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March 2012

N. Cassidy

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First Thursdays Series Opens At Bellows Falls Opera House

Mark Erelli Kicks Off The 2012 Concert Season

The Bellows Falls-Brattleboro corridor has become a hotbed for live, original music, and the region is continuing to flourish with Flying Under Radar's launch of a new season of First Thursdays at the Bellows Falls Opera House.

Starting things off on March 1 is Mark Erelli. Erelli is an exceptional songsmith and performer, balancing a fatalistic view of human behavior with an enduring optimism, as well as a multi-instrumental string wizard—he is a regular sideman for Josh Ritter and Lori McKenna. He's also a musical collaborator with such Northeast musical luminaries as Catie Curtis, the Spurs, Jeffrey Foucault, Rani Arbo, and an unapologetic rummager in the closets of musical tradition—creating suites of Civil War songs, others of modern Western Swing. And, as Flying Under Radar's Charlie Hunter likes to point out, "he has a degree in studying bugs. What's not to love?"

On April 5, Bow Thayer brings his band Perfect Trainwreck to the series. Thayer is a powerful songwriter and performer from north Central Vermont, who makes gritty country-inflected rock and roll and collaborates with such legends as the Band's Levon Helm. Thayer also started the Tweed River Music Festival in Stockbridge, which has grown into one of the Northeast's best smaller festivals. "He's a pretty big deal up north and down in Boston," says Vermont Festivals' Ray Massucco.

May 5th sees iconic New England songwriter Cheryl Wheeler grace the stage. It has always seemed as if there were two Cheryl Wheelers, with fans relishing watching the two tussle for control of the mic. There is poet-Cheryl, writer of some of the prettiest, most alluring and intelligent ballads on the modern folk scene. And there is her evil twin, comic-Cheryl, a militant trend defier and savagely funny social critic.



photo by Terry Morse
Gesse (on left) and Mandy (right) are quite at home in the woods. This mother-daughter team of Canadian-bred Percherons helped owner Steve Morse bring in the sap from his sugarbush at Maple Hill Farm in Whitingham, VT.

The shows are scheduled for the Lower Theater at the Bellows Falls Opera House, and can easily be moved upstairs to the main auditorium should sales warrant. Doors for all the shows are at 7 p.m., with showtime at 7:30 p.m. Beverage service is provided by Pleasant Valley Brewing Company.

General admission tickets for Mark Erelli are \$18 in advance. \$30 front row "Angel" tickets are also available at all outlets. Advance tickets are available at Village Square Booksellers and Fat Franks in Bellows Falls, in Chester at Misty Valley Books, in Brattleboro at Turn It Up!, and on line at brattleborotix.com. A special Series ticket to all three shows plus the June 7 kickoff night for Roots on the River XIII at 33 Bridge Street offers substantial savings and is available online.

The shows benefit the Friends of the Bellows Falls Opera House. The series is co-presented by flying Under Radar and Vermont Festivals, LLC in association with WOOL 100.1FM and Kicking & Screaming.

For further information, call (802) 463-9595 or visit flyingunderradar.com.

Whitingham Maple Festival Coming March 24-25, 2012

The 14th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival celebrates an important aspect of Whitingham, VT's economic and cultural heritage.

Eight of our eighteen Whitingham sugar makers have graciously opened the doors of their sugar houses and given their time so that residents, visitors, and guests can gain a better understanding and appreciation for 'the art and science' of maple syrup and sugar making and the historical importance of "sugaring" to our town.

Whitingham is known as the birthplace of Brigham Young and there are two monuments in town noting Young's achievements.

The town is located in southern Vermont between

Bennington and Brattleboro, VT about 25 miles north of Greenfield, MA. There are a number of bed & breakfasts and small inns in and around the town making it an easy weekend destination.

In addition to touring the sugar houses, the town will be hosting a Craft Fair on Saturday & Sunday, Pancake Breakfasts and Luncheons on both Saturday and Sunday, and a Sugar-on-Snow Supper on Saturday evening. There will be a Kids' Corner and horse-drawn sleigh rides!

Everyone is invited to come join the festivities and enjoy sugaring season!

For more information visit www.whitingham-maplefest.us or call (802) 363-2807.



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Vermont Country Sampler
March 2012, Vol. XXVIII
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The Archipelago of Early Spring

by Bill Felker

*All that I had dreamed was true, is true.
The earth is fair, more fair
Than I had known or imagined.*

—Harlan Hubbard

In the very early spring, islands of new life emerge from the waves of warmth and cold that move across the landscape.

Within these islands, often separated from each other by broad expanses of chilling winds, weeks of gray skies, sometimes only narrowly divided by a night of frost, the season reveals its stunning topography.

Early spring is an archipelago of forms rising out of February's great sea, and like ephemeral atolls, the events of this temporal, mottled continent multiply, swell, and recede to alter the face of our habitat with an inexorable beauty.

The geography of early spring is fixed in shape and order but not in time. The archipelago of winter's end is fluid, what chronologists call a "floating sequence," a sequence the dates of which are relatively well known in relation to one another but not in relation to when exactly they will occur on the brittle Gregorian calendar.

Observation and memory, however, easily decipher the secret code of the floating sequence, uncover the fluid terrain from which fauna and flora materialize, and spread a map of promise across the seemingly uncharted expanse of winter.



In the northern half of the United States, early spring fills the six weeks between the middle of February and the end March. This month and a half links the deep cold with the lushness of April, and it is made up of constellations of color, motion and sound, and mustering of new sprouts and leaves, birds, insects, mammals and fishes. Wherever the floating sequence begins, it follows something of the order below; no matter where it takes place, the following landmarks are only fragments of a far greater ferment.

Starting with the major thaw of February's third week, the first cluster of spring's appearance takes the form of snowdrops and aconites flowering together in the warmest microclimates beside the prophetic hellebores and Chinese witchhazels of late January. Within a few days, snow crocus and iris reticulata complete this island of time at the chilliest edge of spring.

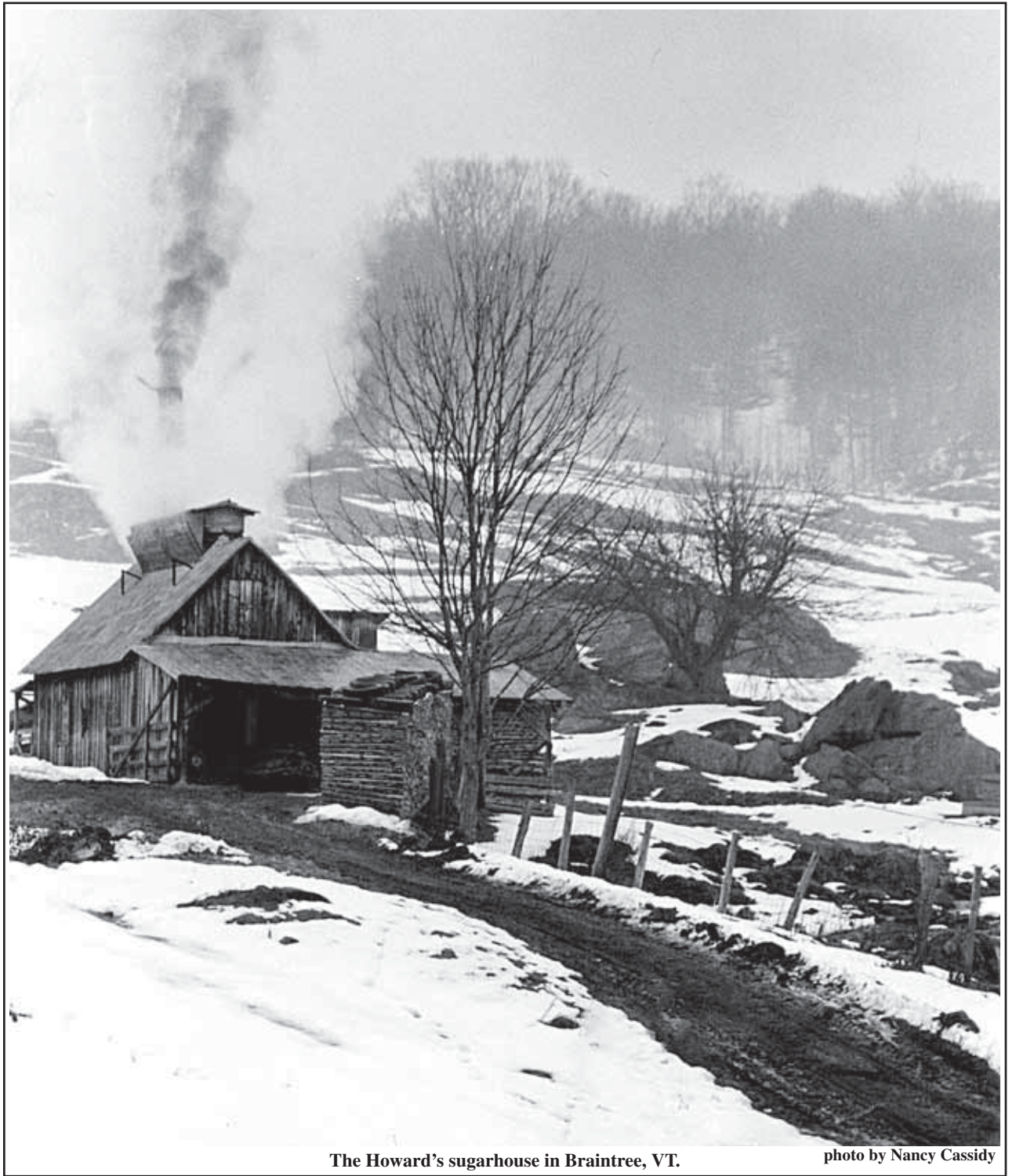
A parallel cluster rises from the swamps: the skunk cabbage blossoms at Jacoby. In alleyways and lawns, common chickweed, dandelions and henbit complement the cabbage. Above them all, red-winged blackbirds stake out different limits.

After Snowdrop Winter (between February 23rd and 27th), ducks and geese follow the lead of the blackbirds, marking ownership of the more favorable river sites for nesting. Migrating robins join the flocks that overwintered in the woods.

Past the seasons of the snowdrops and aconites, midseason crocuses initiate more complex configurations that lead to fat pussy willows, bright blue squills, delicate yellow jonquils, then to the full-size daffodils, then to purple grape hyacinths, then to pale wood hyacinths and pushkinias.

To these outcroppings come the pollen seekers: the honeybees and carpenter bees. Other creatures follow. Mosquitoes and newborn wolf spiders look for prey. The mounds of ants rise from winter's prairie. In rivers and ponds, water striders mate. Earthworms come out of hiding, lie together in the mild night rains. It is salamander season in the slime and snake basking season in the sun. Spring peepers peep.

Then the root and insect eaters become active, joining the beavers that have been cutting trees and eating bark since



The Howard's sugarhouse in Braintree, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

January. Groundhogs dig up the hillsides. Opossums, skunks, raccoons come seek their mates and sustenance. Turkey vultures circle the roads looking for road kill. Wild turkeys start to call. The first woodcocks spiral in the woods. In the village, the tufted titmouse spirals, too.

When pussy willows are at their peak, new configurations take shape, adding multiple pathways to all the recent temporal spaces. Into the world of pussy willows come the white magnolias in town, snow trillium along the rivers spring beauties on the woodland floor. Across the bottomland, soft touch-me-nots sprout, coveted ramps push up their medicinal foliage to pace the stalks of daylilies, rhubarb and precocious bleeding hearts.

When pollen covers the pussy willows, then honeysuckle, mock orange, privet, wild multiflora roses, lilac, black raspberry and coralberry leaves break out from their buds, a signal for cornus mas and lungwort to flower and for mourning cloak butterflies and cabbage moths to navigate the channels

of equinox. A few days later come the question-mark and tortoise-shell butterflies and then the white-spotted skippers.

In the last few days of March when the pussy willow catkins start to fall, the archipelago of early spring becomes a dense maze of islets unimaginable at the end of February. In the trees, the finches turn gold. In ponds, the toads are singing. Calves and lambs appear in the fields. Carp are frolicking in the rivers. Young opossums come out to play. Wasps crawl from their winter crevices.

In the garden, the early tulips unfold. Star of Holland comes in beneath the bright forsythia. And just as skunk cabbage starts to produce its foliage, the first tremendous mass of wildflowers suddenly opens all at once on the farthest and mildest border of the early spring archipelago: inflorescence of periwinkle, hepatica, violet cress, harbinger of spring, bloodroot, Dutchman's britches, bittercress, twinleaf and Virginia bluebell leading now into the endlessly intricate paradise of April.

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Vermont Jazz Center Holds Benefit for Fuel Funds

The Vermont Jazz Center presents the "Hot Jazz for Warm Homes" Winter Benefit Concert on March 10th at 8 p.m. at the Vermont Jazz Center in Brattleboro, VT.

The concert benefits struggling families and individuals with unmet fuel assistance needs throughout Windham County through donations to Southeastern Vermont Community Action and Windham County Heatfund.

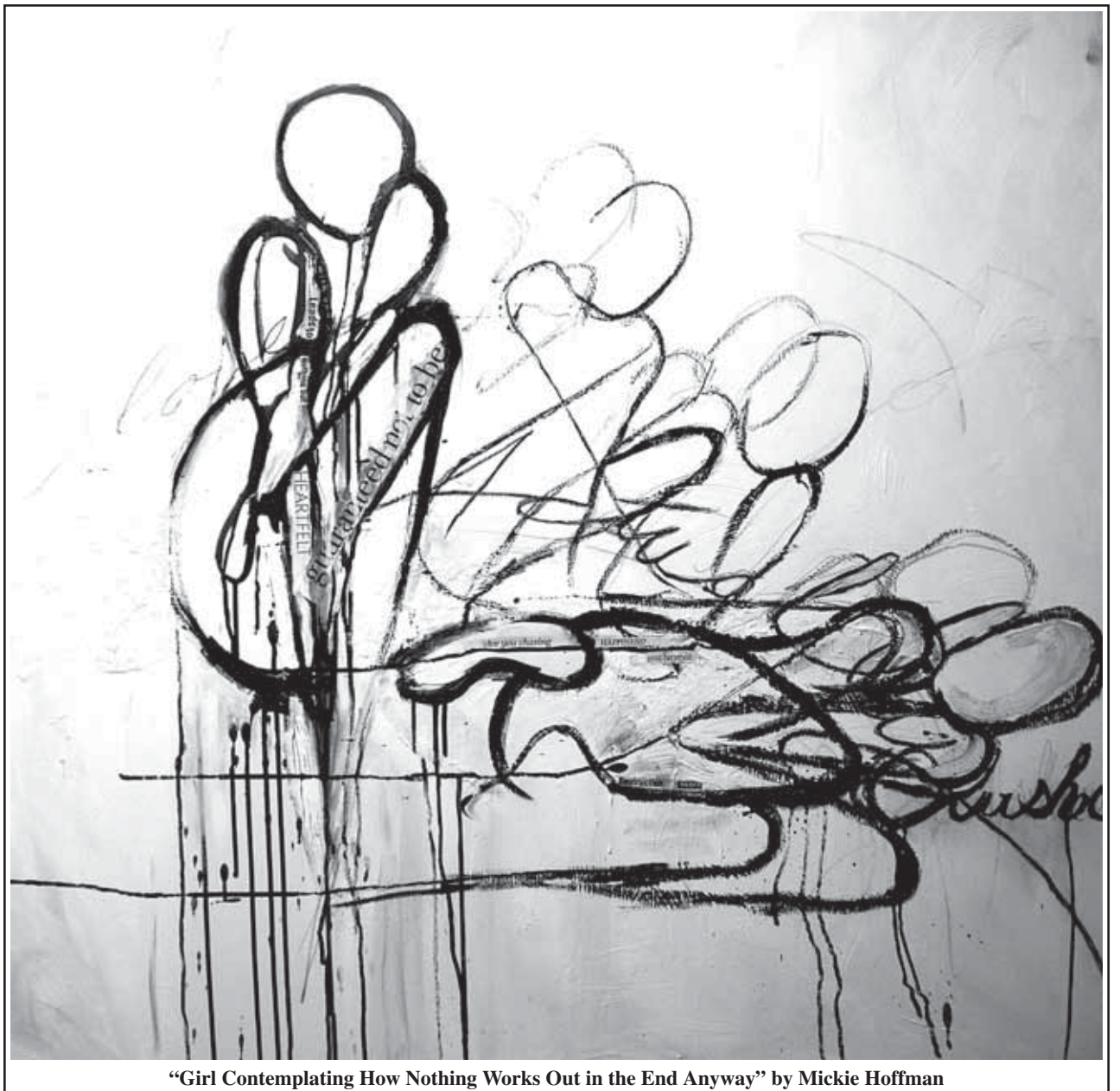
The featured artist will be the world-acclaimed acoustic Gonzalo Bergara Quartet. Native Argentinean Gonzalo Bergara is a guitar virtuoso who has forged his own style of progressive Gypsy Jazz. While heavily influenced by Django Reinhardt and the Hot Club of France, Bergara's quartet performs meticulous arrangements of standards from the Gypsy Jazz canon as well as clever, soaring and inspiring originals. Gonzalo's latest album, *Simplicated* (2011), follows his highly acclaimed 2007 release *Porteña Soledad*, which was named an Editor's Pick by *Guitar Player Magazine* and "a masterpiece" by *Vintage Guitar Magazine*.

The money raised from

this event is especially critical, in light of funding cuts to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP) at the federal level, in spite of the fact that the demand for fuel assistance has risen dramatically. Heating assistance cuts particularly put children, the elderly, and people with disabilities and illness at risk during the cold winter months.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$18 for students with valid ID. To purchase using a credit card, visit the VJC website at www.vtjazz.org. Tickets can also be purchased at In the Moment in downtown Brattleboro, or can be reserved by calling the VJC ticket-line at (802) 254-9088. This concert is handicap accessible.

The Vermont Jazz Center is located at 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222, in Brattleboro, VT. For information, contact Eugene Uman at (802) 254-9088, eugene@vtjazz.org. Or go to www.vtjazz.org, www.sevca.org, www.gonzalobergara.com. The Vermont Jazz Center is a non-profit jazz performance space and educational center.



"Girl Contemplating How Nothing Works Out in the End Anyway" by Mickie Hoffman

Art Openings Feature Bryce LeVan Cushing And Other Contemporary Artists

There is never a dull moment in the burgeoning contemporary art scene in Vermont these days it seems. Many like minded folks have come together in the village of Chester, VT with the specific vision of making our neck of these beautiful woods a major modern art destination akin to North Adams with MASS MOCA.

Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts Hosts Earth Rhythms

Bryce LeVan Cushing shares that vision with the founders of the Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts in Chester, VT and opens there with their next show titled: *Earth Rhythms*. This is a group show featuring new works by artists: Marilyn Allen, Casey Blanchard, Richard Weis and LeVan Cushing. The opening reception is on Saturday February 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The show runs thru March 31, 2012.

Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts is located in Chester at 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. www.vtica.org.

Storytime Exhibit at Studio Place Arts

Janet Van Fleet is one of the most active participants involved in keeping the arts alive in the state of Vermont. She operates the Vermont Art Zine which provides the most up to date information on what is happening in the arts in Vermont at any given moment.

Van Fleet also curates shows at Studio Place Arts in Barre, VT. Showing there from March 6 to April 7 is the show titled: *Storytime—Narrative, Allegory & Graphics*. Bryce was honored to be asked to add work to this group show which explores how contemporary art has come back to acknowledging the inescapable fact that humans are storytellers and meaning seekers. These stories are found in our art. This show opens with a gala event on Friday, March 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

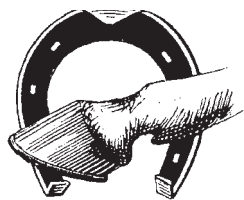
The gallery is located at 201 N. Main St. in Barre, VT. (802) 479-7069. www.studioplacarts.com.

New Show at BLCARTGRP Gallery

BLCARTGRP Gallery is proud to announce its next show: *Shower Walls*, featuring the stark, bold, dynamic mixed media paintings by Mickie Hoffman of New York City. Mickie states that "my art has always offered me the opportunity to look at myself, my perceptions and my relationship to and with others. This experience affords me a type of peace. I most often begin with a vision of a person, then pencil, charcoal or ink bring life and form to this vision." Her work begins on her shower walls and evolves on her canvas. The show also includes *Iron Sculptures* by Adam Howard.

Shower Walls opens at BLCARTGRP Gallery in the Moon Dog Cafe Building in Chester, VT on Sunday March 18th and runs through April 20th. The opening event is from 3 to 8 p.m. and features a live performance at 6 p.m. by singer-songwriter Dan Aaron from Middlebury, VT. Dan has been compared to Cat Stevens, is originally from NYC and is equally at home in an acoustic setting or amid screaming guitars and thrashing cymbals. Dan's unique style brings forth music to help you "get in touch with your inner grownup."

The gallery is located at 295 Main St. in Chester, VT. Gallery hours are daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information call (802) 289-1663, e-mail brycelevancushing@gmail.com, or visit www.brycelevancushing.com.



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Native Tree & Shrub Sale At The Nature Museum

The Museum has expanded the varieties of plants available this year and has extended the deadline for ordering to March 15, 2012. In addition to this year's offerings of alternate-leaf dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) and common sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*), we're bringing back last year's selections of shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*) and winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). These four will also be available next year, with the addition of two new varieties (to be determined). This way, you will be able to "test out" plants to see how they'll work in your landscaping plan, and you'll be able to build your collection in successive years.

There are so many gorgeous native trees and shrubs that have been by-passed by the nursery industry in favor of "exotics," but exotics do not feed birds, insects and other wildlife as successfully as natives do. After all, they've been co-evolving for thousands of years right here in the northeast! Natives are rarely invasive, they tend to be low-maintenance and they add healthy biological diversity to our region.

The sale works like this: you place an order ahead of time and then take delivery in the spring. We've made it easy to give them as gifts—native trees and shrubs make thoughtful gifts that will remind the recipient of you for the life of the plant! The Museum will provide you

with a gift card, and you or the recipient will pick the plant up in the spring with complete instructions for planting. Consider the trees and shrubs for birthdays, anniversaries, religious holidays, and any other occasion.

