

Vermont Country Sampler



April-May
2011

Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
Entertainment, Book Reviews
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2011 Solstice Seed Catalog

Locally-grown organic seeds from the Upper Valley area are now available in Sylvia Davatz' third Solstice Seed Catalogue. They are all grown in Hartland, VT and are therefore subject to our varying local weather and climate conditions.

For those of you who are new to the catalogue it is important to know that all offered seed is open pollinated. That means you can save your own seed of any variety listed here and it will come true to type.

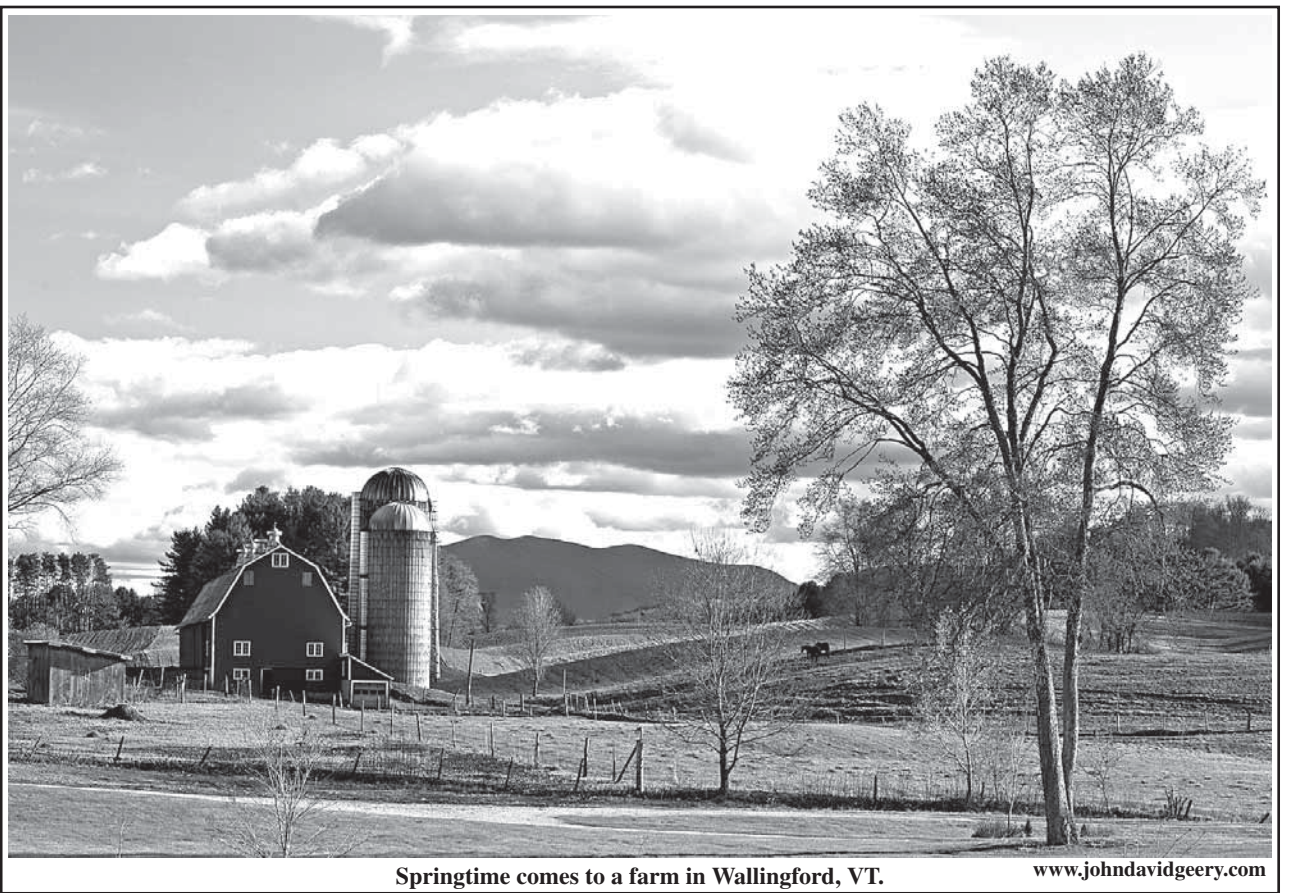
Many varieties are no longer commercially available elsewhere. All seed is grown using organic practices, whether in Sylvia's garden or one of her isolation gardens around Hartland. No chemi-

cal fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides are ever used.

Although the primary objective is to offer seed of food crops that provide the underpinnings of our New England diet, there are some obvious gaps. She would love to be able to offer carrot seed, but it needs to be grown out away from Queen Anne's lace, something she's surrounded by!

Have a look at this special seed catalog and begin planting vegetables created for the region we live in.

To obtain a copy of the 2011 Solstice Seed Catalog, contact Sylvia Davatz, 106 Gilson Rd., Hartland, VT 05048. (802) 436-3262. sdav@valley.net.



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When Victory Gardens Saved the Day

by Charles Sutton

One can only imagine how excited my brother Fred and I were on that momentous April day four months after WWII began when a Mr. Hidu brought his team of horses to our home to plow a large plot for our first victory garden.

Mr. Hidu, a native of Hungary, made sure the horses plowed deep enough, harrowed fine enough and even pulled a make-shift bed of tree branches to smooth off the top layer—just perfect for the first batch of seeds!

My brother and I, ages 12 and 11, planned and planted the whole garden as a joint effort rather than dividing the garden into two plots. The only concession was that we could each plant something of our own. Freddy chose mung beans which he later sprouted under the kitchen sink—an early sign that he was good at Chinese dishes. My treat was to plant peanuts. They grew into plants as best they could in a northern climate but never made a peanut! My parents' choice was okra—whose stately plants did provoke a "what's that?" from visitors.

Our victory gardens throughout the war years were very successful and provided our family with a large variety of tasty vegetables including lots of surplus which our mother painstakingly canned—this was before freezers.

Mother somehow kept her spirits and good cheer when my brother and I showed up in the kitchen with way too many tomatoes, beans or zucchini to be canned all at once. This was a labor intensive task as the jars had to be sterilized in a large kettle of boiling water—and boiled again after they were filled and sealed.

There were food shortages and rationing during the war

years—so the extra work paid off during the winter months when Fred and I gladly went to the cellar to bring out a jar of tomatoes, corn, or even our own potatoes and squash. Other memories were the black-out curtains over the windows, saving balls of tinfoil and cans of fat for the war effort.

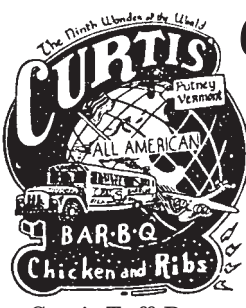
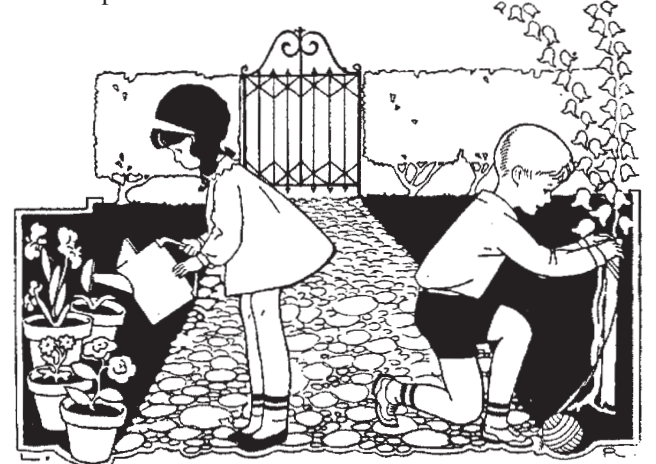
One summer muskmelons found our soil ideal and seemed to grow all over the garden producing the most delicious melons we had ever eaten. The next summer we hardly got any at all—probably the bumper crop took out all the needed nutrients.

Today, organic garden produce is highly sought after as being free of chemicals and pesticides, but that's exactly what my brother and I were doing 70 years ago! For fertilizer we used compost and chicken manure.

When we had an infestation of Japanese beetles, rather than poisonous sprays, we hand-picked the beetles off the plants into jars of kerosene.

As young entrepreneurs we raised our own chickens. We would get 100 white leghorn chicks at a time, and keep them under a homemade brooder in an enclosed area in the barn (which was also our basketball court). In no time at all the chicks were hopping over the barrier and messing up the whole barn! We would sell the lot as pullet hens, but kept a dozen or so for ourselves for eggs. Once again, we were ahead of our time—producing 'natural' eggs from free range chickens!

We didn't mind weeding the garden, keeping the rows neat and orderly. Of course there were fewer distractions then—no TV, internet, cell phones. This was an unusual and unique time in our country's history when the whole nation pulled together in the war effort. Why has sacrificing some time today to make the world a safer, better, and friendlier place the exception and not the rule?



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Vermont Country Sampler

April-May 2011, Vol. XXVI

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Vermont Country Sampler

P.O. Box 226, Danby, VT 05739 • (802) 293-5752
info@vermontcountrysampler.com
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Billings Farm & Museum Welcomes Spring

Spring Farm Festival, April 30 – May 1

Billings Farm & Museum, kicks off its 29th season with Spring Farm Festival Weekend on April 30 & May 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,

Featuring two days of traditional spring farm activities, the festival includes shearing the farm's Southdown sheep, plowing programs and demonstrations, wagon rides, and more.

The farm's Southdown ewes will be sheared each day at 12:00, 2:00, and 4:00 p.m. during narrated programs, with spinning and carding demonstrations of the skills needed to turn fleece into yarn.

Plowing with oxen and draft horse teams will take place in the farm fields and visitors also can try their hand plowing behind a Billings' team. Baby chicks will be in abundance, with interactive programs starting at 10:30 a.m.

Additional activities include horse-drawn wagon rides and cooking demonstrations of oxtail soup and shoofly pie in the 1890 Farm House. Admission includes our 26th annual commemorative spring button and children's art show.

The Teago Volunteer Fire Department will sell lunch and snacks, with all proceeds to benefit the fire department.

Cows & Camembert Weekend, May 28 & 29

The 2nd Annual Cows & Camembert Weekend is coming up on Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate Vermont's rich dairy heritage during this two-day event, by meeting Vermont cheese makers and sampling their delicious artisan cheeses and taking part in engaging dairy education programs.

Cows & Camembert Weekend will showcase many of Vermont's artisan cheese makers who will offer cheese samples, discuss their products, and have cheese on hand for purchase. Visitors can improve their bovine knowledge by Judging Jerseys with the farm manager, dairy scavenger hunt, a "name the calf" contest, dairy programs, and learn about the nutritional needs of our dairy herd by making a cow pizza and games for the children. Lend a hand making fresh chocolate ice cream—with samples for all!

Billings Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT. Rt. 12.

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.

For more information call (802) 457-2355 or visit www.billingsfarm.org.

THE HILL FARMS

I love the little hill farms best:
They always seem the pleasantest.
The morning sun shines on the hill,
When valleys lie in shadow still.

At eventide they hold the light,
When all the lowlands lies in night.
On sunny slopes the mayflowers hide;
There first the robin brings his bride.

For little hill farms nearest are
To guardian angel, watching star.
The strongest home-love one can know
Is for the hills: God made it so.

—AGNES BARDEN DUSTIN



Visitors can try their hand at plowing with teams of draft horses at Billings Farm & Museum's Spring Farm Festival weekend on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 & May 1. photos courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum



Young visitors pet a Jersey cow at Billings Farm & Museum.



Billings Farm flock of Southdown sheep.



Shearing the sheep at Billings Farm & Museum.

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A Vermont Almanac for Middle & Late Spring

by Bill Felker

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

—Harlan Hubbard

An Ephemeris for April and May

April 3: The Morel Mushroom Moon is new at 9:32 a.m.
April 11: The moon enters its second quarter at 8:05 a.m.
April 17: The moon is full at 9:44 p.m. **April 24:** The moon enters its final quarter at 9:47 p.m. **May 3:** The Clover Moon is new at 1:51 a.m. **May 10:** The moon enters its second quarter at 3:33 p.m. **May 17:** The moon is full at 6:09 a.m. **May 24:** The moon enters its final quarter at 1:52 p.m.

The Sun's Progress

The sun enters its Late Spring sign of Taurus on Cross-Quarter Day, April 20, the halfway point between equinox and solstice.

The Planets in April

Venus continues to move retrograde throughout Early and Middle Spring, moving through Capricorn and Aquarius, shining on sheep and flockmasters before dawn as the morning star. Mars and Jupiter follow Venus before the sun comes up, spending the day crossing the sky. Saturn in Virgo sets in the west as Venus rises in the east.

The Planets in May

Venus moves retrograde again this month, joining with Mars in Pisces. Jupiter, right behind Pisces, spends the month in Aires. Of these three major planets, Venus is the larger Saturn is visible throughout much of the night in Virgo, setting well before dawn.

The Stars

As Leo moves off to the west by ten o'clock at night, the likelihood of frost diminishes sharply along the 40th Parallel, and tender bedding plants, tomatoes and peppers can be set out—as long as they can be protected on cooler nights. When Leo has moved well into the southwest, and Arcturus is almost in the center of the sky, lanky Hercules behind it, and the Milky Way fills the southeast, then frost should stay away until September. Cassiopeia has moved deep into the



A Spring Arbor in Dorset, VT.

www.johndavidgeery.com

northern sky behind Polaris, the north star, by this time of the year, and Cepheus, which looks a little like a house lying on its side, is beginning to come around to the east of Polaris. When Cepheus is due east of the North Star, then it will be the middle of July. When it lies due south of Polaris, then the leaves will be turning. When it lies due west of Polaris, it will be the middle of Deep Winter.

The Weather Systems in April & May

Seven major cold fronts move across the nation in April. Snow is possible in northern areas with the arrival of the first three fronts. Average dates for the weather systems to reach the Mississippi: April 2, 6, 11, 16, 21, 24, and 28. Although the intensity of the high-pressure systems moderates after

the 22nd, be alert for frost at least two days after each system pushes through your area. Most precipitation usually occurs during the first two weeks of the month.

The Shooting Stars

The Lyrid Meteors fall in the early morning of April 21–22. Look for them high in the east near the Summer Triangle (not far from Cygnus, the Swan). Look for the Eta Aquarids near Aquarius after midnight of May 5–6.

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

The Spin of Spring

The sluggish nature of winter, its interminable cold and gray skies, its sameness that lasts from the beginning of December through the middle of February, reflects the slow movement of the sun between October's Cross Quarter Day (the 24th) and February's Cross Quarter Day (the 18th).

For more than four months, the sun lies at its lowest position in the sky. For more than a hundred days, nothing seems to change. After the remaining leaves fall in November and December, the trees are bare and the land remains subdued, revealing little of the gradual swelling that quietly precedes late February's awakening and the arrival of early spring.

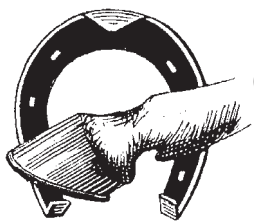
That phase of spring is one of the longest seasons of the year (a full six weeks), but it offers little encouragement to the casual observer. Sap runs unseen in the maples, and then the dark buds swell, but the days are still cloudy and chilly. Flurries and frost are common, and the new snowdrops and aconites are often overlooked because of the bitter weather.

Even though cardinals sing before sunrise at the end of January, even though red-winged blackbirds start nesting at the end of February, and robins begin their morning chorus in the middle of March, the season can feel tortuously uneventful.

By the beginning of May, however, the radical acceleration of the year becomes apparent. A season is always the sum of its parts. The pieces of early spring are few and subtle, but middle spring leaves little to the imagination. The meager inventories of change that characterize equinox quickly fill with new details each day. Trees leaf and flowers bloom, unmistakable, their numbers catching the eye of almost everyone. All the habitats, from rich talus slopes to alleyways, reveal the prints of change. The days finally grow warm.

The earth and spring spin faster to us now, time ceding to the eye of the spectator. The days suddenly reach their summer length. The floral and faunal fragments multiply, literally filling in the space of Earth with tangible, visible clockwork, the four months of Lenten abstinence repaid beyond counting.

—W. L. Felker



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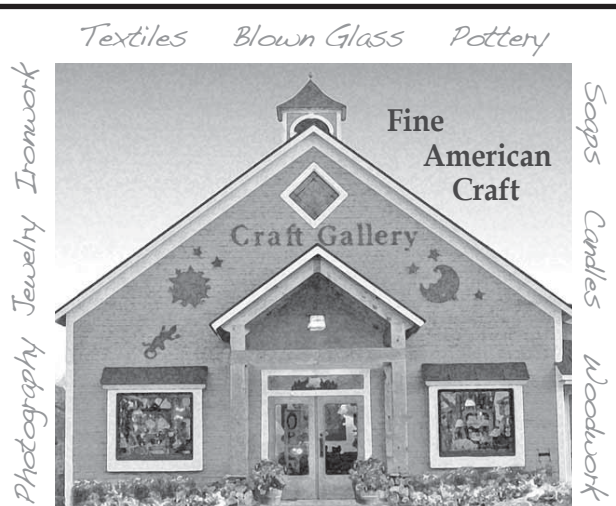
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The Nature Museum at Grafton Hosts Springtime Programs

The Nature Museum at Grafton offers many interesting programs for all ages. Pre-registration is either requested or required for all programs by calling (802) 843-2111. For more information visit www.nature-museum.org.

April 21, Thursday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Cooking with Fire and Sun. At The Nature Museum. Ages 8-13. Fee: \$55; material fee \$10. Build a solar cooker to take home and a cook fire! Cook your hot dog lunch over the fire and end the day with a tasty snack from the solar oven, if the sun cooperates. Learn and practice recipes that work well over the fire or in the solar oven and make a recipe book to take home.

April 21, Thursday, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Wildcats of the Northeast. Free. Meet at the Springfield Public Library, 43 Main St. Calah Beckwith, an Antioch University New England Conservation Biology graduate student, will share her research about bobcats, their natural history, and some current wildlife research tools.

April 30, Saturday, 7:30–9:30 a.m. Beginning Birding—Birds of Wetland Habitats. Meet at The Nature Museum to carpool to wetlands, streams, beaver ponds, and vernal pools in the historic Grafton village of Howeville. For adults and families with older children. Fee: \$5, family \$20. Compliments of Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, binoculars may be borrowed for the program, which will start with a short introduction on how to use them. *Also May 21.*

May 1, Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 12th Annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival. At the end of Herricks Cove Rd. in Rockingham, VT. Fee: \$2, family \$5. Rain or shine. This festival along the Connecticut River includes nature presentations, activities, and programs featuring live animals, guided nature walks, tasty food, workshops, birding, and more.

May 7, Saturday, 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Connecticut River Cleanup on Green Up Day. Free, all ages welcome. Meet at the Fish Ladder Watershed Visitor Center on Bridge St. in Bellows Falls, VT to get gloves, trash bags, and assigned areas; then walk down to the river to clean up trash and recyclable materials from the river's banks and adjacent lands. Wear waterproof shoes and work clothes.

May 12, Thursday, 7–9 p.m. Screening of Mother Nature's Child. At the NewsBank Conference Center, second floor auditorium, 352 Main St. (Rt. 11 West) in Chester, VT. Free. Light refreshments. Documentary explores nature's role in the health and development of children and examines children's need to explore and play outdoors. A discussion will be led by Director/Producer Camilla Rockwell and David Sobel, Antioch New England professor and author of a new book called Wild Play: Parenting Adventures in the Great Outdoors.

May 14, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Fall Mountain Hike. Park at North Walpole Elementary School and meet at the soccer field. Join Jay Fisher, science teacher and former Museum Intern, for a leisurely hike up Fall Mountain in Walpole, NH. Learn about the plants, trees, and animals that call this area home. At the top, enjoy lunch and a great view over the Connecticut River Valley. Wear comfortable shoes; bring lunch and water. Families and dogs are welcome.

May 18, Wednesday, 7–8 p.m. Migrating Song Birds. Free. Meet at Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, VT. Join avid avian enthusiast Alma Beals, President of Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, for a slide show and talk on local migratory songbirds.

May 22, Sunday, 1–3 p.m. Nature Walk at Springweather Reserve. Free. Meet at Springweather Reserve on Reservoir Road, off Route 106, in North Springfield, VT. On this guided discovery walk on the preserve's varied trails, participants will look for birds and wildflowers with Alma Beals, water critters with Kelly Stettner, and ferns with Betsy Owen.

