

# Vermont Country Sampler

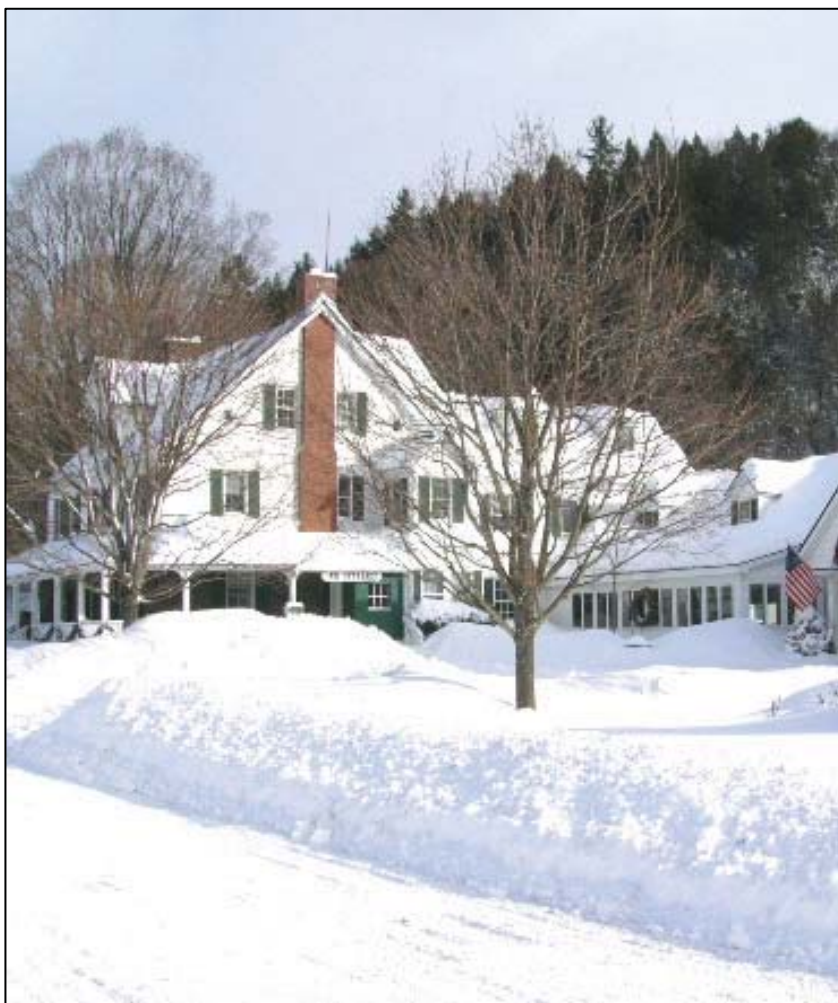
March 2013

Free

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

N. Cassidy

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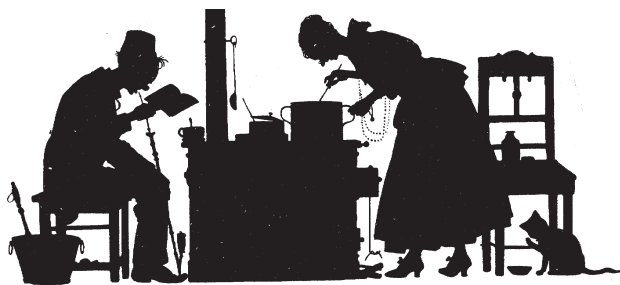


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## Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market March Happenings

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market begins the month of March with a Kid's Music Hour featuring Ron Bos-Lun, teacher, folk musician and story teller on March 2, 2013. Ron will entertain the kids from 10-11 a.m. then be back at 11:30 a.m. to play for all ages.

Get in the St. Patrick's Day mood on Saturday, March 16, with some fiddle tunes by Louisa Pugh and friends from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

All during March we'll be presenting our 6th Annual CSA Fair. A number of CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Farms will be joining our regular market to offer information about their farming operations and their CSA share options.

Take this opportunity to do your CSA research and pick your farmer for 2013! You will find farms with weekly CSA shares for vegetables, fruit, medicinal herbs, meat

and more. Some offer deliveries to central pick-up locations while most invite you to visit their farms weekly and get to know their operation. Some farms even invite you into the field to lend a hand in picking the weeks harvest. So join a CSA. It's a great way to support local agriculture and the local economy!

Come to the winter market for the local farm products, and beautiful homemade items and stay for a delicious lunch and live local music in the cafe from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. There is something at the market for everyone.

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market is sponsored by Post Oil Solutions and is open each Saturday through March 30 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Robert H. Gibson River Garden on Main St.

For info call (802) 869-2141 or e-mail [farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org).



The sap is boiling at Dutton's Sugarhouse in Manchester, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

## Whitingham, VT

# 15th Annual Maple Festival March 23-24

The 15th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival celebrates an important aspect of Whitingham's economic and cultural heritage. Several 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 alike will gain a better understanding and appreciation for "the art and science" of maple syrup and sugar making and the historical importance of "sugaring" in our town.

Whitingham is the birthplace of Brigham Young and there are two monuments in town noting Young's achievements. The town is located in southern Vermont about 25 miles north of Greenfield, Massachusetts, and between Bennington and Brattleboro, Vermont. There are a number of Bed and Breakfasts and small inns in and around town. In addition that weekend, the town hosts a Craft Fair on Saturday and Sunday, Pancake breakfasts and luncheons on both Saturday and Sunday, and a sugar-on-snow supper on Saturday evening. Activities at the festival are free.

### Schedule of Events—Saturday, March 23

7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast by Lions Club at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. \$7 adults, \$5 65+ years, children under five free

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information Booth is open at Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School.

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sugar House Tours at seven local sugar houses open to the public. Hours vary. Self-guided auto tour maps available at the information booth.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Craft Fair with over 35 vendors at Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Local Shops open in villages of Jacksonville and Whitingham: a winery, crafts, pottery and more. Ask at the Information Booth at School.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides, snow or no snow, donations welcomed.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. "Kids Korner" by Wings Staff at Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School. Continuous activities for children's entertainment.

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch by the Whitingham Ladies Benevolent Society at Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School.

1 to 3:30 p.m. Maple Recipe Contest judging at Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School.

3 p.m. Craft drawing to benefit a Twin Valley High School class.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sugar-on-Snow Baked Ham Dinner by Unity Lodge #89 A & FM at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville. \$12 adults, \$6 children 5-12, children under five free.

### Schedule of Events—Sunday, March 24

7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Pancake Breakfast by the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville. \$8 adults, \$6 65+ years, children under five free.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information Booth open at Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School.

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sugar House Tours at seven local sugar houses open to the public. Hours vary. Self-guided auto tour maps available at the Information Booth.

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Craft Fair at the Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School, Rte. 100 South.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Local Shops open in villages of Jacksonville and Whitingham.

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch by the 8th grade class at the Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School.

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. "Kids Korner" by "Wings" at the school. Continuous activities for children's entertainment.

Please check latest changes in operating times and schedules at the Information Booth at Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School.

For more information call Carol Mandracchia at (802) 368-2658. E-mail [info@whitingham-maplefest.us](mailto:info@whitingham-maplefest.us). Visit [www.whitingham-maplefest.us](http://www.whitingham-maplefest.us).

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**Vermont Country Sampler**  
March 2013, Vol. XXIX

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Advertising rates available upon request. Deadline the 10th of the preceding month.

**Vermont Country Sampler**  
PO Box 197, North Clarendon, VT 05759  
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The whole family is out gathering sap, even the dog has come along, in Vermont late 1800s.

## ❦ In Sugarin' Time ❦

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

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

The children on these brick-paved walks they make me think o' Jim,  
 What we had hoped would stay by us—the farm was meant for him.  
 He died when he was twenty. Yes, there was young Josiah,  
 Professor in a college now, with hope of something higher.  
 And Grace, our girl, she married what they called a railroad king,  
 And lives on Beacon Street, in all the styles that she can swing.

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

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

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

\* \* \*

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

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

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

—HELEN M. WINSLOW

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**Chester, VT**

# Local Students Compete In Annual LEGO Contest

When winter weather lures people indoors and school vacations and national holidays present extra time for creative projects, students are encouraged to work on their entries for the 2013 LEGO Contest. This event is open to the public and will be held 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 2 at Willard Hall, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, in Chester, VT.

LEGOmaniacs, pre-k through grade 8 and families, are invited to enter and display their original creations (no kits are allowed) for others to admire.

Entries should be constructed at home, brought to Willard Hall, and set up in a space of approximately 18 inches x 30 inches from 9-10 a.m. on the day of the contest.

Judging will be in different grade categories from 10 a.m. to noon for their originality, imagination, and presentation. If a structure is a team entry, the age of the oldest member will determine the grade category. There is also a separate family team class when adults and children have collaborated.

At 12:15 p.m. LEGO prizes will be awarded to the winners and runners-up in the grade and family team divisions, with special awards for the Judges' Choice for Best in Show and Most Vermont creations.

While the judging is going on, the contest hall is abuzz with excitement as kids have

the chance to check out the other fabulous entries and to share techniques and ideas with the other exhibitors.

Refreshments will be on sale to encourage people to stay and view the different entries.

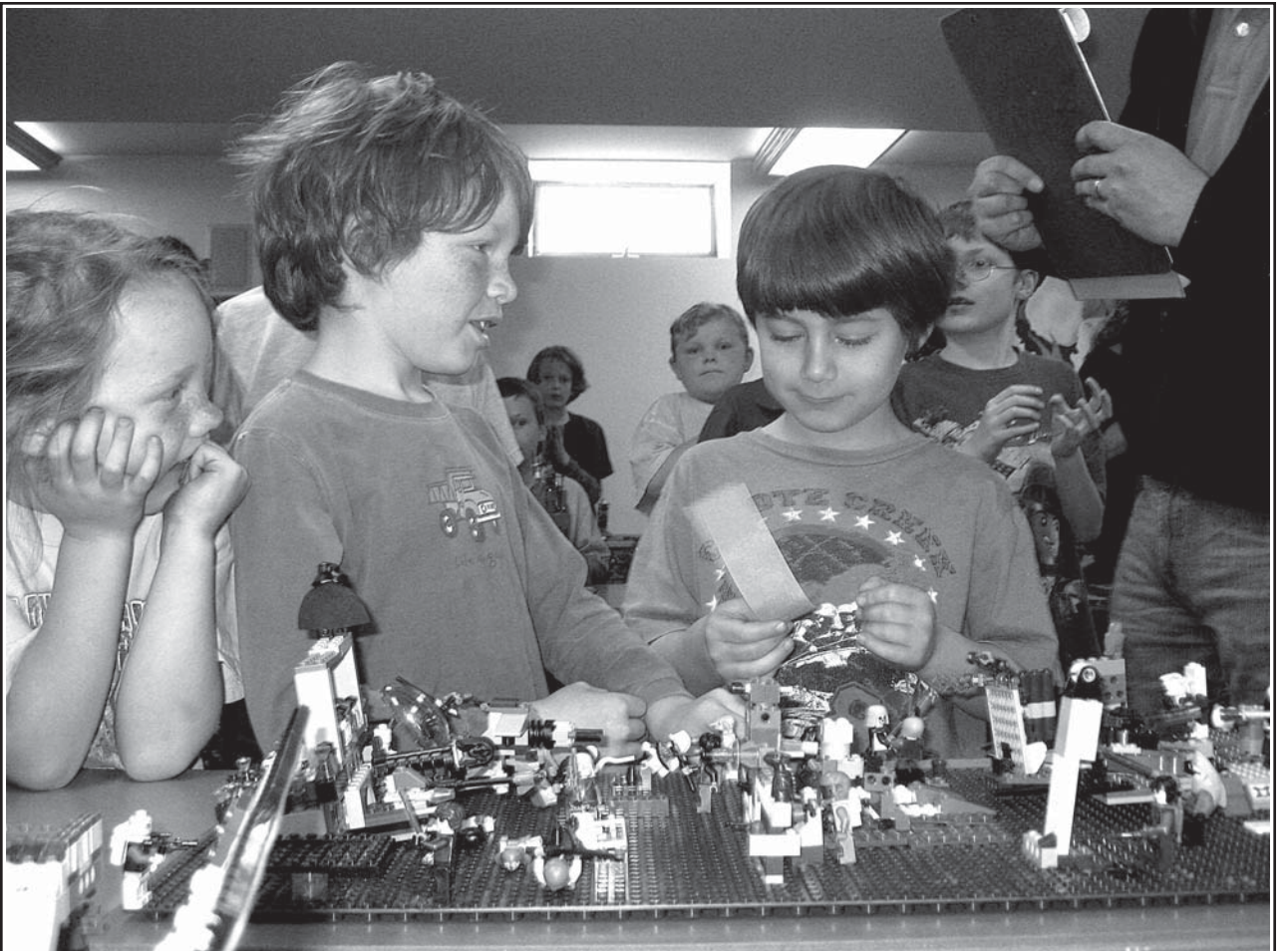
Participants should pre-register by February 26 to be assured of a space. Entry forms may be downloaded from [www.stlukesepiscopopalvt.org](http://www.stlukesepiscopopalvt.org), [www.ourchester.org](http://www.ourchester.org), and [www.chestertelegraph.org](http://www.chestertelegraph.org). Printed forms are available at the Whiting Library and Chester-Andover Elementary School on Main Street in Chester.

A check for the pre-registration fee of \$10 per entry should be made out to "St. Luke's Church" and mailed, along with the registration form, to the registrar: Lillian Willis, PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

Both the entry form and fee must be received by February 26 in order to reserve a space. Entries after February 26 and on the day of the contest will be \$15, if there is space; but to avoid disappointment, pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

A portion of the proceeds from the program will go to the Whiting Library children's section and St. Luke's.

For information call Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340. Willard Hall is at St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 313 Main Street in Chester, VT.



Entitled "Super Hero Captain America's Avenging Cycle," the LEGO entry was created by Team Republic, the duo of first graders Ben Munukka and Miles Caum, both of Chester, VT. Looking on at left is Ben's sister Amelia Manukka, then Ben and Miles. Of the 33 entries in the 2012 LEGO Contest, this was chosen "Most Fun." The boys were inspired by Star Wars. It was an intricate scene that featured all kinds of impressive animation and action. Construction took them three days to build and showed lots of imagination. The contest is open to children from pre-K to Grade 6 with proceeds going to benefit St. Luke's and the Whiting Library Children's Section.

## Learn About Wildlife and Outdoor Skills at the Green Mountain Conservation Camps This Summer

If you are 12 to 14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills next summer, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish & 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. Campers participate in hands-on learning

experiences 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 and take campers out for field activities.

Conservation Camps open June 17 and continue until

August 17. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment.

Please check the Fish & Wildlife website for general information including scholarship availability for those with financial need. Information about the program is under "Education and Training" on the left side of the home page, and here is a link to the online registration page: <https://anrnode.anr.state.vt.us/GMCC/ApplyCamp1.aspx>. A printable application also is available.

Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and directed by Fish & Wildlife Department profession-

als—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.

The camp program is sponsored in part through a grant from the Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program.

For more information about Green Mountain Conservation Camps call (802) 241-3768 or e-mail [fvgmcc@state.vt.us](mailto:fvgmcc@state.vt.us) or visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).



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# Visit Billings Farm for Baby Animal Day on March 30th

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, will feature Baby Animal Day on Saturday, March 30th, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event will feature family-centered programs with the farm's calves, lambs, and chicks, plus ducklings and goslings. Enjoy a horse-drawn wagon rides, the heirloom garden and children's activities.

Get up close with chicks, ducklings, and goslings in their pens in the Wagon Barn and Jersey calves and lambs in the Activity Barn, and learn about their care, diet, and growth. Pom-pom chick and lamb handprint craft activities will be on hand for children.

Start planning your garden as you learn about the importance of heirloom seeds and select a few varieties from the Billings Farm garden to plant at home.

Admission includes all programs and activities, the farm life exhibits, plus the working dairy farm and horse-drawn wagon rides.

Billings Farm is an op-

erating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 142-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values. The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution founded by Mary French and Laurance Spelman Rockefeller.

*Billings Farm & Museum is open March 30 for Baby Animal Day and then daily for the regular season from April 27 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends Nov. - Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

*Admission: adults \$12; 62 & over \$11; children 5-15 \$6; ages 3-4 \$3; age 2 & under are free.*

*The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Rt. 12.*

*For information call (802) 457-2355 or visit [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).*



Lambs graze in their pasture at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.



The Jersey calves are always fun to visit.



Lambs at rest in the Activity Barn.

Photos by Billings Farm & Museum

**Green Mountain Club**  
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## Tree Spirits

by Sally McClintock

I regret not seeing the colors of summer and fall—yellow flowers with bright blue in the middle, purple blooms, fall's scattered orange leaves, my flaming red Japanese maple. But I have found in winter there is still beauty all around, in black and white.

Without their customary canopies of leaves, bare trees in the darkening afternoon light now reveal in deep black their inner structure, their purposeful bones. Some have strong, thick knots like giant fists. Another tree's winding branches suggest the different turns of life, taken or not taken. Then there is the whimsical look of the smaller tree, with its dreadlocks hairdo. The Artist presents these unique shapes to me if I but look.

