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Children's Book Illustrator Exhibits in Brattleboro, VT

NYT Best Book Award Illustrator Barbara McClintock will be exhibiting her illustrations at Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro, VT through April.

The library's Fine Arts Committee presents McClintock's work in the Children's Illustrator Bookcase on the 2nd Floor. The Bookcase demonstrates the artist's process in creating the illustrations that eventually become a book.

Barbara's books have won four New York Times Best Books awards, a New York Times Notable Book citation, a Boston Globe/Horn Book Honor award, and numer-

ous, other awards, recommended/best book lists, and starred reviews. According to Booklist reviewer Michael Cart, McClintock's "beautifully restrained use of color may evoke a long-ago time, but her compositions are so dynamic that there's always something for contemporary children to discover."

The Brooks Memorial Library is located at 224 Main St. in Brattleboro, VT. It is open Mon-Wed 10-9; Thurs 1-6; Fri 10-6; and Sat 10-2.

For more information, call (802) 254-5290. brattlib@brooks.lib.vt.us. www.brooks.lib.vt.us.

Jazz Jubilee Benefit to Feature Jazzberry Jam Quartet

On Saturday evening, April 28, Youth Services will be holding its 14th Annual Jazz Jubilee & Silent Auction from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Grafton Inn. The benefit will feature entertainment by the Jazzberry Jam Quartet. The gala will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour and silent auction. At 6 p.m., a delicious meal, prepared by the inn's chef, will be served.

Silent auction bidding will close after coffee and dessert. The jazz performance will begin at 8 p.m. in Phelps Barn with dancing possible.

Tickets are \$85 and will benefit the many programs of Youth Services.

Please call (802) 257-0361 for reservations or visit www.youthservicesinc.org/jazz for more information and tickets.

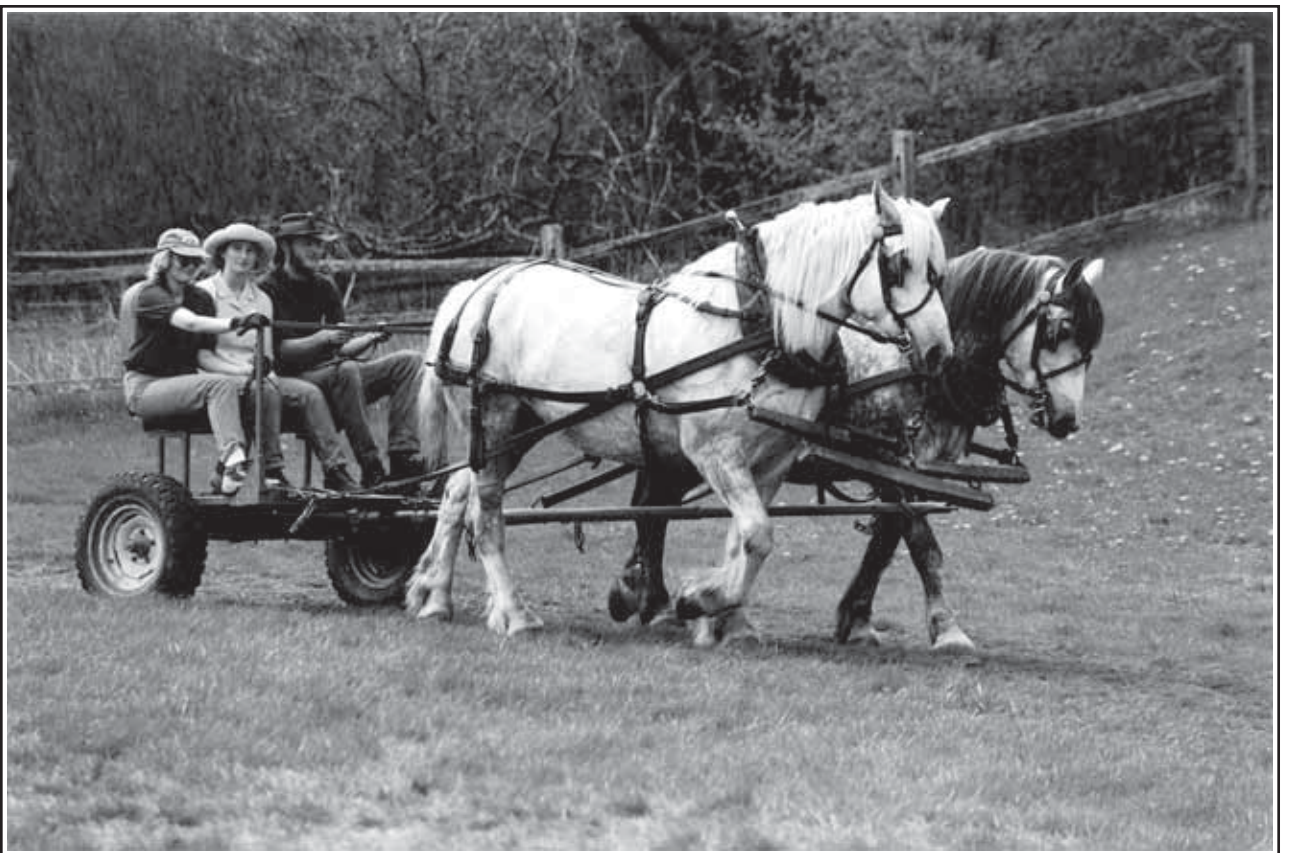


photo by Nancy Cassidy

Visitors are invited to try their hand at driving the horses at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

All Aboard for a Perfect Train Wreck April 5!

The poster sums it up this way: "It's time for a Perfect Train Wreck in Southern Vermont." No, Bellows Falls music promoters are not hoping for a lapse in railroad safety. What they are hoping for is to introduce Bow Thayer to Windham County. And this will be done in a concert, part of the First Thursdays Series at Bellows Falls Opera House Lower Theater in Bellows Falls, VT, taking place April 5 at 7:30 pm.

"Bow is a pretty big deal up north and in Boston," says Vermont Festivals' Ray Massucco, "but down here, people are only just starting to become aware of him." Bow Thayer and Perfect Trainwreck create music that is rooted in the densely forested mountains of Vermont, a combination of no-nonsense traditionalism and forward-looking individualism with influences as diverse as Fugazi, classic 60's soul a la Stax/Motown, Little Feat, Jerry Garcia and Ali Farke Toure.

Around the turn of the century, Bow put down the slide guitar—he'd been in a number of Boston-based blues/rock bands—and picked up the banjo, playing, as he says, "a form of bluegrass that the traditionalists abhor but the rest of us cannot deny."

Perfect Trainwreck formed around the nucleus of Thayer's songwriting and banjo, and former Boston band-mates slowly emigrated north. "Our lack of practice and the inability of some to embrace modern communication techniques could have spelled doom," says Thayer. But as the band played gigs throughout the area, including Midnight Rambles at Levon Helm's barn in Woodstock, NY, the energy and spontaneity of their shows, "convinced us that rehearsal is overrated."

They have now released three full-length CDs, and with each one, their reputation grows a bit more. "I think Bow Thayer is one of the more exciting acts in the northeast right now," says Flying Under Radar's Charlie Hunter. "Some of our regular patrons have been urging us to bring Bow here, and it feels like the time is right. We really believe in Bow, and to prove it, the Flying Under Radar 100% money-back guarantee will be in effect for this show."

The next show in the First Thursday series is the highly-anticipated May 5th appearance by New England icon Cheryl Wheeler.

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

General admission tickets for Bow Thayer are \$15 in advance or \$25 for front row "Angel" tickets. Advance tickets are available at Village Square Booksellers and Fat Franks in Bellows Falls, in Chester at Misty Valley Books, in Brattleboro at Turn It Up!, and on line at brattleborotix.com.

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

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



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For rose-moles all in stipples upon trout that swim;
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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



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Vermont Country Sampler
April 2012, Vol. XXVIII

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

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Vermont Country Sampler
P.O. Box 226, Danby, VT 05739 • (802) 293-5752
info@vermontcountrysampler.com
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The oxen plow a furrow straight and true at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. Come see the farm animals at work on Opening Day, April 28, 2012. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Billings Farm & Museum Welcomes Spring!

Billings Farm is an operating dairy farm that continues a 141-year tradition of agricultural excellence, offering farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's heritage and values. Plan to visit Billings Farm this Spring!

Baby Animal Day

Baby Animal Day takes place on Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The event includes family-centered programs with the farm's calves, lambs, and chicks, plus visiting ducklings and goslings. There will be horse-drawn wagon rides, the heirloom garden and children's activities.

Get up close with chicks, ducklings, and goslings in their pens, Jersey calves in the nursery, and lambs in the sheep barn with their mothers, and learn about their care, diet, and growth. There will be pom-pom chick and lamb handprint craft activities on-hand especially for children.

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

30th Season Opening Day

Billings Farm & Museum kicks off its 30th season on Saturday, April 28, 2012, featuring horse-drawn fieldwork, wagon rides, and more. Watch as the farm's draft horse teams work the fields—plowing, harrowing, and spreading manure. Visitors can also take a turn with the walking plow, pulled by the Billings' draft horses. Activities include horse-drawn wagon rides and making clothespin horses.

Wild & Woolly Weekend

Visit Billings for Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies on Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The weekend showcases the spring shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes at 10:30 and 12:30 a.m., 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., with spinning and carding demonstrations of the skills needed to turn fleece into yarn. Watch as Border Col-

lies herd sheep in the farm fields during programs at 11:30 a.m., 1:30, and 3:30 p.m. each day. The children's farm art show will be on display and children's wool craft activity will take place in the barns.

3rd Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration

The 3rd Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration is happening on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate Vermont's rich dairy heritage by meeting Vermont cheese makers and sampling their delicious artisan cheeses. Take part in engaging dairy education programs. The event 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 judge Jerseys with the farm manager to improve their bovine knowledge, participate in a dairy scavenger hunt, "name the calf" contest, and dairy educational programs. Especially for the children: making cow pizza (and learning about the nutritional needs of our dairy herd), fresh chocolate ice cream, and playing games.

Billings Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355, www.billingsfarm.org. Admission: adults: \$12.00; 62 & over:

\$11.00; children: 5-15: \$6.00; 3-4: \$3.00; 2 & under: free. The operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the restored and furnished farmhouse are included in the entrance fee.

Billings Farm and Museum is open daily April 28 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends Nov. – Feb. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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Scraps Still Bright

by Sally O'Kane McClintock

Like baggage circling the carousel after an airplane has landed, boxes of books, fabrics, photos, and letters come to my door. My sister is sorting through our mother's stuff. It is 13 years since Mom's death and she is ready. She consults with me on what to save or give away, then sends it on to me.

My sister phones me from across the country and together we wonder about the significance of some things Mom has saved. Sometimes I get a surprise package. A silver teapot Mom left for me to remember the cups of tea we drank together. Poem books I wrote; a packet of letters I mailed to my parents from college, the letters revealing a young woman I hardly recognize.

A large cardboard portfolio arrives in the mail, containing a pastel I made at 19 called "Three Musicians." How did Mom still have this picture of my brothers and me playing cello, flute, and horn? As I study it, I remember how I was encouraged to attend art school, how I continued this study for a while after marriage, and then sketched and painted the children. Eventually I stopped.

"I am startled when a box of old clothing arrives because of something else it contains: a small bundle of fabric scraps that have instant meaning."

Should she send me some of Mom's books? She has hesitated to dismantle the order of the collection in our mother's bookcase. It's almost like dismantling Mom. But now she thinks it is time to make a start. I agree with her.

She asks if I would like the red-checked tablecloth and eight napkins. "Do you remember that tablecloth? They used it on the sawbuck table that Dad made, the table you have now." And what about the faded dish towels from our grandmother's house, she wonders. "Mom saved them, but what was their significance? Do you want them?" I say, "Send them along. I guess someone needs to save them."

Books on sorting advise to "keep, toss, or give away." It's hard with Mom not here, hard to know what to keep, what to give away. And tossing seems impossible. Even in our sorting, we want to hold onto Mom.

And it's hard to know who the ancestors are in many of the old photos. At the end of my cross-country visits with Mom, I'd ask her over and over to write down their names under those photos. She would put this off until it was too late, time for me to catch my plane. Perhaps she didn't want to accept that she would not be here forever. But she always made time to read her poems to me over our last cups of tea.

I am startled when a box of old clothing arrives because



Sally O'Kane McClintock admires a flower, circa 1937.

photo by W. H. O'Kane

of something else it contains: a small bundle of fabric scraps that have instant meaning. I recognize the fabric my mother made into dresses for me when I was a girl. My blue jumper with white daisies when I was around eleven, 70 years ago. The green flowered "broomstick skirt" she sewed for me when I was a teenager. It was tied wet around a broomstick until dry and "pleated."

Inside the bundle of scraps, I find a remnant of light brown calico with tiny flowers. Trilly's dress! That takes me back many more years. Mom made this dress for my favorite doll. And all these fabric scraps are as bright as new, leftovers from the dresses my mother made then, faded, worn and long gone by now.

My mother told me she finally stopped sewing when she figured it would take her 72 hours a week just to finish her sewing projects. An artist, she wanted to spend more time painting and writing, too. And she did just that, writing and painting into her 90s.

As I handle each scrap, I am aware of the love my mother

showed for me in sewing those dresses. But these scraps, still bright from my girlhood, tell me something more, something about me. They suggest there is some part of me still like new, waiting for development. Some talent or ability in the original fabric of my being, not yet woven into the pattern of my current life.

I think of the painting I used to do, the poetry I used to write. Perhaps the bright scraps are telling me it is not too late to start there.



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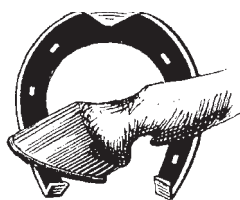
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Chester's 2012 Children And Family LEGO Contest!

LEGOmaniacs Pre-K through Grade 8 and their families are invited to enter the first 2012 LEGO Contest and display their creations for others to admire. The event is open to the public and will be held 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday April 14th at Willard Hall, which is located behind and beneath St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 313 Main Street in Chester, VT.

This is an opportunity for LEGO lovers to show off their building skills and creativity. Therefore no kits will be allowed. Entries should be constructed at home, brought to Willard Hall, and set up in a space of approximately 18 inches x 30 inches from 9-10 a.m. on the day of the contest. Entries will be judged in grade categories from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for their originality, imagination, and presentation. If a structure is a team entry, the age of the oldest member will determine the grade category. There is also a separate family team class when all family members have participated.

At 12 noon LEGO prizes will be awarded to the winners and runners-up in the grade and family team divisions, with special awards for the overall Most Original, Most Fun, and Most Vermont

creations. While the judging is going on, participants will have the chance to check out the other fabulous entries and to share techniques and ideas with the other exhibitors. Refreshments will be on sale to encourage people to stay and view the different entries.

Participants should pre-register by April 10 to be assured of a space. Entry forms may be downloaded from www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org and www.ourchester.org. Printed forms are available at the Whiting Library on Main Street in Chester. A check for the pre-registration fee of \$10 per entry should be made out to St. Luke's Church and mailed, along with the registration form, to the registrar: Lillian Willis, PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. Both the entry form and fee must be received by April 10 in order to reserve a space. Entries the day of the contest will be \$15, if there is space; but to avoid disappointment, pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

A portion of the proceeds from the program will go to the Children's Library at the Whiting Library in Chester, VT. For additional information, please call Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340. lbwillis@comcast.net.

Tree Feelings

I wonder if they like it—being trees?

I suppose they do...

It must feel good to have the ground so flat,
And feel yourself stand right straight up like that—
So stiff in the middle—and then branch at ease,
Big boughs that arch, small ones that bend and blow,
And all those fringy leaves that flutter so.
You'd think they'd break off at the lower end
When the wind fills them, and their great heads bend.
But then you think of all the roots they drop,
As much at bottom as there is on top,—
A double tree, widespread in earth and air
Like a reflection in the water there.

I guess they like to stand still in the sun
And just breathe out and in, and feel the cool sap run;
And like to feel the rain run through their hair
And slide down to the roots and settle there.
But I think they like wind best. From the light touch
That lets the leaves whisper and kiss so much,
To the great swinging, tossing, flying wide,
And all the time so stiff and strong inside!
And the big winds, that pull, and make them feel
How long their roots are, and the earth how leal!

And O the blossoms! And the wild seeds lost!
And jeweled martyrdom of fiery frost!
And fruit-trees. I'd forgotten. No cold gem,
But to be apples—And bow down with them!

—CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN
1927

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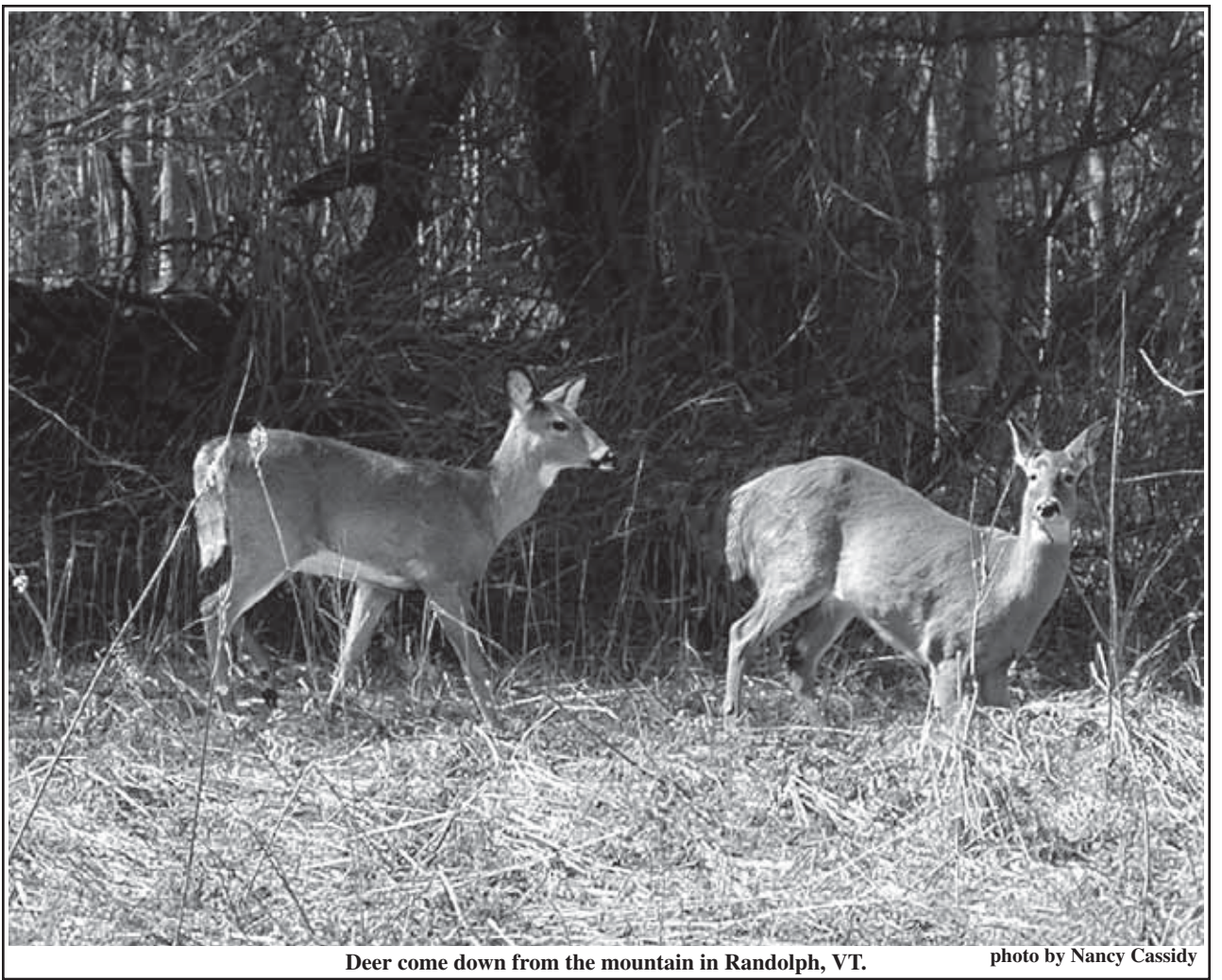
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Deer come down from the mountain in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Celebrate Wildlife & Spring at Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival

Come to beautiful Herricks Cove on the Connecticut River for the Annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival in Rockingham, VT on Sunday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

This festival includes nature presentations, activities and programs featuring live animals, guided nature walks, tasty food, workshops, a wildlife parade and crafts for children, and birding.