June 4, Saturday, 1–2 p.m. Fish Ladder Open House and Tour. Free. All ages welcome. The Fish Ladder and Watershed Visitor Center on Bridge Street in Bellows Falls will



Bright-eyed squirrel in the backyard in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

be open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., with a special tour of the facility at 1 p.m. Learn how fish use the ladder and how the dam helps create hydropower. Exhibits and hands-on activities will focus on insects of the Connecticut River Watershed, their place in the food chain, and their importance for the fish we like to see, catch, and eat.

June 15, Wednesday, 7–8 p.m. Master Gardeners' Evening. Free. Meet at Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, VT. Local Master Gardeners will present a program featuring slides and discussion.

June 16, Thursday, 7 p.m. Annual Meeting of The Nature Museum at Grafton. Free and open to the public. Meet at the Homestead Barn, across from The Old Tavern in Grafton, VT, on Rt. 121. Hear about the year. Light refreshments.

June 22, Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Outer Landscape/Inner Landscape Workshop with Kathy Leo. Fee: \$5. Walk the quiet garden paths, meadow, and woodland trails where wild meets home at the top of a hill in Westminster. Gather in a yurt in the meadow for reflection and nature journaling through writing and/or sketching. Please bring a lunch, water, journal, pen, and something to sit upon.

June 25, Saturday, 7:30–9:30 a.m. Beginning Birding—Meadow Birds. At The Nature Museum. For adults and families with older children. Fee: \$5, family \$20. Binocu-

lars may be borrowed compliments of Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society.

The Nature Museum at Grafton is located at 186 Townshend Rd., Grafton, VT. (802) 843-2111. For more information go to www.nature-museum.org.



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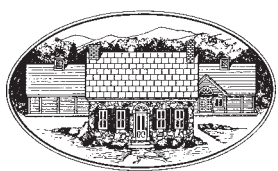
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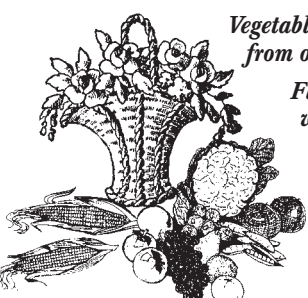


Stone House ANTIQUES CENTER

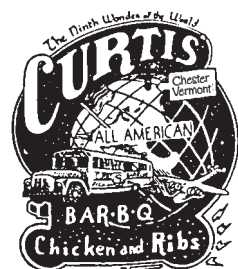
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Vermont Spring

by Donna Markwell

~ May 1940 ~

Spring is here! "No," you say, thinking of all the snow banks that you have eyed indignantly for weeks and weeks. It seems that spring was reluctant to appear this year. However she cannot hide the fact that she is here now. The crows and bluejays have been shouting for some time. Rascals they maybe, but every Spring they bring to us the same cheery greetings. The sparrows have a faith beyond our own and have been with us all winter. The robins and the blue-birds come on suspicion that winter must be ready to depart and the phoebes cannot be far behind them.

The sun is shining warmer every day and the snow has surely given way before its steadfast gaze. A spider here,

a fly there appears, lowly tokens of awakening life.

Spots of green grass show here and there and then suddenly its everywhere. Woodland trips reveal spring beauties, painted trilliums, adder tongues, arbutus and shy violets. Tucked in beside them everywhere are many gay little jack-in-

**"Never was the grass so green,
the apple and cherry blossoms
so beautiful."**

the-pulpits, in their clownish striped suits.

These spring flowers are so fragrant and dainty in their pastel shades of lavender, pale yellow and blue and then too, the bolder ones, clad in dark red, appeal to many. Too lovely to pick! They fade so quickly. Bouquets of

wildflowers seem a needless destruction. We have our cultivated gardens to pick from and replant. The wildflowers must do their own replanting.

Every spring it is the same. Never was the grass so green, the apple and cherry blossoms so beautiful.

The pussy willows add a touch of their own, growing close beside the winding brooks. The birds never sang so sweetly, as they planned for their summer homes. Such a variety of homes, some in the treetops, some in the bushes, in the tall grasses, under the eaves, in the marshes among the cattails, in sandbanks and in homes that man has prepared.

Time to let the cattle out now that everything is green. They never fail to recapture the delight of that first trip to pasture. If their antics are a sample of their joy then the breath of late spring never fails to please them. Over the hills they go, stiff-legged from their long stay in the barn. They gambol awkwardly, tails over their backs, pausing now and then to resume an old family feud.

Take a peep into the pond. The ice is gone. Ferns of varied heights terrace the banks, slowly unfurling their fronds. Gazing into the water, you see the pollywogs herded



close together. The lizards lie motionless, halfway between top and bottom of the pond. Toss in a tiny pebble and there are flashing small bodies everywhere, nowhere, now gone.

When all the flowers of spring have vanished, myriads of strawberry blossoms

dot the green carpet of grass. Summer flowers are coming to life on all sides. Raspberry, blackberry and blueberry bushes crowd overhanging banks. Their millions of blossoms proclaim a bountiful crop of delicious berries.

The long-legged, soft-eyed

colt follows his proud mother joyfully along the pasture fence. The woolly lambs frolic with one another and then hasten after their mothers who have barely been shorn of their heavy winter coats. Spring has again fulfilled her promises and all is well.

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WHITE VIOLETS

When Spring's first green appears upon the hill,
When brooks ring loud, released from winter's chill,
When winds blow soft across each wakening plain,
The phoebe's plaintive song is heard again.

Then, when the sun sets all the world aglow,
By some old road where ferns and mosses grow,
The tiny violets, dainty, fragile, fair,
Pour their white souls in fragrance on the air.



—ELINOR CORSE ROBINSON
1932



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Spring Trout Fishing Comes to Vermont

Vermont's traditional trout fishing season has opened and anglers are turning out for some great fishing for brook, brown and rainbow trout in the Green Mountain State's lakes and streams.

"Willoughby River steelhead provide a popular spring fishery in the Northeast Kingdom at the Village of Orleans," said Vermont Director of Fisheries Eric Palmer. "These steelhead are on their spring spawning run from Lake Memphremagog, and they always attract a lot of interest, partly because they can be seen jumping the falls in Orleans."

"Vermont has excellent fishing opportunities for wild trout," he added, "and some of the biggest brown trout are caught during early spring in many rivers throughout the state."

Vermont's 2011 stocking schedule is available on the Fish and Wildlife website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com under the "Fishing" category.

As an added bonus, Vermont's catch-and-release bass fishing season in lakes starts the same day as trout season on April 9 and continues through June 10. Only lures and flies may be used, and bass must be immediately released. You can learn more about Vermont's spring catch-and-release bass fishing season on the Fish and Wildlife website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com/bassfishing.cfm.

Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 11th this year. Anyone, residents and nonresidents, may fish without a license on Free Fishing Day anywhere in Vermont. It's a great opportunity to get out together as a family or with friends to learn more about Vermont's great fishing opportunities.

The Fish and Wildlife Department is cautioning anglers that a new law prohibits the use of felt-soled boots or waders in Vermont waters in order to prevent the spread of the invasive algae called didymo.

Anglers also 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, downrigger cannonballs, weighted flies, lure, spoons, or jig heads are not prohibited.

Planning a Vermont spring fishing trip is easy. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has a 2011 Vermont Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws and Guide 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 and Wildlife Department, 103 South Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671-0501. Tel. (802) 241-3700.

The Vermont Outdoor Guides' Association offers help in locating fishing guides and overnight facilities on their website: www.VOGA.org.

Fishing license fees are \$22 for adult residents, \$8 for residents 15-17 years of age, \$45 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 don't need a license. Purchase licenses at agents and from www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



Avid angler Drew Price of Riverton, VT holds a nice brown trout he caught in a Vermont stream. photo courtesy of Vermont Fish & Wildlife

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Rutland Area Grow-a-Row Grows a Ton (actually 9 tons!)

The Grow-a-Row program in the Rutland, VT area continues to make tremendous strides towards increasing access to fresh produce for area families. This year, Rutland Area Farm & Food Link (RAFFL) nearly doubled the amount of healthy, locally-grown food that was collected through donations and gleaning efforts. Through the Grow-a-Row program, RAFFL distributed over 16,500 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to the community. And another 1,000 pounds of frozen vegetables and storage crops—potatoes, cabbage, and winter squash—were distributed during the winter.

The Grow-a-Row program could not have been successful without enthusiastic community support. A special thanks also goes out to Bill Clark, who donated over 5,000 pounds of produce, facilitated the donation of 1,000 pounds of Perry's potatoes, and helped connect RAFFL with area apple orchards.

Highlights from the Field:

17,500 pounds of fresh produce donated; over 50 different vegetables, fruits, herbs, and eggs distributed; 25 farms and 8 home gardeners participated; 55 volunteers donated 270+ hours collecting extra produce at markets, gleaning produce on farms, and distributing the produce; 26 Rutland-area agencies and non-profits received donated produce!

As you plan for the upcoming planting and harvesting season, please consider reserving some space on your farm or in your home garden to dedicate to the Grow-a-Row program. There is no minimum donation and home gardeners are encouraged to participate.

Questions about the Grow-a-Row program? Interested in starting Grow-a-Row in your town? Contact Garland Mason, Local-Link Coordinator, at (802) 287-2940 or mason@greenmtn.edu.

For more information about RAFFL visit www.rutlandfarmandfood.org.



Spring has come! Chuckie and the daffodils rest in the garden under the statue. photo by Diana Ham

Possession

I might move into the village.
A hired man could work my land—
I think I've earned a rest.
I wouldn't have to turn my hand
To milking cows or planting corn—
or plowing it,
But come-to- think, I wonder if I'd fit
That kind of life.
If for a farmer bred-and-born
The easy life is best.

Grandfather settled here when land was free,
My father lived here to his dying day.
The land became a part of them

And they were part of it
And now it has become a part of me.

I might move into the village—
But there's part of me would stay
Here on the farm. I've earned a rest
But like-as-not—I'll never move away.



—NELLIE BURCH TENNANT
1939



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27th Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale

The 27th annual Tinmouth Plant Sale will take place on Saturday May 7 from 8 a.m. (sharp!) to 10 a.m. at the Tinmouth Old Firehouse in Tinmouth, VT. No sales before 8 am, but there is a big rush when we say "go" right at 8! Come early for the best selection.

This is a great opportunity to buy locally grown and dug perennials and shrubs from Tinmouth gardens and to support the Tinmouth School. It benefits the Parents' Club and its funding of artist in residences,

class room activities and field trips, materials for each classroom, the cross-country ski program and many other worthy extras for the children of Tinmouth.

There will also be a bake sale and a car wash and other fun ways to support the school.

Tinmouth, VT is located just west of Wallingford, VT. The Old Firehouse is in the center of town. For more information call Ann Czar at (802) 446-3207. aczar@vermontel.net. tinmouthvt.org.

The Tinmouth Contra Dance

Friday, May 27
8-11 pm

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Green Mountain Club Springtime Outings

Springtime has finally arrived and what better time of the year to get outdoors and enjoy the world around us!

The Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club invites you to come along on their spring outings. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on their outings. 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 trips leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station. Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leaders listed below if you have any questions.

Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Section Leaders Forum, Waterbury, VT

The Green Mountain Club is hosting this meeting in order for members to exchange information on trail maintenance, outings and promotion. (802) 244-7037 x 24.

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.

Long Trail Spring Cleaning

All are welcome to join us for our annual cleanup and maintenance, preparing the trail for the summer hiking season. We will clear waterbars, 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.

Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m.

Spring Wildflowers and Birds

A short hike to identify the wildflowers and birds of the area. Bring binoculars, fieldguides and bug repellent. Leader: Connie Youngstrom (802) 492-3502.

Sunday, May 15, 9:30 a.m.

Winona Lake, Bristol, VT

Canoe or kayak on this beautiful, small lake (a/k/a Bristol Pond), with abundant bird life. Leaders: Larry Walter and Viv Bebee (802) 775-3855.

Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m.

Patch Hollow Horror, Cuttingsville, VT

How time flies—it's the 180th anniversary of the dastardly deed, and we will hike to the scene of the crime to commemorate the occasion (grass skirts optional). Moderate, 3.5-4 miles. Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith (802) 492-3573.

Saturday, May 28, 9 a.m.

Lye Brook Falls, Manchester, VT

Climb gradually to one of Vermont's highest waterfalls, in the Lye Brook Wilderness. Moderate, 4.5 miles. Rain date May 29. Leader: Sue Thomas (802) 773-2185.

Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m.

Long Trail Maintenance

Volunteers will be out for National Trails Day clearing brush and waterbars, cutting blowdowns and painting blazes, and readying the trail. Join us to work on the Long/Appalachian Trail. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided. Leader: Herb Ogden (802) 293-2510.

Friday–Sunday, June 10-12

GMC Annual Meeting, Plymouth, VT

Hosted by the Ottauquechee Section at Camp Plymouth State Park, with activities, meals and hikes planned in addition to the meeting itself. For details and registration information, go to greenmountainclub.org.

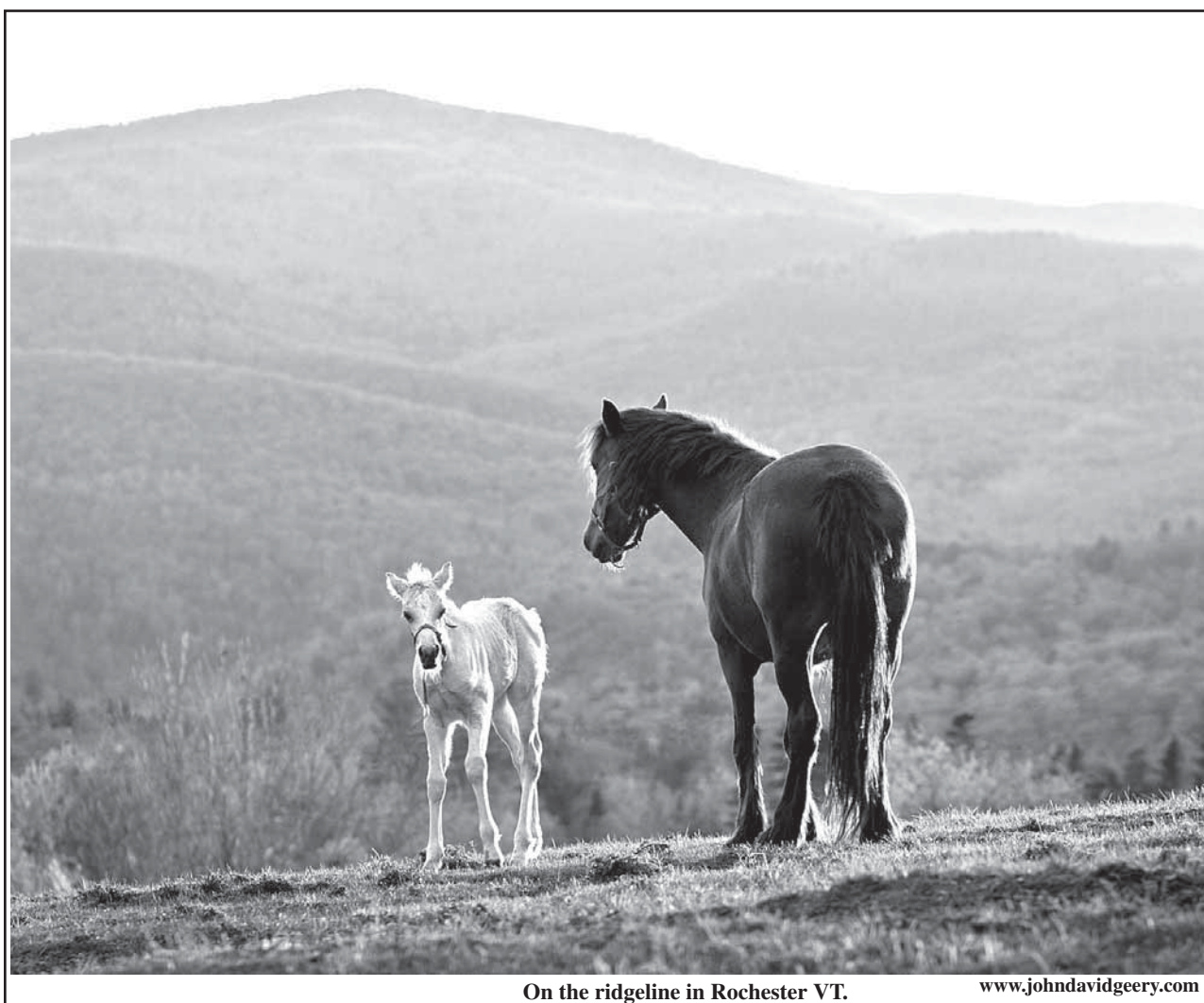
For information about the GMC Killington Section visit web.mac.com/gmckillington. For GMC membership and activities contact the Green Mountain Club at (802) 244-7037 or gmc@greenmountainclub.org.

THE WOOD

Come dog, away with my pipe and me,
You know what I mean!
Everything's green;
Odd scents in the air,
From these woods, a hare.
Down dog! Down, let him be—let him be!

Getting feet wet in damp squishy ground,
Dog, how that bird sings,
See it's fluttering wings;
It's in quite a state,
Ha! here comes it's mate!
Spring's arrived, on life's merry-go-round!

—I.D. VAN BUREN



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2011 Everything Equine—“Horses, A Family Affair”

Everything Equine at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT returns on April 30-May 1, with this year's theme of “Horses—A Family Affair.” Everything Equine, presented by CVE and the University of Vermont Extension, presents thousands of horse enthusiasts with the chance to attend seminars and workshops to learn about new science, techniques and products that benefit both horse and rider. In addition, vendors provide products and services for every level of horse owner.

Featured speakers during the weekend will include noted trainer Ann Dotoli, three-time champion reining expert David Davis, and J.C. Daudelin, a horse/rider partnership and timed event trainer and international champion. Dotoli, who teaches in Charlotte, VT and Ocala, FL, earned many championships and prestigious ribbons with ponies, junior hunters, junior jumpers and equitation. Davis is known as a champion rider, trainer and advisor, famous for having developed his system of “force free” training methods. Daudelin, of Quebec, has worked for many years with noted trainers Monte and Garry Foreman, early proponents of the “natural horsemanship” movement.

This year's Everything Equine includes a special promotion for rider comfort titled “Simple Pleasures,” highlighting the various ways in which riders can rest, recover and rejuvenate after a long day of training and riding. Also featured is a special Equine Art Exhibit. Artists in various media with a special focus on horses and horse culture will display their work.

Visit the Breed and Discipline Row sponsored by Farm Family Insurance and Blue Seal Feeds. Some of the most popular horse breeds will be housed in a special tent adjacent to the Robert E. Miller Expo Centre. Representatives of various breed associations and equine disciplines will also be on hand.

Everything Equine has become a respected resource for the latest health and equine care information through some 50 seminars and demonstrations. The indoor Poulin Grain Arena and separate Purina Mills demo pen will provide an up-close opportunity for education and interaction. Children

will enjoy the 4-H Kids Corner in the Blue Seal Blue Ribbon Pavilion, featuring activities, games and information about horses. During the two-day show, 150 vendors and exhibitors will display equipment, nutrition supplements, and equine-related supplies. A schedule of events and program is available at www.cvexpo.org.

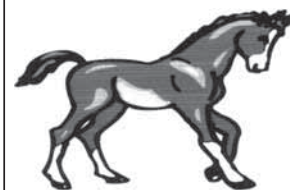
The annual “Horsin' Around” Variety Show will be presented on Sunday, May 1 at 1:30 pm. Admission is separate for the variety show and tickets are limited. This collection of riders, representing many aspects of horseback riding and training, is a crowd favorite. The musical variety revue gives a wide array of local horse enthusiasts, including many Vermont equestrians, a chance to show their creativity and appreciation for equine culture. “Horsin' Around” helps support the Vermont Farm Bureau and Vermont Horse Council.

Admission tickets to Everything Equine are \$10, and children under 5 are free with an adult. Order online at www.flyntix.org or by phone (802) 863-5966.

Everything Equine takes place at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT. For complete, show information, visit www.cvexpo.org or call (802) 878-5545.

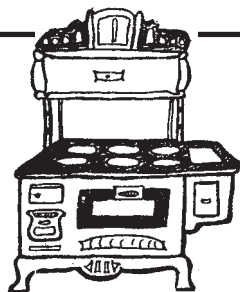


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A herd of deer comes down from the woods in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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 By grassy slope and rocky steep,
 And through the dim cathedral wood,
 Ever its upward course I keep
 Seeking that holy solitude.
 Each turn reveals a fresh delight
 Luring the soul that would be free.
 I falter not but mount each height
 Led by the white blaze on the tree.

To keep my feet from wandering
 Each step is marked with perfect care.
 For here a sign points to a spring
 Another to a vista fair.
 An arrow painted on the ledge
 Leads up the pathless mountain-cone

And on the treacherous, storm-swept ridge
 A quartz rock caps each cairn of stone.
 But always there and always white,
 Symbol of faith and surety,
 I press on boldly, ever right
 Trusting the white blaze on the tree.