The Museum selects plants based on four-season interest, hardiness to this area, wildlife value, and, of course, beauty! Alternate-leaf dogwood features graceful architecture and creamy flowers, the calycanthus offers fragrant burgundy flowers and unusual fruit, shadbush is known for its early spring show and edible fruit, and winterberry for its spectacular winter display of scarlet berries. All these species have a lot going for them. Visit our website at www.nature-museum.org for the details of their benefits and cultural requirements.

Prices range from \$35 to \$50 and are typical retail prices. Proceeds support the Museum's educational programming and signature events. Supplies are limited, pre-orders only. The Museum gratefully acknowledges our partner in this venture, Rugg Valley Landscaping.

To place your order call the Museum at (802) 843-2111 or visit our website to add native beauty and birds to your property today!

The Nature Museum at Grafton is located at 186 Townshend Rd. For information call (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.



Neatly stacked winter woodpile in Danville, VT.

photo by Jeff Gold

Only Touch It Once

Many people believe that a woodcutter should handle his or her logs as little as possible between the felling of the tree and the feeding of the fire. Ideally, one would make the cut, load the fuel on the truck, stack it neatly next to the house, and finally stoke the stove.

"Only touch it once," they say, suggesting that, after you put the wood on your vehicle, you should only handle it one more time. That is, you stack it. Putting it in the stove apparently doesn't count.

All that sounds reasonable, but I just can't do it that way. Sometimes I just make a disorganized heap out of my wood. Sometimes I stack it neatly. Sometimes I make things with it. Sometimes I leave branches lying around until I want to saw them up.

And I am never satisfied with the location of the woodpile. Sometimes I move it from one side of the yard to the other. I tell myself I do that because I want to build something in the place where the wood was originally stacked. Last year I moved the pile because I wanted to make a shelter for the wood. When I developed a hernia, I didn't build the shed, and I didn't move the wood back.

Another problem I have is that committing to a having a

woodpile in a set area seems so final to me. I have the same problem trying to decide about how I really want the entire yard to look. I guess if I could settle on a landscaping plan, I could settle on a place to put the wood. Maybe next year.

But maybe not.

Is that because I like to move wood back and forth? I think it is. A neatly stacked woodpile is a beautiful sight, but it implies a greater order in the universe than I am willing to

admit. A woodpile in flux is so full of potential. Like a blank slate, it lies open to a multitude of options.

For example, the woodpile could become a fence. I need a fence around my yard. A

fence would allow me to spend innumerable hours fitting and unfitting logs to create the tightest and most aesthetic enclosure. I could handle the wood as often as I liked. And, since it would be such a big job, I would probably not be able to finish it before the winter. Then I would have to burn the fence up to stay warm.

"Only touch it once," tells me I have better things to do than fool around with the woodpile.

What fun is that!

—W. L. Felker

"A neatly stacked woodpile is a beautiful sight, but it implies a greater order in the universe than I am willing to admit."



GENESIS

My father is a cedar tree
He does not change his leaf.
He is the same strong, stubborn man
In merriment or grief.

My mother is an apple tree
That changes in the spring.
The fruit she bears is afterthought
To her gay blossoming.

My father gave me breadth of back
And iron in my wrist.
My mother used to walk with me
Exulting in the mist.

—JAKE FALSTAFF

Good Karma Thrift & Gift

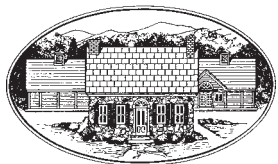
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The David Harlow family out sugaring in the Spring in years gone by, Ludlow, VT.

photo by Ann Rose

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Annual March Maple Breakfast and Family Activities At Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT

Merck Forest and Farmland Center announces their annual Maple Celebration and Breakfast taking place Saturday, March 24th and Sunday, March 25th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

The locally-sourced breakfast will include pancakes, Vermont eggs and dairy, as well as breakfast sausage made from Merck's pork and Merck's Vermont certified organic maple syrup.

Throughout the weekend, guests will be able to see the sugaring process, walk or hike through many acres of forest and field. Children and their families will have the opportunity to explore Merck Farm on a scavenger hunt, with riddles and rhymes to guide them.

Tickets to the breakfast are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12; under 2, free.

Two dollars from each adult ticket sold will be contributed to local food pantries.

For those who would like to volunteer with the Merck's Annual Maple Celebration and Breakfast or get further information on other Merck events and workshops, call (802) 394-7836 or e-mail info@merckforest.org.

Other March Merck events include "Time to Knit" (free) on March 10th from 1 to 4 p.m. and a "Wool and Weav-

ing Workshop" (fee \$5, pre-registration suggested) on March 31 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit environmental educational organization whose mission is to teach and demonstrate the benefits of innovative, sustainable management of forest and farmland.

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Forest and Farmland Center is open to the public year round, 7 days a week from dawn to dusk.

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Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Route 315, Rupert, VT 05768. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

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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 peeves.

Mansfield and The Hump
 Bore the winter well;
 Both stand up as straight
 As when the first snow fell.
 Winooski and Lamoyille
 Sprint 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



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Vermont Sugarmaker Recalls the Early Days

by Charles Sutton

Farm life in Vermont in the 1930s and 1940s may have been a daily “hand to mouth” struggle, but families were ingenious in making ends meet, and sometimes its rewards were a life style that many of us miss and can only vaguely remember as “The Good Old Days.”

David S. Harlow of Ludlow, now in his mid-80s has taken us back to those times in his fascinating book, *The Way It Used To Be*. These are true stories and anecdotes of his earlier life when kids walked miles to the one-room school, sugaring was done with buckets and the sap hauled to the sugarhouses by horses, food was preserved in canning jars or meats frozen in a snowbank for the winter, and farmhouses had no running water nor bathrooms.

David tells us he lived with his grandparents in Sharon from the age of nine until he went to college. Gramps earlier had left Vermont with two of his brothers and all three became chefs in Boston. But after 20 years Gramps came home to farm, first with dairy cows and later, a large poultry business. We learn that chickens was Gram’s idea (egg money) and Gramps only went along with it as a good sport! But at one time they kept over 1,000 laying hens, starting out with 3,000 chicks each spring

“They even took over a large back room in the house and installed a big incubator to hatch out chickens and sold a thousand day-old checks each spring.”

Gram was also remembered for her home-made remedies which included mutton tallow for chapped hands and skin cracks; goose grease for chest colds, and dried catnip tea to help cure a cold.

Farm families always needed other ways to earn income. His grandparents also raised canaries and dogs (collies and cocker spaniels); and an uncle weaved baskets. David had his own pet dog, a black and tan Airedale Terrier named Buddy who was trained to guard the range chickens from foxes, woodchucks, raccoons and possibly thieves.

Most farmers back then (and many still today) made maple syrup as another way to garner some extra income especially at winter’s end when everyone was poor in the pocket. David relates what hard work it was for both man and horses and how careful the sugar makers had to be with the boiling temperature for maple syrup at exactly 219 degrees (7 degrees above the boiling point of water.)

David recalls how the men, gathering sap by carrying two twenty-quart pails from the tree buckets to the gathering tank on the sled, might break through the crusted snow and spill sap in their boots, or worse, end up in a complete sprawl. “This caused considerable hilarity for those who saw you,” David recalls, and the mishap earned its own name, “slumping.”

When the season ended was often decided by frogs or spring peepers. “When they were first heard the call went out, It’s all over—pull the buckets. If one still gathered it was called the frog run. And incidentally, the run after the first robins were seen was always the robin run and usually a good one.”



David Harlow, Jr. collects sap at the family sugar house in Ludlow, VT, circa 1968. photo by Ann Rose

David and his wife Marge still sugar the old-fashioned way in a small sugarhouse outside their home. “Enough for our family and friends,” Marge said. The couple fire their evaporator with wood, but do collect the sap through pipelines and a few buckets from trees in their dooryard.

For a number of years David and Marge ran the Green Mountain Sugar House across the road from where they live. Their daughter Ann (who grew up sugaring) and her husband Douglas Rose now run it.

Most of stories in *The Way It Used To Be* tell of a different lifestyle than the way youngsters live today. Back then, the great outdoors was their year-round playground for sledding and skating, hunting and fishing, and hiking, and there was a well-used swimming hole where the farm boys cooled off after their chores in the sun. There were no TVs, video games, computers, cell or iPhones.

Of all his memories, David misses the quiet—“Then there was the sound of silence, and that I miss most of all.”

The Way It Used To Be by David S. Harlow is available at Green Mountain Sugar House, 820 Route 100N, Ludlow VT. www.gmsh.com. (800) 643-9338. It is self-published and retails for \$14.95. To order by mail include \$5 s/h.



David Harlow’s snow-covered sugarhouse in Ludlow, VT.



David Harlow in Ludlow, VT.

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Middletown Springs Hosts 24th Annual Maple Festival

The Middletown Springs Historical Society will be holding its 24th Annual Maple Festival on the Green in Middletown Springs, VT and indoors in the museum on Sunday, March 18 from 1-4 pm.

The event will feature Fred Bradley's demonstration of early maple sugar boiling in a cast iron kettle over an open fire.

Delicious maple desserts created by Society members, maple products and crafts, and new 2012 maple syrup will all be available for sale.

Old-fashioned sugar-on-snow and delicious maple cotton candy are always favorites.

Videos about Vermont maple sugaring will be shown continuously. Maple sap buckets decorated by local

artists Barbie Carr, Chris Edmunds and Mareva Milarc will be raffled at the end of the afternoon.

Another raffle with over 50 prizes including \$75.00 and \$50.00 in cash, maple gift baskets, maple syrup and maple products, craft items, and gift certificates from local businesses will go on continuously during the festival.

A silent auction will be held during the festival featuring crafts, merchant donations and services.

Acoustic music and kids' activities enliven the free afternoon event. Plan to come and bring your family.

For more information about the Maple Festival call Robert Gould at (802) 235-1811.



Fred Bradley explains the technique of making maple syrup over an open fire to visitors at the Middletown Springs Historical Society's Maple Festival. The 24th Annual event will be held on Sunday, March 18 from 1-4 pm.

The Winter That Wasn't—Maybe...

Lots of folks have been talking about this mild open winter of no snow. In mid-February, they're wondering what sort of a maple sugaring it might bring. Many say they can't remember another winter like this. Some folks just have short memories.

While there are never, ever two winters exactly alike, we certainly have had other similar ones.

Go back to only 2002, a mild, open winter, green grass in February, maybe a bit more snow than 2012, and a bitter cold spell around March 20th—and it was a decent maple season.

Then there was 1980, another snowless winter when it took tractor trailer loads of snow to cover the slopes of Whiteface Mountain so the Olympic ski races could take place in Lake Placid, NY. We took a bus up for one day and the buses were parked in a huge barren field that looked like the Arizona desert. Sugaring was average.

Then there was 1965. Our neighbor was burning his trash barrel on March 15th when sparks flew out of it and set the dry grass in his meadow afire. They barely saved his nearby barn as flames raced across a 15-acre meadow toward a

nearby wood. Only a long, high stone wall stopped the fire before the woods. Most winters we don't experience high fire danger mid-March, and it was an average sugaring.

However, it was a 1949 winter that was the most like 2012. Most folks that I talk to don't seem to remember much about it. Bud Cole had a 1500-tap sugarbush about one mile west of Pawlet, VT that faced southeast.

On Valentines Day (February 14th, 1949), he tapped his woods. His neighbors thought that he was "off his rocker" and should be taken to Waterbury Hospital.

However Bud made serious syrup on February 16th and changed Vermont maple history forever. It even allowed us kids to convince our dad to let up tap our trees on February 21, the first time ever in February, even with our summer shoes on. Later on, the summer of 1949 was hot and dry, and the year of the greatest polio epidemic. But that winter of 1949 turned out to be the best season in five years!

So, it seems there is no reason why 2012 cannot turn out to be a good maple season.

—Bill Clark

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.

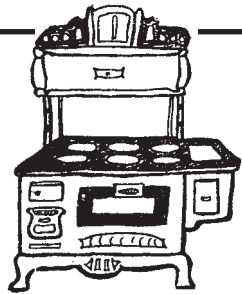
We did the trick by sprinting,
Tho' chilblains pinched our toes,

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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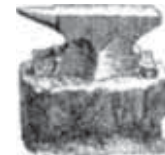
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1 tsp. yeast
2 tbsp. grade B maple syrup
2 tsp. salt
½ c. nonfat dry milk
2 tbsp. wheat germ

2 c. warm water
2 tbsp. light oil
5–6 c. unbleached white flour or bread flour

Dissolve the yeast in the warm water and maple syrup. Leave alone for a few minutes. When frothy, add oil, salt and 2 c. flour; beat well. Add dry milk and wheat germ, and mix in. Then, add 2–3 c. more flour, a little at a time. Knead about 10 minutes. Let rise until double. Punch down; roll dough to about ¼–½" thick. Spread some soft butter on the dough and sprinkle with ½ c. maple sugar or maple sprinkles. Roll up like a jelly roll. Slice into slices about 1" thick. In an 8 or 9" pan, melt about 1 tbsp. butter; add ¾ c. medium or dark maple syrup and 1 c. chopped nuts. Arrange slices in the pan; rise again, then bake at 375°.

—Armande Tremblay, St. Albans, VT

OLD-TIME MAPLE GINGERBREAD

1 egg
1 c. dark maple syrup
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda

1 c. sour cream
1 tsp. ginger
2 c. King Arthur flour
1 tsp. baking powder

Mix all ingredients together, and pour into greased bread pan. Bake at 350° for approximately 1 hour or until toothpick test comes clean. Serve with maple cream or butter.

—Nicki Paquette, St. Albans, VT

MAPLE SYRUP PUDDING

1 c. flour
1½ tsp. baking powder
½ c. milk
¼ c. melted butter

½ tsp. salt
¼ c. dark brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix ingredients. Place batter in 1-quart casserole. Sprinkle with raisins or chopped nuts. In a saucepan, bring ¾ c. maple syrup and ½ c. water to a boil. Pour this over the batter and bake in 350 degree oven for 35–40 minutes. Serve warm with light cream.

—Ginger Isham, Maple Grove Farm, Williston, VT

MAPLE SAUSAGE CHILI

1½ lbs ground beef (not too lean 85% or less)
1½ lbs sausage meat
1 very large onion chopped
1 large green pepper chopped (great if you leave it in strips too, makes a heartier chili)
3 or 4 cloves of garlic (or more) what ever you prefer, chopped
Two very large cans of stewed tomatoes (you can buy them with onion, celery and green pepper added to them, those work great too. Home canned or stewed tomatoes are also delicious)
1 14.5 oz can of tomato sauce
3½ Tbs. of chili powder (hot or regular)
½ tsp. of cumin
A healthy good pinch of fresh basil
¼ tsp. of good black pepper (fresh ground if possible)
¼ cup of A dark or grade B maple syrup (or more!)
2 14.5 oz cans of dark red kidney beans drained and rinsed.
1 lb of shredded aged cheddar cheese

This is a great recipe if you have a good hour after work to do right on the stove top, or you can brown all the meats and throw everything into a crock pot on low for eight hours. Chop garlic, onion and pepper. Brown all the meats together in one pan. You can drain the fat off if you wish, leaving some really adds good flavor. As the meat is browning add the onion, peppers and garlic to the meat to soften. When the meat is completely browned, add the stewed tomatoes and the tomato sauce and the chili powder, cumin, and half of the fresh basil. Allow this mixture to simmer on low for a good hour or more, stirring frequently. When the stewed tomatoes have cooked down completely, add the ¼ cup of dark maple syrup, drained kidney beans and the rest of the fresh basil. Stir these ingredients in until they are warmed through. Serve with lots of shredded aged cheddar on top. This is a great recipe for kids, too. Cut up a loaf of baguette bread and slice length wise, rub with fresh garlic and pile the chili on, add lots of cheddar, toast in oven just till cheese is melted.

—April Purinton-Hill



Maple sugar making time in Vermont, circa 1910.

MAPLE BRAN MUFFINS

1 c. King Arthur flour
1 c. bran flakes
½ c. chopped walnuts
1 c. sour cream

1 tsp. baking soda
½ c. raisins
1 c. maple syrup
2 eggs

Topping:

2 tbsp. maple syrup
2 tbsp. butter, melted

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease a jumbo six-muffin tin and set aside. Put the flour and baking soda into a medium-size bowl. Add the bran flakes, raisins and walnuts. Combine the maple syrup, sour cream and eggs in a small bowl; add to the dry ingredients and stir until just blended. Fill the muffin cups with the mixture. Bake for 20–22 minutes, or until the muffins are golden brown. Mix melted butter and maple syrup, brush over warm muffins, dust with confectionary sugar.

—Helen S. Parent, Enosburg Falls, VT

MAPLE APPLE PIE

8–14 apples (Northern Spy, Cortland, Macintosh or Braeburn) peeled, cored and thinly sliced
1 double pie crust

1½ tsp. cinnamon
2 tbsp. flour
¾ to 1 c. dark amber or grade B maple syrup

Preheat oven to 425° with the rack in the middle of oven. Roll out bottom pie crust and place in pie dish. Peel, core and slice apples. Place them in a large mixing bowl. Add

cinnamon and flour and stir to mix. Arrange ¼ of the apple mix in the pie dish. Drizzle ¼ of the maple syrup over the apples. Repeat this until all the apples are heaped in the dish. Top off with the maple syrup. Place upper crust on top. Pinch the two crusts together. Cut several vent holes in upper crust. Place pie dish on cookie sheet (for spills) and place in oven. Watch for over-browning of crust edges—cover the edges with foil if needed. Bake 50 minutes. Turn oven off and leave pie in oven 45–60 additional minutes. Remove from oven to rack to cool.

—Hannah Ivins Narowski, Maplestone Farm, East Cornith, VT

These recipes are shared with you from the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association. For a copy of the "The Official Vermont Maple Cookbook," Third Edition, please send a check for \$3, payable to Vermont Maple Foundation, to: Mary Croft, VMSMA Secretary/Treasurer, 491 East Barnard Rd., South Royalton, VT 05068.

For two copies of the cookbook, either the new Third Edition or the Second Edition or one of each (the two editions have completely different recipes) please send \$5. For the cost of larger quantities, contact Mary Croft.



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2nd Annual Vermont Teen Fly Fishing Summer Camp

Trout Unlimited's Mad-Dog Chapter announces year two of their fly fishing camp for Vermont teens ages 13 to 16. Teens interested in either learning the art of fly-fishing or improving their basic skill level along side some of Vermont's most accomplished fly anglers, are invited to apply. The 2012 camp is scheduled for Sunday June 24th through Thursday June 28th at Quimby Country Lodge & Cottages, in Averill, VT.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry supports TU's educational efforts.

"A camp experience dedicated to educating our next generation of fly fishermen and women will help ensure that our precious cold water fisheries here in Vermont will be taken care of well into the future," said Berry.

Willem Lange visited the camp last year for some fly fishing and storytelling. "For a kid who loves fishing—or even thinks he might—this is a terrific opportunity, a giant leap forward. To fly fish for trout at a classic fishing camp on a pristine northern pond, with instruction in stream ecology and fly fishing techniques by seasoned older members of Trout Unlimited, seems to me like a dream come true. I wish it had come along sixty years earlier," says Lange.

Participants in the five-day/four-night comprehensive program will learn and

practice casting, basic fly tying, knot craft, insect identification and imitation (entomology), fish identification and behavior (ichthyology) safe wading techniques, angling ethics and coldwater conservation. Campers will hone their skills on local lakes, ponds and streams, including the Connecticut River.

Our host, Quimby Country, (www.quimbycountry.com) has been in continuous operation since 1894. Located in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom on Forest Lake and Great Averill Pond, Quimby's is a short 15-minute drive from the Connecticut River.

Prospective campers are encouraged to apply no later than April 15, 2012 to secure a spot for this year's program. The cost for the five-day camp is \$425. Scholarships are available on an "as-needed" basis.

Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization that has dedicated over 50 years to the conservation, protection and restoration of North America's cold-water fisheries and watersheds.

For complete information about the TU Fly Fishing Camp, go to www.vermonttroutcamp.com or e-mail Ray Daigle, camp director, atvermonttroutcamp@gmail.com, or call Ray at (802) 793-2819. vermonttroutcamp@gmail.com.



VT Fish & Wildlife photo
Lance Champney of Milton, Vermont with the huge Atlantic salmon he caught through the ice this winter. He caught the 10.32 lb., 32.75 inches-long Atlantic salmon on the Inland Sea portion of northern Lake Champlain. "I've been fishing Lake Champlain since I can remember," Champney said. "The past couple of years are among the best I've ever seen out here."

"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 42nd annual Sugar-on-Snow parties will be held this year on March, 24th and 25th, and March 31st 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 mouthful 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.

2012 Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Licenses Now Online

Vermont hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for 2012 are available online at the Fish and Wildlife Department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

"People like to purchase new licenses for themselves, friends or relatives but we were unable to provide that service from our website until now," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry. "License agents have always had licenses but now you can conveniently and quickly get them online."

If you are purchasing a license for someone else,

you must have the license recipient answer the questions and provide the information on the application, but you can assist them and use your own credit card to make the purchase.

"While you are there, consider signing up in "Join Our Mailing List" to receive Vermont Fish and Wildlife news, and you can also purchase a 2012 Fish and Wildlife calendar," added Berry.

For more information contact The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department at (802) 241-3700. Visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



The Vermont Landscape
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Sowing Arugula And Other March Gardening Tips

by Charlie Nardozi, Horticulturist
And Leonard Perry,
UVM Extension Horticulturist

Sowing arugula and other greens, spraying horticultural oil on fruit trees, and trimming back ornamental grasses are some of the gardening activities for this month.

To get an early harvest of arugula and other greens, dig out a large shallow container and sow some seeds. Grow them indoors until the weather warms enough to put them outside during the day. Keep cutting leaves from the outside of the plants to prolong the harvest. Or you can sow seeds for a mesclun mix and cut off the leaves when still young. They will regrow for another harvest in a few weeks.

Mulching and fruit tree care

Warm days may tempt you into removing winter mulch but wait a bit longer. We still could have snow and some very cold nights, and plants still need protection. The freeze and thaw cycles of early spring can damage plants.

Spray horticultural oil on fruit trees, such as apples, plums, and cherries, to smother any overwintering insects. Choose a calm day when temperatures are above 40 degrees (F). You also can apply it to evergreens to control spider mites and other insects. Carefully follow the instructions on the label for proper usage and appropriate plants.

