owned many horses including her current horse, a two-year-old Morgan filly named Robin. Jessie lives in a solar-powered cabin in Southeastern Vermont with her husband, Michael, also a writer.

Horse Crazy! by Jessie Haas is available for \$16.95, paper cover, with two-color illustrations throughout. It is published by Storey Publishing and available through your favorite bookseller. www.storey.com.



Bear Pond Books Presents Mystery Author David Carkeet

David Carkeet, author of *From Away* (The Overlook Press) will be at Bear Pond Books in Montpelier, Vermont on Tuesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. for a book & author reading and book signing.

An award-winning writer who lives in Middlesex, VT, Carkeet has turned out a Vermont mystery with a humorous, farcical bent, true to the character of Vermont, and full of entertaining story.

Denny Braintree, from away—in this case Chicago—finds himself embroiled in a snowy demise (not of his doing), a case of mistaken identity, and the scrutiny of a trusting/not trusting cop duo who make returning home a

little difficult. The Vermont characters, real and imagined, give Denny a run for his money as he tries to unravel what is happening to him.

Denny himself is an imaginative and colorful person, an overweight model train hobbyist and magazine writer who perseveres through the twists and turns of the mystery he finds himself embroiled in, and does quite well for himself. And for the reader.

This event is free and open to the public.

Bear Pond Books is located at 77 Main St., Montpelier, VT. (802) 229-0774. www.bearpondbooks.com.

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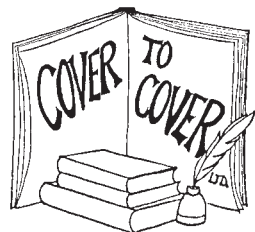
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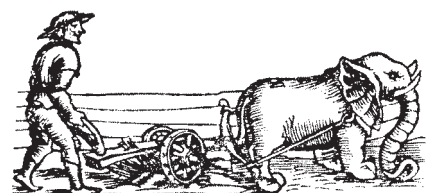
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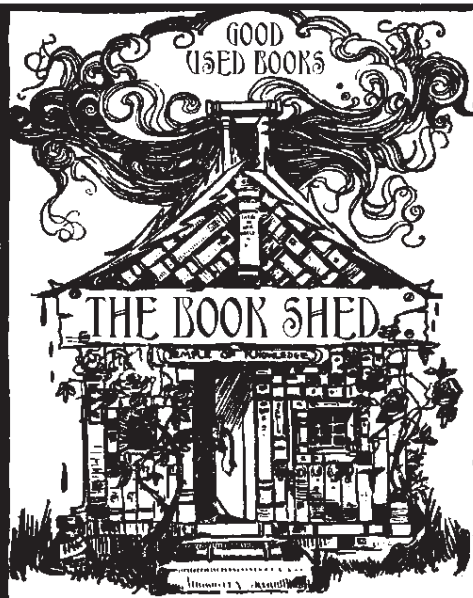
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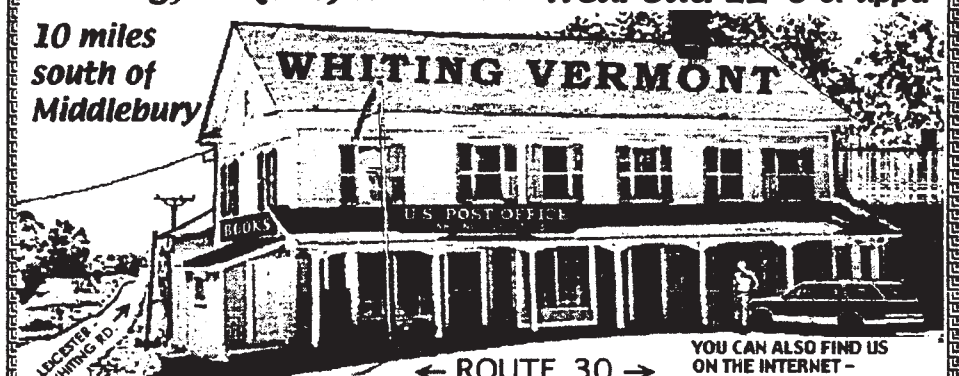
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Starter Vegetable Gardens 24 No-Fail Small Organic Gardens by Barbara Pleasant (Storey Publishing)

