

Vermont Country Sampler

Free

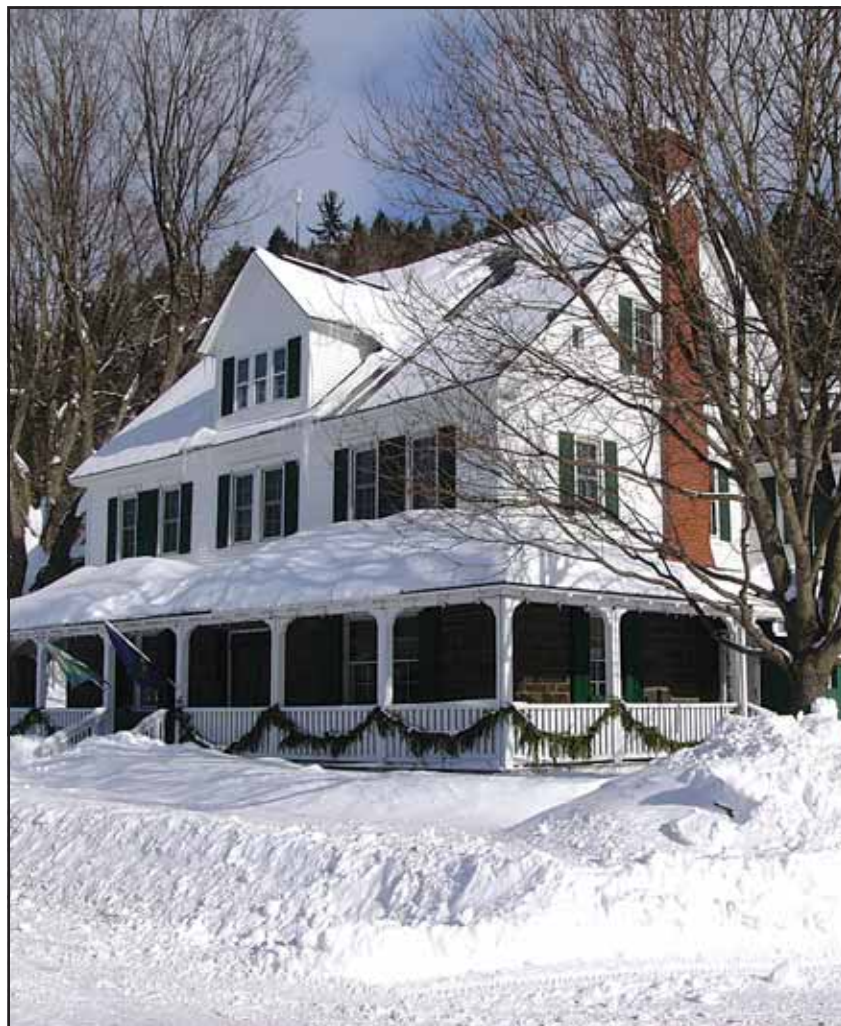
- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
- Plenty of Good Reading!

March 2014

N. Cassidy

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The Secret Code

Half is Whole

by Bill Felker

An inevitable dualism bisects nature, so that each thing is a half, and suggests another thing to make it whole.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Compensation"

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

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

The real dualism of which Emerson writes is still a month or so away. In April, I can look both ways; the sides are almost even: bright hepaticas, twinleaf, blood-root on the one hand—bare branches and dead grass on the other.

But now, I have to compensate by collecting fragments

and by blowing them all out of proportion.

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

Throughout the skirmishes of early March, I unfairly watch for the isolated standards of resurrection: white tips of the snowdrops, the first crocus leaves, daffodils an inch high. If I were to judge by the appearance of the land around them, I would have no hope. But I remember that "each thing is a half." I cheat, knowing the simple code of half: Every thing is also whole.



Bud Bemis leading the bucket brigade on his beloved bulldozer in Whitingham, VT.

photo by Stacy Birch

Whitingham, VT

16th Annual Maple Festival March 22-23

For the 16th year in a row, the mountainous town of Whitingham will host its annual spring celebration of Vermont's most famous export—maple sugar and maple syrup. This year, the festival will be held Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23, 2014.

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

Several of their eighteen Whitingham sugar makers have graciously opened the doors of their sugar houses so that residents, visitors and guests alike can learn about "the art and science" of maple syrup and sugar making and the historical importance of "sugaring" in Whitingham.

Plans for this year's festival include self-guided tours of local sugar houses (with plenty of opportunities for sampling), pancake breakfasts and luncheon on Saturday and Sunday, horse-drawn sleigh rides and a craft fair both days, sugar-on-snow baked ham dinner Saturday night, and more. Artisans around Whitingham will be open on Saturday for tours.

You can pick up a map for the Sugar House Tours and check the latest schedules at the Information Booth at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville.

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

Whitingham is located on Route 100 in southern Vermont—between Bennington and Brattleboro, about nine miles south of Wilmington, VT and about 20 miles north of Greenfield, MA. Jacksonville is a village in the town of Whitingham. There are a number of Bed and Breakfasts and small inns in and around town. Activities at the festival are free.

Schedule of Events—Saturday, March 22

7-10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast by Lions Club at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. \$8 adults, \$6 for 65+ years, children under five free.

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information Booth is open at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville.

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.

Hours vary. Self-guided Artisan's Tours in Whitingham.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Craft Fair at the Jacksonville Fire House.

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 appreciated. Across Rt. 100 from Twin Valley Middle School.

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch by the Whitingham Ladies Benevolent Society at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville.

5-7 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 23

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

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information Booth open at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville.

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 Jacksonville Fire House on Rt. 100 South.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides, snow or no snow. Donations appreciated. Across Rt. 100 from Twin Valley Middle School.

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch by the 8th grade class at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville.

Please check latest changes in operating times and schedules at the Information Booth at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville.

For more information call Carol Mandracchia at (802) 368-2658. E-mail info@whitingham-maplefest.us. Visit www.whitingham-maplefest.us.

Sugar-on-Snow Supper at the Guilford Church on March 15

The Annual Sugar-on-Snow Supper at Guilford Community Church, Guilford, VT will be held on Saturday evening, March 15.

The menu features ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, freshly baked rolls, sugar-on-snow, homemade donuts, pickles, and coffee, tea or milk.

A half gallon of maple syrup will be raffled off during each seating.

There are three seatings to choose from, at 4:30, 5:45, and 7 p.m. Prices are \$10 adults, \$5 children age 11

and under, and \$3 for preschoolers.

Directions: Take I-91 to Vermont Exit 1 (Brattleboro), go south on US Rt. 5 just past Guilford Country Store, left on Bee Barn Rd., then left again on Church Dr.

Guilford Community Church is located at 38 Church Rd in Guilford, VT. (802) 257-2776. GCCUCC@sover.net. www.guilfordchurch.org.

For reservations, please call (802) 254-9562 or email guilfordchurchsupper@gmail.com.

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Vermont Country Sampler

March 2014, Vol. XXX

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

Calendar of Events published free of charge. Mail or e-mail your information to us by the 15th of the preceding month.

Charles Sutton, Publisher

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A Vermont Almanack for Early Spring

by Bill Felker

The natural world itself is the primary economic reality, the primary educator, the primary governance, the primary healer, the primary presence of the sacred, the primary moral value.

—Thomas Berry

The Phases of the Crocus Moon and the Forsythia Moon

March 1: The Snowdrop Moon becomes the Crocus Moon at 3:00 a.m. *March 8:* The moon enters its second quarter at 8:27 a.m. *March 16:* The moon is full at 12:09 p.m. *March 23:* The moon enters its final phase at 8:46 p.m. *March 30:* The Crocus Moon becomes the Forsythia Moon at 1:45 p.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 12:57 p.m. (EDT) 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 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 9.

The Planets of March

In the evening, Jupiter is the brightest planet in the west, following Sirius, the Dog Star, high in Gemini. Mars is the earliest of the morning stars this month, coming up in Virgo after midnight. Saturn follows along behind in the boxy constellation of Libra, and then Venus appears in Capricorn, outshining all the other objects in the sky until sunrise.

The Stars

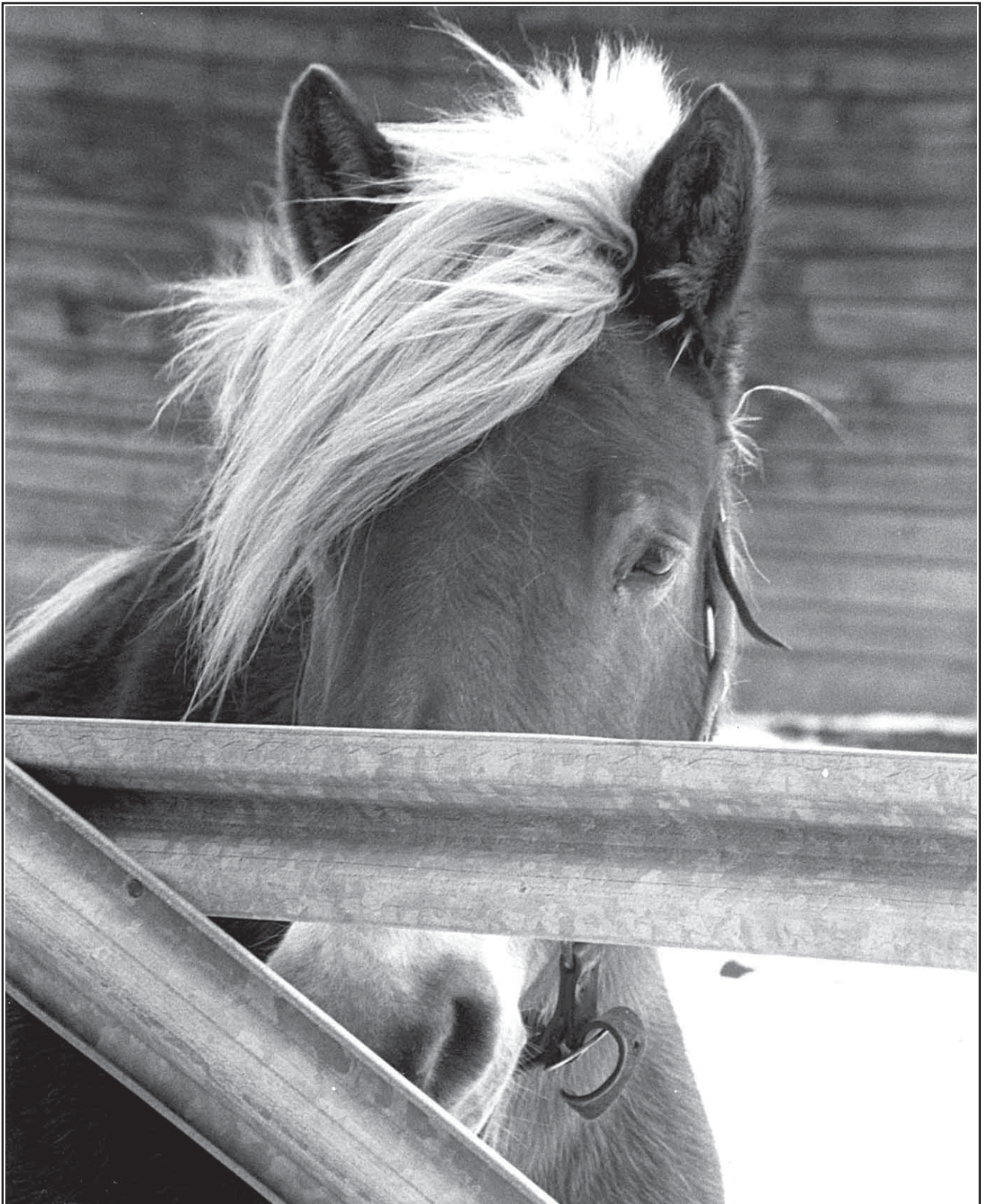
Just as the morning robin chorus begins, summer's Vega moves overhead; Cepheus has come to the south side of Polaris; the Great Square fills the east ahead of the sun; Mars and red Aldebaran pull Taurus into the west, and Sagittarius trails the Milky Way along the southern horizon.

Meteorology

Major weather systems are due to reach the Northeast on March 3, 6 (usually the most severe front of the month), 10 (ordinarily followed by quite mild temperatures), 15, 20 (frequently the second-coldest front of March), 25 (often followed by the best weather so far in the year), and 30. New Moon on March 1 and 30, and full moon on March 16 are likely to increase chances for frost and for storms as the weather systems due near those dates reach Vermont.

A Homesteader's Market Calendar

March 4, 2014: Mardi Gras: This is a good time to sell kids and lambs for barbecues. Then get ready for all of April's celebrations. They will be opportunities to sell your new kids and lambs. *April 13 – 15, 2014:* New Year's Day for immigrants from Cambodia, Thailand and Laos; *April 15 (sunset) to April 21, 2014:* Passover; *April 20, 2014:* Roman Easter and Greek Orthodox Easter (occurring together this year).



Longing for Spring? Pony looks through the gate at a farm in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Spring Call

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

—NELLIE RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT circa 1944



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Spring Music Programs at Brattleboro Music Center

It may be freezing outside, but inside the Brattleboro Music Center's spring semester is just getting started. Get involved and let the music warm you!

Now is the time to consider starting that instrument you have always wanted to play. The BMC offers lessons in over 16 instruments, including voice, to all ages and levels.

The BMC offers classes for kids, teens and adults. Many classes and programs start in March and many are available on a rolling admission. Be sure to inquire for the ones you are interested in.

The Brattleboro Music Center is starting a new series of daytime adult education programs in March. The series launches with monthly music appreciation gatherings, a chorus for seniors, and a beginning adult violin class.

The developmental benefits of music study for children have been well documented for many years, but now significant findings are also available on the importance of music to our well being throughout our lives and especially as we age.

New adult daytime programs

The BMC's new adult daytime programs are structured for maximum accessibility, they require no previous musical experience to participate; and tuitions range between \$5 and \$10 per session.

"It is truly never too early or too late to start, and the best part is, you don't have to be a 'musician' to enjoy the benefits of music," says BMC Director Pam Lierle.

The new Music Appreciation monthly gatherings, featuring music and discussion, will take place on the 2nd Monday of each month from 1:30-3 p.m. at the BMC. The series begins on March 10th with pianist Hugh Keelan and the music of Debussy & Wagner; on April 14 with Peter & Mary Alice Amidon sharing Traditional American Sacred Songs; and on May 12 with cellist Zon Eastes. Music Appreciation Monthly's are open to all, and adults are invited to drop in for one or all of the gatherings at just \$5 per session at the door.

The BMC's new Singing Strong Chorus, designed for seniors, will be led by choral director Susan Dedell with songs chosen from a variety of musical styles, mostly from the great song repertoire of the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Absolutely no prior singing experience or music reading skills are necessary.

The Singing Strong Chorus will meet on Tuesdays, from 1:30-2:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, which is fully accessible. The first session runs from March 4 to April 8; and the second session from April 22 to May 27. Tuition is \$35 per 6-week session. Advance registration is required.

The Adult Beginning Violin Class, is for true beginners interested in "trying out" an instrument. The ever patient and enthusiastic Michelle Liechti will lead this first series of adult instrument classes on Thursdays, from 11 am to 12 pm, starting March 6, at the BMC. Tuition for 5 sessions is \$50 and loaner violins are available.

Children's Classes

• Movin' Into Music—Music & Movement. For children ages 1-5. Little Strummers Ukulele Club for ages 3-5. Monday mornings with Annie Frelich.



A young student learns to play the violin at the Brattleboro Music Center in Brattleboro, VT. photo by Brattleboro Music Center

- Tigers Ensemble, for young string players ages 5-7. Tuesdays, 4:30-5 pm with Heather Sommerlad.
- Mini Mozarts I and II. Composition and singing-based hands-on, creative theory class for ages 5-7. Saturdays with Heather Sommerlad.
- Broadway Youth Vocal Performance. Singing and dancing using Broadway show songs for ages 7-12. Saturdays 12-1:15 pm with Alisa Hauser.
- Youth Celtic Classes. For ages 9-14, beginner and intermediate groups open to all instruments. Wednesday afternoons with Lissa Schneckenberger, Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy.

For Teens & Adults

- Piano Four Hands Extravaganza Workshop. Saturday and Sunday, March 1-2, with Bruce Griffin and Susan Dedell.
- Theory & Musicianship II: Functional Harmony & Analytical Techniques. For all instrumentalists & vocalists. Mondays 6:30-8 pm with Steve Cady.
- Early Music Vocal Workshop. Mondays 6-7 pm with Jennifer Hansen.
- Flute Choir. Fridays 4:30-6 pm with Robin Matathias.
- Intro to Traditional Music by Ear. Tuesdays 7-8 pm with Becky Tracy.

- Celtic Music Sessions, intermediate and advanced groups. Wednesday evenings with Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy.
- Music Adventure Program, for youth and adults with mixed abilities. Please inquire.
- Music Improvisation for all instruments. Tuesdays 6:30-8 p.m. with Bill Shontz.

The Brattleboro Music Center offers people of all ages the chance to not only appreciate music, but to learn, play and express themselves.

Founded in 1952 by artistic director Blanche Honegger Moyse, the Brattleboro Music Center is a unique, community-based organization, exceptional for the breadth and quality of its programs. Today, under the artistic advisement of Jaime Laredo and Sharon Robinson, the BMC consists of numerous performance, participation, and education programs.

Brattleboro Music Center is located at 38 Walnut St. in Brattleboro, VT. The center invites everyone to come play and sing! For more information on lessons, classes, programs, and ensembles or for registration please call (802) 257-4523 or visit www.bmcvt.org.

March Happenings at the Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market

March is the last month of the 8th season of the Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market and there is plenty to look for at the market!

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market is sponsored by Post Oil Solutions and is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St.,

Brattleboro, VT every Saturday through March 29, 2014. EBT & Debit cards are welcomed, and Market Match Coupons are still available.

The increasing daylight hours means that our farmers' high tunnel greenhouses are producing early fresh greens. And as the snows melt and ground thaws, win-

tered-over carrots and the sweetest parsnips with the sweetest taste you can imagine may appear, and maybe even some leeks! One can always find local eggs, meats, cheese, syrups, jams, pickles, cider and more.

Each week our bakers bring you the freshest breads and focaccia, along with cookies and amazing pastries; even some locally grown and ground flours and mixes too.

There are the market-inspired handmade truffles ranging from Currant Beet to Caramel Apple, as well as pottery, jewelry, handmade soaps and other unique hand-crafted items.

Enjoy the great selection of tasty lunch offerings, and live local music from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., all in a warm and

welcoming spot to visit with friends and neighbors as we come out of our winter hibernation.

Each week during March we share our space with one or two local community groups or nonprofits, giving them a chance to connect with the community.

We will end the season with our 7th 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 CSA share options. Take this opportunity to do your CSA research and pick your farmer for 2014!

For more information call (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org.

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The Weeks of March

by Bill Felker

The Week of the Pussy Willows

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

—Joseph Wood Krutch

When pussy willows start to open all the way, then early aconites and snowdrops and snow crocus come into bloom, and maple syrup time is almost over in the mildest years. Waterstriders appear on the ponds and sloughs, and woolly bear caterpillars come out from winter hibernation.

Pussy willow week is also the week that clover and wild violet leaves start to grow; horseradish stretches out to an inch or two, and rhubarb is sometimes up to four or five inches. Honeysuckle buds will soon be unraveling on the lowest branches.

Pussy willows lead to bright blue squills, delicate yellow jonquils, then to the full-size daffodils, then to purple grape hyacinths, then to pale wood hyacinths and pushkinias.

The Week of Rooting Woodchucks

The earth lies out now like a leopard, drying her lichen and moss spotted skin in the sun, her sleek and variegated hide.

—Henry David Thoreau

As the thaws advance across the Northeast, woodchucks dig up the hillsides, making new dens. Ducks scout the rivers for nesting sites. Red maples flower. Crocus bloom, beginning the countdown to the last hard frost seven weeks away. Day lily spears are strong. Chipmunks are out. Flocks of robins continue to move north even in the coldest springs. Red-winged blackbirds sing in the swamps. Red-tailed hawks, the horned grebe, the common snipe, all types of gulls, and black ducks are migrating. Coltsfoot is budding in the mountains of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Azaleas and camellias are blooming in the Deep South. In the Mid-Atlantic states, celandine has sprouted. Buds lengthen and brighten on multiflora roses, honeysuckles, mock orange, and lilac.

The Week of the Robin Chorus

It is the first mild day of March:
each minute sweeter than before,
the redbreast sings from the tall larch
that stands beside our door.

—William Wordsworth

When the robin chorus begins before sunrise, then pollen forms on pussy willow catkins, and the first hardy mosquito bites, then the first spring beauty is budding, and the foliage of yarrow, mallow, phlox, columbine, coneflower, waterleaf, goldenrod, buttercup, snow-on-the mountain, New England aster, and Queen Anne's lace is coming up.

Robins have found their way to every yard, knowing that worms will be waiting for them, at the same time that the tufted titmouse courts in spirals, when flickers and purple martins are migrating and willow trees glow yellow green and mock orange leafs out, pacing the new privet foliage, the lilac, black raspberry, multiflora rose, clematis and corallberry foliage.

In the garden, pale snow-on-the-mountain is pacing the waterleaf in the wetlands to gobbles of gobbling turkeys in the deep woods. And if you see or hear just one of these events, you know that all these other things—and so many more—are happening around you.



photo by Nancy Cassidy

Two young lambs with dirty knees look out the barn door with their mom in Central Vermont.

The Week of the First Dandelion and Chickweed Bloom

Forth from its sunny nook of shelter'd grass—
innocent, golden, calm as the dawn
The spring's first dandelion shows its trustful face.

—Walt Whitman

When chickweed and dandelions flower in the woods, then lilac buds are glowing defiantly against the gray sky, Virginia bluebells push out from their hillsides. Raspberry and rose bushes are developing fresh leaves. Wild onions are getting lanky. Everything is growing back: Jacob's ladder, ragwort, leafcup, spring beauties, wood mint, ground ivy, catchweed, moneywort, waterleaf, sweet rockets, leafcup, hemlock, parsnip and garlic mustard. Skunk cabbage is red, fat, and blooming in the swamp flats.