Cut and trim

Remove the old stalks from ornamental grasses before new growth begins or you'll cut off new growth when you prune. For large plants, you may need to use hedge trimmers or a pruning saw. Also, don't cut too low or you may remove this year's growing points. Cut to at least 6 inches (12 inches or more is best), above the crown. It may help to tie the stalks of larger plants together before you cut. If possible, chop the stalks before adding them to the compost pile or using them as mulch so they will decompose more quickly.

Suckers that sprout from the base of crabapple trees and other fruiting trees will rob the trees of energy needed to form fruit, so don't let them grow unchecked. Pull them off if possible because this reduces their regrowth more than cutting them, but use whatever method you need to remove them.

Getting a jump on Spring—sowing seeds indoors

Wait to start seeds of tomato plants until next month. A common mistake is to sow them indoors too early, resulting in leggy plants by the time they can be set outside in May. You should start seeds of cole crops (broccoli, cabbage and the like) indoors now. Sow slow-growing flowers such as pansies, begonias, and vinca early in the month. Sow verbena, petunias, geranium, and impatiens later in the month.

Unless you have a sunny window much of the day, adding grow lights over seedlings will help. These can be turned on (a timer such as you find at hardware stores is very convenient) during the darker parts of day or evening, to give plants 12 to 16 hours of good light a day.

Other activities for this month include starting begonia tubers, cutting branches of early-flowering shrubs (such as pussy willow and forsythia) for forcing indoors, taking your mower in for a tune-up, attending flower shows and gardening seminars, and visiting a maple sugarhouse.

Charlie Nardozi is a nationally known horticulturist, author, gardening consultant, and garden coach. Visit his website at CharlieNardozi.com.

Leonard Perry is an Extension Professor at the University of Vermont. Visit perrysperennials.info.



photo by Charles Sutton
Merrit Bruce out for a ride with his Belgian and Belgian-cross draft horses Sunrise and Star in Granville, NY. Merrit and his horses are available for wagon rides, carriage rides, weddings, and parties. Just call (917) 776-1025.

Apply Now for Vermont Summer Green Mountain Conservation Camps for Youth Ages 12-14

If you are 12 to 14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills this 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, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming canoeing, fishing and more in an attractive outdoor setting. Natural resource professionals come to the camp

during the week to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and directed by Fish and 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. The program's greatest strength is connecting young people to the outdoors.

Conservation Camps open June 17 and continue until

August 17. Camp tuition is \$200 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment.

Please check the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com for information about partial and full scholarship availability.

Information about the program is under "Education

and Training" on the left side of the home page. You can print the camp application from the website, fill it out, and send it in with a check.

For more information about Green Mountain Conservation Camps contact: fvgmcc@state.vt.us or call (802) 241-3768.

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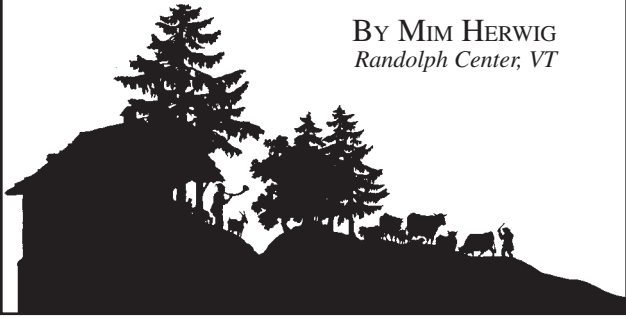
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March is the time for sugar-on-snow,
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You're Invited to the New Farmer Mixer in Rutland, VT

Join together with fellow farmers and friends on March 9 at Cafe Terra in Rutland, VT from 6-8 p.m. Rutland Area Farm and Food Link is sponsoring the Winter New Farmer Mixer!

This free event is open to aspiring, beginner, and experienced farmers, specialty food producers, and anyone else in ag-related business.

Meet like-minded folks in the region and join in conversation with your fellow farmers. This is a time to

share stories, ask questions, and make our farming community even stronger.

Join in the potluck supper—bring something to share and BYOB (beer, wine, apple juice, whatever). Cafe Terra is providing free coffee and cookies!

Meet at 6 p.m. at Cafe Terra, 67 Center St., Rutland, VT. For info contact lind-say@rutlandfarmandfood.org. (802) 417-1528. www.rutlandfarmandfood.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

BARRE. Exhibit: Story Time including works by Bryce LeVan Cushing. Classes, events and workshops. Free. Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-4. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com. *March 6 through April 7.*

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

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

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

BENNINGTON. Art Exhibits, Permanent Collections, Theater Productions, Workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Markets at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant Street. Local produce, prepared food, crafts, and entertainment. Every third Saturday: March 17 & April 21 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. info@walloomsac.org. www.walloomsac.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum—Exhibits and Public Programs. Founding Documents, Fine Art, Grandma Moses, and more. See Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Fine Art, Vermont Furniture, and the Bennington Flag - one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films. Current exhibit: Memento Mori—The Art and Commerce of Gravestones in Bennington, through May 22. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

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

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

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

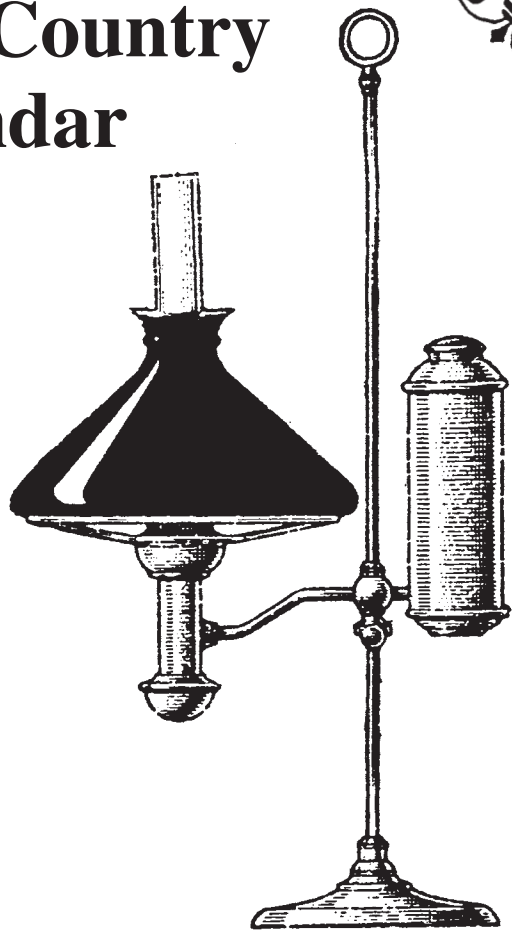
BRATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Sleigh or Wagon Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Rustic heated greenhouse available for your event, additional charge. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds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

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

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

BRATTLEBORO. 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. Winter Farmers Market. Indoor market featuring local farm products including produce, apples, eggs, grass-fed meats, cider, syrup, preserves, baked goods, local wines, pottery, jewelry, handmade soaps. Delicious lunches and live music in the lunch cafe. A project of Post Oil Solutions. Open every Saturday November-March from 10 am - 2 pm. At the River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoil.com. www.postoil.com.



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

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

BURLINGTON. Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm, every other week: March 3, 17, & 31, and April 14 & 28. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. chriswag31@gmail.com. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

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

BURLINGTON. First Friday Art Walk. Come inside and warm up at the over 30 galleries and art venues staying open late to welcome visitors. Visit the website to see a list of participating venues. Sponsored by Burlington City Arts, the Free. 5 pm - 8 pm. (802) 264-4839. www.artmapburlington.com.

BURLINGTON. 17th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Music, lectures, movies, drama and dance. www.vtirishfestival.org. *March 7-18.*

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

CHESTER. Art Exhibit: Shower Wall. Painter Mickie Hoffman from NYC exhibits work that is stark, moving, and raw. Iron sculptures by Adam Howard of Grafton, VT will also be on display. See the mixed media sculptures of curator, Bryce LeVan Cushing. Wednesday thru Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and by appointment. At BLCARTGRP Gallery, in the rear of the MoonDog Cafe Building, 297 Main St. For info contact (802) 843-1162 or visit brycelevancushing.com. www.artfactorynyc.com/artist/mickiehoffman. *Through April 20.*

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

CHESTER. Peace of Paradise—Holistic Wellness Emporium. Wellness services and products. Reiki, apothecary, acupuncture, massage, meditation, yoga and drumming. Classes, workshops and seminars. Events, groups and gatherings. Locally-made creations, yoga mats, drums, jewelry and art. Open Thurs-Sun, 12-5 pm, (irregular hours March 3-11). On the Village Green at 78 The Common. (802) 875-8008. peaceofparadisevt.com.

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

CHESTER. Exhibit. Barns: Essence of an American Icon. Featuring work by oil painter Peter Batchelder. At DaVallia Art & Accents, On the Green. (802) 875-1203. www.theDaVallia.com. *Through March 14.*

Treasures from the Attic: An Antique Appraisal & Sale Event

Ever wonder if the painting that Great Aunt Tillie left you is valuable? Find out at the Chaffee Art Center's first antique appraisal event.

The Chaffee Art Center will host Treasures from the Attic: An Antique Appraisal and Sale Event on Sunday, March 18 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Multiple appraisers will be on hand to tell you about your treasures for \$10 per item. Appraisers include Mi-

chael and Lucinda Seward, Michael Winslow, and Greg Hamilton. The second floor of the Chaffee will feature antiques for sale. All proceeds will benefit the Chaffee Art Center's capital campaign.

The Chaffee Art Center is located at 16 South Main St. in Rutland, VT. For information visit the Chaffee website at www.chaffeeartcenter.org or call us at (802) 775-0356.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

CHESTER. Activities at Gassetts Grange Hall. Bingo every Thurs 6:30-9 pm, refreshments sold in the kitchen. Monthly round and square dance 7-11 pm, and community breakfast buffet 8-10 am, first Saturdays. Open mike country jamboree, 1-4 pm, March 11. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. Info call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500.

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

CHESTER. Exhibition: Earth Rhythms. On view and available for sale, recent works by Marilyn Allen, Casey Blanchard, Bryce LeVan Cushing, and Richard Weis. Opening reception Feb. 25, 5:30-8:30 pm. Admission free. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 11 am - 6 pm, Sun. 12-5 pm. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts, 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. www.vtica.org. *Through March 31.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. Open year round. Dog days: trails are dog-friendly every Mon and Thurs (owners responsible for keeping trails "clean.") Rental equipment available. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

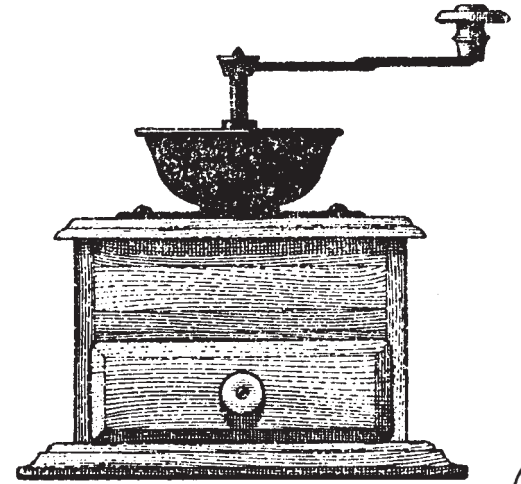
LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. Discussion includes an in-depth look at remedies, some theory and a case analysis. Meets the first Thursday of each month and is open to all levels. 1-3 pm at Taconic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

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

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Woodworking, Oil and Watercolor Painting, Kirigami and much more. Registration fee. Monday-Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Rt. 103 South. (802) 228-8770. info@fletcherfarm.org. www.fletcherfarm.org.

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

MANCHESTER. Solo Exhibitions at Yester House Galleries. Classes, workshops, shows, cafe. Southern Vermont Arts Center. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org. *Through March 19.*



Ten Ways to Get from March to May

by Diana Lawrence
Extension Master Gardener
University of Vermont

Groundhog Day has come and gone, and the countdown to spring has begun. Across Vermont, gardeners are beginning to pine for planting season. Knowing that the coast won't be clear until Memorial Day has passed, it can be an awfully long wait to get into the garden again. Here's how to pass the time productively until the soil warms up.

Start a garden journal. I love going through garden magazines and clipping out great color combinations and seed suggestions, then pasting them in for spring reference.

Attend a flower show. There are many horticultural happenings in almost every New England state.

Crack open your seed catalogs or look online. Now is the time to order seeds, new perennials, and summer-blooming bulbs. Think about the bare spots, new garden beds, container garden combinations, and this year's vegetable selection.

Spruce up your houseplants. Check to see if they're becoming pot-bound (their roots will be peeking through the bottom drainage hole), trim their roots, and repot them to give them more room. Dust the leaves, cut back dead or yellow growth, add fresh potting soil, and serve up a little fertilizer.

Do your chores. If the snowdrops and crocuses can brave March weather, so can you! Clean away dead leaves and winter trash, and break up piles of snow and ice. Cut back ornamental grasses in early March to make way for new growth (don't wait too long or you'll slice off the new shoots).

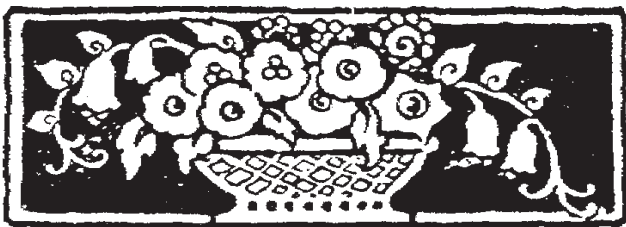
Visit a greenhouse. Nurseries are filling up with new pots and planters, great tools, seed selections, bird feeders, and plants. Take home an Easter lily, a pot of tulips, miniature daffodils, or some primulas to keep your home in bloom.

Put out some pansies. These cheerful little souls are colorful, cold hardy, and will tolerate some snow and a little frost, so find a place for them on your doorstep in late March or early April. Deadhead them often for a robust display.

Take stock of your tools. Send your lawn mower out for a tune-up, bring your wheelbarrow out of hiding, sharpen your pruners, clean out clay pots with hot water and a little household bleach, and replace your worn-out gloves. Now is the time to restock your broken pots.

Force some spring blooming shrubs and trees. Forsythia, crabapple, or pussywillow will give Mother Nature a head start in your home. Bring several branches inside, cut the ends of the stems at a slight angle, and make a few slits about two to three inches long around the base for increased water uptake. Put the branches in a tall bucket of water and keep them in a cool, dimly lighted place for several days, misting them occasionally and changing the water each day, then move them to a sunny location when blooms begin to show.

Start some seeds indoors. Remember, seedlings need 16 hours of direct light every day, so invest in a grow light.



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Vermont Country Calendar

MANCHESTER. Winter Wonderland Tours in "The Shires of Vermont." Ride in the warmth & comfort of an eight-passenger tour vehicle, escorted by a local tour guide. Fee: \$30 pp. Starts at Adams Park, 357 Center Hill Rd. For details or reservations call (802) 362-4997. bckrddisc@aol.com. www.backroaddiscovery.com.

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

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

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Arts Walk. Join us on the second Friday of every month. More than 40 venues will be displaying art. 5-7 pm. Free. Downtown Middlebury. (802) 388-7951 x 2. middleburyartswalk.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Farmer's Market at American Flatbread Restaurant in the Marbleworks. Second and fourth Saturdays from 9:30 am - 1 pm, through May. Pam Taylor, (802) 388-0178. middleburyfm@yahoo.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

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

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

MONTPELIER. Library Book Sale. One of the best book sales in Vermont! Mon-Thurs 10 am - 8 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am - 5:30 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.kellogg-hubbard.org. March 12 through April 14.

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

MONTPELIER. Green Mountain Film Festival. The best of world cinema. 150 screenings, discussions, and special events. Takes place at Savoy Theater, City Art Center, Pavilion Auditorium and other venues. For tickets and schedule call (802) 262-3423 or visit greenmountainfilmfestival.org. March 16-25.

MONTPELIER. Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market at Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 10 am - 2 pm on first and third Saturdays through April. Manager: Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

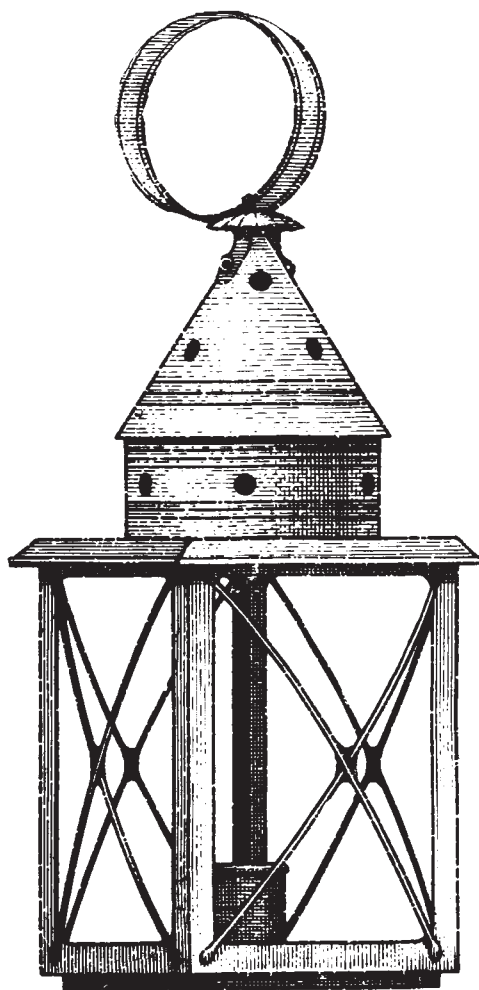
MORRISVILLE. Lamoille Valley Farmers' Artisan Market at River Arts Center on Pleasant St., in Morrisville. Second Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm, February through April. famanager@gmail.com.

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market. Local organic produce, meats, cheeses, eggs, handicrafts, baked goods, prepared foods, and live music. Winter markets on the second Saturday of each month from 10 am - 1 pm, through April 14. Tracy Hall, Rt. 5, one mile south of Norwich village. (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

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

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

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum Opens for the Season Friday, March 9. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Groups over 12 can request "Sugar on Snow" by reservation. Off-season rates through May 23. Spring hours 10 am - 4 pm daily. 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.



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

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

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

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

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

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

ROCHESTER. Exhibit: "Natural Wonders." Works by Marcy Hermansader & John Udvardy in the Main Gallery and Anda Dubinskis in the Center Gallery, through March 18. Upcoming exhibition by Nancy H. Taplin, March 21 through April 29 with an opening reception March 24. Big Town Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Maple Festival March 24 & 25. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Fifth Annual Winter Farmers Market. Indoors on Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm! Over 40 vendors, selling fresh kale, salad greens, apples, grass-fed meats, cheeses, breads, honey, jellies & jams, maple syrup, hot foods, wines, crafts. A great place to shop, eat and visit. Live entertainment. In the Old Strand Theater—enter through the Rutland Natural Food Co-Op at 77 Wales St. (802) 683-4606. coxveg@hotmail.com. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 28.

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

11th Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend

The 11th Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend will be held at sugarhouses throughout Vermont, March 24 & 25, 2012.

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 days they will be open and directions to their sugarhouses can be found on www.vermontmaple.org or in the "2012 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.

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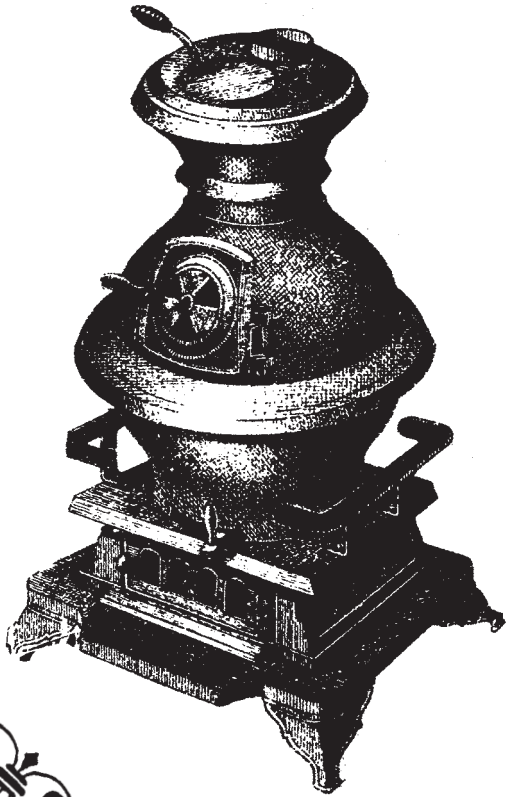
Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center—Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings, gift shop. Women in the Arts Exhibit through March 17. Gallery open Tues-Sat 10 am to 5 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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

SALISBURY. Green Mountain Ice Fishing Tournament. All Vermont waters and all legal species of fish. Fish from any lake eligible for prizes. January 20 through March 15. Registration fee \$20. Register at Kampersville Store. (802) 353-4501.



SAXTONS RIVER. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood.* Tony-winning musical based on Charles Dickens' unfinished novel. Tickets \$17 for adults and \$12 for students at the door or at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls, Misty Valley Books in Chester, or MSA. Performances at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 3 pm. At Main Street Arts. (802) 869-2960. mainstreetarts.org. *March 2-11.*

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

SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market at Sharon Elementary School. Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm, March 10, March 31 and May 12. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

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

SOUTH HERO. South Hero Winter Farmers' Market at South Hero Congregational Church. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm on March 4 & April 7. Denise Boutin, (802) 372-3291. champlainislandsfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

SOUTH WALLINGFORD. Line Dancing every Tuesday. Beginners and experienced. \$5 per person, snack bar available. 6:30 pm at the Maple Valley Grange Hall, Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

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. Winter & Holiday Farmers Markets at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. Every first Saturday from 10 am - 1 pm through March. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. elizabethverts@yahoo.com.

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

STATEWIDE. Annual Vermont Shop Hop. Sixteen quilting shops around the state invite you to visit. Go to at least eight shops to be eligible to win prizes. Mon-Sat, 9 am - 6 pm; Sunday, 9 am - 3 pm. (802) 238-8048. www.vermontshophop.com. *March 16-25.*

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

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

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

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

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

WESTMINSTER. Free Luncheon of Homemade Soup and Bread. Every Wednesday, noon to 2 pm, at the First Congregational Church on Route 5. (802) 722-4148.