And when at last the sun goes down,
 Long shadows warn of coming night,
 With confidence I'll hasten on
 Safe-guided by these emblems white.
 They'll lead me to a ferny nook
 High on the western mountain-side
 A lean-to by a purling brook,
 And there safe-sheltered I'll abide.
 With supper o'er, the fire burnt out
 On balsam boughs I'll sleep in peace,
 Grateful to him who built the hut
 And made the blazes on the trees.

—GEORGE A. PERRY
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Toe-tapping, old style New Orleans jazz standards will fill the Old Firehouse Stage in Tinmouth, VT on Saturday April 30, at 7 p.m. Z-Jazz is a 5-piece jazz group from Waterbury Center and Burlington featuring Greg Evans on guitar, Corey Beard on standup bass, Don Einhorn on drums, Larry Damon on cornet, and Dan Liptak on tenor sax. The Old Firehouse Stage is an intimate venue with awesome acoustics.

The Old Firehouse Concert Series benefits the Tinmouth Community Fund, a non-

profit supporting community projects in Tinmouth. Old Firehouse Stage is located in beautiful downtown Tinmouth right on the green. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and there is open seating. \$9 donation at the door. Delicious refreshments will be on sale.

For more information contact Colleen at (802) 414-0011 or (802) 446-3457 or grant62@vermontel.net. Visit www.tinmouthvt.org for information about the event, the Old Firehouse Music Series, or directions.



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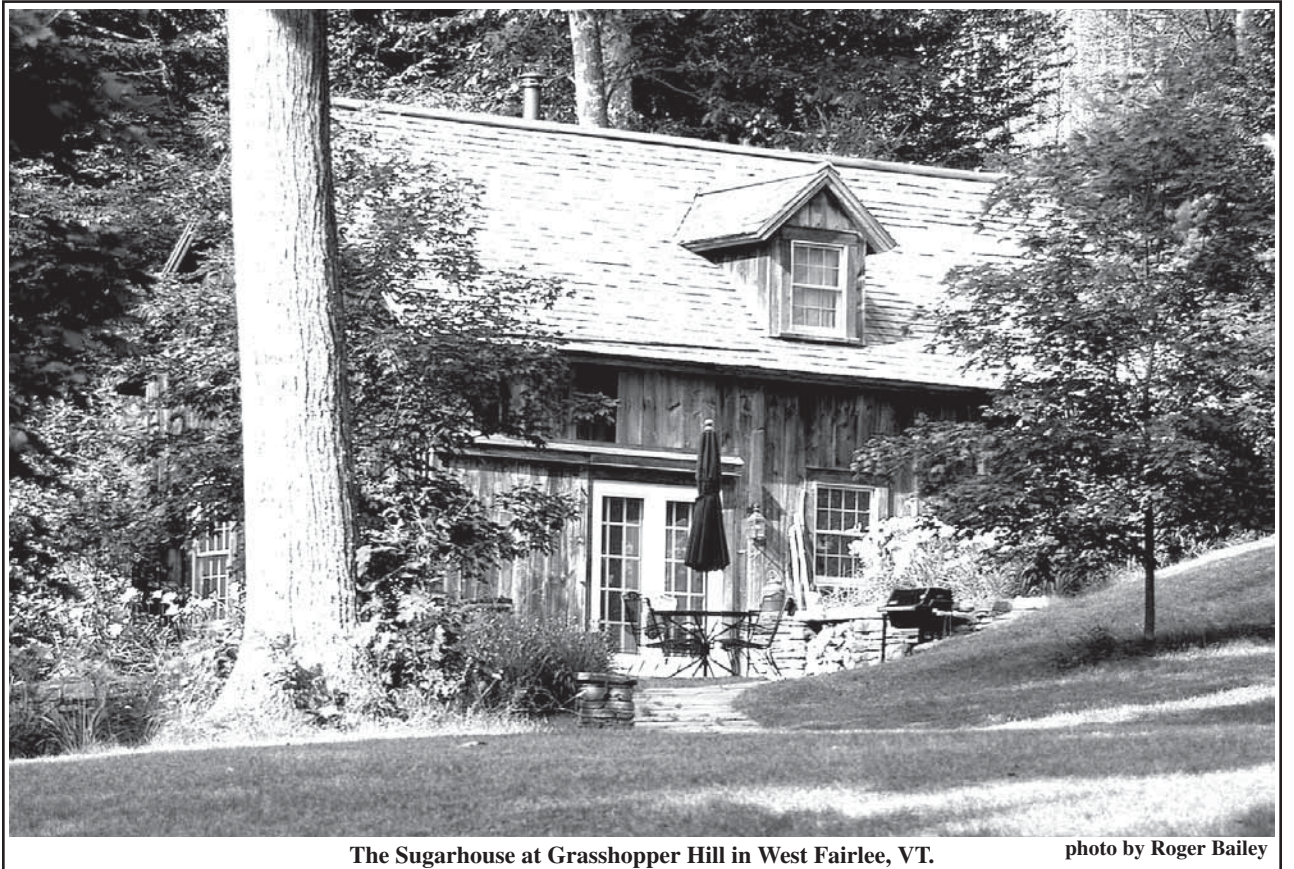
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The Sugarhouse at Grasshopper Hill, West Fairlee, Sleeps 4. Experience a vacation in a century-old sugarhouse nestled on a quiet Vermont hillside with the comfort and conveniences you expect in an exceptional guest home. When I arrived from Michigan at Grasshopper Hill in 1998 I discovered an old sugarhouse that had not been used since 1944. So what do you do with a seemingly useless farm building? Because I love old buildings and believe in restoring them for perhaps another use, I could not bear to see it continually deteriorate. I then thought it might make a nice guest home. Kind of crazy, but I liked the idea that guests could vacation in a previously working sugarhouse built about 1912. After moving the sugarhouse to a more secluded location on my 32 acres and much work, The Sugarhouse was ready for guests in 2001. It was so exciting for me to be able to offer this unique home to guests for the first time. And they came. They came from Australia to the Netherlands and from Maine to California. I hope you will consider making a reservation as many have done. Available all seasons for two-night to weekly rentals. Contact: Roger Bailey, (802) 333-4285. rkbailley@sover.net. (Listing #51)



The Sugarhouse at Grasshopper Hill in West Fairlee, VT.

photo by Roger Bailey

DORSET

Charming Cottage on 8 Acres near Skiing & Manchester. Small Gables is 1.5 miles up Mad Tom Road on a hill with fabulous views in all directions. Historically an artist's refuge. Large eat-in cook's kitchen for cooking & entertaining with Garland stove, dishwasher, microwave, coffee maker; 3 bedrooms (1 queen, 1 full, 2 twin beds), 3.5 baths, sleeps 8. Centennial living room is furnished with 19th c. feel, but family comfort, including woodstove. Northwest sitting room with French doors has TV/DVD, card tables, tons of books & queen-size sofa bed for extra sleeping. Fully equipped with sheets, towels, staples included. Two porches (north and west), one screened with wicker furniture. Southeast deck with bbq and outdoor dining. Beautiful wildflower gardens in front & back. Brook on 9-acre property. Barn, used as the garage with studio in back, and a former sugaring house (active sugaring nearby). Lots of sugar maples, stream and pond in yard. Hiking trails abound—walk down the road to connection for the Appalachian trail. 1.5 miles to Rt. 7 and 5 miles to Manchester. 25-minute drive to Bromley, 35-minute drive to Stratton. Easy drive from New York. Available weekends and weekly for skiing, horse show, hiking, foliage, and fishing. Contact: Patricia Marker, patohara1@verizon.net. (Listing #1541)

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dison County, or canoe East Creek (a waterway protected by Nature Conservancy). Open year round: weekend to monthly rentals. Contact: Jean Audet, Vermont Equine Tours, (802) 948-2713. jaudet@shoreham.net. (Listing #234)

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SOUTH WOODSTOCK

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entrance, garage, fully equipped kitchen, dining room, living room, washer and dryer, and satellite TV. Nightly rates. You can snow shoe and cross country ski right from the farmhouse or ski at any one of our three local ski areas. We like to have folks visit our new traditional-looking sugarhouse across the road from the house where we boil from about 4000 taps and make on average 1500 gallons a year. Nearby are historical sites, a farm museum and other attractions; or perhaps you'll choose to relax in the quietness with a good book. We are minutes from Woodstock village and a half hour from Killington. Contact: Mary McCuaig, (802) 457-3779. (Listing #579)

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

For information on more Vermont vacation rentals, visit www.vermontproperty.com, write Vermont Vacation Rentals, PO Box 1564, Montpelier, VT 05601 or call (802) 229-2433.

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Putting Vernal Pools On the Map

By Steve Faccio

Conservation Biologist
Vermont Center for Ecostudies

For many, a chorus of clucking Wood Frogs is a welcome sign of spring, one more seemingly small event marking the end of a long winter. I think it also represents an ecological connection between a group of terrestrial amphibians and the small, isolated breeding pools on which they depend—the symbolic, albeit quacky, voice of a keystone ecosystem unique to the glaciated Northeast.

In recent years, scientists and naturalists have become aware of the incredible diversity and productivity that exists in vernal pools. Through this awareness comes the understanding that these pockets of diversity play an extremely important role on the ecological landscape, offering essential wildlife habitat to a wide range of species. In fact, many ecologists consider vernal pools to be a “keystone” ecosystem; that is, an ecosystem whose effects on the surrounding landscape are much greater than would be expected based on their size. Vernal pools fit this definition because of their diverse biological communities, substantial productivity of insect and amphibian biomass, and significance as “stepping stones” for dispersing individuals.

Vernal Pools are seasonal wetlands, filling with snowmelt and spring rains, but often drying up by late summer. This cycle of flooding and drying, which prohibits permanent fish populations, is the key ecological feature that allows successful breeding of the wildlife species that are adapted to these unique conditions. Many of these species are considered “High” and “Medium” priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need as outlined in the Vermont Wildlife Action Plan. These include Jefferson, Blue-spotted, Spotted, and Four-toed salamanders, and vernal pool-dependant invertebrates such as fairy shrimp, and several freshwater snails and dragonflies. In addition, vernal pools are also used for feeding and resting by a wide variety of other animals, from Spring Peepers and Grey Treefrogs, to Barred Owls and Wood Ducks, shrews and bats, to Spotted Turtles and Garter Snakes.

While most vernal pool-breeding amphibians can also breed successfully in other fishless wetlands—including beaver ponds, shallow edges of swamps and marshes, and man-made ponds - the significance of vernal pools to the persistence of these amphibian populations cannot be overstated. Throughout the state, the loss of a single vernal pool in any given area could easily result in the demise of the local Wood Frog population, along with any of the pool-breeding



Wet spring woodlands and warm sunny fields invite exploration in Danville, VT. photo by Jeff Gold

salamanders that breed there. Additionally, invertebrates like fairy shrimp, which spend their entire lives in a single pool, will undoubtedly be extirpated. Moreover, if we think of vernal pools as islands in a sea of upland forest, we see that groups of pools form stepping stones of hospitable habitat along which wetland-dependent wildlife may travel. Animals may skip from pool to pool in search of more suitable habitat elsewhere. If the wetland mosaic of pools in an upland matrix is destroyed, wildlife populations may be isolated and more vulnerable to changes in their surroundings.

Given that vernal pools are important ecosystems, and that without them we would surely lose a significant component of our natural heritage, it follows that efforts to conserve them should be a top priority. They are wetlands after all, and wetlands, as we know, are protected under a variety of rules and regulations. However, the characteristics that make them so valuable ecologically (small, isolated, and ephemeral),

also make them easy to ignore by regulators and difficult to locate remotely. At the federal level, the Army Corps of Engineers can only claim jurisdiction over vernal pools for projects which have impacts to larger, non-isolated wetlands. And while the new Vermont wetland rules adopted in 2010 specifically protect vernal pools that provide amphibian breeding habitat, you first need to know where they are in order to protect them. But most vernal pools do not appear on National Wetland Inventory maps—which only identify wetlands larger than about 1 acre in size—and no statewide map of vernal pool distribution exists.

In response to these short-comings, VCE launched the Vermont Vernal Pool Mapping Project (VPMP) in 2009. In collaboration with ecologist Michael Lew-Smith of Arrowwood Environmental, VPMP maps potential vernal pools throughout Vermont and field-verifies the presence of a sub-set of potential pools using a corps of volunteers. In the process, we are developing a GIS layer of potential and known vernal pools, as well as a database populated with biological and physical attributes of each verified pool.

Potential vernal pools are first identified using paired, color infrared aerial photographs, examined using a stereoscope, which provides a three dimensional view of the landscape, facilitating the identification of small pools. Still, the mapping process is tedious and time consuming, as each potential vernal pool location must be transferred to digital orthophotographs in GIS software. Partially funded by a State Wildlife Grant, the multi-year mapping project, (now in its final year) is being accomplished in phases by dividing the state roughly into thirds based on regional planning districts. During the previous two years we focused on northern and central Vermont, while in 2011 we are targeting the southern counties of the state.

Conservation begins with knowing where on the landscape a particular resource occurs. Without that critical piece of information, it is easy for something to slip through the regulatory cracks, making it more vulnerable to loss or degradation. Once completed, this project will provide federal and state agencies, as well as municipalities, with information that will greatly improve conservation planning, help protect species that depend upon vernal pools, and preserve the ecological values associated with these critical, but often overlooked, wetland habitats.

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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



12th Annual Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival

On the Connecticut River

Where can you learn about barred owls and bats, see a wolf and a wallaby, and enjoy a day outside along the beautiful Connecticut River? The Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival of course!

For the past 12 years people have been celebrating spring and wildlife on the first Sunday in May, this year May 1st. This festival includes nature presentations, activities and programs featuring live animals, guided nature walks, crafts, tasty food, workshops, birding and much more.

Guided nature walks, nature presentations, live music, and workshops are some of the fun activities planned.

The event brings together more than 25 outdoor, wildlife, environmental and conservation groups from all over New England and beyond.

Naturalist and story teller Brian "Fox" Ellis as well as author and garden designer Henry Homeyer will be giving presentations.

"Wildlife Encounters Zoo" will be there all day with a diversity of live animals from many continents. Other presenters include Vermont Institute for Natural Science, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, The Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, The International Wolf Center, Valley Quest, Brian Ellis, storyteller, and many more.

New this year The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and

Wildlife Refuge's Mobile Visitors Center. The Watershed on Wheels (WoW) Express is a traveling exhibit designed to engage children of all ages in the beauty and wonder of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, which comprises the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River Watershed. The WoW Express features seven portable, four-sided kiosks and one interactive watershed table. Each kiosk employs interactive panels, games or computer screens to creatively engage children in the topics of biodiversity, wetlands, bald eagles, migratory birds, endangered species, migratory fish, food webs, and invasive species.

For the early risers, a 7 a.m. guided bird walk is planned. The rest of the day's activities are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday May 1st, Rain or shine. Come for an hour or stay all day.

The suggested donation is \$2.00 for an individual and \$5.00 for a family.

Herrick's Cove is a beautiful spot on the Connecticut River and the perfect setting for this festival that celebrates the wonders of wildlife. Herricks Cove is located just off of Route 5 less than three miles north of Bellows Falls, VT.

Co-sponsored by Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, The Nature Museum at Grafton, and Vermont Fish and Wildlife. Partially funded by TransCanada,



A saw whet owl visits the Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival.

photo by Julie Waters

HB Plumbing and Heating, Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Luzenac America, Vermont Country Store, and Eagle Optics.

For more information please contact Alma Beals at madalma13@yahoo.com, or call (802) 722-3355. homepages.erver.net/~mwals/herrick10.pdf



Children play the fishing game at Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival.



Jim Andrews, a herpetologist who works with the VT Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, shows a snapping turtle to visitors at Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival.



Two bald eagles take in the view from the top of a pine.

Planting a Wildlife Garden: A TogetherGreen Volunteer Day

Join us at the Audubon Center in Huntington, VT on May 1 from 1-4 p.m. as we install a wildlife garden.

Work alongside Vermont Certified Horticulturist Heidi Glesmann to turn the soil, sow the seeds, and plant perennial flowers and shrubs. Learn about native and ornamental plant choices and the wildlife that will be attracted.

Snacks and TogetherGreen hats, bags and t-shirts will be provided. Pre-registration is required. Call (802) 434-3068. Learn more at www.togethergreen.org.

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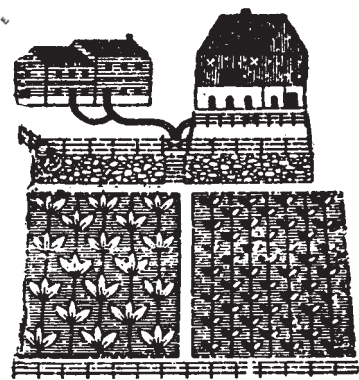
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Vermont Map

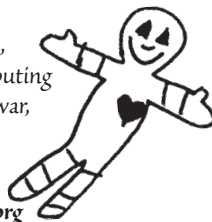


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Their heartaches, joys, their smiles or tears;
I only know that every day
Sweet posies bloom along my way.

I care not for the meteor flight
Of years to come; I fear no night;
I only know that every day
Sweet posies bloom along my way.

I seek not wealth, or fame, or love,
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I only know that every day
Sweet posies bloom along my way.

—WILLIAM BRADFORD DICKSON
1932

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

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

BERLIN. West African Dance. Dance instructor Pape Ba from Senegal teaches a variety of dances to live drumming. A weekly dance event every Wednesday from 6:30-8 pm. All levels are welcome. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org.

BENNINGTON. Exhibit: Founding Documents—Commemorating the Settlement of Bennington. Archival documents will be on view. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. info@benningtonmuseum.org. www.benningtonmuseum.org. *Through May 30.*

BRANDON. Chess Club every Sunday at 12:30 pm. French Roundtable every Saturday at 9:30 am. Ball & Chain Cafe at the Briggs Carriage Bookstore, 16 Park St. (802) 247-0050. info@briggscarriage.com. www.briggscarriage.com. snakemountainbluegrass.com.

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

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

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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 or www.postoilsolutions.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Exhibits at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Open 11-5. Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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

BURLINGTON. Play: *Charlotte's Web*. The Saints and Poets Production Company presents *Charlotte's Web*. E.B. White's classic children's story about friendship brought to life with a combination of actors, puppets and live music. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Thurs, Fri, Sat at 7 pm and Sat and Sun at 2 pm. Off Center for the Dramatic Arts, 294 North Winooski Ave. For tickets call (802) 863-5966. info@saintsandpoetsproductions.org. www.flynntix.org. *April 28 through May 8.*

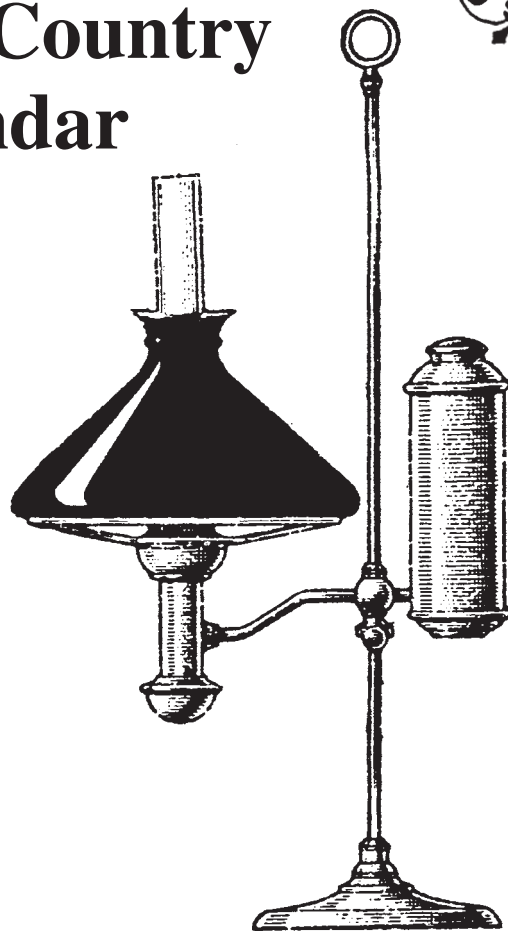
BURLINGTON. First Friday Art Walk. Galleries, studios, and interesting venues all around town. Map available. Free admission. 5-8 pm. (802) 264-4839. www.artmapburlington.com.