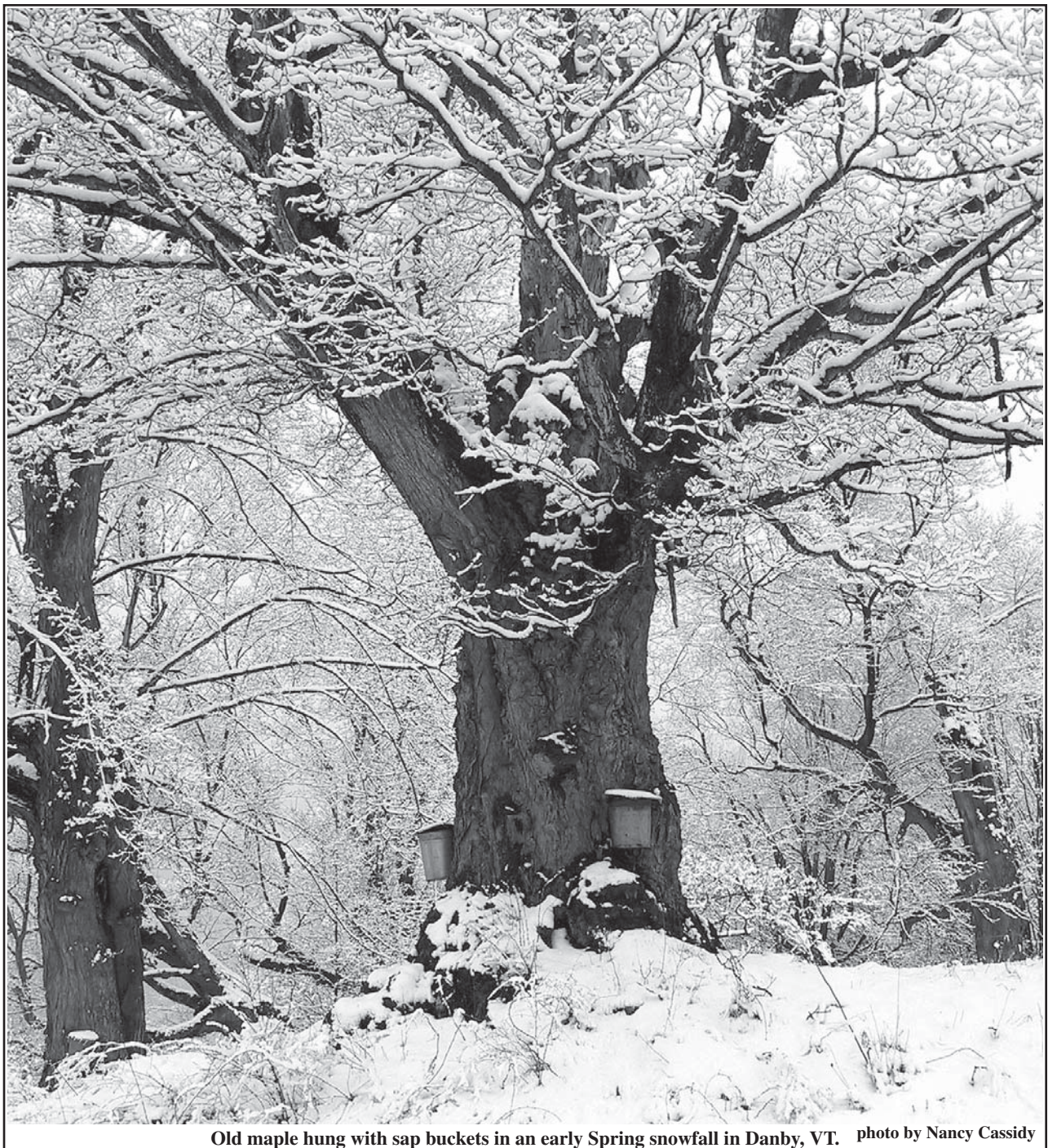
On my way home from the bus, I stop and stare at a gnarled, twisted tree devoid of leaves, just stark, black branches—large curving limbs leading to smaller and smaller ones, against

*"I think of the Artist creating the views of these trees for me, just for a brief moment."*

the late afternoon gray sky. I start to go on—I try—but have to stop for another look, and then another. This time I notice its lower branches do not shoot straight up but make an arc first, like an embrace. When I continue home, I take a look back but see just an ordinary bare tree.

Farther down the street, another tree beckons to me, this one taller and graceful, with thin lacy branches reaching upwards. At the top and interspersed throughout, I see a measured number of little black birds, as the Artist intended—not too many, not too few. I think of the Artist creating the views of these trees for me, just for a brief moment. Not to be seen in the same way once I pass them by and they return to their customary look, but to be revealed to the one who sees them at the right time of day and in the right state of mind.

A day later, the atmosphere is different—not foggy, the air clearer. The trees are back to their ordinary look ("who, me?"), acting all so innocent to my curious gaze. No birds perch in the graceful tree. The Artist is elusive, and I must



Old maple hung with sap buckets in an early Spring snowfall in Danby, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

watch closely for her rare displays. Her slide-show changes continually.

The next day, the sky is darker. I make sure to look carefully at the embracing tree. Near it are two more trees that I had not paid attention to, ignored because they are not so dramatic. But when I look at all three trees as a family, I see the one to the right of the embracing tree is as tall as her, with branches reaching almost straight up. And on the other side, a similar tree but shorter, its lower branches just beginning to lift toward an embrace. On her bare branches, three little bird houses are clearly visible.

The main tree must be the mother, and the others are her daughters, almost as tall as her. The one with the birdhouses must be the younger one, fain to give up her toys, but willing to practice the embrace.

Not all the trees I see are happy. In early afternoon, across the street from the post office, I come upon a tree that reveals her inner structure, even though it is not yet dusk. Her trunk is shaped like a human. She lifts up many arms of gnarled branches, which then turn into myriad tall, thin branches shooting straight up to a delicate mesh covering the entire top. I think she must be a soul in anguish with her burden, but what is it?

As I wait for the bus the following day, a woman breaks away from her companion and runs up to me. "Look! Do you see it? Look up!" I see a full moon, pale white and huge. I follow it all along my bus ride. When I get off at my stop, I cross the street and begin my walk home, counting the aged evergreens at the farthest end of my street—eleven magnificent senexes, wise old sages assembled under the full moon, now golden.

These discoveries take me by surprise. And always, always I wish I would take up a drawing pencil or charcoal and sketch them to make them my own. I don't see them until they are right upon me. Then I can't turn away.



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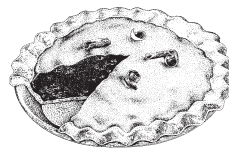
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# A Vermont Almanack for Early Spring

by Bill Felker

The advance of spring is neither logical nor linear. Spring does not always obey the measurements of the sun, sometimes arrives all at once, sometimes hardly comes at all. And, like all seasons, it is evocative of different years, blending and separating, transporting the observer back a decade or a half century, teaching that nothing belongs where it seems to belong but that everything is welded together in repetition.

## The Red-Winged Blackbird Moon And the Maple Blossom Moon

Between red-wings and maple syrup, early spring spreads across Vermont, and by the time the maple trees flower, then the best of sap tapping time is usually over and the first major wave of wildflowers arrives beneath the maple flowers: bloodroot, twinleaf, hepatica, violet cress and spring beauties. Then come all the crocus and the daffodils.

**March 4:** The Red-Winged Blackbird Moon enters its final quarter at 4:53 p.m. **March 11:** The Maple Blossom Moon is new at 2:51 p.m. **March 19:** The moon enters its second quarter at 12:27 p.m. **March 27:** The moon is full at 4:27 a.m.

## The Sun's Progress

Even though the day lengthens at different rates at different locations throughout the country, equinox is still equinox on March 20 at 6:02 a.m. (EST) and brings equal day and night everywhere in North America—just as the sun comes into Aries.

## Daylight Savings Time

Set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10.

## The Planets of March

Venus lies in Aquarius, lost in the daylight throughout the year's third month. Mars, in Pisces, comes up after sunrise and precedes Jupiter in Taurus low in the west near sundown. Saturn still moves across the pre-dawn southern sky throughout March in Libra.

## The Stars

By ten o'clock tonight, the spring stars are taking over the sky. The fertile planting constellation of Cancer is almost overhead between Pollux and Regulus. Hydra follows at its heels. May's Virgo approaches along the southeast horizon.



A mother whiteface calls to her calf in the snow in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Big Dipper swings deeper into the southern sky. When you get up before dawn to do your chores and check on the kids, you will see the sky the way it will be on a late evening in July. There will be no sign of winter's Orion. In his place, directly overhead, Hercules will be stretching out his mighty arms. Arcturus, the planting star, will lie in the western sky, and Cygnus the Swan—the Northern Cross—will dominate the east. On the horizon, autumn's Great Square will be on the rise.

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In a time long gone by, a younger Laura Krueger (left) checks on the sap at Krueger-Norton Sugarhouse in Shrewsbury, VT. Art Krueger (upper right) adjusts the lines. An intern (middle right) taps a tree. Glass jars of new maple syrup ready for processing. (Photos on this and facing page courtesy of Krueger-Norton Sugarhouse.)



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## Essence of Spring

by Trish Norton

Krueger-Norton Sugarhouse, Shrewsbury, VT

Why do people in these modern times make maple syrup? Why do people, who in their other pursuits seem to be practical and level-headed enough folks, suddenly lose themselves in a dedicated frenzy as soon as the earliest sign of spring thaw appears? It's certainly not for the

money—maple sugaring is a marginal operation at best.

For this sugarer at least, it has more to do with the senses (not common sense, the other ones).

It has to do with living in forests and being nurtured by them in a sensual way.

Part of why one sugars is

purely for love. For love of being in the woods on an early March day when the exertion of tramping through snow and of drilling the trees makes your blood pulse through you as strongly as the sap is pushing its way up in the trees.

For love of the clear cold taste of that elixir sap that quenches your thirst like nothing else can on a hopeful spring day.

For love of the intensely penetrating red heat that pours from the fire box each

time you open it to stoke up the wood fire.

For love of the warm, delicately sweet steam that surrounds you as you bend over the pan to watch the texture of the bubbles thicken from white froth to golden foam.

Sugaring is the act of gently gathering what the maple tree has to offer, and then feeding your senses with it through every step of the process; and knowing that you will be able to do it again next year and the next, without harming a thing.



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# Sugarmaking—A Large Fire in the Springtime

by Art Krueger

We are sugarmakers. We extract sap from 2000 or so maple trees every spring, and boil it down to make our maple syrup. Some of this syrup we use to make our maple fudge and sugar.

Boiling maple sap over a fire is a very ancient practice going back a millennium or more. Sometimes we believe winter won't end without these fires. Our predecessors standing before these fires recede into pre-Columbian time. The Native Americans of this area made huge amounts of maple sugar. It formed an important part of their diet. As I build my spring fire I think of these families gathered together as my family is gathered together today.

The tree we tap is the sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*. Other trees in the genus *Acer* have sweetness in their sap also. Occasionally we will use the red maple but its sap is not so sweet and more boiling is required.

## When and how to tap a maple

A tree is first tapped when it reaches 10" in diameter or about 40 years of age. Tapping can continue annually for a century or more. Tapping in our time means drilling a 19/64" hole 1/2" deep into the side of a tree in early March. We use mostly plastic tubing and a battery-powered drill, usually one hole in each tree. The tap hole will be healed over in one to three years. We tap conservatively so our operation will be sustainable over the long haul—centuries maybe, if someone is willing to continue after we're gone.

Since sugar trees can outlast us humans, and since they must have grown a bit before we are able to tap them, we are dependent and grateful for what people did in the past on our land. Loggers who cut other species and left enough sugar trees to grow into a respectable bush; farmers who left sugar trees along a fence row; sugarmakers of the past who managed the bush with the future in mind. We continue on in this vein managing with an eye toward the future.

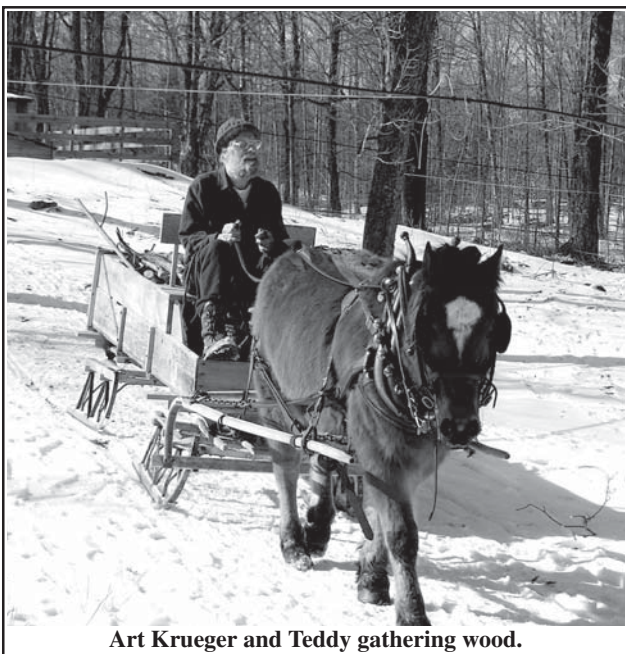
## How to wildcraft an orchard

This is a business like no other—making and transforming a forest into an orchard. Since sugar trees can take 40 years to first bear, unlike fruit trees which will bear in 5 years, sugarbushes are not often planted; rather they are culled from the forest by thinning. Ideally sugar trees should be about 30 feet apart. This allows the crowns to grow large and produce lots of sugar, and helps the boles to grow fast and heal over tap holes quickly.

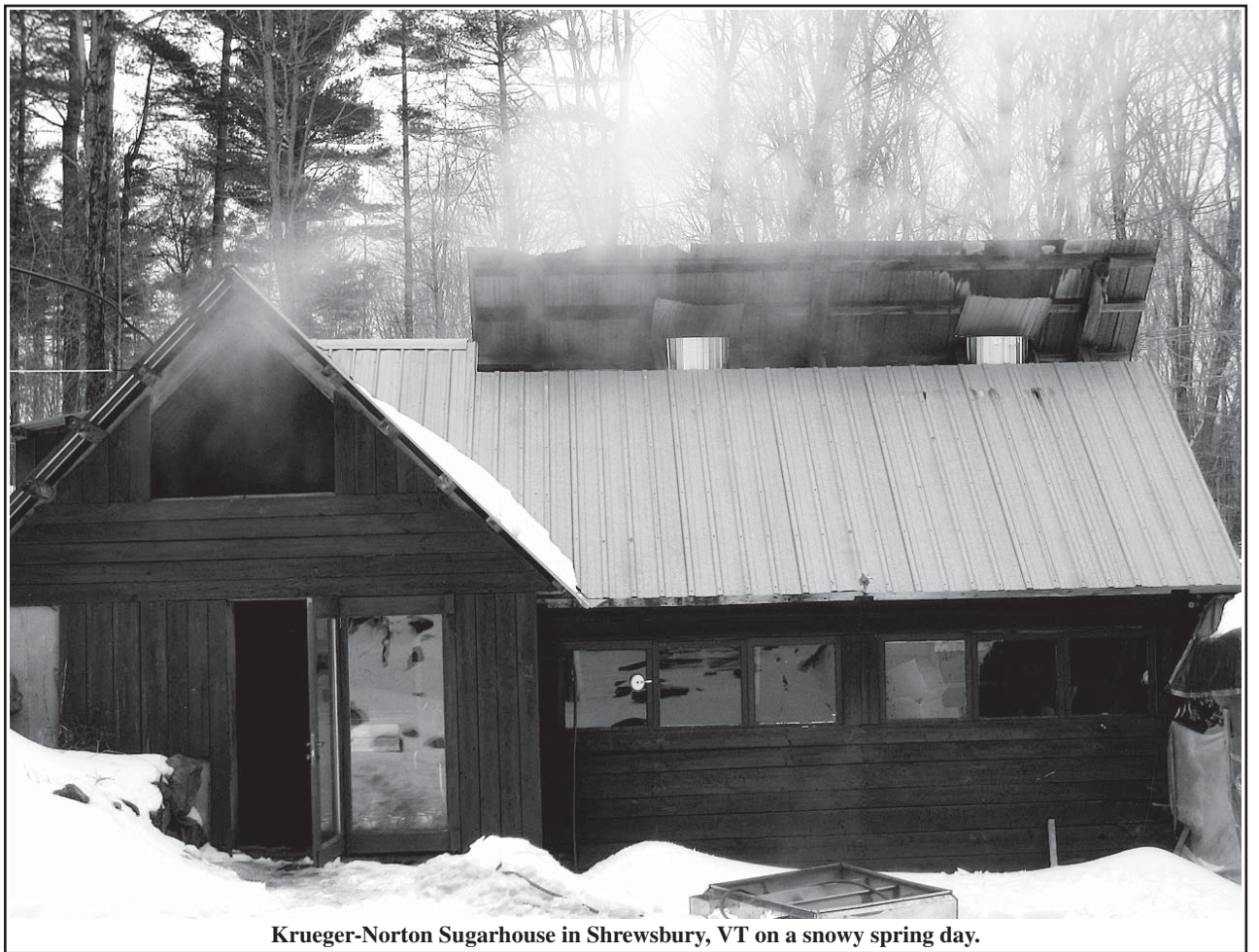
Each acre of our land will produce a half cord of wood or 250 board feet of lumber each year, in addition to 300 pounds of sugar. Managing these lands for sugar means that we handle a lot of firewood and lumber. This wood provides the energy to boil the sap and cook fudge, heat our house, cook our food and make hot water. The lumber goes to create the house and farm buildings necessary for our shelter and our operation. The ash remaining from these fires is rich in nutrients, potash and phosphorus, and is spread out on the land to be recycled into future trees. A forest so managed provides a good deal of our sustenance.

## A horse named Teddy

We have a strong furry helper—a horse named Teddy. His 900 pounds of muscle help us draw the firewood out of the forest with practically no damage to the trees. He is much safer on our extremely rough terrain than a tractor would be because he is unlikely to tip over. A horse is a very practical way to move heavy loads over rough ground. We get along better with horses than we would with a machine, and he enjoys mowing our lawn!



Art Krueger and Teddy gathering wood.



Krueger-Norton Sugarhouse in Shrewsbury, VT on a snowy spring day.

## Cold nights and warm, sunny days

Our weird climate is one of the necessary conditions for sugar making. The spring time alternation between warm and cold are needed to make the sap run; 20° Fahrenheit at night and 40°–45° Fahrenheit on a sunny day with light winds out of the northwest is ideal. Sugar trees have been transplanted to Europe where they grow but the climate does not provide the extremes in temperature needed to cause a sap run often enough.

The sugar is formed in the tree during the previous summer. The conditions in the spring, however, determine the yield. Too cold—no flow, too warm—no flow. A quick warm spring is a disaster. Much better is snow in April—"sugar snow" we call it. But the spring really begins for us in February, the first warm day in the bush when we are setting up to tap out—pleasant days spent on snowshoes on a mountainside. You get tired after such days, but spring has started. We hope for a long slow spring. Sap is definitely over when the spring peepers come; the very last run is called the "frog run" in honor of these critters.

## A labor of love

Ours is a family and friends operation. When our daughters were very small we had a crib in the sugarhouse. They would fall asleep with the steam billowing about and the smell of maple syrup being made. Running a wood-fired sugarhouse during a spring run is very tiring. Sometimes we have to boil till the wee hours of the morning. We can burn as much as three cords of wood in a day. That's about six tons. So we have friends and neighbors come in to boil with us.

During this work we have great philosophical discussions. If all the world's problems are ever solved it will be some spring night in a sugar house with an intense fire going and sap foaming into syrup.

## A farm in an improbable place

For energy we use wood, of course. We are off the utility grid so we make all our own electricity. We have solar panels and a wind generator, and recently added a micro-hydro turbine with a propane-fired generator as a back-up. Water is by gravity from a spring.

This is a farm in an improbable place. Forested, steep north-facing slopes, rocky ledge terrain, many wet spots, high elevation, short growing season, but a lot of maple trees and just enough tillage for a large garden.

