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April-May 2010

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- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
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Shaggy sheep resting in a spring pasture in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy


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## Notes on the State of Nature

by W. L. Felker

An issue of Harpers magazine a few years back contained a forum titled "Only Man's Presence Can Save Nature." The forum was a provocative dialogue between Michael Pollan, Harpers executive editor at that time, and several environmental thinkers.

Among the ideas that I like from that discussion was the opinion expressed by Daniel Boktin, professor of environmental studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, that the view of nature "as a single pristine state—undisturbed and without man" is a false view. "There is no such nature," he said.

Another Harpers forum participant, David Foreman, author and lobbyist for the Wilderness Society, talked about "gardening" our state of nature, about "farming the planet for diversity."

And Frederick Turner, professor at the University of Texas in Dallas, emphasized the positive side of human intervention in nature. "Human reproductions of nature are not substitutes for nature but are authentic nature," he said. "Humankind's efforts are a continuation and extension of that reproduction, evolution and improvement."

Turner even contemplated the possibility of reconstructing lost species. "We should do so," he said, "and we should think of these efforts as positive accomplishments. We are promoting nature because we are nature. We are the leading edge, the sensitive tip, the cambium of nature. And we are charged with its promotion."

In such a view, the positive possibilities for the planet are as limitless as the negative possibilities we hear about every day.

If we are nature, if we are made in the image and likeness of the world, the complexity of our brains is reflected in the complexity of matter. The old doctrine of signatures held that one could discover the attributes of a plant by looking at its shape. A more modern version might assert that the brain looks to find itself reflected in the world, seeks until it finds its reflection, its translation.

In such a context, natural diversity literally makes us more. By adding to the landscape, we literally add to ourselves. That is the exciting existential challenge of the 21st century, not only accepting a responsibility not to pollute, not to literally belittle ourselves and the Earth, but also accepting the opportunity to garden nature and our own species with all the resources we can gather.

Aldo Leopold once counted the species of flowers on his "backward farm"—there were 226, he stated—and he

contrasted that number with the number that bloomed in town, only 120. "It is apparent," he said, "that the backward farmer's eye is nearly twice as well fed as the eye of the student or businessman."

As I write this in April, dozens of species of wildflowers are in bloom, violets, bluebells, cowslip, toad trillium, ragwort, wintercress, rue anemone, trout lily, watercress, to name a few. Could that number be doubled or tripled? Can there be too many wildflowers? What is the limit of bluebells the hills can handle? Or how many daffodils would be too many in our cities?

A century ago, the virgin woodlands had been destroyed and the fish and wildlife nearly exterminated where I live. Today the trees continue to grow back. White-tailed deer, which were almost extinct here a hundred years ago, are more abundant now than they were at the time of the American Revolution.

The rivers are coming alive again. Far more fish inhabit the nearby river today than lived there seventy-five years ago. A pure river teeming with life is a gift of incalculable value to all the creatures that live around it. That is within

**"Can there be too many wildflowers?  
 What is the limit of bluebells  
 the hills can handle?"**

our power to improve water quality and to create even more abundance and diversity.

The possible number of species, plant or animal, in any habitat may be finite, but we have hardly begun to understand what kind of variety that finity could really hold.

At the end of Alan Gurgainus' novel, *World's Oldest Confederate Widow Tells All*, the heroine, Lucy, on her first airplane flight, looks down and sees a line of brighter green running through the landscape below.

"The mark keeps pushing southward," she observes. "The green inside the stain looks newer than what flanks it."

Her traveling mate tells her, "It's Sherman's path. Still shows from way up here, imagine. Stretches clear to Atlanta where he burned. Yes, ma'am, the burned part grew back greener."

Lucy reflects it is a "beautiful map of a scar. Educational—a bitter but optimistic green. Recovery has upgraded everything that blossomed after."

Maybe the new earth which we can make will be like that beautiful map of a scar in which the recovery will enhance and brighten all the species—ourselves include—that bloom in its wake.

It won't be the same Earth that it was.

Maybe it will be even more beautiful.



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*The Original*  
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The Annual Billings Farm Plowing Competition will be held this year on Saturday, May 1 as part of the Billings Farm & Museum Spring Farm Festival in Woodstock, VT. Pictured here is Marrisra Winslow competing last year with her team of oxen from Falmouth, ME. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

## Billings Farm & Museum Welcomes Spring!

### Spring Farm Festival Weekend

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, kicks off its 28th season with Spring Farm Festival Weekend on May 1 & 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., featuring two days of traditional farm activities.

The shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes will take place in narrated programs on both days, at 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:30, and 3:30 p.m., with demonstrations of the skills required to turn fleece into yarn.

Farmers from the region will match plowing skills with their teams of draft animals—oxen on Saturday and horses on Sunday. Competitors will be judged on their technical skills and how well they work with their teams in the walking and sulky categories, in this event hosted by Billings Farm for the past 24 years. Visitors can try their hand plowing behind the Billings' team. New this year—a plowing competition for visitors, which will begin at 1 p.m., each day—no prior experience is necessary!

Additional activities include horse-drawn wagon rides, ox programs, butter-making, and historic games. The Teago Volunteer Fire Department will sell lunch and snacks, with all proceeds to benefit the fire department.

### Cows & Camembert Weekend

Billings Farm & Museum announces the First Annual Cows & Camembert Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, May 29 and 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate Vermont's rich dairy heritage by sampling delicious artisan cheeses and a variety of engaging dairy education programs during this new two-day event.

Cows & Camembert Weekend will showcase Vermont's artisan cheese makers who will offer cheese samples, dis-

cuss their products, and have cheese on hand for purchase. Improve your bovine knowledge by judging Jerseys with the farm manager, cow trivia and "name the calf" contests, farm animal programs, and cow pizza and games for the children. Lend a hand making fresh chocolate ice cream, with samples for all.

The operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the restored and furnished farmhouse are included in the entrance fee. Admission includes our 25th annual commemorative spring button and children's art show.

*The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc. Billings Farm is an operating dairy farm that continues a century-long tradition of agricultural excellence, offering farm programs and historical exhibits. Open daily May 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends Nov. – Feb., 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

*Admission: adults: \$12; 62 & over: \$11; children: 5-15: \$6; 3-4: \$3; 2 & under: free. Located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12.*

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# All One in the Garden

by Sally O'Kane McClintock

I glanced at my old name-plate, "Sally O'Kane." I had found it recently when going through some old storage boxes that had survived moves over the years. I like seeing it next to my computer now, even though the name-plate contains an unhappy memory.

I remember when I packed it up on that day 30 years ago. I had just been told my position was eliminated, and I was to gather my personal things and leave. I was being wrenched from my tasks, my desk, my office, my building.

So I swept the personal things from my desk into a cardboard box. In went all traces of myself—photos, notes, an ebony turtle paperweight, pencils, pens, my coffee mug. And my name-plate.

It's strange how quickly one must leave when "let go," as if a removal of personal effects eliminates an existence. I knew I was the same person, yet with a few words of dismissal, I had become "the stranger," an unpleasant example of job-loss, and bad for office morale.

My last act in leaving the building was to turn in my worker I.D. card with its photograph and job title. With this, I felt my identity fast disappearing, an identity that had taken years to achieve. I had been a housewife for 20 years, next a volunteer, and at last a full-time worker for 9 years. I carried the I.D. proudly in my wallet.

I was 50 years old and felt I was at the height of my professional abilities. It was hard for me to have my work responsibilities end just like that. With the elimination of my job, who was I?

I went to the unemployment office, feel-

ing my sense of self-worth gone with my worker identity. I stood in line with the others, tears welling up. They were nice to me there, and I spoke cheerfully when my turn came, though my cheeks were hot. They gave me a little card folded over with my name and appointment dates on it. This would be my new I.D. Out on the street, heading for home, I felt the job loss full-force.

As the weeks passed, I found a sudden desire to group myself with others—at a coffee shop, a breakfast place—to leave the house in the morning with a purpose, as I had when I was working. I took out a tablet and made lists of job possibilities, trying to look busy as I ate alone.

"Now that you're not working, we can have a nice long lunch," a friend suggested. I declined, not yet wanting to give up some sense of mission. I continued to eat alone, making my lists, heading for the library to write and blend in with the others.

Then one day something happened that brought comfort to me in the midst of my unemployment. I was walking through a familiar neighborhood where I had once worked, lost in thought, when someone called to me from her porch.

"Sally, is that you?" I turned to see Albertha, a neighborhood leader I knew. She beckoned to me. "Come and visit a while."

We sat on the porch talking, and I told her how I felt, losing my job. So much of my identity lay with my work. Without my job, who was I? She listened with sympathy.

"Let me show you my garden," she said finally. She took me through her garden,

**"In Albertha's garden... there were vegetables for health and flowers for beauty—all existing together in a glorious patchwork."**



planted every which way—vegetables and flowers intermingling like a crazy quilt, a regular hodgepodge. We walked up and down the crooked flagstone path. Before I left, she picked a bagful of leaf lettuce and a bouquet of flowers and handed them to me.

"You take care now, hear?" she said, hugging me.

When I got home, I took strange comfort in the lettuce and flowers, but still pondered the unanswered question about my identity. Where did my work personality exist now? Was it completely gone, replaced by my

private self? Yet I still felt like the same person. In Albertha's garden, there was no such division. There were vegetables for health and flowers for beauty—all existing together in a glorious patchwork. A delight to the eye and nourishment too.

And then it occurred to me that Albertha had answered my question with the tour of her garden. Each one of us is a mixture of beauty and usefulness, like the flowers and vegetables. We are all one in the garden, planted here to delight and to nourish each other.

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## MAY IN VERMONT

Jest take an apple tree that leans  
A little towards the sun,  
And have it have a twisty trunk  
And limbs that spread and run;  
And lots of branches there and here,  
And twigs in thick array,  
And then jest have the time of year  
Along around in May.

And then get up as good, warm rain,  
And then a sunny week,  
And when, by Gol! you see that tree  
Perhaps your voice can speak;

Perhaps it can't, perhaps you'll look,  
Perhaps you'll turn away,  
And go and get a picture book  
And wish 't wasn't May.

But I guess not; I guess you'll stand  
And let your fluttering eyes  
Alight on that there apple tree,  
Like two big butterflies;  
You'll thank, great goodness, furthermore,  
You ain't a city jay  
A-living on the eighteenth floor  
The nineteenth day of May.

Such lovely loads of blessed bloom!  
That pink amongst the white!  
A chandelier of trees like that  
Would light the world at night;  
'Twould dim the silver on the moon  
And make the stars look gray —  
I'd move to Europe soon  
If 'twasn't, by George! for May.

Don't bring me 'round no earthen pots  
Or dooryard dabs of bloom,  
I want an apple tree that's out  
To give my eyesight room;  
No reaching sweet pea plants for me,  
With nothing much to say,  
I want a whole-souled apple tree  
Along around in May.

—DANIEL L. CADY

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## Early Springtime Edible Delights

Mother Earth's generous supply of food begins in early spring and gives fresh vegetable-hungry persons lots of choices. There are parsnips that have weathered over the winter to be dug and savored. Rhubarb and asparagus come up right after the snows melt as readily as spring daffodils and tulips.

Farmer's Markets or your own backyard offer fresh spring greens. Dozens of edible wild greens fling themselves out of the earth and can be prepared as salads or cooked like spinach. These tasty and pungent delights can include marsh marigolds, lamb's quarters, dandelions, milkweed, and fiddleheads. Here are some recipe ideas from turn-of-the-century and modern-day cooks.

### FIDDLEHEADS ON TOAST

Gather the tender young unrolled fronds of the ostrich fern. Be careful to keep them from wilting. Rub off the hairy portions. Wash thoroughly and remove the dry papery scales, including those in the tightly coiled leaf tips and hard bases of the stalks. Sprinkle freely with salt. Boil in a little water or steam them about 20 minutes or so. Serve on toast, dressed with melted butter, hot cream, or thin cream sauce.

—*ELLA BOWLES & DOROTHY S. TOWLE, 1947*

### MINT JAM

While Mint Jelly is very decorative, a real mint-lover will prefer the flavor of Mint Jam. Uncooked Mint Jam incorporates the whole mint plant and not only captures all the flavor and therapeutic value of fresh mint but also keeps its considerable vitamin content intact, and it is easily made. Put 2 cups of fresh wild mint in your blender, add 1/2 cup of cider vinegar, 1/2 cup of water, and 4 cups sugar. Blend until smooth and until all the sugar has dissolved. Dissolve 1 package of powdered pectin in 3/4 cup of water, bring to a boil, and boil hard 1 minute, then pour this hot mixture into the blender with the other ingredients and blend on slow speed for 1 minute. Pour it quickly into jars and seal, for unless you move swiftly it will begin to jell in the blender. It is a brownish-yellow-green color but if this bothers you, add a few drops of green food coloring just before the final blending. This jam should be stored in the freezer. Either spearmint or peppermint can be used.

—*EUCELL GIBBONS, 1966*

### PARSNIP CAKES OR BALLS

Wash and boil in water with a little salt in it until perfectly tender. When cold, scrape off the skin, mash them, and for each cup of the mashed parsnips, put bread crumbs, 1/2 cup; a beaten egg, salt and pepper, to taste; flour the hands and make into balls, brown in hot butter, and serve hot.

—*DR. A.W. CHASE, 1890*

### MINT SANDWICHES

Pulverize one tablespoonful of mint leaves; pour over them two tablespoonfuls of boiling water. Let it stand for about a half an hour. Soak half an ounce of gelatine in one tablespoonful of water. Dissolve it over hot water. Strain the mint into the gelatine and when cool add a pint of rich whipped cream and a pinch of salt. Let this stand in a mold until perfectly cold and firm. Slice in thin slices and put between dainty slices of bread.

—*MARION HARLAND, 1903*

## Post Oil Solutions Backyard Animal Raising Workshops

Post Oil Solutions is offering its 4th Annual Backyard Animal Raising Workshop series, partnering with Bekah, Jay and Janet Bailey of Fair Winds Farm in Brattleboro, VT. Fee \$10/\$20.

The workshop schedule includes: May 8, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Backyard Chickens; May 8, 1-3 p.m., Managing

Backyard Sheep; June 5, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Backyard Chickens; June 5, 1-3 p.m., Managing Backyard Goats. July 17, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Chicken Harvest #1. Sept. 4, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Chicken Harvest #2.

Info: (802) 869-2141. [www.postoilsolutions.org](http://www.postoilsolutions.org).



photo by Nancy Cassidy

Apple blossoms blooming at Vermont Technical College orchard in Randolph Center, VT.

### ASPARAGUS TIPS CACHES

Cut the tops from square breakfast rolls, and scoop the crumbs from the insides, leaving box-like crusts. Butter the outside and inside of these hollowed rolls and set them with the tops beside them in the oven to dry and brown lightly. Boil asparagus tips tender in salted water and drain. Have ready on the stove a white sauce made by cooking together a tablespoonful of butter and one of flour, and adding to them a cup and a half of milk. Stir into this sauce the asparagus tips, and pepper and salt to taste. Fill the hollowed rolls with the mixture, replace the tops and set in the oven just long enough to become very hot.

—*MARION HARLAND, 1903*

### RHUBARB FRITTERS

Scrape the stalks of the rhubarb, cut into quarter-inch lengths; stew in sugar and water for ten minutes; drain and set aside to get cold. Make a batter of a half-pint of milk, three eggs, beaten light, and a cupful of prepared flour. Beat hard and stir into this batter a cupful of the rhubarb. Drop by the spoonful into deep fat and fry to a bright brown. Serve with lemon sauce.

—*MARION HARLAND, 1903*

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## Vernal Pools Salamanders Crossing!

From the recently thawed earth, the rain draws them forth. They take to the land on their tiny, long-toed feet, on a pilgrimage to the pools of their origin. No obstacle is deemed insurmountable (although some might prove to be), as the lure of the pool and the other spotted salamanders they will find there exerts its pull.

These salamanders are on their way to their breeding habitat, usually a vernal pool—a temporary wetland that holds Spring. Hundreds of amphibians will congregate in these small pools. In this habitat, amphibian eggs are safe from predation by fish, but each year the young develop in a race with the sun as the pools dry.

The longevity (twenty years or more in the case of spotted salamanders) of the salamanders that use these pools assures the survival of the genes even if developing young lose the race some years.

Most of the amphibians that can be found on these migration nights live in the woods for much of the year, and in the case of the salamanders, they live mostly underground.

Three species of these “mole salamanders” can be found in Vermont. Spotted salamanders are eight inches long and are black with yellow polka dots. Jefferson's and blue-spotted salamanders are a bit smaller and more slender, and have blue speckles or flecking. Identification of these two is made difficult because they hybridize.

The frogs that move to vernal pools include wood frogs and spring peepers. Later in the month American toads begin



Frog in a pond, a sure sign of Spring.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

hopping to the pools where they breed.

This year, on rainy April nights when temperatures are warmer than 40°F, these amphibians will once again head to the pools their kind have used for hundreds, or perhaps thousands of years.

Superimposed upon this ancient world, however, is a new world of houses, roads and cars. In areas where amphibians must cross roads, populations are likely to disappear.

Each spring, the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC) in West Brattleboro, VT organizes and trains “Salamander Crossing Brigades” to help save amphibians on these migration nights.

Over thirty crossing sites have been identified in southern Windham County, and on migration nights, the crossing guards walk the roadsides in these areas, giving a lift to any amphibians that need to cross the road. These nights provide a rare opportunity to meet the salamanders and other amphibians that are difficult to see the rest of the year.

More volunteers are always needed. The information you need to become a salamander crossing guard can be found at [www.beec.org](http://www.beec.org), or by calling the center at (802) 257-5785.

Also remember, if you must drive on rainy nights in April, drive slowly and keep an eye out for small sticks and stones in the road. A closer look might reveal an amphibian trying to make it to a vernal pool party. The other creatures out on those nights will be more visible, pedestrians in reflective vests and raincoats.

Both kinds will be grateful if you give them a brake, and even happier if you get out and give them a hand.

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC) is located on Bonnyvale Rd. off Western Ave. in West Brattleboro, VT. For more information about their programs and events for children and adults, contact (802) 257-5785 or [info@beec.org](mailto:info@beec.org). Visit [www.beec.org](http://www.beec.org).

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# Springtime Pros and Cons

by Burr Morse

Spring sure keeps us on our toes...it not only provides us with new maple syrup, cheery bird songs and black dogs lying in the warm sun but also a few eyesores when winter's white blanket peels away. You see, our winter is so long and our snow is so deep that when the curtain opens on spring, there are always surprises, both good and bad. As my friend, Dan Darling recently said in a sugarhouse conversation: "I like it here in the spring when there's no leaves on the trees...you can see what's in those woods." He stressed the "in" and winked his eye which translated to "junk cars, discarded manure spreaders, ragged pieces of plastic tarp, and muddy messes." Dan's an ex-bus driver from Illinois so he used to visit when things were neatly tucked into the colorfully clothed woods. I'm not suggesting that Vermonters are messier than other folks but that there's a special "psychology" here in the north country...spring's quick transition from pure white snow to bare ground "brings out" our litter like no other season.

It's human nature to horde but here in America, our habit is magnified by a thing I call the "Walmart mentality"; yup, we'll buy anything if we think it's cheap enough. Reminds me of a story I heard once about a great aunt of mine: Aunt Ilda was a prim and proper woman. She was a regular churchgoer and never publicly uttered anything stronger than "my goodness!," that is 'til one day she was over at the Worcester Village Store with her young twins, Tony and Ferdy. It was back in the early 50s when general stores were transitioning

**"When I go home, I'm always greeted by friendly barking and a scurrying to fetch some gift for me."**

from pickle barrels and pie safes to modern brightly colored "packaging." Aunt Ilda had her "hands full," literally, with the collection of staples she carried and those begging twins who were magnetized to packages of every shape, size and color of the rainbow. It had been just another peaceful day at the village store full of quietly browsing shoppers until suddenly from somewhere in its bowels, the shrieking began... "You kids would buy sh-- if they put it in a brightly colored package!" Aunt Ilda, the "prim and proper" gentle woman, had reached her boiling point with modern merchandizing and active children!

Earlier I mentioned "black dogs lying in the sun" because we have two of them right here at Morse Farm, Averill and Ferny. I love to see them stretched out on springtime's bare spots sopping up the rays. I wonder if dogs are wise to the change of seasons or if they worry about why the snow went away? One thing I know is that dogs are wise with their hoarding. Except for green tennis balls and plastic dog toys that foolish folks buy in places like Walmart, dogs choose their possessions very carefully. Our house is littered with small sticks from the woods and marrow bones that butchers just about give away, all stuff that blends naturally into the springtime countryside. Dogs are also more giving than humans with their processions. When I go home, I'm always greeted by friendly barking and a scurrying to fetch some gift



photo by VT Fish and Wildlife  
Waiting for a bite occupies both child and dog during Vermont's Spring fishing season.

for me. "Thank you" I say, "but you can have that stick... that can be your stick." The other day when I came home, it was almost like Averill and Ferny had rehearsed a skit. When I opened the door, two black labs greeted me with big fat carrots teetering from the ends of their mouths, pleased as pups with their imitation of Groucho Marx!

As the new week starts, we three creatures will proceed with our life routines; I to my business and the two labs to a beaver dam in the valley south of here. I will spend my day cleaning up after sugarin' and pondering the economics of it all. The labs will go for a swim, scout out the countryside and probably each select a new stick for their collection back home...the rhetorical question looms as natural as spring itself: who is living life right, man or man's best friend?

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## Spring Concerts

### Tinmouth Old Firehouse Stage

Welcome to Friday night music at Tinmouth's Old Firehouse Stage—a series of exciting live music concerts this spring and early summer! Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring a \$9 donation & save the extra dollar for the bake sale.