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—Barbara Pleasant

With self-sufficiency, local eating, and access to healthful foods, more and more people today want to start growing their own produce. *Starter Vegetable Gardens: 24 No-Fail Plans for Small Organic Gardens* by award-winning author Barbara Pleasant gives everyone a chance to grow beautiful vegetables, no matter how small their space or how inexperienced they may feel at sowing seeds. The book is a great place to begin and handy reading the last of cabin fever.

Twenty-four different garden plans for all manner of spaces from tiny to backyard-size are laid out in photos and illustrations. The helpful text gently guides both beginners and more experienced growers in creating an Easy-Care Bag Garden, Bountiful Border, or Front-Yard Food Supply. A chapter on Family Food Factory Gardens includes plans for Short Cool Summers, Full-Season Summers, and Long Hot Summers. Every climate is considered.

Starter Vegetable Gardens takes the confusion out of starting a garden project by showing planting plans and lists of ev-

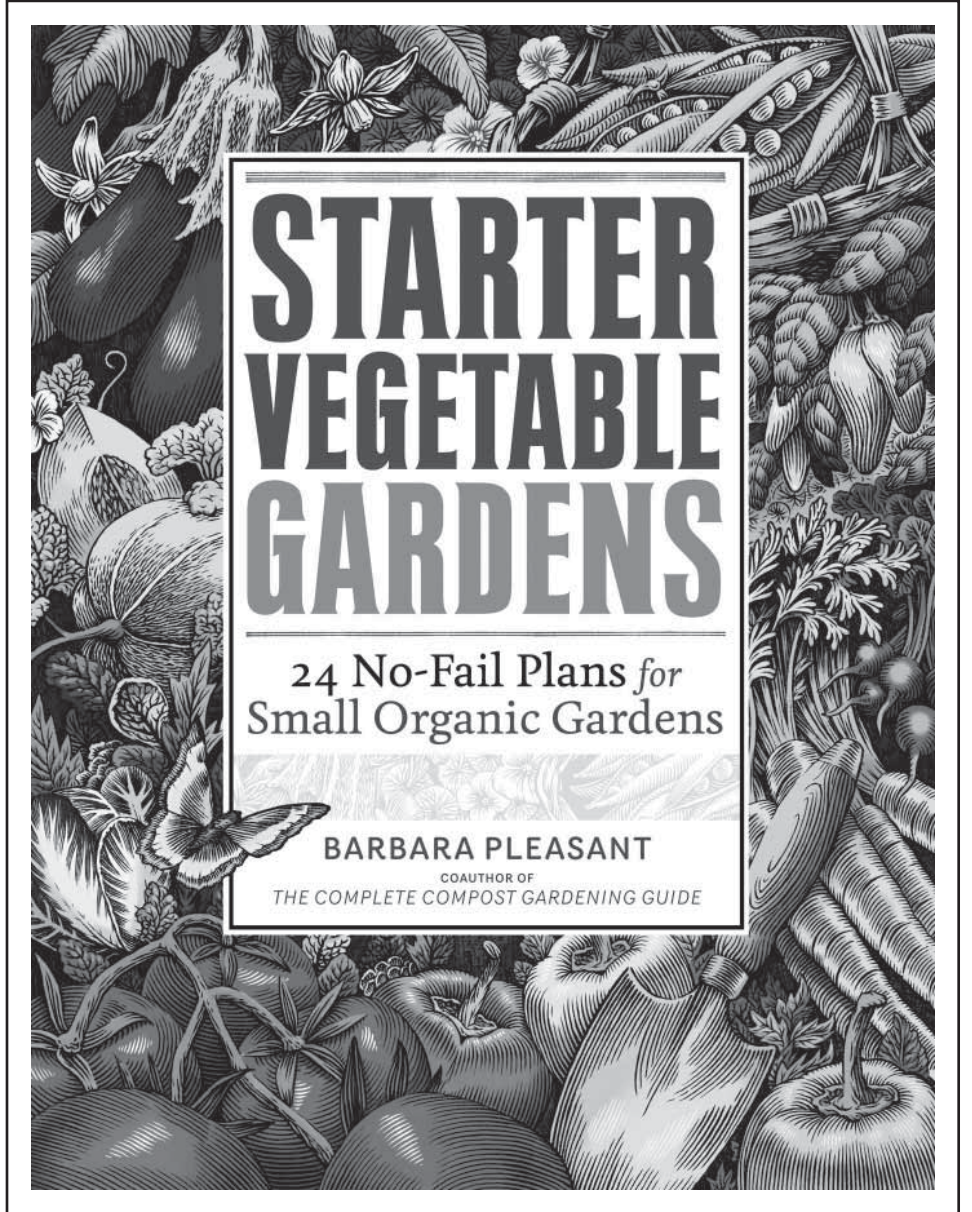
erything readers need to successfully grow three different types of gardens. Each plan starts small and gradually expands over a three-year period.

