

Vermont Country Sampler

May 2014



Free

- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
- Sights to See, Things to Do
- Plenty of Good Reading!

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Wardsboro, VT

Spring Plant Sale May 24th

The Friends of the Wardsboro Library is sponsoring its annual Memorial Day weekend Plant Sale on Saturday, May 24th in Wardsboro, VT. Admission and parking are free and the sale will be held rain or shine. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Wardsboro Library, a non-profit organization that supports the Wardsboro Public Library,

A gala plant sale

The Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. will take place at 170 Main Street on the front lawn of the Wardsboro Library and also on the Wardsboro Town Common at Route 100 and Main Street. A large variety of hearty perennials, colorful annuals, shrubs, Gilfeather turnip seedlings, vegetables, and herbs will all be reasonably priced for the one day sale. A new feature is planned for this year's sale—a Garden Boutique. Shoppers will find bargain prices for new and used garden items such as books, pots, tools, bird houses, watering cans, hand painted garden signs and much more. Vermont Extension Master Gardeners will staff an information table and answer your gardening questions.

Gardening advice

Erica Bowman, landscape architect and owner of Andromeda Designs of Jamaica, VT, will give a "Garden Talkback" at 10 a.m. Ms. Bowman has volunteered to help the Friends design planting areas around the library building. The existing gardens are all a part of her master plan, and more gardens are planned for the future.

Best ever raffle!

The Friends are once again sponsoring their annual "Best Raffle Ever" featuring a hand-crafted "twig chair" by Albert Litchfield, owner of Litchfield Woodworks of Townshend, VT. The chair will be on display at the sale and can be viewed on the Friends' website www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org. Print raffle tickets from the website or purchase them at the Plant Sale or the Wardsboro Library. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Friends' booth at the July 4th Street Fair and Parade. The winner need not be present.

Annual bake sale

The Wardsboro Library trustees will also hold their annual bake sale on the Town Common on May 24, the day of the Plant Sale, beginning at 9 a.m. until all the home made goodies are sold. On the Common shoppers will find the Friends' Flower Cart filled with annuals as well as the Bake Sale tent, a first stop before moving down Main Street to the library lawn for the big Plant Sale. Raffle tickets can also be purchased on the Common for the hand crafted "twig chair," the exciting "Best Raffle Ever" prize.

Wardsboro, VT is located in southeastern Vermont on Rt. 100, south of Jamaica, and north of Wilmington. The Friends of the Wardsboro Library Plant Sale is located at 170 Main St. For more information go to www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org.

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The Friends' flower cart is loaded up with colorful annuals ready to sell at the annual Plant Sale on May 25 on the Wardsboro Common at Route 100 and Main St., Wardsboro, VT. The second venue of the sale, the lawn of the Wardsboro Library at 170 Main St., will offer a huge variety of perennials, vegetables, and a Garden Boutique.

May Notebook

Walking Alone

by Bill Felker

Place is dynamic, equal parts geography and imagination; it is a complex intermingling and, ultimately, fusion of mind and landscape, so that neither is finally separable or meaningful without the other.

—Kent C. Ryden

It seems that I should have noticed this before, but I have recently paid attention to the fact that my solitude is always an accompanied solitude.

My rudimentary experience with meditation has shown me that my mind is rarely still or empty, and that thoughts and images constantly pass before my consciousness. Success in meditation, so my readings tell me, is being able to allow those thoughts and images to pass through my mind, leaving, perhaps, some empty and peaceful space.

Last year, I took part in several group walking meditation sessions in the woods. I found that not only was I flooded with images from the path and the season, and with associated images of people I once knew and events evoked by the trees and plants. I also experienced a feeling of community. I expected that feeling to be an uncomfortable one. But it was not. I concluded that the group experience only compounded another type of experience, that of being accompanied by other inhabitants of the landscape of my mind.

Rarely, in fact, do I walk alone. I find that is especially true as I navigate the house and garden where I lived with my wife for many decades. As I watch myself watching, I keep coming back to Kent Ryden's suggestion that place is only partially a matter of geography; it is also a matter of imagination. And that the construct in our brains, the result

of the fusion of inner and outer landscape, is a curious and powerful web of sensory impressions, recollection, reminiscence, association, emotion and rumination of and about people, places and events.

I do not pretend this realization is some mysterious revelation about the nature of consciousness. When I pay attention to my imaginary companions, however, I find them everywhere, sometimes guiding me, sometimes talking to me, sometimes reminding me, sometimes keeping me company, sometimes coming into bright relief, sometimes lying vague and ghostly at the back of my mind. They were always there, of course, I just didn't want to admit it. Instead, I chose to believe that I was where I was alone in the moment and that the world around me was empty and indifferent.

Not Much of a Career

Not much of a career
 The man may say of me
 Who's risen year by year
 To some good presidency.

But I say let a man
 Ask nothing in advance

Nor bother with a plan,
 But take his gains from
 chance.

What bargains we see made
 In some manmade careers
 Where all we have to trade
 Is all we have—our years.