This event brings together wildlife, nature and outdoor enthusiasts for a fun and informative time for all ages. Come for an hour or stay all day.

Granite State 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, Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, The International Wolf Center, Brian Ellis, storyteller and many more. Co-sponsored by The Nature Museum, Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, and VT Fish and Wildlife and partially funded by TransCanada.

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

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

For more information please contact Alma Beals at madalma13@yahoo.com or call (802) 722-3355.

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Wheelbarrows & Warmth

by Burr Morse

We've had a good winter so far burning wood here at the Morse residence. Betsy and I spend some of our best moments out in the summer woods with our two Black Labs cutting, splitting and hauling wood. It's our "budget plan" you know, we save the expense of a fitness center, save a per gallon price for oil, and get warm twice; as my old buddy Gerald Pease used to say, "once, b'gory, when y'cut it and then agin when y'burn it." We have a woodshed a short distance away from our house where we stack the chunks to dry. We tried putting it directly in our basement two different years but on year one, our living room floor boards swelled and heaved because of all the moisture coming off the drying wood. On year two, the boards heaved again, plus we got carpenter ants!

Some folks might say our biggest challenge is having to transport wood from the shed to our basement but I say "pshaw" to that—it's all part of the same 'budget plan.' I will admit to a bit of fumbling during the transporting. We've tried a kids' plastic sled and a little red wagon—we've even thrown it chunk by chunk, bucket-brigade style, that is until the concussion and hospital visit but that's another story. We've never found the perfect system except for one, the wheelbarrow. Wheelbarrows are the world's most wonderful invention!

Webster's definition, a "one-wheeled vehicle for carrying small loads," is the best he could do but doesn't do justice to the job. Wheelbarrows are indeed "one-wheeled" even

"We look forward to a summer full of fun with the dogs in the woods and then beyond, to next winter in our toasty house."

though there have been dozens of Rube Goldbergesque and extremely flawed attempts at adding a second wheel, a motor, or the most ludicrous thing of all (and coming out of Vermont, no less)—changing the scoop-shaped body to a square box, adding two flimsy bicycle wheels and calling it a "garden cart." My dear folks, you don't fool with the wheelbarrow any more than you fool nature! It's made for the human body, the perfect marriage between man and machine.

I've known that for years but Betsy was a slow study. I grew up with a wheelbarrow handling sloppy cow manure and cement over long plank runways. Yes when it comes to those situations, you have to develop a bit of skill and that takes some practice. A couple spills from the planks down into the "cushion" below, though, and y'learn fast! For years while I would wheel huge loads of wood to the basement, Betsy would match my effort by cradling a few chunks to her breast and making multiple trips to my one. At one point this winter, however, from the tracks I saw, I suddenly realized that she had been using the wheelbarrow. I didn't mention it and she didn't either until one evening she came in bursting with wisdom—"That wheelbarrow is elegantly simple and it's really, you know, a metaphor for life!" She went on, "Like life, it needs balance, forward movement, and sensible loading." My wife was psyched with her discovery!

The warm days of spring have arrived, reducing our wheelbarrow trips to the basement. We look forward to a summer full of fun with the dogs in the woods and then beyond, to next winter in our toasty house. We won't be buying oil as long as our health holds up. As my "philosopher" wife points out, the wheelbarrow makes it "elegantly simple." I knew that all along but just hadn't put the words to it. Mainly, I love to handle wood the easiest way possible and to get warm twice "once, b'gory, when I cut it and then agin when I burn it."

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Hereford cow takes a cool drink from the pond in Pownal, VT.

photo by gregnesbit.com

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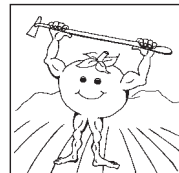
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May Day Announces the Onset of Summer

by Von Del Chamberlain

When we reach the first of May, Earth has moved along its orbit to where the Northern Hemisphere is receiving an ever increasing flow of energy as each day is longer than the one before. The Sun is climbing in our sky, and everything in the Northern Hemisphere responds to its light. Indeed, we best be careful not to overdose on its luminosity that can burn and even cause cancerous effects that doctors warn about. We have reached the cross-quarter date that some past ages have considered to be the start of summer.

In Celtic tradition, the night of April 30 was thought of as the darkest of the year, when witches flew to frighten, spawning evil throughout the land. In response, people pounded on kettles, slammed doors, cracked whips, rang church bells and made all the noise they could to scare off the corruption they imagined to be moving on the moist air. They lit bonfires and torches and witch-proofed their houses with spring boughs. Such vigils were kept throughout the night until the rising of the May-dawn.

“May Day certainly signals the onset of the most pleasant of times in our part of the world.”

Beltane—the word means “brilliant fire” in reference to the Sun—became more commonly known as May Day. People danced around bonfires on hilltops, moving in a clockwise, or “sunwise” direction. Later generations would dance around a pole.

In the British Isles young men and maidens would go a-Maying on the eve of May Day, spending all night in the forests to return at day-break, “bringing in the May,” adorning villages with spring boughs and blossoms. They might carry with them the stem of a tree, place it in the village, and decorate it with flowers, vines and ribbons.

Maypoles remain common in Scandinavian countries, and the trimmings are often left through summer and winter as a gesture to symbolically insure the coming of spring the following year. The meanings of the day have continued to change. In 1887, socialistic countries established May 1 as a day for working people to show unity in public demonstrations. In communist Russia, the day became one of political speeches and military parades. Maypoles seem so much

more appropriate than do missiles aimed at the sky.

It is, after all, the location of Earth in its solar orbit that we celebrate on any anniversary. Your birthday, Independence Day, Christmas and all the others that are date specific are established by Earth’s orbit and are marked by reference to the Sun in our sky. If you wish, you could mark these days by knowing where the Sun would rise as viewed from some specific observing station. Your horizon calendar would be defined by the limiting northern and southern gateways for sunrise or sunset at summer and winter solstices. The equinox would mark the mid-point, and the cross-quarter dates could provide additional reference points for visualization of the passage of the year.

Native Americans occupying this land before us were watching the Sun migrate on the horizon. When it reached the place we have named “May” they were singing the songs that brought them into harmony with the fertility of Mother Earth and Father Sky. Their rewards were gentle rains, mixed with sunlight.

Calendar-keeping people also watch the stars. In early May the evening sky in the west is marked by an arc of brilliant stars.

The cross-quarter day that is only vaguely remembered these days in the form of May Day certainly signals the onset of the most pleasant of times in our part of the world. Leaves are bursting out on trees, flowers in all the colors of the rainbow appear. Farmers work fields and backyard-gardeners plant vegetables and herbs. This is a good time to look around at earth and sky with greater sensitivity and appreciation of emerging abundance that initiates the harvest we will surely enjoy in a few short months.

Von Del Chamberlain is an astronomer who has served as director of Albert Einstein Planetarium at the Smithsonian and as director of the Hansen Planetarium in Salt Lake City. He teaches, lectures, and writes, is currently involved in a Native American ethnoastronomy project.



Paths

For the morning, a climbing path—in the evening, a strolling way. Paths among the pines for moods, and a birch-lined trail for lovers and youth and Spring. But in winter, a wheel-rutted old wood road between stumps of hemlock and spruce.

Paths are not idle ways—they go places. And in friendly fashion, they ask you to come along. If you cannot spare time from today’s rush of little things, another day will do. Paths wait. I have known a path to wait for years, a path that deserved better things. For did it not lead straight up to a wild strawberry patch in June!

And once a cowpath stumbled headlong into a magnificent bed of maidenhair just at the edge of

a hemlock grove. Paths do not promise rashly—they know unerringly where the arbutus is blossoming under pine needles in April, and how easiest to find the red raspberry clearing in July. A winding footpath across a meadow leads inevitably to a cold spring beside an old barway.

A short way up the mountain road there is a gap in the tumble-down stone wall—you remember—a dim, narrow way—up—up—over rocks still mossy from spring

freshet waters, into birch thickets and over rotted logs, out into quick patches of sunlight, back into moist fern-bordered semi-darkness, and always up. Until it frets itself through one last brier tangle and bids you look. Up the river valley to the blue hills. Along bleak ledges to dusky spruce woods below. Out toward the sunshine and clouds.

Do that at least once in a lifetime.

—ESTHER B. STEBBINS
Driftwind, 1938

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Spring Fever! Calling all children in grades 1–4. Spend a wonderful week in the meadow, wetlands, and woodlands!

The One World Conservation Center is hosting a camp from April 16–20, 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. (3:30 p.m. on Friday)

Campers will explore the beauty and wonder of our 96-acre Nature Reserve. Through fun games and activities, the campers will explore the lives of beavers,

the arrival of migratory birds, the emergence of tree foliage and wildflowers. On the final day, teams of campers will showcase their learning and fun in a “fair” for friends and parents.

You may register for particular days or for the whole week of fun! Cost is \$150 for the entire week or \$40 for individual days.

To register contact the One World Conservation Center

at 413 Rt. 7 South, Bennington, VT. (802) 447-7419. info@netrop.org. For information visit www.oneworldconservationcenter.org.

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Northshire Bookstore Publishes New Edition of Green Living

Green Living Journal, a quarterly publication for "friends of the environment" is now being published in a new edition in conjunction with the Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center, VT.

The first edition is out and is available now at the bookstore and in many other retail locations.

The publisher of the new edition is Chris Morrow, co-owner of the Northshire Bookstore, whose academic background is in environmental studies. Says Stephen Morris, Green Living national publisher, "no one is better acquainted with the changing media world than the folks at the Northshire. In a challenging bookselling world they've survived by being innovative, fast-on-their feet, and serving the local community."

The Northshire has been widely recognized for their innovation. In 2006 they were given the prestigious "Bookseller of the Year" award by Publisher's Weekly magazine. Morrow has also been active in organizations such as Local First Vermont

and Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility which exist to bolster the viability of local business communities.

"We believe the future for periodicals will be to specialize and localize," says Morris. "As the Internet fills our need for national and even global connection, a void and opportunity is created on the local level. We need to rebuild our village greens, literally, and the key will be our communications media. We're fortunate to have found a partner in the Northshire that knows publishing, but also has deep roots in the local business community."

The new edition of Green Living serves the Route 7 corridor from Rutland, VT down to the Connecticut border. It extends westward into the "Capital District" of New York State to Albany and Saratoga Springs. You can pick up a copy for free, over-the-counter, at 200 retail locations or by subscription.

For more information visit greenlivingjournal.com. For advertising information call Laura Yanne (802) 867-5326.



Sheep graze on a hillside in Sunderland, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

New Biography of Robert Todd Lincoln Presented at Hildene

There's no place like a man's ancestral home, to introduce a new book about his life. On Saturday, April 7, author and historian, Jason Emerson, will do just that when he launches the tour for his new book, *Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln* at Hildene, the Manchester, Vermont home of the presidential son and captain of industry.

Emerson will present the book and take questions in the Beckwith Room at 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. Each presentation will be followed by a book-signing in The Museum Store. The event is

free and open to the public.

Published by Southern Illinois University Press, Emerson's is the first new biography of Robert T. Lincoln in more than four decades. It represents nearly 10 years of research, a considerable part of which was done by the former Hildene Scholar in Residence in The Lincoln Family Home's archives.

Thomas J. Craughwell, author of *Stealing Lincoln's Body* calls it, "the biography Lincoln aficionados have been waiting for." He goes on to say that, "Historian Jason Emerson sweeps away a century of myths and mis-

information about Robert T. Lincoln, including the musty old canard that he had no respect for his famous father and no sympathy for his emotionally fragile mother. This is an intimate, in-depth portrait that will be praised, quoted, and consulted for years to come."

Giant in the Shadows is the missing chapter of the Lincoln family story and its pages are flush with never-before published photographs. The author's work provides new insight into historical events.

More than simply a biography, it is a tale of American achievement in the Gilded Age and the endurance of the Lincoln legacy.

Hildene is located off Rt. 7 just south of the village of Manchester, VT. For more information about the book presentation call Stephanie at (802) 367-7960 or email stephanie@hildene.org. For information on Hildene call (802) 367-7961 or visit www.hildene.org. You can also find them on Facebook.

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Plan to Visit the Boswell Botany Trail in Manchester, VT

The Southern Vermont Arts Center's Boswell Botany Trail, in Manchester, VT, is a rambling, three-quarter mile nature trail dotted with rustic seats and benches, began its long career in 1917 as the nature walk of the original Webster estate. It was officially designated as the Boswell Botany Trail, in honor of its creator, Mrs. Harold "Petie" Boswell, in 1964. The trail was re-

created and greatly expanded in 2001 thanks to funds from the Nichols Foundation.

Replete with its wonderfully bucolic wildflower walk, the Boswell Botany Trail boasts stately white birches, native orchids, grasses and moss, and most of the 67 varieties of fern found in Vermont, all in a unique glacial microclimate.

The trail is easily explored at a leisurely pace by most walkers in a half-hour or less. While open year round, it can be a little muddy in the Spring.

Southern Vermont Art Center is located off West Rd. in Manchester, VT.

For more information call (802) 362-1405 or visit www.svac.org.

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Anglers Prepare for Vermont's Spring Trout Fishing

Vermont's traditional trout fishing season opens Saturday, April 14th this year, and anglers are looking forward to 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."

Where the fish are

Vermont's 2012 stocking schedule will be available in late March on the Fish and Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) under the "Fishing" category. The site is interactive, so you can enter the body of water, town or species of fish and see what fish will be stocked. Lakes and ponds are first to receive fish in the spring, while rivers are stocked later after the high water run-off has passed.

As an added bonus, Vermont's catch-and-release bass fishing season in lakes starts the same day as trout season on April 14 and continues through June 8. Only lures and flies may be used, and bass must be immediately released.

The Fish and Wildlife Department is cautioning anglers that the use of felt-soled boots or waders in Vermont waters is prohibited 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.

Plan a fishing trip

Planning a Vermont spring fishing trip is easy. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department offers a 2012 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.

The Vermont Outdoor Guides' Association offers help in locating fishing guides and some overnight facilities on their website at www.voga.org. Additional help in finding a place to stay overnight can be found at www.VermontVacation.com.

Fishing licenses are available at agents statewide and from Fish & Wildlife's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. 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 do not need a fishing license in Vermont.

For more information or for a copy of the 2012 Vermont Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws and Guide, call the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department at (802) 241-3700. You also can download sections of the publication from their website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



photo from Vermont Fish & Wildlife
Saturday, April 14 is opening day of Vermont's trout fishing season. The Willoughby River in Orleans, shown here, is a favorite for anglers because steelhead rainbow trout come into the river on their spawning run.

Want to Go Trout Fishing Before Opening Day?

Why wait for the traditional opening day of trout fishing? One of the benefits of our mild winter is that Vermont anglers can capitalize on year-round catch-and-release trout fishing opportunities available on nine river sections, and this is the year to give it a try according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

"We normally would have deep snow and ice conditions on most rivers, but this year anglers have a great opportunity to get out there early to cast a fly or lure in waters that hold some of our biggest trout," said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry. "Our regulation allowing catch-and-release trout fishing with artificials on these streams was enacted a few years ago, but we've never had conditions this favorable."

The following Vermont river sections are open for year-round trout fishing using artificial lures or flies only. All trout caught must be immediately released where they are caught.

Black River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the Lovejoy Dam in Springfield.

Lamoille River—From the Lake Champlain boundary (top of Peterson Dam in Milton) upstream to the top of the hydroelectric Dam at Fairfax Falls.

Lewis Creek—From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the State Prison Hollow Road (TH #3) bridge in Starksboro.

Ompompanoosuc River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Union Village Dam in Thetford.

Otter Creek—From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to top of Center Rutland Falls in Rutland.

West River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Townshend Dam (Townshend) to Connecticut River boundary.

White River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the bridge on Route 107 in Bethel.

Williams River—From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the dam at Brockway Mills Falls in Rockingham.

Winooski River—From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the Bolton Dam in Duxbury and Waterbury.

Opening day of Vermont's regular trout fishing season is the second Saturday in April, the 14th this year. Licenses and more information can be found at The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.





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Old Tyme Maple Sugarhouse Dinner Coming to Wells, VT

It happens only once a year and it only happens here in Wells, VT.

The Wells United Methodist Church will be presenting their Old Tyme Maple Sugarhouse Dinner on Saturday, April 14th, at the Modern Woodman Hall on Main St. (Rt. 30), in Wells, VT. Serving will start at 4:30 p.m. till 7 p.m.

The feast starts off with a lush, twenty-plus item salad bar, topped off by five distinct varieties of Sue Clark's maple dressings. Oops, don't miss that old crock of pickles at the table's end. Audrey will be working hard to get all those eggs boiled just right in maple sap. Gardner Ken & Hank will be working on the meat and 'taters.'

Now, it's time to sink your teeth into our main course, Maple Glazed Ham and Vermont Mashed Potatoes. You'll probably need some

Maple Baked Beans and Maple Brown Bread to go along with that. Need a little more zing? Try our Maple Mustard, Maple Pepper or Maple Vinegar. Beverages are Maple Coffee, Maple Tea, Milk and Juice.

Hum, you're still hungry? Okay, there is Ice Cream and Maple Cookies. There are jugs of Maple Syrup on the tables just in case you need a little more. There is no other meal like this one. Please join us and enjoy this unique Maple experience.

Tickets: adults \$12, youth 10 and under \$6, 4 and under are free. There is a \$1 charge for take-out.

Take outs are available. If you are coming from away, it would be good if you made a reservation. Call Sue at (802) 325-3203 or e-mail Mary Ann at maryannfe@comcast.net.



Someone's been picking the fiddlehead ferns!

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Green Mountain Gardener

A Feast of Weeds

by Dr. Leonard Perry,
Extension Professor, University of Vermont

Do you ever think, when weeding each year, that there must be some use for all those weeds? Well there is. Some of our more common weeds can be quite tasty!

Most have heard of dandelion wine, made from the blossoms, but you can begin eating this plant raw in salads. Harvest the youngest plants, those not yet in bloom, for the best taste. You can steam the leaves as you would other greens such as spinach. If you are allergic to members of the aster family, such as ragweed and daisies, use caution when eating this plant or relatives such as chicory and burdock.

If you live near a field or have areas of unplanted soil, you may have burdock (*Arctium*). Africans know it as "gobo" and Italians as "cardone." Roots can be steamed as a vegetable, but the best part is the young stems cut into half-inch pieces and steamed. Use them in stews, soups, or as a cooked vegetable with your favorite topping. Avoid this plant though if pregnant.

The leaves of lambsquarters (*Chenopodium*) can be steamed and eaten as you would spinach. Many who have eaten both actually prefer it over spinach. Try some in quiche. In New England it was traditionally canned for winter use. As with many weeds, the young shoots are best. Or you can keep harvesting new side shoots, promoting more branches and more young shoots.

Lambsquarter is another weed that has been enjoyed around the world, and through time. It was even cultivated in Neolithic times, seeds having been found preserved in archeological sites. Romans, and then later Europeans, cultivated it as a garden vegetable until the 18th century. Native Americans ate it, and Japanese still eat it, or preserve it in salt.

There are a couple of cautions with lambsquarter. If harvested from fields with heavy fertility, plants may contain harmful levels of nitrates. This is also true from herbicide-sprayed plants that should never be eaten of this, or any other weed. Those with arthritis, gastric inflammations, hepatic conditions, gout, rheumatism, or prone to kidney stones should use caution with lambsquarter and other similar plants containing oxalates. This would include dock (*Rumex*) and wood sorrel (*Oxalis*) among others.

Dock, also known as sorrel, has been used in French

sorrel soup and cream sauces for fish. The lemony flavor is intense, so only use a tablespoon of chopped leaves. Enjoy in moderation, no more than once a week.