Daffodils have put on an inch or two in the past week, are now three to four inches high, many of them budded. Red peony stalks have pushed up well above the mulch. The first ground ivy has opened in the sunniest microclimates.

Leaves of the primroses and tansy ragwort have started to unfold. Dock is beginning to unravel, blushed from the frost. The buds of the quince have become deep red, and forsythia buds are becoming brighter, anticipating their flowers, which will be soon be out under the Forsythia Moon.

Country on the Common

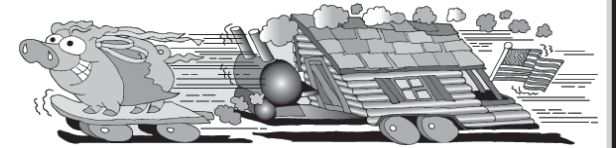
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North Country Reflections

The Enduring Garden

by Judith Irven

Every day the sun rides a little higher in the sky reminding us the Equinox is just a few weeks away. And everywhere gardeners are making great plans for spring. We have lists of vegetables—everything from broccoli to zucchini—we will grow this year. Some of us also have seedlings sprouting indoors—as we experiment with new varieties of veggies or a charming mix of flowers for the containers around the front door.

Many of us are also making plans for the more permanent parts of the garden, such as planting some trees and shrubs, or even creating a whole new garden bed. And, since digging a new garden bed is hard work and the plants are expensive, it is important to do it right the first time and not have to rework after a few years.

So with that in mind, I will share with you my five 'golden rules' for making a new garden bed—or for adding to an existing one—so that the result will be both endearing and enduring!

1. Start with a plan

Last month I described how to develop a landscape plan, which is a map of your entire 'garden-to-be, including the outlines of the different garden beds. You can see it on my North Country Reflections website at 'Pictures on the Ground'.

Now let's focus on how to create a planting plan for an individual bed. This will help you decide which plants to use, how many you need and how they should be positioned for the space available. A planting plan will also help you visualize how everything will look as the plants mature.

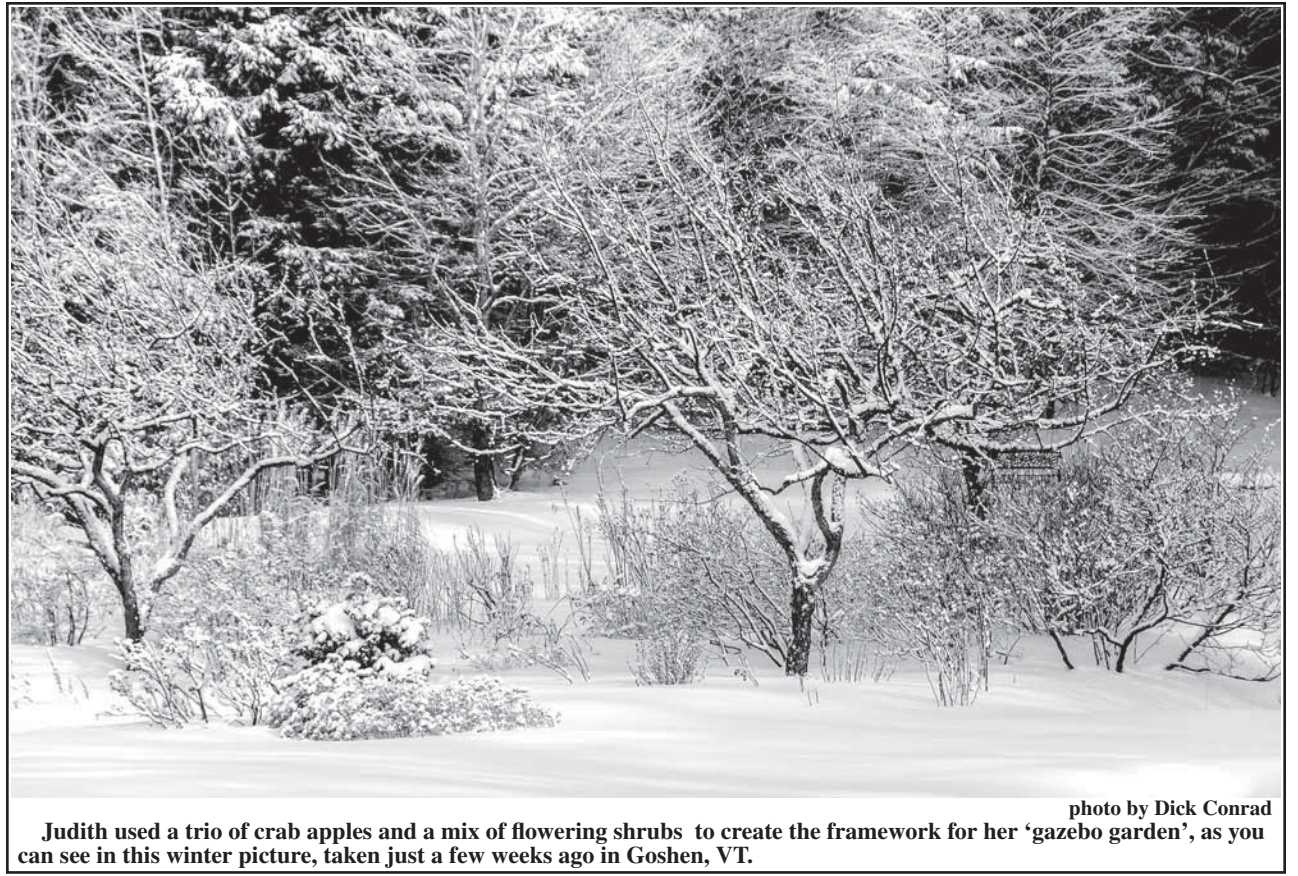
Start by drawing the outline of your new bed on squared paper, using a scale of 1/8" = 1 foot or, if you need more detail, 1/4" = 1 foot. Now, with a piece of trace paper over the squared paper, experiment with your ideas by drawing circles to represent the mature size of the plants you are contemplating. You can even explore several designs and compare them side-by-side to see which one works the best.

2. Create a framework with woody plants

Every bed needs a few woody plants—trees and shrubs—to give it some structure. Small trees, such as crab apples or serviceberries, and larger shrubs, like fall-flowering hydrangeas, ninebark and red-twigged dogwoods, create a framework that will be apparent in every season, especially winter.

Woody plants come in many sizes; thus requiring different amounts of space. For instance a common lilac may grow to 15 feet wide, whereas a red-twigged dogwood will be only six feet.

To get ideas about which plants to consider and how big they grow, it is worth investing in a reference book of trees and shrubs. I like the *Landscape Plants for Vermont* (available through the UVM Master Gardener website)



Judith used a trio of crab apples and a mix of flowering shrubs to create the framework for her 'gazebo garden', as you can see in this winter picture, taken just a few weeks ago in Goshen, VT. photo by Dick Conrad

which shows woody plants for our climate, grouped by size. Alternatively you can check individual plants on reputable websites such as the one from the Missouri Botanical Garden.

I like to position trees and shrubs so that, once they are fully grown, their branches will just slightly overlap. That way they will not require an annual pruning simply to stop them engulfing their neighbors.

So, for each tree or shrub you are considering, draw a circle on your plan that shows how big it will eventually grow, positioning your circles so that they just overlap. You will soon see how to group the various plants to create a pleasing whole.

3. Match the plants to the location

Plants are like people, with distinct preferences about where they like to live. When choosing plants for a particular spot in your garden the most important thing to consider is whether the location is sunny or shady and whether it is wet or dry, and then to choose your plants accordingly.

For instance, crab apple trees need a sunny location, whereas serviceberry trees will be quite happy in the shade, as you will see in your reference book.

The same holds true for perennials; sedums will tolerate the dry hot soil along the south-side of your house, whereas astilbes will be delighted with the cool moist soil near that north-side downspout. *Taylor's Guide to Perennials* is another handy reference book for this type of information.

It is equally important to select plants that will make it through winter's cold with a smile. There is nothing more depressing in early spring than finding your expensive shrub is more dead than alive, having barely survived last winter; at which point you have to decide whether to keep it on life-support for another season or immediately consign it to the compost pile.

To choose plants that will tolerate winter where you live, first find your 'hardiness zone' (showing the coldest it is likely to get) via the interactive USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. My house is in Zone 4, meaning it may occasionally get down to minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Next, for any plant you are considering, make sure its zone rating matches where you live. In my garden I can grow plants designated as hardy to Zone 4 or lower.

4. Avoid wimps and thugs

I don't have time to cosset finicky plants, even though they may be very pretty. So I choose plants that will be both attractive and robust. For instance, Daylilies, Shasta Daisies, Purple Cone-flowers and Black-eyed Susan's make a great display in the summer garden; they are also wonderfully easy to grow.

But, by the same token, I don't need any thugs. So I avoid plants described as having running roots which may consume my beds—the red osier dogwood, *Cornus sericea*, and the Blue Lyme Grass, *Elymus arenarius*, come to mind here.

5. Choose plants that 'pay their way'

I love plants with beautiful flowers and a mesmerizing fragrance, but I want to ensure a short burst of blossoms in spring is not followed by less-than-lovely appearance for the remainder of the season. Peonies with both beautiful flowers and great leaves, are a great example of plants that pay their way.

To find woody plants with several seasons of interest, especially a lovely fall color or fruit that attracts the birds in winter, I turn to the chart at the back of *Landscape Plants for Vermont*.

Sometimes I choose a plant like the umbrella plant, *Darmera peltata*, strictly for its leaves that last the entire season. This beauty loves moist shade and, while gradually expanding into a good sized clump, it has no running roots that encroach into the rest of the bed.

A garden is a living creation

To see some of these ideas playing out in reality, I would like to introduce our 'gazebo garden'.

Back in 2000 we decided a gazebo would be a perfect bug-free place to enjoy our long Vermont summer evenings. This 12-foot square screened building is set on a diagonal to the rest of the property, embraced on two sides by a large garden bed some thirty feet across. This has become a magical space, filled with fragrant flowers and beautiful foliage, that is a magnet for birds and butterflies.

At the outset I decided to provide the framework with a trio of flowing crab apples (two *Malus 'Liset'* and one *M. Selkirk'*) set 15 feet apart on a triangle. For a couple of weeks in the spring they create a pink glow above a carpet of Narcissus 'Salome' and blue forget-me-nots. For the remainder of the season they have bronzy leaves and in August their fruit is devoured by the cedar waxwings.

For the partial shade cast by the crab apples I planted an understory of shrubs that flower across a three month span. The show begins in May with Weigela 'Wine and Roses', followed by five varieties of fragrant summer-flowering azaleas, starting in early June with Weston's Innocence (white), finishing in late July with Lemon Drop (pale yellow). Finally for much of August the air is perfumed by the bottle-brush flowers of Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*).

An eclectic mix of perennials meanders between the shrubs, including peonies, daylilies, ornamental oregano, nepeta and groundcover plants like sedum and geranium. The picture is complete with a good sized clump of *Darmera* in the moist shade next to the gazebo roof.

At the outset I carefully positioned the woody plants for the long term. But gradually, as the shrubs have grown in to their full sizes, I have needed to adjust the perennials to keep everything looking full but not overcrowded, a small sacrifice compared with having a large expanse of mulch to look at as the shrubs mature.

Thus, while our gardens may endure, our gardening does not end.

To quote H.E. Bates: 'The garden that is finished is dead'.

Judith Irven is a landscape designer who lives with her photographer husband, Dick Conrad, in Goshen, VT. Her northcountry reflections.com website is devoted to her garden writings.

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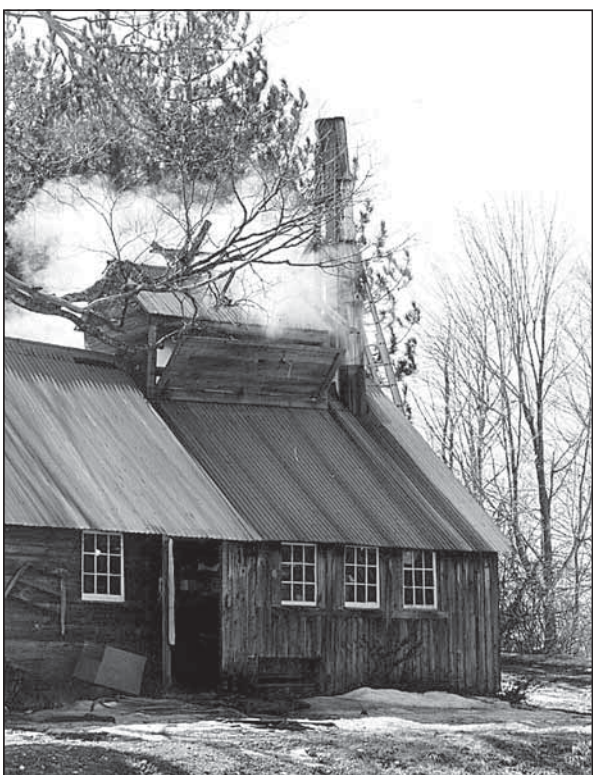
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Children, oxen, and farm dogs all turn out to collect sap from ancient maples on a spring afternoon early last century. photo courtesy Vt. Historical Society

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Stamp Collecting

Inverted Curtiss Jenny Bi-Plane a Wonder to a Ten-Year Old Collector

by Charles Sutton

The U.S. Postal Service has reproduced a commemorative in blocks of six of the famous upside down biplane, the Inverted Jenny, an early airmail stamp that cost 24 cents. The most publicized error in U.S. history, the new stamps cost \$12 for the block and can be broken up for use on anyone's regular mailings at a value of \$2 each.

These most unusual stamps recall the time when my brother Fred and I were avid stamp collectors and that day our parents told us we were to meet a stamp collector who had a big surprise for us.

Of course, we expected perhaps we would meet someone who would give us some sought-after stamps that we couldn't afford, but as it turned out the collector, a Mr. Helms, had in his possession one of those upside down plane stamps.

And there it was—an original inverted Curtiss Jenny biplane on a 24-cent U.S. airmail stamp that had been issued on May 15, 1918 to inaugurate regular airmail service between Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. It was worth thousands of dollars. Its value continues to soar with a block of four being sold at an auction in 2005 for \$2.7 million! There were only 100 such stamps, and some are still unaccounted for today.

Our inquisitive mother was eager to touch or hold this strange stamp, but was quickly, politely and firmly shooed off. Stamps like that one are like priceless works of art, their survival depending on the rule everyone should know: "We can look, but we can't touch."

Fred and I (we were 11 and 10 years old) also collected match book covers, lead soldiers, swizzle sticks, tin foil (for the war effort), some model trains, a few baseball cards, coins, comic books; and Fred, a budding naturalist, also collected a lot of wildlife like snakes, lizards, toads, frogs, and tropical fish.

Our stamp collecting expanded thanks to another of our parent's friends, a Mr. Baxter, who was in the international paint business and got mail from all over the world (this was before e-mails and faxes and the internet). He had torn off the



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ends of the envelopes and packages with their many stamps and had them in boxes which he gladly shared with us—his only daughter apparently wasn't invested in collecting tiny scraps of paper.

At home we would soak stamps—these and many others—in lukewarm water and once separated from the paper, let them dry on large towels spread all over the dining room table.

We had two albums for collecting—one for U.S., the other, a larger book, for foreign stamps. We favored the U.S. ones because they were easier to collect and just looked better than many from foreign countries that we, in the folly of youth, considered boring and ugly looking; also, too many heads of state. We did like and collect colorful stamps from Africa that had all the animals on them.

Early on we put all the stamps in the books on stamp hinges. Gluing them down we learned early on was a "no, no," and would destroy their value. So the mint stamps, especially blocks of four, we placed in cellophane envelopes. We also collected First Day Covers. When a new issue came

out one could send a stamped addressed envelope to that post office, with the proper amount of money, and request a first day of issue cover.

This was not an expensive hobby as a first class stamp then sold for three cents. Compare that to today when it costs 49 cents to send a letter—up another 3 cents from Christmas!

Back then, too (this was around World War II) you could also collect airmail, special delivery, parcel post stamps, as well as war stamps (towards a Savings Bond), and rationing stamps.

Even if you only had the 24-cent Curtiss Jenny biplane right side up, it was worth having, as were the other interesting airmail stamps showing planes of that era. We especially prized our Graf Zeppelin stamps.

We specialized in U.S. commemoratives and there were many: the overrun nations in World War II, United Nations flag stamps, 1/2 cent to \$5 stamps showing all the U.S. presidents, and much more.

My stamp collection came in handy later in life during one of those times when one just needed extra money. It was sold to a collector for a fair price who also appreciated my years of meticulous collecting. Unfortunately Fred's collection was water damaged—with all the mint stamps sticking down and having to be soaked off. Fred has passed on now and what is left of his collection is safely stored with family heirlooms.

Some final thoughts about stamp collecting: I suspect that not too many young people today are stamp collectors, instead collecting video games, electronic equipment and devices, maybe still a few baseball cards. But the stamps are a wonderful introduction to all the countries around the world—their geography, history, economy, heroes and monetary systems.

Let's face it, purchasing a plate block of four commemoratives today (even though they look nice) will cost \$1.96 compared to 12 cents in my day!

Although I'm not collecting anything at this stage in my life, we still have a box of old stamps my wife's mother had saved up years ago. I don't think that upside down biplane stamp is in that mix, but I'll take another, closer look—just in case.

"We still have a box of old stamps my wife's mother had saved up years ago."

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Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast at Merck Forest

Sweet! It's almost time again for Merck Forest and Farmland Center's Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. The breakfast is part of the Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Open House weekend, and it will be on March 22 and 23, 2014 from 10 am to 2 p.m.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center invites visitors and members to join us for the celebration. A community event, the breakfast honors the hard work that went into the year's sugaring operation, and it celebrates the outcome of sugaring: delicious maple syrup! Come out this weekend for great food and family fun.

On either Saturday or Sunday, 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 maple syrup, and coffee and juice.

Everyone is encouraged to explore the workings of the sugaring operation, step over

to the sugar maple tapping demonstrations, discover the farm by doing a scavenger hunt, participate in the children's activities, and check the barn for newborn lambs.

As always, feel free to walk on our 30 miles of trails during your visit—and the sugar bush! Cost for breakfast is \$12 for adult, \$10 for child 4-12, and under age 4 is free!

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.

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26th Annual Maple Festival on the Green

The Middletown Springs Historical Society will be holding its 26th Annual Maple Festival on the Green and indoors at the Historical Society Museum on Sunday, March 16 from 1-4 p.m.

The event will feature Fred Bradley's demonstration of early maple sugarmaking in a cast iron kettle outdoors 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 give a talk on the evolution of sugaring technique using examples from the Historical Society collection.

The Historical Society Museum will be open during the festival, no admission charge.

Delicious maple desserts are offered for \$1-\$3, created by Society members. Maple products and crafts, and new 2014 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 in the Historical Society Museum.

A silent auction will feature Maple Sap Buckets decorated by local school students, as well as handwork from local artists and craftspersons, merchant donations and services. Student artists from local schools and Green Mountain College have decorated antique buckets with images reflecting the maple sugar season.

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 free afternoon event.

Middletown Springs is located in southwestern Vermont. The town green is on Rt. 140 near the intersection with Rt. 133.

For more information about the Maple Festival call Robert Gould at (802) 235-1811 or David Wright at (802) 235-2376.



Plenty of maple goodies are served at the Annual Middletown Springs Maple Festival.

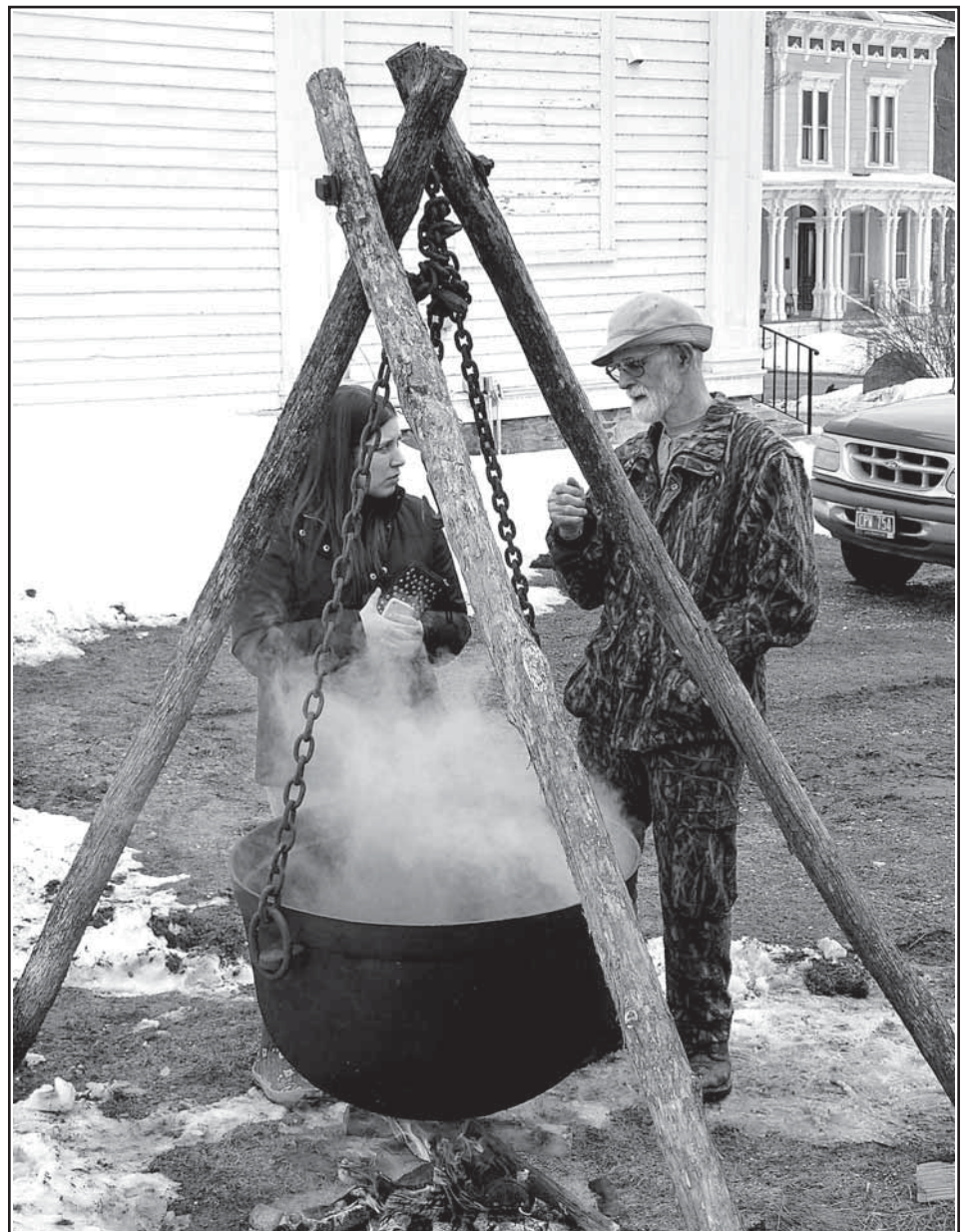


photo by Emmett Francois
Fred Bradley explains about and demonstrates old time sugaring over an open fire at the Middletown Springs Maple Festival.