—JAMES HAYFORD
 Orleans, VT 1956



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Charles Sutton, Publisher

Vermont Country Sampler

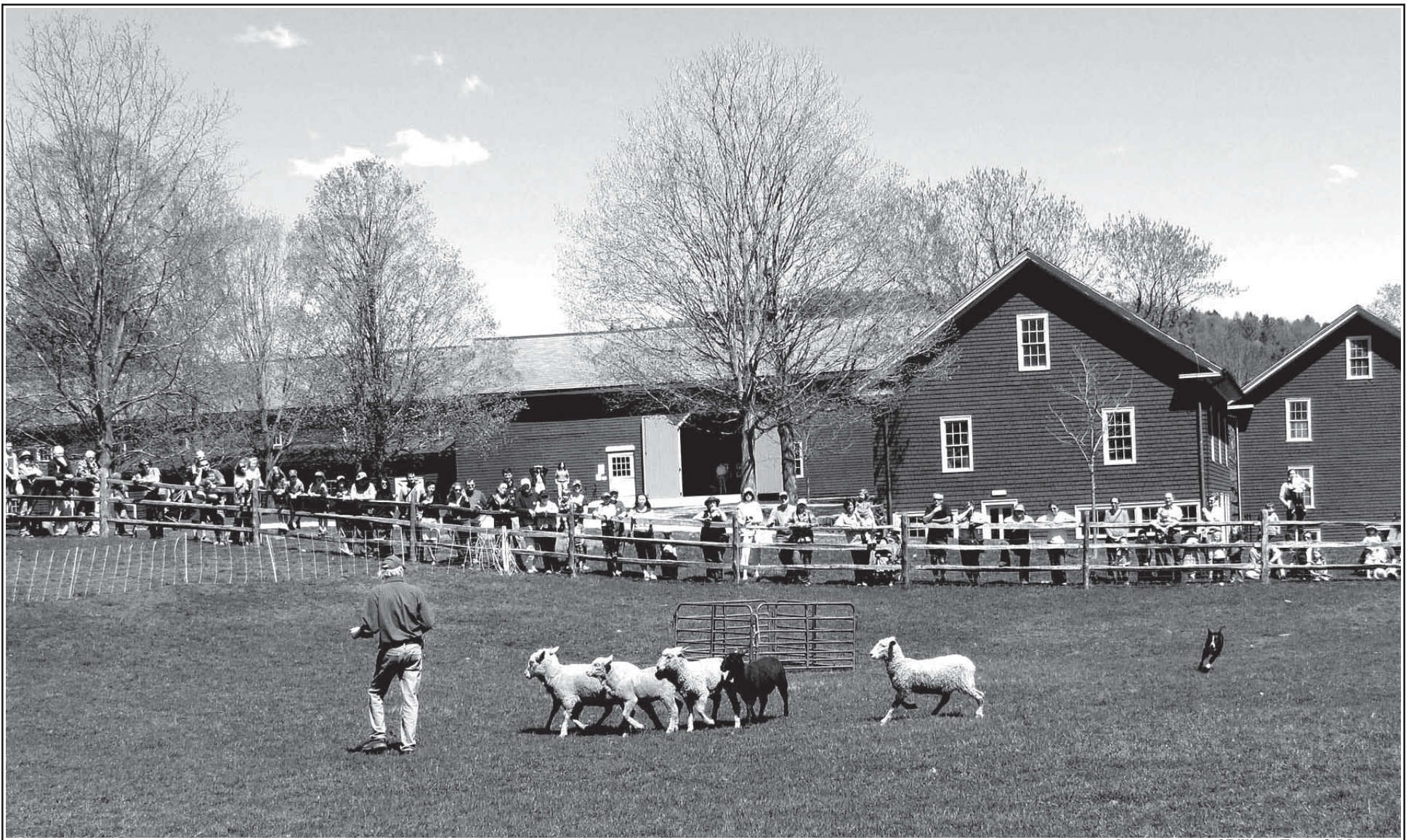
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Visitors watch sheep herding with border collies at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Billings Farm & Museum Opens May 1st for 32nd Season

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, will open for its 32nd season on Thursday, May 1, 2014. The festive day will feature horse-drawn wagon rides, free ice cream, and farm programs, in addition to the dairy farm, restored farmhouse and farm life exhibits.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 143-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values. In addition to opening day festivities, there are two more special events in May:

Sheep Shearing & Herding With Border Collies

Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4

The weekend showcases the spring shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes by Craig Marcotte at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., with spinning and carding demonstrations of the skills needed to turn fleece into yarn. Plus, watch herdsman, Steve Wetmore, as his team of Border Collies herd sheep in the farm fields during narrated programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. each day. The children's farm art show will be on display and wool craft activities will take place in the activity barn.

5th Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration Saturday and Sunday, May 24 and 25

Celebrate Vermont's rich dairy heritage during this two-day event: meet New England cheesemakers, sample their

delicious artisan cheeses & dairy products, and take part in engaging dairy education programs.

The Cheese & Dairy Celebration will showcase many of New England's artisan cheesemakers, who will offer 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, and a "name the calf" contest.

Inside-Out Cow (have fun learning the body parts of a cow) and Cow Make-Over (learn what it takes to groom a cow in preparation for being judged in a show). Especially for the children: cranking fresh ice cream and making dairy headbands and moo masks.

The Billings Farm & Museum, is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution, founded by Mary French and Laurance Spelman Rockefeller.

Billings Farm & Museum is open daily May 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends Nov. - Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the restored and furnished farmhouse are included in the entrance fee. Admission: adults: \$14; 62 & over: \$13; children 5-15: \$8; 3-4: \$4; 2 & under: free.

The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. For information call (802) 457-2355. Visit www.billingsfarm.org.



photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum
Kids help make hand-cranked ice cream at Billings Cheese and Dairy Celebration.

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22nd Annual Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend

The 2014 Open Studio Weekend Tour takes place on Memorial Day Weekend, May 24 and 25, 2014.

Look for bright yellow signs along Vermont's roads over Memorial Day weekend and they'll guide you to the open studios of craftspeople and fine artists across Vermont. 240 artisans and artists will open their studios to show visitors how they make their work.

The event is a statewide celebration of the visual arts and creative process, offering an opportunity for visitors to meet artists and craftspeople in their studios, some of which are only open to the public during this event.

The self-guided Open Studio tour offers a chance to see the work of glassblowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers and wood carvers. Many galleries will host talks and

feature special exhibits.

The Vermont Crafts Council is a non-profit organization serving the Vermont visual arts community. The Vermont Crafts Council launched Open Studio Weekend in 1993 to increase the visibility of artists and craftspeople in Vermont and to foster an appreciation for the creative process and the role that artists and craftspeople play in the vitality of Vermont's communities.

Open Studio Weekend is supported by the farmers that own Cabot Cooperative, the Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing.

The Vermont Crafts Council publishes a free Vermont Open Studio Guide with directions to participating sites available at Tourist Information Centers, galleries, and also on the VCC website at www.vermontcrafts.com or by calling (802) 223-3380.



Visit these Artists and Crafters on May 24-25

Vermont's Spring Open Studio Weekend is taking place this May 24 & 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. It's a lovely time to drive the backroads of Vermont and take in the lacy green scenery. Visit artists and craftspeople in their studios all over Vermont, talk with them, and see their work.

Belmont, VT. Stephanie Stouffer Studio and Gallery Gift Shop, 250 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-2686. stouffer@vermontel.net. www.stephaniestouffer.com. Stephanie Stouffer's whimsical and decorative art is licensed on many products, including stoneware, rugs, pillows and Caspari Cards. These and much more are on display and for sale in her Gallery. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cornwall, VT. The Oxford Rug Hooking School, 4174 Route 30. (802) 462-2011. amy@amyoxford.com. www.amyoxford.com. Come see hooked rugs being made and if you like, give the craft a try! We'll be giving tours of our studio and school and demonstrating punch needle rug hooking. We also have hands-on projects for adults and children.

Roxbury, VT. Josh Axelrod Photography, 324 Webster Rd. Studio is in the converted barn. (802) 485-7788. joshaxelrod@gmail.com. www.joshaxelrod.com. Josh Axelrod is a fine art photographer and frame maker using antique architectural woods. He will be featuring his latest works.

Underhill Center, VT. Garden Sculpture Gerald K. Stoner, 185 River Rd. (802) 899-5313. geraldkstoner@yahoo.com. www.geraldkstoner.com/about.php. Whimsical, graceful, welded steel sculpture. "The process of working with steel is natural for me, descending from many generations who worked in the steel mills of the Midwest. The dexterity of steel remains a constant exploration in my work, celebrating the material. The permanence and the ability of steel to be whimsical, brutal, and atmospheric are embraced in my sculpture. I will have over thirty sculptures on display in our sculpture gardens. The sculptures are priced between \$125-\$600". 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Montpelier, VT. Blue Roof Design Studio, 846 Gallison Hill Road. (802) 229-1342. elissa@bluroofdesigns.com. www.bluroofdesigns.com/blog. On Facebook. Explore the art of handmade books with Elissa Campbell. "Using handmade papers & materials from both local artisans and from around the world, I hand-bind journals, photo albums, and guest books using traditional bookbinding techniques. I also design and create custom invitations and announcements. Come for a tour of the studio, demonstrations, & savings up to 50% off seconds and discontinued styles. Bookbinding supplies will also be available for purchase." Children welcome!