The Old Firehouse Stage is located in the center of Tinmouth on Route 140 and is fully accessible.

**April 16—Yankee Chank.** This group of Vermont musicians perform the traditional music of southwest Louisiana, the foot-tapping, bounding sound of Cajun music, including Zydeco featuring fiddle, accordion, guitar, bass and percussion.

**April 30—Anthony Santoro & Geordi Lynd.** An evening of jigs, reels, hornpipes, set dances, and slow airs – a trip to the Ireland of another generation. Playing Irish music on the uilleann pipes and fiddle, this young duo's music crackles with the character and spirit of the old masters.

**May 7—House Blend.** 23 singers from Vermont and New Hampshire, explore a capella songs from around the world including American folk spirituals, Appalachian hill songs, jazz, work songs from the Republic of Georgia, South African freedom songs, village music of Italy, France, Quebec, madrigals, Jewish choral, and Bach. Special guests, the Tinmouth Handbell Choir, opens the evening's music! Come hear the town's new handbells ring out over the green.

**May 21—Spencer Lewis with special guest Carol Hauser.** An evening of music featuring Spencer's signature instrumentals and Carol's mountaintop vocals, an eclectic song bag of originals including old-time Carter Family, Guthrie, and vintage folk-rock.

**June 4—Red Heart the Ticker.** Robin MacArthur and Tyler Gibbons, a husband and wife duo from Marlboro, VT, were featured recently on Prairie Home Companion. They perform music rich with tight harmonies, glockenspiel, dreamy guitar licks, banjo, and hand claps—atmospheric with a strong sense of the northwoods landscape. When not on the road, the couple lives with their one-year-old daughter Avah in a small house they built in the woods.

For more information call Colleen Balch at (802) 688-3443. celibalch@yahoo.com. Visit tinmouthvt.org.



Red-winged blackbird rests in the reeds at Lake Carmi State Park in Enosburg Falls, VT. photo by Jean Snide, Vermont State Parks

## Planting Asparagus And Other Spring Gardening Tips

by Charlie Nardozi,  
former Sr. Horticulturist, National Gardening Assoc.  
and Dr. Leonard Perry,  
Extension Professor, University of Vermont

Planting asparagus, making raised beds, and dividing rhubarb are just some of the gardening activities for this month.

As soon as the soil thaws and is dry enough to work in, you can plant bare-root asparagus crowns. Choose a spot in full sun for these long-lived perennials. Set roots in a one-foot-deep trench, then cover roots with a few inches of soil that's been amended with compost. Add more soil as the plants grow until the trench is full.

### Dividing and planting

Raised beds dry out faster and warm up more quickly in spring than regular garden beds, so include at least a few in your landscape for early planting. They can be as simple as a flat-topped mound of soil, or as elaborate as decorative stone and wood-framed beds. Fill them with soil that's been enriched with lots of compost.

If your rhubarb plants seem crowded, plan to divide them as soon as the ground thaws. Choose a cloudy, cool day, dig up the whole crown, and break off the young side shoots, trying to keep as many roots intact as possible. Transplant the mother plant back in the original hole, with a shovel full of

compost, and plant the babies in a full sun location. Harvest the young plants lightly, if at all, the first year.

### Fixing winter damage

If new shoots of your pear, apple, or hawthorn are blackened as though they were burned, that's a sign of fire blight disease. This bacterial disease, if severe, can eventually kill your trees. To control it, prune off infected areas several inches below the damage. Dip your pruners in a weak bleach solution between pruning cuts to avoid spreading the disease to other trees.

Once the snow melts you may start to see damage from road salt. To help flush the salt from the soil, water the lawn near roads and walkways several times, especially during dry periods. This will help move the salt down into the subsoil. Once this salt is removed, then you can begin to prepare the thin spots in the lawn for reseeding.

### Buying new plants

After a long winter it's tempting to buy those first seedlings, flowers, and vegetable transplants you see on sale. Just remember these are tender and can be killed easily by freezing temperatures and frosts. Most early season plants come from greenhouses or southern climates and haven't been hardened off to our cool nights. If you do buy some now, make sure to not plant out until the last frost date for your area (mid-May to mid-June in our northern climate). Bring the plants indoors on cold or frosty nights.

Leonard P. Perry, Extension Professor, Department of Plant and Soil Science, can be contacted at 11 Hills Building, 105 Carrigan Dr., UVM, Burlington, VT 05405. (802) 656-0479. Check out Perry's Perennial Pages at perrysperennials.info.

## GONE AWAY

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

—CHARLES MALAM

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### Spring Events 2010

—All Games are Weather Permitting—

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1st Gymkhana: Sun, May 2nd—12 noon

(Rain Date: May 8th—12 noon)

2nd Gymkhana: Sun, May 8th—12 noon

(Rain Date: May 15th—12 noon)

3rd Gymkhana: Sun, May 16th—12 noon

(Rain Date: May 22nd—12 noon)

4th Gymkhana: Sun, May 23rd—12 noon

(Rain Date: May 28th—12 pm)



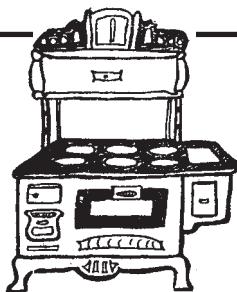
All Spring and Summer Gymkhanas are on Sundays at 12 noon. We'll have a barbecue after the games with hot dogs, hamburgers, and soda on us. If you're planning on eating just bring a side dish.

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

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## Anglers Gear Up for Vermont Spring Trout Fishing

Anglers in Vermont are enjoying another year of great brook, brown and rainbow trout fishing. The spring trout fishing season began on April 10.

"There are plenty of wild trout throughout the state, and many that were stocked earlier in lakes and streams to support spring fishing," said Vermont Director of Fisheries Eric Palmer. "The Willoughby River steelhead provide a great spring fishery in the Northeast Kingdom around the Village of Orleans, and some of the largest brown trout caught each year are taken in April."

Vermont's 2010 stocking schedule is available at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) under the "Fishing" category. The site is interactive, so you can enter the body of water, town or species of fish and see what fish will be stocked and those waters that have already been stocked. Lakes and ponds are first to receive fish in the spring, while rivers are stocked later after the high water run-off.

Vermont's catch-and-release bass fishing season in lakes also starts on April 10 and continues through June 11. Only lures and flies may be used, and bass must be immediately released.

Anglers are reminded to use sinkers that are not made of lead. It is unlawful to use a lead sinker weighing one-half ounce or less while fishing in Vermont. Weighted fly line, lead-core line, down-

rigger cannonballs, weighted flies, lure, spoons, or jig heads are not prohibited.

Fishing license fees are \$20 for adult residents, \$8 for residents 15-17 years of age, \$41 for adult nonresidents, and \$15 for nonresidents 15-17 years old. One, three, and seven-day fishing licenses also are available for nonresidents. Children under age 15 do not need a fishing license in Vermont.

Licenses are available at agents statewide and from Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

The Vermont Outdoor Guides' Association helps you find fishing guides and some overnight facilities at [www.VOGA.org](http://www.VOGA.org). Additional help in finding a place to stay overnight can be found at [www.VermontVacation.com](http://www.VermontVacation.com).

*Planning a Vermont spring fishing trip is easy. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has a 2010 Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping that includes maps showing lakes and streams as well as fishing access areas and public lands. It also lists the fish species found in each body of water and it includes fishing regulations.*

*Copies are available where fishing licenses are sold, or from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, 103 South Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671-0501. (802) 241-3700. [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).*



Spring fishing is a popular activity on the Winooski River in Waterbury, VT.

photo by John Hall

## Upcoming Free Fishing Events For Kids and Families

Here's a great opportunity for young people to give fishing a try. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has released a list of more than 60 upcoming fishing events, most of them intended just for kids.

The department's "Children's Fishing Program," gives kids the opportunity for a successful fishing experience at locally organized fishing events.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife provides about 20,000 eight-to-ten inch trout for the "Children's Fishing Program," each event receiving 150 to 300 fish. Kids' fishing events start in late April and continue through June.

The department also has a "Let's Go Fishing" program where volunteers teach young people and their families how to fish and encourage them in the activity. Learn about fishing skills, how to use different types of tackle, the importance of good aquatic habitat, fishing ethics, and fishing regulations.

Clinics are planned throughout the state during the spring and summer months. Check your local newspapers and bait shops for clinics in your area.

*A list of the events, periodically updated, appears on Fish & Wildlife's website: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).*



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(January-April: closed Tues & Wed)





## Mud Season Hiking

Please help protect the fragile alpine tundra and prevent soil erosion by staying off the trails in Vermont during Mud Season—from early spring through Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend! This will allow the trails to dry out and reduce the amount of maintenance required each year to keep them safe and enjoyable.

Rain and melting snow at higher elevations keep many hiking trails wet and muddy. When hikers tramp on saturated soils, they cause irreversible erosion and damage to the trail and surrounding vegetation.

The Green Mountain Club, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, and Green Mountain National Forest advocate responsible use of the state's hiking trails during mud season.

Some of the Long Trail has been worn down to bedrock by soil erosion over the years. Higher elevation soils take longer to dry out, and their higher content of organic material slows the drying process. A trail may be dry at the trailhead, but it will get muddy if you climb very high this time of year.

Trails at lower elevations, dirt roads, and recreation paths provide excellent opportunities for early spring walking.

### Mud Season Hiking Guidelines

- Walk through the mud, not around it! If a trail is so muddy that you need to walk on the vegetation beside it, turn back, and seek an alternative area to hike.
- Hike in the lower-elevation hardwood forest (unless it is muddy!) with southern exposure (south facing slopes dry out first in Spring).
- Avoid the spruce-fir for-

ests (conifers) at higher elevations.

- The State of Vermont closes all trails on state land including those on Camel's Hump and Mount Mansfield from mid-April until Memorial Day weekend. Please do not hike in these fragile areas.

- Also avoid: Stratton Mountain, Killington Peak, Lincoln Ridge (Mount Ellen to Appalachian Gap), Jay Peak.

### Mud Season Hiking Alternatives

Here are a few mud season hiking suggestions:

**Northern VT:** Burlington Bike Path, Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail, Stowe Bike Path, Cotton Brook Area—Moscow/Stowe, Alburg Recreation Trail, Mallets Bay Causeway, Cambridge Greenway Recreation Path, Mount Philo

**Central VT:** The Austin Brook Trail in Warren/Granville, Thresher Hill & Pine Brook Trails, The Cross VT Trail—runs west to east across VT, Liberty Hill & Contest Trails, Lefferts Pond, Robert Frost Interpretive Trail, Travel Around Middlebury Trail (TAM).

**Southern VT:** Emerald Lake State Park Trail, Hariman Trail, Delaware and Hudson Rail Trail, Woodford State Park Trails, West River Trail, Jamaica State Park Trails.

Check in with the VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation to see if the Vermont state parks and trails are open. Their phone number is (802) 241-3655.

Contact the Rochester Ranger Station at (802) 767-4261 to make sure trails in the Green Mountain National Forest are open during mud season.

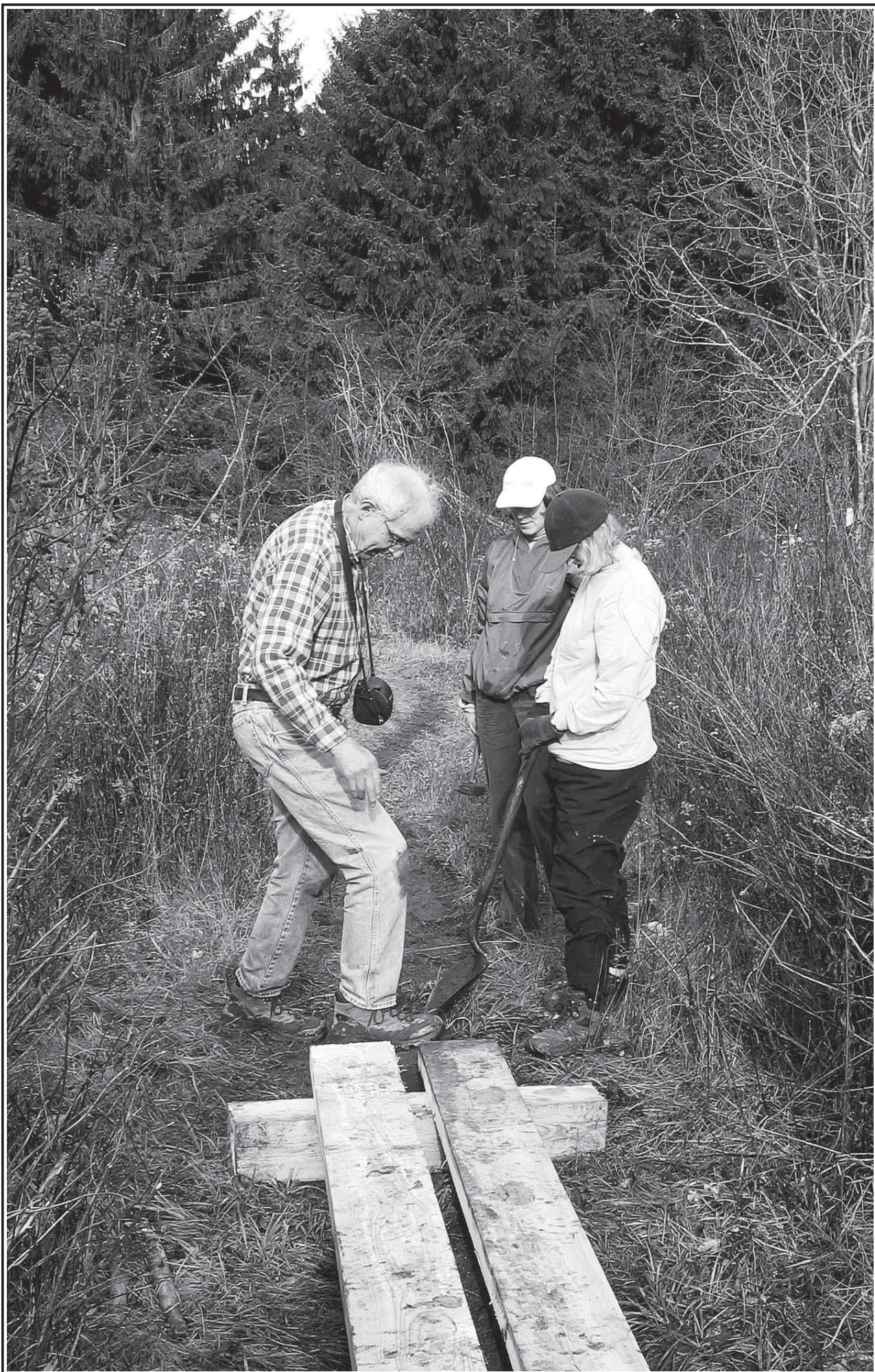


photo by Barbara Griffith

Tom Copps, Ruth Hare, and Sue Thomas work with the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club on the Appalachian Trail/Long Trail in Shrewsbury, VT. To find out about volunteering for a trail workday this spring contact Herb Ogden at (802) 293-2510.

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Barbara Griffith works on building a footbridge on the Long Trail.

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photo by Barbara Griffith

Members of the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club hike to the knob on Grandpa's Knob in Castleton, VT. They climbed to the site of the first municipal wind turbine (1940s) with views in all directions of the Greens, the Adirondacks, the Taconics, and some very silly rocks.

## Green Mountain Club Springtime Hikes

A variety of outings are planned by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club and you are invited to come along. Newcomers and non-members are welcome and the outings are free. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont!

Unless otherwise noted, all of these trips leave from Rutland's Main Street Park on Rt. 7, near the east end of the fire station. Distances are round trip. Trips vary in level of difficulty. Call the leader with any questions.

*Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m.*

### Natural Bridge, Dorset, VT

Climb on old roads to this geologic oddity and descend via bushwhacking along the course of a beautiful marble streambed with sculpted gorges and waterfalls. Moderate, 3.5 to 4 miles with 900 feet elevation gain. Some very steep grades. Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573.

*Sunday, May 2, 9 a.m.*

### Birds and Wild Flowers

A slow-paced hike to a locale of the leader's choosing to identify spring wild flowers and returning migrant birds. Leader: Connie Youngstrom, (802) 492-3502.

*Saturday, May 8, 9 a.m.*

### Winona Lake, Bristol, VT

Canoe or kayak on a beautiful pond. Leaders: Larry Walter & Viv Bebee, (802) 775-3855.

*Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m.*

### Long Trail Spring Cleaning

All are welcome to help prepare the trail for the summer hiking season. We'll clear water bars, trim brush, and cut blowdowns on the lower-elevation stretches. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and lunch; tools will be provided. Have fun while doing a good deed. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510.

### Granville Flea Market

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For information about the GMC Killington Section visit [web.mac.com/gmckillington](http://web.mac.com/gmckillington). For GMC membership and activities contact the Green Mountain Club at (802) 244-7037 or [gmc@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:gmc@greenmountainclub.org).



*5 June, Saturday, 9 a.m.*

### National Trails Day, Killington, VT

Volunteers all over the country will be out today clearing brush and waterbars, cutting blowdowns, and painting blazes, readying trails for the summer hiking season. Join us to work on our local treasure, the Long/Appalachian Trail. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and lunch; tools will be provided. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510.

*29 May, Saturday, 9 a.m.*

### Ethan Allen Cave, Salisbury, VT

Purported to be the site where the Green Mountain Boys hid out. See it and decide for yourself. Optional extra short climb to a view point. Moderate, 4 miles. Leader: Tom Copps, (802) 774-5144.

*23 May, Sunday, 9 a.m.*

### Lake Ninevah Area, Plymouth, VT

Explore old roads and trails and visit the gravesite of a Revolutionary War-era soldier. Moderate. Leader: Tom Copps, (802) 774-5144.

*22 May, Saturday*

### GMC Annual Meeting, Waterbury Center, VT

Recognizes the club's 100th birthday with activities on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at club headquarters. There will be a variety of hikes to choose from on Saturday. Green Mountain Club, (802) 244-7037.



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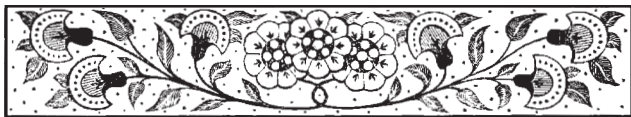
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## Treats from Nana's Kitchen

In Sicily the mainstay of the peasants' daily cuisine is a hearty, homemade soup of pasta and seasonal vegetables. In *Under A Fig Tree* by Sandra Levesque, the reader is offered family recipes for these soups prepared when Sandra was a child by her grandmother Antonia "Nana" Scafidi, and served daily from a steaming hot white enamel soup pot.

Here are recipes for two rustic soups and a dessert, Anise Bars, a family staple at Easter and Christmas.

### Brodo di Pollo

4 quarts water	One 2½ pound chicken,
2 carrots, washed and cut	whole or cut in pieces, fat
in 2-inch pieces	removed and washed
2 onions, peeled and	4 celery ribs, with tops,
quartered	cut in 2-inch pieces
1 bay leaf	1 small bunch parsley,
1-2 cups Ditalini pasta	coarsely chopped
or rice, optional	Salt & pepper, to taste

Bring the water to boil in a large, 7-8 quart stockpot. Add chicken and bring to boil, skimming fat from the water's surface. After a five-minute boil, discard the water, and rinse the chicken to clean the meat and clarify the broth. Return the chicken to a rinsed pot. Cover with 4 quarts fresh cold water. Bring the water to a boil, skim off any remaining fat, and add the vegetables and herbs. Reduce the heat and gently simmer for 3-4 hours, covering the pot halfway to prevent evaporation. Season with salt & pepper the last 30 minutes of cooking time. Discard bay leaf. Remove chicken from the pot, de-bone, and return to the broth and vegetables. Serve immediately; addition of Ditalini or rice optional.

### Manercia

2 pounds Swiss chard,	2 tablespoons olive oil
washed and drained	2-4 cloves coarsely chopped
2 large rip tomatoes peeled	garlic, depending on taste
and chopped, or an	½ cup water
equivalent amount of	Salt & pepper to taste
crushed canned tomatoes	¼ lb. Romano cheese, cubed

Warm the olive oil in a large soup pot. Add the garlic and cook gently until golden. Mash the tomatoes into the olive and garlic mixture. Add ½ cup water; salt & pepper to taste. Simmer the mixture for 20 minutes. Pack Swiss chard into pot, with cubes of Romano cheese in between the layers. Cover the pot to allow the chard to steam, stirring the mixture from time to time. Serve the saucy dish with crusty Italian bread when the chard is tender.

### Nana's Anise Bars

from her daughter, Concetta Scafidi Miglis

1 heaping cup sugar	1 cup golden raisins
1 cup mixed candied	1 cup pignoli or walnuts
citrus fruit	½ bottle (1 fl. oz.) pure anise
¼ cup milk (heat and cool)	extract or one bottle (.125
12 tablespoons butter	fl. oz.) of anise oil
4 eggs	5 cups sifted flour
4 teaspoons baking powder	½ teaspoon salt (optional)
½ teaspoon vanilla	2 tablespoons of water

Mix the sugar, raisins, candied fruit, nuts, and anise flavoring together. Cover and set aside for 2 hours. Combine and gently warm the milk and butter. Allow the mixture to cool. Pour the wet mixture over the other ingredients. After beating the four eggs, pour them over the other ingredients. Combine well. Sift the flour, baking powder, and salt together and add, one cup at a time, to the wet mixture. Turn the dough onto a floured board and knead until the dough no longer sticks. (You may have to add ¼-½ cup more flour). Divide the dough into 4 or 5 equal pieces. On a lightly floured surface, roll each piece into 13" foot-ball-shaped loaves. Place loaves on parchment covered sheets. Brush the loaves with ½ teaspoon of vanilla diluted with 2 tablespoons of water and top with colored sprinkles. Bake in a 375° oven for 20-25 minutes, until the loaf begins to split on top and brown on the bottom. Cool completely before slicing on the diagonal, at one-half inch intervals, into bars.