Welcome to Poultney's Annual Maple Fest

The Annual Maple Fest in Poultney is Saturday and Sunday, March 22nd and 23rd. Our traditional town-wide 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. Vendors will be selling maple-themed goods and foods and there will be activities for everyone! Starting at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the stores on Main Street will be open with featured sales.

Schedule—Saturday, March 22nd

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

at the Methodist Church on Main St.

9 a.m. Maple Fest 5K Fun Run behind Poultney High School on Furnace St.

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

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.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Look for Bag Sales at various stores along Main St..

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open Sugar House Tours. Get a map at the Chamber office at the Stonebridge and at businesses on Main St.

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Soup and sandwich luncheon.

11 a.m. Horse-drawn wag-

on rides starting from Citizens Bank on Main St. next to Priscilla's Sweet Shoppe.

11 a.m. Story Time for children at the Poultney Library on Main St..

6 p.m. Social and Poultney Rotary Community Dinner, East Room, Withey Hall, Green Mountain College at 6 p.m. Cost is \$50 with limited tickets. Tickets may be purchased from any Rotarian.

The sugarhouses will be open for tours on Sunday, March 23.

For more information about this event, contact chairperson Valerie Broughton at (802) 287-4114.

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

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Driving Around

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

My family always enjoyed drives. There was no greater treat for my Fair Haven grandmother than climbing into the car and having my father take her for a ride. When I was very young, I used to be sort of contemptuous of that. I thought she deserved something more ambitious. I didn't get it then.

My parents liked revisiting places where in the past they'd had a good time. They liked driving the back roads down to Poultney, up around Lake Bomoseen, into Hubbardton, past the sites of long-gone dance halls, past one-room school houses where they'd once student taught.

In the summer when I was a girl, one afternoon a week, my mother would get our car, and she'd drive my sister and me around back woods Castleton. At that time, the back roads were truly back roads and the ancient tumbledown farm places along these roads were still being lived in, often by my distant relatives. Sometimes, we'd stop and visit them.

"The back roads were truly back roads and the ancient tumbledown farm places...were still being lived in."

These days those back roads aren't really so far back. There's usually a Subaru skimming toward you, and there's hardly a once-tumble-down place that hasn't been bought by out-of-staters and radically altered.

But one thing, for me, that hasn't changed is the satisfaction of riding around. Friday afternoon, my husband and I get in the car and take a drive. And like my parents long ago, we revisit favorite spots.

One of our most gratifying trips is up Hubbardton's Belgo Road. This is a continually climbing and winding way, seemingly through deep woods. But there are a number of houses roadside, or back in the pines, including Hayden Hughes's place and the one-time Forrest Farm. The road ends at Sandy Mayo's big gates.

My husband and I turn around here and retrace our route, and then turn again onto the little road that leads us to a great open bowl of pasture land below Grandpa's Knob. It's clear to me that I'll never get tired of this drive, no matter how many times we take it.

For a particularly spectacular trip, we head up Belgo when it's snowing, and we like to drive the road toward Grandpa's Knob on nights when there's a full moon.

Any wild night is a good time to drive toward O'Rourke's land. Harry O'Rourke always had an eye for ruggedly



A lovely drive down a snow-covered back road in Central Vermont after a snow storm. photo by Nancy Cassidy

romantic terrain, and his Pond Hill Ranch mountainside pasturage looks like the craggy moorland immortalized by Emily Bronte.

There are always the drives to keep track of what's going on at Lake Bomoseen. The winter question is, has the lake frozen over yet? and the spring corollary, has the ice started to break up yet?

Investigative trips to Bomoseen were also a favorite undertaking for my parents. They saw a lot that stirred up old memories.

The two of them would drive slowly past Wind Sport, the big Point of Pines early 1900s cottage in which they had spent their honeymoon. During the years they were driving around, out-of-season really was out-of-season, and in the winter cottages were empty and boarded up.

Now, the lake is a lot busier. My husband and I check the number of fishing shanties on the ice, and the activity in new, year-round, lakeside houses. We drive up the Woods Road to our cottage. Sometimes, we park the car and hike down to the shore to see how much damage is being done to our docks by ice heaves.

On a perfect, mid-winter, full-sun day—and that seems to occur, for us, about once a year—my husband and I head away from Castleton for a day-long drive. I think I particularly enjoy this trip because it brings back for me such a sense of old Vermont.

We drive up Route 100, the sun glittering, but the earth

frigid. In the little Vermont hill towns, old buildings are beat, new buildings bleakly characterless. Everything is deserted and still.

When my husband and I were at Middlebury, this time of year we'd get away from college and drive east into the Green Mountain National Forest. My husband had a 1949 Plymouth with missing floorboards. (You could get any vehicle inspected those days if you knew about a rogue one-man garage in Cornwall.)

The sixties were frigid, deep-snow years, and it seemed like they didn't plow, but still rolled the National Forest roads. I'd look down through the open bottom of the Plymouth at the packed snow skimming away beneath us. Once I dropped a pair of new Christmas mittens, and they were instantly whisked away and lost forever.

Long ago in Ripton, the two of us were going for a drive; we were doing what my family had always done. I wasn't thinking about that. I wasn't remembering my grandmother. I was just content, and I must have sensed that we two were beginning a lifetime of drives.

*Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written all of her life and lived most of that life in Castleton, Vermont. She is the author of many stories, articles, essays and magazine features and of the books *The Blue Cat and the River's Song* and *The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye*, available at selected bookstores.*

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.*

—EVA EDGERTON AMES, 1924



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Richard Shindell in Concert In Rutland and Tunbridge

Singer-songwriter Richard Shindell will be appearing in concert in Rutland, March 8 at the Paramount Theatre at 8 p.m. Phil Henry opens for him.

On March 9, Shindell will entertain in Tunbridge, VT at the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

After a year-long touring hiatus to write and record, Richard Shindell returns to the US for a month-long run of concerts in the Northeast, Ohio, Chicago and Ann Arbor.

An expatriate New Yorker now living in Buenos Aires, Richard Shindell is a meticulous craftsman of song whose eight studio albums and two live recordings have been revered by critics and fans alike.

From his first record, *Sparrow's Point* (1992) to his most recent, *Not Far Now* (2009), Shindell has demonstrated a penchant for songwrit-

ing at once passionate and profound. Look for his next release later this spring.

Innovative, original and occasionally spiritual, Shindell's songs weave tales that interchangeably champion the downtrodden, exalt the disaffected or wax empathetic to those lost to society's fringes, from lighthearted ballads and adulterous love songs, to dirges and diatribes that skillfully skewer politics, prejudice, war and religion.

The Paramount Theatre is located at 30 Center St. in Rutland, VT. Tickets are \$22.75. (802) 775-0570. www.paramountvt.org.

The Town Hall in Tunbridge, VT is located at 271 Rt. 110. Tickets are \$30. (802) 431-3433. www.mtnfolk.org.

For more on Richard Shindell visit www.richardshindell.com or Facebook.

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Early Spring In Vermont

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

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

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

Seems as though
The wheels are glad
They're going 'round.

Hay will soon be cheap;
Soon the robins build;
Nothing much but sleds
And sleighs are winter-killed.
Soon the plough
Will grinch through the
Greensward piece,
And the crying cart
Get a slap of grease.

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

—DANIEL L. CADY

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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

BARTONSVILLE. Friday Night Bingo. 6:30 pm. Once a month meeting held the 4th Thursday of every month—new members welcome. Bartonville Grange (located across from Rockingham State Police Barracks on Rt. 103), 116 Upper Bartonville Rd. (802) 875-4438. Every Friday.

BELLOWS FALLS. BF3F—Bellows Falls Third Friday. Stores and galleries in town and in the surrounding area host special exhibits and events. 5-8 pm. Flyer available at Village Square Booksellers, 32 The Square. (802) 463-9404. villagesquarebooks.com. *Monthly on the third Friday.*

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. January through April, first and third Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. At the First Baptist Church, 600 Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org. *March 1 & 15 and April 5 & 19.*

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.*

BRIDGEWATER. Bingo at the Bridgewater Grange. Doors open 5:30 pm, games 6:30 pm. Refreshments available—hot dogs, donuts, coffee, soda. Bridgewater Grange, Rt. 100A. (802) 672-6223. *Saturdays.*

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. 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. Monthly Community All-you-can-eat Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, pancakes, real Vermont maple syrup, toast, and beverages. \$7 donation at the door. 8-10 am. Also Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Both on First Saturdays.*

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Community Dinner. We gather for a free community supper. 6 pm. United Church of Craftsbury, 7 Church Lane. (802) 586-8028. *Continues third Wednesdays.*

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

HIGHGATE FALLS. Taize Evening Prayer. 6:30 pm. St. John's Episcopal Church, 161 Park St. (802) 868-7185. *July 2 and August 13.*

KILLINGTON. Ars Poetica. Fourth Wednesday of the month. Free. 6-8 pm. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Rd. (802) 422-9765. sherlib.wordpress.com.

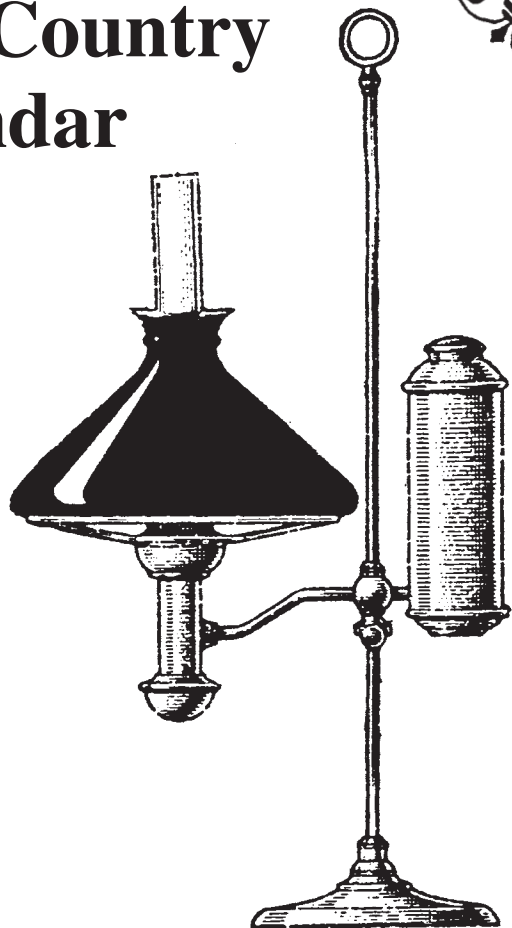
LEBANON, NH. ValleyNet Community Technology Center. 10-seat computer lab in the new Grafton County Senior Citizens Council building, Campbell St., downtown. Center is open for walk-ins 9 am - 4:30 pm, Mon-Fri. Free. (802) 649-2126.

LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Meets the first Monday of each month and is open to all levels. 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at Taconic End Farm. For more info call Annie Claghorn, (802) 247-3979. foxclag@gmavt.net.

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

MONTPELIER. 8th 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.*



PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum Open House Weekend. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our unique gift shop. Call or check website for Spring days and hours open. New England Maple Museum, 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

POULTNEY. The Horace Greeley Writer's Guild will be meeting at the Poultnery Public Library the second Tuesday of every month in 2014. There is no charge to join or participate in the Writer's Guild and they are always looking for new writers to join them! Please come and bring your latest writing, and bring a friend too. As always, writers in all genres, regardless of age or experience, are welcome. Poultnery Public Library, 205 Main St. (802) 287-5556. poultnerypubliclibrary.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. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm. Food Center Building at 251 West St. For info call Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through May 3.*

RUTLAND. Winter Maple Sugar Tour. Scenic tours through the Vermont countryside to visit a Vermont sugar house. Sample and buy fresh maple sugar products. Individual and group tours. 3½ hour tours \$50 per person by appt. Pickup in Rutland, Killington, Manchester. Ludlow. (802) 446-3131. kelly@vtbackroadtours.com. www.vtbackroadtours.com. *Through April 15.*

SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Market. Local vendors will offer meats, poultry, eggs, breads, pies, quiche, herbs, canned produce, Greek specialties, and a selection of handmade crafts in gym from 10 am – 1 pm at Sharon Elementary, exit 2 off I-89. Info: Keenan Haley at (802) 763-7425. www.sharon.owsu.org. *Third Saturday of every month.*

SOUTH HERO. Free Community Supper. The food is delicious and prepared by wonderful volunteer cooks. 5:30-7 pm. Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC, 24 South St. (802) 372-4962. *Second Fridays.*

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. (802) 522-3148. salvationfarms.wordpress.com.

STATEWIDE. Vermont's Ice Fishing Season for trout, salmon and bass. January 18 through March 15 on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to p. 60 of the 2014 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. (802) 318-1347. Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

ST. ALBANS. Book Cellar—Library Used Book Sale. \$3 per bag of books! Sponsored by Friends of the St. Albans Free Library. Tuesdays from 10 am - 8 pm. Held in the library basement. St. Albans Free Library, 11 Maiden Lane. (802) 524-1507. www.stalbansfreelibrary.org.

The Winter Lamb

Hush now, have you not heard?
Born to the cutting cold,
The winter lamb comes furred—
A white ball slickly rolled,
Well-snouted, dour, absurd.
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—JAMES HAYFORD, 1950

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Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
Vermont Chamber of Commerce: visitvt.com
Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities continued)

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Tai' Chi Gung intro classes. Reiki healings, Chinese ear coning, handmade herbal remedies, teas, and lotions. Crystals, stones, and books. All are welcome. Open Tues & Wed 1-6, Thurs-Sat 12-6, Sun 1-4, closed Fri. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermonthherbal.com. www.vermonthherbal.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Listen Community Dinner. Doors open at 3 pm. Nutritious free meals served from 5-5:30 pm every Monday through Friday. Take-home available. At Listen Community Dinner Hall, 42 Maple Ave. (603) 448-4553. www.listencs.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at Upper Valley Food Coop, through the winter. 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.

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. First Sundays.

WOODSTOCK. Hand-in-Hand Community Meal. All are welcome. Free, donations accepted. Thursdays 5-7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 7 Church St. (802) 457-2557.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

BARRE. Studio Place Arts. Classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Free. Tues, Wed & Fri 10 am - 5 pm, Thurs 11 am - 7 pm, Sat 9 am - 5 pm. 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. January 21 - February 22, 2014

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, broadsides, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and other items of ephemera which shed light on the lives and times of past Vermonters. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Mon-Fri, 9 am - 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. BF3F—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. Third Fridays.

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Dolls and dollhouses, puppets, trucks and trains, toys, and educational displays. Museum shop. Admission is \$2 children 3+, \$4 adults, \$10 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. New exhibits through the middle of May include: "On the Move, When I Think of Home," and "Great Cats—Big and Small." Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Fri, Sat & Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Annual Student Art Show through March 30. Exhibits and Public Programs, Founding Documents, Fine Art, 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. Also free admission to visit the Gift Shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Concerts, exhibits, classes, readings, and other events. Take-out café is open Monday through Friday 11 am - 4 pm; to place an order call (802) 465-4071. Studio space available. 250-seat concert hall. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery. Art exhibits, live music, photography, film, comedy, live theatre, film and literary festivals, and community events. 139 Main St. (802) 254-9276. www.hookerdunham.org.

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

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, children under 6 free. First Fridays free after 5:30 pm. Hours: Sun, Mon, Weds, Thurs 11 am - 5 pm; Fri till 7 pm; Sat 10 am - 5 pm; closed Tues. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

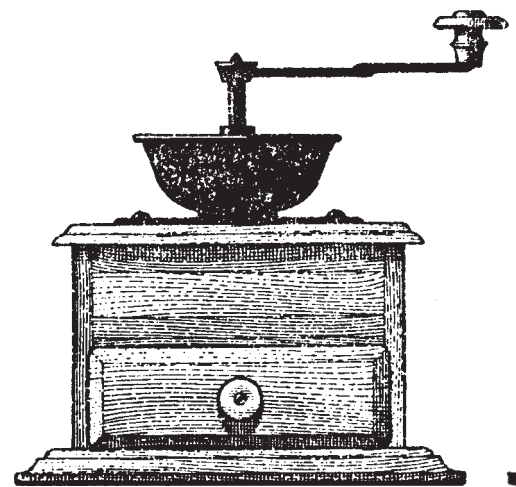
BURLINGTON. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibit—"Alice's Wonderland," through May 11. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3-17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. Monday-Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. At Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org.

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

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. Open Saturdays from 11 am - 1 pm. Rutland Railway Association, 79 Depot Lane. For information call John Schaub at (802) 768-8427. www.rutlandrailroadmuseum.org.

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

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



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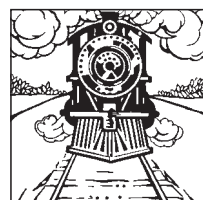
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Vermont Country Calendar



Vermont Symphony Orchestra Presents Masterworks Series

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra will present a Masterworks concert program during March entitled, "Grand Tour." With Jaime Laredo conducting, the VSO will perform at the Flynn Center in Burlington on Saturday, March 8 at 8 pm; at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland on Sunday, March 9 at 3 pm; and at the Bellows Falls Opera House on Monday, March 10 at 7:30 pm.

There is no need to leave the comfort of your theater seat to take the "Grand Tour"! The VSO's musical journey includes stops in Italy for an overture from one of Rossini's comic operas, and in Norway for a delightful miniature by Grieg. Vaughan Williams' native England is next—for a virtuoso performance of the most popular tuba concerto in the literature. The VSO's principle tuba, Takatsugu Hagiwara, will be the soloist. We hop back across the channel to Germany to enjoy a wonderful full-orchestra version of "Death and the Maiden." Schubert's beloved string quartet has been brilliantly arranged by Andy Stein of Prairie Home Companion fame.

Again this year, the VSO will collect food items at its concerts in Burlington, Rutland and Bellows Falls as part of the national "Orchestras Feeding America" project. Audience members and the public may bring non-perishable food items to the concert. The project is also accepting cash donations. All food and cash contributions will be donated directly to the local branch of the Vermont Foodbank and donors will re-

ceive "Classical Cash," good for a discount on a future VSO ticket purchase.

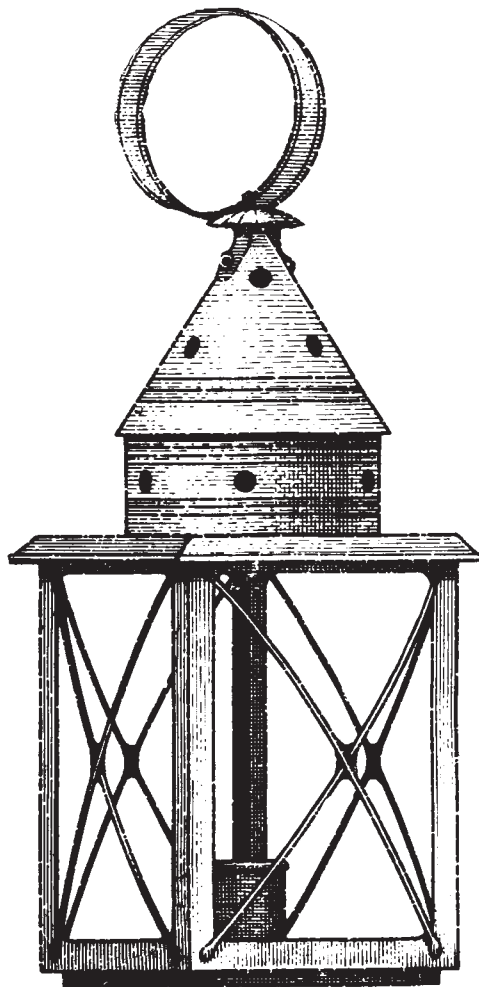
Tickets are available for the March 8, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts concert in Burlington at (802) 863-5966 or flyntix.org; for the March 9 concert at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland at (802) 775-0903 or paramountlive.org; and for the March 10 concert at the Bellows Falls Opera House at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls, Misty Valley Books in Chester, and online through either BrattleboroTix.com or FlynnTix.org.

Tickets are general admission within seating sections, and priced at \$35, \$25, and \$15, with a \$9 student ticket.

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra is the only professional statewide orchestra that provides live musical experiences for listeners in Vermont. It is a state-supported non-profit institution founded in 1935 and exists for the purpose of fostering and encouraging the appreciation of music in all its various forms, with emphasis on orchestral, choral and chamber music.