Westminster, VT. Flying Canvas Studio, 201 Church Ave. (802) 463-9530. jeanetestaley@myfairpoint.net. www.flyingcanvasstudio.com. Whimsical Art for home and garden. Artist Jeanette Staley paints farm harvest inspired paintings,

whimsical floorcloths and murals and creates allegorical/narrative collage. Her work is found in galleries throughout New England. Now you can visit her studio, view work not seen in galleries or plan a commissioned original for your home.

West Castleton, VT. Karen Deets Stained Glass, 728 Moscow Rd., lower level, private home. (802) 265-8668. deetsvt@gmail.com. www.karendeets.com. Visit the private studio of a glass artist with 37 years experience nestled in the Bomoosen State Park woodlands. Sales, refreshments and demonstrations. Demonstrations of techniques and hands-on opportunities may be available. Current work includes whimsical landscapes, fused glass jewelry, garden accents, coasters, cast cabinet knobs etc. Fired painted lettering on signs is available. Designs can be made to enhance a lovely natural view or create privacy.

West Windsor, VT. VanNatta Studio, 543 Shattuck Hill Rd. Watercolor artist, Nancy Lent Lanoue and oil painter, Lynn VanNatta will show new works.

Weston, VT. Diane's Watercolor Gallery, 11 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 824-6195. dgbell_adelphial@comcast.net. dianebell.org. Diane offers her original matted and/or framed original watercolors and note cards at her home gallery.

Williston, VT. Northeast Fiber Arts Center, 7531 Williston Rd. (802) 288-8081. northeastfiberarts@gmail.com. www.northeastfiberarts.com. Showcase of handcrafted felt, knitwear, weaving, spinning. All things fiber are on display, including finished work for sale and fiber for your own projects. Enjoy demonstrations in felting, knitting, spinning and weaving.

Springfield Farmer's Market 5th Season Around the Corner!

Springfield on the Move and the Springfield Farmer's Market welcome Springtime and the kickoff of the fifth season of the community farmer's market in downtown Springfield, VT.

Come for crafts, flowers, plants, greens, baked goods, preserves, produce, artwork, cheese makers and specialty foods. Live entertainment is planned.

The market will be held each Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning May 31st and running through the

Springfield Apple Festival in early October—rain or shine (unless safety is an issue).

EBT/Food Stamps and Farm to Family Coupons accepted. Vendor applications are also available.

For more information contact Jim Fog, market manager at (802) 738-5272, jfog@vermontel.net or contact Springfield on the Move at (802) 885-1527, som@vermontel.net. Visit www.springfieldcommunitymarket.com.



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Rockingham Library Grand Re-opening Celebration

The Rockingham Free Public Library Staff, Trustees, and Friends of the Library invite the community to the Library's Grand Re-Opening Celebration in Bellows Falls, VT on May 8th, 9th, and 10th. There will be programs, activities, and events for all ages to mark the completion of the Library's renovation which began in the fall of 2012.

Thursday, May 8th, the celebration begins at 6 p.m. with a presentation of Alan Fowler's photographs documenting the Library's renovation. Following the photo display, at 7 p.m., preservationist and photographer, Bill Hosley, will present "More Than Books: Libraries, Community, and Historic Preservation", a slide-show and discussion about 200 years of American Library service.

Friday, May 9th, the Library will host a free screening of the film *The Book Thief* (PG13) at 7 p.m. The film is an adaptation of the book written by Marcus Zusak, which tells the story of a young girl named Liesel, who finds solace from the horrors of WWII by stealing books and sharing them with others.

Saturday, May 10th will feature activities throughout the day beginning at 10 a.m. with live music. Peruse art, photo, and historical collections displays. Light refreshments will be provided. The official ribbon cutting will take place at noon accompanied by speeches from community leaders, and celebratory cake.

Activities for families and youth will also be taking place over the three-day celebration including a Thursday morning storytime at 10:30 a.m., a Friday afternoon "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle" event with the Library's Teen Advisory Council at 4:30 p.m., and a special Saturday storytime at 11 am. There will be face-painting, Lego building, and Mother's Day craft activities happening throughout the day.

—200-Year History of the Library—

The Rockingham Free Public Library has had an important role in the Bellows Falls community for over 200 years.

On October 28, 1799, the Rockingham Library Society was established by a small group of settlers from the village of Rockingham, which had a population of approximately 1,000. Shares were sold at \$1.00 each.

During the following decades, the Library grew and on September 6, 1887, it officially became the Rockingham Free Public Library. Successful fundraising ensued, enabling the Library Room to open in 1888, on the first floor of the newly built Opera House.

One of four Carnegie libraries in Vermont

In 1908, Rockingham citizens voted to purchase land on Westminster Street, to provide an annual allowance for library maintenance, and to accept the gift of \$15,000 from



Rockingham Free Public Library in Bellows Falls, VT has recently undergone an extensive renovation. Come and see!

the philanthropist and steel magnate Andrew Carnegie to build a library.

The Library was designed in the Classical Revival style by the Fitchburg, MA firm of Francis and Son; it became one of four libraries in Vermont to be built with Carnegie funds.

Two decades later, in 1929, a Children's Room was added to the rear of the building, and in 1968, a two-floor addition was built to provide a new meeting space and an expanded Children's Room. Using funds from the Freeman Foundation, an accessible entry and elevator were added in 2003.

A modern renovation

In the fall of 2012 the Library underwent a complete renovation of all three floors, which took a full year to complete. On November 1, 2013 the Library was able to reopen to the

public at the 65 Westminster Street building. The renovation increased space for Library services, including a community meeting room on the top floor and a dedicated youth program in the Youth Department, improved access to the Library by expanding elevator access to all three floors, and much more.

The community is invited to visit the Library and take a tour to learn about Library services and the renovation work.

Today, the Library continues to be a thriving center of activity, serving all the residents of Rockingham, from Bellows Falls to Saxton's River to Cambridgeport, and everywhere in between!

Rockingham Free Public Library is open Monday-Wednesday 10-7; Thursday & Friday 10-5:30; Saturday 10-2. The library is located at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, VT. (802) 463-4270. rockref@sover.net. Visit rockinghamlibrary.org.

Celebrate Spring and Wildlife on the Connecticut River At Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival in Rockingham, VT

Come celebrate spring and wildlife at beautiful Herricks Cove on the Connecticut River in Rockingham, VT on Sunday, May 4th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This festival includes nature presentations, activities and programs featuring live animals, guided nature walks, crafts and activities for children, tasty

food, workshops, birding and much more. Suggested donation is \$2 per person and \$5 per family. Parking is free.

The event brings together wildlife, nature and outdoor enthusiasts for a fun and informative day for all ages. The day begins at 7 a.m. with a bird walk with Don Clark. The festival begins at 10 a.m.