Young shoots of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia*) are a favored vegetable in Asia, where they are steamed and served with rice. Or they can be used in fruit pies for their tartness. They contain Resveratrol, which has been shown to help prevent heart attacks.

Leaves of Ground Ivy (*Glechoma*) have a woody mint aroma, and slightly bitter taste. Use them in salads or in sauces. Until the 17th century when hops became popular to flavor beer, this plant was used.

Leaves of plantain (*Plantago*) can be eaten raw when young, cooked when older. Steam them as greens, or use in soups. Young flowering spikes can be sauteed in butter.

Leaves and stems of chickweed (*Stellaria*) are popular in Japan, traditionally eaten in spring with rice. Harvest this plant, or purslane (*Portulaca*), before flowering and use fresh in salads. The latter has a sweet-sour flavor.

Chicory (*Cichorium*) has been enjoyed as a vegetable in Belgium, the cooked roots in Arabia, and as wild greens in Greece and Italy. Young leaves are the least bitter. The blue flowers can be eaten and add color to salads. Chicory roots have been used as a coffee substitute. Grow them in a dark cellar, or hill up earth around the roots, to yield white, tender leaves lacking in bitterness.

The next time you "harvest" any of these or other weeds from your garden, consider supplementing your meals with them. Be positive you know what weed you are eating, and that it is edible without unknown consequences! Doctors and herbal practitioners are a good source of such information.

Leonard P. Perry, Extension Professor, Department of Plant and Soil Science, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, can be contacted at (802) 656-0479. Check out Perry's Perennial Pages at www.uvm.edu/~pass/perry/.



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Recipes for Vermont's Springtime Bounty

Vermonters' Guide To Gathering, Growing, and Cooking With Local Foods

by Sue Greenall

The bounty of Vermont is amazing. Not only does the land produce wild foods for gathering but the variety which small farmers offer, from free-range chickens to artisan cheeses, makes for some great eating. Weekly farmer's markets are proof of the healthy concepts adopted by local food producers for which we all benefit. Buying locally grown produce is a win-win scenario. The buyer gets fresh food and can be assured of how it was grown and treated and the seller is encouraged to continue and expand.

Vermont's Farm to School and Farm to Plate programs are leading the nation in promoting local foods. This cookbook puts forth a challenge, not only to eat locally and eat healthy, but to eat "outside the box;" changing familiar recipes to conform to using local products, reviving historic recipes, and creating completely new recipes to celebrate awareness of the environment.

The challenge is in shifting one's buying and eating habits to reflect products in season and letting them go until that season rolls around again. World wide markets have led us to reach for an apple or tomato or ear of corn any time we want. One can only hope that we have noticed that those apples, tomatoes and ears of corn are but a shadow of those items when in season locally.

The term localvore was coined as a way to explain one's commitment to only eating food grown within a 100-mile radius and has become increasingly fashionable, but not easy, as it leaves out sugar, spices and coffee. A more realistic term, eating locally, will bring you to look forward to seasonal foods and snubbing the globally marketed facsimiles.

Reading through this cookbook should have you marking out where thimble berries bloom so you can return in the fall to gather these wild treats and shoveling wild leeks into buckets as soon as the snow starts melting back.

FIDDLEHEADS

When gathering wild plants, please ask for landowner permission first. May not only brings spring weather, but fiddleheads. As mud season winds down, cars continue to crawl up and down the dirt roads, not to avoid falling into a hole, but to spot fiddleheads. Emerging from the wreckage of winter these cheerful green ferns pop up in the most unlikely places. Spotting them takes some practice, but one can always follow a slow moving car. Not all ferns are edible. Fiddlehead is a generic term, the fiddleheads that are edible belong to the ostrich fern which is a very tall elegant green fern when mature. They are distinctive by their dark shiny green color and a celery-like groove on the stem. The emerging plant is what you are after and often they grow in large groupings in a specific area. Pick the tightly curled fiddlehead, always leaving two or three to emerge into ferns. One wants to insure a future crop. Fiddleheads keep very well, just don't wash them until ready to cook. I have even packaged them up and mailed them to friends. They don't freeze very well though, so binge on this tasty veggie while you can. Treat fiddleheads as you would asparagus, only they are tastier. If all else fails, many Vermont super markets sell them when in season and they have even been seen at NYC markets.

Washing fiddleheads. Using two bowls, rinse the fiddleheads, pour off the water and rinse again, and again and again. Parboil the "clean" fiddleheads for 2-3 minutes which will remove the last of the brown casing. Now you are ready to cook.

Fiddlehead Soup

- 1 medium bowl of cleaned fiddleheads
- 1 onion
- 1 clove of garlic
- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 cup vegetable broth
- 3 cups of warm milk

In a large sauce pan, sauté the onion and garlic in the butter until tender. Add the fiddleheads to the sauce pan, reserving 10-20 nice ones, along with the broth. Cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Puree in a food processor and return to the sauce pan. Add the warm milk and heat carefully until hot. Pour into bowls and float the reserved fiddleheads on top.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Listed by the World Conservation Union as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species, it came from Japan to Vermont as a decorative garden plant. It now chokes waterways, crowds out native species and is extremely difficult to eradicate. But, if you can beat 'em, eat 'em. When young, Japanese Knotweed has a Granny Smith apple/rhubarb taste.

The shoots need to be cut early when they are 12-18 inches high, mid-April through May. Doubtful that anyone would complain about cutting knotweed, but do ask for landowner permission first. The shoots are hollow so pick thick ones so they will yield more when peeled. Scrape off the thin, red, outer skin with a knife or peeler and chop the shoots into 1"-2" pieces. They can be used for any recipe calling for rhubarb or eaten raw.

Knotweed Cake

- 4 cups firmly packed Japanese knotweed pieces
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 2 tsp apple brandy
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp allspice
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1 cup applesauce

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 13" by 9" baking pan. Beat eggs, sugar, salt and apple brandy in a large mixing bowl until blended. Mix the flour, baking soda and spices together in a separate bowl. Add the flour mixture to the egg mixture, then add the applesauce, knotweed pieces and mix until blended. Pour the batter into the greased baking pan and spread evenly. Bake for one hour, then remove from the oven and cool on a wire drying rack.

RHUBARB

By the time you have planted your peas, rhubarb is ready to pick. As thrilling as it is to finally get your hands on something fresh from the garden it is hard to come up with things to do with it, so, have pie for breakfast! Cut off the seed stem that will appear with amazing speed shortly after the plant leafs out. Pull any large leafed, thick stems to allow tender young stems to develop and you can have rhubarb all summer long.

Rhubarb Pie

- 20-30 young rhubarb stems
- 1 unbaked pie shell
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tbsp butter

Topping:

- 6 tbsp butter
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/2 cup sugar

Preheat the oven to 350°. Remove the leaves, rise and cut stems into 2 inch pieces. Place in a large bowl and toss with the flour and sugar, adjusting sugar to taste. Heap the mixture into the prepared pie shell. It should form a mound about an inch above the plate as it will reduce with cooking. Dot with butter. Soften the remaining butter and mix with the flour and sugar to form a crumb topping. Sprinkle over the top of the mound. Bake for 45-60 minutes until it bubbles. Cool before serving.

WILD LEEKS AKA RAMPS

When gathering wild plants, please ask for landowner permission first. The common wild leek, also known as the ramp, is an intriguing addition to the table in early spring. First to send green shoots to the surface in the spring, it is easily spotted in bunches along streams and in wet soggy ground once you acquire an eye for it. It looks very much like lily of the valley but shows up in April. Tear off a leaf and take a sniff, the distinct odor of onion will tell for sure that it is a ramp. The wet soggy ground will not give up the ramps easily and take care when using a spade as to not damage the plants. Ramps do not like being harvested and might take several years to replenish. Care must be exercised in order for the bed to survive. The season is April and May as the plant dies back once warm weather arrives. But until then, ramps can add greatly to spring cuisine. Since it shows up at the same time as Morels one can search and find both in one outing. Traditional recipes are eggs with ramps, potatoes with ramps, fish with ramps, soups, casseroles and potato dishes. We'd like to think that ramps can rise to a higher level of cuisine than that.

A papery wrapper leaf (and some dirt) may surround the bulb and should be pulled off as you would with scallions. There may also be some roots which should be trimmed off along with their little button attachment. Once trimmed and cleaned the entire plant is tender and choice for eating. Do not trim the roots off if you wish to store them in the refrigerator, place in a glass of water to keep them from drying out. They can last up to a week that way. They also can be frozen whole.



Sue Greenall and Willy Wonka

Ramp Pesto

This is so outstanding that I allowed myself to use olive oil, pine nuts and parmesan cheese. Its uses are endless.

- Two fistfuls of freshly picked ramps, cleaned
- 1 cup of olive oil
- Freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 1 cup of pine nuts or sunflower seeds
- Parsley (frozen from the season before)

Place the ramps and the nuts in a food processor and turn on. While mixing, add the oil gradually. Scrape the sides to be sure everything is mixed. Add the grated cheese and parsley to taste. Both will help cut the pungent flavor of the ramps and the amount used will be determined by your taste or the dish the pesto is to be used for. On pasta, I suggest cutting the flavor quite a bit but for fish or lamb, add only a little cheese. Pesto can be frozen until ramp season rolls around again.

Ramp and Potato Soup

- 4-6 slices bacon (optional)
- 4 cups chopped ramps (including green)
- 4-5 cups diced red potatoes
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 3 tbsp flour
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Salt and pepper, to taste

In a large skillet fry bacon until crispy; set bacon aside. Add ramps and potatoes to the skillet; fry on medium-low heat until ramps are tender. Take care as ramps can crisp up very fast, you only want them cooked through. Sprinkle with flour; stir until flour is absorbed. Stir in broth; simmer until potatoes are tender. Stir in the cream and heat thoroughly. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Vermonters' Guide to Gathering, Growing, and Cooking with Local Foods by Sue Greenall is available at your bookstore or from the author for \$9.95 each. Postage is \$2.24 for one copy, \$2.77 for 2-3 copies, and \$3.16 for 4-6 copies. Payment by check or PayPal. Send to: Sue Greenall, 268 Kings Highway, West Windsor, VT 05089. Or order through greenall@vermontel.net or visit www.greenallcarriage.com.



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The choice of trees available this year (planting instructions provided), sold bare root and branched includes: Brandywine Maple, 6 ft.; Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn, 6 ft.; Reliance Peach, 6 ft.; Adams Crab Apple, 6 ft.; Japanese Tree Lilac—Snowdance, 5 ft.; and River Birch, 6 ft.

For more information about bare root planting and descriptions and pho-

tos of each tree visit www.branchoutburlington.org. All trees are \$43 each. Payment by check or money order must accompany your order. Orders deadline is April 20th.

Please make check payable to: Branch Out Burlington and mail to: Kyle Albee, 55 Bartlett Bay Rd., So. Burlington, VT 05403.

Please list which substitutes you would prefer if we run out of the variety you have ordered. And please order by April 20.

The Horticulture Farm ("Hort Farm") is at 65 Green Mountain Dr. in So. Burlington, VT. Go south on Rt. 7, then right at the sign for the "Horticultural Research Complex." www.friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.branchoutburlington.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRANDON. Sustainable Living Book Exchange. Take a book, leave a book. Donations accepted. Self-service, starting April 15. Neshobe Farm, 142 Steinberg Rd. off Rt. 7 just north of the village. For more information call (802) 310-8534.

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

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

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

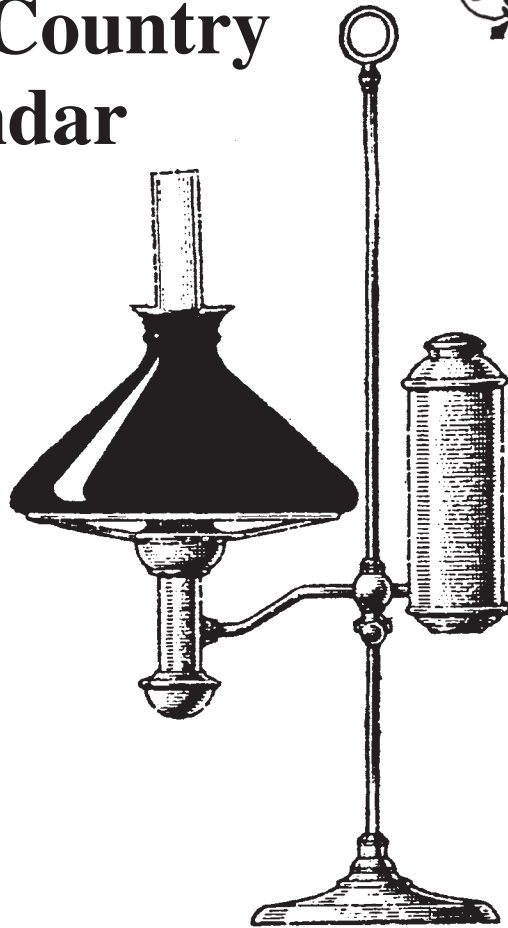
BRATTLEBORO. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. 7-9 pm. Kidsplayce, 20 Elliott St. For information e-mail cuvvlever@gmail.com. *First and third Thursdays.*

BRATTLEBORO. Exhibit: Drawings by Children's Book Illustrator Barbara McClintock. In the Children's Illustrator Bookcase on the 2nd Floor. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. (802) 254-5290. brattlib@brooks.lib.vt.us. www.brooks.lib.vt.us. *Through April.*

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

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

BRATTLEBORO. 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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHESTER. Art Exhibits. Gallery hours: Wed.- Sat. 11 am - 6 pm, Sun. 12-5 pm. Admission free. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts, 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. www.vtica.org.

CHESTER. Activities at Gassetts Grange Hall. Bingo every Thurs 6:30-9 pm, refreshments sold in the kitchen. Community breakfast buffet 8-10 am, first Saturdays. On April 7: Round and Square Dance with Arnie Stoddard, caller. Hosted by Green Mountain Express. \$5 donation at the door. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 7-11 pm. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction Rts. 10 and 103N. Info call Bonnie (802) 875-3500.



Vermont State Parks' Green Mountain Passport for Seniors

Springtime is here and the great outdoors beckons us after the long winter.

Vermont has many beautiful state parks offering day-use outdoor and recreational opportunities. This can include picnicking, swimming, boating, walks, or just some time for reflection in the out of doors. Many parks offer musical entertainment.

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

62 years and older, or persons who are disabled due to military service.

These passes are obtainable only at your local town clerk's office. They cost \$2 and permit free day use entry for life into any and all VT State Parks. Visit your town office to obtain your pass and head for the parks!

For more information on Vermont State Parks visit www.vtstateparks.com.

The Goat Guide is Here!

The UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture is delighted to announce that Carol Delaney's book on dairy goats has arrived!

Written out of 10 years of research, travel and observation, "A Guide to Starting a Commercial Milk Dairy" by Carol Delaney, is a clear, close look at the needs of dairy goats and how goat farms connect to regional milk, meat, and livestock markets. Learn how to set up records that measure success in terms of time and money.

While the guide was written with the Vermont farmer in mind, and includes contributions from Vermont farmers, the content will be useful to any farmer in the Northeast.

The guide can be downloaded for free at www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture, or else ordered for \$25 (including shipping) by sending an email with your name and daytime phone number to sustainable.agriculture@uvm.edu.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

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

CHESTER. A Contemporary Vermont Art Gallery. Fine art, fine crafts, jewelry, furniture, gifts. DaVallia Art & Accents, On the Green. (802) 875-1203. www.theDaVallia.com.

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

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

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

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

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

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. Enjoy mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing, swimming and kids camps in summer. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

GRAFTON. Cricketers Gallery—Grafton Valley Arts Guild. At 45 Townshend Road. Open Thurs thru Sun from 10 am – 4 pm. (802) 843-4824. graftonvalleyartsguild.com.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Exhibits, gift shop, family activities. Adults \$5, seniors/student \$4, children 3-12 \$3, family \$15. Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. First Fridays. A monthly community event held with Slate Valley Museum, The Pember Library and the Museum of Natural History. April Art Exhibit features the works of Kerry O. Furlani. 7-9 pm. Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

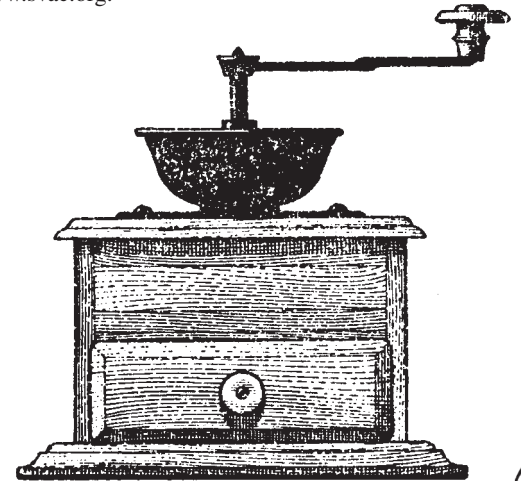
LUDLOW. Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Woodworking, Oil and Watercolor Painting, Kirigami and much more. Registration fee. Monday-Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts,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

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

MANCHESTER. Yester House Galleries at Southern Vermont Arts Center. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. SVAC, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Revolutionary War Tour. See historic sites from Manchester to Bennington. Your guide will be Dick Smith, author of *The Revolutionary War in Bennington County*. 8-passenger tour vehicle. Fee. Daily, 9:30-11:45 am. (802) 362-4997. bckrdisc@aol.com. backroaddiscovery.com. April 1 – September 28.

MANCHESTER. Boswell Botany Trail. A bucolic wildflower walk, stately white birches, native orchids, grasses and moss, and most of the 67 varieties of fern found in Vermont, all in a unique glacial microclimate. Explored at a leisurely pace by most walkers in a half-hour or less. At Southern Vermont Art Center, off West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org.



Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

Diamond Run Mall Nature Trail Rutland, VT

Diamond Run Mall Nature Trail in Rutland, VT is a good place to stop for a quick birding break if you happen to be at the mall or in the Rutland area. It is also a fun spot to bring kids as there are several short trails to explore.

Rutland County Audubon members have counted 68 species here during informal visits over the years.

Green Heron has been observed in the wet area adjacent to the mall road just south of the Rutland Field

House. The month of May can be an excellent time to look for migrating warblers, which have included Nashville, Magnolia and Canada warblers.

Both Alder and Willow flycatchers can be observed along with Great Crested Flycatcher Eastern Kingbird. Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat are common throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. American Redstart nests in the area. Veery, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing are frequently present. Black-capped Chickadee and House Wren use the nesting boxes. There is no trail map. Although the trails may seem confusing, the area is too small to get lost.

Directions: Diamond Run Mall is on Route 7 just south of Rutland, Park in the rear of the mall behind the Sears

Automotive Center. There is a small sign at the entrance.

Aitken State Forest

Aitken State Forest in Mendon was monitored by Rutland County Audubon during the 2008-09 season for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. Seventy-five species of birds were tallied. Birding is at its best May through July although it is a pleasant place for a walk at other seasons.

Mourning Warbler—Sixteen species of warblers are present including Nashville, Magnolia, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning and Canada warbler. Black-throated Blue Warblers are numerous as well as American Redstart and Ovenbird. Winter Wren and Scarlet Tanager are also abundant May through September. Resident species include Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Downy, Hairy



and Pileated woodpeckers, Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches, and Brown Creeper. The area is heavily hunted during deer season; wear orange or avoid the area. The trails to the top of Bald Mountain can be confusing so consult the map on the information kiosk.

Directions: Take Killington Ave. east from the city of Rutland. At the top of the hill, turn right onto Notch Rd. and continue past the intersection with Wheelerville Rd. An information kiosk is on the right sidewith pullouts along the road for parking.