First we built a very small house and a large garden. We set up a pipeline system and began selling sap to a neighbor. We built a sugarhouse and got a loan to buy an evaporator so we could make our sap into syrup. The family got bigger, the house got bigger, and the garden got bigger. We improved the sugarbush—the yield increased. We started making maple fudge and selling syrup and fudge by mail order. That's what we started in 1989, and we've improved the land ever since.

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The view from Pinnacle Ridge Road, near Rutland, Vermont. Pico ski area can be seen in the distance.

photo by johndavidgeery.com



## Poultney's Annual Maple Fest—March 23rd–24th

Maple Fest in Poultney is Saturday and Sunday, March 23rd and 24th. Our traditional celebration of Vermont's first crop of the season, Maple Syrup, it is one of Poultney's biggest events of the year. Poultney Chamber of Commerce has organized many interesting things to see and do. Starting at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the stores on Main Street will be open with featured sales.

**6 p.m.** Social and Poultney Rotary Community Dinner, East Room, Withey Hall, Green Mountain College at 6:45 p.m. Cost is \$50 with limited tickets. Tickets may be purchased from any Rotarian. Speaker is Capt. Richard Phillips, former hostage of the Somali pirates.

Poultney Chamber Maple Fest sponsors are: Stitchy Women, Green Mountain College, Carpentry with Heart.

### Schedule—Saturday, March 23rd

**8 a.m. to 11 a.m.** Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee, location pending.

**9 a.m.** Maple Fest Fun Run starting at Poultney Elementary School.

Scavenger Hunt by the Poultney Girl Scout Cadet Group, time pending.

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Craft Fair at Poultney Elementary School. Anyone interested in exhibiting, please call the Chamber office at (802) 287-2010.

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Artist Guild at Elementary School.

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Maple Fried Dough, and more sponsored by the Boy Scouts in front of the Stitchy Women on Main St.

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Basket Party at St. Raphael's Church Hall, 21 E. Main St. Drawings start at 1 p.m.

**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Bag Sale, Williams Hardware, Original Vermont Store, Stitchy Women and more.

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Open Sugar House Tours at Green's Sugar House, Finel Hollow Rd.; Riverside Maples, Rte. 140; Brayton & Foley Sugarhouse, Meadow St.; Marshall's Maples, 399 River St.; and Woods Family Sugarhouse, 552 Thrall Rd.

**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Soup and sandwiches at St. Raphael Church Hall, 21 E. Main St.

**11 a.m.** Horse-drawn wagon rides starting from Citizen Bank.

**11 a.m.** Story Time at the Poultney Library.

**5 to 6:30 p.m.** Roast Pork Dinner at the Young at Heart Club, 206 Furnace St. Tickets are: adults \$8, 12 and under \$5. To purchase call (802) 287-9200, (802) 645-0326, or (518) 282-9795.

For more information about this event, contact Chamber President Mary Lee Harris at Stitchy Women, 144 Main Street, Poultney, VT 05764. (802) 287-4114. [stitchywomen@myfairpoint.net](mailto:stitchywomen@myfairpoint.net).

For more information about Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce, call (802) 287-2010 or e-mail [poultneyvt@yahoo.com](mailto:poultneyvt@yahoo.com). Visit [www.poultneyvt.com](http://www.poultneyvt.com).

## Maple Celebration Pancake Breakfast at Merck Forest

Yum! It's time again for Merck Forest and Farmland Center's Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast on March 23rd & 24th. Breakfast is served from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A community event, the breakfast honors the hard work that went into the year's sugaring operation, and celebrates the outcome of sugaring: delicious maple syrup!

Merck Forest and Farmland Center invites visitors and community members to join us for the celebration. Take a wagon ride up the Frank Hatch Sap House where our staff will serve MFFC-raised pork breakfast sausages, locally-grown eggs, pancakes drizzled with Merck's Vermont-certified organic syrup, and coffee and juice.

Everyone is encouraged to explore the workings of the sugaring operation, watch the sugar maple tapping

demonstrations, discover the farm by doing a scavenger hunt, and check out the sheep shearing demonstrations. With any luck, newborn lambs may be in the barn!

Merck Forest and Farmland Center's mission is to teach, demonstrate and sustain a working landscape. MFFC's 3,100-acre property, in the Taconic Mountains of southwestern Vermont, is open to the public daily. With no admission fee, the public is invited to spend time on the farm and enjoy 30 miles of trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. Cabin rentals area also available year-round.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Route 315, Rupert, VT 05768. For information call (802) 394-7836, e-mail [melissa@merckforest.org](mailto:melissa@merckforest.org) or visit [www.merckforest.org](http://www.merckforest.org).

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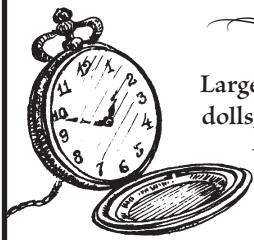
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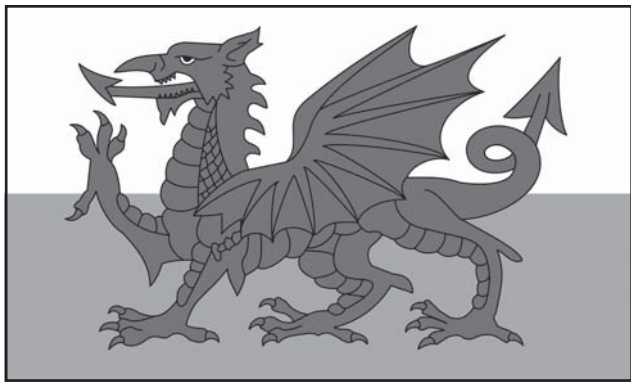
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## Greetings to All—*Cyfarchion i bawb!* St. David's Day Welsh Heritage Weekend in Poultney, VT

Friday, March 1, 2013

St. David's Day, is celebrated in honor of St. David, the Patron Saint of Wales, on March 1, 2013. St. David was said to have died in 589 and to have performed many miracles. From the 12th century onwards, his fame spread throughout South Wales and as far as Ireland and Brittany. He was officially recognized as a Catholic saint in 1120. People of Welsh heritage around the world celebrate St. David. One of the customs on this day is to wear either a leek or a daffodil.

Saturday, March 2, 2013

The Poultney Area St. David's Society 25th anniversary year "Gathering of the Clans" event takes place Saturday, March 2, 2013 with a dinner at The Station Restaurant on Depot St. in Poultney, VT. Everyone is invited and the public is welcome! The Station Restaurant is a handicap accessible site.

Each delicious dinner is created on-site by Nancy, owner of The Station. Menu options include Chicken n' Biscuits with potatoes and veggies and Baked Haddock with rice and veggies. Dessert and coffee or tea are included. The price is \$13.25. Seatings are at 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

This dinner is a joint fund-raiser charity event for the Poultney Welsh Presbyterian Church's elevator construction fund and the Poultney Cemetery Association's 2013 lawn maintenance fund. \$5 of each pre-registration dinner ticket is contributed as are all tips. The wait staff and decorations committee are volunteers from Poultney Area St. David's Society, Poultney Welsh Presbyterian Church and friends of each.

Pre-registration for dinner tickets is encouraged. Contact the Poultney Area St. David's Society, 60 Norton Ave., Poultney, VT 05764-1029. A limited number of dinner tickets may be available at the door at \$15.25 per dinner.

For questions contact Janice B. Edwards (802) 287-5744 (cartreftaid@yahoo.com), Helen Jones (802) 287-9729 or Nancy Williams (518) 642-0709. pasds88@yahoo.com.

Sunday, March 3, 2013

The Welsh Presbyterian Church on Grove St. (Rt. 30) in Poultney, VT honors St. David, Patron Saint of Wales in its Sunday service at 10 a.m. Communion is officiated by The Reverend Donald Pepper. For more information, contact: Benita Mead, (802) 287-5264. vtbenanna@aol.com.

*The Poultney Area St. David's Society, a fellowship organization, is a member of Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce, the National Welsh-American Foundation and Welsh North American Association. And, always, visit often: <http://www.ninnau.com>, [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vtwags](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vtwags), and [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pasds](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pasds).*



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Fred Bradley explains old time sugaring over an open fire at the Middletown Springs Maple Festival.

photo by Emmett Francois

### Middletown Springs Historical Society

## 25th Annual Maple Festival March 17

The Middletown Springs Historical Society will be holding its 25th Annual Maple Festival on the Green and indoors at the museum on Sunday, March 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Middletown Springs, VT.

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

Bill Clark, Past President of the Vermont Maple Sugarmakers Association, one of the oldest Vermont maple organizations, dating back to 1893, will be on hand to talk about the history and evolution of sugaring technique

using examples from the Historical Society collection.

Delicious maple desserts created by Society members, maple products and crafts, and new 2013 syrup will be available for sale. Old fashioned sugar-on-snow and maple cotton candy are always favorites.

Videos about Vermont maple sugaring will be shown continuously.

Maple sap buckets decorated by local school students will be sold in a silent auction which will also feature crafts, merchant donations and services.

A 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.

Acoustic music and kids'

activities enliven the afternoon event. Admission is free.

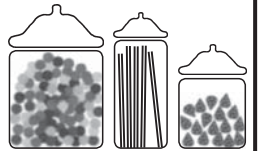
For more information call David Wright at (802) 235-2376.

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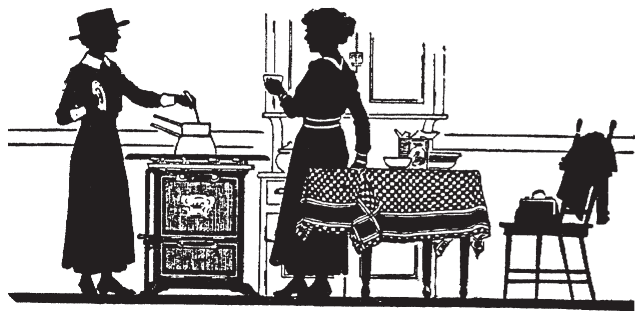
### Draft Animal Power Network

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





# Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



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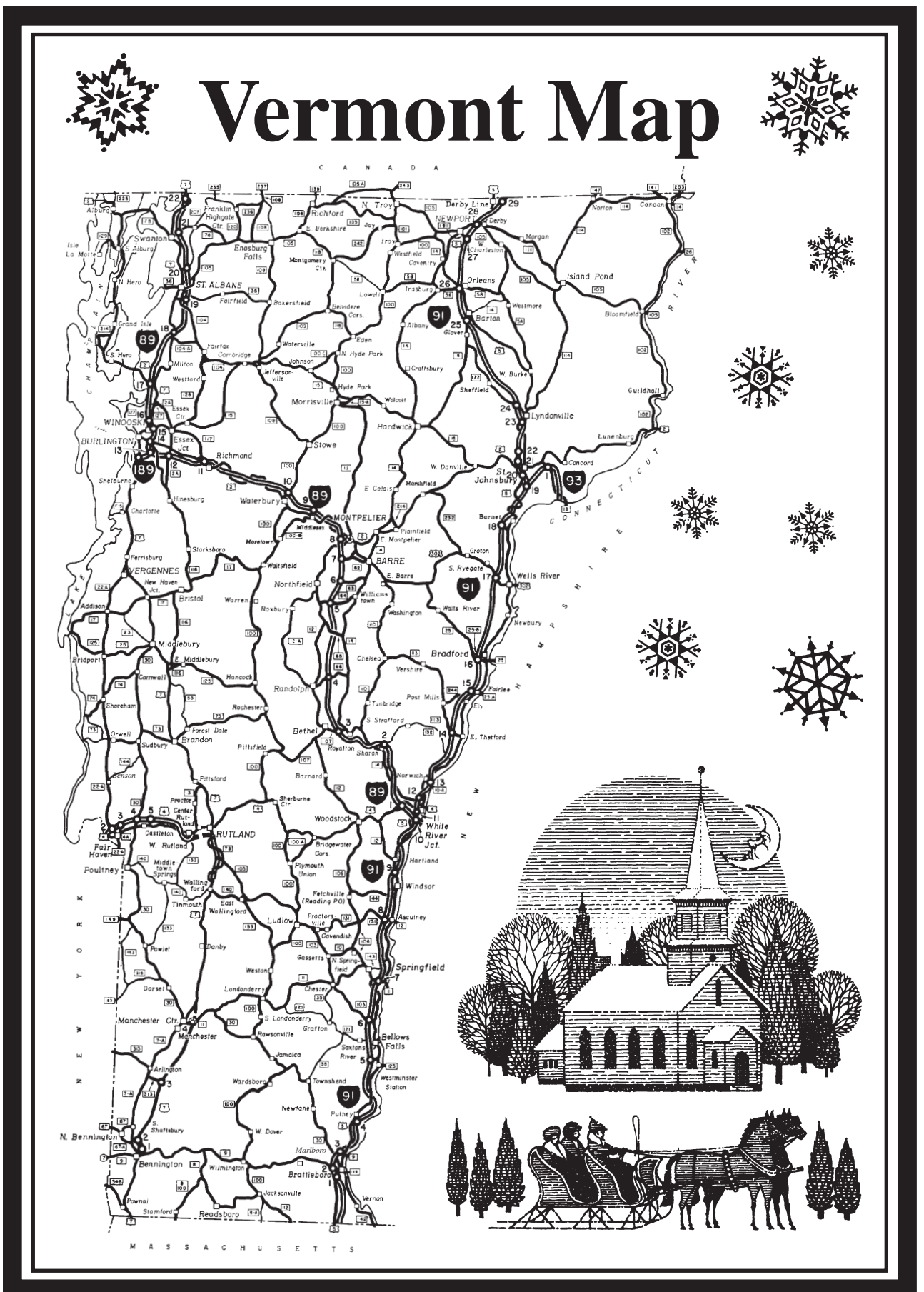
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**Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market.** At Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 36 College St., 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. First and third Saturdays in March, first and fourth Saturdays in April. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

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

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

### 1837 Greek Revival House for Sale — Danby, VT



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www.pyramidvt.com • kelleyw@pyramidvt.com

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

**St. Johnsbury Winter Markets** at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. March 2 & April 6. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

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

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

**Woodstock Winter Farmers' Market** at The Masonic Hall, 30 Peasant St. March 23 & April 20, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. through May. Anne Dean, (802) 457-3889. anneldean@gmail.com.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

## ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Fresh winter vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, meats, crafts, and more. Entertainment and prepared foods. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm every two weeks starting January 5 through April. At the First Baptist Church on Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org.

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

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

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

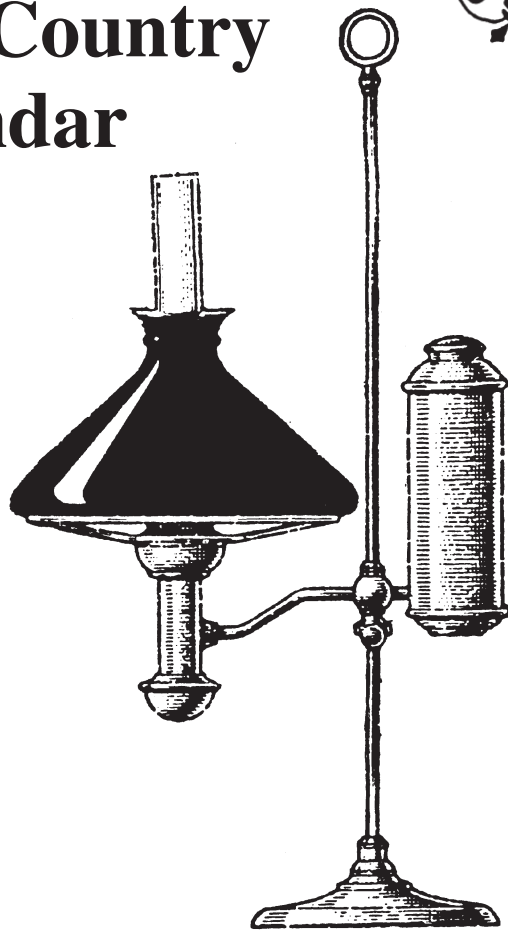
**BRANDON.** Brandon Visitor Center. Information and public restrooms, open daily 8 am – 6 pm, 365 days a year. 4 Grove St., next to the Baptist Church at the corner of Routes 7 and 73 West. Also houses the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace open mid-May through mid-October. (802) 247-6401.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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Stage Company Present's "4000 Miles." Written by Amy Herzog. Winner of the 2012 Obie for Best New American Play. Wed - Sat 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 2 pm. Tickets \$27-\$32.50. FlynnSpace, (802) 863-5966. www.flynntix.org. www.vtstage.org. *March 13-31.*

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

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

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

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

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

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



## My Punishment

I get up before the sun,  
make a fire in the wood stove,  
boil water, make tea,  
watch the dawn come.  
Then I get back in bed,  
under the quilt,  
propped up on my pillows,  
read a little, drink my tea  
and stare out the window  
at the snow coming down.

Oh, this lazybones life!

Others rush off to work while I  
lie here in silence waiting for  
a few words to come drifting  
over from The Other Side.  
No wonder people get jealous  
and resentful. No wonder  
I never make any money.  
I am being punished  
for having such a good time.

—DAVID BUDBILL

# QU'S

## BREAKFAST AND BURGERS

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<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><b>131 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT • (802) 775-2552</b> <b>Mon-Sat 10-7, Sun 12-5 • www.emporiumvt.com</b></p>	

## COUNTRY STOVES

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

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

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

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

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

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

**EAST CHARLESTON.** North Woods 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 and masks in the world. Events and exhibits. Open in the winter by appointment. Free admission, donations welcome. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**HUNTINGTON.** Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Help monitor bird populations in the different habitats at the Green Mountain Audubon Center. Our monthly walks gather long-term data on the presence of bird species, their abundance, and changes in populations. Donation appreciated. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. Vermont@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org.

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

**LANDGROVE.** Horse-Drawn Wagon and Carriage Rides. Rides leave on the hour from Landgrove Inn, 132 Landgrove Road. Call for reservations. (802) 824-4663. www.karlpfistersleigh.com.

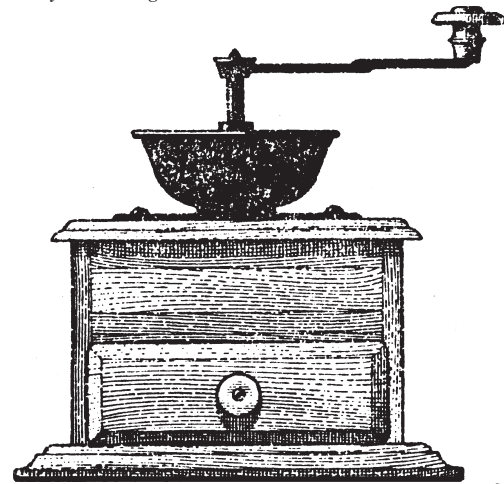
**LEBANON, NH.** Listen Community Dinner. Nutritious free meals served from 5-5:30 pm every Tuesday and Thursday. At Sacred Heart Church on Hough St. (603) 448-4553. www.listencs.org.