Concerts by the VSO are made possible in part by the State of Vermont and individuals, businesses and foundations throughout Vermont. Vermont Public Radio is the co-sponsor for the 2013/2014 season. Trapp Lager is the official lager of the VSO.

For more information call the Vermont Symphony Orchestra at (802) 864-5741 or amy@vso.org. Visit www.vso.org or www.facebook.com/VermontSymphony.



ENOSBURG FALLS. Exhibit. Featured artist reception first Sunday of every month, 1-4 pm. Open Thursday through Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 12-5 pm. Artist In Residence—a Cooperative Gallery, 321 Main St. (802) 933-6403. info@artistinresidencecoop.com. www.artistinresidencecoop.com.

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world housed in a 100-foot-long converted dairy barn built in 1863. Events and exhibits. Free admission, donations welcome. Georgian singing workshops on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. Open 10 am - 6 pm daily. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org. Open winters by appointment.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 3 to 12, 2 and under free, \$15 for families. Open Thurs, Sat & Sun 10 am - 4 pm. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. The Slate Valley Museum. 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.

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. 10 am - 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Open by appointment November 1 through April 30.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Art Center. Galleries, classes, performances, gift shop, café, botany trail. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Visit Historic Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home. Rowland Agricultural Center and Pullman palace car, Sunbeam. Admission: \$16 adults, \$5 children 6 to 14, 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.com. www.hildene.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury College Museum of Art. Free. Tuesday through Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-5 pm, closed Mondays. 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. cfa@middlebury.edu. museum.middlebury.edu.

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. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$12, under 6 free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Exhibits, gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. At 88 Main St., downtown. (802) 388-4964. info@vermontfolklifecenter.org. 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. UCCBethany@comcast.net. Every Tuesday.

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibits, trails, programs, and museum store. Take Apart Day, March 29. Open 10 am - 5 pm daily. Admission \$14 adults, \$11 children 2-17, under 2 free. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Admission: adults \$5, children \$1, under 6 free. Open 10 am - 4 pm daily. New England Maple Museum, 4578 Rt. 7, north of the village. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com. Reopening March 22, 2014.

RANDOLPH. Art Exhibits. Open Fri 3-6 pm, Sat & Sun noon to 3 pm or during Chandler events. Free admission. Chandler Upper Gallery, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. outreach@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

ROCHESTER. Exhibit: Juice Bar Winter Show. Annual rotating Gallery Members Show, an Oasis of bright and beautiful art! Hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. BigTown Gallery, 99 North Main St. (802) 767-9670. info@bigtowngallery.com. www.bigtowngallery.com. Through April 5.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Open Tuesday through Friday, 12-6 pm, Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown Art Center, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Castleton Downtown Gallery. Free admission. Open Wed through Sat 1-6 pm. Center Street Alley. For info call Bill Ramage at (802) 468-1266. castletoncollegegalleries@gmail.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. 40 craftspeople. Year round, weekdays 12-5 pm and weekends 10 am - 3 pm. 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

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

SHELburne. Shelburne Museum. Home to the finest museum collections of 19th-century American folk art, quilts, 19th- and 20th-century decoys, and carriages. Admission through May 10, 2014: adults: \$10, children (ages 5-18), \$5, children (under 5) free, family day pass \$26. Pizzagalli Center & Museum Store only, Tues thru Sun 10 am - 5 pm, closed Mon till May 10, 2014 when the museum reopens for the season. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

SHOREHAM. Shoreham Bell Museum. See 5-6,000 bells collected from all over the world. Open most afternoons by appointment or chance year round. Free admission, donations accepted. Shoreham Bell Museum, 127 Smith St. off Rt. 74 west. For information call Judy Blake at (802) 897-2780. vtcat@shorehambellmuseum.com. www.shorehambellmuseum.com.

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: Earth as Muse—Beauty, Degredation, Hope, Awakening. 9 am - 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Great Hall Public Art Showcase, 100 River St. (802) 258-3992. Through April 30

SPRINGFIELD. Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center. Fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Exhibits, classes, workshops. Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 5 pm. 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Admission: adults \$8, seniors and children under 17 \$6, under 5 free. Winter hours: Tues-Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Hot cocoa in the Gallery. Winter hours: Thursday through Monday 11 am - 4 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

VERGENNES. Whale Days. Special programs that bring visitors into LCMM's boat shop where museum staff, volunteers, and students are building a whaleboat for Mystic Seaport's newly restored whaleship Charles W. Morgan. By reservation. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022. www.lcmm.org. Through May.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one significant and telling a story. Open Thurs-Sun 1-6 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. mainstreetmuseum.org.

WINDSOR. Nuance Gallery. Luminaries Exhibition. Free admission. Open Tuesday to Friday 11 am - 5 pm, Saturday 11 am - 3 pm, and by appt. Nuance Gallery, 85 Main St. (802) 674-9616. nancysilliman@myfairpoint.net.

Free Calendar Listings

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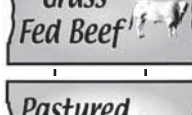
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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. ArtisTree Community Art Center. Exhibits, classes, music, special events. Tues 11 am – 8 pm, Wed-Sat 11 am – 4 pm. Mount Tom Building, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500. www.artistreevt.org.

COMMUNITY DANCES AND MUSIC

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.*

BURLINGTON. Burlington Irish Festival. A fun-filled and informative week, celebrating Irish-American culture and community. Music, lectures, movies, drama and dance. For a full schedule visit burlingtonirishheritage.org. *March 8-16.*

CHESTER. Green Mountain Express hosts Monthly Open Mike Country Jamboree. All musicians and singers, bands and singles welcome. Refreshments, raffles and 50/50 tickets on sale. \$5 donation. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange, Rts 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Second Sundays.*

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.*

MONTPELIER. Summit School Players Jam. Share music, a meal, and help Summit School sustain its programs! Donation \$5. 6-8 pm. Call to confirmation schedule. Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. www.summitschool.wix.com/summitschool. *Fourth Thursdays.*

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

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. lynnnetcombs@gmail.com.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Admission \$8, \$6 teens, \$3 children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140. For info call (802) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org. *Monthly, call or check website for dates.*

TUNBRIDGE. Ed Larkin Contra Dancers Open House. Music by Harold Luce and others. \$8 per person. Refreshments at intermission. Second Friday's through May then second Friday's of July and August (we skip June because of graduations). 7:30-10 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. For info e-mail clydo46@gmail.com.

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

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance. Join The Old Sam Peabody Band with caller Delia Clark. Bring a pair of clean soft-soled shoes for dancing. Dance workshop for instruction at 6:45 pm. Dance with pot luck dessert break 7-10 pm. Suggested price \$8, kids and seniors by donation. The Little Theater, 54 River St., right next to the Recreation Center. For info call Steve Hoffman, (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. Delia Clark, (802) 457-2075. Facebook/OldSamPeabody.

HORSEBACK RIDING WAGON & SLEIGH RIDES

BRANDON. Painted Woods Farm provides sleigh and wagon rides through beautiful fields and forest where you can experience some of Vermont's splendid scenery. Looking for a romantic evening adventure? Well a carriage ride for two down a quiet country lane would be for you. For info call Donna and Anthony Peduto at (802) 247-4917.

BROWNINGTON. Sleigh-rides. Private rides by reservation, any size group. Sliding hill & warmup fire with marshmallows available. \$10 per person, \$100 minimum. Rides at 5 pm or later, \$150 minimum. Narrow Gate Farm—The Perry Family, 509 Dutton Brook Lane. (802) 754-2396.

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

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards. 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.

RUPERT. Winter Sweetheart Sleigh Rides. Over the course of an hour, you will tour around the wintry landscape of the farm and forest in a Sweetheart Sleigh built for two. Fee \$150/hour. 11 am, 12:15 pm and 1:30 pm. Saturdays and Sundays. Reservation required 24 hours in advance. Call to reserve. Sleigh rides are dependent on good snow conditions and obliging weather. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. *Through March 30.*

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.

RECREATION & NATURE CENTERS

CHITTENDEN. Mountain Top Resort. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, guided snowmobile tours, Nordic quest, Nordic ski & snowshoe. Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-6089. www.mountaintoppinn.com.

EAST CHARLESTON. Northwoods Stewardship Center. Outdoor programs, outings, workshops, classes, and more. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. www.northwoodscenter.org.

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

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum sponsors its monthly bird monitoring walk from 8-10 am on the Museum's property, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-register by emailing museum@birdsofvermont.org or call (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. *The last Saturday of every month.*

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. www.vt.audubon.org.

JAY. Guided Snowshoe Tours. Wednesdays and Saturdays weather permitting. \$29 adults, \$19 juniors. Includes headlamp, snowshoes and two-hour guided tour. 5-7 pm at the Nordic Center located downstairs at the Golf Clubhouse. For reservations call the Nordic Center at (802) 988-4653 x 4653. jaypeakresort.com. *March 1, 5, 8, 12 & 15.*

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MARCH 8
Flynn Center
Burlington

MARCH 9
Paramount Theatre
Rutland

MARCH 10
Bellows Falls
Opera House

8:00 pm

3:00 pm

7:30 pm

March 8, 9, 10 2014

ROSSINI
Il Turco in Italia Overture
GRIEG
Two Lyric Pieces
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Tuba Concerto
SCHUBERT/STEIN
Death and the Maiden



Jaime Laredo, conductor ~ Takatsugu Hagiwara, tuba

TICKETS:

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March 9 paramountlive.org ~ (802)775-0903
March 10 brattleborotix.com ~ flynntix.org
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Misty Valley Books in Chester
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Vermont Country Calendar

MONTPELIER. North Branch Nature Center. Programs and workshops, hikes, bird counts. 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$13, seniors \$12, youth (4-17) \$11. 10 am - 4 pm, 7 days a week through April 12, then till 5 pm through June 14. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

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

SHARON. Ice Rink. Open weekdays after school until 7 pm. Open all day weekends and holidays until 7 pm. Free. Elementary School, 75 Rt. 132. (802) 763-2828.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms. Welcome Center, Farm and Farm Store. Family programs, workshops, events. Open year round 10 am - 5 pm. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SOUTH ROYALTON. Ice Rink. Open daily at the town green on Chelsea Street. Shovels provided for clearing snow. Crates available for beginning skaters. Free. Sponsored by Royalton Recreation Commission. (802) 299-9033.

STATEWIDE Vermont's ice fishing season for trout, salmon and bass runs through March 15 on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to page 60 of the 2014 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. (802) 318-1347. Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

THETFORD. Ice Rink. Open to the public after school on weekdays and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. Hockey games not allowed. Lighted at night. Free. Thetford Elementary School, Rt. 113. (802) 785-4363.

Daily Events

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

BRATTLEBORO. Performance—The Northeast Kingdom's Vermont Vaudeville. Comedy, circus, music and mayhem! Laugh locally. Tickets \$15/\$8. 7 pm. New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St. (802) 533-2589. VermontVaudeville.com.

CASTLETON. The Great Benson Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary Club. Over \$10,000 in cash prizes. This derby is open to all Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Headquartered at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen. The derby hotline open February 21, 22 & 23 is (802) 273-FISH. *Also February 23.*

HARTLAND. Famous Roast Beef Supper. Family-style meal includes homemade rolls and pies. \$7 or \$14. Sponsored by Men's Fellowship. 5-7 pm. First Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792.

MIDDLEBURY. 91st Annual Winter Carnival. The oldest student-run winter carnival in the nation. Sports, activities, lots of family fun. Ice Show, Kenyon Arena at 7:30 pm. Winter Carnival Ball Featuring DJ Earworm, Nelson Arena, 10 pm. For tickets call (802) 443-6433. middlebury.edu. *Also February 23.*

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.

WEST LEBANON, NH. 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. Fireside Inn, Airport Rd. I-89, exit 20. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. *Also February 23.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 5 pm. CT Valley Auto Auction Center, 1567 Rt. 14. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. *Also February 23.*

WINDSOR. Luminaries Exhibition Opening Reception. 4-6 pm. Free admission. Gallery open Tuesday to Friday 11 am - 5 pm, Saturday 11 am - 3 pm, and by appointment. Nuance Gallery, 85 Main St. (802) 674-9616. nancysilliman@myfairpoint.net. *Through May 2.*

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week. Sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers; tour the dairy farm and farmhouse; programs and hands-on activities; presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also February 23.*



WOODSTOCK. Satchmo! A Stage Meets Screen Salute to Louis Armstrong. Rare film and exciting live performance highlight the living legacy of Louis Armstrong as a man of his times and an American hero for all time. Tickets: \$24 general advance, \$27 day of show, \$12 child (under 18). 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

CASTLETON. The Great Benson Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary Club. Over \$10,000 in cash prizes. This derby is open to all Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Headquartered at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen. The derby hotline open February 21, 22 & 23 is (802) 273-FISH.

MIDDLEBURY. 91st Annual Winter Carnival. The oldest student-run winter carnival in the nation. Ice Show, Kenyon Arena at 2 pm. For tickets call (802) 443-6433. middlebury.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Classical Concert. Alexander Melnikov, piano, performs Schumann's Symphonic Etudes and Book Two of Shostakovich's 24 Preludes and Fugues. Tickets: \$25/\$20/\$6. 3 pm. Mahaney Center for the Concert Hall, Middlebury College. (802) 989-7355. middlebury.edu.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich, Caller Chris Levey. Bring a snack or drinks to share at the potluck dessert break. All dances taught, no partner needed. All are welcome. Clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes only (or socks). Admission: \$8 Adults, \$4 ages 25 and under. 1-4 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD. *Dances continue through April 20.*

PERU. 29th Annual Telemark Festival. Kåre's race will be a sanctioned USTSA Event! Come rip with some of the best tele skiers in the East! Great tele events, the annual Race, clinics and fun for the entire family. Bromley, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. bromley.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Roots & Branches—Celebrating the Work of Alan Lomax. Performance by banjo innovator Jayme Stone, with fiddler Bruce Molsky and singer-songwriter Margaret Glaspy. Tickets: Adults \$25 advance, \$30 day of show; Students \$15. Free pre-performance talk and community potluck dinner at 4:30 pm. Concert at 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

RIPTON. Guided Ski Tour on the Catamount Trail: The CT Old and New North of Rikert Nordic Center. An intermediate circuit tour through some of the most beautiful stands of forest in Ripton. Four to five hour tour with a couple of advanced short steeper descents. Contact: Andy McIntosh, andymac@together.net or call, evenings (802) 388-8376, weekdays (802) 236-2488. catamounttrail.org.

WEST LEBANON, NH. Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 3 pm. Fireside Inn, Airport Rd. I-89, exit 20. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Green Mountain Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, new and used, free appraisals, buying, selling, trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am - 3 pm. CT Valley Auto Auction Center, 1567 Rt. 14. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

WOODSTOCK. Satchmo!—A Stage Meets Screen Salute to Louis Armstrong. Live stage performance with rare archival film. David Ostwald's Louis Armstrong Eternity Band performs. North Chapel Social Hall hosts a Red Beans and Rice'ly Yours New Orleans Dinner, including Armstrong's own recipes. Concert tickets are \$27, \$12 child (under 18). Ticket & dinner package \$38 in advance, \$21 child (under 18). 3-5:30 p.m. in the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org.

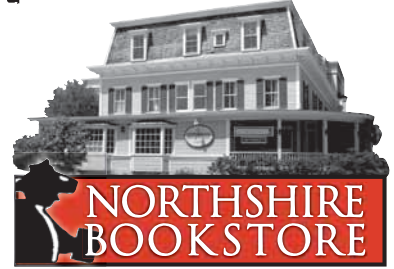
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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Week.

Horse-drawn sleigh rides, sledding with jack jumpers. Tour the dairy farm and restored 1890 farmhouse. Programs and hands-on activities for kids and adults. Enjoy presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd., north of the village green. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

MONTPELIER. Winter Wonders: North Branch Vacation Nature Camp. For children grades K-3. See winter birds, track wild mammals, learn about winter survival and build a fire. And of course, play in the snow! Come for all five days or pick your favorites. Fee: \$230 for 5 days or \$50 for individual days. Monday through Friday, February 24-28, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org. *Through February 28.*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

BURLINGTON. Performance: Sesame Street Live—“Elmo Makes Music.” When the new music teacher’s instruments go missing, Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird, and more come to the rescue and discover instruments they never knew existed. Tickets: \$19.76-\$52.46. Anyone who has reached their first birthday requires a ticket. 3:30 & 7 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org.

QUECHEE. Cross-Country Ski at Marshland Farms. 11 am – 12 pm. Groomed cross-country trails. Easy. Trail fee. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader: Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777. greenmountainclub.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Screening: *Jewels* – Bolshoi Ballet, choreographed by George Balanchine. Tickets: \$18 Adults, \$6 Students. 7 pm. Film: *Girl on a Bicycle* at 5:30 pm, tickets \$8, \$7 \$6. Film: *Nebraska*, 7:30 pm, tickets: \$8. \$7. \$6. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Animals Come to Life—Art Open House. Get up close and personal with the Museum’s amazing natural history collections as you see them for art subjects. We’ll pull out pieces from our collection and provide a selection of art materials, giving you a choice of media. 1-3 pm. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

MONTPELIER. 90th Annual Farmers’ Night. Join us for an evening commemorating the “Great War” as we hear music performed by the Vermont Philharmonic Chorus and the Bethany Baritones. All are welcome. Free. 7:30 pm in the Vermont State House, 115 State St. (802) 828-2180. vermonthistory.org.

NORWICH. Book & Author Event. Benjamin Kilham discusses his new book about his experiences with black bears, *Out on a Limb, What Black Bears Have Taught Me About Intelligence and Intuition*. Free. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. norwichbookstore.com.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

BURLINGTON. The Johannes String Quartet with Fred Child: “Mozart Magnified.” Soovin Kim, violin; Jessica Lee, violin; Choong-Jin Chang, viola; Peter Stumpf, cello; Fred Child, narrator and host. Tickets: \$35 adults, \$31 students. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. www.flynncenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Phill Niblock with Neil Leonard, saxophone, & guests. This concert weaves in live performance with evocative film by Niblock of people working in some of the most extreme environments on the planet. Tickets: \$17-\$25. 7 pm. Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Screening—National Theatre Live from London’s West End: *War Horse*. An extraordinary journey filled with stirring music and songs, and astonishing life-sized puppets by South Africa’s Handspring Puppet Company. Tickets: \$17, \$10 students. 2 pm and 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222.

MONTPELIER. Summit School Players Jam. Share music, a meal, and help Summit School sustain its programs! Suggested Donation \$5. 6-8 pm. Call or email for confirmation of schedule. Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. www.summitschool.wix.com/summitschool. *Every fourth Thursday.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

BENNINGTON. St. Peter’s Spaghetti Dinner. Chef Gary Whiting and this team will be preparing spaghetti with both marinara and meat sauce, garlic bread, green salad with Nancy Bower’s homemade salad dressing, brownies with real whipped cream and beverages. \$10 adults, \$6 children 4-12, free 3 and under. The church is accessible to everyone. 6-8 pm. St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St. (802) 442-2911.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Bob Weir and Ratdog. A long, strange, very creative trip—and not remotely over. Tickets: \$77/\$62.25/\$51.75. Six ticket limit per person. 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. www.flynncenter.org. www.rat-dog.com.

BURLINGTON. University of Vermont Lane Series Concert: Paul Neubauer (viola) and Anne-Marie McDermott (piano) performing a program of Bach and Brahms. \$25 adult/\$15 advance student. 7:30 pm; Pre-performance talk at 6:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. lane.series@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu.

FAIRLEE. Annual Winter Doe Camp. A women’s weekend retreat for outdoor skill development, adventure, education and just plain fun! Participants stay in heated cabins and play in the snow all day. Spend the weekend learning winter outdoors skills while staying near the shores of Lake Morey. Fee \$345 all-inclusive. For info and registration visit the website or call (802) 425-6211. voga.org. *Thru March 2.*

LEBANON, NH. Seussical the Musical. Performed by the North Country Community Theatre. Tickets \$10-\$15. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lohic.org. *Through March 2.*

POULTNEY. Literary Open Mic. Poets, storytellers, spoken word artists in all genres are invited to perform their original pieces, classics, or other favorites. Free. 7-9 pm at the Stone Valley Arts in the Journal Press Building (3rd floor), 188 Main St. (802) 884-8052.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

BRATTLEBORO. Piano Four-Hands Weekend. A dynamic and fun weekend intensive exploring the great world of piano 4-hand repertoire. Enrollment limited to 10 individuals. No previous four hands experience required. Saturday 10 am - 3 pm, Sunday 12:30-3 pm (open practice in the morning). Cost: \$150, includes Saturday lunch. Brattleboro Music Center, Walnut St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org. *Through March 2.*

BURLINGTON. Performance: Vermont Vaudeville. Circus, comedy, music & mayhem! The 2014 Tour is funded in part by the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Tickets \$15. 7 pm. Flynn Space, 153 Main St. (802) 533-2589. www.vermontvaudeville.com.

CHESTER. Annual LEGO Contest. For Legomaniacs pre-k through grade 8 and their families. Sponsored by St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Public welcome. 9 am – 12:30 pm. NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main St. Lillian Willis, (802) 875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.



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Baird Farm. 65 West Road, Chittenden, VT. Robert Baird, (802) 483-2963. www.bairdfarm.com.

Bragg Farm Sugarhouse and Gift Shop. 1005 VT Rt. 14 North, East Montpelier, VT. Doug and Barb Bragg, (802) 223-5757. www.braggfarm.com.

Bushee Family Maple Farm. 232 Quarry Hill Rd, Danby, VT. Kenneth Bushee, 802-293-5037. www.vermontmaplesweets.com.

Couture Maple Shop / Bed and Breakfast. 560 VT Rte 100, Westfield, VT. Jacques and Pauline Couture, (802) 744-2733. www.maplesyrupvermont.com.

Dakin Farms. 5797 Rt. 7, Ferrisburgh VT. Sam Cutting IV, (802) 425-3971. www.dakinfarm.com.