Come for an hour or stay all day. Throughout the day you can view dynamic presentations with a diversity of live animals. There will be face painting, Let's Go Fishing, fly tying, children's tent with crafts and activities, and many exhibits. This year we welcome Wildlife Encounters, the Vermont Institute for Natural Science, Lindsay Bezich and her puppet pals, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, The Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group and AMOS Natural Science Education Services.

Directions to Herricks Cove from the north: Take Exit 6 off I-91 and bear right off the ramp onto Rt. 103 south. Follow 103 to its junction with Rt. 5 (103 ends there) and turn left on to Rt. 5 north. After descending the hill and crossing the Williams River, take the first road to the right (Herricks Cove Rd.). Watch for signs.

The festival is co-sponsored by Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, The Nature Museum and Vermont Fish and Wildlife and partially funded by TransCanada.

For more information please contact Alma Beals atalmabeals@gmail.com or call (802) 722-3355. Visit The Nature Museum website at www.nature-museum.org for programming updates.

New Exhibit at Springfield's Art on the River Gallery

Art on the River Gallery, a new exhibition space for small works at One Hundred River Street in Springfield, VT is pleased to announce the second show of the year called "802: Just Vermont." The photography show will run from May 2 to August 19.

The new exhibit will display the works of John Sinclair, DMD, retired, and Goldie May, who both share a love of their home state of Vermont and their home town of Springfield, and especially expressions of everyday life.

The public is invited to their opening reception May 2 from 4-7 p.m. Photographs will be for sale with a silent auction of Sinclair's work for the duration of the show. The entire amount of the highest bid for any photograph will be donated by Sinclair to the Springfield Humane Society until August 19.

Art on the River is located at 100 River Street in Springfield, VT, next to the Great Hall on the way to the Lunchbox Café.



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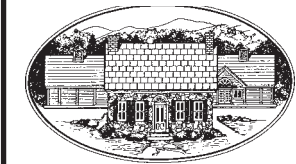
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Rutland Railroad Historical Society Annual Convention

The Rutland Railroad Historical Society will hold its annual convention on May 3-4, 2014 at the First Congregational Church in Manchester, VT. The group is a non-profit historical and educational organization dedicated to preserving the memory and heritage of the Rutland Railroad, and has upwards of 375 members nationwide.

Saturday's program at the First Congregational Church begins at 8:30 a.m. sharp with coffee and doughnuts galore and set-up of swap/sell tables for members. Inclusive in the \$30 registration cost is a buffet lunch, and also the option to visit and walk through the restored Pullman car Sunbeam, on display close by outside the grounds of Hildene, summer estate of Robert Todd Lincoln, once the president of the Pullman Company.

A walking tour of the railroad station area in Manchester Depot will be held Saturday afternoon, and there will be ongoing, richly-illustrated Powerpoint presentations back at the church, loosely-themed to touch on the Rutland Railroad's presence in town, as well as that of the Rich Lumber Company's logging railroad, railroad-related businesses in Manchester, and the Manchester, Dorset & Granville Railroad.

Saturday evening dinner at an area restaurant will follow at 5:30 p.m. Advance convention registrations with dinner reservations are required. A presentation follows at 8 p.m. that will include content on both the Wagner Palace Car Company (at one time headed by Dr. William Seward Webb, president of the Rutland Railroad) and the Pullman Company.

Sunday will bring the choice of a walking tour of remnants of the Rich Lumber Company railroad or the MD&GRR. Activities begin at 9 a.m.

History of the Rutland Railroad

The railroad itself had its beginnings in 1900 in the combination of several independent railroads that included the Bennington & Rutland, the Chatham & Lebanon Valley, the Rutland & Burlington, and the Northern Railroad, an empire largely put together by Percival Clement (who also owned the Rutland Herald). The 400-mile system reached from Bellows Falls, Vermont all the way to Ogdensburg, New York on the St. Lawrence River via Rutland, Burlington and Alburg. It also had a line from Rutland south to Chatham, New York via Manchester and Bennington.

After the onset of automobile travel sapped the line of its most lucrative passenger trade, the railroad survived in an increasingly competitive freight-hauling market, but at best only marginally profitable, passing into receivership in the pre-WWII years.



John Krause photo, collection of Philip R. Jordan
An Exchange Club special on the Rutland Railroad passes through Manchester in 1951.

The railroad was reorganized in 1950 as the Rutland Railway and enjoyed a brief resurgence in traffic, in part due to an intensive sales effort (and also by shedding itself of unprofitable passenger service after a labor strike in May, 1953). But the decline of industry along the line, competition from trucks and further labor troubles in 1960 led to another strike that ultimately resulted in the line's abandonment.

Portions of the railroad were bought by the state of Ver-

mont and leased to new operators, railroads that are today part of Vermont Rail System.

One may register for the convention in advance on the Rutland Railroad Historical Society website at rutlandrr.org or at the door for \$30. One may also opt for membership at that time for a \$15 fee. For information call convention co-chair Phil Jordan at (802) 733-7504.

Garrison Keillor Presents *The Keillor Reader* At Off the Shelf in Manchester, VT on Tuesday, May 20

Garrison Keillor is coming to Manchester, VT on May 20 to presenting his new book, *The Keillor Reader*, featuring stories, essays, poems, and personal reminiscences from the sage of Lake Wobegon.

The event takes place at Manchester Elementary Middle School at 7 p.m., doors opening at 6 p.m.

Hosted by Off the Shelf: Authors in Conversation, the event is a partnership between the Northshire Bookstore and WAMC Northeast Public Radio and is live on stage featuring Joe Donahue of The Book Show interviewing Garrison Keillor. It is taped and later aired on

WAMC, reaching thousands of listeners.

Garrison Keillor is the founder and host of A Prairie Home Companion, celebrating its fortieth anniversary in 2014. He is the author of nineteen books of fiction and humor, the editor of the Good Poems collections, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

When, at thirteen, he caught on as a sportswriter for the Anoka Herald, Garrison Keillor set out to become a professional writer, and so he has done—a storyteller, sometime comedian, essayist, newspaper columnist, screenwriter, poet.

Now a single volume brings together the full range of his work: monologues from A Prairie Home Companion, stories from The New Yorker and The Atlantic, excerpts from novels, newspaper columns.

With an extensive introduction and headnotes, photographs, and memorabilia, *The Keillor Reader* also presents pieces never before published, including the essays "Cheerfulness" and "What We Have Learned So Far."

An iconic American entertainer, writer, and humorist, Keillor is beloved by the many who, for all these years, still tune in faithfully to A Prairie Home Companion and have read his stories of Lake Wobegon, a place that many of us feel quite familiar with.

Tickets are available at The Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center, VT or in Saratoga Springs, NY. They are \$33 for one seat and one copy of *The Keillor Reader*. Bring a friend—two seats and one copy of *The Keillor Reader* are \$38.

The Keillor Reader will

be available on May 1, 2014 and can be picked up in either store or at the event. You must present your ticket to receive your copy. Order online at www.northshire.com.