Antonia Maria Delpopolo and Francesco Paola Scafidi on their wedding day in Sicily on March 5, 1920.



Nana (Antonia Scafidi) tending to her robust tomato plants in her backyard garden on Cherry St. in Rutland, VT.



With their parents Antonia and Francesco Scafidi looking on, the Scafidi sisters pose for their portrait. From left to right they are Concetta, Maria, Assunta, and Venera.

## Black Dress

I dress now all in black like the old ladies of my childhood, the old ladies who watched

our movements and reported to our mothers if we did anything wrong. These women, sitting

on their stoops in their shiny black cotton, their black stockings rolled down to just below their knees,

their sparse, white hair drawn back into a bun, wisps of it escaping onto their foreheads.

In the heat of an August afternoon, they sat and fanned themselves with accordion fans that they held

in their hands and moved back and forth to create some movement of air. They had big white cotton

handkerchiefs they used to pat away the sweat. These women kept their eyes on the neighborhood.

They could have told all the secrets of each house, and on evenings, late, sitting under the grape arbor,

while the men played briscole and the children sat quietly, they told the secrets whispered among the women,

the secrets they held close to them, these women who were always there for one another.

When there was illness in the family, they would come to the door with pots of soup and fresh bread, ready

to help clean the floors or care for the children. Summer evening under the grape arbor, the children heard

those stories and they stored them in their hearts, and the women's whispers and laughter became

the music of a time when the world was small enough to carry in their hands.

—MARIA MAZZIOTTI GILLAN

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# ‘Little Randazzo’—From Sicily to Rutland, VT

## Under A Fig Tree

### A Family Memoir

by Sandra M. Levesque

On September 18, 1920 a newlywed couple Francesco and Antonia Delpopolo Scafidi from Randazzo, Sicily, arrived at Ellis Island in New York harbor aboard the three-stack steamship Columbia. They were among 1,303 immigrant passengers who survived the rough 16-day crossing of the Atlantic, traveling third class in “steerage,” the crowded, unsanitary bottom deck of the ship.

The cost of the trip for the couple was 1,400 lire (\$70 U.S.), a huge sum of money at that time when one could eat for a whole week in Sicily on one lire.

The couple were headed to Rutland, Vermont where others from their same hometown near Mt. Etna in Sicily had left their impoverished country to establish a new “Little Randazzo” in the southwestern corner of the city, where shopkeepers served the needs of immigrants who were now working in the nearby marble quarries. The Scafidis eventually purchased a home and raised four daughters in this Rutland neighborhood, in the middle of last century.

One of their granddaughters, Sandra Levesque, has written a fascinating family memoir, *Under A Fig Tree*, about her grandparents coming to America just five months after their wedding, their life and times in Rutland, and how they adapted to the new country while preserving their Sicilian language, customs and culture.

### Book Review by Charles Sutton

Sandy writes from early memories of her grandparents home where holidays and gatherings were celebrated, and also where she went daily for lunch with grandmother Nana’s delicious cooking, featuring a fresh soup and Sicilian dishes made from vegetables raised by her grandfather.

Initially Sandy thought of writing a memoir with anecdotes and photographs which would be of interest to her extended family of some 50 members today who are living across the country, almost all engaged in professional careers.

However, after trips to the family village in Sicily and to Ellis Island in New York, she realized that here was a story that celebrated the lives of hundreds of thousands of others who found new homes in American, coming here after World War I, and not just the small group who founded “Little Randazzo” in Rutland, Vermont.

The story begins in Sicily with her grandmother Nana as a young woman carrying a muslin cloth sling loaded with freshly-baked bread to the hard-working peasant in the nearby vineyards. She also brought fruit, cheese, salami, and a jug of water called acqua terra. There in the fall of 1919 during the grape harvest she met the reserved and handsome Francesco, a former soldier in the Italian Cavalry. Later sitting under the shade of a fig tree (hence the title of Sandy’s book), he proposed marriage and the move to America. They were married on March 25, 1920. Her muslin sling was packed into one of the only two steamer trunks they were allowed to bring aboard ship to America.

The often unsung heroine in many immigrant families is the wife and mother who holds the family together in good times and bad. Nana fit that role. “It was this modest, painfully shy woman that I turned to for food and sympathy, both doled out at her kitchen table, in a room full of fragrances that I will never forget,” Sandy recalls. “She was my teacher and my Mother Confessor. Her wisdom was equal parts voodoo, Catholicism, and old-country customs, liberally mixed with a fear of the unknown and an haunting melancholy.”

Nana understood English, but would not utter a syllable of it; instead, we learn, she spoke a soothing Sicilian dialect, which bore little resemblance to classical Tuscan Italian.

She was the family healer, relying on the magical qualities of olive oil, herbs, honey and plantain leaves for her home remedies. She made home-made hard and soft cheeses from cows’ and goat’s milk. An avid gardener, she converted her tiny yard into beds of tomatoes, basil, parsley, peppers and broccoli. She also worked alongside Francesco in three larger vegetable gardens on borrowed land. This was before freezers, so that this produce had to be saved in jars or stored in the root cellar. And Sandy recalls, “The earthy scent of the dirt floor mingled with the smell of apples, ripening in bushels. Baskets and barrels of potatoes, carrots and winter squash took shape as your eyes adjusted to the semi-darkness. The subdued summer brightness of blanched and boiled beans, beets, and corn formed a rainbow of color against the drab winter gray.”

Nana used all this good produce to prepare a hearty soup for the mid-day meal every day: Monday—ditalini (a small pasta) with lentils served in a light brown broth; Tuesday—



Antonia and Francesco Scafidi in 1955 on the front porch of their Rutland, VT home on Cherry Street, which they carefully maintained and surrounded with flower gardens. They purchased this home on June 4, 1924.

ditalini with chickpeas; Wednesday—ditalini with different varieties of beans (pasta e fagioli); Thursday—a different seasonal soup like manercia, a rich tomato-based soup starring Swiss chard with chunks of romano cheese and garlic; Friday—fat rigatoni noodles drenched in tomato sauce and served with crusty Italian bread. As an extra bonus *Under A Fig Tree* includes all of Nana’s handed-down recipes for her weekly soups and tomato sauce.

Nana had a large family to feed as she was also a full-time mother, having given birth to four daughters: Venera (Sandy’s mother), Concetta, Maria, and Assunta. The girls all attended the neighbor parochial schools and services and events at St. Peter’s Catholic Church.

Every fall the men in the community carried on the tradition of making a year’s supply of table wine. Grandfather Scafidi’s standing order was for 25 cases of red grapes and 25 cases of white grapes which came in boxcars from Albany, NY and were dutifully delivered into the coal chute on the side of the house. The wine was made in the cellar with a hand-turned press, often powered with the help of the four daughters, and stored to be fermented in five wooden barrels. As was the practice then, everyone in the family drank a glass of wine with the mid-day and evening meals. This old world custom did not please the teaching Sisters of St. Joseph’s who gave the children after-lunch breath tests and admonished them to change their ways, Sandy recalls.

Nana’s home on Cherry Street was part of a larger community with inviting shops and businesses run by the immigrant families. The neighborhood, bounded by West, School, Meadow and Forest Streets, had its own bakeries, a barbershop, cobblers, a playground, ice-skating rink, and lemon ice stand run by Joe Garafano; and a three-story sweat shop, Dick’s Dress Factory, which employed immigrant women who assembled piece work at cutting tables and sewing machines.

There were four neighborhood markets: Cotrupi’s Market; Lemmo’s Store; Patsy Pattori’s Fish Market where one could get salted cod, eels, sardines, calamari, and baccala by the barrel; and Bellomos Market, famous for its homemade sausage and Italian grinders.

Sandy recalls that in the evening the men of the neighborhood met under the street lights outside her home, also on

Cherry Street, to smoke pipes and cigars and tells stories much as they had done in Sicilian villages. However, the women ruled over the neighborhood by day with, as Sandy says, “their telepathic network maintaining an unspoken sense of order and daytime decorum.”

Although a farm worker by background, Sandy’s grandfather had to find new lines of work when he came to Rutland. His first job was as a molder’s helper the nearby Howe Scale Co. He also worked for Kinsman & Mills, designers and builders of marble and granite memorials. Later he worked on roads under the Works Projects Administration (WPA), and for the Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad which hauled marble stone to processing plants. His last job was with the Patch-Wegner Co., the largest marble machine company in the country, from which he retired in 1956 at the age of 69. He died a year later.

Although a stern man, he was very good-hearted and made sure needy families in the neighborhood were supplied with his plentiful fresh vegetables. While working for the railroad, he planted still another garden along the banks of Otter Creek on land owned by his employer, two miles from home. He made a wooden wagon out of grape crates to transport his daughters to work with him there and bring home the produce.

“I toast my grandparents’ bravery and share their sense of adventure and excitement,” Sandy writes. And she especially felt a sense of wonder and gratitude seeing her grandmother’s name, Antonia D. Scafidi, etched in the Wall of Immigrants that stretches around the island’s outer seawall overlooking New York harbor.

*“It was this modest, painfully shy woman that I turned to for food and sympathy, both doled out at her kitchen table, in a room full of fragrances that I will never forget”*

*Under A Fig Tree: A Family Memoir by Sandra M. Levesque, is at independent Vermont bookstores, and on the web at amazon.com. A signed edition from the author is available from Sandra M. Levesque, 100 Gilead Brook Rd., Randolph, VT 05060 for \$24.95 plus \$4 shipping & handling. Call (802) 234-5039 or e-mail sandylev@tpgether.net.*



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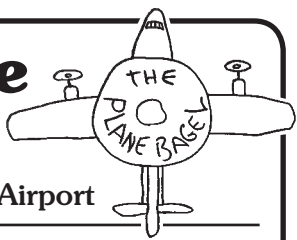
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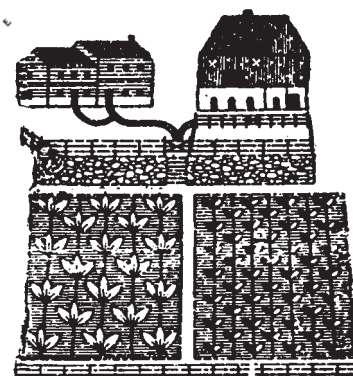
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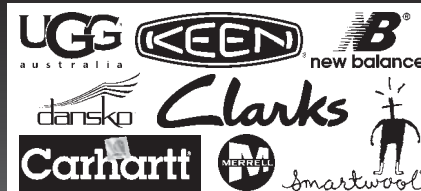
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# Vermont Country Calendar

## ONGOING EVENTS

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont Trout Season is Open. Fishing license fees \$20 adult residents, \$8 residents 15-17 years, \$41 adult nonresidents, and \$15 for nonresidents 15-17 years; licenses available at agents statewide and from Fish & Wildlife's website. Pick up 2010 Guide to Hunting, Fishing & Trapping where fishing licenses are sold or from VT Fish & Wildlife Dept., 103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671. (802) 241-3700. [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).

**BARRE.** Exhibit: "Line it Up." Free. Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-4. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. [info@studioplacearts.com](mailto:info@studioplacearts.com). [www.studioplacearts.com](http://www.studioplacearts.com). April 27 through June 17.

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

**BENNINGTON.** The Season of Mystery. Inspired by an international Sherlockian conference hosted by Bennington, VT, there will be six months of events. (802) 447-3311. [www.bennington.com](http://www.bennington.com). Through Oct. 2.

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Bellows Falls Farmers Market. Farm products, ready-to-eat food and live music. Free admission. 4-7 pm rain or shine at the Waypoint Center, Depot St. (802) 387-5109. [bffarmersmarket.com](http://bffarmersmarket.com). Fridays, May 21 through October 15.

**BRANDON.** Farmer's Market. In Brandon's Central Park. Produce, breads, jams, honey, maple products, and crafts. Fridays, 9 am - 2 pm. (802) 273-2655. [cijka@localnet.com](mailto:cijka@localnet.com). [brandan.org](http://brandan.org). Mid-May through mid-October.

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

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

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

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

**BRATTLEBORO.** Post Oil Solutions meets frequently and sponsors events with a mission to advance cooperative, sustainable communities. For info contact Tim Stevenson at [info@postoilsolutions.org](mailto:info@postoilsolutions.org) or [www.postoilsolutions.org](http://www.postoilsolutions.org).

**BRISTOL.** Open Mic Night. Live music, poetry, spoken word, comedy, story telling, rants, and everything in between! Free and open to all ages. Equipment provided (or bring your own). Contact [thehub@gmavt.net](mailto:thehub@gmavt.net) to reserve a time slot. 5:30-7:30 pm at The Bristol Hub, 110 Airport Dr. (802) 453-3678. [www.bristolskatepark.com](http://www.bristolskatepark.com). May 6, June 1, July 3, August 5.

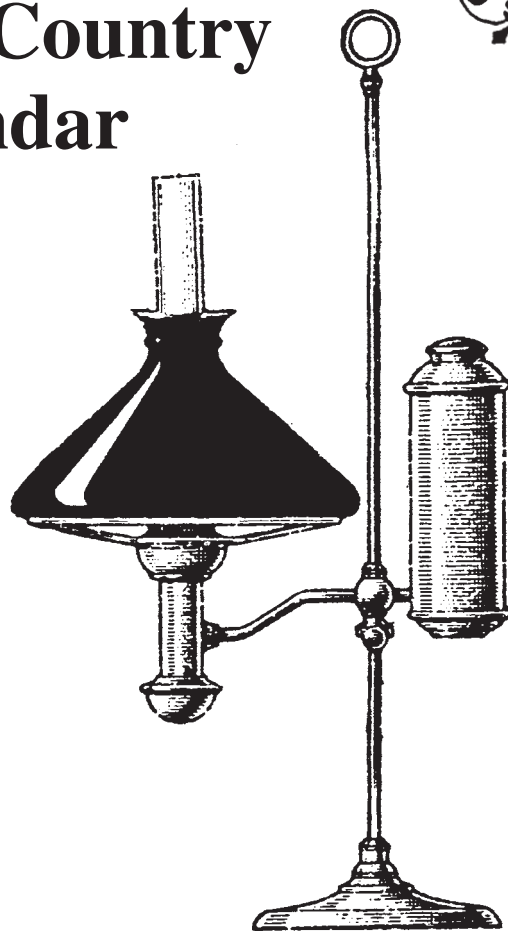
**BURLINGTON.** ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Current special exhibit: "Contraptions!" Daily 10 am - 5 pm. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3-17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. One College St. (802) 864-1848. [www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org).

**BURLINGTON.** First Friday Art Walk. Galleries, studios, and interesting venues all around town. Live music, painting, and guided tours. Maps are available. Free. 5-8 pm. (802) 264-4839. [www.artmapburlington.com](http://www.artmapburlington.com).

**BURLINGTON.** ECHO Earth Weeks' MudFest. A 10-day celebration of Earth Day and Mud Season from April 23 through May 2. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visit the baby turtles every Sat and Sun at 10:30 am. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center/Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (802) 864-1848. [update@echovermont.org](mailto:update@echovermont.org). [www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org).

**CHESTER.** Activities at Gassetts Grange Hall. Bingo, with refreshments on sale in the kitchen, every Thurs 6:30-9 pm, doors open at 4:30 pm. Craft workshops, everyone welcome, every Thurs 2-4 pm, free refreshments and coffee, info: Bonnie, (802) 875-3500. Monthly community breakfast May 1, 8-10 am, \$5 donation. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For information call Dave (802) 875-2637.

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



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

**DANBY.** Mountain View Ranch & Sun Bowl Ranch. Wagon rides, all-season trail rides, lessons, special events. 502 Easy St. Call to reserve. (802) 293-5837. [riding@mountainviewranch.biz](mailto:riding@mountainviewranch.biz). [www.mountainviewranch.biz](http://www.mountainviewranch.biz).

**EAST CHARLESTON.** NorthWoods Stewardship Center. Programs, workshops and special events in all seasons. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. [northwoodscenter.org](http://northwoodscenter.org).

**EAST THETFORD.** Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center. A certified organic, fifty-acre vegetable and berry farm. Farmstand and Hello Cafe (with wireless internet) opens for the season May 1 with spring flowers, hanging baskets and tender greens. Cooking and gardening classes, seasonal events, pick-your-own. Open Mon-Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. [growing@cedarcirclefarm.org](mailto:growing@cedarcirclefarm.org). [www.cedarcirclefarm.org](http://www.cedarcirclefarm.org). Open through October.

**FERRISBURGH.** Rokeby Museum, a National Historic Landmark, one of the best-documented Underground Railroad sites in the country. The farm was home to a family of Quakers, farmers, abolitionists, authors, and artists. Furnished house and outbuildings, exhibits, tours, hiking trails, and special events. House tours Thurs-Sun 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm. Fee: \$6 adults, \$4 seniors/students, \$2 children 12 and under. Open Tues-Sun, 10 am - 4 pm. Grounds open year round during daylight. Rokeby Museum, Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. [rokeby.org](http://rokeby.org). May 23 through October 10.

**GRAFTON.** The Nature Museum at Grafton. Exhibits, family activities, and special events. Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 1-4. , 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. [lillianwillis@nature-museum.org](mailto:lillianwillis@nature-museum.org). [nature-museum.org](http://nature-museum.org).

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

**HUBBARDTON.** Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. The only Revolutionary War battle fought entirely in Vermont. Bring your flag to be raised over the Hubbardton Battlefield and receive a certificate. Adults \$2, 14 and under free. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd, seven miles north of Rt 4. (802) 273-2282. [www.historicvermont.org](http://www.historicvermont.org). [chimneypoint@historicvermont.org](mailto:chimneypoint@historicvermont.org). Open May 29 through October 11.

**ISLE LA MOTTE.** St. Anne's Shrine officially opens for the pilgrimage and tourist season on May 22. The shrine is at 92 St. Anne's Rd. For activities and events or call (802) 928-3362 or visit [www.saintannesshrine.org](http://www.saintannesshrine.org). May 22 - October 10.

**JAMAICA.** Jamaica Farmers' Market. Visit on Sundays for fresh produce, crafts, cut flowers, plants, prepared foods, live music and more. Free. 10 am - 2 pm. Main Street, Rt. 30. (802) 874-4151. [dkameden@svcable.net](mailto:dkameden@svcable.net). [www.JamaicaVT.com](http://www.JamaicaVT.com). Sundays May 23 through October 10.

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

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



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(Ongoing events continued)

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

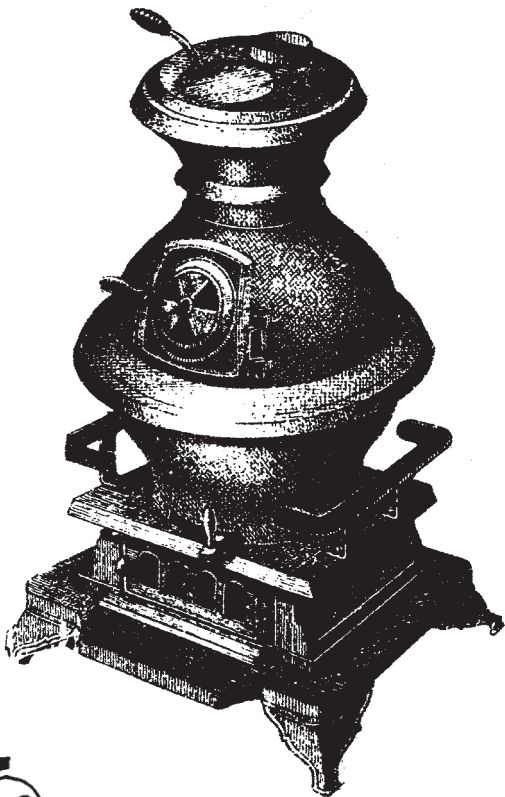
**LUDLOW.** Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts. Classes and workshops. For information or to request a catalog, contact (802) 228-8770. www.fletcherfarm.org.

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

**MANCHESTER.** 81st Annual Members' Exhibition. More than 200 juried paintings, sculpture, photography and mixed media works by artist members residing in Vermont or within a 30-mile radius will be featured. Admission. Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 11 am - 5 pm. Southern Vermont Art Center, Yester House Gallery, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. cmackour@svac.org. www.svac.org. May 8 through June 15.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Southern Vermont Sampler Tour. Open air or enclosed tour vehicle, depending on weather. \$30 pp. Daily from 1-4 pm. Pick up in front of Southern VT Signworks at 357 Center Hill. Revolutionary War site tours also available. Call to reserve. (802) 362-4997. bckrddisc@aol.com. www.backroaddiscovery.com. May 15 - September 28.

**MONTPELIER.** Performance: *A Song for My Father*, a new play by David Budbill. Before time runs out, a son facing the long-distance challenges of caring for his dad, also hopes to bridge the personal distance between them. Tickets \$15-\$25. Evening and matinee performances. A World Premiere at Lost Nation Theatre, 39 Main St. (802) 229-0492. www.lostnationtheater.org. April 22 through May 9.



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

**ORWELL.** Mount Independence State Historic Site. In 1776, this military complex was one of the largest communities in North America. 300 acres of pasture, woodlands, spectacular vistas of Lake Champlain and trails, some wheelchair accessible. Visitor's Center and Museum with archaeological artifacts. Open daily 9:30 am - 5 pm. Admission: adults \$5, children 14 and under free. On Mount Independence Rd., off Rt. 73. (802) 948-2000. www.historicvermont.org. Open May 29 through October 11.