Including sections on Essential Techniques and More Planting Plans, Part Two helps new gardeners learn basic skills like planting seeds and harvesting techniques. There are also helpful tips and pointers for more experienced gardeners. Problems gardeners may encounter, from drought to disease, infertile soil, or watering challenges are delved into.

Finally, Part Three provides information on picking strong varieties of plants, whether from a seed catalog or garden store. Author Pleasant offers extra help in a supplementary Basic Gardener's Lingo section, and gives readers ideas in her Which Planting Plans Are Right for You? Inventory lists of the plans in the book are keyed to readers' wants, needs, and whims. As she says, "In gardening, as in life, there is always something new to explore."

Barbara Pleasant is the coauthor of *The Complete Compost Gardening Guide* and author of *The Complete Houseplant Survival Manual and Garden Stone*. Her work has been honored by the Garden Writers Association and the American Nursery and Landscape Association, and she is a contributing editor at Mother Earth News. She lives in Virginia, where she grows vegetables and herbs as well as assorted berries and fruits.

Starter Vegetable Gardens: 24 No-Fail Plans for Small Organic Gardens by Barbara Pleasant, published by Storey Publishing, is available in hardcover for \$29.95 and paper cover for \$19.95. It has many full-color photographs and illustrations. www.storey.com.



Don't Throw It, Grow It!

by Deborah Peterson & Millicent Selsam
(Storey Publishing)

Turn Kitchen Scraps into Kitchen Magic! When is a leftover piece of ginger root not merely destined for the compost heap, or a wrinkled potato well past its prime more than just an affront to the eye and nose? When Deborah Peterson gets her hands on it and transforms it into a windowsill plant!

Peterson reveals the hidden possibilities of everyday foods in *Don't Throw It, Grow It!* A former president of the American Pit Gardening Association, Peterson shows how common kitchen staples—pits, nuts, beans, seeds, and tubers—can be coaxed into lush, vibrant houseplants. With Peterson's help, a sweet potato turns into a blooming vine;

chickpeas transform into cheery hanging baskets; a humble beet becomes a dramatic centerpiece; and ginger root grows into a three-foot, bamboolike stalk. In some cases, the transformation can happen overnight!

Don't Throw It, Grow It! includes growing instructions for 68 plants in four broad categories—kitchen vegetables, fruits and nuts, herbs and spices, and more exotic plants. The book is enhanced with beautiful illustrations, and its at-a-glance format makes it a quick and easy reference. Every featured plant, from onions and carrots to loquats and guavas, can be grown in a kitchen.

Committed recyclers, teachers and parents who

want to introduce science to children, and anyone with a taste for the unusual will find a treasure trove of ideas in *Don't Throw It, Grow It!* After learning her techniques, no one will look at an avocado pit the same way again.