Off the Shelf: Authors in Conversation is a partnership between the Northshire Bookstore and WAMC Northeast Public Radio,

The Northshire Bookstore is located at 4869 Main St. in Manchester Center, VT. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

Garrison Keillor will be appearing at Manchester Elementary Middle School, 80 Memorial Ave., Manchester Center, VT,

For some delightful reading, news, and notes go to www.garrisonkeillor.com.



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North Country Reflections

Spring Blues

by Judith Irven

Blue is the color of a crystal clear sky at midday. Although its intensity ranges from brilliant sapphire opposite the sun, to the palest baby blue near the horizon, it is true blue.

Blue flowers are also beloved by gardeners, and yet they seem really hard to find. There are plenty of flowers with overtones of red—pinkish-blue, mauve, purple and lavender—mostly blooming in summer and fall.

But the spring blues, without a trace of pink, are the real thing. And they look especially lovely when combined with contrasting companions, such as yellow daffodils or pink geraniums.

Here, in order of blooming, are my favorite spring blues and, to complete the picture, some contrasting plants that bloom at the same time.

Spring starts out gently, around mid-April in the Champlain Valley and a bit later in the mountains, with the lovely blue Siberian squill (*Scilla siberica*).

Squills are bulbs but they spread by seed to gradually form sizable colonies. Indeed volunteers even pop up among the stones of my patio. Plant a few dozen bulbs among some small jonquil daffodils and in a few years you will be rewarded by a mantle of blue and gold.

But, for a really stunning effect, grow squills in the lawn or even in a field and let them spread where they will. As long as you delay cutting the grass until early June the plants will have enough time to seed, as well as to store food in the bulb for next year's flowers.

More than once the sight of a huge patch of blue in an in-town lawn was enough to make me stop the car, gasp and reach for the camera. And last year, when driving out in Weybridge, I was completely bowled over by the amazing display in a field that spread some fifty feet beside the road.

Forget-me-nots, *Myosotis sylvatica*, are true to their name, returning every year to create a splendid carpet beneath our serviceberry trees. Here they making a sumptuous statement among some yellow daisy-like flowers known as Leopards-



English bluebells growing in Judith's Garden in Goshen, VT.

photo by Dick Conrad

bane (*Doronicum orientaleas*) and a large patch of pink creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera* 'Pink Ridge').

People tend to scoff at forget-me-nots as weedy. Certainly after flowering they quickly become tatty and mildewy. So enjoy the flowers while they last, then assertively cull the plants. This clears out the bed for the summer perennials, but always seems to leave a few plants to create next year's display.

For me the pleasures of forget-me-nots were brought home many years ago now, when visiting a beautiful garden in Randolph in late May that was home to many varieties of mature lilac bushes, a legacy of the original owner and lilac expert. And I still remember all those beautiful flowering shrubs hovering over sheets of blue forget-me-nots!

Next come the clear-blue bell-shaped flowers of our native Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), which look lovely behind my English primroses (*Primula vulgaris*). Virginia bluebells will self-seed modestly, with their progeny showing up several feet away from the parents. But you need to know that, once flowering time is over, everything completely disappears below ground. So, if you want to enlarge the density of your spread, take a few minutes in early June to move any strays back into the fold.

And while genetically unrelated to their Virginian namesake, English bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) almost match them in color. The wild bluebell woods of England are the stuff of legends, with a sea of blue seemingly stretching forever. So awhile back I planted a dozen bulbs in the rough grass at the edge of our garden. While they have yet to create that fabled 'sea of blue' they serve as a fond reminder of my English childhood.

In 2005 I succumbed to the lure of the renowned Himalayan blue poppy, purchasing two plants of *Meconopsis betonicifolia* from Cady's Falls Nursery in Morrisville, VT. These poppies are famous for two reasons—they are really fussy to grow and they are an amazing shade of blue.

Carefully following directions, I sited my two plants in rich soil where our serviceberry trees would shade them from

the midday sun. This location has proven auspicious; every June I enjoy their arresting blue color surrounded by some cheery yellow Globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*).

And finally, for the deepest blue of all, seek out the Large Speedwell (*Veronica austriaca* 'Crater Lake Blue') which, despite its name, only grows only about 12" high. But it produces flowers all along the upper portion of its many stems, resulting in a truly concentrated explosion of color that looks stunning beside the mounding pink geranium (*Geranium sanguinum* var. *Lancastriense*).

Grow Large Speedwells in well-drained soil near the front of a sunny border and, once they are done flowering, cut down the seedy stalks to tidy things up and mulch lightly. Finally surround the blank spot with some daylilies for summer color.

Judith Irven lives with her husband, Dick Conrad, in Goshen, VT where together they nurture a large garden. She is a Vermont Certified Horticulturist and teaches Sustainable Home Landscaping for the Vermont Master Gardener program. You can subscribe to her blog about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com.



The Ash Grove (Llwyn Onn)

The ash grove how graceful, how plainly 'tis speaking
The harp through its playing has language for me.
Whenever the light through its branches is breaking,
A host of kind faces is gazing on me.
The friends from my childhood again are before me
Each step wakes a memory as freely I roam.
With soft whispers laden the leaves rustle o'er me
The ash grove, the ash grove alone is my home.

Down yonder green valley where streamlets meander
When twilight is fading I pensively rove
Or at the bright noon tide in solitude wander
Amid the dark shades of the lonely ash grove.
'Twas there while the black bird was cheerfully singing
I first met that dear one the joy of my heart
Around us for gladness the blue bells were ringing
But then little thought I how soon we should part.

My lips smile no more, my heart loses its lightness;
No dream of the future my spirit can cheer.
I only can brood on the past and its brightness
The dear ones I long for again gather here.
From ev'ry dark nook they press forward to meet me;
I lift up my eyes to the broad leafy dome,
And others are there, looking downward to greet me
The ash grove, the ash grove, again is my home.

—JOHN OXENFORD
England, 1812-1877

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This turn-of-the-century photo of the Harwood Family in Rupert, VT, was taken along Old Town Road, the main route that cuts through Merck Forest and Farmland Center. The barn at the left, now known as the Harwood Barn, is still used by the educational farm today, though the house pictured only survived until the 1940s. photo courtesy of Merck Forest and Farmland Center

Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
Vermont Chamber of Commerce: visitvt.com
Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Green Mountain Club: greenmountainclub.org
Discover Vermont Vacations: discoververmontvacations.com
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
Vermont Campground Association: campvermont.com
Mountain Biking: vmba.org • **Golfing:** vtga.org

Come for a Spring Outing at Merck Forest and Farmland

Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT invites you to come spend time on the farm and enjoy 30 miles of trails for hiking and horseback riding. The 3,100-acre property, in the Taconic Mountains of southwestern Vermont, is open to the public daily with no admission fees. Their mission is to teach, demonstrate and sustain a working landscape. **Family Fun Farm Chores:** Put on your boots and grab your camera. Join Merck Forest's staff for afternoon farm chores. Peek in the nest boxes to see if you can spot some eggs. Have you ever fed pigs, or given water to sheep? How about haltering and moving horses to pasture? Farm chores gives families the chance to learn about the farm routine and the animals—it's a great interactive experience. Call to sign up; groups are limited to ten people. Please arrive early to pay. Farm chores are offered on Saturdays, April 19 through June 14, 2-4 p.m. and on

Thursdays, June 19 through September 4, 2-4 p.m. (except for July 10.) The cost is \$2 per person. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

The Joy Green Visitor's Center is open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The MFFC property is open dawn to dusk seven days a week. They are community-supported through donations, membership fees, cabin rentals and MFFC product sales.