**PITTSFORD.** New England Maple Museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. 10 am - 4 pm. On Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414.

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

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

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits and Nature Store, 9 am - 5:30 pm, 7 days a week. 11 am, Raptor Encounter; 2 pm, Talk to the Trainer; both through June 17. Admission: adults \$10.50, seniors \$9.50, youth (3-18) \$8.50, children 3 and under free. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of the Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

**ROCHESTER.** BigTown Gallery Invitational Exhibit. Opening reception April 23, 5-7 pm. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com. Through May 23.

**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. www.merckforest.org.

**RUTLAND.** Downtown Rutland Farmers Market. Indoors 10 am to 2 pm every Saturday through May 8. Located in the Old Strand Theater (enter through the Rutland Natural Food Co-Op at 77 Wales St.). For more info call Greg Cox (802) 683-4606. vtfarmersmarket.org.

**RUTLAND.** The Rutland County Farmers' Market. Saturdays 9 am-2 pm, Tuesdays 3-6 pm. Arts and crafts, entertainment, prepared foods. Vegetables, fruits, meats, eggs, cheese, honey, maple, flowers, plants, herbs, baked goods, specialty foods, jams, jellies. Downtown in the park by Wal-Mart. Call Judy for more info (802) 773-4813. May 8 through October 30.

**RUTLAND.** Chaffee Art Center/Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops. Gallery open Wednesday through Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 12 noon until 4 pm. 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

**RUTLAND.** ArtHop Rutland: Second Friday night art & culture event. 5-8 pm. Downtown and around town (guides available at participating locations). arthoprutland.blogspot.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SPRINGFIELD.** Eleanor Ellis Springweather Nature Area. Overlooks North Springfield Lake. Trails meander through 70 acres of fields and forests, and provide many opportunities to enjoy the natural world. Reservoir Rd, off Rt 106 (Exit 7, I-91), turn at the sign for North Springfield Lake. Free to the public. (802) 263-5321. www.weathersfieldvt.org.

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

**WAITSFIELD.** Fifth Annual Green Mountain Opera Festival. Concerts, master classes, open rehearsals and a performance of Handel's Orlando. (802) 496-7722. gmofadmn@aol.com. greenmountainoperafestival.com. May 30 through June 20.

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

**WEATHERSFIELD.** Weathersfield Trail, Cascade Falls Rd. Of four hiking trails that go to the summit of Mt. Ascutney, the Weathersfield Trail is probably the most scenic. Includes Little Cascade Falls (.04 miles), Crystal Cascade Falls (an 84 foot high waterfall at 1.1 miles), Gus's Lookout and the West Peak Vista where hang gliders launch from in the summer. Observation platform on the summit. For information call VT Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation at (802) 886-2215. weathersfieldvt.org.

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

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

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

**WESTMINSTER.** Homemade soup and bread. Every Wednesday noon to 2 pm at the First Congregational Church on Route 5 in Westminister. The simple meal is free, with donations accepted. (802) 722-4148.

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# Country Calendar



## SATURDAY, APRIL 17

**PAWLET.** Lampshade Making Workshop w/The Lampshade Lady. The Lampshade Lady will share all the tricks to the trade from her new book, *The Lampshade Lady's Guide to Lighting Up Your Life*. 11 am – 5 pm. Lake's Lampshades, 60 School St. (802) 325-6308. [www.lakeslampshades.com](http://www.lakeslampshades.com).

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Cooking Class: Maple Cream & Sticky Buns. Fee: \$45 includes a light lunch. 10 am – 1 pm. Offered by The Farmer's Kitchen at Turkey Hill Farm. Class details and directions at [TurkeyHillFarm.com](http://TurkeyHillFarm.com) or call (802) 728-7064.

**RANDOLPH.** Mud Season Variety Show. See the best in local comedy, dance, and music! Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main Street. (802) 728-9878. [tickets@chandler-arts.org](mailto:tickets@chandler-arts.org). [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org).

## SUNDAY, APRIL 18

**MIDDLEBURY.** Concert: Francois Clemmons, Tenor. Alexander Twilight Artist in Residence François Clemmons distinguished career has taken him from the Metropolitan Opera to the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble. Free. 4 pm. Middlebury College Centre for the Arts. (802) 443-3168.

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Cooking Class: Old-Fashioned Raised Donuts Dipped in Maple Syrup. Fee: \$45 includes a light lunch. 10 am – 1 pm. Offered by The Farmer's Kitchen at Turkey Hill Farm. Class details and directions at [TurkeyHillFarm.com](http://TurkeyHillFarm.com) or call (802) 728-7064.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 23

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Concert: Sweetback Sisters. At Bocelli's on the Canal, 46 Canal St. Info: (802) 463-9595; reservations: (802) 460-1190. [bocelli@sover.net](mailto:bocelli@sover.net). [www.brattleborotix.com](http://www.brattleborotix.com). [www.bocellisonthecanal.com](http://www.bocellisonthecanal.com).

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** 3rd Annual Manchester Poets & Writers Weekend. Workshops, classes, small publishers, arts, entertainment and more. Presented by the Greater Manchester Arts Council. 9 am - 9 pm. Hosted at the Inn at Willow Pond, Rt. 7A. (802) 362-6313. [www.greatermanchesterarts.org](http://www.greatermanchesterarts.org). *Through April 25.*

**MONTPELIER.** The Green Mountain Film Festival will be showing the film, *Earth Days*. 6:15 pm at the Pavilion Auditorium. To order tickets call (802) 262-3456 from noon to 5 pm or visit the office next to the Savoy Theater during the day. [www.greenmountainfilmfestival.org](http://www.greenmountainfilmfestival.org).

**WATERBURY CENTER.** Pork Roast Take-Out Dinner. Menu: roast pork loin with gravy, potato, salad, corn, apple sauce, rolls, dessert. \$9. Pick up your dinner between 4-6 pm at the Waterbury Center Community Church on Rt. 100 next to the Cold Hollow Cider Mill. (802) 244-8089. [bbtravelers@aol.com](mailto:bbtravelers@aol.com).

## SATURDAY, APRIL 24

**BRATTLEBORO.** 2nd Annual No Gardener Left Behind Expo. Demonstrations, displays, vendors. Indian food, refreshments and music by Lerna. Hosted by Post Oil Solutions. Free admission. 10 am – 3 pm at the River Garden. (802) 869-2141. [info@postoilsolutions.org](mailto:info@postoilsolutions.org). [www.postoilsolutions.org](http://www.postoilsolutions.org).

**CHESTER.** Steiff Teddy Bear Party. Discounts, door prizes, goody bag from Steiff Co. Special exclusive event bear. Peruse our shop in the morning, refreshments at noon. Special B&B rate for guests at the Inn. Free admission. Starts 11 am, presentation at 1 pm. The Hugging Bear Inn & Shoppe, 244 Main St. (802) 875-2412. [info@huggingbear.com](mailto:info@huggingbear.com). [www.huggingbear.com](http://www.huggingbear.com).

**DANBY.** Kevin Keeler Art Show and Sale. Born and raised in Vermont, Keeler grew up inspired by architecture of small country villages. Refreshments and beverages. Admission is free. Noon-4 pm. Emma's Restaurant at the Silas Griffith Inn, 178 S. Main St. (802) 293-5567. [stay@silasgriffith.com](mailto:stay@silasgriffith.com). [www.silasgriffith.com](http://www.silasgriffith.com).

**POULTNEY.** Green Mountain College Spring Concert Festival. Concessions, tractor pull, mechanical bull, mega-bounce house, and more. Evening concert. Starts at 1 pm at Moses Lawn. (800) 776-6675. [www.greenmtn.edu](http://www.greenmtn.edu). *Through April 25.*

**POULTNEY.** Earth Day Week-Long Festivities. Town-wide and at Green Mountain College. (800) 776-6675. [www.greenmtn.edu](http://www.greenmtn.edu). *Through April 25.*

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** St. Johnsbury World Maple Festival. Maple products, crafts, food, and entertainment. Working sugar house, sound stage featuring the band Red House, rock climbing wall, kid's activities, food court, historical and scientific exhibits, and maple syrup judging. Pancake breakfast at 8 am. Downtown. (802) 274-0201. [www.worldmaplefestival.org](http://www.worldmaplefestival.org).

## SUNDAY, APRIL 25

**GROTON.** Concert: Cody Michaels, Solo Piano—Conversations with Nature. This Vermont piano soloist and composer is a former Appalachian & Long Trail caretaker, park ranger, and farm hand. Donation. 3-4 pm. Groton United Methodist Church, Rt. 302. (802) 584-3440. [www.codymichaels.com](http://www.codymichaels.com).

**SPRINGFIELD.** Concert: Rhythms of Our World. Feminine Tone women's chorus presents music from around the world. Donation. 4 pm. First Congregational Church, 77 Main St. (802) 484-5097.

**WOODSTOCK.** Annual Spring Walkthrough on the Appalachian Trail. Bring work gloves, tools, lunch & water. Meet at Woodstock Rec. Ctr. at 8:30 am. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. 9 am. For info call leader Harry Temple, (802) 738-8405. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## TUESDAY, APRIL 27

**ARLINGTON.** Poetry Reading. Donald Hall, U.S. Poet Laureate (2006/2007), will read his poetry and sign books. Hall has published numerous books of poetry. Presented by The Arlington Friends of Poetry and hosted by the Arlington Memorial High School. This event is free and open to the community. 7 pm at Mack Performing Arts Center. For info contact Barthel at [barthel@bvsu.org](mailto:barthel@bvsu.org) or (802) 375-2589.

**CORNISH, NH.** Spring Bike Ride. About 20 miles. Easy, with some moderate hills. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. 9 am. For info call leader Patty Spencer, (802) 333-3571. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

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

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

**WILMINGTON.** Adams Farm. Tour the livestock barn, see the animals, and visit the farm store. Special events. Adams Farm, Higley Hill Road. (802) 464-3762. [www.adamsfamilyfarm.com](http://www.adamsfamilyfarm.com).

**WINDSOR.** Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery opens for the season April 30. Potted herbs, vegetable starts and unusual perennials in addition to very large collections of primroses, wildflowers & woodlanders, peonies, daylilies and hostas. Meander through well-established display gardens nestled within our wild apple orchard, woodlands and fields. Hours for May through July: 10 am – 6 pm daily. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. [www.garymilek.com](http://www.garymilek.com). [ciderhillgardens.com](http://ciderhillgardens.com).

**WINDSOR.** Old Constitution House State Historic Site. The restored Old Constitution House looks as it did more than 200 years ago. See an exhibit recounting the writing of the most progressive constitution of its time. Open 11 am – 5 pm, Sat-Sun. Admission: adults \$2.50, children 14 & under are free. 16 N. Main St. (802) 672-3773. *May 29 through October 11.*

**WINDSOR.** American Precision Museum. Peruse many historical and interesting exhibits and collections. Admission. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. [americanprecision.org](http://americanprecision.org). *May 29 through Oct 31.*

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

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm. Tour the barns, the 1890 Farm House, and exhibits! Special events. 10 am – 5 pm. Adults \$11; over 62 \$10; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; 2 & under free. Located 1/2 mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355.

**WOODSTOCK.** Hand-in-Hand Community Meal. All are welcome. Free, donations accepted. Thursdays, 5-7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 7 Church St. (802) 457-9272.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 15

**WOODSTOCK.** Concert: Songs of a Generation. Pentangle presents Janice Ian and Karla Bonoff. 7:30 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 16

**RANDOLPH.** Mud Season Variety Show. A murder mystery plot takes some surprising turns and involves willing audience members. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. [tickets@chandler-arts.org](mailto:tickets@chandler-arts.org). [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org). *Also April 17.*

**TINMOUTH.** Concert with Yankee Chank opens the Old Firehouse Spring Concert Series. \$9 donation. Refreshments. Doors open 7 pm, concert 7:30 pm. At Tinmouth's Old Firehouse Stage. For info contact Colleen Balch at (802) 688-3443.

**WOODSTOCK.** Third Friday Community Contra Dance. Featuring The Old Sam Peabody Band. Delia Clark, caller. All dances taught, no partner necessary. Supper of hot soup and hearty bread, 5:30-7:30 pm. Family dance 6:30 pm. Dessert, coffee, tea 7:30 pm. Contra dance at 8 pm. Suggested donation \$8, teens & children free. At The Little Theatre on Rt. 4, west of the Woodstock Green. For information call Steve Hoffman (802) 785-4039 or Jed Dickenson (802) 457-4427. *Also May 21.*



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(April 27 continued)

**MONTPELIER.** 13th Annual Open Poetry Reading. Sign up ahead of time at the store and limit your reading to five minutes. Come out for a night of encouragement, fun and friendship. Free. 7 pm at Bear Pond Books, 77 Main St. (802) 229-0774. [www.bearpondbooks.com](http://www.bearpondbooks.com).

**WALLINGFORD.** Wallingford Historical Society Hosts an Evening of Poetry. In celebration of national poetry month. Bring a poem about Wallingford or Vermont to read. Free and open to the public and accessible to people with disabilities. (Participation not required to attend.) Wallingford Town Hall on School Street from 7-8 pm. For more info contact Chris Bannerman at (802) 446-3560.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Poetry Reading presented by the River Voices. Free & open to the public. 7 pm. Rockingham Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 29

**HUNTINGTON.** Backyard Bird Crafts (school vacation program). Attract birds to your backyard by putting up a bird house painted by you! We provide bird houses, or seeds and flower pots, and eco-friendly paint. Fee: \$15. 2-3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. Register by calling (802) 434-2167. [www.birdsofvermont.org](http://www.birdsofvermont.org).

**LUDLOW.** Book and Author Event. Ben Hewitt, author of *The Town That Food Saved—How One Community Found Vitality in Local Food*, discusses his new book. Sponsored by The Book Nook. 7 pm at the Fletcher memorial Library. (802) 228-3238. [www.thebooknookvt.com](http://www.thebooknookvt.com).

## FRIDAY, APRIL 30

**BURLINGTON.** Lane Series Presents: The Del Sol String Quartet. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 384 S. Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. [lane.series@uvm.edu](mailto:lane.series@uvm.edu). [www.uvm.edu](http://www.uvm.edu).

**LYNDONVILLE.** Concert. Northeast Kingdom Community Orchestra. Classical music featuring Borodin's Polovtsian Dances. Donation. 7 pm. Alexander Twilight Theatre at Lyndon State College. (802) 626-6255.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book and Author Event. Angela Miller discusses her book, *Hay Fever: Out of the Office and into the Barnyard*, an inspiring, informative, and funny story about changing your life when you're already more than halfway through it. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. [northshire.com](http://northshire.com).

**PUTNEY.** Rag Rug Weaving Retreat. Learn the basics of weaving and leave with some beautiful handwoven pieces. All looms and equipment provided. Fri 11-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 9-3. Vermont Weaving School, 4 Signal Pine Rd. (802) 387-2656. [dena@vermontweaver.com](mailto:dena@vermontweaver.com). [www.vermontweavingschool.com](http://www.vermontweavingschool.com). [www.vermontweaver.com](http://www.vermontweaver.com). Through May 2.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: Jonathan Edwards. The veteran folk rocker is joined by Stuart Schulman and Troy Armerding. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. [tickets@chandler-arts.org](mailto:tickets@chandler-arts.org). [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org). [www.jonathanedwards.net](http://www.jonathanedwards.net).

**RUTLAND.** Concert with Richard Marx. 8 pm. Tickets \$34.50. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**ST. ALBANS.** The 44th Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Something for everyone! Sugarhouse tours, exhibits, maple buffet, entertainment, pancake breakfasts, crafts, antiques, talent & fiddlers shows, cooking contests, carnival, face painting, grand parade, pretty park for picnics, delightful downtown shops! Free. 10 am - 6 pm, and some evening events. Downtown. (802) 524-5800. [jvrock@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jvrock@myfairpoint.net). [www.vermontmaplefestival.org](http://www.vermontmaplefestival.org). Through May 2.

**SWANTON.** Open Door Dinner. Free and open to the public. 5:30-6:30 pm. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185. [holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net](mailto:holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net). [www.holytrinityswanton.org](http://www.holytrinityswanton.org).

**TINMOUTH.** Tinmouth Old Firehouse Series Concert: Irish Music on the Uilleann Pipes and Fiddle. With Anthony Santoro and Geordie Lynd. \$9 donation. Refreshments. Doors open 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, on the green. (802) 688-3443. [www.tinmouthvt.org](http://www.tinmouthvt.org).

**WINDSOR.** Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery opens for the season. Potted herbs, vegetable starts and unusual perennials in addition to very large collections of primroses, wildflowers & woodlanders, peonies, daylilies and hostas. Meander through display gardens nestled within our wild apple orchard, woodlands and fields. Hours for May through July: 10 am - 6 pm daily. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. [flowers@ciderhillgardens.com](mailto:flowers@ciderhillgardens.com). [www.garymilek.com](http://www.garymilek.com). [ciderhillgardens.com](http://ciderhillgardens.com).

## SATURDAY, MAY 1

**STATEWIDE.** Green-Up Day. Towns across Vermont are hosting community efforts to pick-up and green-up our state. Work projects, activities, and festivities. Contact your local town office to see what you can do. Or visit [www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org).

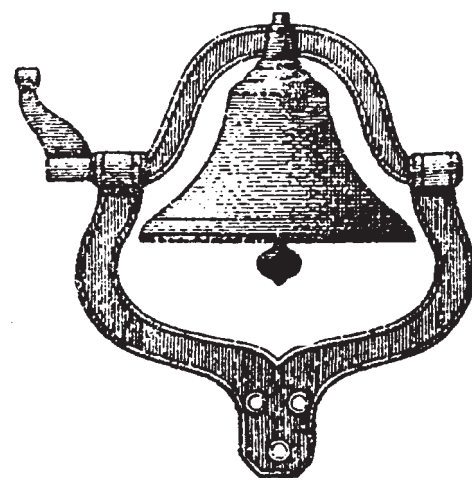
**ADDISON.** Spring Bike Ride. An easy, 20 miles with shorter & longer option. Helmet required. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. Call leader Ave Haviland for meeting place & time, (802) 496-6677.

**BELMONT.** Roast Pork Supper. Menu: roast pork with all the fixings and home-baked pies for dessert. At the Odd Fellows Hall, with settings starting at 5 pm and 6 pm. Served family style. Admission \$10 adults and \$5 children 11 years and under. (802) 259-2679.

**COLCHESTER.** The 29th Annual Vermont English Handbell Spring Ring. Free community concert at 4 pm by the full group of over 200 ringers. Donation. 4-5 pm. Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane. (802) 862-2760.

**EAST THETFORD.** Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center. Farmstand and Hello Cafe (with wireless internet) open for the season—spring flowers, hanging baskets, tender greens. A certified organic, fifty-acre vegetable and berry farm. Seasonal events, pick-your-own. Open Mon-Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. [growing@cedarcirclefarm.org](mailto:growing@cedarcirclefarm.org). [cedarcirclefarm.org](http://cedarcirclefarm.org). Open through October.

**EAST THETFORD.** Gardening Class: Awake! Plotting the Garden, Growing More Food! Fee: \$20. 12:30-2 pm at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. [growing@cedarcirclefarm.org](mailto:growing@cedarcirclefarm.org). [www.cedarcirclefarm.org](http://www.cedarcirclefarm.org).



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## The Green Mountain Gardener

# Plant a Tree for Arbor Day

by Dr. Leonard Perry, University of Vermont

What Vermont holiday falls on the first Friday in May and celebrates the future instead of the past? If you answered Arbor Day, you're right!

Arbor Day is a public celebration of spring and of trees. Church groups, schools, civic groups, towns, cities, and private individuals commemorate this day by planting trees to beautify their yards and their communities. The date varies by state depending on the climate and the best time for planting trees. This year Arbor Day is May 7 in Vermont.

### Terrain needed trees

Arbor Day had its origins in the Great Plains in the 1800s. Settlers arriving from the East found vast open stretches of land, but no trees, and so began planting trees on their farms and near their homes for shade, beauty, and to act as windbreaks and curb soil erosion.

Julius Sterling Morton, a New York native who later moved to Michigan then settled in Nebraska, is credited as the father of Arbor Day. An early conservationist, he understood the importance of planting trees to prevent the loss of valuable topsoil. In 1872, as a member of the Nebraska Board of Agriculture, he pushed for a statewide day to celebrate tree planting.

Arbor Day was proclaimed an official holiday that year in Nebraska, and on one single day—April 10—more than one million trees were planted in the state, prompted in part by the offer of prizes to whomever planted the most trees. Nebraska soon became known as the "Tree Planters State."

### Earlier tradition

However, historians claim the tradition of planting trees to beautify an area actually began in 1630 in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It was in Boston, according to

historical records, that the first shade tree planting for the "public good" occurred in the New World.

Trees provide more benefits than just shade and aesthetic beauty. Trees also:

- Help cleanse and purify the air by absorbing carbon dioxide, catching dust particles and other pollutants, and giving off oxygen.
- Moderate building temperatures and conserve energy by insulating homes and buildings and providing windbreaks.
- Reduce run-off and erosion.
- Screen out "eyesores" in the landscape and frame good views in addition to creating privacy.
- Help increase the resale value of a home.



### Tree planting tips

When planting trees, ensure their good health by following proper planting procedures, proper follow-up care after planting, and proper tree maintenance.

This also means selecting a tree species that grows well in your area and providing the right soil for healthy growth. Before you plant, it's a good idea to check the soil pH and fertility with soil tests.