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

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

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

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



## Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

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

The Pleasant Street Powerline in West Rutland, not far from West Rutland Marsh, is a worthwhile stop especially if you are in the area visiting the marsh. The powerline attracts some habitat-specific species, many of which nest in the open, shrubby area.

Both Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers can be found with the occasional Brewster's hybrid. It's easy to see them by listening for their buzzy songs.

Prairie Warbler is another specialty of the powerline. You may spot one singing atop one of the shorter trees or shrubs. Other warblers that frequent the area include Black-and-white, Chestnut-sided, American Redstart and Common Yellowthroat. In the trees that line the power

line, you can also pick up Nashville, Magnolia, Ovenbird, and Yellow-rumped warblers.

American Kestrel can be seen perched on the power lines and Wood and Hermit thrush can be heard in the woods that line the powerline.

The bouncing ball song of the Field Sparrow can be heard along as well as the "drink your tea" song of the Eastern Towhee, which are fairly abundant here. Brown Thrasher is also recorded at this spot.

The best times to visit the powerline are early May through late June. As with any place that birders visit often, however, rarities can turn up anytime.

In December of 2003 a Townsend's Solitaire was found during the annual Christmas Bird Count, a first



for the Vermont state record.

To get to the Pleasant Street Powerline, turn onto Marble St. off Rt. 4A in West Rutland and continue past the marsh boardwalk. At the next intersection, turn right onto Pleasant St. The power station will be up on the left. At the second curve in the road, you can park (taking care not to block the gate). Walk south on the power line, away from power station. You will not need to walk far to see or hear the above species.

For more information visit Rutland County Audubon Society's website at www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MONTPELIER.** Capital City Winter Indoor Farmers' Market. 10 am – 2 pm. on Saturday, March 2 & 16, April 6 & 27. Held in the Montpelier High School Gym on Bailey St. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 223-2958. [montpelierfarmersmarket.com](http://montpelierfarmersmarket.com).

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

**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 information contact Daniel Hertzler at [danhertzler@gmail.com](mailto:danhertzler@gmail.com). *Fourth Sundays.*

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

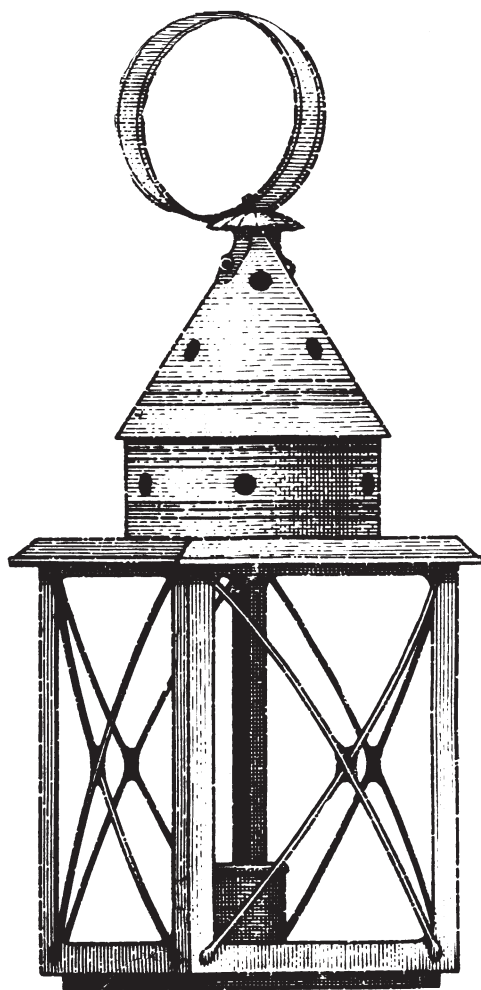
**NORWICH.** Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibits, trails, programs, and museum store open 10 am – 5 pm daily. Admission \$12 adults, \$10 children 2-17, under 2 free. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. [montshire.org](http://montshire.org).

**PITTSFORD.** New England Maple Museum Opens for the Season Saturday, 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 16. Spring hours 10 am - 4 pm daily. 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. [info@maplemuseum.com](mailto:info@maplemuseum.com). [www.maplemuseum.com](http://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](mailto:lynnettecombs@gmail.com).

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

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



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

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

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Turkey Hill Farm. Farmer's Kitchen cooking classes. Farm skills workshops. 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](http://localfood@turkeyhillfarmvt.com). [www.turkeyhillfarmvt.com](http://www.turkeyhillfarmvt.com).

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

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

**RUTLAND.** Winter Maple Sugar Tour. Tour the beautiful Vermont back roads past farms and fields and over covered bridges to visit a working sugarhouse with native Vermonter Kelly Socia. Sample and buy fresh maple sugar products. 3½ hour tours \$50 pp leaving daily by appointment. Discount for groups of 10 or more. Fee. Pickup at various locations: Rutland, Killington, Ludlow, Manchester. (802) 446-3131. [vtbackroadtours.com](http://vtbackroadtours.com). *February 1 through April 15.*

**RUTLAND.** Annual Full House Exhibit. Featuring artists Richard Weis, Brian Sylvester, Johanne Durocher Jordan and Katherine Langlands. Open Tues, Wed, Thurs 11 am – 6 pm, and Fri & Sat 11:30 am – 7 pm. At Chaffee Downtown, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org). *Through March 23.*

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

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

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Winter vegetables, jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, arts and crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm. New location at 251 West St. *Directions:* in the old Mintzer Building, across the railroad tracks on West St. and right across from Smalley Square. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). *Saturdays thru May 4.*



## March Notebook

by Bill Felker

I have been bringing together all my almanac notes for the past thirty years.

I try to separate myself from my observations, but that is becoming more difficult. It is becoming clearer to me that these notes are autobiographical, even though they seem to have little to do with me and everything to do with the trivia of what is happening at certain times throughout the small world in which I live.

I am finding that events that supposedly take place outside me are actually internal events. If external reality, as Einstein asserted, is altered by observation, how much more is the observer's reality altered by observing and by the internalizing of external events.

Anyone who stays in a house or town or relationship for an extended period of time undergoes this change.

Since both observer and observed, subject and object, are completely porous, association, over time, permeates body and spirit.

Certain pieces of land or a garden or furniture take on lives of their own inside the one who lives with them. They grow into the self and resist exorcism, persist in

memory and affect and flesh. And so the hundreds of thousands of words I have collected in my daybook for the year seep into me and out of me, and they are both the walk and the talk. They are not unlike the objects in my house and yard with which I live and which are mnemonic and charged with story. They are not unlike the unwritten pieces of my life that shape my consciousness and unconsciousness, except that they are words that have shape and take up space in black and white.

I struggle with the banality of all this. I want to see meaning in larger, heroic terms, in pivotal decisions, in wrenching or joyful, life-changing incidents, and not in old chairs or a woman's glove or notes about the time a cardinal sang twenty-three years ago.

But if I practice enough, sometimes I know what to do with the big and the small. Sometimes things come together, and the pigments of the lesser objects and events flow and mix with the primary forces of momentous objects and events, and I can see, for just a few seconds, pattern and connection and purpose in it all.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

**RUTLAND.** Winter Backroad Tours. Tour the beautiful winter countryside in a touring van or bus. Ideal for families on a Vermont ski outing for members that don't ski. Vermont Backroad Tours will take you to the scenic vistas that everyone else has to take a frigid chair ride to see. Tours daily by appointment. Two-hour tour \$30 pp, 3½-hour tour \$50 pp. Rutland, Killington, Ludlow, Manchester areas. Various pickup locations. (802) 446-3131. kelly@vtbackroadtours.com. www.vtbackroadtours.com. *Through March 31.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STATEWIDE.** Salvation Farms. Volunteer opportunities to glean and process Vermont raised, surplus fruits and vegetables for use by vulnerable populations. For more information contact (802) 522-3148. info@ourfarmsourfood.org. salvationfarms.wordpress.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. 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (802) 748-2700. info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WILMINGTON.** Adams Farm. Horse-drawn sleigh rides up along the ridge of the mountain to an old log cabin with a wood stove for hot chocolate. Day and evening rides. Also romantic private rides for two in a vintage sleigh. Call for rates and reservations. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Rd. (802) 464-3762. www.adamsfamilyfarm.com. *Through March.*

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

**Rutland Area Food Co-op**  
77 Wales St. Rutland VT  
802-773-0737

Vegan & Gluten-free groceries  
Bulk spices, herbs, teas,  
coffee, granola & grains  
Vitamins & Supplements  
Organic & Local Produce  
Local Cheeses, Wines,  
and Meats  
Natural Body Care  
...and more

## Divine Songs

### A Concert of Renaissance Choral Music at Grace Church

A concert of Renaissance choral music featuring the music of Johannes Ockeghem (c. 1420-1497) will be performed by the professional Boston group, Blue Heron, at Grace Church in Rutland, VT on March 26, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. Grace Church is thrilled to bring Blue Heron, to Vermont!

The concert is open to the public and there will be a free will offering. A masterclass from 5-6 p.m. is also free and open to everyone.

Blue Heron is directed by Vermont native Scott Metcalfe (director, medieval fiddle and harp) and is one of North America's premiere Renaissance vocal ensembles. They combine a commitment to vivid live performance with the study of original source materials and historical performance practice. Blue Heron's principal repertoire interests are fifteenth-century English and Franco-Flemish polyphony. Their Vermont debut will

explore connections and exchanges between secular song and sacred music and feature the music of Johannes Ockeghem (c.1420-1497), one of the greatest composers of all time. His endlessly fascinating sacred music has been characterized as mystical with each song a gem of invention, comical, heart wrenching, or profound.

The program includes Ockeghem's songs *Ma maistrresse*, *Fors seullement*, and *Presque transi*; *De plus en plus* by Gilles Binchois; and movements from the masses by Ockeghem based on those songs.

Blue Heron consists of Pamela Dellal, Paul Guttry, David McFerrin, Owen McIntosh, Jason McStoots, Martin Near, Mark Sprinkle, and Sumner Thompson, voices; Laura Jeppesen, rebec & medieval fiddle; and Scott

Metcalfe, director, harp & medieval fiddle

"The music of this Franco-Flemish master unspools in a dazzling maze of crisscrossing lines, magnificent in their complexity and austere beauty. Follow the patterns closely and they are mind-bending; soften the focus of your concentration and this spacious music washes over you, as entrancing as a majestic cathedral.... Under the artistic leadership of Scott Metcalfe, the performances were handsomely polished and beautifully delivered, with keen attention paid to the clarity of interplay among voices."—Jeremy Eichler, *The Boston Globe*, March 13, 2007

Grace Congregational UCC is located at 8 Court St. in Rutland, VT. (802) 775-4301. Visit [www.gracechurchvt.org](http://www.gracechurchvt.org).

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75 Merchants Row  
Rutland, VT  
(802) 775-0356

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Wednesday  
Thursday  
11am-6pm  
Friday  
Saturday  
11:30am-7pm  
closed Sun. & Mon.

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**On Exhibit: February 15th - March 23rd, 2013**  
Chaffee Downtown \* 75 Merchants Row \* Rutland, VT \* (802) 775-0356  
Chaffee Art Center \* 16 South Main \* Rutland, VT \* [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org)



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# Vermont Country Calendar



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

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

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

**WOODSTOCK.** First Run Movies at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, students \$6. Famous maple popcorn! (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

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

**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.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

**MONTPELIER.** Farmers' Night: The founding of the Vermont Historical Society amid tumultuous change, 1838. Join us for an evening of history, music, and poetry as we tell the story of the decade that led to the founding of the Vermont Historical Society. This year, we will celebrate our 175th anniversary. Free and open to the public. 7 pm. Vermont State House. (802) 828-2180. www.vermonthistory.org.

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers and other activities. Admission: \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Thru February 24.*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**BENNINGTON.** Program: Tales and History of the Benmont Mill with Jon Goodrich. Free. 7-9 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. www.netrop.org. www.oneworldconservationcenter.org.

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers and other activities. Admission: \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Thru February 24.*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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

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

**MANCHESTER.** Program: Owls of Vermont. Join Mike Clough of the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum for this presentation featuring live owls and owl artifacts! Then join us for a short nocturnal visit to the Equinox Preserve to listen and call for owls. Co-sponsored by The Vermont Bird Place and Sky Watch and Equinox Preservation Trust. 7 pm at the Equinox Resort conference room. (802) 366-1400. rick@equinoxpreservationtrust.org.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Talich Quartet. For several decades, the Quartet has been recognized internationally as one of Europe's finest chamber ensembles. Performing Beethoven's Quartet in G Major, Op. 18, No. 2; Janacek's Quartet No 1, "Kreutzer"; and Dvorák's Quartet in C Major, Op. 61. A free reception follows the performance. Tickets: \$35. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. www.talichquartet.cz.

**TINMOUTH.** Contra Dance. Come to an exuberant contra dance with live music. Bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$9, \$7 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. (802) 235-2718 or (802) 446-2928 for info or directions or visit www.Tinmouthvt.org. *Continues every fourth Friday.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers and other activities. Admission: \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through February 24.*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**BERLIN.** Latin Dance Party. All levels are welcome. 1 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 985-3665. capitalcitygrange.org.

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

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

**ISLAND POND.** VAST Winterfest. A ride-in event for all VAST members to participate in some fun on the snow. Food will be available to purchase, Sled demos are planned. For info visit www.vtvast.org.

**JAY.** 2nd Annual Vermont Ice Wine Festival. Celebrate the world-class ice wines and ice ciders that are being produced in Vermont, accompanied by Vermont artisan cheeses and specialty foods. Admission \$35. Noon-5 pm. Hotel Jay and Conference Center at Jay Peak Resort. (802) 988-2611. info@jaypeakresort.com. www.jaypeakresort.com.

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

**MONTPELIER.** 7th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. Up to 24 Dealers offering primitives, furniture, art, toys, books, photos, and ephemera from the New England area. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, 1 Country Club Rd., just off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. www.montpelierantiquesmarket.com. *2nd & 4th Sundays through March.*

**NORWICH.** Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. Ruth Sylvester calling. All dances taught. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, students \$5, under 16 free, seniors by donation. 8 pm, beginners session 7:45 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. *Fourth Saturdays through May 2013.*

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science Owl Festival. Can owls see in the dark? How can they fly without making a sound? Meet some of VINS' owl ambassadors up close and discover what it's like to care for an owl in our rehabilitation clinic. Make your own tasty owl pellet snacks and owl crafts. Listen to owl tales around the fire while drinking hot chocolate. Activities inside and out—dress warmly! Adults \$12, seniors (65 plus) \$11, youth (4-17) \$10, children 3 and under free. 1-4 pm. VINS Nature Center & Nature Store, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000 x 223. www.vinsweb.org.

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

**RUPERT.** Saturday Snowshoes. Led by Merck naturalists, this family-friendly snowshoe will explore MFFC's winter landscape. 10 am - 12 pm or 1-3 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. Free, reservations required. Call (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

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

**RUPERT.** Winter Moonlight Snowshoe. Free, warm beverages provided. 6 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. Reservations required. Call (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

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

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Winter vegetables, jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, arts and crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 4.*

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

**SHELBURNE.** Owl Prowl. Enjoy an evening walk to explore the world of Vermont's winged nocturnal predators. Listen for and possibly see some of the species who make the Farm their home. Return indoors for hot refreshments and a meeting with OFES live owls. Moderate walking in the cold weather. You may stay inside and join us for second portion of the evening. Fee: \$10, child age 10 and up \$5. Pre-registration required. 7-9 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. jpenca@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org.

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

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

**STOWE.** Concert: Ryan Montbleau Band with Josh Panda & The Hot Damned. Tickets \$35/\$45. 8 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Rt. 108N. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

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

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Workshop: Monotypes for Kids. One-of-a-kind prints with Patty Castellini. Ages 10 to 15. No experience necessary. \$95 plus \$20 materials fee. 10 am - 4 pm. Two Rivers Print Making Studio, 85 N. Main St. (802) 295-5901. tworiversprintmaking.com.

**WILMINGTON.** Harriman Reservoir Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Deerfield Valley Sportsmen's Club. At Harriman Reservoir. Check in at Fairview Avenue Boat Landing. Fish: Brook Trout, Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Yellow Perch. For information contact: Paul Tobits at (802) 855-7495, (802) 855-7495 (evenings). meekclass@gmail.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Weekends at Billings Farm. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep, inside for the winter. Tour the restored 1890's farm house. See *A Place in the Land* in the theater. Warm up with hot spiced cider in the Visitor's Center. Admission: \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also February 24.*

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



# Vermont Country Calendar

(February 23, continued)

**WOODSTOCK.** Sleigh Ride Week. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers and other activities. Admission: \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also February 24.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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

**NORTHFIELD.** Cooking Class: Northern Italy—Venice to Milan. Presented by Ariel's Restaurant. Fee: \$85 including a fabulous meal and an inspired beverage pairing. 12:30-3:30 pm. At Green Mountain Girls Farm, 923 Loop Rd. (802) 505-9840, www.floatingbridgefoodandfarms.com.

**PERU.** Kare Anderson 28th Annual Telemark Race. Watch some of the best tele skiers in the East! Have fun with great tele events, games and fun for the entire family. Learn what tele-skiing is all about! Bromley, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com.

**QUECHEE.** Winter Wine & Dine. Hike (or snowshoe) under the full moon to explore the natural winter world then enjoy a delicious three-course meal at the Quechee Inn. 5:15-6:45 pm: short hike on trails at Marshland Farm. 7-9 pm: enjoy a three-course meal at the Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm. Please dress warmly, a headlamp is recommended. Fee: \$50 (age 18+ only). Reservations and pre-payment required. Register by Feb. 20. Meet at the Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm at 5:15 pm. Call (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

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

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Judy Collins. Judy's impressive career has spanned over 45 years, 40 albums, top 10 hits, Grammy nominations, gold and platinum status. Tickets: \$48.50/\$42.50. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

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

**STOWE.** 68th Annual Stowe Derby. The oldest downhill/cross-country ski race in North America! It started in 1945 as a personal challenge between two amazing skiers - Austrian, Sepp Ruschp who was hired to come to America and head the new ski school at Stowe and Erling Strom, world famous mountaineer from Norway. Come to compete or come to watch. For registration call (802) 253-7704 or visit www.stowederby.com.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**SO. BURLINGTON.** Workshop: Complete Kitchen Garden Design. Manchester, VT writer, Ellen Ogden, shares kitchen garden secrets and her new book! Learn to create a kitchen garden maze, design a kid's garden and more. Books will be available at this talk. Fee: \$30. For reservations e-mail info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. 10 am - 12 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: New Sounds from the Arab Lands. This program brings together eminent performer-composer-improvisers from Syria and Tunisia creating new music inspired by their cultural heritage and combining Western classical music, jazz, and classical Arabic music's microtonal subtleties and more than 50 scales. Tickets \$33/\$23/\$17. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

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

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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

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

## FRIDAY, MARCH 1

**BURLINGTON.** Burlington's First Friday Art Walk. Come inside and warm up at the over 30 galleries and art venues throughout Burlington staying open late to welcome walkers and share our incredible art scene. Visit the website to see a list of participating venues. Sponsored by Burlington City Arts, the Free. Fri., 5 pm - 8 pm. Throughout Burlington. (802) 264-4839. info@artmapburlington.com. www.artmapburlington.com.