Dutton Berry Farm. 3083 Depot Street, Manchester Ctr, VT. Paul and Wendy Dutton, (802) 365-4622.

Evans Maple Farm. 61 Spaulding Hill Rd, East Dummerston, VT. Faith Evans, (802) 257-0262. www.evansmaplefarm.com.

Goodrich’s Maple Farm. 2427 US Route 2, Cabot, VT. Glenn and Ruth Goodrich, (802) 426-3418. www.goodrich-maplefarm.com.

Green Mountain Sugar House. 820 Rte 100 N, Ludlow, VT. Doug and Ann Rose, (802) 228-7151. www.gmsh.com.

Green’s Sugarhouse. 1846 Finel Hollow Road, Poultney, VT. Richard and Pam Green, (802) 287-5745. www.greens-sugarhouse.com.

Jim and Josie’s Maple Syrup. 1055 VT Rt. 11, Londonderry, VT. Jim and Josie Ameden, (802) 824-3295.

KandS Ruane Maple Sugar Farm. 128 Mountain View Rd, Tinmouth, VT, Kevin and Sherri Ruane. (802) 446-3105.

Krueger-Norton Sugarhouse. 780 Button Hill Rd, Shrewsbury, VT. Art Krueger and Trish Norton, (802) 492-3653. www.kruegernortonmaple.com.

Limlaw Family Maple Farm, LLC. 246 VT Route 25, West Topsham, VT. Bruce Limlaw, (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Sugarhouse Address: 3270 Route 315, Rupert, VT. Laurie Martin, (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks. 1168 County Road, Montpelier, VT. Burr Morse, (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com.

New England Maple Museum. 78 Rt 7, Pittsford, VT. Mike Blanchard, (802) 483-9414. www.maplemuseum.com.

Shelburne Sugarworks. 746 Shelburne-Hinesburg Road, Shelburne, VT. Steven Palmer, (802) 233-4408. www.shelburnesugarworks.com

Silloway Maple. 1089 Silloway Road, Randolph Ctr, VT. David Silloway, (802) 728-3625. www.sillowaymaple.com.

Smith Maple Crest Farm LLC. 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd, Shrewsbury, VT. Jeff and Mary Smith, (802) 492-2151. www.smithmaplecrestfarm.com.

Sugar and Spice Restaurant and Gift Shop. 43 Rt 4, East Mendon, VT. (802) 773-7832. www.vtsugarandspice.com.

Sugarbush Cheese and Maple Farm. 591 Sugarbush Farm Rd, Woodstock, VT. Lawrence and Elizabeth Luce, (802) 457-1757. www.sugarbushfarm.com.

Wood’s Cider Mill and Sugar House. 1482 Weathersfield Ctr Rd, Springfield, VT. Willis and Tina Wood, (802) 263-5547. www.woodsidermill.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

ESSEX JUNCTION. Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association's Vermont Rails Show. Multiple operating HO, N, G, and O-scale layouts, in addition to over 120 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books! There will be a railroad clown to entertain the children with face painting and balloons, and multiple hands-on train activities for children also. Food stand with hamburgers, hotdogs, fries, and other snacks. 10 am - 4 pm at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt 15. Admission: \$5 adults, \$1 children 6-12, free under 6. \$5 per family with an active military identification. Contact: Ron Piro, (802) 878-1135, ronpiro@aol.com, www.nwrrailroad.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. The Annual St. David's Day Dinner. A 26th Annual Gathering of the Clans Event in Honor of St. David, Patron Saint of Wales. Sponsored by Poultney Area St. David's Society. Three entre choices—roast lamb, haddock or chicken. \$15.50 per person. All are welcome. 12:30 pm at A.J.'s Restaurant, Quaker St. For reservations or information call Jan Edwards (802) 287-5744. pasds88@yahoo.com. www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vtpasds/

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra. Stravinsky's Suite from The Firebird (1919); Mussorgsky/Ravel's majestic Pictures at an Exhibition; and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35 (1878). Tickets: \$15/\$10. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Youth Wind Ensemble. Dedicated middle-school musicians from throughout the Upper Valley, led by student conductors. Free. 2 pm. Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu/online/youthwinds.

HANOVER, NH. Performance: Spring Awakening—A Rock Musical. A compelling alt-rock score tells the story of teenagers discovering the inner and outer tumult of sexuality. Contains adult language and content. Tickets: \$15/\$10. 8 pm. The Moore Theater, The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

JAY. Guided Snowshoe Tours. Wednesdays and Saturdays weather permitting. \$29 adults, \$19 juniors. Includes headlamp, snowshoes and two-hour guided tour. 5-7 pm at the Nordic Center located downstairs at the Golf Clubhouse. For reservations call the Nordic Center at (802) 988-4653 x 4653.mrobidoux@jaypeakresort.com. jaypeakresort.com. March 5, 8, 12 & 15.

LEBANON, NH. Seussical the Musical. Performed by the North Country Community Theatre. Tickets \$10-\$15. 2 & 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. lohic.org. Also March 2.

LUDLOW. Spring 2014 Ski Demo Day at Okemo Mountain. Open to the public and features top brands of the latest gear from a variety of ski, snowboard and snowshoe companies. 9 am - 2:30 pm. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-4041. www.okemo.com.

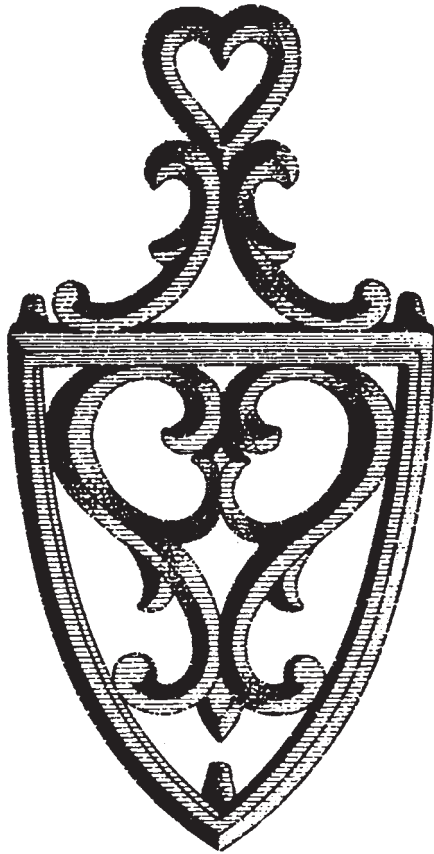
MIDDLEBURY. Screening: Rust and Bone. Set on the Côte d'Azur in southern France, the film balances beauty and tragedy, creating a melodrama in which "the principal characters are at war with themselves, each other and the cruelty of the world." 3 pm and 8 pm. Free. Dana Auditorium, Middlebury College. www.middlebury.edu/events.

PITTSFIELD. 2014 Peak Snowshoe Race. Ultra Snowshoe Race—100 miles, snowshoe marathon, 1/2 marathon, and six-mile option. The course will be a rugged 6.5 mile loop in the Green Mountains. 100 milers start Friday, 2/28 at 8 am. Fee. Ameer Farm, 4275 Rt. 100. (928) 503-4249. thomas.a.villarreal@gmail.com. 2014peaksnowshoe.eventbrite.com.

RUTLAND. Screening: The Metropolitan Opera Live—Prince Igor. Borodin's defining Russian epic is a brilliant psychological journey through the mind of its conflicted hero, with the founding of the Russian nation as the backdrop. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 students. 12 noon. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SHELburne. Snowshoe Outing. Explore the LaPlatte River Marsh Natural area, the Shelburne Bay Clarke Trail and perhaps some of the Ti-Haul trail. Easy hike, leisurely pace. Total distance to be determined by the group depending on the trails we take - between four and six miles, mostly flat. Meet at the public boat launch, Shelburne Bay, on Bay Rd. at 9 am. The boat launch is 1/2 mile east of the entrance to Shelburne Farms at Harbor Rd. and Bay Rd. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Non-members and newcomers welcome. For meeting time and location contact leader: Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net. greenmountainclub.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: The Joy of Spring Landscapes in Pastel. Instructor, Robert Carsten. Let's look ahead and indulge in the rich and soft colors of the early Spring landscape in a workshop that focuses on expressing the season's beauty in pastel! Bring favorite landscape photos, garden photos or sketches. All levels welcome. Fee \$75. Materials list upon registration. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault@vermontel.net. www.galleryvault.org.



WAITSFIELD. Nature Program: The Wild Side of Stark Mountain. Seek out the tracks and signs of our forest animals and year-round birds, such as snowshoe hare, fisher, red fox, coyote, moose and bear! Discover the adaptations and habitats of our resident wildlife in the Green Mountains. Fee: \$25 for adults and \$15 for 18 and under. 10:30 am at the Kent Thomas Nature Center, Mad River Glen Cooperative, 57 Schuss Pass Rd. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. madriverglen.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

BRISTOL. Willowell Wildlife Monitoring Local Class. 8:30 am - 4 pm. Join Sue Morse for a full-day winter workshop offered by Willowell Foundation. Bring a pack lunch, warm beverage, and wear sturdy waterproof hiking boots and insulating layers of clothes. If conditions warrant, don't forget to bring snowshoes. Willowell strongly encourages those who are able to sign up for the entire 5-class course in order to learn about a greater variety of species, wildlife habitats and ecosystem ecology. Registration required and is open to adults and students. For fees and to register contact Tony Zambito atinto@willowell.org or call (802)453-6195. willowell.org.

MIDDLEBURY. After Dark Music Series Concert: Karan Casey Band. Critically acclaimed from Japan to America as one of Ireland's greatest singers. She has been part of the Irish "supergroup" Solas and has continued with her own band. Admission. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, South Pleasant St. (802) 388-0216. afterdarkmusicseries.com.

POULTNEY. Frosty Derby. Join us on Lake St. Catherine for an ice fishing contest put on by the Poultney Fish & Game Club! Prizes awarded for the largest fish caught: pike, trout, perch, bass. Adult & child divisions. Fun for the entire family! Lake St. Catherine State Park, 3034 VT Rt. 30 South. For more information and ice conditions contact Steve Saltis at (802) 287-9742.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

BURLINGTON. The Spring Quartet. Jack DeJohnette, drums; Joe Lovano, saxophone; Esperanza Spalding, bass; Leo Genovese, piano. Tickets: \$15-\$55. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Sally Pinkas Piano. Debussy's Estampes, Beethoven's Sonata in C Major, Schumann's impassioned Faschingsschwank Aus Wien, and the neoclassical Variations in C minor by Boston-based contemporary composer Harold Shapero. Tickets: \$17-\$27. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

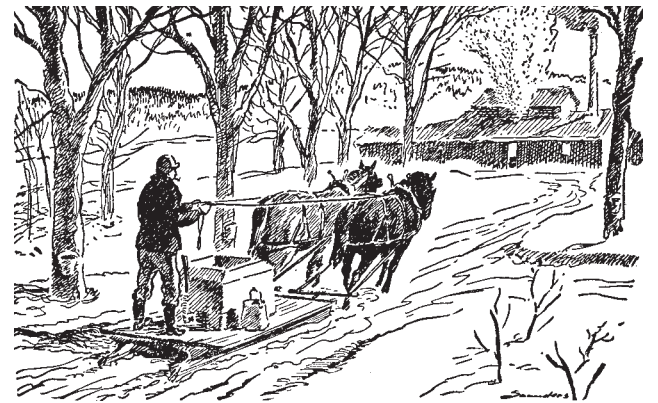
LEBANON, NH. Concert: Josh Ritter. An Idaho-born singer-songwriter. Tickets \$26-\$36. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. lebanonoperahouse.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

BURLINGTON. Golden Dragon Acrobats: "Cirque Ziva." Blending traditional and modern acrobatics, dance, aerial stunts, contortion, spectacular costumes, and ancient and contemporary music. Tickets: \$15-\$38. 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

RUTLAND. The Irish Comedy Tour. The party atmosphere of a Dublin pub combined with a boisterous, belly-laugh band of hooligans. Tickets: \$25. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.



13th Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend

The 13th Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend will be held at sugarhouses throughout Vermont, March 22-23, 2014.

The Open House Weekend is a celebration of the maple syrup season in Vermont and an opportunity to visit sugarhouses throughout the state to learn about Vermont's first agricultural crop of the year.

Activities during Open House Weekend are different at each sugarhouse but include the opportunity to watch maple syrup being made (weather permitting) and to often sample syrup and other maple products. Some sugarhouses offer tours of their sugarbushes and

some have special activities for children. There may even be horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides.

No two sugarhouses are the same so people are encouraged to visit more than one.

There are approximately 2000 maple producers in Vermont which is the largest U.S. producer of maple syrup, producing 920,000 gallons of syrup in 2009.

Information about all of the participating maple syrup producers including which of the two days they will be open and directions to their sugarhouses can be found on www.vermontmaple.org

Sugarmaker's Secrets

~ Everyday Ways to Enjoy Maple ~

Did you know?

Vermont Maple Syrup is nature's healthful sweetener. It contains minerals, vitamins and necessary amino acids.

So how about:

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

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

Deja New

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(802) 483-9414 or contact us via our website
at www.maplemuseum.com.

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As Well as a Unique Gift Shop Featuring
Vermont Maple Products • We Ship
Gift Baskets, Ready-Made or You Choose

Maple Open House Weekend • March 22-23

Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

PUTNEY. Concert with The Sweetback Sisters and Elixer. An evening of swing, honky-tonk, and fiddle music. Tickets \$18. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra: Grand Tour. Rossini's *Il Turco in Italia* Overture, Greig's *Two Lyric Pieces*, Vaughan Williams *Tuba Concerto*, and Schubert/Stein's *Death and the Maiden*. Tickets: \$9 - \$32. 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.VSO.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

BARNARD. 2nd Annual Masquerade Jazz & Funk Winter Music Carnival. At Barnard Town Hall. 5-11 pm. (802) 332-6020. info@barnarts.org. barnarts.org.

BETHEL. 8th Annual Home Show and Business Expo. Exhibitors, home-cooked food, vehicles to test drive from Ted Green Ford, Step 'n Time Line Dancers, garden design, silent auction. Hosted by The Bethel Business Association of Bethel, Vermont. Free admission, everyone welcome. 9 am - 3 pm. Whitcomb High School Gym, 273 Pleasant St. (802) 234-5064.

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 3 pm. Carl M. Dessaint VFW #1034, 40 Black Mountain Rd. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. Also March 9.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Irish Festival. A fun-filled and informative week, celebrating Irish-American culture and community. Music, lectures, movies, drama and dance. For a complete schedule of events visit www.burlingtonirishheritage.org. Through March 16.

BURLINGTON. Concert: VSO Masterworks. Rossini's *Il Turco in Italia* Overture, Greig's *Two Lyric Pieces*, Vaughan Williams' *Tuba Concerto*, Schubert/Stein's *Death and the Maiden*. Tickets: Adults \$61/\$48/\$32/\$16, Students \$9. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org. www.vso.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: Richard Shindell, widely acclaimed as one of today's finest narrative singer-songwriters. Opening act: Phil Henry. Tickets: \$22.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center Street. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.richardshindell.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 3 pm. Carl M. Dessaint VFW #1034, 40 Black Mountain Rd. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

BURLINGTON. Family Matinee: Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia—"Swimmy," "Frederick," and "Inch by Inch." Starring a tiny but ingenious fish, a poetic mouse, and a precise inchworm. \$25 adults, \$15 children. 2 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. mermaidtheatre.ca.

CHESTER. Book & Author Event. Elaine Stimson presents her book, *Mud Season*—a true story! Free, public invited. 4 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. mvbooks@vermontel.net. www.mvbooks.com.

MIDDLEBURY. After Dark Music Series Concert: Richard Thompson Solo Acoustic with special guest Teddy Thompson. Richard Thompson is the greatest guitarist in British folk rock. Teddy Thompson is an acclaimed singer-songwriter, the only son of British folk-rock legends Richard and Linda Thompson. Tickets \$65. Doors 6 pm, concert 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, S. Pleasant & Merchants Row. (802) 388-0216. afterdarkmusicseries.com.

RUTLAND. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra—Grand Tour. Rossini's *Il Turco in Italia* Overture, Greig's *Two Lyric Pieces*, Vaughan Williams' *Tuba Concerto*, and Schubert/Stein's *Death and the Maiden*. Tickets \$9-\$35. 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.VSO.org.

TUNBRIDGE. Concert: Richard Shindell, one of today's finest narrative songwriters. Opening act: Phil Henry. Tickets: 30. 7:30 pm. Town Hall, 271 Rt. 110. (802) 431-3433. www.mtnfolk.org. www.richardshindell.com.

WAITSFIELD. 39th Annual North American Telemark Festival. The world's largest and oldest gathering of telemark skiers. Mad River Glen Cooperative, 57 Schuss Pass Rd. (802) 496-3551. ski@madriverglen.com. madriverglen.com.

WEST PAWLET. Pancake Breakfast. Pancakes of several varieties including regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry; waffles, scrambled eggs, home fries, sausage and bacon, coffee, milk and orange juice. \$7 for 12 years and up, \$5 for 5-12 years and free to children under 5. All are welcome, handicap accessible. Hosted by the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Dept. Served from 7:30-11 am at the West Pawlet fire house, Rt. 153 (Main St.). For info call Antonio Landon at (802) 345-4312 or email wp5801@yahoo.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

BELLOWS FALLS. Masterworks Concert with the VSO. "Grand Tour." with Jaime Laredo conducting. The VSO will collect food items for donation to the Vermont Foodbank. Tickets \$35, \$25, and \$15, with a \$9 student ticket. 7:30 at the Bellows Falls Opera House. BrattleboroTix.com or FlynnTix.org. www.vso.org.

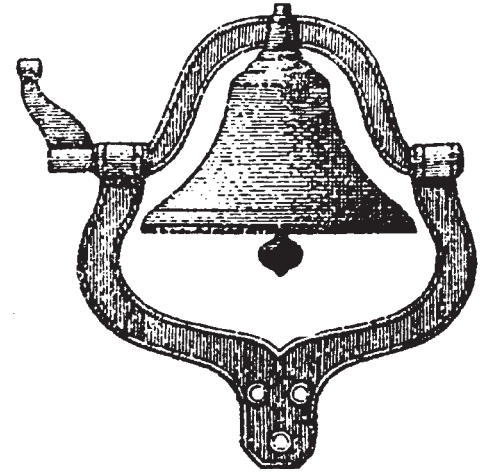
RUTLAND. Concert: The Chieftains. Bringing traditional Irish music to the world's attention, with an exhilarating and definitive style. Tickets: \$49.75-\$69.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

BARRE. Book & Author Event. Local author Jennifer McMahon discusses her new book, *Winter People*. Free, public invited. 6:30 pm. Next Chapter Bookstore, 162 N. Main St. (802) 476-3114. www.nextchapterbooksvt.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

RUTLAND. Program: Texas—A Birder's Destination. Marv Elliott will talk about the varied landscape of Texas (it's not just cactus and cowboys), the many birds it attracts and why birders should visit! Sponsored by the Rutland County Audubon Society. Free. 7 pm. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 787-4466. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.



Chelsea Sugarmaker Writes a History of Maple Spouts

by Charles Sutton

One may wonder with all the attention given to making the best maple sugar that not much is said about those simple, yet very important little metal taps or spouts that are plugged into the tree each season to yield its much sought-after sap.

Chelsea sugar-maker Hale Mattoon has authored a fascinating book, *Maple Spouts, Spiles & Taps* that traces the history of these little devices from the original ones of wood, through many generations of metal, to the present-day plastic ones especially designed for plastic pipelines seen criss-crossing so many sugar bushes.

Hale started collecting spouts in the 1970s and has a collection of 400-500. Hale told us the prize in the collection is a spout that weighs a ¼ pound that was invented by John O'Connor of Chicago, Ill. in 1905. This unusual device is pictured in Hale's book along with its patent design showing how it would hold the bucket in its grip. No hooks or hangers needed here.

Also unique to his collection are "Eureka" sap spouts dating back to 1868. These were manufactured by C.C. Post in Burlington and included ones that didn't need a wire hook, and a rare 1872 one with a dam that would hold back enough sap to keep the tap hole from drying out when the weather was not favorable for a sap flow.

Hale, a sixth generation Vermonter, taps about 500 trees using buckets and Warner spouts. Named after James F. Warner, and manufactured by The Leader Evaporator Co., Burlington, VT under patents dating from 1893 to 1905.

Printed in Hale's book is a letter from the George Jarvis Co. dated January 30, 1909, claiming the Warner Sap Spout produces more sap than any other spout on the market. They also offered the Warner Bucket, tapping bit, sugar pails, syrup cans and everything in the sugar-makers line.

Hale has reprinted an interesting write-up on the Brower Sap Piping system that was patented on Dec. 17, 1915. We learn that tinsmith William C. Brower of Cranberry Creek, N.Y. invented a piping system made out of sheet metal that could carry the sap to the sugarhouse. After 10 years of using the system in his sugar bush he persuaded the Cary Maple Sugar Co. of St. Johnsbury, VT to try it on 1500 trees. After only one year, Mr. Cary bought equipment for 9,000 more trees and soon thereafter had it connected to 15,000 trees.

Some old-time sugar makers have kept some of this original tin piping as a curiosity but it has long since been replaced by plastic piping.