BURLINGTON. Exhibit. Works by Kate Donnelly, exploring the threads of family stories. Free. Fri 12-8, Sat 12-6, Sun 12 am - 4 pm or by appointment. 215 College Gallery, 215 College St. (802) 863-3662. www.215collegegallery.com. *April 22 through May 22.*

CASTLETON. Exhibit: *Arcadia Now—Contemporary Art in Country*. 15 artists explore the idea of "the country." Free admission, public welcome. Open Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm. Christine Price Gallery at Castleton State College, 86 Seminary St. (802) 468-5611. www.arcadianow.net. *Through May 15.*

CHESTER. Monthly Public Astronomy Meetings for the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group. Second Tuesday of the month—free to the public at Whiting Library. September-May, 7 pm: June-August, 8 pm. Star parties and other events. For membership and information contact the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group, PO Box 424, Chester VT 05143. www.sovera.org.

CHESTER. High Tea at Inn Victoria. A handsomely dressed gentleman wearing a top hat, white gloves and the formal attire of the Victorian period welcomes you into the parlor for afternoon savories, sweets, fruit, and a variety of teas. \$19.99 per person. Open to the public by reservation on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3-4:30 pm and by appointment. Inn Victoria, 321 Main St. (802) 875-4288. innkeeper@innvictoria.com. www.innvictoria.com.



CHESTER. Activities at Gassetts Grange Hall. Craft workshops, Thursdays 2-4 pm, everyone welcome, free refreshments and coffee, info: Bonnie, (802) 875-3500. Bingo Thursdays 6-9 pm. Dance and monthly community breakfast buffets first Saturdays. Monthly Country Jamboree May 8, 1-4 pm—this month it's a benefit for Max Allen Emery. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For more information call Dave at (802) 875-2637.

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

DANBY. Mountain View Ranch & Sun Bowl Ranch. Horse-drawn wagon rides, all-season mountain & meadow trail rides, horseback riding lessons, special events. John & Letitia Sisters, 502 Easy St. Call to reserve. (802) 293-5837. riding@mountainviewranch.biz. www.mountainviewranch.biz.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

LONDONDERRY. World's Tiniest Art Show. Enjoy miniatures painted in watercolor, oil, or pastel. See small works in multi-media art as well including cut paper, fiber, and broken china. Free admission. Open weekdays 1-4 pm, Sat 10 am - 2 pm. Louvre of Londonderry Studio/Gallery, Mountain Marketplace, Rts. 11 & 100. (802) 824-6555. kim@kimraymurals.com. www.kimraymurals.com. *Through May 26.*

Let's Go Camping!



Whether you take to the woods for a week or just a day trip, Vermont campgrounds provide easy access to woods, mountains, lakes, and outdoor fun. Here are a few of the many destinations (and don't forget the state park campgrounds, too!)

ARLINGTON. **Camping on the Battenkill.** On Rt. 7A. (802) 375-6663. Mid-April - Mid-Oct. Over 100 sites. Quiet family camping on a scenic relaxing trout stream. Rental units. Fishing, swimming. Open and wooded sites.

ASCUTNEY. **Running Bear Campground.** On Rt. 5. (802) 674-6417. Open all year. Over 100 sites. Rural, hilly, shady pine and open. Recreation, free hot showers.

BENNINGTON. **Greenwood Lodge and Campsites.** Enter at Prospect Ski Mountain, Rt. 9, Woodford (east of Bennington). (802) 442-2547. May 20 - Oct 23. Rustic lodge/hostel and 40 mostly wooded campsites. Adjacent to National Forest.

E. DUMMERSTON. **Brattleboro North KOA.** 3½ mi. N. of I-91 exit 3 on Rt. 5. (802) 254-5908, 1-800-562-5909. Mid-April - Oct. 42 spacious grassy sites. Swimming pool. Motel cottages.

GAYSVILLE. **White River Valley Camping.** May 1 - Oct. 15. (802) 234-9115. Rt. 107. 102 sites. Whirlpool spa, snack bar, tubing. Only campground on the White River.

RANDOLPH CENTER. **Lake Champagne Campground.** (802) 728-5293. Rt. 66. May - Oct 15. 123 sites. Private lake, day use.

ST. JOHNSBURY. **Moose River Campground.** Jct. U.S. Rt. 2 and Vt. Rt. 18, 3 miles east of St. J. (802) 748-4334. May 1 - Oct 15. 50 sites. Facilities for big rigs.

SPRINGFIELD. **Tree Farm Campground.** On Skitchewaog Trail. (802) 885-2889. Open all year. 118 sites. Wonderful setting, on a 40-acre mature pine plantation. All season recreation.

THETFORD. **Rest 'n Nest Campground.** (802) 785-2997. Apr. 15 - Oct. 15. From Jct. I-91 (Exit 14) & Hwy. #113 go 200 ft. E. on Hwy. #113 then ½ mi. N. on Latham Rd. 90 sites. 25 wooded acres. Full facilities.

This is just a sampling of Vermont private campgrounds. To order the 2011 Vermont Campground Guide write Vermont Campground Association, 45 State Street #368, Montpelier, VT 05602. www.campvermont.com.

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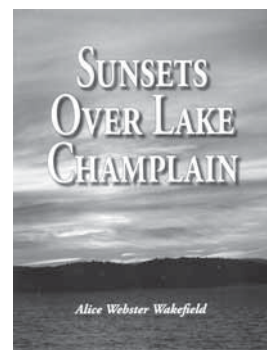
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(Ongoing events continued)

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Exhibits, classes, lectures, and workshops. Fletcher Farm School, 611 Rt. 103 South. For information or to request a catalog, contact (802) 228-8770. www.fletcherfarm.org.

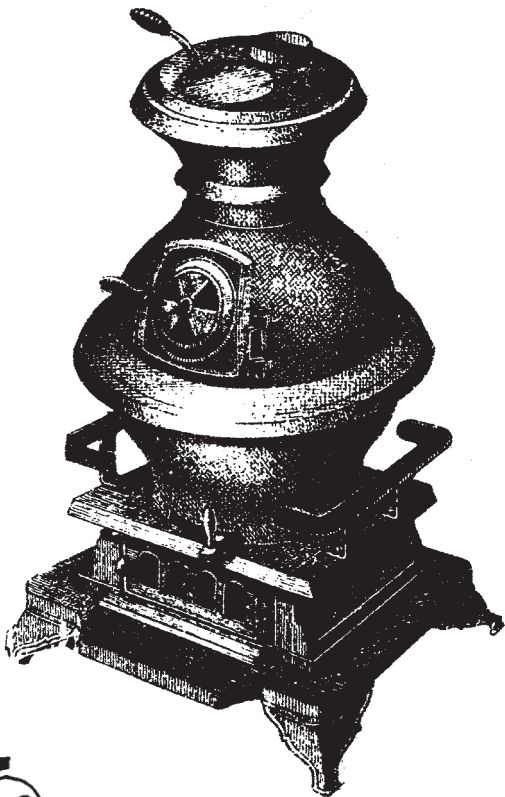
MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Arts Center Exhibitions. Gallery, special events, concerts, gift shop, and café. SVAC, Yester House Gallery, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Historic Hildene. Tour Robert Todd Lincoln's mansion. Special activities, lectures, bird walks, museum store. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Tickets: \$13 adults, \$5 youth under 14, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

MANCHESTER. Celebration of Peonies at Historic Hildene. Come and see the blooms during the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June when the Formal Garden signals the beginning of the season with 1,000's of peony blooms—many of them from the original 1907 plants. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Admission. Historic Hildene, Rt. 7A, south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene. www.hildene.org.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Sampler Tours. Explore everything unique to our area with a local guide in an eight-passenger tour vehicle. Visit an abandoned marble quarry, an experimental forest preserve, villages, an alpaca plantation, a one-of-a-kind general store, a hidden waterfall, stunning mountain & valley vistas. Fee, reservations required. Daily 1-4 pm. Tour starts at Adams Park, 357 Center Hill Rd. (802) 362-4997. *May 15 through September 23.*

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Arts Walk. Join us on the second Friday of every month. Look for the pink boot at designated locations!. More than 40 venues will be displaying art. Stores will remain open, becoming galleries displaying the work of dozens of area artists. 5-7 pm. Free admission. Downtown Middlebury. (802) 388-7951 x 2. www.middleburyartswalk.com.



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

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

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

PUTNEY. Coyote's Path Wilderness Program. Monthly nature immersion program for ages 6 to 16. All day, one Saturday per month. (802) 254-5800. www.ifnaturallearning.com. *Through June 4.*

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards Farm Store. Open all year with local apples and cider. Summertime pick-your-own, home baked pies and baked goods, and more. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtoorchards.com.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store, children's summer nature camp, online nature blog, wildlife rehabilitation center. 2nd Annual Art on a Rain Barrel Festival, May 14. Open 7 days a week, 10 am - 5 pm. 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.

RANDOLPH. Art Exhibit: Art Shapes Vermont. A perennially popular exhibit from area schools. Thurs 4-6 pm, Sat & Sun 1-3 pm, or by appointment. The Chandler Gallery, Chandler Arts Center, 73 Main St. (802) 431-0204. outreach@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org. *April 2 - May 15.*

RANDOLPH. PAWS for Reading. Families looking for a fun, friendly, furry experience are invited to visit the library. Specially trained owners and their specially trained dogs will be here the first Saturday of each month, to share a relaxing reading experience with interested children. Kimball Public Library, 67 Main St. (802) 728-5073. www.kimballlibrary.org.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Turkey Hill Farm. Farmer's Kitchen cooking classes. Farm skills workshops. "Moo-tique" farm store, raw milk micro-dairy, pasture-raised meats, local farm products, and books. Spacious farm-stay apartment for short-term farm stays. Chapter meetings for the Weston A. Price Foundation. Call for schedules or visit website. Stuart and Margaret Osha, 55 Turkey Hill Rd. (802) 728-7064, (802) 431-3028. localfood@turkeyhillfarmvt.com. turkeyhillfarmvt.com.

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

RUTLAND. Fourth Annual Winter Farmers Market. The downtown Rutland Farmers Market is indoors till April 30! Over 40 vendors, selling everything from fresh salad greens to locally-grown apples. Local grass-fed meats, artisan cheeses, freshly baked organic breads, honey, jellies & jams, pickles, maple syrup & maple products, hot foods, wines, wools, glasswork and jewelry—a great place to shop, eat and visit! Prepared foods. Live entertainment. Come have lunch and meet your friends! 10 am to 2 pm every Saturday through April. 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. *Through April 30.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers Market. Opening for the season May 7. Over 80 Saturday vendors, and a dozen Tuesday vendors. Fresh spring greens, produce, grass-fed meats, artisan cheeses, freshly baked organic breads, honey, jellies & jams, maple syrup & maple products, hot foods, wines, wool, glasswork and jewelry—a great place to shop, eat and visit! Entertainment. 10 am to 2 pm every Saturday and Tuesday. Located downtown in Depot Park. For more info call Greg Cox (802) 683-4606. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

RUTLAND. Art Exhibit. Human = Landscape: Aesthetics of a Carbon Constrained Future. Wed - Sat, 10-5; Sun 12-4. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org. *April 22 - June 18.*

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

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center/Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings. 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. 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 Street Arts. Concerts, workshops, lectures, and classes for adults, teens, and children. Something for every interest. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Foreign Language Potluck Suppers. Spanish, French, and German conversations and food. Free and open to the public. 6-8 pm, Main Street Arts. Call for schedule. (802) 869-2960. msa@sover.net. www.MainStreetArts.org.

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

SOUTH WALLINGFORD. 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 Colter's, 8 Lincoln St. For more information please call (802) 885-9521.

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

ST. ALBANS. Sweeten Your Palette—A Sappy Art Show. An exhibition of Vermont and New England art with a Vermont maple theme. Free admission. Gallery open Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Village Frame Shoppe & Gallery, 72 North Main St. (802) 524-3699. vfsgallery@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/pictureframer. *Through May 10.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Open Mon-Sat 10 am - 5 pm and Sun 11 am - 4 pm. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (802) 748-2700. Info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

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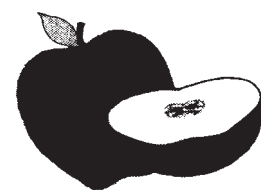
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Country Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Public Sitting & Walking Meditation. Free meditation instruction is available at most of these times. Sun 9 am - 12 noon, Tues 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.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Co-op's First Friday Celebration. Live music by local artists, samples of local foods, 5% off all purchases for every shopper. 4-6 pm at the Upper Valley Food Co-op. The First Friday of every month is celebrated by businesses in White River Junction. For more information call Kye Cochran at (802) 295-5804. Kye@uppervalleyfood.coop. www.uppervalleyfood.coop.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Listen Community Dinner. Free nutritious meals served 5-6 pm every Monday and Wednesday. Take-home available. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave. (603) 448-4553.

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

WINDSOR. Living Show House Tours. Visitors are invited to see Juniper Hill Inn—a guilded age mansion. Guests will stay in beautiful rooms and use common rooms and gardens completed by top designers, Tues evening thru Sat morning, Sun 1-5 pm, Mon & Tues 10 am - 3 pm. Admission. Juniper Hill Inn, 153 Pembroke Rd. (802) 674-5273 x dna. paulcarlson@newenglandshowhouse.com. www.newenglandshowhouse.com. *May 28 through September 5.*

WOODSTOCK. Contradance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. Vegetarian dinner 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance at 6 pm; potluck dessert at 7:30 pm; evening contradance 8-10:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation, under 18 free. Don't bother cooking, you can just come and dance! At the Little Theater, 54 River St. For more info call Steve at (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. *Every third Friday.*

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

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Open for the season April 30. Spring Farm Festival April 30 & May 1. Pre-season opening Family Farm Day on April 23. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

RANDOLPH. 17th Annual Mud Season Variety Show. Join us for the best in local comedy, dance and music. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. tickets@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org. *Also April 16.*

TINMOUTH. Old Firehouse Stage Concert. Banjo Dan and the Sky Blue Boys. 7:30 pm. Refreshments. Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 414-0011. Tinmouthvt.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. 10 am - 2 pm. First Baptist Church at 601 East Main St. For more information contact Sarah Sanfilippo. (802) 688-7210. info@walloomsac.org. www.walloomsac.org.

EAST THETFORD. Cedar Circle Farm Tour. Cat Buxton will lead us on an hour-long walking tour of the farm's operations and the steps it takes to rouse the farm after a New England winter! Free. 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Cedar Circle Farm, 225 Pavillion Rd. (603) 643-6626 x 102. noradoyle-burr@uvlt.org. www.uvlt.org.

KILLINGTON. Sunshine Daydream Festival—A Tribute to the Grateful Dead. Jerry-followers as well as those who simply enjoy soulful music will find an all-day party plus classic New England spring skiing and riding at Killington. Bands play Grateful Dead covers during the day. Held at the K-1 Base Area, Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd. (802) 422-6200. info@killington.com. www.killington.com.

MONTPELIER. Capital City Winter Farmers Market. Produce, meats, cheese, eggs, crafts, baked goods, and prepared foods to snack on! 10 am - 2 pm at the Montpelier High School, Bailey Ave. (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

ST. ALBANS. The 45th Annual Vermont Maple Festival. "It's Always Sweeter in Vermont in the Spring!" Sugarhouse tours, exhibits, maple buffet, entertainment, pancake breakfasts, crafts, antiques, talent & fiddlers shows, cooking contests, carnival, facepainting, grand parade. 10 am - 6 pm with some evening events. (802) 524-5800. www.vtmaplefestival.org. *Also April 17.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Flavors of the Valley. The greater Upper Valley's premier tasting, informational, and buying event for locally grown foods. 11 am - 4 pm. Hartford High School. (802) 291-9100. debbie@vitalcommunities.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

SAXTONS RIVER. Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop. Instructor Heidi Lauricella will teach the traditional thousand-year-old Ukrainian craft of pysanky. For adults and teens. Fee: \$21 including materials. 6:30-8:30 pm. Sponsored by Main Street Arts. To register call (802) 869-2960. www.MainStreetArts.org.



FRIDAY, APRIL 22

BRATTLEBORO. The Mabel Show. An ancient folktale brought to life. The story of a young girl's rite of passage journey through the forest, in search of the witch Baba Sova. Live music, fantastical costumes, digital art, and acro-dance in a show for family audiences (young children should be warned about the witch). Fri 7:30 pm & Sat 2 & 7:30 pm. Admission. Luminz Studio, 74 Cotton Mill Hill, #346. (802) 257-0554. *Also April 23.*

CHESTER. American Girl High Tea. A young ladies' event with a focus on etiquette, formal dress and Victorian era history with an aim to encourage and inspire the love of reading. Fee. Inn Victoria, 321 Main St. (802) 875-2504. dillard@yourplaceinvermont.com. www.InnVictoria.com. *Also April 23.*

CHESTER. Open Mic. Come to listen and play! Every 2nd and 4th Friday. 8 pm at the Stone Hearth Inn, 698 VT Rt. 11 West. (802) 875-2325. www.stonehearthinnvermont.com.

MONTPELIER. All-Ages Poetry Slam with Geof Hewitt. Perform your poem (5 minutes or less) before an audience of your friends and neighbors. Free. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. Sallen@kellogg-hubbard.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Sponsored by the Long Trail School. Free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

BERLIN. "Homegrown in the Tradition" Montpelier Contra Dance. Music by our own house band of friends and neighbors. Dessert potluck at the break. All levels of dancing welcome. No partner needed. Bring soft-soled shoes to save the floor. Admission. 8-11 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org. *Continues every other 4th Saturday.*

HUNTINGTON. Volunteer Work Day at the Birds of Vermont Museum. Work indoors or out. Do windows, clean nest boxes, work on trails, prepare materials for visitors and school groups, add bird sighting data to online databases, and much more. Lunch will be provided. Come for an hour or all day! Rain date for outdoor projects: May 7. 10 am - 4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. Please let us know you're coming by calling or e-mailing. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org/events.php. museum@birdsofvermont.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(April 23 continued)

LEBANON, NH. 50th Annual Five-Colleges Book Sale. Over 35,000 volumes. 9 am – 5 pm. Lebanon High School. www.five-collegesbooksale.org. Also April 24.

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

NORWICH. Contradance. Music by Forks of Nature, a twin-fiddle band out of Boston. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners welcome. Clean, soft-soled shoes only. Admission \$8, under 16 free, over 60 by donation. 8 pm. Tracy Hall. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu.

RUTLAND. Big Flicks at the Paramount. *The Ten Commandments* starring Charleston Heston. Adults: \$6, 12 & under: \$4. 3 pm & 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

SHELBURNE. Sheep Shearing Clinic. Hands-on basics of sheep shearing in a day-long workshop with professional sheep shearer, Chet Parsons. Fee: \$125 for shearing; \$50 for lectures & observation. Sponsored by UVM Extension. To register call (802) 524-6501. 9 am – 3 pm at Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. For info call (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

WOODSTOCK. Family Day at Billings Farm & Museum. The Farm will featuring family-centered programs with the farm's lambs, chicks, and calves, plus heirloom garden activities and wagon rides. Admission. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

LEBANON, NH. 50th Annual Five-Colleges Book Sale. Half-price day. Over 35,000 volumes. Noon – 4:30 pm. Lebanon High School. www.five-collegesbooksale.org.

NORWICH. English Dance on Sunday Afternoon. Calling by Chris Levey, music by Trip to Norwich (Carol Compton, Thal Aylward, and friends). All dances taught, no partner needed, all are welcome! Clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes only (or socks). Bring refreshments to share at the break. Admission \$7, \$4 under age 25. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 3-6 pm at Tracy Hall. For more information call Chris at (802) 785-4121.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Lilac Pruning Workday. Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator will give a quick review of proper lilac pruning techniques. More experienced pruners pair up with "green" pruners to help beautify the Horticultural Farm's lilac collection in time for the May 22nd Bloomtime Festival. 9 am – 12 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Perennial Garden Workday. Help Brian Vaughan, Perennial Garden Curator, "wake-up" the Perennial Garden at the UVM Horticultural Farm. Help clean up the collection in time for our May 22nd Bloomtime Festival. 11 am – 2 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Easter Bunny Express Train Ride. Great fun, egg hunt, and chocolate bunnies! Enjoy an hour and a half round trip train ride from White River Junction to Thetford and return. Be on the look out for the Easter Bunny who will board the train for Easter fun. An egg hunt will follow upon return to the White River Junction train station. Bring a basket to collect your eggs! Admission. Easter Sunday 10:30 am. 102 Railroad Row. (800) 707-3530. dmurphy@vrs.us.com www.rails-vt.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

BURLINGTON. Science and Stories: Mud! ECHO is celebrating Vermont's fifth season. We will read muddy stories, do a muddy craft and have lots of muddy fun! Free with admission to ECHO. 11 am at ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (877) 324-6386. www.echovermont.org. Through April 29.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

CHESTER. Poetry Discussion Series. Michael Palma leads a discussion of the poetry of W.B. Yeats on four Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. Free. Misty Valley Books, on the Green. (802) 875-3400. www.mvbooks.com.