Ploughed Ground

Turn furrows firmly and wait patiently
 For sight of the growth this planting will be,
 After the mothering of seeds scattered there,
 After the sun and the rain bless the air
 Mingling together in sort of a prayer
 Where the soil is pressed down gently with care;
 Dreaming of maidens gold-eyed with long hair
 Under the clouds of a sky bluely fair,
 Standing knee-deep in their mellow brown lush
 Waving fine cloaks all of green satin plush
 That children may some day eat corn meal mush
 At their bedtime in the twilight's soft hush—
 There will be turnips, too, onions and peas,
 Oats and wild mustard to laugh on the breeze.

—BLANCHE LEE
1946

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Celebrate Spring with the Ever Delicious Dandelion!

by Peter Gail

When many people consider celebrating dandelions, they do so in much the same spirit as one celebrates overstayed house guests—the party begins once they're gone! But the dandelion, routinely thought of as "lawn enemy number one," is welcomed and celebrated around the world as both a food and medicine.

Dandelions are about the best wild vegetable resource in the world. They are free, abundant, nutritious, and very palatable when collected at the right time, in the right way, and prepared properly.

Many "backyard weeds," like dandelions, are true vegetables which were long ago transported to America by immigrants and cultivated for food. Most gradually fell out of favor but still thrive in our gardens and lawns, waiting to be rediscovered and added to our menus.

Be sure to collect your dandelions where the soil and air are free from pesticides and herbicides.

Collect dandelion leaves in the spring before the flower buds appear. After that they are too bitter to eat, although all parts of the plant are edible at various stages.

If buds and flowers have already appeared, there is still hope. Wait till flowering is complete then cut the old greens and flowers off at the root and let the new greens grow. They will be only slightly more bitter than the first early Spring greens.

Basic cooking instructions

Wash the greens thoroughly in warm water. Cut off the roots and any tough stems, discarding discolored or badly broken leaves. Wash again, lifting out of the water. Sprinkle greens with salt.

Cook with just the water that remains on the leaves after washing in a tightly covered pot until they are limp and barely tender, which takes 5-10 minutes.

Drain and chop fine. Dress the cooked greens with your choice of the following dressings and foods that best complement the bitterness of dandelion greens—olive oil, garlic, pork fat, eggs, vinegar, lemon juice, cheese, bread, and a bit of salt and pepper.

Preparing raw greens

Wash and prepare the leaves. Break the tender, young leaves into a salad bowl. Add bacon bits, hard-boiled egg, cheese, tomato, garlic or onion. You can rub the bowl with garlic. Dress the salad with vinegar and oil or a sweet and sour dressing. Top with garlic-flavored croutons.



SWEET AND SOUR DANDELION GRAVY

The Amish make several variations of dandelion gravy. The one we like best is made as follows:

2-3 strips bacon, diced	2 Tbsp. white or cider vinegar
1 Tbsp. flour	2 hard-boiled eggs, diced
1 cup cold water	1 cup finely chopped fresh dandelion greens
2 Tbsp. sugar	sour cream or buttermilk
salt to taste	

Fry the bacon in a pan and preserve the drippings. Use part of the drippings to make pan gravy with flour. When brown, stir in water and let boil. Add sugar, salt, and vinegar to taste. A bit of sour cream, or buttermilk may be added (optional). Fold in diced eggs. Add the dandelions just before serving. This mixture can be served alone as a side dish or over potatoes, rice, or pasta.

30th Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale

The 30th Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale will take place on Saturday May 10 from 8 a.m. (sharp!) to 10 a.m. at the Tinmouth Old Firehouse in Tinmouth, VT.

No sales before 8 a.m., but there is a big rush when we say "go" right at 8! Come early and look around for the best selection.

This is a great opportunity to buy locally grown and dug perennials and shrubs from Tinmouth gardens. The sale

supports a scholarship fund for continuing education for Tinmouth students.

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

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

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Open till 7:30 daily, 6:30 Sunday.



A hillside of dandelions blooming in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

photo by Jeff Gold

DANDELION SANDWICH

A very simple way to consume dandelion greens is raw between two slices of any kind of buttered bread, or in place of lettuce in a meat or cheese sandwich. A dash of vinegar, Worcestershire, or Tabasco sauce makes it even better.



DANDELION FRITTERS

36 dandelion blossoms	1 cup unbleached, all-purpose flour
1 cup ice water	oil for deep frying
½ teaspoon salt	
1 egg, beaten	

Rinse the dandelion blossoms in cool water and drain thoroughly. Snip off as much of the stem and greenery as possible while leaving the blossom intact. Preheat the oil for deep frying. Prepare the batter just before frying. Stir the ice water, flour, and salt together. Beat in the egg. The ice water helps create a crisp lacy effect when the blossoms are fried. Dip the blossoms in batter and deep fry until golden. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately.



DANDELIONS AND GRITS BAKED CASSEROLE

Dr. Tom Squier, a naturopath and wilderness survival instructor for the U.S. Army, shares this "southern fare" recipe for dandelions.

2 cups chopped cooked dandelion greens	4 cups water
1 cup uncooked grits	½ teaspoon salt
2 eggs, beaten	8 oz. shredded cheese, Cheddar, Swiss or blend
2 cups diced ham chunks	1 tablespoon mustard
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese	

Add grits to boiling, salted water in a large saucepan and stir to prevent sticking. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer five minutes. Add well-drained dandelion greens, Swiss or cheddar cheese, and ham chunks. Stir until cheese melts. Fold in eggs and mustard and pour into greased baking dish. Sprinkle the grated Parmesan cheese on top and bake at 325° for 45 to 50 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

DANDELION WINE PUDDING WITH LADYFINGERS

6 egg yolks, beaten	rind of one orange
6 egg whites, beaten stiff	1 teaspoon cornstarch
4 tablespoons sugar	¾ cup dandelion wine
1 tablespoon lemon juice, grated	6 tbsp. confectioner's sugar
	1 dozen ladyfingers, split

Combine the egg yolks, sugar, lemon juice, and orange rind. Dissolve the cornstarch in part of the wine before adding to the egg yolk mixture. Cook over simmering hot water until thick, stirring constantly. Let cool. Make a meringue by gradually adding the confectioners' sugar to the stiffly beaten egg whites while beating. Place the split ladyfingers in the bottom and around the sides of an ovenproof serving bowl. Pour in the dandelion custard and top with the meringue. Bake in a moderate oven (350°) for about 12 minutes. The peaks of the meringue should just be tipped with brown. Serve with a small glass of dandelion wine to accent the flavor of the pudding. Serves 6.