**LEBANON, NH.** Performance: Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*. A terrific musical recently revived on Broadway. Annual teen production by the North Country Community Theatre. Tickets at the door or online: \$15/\$10. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. Also March 2 & 3.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Rock and Bowl Concert. To benefit Empty Bowls. Musical performances by local musicians and students, great food and the chance to create ceramic bowls to be used in future annual events! Come join us! Donation \$5. 7-9 pm. At the Spiral Press Café at Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 867-5717. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference. UVM Extension and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont are teaming up to offer this conference. Fee: \$20/person. 9 am - 4 pm. Judd Gymnasium, Vermont Technical College. To register, go to www.uvm.edu/extension/organicdairy or call (800) 639-2130.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 2

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert: Stone Church Arts presents Oni Buchanan, classical pianist. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.stonechurcharts.org.

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## Vermont Symphony Orchestra Performs in Rutland, VT

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra will present three double concertos to showcase music director, Jaime Laredo, and his former student, Jennifer Koh in Rutland, VT on Sunday, March 10.

The program includes Bach's Concerto for Two Violins, an old friend, joined by a serene work from the iconic minimalist Philip Glass. A new work by David Ludwig honors the turning times of the year and the program concludes with Mozart's Symphony No. 40. Curtis Institute fellow, Vinay Parameswaran, will conduct the three double concertos, while Laredo will lead the Mozart.

The concert will be performed at the Paramount Theatre as part of the Sunday Matinee Series at 3 p.m. It will also be presented on Friday, March 8 at the Bellows Falls Opera House at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday, March 9, in Burlington at the Flynn Center at 8 p.m. as part of the 2012/2013 Masterworks series.

### Jennifer Koh performs

Award-winning violinist Jennifer Koh is recognized for her intense, commanding performances, delivered with dazzling virtuosity and technical assurance. Born in Chicago, she made her debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age eleven. She studied at the Curtis Institute, where she worked extensively with Jaime Laredo. Koh has performed with leading orchestras around the world and has appeared with the VSO several times. She lives in New York City with her husband, pianist Benjamin Hochman.

### Composer David Ludwig

The Orchestra will perform a new work, entitled *Seasons Lost*, by VSO New Music Advisor, David Ludwig. David Ludwig's choral work, *The New Colossus*, was performed at the morning worship service preceding the President Obama's Inauguration in January. *Seasons Lost* was co-commissioned by the Curtis Institute and the Delaware and

Vermont symphonies. The award-winning young composer comes from several generations of musicians. His grandfather was the pianist Rudolf Serkin. Ludwig serves on the composition faculty of the Curtis Institute.

### Pre-concert discussion and food drive

A pre-concert discussion, "Musically Speaking," will feature Jaime Laredo, Jennifer Koh and Vinay Parameswaran providing insight into the music, composers, and musicians. Moderated by Rutland Herald Arts Editor Jim Lowe, it will be held at 2 p.m., free for members of the audience.

The VSO will collect food items at its concert in Rutland as part of the national "Orchestras Feeding America" project, now in its fifth year. Bring a non-perishable food item to the Paramount Theatre lobby on March 10. Suggested items include boxed dry goods, canned goods and soups, cereal, pasta, rice, and peanut butter (please, no glass, perishables or clothing). Cash donations are accepted. All food and cash contributions collected will be donated directly to the local branch of the Vermont Foodbank and donors will receive "Bach Bucks," good for a discount on a future VSO concert.

### Later spring concert

On April 6 the VSO and the Paramount Theatre are co-presenting an added Saturday evening concert, "Songs of Freedom." The VSO Chorus, under the direction of the ever-youthful Robert De Cormier, will be joined by De Cormier's longtime friend, Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary fame). The uplifting program includes American spirituals, Civil War songs, and songs of the Civil Rights era. Tickets, ranging from \$29.50 to \$49.50, are available from the Paramount Theatre at paramountvt.org or (802) 775-0903.

Tickets range from \$9 for students to \$30, available from the Paramount Theatre box office at (802) 775-0903, or online at www.Paramountvt.org.

The Paramount Theatre is located at 30 Center St., Rutland, VT. For information call (802) 775-0570 or visit www.paramountvt.org. For additional information about VSO, please call (800) VSO-9293, ext. 10, or go to www.vso.org.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. 10 am – 2 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. www.posttoilsolutions.org. *Saturdays through March.*

**BURLINGTON.** 18th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Lectures, concerts, workshops. Visit website for full schedule. www.vtishfestival.org. *Through March 30.*

**CHESTER.** Annual LEGO Contest. For Legomaniacs pre-k through grade 8 and their families. 9 am - 12 pm at Willard Hall, St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Come and see the creations! Refreshments offered. Entry fee \$10/\$15. Early entry deadline Feb. 26. Contact Lillian Willis, (802) 875-1340.

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

**EAST BURKE.** 7th Annual Burke Mountain Sled Dog Dash. Watch the races, try a ride with a sled dog. Refreshments for sale. Family fun! 9 am at Kingdom Trails. (802) 626-4124. www.skiburke.com. www.sleddogdash.com. *Also March 3.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Concert: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra. Performing Prokofiev's Third Concerto. Tickets \$29-\$5. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**LEBANON, NH.** Performance: Anything Goes. Annual teen production by the North Country Community Theatre. Tickets at the door or online: \$15/\$10. 2 & 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. *Also March 3.*

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Jamaica Kincaid discusses her new work of fiction, *See Now Then*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**POULTNEY.** St. David's Day Celebration. 25th anniversary year Poultney Area St. David's Society "Gathering of the Clans" event with fundraising dinner at The Station Restaurant on Depot St. from 4-6 pm. Dinner is \$13.25 in advance, \$15.25 at the door is seats remain. Everyone is invited and public is welcome. (802) 287-5744.

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, winter vegetables, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, wool & crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 4.*

**WOODFORD.** Prospect Mountain Ski Tour. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at a classic old downhill area with groomed x-c trails. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leader: Dot MacDonald, (802) 257-7657. www.greenmountainclub.org.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 3

**EAST POULTNEY.** Snowshoe Outing. Free. Enjoy a day out with beautiful scenery in the East Poultney/Middletown Springs area. Mileage variable. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Call leader for meeting place and time: Diane Bargiel, (413) 687-1109. www.greenmountainclub.org.

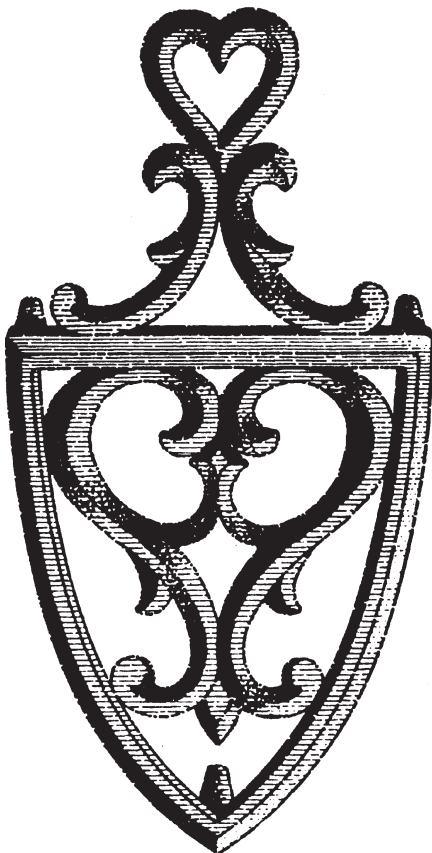
**LEBANON, NH.** Performance: Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*. A terrific musical recently revived on Broadway. Annual teen production by the North Country Community Theatre. Tickets at the door or online: \$15/\$10. 4 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

**NORTHFIELD.** Cooking Class: Thai Curries, Noodles and Salads. Presented by Ariel's Restaurant. Fee: \$85 including a fabulous meal and an inspired beverage pairing. 12:30-3:30 pm. At Green Mountain Girls Farm, 923 Loop Rd. (802) 505-9840, (802) 276-0787. www.floatingbridgefoodandfarms.com.

**POULTNEY.** The Welsh Presbyterian Church honors St. David, Patron Saint of Wales in this Sunday's service at 10 am. Communion is officiated by The Reverend Donald Pepper. The church is on Grove St. (Rt. 30). Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Benita Mead, (802) 287-5264. vtbenanna@aol.com.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

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



## THURSDAY, MARCH 7

**LEBANON, NH.** Performance: Americana at Home. A free concert with the Buskers. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 8

**BELLOWS FALLS.** VSO in Concert. Jaime Laredo, conductor and violin; Jennifer Koh, violin; and Vinay Parameswaran, conductor. Performing Bach Concerto for Two Violins, Philip Glass *Wchorus*, David Ludwig *Seasons Lost*, and Mozart Symphony No. 40. Tickets \$9-\$35. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House. For tickets call (802) 863-5966. www.flynnntix.org. www.vso.org.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Presentation by Harry Martin—"Emily Dickinson, her life and work." Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**QUECHEE.** Pajama Party at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Theme: Splendid Snakes. Participants should wear pajamas and bring stuffed animals if they wish. Snack, activities, stories, bio-facts and a live animal. Great for families with children ages 3-8. Fee: \$10 for first adult & child, \$4 each additional participant. 6:30-7:15 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. Register the Thursday prior to event. Call (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org. *Also April 8.*

**RANDOLPH.** Concert with De Temps Antan. Éric Beaudry, André Brunet and Pierre-Luc Dupuis explore and perform time-honored melodies from the stomping grounds of Quebec's musical past. Tickets \$30. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

**STOWE.** Performance: Todd Oliver & Friends—Dogs Gone Wild! Tour. Hilarious evening of comedy and real talking dogs! Comedian ventriloquist Todd Oliver and his wise-cracking canines Irving, Lucy and Elvis have had audiences of all ages howling. Tickets \$35. 8 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center. (802) 760-8634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Concert: James McMurtry with Bow Thayer opening. Tickets: \$25. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 9

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

**BRATTLEBORO.** Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 5 pm. Quality Inn & Conference Center, 1380 Putney Rd. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. *Also March 10.*

**BURLINGTON.** VSO in Concert. Jaime Laredo, conductor and violin; Jennifer Koh, violin; and Vinay Parameswaran, conductor. Performing Bach's Concerto for Two Violins, Philip Glass's *Echorus*, David Ludwig *Seasons Lost*, and Mozart Symphony No. 40. Tickets \$59-\$9. 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets call (802) 775-0903. flynnntix.org. www.vso.org. www.paramountvt.org.

## Chaffee Downtown, Rutland's New Gallery and Meeting Space

The Chaffee Art Center opened its new downtown location. Called Chaffee Downtown, this is a new, modern space, and many visitors have commented that it feels like walking into a NYC gallery. It has gorgeous windows facing Merchants Row that provide natural lighting during the day, and a bit of drama come evening.

This space offers not only beautiful exhibits, but an opportunity to collaborate with other local businesses downtown, offer fun adult classes, work with the Boys & Girls club next door for children's art activities, provide a place for meetings, workshops, guest speakers, artist talks, and much more. People have chosen the space as a meeting place before they go out to dinner at one of downtown's restaurants, and we would love to see that continue!

The current show, our Annual Full House Exhibit, features four of our Chaffee Juried Artist Members: Brian Sylvester, Richard Weis, Johanne Durocher Yordan, & Katherine Langlands. They were selected in 2012 to

exhibit this year. Their work is very bold, colorful, and vibrant, an energized show, sure to brighten up your winter. It is running through March 23rd.

Chaffee Downtown is free & open to the public. We invite everyone to stop by. Our shows change just about every month, so Chaffee Downtown can become a regular stop for the community members and our neighbors.

The Chaffee Art Center mansion, located at 16 South Main St., is currently undergoing renovations, primarily electrical work. We have received grants to do some major rewiring and other upgrades and will reopen later this season.

*Hours for Chaffee Downtown are Tuesday-Thursday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday & Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed Sunday & Monday.*

*Chaffee Downtown is located at 75 Merchants Row in Rutland, VT. For info call (802) 775-0356. Visit www.chaffeeartcenter.org.*



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After Dark Music Series,  
PO Box 684, Middlebury, VT 05753.

For more information call (802) 388-0216  
afterdarkmusicseries.com



# Vermont Country Calendar

(March 9, continued)

**HINESBURG.** Stone Wall Building Workshop. Learn techniques to personalize your outdoor spaces. Basic techniques for creating dry-laid garden retaining walls and free-standing walls using field stone and rounded cobbles. Held in warm greenhouses and led by Vermont stonemasons trained through Britain's Dry Stone Walling Association and featured in Vermont Life Magazine. Tuition for the one-day workshop is \$100. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Queen City Soil and Stone. Workshop site: 2408 Shelburne Falls Rd. Visit website for registration form. (802) 318-2411. macmartin@igc.org. www.queencitysoilandstone.com.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Greg Barrett presents his book, *The Gospel of Rutba; War, Peace, and the Good Samaritan Story in Iraq*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**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 16. Spring hours 10 am - 4 pm daily. 4578 Rt.7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, winter vegetables, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, wool & crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 4.

**WEST GLOVER.** Ski Tour the Kingdom: Historic Hinman Road Part II. Journey through snow and time stopping to visit the old Parker settlement enroute, tracing the journey and stories of early settlers. Four miles long, appropriate for intermediate skiers; fishscales and metal edges (or good kick wax) recommended. Part of this route will include VAST snowmobile trails, and some light bushwhacking. Begin and end the journey at Parker Pie Co. Bring a bag lunch and a hot thermos. Fee: \$10. 9 am - 1 pm. Sponsored by Northwoods Stewardship Center and Old Stone House. Call to register, (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** 3rd Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. Screening: *A Separation*. Tickets: adults \$11, children ages 3-15, \$6. 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Continues on alternate Saturdays through April 6.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 10

**ATHENS.** Workshop: Winter Storage of Garden Produce. Hosted by Garden Collaborative and Camilla Roberts. Free, donations appreciated. 3 pm. Please register in advance. (802) 282-8669 or kgypson@yahoo.com.

**BENNINGTON.** St. Patrick's Day Parade. Downtown. (802) 447-3311. chamber@bennington.com. www.bennington.com.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 5 pm. Quality Inn & Conference Center, 1380 Putney Rd. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Aiken Wilderness Snowshoe. Meet at either 8 am at the Shaw's parking lot in Manchester Center VT or at 9 am at the snowmobile parking lot on Rt. 9 across from the eastern edge of the Aiken Wilderness (call for directions to this). Snowshoe through this trailless Wilderness with Dave Ratti, who knows the area well. Moderate snowshoe, bring lunch and snacks and drinks. All day event. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Call for meeting place and time: (802) 366-0698. marge.fish@gmail.com. greenmountainclub.org.

**MONTPELIER.** 7th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. Up to 24 Dealers in a relaxed setting offering primitives, furniture, art, toys, books, photos, and ephemera from the New England area. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, 1 Country Club Rd., off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. montpelierantiquesmarket.com. March 24.

**RIPTON.** X-C Ski Outing at Rikert Nordic Center. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Call leader for info: B. Ellis, (802) 388-0936. greenmountainclub.org.

**RUTLAND.** VSO in Concert. Jaime Laredo, conductor and violin; Jennifer Koh, violin; and Vinay Parameswaran, conductor. Tickets \$9-\$3. 3 pm concert preceded at 2 pm by "Musically Speaking." Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. flyntix.org. vso.org. paramountvt.org.

## MONDAY, MARCH 11

**TUNBRIDGE.** MountainFolk Concert: The Steel Wheels. Experience the spirited harmonies, musicianship, fervor and bedrock authenticity of this Virginia-based foursome. \$15/\$20. 7:30 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 431-3433. mtnfolk.org. www.thesteelwheels.com.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 12

**RUTLAND.** Program: Birding to Alaska. Marv and Sue Elliott talk about their three-month excursion by car to Alaska discovering birds, wildflowers, and a whole lot more! Sponsored by the Rutland County Audubon Society. Free. 7 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 787-4466. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

**ST. ALBANS.** Northwest Crop, Soil, and Dairy Workshop. Free. 10:30 am - 3:30 pm. At the American Legion. (800) 639-2130.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Stage Company Presents *4000 Miles*, by Amy Herzog. Wed-Sat 7:30 pm, Sat-Sun 2 pm. \$24-\$32.50. FlynnSpace, (802) 863-5966. Thru March 31.

**EAST CHARLESTON.** Workshop: Web-Based Tools for Landowners. How to use Google Earth and the NRCS Web Soil Survey, to obtain information specific to a single tract. Free. 6-8 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. Call to register, (802) 723-6551.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 14

**ESSEX.** 9th Annual Grains Conference. Guest speakers discuss building soil health with cover crops. Local farmers teach about growing grains and building rations for livestock feed. Instruction on making crackers and waffles from local grains. Fee: \$45, includes lunch. 10 am - 5 pm. The Essex Resort & Spa. (802) 524-6501.

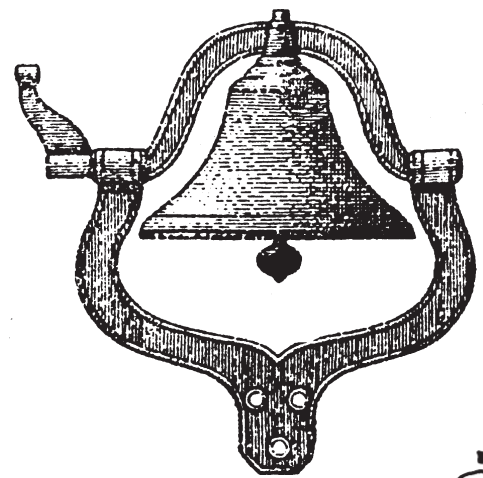


photo by Nancy Cassidy

## Visit a Vermont Sugarhouse This Spring!

Thelma Buxton and family visit Brian and Dale Howard's sugarhouse on the Howard farm in Rochester Hollow, Randolph, VT.