Plant at the proper depth, that is, the depth at which the tree originally grew. Wrap and stake the newly planted tree if necessary. Mulch around the base of the tree. Following planting, water frequently and heavily once a week.

Good tree care also entails pruning when necessary and proper fertilization. You should follow a sound maintenance program to treat pests and diseases. When horticultural chemicals are needed, always follow label instructions carefully to avoid misuse.

For help in the selection and care of trees, consult the professionals at your local nursery.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**HARDWICK.** Vermont Vaudeville presents "Vermont Vaudeville in 3-D!" All ages welcome. Donation: adults \$10, children \$5. 8 pm at the Hardwick Townhouse, Church St. (802) 533-2589. [www.vermontvaudeville.com](http://www.vermontvaudeville.com).

**MONTPELIER.** Performance: At Wit's End—the Algonquin Round Table in Vermont. Witty quips and scathing satire are punctuated with the music of The Gershwins. Sat 8 pm & Sun 4 pm. T.W. Wood Gallery & Arts Center, Vermont College of Fine Arts, 36 College St. (802) 828-8743. [www.twwoodgallery.org](http://www.twwoodgallery.org). Also May 2.

**MONTPELIER.** Green-up Day Celebration. After your morning volunteer work party, come to the State House lawn for an afternoon event. Music by Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys and Bill Shontz. Ben and Jerry's Scoop Truck, featuring EnvironMINT Chunk and Cleanup Brittle! Free event, 3 pm, rain or shine! (802) 229-4586.

**QUECHEE.** Garden Steward Workshop Series: Practicing "Freedom & Unity" in Garden & Container Design. Fee: \$45. 10 am – 12 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of the Quechee Gorge. Register by 4/23. (802) 359-5000. [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org). [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org).

**ST. ALBANS.** The 44th Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Sugarhouse tours, grand parade, exhibits, maple buffet, entertainment, pancake breakfasts, crafts, antiques, talent & fiddlers shows, cooking contests, carnival, face painting. Free. 10 am – 6 pm, and some evening events. Downtown. (802) 524-5800. [jvrock@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jvrock@myfairpoint.net). [www.vermontmaplefestival.org](http://www.vermontmaplefestival.org). Also May 2.

**SWANTON.** Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Trail Walk. Join Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife refuge board member, Joe Belanger for a leisurely trail walk along the Railroad Passage Trail. See and hear a variety of wildlife species as the trail passes through grasslands and traverses through part of the Maquam Bog. Early migrant songbirds are arriving daily and perhaps the first bobolinks of 2010 will be seen and heard along this trail. 9-11 am. Meet at the Tabor Farm parking lot on Tabor Rd. off of Rt. 78 across from the Stephen Young Marsh. (802) 868-4781. [www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoi](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoi). Also May 4.

**THETFORD.** Workshop: The Soul of the Land. Deep listening and conscious relationship with the natural world led by Mark Kutolowski. 9 am – 9 pm. Camping available. Fee: \$50 includes use of land and food; additional donations accepted. New Creation Wilderness Programs at P.O. Box 651, Wilder, VT 05088, (802) 299-7498, [info@newcreationwilderness.org](mailto:info@newcreationwilderness.org). Also May 2.

**TINMOUTH.** Green-Up Day Breakfast. Breakfast casseroles, muffins, fruit, and juice. 7:30-9 am at the Community Center. (802) 446-3575.

**VERGENNES.** Outing on Snake Mountain. This small mountain offers an excellent view of the Champlain Valley, remains of an old hotel and dance pavilion, and a small pond where turtles are often seen sunning on a log. Easy hike, slow pace, 3.6 miles, 900' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For info call leader Dot Myer, (802) 863-2433 or [dotmyer@myfairpoint.net](mailto:dotmyer@myfairpoint.net). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Farm Festival at Billings Farm & Museum. Traditional spring farm activities. Plowing match with teams of draft animals: oxen on Saturday, draft horses on Sunday. Annual shearing of the Southdown flock. Visitor plowing with the Billings' teams and our first-ever visitor-plowing competition. Horse-drawn wagon rides. Food available. Admission: Adults \$11; over 62 \$10; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; 2 & under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, located 1/2 mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). Also May 2.

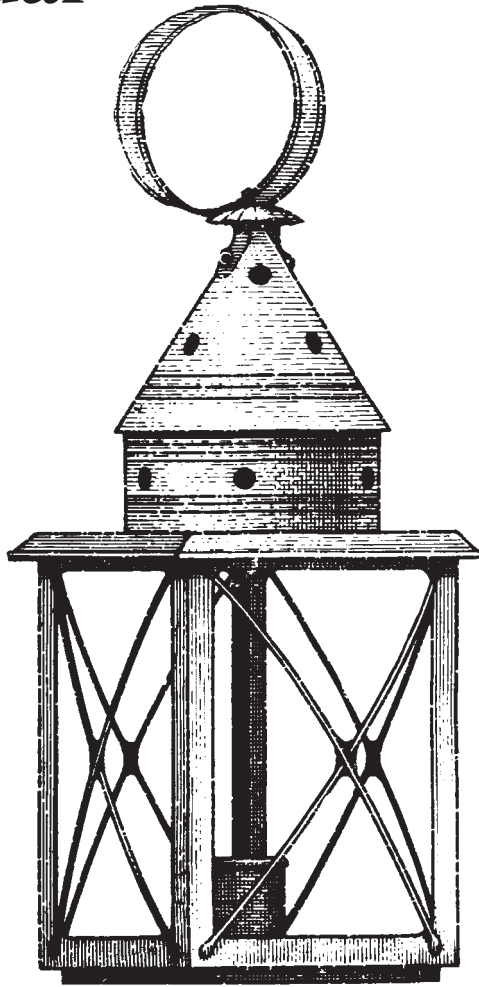
## SUNDAY, MAY 2

**BERLIN.** Spring Hike on Irish Hill. We'll walk around Berlin Pond if trails are too muddy. An easy four miles. Meet at the Berlin Pond parking area. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For info call leader Ken Hertz, (802) 229-4737 or [hertzkj@myfairpoint.com](mailto:hertzkj@myfairpoint.com) for meeting time. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Concert: Blanche Moysse Chorale. Performing Die Erste Walpurgisnacht, Mendelssohn and Schubert. 4 pm. 4 pm. Centre Congregational Church, Main St. (802) 257-4523. [www.bmcvt.org](http://www.bmcvt.org).

**BURLINGTON.** 17th Vermont Antiquarian Spring Book Fair. Used & antiquarian books in all subjects, as well as postcards and ephemera from 35+ dealers. See and buy Vermont history, modern first editions, mysteries, poetry, books on the American Civil War, children's, art and music books, as well antiquarian books. Ephemera including postcards, prints, maps, posters, programs, pamphlets, broadsides, tickets, labels, trade cards, advertisements. Admission. 10 am – 4 pm. Sheraton Hotel, 870 Williston Rd. (802) 527-7243. [www.VermontIsBookCountry.com](http://www.VermontIsBookCountry.com).

**KILLINGTON.** Spring Outing: Birds and Wild Flowers. A slow-paced hike to a locale of the leader's choosing to identify spring wild flowers and returning migrant birds. 9 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Connie Youngstrom, (802) 492-3502. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).



**ROCKINGHAM.** 11th Annual Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival. See live hawks and owls and other creatures. Vermont Fish and Wildlife exhibits and Wildlife Encounters. Alpacas, Rockhopper and Amos, Jerry Sneider's butterfly program, Smokey the Bear, and crawlies! Face painting, kids crafts, storytelling, collages, and family nature walks. Make an oriole feeder and learn about wildlife planting for birds. Let's Go Fishing and 4-H Trailer. Presented by Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society. Food available. \$2 per person or \$5 per family. 10 am – 4 pm at Herrick's Cove on the Connecticut River, off Rt. 5, north of I-91 exit 6. (802) 291-9100 x 107.

**NORTH BENNINGTON.** VAE's Basement Music Series Concert. Alash, a group from the wind-blown steppes of the tiny Republic of Tuva mesmerizes children and adults with their traditional throat singing techniques and time-honored tunes. 2 pm. Call for tickets. Vermont Arts Exchange, Sage Street Mill, Sage St. (802) 442-5549. [www.vtartxchange.org](http://www.vtartxchange.org). [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

**RUTLAND.** Loyalty Day Parade. In downtown Rutland, 2 pm. Chicken barbeque from 11 am – 3 pm at Trinity Church, 85 West St. (802) 775-4368.

**RUTLAND.** Annual Spring Rummage Sale. 9 am – 4 pm. Rutland Jewish Center, 96 Grove St. (802) 773-3455.

**ST. ALBANS.** The 44th Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Free. 10 am – 6 pm, and some evening events. Downtown. (802) 524-5800. [www.vermontmaplefestival.org](http://www.vermontmaplefestival.org). Thru May 2.

**STOWE.** Outing to Spence Field Cabin. Hike up the trail and have lunch at the picturesque site at Trapp Lodge. Goodies at the end! Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Call leader, Russ Kinaman, by 4/30. (802) 879-6666. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**THETFORD.** Workshop: The Soul of the Land. Deep listening and conscious relationship with the natural world led by Mark Kutolowski. 9 am – 5 pm. Camping available. Fee: \$50 includes use of land and food; additional donations accepted. New Creation Wilderness Programs at P.O. Box 651, Wilder, VT 05088, (802) 299-7498, [info@newcreationwilderness.org](mailto:info@newcreationwilderness.org). Also May 2.

**WEST HARTFORD.** Road Walk in the Tigertown/West Hartford area. An easy five miles. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Farm Festival at Billings Farm & Museum. Plowing match with teams of draft horses. Southdown flock sheep shearing. Visitor plowing with the Billings' teams and visitor-plowing competition. Horse-drawn wagon rides. Food available. Admission: Adults \$11; over 62 \$10; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; 2 & under free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 1/2 mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org). [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

## MONDAY, MAY 3

**GRAND ISLE.** "Beatrix Potter Revisited." Helene Lang brings Beatrix Potter alive in this one woman performance. Free. 7 pm. Block Schoolhouse, Rt. 2. (802) 372-4058.

## TUESDAY, MAY 4

**SWANTON.** Trail Walk at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. Dress for weather conditions. 9-11 am. To sign-up call (802) 868-4781.

## Violet Jelly

1 pint of flowers  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
2 cups of sugar  
3 ounces of liquid pectin  
per cup of juice

Collect enough violet flowers to fill a pint jar. Stuff the jar with as many flowers as possible. Cover the blossoms with boiling water. Keep out of bright light and let sit 24 hours. This will draw the color and sugar from the blossoms. Strain the infusion

through a jelly bag, removing blossoms and debris. Place the infusion in a saucepan. Add the juice of 1/2 lemon and mix. The lemon juice will reduce the color. Bring the mixture to a boil for 1 minute. Add 2 cups of sugar to each cup of the infusion and 3 ounces of liquid pectin. Hold at a hard boil for 1 full minute. Skim the surface, pour into hot, sterile jelly jars and seal.

—Joe Freitas, 1977

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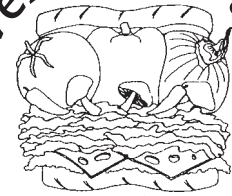
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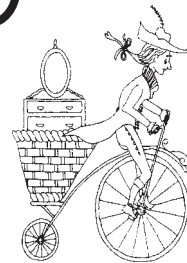
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# Vermont Country Calendar

(May 4 continued)

**ST. ALBANS.** Lacto-Fermented Vegetable Workshop. Hannah Noel of Maplewood Organics teaches how to ferment your own veggies year-round. Bring a quart-sized jar to fill with your own vegetable combination to take home! \$15 suggested donation. Please pre-register by May 1—space is limited. 12-2 pm. Co-hosted by Growing Health by Design and Maplewood Organics. (802) 524-3435.

**SWANTON.** Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Trail Walk. Join Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife refuge board member, Joe Belanger for a leisurely trail walk along the Railroad Passage Trail. Meet at the Tabor Farm parking lot on Tabor Rd. off of Rt. 78 across from the Stephen Young Marsh. (802) 868-4781.

**THETFORD.** Early Morning Bird Walk. Early morning bird walk in the Union Village Dam area. An easy 3-4 miles. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: George Clark, (802) 649-2305. www.greenmountainclub.org.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

**KILLINGTON.** National Trails Day Maintenance. Join us to work on the Long/Appalachian Trail. Help clear brush and waterbars, cut blowdowns, and paint blazes, readying trails for the summer hiking season. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and lunch; tools will be provided. 9 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**RUTLAND.** Lecture: Einstein's Century: 1905-2005. Free. 7 pm in the Nella Grimm Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. programs@rutlandfree.org. www.rutlandfree.org.

**RUTLAND.** Concert with the Taj Mahal Trio. Composer, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Taj Mahal is one of the most prominent and influential figures in late 20th century blues and roots music. 8 pm. Tickets \$43.50. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

**ST. ALBANS.** "Ain't Got No Rain Barrel?!" Join Permaculture designer Mark Krawczyk for an informative, hands-on water stewardship workshop where we will modify and install a 100 gallon rainwater catchment system using two recycled drums. \$15 suggested donation. Space is limited, please pre-register. 6:30-8:30 pm. Co-hosted by Growing Health by Design and Maplewood Organics. Call for registration and info. (802) 524-3435.

**STOWE.** Noon Music in May—Recital by American pianist Chad R. Bowles. Free. Noon-1 pm. Stowe Community Church, Main St. (802) 253-7792. spa@StoweArts.com. www.StoweArts.com.

**ST. ALBANS.** "Ain't Got No Rain Barrel?!" Join Permaculture designer Mark Krawczyk for an informative, hands-on water stewardship workshop. \$15 suggested donation. Space is limited, please pre-register. 6:30-8:30 pm. Co-hosted by Growing Health by Design and Maplewood Organics, 138 Fairfield St. (802) 524-3435. susiej.gray@yahoo.com.

## THURSDAY, MAY 6

**BRATTLEBORO.** Strengthening Farm and Food Education—A Farm to School Conference. Workshops on school community gardens, farm to cafeteria, curriculum, farm visits and field trips, and middle and high school programs. Donation \$10/\$20. 8:30 - 4 pm. International Center of the SIT Graduate Institute. (892) 348-9818. fsp@postilsolutions.org. www.postilsolutions.org.

**BRISTOL.** Open Mic Night. Live music, poetry, spoken word, comedy, story telling, rants, and everything in between! Free and open to all ages. Equipment provided (or bring your own). Contact thehub@gmavt.net to reserve a time slot. 5:30-7:30 pm at The Bristol Hub, 110 Airport Dr. (802) 453-3678. www.bristolsskatepark.com. Also June 1, July 3, August 5.

**HARTLAND.** Lecture: "A Sense of Place: Vermont's Farm Legacy." Gregory Sharrow explores the fabric of farm culture in the past and probes its relationship to the world of Vermont today. A Vermont Humanities Council program. Free. 7 pm. Hartland Public Library, 153 Rt. 5. (802) 436-2473.

**RUTLAND.** Performance: Whose Live Anyway? Ryan Stiles in 90 minutes of improvised comedy and song based on audience suggestions. 8 pm. Tickets \$46.50. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

## FRIDAY, MAY 7

**BARRE.** Central Vermont Quilt Show. Come see the quilts! Shop with local quilt shops, fiber artists, and craft suppliers. Learn quilting techniques through demonstrations. Fri 2-7 pm, Sat 9 am - 5 pm. Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite St. (802) 476-4185. info@centralvermontquiltshow.com. www.centralvermontquiltshow.com. Also May 8.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Concert: Schumann Trio with Michael Tree, Anthony McGill, and Anna Polonsky. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church, Main St. Tickets \$30, \$20, \$10 available on-line at BrattleboroTix.com or by calling the BMC at (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert. Violinist Soovin Kim and pianist Jokubaviciute. UVM Recital Hall, 384 S. Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. www.uvm.edu.

**MANCHESTER.** Workshop: Double the Daylily. Divide and dig your own historic daylilies to take home. Bring your own gloves. \$5 per person or family. 1-2:30 pm. Hildene, Rt. 7A. To register call (802) 367-7960. www.hildene.org.

**QUECHEE.** Vermont Drinking Water Fair. Join VINS and the Vermont Rural Water Association for a celebration of National Drinking Water Week! National Theatre for Children, educational displays, water-themed games, dowsing, nature walks and more. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of the Quechee Gorge. Reservations required. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

**RUTLAND.** Friends of the Library Book Sale. Thousands of pre-owned books arranged by subject. All fiction titles are now alphabetized! Free. 9:30 - 4:30 pm in basement at Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. friends@rutlandfree.org. www.rutlandfree.org. Also May 8.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Kid's Animal Buddies Night at the Museum. Bring your stuffed animal to the Museum by 6 pm for an overnight adventure! Enjoy a planetarium show, explore the exhibits, and chat with the museum's animals. In the morning, everyone is invited to breakfast, and we'll talk about local Vermont wildlife. Fairbanks Museum, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372.

**TINMOUTH.** Tinmouth Old Firehouse Series Concert: House Blend. An a capella group of 23 singers from VT and NH. Opening performance by Tinmouth Handbell Choir. \$9 donation. Refreshments. Doors open 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, on the green. (802) 688-3443.

## SATURDAY, MAY 8

**BARRE.** Central Vermont Quilt Show. Quilt shops, fiber artists, and craft suppliers. Quilting demonstrations. 9 am - 5 pm. Admission. Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite St. (802) 476-4185. centralvermontquiltshow.com.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Backyard Chicken & Sheep Raising Workshops. Co-sponsored by Fair Winds Farm and Post Oil Solutions. Backyard Chicken Raising 10 am - noon; Managing Backyard Sheep on Grass 1-3 pm. Led by Bekah Bailey. \$10/\$20 per workshop with pre-registration required. Call (877) 886-7397 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and workshop; we'll call back to complete registration. At Fair Winds Farm, Upper Dummerston Rd. (802) 869-2141. postilsolutions.org.

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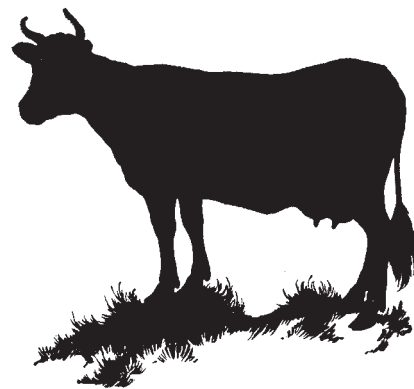
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## My Life

What is Life?  
Oh, it means to me  
The balsam scent of a poplar tree  
When the sun is shining after rain;  
And a garden spot of rich black soil  
With strength to do the bending toil  
When the birds are singing spring again.  
It means a ride in the country air,  
Just on and on and on, to where  
I can find a quiet lovely spot—  
Perhaps a lane where the meadowsweet  
And mint are stirred by clicking feet  
Of homing cows from the pasture lot.

—NELLYE RICHARDSON



## Billings Farm & Museum

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## Spring Farm Festival Weekend

Sat. & Sun, May 1 & 2, 2010

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



### Sheep Shearing

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Oxen demonstrations • Historic games  
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### Plowing Competitions

Oxen on Saturday • Horses on Sunday



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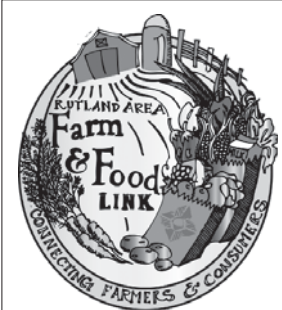
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# Vermont Country Calendar

**BRISTOL.** Outing: Paddle Bristol Pond, aka Winona Lake. Canoe or kayak on this beautiful pond. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leave at 9 am. Leaders: Larry Walter & Viv Bebee, (802) 775-3855. [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).

**BRISTOL.** Wildflower Hike. Meet at Waterworks at 9:30 am. An easy, three-mile loop. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Call leader: Cecilia Elwert for directions (802) 453.8447 or [ceciliaelwert@yahoo.com](mailto:ceciliaelwert@yahoo.com). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**BRUNSWICK.** Program: Kids on the Refuge. Science experiments, music, activities, books, field guides, and outdoor fun! Watchable wildlife. 1-3 pm. Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Nulhegan Basin Division. For info and to reserve a place call (802) 673-5638. [programs@siskinea.org](mailto:programs@siskinea.org). [www.siskinea.org](http://www.siskinea.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Spring Trail Work. Help clear the Long Trail on National Trails Day. Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM Visitors' Lot at 8 am or Richmond Park & Ride (exit 11) at 8:30 am. This will be a moderate hike, 4-10 miles. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Pam Gillis, (802) 879-1457 and John Sharp, (802) 862-3941. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**EAST THETFORD.** Mom, Tea & Flowers—a special container workshop for Mothers Day led by Judy Vaughn, greenhouse co-manager. Fee: \$40 includes 12" container, plants and soil to fill. Work with vibrant, blooming annuals in our greenhouse. Complimentary tea at the Hello Cafe. Please register in advance. 12:30-2 pm at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. [growing@cedarcirclefarm.org](mailto:growing@cedarcirclefarm.org). [www.cedarcirclefarm.org](http://www.cedarcirclefarm.org).

**HUNTINGTON.** Bird Monitoring Walk. 7-9 am. Meet at the office building porch at Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Donations appreciated. (802) 434-3068. [vermont@audubon.org](mailto:vermont@audubon.org). [vt.audubon.org](http://vt.audubon.org).

**LYNDONVILLE.** Lyndon Community Chorus and St. Johnsbury Band Concert. Donation. 7 pm. Alexander Twilight Theatre at Lyndon State College, 1001 College Rd. (802) 626-6459. [susan.gallagher@lyndonstate.edu](mailto:susan.gallagher@lyndonstate.edu).