For more information on birding in Rutland visit www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

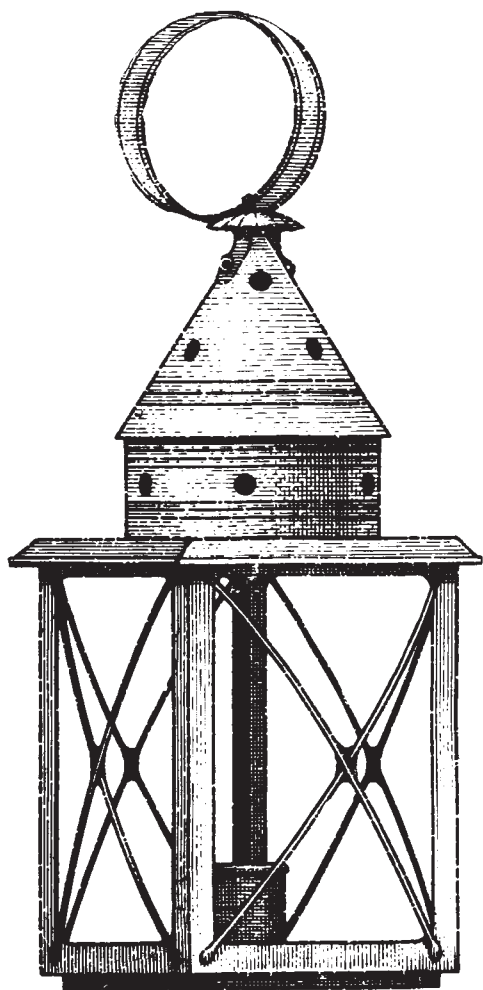
NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibits, trails, programs, and museum store open 10 am – 5 pm daily. Admission \$12 adults, \$10 children 2-17, under 2 free. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

RUTLAND. Fifth Annual Winter Farmers Market. The downtown Rutland Winter Farmers Market is indoors on Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm through April 28! Over 40 vendors, selling fresh kale and salad greens, locally-grown apples, grass-fed meats, artisan cheeses, freshly baked organic breads, honey, jellies & jams, 2012 maple syrup, hot foods, wines, wools, glasswork and jewelry—a great place to shop, eat and visit. Live entertainment. Located in the Old Strand Theater (enter through the Rutland Natural Food Co-Op at 77 Wales St.). Greg Cox (802) 683-4606. coxveg@hotmail.com. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 28.*

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

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center—Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings. Exhibit: Bone Structures, curated by Michael Winslow, March 23-April 21. Annual Student Art Show, April 28-May 19. Open Tues-Sat 10 am to 5 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 – 7 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am – 6 pm. \$10. Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, 120 Merchants Row. For reservations call (802) 775-8080. www.pyramidvt.com.

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

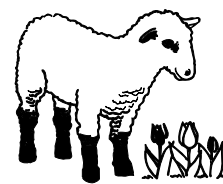
PRAYER FOR EARLY LAMBS

The stars burn white,
But the stars burn cold;
The moon hangs sorrow
And chilly and old.

With wary eyes
And lambent tongue
The old ewes hover
Over their young.

Down in the shed
New lambs bleat;
They totter and tremble
On weak black feet.

The frost-pricked air
Is bleak and raw.
The gray lambs shiver
Against the straw.



Temper the winds, Lord,
Their fleeces are thin;
Send enough springtime
To wrap them in.

—BESSIE MARLIN MASON

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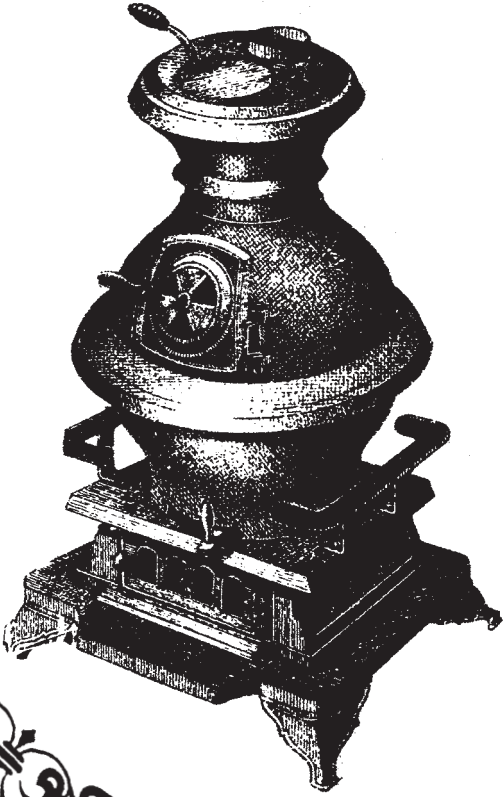
Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Farms. Welcome Center, Farm and Farm Store. Family programs, workshops, events. Open year round 10 am – 5 pm. Walking trails—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. 6:30 pm at the Maple Valley Grange Hall, Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Exhibition: Monotype & Monoprints by Harry Bernard. The Two Rivers Print Making Studio, 85 North Main St. (802) 295-5901 and www.tworiversprintmaking.com. *Through April 13-30*.

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Co-op's First Friday Celebration. Live music, 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. (802) 295-5804. Kye@uppervalleyfood.coop. uppervalleyfood.coop.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Northern Stage Presents *Chicago*. Admission. Tues-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2 pm. Briggs Opera House, 12 North Main St. (802) 296-7000 x 15. boxoffice@northernstage.org. www.northernstage.org. *April 11 through May 6*.

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

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

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, sleigh rides, festivities and museum. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. Open pre-season on April 7 for Baby Animal Day. Opening Day April 28 for the season. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

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

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

MONDAY, MARCH 26

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

Gold Sponsor RUTLAND HERALD Season Sponsor Citizens Bank

 monty python's SPAMALOT sun, apr 1 8:00 PM	 vermont authors IN PLAY fri, apr 13 8:00 PM	 jack HANNA sat, apr 21 8:00 PM
 glenn miller ORCHESTRA sun, apr 22 8:00 PM	 joan RIVERS fri, apr 27 8:00 PM	 seussical THE MUSICAL sat, may 5 8:00 PM
 captain sig AND THE CREW FROM deadliest catch sat, may 12 8:00 PM	 whose live ANYWAY sat, may 26 8:00 PM	UPCOMING events <i>On Sale Now!</i>
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April's Song

by Edward Martin Taber
from *Stowe Notes*, circa 1890

Many voices—that of the white-crowned sparrow, is it? so long-drawn, strange, and solemn; and a rippling, tinkling sound, a varied song, wonderfully sustained the winter wren? Robins everywhere, inarticulately cheery. And for the first time this year a hermit thrush, from far in the darkness of the hemlocks, faint and yet distinct, that immemorial voice.

The squeal of a hawk, the mew of a nuthatch, and later, after sunset, the hoarse crowing and hooting of an owl. A day or two ago everything was silent, dead: to-night the wood echoes and rings with innumerable sounds.

The distant fields in the valley are changing color ever so slightly, from gray to a faint raw greenish tinge.

Hermit thrushes heard today in a woody hillside near Moscow, from the river road. Tonight it is warm and windy. The wind comes blowing gustily from the south. After supper, at about seven, I went out on the piazza, and heard the longed-for and expected note. I went to the edge of the west pasture, which was very obscure in the shadow of the hill, where along the ridge the evergreens were darkly mingled in a cloud of still leafless twigs. Behind

were the dusky mountains and the pale salmon strip of sky above them, and floating across this dim expanse, sometimes stifled and carried away in faint murmurs in the gusts of the south wind, came the notes of the hermit thrushes.

When I am dead and buried, or dead and burned, I think something of what was

"When I am dead and buried, or dead and burned, I think something of what was once me will respond at the first spring song of the thrushes."

once me will respond at the first spring song of the thrushes. It is the immortal voice that speaks to something dumb and nameless in the human breast,

and is answered by a dumb and nameless yearning.

It conveys a kind of immortality upon the listener. It comes out of an immeasurable past, and carries the soul into the immeasurable future. Wonderful notes!

Like the precious moments in life and in art, that are thrilling with emotion, full to the brink of tears.

Notes so varied, clear, and full, or faint as an echo lispings softly, like a comment on the thrilling sweetness of the last, sometimes high almost to shrillness, and again tittered low and with a melodiousness ineffable. It is not so much like the answering notes of birds, as like a converse of happy spirits.

Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Community Players Present Annie. A family classic, not to be missed! Tickets \$20. Performances 2 & 7 pm. Town Hall Theater. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org. Also March 30, 31 and April 1.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

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

KILLINGTON. SnowMont Music Festival. A three-day music festival featuring Snoop Dogg, Chromeo and DJ Shadow along with Nor'beaster, the best spring skiing and riding in the East. The event also includes the Winter Tweed River Music Festival at Pico Mountain March 23-25, Air, Metal and Mayhem April 1. Tickets and information: snowmontmusicfestival.com. Through April 1.

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

SO. BURLINGTON. Discussion: Gardening in Vermont—Spring to Fall. Led by Ron Krupp, author of "Lifting the Yoke" and "The Woodchucks Guide to Gardening." Learn about starting seeds in your home, growing greens in cold frames, planting by the stars, storing vegetables in a root cellar and putting gardens to rest in the fall. Bring any seedlings you'd like to share that you started at home. Fee: \$20. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. E-mail info@friendsofthehortfarm.org for reservations. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Russian Duo. Oleg Kruglyakov, balalaika virtuoso, and Terry Boyarsky, masterful pianist. Their repertoire draws from Russian folk music, romances, dances, classical music, gypsy melodies and Russian songs. Sponsored by Stone Church Arts. Tickets: adults \$20, \$15 for seniors over 60 & children under 12. Concert at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

QUECHEE. Family Fun Foray. Find out about starting plants and enjoy an early spring woods walk. Fee: \$10, pre-register by March 30. 4-6 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

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

RUPERT. Wool and Weaving Workshop. Learn basic weaving techniques. Fee: \$5. Please pre-register. 1-4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

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

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

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

STOWE. Performance: The Second City—Laugh Out Loud Tour. Tickets \$35. 8 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Rt. 108N. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

BRANDON. Spinney Brothers Bluegrass Concert. Top-notch musicians from Nova Scotia. Kitchen open with hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, and brownie sundaes. Tickets \$15 per person. Doors open 1 pm, show 2-4:30 pm. Neshobe Sportsman Club, 97 Frog Hollow Rd. (802) 247-3275. www.basinbluegrassfestival.com.

BURLINGTON. University Catamount Singers. David Neiweem directs the University Catamount Singers. Music for chamber choir featuring the 18 voices of the Catamount Singers. Music by Palestrina, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Durufle, Cowell, Persichetti and R. Thompson. Free and open to the public. 3-4:30 pm. University of Vermont Music Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St. (802) 656-3040. music@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu/music.

CHESTER. Workshop: Releasing Through the Years. Led by Rev. ElAnya Nightingale, author of *The Voice Within: The Return to God Consciousness* and founder of the Center for the Study of God's Living Heart. Individual fee: \$50 for the first hour and \$1/min thereafter. 10 am - 12 pm. Peace of Paradise, 78 the Common. Call to pre-register. (802) 875-8008. www.peaceofparadisevt.com.

ELMORE. Spring Pruning Workshop. Zach Leonard will walk you through the details of why, how, and when to prune the plants in your yard and gardens. Special attention will be paid to fruit bearing plants of all kinds as well as a hands on demo of how to prune apple trees. Fee: \$10. 1-3 pm. Elmore Roots Nursery. (802) 888-3305.

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

RUPERT. Sugarbush Walk. Tour Merck's new sugarbush! While hiking with our forester through the stand, you'll explore a recent thinning. Investigate the design of the vacuum system, and view the new energy-efficient evaporator. Fee: \$5. 9-11 am. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. To register call (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

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

RUTLAND. Breakfast Buffet. Sponsored by the American Legion Post 31 to support Support American Legion-Post 31 Baseball. \$8 each, children 12 and under \$4. Serving from 8-10:30 am. 33 Washington St. (802) 773-9777.

RUTLAND. Art Exhibit: Bone Structures. Works informed by the body, curated by Michael Winslow. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org. Through April 21.

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

SPRINGFIELD. Spring Concert. Springfield Community Chorus, directed by Kenneth Olsson, will present a concert of great choruses from musical stage and opera. Donation. 3 pm. First Congregational Church UCC, 77 Main St. (802) 885-5475. pasture2442@yahoo.com. choralartsuv.org.

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



MONDAY, APRIL 2

BARRE. Tell Off—Tournament of Champions. Live competitive storytelling. Free. 7 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BARRE. Annual Studio Place Arts Bash. A fund-raising party to support SPA's educational and exhibition programs. Multi-media exhibits, live musical acts, silent auction, delicious refreshments. Everyone welcome! Tickets \$15 in advance, \$25 day of. 7-9 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BURLINGTON. Evening Prayer in the Manner of Taize. Candle-light, music, meditation and silence along with music from Taize. Donation. 7:30 pm. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St. (802) 864-0471 x 15. www.stpaulscathedralvt.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3

BENNINGTON. Lecture by Andrew Debus III on Memoir Writing. Acclaimed novelist Debus is the author of *Townie: A Memoir*, *The House of Sand and Fog* and *The Garden of Last Days*. Reception and book signing to follow. Free and open to the public. 2 pm. Everitt Mansion, Southern Vermont College. (802) 447-6388.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Eugene Friesen and Friends. Eugene Friesen is an award-winning cellist and composer and the Music Director of Stone Church Arts. He brings world class musicians to Bellows Falls for a jazz/world music concert. Sponsored by Stone Church Arts. Tickets: adults \$20, \$15 for seniors over 60 & children under 12. Tickets available at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls, Brattleboro Books, Misty Valley Books in Chester), at www.brattleborotix.com or at the door. Concert at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Latino Poetry Reading. Amherst College professor of Latin Culture Ilan Stavans will read the works of Latino poets in a talk, "An Evening of Latin American Poetry." Part of the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays series. Free. 7 pm. Brooks Memorial Library. (802) 254-5290. www.vermonthumanities.org.

HANOVER, NH. Screening: *A Chemical Reaction*. A documentary film, part of the program on "Creating a Healthy Landscape" by the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley. The film tells the story of the Town of Hudson, Quebec, located 20 miles west of Montreal, and its 10-year struggle to ban lawn chemicals. This town of 5,000 ultimately appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, which unanimously affirmed the legal power of Hudson, and most Canadian municipalities, to pass pesticide by-laws. Carolyn Murray, MD, MPH, Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Center, Dartmouth College, will moderate a post-film question and answer session. 7-8:30 pm at Howe Library, 13 South St. For more information call Catamount Earth Institute at (603) 643-0328. catamount@valley.net.

MANCHESTER. Negro Spiritual Performance and Discussion. Middlebury College Artist-in-Residence Dr. Francois Clemmons will perform and discuss the Negro Spiritual in a talk, "If You Don't Want Your Slave to Speak Freely, You Should Forbid Him to Sing!" Part of the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays lecture series. 7 pm. First Congregational Church. (802) 362-2607. info@vermonthumanities.org. www.vermonthumanities.org.

MONTPELIER. Program: They Still Do Write Them the Way They Used To. Michael Palma examines modern poetry forms. Refuting the notion that modern poetry is formless and self-absorbed, poet Michael Palma considers contemporary poets who use rhyme, meter, and figurative language to explore timeless, universal themes. Part of the First Wednesdays series. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 7 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338.

RUTLAND. Lecture: Poetry's Spiritual Language. Using the poetry of Dickinson, Kenyon, Rumi and Kabir, poets from diverse religious traditions, poet Nancy Jay Crumbine examines poetry's language of spirituality. Part of the Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays events. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860.

Vermont Country Calendar

(April 4, continued)

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: Vines and Viticulture for the Home Gardener. Learn about new opportunities for grape and wine production in Vermont and other cold, northern climates. Terry Bradshaw reviews horticultural needs, site design and varietal selections. Fee: \$20. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

BELLOWS FALLS. First Thursdays Concert with Bow Thayer and the Perfect Trainwreck. Thayer is a powerful songwriter and performer who makes gritty country-inflected rock and roll and collaborates with such legends as the Band's Levon Helm. Admission \$15. Advance tickets are available at Village Square Booksellers and Fat Franks in Bellows Falls, in Chester at Misty Valley Books, in Brattleboro at Turn It Up!, and online at brattleborotix.com. Proceeds benefit Friends of BFOH. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House Lower Theater, 7 The Square. (802) 463-9595. flyingunderradar.com.

BRADFORD. Grafting Workshop. Led by Master Arborist Ben Rubinfeld. Check website to register. 6-8 pm. River Bend Career and Technical Center, 36 Oxbow Rd. For information call Kevin Lawrence, (802) 280-5884. www.rbctc.org. Also April 6.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Making Books by Hand with Jane Davies. Handmade books offer a wealth of possibilities for creative expression. In this workshop we will first make a book from a prepared kit. Fee. 6-8 pm. Maple Street School, 322 Maple St. (802) 362-1199. www.greenmtacademy.org/courses.php.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

NORTH CLARENDON. Show Me Gala Benefit Talent Show. Vermont talent of every variety will be showcased including rock, country, classical, pop and folk numbers; vocal and dance numbers and music of the flute, fiddle, trumpet, sax, uke, guitar, bass, drums and more. Admission is \$5 at the door, \$20 per family. 7 pm in the Mill River Union High School Auditorium. For more info contact Bear Irwin at (802) 775 3451 x 224.

SWANTON. Vernal Pool Walk. Join Park Ranger, David Frisque for a look at the life in a vernal pool early. Vernal pools are important breeding areas for reclusive and seldom seen amphibians such as wood frogs, and salamanders. Bring a small flashlight and waterproof footwear. Free. 6-8 pm. Meet at the Parking Lot at the trailhead for the Stephen Young Marsh Trail on Tabor Rd. at Mississquoi National Wildlife Refuge. Call to register. (802) 868-4781.

WARREN. Sacred Concert: Seven Last Words of Christ. By Joseph Haydn. The work consists of seven movements, each representing one of the sayings of Jesus from the cross, plus introductory and closing movements. Haydn's work is brought to life in a version for string quartet and four solo vocalists, sung in the original German, with English translation provided. 7 pm. Warren United Church of Christ, 339 Main St.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

BENNINGTON. Fourth Annual Spring Garden Symposium. A full day of programs on Beekeeping, Cheese Making in the Home, Berries, and Kitchen Gardens! Featuring keynote speaker Ellen Ogden on "Kitchen Gardens." Lunch by Pangaea, coffee, tea, and snacks for all! Presented by One World Conservation Center, Clear Brook Farm, Friends of Hiland Hall Garden, and the Walloomsac Farmers' Market. Fee: \$35. 9 am - 3 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 US Rte 7 South. (802) 447-7419.

CHESTER. Round and Square Dance. Arnie Stoddard, caller. Hosted by Green Mountain Express. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For info call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500.

CHESTER. Community Breakfast. Menu: Bacon, sausage, eggs, home fries, pancakes, all the fixins and beverages. Buffet-style served from 8-10 am. \$5 at the door. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For info call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500.

CRAFTSBURY. Sacred Concert: Seven Last Words of Christ. By Joseph Haydn. The work consists of seven movements, each representing one of the sayings of Jesus from the cross, plus introductory and closing movements. With string quartet and four solo vocalists, sung in the original German, with English translation provided. 7 pm. United Church of Craftsbury, 7 Church Lane.

EAST CHARLESTON. Contradance and Kroka Expeditions Presentation. Following the presentation, dance to the foot stomping sounds of Mountain Folks—music of the mountains and backwoods. Fee: \$10 including refreshments. 7:30 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551.

EAST CHARLESTON. Workshop: Organic Apple Growing and Care. The program will also include hands-on practice with pruning and a tasting & tour of Eden Ice Cider. Fee: \$25. 9 am - 1 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551.

GRANVILLE, NY. First Fridays. A monthly community event held with Slate Valley Museum, The Pember Library and the Museum of Natural History. Art Exhibit features the works of Kerry O. Furlani. 7-9 pm. Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

HINESBURG. Book & Author Event. Poet David Budbill will read from his recently published book, Happy Life. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. 7 pm. Brown Dog Books and Gifts, 22 Commerce St. (802) 482-5189. www.browndogbooksandgifts.com.