# Vermont Country Calendar



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

## FRIDAY, MARCH 15

**RUPERT.** Ski/Snowshoe/Camp Overnight Winter Outing. Join us for any portion of the weekend at Ned's Place cabin at Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Small fee. To sign up call Rob and Bonnie Cramp at (802) 348-7158. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org). Also March 16.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Concert: Rusted Root. With Joel Plaskett opening. Tickets: \$45. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341.

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

## SATURDAY, MARCH 16

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Fresh winter vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, meats, crafts, and more. Entertainment and prepared foods. 10 am - 2 pm. At the First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. [www.walloomsac.org](http://www.walloomsac.org). *Continues the first and third Saturdays through April.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. 10 am - 2 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. [farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org). [www.postsoilsolutions.org](http://www.postsoilsolutions.org). *Saturdays through March.*

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert: St. Patrick's Fiddle Frenzy. Presented by Stone Church Arts. Join Eugene Friesen with rising stars in the world of original acoustic music in a vibrant concert of new and traditional music in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. [www.stonechurcharts.org](http://www.stonechurcharts.org).

**CHESTER.** Bookbinding Workshop with Malcolm Summers. Fee: \$150 includes all materials and a light lunch. 9:30 am. The Chester Bookworm, 330 Main St. (802) 362-2200. [nscheemaker@northshire.com](mailto:nscheemaker@northshire.com). [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).

**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](http://www.dakinfarm.com). Also March 17, 23 & 24.

**MONTPELIER.** Exhibit Opening: Plowing Old Ground—Vermont's Organic Farming Pioneers. Reception 2:30-4:30 pm featuring a short talk by the exhibit creators: writer Susan Harlow and photographer John Nopper. Exhibit hours Tues-Sat 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 479-8514.

**RUPERT.** Ski/Snowshoe/Camp Overnight Winter Outing. Join us for any portion of the weekend at Ned's Place cabin at Merck Forest and Farmland Center. New shelter with wood stove two miles from the Merck Visitor Center. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Small fee. To sign up call Rob and Bonnie Cramp at (802) 348-7158. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

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**SHELBURNE.** Winter Outing. Snowshoe the LaPlatte River Marsh Natural Area, the Shelburne Bay Clarke Trail and some of the Ti-Haul Trail. An easy four to five miles, mostly flat. Get familiar with the walks around Shelburne Bay. Meet at the public boat launch, Shelburne Bay, on Bay Road at 9 am. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. E-mail leader in advance. Ted Albers, [ted@ted-albers.net](mailto:ted@ted-albers.net). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Concert: Jefferson Starship. Tickets: \$65. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. [www.tupelohallvermont.com](http://www.tupelohallvermont.com).

## SUNDAY, MARCH 17

**BURLINGTON.** Annual Festival Ceili. Irish stepdancing and some of Vermont's finest Celtic musicians. Free admission, donations welcome. 1-3 pm. Mater Christi School, 50 Mansfield Ave. [www.vtIrishfestival.org](http://www.vtIrishfestival.org).

**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](http://www.dakinfarm.com). Also March 23 & 24.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Elizabeth Fiels presents her book, *Marmalade: Sweet and Savory Spreads for a Sophisticated Taste*. Free. 4 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).

**MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS.** 25th Annual Maple Festival. Sponsored by the Middletown Springs Historical Society. Fred Bradley's demonstrates early maple sugarmaking in a cast iron kettle over an open fire. Bill Clark, Past President of the Vermont Maple Sugarmakers Association, will talk about the history and evolution of sugaring techniques using examples from the Historical Society collection. Delicious maple desserts, sugar-on-snow, maple cotton candy, maple products and crafts, and new 2013 syrup will be for sale. Videos about Vermont maple sugaring will be shown. Decorated maple sap buckets will be sold in a silent auction along with crafts, merchant donations and services. There will be a raffle, acoustic music, and kids' activities. Admission is free. 1-4 pm. On the Green and indoors at the Historical Society. For info call David Wright at (802) 235-2376.

**NORTHFIELD.** Cooking Class: Chocolate, Chocolate, Chocolate. Presented by Ariel's Restaurant. Fee: \$85 including a fabulous meal and an inspired beverage pairing. 12:30-3:30 pm. At Green Mountain Girls Farm, 923 Loop Rd. (802) 505-9840, (802) 276-0787. [www.floatingbridgefoodandfarms.com](http://www.floatingbridgefoodandfarms.com).

## MONDAY, MARCH 18

**RUTLAND.** Library Book Sale. New books added. All proceeds go to support library activities and collections. 4-8 pm. In the basement. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. Also May 3 & 4.

**TUNBRIDGE.** MountainFolk Concert: The Steel Wheels. Experience the spirited harmonies, musicianship, fervor and bedrock authenticity of this Virginia-based foursome. \$15/\$20. 7:30 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 431-3433. [mtnfolk.org](http://mtnfolk.org). [www.thesteelwheels.com](http://www.thesteelwheels.com).

## THURSDAY, MARCH 21

**EAST CHARLESTON.** 3rd Annual Shed Meet and Wild Game Chili and Cornbread Dinner. Join Northwoods and the VT Fish and Wildlife Conservation Group. Bring your sheds and/or trophies to share and be scored by officials from the VT Big Game Trophy Club. Enjoy wild game chili and cornbread; prizes for the highest scoring Moose and Deer sheds. Tickets \$10. 5-8 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. Call to register. (802) 723-6551. [www.northwoodscenter.org](http://www.northwoodscenter.org).

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## English Dance Series



Music by Trip to Norwich  
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with Chris Levey calling

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

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Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

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# Vermont Country Calendar

(March 21, continued)

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Off the Shelf: Authors in Conversation. With New York Times bestselling author Jodi Picoult presenting her new book, *The Storyteller*. Tickets \$28, includes a copy of the book. 6:30 pm. At the Maple Street School. Sponsored by Northshire Bookstore. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**WEST RUTLAND.** West Rutland Marsh Bird Monitoring Walk. To date 145 species, from Least Bittern to Rusty Blackbird, have been recorded at this Important Bird Area (IBA). Join us for this 3.7-mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway). Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 am. Leader Roy Pilcher (802) 775-3461. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22

**HANOVER, NH.** Performance: *Guess How Much I Love You and I Love My Little Storybook*. This acclaimed puppet theater company presents a stage adaptation of classic picture books about bunnies. With a recorded narration by Emmy-winning actor Beau Bridges and delightful original music. Tickets \$23/\$13. 3 pm. The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**LEBANON, NH.** Concert with Travis Tritt. Tickets \$59/\$49/\$39. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

**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. Through March 24.

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

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Concert with Dr. Burma. Tickets: \$15. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert: Howard Fishman and his band. Howard Fishman, composer, guitarist and bandleader, has come to be recognized as one of today's most agile interpreters of the American songbook. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.stonechurcharts.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Winter Farmers Market. Over 30 vendors in a warm, welcoming indoor marketplace. Farm products, fresh baked goods, crafts, lunch, live music. 10 am - 2 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. In the beautiful River Garden at 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. www.posttoilsolutions.org. Saturdays through March.

**BURLINGTON.** X-C Ski in the Intervale. Kid-friendly outing. Immaculately maintained trails right here in Burlington! Easy, flat terrain, 3 miles. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Contact leader by 3/22. Kelley Christie, (802) 999-7839 or keyeymchristie@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**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 24.

**HINESBURGH.** Stone Wall Building Workshop. Learn techniques to personalize your outdoor spaces. Basic techniques for creating dry-laid garden retaining walls and free-standing walls using field stone and rounded cobbles. Tuition for the one-day workshop is \$100. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Queen City Soil and Stone. Workshop site: 2408 Shelburne Falls Rd. Visit website for registration form. (802) 318-2411. macmartin@igc.org. queencitysoilandstone.com.

**LUNENBURGH.** 8th Annual Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast 8-10:30 am. Luncheon 12-2 pm. Meatloaf dinner 4:30-6:30 pm. Tree tapping demonstrations, sugarhouse tours, a scavenger hunt, contests, door prizes, history exhibits, interactive displays and homemade treats. 8 am - 7 pm. (802) 892-6654. www.topofthecommon.org

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Jenny Milchman presents her book, a tale of suspense, *Cover of Snow*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**NORWICH.** Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. All dances taught, beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Please bring a separate pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, students \$5, seniors by donation, under 16 free. 8 pm. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. Fourth Saturdays thru May 2013.

**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. maplemuseum.com. Also March 24.

**POULTNEY.** Annual Maple Fest. Pancake breakfast, horse and wagon rides, sugarhouse tours, luncheon, roast pork dinner, Poultnery Rotary social and dinner, and more. All around town all day. (802) 287-4114. www.poultneyvt.com. Also March 24.

**RIPTON.** Snowshoe or Hike—Winter Outing. Explore the Spirit in Nature trails. Easy, 2-3 miles. Gently rolling terrain at moderate pace. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Call leader Ruth Penfield at (802) 388-5407 for meeting time & to confirm participation. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**RUPERT.** Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. Horse and wagon rides, explore the sugaring operation, visit the lambs, do a scavenger hunt. 9 am - 1 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, Rt. 215. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. Also March 24.

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, winter vegetables, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, wool & crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 4.

## Vermont Maple Recipes

### APPLESAUCE MAPLE LOAF

½ cup butter	1 egg
1 ½ tsp baking soda	¾ tsp nutmeg
½ tsp cloves	½ cup raisins
½ cup soft maple sugar	1 ½ cup flour
1 tsp cinnamon	½ tsp salt
1 ¼ cup applesauce	½ cup chopped walnuts

Cream butter and maple sugar until light. Beat in egg. Stir together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt and cloves. Gradually add to creamed mixture. Beat applesauce into batter. Stir in raisins and nuts. Pour into greased and floured 9"x5" loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pan and cool on wire rack. Sprinkle with confectioners sugar.

—Marjorie Van Alstyne, East Barnard, VT

### MAPLE HARVEST CUSTARD

8 egg yolks	½ cup pure Vermont maple syrup
1½ cups pumpkin puree (not pie filling)	½ tsp ground cinnamon
Pinch ground allspice	½ tsp ground ginger
2 cups half and half	Pinch ground nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat egg yolks in with the maple syrup. Add pumpkin and spices, mix until blended. (Variation: You can also use cooked, pureed winter squash instead of the pumpkin) Heat half and half over medium heat until tiny bubbles form around the edge. Stirring constantly, gradually add half and half to pumpkin mixture. Pour into large shallow glass baking dish or divide into heat proof custard cups. Place cups or dish in a larger pan of hot water and bake in a preheated oven for 30 minutes or until knife blade inserted near center comes out clean. Remove from water and let stand 30 minutes. Serve or refrigerate up to one week. Before serving, heat one cup of maple syrup in a sauce pan until it boils. Continue to heat syrup until it becomes thick. Pour over custards and serve. Yields 7 servings.

### MAPLE POTATO ROLLS

1 package dried yeast	1 cup melted butter
½ cup lukewarm water	4 eggs, well-beaten
1 cup potato boiled and mashed	2 teaspoons salt
8 cups flour or enough to form a soft dough	1 cup lukewarm potato water
	⅔ cup Pure Vermont Maple Syrup

Combine the yeast, water, potato, potato water, and syrup and let stand in a warm place until spongy, about ½ hour. Stir in the melted butter, eggs, salt, and flour in the listed order. Mix thoroughly, cover, and let rise until double in bulk, about 2 to 3 hours. Turn onto a floured board and knead two minutes. The less flour used, the lighter the rolls will be. Roll with a rolling pin to about an inch thick and cut with a 2½ inch cutter. Place on buttered cookie sheets, far enough apart to allow for expansion. Let rise until double in size, about an hour. Preheat the oven to 425°. Bake for 10-12 minutes until pale golden brown. Serve hot. Freeze extras.

### ALWAYS READY ALL-BRAN MUFFINS

3 cups of bran cereal (Bran Buds work best)	1 cup dark maple sugar or syrup
2 eggs	½ cup butter or margarine
2½ tsp baking soda	2½ cups white flour
2 cups buttermilk	1 tsp salt

Combine 1 cup of cereal with 1 cup boiling water and let steep. Cream the butter and sugar or syrup in a mixing bowl. Beat eggs slightly. Combine flour, soda and salt. Combine the steeped bran and the remaining 2 cups of bran, eggs, flour mixture and buttermilk with the butter and sugar; stir until thoroughly mixed. Pour into a plastic container. Cover tightly and refrigerate at least 12 hours before baking muffins. The batter will keep in the refrigerator for 6 weeks. Bake only as many muffins as needed at one time. Bake in 400° oven until done (approx. 20 minutes). If you would like a less sweet muffin you can cut down on the maple syrup used.

—Marjorie Van Alstyne, East Barnard, VT



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**Maple Open House Weekend**  
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Pancake Breakfast on Saturday  
Hot Dogs & Eggs Boiled in Sap  
On Saturday & Sunday from Noon to 4 pm



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# Vermont Country Calendar



**RUTLAND.** Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 5 pm. Franklin Conference Room at The Howe Center, 1 Scale Ave. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. Also March 24.

**SHELBURNE.** Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. 4-H Pancake Breakfast, 9 am - 12 pm, \$8 adult/\$4 child. Explore the sugarbush 9:30 am - 2 pm. Whooo's in the Sugarbush, free, 10 am - 2 pm. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. Also March 24.

**SWANTON.** Evening Owl Prowl. Volunteer, Jeremy Brooks will lead this walk. The group will look for great horned owls, barred owls, and perhaps a screech owl or two. Bring a small low intensity flashlight and dress for conditions. Start at the Tabor Rd. parking lot at the Stephen Young Marsh trail located one mile south off of Rt. 78 on Tabor Rd. and is signed "Refuge Trails Parking." 7-9 pm at Mississquoi National Wildlife Refuge. Contact the refuge to register for the walk at (802) 868-4781.

**STATEWIDE.** Maple Open House Weekend. Vermont's sugar houses open their doors to visitors. Many have special events, music, tours of the sugarbush, and free samples. Some have pancake breakfasts. The Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Association provides a list of sugarhouses open to the public. For a copy to plan your day, go to www.vermontmaple.org. Also March 24.

**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. 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.** Herbal Body Wrap Demo. 12 pm with Katharine. Wraps \$25 each. Adventures in tea making workshop at 2 pm. \$15 includes tea samples and some to take home. Vermont Herbal General Store, 578 Main St. (802) 438-2766. www.vermontherbal.com.

**WHITINGHAM.** 15th Annual Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast 7:30-10:30 am. Sugar house tours 8 am - 5 pm. Lunch 11:30 am - 2 pm. Sugar-on-snow baked ham dinner 5-7 pm. Crafts and children's activities. Maps and info at the Information Booth at Whitingham Elementary/Twin Valley Middle School. (802) 368-2658. www.whitingham-maplefest.us. Also March 24.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 24

**BRATTLEBORO.** Concert: The Windham Orchestra—Pathways of Imagination and Performance. Shostakovich Symphony No. 9. 3 pm. Latchis Theater. For tickets call (802) 257-4523. www.bmvtv.org.

**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. dakinfarm.com.

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**WHITINGHAM.** 15th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast, sugar house tours, craft fair, luncheon, and kids' corner. Information booth at Whitingham Elementary School. 9 am - 3 pm. For info call Carol Mandracchia at (802) 368-2658. info@whitinghammaplefest.com. whitingham-maplefest.us.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 26

**RUTLAND.** Divine Songs: A Concert of Renaissance Choral Music. Performed by the professional Boston group Blue Heron. Free will offering. Masterclass free and open to the public 5-6 pm. Concert at 7:30 pm. Grace Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. www.gracechurchvt.org.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 29

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. M. Henderson Ellis presents *Keeping Bedlam at Bay in the Prague Café*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Concert: Denny Laine and The Cryers. Denny has performed with the Moody Blues, Ginger Baker's Air Force, and Wings. Hear him now in Vermont. Tickets: \$30. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 30

**LEICESTER.** Winter Outing. X-C ski or hike the Minnie Baker & Chandler Ridge trails. Five miles at a moderate pace. Snowshoes or micro-spikes may be necessary. Bring poles, water, lunch & snacks. Car spotting involved. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Contact Nancy Morgan for meeting place and time at (802) 388-9868. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Richard Ford presents his book, *Canada*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**RUTLAND.** Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Over 45 vendors selling everything from fresh salad greens all winter to grass-fed meats, winter vegetables, cheeses, homemade baked goods, cider and apples. Jellies, jams, maple, delicious hot foods, wines, wool & crafts—a great place to shop, eat and visit. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. Market manager: Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 4.

**WOODSTOCK.** Baby Animal Day at Billings Farm. Meet the farm's newest additions during family-centered programs with our lambs, chicks, and calves; wagon or sleigh rides and heirloom seed programs. Admission: \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 31

**SHARON.** Easter Sunrise Service. At Pine Hill Cemetery at 6:30 am. Easter breakfast at Steel Chapel at 7 am. Easter Worship & Flowering Cross in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am. Sharon Congregational Church. (802) 763-2007. alicedmcdonald@hotmail.com.

**STEVENSVILLE.** Winter Outing. From the Stevensville trailhead, we'll continue up the Wampahoofus Trail to the Forehead of Mt. Mansfield. Free. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Contact leader by 3/29: David Hathaway, (802) 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Hop on Board the Easter Bunny Express. Green Mountain Railroad invites you for a train ride. Join the Easter Egg Hunt with Easter candy back at the Depot! Bring your Easter baskets along! Adults \$25, child \$20. 10:30 am. Boards at the Train Depot, 102 Railroad Row. Tickets online at www.rails-vt.com or call (800) 707-3530.



## Hawaiian Night Contradance with Northern Spy

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

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

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## Easter Bunny Express



March 31 • 10:30 am

Hop on board for an hour-and-a-half excursion.  
Easter egg hunt & Easter candy back at the depot!  
Bring your Easter baskets along!

Fare: adult \$25, child \$20

Tickets: www.rails-vt.com or (800) 707-3530

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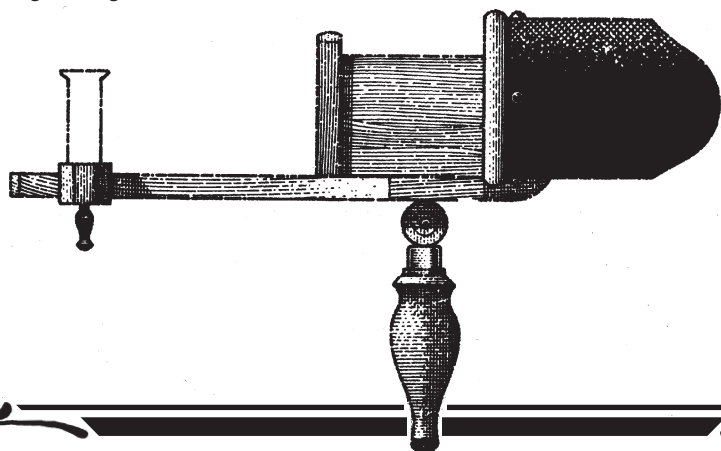
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# Chip Chat

by Burr Morse

Well here it is almost sugaring season and We're "scraping the bottom of the barrel" for wood to heat our houses. Used to be quite universal that Vermont farmers would feel this "draught" on the home front while sitting on a woodshed chuk full of dry wood for the sugarhouse. These days sugarmakers have "stretched the limits" fuel-wise; though they may still burn wood at home, many maple folks are burning oil for boiling sap. While the temptation is sweeter'n ever to go this route, those old family ghosts hanging out in our ancient sugarhouse would never allow us to burn oil. We've gone to a rather unorthodox fuel for sugar making—woodchips.