RUTLAND. Performance: Brian Regan, Comedian. Tickets \$39.50-\$59.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

SAXTONS RIVER. Program: Suspended Worlds—Vermont's Painted Theater Curtains. Christine Hadsel discusses Vermont's painted theater curtains and local variety shows in Vermont before World War I, focusing on Charles Henry and his family troupe. A Vermont Humanities Council program. Free. 7 pm. Main Street Arts, 37 Main St. (802) 463-4270.

SHELBURNE. Educators' Workshop: Sowing a Reading Garden. Cultivate literacy lessons for your students while spending a late afternoon in the garden. We'll help with spring planting and focus on merging reading and writing with garden science. Fee: \$50 includes materials and light fare. For info call (802) 985-0327. 4-7 pm at Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. To register call (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Grammy-winning vocalist Angelique Kidjo. Tickets \$37/\$16. 7 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Spring Sing 2011. Hosted by the Rockapellas. Tickets \$10. 8 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

SPRINGFIELD. Program: More than Books—Libraries, Community, Historic Preservation. Museum Scholar Bill Hosely traces almost 200 years in American library practice with a special focus on New England. As a museum scholar, preservationist and photographer, Hosely has visited hundreds of municipal, historic and specialty research libraries. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 7 pm. Springfield Town Library, 43 Main St. (802) 885-3108. Springfieldprograms@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

POULTNEY. George Jones Lecture Series. Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Jones in East Poultney. Jones was the publisher of the New York Times. The United Baptist Church, the Poultney Historical Society and The EducationWorks will be presenting three lectures in 2011. The first, on April 29, is with Dr. Andre Fleshe, Castleton State College, History Dept., about the period when Jones, as publisher of NY Times, helped bring down Boss Tweed and the Tammany Hall Ring. Admission by donation. At the United Baptist Church, On the Green. (802) 287-9244. georgejones200@gmail.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Myra Flynn with guest appearance by Gregory Douglass. Tickets \$25, includes light refreshments. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Passages at the Paramount. Bulgarian violinist Bella Hristova performs. A violin student since the age of six, she is currently studying with Jaime Laredo at Indiana University. Tickets \$15/\$10. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

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My Mother & Me

by Elisabeth Doren

What do I remember of my mother? What don't I remember!

I was born in 1904 and she died in 1947 and it seems to me that for the years I was with her, except for the first two or three, I can remember every day of our lives together. But, of course, that is only my impression.

We were farmers, and in our early years were without electricity, central heating, telephone, running water, radio, television, automobile and other culture props that became available later.

Did that make my life dull? By no means. In addition to the regular farm activities, which were mighty interesting, there were the spectaculars my mother produced—like the herd of six little Shetland ponies she and my father brought home one Christmas.

I was eight and had been longing for a pony. I was overcome with joy and gratitude, but timidly asked her when she tucked me into bed that night why, when I wanted one pony, she had gotten six.

To my surprise, she said, "but how many children are there in our family?" I replied, "Why, six, of course," and was a little chagrined at my own obtuseness.

She got tents and other equipment and took us camping at a time when no one else was doing that sort of thing. They called us gypsies, and I was rather elated because it seemed to me that those people led an envious sort of life.

How well I remember the first night of that first camping trip! They had hauled us

with our equipment to the shore of a nearby lake, sent the team back to the farm with the hired man, and rowed us over to a small wooded island.

They put up the big 9 by 12 foot tent, but found that the soil was too shallow to accommodate the bed system my mother had concocted of forked sticks driven into the ground to support a framework covered with canvas. Since it wasn't possible to drive the sticks into the ground, the island being mostly solid rock, it looked like no bed for the night. Was my mother daunted? Not a bit of it. She sent my father and older brother over to the mainland shore to cut balsam boughs—not spruce, as they would prickle. They came back with the boat loaded with fragrant springy boughs, and our beds were laid on the best springs one could wish for.

We were tucked in a little later than usual on our makeshift beds on a lonely island, cut off from the familiar farmhouse, and I said to my mother, "Don't you wish you were home now?"

I have never forgotten her reply, spoken with great enthusiasm: "Oh, no, this is FUN!"

Robert Louis Stevenson, in speaking of the writing of *Treasure Island*, said, "It's awful fun, boys' stories; you just indulge the pleasure of your heart."

I think that was my mother's way of living—she did the things she did as much for her own pleasure as for ours, and we just caught it from her.

Is there a better way to live a life?



Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. 17th Annual Night of Italian Opera. Four professional singers, accompanied by a world-class pianist, serenade the audience with some of the best-loved Italian arias and art song. 7 pm silent auction, concert 8 pm. College of St. Joseph Tuttle Hall Theater, 71 Clement Rd. For tickets call (802) 776-5264. mdunphy@csj.edu. www.csj.edu.

WATERBURY CENTER. Take-Out Turkey Dinner. Menu: Turkey and gravy, stuffing, mashed potato, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, and dessert. Cost \$9.00. Reservations are required. You pick it up 4 to 6 pm. (802) 244-8089. Friday, 4-6pm. Waterbury Center Community Church, Rt. 100, next to Cold Hollow Cider Mill. (802) 244-8089. bbtravelers@aol.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Open House at Vital Communities. Everyone is welcome to enjoy local beverages and local snacks while touring the office, meeting the staff, or just hanging out. Kids welcome! No RSVP required. 4 pm – 6 pm. 104 Railroad Row. (802) 291-9100. www.vitalcommunities.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

BARRE. Program: Researching the Civil War from a Vermont Perspective. For intermediate researchers interested in learning more about the resources available for Civil War research. Includes a presentation of the new book of George H. Houghton's Civil War photographs, *A Very Fine Appearance*, compiled by Don Wickman and published by the Vermont Historical Society. There will be a Civil War book exposition—talk informally with Civil War book authors. Registration required, includes a light lunch. Fee: \$45. 8:30 am – 5 pm. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8522. lisa.evans@state.vt. www.vermonthistory.org.

BENNINGTON. Aurora Dance Party. Amazing once a year dance party with live music, entertainment and fun. Host DJ Jimmy Woodard, cash bar, special acts, live bands. Tickets \$15. 8 pm – 2 am. Bennington Brush Building, North St. (802) 447-3311. director@bennington.com. www.bennington.com.

BENNINGTON. Sacred Circle Dance. Celebrate the Celtic holy day of Beltane with some traditional and not-so-traditional music and dance! A way of being present with ourselves and each other. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. \$5-\$10 suggested donation. 4-5:30 pm. Meetinghouse Cafe of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 108 School St. For more info contact Diana at (802) 535-1456. info@uubennington.org. www.uubennington.org.

BERLIN. Montpelier Contra Dance. Adina Gordon, caller. Music by Crowfoot. Bring a pair of clean, soft-soled shoes. No partner needed. Newcomers always welcome! Admission: \$8, \$5 for dancers 15 and under. Presented by the Contra Dance Umbrella. 8 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 744-6163. capitalcitygrange.org. *Continues on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays.*

BRANDON. Rocks, Cliffs, and Glaciers. One of the most striking features of Hawk Hill is its steep cliffs. What formed these cliffs? Castleton State University geology professor Helen Mango will lead a walk to take a closer look at the area's rock formations and geologic history. Free. Families are welcome. 10 am – 12 pm. Meet at the far end of the Otter Valley High School parking lot, Rt. 7. (802) 446-7030. monica.erhart@gmail.com.

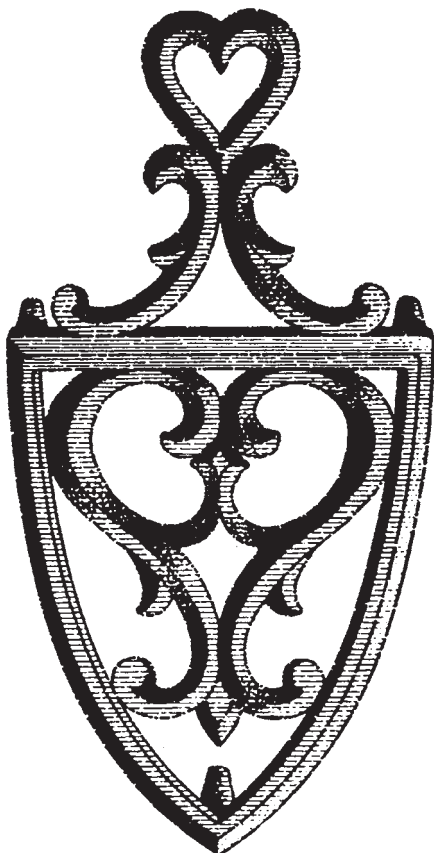
EAST CHARLESTON. 2nd Annual Mud Season Groove. Featuring bluegrass music by Gold Town. Family fun, food, slide show, foot-stompin' fun! Admission \$10. 6 pm doors open, 8 pm music starts. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

EAST THETFORD. Cedar Circle Farm Opening Day—Farmstand and Hello Café are open for the season! Hours: Farmstand 10-6, Sun 10-5; Hello Café, daily 8-5. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. cedarcirclefarm.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Everything Equine Expo—"Horses – A Family Affair." The region's largest educational horse show features seminars with national and local equine experts, exhibitors, 4-H kid's corner, silent auction and more. Admission. Tickets \$10, children under 5 free with an adult. 8:30 am – 5 pm. Robert E. Miller Expo Centre, Champlain Valley Exposition. (802) 878-5545. rlewis@cvexpo.org. cvexpo.org/equine.aspx. *Also May 1.*

NORTH CLARENDON. Lakes Region Youth Orchestra Gala Concert. Celebrating our 20th Season! There will be seven ensembles performing, including the 2011 Anton Solo Competition winner, Jenna Jordan. 7 pm. Mill River Union High School, 2321 Middle Rd. For tickets call (802) 773-4689. LakesRegionYouthOrchestra@yahoo.com. www.lryo.org.

NORWICH. Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) Day at the Montshire. Demonstrations and hands-on projects, short lectures, poster exhibits, interactive displays, photos and videos. Presentations include "The Life of a Polar Scientist," "Sea Ice," "E-Polar," and "Unexploded Ordinance." Free with museum admission. 10 am – 5 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.



RANDOLPH. Concert: Chiara String Quartet. Performing the Vermont premiere of a work by Nico Muhly. Tickets \$30/\$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

SHARON. Workshop: All About Dairy Goats. Learn to purchase a healthy goat, house and feed your animals, trim feet, give vaccines; and hand-milk. We'll also talk about breeding, birthing and disbudding, among other elements of goat care. After lunch we will make some soft cheese and mozzarella! 10 am – 3 pm at Spring Brook Farm. Fee: \$75, please call to pre-register. (802) 763-2929. picconner@gmail.com.

SHELBURNE. Workshop: Biochar Bonanza! A hands-on introduction to biochar. Learn all about this ancient substance that is causing a modern gardening revolution. Join Marshall Webb and Jock Gill to make your own biochar stoves out of recycled cans. Fee: \$25. 9 am – 12 pm, rain or shine. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. To register call (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SHELBURNE. Forest Shiitake Workshop. Grow Shiitake mushrooms for both fun and profit! Learn how to choose various tree species for growing shiitakes, how to inoculate logs and the steps toward harvesting. You'll bring home your own inoculated log. Instructors: Nick Lasowski, Dana Forest Farm & Allen Matthews, UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture presented in partnership with UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Fee: \$30 includes light lunch. 10 am – 2:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. To register call (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

TINMOUTH. Green-Up Day. Starts with a pancake breakfast 7:30-9 am. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-3573. Tinmouthvt.org.

TINMOUTH. E-Jazz Concert. \$9 donation. Delicious refreshments available. 7 pm, doors open at 6:30 pm. At the Old Firehouse Stage. Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-3457. Tinmouthvt.org.

POWNAL. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Selling, buying, trading. 125 tables of exhibitors. Free gun appraisals. Open to the public. Handicap accessible. 9 am – 5 pm at the American Legion #90, Rt. 7. (802) 875-4540. moonman@vermontel.net. greenmtgunshowtrail.com. *Also May 1.*

RUTLAND. Big Flicks at the Paramount. *The Best Years of Our Lives*. Adults: \$6, 12 & under: \$4. 3 pm & 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

VERGENNES. The 5th Annual Rock 'n' Roll Ball. Features Panton Flats, a powerhouse of local talent. All proceeds benefit the Red Cedar School's scholarship fund. Fun-filled night includes desserts, cash bar, and a silent auction all at the beautiful Vergennes Opera House. Tickets \$15 each/\$25 per couple and are available at the door. 7-11 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 453-5213. www.redcedarschool.org.

WELLS RIVER. North Country Chorus Spring Concert. A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms. 7:30 pm. Wells River Congregational Church, 76 Main St. (802) 584-3265. gordonvpt@fairpoint.net. www.northcountrychorus.org.

WOODSTOCK. Feminine Tone Spring Concert. Women's chorus will perform mostly a cappella contemporary pieces, Renaissance love songs, & more. Percussionist Hafiz Shabazz will guest. Free. 7 pm. North Universalist Chapel Society, 7 Church St. (802) 484-5097. kenandsara@myfairpoint.net. www.femininetone.com.



LOVELIEST OF TREES...

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

—A. E. HOUSMAN



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Vermont Country Calendar

(April 30 continued)

WOODSTOCK. Annual Spring Farm Festival. Traditional spring farm activities. Sheep shearing, plowing demonstrations (oxen on Sat., draft horses on Sun.) Visitor plowing with Billings' teams. Horse-drawn wagon rides and activities. Lunch by Teago Volunteer Fire Dept. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also May 1.

SUNDAY, MAY 1

CHESTER. Book & Author Event. Willem Lange & Mary Azarian present their new book, *A Dream of Dragons, A Saga in Verse*. Free, public welcome. 4 pm. Misty Valley Books, On The Green, 58 The Common. (802) 875-3400. www.mvbooks.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Everything Equine Expo. The region's largest educational horse show features seminars with national and local equine experts, exhibitors, 4-H kid's corner, silent auction and more. Admission. Annual "Horsin' Around" Variety Show at 1:30 pm with separate admission. Tickets \$10, children under 5 free with an adult. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Robert E. Miller Expo Centre, Champlain Valley Exposition. (802) 878-5545. rlewis@cvexpo.org. cvexpo.org/equine.aspx.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Bach in Context. Free general admission. 4 pm at Faulkner Recital Hall, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HUNTINGTON. Planting a Wildlife Garden: A TogetherGreen Volunteer Day. All ages welcome. 1-4 pm. Education Barn, Green Mountain Audubon Center. Pre-registration is required: (802) 434-3068. www.togethergreen.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury College Community Chorus. This large chorus, with a history that dates back more than 150 years, brings singers together from on and off campus and throughout the Champlain Valley. Concert includes madrigals by Thomas Morley and William Byrd, folk songs by John Rutter and Robert De Cormier, contemporary works including Morten Lauridsen's Nocturnes and Eliza Gilkyson's Requiem and selections from Haydn's The Creation. Free. 7:30 pm. Mead Memorial Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. (802) 443-3168. middlebury.edu/cfa.

PEACHAM. North Country Chorus Spring Concert. A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms. 3 pm. Admission. Peacham Congregational Church, 100 Church St. (802) 584-3265. gordonvpt@fairpoint.net. www.northcountrychorus.org.

POWNAI. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Selling, buying, trading. 125 tables of exhibitors. Free gun appraisals. Open to the public. Handicap accessible. 9 am - 3 pm at the American Legion #90, Rt. 7. (802) 875-4540. moonman@vermontel.net. greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

ROCKINGHAM. 12th Annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival. Celebrating the Connecticut River. Nature presentations, activities and programs featuring live animals, guided nature walks, crafts, tasty food, workshops, birding and much more. More than 25 outdoor, wildlife, environmental and conservation. Fee: \$2, families \$5. 10 am - 4 pm. Just off of Route 5 less than three miles north of Bellows Falls. (802) 722-3355.

RUTLAND. A Mr. Twitters Trip: Art in Bloom at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Leave from Diamond Run Mall at 7 am, back by 6:30 pm. \$89 includes ticket, travel, tours, snacks, and fun. (802) 773-0795.

RUTLAND. 3rd Annual Loyalty Day Chicken BBQ. 11:30 am - 3 pm on the front lawn. Enjoy a hearty meal while you watch the Loyalty Day Parade march by! Admission. Trinity Episcopal Church, 85 West St. (802) 775-4368. trinity2@sover.net. www.trinitychurchrutland.org.

SHELBURNE. Family Program: Dairy Day at the Farm! Tour the dairy where our Brown Swiss Cow herd makes the milk for our farmhouse cheddar. Explore the barns, the milking parlor, visit the calves, take a wagon ride and try your hand at milking a cow. Suitable for all ages. Fee: \$5 per car, no registration required. 1-4 pm. At the dairy at Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Feminine Tone Spring Concert. Women's chorus performs mostly a capella contemporary and past love songs. 4-6 pm. Free. First Congregational Church, 77 Main St. (802) 484-5097. kenandsara@myfairpoint.net. www.femininetone.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio's 10th Anniversary Gala and Art Auction. Tapas dining, drinks, dessert, live music, great art. \$60 per person. 5:30 pm at Tip Top Cafe. (802) 295-5901. trps@sover.net. tworiversprintmaking.com.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Annual Spring Farm Festival. Traditional spring farm activities. Sheep shearing, plowing demonstrations. Visitor plowing with Billings' teams. Horse-drawn wagon rides and activities. Lunch by Teago Volunteer Fire Dept. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, MAY 2

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Lilacs 101. Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator reviews how to properly choose, plant, grow and prune this sweet smelling spring shrub. 9 am - 4 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. Also May 22 & 23.

TUESDAY, MAY 3

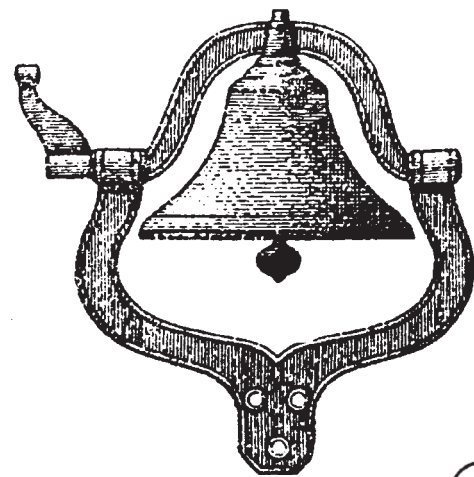
HANOVER, NH. 33rd Annual Then and Now Bach Concert. Special guest: the Voxare String Quartet. Free general admission. 7 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

RUTLAND. Concert with Blues Artist Guy Davis. Red House recording artist with eight albums, Davis is a blues icon. Limited seating, general admission tickets \$15. 8 pm. Presented in The Brick Box at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

BARRE. Third Annual Central Vermont Quilt Show. 50 quilts by Central Vermont quilters in a variety of styles and sizes. Many workshops and local merchants including local quilt shops, fiber artists, and craft suppliers. Local judges. Enjoy the show and vote for your favorite quilt and Best-in-Show. Friday, 2-7 pm, Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm. Admission. The Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite St. (802) 416-4185. www.centralvermontquiltshow.com.



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Green Mountain Conservation Camp

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

The one-week camp program is held at two locations—Lake Bomoseen in Castleton, VT and Buck Lake in Woodbury, VT.

Students are taught about fish and wildlife conservation, forestry, orienteering, swimming, canoeing, fishing, gun safety, and more in an attractive outdoor setting by natural resource professionals. Natural resource

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

Conservation Camps open June 19 and continue until August 19. Camp tuition is \$200 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment.

Fish & Wildlife urges anyone interested to print a copy of the camp application from their website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com, and send it in with a check. The application is located under "Education & Training."

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

directed by Fish & Wildlife Department professionals—the same people who manage Vermont's fish and wildlife resources. Working biologists, foresters, game wardens and conservation educators teach young people about Vermont's forests, wetlands and wildlife. The

program's greatest strength is connecting young people to the outdoors.

For more information about Green Mountain Conservation Camps contact call (802) 241-3700 or e-mail fwinformation@state.vt.us. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Then It's Spring

When tender sprouts break through plowed mounds
And fruit trees put on colored gowns,
When the cardinal calls his mate on the vane
And berries ripen in the lane,
Old Mother Nature is telling you
That Spring has just passed through.



—ALLIE M. NANCE
1939

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Vermont Country Calendar

BENNINGTON. Concert with Dana and Susan Robinson. Singer-songwriters and performers of traditional music. Admission: \$15. 8 pm. Meetinghouse Cafe of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 108 School St. (802) 440-9816. info@uubennington.org. www.uubennington.org.