**NORTH BENNINGTON.** VAE's Basement Music Series Concert. Ethan Lipton & His Orchestra perform their alternative Americana tunes. For tickets call (800) 838-3006. 8 pm. Vermont Arts Exchange, Sage Street Mill, Sage St. Info: (802) 442-5549. [www.vtartxchange.org](http://www.vtartxchange.org).

**QUECHEE.** Program: Wandering for Warblers. Learn to identify these birds, then put your skills to work during a guided hike. 7:30 – 10 am. Fee: \$7. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of the Quechee Gorge. Reservations required. (802) 359-5000. [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org). [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org).

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Nutrition Class: Demystifying the Nutrient-Dense Diet. Instructed by Margaret Osha of Turkey Hill Farm at the Fiddlehead Festival. Free. At Vermont Technical College campus. (802) 728-6212. [fiddleheadfestival.com](http://fiddleheadfestival.com).

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** 4th Annual Fiddlehead Festival. Celebrate the return of Spring! Cavalcade of Tractors at 10 am. Workshops, demonstrations, local foods, chicken barbecue, jewelry, health services, home & garden equipment, home services, energy audit services, and books. Animal traction demonstration with oxen at 11 am and 2 pm. Tractor obstacle course. Children's activities – baby animals. Free admission to all events except the Farmers Lunch. At Vermont Technical College campus. (802) 728-6212. [info@fiddleheadfestival.com](mailto:info@fiddleheadfestival.com). [www.fiddleheadfestival.com](http://www.fiddleheadfestival.com).

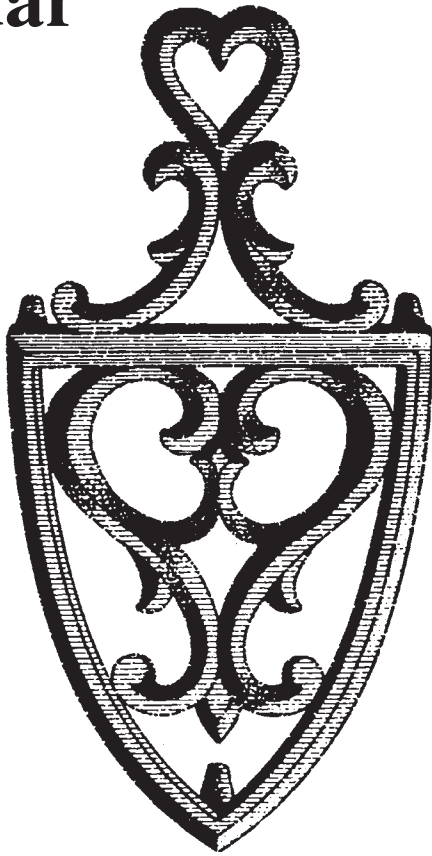
**RUTLAND.** Friends of the Library Book Sale. Thousands of pre-owned books arranged by subject. Free. 9:30 – 2 pm in basement at Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. [friends@rutlandfree.org](mailto:friends@rutlandfree.org). [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org).

**RUTLAND.** Play: *Steel Magnolias*. 8 pm. Tickets \$20. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**RUTLAND.** Children's Free Fishing Day. For children up to age 13 at Combination Pond on Sharon Dr. Hosted by Rutland Kiwanis Club and Rutland Recreation & Parks Dept. Fish provided by Vermont Fish & Game Dept. A parent/guardian must accompany the child, registration at 8 am, prizes awarded in various categories. 8:30 am – noon, (802) 773-1822.

**S. ROYALTON.** Spring Walk to Kent's Ledge. Walk to rock outcrop with view. 45 min. to one hour each way, 900' elevation gain. Easy to moderate. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Annie Janeway, (413) 374-0988. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**TINMOUTH.** 26th annual Tinmouth Plant Sale. 8 am (sharp!) – 10:30 am. Come early for the best selection. Buy locally grown and dug perennials and shrubs from Tinmouth gardens and to support the Tinmouth School. Also bake sale and car wash. At the Old Firehouse on the green. (802) 446-3207. [aczar@vermontel.net](mailto:aczar@vermontel.net).



**WEST DUMMERSTON.** Long Trail Work Weekend. Please bring pack frames, shovels, hoes, and clippers, and meet on Saturday at the West Dummerston Covered Bridge at 7 am or at the parking lot on the Long Trail on Route 30 at 8 am. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Mark Brown, (802) 254-4647. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**W. LEBANON, NH.** Spring Concert: "A Musical Safari" with The Upper Valley Community Band. To benefit the Upper Valley Humane Society. \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students, pre-schoolers free. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House. (802) 295-3864.

## SUNDAY, MAY 9

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Cooking Workshops. Hands-on in-the-kitchen series led by Marina Coneeny. A project of Post Oil Solutions and the Great Falls Food Hub. Free admission, children 12 and older may attend with an adult. 5-7 pm at the Moose Lodge, Rockingham St. (Rt. 5). To register call (802) 463-9404. [vsbooks@sover.net](mailto:vsbooks@sover.net). [www.postoilsolutions.org](http://www.postoilsolutions.org). Also May 16 and 30.

**EAST THETFORD.** Mother's Day at Cedar Circle Farm. Spring flowers, hanging baskets, gardening equipment, Mexican pottery and gift certificates. Free gift for Moms (with purchase). Open 10 am – 5 pm. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. [growing@cedarcirclefarm.org](mailto:growing@cedarcirclefarm.org). [www.cedarcirclefarm.org](http://www.cedarcirclefarm.org).

**PEACHAM.** Spring Bike Ride. Mother's Day Loop from Wells River to Peacham via Ticklenaked Pond, back on Peacham Rd. & Rt. 302. Moderate to strenuous, about 25 miles using a road or hybrid bike. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Heinz Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## TUESDAY, MAY 11

**BURLINGTON.** Concert: Pennies for Peace. Pianists from the studio of Elaine Greenfield perform while we collect pennies for Greg Mortensen's Central Asia Institute, which builds schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Donation. Noon–1 pm. Cathedral Church of St Paul, 2 Cherry St. (802) 864-0471. [CathedralArts.org](http://CathedralArts.org).

**NORWICH.** Bike Outing. An easy 10-20 miles. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WASHINGTON.** Spring Outing: Road Walk. Moderate, nine miles, class four roads. Meet at Lenny's Shoe Store in Barre, VT at 9 am. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Steve Lightholder, (802) 479-2304.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

**NORWICH.** Course: Wildflowers of New England. Study of native plants with Chris Matrick. Three sessions. Co-sponsored by Montshire Museum and New England Wild Flower Society. Fee: \$150. First session 6-9 pm at Montshire Museum. To register call (508) 877-7630 x 3303. [sziglar@newenglandwild.org](mailto:sziglar@newenglandwild.org).

**STOWE.** Noon Music in May—Recital by Kenji Bunch, viola, with pianist Monica Ohuchi. Free. Noon–1 pm. Stowe Community Church, Main St. (802) 253-7792.

## THURSDAY, MAY 13

**ASCUTNEY.** Program: Sprightly Steps—Vermont's Contra & Square Dancing Tradition. Musician and local historian Adam Boyce will discuss Vermont's musical heritage and illustrate with music of the era. Free. 7 pm. Martin Memorial Hall, 5259 Rt. 5. (802) 674-2863.



## Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival Celebrate Wildlife & Spring

Anyone interested in wildlife or itching to get out and enjoy a spring day should make plans to attend the 11th Annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival in Rockingham, VT on Sunday, May 2.

Herricks Cove is a beautiful spot on the Connecticut River and the perfect setting for this festival that celebrates the wonders of wildlife. Learn how to identify waterfowl and fly fish, see live owls, eagles and reptiles.

The day's activities are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Guided nature walks, nature presentations, live music, arts and crafts and workshops are some of the fun activities planned.

Southern Vermont Natural History Museum and VINS will bring hawks and owls. Henry Homeyer will be doing a workshop on Wildlife Planting for Birds. Wildlife Encounters will show you their wild animals from many continents. Squam Lake Nature Center is bringing many of their creatures. And Sweet Maple Farm is bringing their alpacas.

Phil Morgan returns this year with an oriole feeder to make. Jerry Sneider presents his butterfly program and will be decorating t-shirts with the kids.

Activities for children and families include face painting, kids crafts, making collages, and family nature walks. Brian Fox Ellis will entertain us with his stories. Rockhopper and AMOS will be back with crawly creatures. Lets Go Fishing will tell all about it and there will be a 4-H trailer. And Vermont Fish and Wildlife will have exhibits. Smokey the Bear will be roaming the grounds at Herricks Cove as well.

Suggested donation is \$2.00 for an individual and \$5.00 for a family. Food will be available.

*Herricks Cove is located on the Connecticut River just off of Rt. 5 less than three miles north of Belows Falls, VT.*

*Visit [http://homepages.sover.net/~mwalsh/Herricks10a/Wildlife\\_Festival](http://homepages.sover.net/~mwalsh/Herricks10a/Wildlife_Festival) or call (802) 291-9100 x 107, [laura@vitalcommunities.org](mailto:laura@vitalcommunities.org).*

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# Vermont Country Calendar

## FRIDAY, MAY 14

**BURLINGTON.** Reverie: A Night of Solo and Chamber Music. Four Vermont musicians perform Debussy, a new viola sonata by Vermont composer Erik Nielsen, Chopin, Alwyn, and J.S. Bach. Admission \$17, seniors & students \$15, age 15 and younger \$6. 7:30 pm. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St. (802) 864-0471.

**HUNTINGTON.** Spring Migration Bird Walk. An Audubon naturalist will guide you through the habitats at the Audubon Center in search of spring migrants. Learn to recognize bird songs. Binoculars and field guides provided. Donations appreciated. 7-9 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Call to register: (802) 434-3068. Also May 21 & 28, and June 4.

**NEWPORT.** The Great Cupcake Quilt. We will be attempting to create the world's largest quilt made completely from cupcakes! Want to take part? Complete details on our website. Cupcakes will be for sale following judging. Free. 3-8 pm. Newport City Municipal Building Gym, Main St. (802) 505-1265.

**RANDOLPH.** Concert: The Next Generation. A celebration of the serious pursuit of instrumental and vocal music by young students from the region. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878.

**WINDSOR.** Woodland, Wildflower & Primrose Days. Free talk & tour daily, 10:30-11:30 am—see spring-time plants and learn about growing and protecting spring's tenacious and fleeting flowers. Potted primroses and wildflowers for sale. 10 am - 6 pm at Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com. ciderhillgardens.com. Through May 16.

## SATURDAY, MAY 15

**BRATTLEBORO.** Centenary: Classical Guitar Recital. A performance by Frank Wallace on an 80-year-old guitar commissioned by Andres Segovia in 1931, recently restored to full splendor by the grandson of its original maker. Recital is in honor of Blanche Moyse's 100th birthday. \$12. 8 pm at Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vermont St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

**BURLINGTON.** KidsDay. Vermont's largest children's celebration. Parade starts at Edmunds School at 9:30 am. To join the parade, call (802) 864-0123. Entertainment, activities, games, food, crafts and games, inflatable obstacle course and more. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Burlington Waterfront Park, College St. www.enjoyburlington.com.

**DUXBURY.** Work Hike on Bamforth Ridge. All abilities, 2-5 mile round trip. Wear work clothes and gloves. Meet at Montpelier High School at 8 am. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Ken Hertz, (802) 229-4737.

**GRAFTON.** Season's Opening Reception. Hunter Gallery of Fine Art will open its doors for the May-October season with a special reception and exhibit of its 16 artist's new works. Free. 5-7:30 pm. Hunter Gallery of Fine Art, 74 Main St. (802) 843-1440. www.hunterartworks.com.

**JAMAICA.** Seventh Annual Jamaica Fiber Community Street Fair. Celebrate all things fiber—yarn, roving, knitting, crocheting, macrame, weaving, felting, dyeing, fiber art. Join in the community weaving project, buy finished products and fiber tools and materials from local vendors. Demonstrations, fiber-related activities, food and music. Watch sheep and llama being sheared! Dance around the maypole. Free admission. 10 am - 4 pm. In the village along Main St. (802) 874-7201.

**KILLINGTON.** Spring Cleaning on the Long Trail. Everyone is welcome to help prepare the trail for the summer hiking season. We'll clear water bars, trim brush, and cut blowdowns on the lower-elevation stretches. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and lunch; tools will be provided. Have fun while doing a good deed. Start at 9 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Spring Work Party on the Long Trail. Sponsored by the Breadloaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Rain date, May 16. Leader: Chip Morgan, (802) 388-9868. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**NEWPORT.** Concert: Seven Solos—A Musical Journey. What do a hornpipe, ocarina, bagpipe, recorder, Jew's harp, double pipes and bone flute all have in common? Musical presentation by Wayne Hankin in a short film shot on location in Vermont, followed by a live performance. 7 pm. Memphremagog Arts Collaborative, 138 Main St. (802) 505-1265.

**PITTSFIELD.** Shipwrecks of Lake Champlain. Adam Kane of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum takes you on a memorable tour, through slides, drawings, and video. Free. 7 pm. Pittsfield Town Hall, Pittsfield Green, Rt. 100. (802) 746-8157.

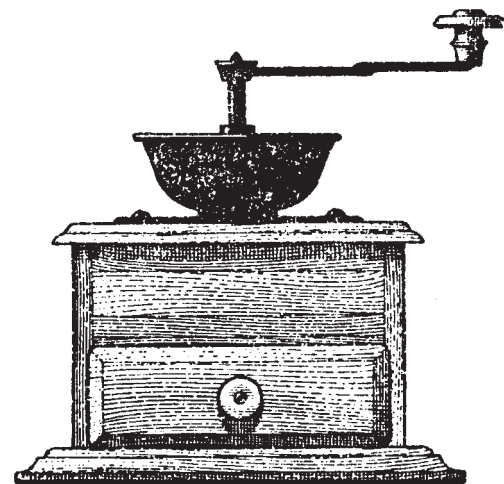
**PITTSFORD.** Rutland County Humane Society Yard Sale. Fundraiser and bake sale. 9 am - 2 pm, at RCHS. RCHS, 765 Stevens Rd. (802) 483-9171. rchsvt.org.

**QUECHEE.** Art on a Rain Barrel Festival. A Celebration of Vermont Clean Water Day. Learn how rain barrels can help save water, protect the environment, and save you money! Rain Barrels for purchase. Receive a free Rain Barrel by pre-registering to paint your original design at the festival. 9 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. Reservations required. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org. artonarainbarrel@vinsweb.org.

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Cooking Class: Gather & Prepare a Creative In-Season Wild Edibles Lunch. Includes making raw milk soft cheese. Fee: \$60. 10 am - 2 pm. Offered by The Farmer's Kitchen at Turkey Hill Farm. Class details and directions at TurkeyHillFarm.com or call (802) 728-7064.

**RICHMOND.** Spring Trail Work. Help clear the Long Trail. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4-10 miles. Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM Visitors' Lot at 8 am or Richmond Park & Ride (exit 11) at 8:30 am. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Pam Gillis, (802) 879-1457 and John Sharp, (802) 862-3941. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Annual Green Mountain Chorus Show. Barbershop harmony. Booster \$25, adults \$15, senior \$10, youth \$5. 2 and 7:30 pm. South Burlington High School, Dorset St. (802) 505-9595. www.greenmountainchorus.org.



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## Vermont State Parks' Green Mountain Passport for Seniors

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62 years and older, or persons who are disabled due to military service. These passes are obtainable only at your local town clerk's office. They cost \$2 and permit free day use entry for life into any and all VT State Parks. Visit your town office to obtain your pass and head for the parks!

There is a pass called the Green Mountain Passport, which is available to seniors

For more information on Vermont State Parks visit [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com).

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**STRAFFORD.** Birds of the Sugarbush. Join Audubon Vermont Conservation Biologist Steve Hagenbuch for a sugarbush walk to learn about some of the bird species that frequent these maple stands during the breeding season. Donations appreciated. 9-11 am at Baker Sugarbush. Call to pre-register: (802) 434-3068. [vermont@audubon.org](mailto:vermont@audubon.org). [vt.audubon.org](http://vt.audubon.org).

**SWANTON.** Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Green Up Day. Join the refuge staff and help pick up the winter's accumulation of trash along roadsides and the riverbanks of the Missisquoi River and Dead Creek. 8 am-noon. Meet at Louie's Landing parking area three miles west of Swanton on Rt. 78 and disburse by boat, canoe and on foot to tidy up the refuge. To sign-up call (802) 868-4781. [www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoi](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoi).

**TOWNSHEND.** "Spring Into Health" Community Health Fair. Free fun for all. Health & safety related activities. Dancing, rock climbing, fire safety demonstrations, helpful information, free health tests, healthy food for sale. See the DHART emergency helicopter up close. Red Cross blood drive 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Free admission. 10 am - 2 pm. Townshend Common and Leland & Gray High School, Rt. 30. (802) 365-9109. [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org). [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org).

**VERGENNES.** The 4th Annual Red Cedar School Rock 'n' Roll Ball. A benefit auction and dance party with the Big Basin Band. This fun-filled night for adults includes desserts, cash bar, and a fabulous auction featuring signed books, vacation opportunities and more! Tickets \$20 each/\$35 per couple. 7-11 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 453-5213. [redcedar@wcvf.com](mailto:redcedar@wcvf.com). [www.redcedarschool.org](http://www.redcedarschool.org). [www.vergennesoperahouse.org](http://www.vergennesoperahouse.org).

**WATERBURY CENTER.** Montpelier Community Gospel Choir Concert. Hear soul, blues, traditional and new gospel music sung by a non-denominational community choir. Donation. Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly, 4940 Waterbury Stowe Rd. (802) 778-0881. [johnharrison@gmail.com](mailto:johnharrison@gmail.com). [www.vtgospel.com](http://www.vtgospel.com).

**WINDSOR.** Woodland, Wildflower & Primrose Days. Free talk & tour daily, 10:30-11:30 am—see spring-time plants and learn about growing and protecting spring's tenacious and fleeting flowers. Potted primroses and wildflowers for sale. 10 am - 6 pm at Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. [flowers@ciderhillgardens.com](mailto:flowers@ciderhillgardens.com). [www.garymilek.com](http://www.garymilek.com). [ciderhillgardens.com](http://ciderhillgardens.com). Also May 16.

## SUNDAY, MAY 16

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Youth Orchestra Spring Concert. Works by Wagner, Delius, Barber, and Respighi. 3 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. [info@vyo.org](mailto:info@vyo.org). [www.flynnntix.org](http://www.flynnntix.org). [www.vyo.org](http://www.vyo.org).

**EAST BURKE.** Mountain Bikes, Burgers and Berms Series. Pump tracks - mini tracks - teach you to gain and maintain speed over bumps and through tight corners. Almost anyone can ride a pump track. Bike, burger, and one-hour of coaching for \$20. At Kingdom Trails Pump Track. (802) 777-5778. [www.ideride.com](http://www.ideride.com).

**GRAND ISLE.** Concert: The Bluegrass Gospel Project. Classic and original tunes showcase the band's textured vocal harmonies and instrumental virtuosity. 5-7 pm. Grand Isle Lake House. (802) 372-5049. [islandarts.org](http://islandarts.org).

**HUNTINGTON.** Spring Wildflower Walk. Search for woodland favorites such as Jack-in-the-pulpit, Spring beauty, Goldthread, and Bloodroot using Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. Bring your copy or borrow one of ours. Donations appreciated. 1-3 pm at the Green Mountain Audubon Center Sugarhouse parking area, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Call to register: (802) 434-3068. [vermont@audubon.org](mailto:vermont@audubon.org). [vt.audubon.org](http://vt.audubon.org).

**MONTPELIER.** Montpelier Community Gospel Choir Concert. Combining soul, blues, traditional and new gospel sung by a large gospel choir accompanied by a band. Donation. Trinity United Methodist Church, 137 Main St. (802) 778-0881. [www.vtgospel.com](http://www.vtgospel.com).

**N. THETFORD.** Potato Hill Hike. Explore Palmer Woodlands off Potato Hill. 472 acres, 99% forested, two streams, conserved w/ UVM Land Trust. An easy five miles with one stream crossing. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Marcia Dunning, (802) 333-4340. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**STOWE.** Wildflower Hike in the Cotton Brook section of Mt. Mansfield State Forest. Walk on forest roads. Identify 20 or more species of wildflowers, with possibility of visiting a forest stand about 150 years old. An easy two-three hours. Meet at Montpelier High School at 9 am or at 10 am at the gate below the parking area at Cotton Brook. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Joe Bahr, (802) 244-6132. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WINDSOR.** Woodland, Wildflower & Primrose Days. Free talk & tour, 10:30-11:30 am, See spring-time plants and learn about growing and protecting spring's tenacious and fleeting flowers. Potted primroses and wildflowers for sale. 10 am - 6 pm at Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State Street. (800) 232-4337. [flowers@ciderhillgardens.com](mailto:flowers@ciderhillgardens.com). [www.garymilek.com](http://www.garymilek.com). [ciderhillgardens.com](http://ciderhillgardens.com).

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

**BENNINGTON.** Art Exhibit and Sale—One Hundred for \$100. Enjoy champagne and hors d'oeuvres with the artists, a band, and hundreds of pieces of art on display and for sale - every piece for exactly \$100. Free admission. Opening reception Fri 5-6 pm, exhibit and sale 6-9 pm. Sale Saturday 12-4 pm. The Cone Building, 411 Main St. (802) 442-5758. [admin@betterbennington.com](mailto:admin@betterbennington.com). [www.betterbennington.com](http://www.betterbennington.com). Through May 20.