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

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Northern Stage Presents *Red*. A tension-filled drama about painter Mark Rothko. Admission. Tues-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 5 pm. Briggs Opera House, 12 N. Main St. (802) 296-7000. northernstage.org. *March 14 through April 1.*

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- On sliced bananas with nutmeg and cream...

- 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, tea or a milkshake (you gotta be a little naughty!)
- On pancakes & waffles...

- On French toast...
- In custard and bread pudding...
- Use maple sugar and cinnamon for a real Vermont version of cinnamon 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.



Vermont Scenic Prints

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Vermont Country Calendar



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

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

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery. Gary Milek's award-winning paintings and prints, inspired by the surrounding gardens and scenery. Floral still-lives and landscapes capture the magic of the Vermont countryside. Original paintings in watercolor, egg tempera and goldleaf, limited and open edition prints, limited edition giclée prints, and notecards. Winter hours by appointment. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com.

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Opening daily April 28 for the season. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, sleigh rides, festivities and museum. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

BELLOWS FALLS. First Thursdays Concert with Mark Erelli. An exceptional songsmith and performer. Tickets \$18. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House Lower Theater, 7 The Square. (802) 463-9595. flyingunderradar.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

EAST BURKE. 6th Annual Benefit Sled Dog Dash on Kingdom Trails. Kicks off with a down home spaghetti dinner at Sherburne Base Lodge. Silent auction and giant raffle. Benefits children & families in the Northeast Kingdom through the Wafer Family Foundation. Burke Mountain, 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. (802) 626-7300. skiburke.com. www.sleddogdash.com. *Through March 4.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. Author Event. Anyen Rinpoche will speak about the traditional Tibetan Buddhist practice of Phowa—how to prepare for our own deaths and to help others of any faith through the dying process. He is the author of *Dying With Confidence* and other books. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

RANDOLPH. Performance: "The Return of Crazy Chase." Through stories, traditional fiddle tunes and original songs, Allen Church brings to life this legendary dance hall fiddler and colorful Vermont character. Cash bar. Tickets \$18. (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm in the Esther Mesh Room, Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Concert with Starline Rhythm Boys. Tickets \$20. 7:30-10 pm. Studio Three, San Remo Dr. (866) 639-6577. www.studiothreevt.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

BELLOWS FALLS. Chili Cook-off. Sponsored by The Bellows Falls Middle School Band. Free to enter. The public is invited to sample and vote for their favorite chili for just \$5 per person. 12-3 pm. American Legion Hall. (802) 732-8270.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association "Vermont Rails" Show. Fun for kids and adults. Operating model trains, dealers and displays. Free parking and food vendor. Admission: \$5 adults, \$1 children 6-12, free under 6. 10 am - 4 pm at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt. 15. For info call Ron Piro, (802) 878-1135. ronpiro@aol.com. www.nwvrrailroad.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. St. David's Day at the Slate Valley Museum. A day of Welsh-inspired activities in celebration of the immigrant Welsh community of the Slate Valley. Take home a daffodil, the national flower of Wales. Sample traditional leek soup and cacen gri (Welsh cookies). Enjoy our showing of *How Green is My Valley* at 10 am, and *The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain* at 2 pm. Children's activities. Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

HARTLAND. Roast Beef Supper. Family-style supper includes roast beef, rolls and dessert. \$6 to \$12. 5-7 pm. 1st Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Basement Music Series Concert. String-rock quintet Darlingside. \$24. 8 pm. Vermont Arts Exchange, Sage Street Mill. (802) 442-5549.

RANDOLPH. Performance: Marko Live & Upstairs! Popular entertainer performs for adult audiences. Cash bar. Tickets \$13. Box office: (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm. Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878.

RUTLAND. Pennsylvania State University's 'Essence of Joy' Gospel Choir Concert. Free-will offering. 7:30 pm. Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

CHESTER. Book & Author Event. Elayne Clift will be reading from her new novel, *Hester's Daughters*, a contemporary, feminist retelling of *The Scarlet Letter*. Book signing and reception will follow the talk. Free admission. 4 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. info@mvbooks.com. www.mvbooks.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Cape Breton Fiddling. Wendy MacIsaac and Andrea Beaton, two of Cape Breton's brightest fiddling stars, will entertain. Tickets \$20. Seating limited, order early from the box office at (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm in the Esther Mesh Room, Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

BARRE. Exhibit: Story Time. Including works by Bryce LeVan Cushing. Opening reception on March 9 at 5:30 pm. Free. Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-4. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com. *Through April 7.*

ESSEX. Newt Night. Live specimens, a slide show, demonstrations, and loads of fun and knowledge to be enjoyed by all attendants. Co-sponsored by Phoenix Books and North Branch Nature Center. 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books, 21 Essex Way. Call to reserve a space. (802) 872-7111. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

MANCHESTER. Indian Home Cooking. In this demonstration class, Lini Mazumdar of Anjali Farm in South Londonderry will show you how to cook a simple Indian meal at home with ingredients and herbs that are fresh, in season, and easy to find. A seated dinner with wine will follow. Fee \$65. 5:45-9 pm. Call to register and for location. Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong. (802) 366-1820. www.greenmtnacademy.org.

RUTLAND. Celtic Night: Journey of Hope. Direct from Ireland, the finest voices of the Celtic world are showcased against a thundering backdrop of expert dancing and musicianship telling the epic story of a passionate people who dared to leave their beloved country for a better life in America. Tickets: \$28.50-38.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Air Force Band of Liberty's New England Winds. A program featuring something for all musical tastes: popular, Broadway, patriotic, jazz and folk music, as well as pieces from the traditional woodwind quintet repertoire. Free and open to the public. 7 pm. Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

COLCHESTER. 17th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Concert for St. Patrick featuring Mick Moloney and Robbie O'Connell. Tickets \$20 reserve by e-mailing mrksustc@together.net. 7 pm. McCarthy Performing Arts Center, St. Michael's College. info@vtirishfestival.org. www.vtirishfestival.org.

RUTLAND. Program: The History of Herbal Medicine in America. Herbalist Rosemary Gladstar examines the early history of herbalism in America and how herbs play a role in health care today. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

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

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: David Darling—Cello. Join us for an intimate evening with David, described as a "maverick cellist." Free admission. 7:30-9 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts Dance Theatre. (802) 443-5000. middlebury.edu/cfa.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

BARRE. Opening Reception for the Exhibit: Story Time. Including works by Bryce LeVan Cushing. 5:30-7:30 pm. Free. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com. *Exhibit through April 7.*

CHESTER. Gallery Talk: "Beyond Surface—East Meets West." By Richard Weis. 7 pm. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts, 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. www.vtica.org. *Through March 31.*

EAST CHARLESTON. Kingdom Coffeehouse: Dana & Susan Robinson. Join us for an evening of blazing fiddle and banjo tunes, harmonies, and poignant songs about the American landscape as Dana and Susan return for a "hometown gig." Fee: \$10 includes refreshments. 7 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert. Prokofiev Classical Symphony, Strauss Horn Concerto No. 1, and Beethoven Symphony No. 3, "Eroica." Tickets \$15-\$35. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House. For tickets call (802) 463-9595. For more info call (802) 876-9232. www.vso.org.

NORTH TUNBRIDGE. Contra Dance. Open to the public, all dances taught, no partner necessary, children welcome. Refreshments. Hosted by the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. Admission \$5. 7:30-10:30 pm at the Tinbridge Town Hall, 271 Rt. 110. (802) 436-2444. Clydo46@gmail.com. edlarkincontradancers.org. *Second Fridays through May.*

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum Opens for the Season. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Groups over 12 can request "Sugar on Snow" by reservation. Off-season rates through May 23. Spring hours 10 am - 4 pm daily. 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

RANDOLPH. Woods Tea Company in Concert. Celtic tunes, sea shanties, French-Canadian and American folk songs. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. www.woodstea.net.

RUTLAND. Concert: Rockapella. The former house band from PBS's *Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?* performs. Tickets: \$21.50-28.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. New Farmer Mixer. Everyone welcome. Sponsored by Rutland Area Farm and Food Link. Potluck, free coffee and cookies. 6 pm. Café Terra, 67 Center St. (802) 417-1528. www.rutlandfarmandfood.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

BELLOWS FALLS. Tasha Tudor's Magical World. Presenters from the Tasha Tudor Museum will share stories and recount personal experiences with the late Tasha Tudor. "Take Joy: The Magical World of Tasha Tudor" will be shown. Perfect for all ages. 12-1:30 pm. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. www.rockingham.lib.vt.us.

BURLINGTON. UVM Greenhouse Facilities Tour. David Heleba takes you on a guided tour of the greenhouses covering 8,000 sq. ft. Fee: \$30. For reservations e-mail info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. 11 am - 12:30 pm. Main Campus adjoining Jeffords Hall. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

BURLINGTON. Wintervale Days. Family-friendly, free events that celebrate cross-country skiing in the Intervale. Hands-on activities for kids. sugar-on-snow, free ski and snowshoe demos, cross-country ski clinics, hot chocolate, winter tree ID and wildlife walks. Free. 10 am - 2 pm. Intervale, 180 Intervale Rd. (802) 660-0440. intervalecenter.wordpress.com/wintervale. www.intervale.org.

BURLINGTON. 17th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Three special events with Tony DeMarco. Free fiddleheads workshop for children and teens, 10-11 am. Irish Sligo-style workshop for advanced players, 1-3 pm, fee \$20. Concert at 6 pm, \$15 suggested donation. All at Vermont Violins, 23 Church St. Register by emailing mrksustc@together.net. www.vtirishfestival.org. *March 7-18.*

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Concert. Prokofiev's Classical Symphony, Strauss Horn Concerto No. 1, and Beethoven Symphony No. 3, "Eroica." Tickets \$58/\$45/\$30/\$15/\$9. 8 pm. Flynn Center. (802) 876-9232. www.vso.org.

CHESTER. Green Mountain Festival Series Concert: Elisabeth Von Trapp. Also Annual GMFS Silent Auction. Adult \$20, senior \$15, student, \$5. 7 pm. Green Mountain Union High School, Rt. 103. (802) 875-4473. www.greenmountainfestivalseries.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 17th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival Performance. Sean Downing—Belfast Bound: An Extraordinary Evening of Irish Dance. With the McFadden Academy of Irish Dance. Suggested donation \$10, students \$5. Mail to: McFadden Academy of Irish Dance, Re: Sean-Belfast Bound, PO Box 4184, Burlington, VT 05403. 7 pm at Essex High School Auditorium, Essex Education Center. info@vtirishfestival.org. vtirishfestival.org.

Vermont Country Calendar

HARTLAND. Roast Beef Supper. Family-style supper includes roast beef, rolls and dessert. \$6 to \$12. 5-7 pm. 1st Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792. Also March 17.

MIDDLEBURY. 4th Annual Vermont Chili Festival. Street jugglers, face painting, entertainment for kids, live music, a beverage tent, and award-winning chili! All around downtown. 1:30-4 pm. (802) 377-3557. www.bettermiddleburypartnership.org.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy. No partner necessary, beginners and singles always welcome. Potluck finger food desserts at the break. Please bring a change of clean shoes. Admission \$8 (students \$5, under 16 are free, seniors by donation). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. For info call Rick Barrows (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Continue second Saturdays through June.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Jeanne & the Hi-Tops. Celebrating more than 20 years together with their eclectic brand of rollicking Memphis soul, Zydeco, Tex-Mex, reggae and the blues. Cash Bar available. Tickets \$11. Call the box office at (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm in the Esther Mesh Room, Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Workshop: "Time to Knit." Free. 1-4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Fifth Annual Winter Farmers Market. Over 40 vendors. 2012 Maple syrup, fresh produce from local farms. Delicious prepared foods, live entertainment. 10 am - 2 pm in the Old Strand Theater—enter through the Rutland Natural Food Co-Op at 77 Wales St. (802) 683-4606. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 28.

RUTLAND. Performance: Irish Comedy Tour. Tickets: \$21.50-28.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

WAITSFIELD. 37th Annual North American Telemark Festival. The world's largest and oldest gathering of Telemark skiers. Cost: Special telemark tickets must be purchased to participate in festival events. Mad River Glen. (802) 496-3551. www.madriverglen.com. Also March 11.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. 61st Annual Sugar-on-Snow Supper. Menu: ham, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, rolls, homemade donuts, pickles and sugar-on-snow. Seatings at 5 & 6:15 pm. First Congregational Church, 880 Western Ave., Rt. 9 West. For reservations call (802) 257-7495 or (802) 779-5552.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

CHESTER. Book & Author Event. Internationally acclaimed conflict resolution facilitator, Donna Hicks, will talk about her new book, *Dignity: The Essential Role It Plays in Resolving Conflict*. Book signing and reception to follow the talk. Free admission. 4 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. info@mvbooks.com. www.mvbooks.com.

CHESTER. Open Mike Country Jamboree. Hosted by Green Mountain Express. Bands and singles welcome! Refreshments on sale in the kitchen, raffle and 50/50 tickets on sale. \$5 donation at the door. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For info call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500.

FAIR HAVEN. Breakfast Buffet. Hosted by the American Legion Post #49. Menu: scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, pancakes, french toast, hash, home fries, sausage, drinks. Tickets \$7 adult, \$3.50 children. 8-11 am. 72 S. Main St. (802) 265-7983.

HUNTINGTON. Snowshoe the Burrows Trail on Camels Hump. Crisp clear views for miles. Difficult hike, moderate pace, seven miles, 2400' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Dress for the weather and bring water and a snack. For info and meeting time and place contact leader: Kathy Adams, (802) 399-8687. hikeradams@hotmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Concert. Prokofiev Classical Symphony, Strauss Horn Concerto No. 1, and Beethoven Symphony No. 3, "Eroica." 4 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. Tickets \$29/\$9. Call the box office at (802) 775-0903. www.vso.org.

TUNBRIDGE. Breakfast & Bake Sale. The Tunbridge Recreation Committee and the Tunbridge Central School 8th grade class will host a breakfast and a bake sale. 8 am - 12 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 889-3310. Continues second Sundays of each month.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

MONTPELIER. Library Book Sale. One of the best book sales in Vermont! Mon-Thurs 10 am - 8 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am - 5:30 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. kellogg-hubbard.org. Through April 14.

MORRISVILLE. Workshop: Growing Your Agri Tour and Food Tour Business. Panel discussion followed by a light lunch. Fee: \$5 includes lunch and materials. 10 am at Applecheek Farm. (802) 467-8379. www.nofavt.org.

RUTLAND. The Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce Business Show 2012. Featuring 91 area businesses. Door prizes, special raffle, great food and lots of fun! The event is open to the public. Admission \$3. 4-7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn, Rt. 7. (802) 773-2747. www.rutlandvermont.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

BURLINGTON. 17th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival—Irish Music Session. Free. 9 pm - 12 am. At Radio Bean, 8 North Winooski Ave. www.vtishfestival.org.

DORSET. Winter Community Supper. Join us for warm fellowship and a hot meal. All are welcome for free great meals! Please bring your family and friends! Take outs available. 5:30-7 pm. Dorset Church, 143 Church St., off Rt. 30. (802) 867-2260.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

BURLINGTON. The Sixth Annual Burlington Irish Music Showcase. Part of the 17th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Featuring Extra Stout, McFadden Academy of Irish Dance, and Patrick Webb, host. Tickets \$15 at the door. 7 pm. Contois Auditorium, Burlington City Hall. info@vtishfestival.org. www.vtishfestival.org.

CASTLETON. Performance: Chicago. By Castleton Theater Arts. Tickets \$12. 8 pm, matinee March 18 at 2 pm. Casella Theater. (802) 468-1119. Through March 24.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk. Now in our 11th year, this is a monthly bird monitoring exercise sponsored by the Rutland County Audubon Society. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 am. Leader: Roy Pilcher, (802) 775-3461. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

VERMONT REGIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE:

Mt. Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce: 877-VT-SOUTH
Londonderry Chamber of Commerce: 802-824-8178
Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce: 800-756-8880
Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce: 802-247-6401
Addison County: 800-SEE-VERMONT
Jay Peak: 800-882-7460 • www.jaypeakvermont.org

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March 9, 2012

26th Festival of Quilts Comes to Rutland, VT

The Maple Leaf Quilters Guild's 2012 Festival of Quilts will be held Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1, at the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, VT.

Sponsored by the Maple Leaf Quilters Guild, this 26th quilt show will feature an impressive display of approximately 200 quilts, including traditional, contemporary, pieced, and appliquéd. The show entries are not judged; however vendors each select their favorite quilts. Show visitors are also able to vote for their favorite at the "Viewers Choice" ballot box.

Pamela Druhen, of Northfield, Vermont, well known for her "threadscapes" fabric art pieces, is the show's invitational quilter. Druhen combines fabric, quilting, heavy threadwork and fabric dyes to create intricate pieces of fine art. In response to the devastation cause by Tropical Storm Irene, she founded The Winter Warmth Project, with the goal of giving a quilt to every person displaced by the flooding in Vermont. Additional information about Druhen, her art and The Winter Warmth project can be found at www.pameladruhen.com.

A traditional part of the show is an exhibit of the works of a Maple Leaf Quilters Guild member. The 2012 Featured Quilter is Marcia Shipman of Rutland, Vermont. Her handiwork reveals a broad range of skills from precise quilting to whimsical appliqué, and thread painting. She had a quilted piece published in the December 2011-January 2012 issue of Quilting Arts Magazine.

The Guild announced that Sunday is "No April Fool's Joke" at the show. From 10 a.m. to noon, in addition to its regular menu, the tea room will feature a special waffle

brunch. The first fifty admissions to the show will receive a money saving coupon, valid at the show on Sunday only. In addition, there will be special "No Fooling" door prizes throughout the day.

The 2012 Guild Challenge "Irene: Putting the Pieces Back Together" offers participants a unique way to share their response to Tropical Storm Irene. There will be a silent auction

of select challenge quilts with the proceeds to benefit the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund.

The 2012 Raffle Quilt is a beautiful Dresden Plate pattern. The quilt began as unfinished, hand sewn, vintage quilt blocks donated to the Guild. In keeping with the style, Maple Leaf Quilters carefully hand appliquéd the plates to a fine muslin fabric. The squares are set on point and sashed with a vintage reproduction fabric and machine quilted by MLQ member Kay Bergquist, Vermont Quilt Design owner. We like to think that the original quilter, who is unknown, would approve of this quilt! The winner will be drawn at 3 p.m. April 1st, and does not need to be present to win.

Show highlights also include an antique quilt exhibit,

vendors, tea room, and a ticket auction of gift-filled baskets. Returning this year is a Consignment Boutique where show attendees will find a variety of treasures. There will be ongoing demonstrations by vendors and Guild members. Guild volunteers will be on the exhibit floor to answer questions.

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 of \$6.00.



photo by Debbe Frohloff
Marcia Shipman's "Rose Garden" was the runner-up in the 2010 Festival of Quilts Viewers' Choice vote.

For additional information email mapleleafquilters@yahoo.com or visit the MLQ website at www.mapleleafquilters.org or www.facebook.com/quiltshow.



Farm Store Open!

Winter hours: 10 am - 4 pm daily
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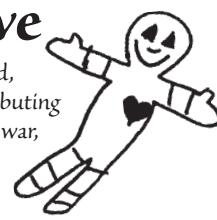
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P.O. Box 1, 1215 Rt. 153, W. Rupert, VT 05776



Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

BURLINGTON. 17th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Lecture: Jim Gorman—"Did the Irish Save Civilization?" Free, donations welcome. Noon-1 pm. Community Room, Fletcher Free Library, College St. info@vtirishfestival.org. www.vtirishfestival.org.

MIDDLEBURY. St. Patrick's Day Concert: Francois Clemmons and Friends. Wear something green and come prepared to sing along to this annual concert of lively Irish tunes. Free admission. 8-10 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall. (802) 443-5000. middlebury.edu/cfa.

MONTPELIER. Green Mountain Film Festival. The best of world cinema. 150 screenings, discussions, and special events. Savoy Theater, City Art Center, Pavilion Auditorium and other venues. For tickets and call (802) 262-3423. www.greenmountainfilmfestival.org. Through March 25.

RUTLAND. Classical Concert. Dynamic violin virtuoso Hahn-Bin performs. Tickets \$15, 18 and under \$10. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

STATEWIDE. Annual Vermont Shop Hop. Sixteen quilting shops around the state invite you to visit. Go to at least eight shops to be eligible to win prizes. Mon-Sat, 9 am - 6 pm; Sunday, 9 am - 3 pm. (802) 238-8048. www.Vermontshophop.com. Through March 25.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

BELLOWS FALLS. St. Patrick's Day Fiddle Frenzy. Eugene Friesen, cello & and young fiddle stars celebrate with foot-stompin' music. Sponsored by Stone Church Arts. Tickets: adults \$20, \$15 for seniors over 60 & children under 12. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. immanuelepiscopal.org.

BRANDON. Concert with Zephyr. A local folk band will perform for St. Patrick's Day in the Music Café. Tickets \$15. 7 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. For tickets call (802) 465-4071. brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. 17th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Children's Stories and Crafts. 10 am - 12 pm, Fletcher Room. The Musical Instruments of Ireland, 11 am - 12 pm, Pickering Room. Pennywhistle Workshop, 1-3 pm, Fletcher Room. All free, donations welcome. Fletcher Free Library, College St. www.vtirishfestival.org.

BURLINGTON. From Sap to Syrup at the Burlington Winter Farmers' Market. Stop by the City Market table. It's maple season and we'll celebrate by tasting sap straight from a maple tree as well as by making bike-powered maple smoothies. 10 am - 2 pm. Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main and S. Union St. (802) 310-5172. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. www.citymarket.coop.

CABOT. Annual Maple Fest. Visit sugar houses and Cabot Creamery. Pancake breakfast with a buffet of local syrups from 9-11 am. Crafts, silent auction, vendors, lunch, baked goods, sugar-on-snow with the traditional pickle. Adults \$10, 11 and under \$5, preschoolers \$3. Seatings at 4:30 pm, 5:45 pm & 7 pm. Guilford Community Church, 38 Church Rd. (802) 563-3147.

GUILFORD. Maple Sugar-on-Snow Supper. The menu includes: ham, beans, cole slaw, potato salad, deviled eggs, freshly baked homemade rolls, and doughnuts—and maple sugar-on-snow with the traditional pickle. Adults \$10, 11 and under \$5, preschoolers \$3. Seatings at 4:30 pm, 5:45 pm & 7 pm. Guilford Community Church, 38 Church Rd.