HANOVER, NH. Dartmouth Wind Symphony Concert: Children at Play. Tickets \$16/\$10. 8 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HINESBURG. Book & Author Event. Meet Henry Homeyer, author and master gardener, presenting his new book, *Organic Gardening (Not Just) in the Northeast*. Homeyer's book is packed with information you won't find elsewhere—eccentric, eclectic, and entertaining. Free and open to the public, everyone is welcome! 7-8 pm. Brown Dog Books & Gifts, 22 Commerce Street #3 at Firehouse Plaza, next to Koval's Coffee. (802) 482-5189. www.browndogbooksandgifts.com.

MANCHESTER. Arbor Day at Hildene. Kids will help plant a sapling Flowering Dogwood, one of Vermont's endangered species. Steve Burzon of Gardens Arts will lead the project and each child will take home a seedling. Hildene, Rt. 7A, south of the village. Pre-registration required. Call Stephanie at (802) 367-7960. stephanie@hildene.org. www.hildene.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Free Library Basement Book Sale. Sponsored by Friends of the Library. 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. Also May 7.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

BERLIN. Montpelier Contra Dance. Rachel Nevitt, caller. Music by Pete Sutherland, Mark Roberts, and Peter Siegel. Bring a pair of clean, soft-soled shoes. No partner needed. Newcomers always welcome! Admission: \$8, \$5 for dancers 15 and under. Presented by the Contra Dance Umbrella. 8 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 744-6163. capitalcitygrange.org. *Continues on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays.*

BRATTLEBORO. Backyard Chicken Raising Workshop. Led by Jay and Janet Bailey of Fair Winds Farm, a diversified horse-powered farm, who have been raising chickens since 1978. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions and Fair Winds Farm. Fee: \$10/\$70, sliding scale, no one refused. 10 am to noon at Fair Winds Farm, Upper Dummerston Rd. To register call (877) 886-7397. www.postoilsolutions.org.

MANCHESTER. Free Bird Walk at Hildene. The Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. Meet at the Welcome Center parking lot at 8 am. Hildene, Rt. 7A, south of the village. For more information, please call Randy Schmidt at (802) 362-2270. randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. www.hildene.org. *Also May 21.*

MONTPELIER. Capital City Summer Farmers Market. Produce, meats, cheese, eggs, crafts, baked goods, and prepared foods to snack on! 10 am – 2 pm at State and Elm. (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com. *Continues on Saturdays.*

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market. Local/organic seasonal produce, meats, cheeses, eggs, handicrafts, baked goods, and prepared foods. 9 am – 1 pm. Route 5, one mile south of Norwich village. For more info call Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through October.*

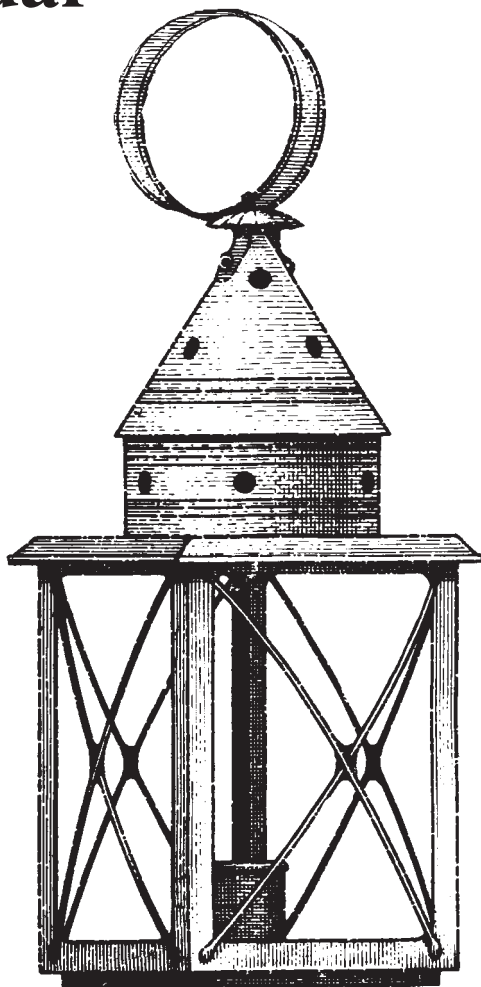
POULTNEY. First Annual Spring Ball. A semi-formal dance, to the songs of "Enerjazz," the incomparable, 18-piece regional big band. Light refreshments, silent auction and 50/50 raffle. Tickets \$20.5:30-9:30 pm. St. Raphael's Catholic Church. Call Bill at (802) 287-5186.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Gather and Prepare a Creative In-Season Wild Edibles Lunch. Join traditional farm cook Margaret Osha and cheesemaker Melissa Komorowski in gathering fiddleheads, ramps, ginger, dandelion greens, and more. Learn to prepare a delightful lunch combined with a soft cheese you make. Fee \$65. 10 am – 3 pm. Turkey Hill Farm, 55 Turkey Hill Rd. (802) 728-7064. turkeyhillfarmvt.com.

RUTLAND. Rutland Free Library Basement Book Sale. Sponsored by Friends of the Library. 9:30 am – 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

TINMOUTH. 27th Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale. Buy locally grown and dug perennials and shrubs from Tinmouth gardens and to support the Tinmouth School. 8 am sharp to 10 am. Come early for the best selection. There will also be a bake sale and a car wash and other fun ways to support the school, so plan on coming to this event. At the Tinmouth Old Firehouse. (802) 446-3207. www.tinmouthvt.org.

TINMOUTH. Woods Tea Company Concert. Celtic tunes, Novelty, French-Canadian, and American folk songs. The band uses as many as a dozen different instruments. Admission. Refreshments available. 7:30 pm. At the Tinmouth Old Firehouse. (802) 235-2908. tinmouthvt.org. www.woodstea.net.



WEST RUTLAND. 40th Annual Vermont Green Up Day at West Rutland Marsh. Join the Rutland County Audubon Society as we clean up one of our favorite birding spots. Meet at the West Rutland Town Hall at 9 am. Waterproof boots and rubber gloves are handy; trash bags provided. For more information contact Roy Pilcher at (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 8

CHESTER. Country Jamboree. Benefit for Max Allen Emery. Refreshments are on sale in the kitchen. Raffle tickets and 50/50 tickets are on sale at the door. A donation of \$5 at the door is appreciated. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For information call Dave (802) 875-2637.

CHESTER. Book & Author Event. Henry Homeyer presents his new book, *Organic Gardening (not just) in the Northeast*. Free, public welcome. 4 pm. Misty Valley Books, On The Green, 58 The Common. (802) 875.3400. www.mvbooks.com.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth College Gospel Choir. Children at Play. Tickets \$16/\$10. 2 & 5 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

SHELBURNE. Mother's Day Tours and Open House at The Inn at Shelburne Farms. A once-a-year chance to explore all of The Inn, upstairs and down. Tickets \$12 adult; \$11 senior. 12-4 pm at The Inn at Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Volunteer Perennial Garden Maintenance. Brian Vaughan, Perennial Garden Curator, needs many volunteers to help tidy up the garden in time for our May 22nd Bloomtime Festival. Learn proper techniques for dividing perennials. Bring pruning shears and weeding tools if you have them. Take home a free perennial plant! Free admission. 10 am – 12 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 10

MANCHESTER. Historic Hildene Winter History Series. Erin Carlson Mast, Director of President Lincoln's Cottage, will speak on the place in which President Lincoln spent part of each year during the Civil War, on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home in Washington, DC. The Museum Store will be open for a cup of coffee and a snack. 7-8 pm at the Welcome Center, Beckwith Room. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene. www.hildene.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 12

TUNBRIDGE. Concert. John Gorka will be performing at Mountainfolk. Suggested \$25 donation. 8 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall. (802) 431-3433. www.mtnfolk.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Molly Hatchet, Southern Rock! \$40. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

RUTLAND. Cirque Le Masque. European-style amazing circus entertainment! Tickets \$31.50 to \$41.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

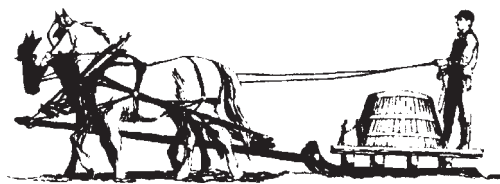


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Vermont Country Calendar

(May 13 continued)

TUNBRIDGE. Contra Dance. Hosted by the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. Harold "Chuck" Luce and Adam Boyce, fiddlers. Open to the public, all dances taught, no partner necessary, children welcome. Refreshments available. Admission by donation. 7:30 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall. edlarkincontradancers.org. Also July 8.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble. Tickets \$14/\$8. 8 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Sky. Caller: David Millstone. All dances are taught, no partner is necessary, and beginners are welcome! Please bring a separate pair of clean, soft-soled shoes or socks for dancing. Admission \$8, under 16 are free, and over 60 by donation. 8 pm. Tracy Hall. For more information contact: Rick Barrows at (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Also June 11.

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market. Local/organic and seasonal produce, meats, artisan cheeses, fresh eggs, handicrafts, home baked goods, jams, jellies, maple products, and prepared foods. 9 am – 1 pm. Route 5, one mile south of Norwich village. For more info call Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October.

SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Farmers Market. Local vegetables, eggs, meat, poultry, baked goods, handmade crafts, and more! Local lunch served from 11:30 am – 1 pm. Market open from 10 am – 1 pm at Sharon Elementary School, Rt. 132. For info call Donna Foster at (802) 763-8280. Continues 2nd Saturday each month.

SHELBURNE. International Migratory Bird Day. Family programs—live bird presentations, bird walks and a variety of fun birding-related activities. Free. 9 am – 12 pm at Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SHELBURNE. Green Mountain Draft Horse Association Annual Driving Clinic. A two-day clinic with hands-on lessons on how to drive a team or single draft horse. Fee: \$145. 9 am – 4 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 877-6802. www.greenmountaindraft.org. www.shelburnefarms.org. Also May 15.

WEST RUTLAND. Wellness/Craft Festival. Same day as town-wide yard sales. The Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. www.vermonthherbal.com.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

GRAND ISLE. One Enchanted Evening—A Night of Song Favorites. Performed by Taryn Noelle, Gregory Ramos, and Craig Wells. Tickets \$28. 5-8 pm. At Grand Isle Lake House. (802) 318-8229. info@champlainislands.com. www.islandarts.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth Chamber Singers. Tickets \$16/\$8. 2 pm at Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HARTLAND. The Western Abenaki History and Culture. Jeanne Brink, an Abenaki herself, discusses her people's history and culture. Jeanne Brink, an Abenaki herself, discusses her people's history and culture focussing on Western Abenaki language, dance, games, family stories, lifeways and traditions. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 2 pm. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5. (802) 436-3383.

NORWICH. Upper Valley International Folk Dance. Traditional music and dances of many cultures, including line, circle, and couple dances from Eastern and Western Europe, Scandinavia, the Mediterranean, and beyond. Everyone welcome. Dances taught, bring a friend and clean soft-soled shoes. Admission \$8, newcomers and students \$4 (rates vary with live music). 3-6 pm at Tracy Hall, just past the Green. (802) 436-2151. barthoj@vermontel.net. Next dance June 12.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

GRAND ISLE. Vermont Folk Music. Jim Beck presents a program sponsored by the Grand Isle Historical Society. 7 pm at the Yellow School House at Hyde Log Cabin, Rt. 2. Free. (802) 318-8229. info@champlainislands.com. www.islandarts.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

SHELBURNE. "The Complete Kitchen Garden" Book Talk & Luncheon. Join Ellen Ecker Ogden for an illustrated talk on her new book featuring garden designs and 100 recipes for the vegetable gardener seeking creative ideas and organic techniques for growing food. Fee: \$25. 12-2 pm. Inn at Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Marsh Bird Monitoring Walk. This is a monthly bird monitoring exercise. To date over 1,400 participants have tallied 141 species from American Bittern to Northern Shrike. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 7 am. For more information call leader Roy Pilcher at (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 20

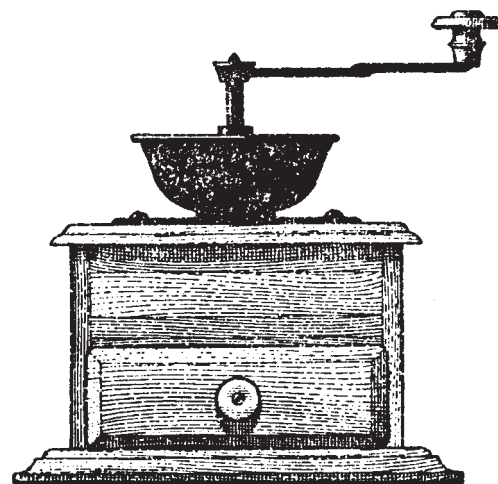
RANDOLPH. Concert: The Next Generation. Works by students of classical music. Tickets \$15/\$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Lilac Walk & Talk. 45-minute tours of the Hort. Farm's extensive lilac collection with Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator. Catch a tour starting at 5:30 pm, 6:30 pm or 7:30 pm. Bring your lilac questions, friends and a picnic! UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

TINMOUTH. Old Firehouse Stage Concert with Jenni Johnson. Admission. Refreshments available. 7:30 pm. At the Tinmouth Old Firehouse. (802) 446-3457. tinmouthvt.org. www.woodstea.net

SATURDAY, MAY 21

BERLIN. Montpelier Contra Dance. Jeff Petrovich, caller with Eric Buddington. Bring a pair of clean, soft-soled shoes. No partner needed. Newcomers always welcome! Admission: \$8, \$5 for dancers 15 and under. Presented by the Contra Dance Umbrella. 8 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 744-6163. capitalcitygrange.org. Continues on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays.



THE HILLS OF OLD VERMONT

The "native" hills of Old Vermont
Are 'bout as good as hills can be;
They kindly met my opening eyes,
I hope they'll be the last I see;
When folks get back from round the world
They sorter fill a long-felt want—
There's nothing neater on the map
Than these old hills of Old Vermont.

They say Vermont if rolled out flat
Would equal Illinois is size;
But primaries then would cost so much
The rich might win and not the wise;
Our marble, too, would be soft coal—
A think we'd better let 'em stand,
The solid hills of Old Vermont.

They ain't too green, they ain't too gray,
They ain't too high or dry or small;
They're awful pretty in the Spring,
But prettier in the fiery Fall;
And they're so smooth that you can farm

Clear up to snow-line, if you want,
Which isn't true of any hills
In any place except Vermont.

If this was some big, level state,
We'd get the bitter with the sweet,
For Henry Ford might live in town,
Or unknissed Dowie down the street,
We'd have no gum, we'd have no talc—
The high school girls'd come to want—
We'd better leave 'em be, I guess,
The useful hills of Old Vermont.

The man that doesn't like these hills
Must be tremendous hard to please,
Or have a case of what Fred Wells
Would call the Enosburg disease;
Jest dub me "hill dog" if you will—
Use any nicking name you want,
But I'm in hopes my eyes may close
Amidst the hills of Old Vermont.

—DANIEL L. CADY

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BRANDON. Wings on Hawk Hill. Take a look at some of the birds living on or passing through Hawk Hill with local birder Sue Wetmore. No dogs, please. Wearing bright colors is recommended, since this is turkey hunting season. 8 am. Free. Families are welcome. Meet at the far end of the Otter Valley High School parking lot, Rt. 7. (802) 446-7030. monica.erhart@gmail.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Selling, buying, trading. Free gun appraisals. Open to the public. Handicap accessible. 9 am – 5 pm at the VFW Post #1034, 40 Black Mountain Rd. (802) 875-4540. moonman@vermontel.net. greenmtgunshowtrail.com. Also May 22.

HANOVER, NH. Let the Good Times Roll! Gumbo Loco performs at the Hop Plaza, weather permitting. Free. 11 am. Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422.

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market. Local/organic produce, meats, cheeses, eggs, handicrafts, baked goods, and prepared foods. 9 am – 1 pm. Route 5, one mile south of Norwich village. For more info call Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October.

TUNBRIDGE. Concert. Jeni and Billy will be performing. Mountainfolk. Suggested \$20 donation. 7:30 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall. (802) 431-3433. mtnfolk.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Selling, buying, trading. Free gun appraisals. Open to the public. Handicap accessible. 9 am – 3 pm at the VFW Post #1034, 40 Black Mountain Rd. (802) 875-4540. moonman@vermontel.net. greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

FERRISBURG. Rokeby Museum Opening Day. Learn about the “war before the war”—the radical abolitionist movement that began 30 years before the Civil War. Rokeby Museum begins its commemoration of the Civil War 150th anniversary with a talk by Museum Director Jane Williamson on the abolitionist movement. Americans argued bitterly about slavery for 30 years before the union broke and war began. Free. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby@comcast.net. www.rokeby.org.

GRAND ISLE. Pine Street Jazz Concert. Instrumental jazz sextet performs mainstream American jazz. Tickets \$25. 5-8 pm at the Grand Isle Lake House. (802) 318-8229. info@champlainislands.com. www.islandarts.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. 16th Annual Bloomtime Festival & Burlington Garden Club 76th Anniversary Plant Sale! Open to the public. 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 on hand selling indoor plants. 10 am – 3 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth College Glee Club performs music by Stephen Sondheim. Tickets \$16/\$8. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

BURLINGTON. Marathon Fitness Expo. Over 70 local and national sports & fitness venues. Seminar with lectures, a yoga class, and race course preview. 4-8 pm. Free. Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center. (802) 863-8412. info@runvermont.org. vermontcitymarathon.org. Also May 28.

WATERBURY CENTER. Annual Tag Sale. A variety of items, household, furniture, toys, clothes, collectibles and much more. Lunch available Saturday. Free. 9 am – 4 pm. Waterbury Center Community Church, Rt. 100, Stowe Rd. next to the Cold Hollow Cider Mill. (802) 244-8089. bbtravelers@aol.com. Through May 30.

SATURDAY, MAY 28

STATEWIDE. Open Studio Weekend. Visit with Vermont's diverse and talented artists and craftspeople in their studios. Sponsored by the Vermont Crafts Council. Call or visit website for locations and directions. (802) 223-3380. www.vermontcrafts.com. Also May 29.

BENNINGTON. 26th Annual Mayfest Arts and Craft Festival. Over 250 crafters, artists, entertainers, and food vendors. Four streets downtown close to accommodate over 150 vendors from all over the Northeast. Over 100 entertainers on 8 stages, ethnic foods, kids games and activities. Free admission. 10 am – 5 pm. Downtown Bennington. (802) 442-5758. admin@betterbennington.com. www.betterbennington.com.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra performs works by Brahms and Beethoven. Tickets \$28. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market. Local/organic produce, meats, cheeses, eggs, handicrafts, baked goods, and prepared foods. 9 am – 1 pm. Route 5, one mile south of Norwich village. For more info call Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October.

NORWICH. Contradance with Cuckoo's Nest. Caller TBA. All dances are taught, no partner is necessary, and beginners are welcome! Please bring a separate pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, under 16 are free, and over 60 by donation. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8 pm at Tracy Hall. For more information contact: Rick Barrows at (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. This is the last dance of the season till September.

THETFORD. Medieval Fair on Thetford Hill. Sponsored by Open Fields School. Family-friendly event. Costumed participants, a Medieval Village, games, animals, food, music, peasants, craftsmen, and farmers gather to celebrate the age via music, dance, games of skill and chance, authentic food, parades, VINS falconry, storytelling by Simon Brooks, Benny the Dragon, and feats of juggling and acrobatics. Admission includes a quantity of beans (the currency of the realm) for food, games, and events. Costumes encouraged. 10 am – 4 pm. Thetford Hill Green. (802) 785-2077. info@openfields.org. www.openfields.org/medieval_festival.html.

VERGENNES. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Opening Day. Chart your own voyage of discovery and exploration through the region's historic waterways, lands and people. Fourteen exhibit buildings, replica vessels and on-water programs. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Admission. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. next to Basin Harbor Club. (802) 475-2022. info@lcmmm.org. www.lcmmm.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Ray Manzarek of The Doors and the Roy Rogers Band! \$40. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

WOODSTOCK. Cows and Camembert Weekend. Two days of sampling and purchasing Vermont artisanal cheeses. Dairy education programs, ice cream and butter making, and judging Jerseys with the farm manager. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also May 29.