**ST. ALBANS.** Class: Learn to Knit! Robin DeGregorio will cover needles, yarns and basic stitches giving us lots of time to practice, ask questions and discover the joy of this ancient craft. \$20 for two classes (the second one is on May 26.). Space is limited, please pre-register. 6:30-8:30 pm. Co-hosted by Growing Health by Design and Maplewood Organics. Call for registration and info. (802) 524-3435. [susiej.gray@yahoo.com](mailto:susiej.gray@yahoo.com).

## FRIDAY, MAY 21

**RUTLAND.** Concert: Glenn Miller Orchestra. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$27.50. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

**TINMOUTH.** Tinmouth Old Firehouse Series Concert: Spencer Lewis with special guest Carol Hausner. \$9 donation. Refreshments. Doors open 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, on the green. (802) 688-3443. [celibalch@yahoo.com](mailto:celibalch@yahoo.com). [www.tinmouthvt.org](http://www.tinmouthvt.org).

**WATERBURY CENTER.** Green Mountain Club's 100th Annual Meeting Weekend. See the "green" construction and operation of the Visitors' Center. Evening presentation by Lee Allen, a past GMC Stratton Pond caretaker and retired forestry professor. Allen hiked the Long Trail end-to-end in 1972, and again in 2008. Using pictures and logbooks from his two hikes, Allen will show how he, the Long Trail, and Vermont have changed over thirty-six years. Green Mountain Club Visitor's Center, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 244.7037. [gmc@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:gmc@greenmountainclub.org). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## SATURDAY, MAY 22

**BELMONT.** Baked Ham Supper. Menu: baked ham with all the fixings and home-baked pies for dessert. At the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont with settings starting at 5 pm and 6 pm. Served family style. Admission \$10 adults and \$5 children 11 years and under. For more information call (802) 259-2679.

**CORINTH.** Open Studio Weekend. Oil/wax and acrylic paintings by James Vogler and Kit Donnelly. Free. Sat 10 am - 6 pm (reception 4-6 pm); Sun 12-3 pm. Towle Hill Studio, 28 Center Rd. (802) 439-3730. [www.towlehillstudio.com](http://www.towlehillstudio.com). Through May 23.

**DERBY.** Kingdom Dandelion Run. This relay passes along the Northeast Kingdom's glorious fields of dandelions. A competitive and recreational 13.1 half-marathon for runners of all ages and abilities. Walkers are welcome on our easier five-mile course. Benefits the Orleans County Victim Assistance Fund and IROC's Healthy Changes Initiative. Derby Beach House, 4-H Rd. (802) 334-8551. [run@orleansrecreation.org](mailto:run@orleansrecreation.org). [www.dandelionrun.org](http://www.dandelionrun.org).

**EAST THETFORD.** Gardening Class: Dig in! Planting the Garden, Refreshing More Food! Fee: \$20. 10-11:30 am at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. [growing@cedarcirclefarm.org](mailto:growing@cedarcirclefarm.org). [www.cedarcirclefarm.org](http://www.cedarcirclefarm.org).

**HIGHGATE.** Wild Edibles Plant Walk. Bring a bag lunch and picnic with us after! \$15 suggested donation. Space is limited, please pre-register. 10 am - 12 noon. Co-hosted by Growing Health by Design and Maplewood Organics. Call for registration and info. (802) 524-3435. [susiej.gray@yahoo.com](mailto:susiej.gray@yahoo.com).

**RANDOLPH.** Vermont Philharmonic Spring Concert. Belle Russo: the Musical Trail from Russia to America. Featuring cellist Samuel Magill of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in Dukelsky's Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, Stravinsky's Suite No. 1 for Small Orchestra and Rimsky-Korsakov's Symphony No. 2. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. [vermontphilharmonic.org](http://vermontphilharmonic.org). [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org).

**RANDOLPH CENTER.** Gather & Prepare a Creative In-Season Wild Edibles Lunch. Includes making raw cream crème fraîche. Fee: \$60 includes a light lunch. 10 am - 1 pm. Offered by The Farmer's Kitchen at Turkey Hill Farm. Class details and directions at [TurkeyHillFarm.com](http://TurkeyHillFarm.com) or call (802) 728-7064.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** 16th Annual Bloomtime Festival and Burlington Garden Club 76th Anniversary Plant Sale & Auction. Come awaken your senses to the scents of lilacs, flowering crabapples, magnolias and more! Perennials, lilacs and gardening books will be on sale. UVM Greenhouse will be selling indoor plants. Border Cross performs at 11 am. Terry Bradshaw will give a tour of the collections at 1 pm. Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Horticulture Farm. UVM Horticulture Farm Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr., off Rt. 7. [www.friendsofthehortfarm.org](http://www.friendsofthehortfarm.org).

**ST. ALBANS.** Wild Edibles Plant Walk. Bring a bag lunch and picnic with us after! \$15 suggested donation. Space is limited, pre-register. 10 am - 12 noon. Co-hosted by Growing Health by Design and Maplewood Organics. (802) 524-3435.



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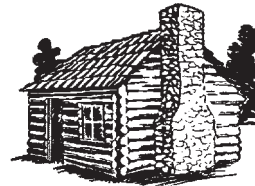
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# Vermont Country Calendar

(May 22 continued)

**SWANTON.** International Migratory Bird Day at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. Partner with us for a morning of birding on a refuge trail, boat, or canoe/kayak. Birding activities 7:30-11 am. Light lunch and tally at 11:30 am. Friends of Missisquoi NWR annual meeting with guest speaker after tally. To sign-up for birding activities call (802) 868-4781. [www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoi](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoi).

**WINDSOR.** Herb & Vegetable Plants & Raised Beds Sale. Annual celebration of herbs and vegetables! Free talk on pest management including how to prevent deer and groundhogs from eating the garden, 1 pm daily during sale. Open 10 am – 6 pm at Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. [flowers@ciderhillgardens.com](mailto:flowers@ciderhillgardens.com). [www.garymilek.com](http://www.garymilek.com). [ciderhillgardens.com](http://ciderhillgardens.com). Also May 23.

## SUNDAY, MAY 23

**FERRISBURGH.** Rokeby Museum Opening Day. Program: Vermont's Historic Black Farmers. Amy Mincher will share her research on Prince King, Middlebury farmer from 1840 to 1880, and Elise Guyette will present her new book on Hinesburgh's African-American farm families. Books will be available for sale and signing. 2 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. [rokeby@comcast.net](mailto:rokeby@comcast.net). [www.rokeby.org](http://www.rokeby.org).

**HARDWICK.** Vermont Philharmonic Spring Concert. Belle Russo: the Musical Trail from Russia to America featuring cellist Samuel Magill. 3:30 pm. Hardwick Town House, 127 Church St. (802) 472-5920. [info@vermontphilharmonic.org](mailto:info@vermontphilharmonic.org). [www.vermontphilharmonic.org](http://www.vermontphilharmonic.org). [nekarts.org](http://nekarts.org).

**MONTGOMERY.** Second Annual Mountain Fiber Folk Farm-to-Yarn Tour. Daylong open house—visit one or all four participating farms and see how the animals are lovingly raised, and from where locally-grown fiber originates. Animals include Icelandic sheep, Leicester longwool sheep, angora goats and bunnies, llamas, and alpacas. For details and a list of participating farms, visit the website and download the brochure, or call or visit Mountain Fiber Folk, 188 Main St. (802) 326-2092. [www.mtfiberfolk.com](http://www.mtfiberfolk.com).

**NORTH HERO.** Concert: Island Instrumental Ensemble. The newly formed Islands Ensemble will perform its inaugural concert under the direction of Bill Karstens. Traditional and new works will be performed by the multigenerational ensemble members. Free. 2 pm at North Hero Methodist Church. (802) 372-5049. [info@islandarts.org](mailto:info@islandarts.org). [www.islandarts.org](http://www.islandarts.org).

**PLYMOUTH.** Lake Ninevah Area Ancient Roads Walk. Explore old roads and trails and visit the gravesite of a Revolutionary War-era soldier. Moderate difficulty. 9 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Tom Copps, (802) 774-5144. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**WINDSOR.** Herb & Vegetable Plants & Raised Beds Sale. Annual celebration of herbs and vegetables! Free talk on pest management including how to prevent deer and groundhogs from eating the garden, 1 pm daily during sale. Open 10 am – 6 pm at Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. [flowers@ciderhillgardens.com](mailto:flowers@ciderhillgardens.com). [www.garymilek.com](http://www.garymilek.com). [ciderhillgardens.com](http://ciderhillgardens.com).

## TUESDAY, MAY 25

**PUTNEY.** Workshop: How to Make Chevre & Cheddar from Raw Goats' Milk. Taught by Gay Foster. Fee: \$20-40 sliding scale, pre-registration required. All proceeds benefit Rural Vermont. 1-4 pm, Hollyhock Farm. To sign up call (802) 223-7222 or email [shelby@ruralvermont.org](mailto:shelby@ruralvermont.org). [ruralvermont.org](http://ruralvermont.org).

**WILDER.** Spring Bike Trip. Rt. 14 to W. Hartford, return along Old River Rd. Fairly easy, with one long hill you can walk up. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## THURSDAY, MAY 27

**BURLINGTON.** Nature Walk for Beginning Birders. Enjoy the excitement of spring bird migration, courtship and nesting. An easy walk at a leisurely pace, under four miles. Location to be decided. Sponsored by the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Maeve Kim, (802) 899-4327 or [maevulus@surfglobal.net](mailto:maevulus@surfglobal.net). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## FRIDAY, MAY 28

**BARNET.** Karme Choling's 40th Anniversary Celebration. We invite you to join Karme Choling staff, former directors and Mukpo graduates in taking delight in Shambhala Arts. Support our expansion plan and engage wholeheartedly in picnics, barbecues and Shambhala parties. Karme Choling, 369 Patneau Lane. (802) 633-2384. *Through May 30.*

**GRAFTON.** Event: Pale Blue Dot. A Memorial Day weekend celebration focusing on nature, science, and the environment with speakers, performers, activities and exhibits. Jeffrey Hollender, CEO of Vermont-based Seventh Generation speaks at 7 pm. 10 am – 6 pm. Free admission. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. [www.nature-museum.org](http://www.nature-museum.org). Also May 29.

**SHELDON.** Mark Sustic & Friends 8th Annual Farewell Reunion. Mark Sustic hosts a musicians from across Vermont in a freewheeling musical event, to benefit the Tom Sustic Scholarship Fund. Donation. 7:30 pm. Grace Episcopal Church, 215 Pleasant St. (802) 326-4603. [music@gracechurchsheldon.org](mailto:music@gracechurchsheldon.org). [www.gracechurchsheldon.org](http://www.gracechurchsheldon.org). [www.EventsForTom.org](http://www.EventsForTom.org).

**SWANTON.** Open Door Dinner. Free and open to the public. 5:30-6:30 pm. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185. [holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net](mailto:holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net). [www.holytrinityswanton.org](http://www.holytrinityswanton.org).

## SATURDAY, MAY 29

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont Crafts Council 18th Annual Open Studio Weekend. Visit over 260 Vermont artists and craftspeople working in their studios—glass blowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers and wood carvers. Free map/booklet with directions available at galleries, and by calling (802) 223-3380. [vermontcrafts.com](http://vermontcrafts.com). Also May 30.

**ASCUTNEY.** Spring Hike & Picnic. Join Ascutney Trails Assn. for their annual picnic atop Mt. Ascutney (3150'). Seven-mile hike. Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Call leader for details: Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Rockingham Library Benefit Plant Sale. Native plants and shrubs, bulbs, perennials, annuals, vegetable starts, herbs, ground covers, trees, bamboo and ornamental grasses 8 am – noon. You can contribute – ready to dig into your garden and start dividing plants? Donate your extra plants to Friends of the Rockingham Library for this sale. Alma Beals at (802) 722-3355. (802) 463-4270. [friends@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:friends@rockinghamlibrary.org).

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Sherwin Art Glass Open Studio Weekend. Glassblowing demonstrations. Unique and collectible paperweights, vases, hand-sculpted animals and fruit, stemware, seasonal gifts and more. Free. 10 am – 5 pm. Sherwin Art Glass Studio, 33 Bridge St. (802) 376-5744. [sherwinartglass@comcast.net](mailto:sherwinartglass@comcast.net). [www.sherwinartglass.com](http://www.sherwinartglass.com). [www.vermontcrafts.com](http://www.vermontcrafts.com). Also May 30.

**BENNINGTON.** 25th Annual Mayfest Arts & Crafts Festival. Main Street closes down for this largest event of the year. Over 125 juried arts and crafts vendors from all over the Northeast. Ethnic food, family activities, live entertainment, bazaar. Free admission. 10 am – 5 pm. (802) 442-5758. [admin@betterbennington.com](mailto:admin@betterbennington.com). [www.betterbennington.com](http://www.betterbennington.com).

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## PIED BEAUTY

Glory be to God for dappled things —  
For skies of couple-color as a brindled cow;  
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;  
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;  
Landscapes plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plow;  
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.  
All things counter, original, spare, strange;  
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)  
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;  
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change;  
Praise Him.

—GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS



## Bloom-Time Festival a Springtime Delight! At UVM Horticulture Farm, S. Burlington, VT

Come see our gardens at their very best! The Friends of the UVM Horticulture Farm and the Burlington Garden Club invite you to come awaken your senses at the 16th Annual Bloom-Time Festival. Held on Saturday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at UVM's Horticulture Research Center in South Burlington, VT, this spring-time event is free and open to the public.

Enjoy a full day of events including guided and self-guided tours of the Horticulture Farm's outstanding collections of lilacs, crabapples, viburnums and other flowering plants in bloom. More than 700 kinds of ornamental trees and shrubs are planted at the Horticulture Farm.

Families with children especially enjoy the chance to walk through this little bit of Eden, admiring the great variety of bloom shapes, colors and fragrances. Admire the lilacs in blossom. See the

beautiful blush pink/white Russian *Beauty of Moscow*, considered by many to be the most beautiful lilac. There are quiet places to sit by the farm ponds or along the woodland trails, to contemplate the more subtle glories of spring. In most years, the Horticulture Farm's famous Trillium grandiflorum are at peak bloom—imagine a carpet of white to pale pink flowers extending across the forest floor.

Stock up on new plants for your own garden by attending, on-site, the Burlington Garden Club's 76th Annual Plant Sale and Silent Auction. Perennials, lilacs and gardening books will be on sale. The UVM Greenhouse will be selling indoor plants. The Border Cross dance troupe performs at 11 am. And Terry Bradshaw will lead a tour of the Horticulture Farm at 1 pm.

For those who have never visited the Horticulture Farm

before, the annual Bloom-Time Festival is delightful introduction to this very special UVM property. The last weeks in May are some of the most spectacular at the farm. This window of opportunity allows the community at large to celebrate the special beauty and its more than 55-year tradition of being a center for agricultural and horticultural research and teaching.

If you are looking for a lovely place to take your out-of-town relatives on graduation weekend, or you are simply interested in bringing a fellow gardening friend to buy plants at the plant sale, please plan to join us on May 22.

The UVM Horticulture Research Center is located at 65 Green Mountain Dr. off Rt. 7 in S. Burlington, VT. For info: [info@friendsofthehortfarm.org](mailto:info@friendsofthehortfarm.org) or visit [www.friendsofthehortfarm.org](http://www.friendsofthehortfarm.org).

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Large Groups and Organizations welcome for sugar-on-snow during the weekdays, call (802) 223-5757.



# Vermont Country Calendar

**BETHEL.** Fourth Annual Postcard and History Fair. Sponsored by the Bethel Historical Society. Browse dealers with postcards, ephemera & memorabilia, sports cards and stamps as well as supplies for collectors. Josh Steenburgh will do antique appraisals, \$5 one item or 3 for \$12 (no jewelry please). Admission is free. Food available. 9 am - 3 pm at Whitcomb High School, Rt. 12. For more info contact Nick Nikolaidis at (802) 234-5064.

**CHESTER DEPOT.** Open Studio Weekend at Bonnie's Bundles Dolls Gallery. In three rooms of the Watters historic stone house you can visit, see and touch nearly 100 one-of-a-kind dolls. Dressed in layers of calico clothing with personality-filled faces with real and motif eyes, these dolls are designed by Vermont doll artist Bonnie Watters. Refreshments and kids' activities. Free. 9 am - 5 pm. Bonnie's Bundles Dolls Gallery, Rt. 103N, Stone Village. (802) 875-2114. doll\_maker@vermontel.net. www.bonniebundlesdolls.com. Also May 30.

**DOVER.** Grand Race Four. Travel by foot and by car—and in fun, thrilling but mentally and physically challenging events along the way. Registration fee. Fri 5-9 pm kick off. Sat 8:30 am - 5 pm rally. Mt. Snow area. (802) 258-3992. www.celebratethevalley.com.

**FAIRFIELD.** Open Studio: Bowl Making. See a demonstration on the turning of bowls on a lathe from local sugar maple, black cherry, and other hardwoods. A wide variety of bowls will be on display, many for sale, including a shelf of seconds with minor mistakes. Free. 10 am - 5 pm. Fairfield Farm Bowl Workshop, 1941 Ridge Rd. (802) 827-3779. toby@fairfieldfarmbowls.com. www.fairfieldfarmbowls.com. Through May 30.

**FAIR HAVEN.** Annual Spring Fling. Crafters, children's games, flea market, vendors. Family festivities, something for everyone! On the town green. (802) 265-3010. www.fairhavenvt.org.

**GRAFTON.** Open Studio at Hunter Gallery of Fine Art. Hunter Gallery of Fine Art is the resident studio of Peter Jeziorski, watercolor artist. The Gallery/Studio also features the latest work of 16 other area artists. 10 am - 5 pm. Free. Hunter Gallery of Fine Art, 74 Main St. (802) 8431440. hunterartworks.com. Through May 31.

**GRAFTON.** Event: Pale Blue Dot. A free town-wide celebration focusing on nature, science, and the environment from 10 am - 6 pm. Speakers, activities, exhibits, and performances for kids and adults; music by The Junkman; parade finale led by Bread & Puppet; and local food. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

**HARDWICK.** Kiwanis Spring Old-Fashioned Town Parade. Sustainable living and agricultural celebration. Craft fair, carnival rides, food vendors and more. Fireworks at dark. A great family day! (802) 472-5906. www.heartofvt.com.

**KIRBY.** Open Studio Weekend. Meryl Lebowitz, oil painter and her husband, sculptor David Tanych have created a unique artists' compound in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Free. 9 am - 5 pm. Kirby Artists' Compound, 431 Ridge Rd. (802) 535-9877. Merylia@together.net. www.Meryllebowitz.com. davidtanych.com. Also May 30.

**RANDOLPH.** Open Studio—David Hurwitz Originals. Furniture, lamps, wall mirrors, and cooking utensils. Free. 10 am - 5 pm. At 57 Weston St. (802) 728-9399. dho@davidhurwitzoriginals.com. davidhurwitzoriginals.com. Also May 30.

**SALISBURY.** Hike to Ethan Allen Cave. Reputed to be the site where the Green Mountain Boys hid out. Optional extra short climb to a view point. Moderate, four miles. 9 am. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Tom Copps, (802) 774-5144. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**SOUTH HERO.** C.I.D.E.R. Apple Blossom Book and Bake Sale. Over 10,000 books sorted by genre, tasty baked goods, and a silent auction of antiques & collectibles. Free admission. 9 am - 4 pm. Hackett's Orchard, 86 South St. (802) 372-6425. cidervt.org. Also May 30.

**WARDSBORO CENTER.** Annual Plant Sale and Bake Sale. From our gardens to yours. Shop for annuals, perennials, transplants, seedlings, herbs, heirloom vegetables, hanging baskets, garden books, used garden tools, raffle. Bake sale on 5/29. Benefit for the Friends of the Wardsboro Library. Free admission. 9 am. Town Common, Main St. & Rt. 100. (802) 896-3416. info@friendsofwardsborolibrary.org. www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org. Also May 30.

**WILLIAMSTOWN.** Memorial Day Parade. 4 pm along Rt. 14. Afterwards, fun-filled events across from Pump 'N Pantry! Fireworks at dusk. (802) 433-6671. williamstownvt.org.

**WILMINGTON.** Wilmington Antique & Flea Market Opens. Southern Vermont's Largest Weekend Market. Outdoor shopping, collectibles, clothing, jewelry, furniture, house-wares, vegetables and plants. Food concession, free parking and admission. At Wilmington Antique & Flea Market, Inc., Rts. 9 & 100. (802) 464-3345. Thru May 31.

**WOODSTOCK.** Cows & Camembert Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Celebrate Vermont's dairy heritage. Ice cream and butter making, judging Jerseys with the farm manager, and dairy education programs. Sample cheeses by Vermont cheese makers. Cow trivia and making cow pizzas for the children. Admission includes 25th annual spring commemorative button and children's art show. Admission: adults \$11; over 62 \$10; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Located 1/2 mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org. Also May 30.

## SUNDAY, MAY 30

**STATEWIDE.** 18th Annual Open Studio Weekend. Studios across Vermont open their doors on Memorial Day Weekend. www.vermontcrafts.com.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Annual Dawn Dance. Starts with an English country dance Sunday afternoon, followed by an all-night contra dance that evening with three bands, ending at 7 am Monday morning. Tickets \$7-\$25 at the door or online. At the Gibson-Aiken Center, 207 Main Street (Rt. 5). (802) 257-1571. Also on Labor Day.

**CASTLETON.** Hike on Bird Mountain. Explore North Peak, Butterfly & Castle Peak Trails. Great views from many outlooks, a moderate 5.6 miles, 1700' elev. gain. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Peter Hope. (603) 863-6456. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**NORWICH.** Norwich Sunday Craft Fair. Handcrafted fine arts and crafts made by Vermont and New Hampshire craftspeople. Local musicians Mike & Mike, wonderful prepared foods. Rain or shine. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. On the grounds of the Norwich Farmers Market on Rt. 5, one mile south of exit 13 off I-91. (802) 356-2082. dhremote@earthlink.net. www.norwichcrafts.org.