MANCHESTER. Easter Fair. Food, music, games, family photo booth, live animals, scavenger hunt, and Scripture related craft activities among Easter fair events from 10 to noon at First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. (802) 362-2709.

MANCHESTER. Easter Egg Hunt. More than 2,000 eggs and a number of prize-winning golden ones will be hidden for an Easter Egg Hunt starting at 10 am at the Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park. Open to children ages 3-12. Sponsors include Manchester Parks and Recreation, Mother Myrick's and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Parents should bring basket or bag for their child. (802) 362-1439.

MANCHESTER. Book & Author Event. Author and historian, Jason Emerson, will launch the tour for his new book, *Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln*. Emerson will present the book and take questions in the Beckwith Room at 10 am and again at 2 pm followed by a book-signing in The Museum Store. It is free and open to the public. Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7961. www.hildene.org.

Green Living

www.GreenLivingJournal.com

A Practical Journal for Friends of the Environment

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Londonderry Chamber of Commerce: 802-824-8178
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Like to camp? Tent, RV, camper?

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Brandon, Vermont
July 12-15, 2012

Four days of music, camping, good company and good food. Or, just come for the day.

A family oriented drug-free event.

Festival is off Rt. 73, 2 miles east of Brandon, VT.

Sponsored by Basin Bluegrass, Inc.
91 Charberry Lane, Brandon, VT 05733

Call (802) 247-3275 for more information.

www.basinbluegrassfestival.com

You're Invited!—Volunteer Orientation at Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, VT on April 14

April is National Volunteer month and time for Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, VT to celebrate its volunteers and sign up new ones. Our annual orientation for new volunteers is Saturday, April 14 at 10 a.m.

Volunteering at Rokeby offers a unique opportunity for personal education and service rolled into one, so plan to join us. Rokeby volunteers handle everything from bookkeeping to tour guiding.

If you love working with people, art and antiques, and history, then you should join our cadre of dedicated tour guides.

New guides complete a short training course that introduces them to the remarkable Quaker family, the Robinsons, that called Rokeby home and to the Underground Railroad in Vermont. They study historic photographs, documents, artifacts, and art from the Museum's extensive collec-

tion and then share what they have learned with visitors. Rokeby Museum is a 90-acre historic site and National Historic Landmark designated for its exceptional Underground Railroad history.

Rokeby Museum is located at 4337 Rt. 7 in Ferrisburgh, VT (three miles north of Vergennes.)

For more information e-mail rokeby@comcast.net or call (802) 877-4306. Visit www.rokeby.org.

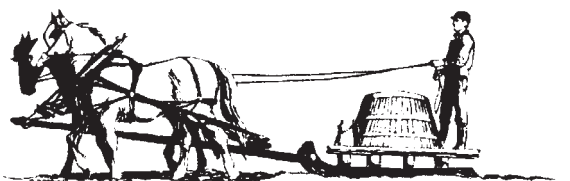
RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



Summer Hours: Wed-Sun 12-5, Mon-Tue closed.

765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT

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NEW ENGLAND MAPLE MUSEUM

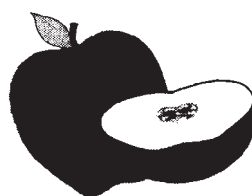
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THE CONCERT

A lily pond was hidden
Among some woodland bogs,
And in it there was dwelling
A multitude of frogs.

One most tremendous fellow
Was seated on a pad;
He'd been a music-master
From the time he was a lad.

He had a great bass viol
Tucked underneath his chin,
And when he'd sound the deepest note
The chorus would begin.

And frogs of all dimensions
From tadpoles up to sires,
Would saw upon their violins
And twang upon their lyres.

—GRACE UPHAM

VERMONT

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NEW SHOW

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American Legion #27, 1 Boardman Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753
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Vermont Country Calendar



MANCHESTER CENTER. Edible Gardening for Everyone—A Talk by Charlie Nardozi. Join this nationally recognized garden writer, speaker, radio and television personality to learn the latest varieties and methods to make vegetable, fruit, and herb gardening simple and easy. \$10 suggested donation. 4 pm. Hunter Seminar Room, Burr and Burton Academy, 57 Seminary Ave. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

PUTNEY. Celtic Rock Concert. Prydein, a Celtic rock band from St. Albans to perform from 7:30-10 pm at New Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. Tickets \$16 general adm. \$12 for students and seniors. (802) 254-9276.

RUTLAND. Easter Egg Scramble. Eggs will be filled with candy, toys, trinkets, and some with have an "egg-stra" special something. Plus a chance to win an Easter basket (3 per age group). Bring your own baskets and/or bags. \$1-\$3. 10-11:30 am. At Jump for Fun, 1 Scale Ave., Howe Center, Building #10, (802) 772-7339.

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

SOUTH HERO. South Hero Winter Farmers' Market at South Hero Congregational Church. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. (802) 372-3291.

WOODSTOCK. Baby Animal Day at Billings Farm & Museum. Meet the farm's newest additions during family-centered programs with our lambs, chicks, and calves. Horse-drawn wagon rides and heirloom garden activities. Adm. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

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

TINMOUTH. Easter Morning Breakfast. With pancakes, egg dishes, bacon, sausage, muffins, buns, juice, milk and coffee. Free will donation. 7:30 am. Tinmouth Community Church, 6 Bliss Rd. (802) 446-2953.

TUNBRIDGE. Breakfast & Bake Sale. Hosted by The Tunbridge Rec Committee and the Tunbridge Central School 8th grade. 8 am - 12 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 889-3310. *Second Sundays of each month.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

MONTPELIER. Program: Growing Dry Beans for an Emerging Market. Jack Lazor of Butterworks Farm and Joe Bossen of Vermont Bean Crafters talk about growing and sourcing beans in Vermont. Discussion. Refreshments served. Free and open to the public. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Main St. (802) 656-9140. rschattm@uvm.edu.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

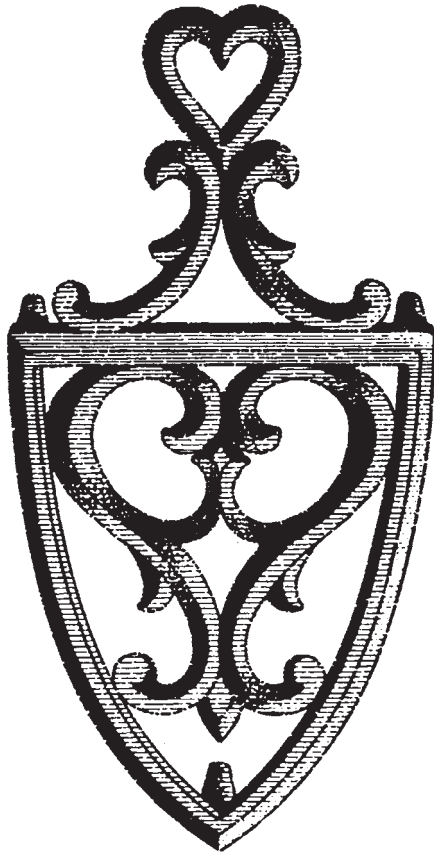
CHESTER. Poetry Workshop. The Pure Suit of Happiness with Michael Palma, discussing the poetry of May Swenson and Robert Hayden. Free admission. 7 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. info@mvbooks.com. www.mvbooks.com. *Continues on April 18, 25 and May 2.*

HANOVER, NH. Lecture: Capturing Storm Water at Home. Speakers: Jillian McCarthy, Stormwater Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and author of New Hampshire Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management and Peter Kulbacki, Director of Hanover's Department of Public Works. Part of the program on "Creating a Healthy Landscape" by the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley. 1-2:30 pm at Black Community Center, Room 212, 48 Lebanon St. For info call Barbara McIlroy at (603) 643-5844. bdmcilroy@gmail.com.

MANCHESTER. Garden Design Workshop. Learn to design your own kitchen garden in a two-part class with Ellen Ecker Ogden, author of *The Complete Kitchen Garden*. This first class is a photo presentation, Basic Garden Design. Bring graph paper, pencils, and photos of your yard. Fee. The event benefits Mark Skinner Library which is hosting the classes from 7 to 8:30 pm. at the library, 48 West Rd. To pre-register call (902) 362-2607. *Also April 18.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. Author Event. Tsoknyi Rinpoche presents his book, *Open Heart, Open Mind: A Guide to Inner Transformation*. He is one of the most renowned teachers of Tibetan Buddhism trained outside of Tibet. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.pundarika.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: Vines and Wines—Viticulture for the Home Gardener. Terry Bradshaw, Hort Farm Manager, Apple grower and researcher, shares information about new opportunities for grape and wine production in Vermont and other cold, northern climates. Terry will review your horticultural needs, site design and varietal selections. Please pre-register by e-mailing info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. Fee: \$20. 6-8 pm. At UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.



STOWE. Cheese-Making Workshop. Learn how to make mozzarella, ricotta, and ice cream from raw goats' milk! Class presented by Rural Vermont and taught by Karen Nicholson of Stepping Stone Farm from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. \$20-40 sliding scale, pre-registration required. Proceeds benefit Rural Vermont. To sign up call Rural Vermont at (802) 223-7222 or email shelby@ruralvermont.org. www.ruralvermont.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

BURLINGTON. Titanic the Musical. Lyric proudly presents Titanic the musical on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the great ship. There will be memorable characters, beautiful music and dazzling special effects! Adm. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Flynn Theatre, 153 Main St. (802) 658-1484. office@lyrictheatrevt.org. www.lyrictheatrevt.org. *Through April 15.*

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

BURLINGTON. Titanic the Musical. Lyric proudly presents Titanic the musical on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the great ship. Adm. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Flynn Theatre, 153 Main St. (802) 658-1484. office@lyrictheatrevt.org. www.lyrictheatrevt.org. *Through April 15.*

COLCHESTER. VYO Chorus & VT Youth Concert Choral Spring Concert. Jeffrey Buettner, conductor. Annemieke Spoelstra, accompanist. Included are choral settings of poetry by Mary Ann Hoberman and Sara Teasdale's tempestuously romantic poem "I Am Not Yours" set by Minnesota composer David Dickau. Adm. 7:30 pm Elley-Long Music Center, 223 Ethan Allen Ave. (802) 863-5966. www.vyo.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Pavel Haas Quartet. Program includes Tchiakovsky's String Quartet no. 1 in D Major, op. 11; the Shostakovich String Quartet no. 7 in F-sharp Minor, op. 108; and Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*. Free admission. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall. (802) 443-5000. www.middlebury.edu/arts.

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

RANDOLPH. Concert. Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas present Scottish fiddle and cello music of unrivaled beauty, eloquence and passion. Tickets \$32, seniors \$26.50. (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. www.alasdairfraser.com. www.nataliehaas.com.

READING. Youth Farm Safety Mini-Camp. UVM Extension 4-H is excited to announce these fun, hands-on, skill-building camps designed for girls and boys between 12-15. Safety topic areas include Tractors and Machinery; ATV; Chainsaw and Woodlot; Livestock; Farm Emergency, and more. Fee: \$25 including meals. Held at Spring Brook Farm. Call to register, (802) 656-2034. *Also April 14.*

Stability

On spring's Cross Quarter Day, May 1 this year, the sun will rise between the Danielsons' house and Lil's house across the street.

At summer solstice, the sun will have moved a little further north and will rise over just Lil's house. Throughout July, the sun moves back toward the Danielsons'.

I use the names of the houses the way I always have for the past thirty-four years, even though their original owners are long gone. To me, the houses are gnomons, or markers with which I measure solar time. But they do that only from the window of my room. Disconnected from my window, they lose their astronomical significance. If I look at Jerry and Lee's house from the corner of Limestone and High Street, I learn nothing about the time of year. If I approach Lil's house from the alley, I would not know anything about my place in the world.

The Trappist monks I know take a vow of stability, a vow to remain with a single community, often a single building, for the rest of their lives. For them, the sun always rises and sets in relation to the windows of their cloister. The sun on the chapel walls throughout the year is a dial of the year and of their lives, marking their time.

What lessons does that kind of stability offer? What bearings do I need and want? Do I wish to cut myself loose from

"It also seems to me that I have spent my whole life looking for and through such windows."

the landmarks that seem to frame my existence? Or is that kind of solar stability only an illusion of perspective?

I ruminate and speculate that if I had a compass, I would not need to know where Lil's house was in order to know the time. It would seem that if I had a compass and a map,

I could always know where I was. But that is not always the case, either. I would need a starting point. Orienteering always begins from a known location and uses points of control.

So it seems—even though Lil is dead and her house is only due east of my window and not due east of anyone else's window in the world—even though I am the only one who marks Cross-Quarter Day with sunrise between her house and the Danielsons' house (and they died long ago, too)—it seems to me that without that odd and arbitrary global positioning system, I would be lost.

And if I moved away or became disoriented in mind or body, it seems likely that I could only find myself again from some other window on some other street, in the context of some other buildings from which to wait and see the sun rising through the year, a window from which to say, "Here I am!"

And it also seems to me that I have spent my whole life looking for and through such windows, marking whatever I needed to mark in order to keep my balance; it seems to me now that stability is far more precious than I had thought, and that such a monastic vow, far from being restrictive, may be the window to passage and place, and possibly the only window that there is.

—BILL FELKER

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Vermont Country Calendar

(April 13, continued)

RUTLAND. Showboat Robinson's Fabulous Harlem Clowns. Presented by The Mentor Connector. Choreographed opening routine of tricks and slams. Tickets: adults \$10, kids \$8. Refreshments, raffles, fun. Tip off 7 pm. At the Keefe Gym (Rutland Middle School). For more information call (802) 775-3434.

RUTLAND. Vermont Writers—In Play. A new theatrical mosaic adapted by Peter Marsh from the book *Vermont Writers: A State of Mind* by Yvonne Daley. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. Also April 14.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

BURLINGTON. *Titanic the Musical*. Lyric proudly presents *Titanic the musical* on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the great ship. Saturday at 7:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Flynn Theatre, 153 Main St. (802) 658-1484. www.lyrictheatrevt.org. Also April 15.

CASTLETON. Basket Raffle. Lakes Region Independent Ryders is sponsoring a basket raffle at Castleton American Legion Post 50 with doors opening at 11 am and raffles starting at 1 pm. \$5 for sheet of tickets and \$2 for each additional sheet. For information or to donate a basket call (802) 786-9785 or (802) 468-5765.

EAST CHARLESTON. Game of Logging Chainsaw Training—Levels 1 & 2. Internationally-acclaimed course is a must for anyone who uses a chainsaw. Precision felling techniques, safety equipment/use, and tips for maximizing saw performance and longevity. More information at www.woodlandtraining.com. Fee: \$160 per level. Register early—courses fill quickly! 8 am – 4 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org. Also April 15.

JAY. 2nd Annual Northeast Kingdom Farm & Food Summit. An entire day of workshops and presentations for Northeast Kingdom farmers & food producers (including one on community financing for farmers by the Center's New Farmer Program Coordinator Ben Waterman!). Lunch is included and will feature many locally produced foods. Jay Peak Resort. For more information call (802) 626-8511. assist@travelthekingdom.com.

MANCHESTER. Painting Workshop: Ideas for Painting Water with Andrew Orr. Learn ideas and techniques for painting water as part of the landscape. Fee: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Hay Madeira at Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Poetry Reading. Celebrate National Poetry Month with a reading by Vermont poets from *Birchsong—Poetry Centered In Vermont*. 3 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Spring Choral Concert. Sponsored by the Department of Music. Featuring the Middlebury College Choir under the direction of Jeffrey Buettner and the Women's Glee Club under the direction of Jessica Allen. Free. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, 97 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. middlebury.edu/events.

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

MORRISVILLE. Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys' Fortieth Anniversary Tour. They launch their tour playing for the home folks here in central Vermont. Tickets: \$10 at the door. 7 pm. River Arts, 74 Pleasant St. (802) 888-1261. www.riverartsvt.org. www.banjoanddan.com.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy. Potluck finger food desserts at the break. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8 (students \$5, under 16 are free, seniors by donation). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. For info call Rick Barrows (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Second Saturdays through June 2012.

RANDOLPH. Concert: "Five Centuries, Four Countries—Sacred Choruses from Palestrina to Poulenc." Presented by Counterpoint, Vermont's professional vocal ensemble. Tickets \$22, students \$10. (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. counterpointchorus.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Northern Gardening Symposium. Landscape designer Judith Irven speaks on "A Sense of Place: Gardens that Celebrate the Natural Landscape." Landscape architect Ann Milovsoroff presents "Gardens around the World." Nationally recognized taxonomist and botanist Arthur Haines talks about the reasons for and stories behind his newly published *Flora Novae Angliae*. Hosted by New England Wild Flower Society and others. Fee: \$47. 9 am – 2 pm. Vermont Technical College. To register call (508) 877-7630 x 3303.

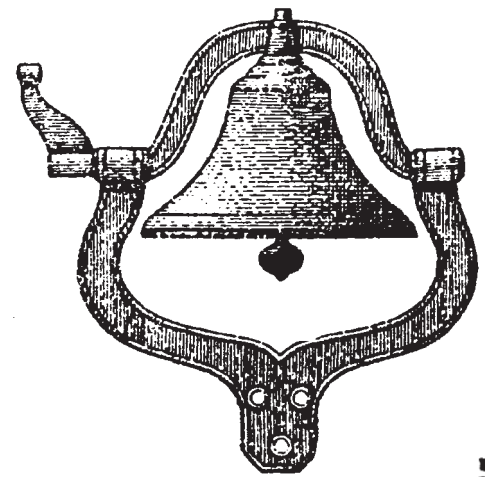
RUTLAND. Vermont Writers—In Play. A new theatrical mosaic adapted by Peter Marsh from the book *Vermont Writers: A State of Mind* by Yvonne Daley. Tickets: \$15. 2 & 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. Also April 14.

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

SO. BURLINGTON. Perennial Garden "Wake-up." Master Gardeners and volunteers needed to help Brian Vaughan, Perennial Garden Curator, "wake-up" the Perennial Garden. Come take part in spring cleanup of this fabulous collection in time for our May 19th Bloomtime Festival. Bring pruning shears/weeding tools. Free admission. 1-4 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Rose Pruning Workshop. Learn proper pruning techniques of shrub roses in the perennial gardens. Workshop will be led by Brian Vaughan, VCH, Perennial Garden Curator. Bring a good pair of work gloves and pruning shears. Free admission. 9 am – 12 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org.

ST. ALBANS. 14th Annual Franklin County Quilt Show. The best and largest quilt show in Franklin County! Over 100 quilts, viewers' choice, door prizes, vendors, and raffle. Special exhibits include Purple Heart Quilts, Breast Cancer Quilt. Free. Sat, 9 am – 4 pm & Sun, 10 am – 3 pm. St Albans City Hall, 100 North Main St. (802) 326-3135. www.vtmooses.us/fcqq.html. Also April 15.



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White River Indie Film Festival Comes to WRJ

The 2012 White River Indie Film Festival, kicks off Friday, April 27 in White River Junction, VT with the area premiere of *Amigo*, by indie film giant, John Sayles, and closes Sunday, April 29 with a party at the Main Street Museum with music by the jazz trio, Sensible Shoes.

The festival is partnering with landmark venues and several local businesses, hosting screenings, workshops and parties. Tupelo Music Hall will sponsor a late night dance party on Saturday night featuring the popular band, Sol Food.

Individual film tickets are \$9. This year's Gala tickets are \$45 per person. The Gala features a Q&A with John Sayles, delicious food and a cash bar. This year, WRIF is offering a three-film package for \$25 and student tickets with ID are \$5. Tickets will be sold online at www.wrif.org. The latest news and film trailers are also available at the website.

On Friday evening, April 27, indie pioneers John Sayles & Maggie Renzi bring their new film *Amigo* for area premiere at the WRIF gala benefit. They'll be around during the weekend to participate in panels and John will be reading from his new novel. Meet and greet this fascinating pair.