SUNDAY, MAY 29

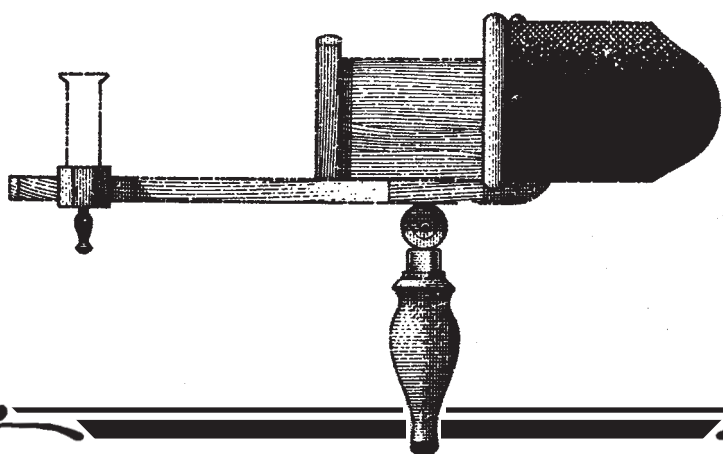
STATEWIDE. Open Studio Weekend. Visit with Vermont's diverse and talented artists and craftspeople. Sponsored by the Vermont Crafts Council. Call or visit website for locations and directions. (802) 223-3380. www.vermontcrafts.com.

ESSEX JCT. Willie Nelson's Country Throwdown Tour 2011. Featuring Willie Nelson, Jamey Johnson, Randy Houser, Brantley Gilbert, Craig Campbell, Lee Brice, and Lukas Nelson. Tickets \$55, children under 13 free. Gates open at 1 pm, show at 3 pm. On the Midway Lawn at the Champlain Valley Expo. The Bluebird Café stage will also feature six extraordinary singer-songwriters. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (888) 512-7469. www.highergroundmusic.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Century Bird Count XV. Explore the birding hotspots of Rutland County as we attempt to tally 100 species. Bring lunch. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 6 am. For more information call leader Roy Pilcher at (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 31

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Sally Pinkas performs works by Brahms and Ravel. Tickets \$24/\$16. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422.



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Every Humble Knee Must Bow...

by Sally McClintock

*Put your loving arms all around me
Prop every leanin' side
Every humble knee surely must bow
Surely must bow.*

—Traditional

Now what do I do? I asked myself. I was lying on my back in the hallway at 4:30 in the morning, having tripped on my loose pajama legs on my way back from the bathroom. I couldn't turn over and get up on my arthritic knees—it would hurt too much.

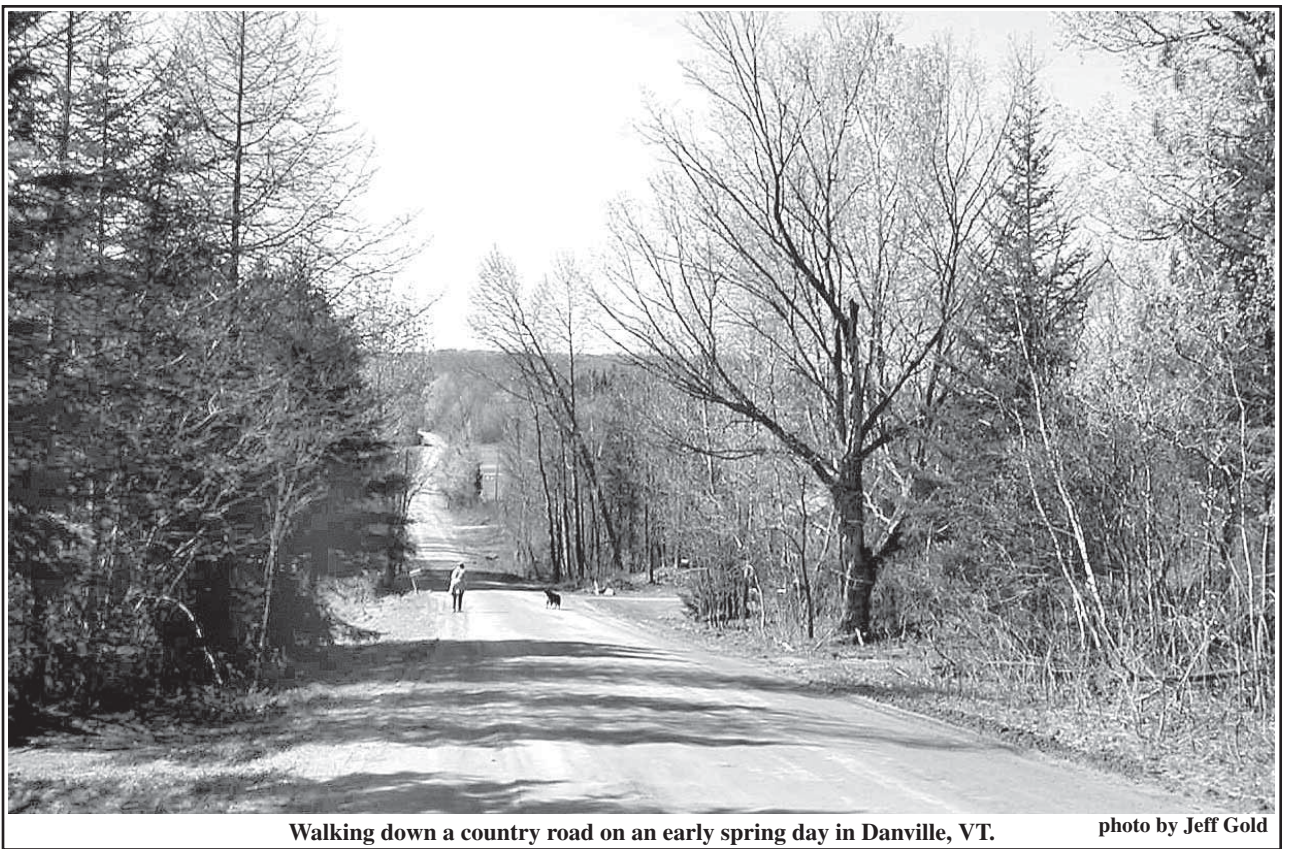
I'll just lie here until I figure out what to do, I decided. No hurry. I'll just have to make my way to the bedroom on my back. I tried putting my knees up and sliding myself along a few inches. That worked. So I inched myself—like an inchworm—gradually down the hall to the bedroom. When I reached the bedroom rug, I knew it wouldn't hurt my knees too much because of the padding. So I rolled over, got up on my knees, held onto the bed, and pulled myself up. I felt triumphant—all by myself!

I didn't tell my daughter about the fall, but decided instead to enroll in a class to work on my balance.

"I feel empowered," I told my neighbor Catherine on our way to our first exercise class at the senior center. I was pleased with my decision to risk something new, like these exercises for balance. After that fall, I knew I needed them.

Catherine and I began with high hopes, participating with vigor in the dance-like exercises. Some people sat and only moved their arms but I didn't want to. Dancing was more fun. But at the end of our first week, we had to quit because of severe pains in our knees.

"Knees are not meant to be twisted," my doctor told me, prescribing pain pills and limited walking while I healed from the exercises. I relied on a cane from then on, annoyed with myself for not checking with him before I tried out the senior dance class.



Walking down a country road on an early spring day in Danville, VT.

photo by Jeff Gold

Several months later, I healed in time to attend an adult music camp, Village Harmony, in Northern Vermont, with two of my daughters. I still needed my cane and had to avoid stairs. The camp was supposed to be held on flat ground, but when we got there, we found the path to our cabin went up a gradual hill which was too steep for me. My daughters insisted on a wheelchair, and made plans to drive to a town where they could rent one.

I objected vigorously, insisting I could manage by myself with my cane. We argued in the food line and at the dining table while interested campers took sides.

"You can try to persuade me all you want, but I am *not* going to get in a wheelchair," I told them. I just didn't think I needed one.

"My mother's 88 and she's the same way," said a woman. "I have to argue with her at the airport whenever she needs a wheelchair." Only one person was on my side. She said it would be very hard to push a wheelchair with a person in it up the gravel path.

We finally compromised on a walker. But when my daughters drove off, I was still not sure what they would come back with. "It better not be a wheelchair," I told my ally.

An hour later, they unpacked a walker from the car. I had won this battle. Relieved now that I could manage the hill by myself, I joked, "You know about 'the terrible twos'?" Maybe I'm in my "terrible eighties."

I made good use of the walker from then on, making my way slowly up and down the hill on my own. When people politely waited behind me on the path, I told them, "Go ahead and pass me. I'm in the truck lane."

My daughters and I got along the rest of the week, singing together and talking late in our cabin. Inspired by our example, some campers said they might bring their mothers

with them too the next time. But one woman said that would not be a good idea in her case because her mother was difficult. On the last day, she surprised me when she said she had decided to send her mother to camp after all.

"But you said you and your mother might not get along," I reminded her.

"I know. I'm sending her alone." She grinned. "After all, she sent *me* to camp when I was a kid. Now I'm sending *her*."

As for me, I would have loved to share a music camp with my mother. But we had had a good relationship.

Back home again, my knees were giving me more and more trouble, but I was too stubborn or proud to ask for assistance. I did accept some help on the way to a choir party when my friend Carol and I ended up on a dark country road, looking for the right house. Several people in our group went ahead on a search. Carol had my arm, steering me toward the light in a house down the dark hill.

"Is this the right way?" she called out. "I'm not dragging Sally downhill if it's the wrong house."

It was the right house after all. We used our flashlights to make the descent to the bottom of the hill. When we were leaving the party, the hostess insisted on a car driving down the dirt road "to get Sally." I said I didn't need it but was overruled.

Later that week, Carol took me to choir practice. It was raining and as I got out of the car, she offered her arm. I took it automatically. "I seem to be accepting assistance more often," I observed.

"Of course," she said. "We have to help each other. We'll all get there sometime. Not all at once though, or who would be there to help us?"

Inside the church, I climbed slowly and carefully up the winding steps to the choir loft, holding on to both railings. Steps were still hard for me to navigate.

We rehearsed songs from around the world, ending with "Every Humble Knee," a traditional song. "Put your loving arms all around me," we sang, "Prop every leanin' side."

As I sang those words, I remembered caring for my mother in her later years, putting my arms around her, propping her up to make her comfortable. How she said, politely, "Why, certainly!" whenever I offered help. But as for me, I was still resisting it. What was the matter with me? Did I fear a loss of empowerment?

"Every humble knee surely must bow, surely must bow," the song ended. Perhaps my knees were not the whole problem, I realized. My pride was also in the way. A little humility wouldn't hurt. If I could just accept the offers of help gracefully, that could be empowering.

Why not bow to the offer of loving care? Maybe it was my time now.

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Springtime Blooms

by Ron Krupp

In spring, nature holds her breath, waiting in solemnity for the rush of new life to unfold. The weather in Vermont is both subtle and dramatic with sugar snows, heavy rains, cold nights, and even some warm days. The grass turns from thatch brown to lighter shades of green, and the white blossoms of sugar maple buds dot the macadam roads. A little before dusk, the Green Mountains look like a field of purple heather as the green of the conifers and burgundy maple buds meld into the hillsides.

Crocus and Daffodil

If the weather cooperates, you can harvest purple hyacinths, crocuses, and baby yellow daffodils from your front yard garden—all in time for Easter. Here are some tricks to help those young spring bulbs come up early: if the bulbs are planted next to the south-facing wall of your home, the foundation will warm the soil. Mulching bulbs in the fall protects them from the harsh winter elements. You can also break the cold spring winds with cedar hedges or a flat wooden board fence. Make sure your garden beds have a good southern exposure with lots of sun.

If you are intent on having early blooming bulbs, you can always buy them in a garden store and force them in the warmth of your home.

The Woodland Wildflowers

Some people just love to observe woodland plants in spring; I consider them gardeners just as much as the cultivated kind who plant vegetables and flowers.

One of my favorite springtime activities is to visit the young woodland plants in the forest near my home. I love to watch them arise from the leaf litter in the forest.

Woodland plants come out while the young tree leaves are still bundled up tight, waiting to spring out. During this time, a lot of light is still reaching the forest floor; once the tree leaves open up, the forest floor darkens and the woodland plants vanish until the following spring. The plants I am referring to are Dutchman's-breeches, bloodroot, wild ginger, hepatica, jack-in-the-pulpit, trout lily, spring beauty, May apple, Solomon's seal, the trilliums, and the orchids that grow in protected woodland areas.

Take the ephemeral bloodroot: its large white flowers are enveloped in a single leaf so it appears the flower arises from the leaf. Like many early wildflowers, bloodroot must produce its blossoms from energy generated the previous year and stored in a bulblike culm. And bloodroot must quickly get on with generating new energy because the flowers rarely last longer than a few days. Bloodroot gets its name from the orangish-red juice that flows from a cut root; this was used by Native Americans and pioneers as a cloth dye. Be careful: the juice from the bloodroot can produce a rash like poison ivy.

What about the loveliest of all spring blooms, the trilliums?



The ephemeral bloodroot blooms in Danville, VT.

photo by Jeff Gold

Where I come from, you aren't supposed to pick 'em. In fact, one variety of trillium called Knodding is on the watch list for endangered plants. The three other common trilliums, white, painted, and red (sometimes called stinking Benjamin or nose bleed), should also be left alone. Painted trillium can easily die from transplanting just like the pink lady's-slipper. Tragically, white trillium have been all but collected out in the state of Maine.

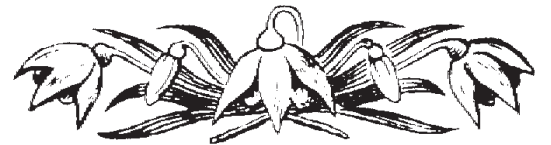
The New England Wild Flower Society and others have made an extensive effort to urge sellers of woodland plants to grow them from seed or division rather than depleting native stands. Still more education is needed. When a drift of thousands of trillium covers a hillside, it's difficult to remember each plant required six years of growth from seed germination until bloom.

The appeal of woodland wildflowers, as with all perennials, comes from the continuity of remembering the plant in its natural setting from one year to the next. Plants that link us to times past add to our pleasure in the present. Enjoy the hepaticas, Dutchman's breeches, and others by simply walking into the forest, finding your favorite place, and saying hello to your spring flower friends. Just make sure to stay

on the forest paths; many stems, plants, shoots, and bulbs are hidden beneath the leaf mold awaiting their appointed time for emergence.

You can become a kid again by looking for woodland plants. Just when you think you won't find them, they appear. The first flowers will lift your spirits after a long cold winter. Spring is subtle in color compared to the power of autumn, but no less dramatic. To walk into the forest and meet thousands of white trillium is a sight to tickle your soul.

These ideas are shared with you from *The Woodchuck's Guide to Gardening* by Ron Krupp. You can buy it from your favorite bookseller or from the author: Ron Krupp, 8 Lyons Ave., So. Burlington, VT 05403. (802) 658-9974. E-mail: woodchuck37@hotmail.com. Website: www.woodchuck37.com. (\$16.95 plus shipping and handling.)



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Have you ever wondered about the farms and food businesses in the Hardwick, VT area after reading an article, hearing a news blurb or eating some of their products? Well, now is your chance to join us while exploring the region's many farms and businesses.

Join an all-day caravan tour with one of our Board members, beginning and ending at the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE). Hear the stories, tour the facilities and meet the people that help make this area so rich in community-based agricultural enterprises.

Starting April 21st, tours will be held the third Thursday of every month until October.

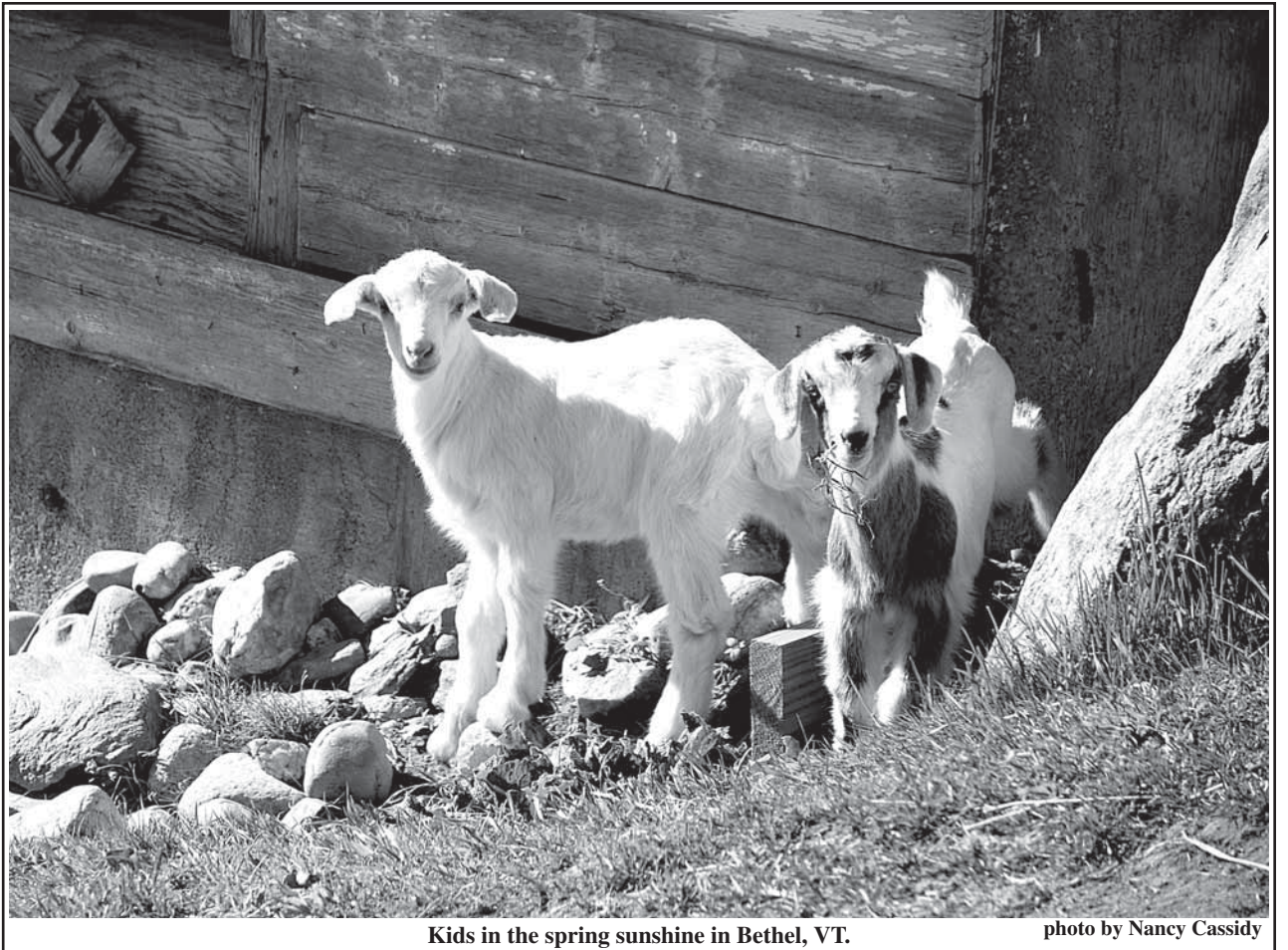
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St. office of CAE at 10 a.m., Tom Stearns, president of the CAE Board and owner of High Mowing Organic Seeds or Pete Johnson, treasurer of the CAE Board and owner of Pete's Greens, will lead a group of 25 people, caravan-style, to several farms and/or businesses in Hardwick, Craftsbury, Albany, Greensboro and East Hardwick.

The tours will be informative, fast paced, fascinating and a fun way to experience the area.

The fee is \$50 per person and is free to children 10 years and younger, accompanied by an adult.

For information, including dates, photos of past tours and tour details, visit www.hardwickagriculture.org or call (802) 472-5840.



Kids in the spring sunshine in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Northeast Organic Farming Association—Vermont

Organic Farming Spring Workshops & Gatherings

April 30, 2011, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Shiitake Mushroom Cultivation Workshop. Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, VT. Contact: Ben Waterman UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, (802) 656-9142, ben.waterman@uvm.edu. Fee \$30. Participants learn about log-based sustainable Shiitake mushroom cultivation, harvest, and marketing.

April 30, 2011, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Southern Vermont Beginning Farmers Summit. Bennington College, 1 College Dr., Bennington, VT. Contact Dana Wolfson, dwolfson@bennington.edu, www.rutlandfarmandfood.org. A free event for young and beginning farmers in Southern Vermont and surrounding areas. Discussions and workshops on accessing capital, accessing land/land tenure, and using federal funding programs. Potluck lunch following the summit.

April 30, 2011, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. All About Dairy Goats. Spring Brook Farm, Sharon, VT. (802) 763-2929, picconner@gmail.com. Fee \$75. Pre-registration required and space is limited. In the morning you will learn how to purchase a healthy goat, house and feed your animals, trim feet, give vaccines, and hand-milk. We'll also talk about breeding, birthing and dobbing, and goat care. After lunch we will make some soft cheese and mozzarella!