A while back I made my annual call to Joe Gagnon at his lumber yard down in Pittsford, Vermont for a load of chips—"Yaw, probably could, be Sat'dy maybe seven-seven thirty in th' mornin' 'less, o' course th' roads're too bad," he said. Which interprets in native Vermont talk to "You best be ready at six 'cause I'll be early and there ain't no such thing as roads too bad t' travel!" I got up at 5 a.m. that Saturday morning and had my coffee early in anticipation of Joe's arrival. As I sat in our living room, though, the weather outside did look a little "iffy". Snow was comin' down sideways and the view we normally have of the valley to the south wasn't there at all. "Hmmm" I thought. "Maybe even Joe will call it off on a day like this."

It was about 6:30 a.m. when I finished my coffee, put on my winter garb, and headed down the driveway toward our sugarhouse. Driving snow pelted my bare face and my hands felt the raw wind right through my thick gloves. When I got to where I could look down County Road toward our distant cow barn there, parked on the road way in the distance, was the looming ghost of an eighteen-wheel Freightliner; I chuckled to myself thinking "God I'm smart. There's Joe down there a half-hour early puttin' on his chains!"

Joe was born on the same Pittsford, Vermont dairy farm that had been in his family since 1880. He grew up like every other farm boy doing the thousand-and-one things necessary on a Vermont dairy farm but he was always happiest in the woods cutting trees and workin' them up into firewood or sawlogs. His son Ken recently told me that his dad had a secret hankerin' to work fulltime in the woods and finally saw his chance when dairy regulations changed in the 1960s to require the installation of expensive bulk milk tanks. "He



The kids pose for a photo on the wood pile long ago in Brookfield, VT.

photo courtesy of Alice Wakefield

sold the cows and built a sawmill" Ken said leaving out the conventional ending to that thought, "that he never looked back." Joe Gagnon "looks back" all the time to his farming roots, to when he learned "biblical-scale" things like buying the best equipment, maintaining it, and using it. One thing in particular that's universal among farm boys is the ability to "back up" farm implements and trailers and Joe's no exception—Joe Gagnon could back a camel through the eye of a needle! Today Gagnon Lumber Company is a sizeable operation and Joe, quite logically, gravitated toward it's huge tractor trailers years ago.

The day of the delivery I went down the road toward the big truck and Joe was just chaining up the last of eight huge drive wheels on his road tractor. "God I thought maybe even you'd call it off today," I shouted over the howling wind. "Oh, no," he shouted back. "Weren't that bad—just had to slow down a few times—couldn't get by the snow plow, y'know". He had traveled the sixty miles to Montpelier from Pittsford (one of those routes where you can "hardly get theyah from heah" in any weather) and droned up the steep hill from Montpelier. As he approached our wood chip barn, however his common sense kicked into high gear. He knew it's a "trucker's nightmare" to back into that place and careful planning, including chains, is just good insurance. Satisfied that all was ready, he climbed up into the cab, continued the short distance to our barn, and backed the behemoth in, a one-shot deal!

As I stood watching the self-unloading trailer disgorge

30 tons of freshly ground wood chips, you might think I was contemplating our coming sugaring season and all the syrup we'll make from that fuel but I wasn't. I was reveling in watching the machinery work and secretly wishing I had been the one to back that big rig into the barn! Yup, you see, I'm a native Vermont "farm boy" just like Joe and I, too, would have driven up in that storm. My friend Gerald Pease oft used the expression "load light n' go often" which means "don't ever carry more than you can handle even if it means makin' a couple extra trips to the barn." The day I talked to Joe's son, he chuckled about his dad coming up in that storm. "Heck" he said "a couple Mondays ago we got 24 inches of wet snow, Dad made two trips to Middlebury and one to Bennington. Had th' road all to himself!" I had no trouble believing that of my friend Joe Gagnon, a true "load light n' go often" sort of guy.

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## Our Mountain Town

Our town never seems hard-bitten,  
However winter-smitten—  
Except, when crows start cawing  
And dooryard snow piles thawing,  
We splash downhill and find  
How really far behind  
We are: their snow's all gone  
They're out with no boots on.

—JAMES HAYFORD  
Orleans, VT 1953



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# Late Winter Pruning—the Perfect Antidote for Cabin Fever

by Judith Irven

Late winter is cabin fever season; after months of indoor living we find ourselves yearning for spring, and we can surely be forgiven for grumbling about heavy wet snow in March.

Wikipedia describes cabin fever as ‘a claustrophobic reaction from being confined in a small space for an extended period of time, resulting in extreme irritability and restlessness, often accompanied by an urge to go outside, even in rain, snow, dark or hail.’ I certainly understand the urge to get outdoors, but I prefer to skip the rain, dark and hail.

And, as a therapy, it cites a scientific study that shows simply getting outside and interacting with nature will improve both your cognitive abilities and your sense of wellbeing. But this is probably something you intuitively knew already.

## In the garden

So, if you are a gardener beset by cabin fever, may I suggest the perfect antidote: unearth your pruning saw, sharpen your clippers, and get going on some late winter pruning.

Even though we humans are now eagerly anticipating spring, most of our trees and shrubs are still fully dormant, making late winter an excellent time for pruning. Pruning stimulates new growth that, the moment spring arrives, will kick into high gear. And without its leaves, the structure the plant is readily apparent, making pruning that much easier for the gardener.

Pruning is the removal of any part of a plant to promote plant health and a desirable growth form. And it certainly covers a host of specialized goals and techniques, from training young trees for long-term structure and pruning to enhance fruit production, to creating bonsai.

However the goal of my late winter pruning is simply to ensure my existing shrubs and small trees continue to thrive and look great in the garden. And the techniques are not difficult.

## Easy does it

I work with one plant at a time, and before making a single cut, I stand back and examine it carefully. I look for old or diseased wood, and analyze whether the interior looks cluttered.

With my first cuts I remove all the branches that are dead, diseased or really old, each time cutting all the way back to a strong live branch, or in the case of suckering shrubs, right to the ground. These are called thinning cuts. When making a thinning cut it is important not to leave a protruding stub; it will eventually die and in the meantime it creates an entryway for disease. Furthermore it looks ugly!

At the same time take care not to cut too close the parent branch. Locate the ‘branch collar,’ the ridge of bark at the junction between the side branch and the trunk, which is an active growth site. By making your cut just outside the branch collar new bark will quickly grow over and heal the wound.

Next I look for branches that are rubbing their neighbors, or will become that way in another year or two. Rubbing branches also create entry points for disease, and their contrary directions spoil the aesthetics of the plant. So, for the good of the whole, I will sacrifice one.

I now stand back again, and contemplate whether, by removing a few healthy branches, I could achieve a less cluttered interior. However I am careful not to overplay my hand. To ensure the plant continues to manufacture sufficient food, two-thirds of the leaf-bearing surfaces need to remain after pruning.

Finally I look to see whether the plant would look better if it were slightly more compact. If the answer is ‘yes’ I trim back the outermost branches, using what are known as heading cuts, made across the twig just above robust outward-growing buds. These buds will become new growth points in the coming season. So, before cutting, I pause to visualize how the plant will look, a year or two from now, when the buds have grown into new twigs or even complete branches.

## What not to do

Pruning large trees is always best left for an expert. However, even when you call in somebody else, it is extremely helpful if you can visualize the desired results—after all it’s your garden!

A case in point: I have been working over several seasons with Fred Schroeder of Bristol, who specializes in apple tree pruning. With careful pruning he has gradually rejuvenated the wild apple tree you see pictured here. But he involves me in all the major decisions of how much to remove and what to trim.

And some pruning jobs are best postponed till later:  
• In late winter the sap is running full bore in our maple and birch trees, and pruning causes excessive bleeding. Prune them during the summer or in early winter.



photo by Judith Irven

With careful pruning, spaced out over several winters, Judith’s wild apple tree has come into its own.

- Spring flowering shrubs, like azaleas and lilacs, set their flower buds the previous summer. To avoid sacrificing any blooms, prune them within a month of flowering.
- Conifers are best pruned after the first flush of new spring growth.
- Roses should be pruned when the first green buds emerge in spring, when you can easily see and remove any winter die-back.

## A visit to a nursery

I love pruning and am always eager to learn more. So, back in March 2012, I joined a group of professionals for a pruning workshop at the South Forty nursery in Shelburne, VT where they raise field-grown ornamental trees and flowering shrubs. While South Forty is a wholesale operation, you can find high-quality locally grown plants, including theirs, at local garden centers. Look for the white label with green lettering telling you this is a ‘Vermont Grown’ plant.

Since January South Forty’s arborist, VJ Comai, has been out every day pruning his neat rows of young plants, and by the time of our visit he had nearly completed his entire stock.

He demonstrated for us his technique for pruning a five-year-old crab apple. Using used thinning cuts, he quickly skimmed the entire upper surface of each main branch, removing all the small internal branches at the precise spot where they joined the parent.

He then turned his attention to the tree’s outer branches. Young trees make extensive annual growth at the branch ends which, left unchecked, will result in an ungainly tree. So, using heading cuts, VJ removed half or more of the previous season’s growth, makes his cuts at outward facing buds.

The result was a beautifully shaped tree destined for a lucky gardener. We all then repaired to VJ’s sugaring operation, to warm up and watch as he recycled pruning wood into fuel.

## To learn more

This classic book on pruning, by a well-known Vermonter, has clear instructions and great illustrations: ‘Pruning Made Easy’ by Lewis Hill (Story Publishing).

*Judith Irven is a landscape designer who lives with her photographer husband, Dick Conrad, in Goshen, VT. Read more about her winter garden at northcountrygardener.com.*

## Again

One day, not here, you will find a hand  
Stretched out to you as you walk down some heavenly street;

You will see a stranger scarred from head to feet;  
But when he speaks to you you will not understand,  
Nor yet who wounded him nor why his wounds are sweet.

And saying nothing, letting go his hand,  
You will leave him in the heavenly street—  
So we shall meet!

—CHARLOTTE MEW  
London, 1869-1928

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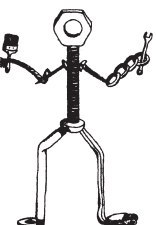
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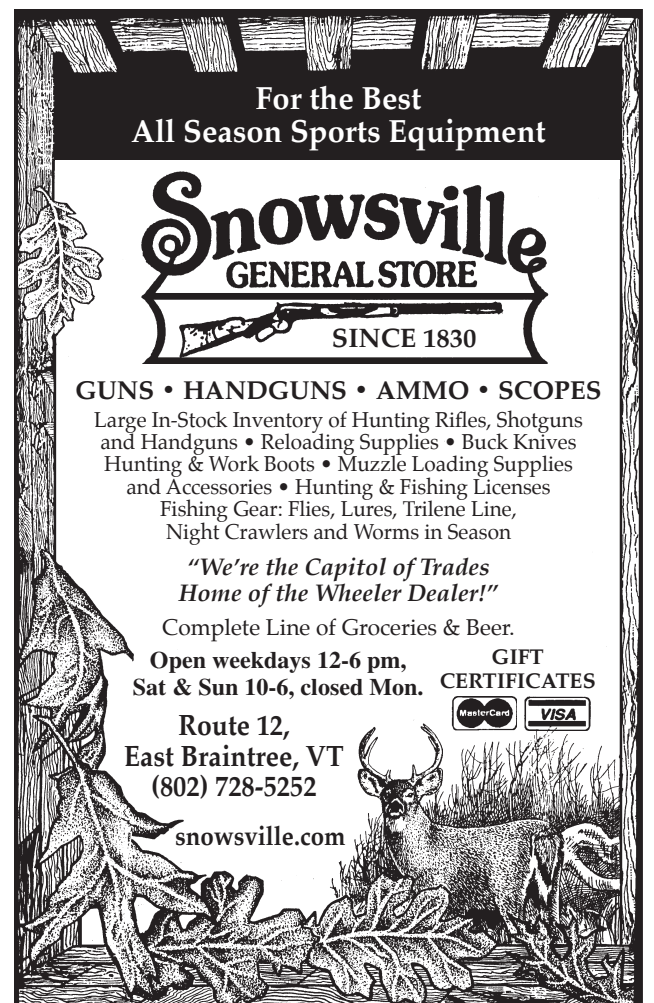
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# 8th Annual Lunenburg Maple Festival

Weekly we are seeing signs of the approach of spring—and with spring, the maple sugaring season. Preparations are underway for the Lunenburg 8th Annual Maple Festival to be held on Saturday, March 23rd, as part of the Vermont Maple Open House Weekend.

Various organizations and sugarmakers throughout the town have joined the event to provide a day of free and affordable fun for families, history buffs, and lovers of all things maple.

The Lunenburg Primary School, located above the Town Common off Route 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 door prize, pick up a scavenger hunt, and a map and directions to the local sugarhouses that are open for visitors. At the six sugarhouses you'll find examples of different collection methods and varying sizes of operations along with their traditional complimentary treats.

There are activities at the school from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Peruse static, interactive, and photographic displays chronicling the process of sugaring and local families as they have carried on the tradition over generations

- Sample free maple recipes
- Give a guess to win a jar of maple treats
- View local antique sugaring equipment
- Enjoy the entries in the "Maple Season Memories" photo contest and "Maple" quilt square contest and cast your vote for your choice of the "People's Choice" award

- Take a chance on a gift basket raffle of maple products
- Watch a demonstration of hand hewn wooden bowls by a local artisan

- Purchase maple-themed items, including our community maple history book, *A Wicked Good Run*. After the Festival it can be purchased by mail for \$25 (includes shipping). Send requests with payment to Top of the Common Committee, PO Box 195, Lunenburg, VT 05906.

There are lots more things to do at the school and some at nearby locations around Lunenburg.

A pancake breakfast is offered by The Top of the Common Committee between 8-10:30 a.m. Menu includes sausage, eggs, home fries, beverages and real maple syrup. Take-outs are available. Prices are \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 4-12, and free under age 4.

The judging of the Maple-flavored Pie Contest will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Pie Contest table. Whole pies and pieces will be available for purchase throughout the day, after the winners have been announced. The pie sale prices are: by the piece \$2; by the whole pie \$8 for small, \$10 for medium, and \$12 for large. Whole pies can be "reserved bought" before the judging begins. Obviously, the whole pies will have a thin slice removed for judging.

Tour local participating sugarhouses from 10 a.m. to mid-afternoon. Following a self-guided map, visit with sugarmakers, purchase maple syrup and, weather permitting, watch maple syrup being made.

Enjoy a luncheon offered by the Old Home Day Committee from noon to 2 p.m. You'll have a choice of homemade soups, homemade breads and a maple dessert.

Learn how to tap a tree and what makes the sap run at a tapping demonstration on the Town Common at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The photo contest placement winners will be announced at 3 p.m.

The "People's Choice" awards in the quilt square and photo contests will be announced at 6:30 p.m.

A Meatloaf Supper will be offered by the Top of the Common Committee from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The supper includes meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, and dinner rolls. Macaroni and cheese is an alternative entrée choice. There will be yellow cake with maple caramel sauce and maple whipped cream for dessert. Take-outs are available. Dinner is \$8, children 4-12 \$4, and free for under 4.

Lunenburg, VT is located in the Northeast Kingdom east of St. Johnsbury on Rt. 2 near the New Hampshire border. For more info call Chris at (802) 892-6654 or Loretta at (802) 328-3040. Visit [www.topofthecommon.org/8.html](http://www.topofthecommon.org/8.html).



photo by Christine Lingley  
Bernard LaBounty holds a syrup grader as he explains the sugaring process to his visitors. Bernard and his wife, Laurie, operate LaBounty Sugarhouse in Lunenburg, VT. Their sugarhouse had belonged to Laurie's father. It was in disrepair and he had another, so he offered it to her. She and Bernard took it apart, marking each piece, and reassembled it on their property, replacing and repairing pieces as needed. They enjoy sugaring there each spring.

## Boiling Sap at Night in Vermont

Our sugarhouse was jest a shack,  
Shacked up "regardless," bit by bit;  
*Sed parva apta est*, is how  
A scholar might have spoke of it.  
The "arch" was bluestone set in clay  
Without a draft or door in sight—  
But say; 'twas fun to boil all day  
And extry fun to boil at night.

Each time before we built the fire  
We boys would take an iron bar,  
Retrue the arch, reset the pan,  
And pry the kettle up to par.  
And then we'd slather on the clay  
To make the thing combustion tight—  
And say; 'twas fun to boil all day  
And extry fun to boil all night.

There'd be a backfire now and then—  
Most chimbls have to sneeze and cough—  
And there were settlings more or less,  
Of course, each time we syruped off.  
But wan't that syrup good and sweet,  
Not zoomy gray or sickly white,  
And wan't it elegant to eat  
That syrup syruped off at night!

We fired with hemlock dry as bone,  
And there was floating sparks, no doubt,  
But always after every run  
We scoured the pan and kettle out.  
Soft soap and sand—a Yankee pair—  
Would make 'em both look pretty bright,  
And all us boys, we combed our hair  
Before we went to work at night.

However, 'twan't no science plant,  
No prophylactic tub or plug  
Or ox or ass was 'round the place,  
Or Listerated jug or mug.  
But wan't that syrup good and brown,  
It looked the part, it tasted "right"—  
I've never seen a can in town  
Like that we syruped off at night.

Our sugarhouse was jest a shack,  
Shacked up Si Briggs way, bit by bit;  
*Sed parva apta est*, is how  
The preacher might have spoke of it.  
No zinc "containers" 'round it stood,  
No 'vaporator was in sight,  
But wan't that syrup sweet and good—  
That syrup made at dead of night!

—DANIEL L. CADY  
Burlington, VT, 1926

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A team of happy sled dogs competes at Burke Mountain's Annual Sled Dog Dash.

photo by Burke Mountain Ski Resort

## Woof!—It's Time for Burke Mountain's 7th Annual Sled Dog Dash!

Packs of exuberant sled dogs and their mushers will be charging full speed ahead to East Burke, VT on March 2nd & 3rd for the 7th Annual Burke Mountain Sled Dog Dash on Kingdom Trails!

This is the family-oriented event that brings dog sled racing to the Northeast Kingdom.