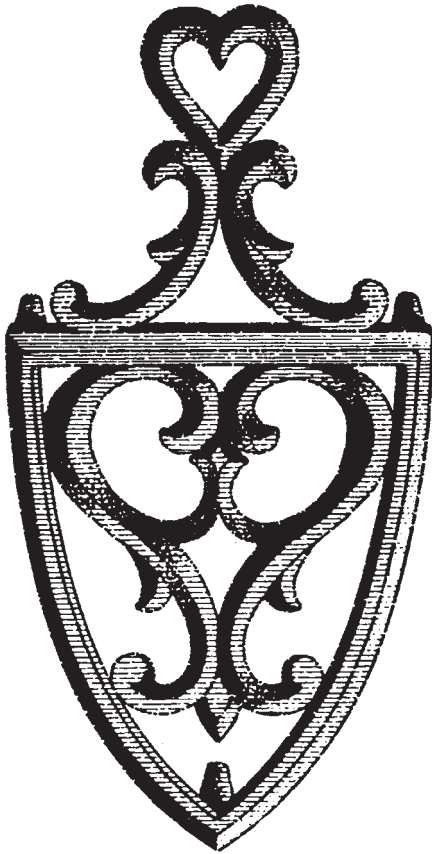
HARTLAND. Roast Beef Supper. Family style supper includes roast beef, rolls and dessert. \$6 to \$12. 5-7 pm. 1st Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792.

LANDGROVE. Concert: Cliff Eberhardt—500 Miles, The Blue Rock Sessions. Dinner and concert, \$50; concert only, \$20. InView Center for the Arts at the Landgrove Inn. (802) 824-6673. www.cliffeberhardt.net. www.landgroveinn.com.

MANCHESTER. Hildene Bird Walk. The Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. For info call Randy Schmidt at (802) 362-2270. Free. 8 am. Meet at the Welcome Center parking lot at Hildene, Rt. 7A. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Basement Music Series Concert. Starline Rhythm Boys perform Americana, rockabilly, and country. Tickets \$24. Cash bar and food available. 8 pm, doors open at 7 pm. Vermont Arts Exchange, Sage Street Mill. (802) 442-5549. www.vtartxchange.org.

RANDOLPH. An Evening of Comedy with Nathan Brady Crain. Tickets \$11. Call the box office at (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm in the Esther Mesh Room, Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.



RUTLAND. Fifth Annual Winter Farmers Market. Over 40 vendors, fresh produce, prepared foods, live entertainment. 10 am - 2 pm in the Old Strand Theater—enter through the Rutland Natural Food Co-Op at 77 Wales St. (802) 683-4606. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 28.

TUNBRIDGE. Corned Beef & Cabbage Community Dinner. Hosted by the Tunbridge Central School 8th grade class. All proceeds go towards their educational trip this spring. Seatings at 5, 6, & 7 pm. Tunbridge Central School, 523 Rt. 110. (802) 889-3310.

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. (802) 496-3551. www.madriverglen.com. Also March 25 & 31.

WATERBURY. Snowshoe Outing to Mt. Hunger and The Reservoir. Snowshoe up this smooth white carpeted rocky trail like it was just an easy stroll. Return via the Waterbury Reservoir. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4.4 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Contact leader for meeting time and place: Phil Hazen, (802) 355-7181. philhazen@comcast.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

ASCUTNEY. The Weathersfield Historical Society sponsors a Vermont Humanities Council Event, "Vermont's Flood of 1927: A New Look." Free, open to the public. 2 pm at Martin Memorial Hall on Rt. 5. (802) 263-5626.

BURLINGTON. 17th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival Ceili. A music, dancing, handclapping good time! Hear fiddles and flutes, Irish pipes and pennywhistles, and the bodhran, a traditional Irish frame drum. Area musicians are welcome to bring their instruments and join in for a lively seisun. Free, donations welcome. 1-3 pm. Contois Auditorium, Burlington City Hall. info@vtirishfestival.org. www.vtirishfestival.org.

CHESTER. Opening Reception for New Art Exhibit: Shower Wall. Painter Mickie Hoffman from NYC exhibits work that is stark, moving, and raw. Iron sculptures by Adam Howard of Grafton, VT will also be on display for this showcase. Singer-songwriter Dan Aaron from Middlebury, VT will perform for our guests at 6 pm. BLCARTGRP Gallery, 295 Main St. (behind the Moondog Cafe). www.brycelevancushing.com. www.artifactorynyc.com/artist/mickiehoffman. Exhibit runs through April 20.

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Craftsbury Local Food Loppet. 25k classic untimed XC ski tour of Craftsbury's trails with local inns and businesses providing tasty food stops along the way. Entry fee \$25. Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767. www.craftsbury.com www.craftsbury.com.

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS. 24th Annual Maple Festival. Fred Bradley demonstrates early maple sugar boiling, maple desserts, maple products, crafts, sugar-on-snow, and maple cotton candy for sale. Maple videos, decorated sap bucket raffle, prize raffle, silent auction. Acoustic music and kids' activities. Free admission. 1-4 pm on the Green and inside. (802) 235-1811.

PERU. 2nd Annual Bromley Rando Ski Race. Rando, short for randonnée, ski racing harkens back to skiing's early years when skiers challenged the mountain both up and down, without the help of chairlifts. Bromley Mountain, 3984 Route 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com.



March Notebook

"An inevitable dualism bisects nature," states Ralph Waldo Emerson in his essay, 'Compensation,' "so that each thing is a half, and suggests another thing to make it whole."

These days pull time and nature one way and then another. It is spring but winter. Signs of change accumulate, but they are still often overwhelmed by the cold fields of their nemesis.

I am compulsive about ignoring the dominant brown and gray of late February. I only watch the movement not the stasis. I see what I choose, the suggestive blush of color or the swelling of one bud or another.

The real dualism of which Emerson writes is still a month or so away.

In April, I can look both ways; the sides are almost even: bright hepaticas, twin-leaf, bloodroot on the one hand - bare branches and dead grass on the other. But now, I have to compensate by collecting fragments and

by blowing them all out of proportion.

John Burroughs makes a drama of this annual process: "We are eager for Winter to be gone," he writes, "but he will not abdicate without a struggle. Day after day he rallies his scattered forces, and night after night pitches his white tents on the hills, and would fain regain his lost ground; but the young prince in every encounter prevails. Slowly and reluctantly the gray old hero retreats up the mountain, until finally the south rain comes in earnest, and in a night he is dead."

In the skirmishes of early March, I unfairly watch for the isolated standards of resurrection: white tips of the snowdrops, the first crocus leaves, daffodils an inch high. If I were to judge by the appearance of the land around them, I would have little hope.

But I remember that "each thing is a half." I cheat, knowing the secret of half: Everything is also whole.

—Bill Felker



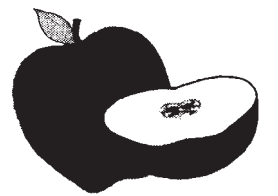
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Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Treasures from the Attic: An Antique Appraisal and Sale Event. Multiple appraisers will be on hand to tell you about your treasures for \$10 per item. Appraisers include Michael and Lucinda Seward, Michael Winslow, and Greg Hamilton. The second floor will feature antiques for sale. 11 am – 4 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

STOWE. Concert: Danu—Traditional Music and Song from Ireland. Tickets \$36. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Rt. 108N. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 19

RUTLAND. Seed Swap. Free seeds to plant a garden. Bring friends and seeds to swap if you have some. Gardeners will be available to answer common questions. This event is happening in the library lobby during Rutland Area Farm & Food Link's Buy, Sell, Eat Local event in the Fox Room. 3-4:30 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Library Book Sale. 4-8 pm. Basement, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. Also January 21.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Elias String Quartet. In its Vermont debut, Elias plays works by Purcell, Suk, Janáček (the "Kreutzer Sonata"), and Mendelssohn. Reserved Seating. Tickets: \$25. 7:30-9:30 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall. (802) 443-5000. middlebury.edu/cfa.

SWANTON. Community Breakfast. Come in from the cold and bring a friend. \$2.50 per person. 7-9 am. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7195. holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. www.holytrinityswanton.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

BENNINGTON. Concert: Abby Newton and Celtic Crossing. Abby is well-known for her recordings with the Scottish singer Jean Redpath. Tickets \$15. 8 pm. Meetinghouse Cafe of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 108 School St. (802) 440-9816. www.uubennington.org.

BURLINGTON. Maple Jam in Concert. The group sings a range of 4-8 part acappella jazz music in close harmony. Tickets \$18. 7:30 pm. College Street Congregational Church, 265 College St. (802) 651-8889.

BURLINGTON. UVM Folk Music Festival. Friday night contra dance, Saturday workshops, Saturday night concert, sessions, Sunday Sacred Harp sing presented by the UVM Old Time Music Club with Young Tradition Vermont. At Billings and other locations at UVM. For info: darren.schibler@uvm.edu. www.youngtraditionvermont.org. Through March 25.

FAIRLEE. Spring Singing Weekend. Luke Hoffman, Eva Salina Primack, and Brendan Taaffe will span traditions from Balkan songs to gospel quartets to Zimbabwean church choruses to original shape note compositions. Fee: \$285. At Hulbert Outdoor Center. (802) 770-0857. www.turtledoveharmony.org. Through March 25.

KILLINGTON. First Annual Tweed River Winter Carnival. Takes place in conjunction with Killington/Pico Mountain's "Nor' Beaster Fest." Locally-grown Bluegrass and Americana Roots-style music—Flowing Bridge, Gold Town, Waylon Speed. Tickets \$20, \$15 with VT I.D. 7 pm – 2 am in the Last Run Lounge at Pico Main Lodge, Pico Mountain Resort. For details and tickets see www.tweedrivermusicfestival.com. Winter activities all weekend for kids and folks of all ages. Ski and stay packages available thru Picomountain.com. For reservations call (866) 667-7426. Through March 25.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks Open House. Sugar-on-Snow 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 25.

STOWE. Performance: Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble. Tickets \$38. 8 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Rt. 108N. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. All dances taught, all ages welcome. Admission \$9 adults, \$7 teens, \$3 for 12 and under. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, 573 Rt. 140. (802) 235-2718. www.tinmouthvt.org. Also April 27.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

BARRE. Workshop: Ukrainian Eggs. Led by Sofia Shatkivska. Pysamka 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 \$35. 1-4 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BARRE. Concert with Leo Kottke. 8-10:30 pm. Barre Opera House. For tickets call (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

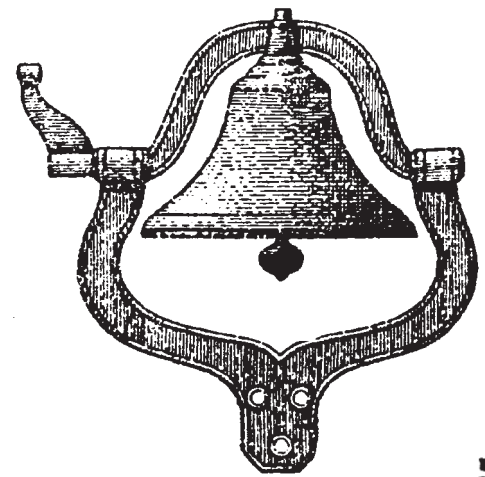
BARTON. Maple Open House at Golden Buckets. Watch boiling with wood and collecting with buckets. Homemade baked beans, hot dogs and much more served hot from an old wood cookstove all day and a Sugar-on-Snow party at 2 pm. Directions: From Barton take Rt. 16E for 1.33 miles; turn right onto May Pond Rd. (dirt road); go .25 miles. Park across from log cabin house and walk a short distance down an old dirt road just above log home to sugarhouse. (802) 525-6276. Also March 25.

BENNINGTON. Bennington County Choral Society presents "Carmina Burana." 8 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. For tickets call (802) 442-6275. Also March 25.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. 10 am – 2 pm. At the River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. www.posttoilsolutions.org. Also March 31.

BROWNSVILLE. Double Diamond Sugar House Open House. Sugarhouse tours, sugar-on-snow, cider donuts, pickles, music and more! 1193 Ski Tow Rd. (508) 479-4950. www.ddsugarhouse.com. Also March 25.

BURLINGTON. All Day Sacred Harp Sing. 10 am – 4 pm. First Congregational Church, 38 South Winooski Ave. Kerry Cullinan, kcllynx@gmavt.net. vtshapenotesingers.com.



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March Events at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science

Winged Wonders, weekends at 11 am. Through the Eyes of a Raptor, weekends at 2 pm. Join VINS educators as we discover the mysterious realm of flight. Explore the fascinating lives of birds. See how we rehabilitate hundreds of birds each year and the fundamentals of how we train our raptors.

Snowshoe Wine & Dine, Friday, March 9, 2012. Snowshoe walk on trails at Marshland Farm with activities, story telling and the science behind woods in winter from 6–7:30 p.m. Relaxing three-course meal from 7:30–9 p.m. Led by VINS educator and Marty Banak working with Wilderness Trails and the Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm. Fee: \$40. Pre-registration and payment required before March 7th.

Rehabilitation Workshop Series: Avian Fracture Immobilization & Care, Saturday, March 24. Morning session 9-11:30 a.m. in the VINS Classroom at the VINS Nature Center in Quechee, VT. Broken bones can be one of the biggest challenges in avian wildlife rehabilitation. Review avian skeletal anatomy, learn to use x-rays, discuss fracture types, and determine prognosis. Afternoon session from 3:30–5:30 pm includes applying wing wraps and leg & foot splints. We will discuss physical therapy, healing evaluation, and what to do after the fracture has healed. Includes PowerPoint Lecture presentation and hands-on lab portion. Fee: \$25 each session. Pre-registration and payment due March 19th.

Connecticut River Waterfowl Birding Trip, Saturday, March 24. Meet at 8 a.m. at the boat ramp parking lot in Springfield, VT, along Rt. 11, adjacent to the bridge to Charlestown, NH on the VT side (meeting location subject to change—check with VINS). We'll be back by 1 p.m. The Connecticut River in NH and VT is among the premier flyways for migratory birds, particularly waterfowl, in all of New England. Flooded agricultural fields and emergent marshes along the river serve as primary feeding locations. Join waterfowl enthusiast and NH Audubon Director of Land Management, Phil Brown, on a tour of some of waterfowl hotspots as we hope to find foraging waterfowl in flooded fields and along the river. In addition, late March is known to bring other treats and early spring arrivals like American kestrel, killdeer, and Eastern meadowlark. Last year, an exceptionally rare pink-footed goose was found! Bring a picnic lunch and drink, and be prepared for wet or muddy conditions and cold weather. Fee: \$10. Pre-registration and payment due March 21.

Family Fun Foray, Saturday, March 31. 4–6 p.m. Join us at the VINS Nature Center as we say farewell to winter and welcome in spring! Find out about starting garden plants inside and discover the ephemeral plants beginning to sprout through the last of the winter snow. Enjoy an early spring walk. Fee: \$10. Please pre-register by Friday March 30th

To register for these events or for more information contact VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd, Quechee VT. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(March 24, continued)

BURLINGTON. UVM Folk Music Festival Concert. Featuring Crowfoot. Presented by UVM Old Time Music Club with Young Tradition Vermont. 7-9:30 pm. At Billings at the University of Vermont. For info: darren.schibler@uvm.edu. www.youngtraditionvermont.org.

CORNWALL. Bread Loaf View Farm Open House. Pancake breakfast, horse-drawn wagon rides, free samples. Displays and tours. Bread Loaf View Farm, 564 Cider Mill Rd. (802) 373-7000. www.breadloafviewfarm.com.

EAST MONTPELIER. Bragg Farm Maple Open House. Visit an eight-generation family operated sugarhouse! Traditional sugar-on-snow & maple creamies. Live fiddle music 1-5 pm. Watch sap boiling in the sugarhouse, enjoy maple syrup tasting & walk the maple trail! Bragg Farm Sugarhouse & Gift Shop, 1005 Rt. 14 N. (802) 223-5757. www.braggfarm.com. Also March 25.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Jr. Iron Chef Vermont. Cooking competition for Vermont middle and high school students. \$3 individuals, \$5 family, free for children under 3. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Champlain Valley Expo. (802) 434-4122.

FERRISBURGH. Annual Pancake Breakfast and Sugar-on-Snow Party! Self-guided free tours, see boiling sap the traditional way. Taste this year's newest crop of Vermont maple syrup over spring snow or ice cream. Breakfast 7:30-11:30 am—buttermilk pancakes, bacon and sausage—adults \$7.75, kids \$4.50. Lunch noon to 4 pm—sausage hoagies cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili. Live music by Bob Degree & the Bluegrass Storm, and free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon & more. Dakin Farm Store, 5797 Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com. Also March 25, 31 & April 1.

GUILFORD. Maple Open House at Black Bear Sugarworks. Guided tour at 1 pm. 287 Locust Hill Rd. (802) 257-4278. www.blackbearsugarworks.com. Also March 25.

HUNTINGTON. 42nd 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. At Green Mountain Audubon Center's Sugarhouse on the Main Rd. Directions: Take Rt. 2 toward Richmond. Take Bridge St. through Richmond, sharp right onto Huntington Rd. Sugarhouse is 5-1/2 miles on right. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org. Also March 25 & 31.

KILLINGTON. First Annual Tweed River Winter Carnival. Takes place in conjunction with Killington/Pico Mountain's "Nor'Beaster Fest." Old-school apres ski music by Bow Thayer and The Holy Plow, Crunchy Western Boys, Pistol Whipped and more. Starting at 1:30 pm in the Last Run Lounge at Pico Main Lodge, Pico Mountain Resort. From 7 pm - 2 am the main floor of the Pico Lodge will be transformed for a full-on rock concert with music by Township, White Dynamite, Andrea Gillis, and Bow Thayer and Perfect Trainwreck. Tickets \$20, \$15 with VT I.D. For details and tickets see Facebook and www.tweedrivermusicfestival.com. Winter activities all weekend for kids and folks of all ages. picomountain.com. Also March 25.

LUDLOW. Green Mountain Sugar House Maple Open House Weekend. Sugar-on-snow, donuts, and coffee all for free. 9 am - 6 pm. 820 Rt. 100 N. (802) 228-7151. www.gmsh.com.

LUNENBURG. 7th Annual Maple Festival. A full day of family fun from 8 am to 7 pm. Pancake breakfast, luncheon, free door prizes, exhibits for history buffs, interactive displays, tree tapping demonstrations, tours of local sugarhouses, scavenger hunt, contests. Around the Lunenburg Common and at the school, Rt. 2. (802) 892-6654. www.topofthecommon.org.

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

MONTPELIER. The Boardman's Workshop—New England Fiddle and Cello. Led by Greg and Jessie Boardman. 2-4 pm followed by a family contra dance. Fee: \$25. Presented by Summit School of Tradition Music and Culture. (802) 917-1186. www.summit-school.org.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks Open House. Pancake breakfast. Hot dogs and eggs boiled in sap from noon on. Sugar-on-Snow from noon to 4 pm. Sugar House tours, Woodshed Theater, Country Store, Maple Trail, and more! 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. Also March 25.

NORWICH. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. 1:30-4:30 pm. Parish Hall of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 262 Main St. contact Daniel Hertzler at danhertzler@gmail.com. Continues fourth Sundays.

NORWICH. Contradance with Cuckoo's Nest. Ruth Sylvester calling. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners welcome. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8, under 16 free, over 60 by donation. Family dance 5-6:30 pm. Contra dance 8 pm. At Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Continues fourth Saturdays through May 2012.

PERU. Bromley's Spring Fling Weekend. Live music and family events, pond skimming, Trampoline Things, Duct Tape Derby. Bromley Mountain, 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com. Also March 25.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum Presents the History of Maple Sugaring. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. The Maple Museum is a great place to start or finish your Sugar House tour. Groups over 12 can request "Sugar on Snow" by reservation. Discounts on admissions and 25% off selected gifts. Spring hours 10 am - 4 pm daily. 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com. Also March 25.

POMFRET. Maple Open House at Elm Grove Farm. Come watch gathering sap from buckets and boiling with wood in open pans. Syrup samples and fresh doughnuts! 3655 Cloudland Rd. (802) 457-3888. www.elmgrovefarm.com. Also March 25.

POULTNEY. Green's Sugarhouse Open House Weekend. Guided tours, nature trail, free samples, maple cotton candy, sugar-on-snow. 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. www.greenssugarhouse.com. Also March 25.

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. www.poultneyvt.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Yankee Chank. Drawn together by their passion for traditional Cajun and Zydeco music, this group of Vermont musicians performs dance music from Southwest Louisiana. Cash Bar available. Tickets \$11. Call the box office at (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm in the Esther Mesh Room, Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

RICHFORD. Open House at Fleury's Maple Hill Farm. Visit a rustic wood-fired sugarhouse, a 1/4-mile walk back into the sugarwoods. Bring your boots and questions. 327 Pleasant View Rd. (802) 848-3681. Also March 25.

RICHMOND. Chucklin Sugarworks Open House. Horse-drawn wagon rides through the woods to the sugarhouse. Syrup samples and maple treats. 1200 Williams Hill Rd. (802) 434-4882. Also March 25.

RUPERT. Annual Maple Celebration and Breakfast. Watch the sugaring, walk in the woods, go on a scavenger hunt, and enjoy a locally-sourced breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and maple syrup! Tickets for breakfast are \$10 adults, \$5 children under 12, under 2 are free. 10 am - 2 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. Also March 25.

RUTLAND. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling and trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 3 pm. Franklin Conference Center at The Howe Center, 1 Scale Ave. off Strongs Ave. For info call (802) 875-4540 or (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. Also March 25.

RUTLAND. Concert: The Shirelles and The Drifters. Tickets \$31.50-\$46.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. 15th Annual HBRA-RV Home & Recreation Show. 9 am - 3 pm. Spartan Arena, behind Diamond Run Mall, Rt. 7. (802) 773-0672.

RUTLAND. Fifth Annual Winter Farmers Market. Over 40 vendors, fresh produce, prepared foods, live entertainment. 10 am - 2 pm in the Old Strand Theater—enter through the Rutland Natural Food Co-Op at 77 Wales St. (802) 683-4606. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 28.