The full schedule is available at www.wrif.org, but here is a partial list of the Saturday, April 28 screenings:

- *Mill & The Cross*. A Brueghel painting comes to life in this stunning film.
- *Returning Fire*. Culture jammers wage peace by hacking violent video games.
- *We're Not Broke*. Corporate tax dodgers contrasted with Occupy Wall Street protesters.
- *Pearl*. A short film directed by and starring Dan Butler.
- *Brief Reunion*. A psychological thriller shot in the Up-

per Valley by local filmmakers Ben Silberfarb and John Daschbach.

- *Hipsters*. A crazy Russian film about the underground jazz movement in the 1950s.

- *W.A.R.: Women Art Revolution*. A 40-year chronicle of feminist art and more.

- *Sons of Tennessee Williams*. WRJ's own Matt Bucy worked on this colorful documentary about the oldest gay Mardi Gras crew in New Orleans—followed by the WRJ version of Mardi Gras with a late night dance party featuring Sol Food.

The Sunday, April 29 schedule kicks off with a local filmmakers' brunch featuring new works produced in the Upper Valley. Sunday films include:

- A sneak peek of *Freedom & Unity, the Vermont Movie*. A collaborative film about Vermont, instigated by Norwich filmmaker Nora Jacobson, and including the work of more than 40 Vermont filmmakers.

- *Atomic States of America*. Living in a nuclear world with Vermont Yankee and other power plants.

- *Hasta la Vista*. A trio of young men hit the road to find women and adventure.

Closing Sunday is the WRIF Wrap Party—our usual festival farewell at the Main Street Museum, a fun finale.

There will be workshops offered throughout the festival, taught by local professionals, covering digital film and photography, acting for film and television, among others.

For more information and film and workshop schedules e-mail info@wrif.org or go to wrif.org.



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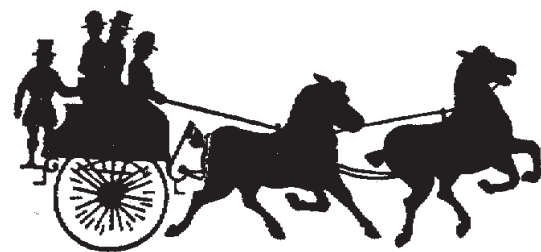
Phone (603) 643-9980

Fax (603) 643-9984

44 South Main St., Hanover, NH

www.maithaicuisine.com

Vermont Country Calendar



WEST GLOVER. Third Annual Mud Season Groove. Enjoy the uncommon and varied sound of Tritium Well, from traditional American, Cuban, and Cape Verdian songs to ballads, classic rock, country and reggae! Pizza and draft specials, dancing in Village Hall, old & new friends, a ski & paddle slideshow, and a handcrafted canoe paddle raffle. Proceeds support NorthWoods' programs. Fee: \$10 including refreshments. Doors 6 pm, music 8 pm. At Parker Pie. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

BURLINGTON. Titanic the Musical. Lyric proudly presents Titanic the musical on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the great ship. Adm. 2 & 7:30 pm. Flynn Theatre, 153 Main St. (802) 658-1484.

CHESTER. Benefit Jamboree. Hosted by Green Mountain Express for the Vermont Farm Relief Disaster Fund. Starts at 1 pm and goes till it's over. Come play your instruments, sing, dance, or just listen. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen, raffle tickets, 50/50 tickets. \$5 donation at the door. Every cent goes to the fund! Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For info call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500.

CHESTER. Book & Author Event. Tovar Cerulli presents his book, *The Mindful Carnivore: A Vegetarian's Hunt for Sustenance*. Book signing and reception. Free admission. 4 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. info@mvbooks.com. www.mvbooks.com.

RUTLAND. Classical Concert with The Ariel Quartet. Tickets: \$15/\$10. 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

STRAFFORD. A Garden of One's Own—Garden Design. 2-day workshop with Susan Howard. Fee: \$200. 1-4 pm. Justin Morrill Homestead Education Center. 802-765-4288, or email: director@morrillhomestead.org.

ST. ALBANS. 14th Annual Franklin County Quilt Show. The best and largest quilt show in Franklin County! Over 100 quilts, viewers' choice, door prizes, vendors, and raffle. Special exhibits include Purple Heart Quilts, Breast Cancer Quilt. Free. Sat, 9 am - 4 pm & Sun, 10 am - 3 pm. St Albans City Hall, 100 North Main St. (802) 326-3135. www.vtmooses.us/fcqq.html.

WATERBURY. Trout Order Deadline. The Williston Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) is offering pond owners an opportunity to purchase brook, brown and rainbow trout in bulk at a low cost for the first time in many years. Order deadline is April 15. Orders of 6-8" trout must be picked up on May 6, between 1 and 3 pm at Rusty Memorial Park in Waterbury. Trout will come pre-bagged with oxygen. Orders of 10-12" trout will be delivered by the trout farm any time on May 5 and May 6. For more information and to order e-mail Lisa.Coven@vt.nacdn.net.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Annual Flavors of the Valley. Sample lots of local food items, meet local farmers and chefs, and buy their products. About 50 vendors will offer sample treats and products for sale such as plant starts, produce, value added products, and CSA farm shares. Bring your own plate, cup, and napkin along with a checkbook or cash for purchases! \$8/person Kids 6 and under free \$25/family maximum. Sponsored by Vital Communities. 11 am - 3 pm. Hartford High School, 37 Highland Ave. (802) 291-9100 x 114. maggie@vitalcommunities.org. www.vitalcommunities.org.

MONDAY, APRIL 16

KILLINGTON. A Gathering of the Poets. Writers and readers of poetry are invited to come and share their own works and/or the works of others. Listeners are always welcome. These gatherings are suited for both poets and lovers of the spoken word. The event is open to the public and refreshments are served. Please use the side door to enter. 7-8:30 pm. Sherburne Memorial Library, River Rd.

LEBANON, NH. Benefit Concert. Violinist Ryu Goto will play a benefit concert for ALS research at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Ryu Goto made his debut at age 7 at Japan's Pacific Music Festival playing Paganini's Violin Concerto No.1. He is now a world-renowned violin sensation who has distinguished himself in the world of classical music. Tickets \$90, \$65, \$35. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

NEWPORT. Screening: Green Fire—Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time. This film documents how conservationist, Aldo Leopold, who followed in the ecological footsteps of Vermont's George Perkins Marsh, developed a land ethic and informed conservation and the modern environmental movement. NorthWoods will host this free public screening at 7:30 pm at Baan Thai Restaurant in downtown Newport. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

MANCHESTER. Workshop: Intro to Digital Photography with Tim Heffernan. Essential technology and knowledge necessary for the beginner to get started in the digital photography process. Fee: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Hay Madeira at Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. Also April 19.

MANCHESTER. Garden Design Workshop. Learn to design your own kitchen garden in the second of a two-part class with Ellen Ecker Ogden, author of *The Complete Kitchen Garden*. In this class participants will create their own garden design in a hands-on workshop. Fee. The event benefits Mark Skinner Library which is hosting the classes from 7 to 8:30 pm at the library, 48 West Rd. To pre-register call (802) 362-2607.

RUTLAND. Tails to Tales—Kids Reading to Dogs. Meet, greet, and read to our friendly and fabulous therapy dogs. Free and open to all. 3:30-4:15 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

MANCHESTER CENTER. The Alan Benoit Sustainability Series presents: "The Vermont Energy Code." Jeff Gephart of Efficiency Vermont will teach us everything there is to know about the energy code and the many ways it affects any new building, addition or renovation. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

BENNINGTON. Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen in Concert. Our local favorites, North Bennington-based Steve and Cindy have traveled back and forth across North America, singing their songs and those of others, and delighting audiences. Admission. 8 pm. Meetinghouse Cafe of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 108 School St. (802) 440-9816. info@uubennington.org. www.uubennington.org.

MANCHESTER. Workshop: Intro to High Dynamic Range Imaging (HDR) with Tim Heffernan. With the HDR digital photography technique, you can capture complex interiors in striking detail or use software to create other-worldly effects. Fee: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Hay Madeira at Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org. Also April 21.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Market. Tony Pisano provides the entertainment. 10 am - 1 pm. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. info@walloomsac.org. www.walloomsac.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Jazz Guitar Summit. A Tribute to Vermont Jazz Center Founder Attila Zoller. with Draa Hobbs, Jon Raney, Ron McClure and Eliot Zigmund interpreting Zoller's overlooked gems. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for students. Purchase tickets at In the Moment, downtown Brattleboro, or call the VJC ticket line, (802) 254-9088 x 1.

EAST CHARLESTON. Ski Touring the Kingdom: White Mountain Tour. NorthWoods Staffer Cody Sayers grew up in the White Mountains. We'll take her expertise on tour, as we look for corn snow in alpine terrain. Appropriate for intermediate and advanced skiers. Exact location tbd. Fee: \$15. 7 am - 5 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Booktopia 2012—A Celebration of Authors! Eight authors speak about their work. Join us in the café for hors d'oeuvres and to mingle with the authors. 6-9 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 3 pm. American Legion #27, 1 Boardman St. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com. Also April 22.

RANDOLPH. 18th Annual Mud Season Variety Show. A vibrant tradition spotlighting the talents of our families, friends and neighbors! Tickets \$19, students \$11. (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Workshop: Time to Knit. Come to part four of our knitters' group gathering. Bring your questions, knitting challenges, or a new project you've been wanting to tackle. All experience levels are welcome. Fee: \$5. 1-4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. To register call (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Jungle Jack Hanna. Renowned animal expert showcases some of his furry and feathered friends from all parts of the world live onstage! Tickets: \$19.50/\$26.50. 1 & 6 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

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

SO. BURLINGTON. Collection & Facilities Workday. Many Master Gardeners and volunteers are needed to help cleanup and maintain various Hort Farm plant collections. Free admission. 9 am - 1 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(April 21, continued)

SO. BURLINGTON. Gardening Workshop: Lilacs 101. Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator reviews how to properly choose, plant, grow and prune this sweet smelling spring shrub. 9 am – Noon is for pruning instruction, 12:30-3:30 pm will be for hands-on pruning practice. Free admission. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthhortfarm.org.

WESTMINSTER. Intro to Cheesemaking, Part One. This three-day workshop is the first of two classes designed specifically for anyone starting a small-scale, artisan cheese business. Includes two full days of hands-on cheese making and information about aging cheese, and facilities and equipment for the creamery. At Compass School. For info and to register contact Peter or Rachel at (802) 387-4041, westminsterartisan@gmail.com. www.dairyfoodsconsulting.com. *Through April 23.*

WILLISTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Uncorking Spring! A casual evening of music, wine tastings, hors d'oeuvres, raffles, and door prizes to support the VSO's Symphony Kids Educational Outreach programs. 5:30-7:30 pm. Gardener's Supply. (802) 870-9293 x 25. www.vso.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

BURLINGTON. International Meal and Entertainment. Bhutanese foods and entertainment will be featured from as part of the Vermont International Festival presented by the Studio and Vermont Performing Arts League. Seating for 100. Tickets \$12. 5-8 pm at North End Studio A, 294 North Winooski Ave. (802) 863-6713. northendstudios.org.

CHESTER. Poetry Reading in Celebration of National Poetry Month. With local poets John Wood and Michael Palma reading from their own works. Reception to follow. Free admission. Call for time. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. info@mvbooks.com. www.mvbooks.com.

EAST CHARLESTON. Earth Day Upcycling. Do you have old pants/shirts/tablecloths/towels or sheets that you don't know what to do with? Learn to make crafty woven rugs and discuss other ideas. Fee: \$5. 10 am. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551.

MANCHESTER CENTER. The Don't Know Much About® Quiz Show. With New York Times bestselling author Kenneth C. Davis. From Presidents to the Planets, from Poetry to Pilgrims—how much do you think you know? 10 am – 12 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Gun & Knife Show. Antiques & collectibles, free appraisals, buying, selling trading. Admission. Open to the public. Free parking. 9 am – 3 pm. American Legion #27, 1 Boardman St. (802) 875-4540, (802) 380-8351. www.greenmtgunshowtrail.com.

RUTLAND. Concert: The Glenn Miller Orchestra. Tickets: \$19.50/\$29.50. 4 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Workshop: Bark—Get to Know Your Trees. Naturalist and author Michael Wojtech will lead an outing to identify trees through their bark for an Earth Day event. Wojtech is author of a newly released book, *Bark: A Field Guide to the Trees of the Northeast*. Donations welcome. 1-4 pm at Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC), 1221 Bonneyvale Rd. (802) 257-57685. www.beec.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

DORSET. Hearty Spring Salads. Spring will be in the air and what better time to have Ali Sherman of H.N. Williams Store in Dorset show us some delicious springtime salads. You'll learn to make Garlic Scape Salad with Pea Shoots, Andalusian Scallop and Fava Bean Salad, and a Warm Lamb with Arugula and Mint Salad. The seated dinner with wine will be topped off with a Panna Cotta for dessert. Fee \$65. 5:45-9 pm. Call to register and for location. Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong. (802) 366-1820. www.greenmtnacademy.org.

POULTNEY. 5th Annual Poultney Earth Day Fair. Displays howing what our community is doing. Programs for kids and adults. Bluegrass music, many festivities. 2:30-5 pm. Poultney High School. (802) 287-9628.

RANDOLPH. Workshop: Financing Options for Your Business. Learn about different business financing opportunities, including SBA loans and how to make financing proposals. You will be given tools to obtain and understand your personal credit and its effect in the financing process. VT Tech Enterprise Center. For more information call (802) 728-9101 or e-mail vtec@vtc.edu.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

CHESTER. Workshop: Beyond Milk!—Raw Dairy Processing Class. Join Rural Vermont and Elizabeth Moulton of Poplewood Farm for an afternoon learning how to process raw goats' milk into several varieties of delicious cheeses—farmer's cheese, brie-style cheese, and chèvre. Includes dairy demos, tastings, and a farm tour. Class fee: \$20-\$40 sliding scale. At Poplewood Farm. To register contact Shelby Girard at (802) 223-7222. shelby@ruralvermont.org.

NORWICH. Lecture: Following Nature's Lead: Integrated Landscaping. Marilyn Wyzga, Wildlife Educator, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, will speak about choosing plant systems that increase biodiversity, benefiting both wildlife and habitat. She will explain how to construct a low maintenance landscape. Part of the program on "Creating a Healthy Landscape" by the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley. 4:30-6 pm at Montshire Museum. For info call Barbara McIlroy at (603) 643-5844. bdmcilroy@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

NEWPORT. Program: The Steelhead Rainbow Trout of Lake Memphremagog and its Tributaries. VT Department of Fish and Wildlife will present this new program on the past, present, and future of the steelhead rainbow trout that annually migrate up the Barton, Willoughby, Black, Johns and Clyde Rivers. Learn about the history, the current population status, and recent monitoring and management activities. Fee: \$5. 7 pm. Hebard State Office Building Suite 250 (2nd floor) in downtown Newport. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodcenter.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

MIDDLEBURY. 2nd Annual Middlebury Bach Festival. Among the many events are a Baroque Dance Social on Friday, at 8 pm, at the Mahaney Center for the Arts. Interest Sessions all day Saturday and the Festival Concert. Free. Mahaney Center for the Arts. 97 Porter Field Road. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu/events.

PUTNEY. Yellow Barn presents "Beethoven Sonatas for Cello and Piano. Adm. 8 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-6637. info@yellowbarn.org. www.yellowbarn.org.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Basement Music Series Concert. Dafe Brudajo, a five-piece jazz band from the tri-state area. Singer/songwriter Bruce Wheat's originals make up a significant portion of the groups offerings as they delve into jazz standards, contemporary folk and light rock. Tickets \$16, students \$14. Cash bar and food available. 8 pm, doors open at 7 pm. Vermont Arts Exchange, Sage Street Mill. (802) 442-5549. vtartxchange.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Molasses Creek. This high-energy acoustic group presents traditional music from the tidewater marches of Ocracoke Island, NC with elegant harmonies, blazing instrumentals and a quirky sense of humor. Cash Bar available. Tickets \$19. Box office (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm in the Esther Mesh Room, Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

Free Calendar Listings

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

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Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Gave thee life and bid thee feed By the stream and o'er the mead; Gave thee clothing of delight, Softest clothing, woolly, bright; Gave thee such a tender voice, Making all the vales rejoice? Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?	Little Lamb, I'll tell thee; Little Lamb, I'll tell thee; He is called by thy name, For He calls Himself a Lamb. He is meek and He is mild, He became a little child. I a child, and thou a lamb, We are called by His name; Little Lamb, God bless thee! Little Lamb, God bless thee!
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—WILLIAM BLAKE



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Vermont Country Calendar

ST. ALBANS. 46th Annual Vermont Maple Festival. Exhibit Hall, Sugarhouse Tours, Main St. Entertainment Stage, Crafts, Specialty Foods, Youth Talent. Free. Mostly 9-5, but some later. Downtown St. Albans, Main Street and buildings close by. (802) 524-5800. www.vtmaplefestival.org. *Through April 29.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. The St. Johnsbury World Maple Festival. Join us for maple related festivities and events. A street festival will be held on Saturday. Day-long entertainment and the streets will be lined with over 75 craft and food vendors. Our event will culminate with the crowning of the 2012 World Maple Syrup Champion. (802) 274-0201. www.worldmaplefestival.org. *Also April 28.*

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

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. With Sarah Blair on fiddle and Brendan Taaffe on guitar. All dances taught and you do not need a partner. Beginners are always welcome. Admission is \$9, \$7 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, five miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718 or visit www.Tinmouthvt.org. *Also May 25.*

WESTMINSTER. Intro to Cheesemaking, Part One. This three-day workshop is the second of two classes designed specifically for anyone starting a small-scale, artisan cheese business. This class includes one day of hands-on cheesemaking as well as information about regulations, sanitation and food safety, business planning, and creamery design. At Compass School. For info and to register contact Peter or Rachel at (802) 387-4041. westminsterartisan@gmail.com. www.dairyfoodsconsulting.com. *Through April 29.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Film Festival. Area premiere of Amigo by John Sayles. Gala benefit at the Tupelo Music Hall features a Q&A with John Sayles, delicious food and a cash bar. Tickets \$45. Buy tickets online at wrif.org. *Also April 28 & 29.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

BARRE. Pet Lover's Expo. Everything pet and farm pets! Rescues and Humane Societies will be there too! Donation. 9 am - 6 pm. Barre Civic Center, Auditorium Hill. (802) 431-3540.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Masterworks 5. Concert at 8 pm preceded by Musically Speaking, a free pre-concert discussion. At the Flynn Center. For info or tickets call (802) 870-9293 x 25. www.vso.org.

KILLINGTON. Peter Huntoon Watercolor Workshop. enjoy the experience of two days with Peter and his unique style of bringing water and paint to paper. Peter will conduct several, interactive demonstrations and probably paint one full size picture. Fee \$160. Held in the Guild's Gallery upstairs at Cabin Fever Gifts, 2363 Route 4, across from the foot of the Killington Access Rd. (802) 773-4181. *Also April 29.*

MANCHESTER. Workshop: Glazing Still Life with Chester Kasnowski. Learn how to use acrylic paint to build layers of shape and color and how to tie the painting together as a whole. Fee. 9 am - 3 pm. Hay Madeira at Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org. *Also April 29.*

MIDDLEBURY. 2nd Annual Middlebury Bach Festival. Free admission. Mahaney Center for the Arts, 97 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu/events. *Also April 29.*

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

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

RUTLAND. Art Exhibit: Annual Student Art Show. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org. *Through May 19.*

PROCTORSVILLE. Wild & Woolly Weekend! Your Last Resort for Fiberlicious Fun. 24+ local fiber-related vendors sell & demo yarns, roving, hand-made fiber tools, spinning wheels, drop spindle & more. Fondle one-of-a-kind hand-dyed yarns & rovings for knit, crochet or weaving. Free demos & door prizes! Live music. Free. 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday till 3pm. Castle Hill Resort & Spa, Junction of Rts. 103 & 131. (802) 226-7373. www.sixlooseladies.com. *Also April 29.*

SO. BURLINGTON. Build a Rustic Cedar Fence. Brian Gluck of Vermont Rustic Cedar returns for an all day hands-on workshop. Build a small rustic cedar fence to take home. \$70/\$80 includes all materials. Pre-registration required by email or phone. Full pre-payment must be received by April 15th. Limit: 16 attendees. 8 am - 4 pm. UVM Horticulture Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

ST. ALBANS. 46th Annual Vermont Maple Festival. "Pure Vermont Maple-Naturally, for the Health of It!" Something for Everyone! Exhibit Hall, Sugarhouse Tours, Main St. Entertainment Stage, Crafts, Specialty Foods, Youth Talent. Free. Mostly 9-5, but some later. Downtown St. Albans, Main Street and buildings close by. (802) 524-5800. www.vtmaplefestival.org. *Also April 29.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. The St. Johnsbury World Maple Festival. Join us for maple related festivities and events. A street festival will be held on Saturday. Entertainment will be provided all day long and the streets will be lined with over 75 craft and food vendors. Our event will culminate with the crowning of the 2012 World Maple Syrup Champion. (802) 274-0201. www.worldmaplefestival.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Film Festival. Many screenings all day. Workshops on digital film and photography, and acting for film and television. Evening party with music by Sol Food at Tupelo Music Hall. Individual film tickets \$9. See schedule and buy tickets online at wrif.org. *Also April 29.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

BRATTLEBORO. House Gala Concert. Third Annual Women in Music celebration at 4 pm at a private home, sponsored by Friends of Music at Guiford. Featuring mezzo-soprano Kathleen Shimeta in works by Gena Branscombe, Canadian-American composer, pianist and choral director (1881-1977). Limited seating. \$35 donation includes refreshments. Call to reserve and for directions. (802) 254-3600. www.fomag.org.