The races begin at 9 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday with a variety of races including skijoring and teams of 2, 4, 6, 8 and even 12-dog teams heading out on the scenic course hoping to bring home part of the purse. Kids, adults and even spectator dogs gather to watch them go and cheer them on as they cross the finish line.

While the teams are out on the course, there's plenty to

do for the whole family. Kids can try out the sport in a one-dog event for \$5 per child. A helmet is required. Stop by the information table to sign a waiver.

Montgomery Adventures will be there to take folks on a short ride (price t.b.d.) with their team of dogs, some of whom have been in the Iditarod in Alaska or are hoping to compete there soon.

Local vendors will be on site to provide hot cocoa, coffee, homemade snacks, and lunch.

The night before the race, don't miss the silent auction and benefit dinner that kicks off the weekend at Sherburne Base Lodge at Burke Mountain Resort. The event is organized by the Wafer Family Foundation to celebrate their

love of sled dog racing and do so for a good cause.

All proceeds from the event and the auction benefit the Hope Fund, whose mission is to support and help children and families in the Northeast Kingdom enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle.

See you at the races!

**Directions to Kingdom Trails and the Race Site:** from I-91 take Exit 23 (US Rt. 5N, toward VT Rt. 114, Lyndonville and East Burke). If traveling from the south, turn left. If traveling from

the north, turn right. Follow Memorial Dr./US Rt. 5 for 1.3 miles. Turn left onto Depot St./US Rt. 5 for .1 miles. Turn right onto Main St./US Rt. 5 for .7 miles. Stay straight onto East Burke Rd./VT Rt. 114E for 6.4 miles. Turn right on Pinkham Rd. for 1.2 miles. Sled Dog Dash Parking area is on the left.

For info contact the Burke Area Chamber of Commerce at (802) 626-4124. [burke\\_chamber@burkevermont.com](mailto:burke_chamber@burkevermont.com). [SledDogdash.com](http://SledDogdash.com).

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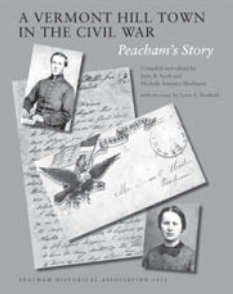
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*The Peacham Historical Association has been presented with the Vermont Historical Society League of Local Historical Societies Award of Excellence for their book, "A Vermont Hill Town in the Civil War: Peacham's Story."*

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# North Country Book News

## Vermont's Book Fairs

by Donna Howard

On March 24th, people from all over Vermont will attend the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association Spring Book Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in South Burlington, VT.

People think of a book fair as a place where extremely old and rare books are sold—books from the 1600s and 1700s, written in Latin or other strange tongues. Most books at book fairs are far more modern and readable. Any book lover will enjoy the books on Vermont history, modern literature, poetry, hunting and fishing, the American Civil War, and many other subjects offered at a fair. Children's books are always popular—while some dealers offer rare Victorian titles, others sell old copies of Nancy Drew, the Motor Boys, or Dr. Seuss.

Prices vary as widely as the books—an old postcard of Burlington may be available for as little as \$2, while a rare Hemingway first edition may sell for \$2,000 or more. Most titles at a book fair sell for under \$50, and many for under \$20. Factors that affect a book's price include condition (especially important for modern first editions), edition, rarity, and current market trends. Books once in great demand can fade in importance, while books formerly scorned may bring high prices. Many titles are common and worth very little. These include most book club editions, most former library books, later printings of fiction, and most older fiction. Books that have a high value are usually those sought by collectors, scholars, or libraries.

What is a shaken spine, and is it different from a cocked spine? Is a dust jacket with missing pieces described as

good or very good? Are the illustrations in your book lithographs, engravings, or woodcuts? Is a second printing still a first edition? What do three-quarter leather, half-leather, and quarter-leather mean? Should leather books be treated with leather dressing, and if so which kind? Understanding these terms makes it easier or possible to buy or describe books. These issues can make a tremendous difference to the value of a book.

Browsing through a book fair can be fun, as well as educational. Few other places in Vermont offer the possibility of seeing a wood-cut from the Nuremberg Chronicle (circa 1493), a first edition of Frank Mosher's *Disappearances*, a cookbook from 1917 called *A Thousand Ways to Please a Husband with Bettina's Best Recipes*, or a bound copy of the "Gentleman's Magazine" featuring an article on the war with the American colonies. These, and many other unusual books, have been offered in previous years at the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association book fairs.

Even book dealers and collectors with thirty and forty years of experience find items at a fair that they had never even heard of, much less seen before. Collectors, history buffs, scholars, and book lovers should not miss the opportunity to see what is new and unusual at a book fair. Book fairs are an experience not to be missed!

For more information about the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association visit [www.vermontisbookcountry.com](http://www.vermontisbookcountry.com). For information about the Spring Fair call (802) 527-7243.



### Manchester, VT

## Northshire Bookstore Presents Off the Shelf with Jodi Picoult

Authors in Conversation, the Northshire Bookstore author series with partner WAMC/Northeast Public Radio presents Jodi Picoult on Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Jodi Picoult, the New York Times bestselling author of *Sing You Home*, *House Rules*, *Handle With Care*, *Change of Heart*, *Nineteen Minutes*, and *My Sister's Keeper*, will take the stage for an interview with Joe Donahue, host of Northeast Public Radio's The Book Show, to discuss her searingly honest new novel, *The Storyteller*.

A powerful and riveting, sometimes gut-wrenching read, the always compelling Picoult brings a fresh perspective to an oft-explored topic—gracefully exploring the lengths we will go in order to protect our families and to keep the past from dictating the future.

Tickets to the event are on sale now online and in the store. Tickets are \$28 for a

copy of *The Storyteller* and one seat. For \$33, bring a friend to the event! This ticket includes one copy of *The Storyteller* and two seats.

How do you get your book and ticket? After you've bought your tickets they will be held until February 26th—the day *The Storyteller* releases. From there you have three options to get them and the book: pick up at the store—come in and tell any bookseller you are here to pick up your tickets and book; or we can hold them for you until the day of the event for pick-up at the door; or have them shipped! We will ship to you at no cost.

The event is being held at Maple Street School, 322 Maple St., Manchester, VT. It is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., doors open at 5 p.m.

For tickets please call the Northshire at (802) 362-2200 or visit the Northshire Bookstore website at [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).

### Children's Book News

#### This Is Not My Hat

by Jon Klassen

If you and your children need to be cheered up, here is a book that will do it!

In *This Is Not My Hat* we see a very small fish fleeing the scene of a robbery. The small fish has just stolen a little blue hat which it is proudly wearing. "This hat is not mine. I just stole it," the fish reports. We now are introduced to a sleeping giant fish (covering a double page of the book). The small fish speculates that the big fish will sleep a long time, and when it awakens it might not notice its loss, but if it does, "it probably won't know that it was me that took it." We

see the little fish disappearing into a tangle of plants, the big fish close behind. A short time later the big fish comes out with a happier expression on its face, and once again wearing its small blue hat. No sign of the little fish!

This picture book is remarkable for its simple and amusing drawings of a hat theft, but at the same time we get the idea that stealing isn't such a good idea.

*This Is Not My Hat* by Jon Klassen is available at booksellers for \$15.99 or from the publisher, Candlewick Press, [www.candlewickpress.com](http://www.candlewickpress.com).

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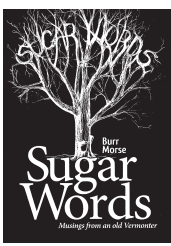
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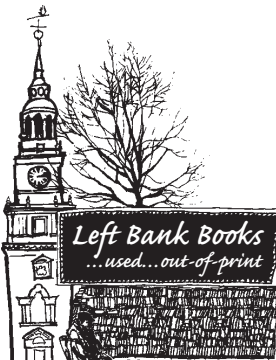
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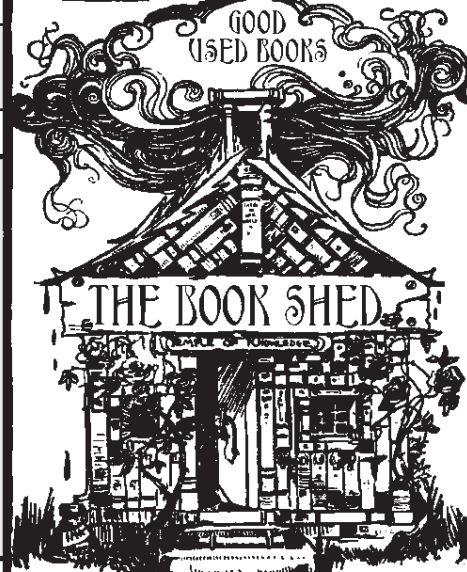


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# A North Country Life

## Tales of Woodmen, Waters, and Wildlife

by Sydney Lea  
(Skyhorse Publishing)

Hunting, fishing, and enjoying the beautiful remote woods of the North Country has been a life-long adventure for this author, an inspiration for his writing and a counterpoint to the world of academia where he has been teaching English as a college professor for nearly 40 years.

From an early age on, Sydney made friends with the aging North County down-to-earth folks who were his mentors and gladly taught him their skills.

They also told their life stories, several of which are shared with us in this book. As Sydney writes:

"Stories must be saved if they're to save us. That is, if there's something that can save us, a race as benighted and headstrong as we seem to be."

Most of these people from the North County (his first friends) are now gone. So this book is a tribute to them, their hard work, sense of humor, fairness, and inspiration during hard times. When they started dying off, their loss to the author was like the death of a close family member. The book tells the stories of woodmen who hunted and fished all year as their main source of food in addition to vegetable gardens. Their tradition partially lives on today through hunters like Sidney who only shoot what they will later eat.

We learn of the men who made what they could balancing on the logs during spring river drives or later working at a lumber or pulp mill. The pay was about \$5 a day—the same as they could get in a much preferable job as river guide. We read about John, a river runner, who cut railroad ties called sleepers out of cedar during the winter. This was piece work: 25 cents for the good ones; 15 cents for seconds. He as good at it, making at least 22 a day.

One remarkable story is told about Annie Fitch (1920–2010) whom he knew as a young man in northern Maine. "I ran into you, a large doe slung over your shoulders, blood freckling your mackinaw...I believed you were some raw-boned goddess who embodied the abstraction 'Strength.' It rose from you like your frosty breath. Later in the month, when the venison had aged, I took a meal from that deer with

you and Bill. The meat was good. My God, it was good." He recalls how the couple when first married had to sleep in the eaves of some camp uplake—no other place to call home—and often enough in the hull of a canoe, driven from shore by insects. In the autumn they later picked potatoes in Aroostook County, where they would cull a few spuds and cook them over an outdoor fire. "You said they tasted like heaven at the end of a cold day."

Later when he sees her in the hospital she recalls how the author and her husband Bill would come home and dump a mess of brook trout in the washtub, clean them together, dredge them in flour, and fry them in bacon fat. "If there's heaven, you whispered, they'll be trout for dinner." We learn that for Annie every day was a treasure.

Sydney remains an avid hunter today (usually with a dog), following the traditions he learned and admired so from his backwoods companions. He describes himself as "a real"

hunter. "A claim that does not in turn mean I'm a particularly good shot (I'm streaky is what I am, sometimes hot, others stone cold). When I use

the descriptive "real," I suggest only that I want my quarry wild, not farm-raised and plunked in some preserve; that I intend the hunt to be managed by me and/or one or more of these friends, not served up by some hiree; that I believe in working for my prey, having striven lifelong to develop the capacities that can lead me toward it."

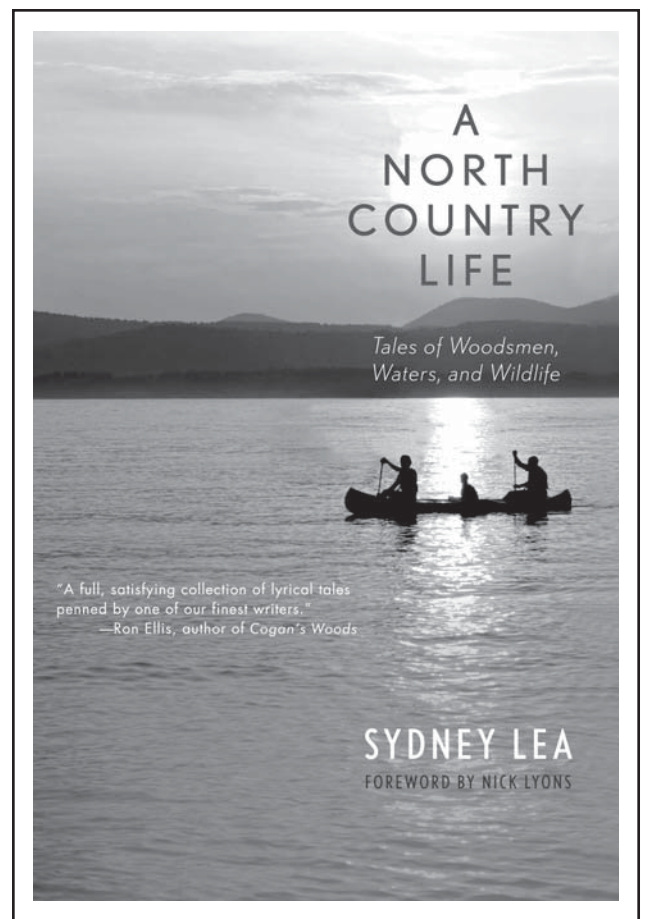
We see what the author means in his story, "The Turkey Cure" about an adventure one spring tracking and hunting a large tom turkey which had been escorting his harem of hens through a rocky hemlock grove. After tracking the tom by his sounds for a seemingly endless amount of time, our author finds a bathtub-size depression in a slab of granite as a hiding place. Then: "A tall bird walked forth, stirring the fog with his bulk, silent. Behind him trailed an abundant procession of hens...The tom had grown cautious, as a tom will uncannily do in such moments, yet he continued to pick his way towards me, lifting and gingerly replacing each foot like an heron, until at last he stood exactly where I wanted him...I squeezed the trigger." He finds that he has only wounded the bird, and he still has to do it in by hand.

"I felt, I feel, a great gratitude to a certain wild turkey. The anti-hunter winces. Be that as it may, walking down the steep ridge, the gleaming bird slung over my shoulder in all its heft, I recalled, as I do now, the perfection of the tom's coming to me. I had put myself in the right way, or something had, and a wild creature obliged me. What had been random was, for a spell at least, coherent."

Sydney has other hunting stories to tell, but closest to his heart are hunting with dogs for birds like grouse, woodcock and partridge. We learn about Gus, a pointer he got at nine months from a professional breeder-trainer in northern Maine, who predicted he would be a "wild Indian." Gus did turn out to be a remarkable hunting dog and companion. Sydney recalls one time out when instead of flushing the bird Gus is just standing over it. "We see the bird, another brown phase grouse, wing spread, flattened to the wood's floor, which almost precisely matches its coloration...The

### Book Review

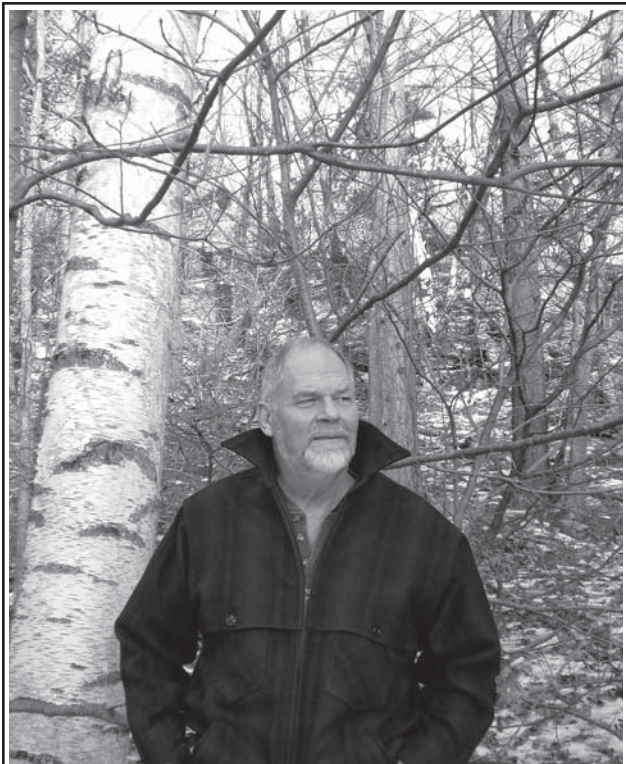
by Charles Sutton




bird was sound as a dollar, and that Gus, bold, fast and high-headed, simply froze it on that open ground. The critter had nowhere to hide." That may not count as a score for that day, but Sydney and his hunting buddies couldn't help but admire how wildlife can and often does outwit their predators be they other animals like raptors from the air, or foxes, bobcats and humans on the ground.

Sydney Lea is Vermont Poet Laureate and author of numerous books of poetry, naturalist essays, works of criticism and one novel. He has taught at several universities including Dartmouth, Yale and Middlebury College.

*A North Country Life: Tales of Woodmen, Waters, and Wildlife* by Sydney Lea is available at bookstores or can be purchased for \$24.95 from the publishers, [www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com).



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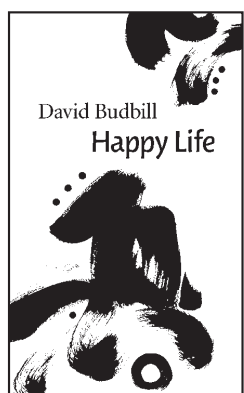
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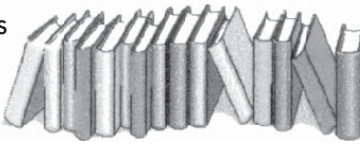
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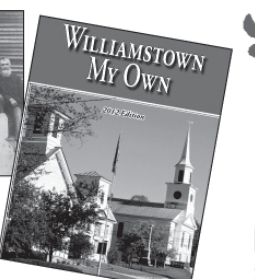
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Stay in a beautiful woodland home in Elmore, VT. (Listing #512) photo by Roderick Thomas

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, [profrod@me.com](mailto:profrod@me.com). (Listing #512)

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

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**2078 East Randolph.** Large Parcel of Land – approx. 195 acres, mostly woodland – good views – very private access by private road.....**Price \$234,000.**

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Phil Warren takes visitors on a ride with his team of Belgian draft horses at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

photo by Dan Sullivan

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## Way Up in Old Vermont

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

March winds have raved and blustered;  
To Spring they hold the key;  
And the trumpet of the blue-jay  
Calls up the chickadee;  
And here's to recollections  
Of childhood's kettle black  
That held the seething nectar  
In bubbling sweetness back!  
The smoke pursued and blinded us,  
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 was all 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.

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