The Dandelion Celebration: A Guide to Unexpected Cuisine by Peter A. Gail can be ordered from www.dandyblend.com or by calling 800-697-4858 for \$13.95 plus shipping. You can also order other titles from the website, as well as the Dandy Blend.

This is the Richest Field

This is the richest field I know,
Bright with its sorrel and daisies,
Green with timothy, brilliant
With the ripened fruit of the wild strawberry.
These are sweet meadows, and the sun
And the rain have drawn that sweetness
From the hills, sent it through the vines
And the leaves into the strawberry,
Pure as the song of the first robin
In Spring, and as red as its breast.



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Draft horses out enjoying the Spring fields at Taylor Farm in Londonderry, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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No use frettin' when the rain comes down,
 No use grievin' when the gray clouds frown,
 No use sighin' when the wind blows strong,
 No use wailin' when the world's all wrong;
 Only thing that a man can do
 Is work an' wait till the sky gets blue.

No use mopin' when you lose the game,
 No use sobbin' if you're free from shame,
 No use cryin' when the harm is done,
 Just keep on tryin' an' workin' on;
 Only thing for a man to do,
 Is take the loss an' begin anew.

No use weepin' when the milk is spilled,
 No use growlin' when your hopes are killed,
 No use kickin' when the lightnin' strikes
 Or the floods come along an' wreck your dykes;
 Only thing for a man right then
 Is to grit his teeth an' start again.

For it's how life is an' the way things are
 That you've got to face if you travel far;
 An' the storms will come an' the failures, too,
 An' plans go wrong spite of all you do;
 An' the only thing that will help you win,
 Is the grit of a man and a stern set chin.

—EDGAR A. GUEST
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Whitehall Girl Top Waitress

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Debbie Griffin remembers driving to Castleton from Whitehall, New York in 1998 in a beat up Volvo, its hood held down with a bungee cord. Recently divorced and supporting four children, she was looking for waitress work. A Whitehall friend had told her to check out the Birdseye Diner.

There's an art to diner waitressing. A good one has to be a hard working mistress of detail. She has to get along with other employees, satisfy customers, remember names and family connections, stay cheerful, keep up with 'side work,' appreciate food, and be drawn to the hustle and bustle of, usually, small town everyday life.

For this kind of a good waitress, and Debbie fits the bill, waitressing is a good job. Now head food server, and sort of dorm mother to the place, she sits in a Birdseye booth and laughs. "It was a great decision I made when I came here."

Debbie takes a lot of kidding about being a Whitehall girl, but she was born in Rutland and lived in Fair Haven until she was five. Her mother, Maureen Jones, then moved across the

"She believes in kindness and courtesy and, always pragmatic, says that a bad attitude is a waste of time."

state line, first to Hudson Falls, NY, and then to Whitehall, NY where she worked as a short order cook at the Silver Diner. Although it's generally seen as a rough, tough town, Maureen found that she liked Whitehall best.

The town also suited her daughter Debbie, who grew up on North Williams Street surrounded by aunts and uncles, and five step and half siblings. All through high school, she dated her classmate Gary Scott, whose family owned Scotts Furniture Store on Broadway. She married him when she was nineteen. The couple had four children and stayed together seventeen years.

After her youngest left for kindergarten, Debbie went to Adirondack Beauty School in Hudson Falls and got a hair degree. She worked in the Sears salon in Queensbury, but realized she could make better money waitressing.

Like her mother, she'd been employed when she was just out of high school at the Silver Diner.

In the sixteen years since she arrived at the Birdseye, Debbie has claimed this place as her own. Although she can be remarkably fierce for a small, delicate-featured woman—she's kidded about her tough Whitehall-girl side—Debbie is responsible and often tenderly protective.

She sometimes takes up the slack, helping out waitresses who've become "lost in the weeds," and she trains new girls. She's had a lot of Castleton State College students who've turned out well, although at some point she often has to say



The Birdseye Diner in Castleton, VT.



photo by Charles Sutton

Debbie Griffin serves happy customers Donna and Alfred Cote at the Birdseye Diner in Castleton, VT.

to them, "If you want your mother to come to work with you, better bring her in."

She remembers her first morning at Birdseye. She arrived expected to operate a cash register she'd never seen before. In each lull between customers, the fierce little long-time West Rutland cook left the grill, rushed out of the kitchen, and dragged Debbie around showing her where everything was, and then taught her how to ring up.

All her customers, many of whom are devoted regulars, some who come from as far away as Massachusetts and Lake George, seem to know Debbie's name, but she admits she doesn't know many of theirs. What she does remember is what they like to eat.

"I want to care for the people coming through that door," she says, "because I know that when I go out, I like to be well taken care of, and I have to stay focused to do that."

She believes in kindness and courtesy and, always pragmatic, says that a bad attitude is a waste of time, and if you have it you don't make any money.

In her own employment life, she remembers a rough patch a few years back when the Positouch computer ordering system was installed at the diner. Debbie panicked, announced, "I can't do that," and gave her two weeks notice.

But only the fierce cook, who over the years had become a close friend who always had her back, realized that she'd quit, and decided not to pass this information along to the office. When it came time to actually leave, no one had any idea that she was planning on going, and Debbie didn't.

She just grit her teeth and learned how to use the Positouch, and she now feels sorry for people who work in the few restaurants she goes to that aren't computerized.

When I was eighteen, I waitressed one year for my father, who worked every summer as the maitre'de at the Prospect House Hotel on Lake Bomoseen. He gave me just two tables, eight people, to take care of and soon realized that even two undemanding tables overwhelmed me.

I tell Debbie this story and ask, "How many people can you handle well?"

"How many? And give them really good service?" Debbie narrows her eyes for a straight-from-the-shoulder, Whitehall-girl, response.

"Fifty."

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

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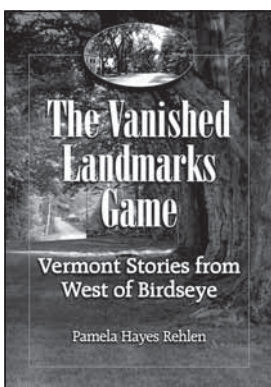
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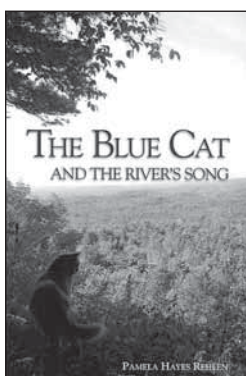


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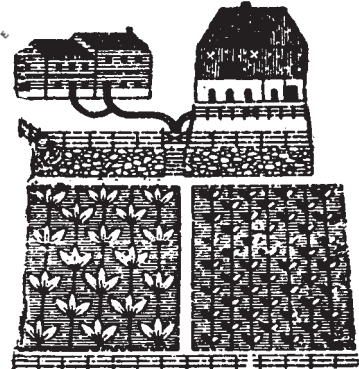
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Wisdom

It was a night of early spring,
 The winter sleep was scarcely broken;
 Around us shadows and the wind
 Listened for what was never spoken.