MIDDLEBURY. 2nd Annual Middlebury Bach Festival. Free. Mahaney Center for the Arts, 97 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu/events.

NORWICH. English Country Dance on Sunday Afternoon. Music by Trip to Norwich (Carol Compton, Thal Aylward and guests). Calling by Chris Levey. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. All dances taught, no partner needed, all are welcome. Clean, non-marking soft-soled shoes only (or socks). Refreshments provided, dancers welcome to contribute items to share. Admission \$8; under 25, \$4. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall. (802) 785-4121.

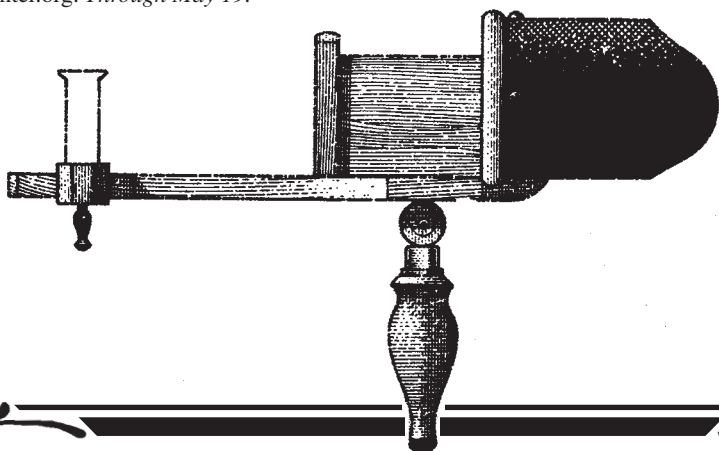
PROCTORSVILLE. Wild & Woolly Weekend! Your Last Resort for Fiberlicious Fun. 24+ local fiber-related vendors sell & demo yarns, roving, hand-made fiber tools, spinning wheels, drop spindle & more. Free demos & door prizes! Live music. Free. 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday till 3pm. Castle Hill Resort & Spa, Junction of Rts. 103 & 131. (802) 226-7373. www.sixlooseladies.com.

RUTLAND. Comedy Performance—Joan Rivers. Tickets: \$49.50/\$69.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

ST. ALBANS. 46th Annual Vermont Maple Festival Antiques Show. Free admission. Benefit snack bar. 10 am - 4 pm. St. Albans Town Educational Center, 169 S. Main St. (802) 893-6277. www.vtmaplefestival.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Film Festival. Many screenings all day. Wrap party at Main Street Museum with music by Sensible Shoes. Individual film tickets \$9. See schedule, information, and buy tickets online at wrif.org.

WOODSTOCK. 30th Annual Opening Day at Billings Farm & Museum. Visitor plowing with the Billings' draft horse teams, horse-drawn fieldwork, wagon rides, and hands-on programs. Admission. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.



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Scottish Fiddle and Cello Concert at Chandler Music Hall

Scottish fiddler extraordinaire Alasdair Fraser is joined by young cello sensation Natalie Haas in an all-acoustic concert of Scottish fiddle and cello music at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on Friday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m.

The venerable veteran and rising star present music of unrivaled beauty, eloquence and passion. Their musical partnership is unusual, but inspired. The duo's dazzling teamwork, driving, dancing rhythms, and their shared enthusiasm for improvising on the melody and groove of Scottish tunes have brought audiences worldwide to their feet in joy and appreciation.

Fraser, acclaimed by the San Francisco Examiner as "the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling," has a concert and recording career spanning 30 years, with a long list of awards, accolades, television credits, and feature performances on top movie soundtracks such as "The Last of the Mohicans" and "Titanic." Fraser has been sponsored by the British Council to represent Scotland's music internationally and he has received the Scottish Heritage Center Service Award for outstanding contributions to Scottish culture and traditions.

Natalie Haas, a graduate of the Julliard School of Music, wasn't even born when Alasdair Fraser was winning national fiddle competitions on the other side of the Atlantic. But this pairing is the fulfillment of a long-standing musical dream for Fraser, whose cutting-edge musical explorations took him full circle to find a cellist who could help him return the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of Scottish dance music.

"Going back to the 1700s, and as late as the early 20th century," Fraser says, "fiddle and cello made up the dance bands of choice in Scotland, with the cellist bowing bass lines and driving the rhythm. Pianos and accordions elbowed out the cello, relegating it to an orchestral setting."

Natalie Haas was just 11 when she attended Fraser's Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School in California. Fraser recognized her ability to find and release the cello's rhythmic soul, and four years later, when Natalie was just 15, Fraser and Haas played their first gig together. Now regularly touring



Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas.

with Fraser and creating a buzz at festivals and in concert halls throughout Europe and North America, Natalie is in the vanguard of young cellists who are redefining the role of the cello in traditional music.

Patrons interested in using Chandler's new assisted listening system, supported by donations from Vermont Lions Charities, should request it when ticket reservations are made and arrive with enough time to get properly set up.

Advance discounted reserved tickets can be ordered online or by calling the Chandler Box Office at (802) 728-6464 from 3-6 p.m. weekdays. Reduced student and senior prices are offered.

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. For more information call (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

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Bess and Her Spinning Wheel

I'm happy with my spinning wheel,
 And happy with my wool to reel,
 From head to toes it clothes me fine,
 And wraps so softly me and mine.
 I settled down to sing and spin,
 While low descends the summer sun,
 Blest with content, and milk and meal,
 I'm happy with my spinning wheel.

On lofty oaks the pigeons croon,
 And echo out their doleful tune;
 The linnets in the bushes raise
 Sweet songs that rival other lays.
 The crakes among the clover run,
 The partridge whirring in the sun,
 The swallows swooping for their meal,
 Amuse me at my spinning wheel.



—ROBERT BURNS
 (1759-1796)

On every hand the brooklets wend,
 Up to my cottage by the bend,
 The scented birch and hawthorne white,
 Across the pool their arms unite,
 Alike to screen the birdie's nest,
 And little fishes cooler rest:
 The sun shines kindly where I dwell,
 Where smoothly turns
 my spinning wheel.

With small to sell and less to buy,
 Above distress, below envy,
 Oh who would leave
 this humble state,
 For all the pride of all the great,
 Amid their flaring, idle toys,
 Amid their cumbersome noisy joys?
 Can they the peace and pleasure feel
 Of Bessie at her spinning wheel?

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Northern Gardening Symposium In Randolph Center on April 14

The Northern Gardening Symposium takes place at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, VT on Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is co-sponsored by New England Wild Flower Society, The Fells, Hardy Plant Club, Friends of the Hort Farm, and Master Gardeners. The fee is \$47.

The morning session features landscape designer Judith Irven of Goshen, VT speaking on "A Sense of Place: Gardens that Celebrate the Natural Landscape." Landscape architect Ann

Milovsoroff then presents "Gardens around the World," an exploration of contemporary garden design trends gathered from public, private, and exhibition gardens around the world.

After lunch, there will be a presentation by nationally recognized taxonomist and botanist Arthur Haines on the reasons for and stories behind his newly published *Flora Novae Angliae*.

To register with Visa or MC please call New England Wild Flower Society at (508) 877-7630 x 3303.

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The Flowering Shads

by Judith Irven

When the shads bloom it means spring has surely arrived. All of a sudden, these diminutive trees burst out of the shadows of taller trees and cover themselves with delicate white flowers—it's like snow in springtime.

It is an unforgettable sight, looking down our winding dirt road on a misty spring morning, to see a lacy white veil peeking out from under the still leafless canopies of the maples and ash.

In the valleys of Vermont this magic happens around the first week of May, although after our unseasonably warm March, I predict a mid-April date for 2012. Up here in the mountains I must wait another week for this treat—but it means I get to spread out my pleasure.

Shads grow naturally as an understory tree, especially towards the edge of the woods. Nestled among larger companions, they go almost unnoticed for most of the year. But they certainly make up for that in spring! With their white blossoms opening before the leaves, they are a stunning sight, in the woods and in the garden.

Last year as I drove home I saw this perfect little shad at the side of the road, just blooming its heart out. A simple gift from Mother Nature after a long, long winter!

A small tree with many names

The Shad tree's Latin name is *Amelanchier*, and they belong to the Rose family. *Amelanchier* have several common names with interesting origins.

- They are called Shad, or Shadbush, because they flower when the shad fish come up in the rivers.

- They are also called Serviceberries because they flower when, in New England, the burial services are held for people who died over the winter but the ground was too hard to dig a grave.

- And they are called Juneberries because of their edible fruit that ripens in June. Harvest them for pies or for a fruit sauce over a nice yogurt. But hurry—you will be competing with the cedar-waxwings, who adore these blueberry-sized fruit.

Use whichever name you like—they all refer to the genus *Amelanchier*!

The Amelanchier family

There are many species of *Amelanchier* which can be difficult to tell apart. They also hybridize easily, which means there are plenty of cultivars to choose from.

Two species, *Amelanchier arborea* and *Amelanchier laevis*, both native to New England, are small trees which grow between 20'

and 35' when mature. *Amelanchier canadensis* is shaped like a large shrub and matures at only 12' high. And *Amelanchier alnifolia*, which is the smallest family member, is a six to ten foot shrub that is grown commercially in western Canada as a fruit crop.

Amelanchier make beautiful garden trees

Any members of the *Amelanchier* clan make lovely additions to our gardens. They all have delicate white flowers in spring. They also turn a pretty red in fall, especially some of the cultivars, such as Autumn Brilliance.

They are shade tolerant and being relatively small they will not outgrow a spot near the house. But check the tag for the mature height, as some cultivars grow taller than others.

I also love Serviceberries at the edge of a wooded area, where they make a gentle transition between the cultivated garden and the wild beyond.

But wherever you plant them make sure you will be able to see them from the house—as they bloom when it is still chilly outdoors!

And every year, as I anticipate the flowering of our native serviceberries, A.E. Houseman's famous poem about the wild cherry of his English woods, runs through my head:

The 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. HOUSEMAN

Unlike the poet, I do not have fifty more springs to enjoy—so I will live in the present and make the most of each and every spring as it is given to me. And each spring I cherish the beauty of our New England serviceberry, also 'hung with snow.'

Judith Irven is a landscape designer living in Goshen, VT. Visit her websites at www.outdoorspacesvermont.com and at www.northcountryreflections.com.



photo by Judith Irven
May 4, 2011: A serviceberry in full bloom at the side of the road in Brandon, VT.

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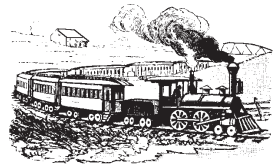
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A Vermont Almanack for Middle Spring

by Bill Felker

Here is an unspeakable secret: paradise is all around us and we do not understand.

—Thomas Merton

The Phases of the Cabbage Butterfly Moon And the Frog and Toad Mating Moon and The Black Swallowtail Moon

Throughout Middle Spring, increasing numbers of cabbage butterflies parallel the increase in the number of insects available to birds and amphibians. Well fed and warming in the sun, toads and frogs now begin their breeding cycles, calling out for their mates day and night. To the sound of their calls, more butterflies appear: the swallowtails and sulphurs and polygonias.

April 6: The Cabbage Butterfly Moon is full at 2:19 p.m.
April 13: The moon enters its final quarter at 5:50 a.m. **April 21:** The Frog and Toad Mating Moon is new at 2:18 a.m.
April 29: The moon enters its second quarter at 4:58 a.m.
May 5: The Frog and Toad Mating Moon is full at 10:35 p.m. **May 12:** The moon enters its final quarter at 4:47 p.m.
May 20: The Black Swallowtail Moon is new at 6:47 p.m.
May 28: The moon enters its second quarter at 3:16 p.m.

The Sun's Progress

On April 20, Cross-Quarter Day (the halfway mark between equinox and solstice), the sun enters Taurus. During the evening of May 20, an annular eclipse of the Sun will be visible in all of North America.

The Stars

Before dawn, the sky looks like early August. Hercules has moved to the center of the sky. The Summer Triangle, which includes Vega, Altair, and Deneb, is just a little behind Hercules, that is, to his east. The rich band of the Milky Way passes through the Triangle, separating it from autumn's Pegasus, the Great Square.

The Planets

Still the giant evening star, Venus graces April evenings as it lies in Taurus. Mars remains in Leo through June, overhead after sundown, setting after midnight in the far west. Jupiter moves retrograde into Taurus this month, but that is not enough to keep it from disappearing into the western



Bear comes out of his den to greet the Spring.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

horizon by the 15th. Continuing to move with Virgo, Saturn rises at dusk and is visible throughout the night as it follows Leo across the sky.

The Meteors

The Lyrid Meteors reach their best on April 21-22, and the moon will be dark at that time, favorable for watching these shooting stars. Look in the southeast after midnight. The meteors will appear near the Summer Triangle, especially in Lyra. On May 5-6, the Eta Aquarid meteor shower falls near Aquarius, low in the southeast several hours after midnight. The bright full moon, however, may limit the number of shooting stars you will see.

Meteorology

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 Northeast: 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.

Phenology

When nettles are six inches tall, then middle spring wildflowers are opening all over the woods. When you hear the shrill call of the American toad, that will be the time to plant all your corn. Look for morel mushrooms when May apples push out from the ground and cowslip buds in the swamp.

Parsnips in bloom will tell you that deer are growing their new antlers and all the rest of your garden weeds are coming in.

When you see the high canopy budding and greening, listen for wild turkeys to be gobbling.

Keep an eye on tulips in the garden; they tell you about the turkeys, too, and they also tell you that you'd better mow the lawn before it gets too long.

Or if you have no tulips but are mowing the lawn anyway, the long grass will tell you that opossums and raccoons are giving birth in the woodlot and young goslings are hatching in the ponds and rivers.

When you see tent caterpillars in the trees and the redbuds starting to turn purple, stop and search for tadpoles in the ponds. Then it won't be long before dogwoods and the crab apples open.

When the pussy willow bushes start to get their leaves, meadowlarks and scarlet tanagers will return for summer.

When chicory is nine inches high, rhubarb should be just about ready for pie, and hops vines will be crawling all over the garden.

When the great annual dandelion flowering begins, then snakehead mushrooms appear.

When the clovers bloom, flea season begins for pets and livestock, and flies take over the barn.

When wisteria comes into flower, the most fragrant time of year is here. Lilacs, mock orange and honeysuckle follow the wisteria. And that means pheasants are nesting, and warblers move north along their flyways.

When you see admiral butterflies, that means buckeye trees will be coming into bloom. And when you see garlic mustard flowering in the woods, look for cutworms and sod webworms to start taking over the field and garden. Weevils are showing up in the alfalfa, too.

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

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Ray and Hannah Morvan of Northfield, VT lead their ox team pulling the Conestoga Wagon they built.

photo by Bill Morvan

Authentic Conestoga Wagon Built by Vermont Craftsmen

Intrigued by early American history and the challenges of building an authentic reproduction Conestoga Covered Wagon, Ray Morvan, Sr., owner of Heritage Ox Farm and Sweet Retreat Guesthouse and Sugarworks in Northfield, VT, started researching wagon designs five years ago. His wagon, completed last year, is based on an original Conestoga Wagon housed in Shelburne Museum's collection in Shelburne, Vermont, and on blueprints he obtained from England.

Used by pioneer families for more than 100 years to transport freight into unknown territories of the west, Covered Conestoga Wagons were first built in 1750 in the Conestoga Valley of Pennsylvania. Pulled by 6 to 8 oxen or horses, the body of the wagon was painted blue and red and built with deep sides. The front and back ends were slanted to keep the contents from spilling out when traveling on steep terrain, and the white canvas covers, stretched over 8-12 wooden bows, protected the rider and contents from storms and heat and provided privacy.

Morvan's goal was to build a wagon that would be pulled by his two teams of Brown Swiss show oxen, Joker & Ace, and Jack & King. The oxen, some of the largest in New England weigh between 2500-3100 pounds apiece, and are trained as a two- or four-hitch and pull an ox cart, a two-seater sleigh and now the Conestoga Wagon.

Morvan commissioned a local craftsman, Kendall Martin, to build the wagon from ash harvested from Morvan's 400-acre property. A four-year project, the body of the wagon is 16 feet long, and 32 feet from tongue to tail. The bows that hold the canopy are also made from ash trees that were milled to the correct size, steamed and bent. The irons were hand-forged by Martin to include the tool box hardware, hound plates, axe carriers, and stay chains.

Another local craftsman made the fifth wheel and hammer pin, while the massive iron wheels measuring 47" in the front and 60" in the back were custom made by Fred Merriam, a professional carriage builder from Snowsville, VT. The white canvas canopy was made by Merriam's wife and her mother. A grease bucket made at the Ross Farm Museum in Nova Scotia, and four handcrafted wooden barrels complete

the trappings on the wagon. When pulling the wagon, the Brown Swiss oxen are harnessed with black leather nickel studded britching specially made by Amish craftsmen in Fonda, NY, and an extra-wide yoke used with a singletree arrangement handcrafted from ash by Kendall Martin, who crafts all of Morvan's yokes.

Ray and Hannah Morvan are equipped to have their Brown Swiss oxen pull the Conestoga Wagon at fairs, parades and events around the state. On their farm, Sweet Retreat Guesthouse & Sugarworks in Northfield, Vermont, they offer ox-drawn wagon rides in an ox cart seating up to four people and during the winter in a double seater sleigh also accommodating four passengers.

The Morvan's Conestoga Wagon made its maiden voyage at the Roxbury Independence Day Parade on July 2, 2011, pulled by Joker & Ace.

At their farm, Sweet Retreat Guesthouse & Sugarworks, the Morvans produce Pure Vermont Gold® Vermont maple syrup and specialize in custom etched Italian glass bottles filled with their syrup. Guests staying in their private guesthouse on the property are welcome to watch sugaring in spring and take an oxen ride through some of many miles of private trails available for walking, mountain biking, cross

country skiing and snow shoeing. A love of oxen runs in the family. With the help of her grandfather, Ray Morvan, and the 4-H Green Mountain Teamsters, twelve-year old Analiese Morvan is training her team of year-old Brown Swiss steers, Doc and Dan, which she is showed at fairs for the first time last season.

For more information on the Conestoga Wagon, oxen and maple sugaring operation, or to make a reservation to stay in their guesthouse on the property contact Ray and Hannah Morvan at (802) 485-8525, getaways@sweetretreat-vermont.com. Visit www.SweetRetreat-Vermont.com.



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North Country Book News

Chester, VT

Palma and Poetry Return to Misty Valley Books

Michael Palma, returning to Misty Valley Books on the Green in Chester, will consider the poetry of May Swenson and Robert Hayden on four Wednesday evenings. The series, beginning April 11, is entitled *The Pure Suit of Happiness*, the name of a poem by Swenson. 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*. Since then he has taken 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, Wilfred Owen and Philip Larkin, and W.H. Auden and Robert Browning.