Author Deborah Peterson, a founder of the Rare Pit & Plant Council has contributed to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbooks.

Don't Throw It, Grow It! by Deborah Peterson and Millicent Selsam, Storey Publishing, is available for \$10.95. www.storey.com.

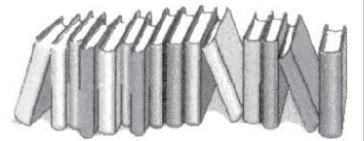
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Traditional Crafts Revival at Bridgewater Mill

by Charles Sutton

The 142-year-old Bridgewater Mill, an rambling eye-catching structure halfway between Woodstock and Killington, VT, may have finally found a perfect way to exist and prosper in this 21st century.

For 105 years after it was built in 1852 the woolen mill produced quality heavy wool blankets including many that covered troops in the U.S. Army and bundled up skiers for the chilly, open-air ride on the slow-moving original ski lifts up Killington Mountain. Although the mill was heir to the inevitable end for all New England woolen mills, it still hung on until 1973 when it closed for good.

Since then new owners have used the mill as an antiques center, factory outlet, and retail stores for small businesses like a bookstore and bakery. Most left because of downturns in the economy creating fewer customers. However, survivors were the crafts people who needed studio areas, with retail customers an added bonus.

With this background to work with, Jireh Billings of Woodstock, VT came up with an ingenious plan to revitalize the mill—of which he is now part-owner—with non-profit and profit-making businesses working together to sustain one another. The key word here is “sustain” with Jireh moving his non-profit Sustainable Earth Foundation into the mill with an unusual revival plan: discarded materials would be recycled to aid craft-making businesses.

Jireh began with the less accessible third floor, opening a non-profit clothing thrift store four years ago. The store now recycles 40 tons of materials a year, making it the largest thrift store in the area. In addition to clothing the store has an extensive housewares, children’s stuffed animals, small furniture, and books. The store is now profitable, and is supplying the cloth (mostly T-shirts) for the mill’s second venture—a newly opened Heritage Weaving Studio. Volunteers are there making beautiful rag rugs on donated looms, some of them handsome vintage antiques. The weavers will soon be making enough rugs to turn a profit. This studio fits one of the goals of the revitalized mill—to serve the community, a place where people can come to learn a traditional craft or see how it’s done for its educational value. Goldsmithing, jewel and furniture making crafters are already operating in the mill, and they welcome visitors. A newcomer is The Corner Frame Shop which also has a studio in Randolph, VT. Owner Shari Voghell is enthusiastic about the mill’s future and its appeal for creative people. The thrift shop recycles gifts of prints and paintings to her for framing.

Hoping to do more with textiles, Jireh is looking for quilt makers to open a studio similar to the weavers, and eventu-



Woolen mill workers gather for a photo outside the Bridgewater Mill, circa 1885. photo courtesy of The Marketplace at Bridgewater Mill

ally become self-sufficient. Once again, the quilt makers could count on an endless supply of fabrics from the thrift store. He is also hoping to attract other entrepreneurs willing to recycle donated gifts of building supplies, small furniture, and antique rugs (including washing and repair service). Jireh may be the man behind the scenes for all that is being created here, but he is often at the mill doing ‘hands-on’ work like making sure the thrift store items are neatly arranged.

A recent addition to the mill is Ramunto’s Brick & Brew Pizza restaurant, making the mill even more inviting as a place to visit crafts people at work, do some shopping, and have something to eat.

The Sustainable Earth Foundation has an environment component and Jireh plans to have the mill create its own power from solar and wind sources and water power from the adjacent north branch of the Ottauquechee River. Hopefully surpluses will be available to the surrounding community.