May 1, 2011, 1–2 p.m. Lawn to Garden Conversion Using the Square Foot Method With Peter Burke. City Market/Onion River Co-op, South Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT. (802) 861-9700, info@citymarket.coop, www.citymarket.coop. Fee \$10. Convert that patch of grass into a veggie garden using the square foot gardening method! Square foot gardening uses permanent beds, permanent paths, grid planting and trellises to maximize yields and minimize work (including weeding!).

May 3, 2011. 5th Annual Vermont Foodbank Hunger Conference. Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT. Contact: Emily Shipman, (802) 477-4121. Fee \$40. Pre-registration required. Over the past five years, the Vermont Foodbank's annual hunger conference has become one of New England's best resources for learning about the issue of hunger as it affects our communities.

May 3, 2011, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Taconic End Farm, 1395 Leicester-Whiting Rd., Leicester, VT. For information contact Annie Claghorn or Bay Hammond, (802) 247-3979,

(802) 897-2121, foxclag@gmavt.net, bkhammond@shoreham.net. Meets first Tuesday each month. Open to all levels. Great peer support; learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. A relaxed discussion that includes an in-depth look at at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. Free.

May 4, 2011, 6:30–9 p.m. Rural Vermont Annual Meeting. Keynote: Local Food, Local Rules; Farming Policies that Work for Your Community. West Monitor Barn, Rt. 2, Richmond, VT. (802) 223-7222. info@ruralvermont.org, ruralvermont.org. Join Rural Vermont for our free annual meeting and gathering! Farmer-activist Bob St. Peter, the executive director of Food for Maine's Future, will be our keynote speaker.

May 21, 2011, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sheep Shearing Class. Windham Foundation, 225 Townshend Rd., Grafton, VT. Contact: Chet Parsons, (802) 524-6501, x 442, chet.parsons@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu/extension. Fee: \$150 per person, or \$50 to attend the lectures and observe. Pre-registration required. Participants will learn how to set up equipment, prep a sheep for shearing and the correct way to shear to avoid injury to the animal and the shearer. Chet Parsons, the UVM Extension livestock specialist and professional shearer, will lead the class. Dan Korngiebel, owner of the Yarn Farm in Cuttingsville, will offer advice and answer questions. Korngiebel has more than 50 years of experience shearing sheep, and has worked with the UVM Extension Shearing School for more than 20 years.

May 23–24, 2011. Barrel Aquaponics Workshop, Common Grounds Center, Starksboro, VT. Steve & Abbie Ahern, sahern@gmavt.net. Fee: \$350; \$175 for spouse of first registrant, full-time student or ministry outreach. Lodging \$50 per person. If you want to get started producing a constant supply of fish, rabbits, chickens, vegetables, herbs, greens and other plants in an efficient, inexpensive small-scale system, plan to attend. Find out about a variety of highly productive Aquaponics systems from barrels and buckets for home, farm or outreach. Learn to construct a 100' energy independent Aquaponics greenhouse for less than \$2,000, which will produce as many organic herbs, greens, vegetables as a hydroponic greenhouse and 5,100 pounds of tilapia/year and rabbits, chickens and red worms.

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For some unique gift ideas from the natural world, visit The Nature Store at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) Nature Center in Quechee, VT.

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mental education, research and avian wildlife rehabilitation. Raptor adoptions are available to support VINS' avian rehabilitation program.

The Nature Store at VINS Nature Center is open 7 days per week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Online shopping is available 24-hours a day at www.vinsweb.org.

The VINS Nature Center is located at 6565 Woodstock Rd. (Rt. 4) in Quechee, VT. For information call (802) 359-5001 or visit www.vinsweb.org and vtnature.blogspot.com.

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science is a non-profit, environmental education, research and avian rehabilitation organization in Quechee, VT.



Holsteins on the hillside in Danby, VT.

photo by Charles Sutton

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North Country Book News

Palma Returns to Misty Valley Books with W.B. Yeats

Michael Palma, returning to Misty Valley Books on the Green in Chester, will consider the poetry of William Butler Yeats on four Wednesday evenings. The series, beginning April 27, is entitled *A Terrible Beauty*. The free sessions will begin at 7 pm and last about an hour.

Palma, an acclaimed poet and translator, led the spellbinding and insightful discussions of Robert Frost's poetry at Misty Valley Books in the summer of 2007 in a four-week series called *Frost in July*. He then took all comers on a tour of hell with Dante's *Inferno*, a subject with which Palma is especially conversant as he has done a brilliant translation. In spring 2009, Palma talked about Emily Dickinson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Edwin Arlington Robinson, and his own poetry. Then it was Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell, W. H. Auden and, last fall, Wilfred Owen and Philip Larkin.

Palma's next poet, William Butler Yeats (1865-1939), is generally considered to be the greatest English-language poet of the twentieth century. He is almost as famous for his obsession with the political activist Maud Gonne, who inspired some of his finest work, as he is for his poetry.

From early lyrics based on Irish mythology to harder-edged confrontations with social and political issues, from symbolic poems that grapple with the deepest questions of

existence to a final burst of gritty explorations of the basic passions, he produced first-rate poetry at every stage of his life.

The title of Palma's Misty Valley Books series is taken from the refrain in the poem *Easter 1916*, his celebration of the rebels who began the movement to free Ireland from British domination: "All changed, changed utterly: A terrible beauty is born."

Michael Palma's own poetry has appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies. He has been awarded prizes for his translations from the Academy of American Poets and Columbia University. He has collaborated with the National Endowment for the Arts and has written several teacher and reader guides for the NEA's Big Read program. He is a speaker for the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays lectures.

He is also an essayist, editor, critic and translator of other Italian poets, and his *Inferno* translation was reissued last year as a handsome Norton Critical Edition paperback. He lives with his wife, Victoria, in Bellows Falls.

The public is encouraged to attend all the sessions, which are offered free of charge, but everyone is welcome at any of the evenings. An edition of Yeats' collected poems is available for sale at the Bookstore.

Misty Valley Books is located on the Green in Chester, VT. For more information call (802) 875-3400 or visit www.mvbooks.com.

Book News

Cinco de Mouse-O!

by Judy Cox

and Illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler
(Published by Holiday House, New York)

Here's a cat and mouse picture story with a south-of-the-border twist. Our hero the mouse (with a cat in constant pursuit) has been lured by the beany, cheesy, ricey smells to a Cinco de Mayo festival. He sees people all around eating, singing, dancing, strolling and playing. He samples the tasty foods that he never tasted before like tacos, tamales, chorizos and flan.

But he is intrigued the most by the smell of candy hidden in a pinata magnifica, out of reach and swinging high above the plaza. In a thrilling ending to this wonderful story, the mouse

inches his way across a rope to the the fruity, sugaring, honey sweet smelling pinata, only to have it smashed into pieces with a swish of a stick by a blindfolded child. The mouse falls to the ground in a shower of candies. But the waiting cat still can't capture the mouse because a child has stepped on its tail.

The mouse does find one lemon drop candy to take home as a souvenir of "Que felicidad!"

Charming, full-page drawings capture of essence, sounds, and fun of this Mexican festival. And the mouse is super-adorable!



Book News

Before We Went Wireless

by Ivor Hughes

Ivor Hughes has recently published "Before We Went Wireless," the first-ever biography of David Edward Hughes, the brilliant inventor and practical experimenter. A contemporary of Edison and Bell, David Edward Hughes made major contributions in telegraphy, telephony, metal detection, and audiology. He sent and received wireless signals in 1879, some sixteen years before Marconi. Faced with the skepticism.

This book, the fruit of over ten years of research in libraries, archives, and museums, with access to all of Hughes's private papers and visits to places where Hughes lived and worked in the UK, US and Europe,

is the definitive account of a great Victorian scientist whose inventions laid the foundations of the Communications Age.

Author Ivor Hughes, a Vermont resident now retired from a career in both the UK and USA in the telecommunications and aerospace industry has heritage in North Wales.

"Before We Went Wireless" is published in Vermont by *Images From the Past* and is available through *Hermit Hill Books*, in Poultney, VT.

For more information contact the Poultney Area St. David's Society at (802) 287-5744 or pasds88@yahoo.com.

Children's Authors Jessie Haas And Michael Daley in Hinesburg

Join us at Brown Dog Books & Gifts on April 30 at 3 p.m. to meet two very accomplished award-winning children's authors. Jessie Haas and Michael Daley will each read from an assortment of their books, answer questions, and sign books.

Jessie Haas will present *Horse Crazy! 1,001 Fun Facts, Craft Projects, Games, Activities, and Know-How for Horse-Loving Kids*.

Michael Daley will entertain the audience with

his children's book, *Space Station Rat*. Both authors are hugely approachable and wonderful with children.

Complimentary refreshments will be provided. This event is free and open to the public.

Brown Dog Books & Gifts is located at Firehouse Plaza (next to Koval's Coffee) in Hinesburg VT. For more information please call (802) 482-5189. www.browndog-booksandgifts.com

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A Wicked Good Run

Generations of Maple Sugaring in a Vermont Town

by the Top of the Common Committee
Lunenburg, VT

After reading this book of unforgettable sugaring memories, one hopes that for generations to come this small Vermont town will have 'wicked good runs.'

Here one experiences the tempting flavor of freshly-made syrup, the camaraderie, and dedication of generations of sugar makers in this small town of Lunenburg, located in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Their story is told in their own words from childhood memories, old diaries, or hand-me-down family tales.

Pages of photographs of the 'old days' feature wood and tin sap buckets, horse or oxen teams, and sugar houses lit with lamps, but glowing from wood-fires boiling the seemingly endless supply of sap. Norman Woods, one of the 70 or more contributors to

Book Review by Charles Sutton

the book, has photographed all the remaining abandoned and existing sugarhouses in the town.

The story began 125 years ago when there were 63 active sugarhouses in Lunenburg, tapping some 33,500 sugar maple trees. The majority were small family operations with 200 to 400 taps. A half a dozen of them ran 1,000 or more taps—all buckets back then—first made of wood and later tin.

Today there are seven commercial operations left in town along with a handful of smaller sugar-makers. The largest is a 7,000 tap operation run by Carl and Theresa Blaisdell (formerly Elwyn Kimball's Sugarhouse) producing 1,500 gallons of syrup a year. Their first year in 1988 produced only 50 gallons!

Although many families had to give up sugaring, there are still some people in town willing to start anew. For instance, the Colture family in March 2006 decided to tap a few trees, collecting sap in two-liter soda bottles and boiling it on a propane burner in the back yard. To their surprise they made some pretty good syrup which encouraged two of their neighbors to join them in a joint maple sugaring adventure, including building a new sugarhouse and upgrading its equipment each year. The so-called "Backyard Boilers" (Dennis Couture, John Stinehour and Tim Arsenault) are now seasoned 'pros.'

The decline in the number of sugar-makers has been attributed to the abandonment of many small hill farms, the availability of cheap alternatives like white sugar, low syrup prices, and economically hard-pressed families not being able to leave full-time jobs to do sugaring.

The devastating hurricane of 1938 also put many sugar-makers out of business, uprooting their maple trees, and damaging houses, barns, and out-buildings. Accord-

ing to a newspaper account, "Hardly a sugar orchard is left. A Robert Barber estimated he lost 2,000 trees."

But back in the 'good old days' local lumber and sawmills closed for sugaring and all hands helped family and friends collect and boil.

There are fond memories of using horses to collect the sap in gathering tanks on top of a dray. According to a personal recollection by Gary Fournier, a good team has it all over machines when gathering sap as the gathering tub can be pulled ahead with simple commands, without the bother of climbing on and off the sled. "Will a tractor pull itself ahead when you're gathering?" he asks.

Here's how Gary Fournier recalls his brother Alan's horse-sugaring team of Jake and Dan which he used to gather sap until he gave up sugaring in 1987: "The harness-mates could hardly have been more different: Jake was sharp as a tack and a willing worker; he always knew to stop closely to a tree with a bucket on it, so he could fiddle the cover loose and get a drink of sap.

"Dan by contrast, appeared to doze when we gathered, and was a bit lazy. Jake always started the sled by himself when it was time to "Come ahead, boys," while Dan sometimes required a little extra urging before leaning into the traces and pulling his share."

"The operation was resolutely old-fashioned to the end. The dirt-floor sugarhouse had no lights, and many a late night was spent boiling by the light of Coleman lanterns. A lot of good syrup was made—always drawn off a little heavy because that's the way the customers liked it—and carried down to the house on foot, a couple of gallons in each hand."

Jeanette (Fourier) Lewis recalls that between the ages of 8 and 10 she was allowed to drive a horse team. "I'd say, 'get-up,' but of course the horses knew the way anyways."

She said the family made its own labels to put on the maple syrup cans. "We added syrup to the paste so it would taste good."

In another fond memory about horses Harriet Whitehouse recalls "when I was about four years old I rode on the dray in front of the gathering barrel. Dad put a rope around me to fasten me on. I held the reins and thought I was driving."

We learn that almost all the syrup made 100 or more years ago was converted to blocks of sugar which brought a higher price than the \$2 a gallon syrup. Farm families back then also paid off their accounts at the local store with sugar and syrup.

Some of the syrup was also sold to tobacco-makers to sweeten their product.

A Wicked Good Run



GENERATIONS OF MAPLE SUGARING
IN A VERMONT TOWN

The Top of the Common Project

The Top of the Common Committee was formed in March, 2005, with the goal of leading a community effort to restore the Congregational Church and Old Town Hall at the top of the park in the Lunenburg village. Both buildings are to be restored to a pleasing appearance appropriate to their location at the center of Lunenburg Village, and revived as important community assets.

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

The Committee has been very active meeting monthly to plan activities, preparing and staging fundraisers, and meeting with representatives of funding agencies that may provide grant monies to assist the project. Proceeds from A Wicked Good Run benefit this effort.

A Wicked Good Run sells for \$19.95. Orders can be placed by sending a personal check or money order to: Top of the Common Committee, P.O. Box 195, Lunenburg, VT 05906. Up to two books are \$4.95 shipping. For more copies, inquire to: questions@topofthecommon.org. For more information visit topofthecommon.org.



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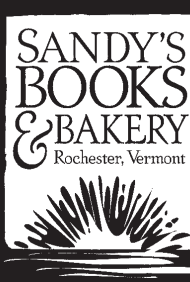
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North Country Maple Recipes

MAPLE WALNUT SCONES

This recipe is for Maple Walnut Scones. It is a fun bread making, family activity that doesn't take too much time or attention, but feels like real bread making. The finished scones are delicious and look quite impressive! They are great with a glass of milk or a cup of coffee. We use real Vermont Maple Syrup from the Carmen Brook Farm in Swanton, Vermont. Our family visited this farm while on summer vacation. The Fortin family owns and works this maple and dairy farm that has been in their family for many years. Something about meeting the family, seeing their land and hearing about their life on the farm (the innovation and technology is amazing) makes the maple a stand-out in the recipe. Enjoy! Makes 16.

3½ cups flour (for a healthier alternative I use 2 cups white flour, 1½ cups wheat flour)
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk
½ cup maple syrup
Extra flour (for sprinkling)

1 cup finely chopped walnuts (we tried making some with out walnuts, but they weren't as good. Pecans might be a good substitute).
¾ cup vegetable shortening (or butter)
½ teaspoon maple flavoring

Set the oven to 425°. Grease a large baking sheet. In a large bowl, combine flour, chopped walnuts, baking powder, and salt. With pastry blender or two knives, cut in shortening until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add the milk, ½ cup of the maple syrup and the maple flavoring and mix lightly with a fork until the mixture clings together and forms a soft dough. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead it gently 5 or 6 times. Divide the dough in half. With a lightly floured rolling pin, roll half into a 7-inch round. Cut it into 8 wedges. Repeat with the remaining half. Place the scones on the baking sheet and use a fork to pierce the



Kids, dog, and young ox team—sugaring was a family affair back in the 1890s. photo courtesy of Vermont Historical Society

tops. Brush them with the remaining maple syrup (or a little extra). Bake the scones for 15 to 18 minutes until golden brown. Serve warm.

ARMANDE AND CAROL'S PERFECT MAPLE DUMPLINGS

1 egg
1 teaspoon baking powder
Grade-B Baking Maple Syrup

1 cup flour
¼ cup milk

Mix egg, flour, baking powder and milk. Drop by spoonfuls into boiling syrup.

AUNT SUZZIE'S MAPLE PUDDING CAKE

1½ cups flour
¾ cup milk
¾ cup sugar
1½ cups Grade-B Maple Syrup

2 tsp. baking powder
¾ cup water
¼ tsp. salt
2 tbs. butter

Combine dry ingredients. Stir in milk. Spread into greased 9" pan or 2 quart casserole dish. Heat in a pan the maple syrup, water and butter, until the butter melts. Pour over batter. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Serve warm. Enjoy!

MAPLE PUMPKIN BREAD

1½ cups Grade-B Maple Syrup
4 eggs
¾ tsp. baking powder
3 cups mashed pumpkin (I often use squash)
1½ tsp. baking soda
1½ tsp. nutmeg

1½ cups sugar
¾ tsp. salt
1½ tsp. cinnamon
1 cup oil
4½ cups flour
1½ tsp. cloves

Beat syrup, sugar, eggs and oil together; add pumpkin. Add dry ingredients. Bake at 300° for 1 hour and 20 minutes. Test with cake tester. Makes 3 standard loaves or 5-6 small loaves. This bread freezes excellently.

MAPLE CREAM PIE

1 cooked pie crust

Combine in a microwave dish:

2¼ cups milk
3 egg yolks, beaten
1 dash of salt

2 cups Grade-B maple syrup
4 heaping Tbs Flour

Mix well and microwave on high stirring every five minutes. I do 2-five minute settings, followed by 2 minutes. Add 2 tsp vanilla and stir. Put pudding in pie crust. Make a meringue with the egg whites. Beat them with ½ tsp vanilla, ¼ tsp cream of tartar. Gradually add 6 Tbs of sugar while beating to stiff and glossy peaks. Spread over hot filling and bake 350° for 12-15 minutes. Cool the pie, cover and store in fridge.

These recipes are shared with you by Carman Brook Maple & Dairy Farm, 1275 Fortin Rd. in Swanton, VT. To order their maple products call (802) 868-2347 or visit www.cb-maplefarm.com. The Fortin family began dairy farming on the Fortin Road in Highgate Springs, Vermont, in 1911. Five generations later the family continues farming combining traditional farming values and today's efficiencies.






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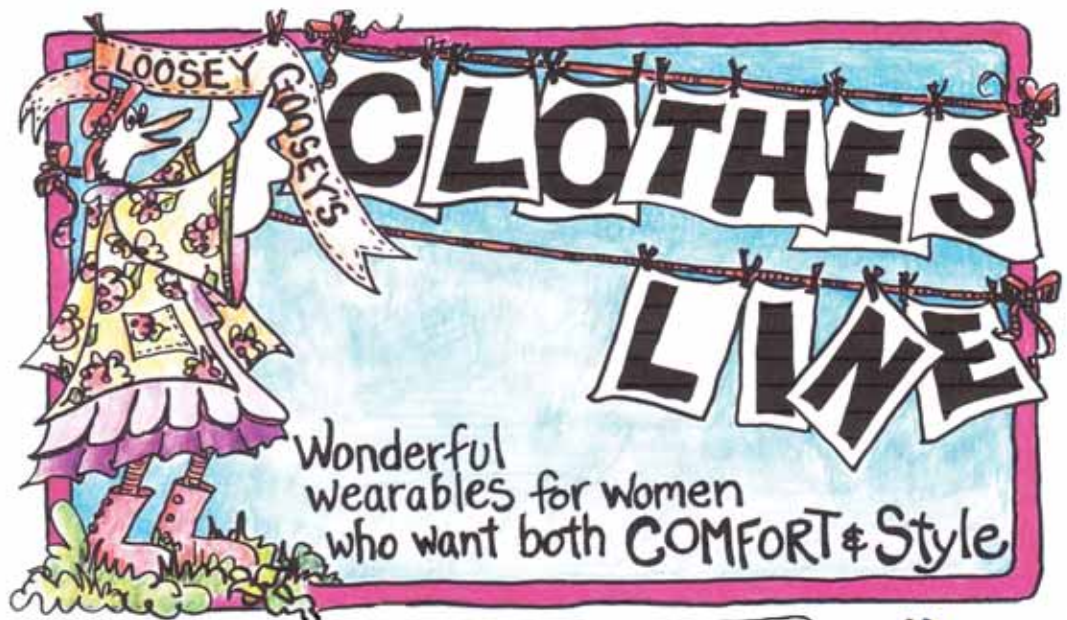
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