SHOREHAM. Maple Open House at Trade Winds Farm. Pancake breakfast 8-11 am. Maple cream donuts and free maple samples and treats all day. Sugar-on-snow and maple hot dogs 12-4 pm. Gift shop and sugarhouse tours. 1639 Rt. 74, 6 miles from Rt. 30. (802) 897-2448. www.vermonttradewinds.com. Also March 25.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Dakin Farm. Sugar-on-snow, baked beans, chili, hoagies cooked in sap, priced ala carte. Free samples, movie, and activities. 12-4 pm. Dakin Farm Store, 100 Dorset St. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com. Also March 25, 31 and April 1.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Crabapple Pruning Workday. Mark Biercevicz, Crab Apple Curator, will explain and demonstrate proper pruning techniques. Bring pruning tools, gloves, and loppers if you have them. We'll provide some, too. Free. 9 am - 12 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

"Healthy People, Healthy Planet" Discussion Groups

Catamount Earth Institute invites you to join their "Healthy People, Healthy Planet" discussion groups. The series explores "good health," the connection between human health and the environment, and how we can sustain both. Discussion topics include: precautionary medicine; eating well; household toxins, and healthy natural systems. Throughout the discussion guide there are individual actions that promote good health and in turn, promote a healthier environment.

The anthologies/discussion guides are available for \$15 at the Hanover (NH) Co-op Service Desk. Many libraries will be loaning the anthologies to discussion group members. This is due in part to the generosity of the Co-op Food Stores, Upper Valley Food Co-op, and Health Connections which have purchased sets of 10 books to share with discussion groups.

We hope you'll consider getting together with friends, neighbors, or workplace colleagues for this six-session series. Contact the numbers given below to register.

Current Schedule

Women's Health Resource Center, Lebanon Mall, Lebanon, NH. Tuesdays, March 6 - April 10, 12-1 p.m. Register and borrow a book from the WHRC. Call to register: (603) 650-2600.

Upper Valley Land Trust, Hanover, NH. Thursdays, March 15 - April 19, 12-1:30 p.m. Register and purchase a book at the Hanover Co-op Service Desk. (603) 643-6626. anna.slack@uvlt.org.

Blake Memorial Library, Corinth, VT. Thursdays, March 15 - April 19, 4:30-6 p.m. Register and borrow a book from the library. (802) 439-5338.

Canaan Town Library, Canaan, NH. Wednesdays, April 4 - May 9, 7-8:30 p.m. Register and borrow a book from the library. (603) 523-9650.

For more information contact the Catamount Earth Institute, PO Box 470, Hanover, NH 03755. (802) 333-3664, (603) 643-0328. catamount@valley.net. www.catamountearthinstitute.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

SPRINGFIELD. Connecticut River Waterfowl Birding Trip. Sponsored by VINS. Meet at 8 am at the boat ramp parking lot in Springfield, VT, along Rt. 11 adjacent to the bridge to Charlestown, NH on the VT side (meeting location subject to change). We'll be back by 1 pm. Fee: \$10, pre-register by March 21. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

STATEWIDE. 11th Annual Statewide Maple Open House Weekend. The sweet maple aroma inside Vermont sugarhouses, and steam rising from the cupolas outside, are signs that sugaring season is underway! Visitors are welcome at sugarhouses all over Vermont to see how maple syrup is produced & to sample maple products. Activities vary, weather permitting. Free. See website for locations throughout the state. (800) 837-6668. vermontmaple.org. Also March 25.

TINMOUTH. Winter Evening Contra Dance. With Sarah Blair on fiddle and Brendan Taaffe on guitar. All dances taught and you do not need a partner. Beginners welcome. Admission \$9, \$7 teens, free for children 12 and under. Refreshments. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, five miles west of Wallingford. (802) 235-2718. www.tinmouthvt.org. Also April 27.

WESTFIELD. Couture's Maple Shop and B&B Open House. Sugarhouse tour, syrup sampling, and sap boiling. Maple Shop, sugar on snow and lunch. Tour the dairy barn to see cows and calves. Spring is here, enjoy the festive atmosphere! 560 Rt. 100, just north of the village. (802) 744-2733. www.maplesyrupvermont.com. Also March 25.

WESTMINSTER. Sweet Maple Alpaca Farm Open House. Meet the alpacas, see maple syrup being made, have a taste, shop in our farm store. Activities for children, hot dogs, hand-outs. 154 River Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 376-9846. www.sweetmaplealpacas.com. Also March 25.

WHITINGHAM. 14th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast, information booth, sugar house tours, craft fair, horse-drawn sleigh rides, kids' corner, luncheon, maple recipe contest, and sugar-on-snow ham dinner. (802) 363-2807. www.whitingham-maplefest.us. Also March 25.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

EAST MONTPELIER. Bragg Farm Maple Open House. Visit an eight-generation family operated sugarhouse! Traditional sugar-on-snow & maple creamies. Live fiddle music 1-5 pm. Watch sap boiling in the sugarhouse, enjoy maple syrup tasting & walk the maple trail! Bragg Farm Sugarhouse & Gift Shop, 1005 Rt. 14 N. (802) 223-5757. www.braggfarm.com.

FERRISBURGH. Annual Pancake Breakfast and Sugar-on-Snow Party! Self-guided free sugarhouse and smokehouse tours, see boiling sap the traditional way. Taste this year's newest crop of Vermont maple syrup over spring snow or ice cream. Breakfast 7:30-11:30 am—buttermilk pancakes, bacon and sausage—adults \$7.75, kids \$4.50. Lunch noon to 4 pm—sausage hoagies cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili. Live music by Bob Degree & the Bluegrass Storm, and free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon & more. Dakin Farm Store, 5797 Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com. Also March 31 & April 1.

HUNTINGTON. 42nd Annual Sugar-on-Snow Party. Come celebrate the maple sugaring season out in the woods with sweet maple treats, cider donuts, free sugarbush tours, sugaring demonstrations, and a delicious taste of all grades of maple syrup! Gather sap in buckets. 10 am - 4 pm. For all ages. Free admission—the only charge is for food. At Green Mountain Audubon Center's Sugarhouse on the Main Rd. Directions: Take Rt. 2 toward Richmond. Take Bridge St. through Richmond, sharp right onto Huntington Rd. Sugarhouse is 5-1/2 miles on right. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org. Also March 31.

KILLINGTON. First Annual Tweed River Winter Carnival. Takes place in conjunction with Killington/Pico Mountain's "Nor" Beaster Fest." Tickets \$20, \$15 with VT I.D. Details and tickets available thru www.tweedrivermusicfestival.com. Winter activities all weekend for kids and folks of all ages. For reservations call (866) 667-7426. picomountain.com.

MONTPELIER. Annual Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks Open House. Hot dogs and eggs boiled in sap from noon on. Sugar-on-Snow from noon to 4 pm. Sugar House tours, Woodshed Theater, Country Store, Maple Trail, and more! 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.

MONTPELIER. Winter Ducks Outing—Lake Champlain Waterfowl Watch. As winter slowly transitions into spring, we will spend the day in search waterfowl hotspots for wintering and migrating ducks and other water-loving birds. Thousands of geese and over 15 species of ducks may be present, and we will search for the more elusive individuals such as Tufted Duck. Fee: \$30, free for teens. 7:30 - 2:30 pm. Carpool from North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Community Players Present Annie. A family classic, not to be missed! Tickets \$20. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. Also March 29, 30, 31 and April 1.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum Presents the History of Maple Sugaring. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. The Maple Museum is a great place to start or finish your Sugar House tour. Groups over 12 can request "Sugar on Snow" by reservation. Discounts on admissions and 25% off selected gifts. Spring hours 10 am - 4 pm daily. New England Maple Museum, 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

POULTNEY. Green's Sugarhouse Open House Weekend. Enjoy a guided tour, walk on our nature trail, free maple samples. Delicious maple cotton candy and maple sugar-on-snow. Family-friendly sugarhouse. Green's Sugarhouse, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. www.greensugarhouse.com.

RUPERT. Annual Maple Celebration and Breakfast. Watch the sugaring, walk in the woods, go on a scavenger hunt, and enjoy a locally-sourced breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and maple syrup! Tickets for breakfast are \$10 adults, \$5 children under 12, under 2 are free. 10 am - 2 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 3 pm. Franklin Conference Center at The Howe Center, 1 Scale Ave. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. 19th Annual Spring Book Fair. Rare and unusual books, postcards, maps, and ephemera. Sponsored by Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association. Admission \$4, under 16 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, 870 Williston Rd. (802) 527-7243. www.VermontIsBookCountry.com.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Dakin Farm. Sugar-on-snow, baked beans, chili, hoagies cooked in sap, priced ala carte. Free samples, movie, and activities. 12-4 pm. Dakin Farm Store, 100 Dorset St. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com. Also March 31 and April 1.

STATEWIDE. 11th Annual Statewide Maple Open House Weekend. The sweet maple aroma inside Vermont sugar houses, and steam rising from the cupolas outside, are signs that sugaring season is underway! Visitors are welcome at sugarhouses all over Vermont to see how maple syrup is produced & to sample maple products. Activities vary, weather permitting. Free. See website for locations throughout the state. (800) 837-6668. www.vermontmaple.org.

Free Calendar Listings

Send us your community or church events & we'll list them free of charge in our calendar.

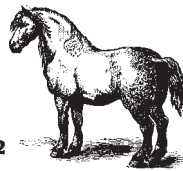
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On Looking at A Picture of Myself

Who is that old guy standing in front of my woodpile? How come he's got my overalls and chaps and my hardhat on? And he's wearing my mittens too. And that's my chainsaw on top the woodpile just behind him.

He looks just like my father, exactly like my father. Where did he come from? What's he doing there?

He does a nice job though. I can see that from here. The firewood is evenly cut and carefully and evenly stacked. And I can also see he stacks his brush carefully too. He does a lot better job than I did

when I was young. Maybe I ought to try to track him down and see if he would like to work with me out in the woods. He does a nice job, even if he is an old guy and looks just like my father.

—DAVID BUDBILL

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Vermont Country Calendar

TINMOUTH. Maple Open House Weekend at K&S Ruane Maple Sugar Farm. Pancake breakfast. 128 Mountain View Rd. (802) 446-3105. *Also March 25.*

WHITINGHAM. 14th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast, information booth, sugar house tours, craft fair, luncheon, kids' corner. (802) 363-2807. www.whitingham-maplefest.us.

MONDAY, MARCH 26

SO. BURLINGTON. Crabapple Pruning Workday. Mark Biercevicz, Crab Apple Curator, will explain and demonstrate proper pruning techniques. Bring pruning tools, gloves and loppers if you have them. Fee: \$20. 9 am – 12 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. E-mail info@friendsofthehortfarm.org for reservations. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

MANCHESTER. A Scandinavian Easter. Chef Josef Roettig prepares a very special Easter menu from the heart of Scandinavia with Gravad Lax, Swedish Pork Loin, and Raspberries in Strudel Leaves. A seated dinner with wine will follow. Fee \$75. 5:45-9 pm. Call to register and for location. Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong. (802) 366-1820. www.greenmtnacademy.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

BRANDON. Chamber Music Concert. Paul Orgel (piano), Laurel Ann Maurer (flute) and John Dunlop (cello) will present an excellent program. Tickets \$15. 7:30 pm. At the Congregational Church. (802) 465-4071. brandon-music.net.

KILLINGTON. SnowMont Music Festival. A three-day festival. The event also includes the Winter Tweed River Music Festival at Pico Mountain March 23-25, Air, Metal and Mayhem April 1. Tickets and information: snowmontmusicfestival.com. *Through April 1.*

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Community Players Present *Annie*. A family classic, not to be missed! Tickets \$20. 2 & 7 pm. Town Hall Theater. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. *Also March 31 and April 1.*

SO. BURLINGTON. Discussion: Gardening in Vermont—Spring to Fall. Led by Ron Krupp, author of "Lifting the Yoke" and "The Woodchucks Guide to Gardening." Fee: \$20. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. For reservations e-mail info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SWANTON. Free Open Door Community Dinner. Free. 5:30-6:30 pm. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185 x 10. holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. www.holytrinityswanton.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Russian Duo. Oleg Kruglyakov, balalaika virtuoso, and Terry Boyarsky, masterful pianist. Their repertoire draws from Russian folk music, romances, dances, classical music, gypsy melodies and Russian songs. Sponsored by Stone Church Arts. Tickets: adults \$20, \$15 for seniors over 60 & children under 12. Tickets available at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls, Brattleboro Books, Misty Valley Books in Chester), at www.brattleborotix.com or at the door. Concert at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers Market. Indoor market featuring local farm products. Delicious lunches and live music in the lunch cafe. A project of Post Oil Solutions. 10 am – 2 pm. At the River Garden, 153 Main St. (802) 869-2141. www.postoilsolutions.org.

BURLINGTON. Crop Mob at Adam's Berry Farm. Volunteer for a work party on a farm while enjoying each other's company. Help pull big sheets of plastic over top of two strawberry hoop houses. We'll have warm drinks and muffins to keep our spirits high! Rain date April 1. 9 am – 12 pm. Adam's Berry Farm, 326 Intervale Rd. (802) 861-9700. www.citymarket.coop.

CHARLOTTE. Easy Family Hike/Snowshoe on Mt. Philo. Goodbye Winter—Hello Spring! Bring your dogs and family and enjoy the views of Lake Champlain framed by the Adirondack Mountains as we ring in a new season. Easy hike, easy pace, 2.1 miles, 871' elevation gain. Group limit 10 people, 4 dogs. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For more info contact leader by 3/28: Kelley Christie, (802) 999-7839. kelleymchristie@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

FERRISBURGH. Annual Pancake Breakfast and Sugar-on-Snow Party! Self-guided free tours, see boiling sap the traditional way. Breakfast 7:30-11:30 am—buttermilk pancakes, bacon and sausage—adults \$7.75, kids \$4.50. Lunch noon to 4 pm—sausage hoagies cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili. Live music by Bob Degree & the Bluegrass Storm, and free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon & more. Dakin Farm Store, 5797 Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com. *Also April 1.*

HUNTINGTON. 42nd 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. At Green Mountain Audubon Center's Sugarhouse on the Main Rd. Directions: Take Rt. 2 toward Richmond. Take Bridge St. through Richmond, sharp right onto Huntington Rd. Sugarhouse is 5-1/2 miles on right. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org.

KILLINGTON. SnowMont Music Festival. A three-day music festival featuring Snoop Dogg, Chromeo and DJ Shadow along with Nor'beaster, the best spring skiing and riding in the East. For tickets and information go to snowmontmusicfestival.com. *Through April 1.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Rachel Maddow talks about her new book: *Drift*. Sponsored by Northshire Bookstore. Admission \$28 (includes a copy of the book), or \$8. 1 pm. At Manchester Elementary Middle School. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Basement Music Series Concert. Milwaukee-based singer-songwriter-guitarist Peter Mulvey performs. Tickets \$24. Cash bar and food available. 8 pm, doors open at 7 pm. Vermont Arts Exchange, Sage Street Mill. (802) 442-5549. vtartxchange.org.

RANDOLPH. Classical Piano Concert with Menahem Pressler. Founding member and pianist of the Beaux Arts Trio. Tickets \$32. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. www.woodstea.net.

RUTLAND. Maple Leaf Quilters 2012 Festival of Quilts. Invitational quilter: Pamela Druhen; featured guild quilter: Marcia Shipman. Stunning quilts by guild members, antique quilt exhibit, consignment boutique, demonstrations. Guild challenge "Irene: Putting the Pieces Back Together." Vendors, basket ticket auction, tea room. Admission \$6. Saturday 9 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. Held at the College of St. Joseph. (802) 558-1526. www.mapleleafquilters.org. mapleleafquilters@yahoo.com. www.facebook.com/quiltshow. *Also April 1.*

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Dakin Farm. Sugar-on-snow, baked beans, chili, hoagies cooked in sap, priced ala carte. Free samples, movie, and activities. 12-4 pm. Dakin Farm Store, 100 Dorset St. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com. *Also April 1.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

BRANDON. Spinney Brothers Bluegrass Concert. \$15 per person. 2-4:30 pm, doors open at 1 pm. Kitchen open for hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, and brownie sundaes. Neshobe Sportsman Club, 97 Frog Hollow Rd. (802) 247-3275.

FERRISBURGH. Annual Pancake Breakfast and Sugar-on-Snow Party! Self-guided free tours, see boiling sap the traditional way. Taste this year's newest crop of Vermont maple syrup over spring snow or ice cream. Breakfast 7:30-11:30 am—buttermilk pancakes, bacon and sausage—adults \$7.75, kids \$4.50. Lunch noon to 4 pm with sausage hoagies cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili. Live music by Banjo Dan and Willy, and free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon & more. Dakin Farm Store, 5797 Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com.

RUTLAND. Musical: Monty Python's *Spamalot*. Features the most dazzling dance sequences of the season, a bevy of beautiful show girls, flying cows, killer rabbits and coconut-carrying swallows. Tickets: \$49.50-\$59.50. 4 & 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Maple Leaf Quilters 2012 Festival of Quilts. Stunning quilts by guild members, antique quilt exhibit, consignment boutique, demonstrations. Guild challenge "Irene: Putting the Pieces Back Together." Vendors, basket ticket auction, tea room with a special waffle brunch. Admission \$6. 10 am – 4 pm. Held at the College of St. Joseph. (802) 558-1526. www.mapleleafquilters.org.



29th Annual Tree and Shrub Sale Sponsored by WNRDC

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) 29th Annual Conservation Tree Sale will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 at our offices in Berlin and Williston. We are committed to offering this sale as a way to promote the planting of trees and shrubs throughout Vermont's landscape. The money we make from the Tree Sale allows us to bring workshops, educational information, and high-quality conservation programs to the District.

For the past 28 years, we have sold tens of thousands of trees and shrubs at very reasonable prices through this sale. We have limited quantities of certain species and orders will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Depending on remaining quantities, late orders may be accepted. Extra plants will be available on sale day.

Orders must be postmarked by March 30 and picked up between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. on April 28 at the WNTDC locations in Berlin or Williston (listed below). There is a free tree planting workshop at 11 a.m. on April 28 in both Berlin and Williston.

To submit your order visit www.vacd.org/winooski. Select your purchase and fill out the order form on the website. Mail it with your payment made out to "WNRCD" to one of the two locations listed. Orders must be picked up at the location that you select.

2012 Available Species of trees, shrubs, and fruit plants include: Balsam Fir, Larch, Northern White Cedar, Eastern Hemlock, Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Speckled Alder, Blue Spruce, Black Birch, Sandbar Willow, Snowberry, Common Purple Lilac, Nannyberry, Highbush Cranberry, Virginia Creeper, Allegheny Serviceberry, Pagoda Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Witchhazel, Pink Diamond Hydrangea, Winterberry, Chokecherry, Paper Birch, Hackberry, American Sycamore, Black Cherry, Nanking Cherry, Cavendish Strawberry, Seascape Strawberry, Dolgo Crab Apple, Honeycrisp Apple, Magenta Crab Apple, Manchurian Apricot, Bounty Plum, Summercrisp Pear, Ben Sarek Currant, Prime Jim Blackberry, Latham Raspberry, Polana Raspberry, Elderberry, Jersey Blueberry, Nelson Blueberry, Beaked Hazelnut, Butternut, and Black Walnut. There are also Bird Feeders and Bird Houses for sale.

For more information contact Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District at its two locations. WNRCD, 617 Comstock Rd., Suite 1, Berlin, VT 05602, (802) 828-4493 x 113. Or WNRCD, 1193 South Brownell Rd., Suite 35, Williston, VT 05495, (802) 865-7895 x 104. Website: www.vacd.org/winooski.



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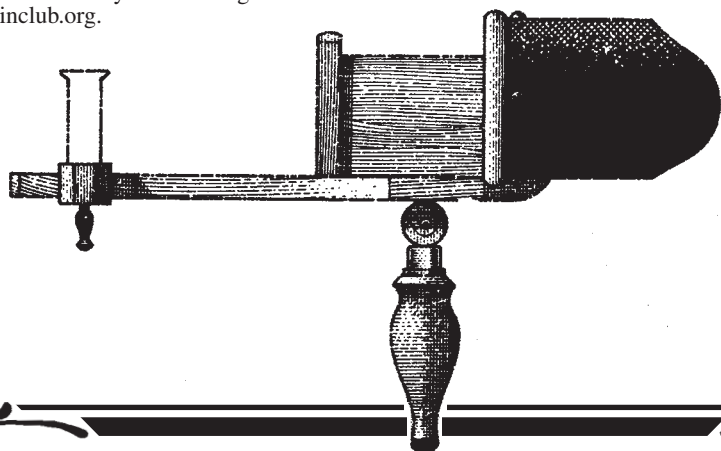
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Spring Entertainment at Chandler's Upper Gallery

Chandler's Live & Upstairs! Series presents affordable performances featuring regional musicians. The renovation of Chandler's Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT has transformed it into a lovely room for performances, films, dances and special events. Here's what's coming in March.

The Return of Crazy Chase—March 2, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$18. Allen Church's one-man presentation brings back the legendary dance hall fiddler and wonderful Vermont character Crazy Chase and a time of neighborhood cake parties and seasonal barn dances.

Marko the Magician—March 3, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$13. Join us for an hour of stand-up magic with one of Vermont's most celebrated magicians! Cash bar available.

Cape Breton Fiddlers Wendy MacIsaac and Andrea Beaton—March 4, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. Wendy MacIsaac is a fiddle, piano player and stepdancer from Creignish, Cape Breton, Canada. For the last ten years she has toured all over the world as a solo performer, with Mary Jane Lamond, Ashley MacIsaac, and with Beolach, her current band.

Andrea Beaton is the youngest of generations of Beaton musicians and has a stellar musical pedigree. Her father Kinon is one of today's most influential Cape Breton fiddlers, and her mother Betty Beaton is one of the great piano accompanists of her generation. Her uncle Buddy MacMaster is the most revered fiddler on Cape Breton Island, and her cousin Natalie MacMaster is an enormously popular entertainer.

Jeanne & the Hi-Tops—March 10, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$11. Jeanne & the Hi-Tops celebrate more than 20 years together with their eclectic brand of rollicking Memphis soul, Zydeco, Tex-Mex, reggae and the blues styles of Kansas City, Chicago and Austin. A cash bar will be available.

An Evening of Comedy with Nathan Brady Crain—March 17, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$11. Vermont's only full-time stand-up comedian/musician offers a night of comedy geared to adult audiences. Cash bar available.

Yankee Chank—March 24, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$11. Drawn together by their passion for traditional Cajun and Zydeco music, this group of Vermont musicians performs dance music from Southwest Louisiana. Cash bar available.