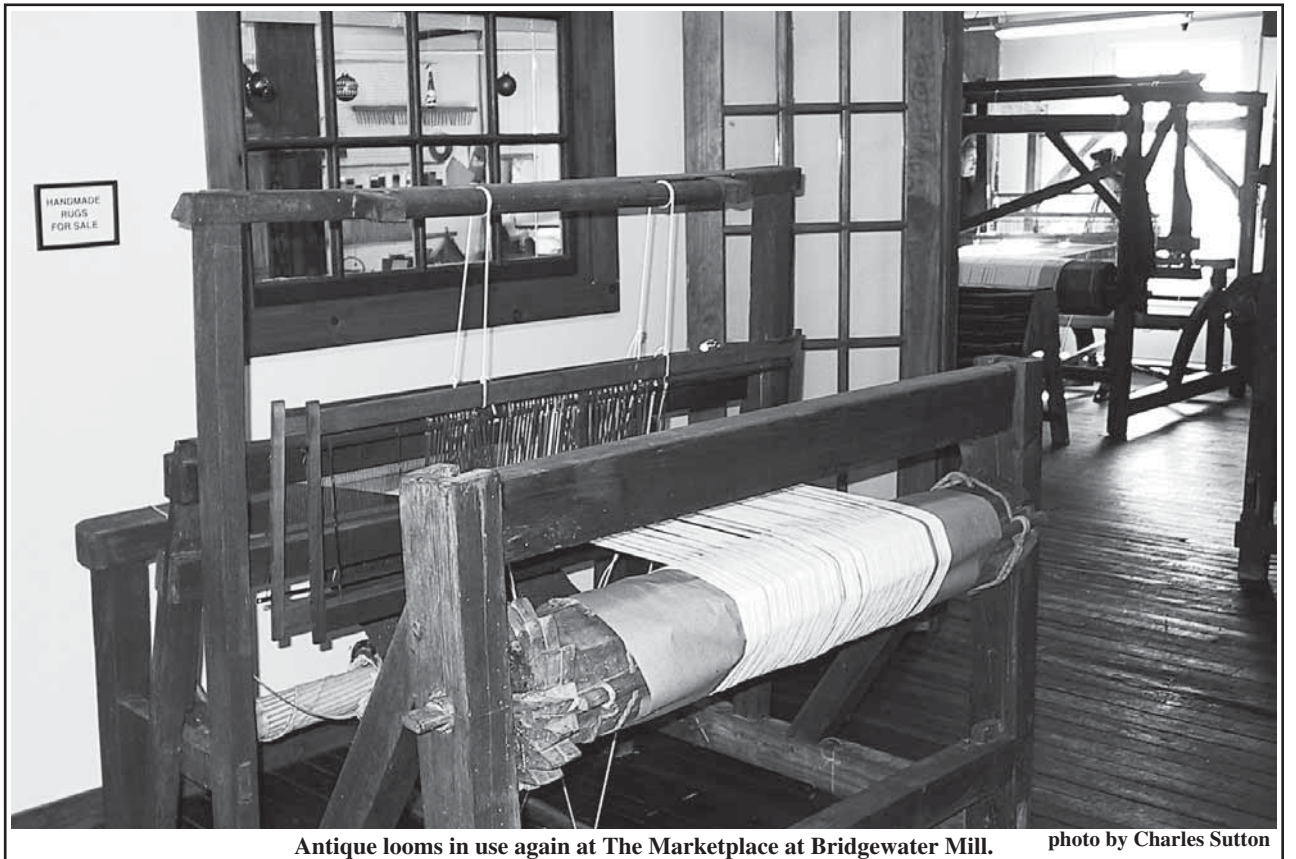


Jireh Billings tends shop at the Thrift Store.

The Marketplace at Bridgewater Mill is located on Rt. 4 between Woodstock and Killington, VT. It’s open 10 to 5 daily. The Heritage Weaving Studio is open 11 to 3 Thursday, Friday and Sunday and 10 to 4 Saturday. The Corner Frame Shop is open Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays 10 to 5 or by appointment—call (802) 672-2126. For information about the thrift store or the Sustainable Earth Foundation call (802) 672-1990.



Studio director Vassie Sinopoulos, teaches Mary Sokol of Woodstock, VT how to weave.



Antique looms in use again at The Marketplace at Bridgewater Mill. photo by Charles Sutton

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