Other firms vied for customers, too. The Vermont Farm Machine Co. of Bellows Falls, VT promoted Burr Sap Spouts, made of iron and tin coated. "The end that drives into the tree is elongated so that it is driven into the body of

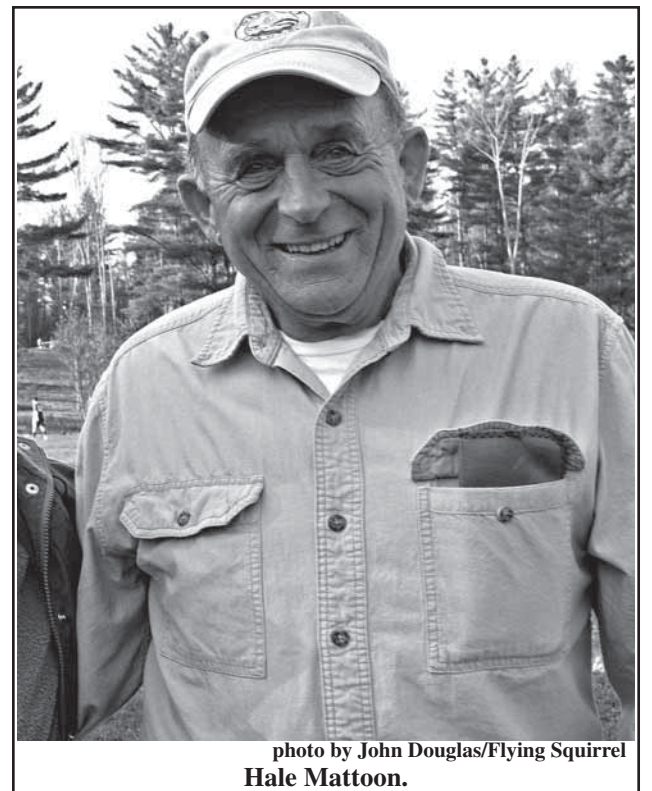


photo by John Douglas/Flying Squirrel
Hale Mattoon.

the tree, which holds it securely; and at the same time does not injure or split the bark." 100 such spouts then cost \$2.50. (Many spouts sold today cost \$2.50 or more for just one!)

It's obvious from Hale Mattoon's book that in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a great many sugar-makers, inventors, and tinsmiths were trying to make the perfect spout.

The book shows pages and pages of these spouts with the inventor's name and patent date, sorted according to state. One section shows various metal hooks and tapping tools.

Vermonters may be interested in whether spouts were made in their town and by whom. Here they are: R.F. Livermore, Starksboro; C.C. Post (The Eureka), Burlington; Lorin Tabor, Westford; J.W. Currier, North Troy; James F. Warner, Essex; George Jarvis, Burlington; Alonso Foster, Cabot; Edward J. Tebbetts, Lower Cabot; G.M.Grim, Rutland; G. H. Soule, Fairfield; C.E. Whitcomb, Richford; and L. S. Blood, Hartland. The book includes many photographs of their spouts.

Maple Spouts, Spiles & Taps by Hale Mattoon, published by Flying Squirrel Press, Vershire, VT, is available from your bookseller and some sugarhouses or can be ordered from Hale Mattoon, 274 East Randolph Rd., Chelsea, VT 05038 for \$14.50 (S&H included). For questions e-mail djm842@yahoo.com.



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Sunday, March 2nd, 7 pm, doors open 6:30 pm

Karan Casey Band

One of the most influential voices in contemporary Irish music.
\$28 advance, \$30 door

Sunday, March 9th, 7 pm, doors open 6 pm

Richard Thompson Solo Acoustic

With Special Guest Teddy Thompson
Richard Thompson is the greatest guitarist in British folk rock.
\$60 advance, \$65 at the door

Sunday, March 22nd, 8 pm, doors open 7:30 pm

Chris Smither

A deeply profound songwriter, Smither draws from the blues, American folk, modern poets, and philosophy.
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Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

ESSEX. 10th Annual Grain Growers Conference—"Grow it Here." Vermont's own Jack Lazor—grain grower extraordinaire, co-owner of Butterworks Farm in Westfield, Vermont, and renowned author—will be this year's keynote speaker! Topics will include dry beans, buck wheat, malting barley and much more! Baking classes on sweet and savory scones and cooking with buckwheat. Fee: \$45 includes lunch. 10 am - 5 pm. The Essex Resort & Spa. (802) 524-6501. www.uvm.edu.

RUTLAND. Concert: Jim Brickman, The Love Tour. Brickman's romantic piano sound has made him the best-selling solo piano artist of our time. Tickets: \$45.50-\$65.50. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.jimbrickman.com.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Marsh Monthly Monitoring Bird Walk. 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. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at Upper Valley Food Coop, through the winter. 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 14

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Show. Seminars, including turkey hunting and calling, bass fishing, bow hunting, snow shoeing, and archery. Turkey calling competition. Vendors. Admission \$8, children under 12 free; \$5 Friday admission. Friday 2-9 pm, Saturday 9 am - 6 pm, Sunday 9 am - 4 pm. Holiday Inn, 476 US Rt 7 South. (802) 7386755. shows@outdoorgazette.com. www.theoutdoorgazette.com. *Through March 16.*

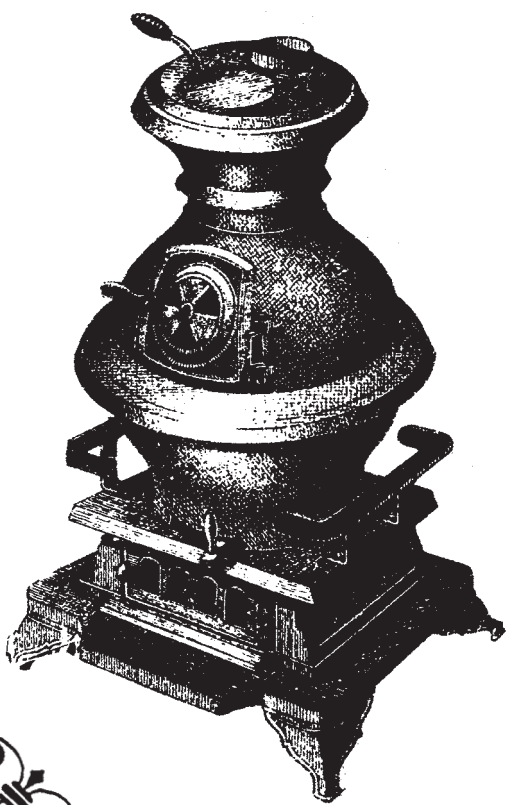
RUTLAND. Library Book Sale. All proceeds go to support library activities and collections. 10 am - 4:30 pm. In the basement. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. *Also March 15.*

WELLS. Teacup Auction. Sponsored by the Wells Methodist Church Mission Events. View and bid from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. Over 400 items by bid drawing 6:45-9 pm. Tickets 10 for \$1.00. Baked goods for sale. Skip supper and come on down for a modest meal—hot dogs, beverages, sundaes and more. Also a silent auction with jams, maple syrup, and art work. Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Rt. 30 south of town next to school. (802) 325-3203.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

BURLINGTON. UVM Lane Series Concert: St. Patrick's Day with Danú. \$40/\$32/\$25 adult; \$36/\$28/\$21 student. 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. (802) 656-4455. lane.series@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu.

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 plus tax. 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 16, 22 & 23.*



GUILFORD. Annual Sugar-on-Snow Supper. The menu features ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, freshly baked rolls, sugar-on-snow, homemade donuts, pickles, and coffee, tea or milk. A half gallon of maple syrup will be raffled off during each seating. \$10 adults, \$5 children age 11 and under, and \$3 for preschoolers. Three seatings at 4:30, 5:45, and 7 p.m. at Guilford Community Church, Church Dr. Directions: take 1-91 to Exit 1 (Brattleboro), go south on Rt. 5 just past Guilford Country Store, left on Bee Barn Rd., then left again on Church Dr. For reservations call (802) 254-9562 or e-mail guilfordchurchsupper@gmail.com.

HARTFORD. Sugar-on-Snow Supper. Menu: baked ham, mashed potato, green beans, cole slaw, homemade rolls, raised donuts, sugar-on-snow for dessert. Served family style. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$4, preschool free. Handicapped accessible. Servings at 5, 6 & 7 pm. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Rt. 14. Reservations recommended. Call (802) 295-2510. *Also March 22.*

RUPERT. Social Knitting Circle. Join fellow knitters, all skill levels welcome. Ideal for those who want to get started on a project, continue a project or have a question and need advice. Just show up! Open to all ages. Free. 1-4 pm. Meets at the Joy Green Visitor Center. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. *Also April 19.*

RUTLAND. Library Book Sale. New books added. All proceeds go to support library activities and collections. 10 am - 2 pm. In the basement. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Show. Seminars, including turkey hunting and calling, bass fishing, bowhunting, snow shoeing, and archery. Turkey calling competition. Vendors. Admission \$8, children under 12 free. 9 am-6 pm. Holiday Inn, 476 US Rt 7 South. (802) 7386755. shows@outdoorgazette.com. www.theoutdoorgazette.com. *Also March 16.*

RUTLAND. Classical Concert: The Borromeo String Quartet. One of the most important string quartets of our time. Tickets \$20, \$10 students and seniors. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Market Chili Cook-off. Local vendors will offer meats, poultry, eggs, breads, pies, quiche, herbs, canned produce, Greek specialties, and a selection of handmade crafts in gym from 10 am - 1 pm at Sharon Elementary School, exit 2 off I-89. Info: Keenan Haley at (802) 763-7425. www.sharon.owsu.org. *Third Saturday of every month.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

BENNINGTON. Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Floats, Grand Marshall, Parade Colleen and her Court, Candy, Entertainers, and more. Parade starts at old Middle School and ends at Bennington Fire Station. Parade route - West on Main Street to Depot Street. North on Depot to River Street. After-parade party at JC's on the corner of Depot and River Streets. Live entertainment and dinner specials. Come early and get your spot on the sidewalk for Downtown Bennington's first event of the season! Call (802) 442-5758 to inquire about entering a float! (802) 447-3311. www.bennington.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Composers In Our Midst: Works of Local Composers featured in a Master Class, Recital & Concert. Master Class Sessions at BMC Recital Hall, 1-3:30 pm; Student Recital at BMC Recital Hall, 4 pm; Faculty & Guests Concert at Centre Congregational Church, 7 pm, with short intermission and reception following concert. Admission. Brattleboro MusicCenter, Walnut St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.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 plus tax. 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 22 & 23.*

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS. 26th Annual Maple Festival. Free admission and families welcome. Bill Clark will give a talk on the evolution of sugaring techniques. Fred Bradley will demonstrate early maple sugarmaking in a cast iron kettle over an open fire. Maple desserts, sugar-on-snow, maple cotton candy, maple products, crafts and new 2014 maple syrup will be for sale. See a maple sugaring video. Silent auction with decorated antique maple sap buckets and a raffle. Acoustic music and kids' activities. Sponsored by the Middletown Springs Historical Society. 1-4 pm on the Green and indoors at the Historical Society Museum, on Rt. 140 at Rt. 133. For info call David Wright at (802) 235-2376.

RUTLAND. Vermont Outdoor Show. Seminars, including turkey hunting and calling, bass fishing, bowhunting, snow shoeing, and archery. Turkey calling competition. Vendors. Admission \$8, children under 12 free. 9 am to 4 pm. Holiday Inn, 476 US Rt 7 South. (802) 7386755. shows@outdoorgazette.com. www.theoutdoorgazette.com.



Sugaring-Time

The crows above the woodlot
Are out on flapping wings,
And in the dooryard maple
An early robin sings;
Beside the barn the cattle
Stand warming in the sun,
And it is clear that spring is here
And sugaring has begun.

Go yoke the brindle oxen,
And get the draw-tubs out,
The maple grove shall echo
The teamster's hearty shout;
Old Jack, the dog, is waiting
To help the work along;
At every tree a bucket,
In every heart a song.

Is there a season dearer
Than this to country folk,
When every old brown sugarhouse
Is sending up its smoke?
We've weathered the long winter
That sealed our northern clime,
And thank the Lord, we've lived to see
Another sugaring-time.

—FLORENCE BOYCE DAVIS
circa 1954

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Maple Open House Weekend

— March 21, 22, 23, 2014 —

**Sugar-on-Snow on Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Pancake Breakfast on Saturday
Hot Dogs & Eggs Boiled in Sap
On Saturday & Sunday from Noon to 4 pm**

Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

BRATTLEBORO. Lunchtime Concert: Windham Orchestra—A Magic Garden. Lunch & concert: \$15, seniors \$10. Concert only: \$10, seniors \$8. 12 noon - 1 pm. Latchis Theatre, Main St. Tickets & lunch reservations: Brattleboro Music Center, Walnut St. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Broadway National Tour: "Man of La Mancha." The classic story of Don Quixote and his enduring quest for peace, goodness, and the lady of his dreams, Dulcinea. Tickets: \$25-\$75. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

BENNINGTON. Wildlife Program—"Bobcats, Bears, Cougars, Moose, Mink and More." Stunning original photography by naturalist and Keeping Track's director, Susan Morse. Fee \$5, \$10/family. 7 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 US Rt. 7S. For info call Jen Loyd-Pain at (802)447-7419 or info@netrop.org. oneworldconservationcenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Open House Weekend. Sugar-on-Snow. Tours of the sugarhouse. Visit our gift shop. Free admission. Morse Farm, County Rd. (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com. Also Match 22 & 23.

RUTLAND. National Broadway Tour: Man of La Mancha. An all-new production with the score and book that has inspired theatre goers since the very first note of "The Impossible Dream" was heard on opening night. Tickets: \$40.50/45.50/49.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

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.

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance. Join The Old Sam Peabody Band with caller Delia Clark. Bring a pair of clean soft-soled shoes for dancing. Instruction at 6:45 pm. Dance with pot luck dessert break 7-10 pm. Price \$8, kids and seniors by donation. The Little Theater, 54 River St. For more info call Steve Hoffman, (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. Delia Clark, (802) 457-2075. Facebook/OldSamPeabody.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

BENNINGTON. Field Day—"Bobcats, Bears, Cougars, Moose, Mink and More." With Sue Morse of Keeping Track. Full-day field outing. Pre-register by March 14. Fee \$35. 9 am - 3 pm at the Greenberg Preserve, located across the road from the One World Conservation Center, 413 US Rt. 7S. For info call Jen Loyd-Pain at (802) 447-7419 or info@netrop.org. oneworldconservationcenter.org.

CHESTER. Concert: Windham Orchestra—A Magic Garden. \$5-\$65 (open seating). 7:30 pm. Green Mountain Union High School. Tickets: call the Brattleboro Music Center at (802) 257-4523, or on-line at www.brattleborotix.com. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

EAST MONTPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend at Bragg Farm. Sugar-on-snow and fiddle music by David Carpenter and Friends from 12-5 pm. Come watch us boil! Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. Bragg Farm, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. Also March 23.

FERRISBURGH. Annual Pancake Breakfast and Sugar-on-Snow Party! Self-guided free tours. See boiling maple sap the traditional way. Breakfast 7:30-11:30 am: buttermilk pancakes, bacon and sausage—adults \$7.75, kids \$4.50 plus tax. Lunch noon to 4 pm—sausage hoagies cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili. Sugar-on-Snow. Live music by Bob Degree & the Bluegrass Storm, and free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon & more. Visit our gift shop. Dakin Farm Store, 5797 Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com. Also March 23.

HARTFORD. Sugar-on-Snow Supper. Menu: baked ham, mashed potato, green beans, cole slaw, homemade rolls, raised donuts, sugar-on-snow for dessert. Served family style. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$4, pre-school free. Handicapped accessible. Servings at 5, 6 & 7 pm. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Rt. 14. Reservations recommended. Call (802) 295-2510.

HUNTINGTON. Audubon Vermont Sugar-on-Snow Party. Green Mountain Audubon Center's 50th Anniversary! Sugar-on-snow, sugaring demonstrations, and a delicious taste of each grade of maple syrup! Tap a tree and collect sap. Tours of the sugarbush and sugarhouse. Admission is free. Food and maple syrup for sale. 10 am - 4 pm. Sugarhouse at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org. www.greenmountainaudubon.org. Also March 23 & 30.

LUNENBURG. 9th Annual Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast 8-10:30 am. \$7 adults, \$3.50 ages 4-12, under age 4 free. Luncheon 12-3 pm at the school with homemade soups, homemade breads and a dessert for \$5. Sugarhouse tours, tree tapping demonstrations, sugar-on-snow and maple cotton candy, a scavenger hunt, contests, door prizes, history exhibits, interactive displays and homemade treats. Maple-flavored pie contest with slices and whole pies for sale after the judging. 8 am - 4 pm. Most activities at the Lunenburg Primary School on Bobbin Mill Rd. off Rt. 2. (802) 892-6654. www.topofthecommon.org.

MIDDLEBURY. After Dark Music Series Concert: Chris Smither. Tickets \$25. Doors 7:30 pm, concert 8 pm. Town Hall Theater, S. Pleasant & Merchants Row. (802) 388-0216. www.afterdarkmusicseries.com.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Open House Weekend. Pancake Breakfast. Sugar-on-Snow. Hot dogs & eggs boiled in sap 12-4 pm. Tours of the sugarhouse. Visit our gift shop. Free admission. 9 am - 5 pm. Morse Farm, County Rd. (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com. Also Match 23.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum Open House Weekend. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our unique gift shop. 4578 Rt.7. (802) 483-9414. www.maplemuseum.com. Also March 23.

POULTNEY. Annual Maple Fest Celebration. Town-wide celebration. Sugar makers will be opening their sugarhouses to tours and vendors throughout town will be selling maple-themed goods and food. (802) 287-2010. poultneyvt.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Silloway Maple Open House. Tours of the new solar-powered sugarhouse, with traditionally wood-fired arch, sugar-on-snow, syrup on doughnuts, and new maple syrup and maple cream for sale. From 12:30 pm on. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd., (802) 728-3625 or (802) 272-6249. www.sillowaymaple.com. Also March 23.

RUPERT. Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. Take a wagon ride to the Frank Hatch Sap House for Merck Forest & Farmland-raised pork breakfast sausages, locally-grown eggs, pancakes with Merck's Vermont-certified organic maple syrup, and coffee and juice. Adults \$12, children 4-12 \$10, under 4 free. 10 am - 2 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. Also March 23.

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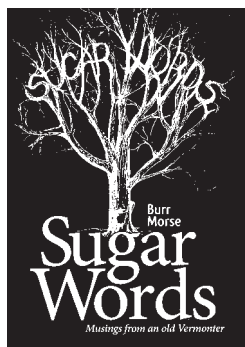
Saturday, March 8th, 2014 Boosters. Ted Green Ford will have vehicles available to test drive as part of a fundraiser for Whitcomb High School. Step 'n' Time Line Dancers of Central Vermont are scheduled to perform during the Expo. Visitors will be greeted in the Foyer by a lovely garden design, courtesy of Dandelion Acres Garden Center. The Bethel Business Association will have a silent auction featuring prizes donated by participating vendors and local businesses.

There will be many exhibitors with numerous interesting items on display and for sale. The Bethel Business Association is proud to sponsor this event which gives our local businesses a chance to show and tell about their products and services. Delicious home-cooked food will be available by the Whitcomb High School

Whitcomb High School is located at 273 Pleasant St. in Bethel, VT. For more information call Nick Nikolaidis at (802) 234-5064.

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Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 3 pm. Franklin Center at Howe Center, 1 Scale Ave. off Strongs Ave. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. Also March 23.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. 4-H Pancake Breakfast 9 am - 12 pm, \$8 adult/\$4 child. Activities in the sugarbush (maple syrup tastings!) 9:30 am - 2 pm, and live bird presentations. Whoos in the Sugarbush, free. 10 am - 2 pm. Free. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. Also March 23.

SO. BURLINGTON. Workday at the Farm—Crabapple Pruning. 9 am - 1 pm. Prune with Crabapple Curator Mark Biercevicz. Basic instruction provided. Bring pruners, gloves and loppers, if you have them. Some tools provided. Free. UVM Hort Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

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 23.

WHITINGHAM. 16th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake Breakfast from 7-10 am by Lions Club at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. \$8 adults, \$6 for 65+ years, children under five free. Sugar House Tours from 8 am - 5 pm. Artisans Tours, Craft Fair at Fire House. Lunch 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the Jacksonville Municipal Center. Horse-drawn sleigh rides from 10 am - 2 pm, by donation, on Rt. 100 across from the Middle School. Sugar-on-Snow Baked Ham Supper from 5-7 pm at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville, \$12 adults, \$6 children 5-12, children under five free. Maps available at info booth at the Jacksonville Municipal Center, Rt. 100. (802) 368-2658. info@whitinghammaplefest.com. www.whitingham-maplefest.us. Also March 23.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

BRATTLEBORO. Chamber Music Series: Escher String Quartet performs music of Mozart, Dutilleux, and Ravel. Tickets: \$30/\$20/\$10. 3 pm. Centre Congregational Church. For tickets and information contact Brattleboro Music Center at (802) 257-4523 or visit www.bmct.org.

EAST MONTEPELIER. Maple Open House Weekend at Bragg Farm. Sugar-on-snow and fiddle music by David Carpenter and Friends from 12-5 pm. Come watch us boil! Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. Bragg Farm, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com.

FERRISBURGH. Annual Pancake Breakfast and Sugar-on-Snow Party! Self-guided free tours. Breakfast 7:30-11:30 am—butter-milk pancakes, bacon and sausage—adults \$7.75, kids \$4.50 plus tax. Lunch noon to 4 pm—sausage hoagies cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili. Live music by Banjo Dan and Willy, and free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon & more. Lots of maple products for sale. Dakin Farm Store, 5797 Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. www.dakinfarm.com.

HUNTINGTON. Celebrations of Maple at Birds of Vermont Museum. 10 am - 3 pm. 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Also March 30.

HUNTINGTON. Audubon Vermont Sugar-on-Snow Party. Sugar-on-snow, sugaring demonstrations, and a taste of each grade of maple syrup! Tap a tree and collect sap. Tours of the sugarbush and sugarhouse. Admission free. Food and syrup for sale. 10 am - 4 pm. Sugarhouse at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. www.greenmountainaudubon.org. Also March 30.