Wendy MacIsaac



Andrea Beaton

Canadian Boat Song

Listen to me, as when ye heard our father
Sing long ago the song of other shores—
Listen to me, and then in chorus gather
All your deep voices as ye pull the oars;

*Fair these broad meads—these hoary woods are grand;
But we are exiles from our fathers' land.*

From the lone shieling of the misty island—
Mountains divide us, and the waste of seas—
Yet still the blood is strong, the heart is Highland,
And we in dreams behold the Hebrides.

*Fair these broad meads—these hoary woods are grand;
But we are exiles from our fathers' land.*

We ne'er shall tread the fancy-haunted valley,
Where 'tween the dark hills creeps the small clear stream,
In arms around the patriarch banner rally,
Nor see the moon on royal tombstone gleam.

*Fair these broad meads—these hoary woods are grand;
But we are exiles from our fathers' land.*

When the bold kindred, in the time long-vanished,
Conquered the soil and fortified the keep,
No seer foretold the children would be banished,
That a degenerate lord might boast his sheep.

*Fair these broad meads—these hoary woods are grand;
But we are exiles from our fathers' land.*

Come foreigner rage—let Discord burst in slaughter!
O then for clansmen true, and stern claymore—
The hearts that would have given their blood like water
Beat heavily beyond the Atlantic roar.

*Fair these broad meads—these hoary woods are grand;
But we are exiles from our fathers' land.*

The authorship of this poem, or song, has been debated for ages and is variously attributed to John Galt (1779–1839), David Macbeth Moir (1798–1851), Sir Walter Scott, and others. This poem first appeared in Blackwood's Magazine for September, 1829.

Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. For tickets call (802) 728-6464 from 3 & 6 p.m. Tickets are also available at the door.

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Maple for the Teacher

by Burr Morse

I've been asked to teach a class at an upcoming "maple school" on the subject of marketing. Although the thought of being a teacher kinda scares me, I agreed to do it because of all my experience. "What the heck," I thought. "If all else fails, I can bluff my way through just like I have the last forty years!" You see, my only marketing credentials come from the "school of hard knocks." At 22 years old, I suddenly found myself an oft-unwilling partner in our family maple business. Our setup was loose to say the least—no business plan, no portfolio—heck, to this day I don't even have an office! My parents and I ran the business by the "seat of our pants" with one major criterion—we needed to eat.

The bank wasn't wild about my dairy farmer father's 1966 mission statement, "Guess I'll sell those critters 'n try my hand at milkin' folks," but they gave us a small loan anyway and we were off and runnin'.

Over the years, I've had a lot of marketing ideas, some good, many bad—like my "sap bucket" gift pack. It started as a brainstorm in the middle of the night. It would be cardboard, ala KFC, but made handsome with graphics to replicate an old-fashioned wood-stave sap bucket. I took the idea to a marketing guy (mistake number one) and he thought it was a real winner. A Massachusetts box company would build 'em but it would not be cheap, almost twenty thousand dollars to create and produce the first run! The marketing guy said not to worry though—"You'll be the only one around with a sap bucket gift pack."

We ordered them in the fall so that they would be ready for Christmas sales but, alas, they were late and we lost Christmas. Then we found out that folks hated 'em—"Ahh ordered a 'sap bucket' gift pack" one guy from Alabama said, "not no movie theeAter wanna-be!" I was in a bind but sometimes good things spring from desperation. I discovered kettle corn, added maple to the recipe, and ended up selling those buckets, all seventeen thousand of them, filled with Morse Farm's deliciously addictive maple kettle corn.

Yup, over the years, some of my marketing ideas have been "creative" to say the least but I don't claim the

top prize—that would go to my friend Faruk. Bosnian Faruk Piric was forced from his homeland by bad politics and war in the nineties. He moved to America and adopted Montpelier, Vermont as his new home. Faruk, an inventor by trade, started coming up to Morse Farm because of his interest in the maple process. He and I quickly became close friends. The tall, dark-eyed man always talked through a smile and started every conversation with "Please, may I have meeting with you about idea I have?" I always enjoyed talking with him because we shared a common interest in "wacky" marketing ideas. For some reason, maybe because Vermont had provided him and his family a safe haven, Faruk was

"My parents and I ran the business by the 'seat of our pants' with one major criterion—we needed to eat."

oddly fixated on the shape of his adopted state. "Please, I have prototype of new syrup bottle like state of Vermont," he said one day. And, sure enough, he had made the neatest little syrup jug, complete with the Green Mountains bulging from its middle, shaped like the State of Vermont.

A Vermont maple packer eventually bought Faruk's idea and began making both glass and plastic versions of the "Vermont" jug but, like my sap bucket gift pack, it was not well received. Sales were sluggish and eventually Faruk and the packer lost both energy for the jug and a lot of money.

One other time Faruk approached me with a prototype of a maple candy box shaped like, you guessed it—Vermont. It was a cute little box and I encouraged him to proceed with it but stopped short of offering to be his business partner.

Faruk's most "famous" idea, however, was one that I was able to squelch instantly and unequivocally. He had drawn up plans for a joint Vermont–New Hampshire Welcome Center. It was to be multi-stories high, sided with granite, shaped like the two states as they appear on a map, and located—are you ready for this?—spanning the Connecticut River!

"Faruk—you don't understand!" I shouted loud enough to shatter the Old Man of the Mountain. I went on to explain the severe zoning regulations in both states and people's attitude toward public water, flood plains, and traffic genera-

tion. His friendly, dark eyes instantly grew huge followed by his trademark smile. "Oh, I understand point," he said. "Like McDonald's in Montpelier—never, never." I winked and smiled back, "You got it."

Faruk and his wife Beba returned to their native Bosnia a few years ago. I'll always remember him as persistent, hard working, and smart as a whip, but mostly, a world-class friend. He sure loved Vermont and tried his best to promote it. Some things, however, just need to be left alone, like wooden sap buckets and the Connecticut River.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT, and is open year round. Visit our Ski Touring Center, Country Store, Sugarhouse, and more. For 2012 maple products call (800) 242-2740 or go to morsefarm.com.



March maples along the bend of the road in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Start Your Plants in the UVM Greenhouse

If you dream of starting your own seedlings for your home garden, the University of Vermont greenhouse facilities in Burlington, VT can make it happen. They will provide soil, containers, and labels and will water, fertilize, and protect your plants from insects and diseases.

You can grow your favorite, new, hard-to-find, or

heirloom varieties. They like working with people who have never gardened before as well as experts.

Start anytime from February through June 2012. You provide the seed; they provide the space (10 square feet, that's enough for over 100 small pots or thirty-nine six-packs). The fee is \$70 for the first month; \$35 each

two-week period afterward. Share the space with a friend to save even more!

They have a limited number of "organic" spaces at the Spear Street facility. The cost for this space is \$80 for the first month and \$40 for every two-week period afterward.

For more information or to sign-up call (802) 656-0465 or e-mail: greenhouses@uvm.edu. The UVM Greenhouse Facilities are located on three sites in Burlington and South Burlington, VT.

Learn Gardening with Henry Homeyer at AVA Gallery

Garden writer Henry Homeyer will teach you the basics of organic vegetable and flower gardening in Gardening: A Practical Workshop.

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Monday nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on April 9 & 16, and May 7 at the AVA Gallery in Lebanon, NH. Fee \$40 per class. Attend one or all.

AVA Gallery is located at 11 Bank St. in Lebanon, NH. For more information call (603) 448-3117. Or visit www.avagallery.org.

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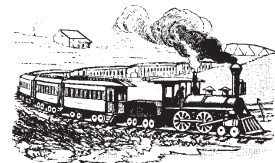
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A Vermont Almanack for Late Winter

by Bill Felker

"Go and listen to the maples, feel them, let their slow, impalpable pulse of soil and sun flow into you... And you know that things are waking up down at the root of this tree. Sap is getting ready to work its way upward. You know, just as sure as you know what day it is."

—Hal Borland

The Phases of The Red-Winged Blackbird Moon And The Cabbage Butterfly Moon

When sap stirs in the maple trees, the red-winged blackbirds arrive in the wetlands. When the Red-Winged Blackbird Moon enters its final phase, robins begin their predawn chorus well before the cardinals, doves and titmice start singing. Depending on the character of the season, butterflies often emerge and the cabbage butterfly is the most common spring butterfly. *March 8:* The Red-Winged Blackbird Moon is full at 4:40 a.m. *March 14:* The moon enters its final quarter at 8:25 p.m. *March 22:* The Cabbage Butterfly Moon is new at 9:37 a.m. *March 30:* The moon enters its second quarter at 2:41 p.m.

The Sun's Progress

On the 18th of February, the sun reaches halfway to equinox. This landmark in the solar year is called Cross-Quarter Day, and it not only divides the time between solstice and equinox, it ushers in the changeable season of early spring.

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 11. Equinox brings equal day and night at 12:14 a.m. on March 20. Also on the 20th, the sun enters the stars of Aries, the constellation that completes the cycle of Early Spring.

The Stars

The late evenings of March show the crocus, aconite and snowdrop stars of Leo overhead, the daffodil budding stars of Bootes in the east, and the pussy willow opening stars and the red and silver maple flowering stars of Gemini and Orion in the west.

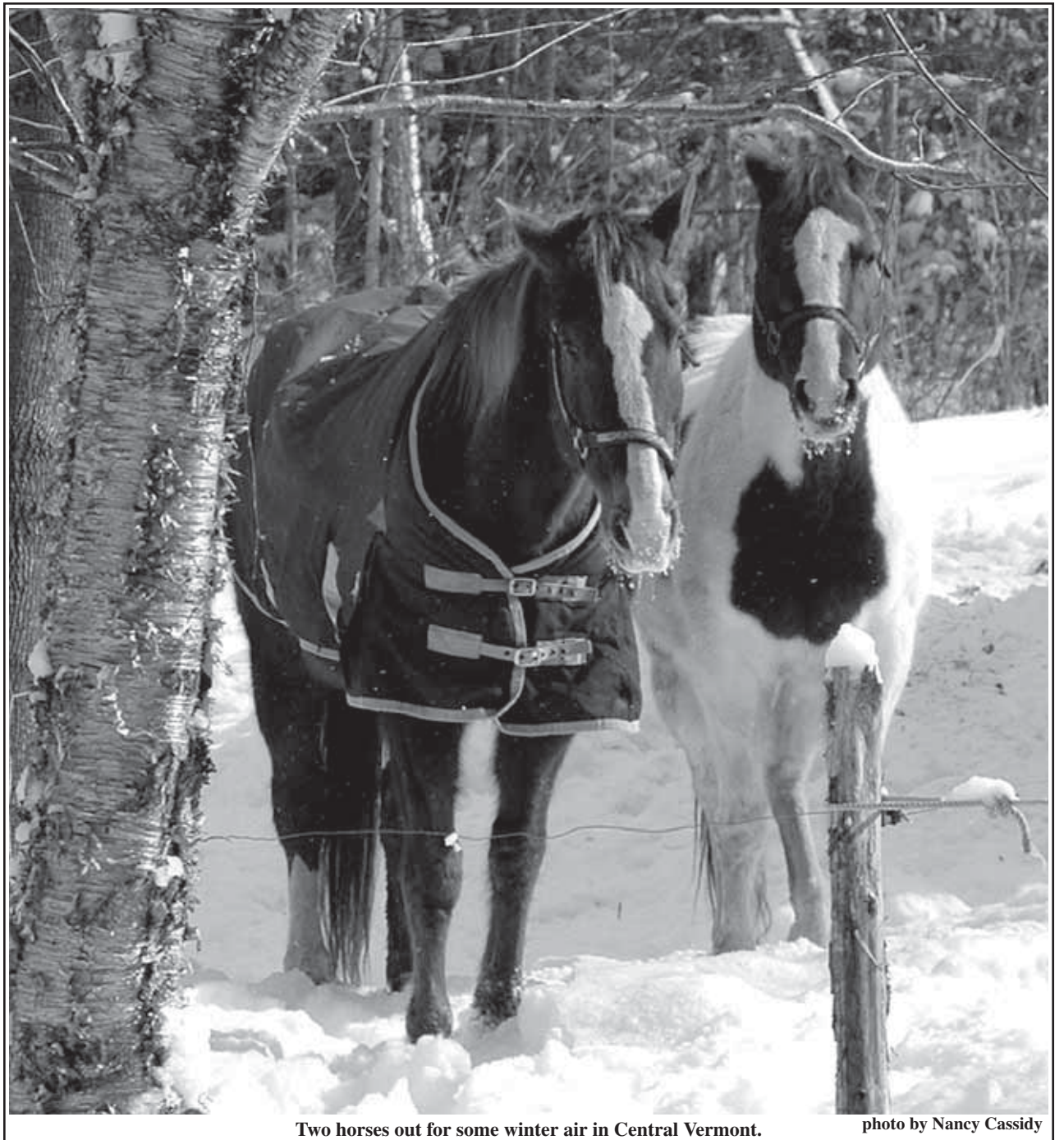
The Planets

In the far west, Venus is still the evening star in March, moving retrograde once again, and entering the sign of Aries. Jupiter, which has followed Aries since the beginning of the year, is very close to Venus on March 15. Mars continues in Leo throughout the month, coming up after sunset, moving overhead near midnight and setting well before dawn. Jupiter still lies in Aries this month, much lower on the western horizon after dark than it was earlier in the year. Saturn in Virgo rises in the east after sunset, visible as it crosses all the way to the western horizon by sunup.

Meteorology

A relatively long season of eight to ten major fronts, Early Spring lasts from mid-February through the end of March. Major March weather systems are due to reach Vermont on March 3, 6 (usually the most severe front of the month), 10 (ordinarily followed by quite mild temperatures), 15, 20 (frequently the second-coldest front of March), 25 (often followed by the best weather so far in the year), and 30.

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



Two horses out for some winter air in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Lunenburg Maple Festival Coming March 24

Visit Vermont's Northeast Kingdom during sugaring for the 7th Lunenburg Maple Festival on March 24. The day will be filled with many free activities—a family can have an enjoyable day out and it will be fun for history buffs, and lovers of all things maple (Lunenburg is on Rt. 2 east of St. Johnsbury.)

The Lunenburg Primary School, located above the Town Common off Rt. 2 on Bobbin Mill Road, will serve as the hub for the Festival.

There you can enjoy homemade meals throughout the day, sign up for a free door prize, pick up a scavenger hunt, and a map and directions to the local sugarhouses that are open for visitors. The school is accessible and restrooms are available.

Visit the school from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. for lots of displays and maple goodies. Peruse art and photographs chronicling the history of sugaring, and local families as they have carried on the tradition over generations.

Sample free maple recipes baked, donated and served by the Lads and Lassies 4H Club. Give a guess to win a jar of maple treats. Explore static and interactive displays explaining various aspects of the sugaring process. View local antique sugaring equipment. Purchase maple-themed items including the recently published book, *A Wicked Good Run*. Purchase a raffle ticket to win a beautiful maple-theme quilt, which

contains entries from the 6th Maple Festival's quilt square contest.

At specific times during the day, these additional activities are available at the school and nearby locations for your enjoyment:

- 8:30–11 a.m. A pancake breakfast will be offered by The Top of the Common Committee.

- 10:30 a.m. The judging of the Maple-flavored Pie Contest will begin at the Pie Contest table. Whole pies and pieces will be for sale throughout the day.
- 10 a.m. through mid-afternoon. Take self-guided tours through participating local sugarhouses and visit with sugarmakers, purchase maple syrup and, weather permitting, watch syrup being made. Maps available.
- 12–2 p.m. Enjoy a luncheon offered by the Old Home Day Committee with a choice of homemade soups, homemade breads and maple desserts.

- 3 p.m. Photo contest winners announced.

- 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Learn how to tap a tree and what makes the sap run at a tapping demonstration on the Town Common.

And as a fitting end to an exciting day, there will be a spaghetti dinner.

The Top of the Common Committee is sponsoring this festival to celebrate Lunenburg's rich sugaring heritage. This community organization formed with the goal of leading a community effort to restore the Congregational Church and Old Town Hall at the top of the park in the Lunenburg village. Both buildings are to be restored to a pleasing appearance appropriate to their location at the center of Lunenburg Village, and revived as important community assets.

The aim is to change the church, which hasn't had an active congregation for many years, into a cultural center hosting small concerts and other events, while the Old Town Hall will become a historical museum with space for public meetings.

If you'd like more information visit www.topofthecommon.org, call Chris at (802) 892-6654 or Loretta (802) 328-3040.



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draftanimalpowernetwork.org



Northern Gardening Symposium

Plan to attend the annual Northern Gardening Symposium on Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT (Exit 4 off I-89). This popular event is co-sponsored by The Fells (NH), Hardy Plant Club (VT), The Friends of the Horticulture Farm, and Master Gardeners (VT).

The morning session features landscape designer Judith Irven speaking on "A Sense of Place: Gardens that Celebrate the Natural Landscape." Landscape architect, Ann Milovsoroﬀ then presents "Gardens around the World," with inspirations for northern New England gardens. After lunch, there will be a presentation by nationally recognized taxonomist and botanist Arthur Haines on the reasons for and stories behind his newly published *Flora Novae Angliae*.

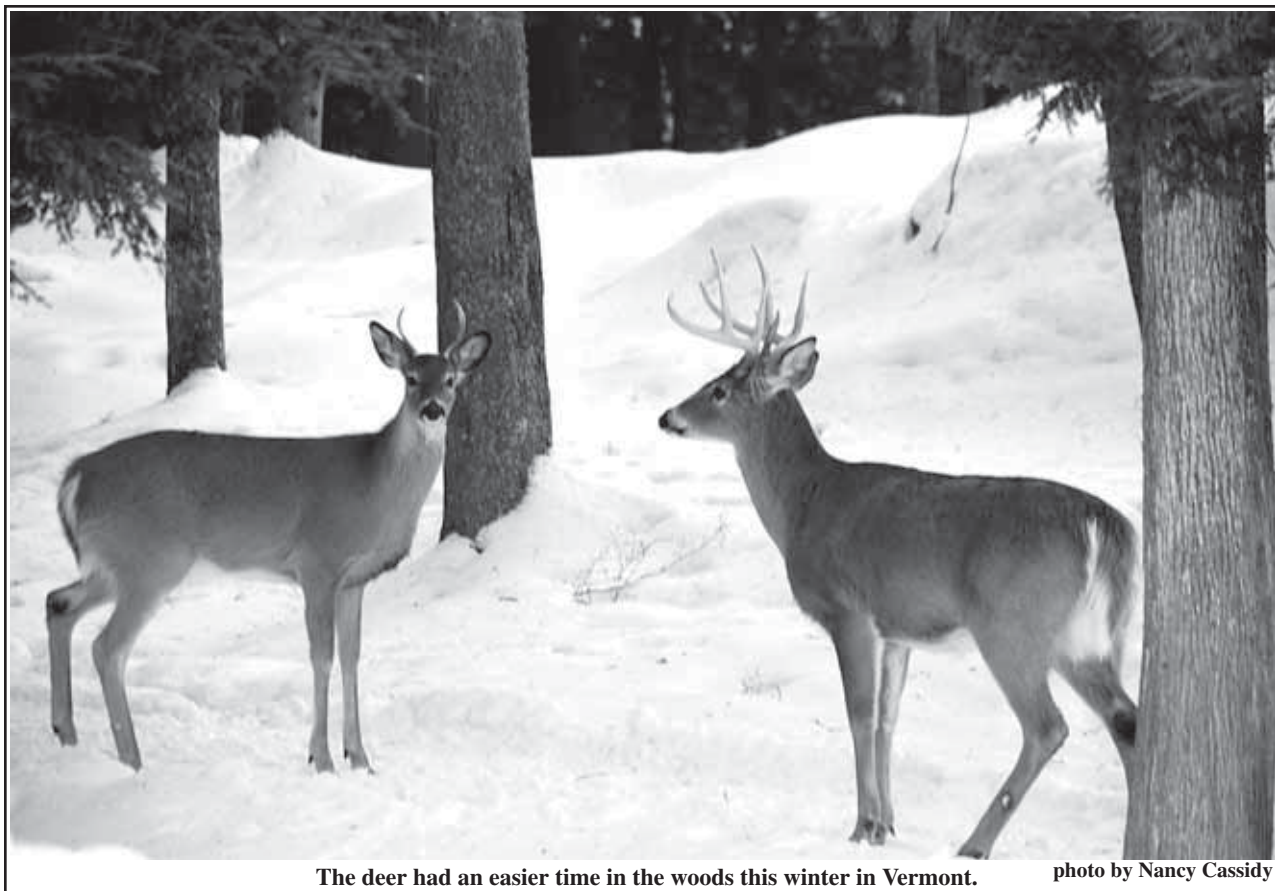
A Sense of Place: Gardens that Celebrate the Natural Landscape. New England's spectacular rural landscape—with its mountains, farms and canopied forests—inspires gardens that echo this wider world. In this richly-illustrated talk, Judith Irven will explore ways to evoke the imagery of the land in our garden-making, including: the design of natural spaces, contrasts of sun and shade, the cycle of the seasons, using stone and wood in the garden, and our choice and arrangement of garden plants. Presenter Judith Irven is a landscape designer, educator and life-long gardener. She lives in Goshen, VT, on the western slopes of the Green Mountains, and she writes at www.northcountrygardener.com.

Gardens Around the World. This presentation presents a range of interesting ideas and images from contemporary gardens in various part of the world, all adaptable to our northern New England gardens. Presenter Ann Milovsoroﬀ was formerly the landscape architect on staff at Royal Botanical Gardens in Ontario designing for gardens, collections, the nature trail system, and also the award-winning display gardens for Toronto's spring Canada Blooms show. Since returning to Vermont from Canada, she has worked with Heritage Landscapes, Horsfords Gardens, and Full Circle Gardens. She is a Fellow of both the American, and the Canadian Society of Landscape Architecture.

Guest Presenter Arthur Haines. Nationally recognized taxonomist and botanist Arthur Haines is Research Botanist of the New England Wild Flower Society. His recently released tome, *Flora Novae Angliae*, published by Yale University Press, has been highly acclaimed with praises such as "...meticulously researched manual will be the standard work on the flora of New England for decades to come..." and "... most comprehensive treatment to date of the identification, geographic distribution, and habitats of New England's plants." Arthur is as admired for his clear, easily understood speaking abilities as well as for his research. We will enjoy hearing him explain some interesting facts about our regional flora in our after-lunch session.