This time, the series will feature readings from and discus-

sions of the work of two underappreciated American poets whose centenaries are approaching, May Swenson (1913-1989) and Robert Hayden (1913-1980).

Born in Utah, May Swenson spent most of her life in the eastern United States. Her work is marked by exuberance, fascination with the world and everything in it, endless technical innovation, and irrepressible wit—as shown in the titles of several of her books: *A Cage of Spines*, *Poems to Solve*, and *New and Selected Things Taking Place*. She was also one of the first English translators of the most recent Nobel laureate, Tomas Tranströmer.

Marginalized for many years, Robert Hayden slowly emerged as one of the central poets of a rich generation. Quiet, serious, carefully crafted, and emotionally powerful, his work ranges from painful personal recollections (including the classic "Those Winter Sundays") to historical narratives and spiritual meditations. He served two terms as Poetry Consultant to the Library of Congress (the position now known as Poet Laureate), the first African American to be so honored.

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 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. Books are available for sale at the Bookstore.

Misty Valley Books, On the Green, Chester, VT. (802) 875-3400, mvbooks@vermontel.net. www.mvbooks.com.



Vermont Writer David Buddill Presents His Book, *Happy Life*

Meet poet David Buddill at Brown Dog Books and Gifts in Hinesburg, VT on April 7 at 7 p.m. He will be reading from his recently published book of poems, *Happy Life*.

David Buddill conducts a wry, joyful examination of life on his semi-metaphorical Judevine Mountain, writing about the New England seasons, fame and fortune, self-reliance, aging, and the engaged creative life. Buddill's poems radiate a dialogue with nature through absolute clarity of expression. A favorite of Garrison Keillor, Buddill continues his popular ruminations on a "chop wood, carry water" life in Vermont.

"David Buddill is a nonsense free-range sage who celebrates tomatoes in September, the whistle of a woodcock and sweet black tea and ancient Chinese poems."—*New York Times*.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1940, to a streetcar driver and a minister's daughter, he is the author of nine books of poems (three of which are Copper Canyon Press books), nine plays, a novel, a collection of short stories, a picture book for children, and dozens of essays, introductions, speeches, and book reviews. He is a performance

poet on two CDs, *Zen Mountains/Zen Streets and Songs for a Suffering World* with The Judevine Mountain Trio.

Buddill's newest book, *Park Songs: A Poem/Play*, will be published by Exterminating Angel Press in September of 2012.

His has received an Honorary Doctorate from New England College, 2009, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in playwriting, 1991, and a Guggenheim Fellowship in poetry, 1982-1983.

David Buddill lives in the mountains of northern Vermont where he cuts firewood, tends his garden and website www.davidbuddill.com.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. If you can't make it, we would be happy to have a book signed for you.

Brown Dog Books & Gifts is located at 22 Commerce St. #3, (next to Koval's Coffee) in Hinesburg, VT.

For more information call (802) 482-5189. Visit www.browndogbooksandgifts.com. www.indiebound.org. Check us out on Facebook.

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Sustainable Living Book Exchange in Brandon, VT

Neshobe Farm in Brandon, VT is starting a book exchange for sustainable living buffs this spring. The idea is to take a book, leave a book. The farm already has 30+ books to start with and will be accepting ongoing book donations to keep building the library. Suggested topics include: alternative energy, homesteading, agriculture,

native plants, green living, whole food cook books, nutrition, etc.

The exchange will be self service and starts on April 15. Stop by to check it out!

Neshobe Farm is located at 142 Steinberg Rd. off Rt. 7 just north of the village in Brandon, VT. For more information call (802) 310-8534.



THE BOOK SHED

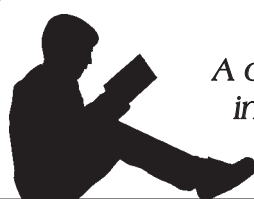
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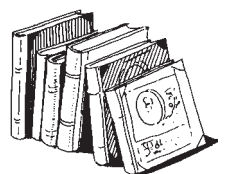
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Springtime Reading for Kids!

April showers do bring May flowers, but this is also the month that celebrates poetry, Easter, Arbor Day, Earth Day, and harbingers of Spring from the first daffodils and robins to the peeping symphonies of baby frogs! And we're blessed with bunches of wonderful new children's books! Here are some to consider.

A good way to remember and honor the poet Emily Dickinson during April Poetry Month is through a delightful book, *Emily and Carlo* by Mary Rhodes Figley and illustrated by Catherine Stock (Charlesbridge Publishers, Watertown, NY, \$15.95). Here we

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

meet Emily as a young, shy homebound girl who is given a giant Newfoundland dog by her father. She names the dog Carlo and he becomes "her shaggy ally" for the next 16 years. Heart-warming and lyrical full-page illustrations depict Emily's life with Carlo who has a place in many of her poems:

*"I started early, took my dog,
And visited the Sea;
The mermaids in the basement
Came out to look at me,"*

The story of Emily and Carlo sheds light on what we had come to believe was the poet's reclusive, solitary existence. It turns out she had a friend. After Carlo was gone, Emily continued to include him in her poems:

*"Twas my one glory—
Let it be
Remembered
I was owned of thee."*

Emily died in 1886, leaving behind almost 1,800 poems of which sadly only 10 were published in her lifetime.

Mary Rhodes Figley, the author of *Emily and Carlo*, studied at the Emily Dickenson Homestead and volunteered next door at the Evergreens. This book is a gem for lovers of poetry, Emily Dickenson, dogs, and children for whom they wish the world of wonder and poetry.



Cat lovers of all ages will be fascinated and intrigued by this volume of poems, *Cats Vanish Slowly* by Ruth Teller and illustrated by Laura Seeley, (Peachtree Publishers, Atlanta, GA, \$16.95). The author and artist have

combined to present both visually and with poetic words a remarkably mysterious but realistic look at all kinds of cats. The reader will recognize a family pet, a stray alley cat, or maybe this one from the poem:

*"He was a big orange Tom,
prowling round one day,
arching at shadows
and hissing at rivals.
Scrawny, matted, scarred,
he bared his teeth
and uttered, from a deep inside,
a bobcat's growl."*

There are peaceful and people-friendly cats here too, including a motley but lovable bunch at grandmother's farm. All the cats are very real and beautifully painted.



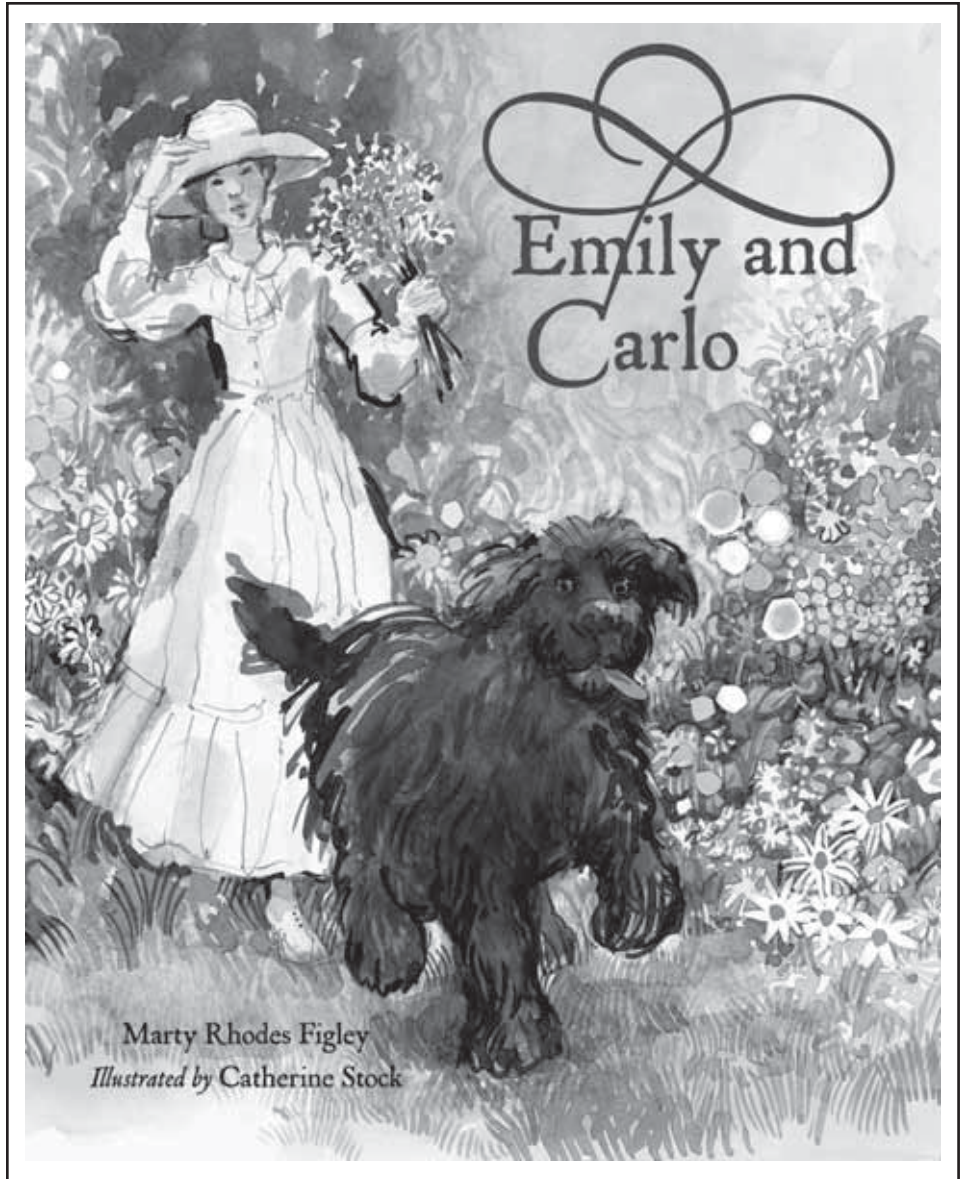
Family pets may be poem-worthy, but what about something as big and wild as elephants? In *Cousins of Clouds—Elephant Poems* by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer and illustrated by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy (Clarion Books, New York, NY, \$16.99), the many wonders of elephants—their hard work, devotion to family, and their historic place in history, including world religions, are celebrated in poems and drawings. The book is a treasure-house of information about elephants. For instance, who knew there are 40,000 muscles braided inside the elephants trunk, which we learn is a "finger, fork, arm, nose, straw, megaphone, telescope, and rope." It's strong enough to tear apart trees and precise enough to lift a grain of rice!



For poetry in a lighter vein, there's *Let's Have a Tree Party* by David Martin and illustrated by John Manders (Candlewick Press, Somerville, MA, \$15.99). We follow along with a collection of forest animals enjoying each other's company and antics in a giant tree. Squirrels, raccoons, possums, frogs, birds and mice, and even snakes and ladybugs join the party which roars on into the night. Author Martin, who lives in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, was inspired to write this story by a relative who had strung hundreds of lights in their favorite tree, enough for a party!



Children will tell you that the Easter morning egg hunt is much more exciting than having eggs for breakfast. In *Who Hid the Easter Eggs* by Pirkko Vainio (North-South



Books, New York City, NY, \$7.95 (paper), Harry the squirrel admires how grandmother has hidden many colorfully-decorated eggs for the upcoming hunt only to see a jackdaw bird stealing them for its empty nest. Harry tells the bird the eggs belong to the children and that the jackdaw will have its own eggs later in the spring. The Easter eggs are dutifully returned to hiding places and the day is saved. Exquisite drawings make this a wonderful Easter book.



Planting trees on Arbor Day is celebrated the last Friday in April in most of all 50 states and in many countries around the world. (May 5 in Vermont this year). In *Arbor Day*

Square by Kathryn O. Galbraith and illustrated by Cyd Moore (Peachtree Publishers, Atlanta, GA, \$16.95), the origins of Arbor Day in Nebraska are relived through settlers in a prairie town that has no trees. Trains bring in imported lumber to build homes, a school, church, barns and fences, but something is missing in the town square: no trees for shade or wind-breaks, for fruit, or homes for birds, or for beauty. The townspeople donate funds and start buying trees—\$15 to begin with—a few maples, oaks & chestnuts.

As the story unfolds, the years pass, but each April more trees are planted. In the final drawings large trees tower above a cheerful town square. As it should be.

Book News

The Home Creamery

by Kathy Farrell-Kingsley
(Storey Publishing, North Adams, MA)

The next time you open the refrigerator door and see containers of milk, why not consider the idea of converting that milk into some home-made products like yogurt, cottage cheese, butter, sour cream, or even soft cheeses. You usually get those items at the grocery or health food store but with this handy easy-to-follow instruction book so you can learn to make such dairy products at home in a matter of hours with equipment you probably already have on hand.

As a 'cook's bonus' the book contains 75 tasty and appealing recipes using the very products you have just made!

Where to begin? Try starting with making buttermilk, the liquid that remains after butter is made. We learn that buttermilk sold in stores is not the product of butter making, but is made by adding a special bacteria culture to milk creating a liquid which "lacks the rich, sweet flavor and traces of butter" from the pure version made at home.

Once buttermilk is made 15 tempting recipes using the product await the reader including cornmeal or vanilla waffles, chocolate buttermilk layer cake, buttermilk pot cheese, and even chilled pea soup, buttermilk onion rings, and lemon scones.

The remarkable list of dairy products for the Home Creamery also includes yogurt, creme fraiche (a French version of sour cream), sour cream, piima butter (a Scandinavian product), kefir (a fermented milk drink that originated in the Caucasus Mountains of Russia, quark (a soft unripened German cheese), cream cheese, cottage cheese, ricotta, goat cheese, mozzarella and mascarpone cheeses,

The author tells us the secret to making fresh cheeses at home are patience and experimentation. and that the pro-

cess for making all the cheeses is generally the same, but with amazing results. For instance, she tells us the creamy, slightly sweet homemade version of ricotta cheese is much better than the "rubbery" mass you find at the supermarket.

The Home Creamery by Kathy Farrell-Kingsley is available at bookstores or can be purchased from Storey Publishing at (800) 441-5700 for \$16.95. www.storey.com.

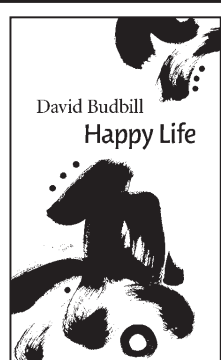
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photo by Katharine Goodbody

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Adirondacks. The first floor includes the kitchen, screened porch, dining room; sunny open living room with gas stove, LCD television, DVD/BluRay, Internet access movies, WiFi; master suite (queen bed and private bath), and a second bedroom (queen bed and full bath). A large bedroom (king bed) and half bath are on second floor. Washer and dryer in basement. One mile from public boat ramp. Five minutes to VT-NY ferry. 25 minutes to Burlington, 1.5 hours to Montreal. No pets or smoking. Weekly in summer. Holidays and ski weekends possible. Contact Ari Kugelmass and Karen Ambrose, (413) 567-1816 or (413) 272-8068. adamslandingschoolhouse@yahoo.com. (Listing #1579)

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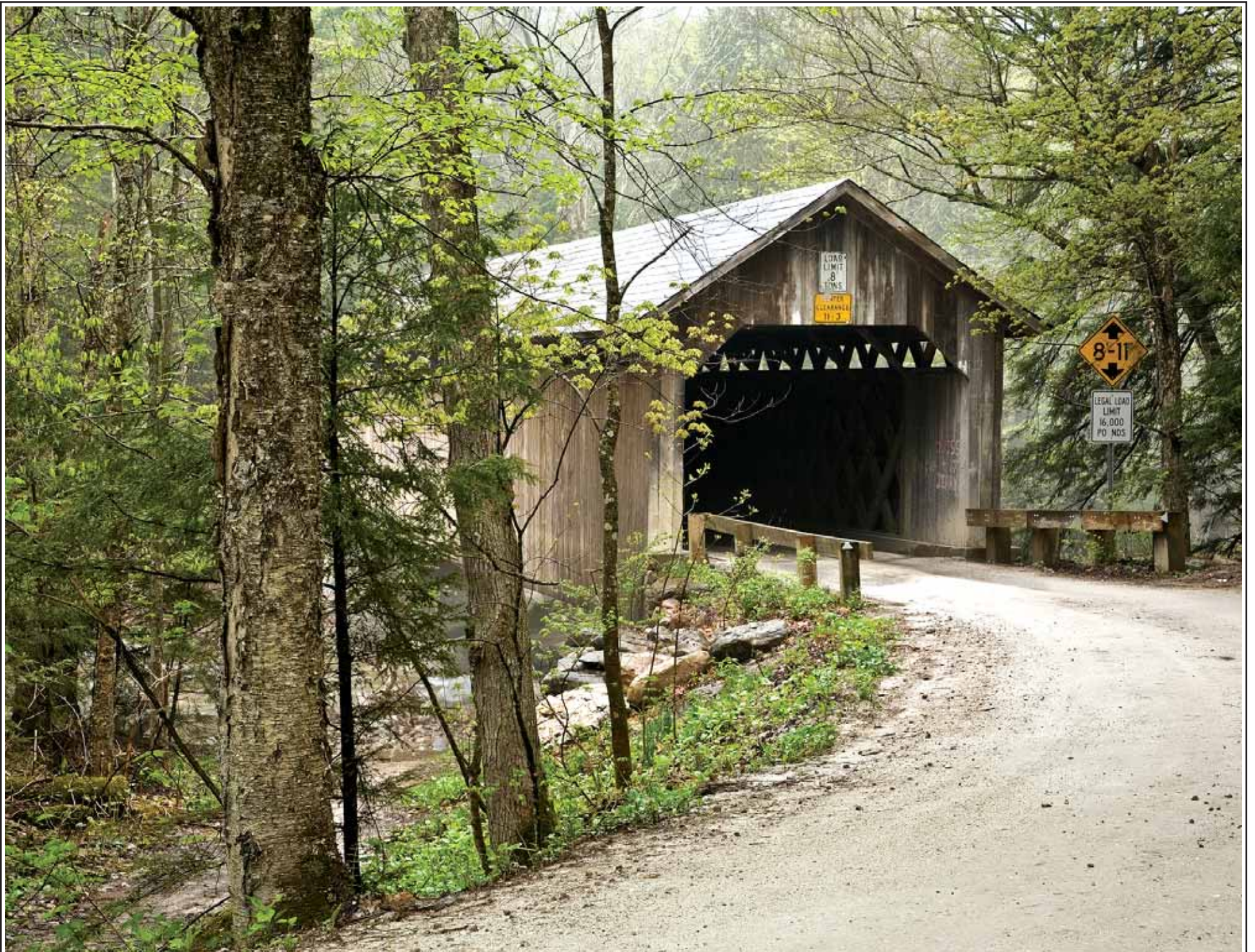
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— THE HILLS OF OLD VERMONT —

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.

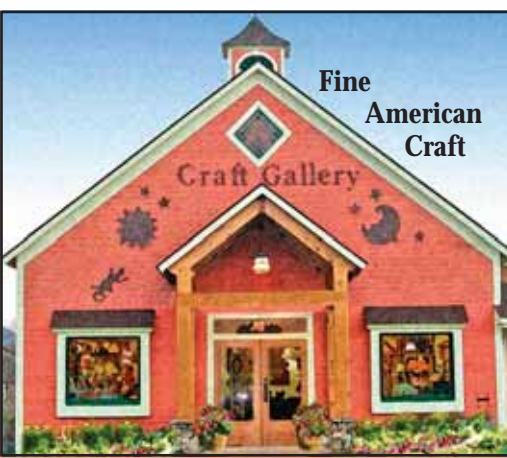
If this was some big, level state,
 We'd get the bitter with the sweet,
 For Henry Ford might live in town,
 Or unkissed Dowie down the street,
 We'd have no gum, we'd have no talc—
 The high school girls'd come to want—
 We'd better leave 'em be, I guess,
 The useful hills of Old Vermont.

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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