MONTEPELIER. Morse Farm Maple Open House Weekend. Sugar-on-Snow. Hot dogs & eggs boiled in sap 12-4 pm. Tours of the sugarhouse. Visit our gift shop. Free admission. 9 am - 5 pm. Morse Farm, County Rd. (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum Open House Weekend. Tour Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our unique gift shop. 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

POULTNEY. Maple Fest Sugar House Tours. Self-guided tours of area sugar makers. See how maple syrup is made, enjoy samples, and buy new 2014 syrup and maple goodies! Maps provided. (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyvt.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Silloway Maple Open House. Tours of the new solar-powered sugarhouse, with traditionally wood-fired arch, sugar-on-snow, syrup on doughnuts, and new maple syrup and maple cream for sale. From 12:30 pm on. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd., (802) 728-3625 or (802) 272-6249. www.sillowaymaple.com.

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

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SO. BURLINGTON. Twentieth Annual Spring Book Fair. Sponsored by the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association. Rare and unusual books, postcards, maps, prints and ephemera of all kinds. Admission \$4 under 16 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, 870 Williston Rd. For information call (802) 527-7243. www.VermontIsBookCountry.com.

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.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 29

BRANDON. Music Swap Meet. Sell, swap and barter vinyl records, CDs, 78s, piano rolls, tapes, audio equipment, phonographs, radios, musical instruments and ephemera. 10 am - 4 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

HUNTINGTON. Bird Monitoring Walk. Join experienced birders on the monthly bird monitoring walk on the Museum's property. Please bring your own binoculars. Free. 8-10 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. Please pre-register. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org. Last Saturday of every month.

RUTLAND. Performance: Ireland—The Show. An innovative and exciting new Celtic production with a cast of world champion Irish dancers, musicians and singers. Tickets: \$29.50-\$44.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

HUNTINGTON. Celebrations of Maple at Birds of Vermont Museum. 10 am - 3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

HUNTINGTON. Audubon Vermont Sugar-on-Snow Party. Admission is free. Food and maple syrup for sale. 10 am - 4 pm. Sugarhouse at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org. www.greenmountainaudubon.org.



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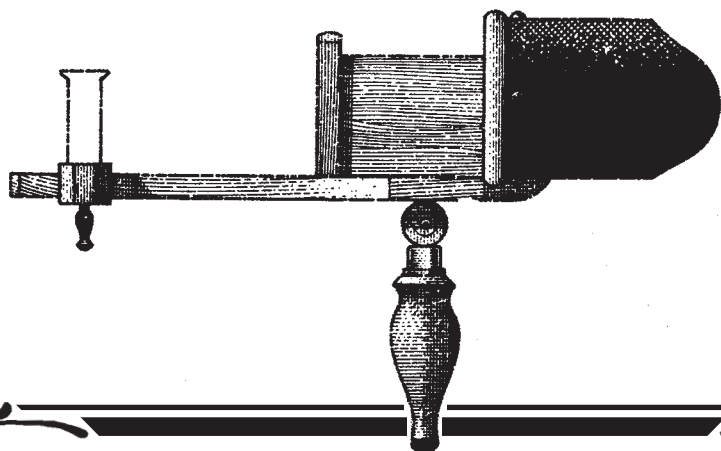
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Travelin' Willy B's At Home at Randolph's Three Stallion Inn

by Charles Sutton

When popular caterer Travelin' Willy B's reopened the tavern and dining facilities at The Three Stallion Inn in Randolph, VT, under the name Willy B's Tavern last October, it was a happy-to-be-here-again homecoming.

Willy Walker had been executive chef at The Inn from May 1990 to October 1994. That's where he meet his partner-to-be, Beth Umba, which also would become the "B" in their future business name.

During their time there the couple used to take long walks when they would try to plan for their future in some unique way in the food service business.

Sandwiches to start

They came up with the idea to deliver homemade lunches to businesses in the central Vermont area where they lived. The first day of business netted one delivery, but it soon took off.

Beth recalled the lunches were a sandwich, bag of chips and a homemade cookie packaged in a brown bag. They made 40-60 a day. They still have the 20 dollar bill earned in this first venture.

About that time they also started providing prepackaged sandwiches which were delivered to local convenience stores, food co-ops and mini-marts in the Bethel-Randolph area.

That business had its ups and downs. If the sandwiches weren't sold by a certain date, they had to reclaim them—"we could only eat so many," Beth recalled. They rest were a lost item, a lost sale, and lost revenue.

But being well-known in the area, they soon had requests for catering for business luncheons, cocktail and dinner parties, and weddings as well as larger events.

A life in food service and hospitality

Willy has been in the food business since the age of 14. "I started as a dishwasher, but within six weeks, I was working the fryer," he remembers. After attending Nauset Regional High School in Massachusetts, he earned a bachelor's degree in food service in 1986 at the Johnson and Wales University campus in Providence, R.I.

He has been a chef at small and large restaurants, including the Woodstock Inn and Spooners in Woodstock, VT, and Moon River Tavern in Stockbridge, VT before starting the catering business.



Willy Walker and Beth Umba at Willy B's Tavern at the Three Stallion Inn in Randolph, VT.

Beth has had years of experience as a waitress, bartender and restaurant manager. In addition to helping with the catering business, she bartends and runs the front end of the tavern-restaurant at Three Stallion Inn. One can see how she has redecorated the space to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Willy B's Tavern is open Friday and Saturday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m., offering tavern fare at reasonable prices.

Delicious fare

Willy Walker is a talented chef, creating old favorites and inventing delightful new combinations. Some examples would be *Mustang Sally*—whole roasted sweet potato, rice and beans, guacamole, cheddar cheese and honey mustard dressing wrapped in a flour tortilla and pressed crisp on their Panani grill (\$7.50); or *The Mad Hatter*—Portobello mushroom cap stuffed with crab, spinach and bread crumbs, topped with cheddar cheese and baked in the oven until golden brown and served with their sweet and sour slaw (\$11.50).

Daily features include Chicken and Shrimp Calcutta in a coconut and curry sauce, Vermont Gold—grilled Sirloin Steak (Vermont grass-fed beef), seafood, chicken, and pasta dishes, and root vegetable casserole in a creamy Cabot Cheddar sauce topped with a golden brown biscuit. Then there is always *Willy's Daily Trifecta*—a bowl of Willy's chili, T.W.B. salad and cornbread, (\$8.50).

The desserts are another specialty of Willy's. End your meal with a treat like homemade ice cream, Vermont Flan, or a Mocha Cappuccino Torte that takes three days to make!

The tavern often has music and special foods for holiday events.

Catering to please every taste

The couple is also still running its catering business at your location or at the Three Stallion Inn. The wedding or banquet

menu sampler includes a BBQ, a clambake with lobsters and steamers, a Hawaiian Luau feast, Mexican fiesta menu, or whatever the wedding party wishes. Prices range from \$35 per person depending on the entree.

Willy said the BBQ is by far the most popular. That menu features pork, chicken, beef and seafood specialties including some cooked on skewers. (Their pesto marinated swordfish and scallop brochette sounds tempting.) Party size is no matter—the couple catered 500-600 persons at a Vermont Symphony Orchestra event. The day we visited them they were making dinners for musicians appearing at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph.

Caribbean-inspired

The couple makes trips to the Caribbean and the food and drinks there are reflected in their menu choices. A drink they discovered called The Painkiller does well in their tavern. It includes rum, creme de coconut, pineapple juice, splash of OJ and freshly grated nutmeg (the secret howl at the moon ingredient).

Willy B's is a member of the Vermont Fresh Network, and many of its foods are produced or grown locally. Every dish is made from scratch.

The couple, who have been partners for many years, will be getting married this August. That's one event they say they will find someone else to cater. "We're looking," Beth said.

Willy B's Tavern is open 5-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. It is located at The Three Stallion Inn, 655 Stock Farm Rd, Randolph, VT. For information call (802) 565-8500 or e-mail chefwilly@threestallioninn.com.

For information about Travelin Willy B's Catering, contact Willy Walker or Beth Umba at (802) 431-5575. Or e-mail travelinwillybs@yahoo.com. Visit www.travelinwillybs.com.

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But would mean to have you know it last of all.
His words, like maple, are very close in grain
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But heart-held. The things he cannot bring
Himself to say, as being soft, he keeps within.
We notice, with a knowing nod,
the way he turned his head
So we might hear so clearly the kindness left unsaid.

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Silloway Maple—“It Runs in the Family”

by Bette Lambert

Welcome to Silloway Maple. We are a family owned and operated business, located in central Vermont, producing pure maple syrup, maple cream, and maple sugar covered nuts. We welcome visitors at any time, but the best time of all is sugaring time!

In the early spring, when night-time temperatures fall below freezing and day-time temperatures rise above, the sap flows from the trees, and we are busy hauling it to the sugarhouse, where it is boiled over a traditional wood-fired arch. Visitors love to see the clouds of steam, taste the sap, and then the fresh, hot syrup, and watch the huge roaring fire.

My father and mother started tapping maple trees on this farm in 1942, as newlyweds, just starting out on their dairy farm. The sugaring and farm work was accomplished very differently from some of our modern ways, but was done with the same passion and stewardship of the trees, land, and animals. Some of the same sugar maples are still being tapped today.

A family tradition

My Dad tapped with a hand-cranked brace and bit, drove in a metal spout, hung a bucket and cover, and gathered the sap with a team of work horses. The old sugarhouse was nothing to speak of. Dad boiled over a wood-fired arch, just as we do today, filtered the hot syrup through felt strainers, and sold it to neighbors, folks in town, and started our mail-order business.

Over the years, our family grew, and there was always plenty of work to do on the farm. Gathering the sap from 2,800 buckets was an exciting and demanding task, accomplished with many willing hands and a bulldozer in place of the horses. What a wonderful sound, to pause for a moment in a part of the sugarwoods where all the buckets had just been emptied, and listen to the “ping, ping” of sap dripping into dozens of sap buckets! I loved to drink sap from one that was overflowing. Sap is perishable, and must be gathered before it gets too warm—or freezes! We went to the woods in blinding snowstorms, freezing rain, and on bright, sunny days when some of the men worked with their shirts off.

Growing up sugaring

For many years, my Dad did all the boiling in between milkings. Growing up in the sugarhouse was wonderful; first, as a very little girl, curled up in an old easy chair watching the boiling; and soon, carrying in great armloads of wood, lugging gathering pails full of sap to the tank, and helping can the hot syrup into all different-sized syrup cans to sell.

My sister and I climbed up onto the sugarhouse roof and hung our heads over the open flaps that let up huge clouds of sweet steam. “Visitors are welcome at the Silloway sugarhouse” read a little ad in the local paper, and we loved showing company, often busloads of school children, around the sugarhouse. Each walked out to see the sap running into the buckets on a tree, each tasted the new, hot syrup, and stood enveloped in the clouds of steam.

Mom made wonderful boxes of dinner to eat while we were



The whole family helps out at Silloway Maple in Randolph Center, VT. photo by Dan Lambert

gathering sap, and there were always hotdogs and marshmallows to cook on sticks thrust through the open door of the arch. Raised doughnuts dipped in fresh, hot syrup, sugar-on-snow, and maple cream are some of our favorite treats. Dad liked Fancy grade the best, and our kitchen table always had a pitcher of syrup for pancakes, waffles, and popovers. Long before the superior nutritional benefits of maple over refined sugar were touted, Mom substituted syrup in nearly every recipe. Maple butternut fudge won many ribbons at the Tunbridge Fair and the Vermont Farm Show.

Keeping up with the latest developments

Constant research is being done to maintain tree health, maximize efficiency, and continue to produce the finest maple syrup in the world. Our family now uses the small healthspouts, and rarely puts more than one tap on a tree. Miles of tubing run through our woods, which must be constantly checked during sugaring for damage from squirrels, porcupine or moose, fallen limbs and trees, and woodpeckers. The alternate freezing and thawing temperatures sometimes cause the lines to pull apart.

We have a reverse osmosis machine in the sugarhouse, which removes part of the water from the sap before boiling. This makes a tremendous difference in boiling time, reduc-

ing labor and fuel. While many sugarmakers have oil-fired rigs, we still use a wood fire to boil, burning many cords of waste wood from our logging operation. It is a favorite part of visiting the sugarhouse, to see the big doors of the arch swing open, and watch the huge, roaring fire. I never tire of watching the hot syrup being drawn off, and holding up a sample bottle to the light to check the grade. Of course, the flavor must be judged!

Solar power for sugarhouse and farm

The most exciting change this year is a brand new sugarhouse, complete with seventy solar panels on the south slope of the roof, producing an average of seventeen hundred kilowatts per month. The building will be ready for the 2014 season, and we hope to entertain and educate many visitors. The solar system will power the sugarhouse, and provide about half of the energy needed for the nearby family dairy farm. It was installed by Integrity Energy. Our family’s philosophy has always been geared toward sustainability, well before that term was popular.

I like to meet our customers and sell our maple products at the farm, but this year we also have a new website, sillowaymaple.com, where folks anywhere in the country can order syrup and cream. We have a business Facebook page where our daily work and maple facts are reported.

Sharing maple lore with the little ones

This morning, my granddaughter Tessa and I are playing cards, sitting on high stools beside the stove, boiling maple syrup to make cream. “Never turn your back on boiling syrup!” my Dad always said, from long experience. The syrup must reach a temperature of 233 degrees, then cool down to room temperature, before being stirred. A fine, silky maple spread results, with a beautiful pale color.

I am thrilled to show my grandchildren about sugaring, from tagging along in the woods, to carrying wood into the big woodshed, to making the maple cream and sugar-covered nuts that we sell. It is my passion, and I want to share it with them. Over the years, the family members involved with our sugaring operation and dairy farm have changed, but our adage is the same, “Silloway Maple—It Runs in the Family.”

Bette (Silloway) Lambert lives in Randolph Center, VT where she works with her family at Silloway Maple, in the woods, as maple cream maker, marketer, and cook. She has six homeschooled children and wrote two books, “Maple Sugar Trees and Red Oldsmobiles” with Jessica Wright and “A Farm Wife’s Journal”.


Visitors are welcome to come tour Silloway Maple during Vermont’s Maple Open House Weekend from 12:30 p.m. on, Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23.

Silloway Maple is located at 1089 Silloway Road, Randolph Center, VT 05061. For information or to order maple products call (802) 728-3625 or e-mail info@sillowaymaple.com. Visit www.sillowaymaple.com. We’re on Facebook.



Paul Silloway and Albert Parker gathering sap with horses, Randolph Center, VT.

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Ripe for the Pickin'

by Burr Morse

OK, I'll "lay the cards right on the table". I'm sick of winter! There, I've said it and it may well shatter your notion of this old Vermonter like so much ice—ICE! I've never seen such ice in all my 65 years! In fact I sit here in my wood-heated living room feeling smug to not have a broken bone or bruised muscle. Believe me, there are hundreds of folks around here not so lucky.

Another of my nasty little secrets is that I'm not a complete lover of snow. Ten inches is great, three feet is abhorrent, but right now I'd settle for snow, any amount, just as long as it leaves the ice a very distant memory. And speaking of memories, one way I combat these winter blues is to draw from my extensive memory bank, memories of summer.

Back in my younger days, we practiced "strawberry diplomacy" here on our farm. Let me explain. Strawberries, being just another fruit, carry a certain above and beyond "grace"—if they were chocolates, they'd be Godiva; if they were mountains, they'd be the Alps; if they were a person,

"Everybody loves strawberries, especially strawberries grown in a cold, out of the way place like Vermont."

they'd be Mother Theresa. Everybody loves strawberries, especially strawberries grown in a cold, out of the way place like Vermont.

For years, we fought the climate and witch grass to grow the world's best strawberries right here at Morse Farm. And, to use another close-to-divine analogy, the first day of strawberry season is like the first boiling of sap—folks smell it in the air and magnetize to it.

The roots of Morse Farm tourism began back in those strawberry days. Dad was just plain sick of milking cows, and growing produce on a Vermont hillside farm like ours was, well, "uphill" business. It just made sense to start inviting tourists into our ancestral sugarhouse. Because of the worldwide interest in Vermont maple sugaring, this new part of our business grew fast. Soon whole bus loads of folks



photo courtesy of Morse Farm
A busload of happy travelers disembark at Morse Farm.



photo courtesy of Morse Farm
Long ago but not so far away, Peter Shattuck, the little boy, and Ernest Gould, with the rake, tending the strawberries.

were winding their way up the hill from Montpelier to take our tour and see our place. One of those early groups was a travel company from Hawaii called Royal Adventures. Royal Adventure Tours loved our maple experience and before long, we were saying "Aloha" to twenty-five of their groups a year!

One time we were all down picking strawberries in mid-July when a Greyhound bus droned up the road. We knew it was full of Hawaiians ravenous for maple syrup. What we found out, though, after rushing up to greet them and telling them where we had been, was that they were also ravenous for strawberries. "We don't have strawberries back home. Could we possibly go pick some?" they asked. Dad and I stepped aside for a pow-wow.

"I d'know...fifty strangers in the strawberry patch?" I whispered, thinking "strawberry jam right on the vine". We also gave quick "lip service" to the risk of accidents but being gracious Vermonters, quickly said "hang with th'insurance" and loaded the pickup truck with Hawaiians for multiple trips to the strawberry field.

Fast forward to foliage season 2013. It was mid-afternoon and I had just welcomed another bus full of tourists into that same old sugarhouse. My father, the main thrust for our tourism business, had gone on the great sugarhouse in the sky way back in 1999. I, current "old man" at the Morse Farm, stood in to take his place. Although exhausted, I completed this tour, the twelfth of the day so far. As the group left, a

man approached me. He introduced himself as Melvin Yee from Hawaii. As I shook his hand, I felt an eeriness, almost as though my father was there with me... "I was here back in 1982," he said excitedly. He went on to describe a father and son, a yellow pickup truck full of Hawaiians, and strawberries, rows and rows of luscious strawberries. Mr. Yee said for this tour, his company promised a visit to a Vermont maple farm but he did not "put two and two together" until he got off the bus... "I could almost smell strawberries in the air. I suddenly knew it was the same place I had visited so long ago." Memories, like strawberries, are ripe for the pickin' here at Morse Farm.

Back to the present...just while I've been writing, the snow has started. We're not getting much but even the thinnest layer of snow gives "traction" to that ice. My mid-winter memory jaunt to July has also given me a bit of "traction" toward sanity. Nostalgia is great that way, kind of like making something out of nothing. And a very sweet nothing it is, indeed, when you can "almost smell" the strawberries in January!

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open year-round. Visit their Country Store, Sugarhouse, Woodshed Theater, Outdoor Farmhouse Museum, Cross-Country Ski Center and more. For maple products by mail call (800) 242-2740 or visit www.morsefarm.com.

Traditional Irish Music at Burlington's Irish Heritage Festival

The Burlington Irish Heritage Festival offers our community a week from March 8-16, packed with activities, fun-filled and informative, which celebrate Irish-American culture and community.

The combination of music, lectures, movies, drama and dance provides a little something for everyone.

Most of the festival events are presented with free admission, making our fundraising raffle a great draw,

with wonderful prizes to win.

The Festival starts with a St. Patrick's concert on March 8 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT with The Alan Kelly Gang, sitting firmly at the cutting edge of the Traditional. \$20 suggested donation

Enjoy an evening of traditional Irish and Celtic music on Saturday, March 15th starting at 8 p.m. at the Flynn Theater in Burlington, VT.

Admission is \$15-\$40. For tickets call (802) 863-5966.

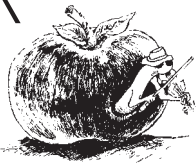
There will be a St. Patrick's Day Ceili with the UVM Celtic Cats on Saturday, March 15th at 2 p.m. At the UVM Billings Building North Lounge. Admission is \$7, \$5 for students.

Among the many offerings at the Pickering room at Fletcher Free Library, will be "Music and Tales of the Otherworld: Folklore, Fairies and Music in Ire-

land" at 11 a.m. \$8 suggested donation. Following this at 12:15 is a Bodhrans, Spoons, and Bones Workshop with musicians O'hAnleigh and guest Steve Bentley, vocalist/bodhran player. Donations welcome.

For a complete schedule of events visit www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.

Burlington Irish Heritage Festival, PO Box 311, Burlington, VT 05402.



Conradance with Northern Spy

Adina Gordon, caller

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Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

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You'll also find all sorts of crafts, jewelry, and knitted goods for that special gift, not to mention Vermont wines and artisan cheeses. At some markets you can enjoy music and entertainment and have a snack while you shop.

Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market at the Bellows Falls Railroad Station, Depot St. Third Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m., March 21. Rachel Ware, (802) 463-2018. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. www.bffarmersmarket.com.

Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday and Winter Farmers Markets at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. First and third Saturdays through April from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Katherine Keys. (802) 681-3501. info@walloomsac.org. On Facebook.

Bradford Farmers Market, Grace United Methodist Church. Second and fourth Saturdays through April. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-4495. 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 2014. EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postilsolutions.org. www.postilsolutions.org.

Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. March 1, 15 & 29. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Dorset Winter Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Every Sunday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through April 27. Nicole Henry (518) 222-1149. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., through May. Mary Berlejung and Sandi Adams. (802) 584-3595 or (802) 633-3031. www.grotongrowers.org.

Jeffersonville Farmers' and Artisans Market, Rt. 108S and 16 Iris Lane on the way to Smuggs. At the Artful Cup Studio and Sunrise Cafe. 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through March. Deb Nevil. (802) 999-8486. jefffarmersandartisanmarket65@gmail.com. jeffersonvillefarmersandartisanmarket.com.

Middlebury Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in



Old ways and new are both used at Sterling College in Craftsbury Common, VT. photo by Sterling College

March & April. Jeremy Gildrien, (802) 989-7223. middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 36 College St. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. March; 1, 15 & 29; April 12 & 26. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Northfield Farmers' Market. Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 1st Sundays through April 6. Crystal Peterson. (802) 485-5563. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 2nd and 4th Saturdays through April. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Peacham Farmers' Market, Peacham Guild Building, right next to the Peacham Store. Thursdays 3-6 p.m. through mid-April. Jane Alper. (802) 592-3161. janealper@gmail.com. peacham.net/market.

Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. Food Center Building at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through May 3. Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org

Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Markets at Sharon Elementary School. March 15, and May 17, 10 am – 1 pm, local lunch

11:30 am – 1 pm. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First Saturdays through April. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.