**SOUTH HERO.** C.I.D.E.R. Apple Blossom Book Sale. Over 10,000 books sorted by genre and a silent auction of antiques & collectibles. Free admission. 9 am - 4 pm. Hackett's Orchard, 86 South St. (802) 372-6425.

**WILMINGTON.** 23rd Annual Great Duck Race. One of the valley's most beloved traditions. Games, face painting, music, bake sales. A total of 1500 yellow rubber ducks will be released around 12 pm, and will float down the Deerfield River. Cheer on your duck. Over 100 prizes awarded to the fastest ducks! Tickets available on the bridge in Wilmington center at 10:30 am till sold. At Boyd Family Farm. (802) 464-5618. www.boydfamilyfarm.com.

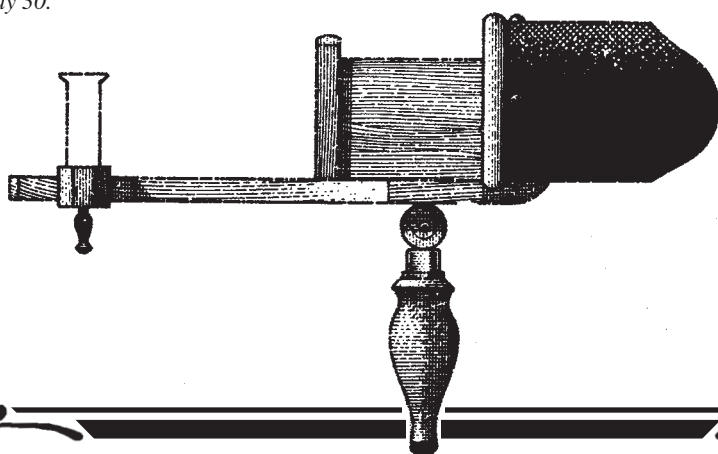
**WINDSOR.** New England "Living" Show House Tour. Landscape designers and interior designers are transforming Juniper Hill Inn into a showcase for this tour as a benefit for four major charities. (802) 674-5273. newenglandlivingshowhouse.com. Through June 8.

**WOODSTOCK.** Cows & Camembert Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Ice cream and butter making, judging Jerseys with the farm manager, and dairy education programs. Sample cheeses by Vermont cheese makers. Cow trivia and making cow pizzas for the children. Admission: adults \$11; over 62 \$10; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Located 1/2 mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

## MONDAY, MAY 31

**HUBBARDTON.** Memorial Day Remembrance. Tribute to the soldiers of Hubbardton. 12 noon. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. Admission. (802) 273-2282. www.historicvermont.org. elsa.gilbertson@state.vt.us.

**HUNTINGTON.** Hike on Camels Hump. Great views from open alpine zone on summit. Loop from the west side. Allis Trail, restored Montclair Glen Lodge. A strenuous 5.3 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, newcomers welcome. Leader: Peter Hope, (603) 863-6456. www.greenmountainclub.org.



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# A Vermont Almanac for Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

*All Nature seems at work. Slugs leave their lair—  
The bees are stirring—birds are on the wing—  
And Winter slumbering in the open air,  
Wears on his smiling face a dream of Spring!*

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge

## APRIL

### The Phases of the Rhubarb Pie Moon

When goldfinches are golden, and when the maples are blooming and pussy willows have pollen, then it's time to go out and cut the rhubarb stalks and make your pie. **April 14:** The Rhubarb Pie Moon is new at 8:29 p.m. **April 21:** The moon enters its second quarter at 2:21 a.m. **April 28:** The moon is full at 8:18 a.m.

### The Sun's Progress

April 21 is Cross-Quarter Day, the day on which the sun's position reaches its halfway point to summer solstice.

### The Planets

Jupiter and Venus remain the morning stars this month, and Saturn continues to traverse the night in Virgo. Mars is still in Cancer, slowly drifting retrograde toward Leo.

### The Stars

Orion's progress into the west in the late evening sky measures the approach of spring as well as any other gauge. In the middle of January, Orion was located due south at 10 p.m. Now he stands at the edge of the horizon. When he has disappeared before midnight, then clovers will be blooming, more mushrooms will be gone, and mosquitoes will be hunting for you in the yard.

### The Shooting Stars

The shooting stars of April are the Lyrids. Find them near the Summer Triangle after midnight between the 17th and the 26th.

### The Weather Systems

Seven major cold fronts move across the nation in April. Snow is possible in the Northeast before the arrival of each weather system. The intensity of the high-pressure systems



Spring plowing in Vermont in the early 1900s.  
photo courtesy of Vermont Historical Society

moderates after April 22. Most precipitation usually occurs during the first two weeks of the month.

### The Landscape Of April

Past the seasons of the snowdrops and aconites, midseason crocuses initiate more complex configurations that lead to fat pussy willows, bright blue squills, delicate yellow jonquils, then to the full-size daffodils, then to purple grape hyacinths, then to pale wood hyacinths and pushkinias. Towering on the horizon, silver maples and the red maples and box elders prepare to fruit.

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

## MAY

### The Phases of The Rhubarb Pie Moon And the Duckling & Gosling Moon.

Toward the middle of rhubarb pie season, ducklings and goslings begin to hatch, reaching the peak of their emergence as the May moon becomes full at the end of the month. **May 5:** The Rhubarb Pie Moon enters its final quarter at 11:15 a.m. **May 13:** The Duckling & Gosling Moon is new at 8:04 p.m. **May 20:** The moon enters its second quarter at 6:43 p.m. **May 27:** The moon is full at 6:07 p.m. Since the moon may exert less influence on ocean tides and on human and animal behavior when it comes into its 2nd and 4th quarters, it might make more sense to perform routine maintenance on your livestock and pets on or about May 5 and 20. On the other hand, tidal lunar influences have been shown to be greater at full moon and new moon times. You might expect more trouble with your herd, spouse or children on or about May 13 and 27.

### The Sun's Progress

On May 9, the sun reaches three-fourths of the way to summer solstice. Between this date and August 5, the nation enjoys the longest and sunniest days of the year.

### The Planets

Jupiter, in Pisces, is visible before dawn in the east this month. Venus, lower in the east in Taurus, follows Jupiter before sunrise. Mars moves to Leo from Cancer, overhead at sundown and setting after midnight. Saturn, in Virgo throughout the year, follows Mars across the night sky, setting in the west just as Jupiter comes up in the east.

### The Stars

Orion finally sets at sundown this month, followed by Gemini in the far west, bringing frost season to a close throughout most of the United States. The Big Dipper, deep overhead after dark, is in its Late Spring position, bringing all the clovers into bloom along the 40th Parallel. In the east, the Summer Triangle is rising, promising the heat and harvest of August.

### The Weather Systems

Cool fronts are due to cross the Mississippi on or about May 2, 7, 12, 15, 21, 24, and 29. Frost is most likely to occur with the May 7 and 12 fronts. New moon on May 13 increases the chances for freezing temperatures with both of the weather systems that occur close to that date. Full moon on May 27 could also contribute to cold and to unstable meteorological conditions.

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



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~Abby, Ai, & John Metcalf~







## Fiddlehead Festival Celebrating Sustainable Living

Celebrate agriculture, sustainable living, and the return of Spring on Saturday, May 8, 2010, at the Fourth Annual Fiddlehead Festival held at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, VT.

There is free admission to all events except the reasonably-priced Farmers Lunch. This is a great family event—with animals to visit and admire. Gail Billings will have her award-winning ox Crockett there along with her new team of young calves. And a 4-H working steer group of young people will be doing demonstrations.

The Festival opens at 10 a.m. with the Cavalcade of Tractors and a Children's Parade. Last year more than 30 area farmers participated, driving their tractors, new and old, large and small. Tractor owners who want to participate, should call Sam Lincoln at (802) 728-4273.

Workshops and informational sessions this year will include Henry Homeyer who will speak on Building Good Soils/Organic Pest and Disease Control; Jeff Hamelman of King Arthur Flour demonstrating Bread Shaping Tech-

niques; Margaret and Stuart Osha about Nutrient Dense Foods; Les Hook, Nova Kim, and Chef Tom Bivens with their very popular presentation on Wild Edibles.

An Animal Traction demonstration featuring oxen, will be held at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. A Tractor Obstacle Course features teams of local farmers testing their tractor and equipment handling skills.

Local vendors will offer their wares at the festival including jewelry, health services, home & garden equipment, home services, energy audit services, and books. Enjoy a chicken barbeque and a variety of other foods.

Meet your friends and neighbors and enjoy some really good food at the popular Farmers Lunch at 1 p.m. All the net proceeds go to the local elementary food programs, who will use it to purchase locally-raised foods for the school lunch program.

For more information about the Fiddlehead Festival go to [www.fiddlehead-festival.com](http://www.fiddlehead-festival.com) or contact (802) 728-6212.



photo by Roger Ennis  
Jeremy Lyford with his son Hayden Lyford riding on the back of Crockett, a red Holstein ox at the Fiddlehead Festival. Hayden's grandmother, Gail Billings of Randolph, VT, owns and trains the 3,158 lb. steer. She will be at this year's festival with Crockett and with her new team of calves, Massey & Ferguson now 5 & 4 months old.



photo by Roger Ennis  
See the old-time engines at the Fiddlehead Festival.



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GROWING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE  
Vermont Country Sampler, April-May 2010 Page 27



# North Country Book News

## 17th Annual Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Spring Book & Ephemera Fair

On May 2, 2010, booksellers from Vermont and the greater New England area will bring their wares to South Burlington, VT for the 17th Annual Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association Spring Book & Ephemera Fair.

Filling the Exhibition Hall at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, the fair gives book, postcard, and print lovers a chance to see an entire region's offerings at once. The show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Prices vary widely, from an old postcard of Burlington that may cost as little as \$2, to a rare Hemingway first edition that can cost \$2,000 or more. Most titles at the book fair sell for under \$50, and many for less than \$20.

"Antiquarian" has always been part of the association name, and means the books and documents at the show have special reasons for being appreciated. But it doesn't mean a room of antiques! Some leather-bound tomes from the 1600s and 1700s are often available, of course. However, most book dealers at this show also offer Vermont history, modern first editions, mysteries, poetry, books on the American Civil War, even art and music books. Children's books are always

popular, whether Dr. Seuss or original editions of the Nancy Drew series, or valued treasures from the Victorian era.

Count on postcards, prints, maps, and other ephemera (paper with historic value), too. And take time to visit with the forty or so dealers, who are glad to explain the highlights of their collections and fill in the fine points of how books become valued. Along with scholars, historians, and librarians, ardent readers and beginning collectors are welcome!

Admission to the book fair is \$4.00 for adults, and free for ages 16 and under.

The Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center is located at 870 Williston Rd. in South Burlington, VT and is fully accessible with plenty of parking.

For more information about the book fair, visit [www.VermontIsBookCountry.com](http://www.VermontIsBookCountry.com), or contact Donna Howard at (802) 527-7243, or e-mail [eloquent.page@myfairpoint.net](mailto:eloquent.page@myfairpoint.net).

## Fourth Annual Bethel Postcard & History Fair on May 29

The Fourth Annual Postcard and History Fair, hosted by the Bethel Historical Society, will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 29 at Whitcomb High School gym on Rt. 12 in Bethel, VT. Admission is free. There will be postcard, book, ephemera, sports memorabilia and stamp dealers, who will have items for sale including many from Bethel and Vermont.

There will be antique appraisals by Josh Steenburgh of Steenburgh Auctioneers and Appraisers, offering full services, \$5 one item or three for \$12 (no jewelry please.)

The United States Postal Service will be operating a temporary Post Office station on site from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will cancel mail or other collectible items, with a special cancellation of the old Whitcomb High School.

They will also provide passport processing services.

Historical exhibits featuring old pictures, postcards and other interesting items will be on display. Lunch, refreshments, and delicious homemade pastries will be available in the lobby by the Whitcomb High School Sports Boosters.

The Bethel Historical Society will also have a table with books, maps and postcards for sale. The Society thanks each of our participants who are making this event possible and for helping us to preserve the history of our town.

For more information, contact: Nick Nikolaidis, president, Bethel Historical Society, and event organizer. Call (802) 234-5064, or e-mail [nick@nikolaidis.com](mailto:nick@nikolaidis.com).



## Living Simple in 2010

### Compact Cabins

"This is one neat book and really covers a lot. Besides having 50 unique designs that will inspire you, the book is full of useful construction information."

—Kent Griswold  
Tiny House Blog

Compact Cabins by Gerald Rowan presents 62 design interpretations. The well-illustrated, quality paper-cover book shows readers how to achieve their cabin dreams on a small footprint. Ranging in size from a cozy 100 square feet to a more spacious but still economical 1,000 square feet, they all include sleeping accommodations, kitchen and bath facilities, and a heat source.

There are chapters on low-maintenance building materials, utilities and appliances, and alternative energy sources supplying readers with the options for living efficiently in small spaces.

For every design, readers will find floor plans with

detailed suggestions for designing the space for optimal use. Features such as an outdoor fireplace, covered porch, or external storage

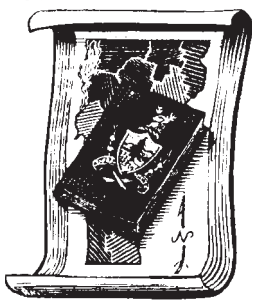


locker might work nicely in several cabin designs.

Gerald Rowan has taught art, ceramics, architecture, and graphic design for more than 30 years. He lives in Pennsylvania.

Compact Cabins by Gerald Rowan is published by Storey Publishing. It is available for \$19.95 from your bookseller or [storey.com](http://storey.com).

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The Caretaker Gazette  
3 Estancia Lane, Boerne, TX 78006  
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## Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association's SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SPRING Vermont Book & Ephemera Fair

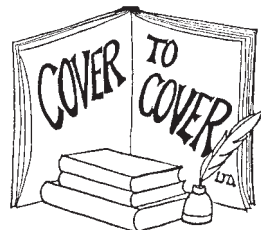
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## Writer Bill McKibben to Speak At Chester's Universalist Church

Misty Valley Books will host author Bill McKibben at the First Universalist Church in Chester's Stone Village on Saturday, May 1, at 2 pm.

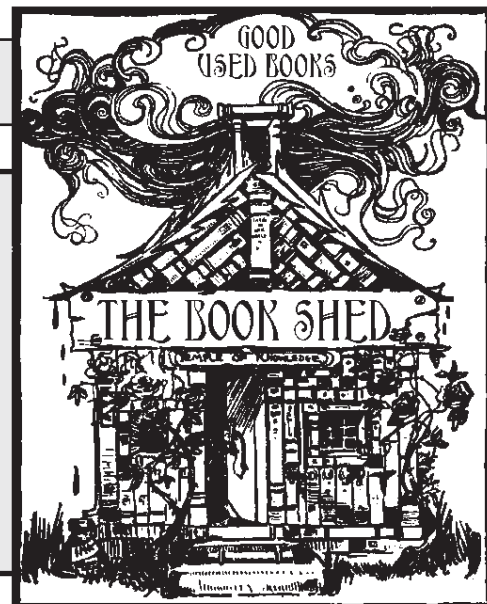
McKibben, a scholar in residence at Middlebury College, will present his latest book (of eleven): *Earth, Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*. McKibben was among the first to write seriously about the consequences of global warming with *The End of Nature* in 1989. A for-

mer staff writer for The New Yorker, he writes regularly for Harper's, The Atlantic Monthly and The New York Review of Books.

A question-and-answer session, a reception and book signing will follow Mr. McKibben's remarks. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Misty Valley Books at (802) 875-3400 or visit [www.mvbooks.com](http://www.mvbooks.com).

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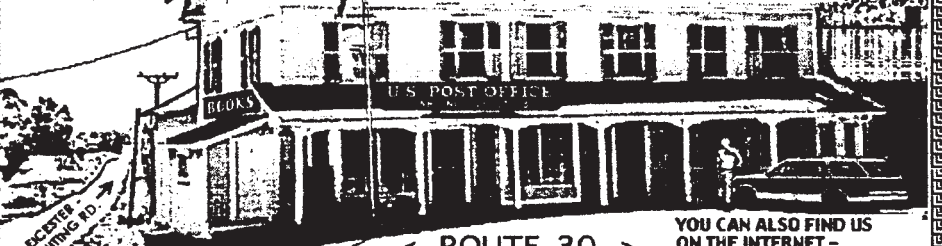
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Book Review by Charles Sutton

# Farmer John's Cookbook The Real Dirt on Vegetables

by Farmer John Peterson  
and Angelic Organics

Very shortly families throughout the country will be receiving weekly boxes packed with seasonal fresh vegetables—thanks to a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program whereby they sign up to purchase a certain quantity of produce through the growing season from local farmers.

Lifelong farmer John Peterson of Caledonia, Illinois, who runs the 22-acre Angelic Organics farm, one of the largest CSAs in the country serving 1,300 families in the Chicago area, found many of his customers loved his fresh, organically-raised vegetables, but sometimes were at a loss at how to prepare them in different and delicious-tasting ways. This was true for common vegetables like carrots, beets, and spinach to the more unusual ones like parsnips, celeriac, rutabagas, kohlrabi, choy and daikon radishes.

This prompted him and others who worked on the farm to compile a 360-page cookbook covering 35 seasonal vegetables and herbs with 225 recipes, easy enough to prepare but of natural foods restaurant quality.

Farmer John's success story (after the failure of his family's dairy and hog farm) has been portrayed in a documentary film *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*, photographed by Taggart Siegel who had been filming John and his farm for more than 20 years. The film which was shown in Vermont as well as in the rest of America is available at video stores or can be ordered from Angelic Organics.

Film critic Roger Ebert notes this "inspiring yet quirky film records the gradual death of the American family farm, the auctions of land and farm equipment, the encroachment of suburban housing, and then the almost miraculous rebirth through the introduction of organic farming." The movie also portrays the personal journey of former hippie John, an "original character" and not your stereotypical farmer.

Colorful photographs in the cookbook show the massive amount of beautiful-looking vegetables being grown and



John Peterson, "Farmer John," in a cover crop of sweet clover at Angelic Organics.

photo courtesy of Gibbs Smith

harvested at Angelic Organics. This should dispel the idea that organic farming (no chemicals or pesticides) can only be done a small scale. A photo of a tractor pulling a wagon full of giant purple kohlrabis is a sure sign that a lot of people are being fed. For those unfamiliar with this vegetable (a broccoli relative) that has antennas splayed in all directions, the cookbook offers four recipes, one where the vegetable is whipped with potatoes and another made with carrot into a refreshing slaw.

There are at least a half a dozen appealing recipes for each of the other less common vegetables. Many vegetables are enhanced with the addition of pine nuts, walnuts, almonds, as well as easily available herbs: basil, sage, cilantro, dill, rosemary, tarragon, thyme and others.

Some of the cooking suggestions go beyond the usual steaming or boiling. Cooks are encouraged to roast certain vegetables (radicchio, garlic, peppers, Brussel sprouts, eggplant). Garden overrun with zucchini? Try chilled zucchini and avocado soup, creamy zucchini-cumin dip, baked zucchini halves stuffed with wild rice and quinoa.

Families who like to try ethnic dishes will find many intriguing recipes where the vegetable is the key ingredient. Some examples: stir-fry choy with mushrooms and cashews; spiced raita; Asian noodle stir-fry with cilantro and broccoli; hummus (scallion-garlic-chickpea spread); baba ghanouj (an eggplant dish); and German sauerkraut.

This cookbook also has articles on biodynamic gardening, anthroposophical nutrition by Rudolf Steiner, childhood nourishment, and comments and suggestions from shareholders in the CSA.

*Farmer John's Cookbook: The Real Dirt on Vegetables* by John Peterson and Angelic Organics is available at your bookseller for \$29.95 or can be ordered from the farm's website at [www.angelicorganics.com](http://www.angelicorganics.com).



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Draft horses graze in the spring fields at Taylor Farm in Londonderry, VT.

photo by Charles Sutton



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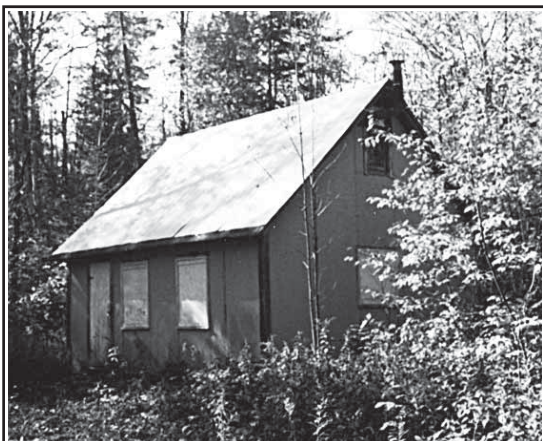
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Herefords graze under the apple blossoms in Rochester, VT.

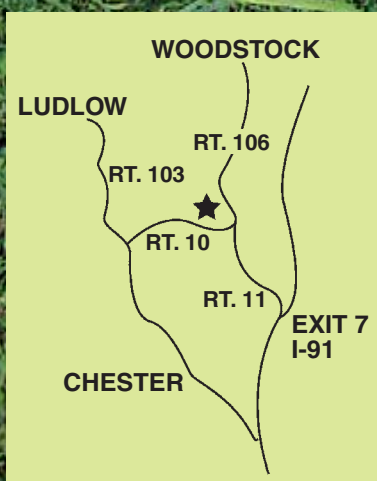
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