To be sure of a place, register early! Registrations prior to March 1 may be sent to Thelma Hewitt, PO Box 2333, New London, NH 03257, with check made out to NEWFS-VT or Master Card or Visa information, including expiration date, to tkhewitt@aol.com. After March 1, please send registrations to New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Rd, Framingham, MA 01701. The Fee is \$47, a reduced price this year because of special gift. The fee covers lunch, symposium packet, and free parking. Directions will be sent with confirmation. There are no refunds for cancellations after April 6.

For more information about the speakers and registration options visit www.newenglandwild.org/learn.



The deer had an easier time in the woods this winter in Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

INTERLUDE

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

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

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
1936



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North Country Book News

Atlas Results Show Status of Vermont Breeding Birds

Vermont's second "Breeding Bird Atlas" is now available, reflecting a quarter-century of change in bird species reproducing in the state according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

The Atlas is a systematic survey of bird populations breeding in the state, based on information gathered by volunteer citizen scientists over several years. The results can now be compared with data from Vermont's first Atlas, published in 1985. The data are available, with detailed summaries and maps for each of 200 species, on the Vermont Center for Ecostudies website: www.vtecostudies.org/vbba.

New Atlas in production now

A full-color hard cover Atlas book is now in production and scheduled to be released early in 2013. Complete with maps, data tables, full species accounts, photos, and interpretive chapters, the publication will serve as a rich medium for Atlas results.

"The first Atlas was a pivotal tool for guiding management plans and conservation efforts," said Steve Parren, Vermont Fish and Wildlife's wildlife diversity director. "But after more than 25 years of environmental and land-use changes affecting where birds breed, the second generation Atlas is now providing important information that reflects changes in the distribution of bird species that reproduce in Vermont."

"Not surprisingly, some species that gained in response to management included osprey, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, common loon, and wild turkey," said Parren. "Some other gainers were Canada goose, Carolina wren, cooper's Hawk, blue-winged warbler and mallard."

Identifying species in decline

Common nighthawk and whip-poor-will were among the species with the sharpest declines. Several grassland species, such as upland sandpiper, eastern meadowlark and vesper sparrow also show losses, in addition to shrubland species such as brown thrasher and eastern towhee. Other species that declined include boreal chickadee, green-winged teal, purple martin, and bank swallow.

VCE staff and some very dedicated volunteers developed distribution maps for all of Vermont's breeding birds, screened the data, wrote species accounts, and made recommendations for bird conservation in Vermont.

A collaborative effort

"Nearly 350 citizen scientists of all ages and backgrounds spent more than 30,000 hours afield documenting breeding birds across the state," said Rosalind Renfrew, director of the project at VCE. "We have transformed their hard work into an accessible and informative data retrieval system and summary." The Atlas was a collaborative effort by VCE, VFWD, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Natural Resources, Audubon Vermont, Northwoods Environmental Stewardship Center, National Wildlife Federation, and Vermont's local Audubon chapters.

The list of private and governmental organizations already using the Atlas data includes the Vermont National Guard, the Vermont Natural Resource Conservation Service, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Canada's Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the University of Vermont, and several other universities throughout the United States.

For more information contact the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055. (802) 649-1431. info@vtecostudies.org. www.vtecostudies.org.



Book Sale at Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, VT

Calling all book lovers! Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, VT is sponsoring a book sale from March 12 through April 14, 2012.

This is one of the best book sales in Vermont. The books are high-quality and organized by subject. Many are brand-new!

Come to the sale and help

us raise money for the library. The library is open Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Kellogg-Hubbard Library is located at 135 Main St, Montpelier, VT. (802) 223-3338. Visit www.kellogg-hubbard.org.

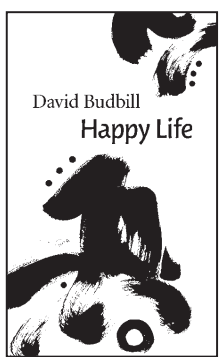
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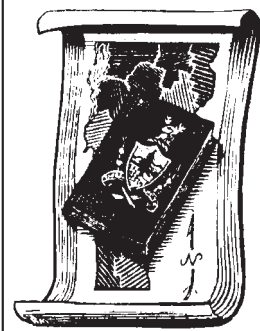
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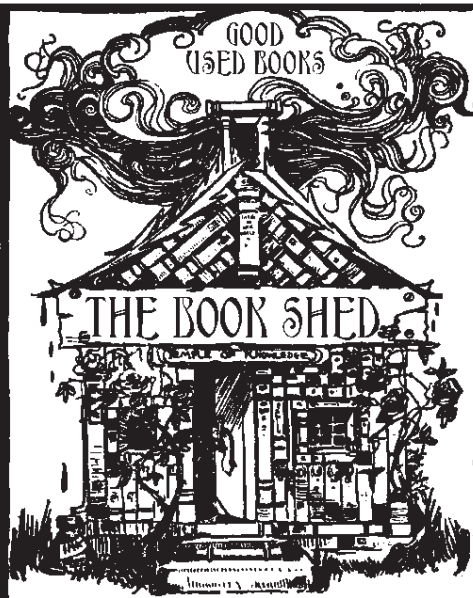
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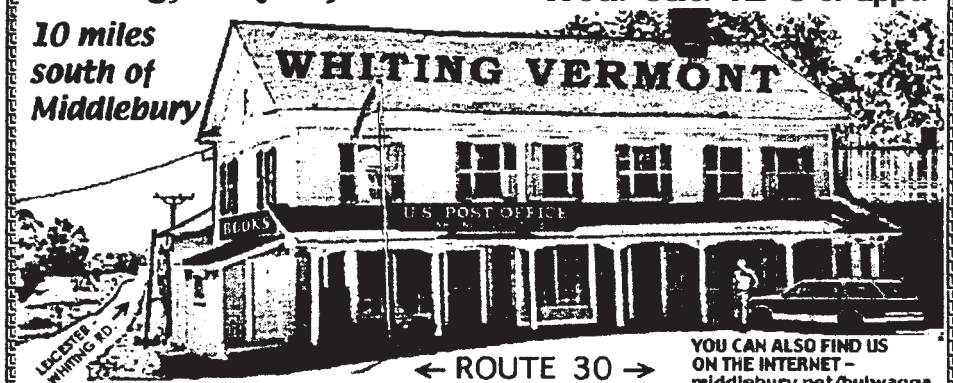
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The Holistic Orchard

Fruit Trees and Berries the Biological Way

by Michael Phillips

(Chelsea Green Publishers, White River Junction, VT)

When one thinks about growing one's own food, the obvious route to take is a vegetable garden. Tempting racks of seeds have made their appearance for the would-be gardener. But this year why not also put in a small-scale orchard of fruit trees and berries. If you wonder and worry about what to do and how to do it, *The Holistic Orchard* will answer all your questions about the right fruit or berry for your location, soil and weather; tips on planting and pruning and grafting; and ways to prevent diseases and keep insects and fruit-eating animals at bay.

The author and his wife Nancy live on their Heartsong Farm in Groveton in northern New Hampshire where they grow apples and a variety of medicinal herbs. Phillips also authored a definitive book on apples aptly named *The Apple Grower* (Chelsea Green 2005).

Take your pick in this latest book: there are chapters on pome fruits (apples, Asian and European pears, and quince); stone fruits (apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach and plum); and woody berries (blackberry, blueberry, currant, elderberry, gooseberry and raspberry).

Suppose you want to try peaches, although you know they are hard to grow in Vermont because of winter-kill. Phillips tells us there are more than 2,000 named varieties of peaches which allow for all sorts of taste and firmness, but his book recommends 25 for winter hardiness and resistance to rot and crack and peach leaf curl. His Coral Star has

"lots of zing" and the tender Ernie's Choice "melts-in-your-mouth."

Apples may be his specialty—he discusses 40 varieties—but Phillips let us know how fond he is of berries and how "fruiting brambles, bushes and shrubs are the lower-lying under-story of a productive fruity guild."

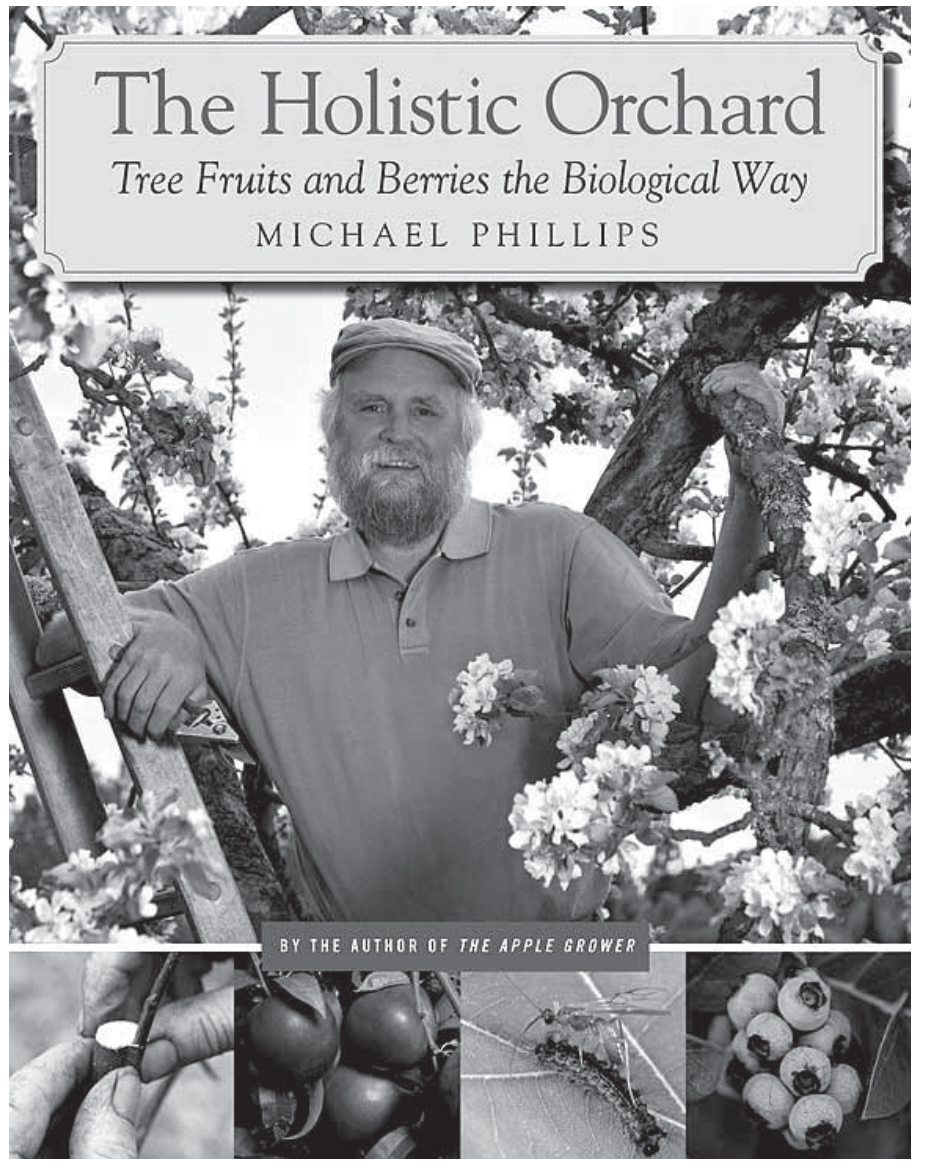
He says the whole biodiversity scene gains from the presence of a mix of fruiting plants and trees, and he adds, "beauty surrounds all in such orchard ground, as the colors and textures and branching of so many different fruiting plants provide visual artistry."

This visual art can be seen in the many beautiful mouth-watering pictures of the fruit and berries that decorate the 400-page book. The picture of red raspberries alone will make one want to plant a few bushes!

Also featured are a number of informative side stories covering topics such as: proper netting to protect fruit from birds; orchard compost; renovating an abandoned tree; and individual tree fences to keep deer from eating buds on young trees.

As the title of the book reminds us the thrust of *The Holistic Orchard* is to stimulate tree and bush growth from a biological rather than chemical approach. This book goes beyond "organic." Give it a try.

The Holistic Orchard: Tree Fruits and Berries the Biological Way by Michael Phillips is available at bookstores for \$39.95 or can be ordered from Chelsea Green at www.chelseagreen.com



Children's Book Reviews

Spring is Just Around the Corner

Anyone living in Vermont is familiar with the seasonal March adage "In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb." In this book of that same title by Marion Dane Bauer and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully (*Holiday House, NY, \$6.95 paper*), we see a small boy getting a good dose of March-like lion behavior with the outdoors roaring, rattling on the windows and scratches on the front door. The rampaging lion, not content to stay outdoors to get his message told, comes inside and tromps mud across the floor. We learn that March comes in with "winter clinging to his tail as he scatters sleet and sometimes hail."

He orders the boy to put on his slicker and get back outside. In an amusing drawing we finally see the lion getting a whiff of spring that results in an enormous sneeze. Spring comes striding in on that "A-Choo!" with flowers, birds and insects and, of course, the spring lamb. The lion is safely off (asleep) for another year.

We all like to collect things, but when is too much of enough stuff really enough? In *More* by I. C. Springman and illustrated by Brian Lies (*Houghton Mifflin, Harcourt, Boston and NY, \$16.99*), we see a magpie bird who starts with no possessions at all, but soon starts collecting things for its nest. At first there are just a few things: a coin, some keys, sunglasses, necklace, dice, cards, and bits of metal. Soon the items become just enough and then more than enough. Finally the nest is so heavy it falls to the ground! Mice come to the rescue, getting rid of stuff so that less and less is better and we find that not much at all is really more than enough. The drawings are amusing and dramatic, bound to make the

reader of any age wonder whether they themselves really need all that stuff and when for them, too, is enough enough?

Young children can relive all the seasons in Vermont in this friendly little board book, *Hello Vermont!* by Martha Day Zschock, (*Commonwealth Editions, Beverly, MA, \$9.95*). Here the animals are a father and son brown bear enjoying skiing, maple sugar-making, hiking the Long Trail, visiting a farm, fishing, taking a wagon ride and ending up at a Bear Family County store that features Vermont apples, pumpkins, and Vermont ice cream, cheeses, and maple syrup.

The drawings are colorful and inviting. If you're a Vermonter, you'll feel right at home, and if you're a visitor you will be enchanted. Yes, Vermont really is like this.

Squirrels still raiding your bird feeder? Before you shoo them off, this book of squirrel photographs entitled *Frisky, Brisky, Hippity Hop* by Murray Head and edited

by Susan Lurie (*Holiday House, NY, \$16.95*) will make you realize these are fun-loving endearing little creatures. We can't help but applaud when one escapes a squirrel-hunting hawk.

Some of the verses in the book were adopted from a poem written by Alexina B. White who published a book of poems for children called *Little-Folk Songs* in 1871. She lived most of her life in New York City as do now the photographer and editor. The squirrels live in New York's Central Park.



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BETHEL, VT

Tri-level Contemporary Chalet With Outdoor Hot Tub. This whimsically decorated home, set up for maximum enjoyment, has wall of windows looking over unspoiled wilderness. Features three bedrooms (sleep six); two baths; 900-sq-ft deck for grilling, dining, and entertaining; open-concept main living area with cathedral ceilings; and WiFi, washer/dryer, satellite TV, dishwasher, linens. Ski, hike, bike, fish, or golf, and then retreat to "The Red Rooster House." Perfect for families or two couples with two separate "suites" on the 1st and 3rd floor, each with their own bath and TV/sitting area. Fish, swim, or tube the White River running through Bethel. Five minutes to Barnard's Silver Lake State Park, 20 minutes to Woodstock, 30 minutes to Killington. Great romantic getaway. Pets okay with extra fee. Weekend to monthly rentals. Contact Karin Trachtenberg, (617) 869-2649. redroosterhouse@charter.net. (Listing #596)

BROOKFIELD, VT

All the Comforts of Home. This Green Mountain log cabin in private 18-acre mountain setting offers easy access to Vermont's favorite attractions and four-season activities. Awaiting you in historic Brookfield, this cozy getaway sleeps six: downstairs bedroom with bunk beds, living area with full-size futon couch, and spacious open loft with queen bed with skylight view. The vaulted white pine tongue-and-groove ceiling features three skylights. Bathroom has full-size tub & shower. Compact, yet fully equipped cabin with full-size gas stove & oven, dishwasher, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, cooking/dining ware, washer/dryer, wood-burning stove, gas outdoor grill, stereo/CD player, TV/VCR, and phone. A smoke-free environment. Three-night minimum. Contact Jim, VTLogCabin@Verizon.net. (Listing #56)

ELMORE, VT

The Red Barn With Wood Stove, Hot Tub & Heated Floors. Positioned on five acres of woodland, enjoy a quiet, relaxing time any season from the deck or outdoor hot tub. Traditionally built, three-story authentic farmhouse and carriage barn with slate roof, natural wood and slate has a fully fitted kitchen including stainless steel large fridge-freezer, dishwasher, grill, large range stove with oven, juicer. Four bedrooms sleep 10 comfortably with two more on large sofa bed. Three bathrooms, one on each floor. Wireless and DirecTV. Dog sledding with Peacepups is just one mile away



Stay in a beautiful woodland home in Elmore, VT. (Listing #512)

photo by Roderick Thomas

from the house at the Elmore State Park. Lake Elmore is a one-mile walk away for a hike up Elmore Mountain for lake views. Just 14 miles from Stowe Mountain area to ski, snowboard, ice skate, or sleigh ride. Stowe Village provides a quaint shopping experience. In summer, enjoy a world-class water wonderland at Smugglers' Notch. Montpelier is only 30 minutes away. Local store/gas/P.O. run by property managers. Pets with prior approval. No smoking. 2- to 3-night minimum. Contact Roderick Thomas, 00-44-754-037-0389. profrod@me.com. (Listing #512)

JAMAICA, VT

Secluded Chalet Next to Pikes Falls on Three Wooded Acres. Located in the Green Mountains in Winhall Town Forest on the mountain with winter ridge views and night skies with stars! Open living/dining area on upper level with complete kitchen, brick fireplace, and full wall of windows overlooking trees and covered porch with gas grill. Two bedrooms (one with king bed; the other with two twin beds) and two full baths on walkout lower level. Sleeps

four to six. Washer/dryer and linens provided. Three miles from Stratton. Bromley, Magic, Mt. Snow ski slopes, Jamaica State Park and Townsend Lake nearby. Minutes from Pikes Falls and Stratton Golf University. Twenty minutes from Manchester's restaurants, outlet shops and cultural events. No smoking. No pets. Contact: Alfin, alfin.vaz@pfizer.com. (Listing #1008)

MOUNT HOLLY, VT

Lakefront Cottage On Beautiful Mountain Lake Ninevah. In a wilderness setting, a very special and beautiful place in all seasons. Enjoy outdoor adventures and looking at the stars, then come inside to roast marshmallows in the wood-burning fireplace (wood provided). Ice fishing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing in winter. Three-bedroom house with remodeled kitchen, two baths, laundry, sunroom. Sleeps six. WiFi, cable TV with DVD and VCR, phone. Downhill ski at Okemo (6 miles) and Killington (17 miles) and visit area attractions including Vermont Country Store, Coolidge Homestead, and more. Inquire about pets. Winter, spring and fall by nights, weekend, or week. Weekly in summer. Contact Thomas Booth (607) 698-4837. boof@infoblvd.net. (Listing #430)

MOUNT TABOR, VT

Spectacular Mountain Retreat, Bordering the Green Mountain National Forest. Year-round mountain log cabin offers access to the Appalachian and Long Trails from your back door. Private master suite on top floor; handicapped-accessible main floor with field-stone fireplace and cathedral ceiling and queen and twin bedrooms; second living room, kitchen, full bath and two bedrooms on lower level. Beautifully maintained large property with flower gardens, fruit trees and a small stream out back. With five bedrooms and three baths, this log home sleeps 10-12, and is perfect for a single couple, one family, or two families to share. Located ten minutes from Manchester and five miles from the VT Horse Show and Summer Festival. Less than an hour to Stratton, Bromley, Killington and Okemo. No smoking. Week and weekend rentals. Contact Rob Faro, (201) 825-1597. rfaro1@verizon.net. (Listing #1511)

SOUTH ROYALTON, VT

Vermont Log Cabin Getaway. Escape to the country with all the amenities of home. The property contains private nature trails to hike, ski and sled as well as easy access to many Vermont attractions. If you find yourself suffering from "Nature Deficit Disorder," then this is just what the doctor ordered! Choose one, two or three cabins, whimsically decorated in a Northern Wilderness theme. Fully equipped kitchen, bathroom with shower, loft bedroom with queen-size bed, and pull-out loveseat sleeper for third person. A gas fireplace provides the heat and ambiance. Linens, cookware, satellite TV and DVD player provided along with a covered porch, barbecue area, and fire pit. A smoke-free and pet-free establishment in these two cabins. Our third "lower cabin" sleeps two, and welcomes pets. Nights or week. Contact Vermont Twin Cabins, (802) 763-8099. info@vermonttwincabins.com. (Listing #583)

SHAFTSBURY, VT

Immaculate Secluded Cottage Deep in the Woods. Located in Shaftsbury Hollow in the Green Mountains of Vermont is this perfect getaway for skiers, hikers, families, and couples. Cross-country ski, snowshoe, hunt, and hike the surrounding land, and swim and trout fish in nearby creek. This beautifully handcrafted cabin on private drive features a woodstove, propane heat, high ceilings, hardwood floors, full bath, and well-equipped kitchen with new appliances, radio/CD player (no internet or TV). The main bedroom boasts a queen bed. The second bedroom has a twin. Cozy up to the fire in the living room or nap away your adventures on the couch/futon. Sleeps four to five. Ten to 20 minutes to Shaftsbury village, Bennington College, Battenkill River, Bennington Battle Monument, Old First Church, museums and Shaftsbury State Park and Lake. 35 minutes to Manchester & Orvis Fly Fishing School. 40 miles to Bromley ski resort. Four hours from NYC, three from Boston, one from Albany Int'l Airport. 15% discount for military & musicians playing in Bennington County during their stay. No pets. No smoking indoors. Nightly, weekly, monthly. Contact Malavita Barese, vermontescape@gmail.com. (Listing #1492)

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

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