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Green Mountain Conservation Camp Applications Open

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, VT and Buck Lake in Woodbury, VT. 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 profes-

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

Conservation Camps open June 22 and continue until August 22. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment. Please check the Fish & Wildlife website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com for information and scholarships. An online application can be found under "Education and Training" on the left side of the home page. A printable application also is available.

Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and

directed by Fish & Wildlife Department professionals—the same people who manage Vermont's fish and wildlife resources. Working biologists, foresters, game wardens, and conservation educators teach young people about Vermont's forests, wetlands and wildlife. 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 contact: fwgmc@state.vt.us or call (802) 828-1460. Visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews

New Lambs, Sugaring, and St. Patrick's Day

With lambs come Border Collies, if you're lucky. And what could be more fun than Spring on a farm with new lambs, a flock of sheep to tend, and new puppies to train.

In *Floss*, written and illustrated by Kim Lewis (*Walker Co., Ltd.*, www.walker.co.uk, \$13.95/\$6.29) we follow a Border Collie on an English farm as she learns the ropes in a new family. She knows how to herd sheep but wants to play with the farmer's kids, her newfound friends. A peaceful balance is found with everyone happy. Along the way there are many lessons learned which can apply to all of us, dog or human.

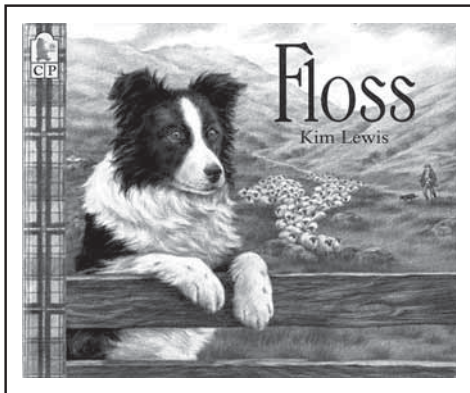
When Floss has puppies, the farm children can keep just one, but who do they choose? In *Just Like Floss*, written and illustrated by Kim Lewis (*Walker Co., Ltd.*, www.walker.co.uk, \$11.62) find out what happens with puppies Bess, Nell, Cap, Jack and little Sam.

In one of Kim Lewis's earliest books, *Emma's Lamb* (*Walker Co., Ltd.*, www.walker.co.uk) little girl Emma cares for a lamb, playing many games around the farm, while her dad looks for it's mother. Beautiful double-page spreads show

the English farm scenes with stone buildings, fences, and a grey tabby cat and kittens, artfully illustrated.

The author, Kim Lewis, has written and illustrated over 20 picture books for children from her working sheep farm in Northumberland in England. Border Collies originally came from this border country between Scotland and England and were originally classified as Scotch Sheep Dogs. Lewis's illustrations are magical and her portrayal of how Border Collies and shep behave and how children relate to them will delight all ages, especially if you love kids, dogs, and farm life.

Learn more about Kim Lewis and her books at www.kimlewisbooks.co.uk.



Children's favorite monkey Curious George is marching through

March having one heck of a good time—first learning how to make maple syrup and then greening it up big time for St. Patrick's Day festivities including plenty of music, dancing and feasting.

Enjoy the excitement and humor of George tapping his first maple tree in *Curious George Makes Maple Syrup*, adaptation by C.A. Krones, based on a teleplay by Chuck Tately (*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*, \$12.99, www.curiousgeorge.com). Consider their disappointment when they find out the tapped sap is not syrup. The neighbor to the rescue, shows them how to boil a batch and George makes pancakes!

For St. Patrick's Day adventures read *Happy St. Patrick's Day, Curious George* by Cynthia Platt, illustrations by Mary O'Keefe Young (*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*, \$7.99 board book, www.curiousgeorge.com).

George really loves "wearing o' the green" and getting in on a treasure hunt, joining the girls step dancing, feasting on corn beef and cabbage, and finding a four-leaf clover.



Meet Vermont Author Ellen Stimson in Hinesburg, VT

Vermont Author Ellen Stimson will be coming to speak at the Carpenter-Carse Library in Hinesburg, VT on Friday, March 28 at 7 pm. She will present her new book, *Mud Season—How One Woman's Dream of Moving to Vermont, Raising Children, Chickens, and Sheep & Running the Old Country Store Pretty Much Led to One Calamity After Another*.

Follow Stimson to her wit's end and back in *Mud Season*, through her full immersion into rural life, including her decision to own and operate the old-fashioned village store in idyllic Dorset, pop. 2,036, one of the oldest continually operating country stores in the country. Despite her passion and good intentions, she quickly learns the hard way that "improvements" are not always welcomed warmly by

folks who like things just fine the way they'd always been.

Much more than just about how Ellen and her family adjusted to their new surroundings, *Mud Season* is full of clever life lessons about living with intention, taking risks, embracing failure, and finding humor in everything. It's a witty, candid, and touching memoir about how one woman took charge of her happiness by taking charge of her life.

Ellen's book will be available to purchase prior to and at the event from Brown Dog Books & Gifts. Call (802) 482-2878 to RSVP for the event. This is free and the public is welcome.

Brown Dog Books & Gifts, 90 Mechanicsville Rd. #2, Hinesburg, VT. (802) 482-5189. Tues-Sat 10 am - 6 pm, closed Sun & Mon. www.browndogbooksandgifts.com.



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Out on a Limb

What Black Bears Have Taught Me About Intelligence and Intuition

by Benjamin Kilham

Foreword by Temple Grandin

(Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Jct., VT)

Winter is the time when bears rest and hibernate, but not for Ben Kilham of Lyme, NH, who has been serving as a foster parent for orphaned black bears for the past 20 years.

Just this mid-February game wardens brought him two tiny cubs—eyes not even open yet—whose mother had been killed by a rabbit hunter and one of the cubs injured by the hunter's dogs. The cubs, less than a month old, named Wanda and Abbey, are now living at Kilham's home in a straw basket on a heating pad and get round-the-clock feeding from a baby's bottle with a special milk formula.

The life and times of being such a surrogate mother to baby black bears and their adjustments to growing up before being released back into the wild is described at length in this recently published book. His earlier book, *Among the Bears: Raising Orphaned Cubs in the Wild* (2002) described taking young bears on walks to learn to forage, hunt, and to avoid dangers like humans, so they can be returned to the wild.

The most fascinating story in this book is about one of the cub bears Ben 'mothered' named Squirty:

"By fitting her with a radio collar, I was able to keep track of where she denned that first year—and every year since—and reunite with her in the spring. Thus began our incredible relationship, which has allowed me to watch Squirty raise more than a dozen cubs, establish her home range, become the dominant bear in it, and form cooperative relationships with unrelated wild bears. She has been my greatest teacher."

Ben said he knows where she is denned up this winter and has probably had two offsprings by now—her 10th set of cubs from several different mates. The author and Squirty have been 'friends' now for 18 years! When he first started caring for her she was the smallest (3 pounds) of three orphaned cubs. Her brother and sister eventually left the area, but Squirty stayed close, establishing her territory in the forest where she grew up, and where she took frequent walks with her adopted parent, Ben.

As in one of those archetypal happenings in life there's a point when the child become adult and starts giving commands to the ageing parents. The older Squirty now lets Ben know in no uncertain way through loud noises and body attitude if she is displeased with what he's doing.

Readers of this book will be learning a lot about bear habits and behavior. They don't all find caves for winter hibernation. Ben said they may hole up in a large tree trunk, dig holes in the ground, or nest under a big pile of brush or fallen trees. The female bears give birth to their cubs and nurse them in the den before they emerge in the spring.

Interestingly, male bears aren't very caring fathers. They just show up for the mating season (for a few days) in May



Cubs quickly learn to tree when startled.

photo by Ben Kilham

and then take off. Squirty did have a 226-pound male friend named Burt who hung around her for a few weeks as a 'bodyguard' and they enjoyed each other's company. Burt even tolerated Ben.

We learn bears are constantly trying to find enough to eat, and they will invade each other's territory if the food supply is scarce. Benjamin noted a most interesting behavior pattern where bears with food will always share (after fussing a bit) knowing the next season they may

be the hungry bears and will need the same good turn. (This is not necessarily a human trait).

Bears feed on nuts, berries, and honey, but their diet also includes plants, roots, beech, oak and ash buds, jewelweed, wild lettuce, jack-in-the-pulpit, dogwood and mountain holly berries. Ants, bees and grubs provide protein.

Ben's remarkable work with black bears has been accomplished in spite of being dyslexic which makes reading and mathematics extremely difficult. This has taught him to become a keen observer and intuitive, attributes in the very animals he is studying.

In the forward to his book, Temple Grandin, professor of animal science at Colorado State University, famous for her work in designing livestock-handling facilities to improve animal welfare, notes her autism and Ben's dyslexia has made both of them visual thinkers who are very observant of small details that other people miss.

Ben said when he enters the woods with the bears his mind records everything like a video camera which he later enters onto his laptop at home.

What's next? He will be earning a Ph.D. from Drexel University in Philadelphia later this year, using his 20 years of studying bears for his thesis.

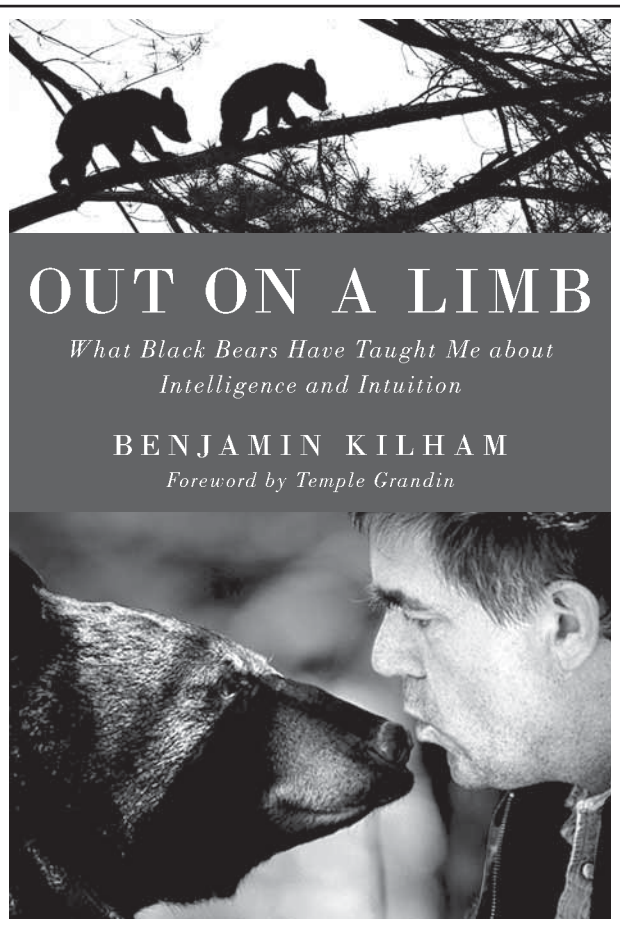
There's an upcoming third trip to China from March 22 to April 4 where he is consulting on building a protective area for pandas and training personnel how to get along with bears. A group from China who visited him in New Hampshire were amazed at his contact with bears, something they thought just couldn't be possible. While he's away his wife Debbie, whom the book is dedicated to, will look after the orphaned cubs—maybe even more by then.

Two winters ago he looked after 30 cubs through the winter in an eight-acre enclosed area near his home. He recalls a lot of them just kept playing around and didn't get the idea that one was supposed to sleep it off through the winter! You'll see that black bears can be sociable, friendly, and accepting of our behavior. Give them a chance.

Out on a Limb: What Black Bears Have Taught Me About Intelligence and Intuition by Benjamin Kilham is available at your bookseller or from the publisher www.chelseagreen.com for \$24.95.

Book Review by Charles Sutton

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OUT ON A LIMB

What Black Bears Have Taught Me about Intelligence and Intuition

BENJAMIN KILHAM

Foreword by Temple Grandin



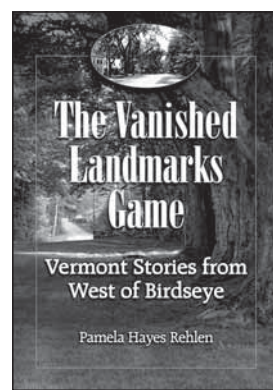
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The bears that Ben raised still treat him like a bear, and wrestling is a common form of play.
photo by Bill Greene, Boston Globe

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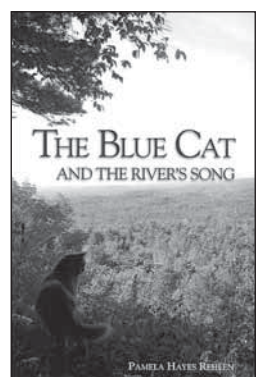
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The Lunenburg 9th Annual Maple Festival

— March 22, 2014 —

The Lunenburg 9th Annual Maple Festival celebrates an important heritage—an understanding and appreciation for all that goes into the process of “sugaring” and the historical importance of sugaring in our town. The Top of the Common Committee in Lunenburg, VT invites you to join in this celebration!

On Saturday, March 22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Lunenburg Primary School will serve as the hub for the Festival. There you can enjoy homemade meals, sign up for a free door prize, pick up a scavenger hunt, and a map and directions to the local sugarhouses that are open for visitors.

Browse the photographs, interactive displays, and local antique sugaring equipment that chronicles all that goes into the sugaring process and the local families as they have carried on the tradition over generations.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to take a chance on some great seasonal raffles, watch “quilting in action” by local artisans, explore the “Maple Treasures” display, cast their vote for the People’s Choice awards in the photo and quilt square contests. Maple syrup and maple products will be available for purchase as well as Lunenburg theme items, including copies of the book about sugaring in Lunenburg, *A Wicked Good Run* (\$19.95), and the Historical Society’s 2014 calendar. Additional activities are available at the school and nearby locations.

Festival Schedule

• **8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.—Pancake Breakfast** at the school. The menu including sausage, eggs, home fries, beverages and real maple syrup, will be offered by The Top of the Common Committee. \$7 adults, \$3.50 ages 4-12, under age 4 free. Take-outs are available.

• **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.—Sugar-on-Snow and Maple Cotton Candy** will be available at the VMSMA portable sugarhouse in the school parking lot.

• **10:30 a.m.—Judging of the Maple-Flavored Pie Contest** will begin at the Pie Contest table at the school. Whole pies and pieces of pie will be available for purchase throughout the day, after the winners have been announced. (\$2/piece, \$8-\$12/whole pies)

• **10 a.m. to mid-afternoon—Self-guided tours through the participating local sugarhouses.** Visitors, with maps in hand, can explore the area and visit with sugarmakers, purchase maple syrup and, weather permitting, watch syrup being made. The sugarhouses provide a representation of the diverse methods of sap collection, fuel used for boiling, and product sales.

• **12 noon to 3 p.m.—Luncheon** at the school with choice of homemade soups, homemade breads and a dessert for \$5.

• **10 a.m. and 2 p.m.—Learn how to tap a tree** and what makes the sap run at a tapping demonstration on the Town Common.

• **3:45 p.m.—Winners will be announced** for the photo and quilt square contests, quilt square raffle, free door prizes and counting jar contest.

It's not too late to enter the photo, quilt square, and pie baking contests! Check out the rules and find up-to-date festival information by visiting www.topofthecommon.org/8.html or calling Chris at (802) 892-6654.

The Lunenburg Primary School is located off Rt. 2 on Bobbin Mill Rd. above the Town Common in Lunenburg, VT. Lunenburg is located in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom on the way from St. Johnsbury, VT to New Hampshire.



photo by Carol D. Macie
Mrs. Neva Macie driving the team on the way to break roads for gathering sap. The bay horse is Rosie and the black horse is Jasmine, veteran sugarers! Macie's Maple Sugar Shack in Lunenburg, VT is owned and operated by Carroll and Neva Macie. Carroll built it in 2009 and their first sugaring season was in 2010. Carroll had experiences as a younger man with his grandfather's and then his mother and father's sugaring operations (it is in his blood!). They tap using both gravity fed tubing (650 trees) and buckets (350 trees) and use wood as fuel for their evaporator. They are the only sugarhouse in Lunenburg that uses horses to gather the sap. They sell their syrup locally, including as a vendor at the summer farmers market.

Maple Recipes to Brighten Your Springtime

MAPLE CAKE FOR FRED TAYLOR

Preheat oven to 350°. Sift before measuring: 2½ cups cake flour. Resift twice with: ½ teaspoon double acting baking powder, ½ teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon fresh grated nutmeg, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, ½ teaspoon cloves, ½ teaspoon salt. Sift 1½ cups sugar. Cream until soft ¾ cup butter. Add the sifted sugar gradually; cream until very light. Beat in 3 egg yolks. Add the sifted flour mixture to the butter mixture in 3 parts, alternating with thirds of: ¾ cup yogurt or buttermilk. Stir the batter after each addition until smooth. Whip until stiff but not dry 3 egg whites. Fold them lightly into the cake batter. Divide batter between two 9" greased pans. Bake at 350° for 25–30 minutes.

MAPLE CREAM PIE

¾ cup maple syrup	½ cup corn starch
½ cup maple sugar	¼ teaspoon salt
4 egg yolks	1 tablespoon butter
2 cups of half and half	

Whisk together the first 6 ingredients in a heavy saucepan bring mixture to a boil, whisking constantly boil for one minute or until thickened. Remove from heat add butter pour into a 9" baked pie shell cool top with whipped cream.

—Marie Danforth, Tunbridge VT

EGGS IN MAPLE SYRUP

A very simple recipe from two elderly women who lived in Sherbrooke, VT. They remember these eggs as a real treat from their childhood.

2 eggs per person
½ cup maple syrup per person
warm croissants or hot buttered toast

Put the maple syrup in a small saucepan. Cook until it is very hot. Put the eggs in the syrup and poach till done. Pour over a croissant or toast. That's it! I might put a little bacon or sausage on the side.

—Vanna Guldenschuh, Barnet

MAPLE PUMPKIN BREAD

Yields 3 standard loaves or 5–6 small loaves.

1½ cups grade B maple syrup	¾ tsp baking powder
1½ cups sugar	1½ tsp cinnamon
4 eggs	4½ cups flour
1 cup oil	1½ tsp baking soda
3 cup mashed pumpkin (I often use squash)	1½ tsp cloves
¾ tsp salt	1½ tsp nutmeg

Beat maple syrup, sugar, eggs and oil together; add pumpkin. Add dry ingredients. Bake at 300° for 1 hour and 20 minutes. Test with cake tester. This bread freezes excellently.

—Recipe from Karen Fortin Carman, Brook Maple and Dairy Farm, Swanton, VT

These recipes are from The Official Vermont Maple Cookbook. Now in its new Third Edition, it is published by the Vermont Maple Foundation. To order copies send \$2.50 (includes shipping and handling) to Mary Croft, 491 East Barnard Road, South Royalton, VT 05068. (802) 763-7435. mcmaple@sover.net. www.VermontMaple.org.

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2076 Corinth. 18x25' Camp, with ½ loft – 90% finished – wired for a generator – 25 acres of land – very private, but access with a car – good views...**Price \$79,900.**

2097 Topsham. 8½ acres of land – surveyed with 990' frontage, on good gravel road. (**Priced over \$5,000 below town assessment**) **\$25,9000.**

2098 Chelsea. 28x36' – 4 rooms, plus bath Camp – 4 ft. block basement – 1,000 gal. septic tank gravity spring, plus pump – 500 gal. propane tank, plus generator – 10.3 acres surveyed frontage on 2 Town Rds. (**\$30,000 below town assessment**) **\$69,500.**

2101 Washington. 50 acres of land – frontage on Rt. 110 – private road to top with excellent views. (**\$31,000 under town appraisal**) **Price \$51,500.**



2091 Washington. 4 bedroom cape – older home, but in very good condition – rewired – new 3 zone hot water heat – pellet stove – 1,000 gal. septic – attached barn/garage – town water – 1.2 acres of large back lawn/garden – walk to village...**\$149,900.**

2066 Chelsea. 3 bedroom camp – 1 full bath – large fireplace with heatolators, plus wood stove – small stream – 33 acres of land – nice lawn with apple trees – being sold furnished – good gravel road...**Price Reduced to \$99,500.**

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2080 Vershire. 11.1 Acres surveyed land – excellent views – driveway and septic already in – frontage on two roads...**Priced at Town appraisal \$67,300.**

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2086 Royalton. 2½ acre building lot – surveyed driveway and in-ground septic design – small stream – year-round gravel road...**Price \$49,900.**

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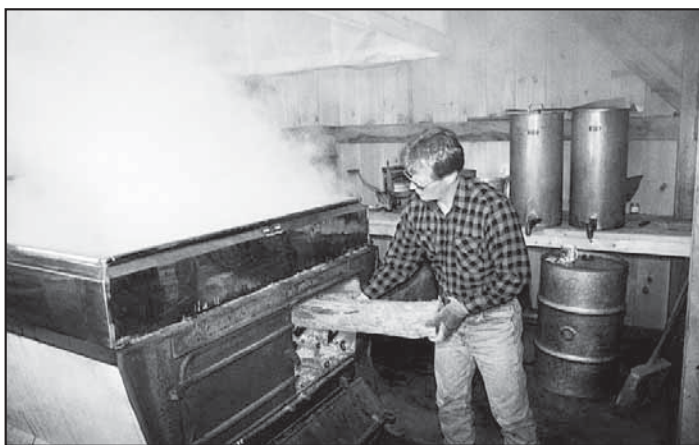


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"A Quality Family Farm Shop"



Sugarmaker Doug Bragg tends the fire during sugaring season.

Maple Open House March 22 & 23, 2014

Live fiddle music from Noon-5 p.m.

Free Maple Tours and Tastings

*Unique Gift Shop • Great Mountain Views • Farm Animals
Family-Run for Eight Generations!*

Maple Syrup, Candies & Cream

Take Some Home or Have It Shipped!

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