Though half a score of years are gone,
 Spring comes as sharply now as then;
 But if we had it all to do
 It would be done the same again.

It was spring that never came,
 But we have lived enough to know
 What we have never had, remains:
 It is the things we have that go.

—SARA TEASDALE

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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

ADDISON. Chimney Point State Historic Site. Special Exhibit: Chimney Point: A Frontier of New France. The story of Chimney Point from the time of contact in 1609 between the Native Americans and Samuel de Champlain to after the end of the French period in 1759 is revealed through recent archaeological findings, historic maps, and more. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm, Wed. - Sun. and Monday Holidays. 8149 VT Rt. 17W. (802) 759-2412. historicsites.vermont.gov/chimneypoint. *May 24 through October 13.*

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

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

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

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

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

EAST THETFORD. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center. Opening for the season. A certified organic, fifty-acre vegetable and berry farm. Farmstand and Hello Coffee Shop (with wireless internet). Spring flowers, hanging baskets, tender greens. Coffee Shop open 8-5, farm stand open daily 10-6, Sun till 5 pm. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. www.cedarcirclefarm.org.

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

HARTLAND. Hartland Seed Library. Vegetable seeds available to "check out" for the growing season. The first year will focus on open-pollinated lettuce, beans, peas, and tomatoes. Participants will save seed to return to the library at the end of the season. The Library offers pamphlets, books and workshops to help beginning seed savers. Hartland Public Library, 153 Rt. 5. (802) 436-2473. hartlandseedlibrary.wordpress.com. www.hartlandlibraryvt.org.

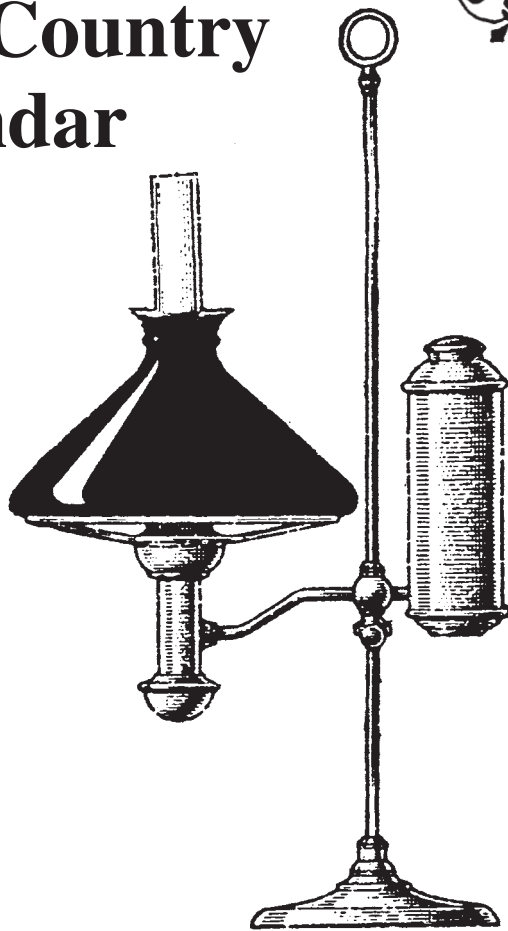
HARTLAND. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at member's gardens. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. For information, or if you can't come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

HUBBARDTON. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. Children's colonial dress-up basket. Bring your flag to be raised over the Hubbardton Battlefield and receive a certificate. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm. Thursday - Sunday and Monday holidays. 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicsites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton. *May 24 to October 13, 2013.*

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

MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A community meal free to all. 9 am - 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. bethanychurchvt.org. *Every Tuesday.*

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy and caller David Millstone. No partner necessary. Beginners and singles always welcome. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8 (Students \$5, under 16 free). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Continue through June 2014 and resume in September.*



ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. Special Exhibit: "Things with Wings: Birds on the Mount." See and learn about the birds of Mount Independence with photographs by birder Sue Wetmore. Children's Discovery Corner: children's colonial dress up basket, coloring, and haversack (soldier knapsack) activity. Outdoor history mystery clue hunt. Open daily, 9:30 - 5:30. Admission \$5 for adults, free for children under 13. 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov. *May 24 through October 13.*

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.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. New exhibition: The Coolidges, Plymouth, and the Civil War. Tuesday Tales of The Notch, 2 pm. Wednesday Afternoons with Farmer Fred, 1-5 pm beginning June 4. Summer Thursdays at Old Notch School, from June 26 on, 1-3 pm. Adults \$7.50, children 6 to 14 \$2, under 6 free. Family pass \$20. 9:30 am - 5 pm daily. 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicsites.vermont.gov. *May 24 through October 19.*

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RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm May 10 thru October 25. Tuesday market 3-6 pm May 13 thru September 30. At Depot Park. Info call Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

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SO. ROYALTON. Community Supper. Free and open to all. Handicap accessible. 6 pm. United Church of South Royalton (church w/red doors adjacent to the 'green'), 67 S. Windsor St. Info call Raelene Lemery, (802) 763-7690. ucsr@myfairpoint.net. *Continues every Friday.*

SPRINGFIELD. Springfield Farmer's Market. Produce, cheese makers, crafts, flowers, plants, greens, baked goods, preserves, artwork and specialty foods. Live entertainment. EBT/Food Stamps and Farm to Family Coupons accepted. Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 31 through early October. In downtown Springfield. Jim Fog (802) 738-5272. jfog@vermontel.net. springfieldcommunitymarket.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 active amateur astronomy and telescope-making club that sponsors many events, classes, activities, and a convention on Breezy Hill in Springfield, VT. This year it will be held July 24-27. Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., PO Box 601, Springfield, VT 05156. www.stellafane.com. webmaster@stellafane.com.

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(Ongoing activities continued)

STATEWIDE. Salvation Farms. Volunteer opportunities to glean and process Vermont raised, surplus fruits and vegetables for use by vulnerable populations. For info contact: (802) 522-3148. salvationfarms.wordpress.com.

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

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

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

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

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

WINDSOR. Seed Library. Access to free, non-genetically modified seeds, gardening tips, and seed saving information. Patrons can "borrow" up to five packets of seeds, which are returned in kind in the fall from the plants they grew. Library open Mon. thru Sat. Call for hours. Windsor Public Library, 43 State St. (802) 674-2556. windsorlibrary.org.

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Art Gallery. Opening May 3rd for the season. Open May-June 10 am - 6 pm daily; July-October Thursday-Sunday 10 am - 5 pm daily. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. garymilek.com.

WINDSOR. Old Constitution House. Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday holidays, 11 am - 5 pm. 16 Main St. (802) 672-3773. www.historicsites.vermont.gov. *May 24 through October 13.*

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

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

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

BARRE. Studio Place Arts. Classes, exhibits, workshops, and artists' studios. Free admission. Tues, Wed & Fri 10 am - 5 pm, Thurs 11 am - 7 pm, Sat 9 am - 5 pm. 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

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

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

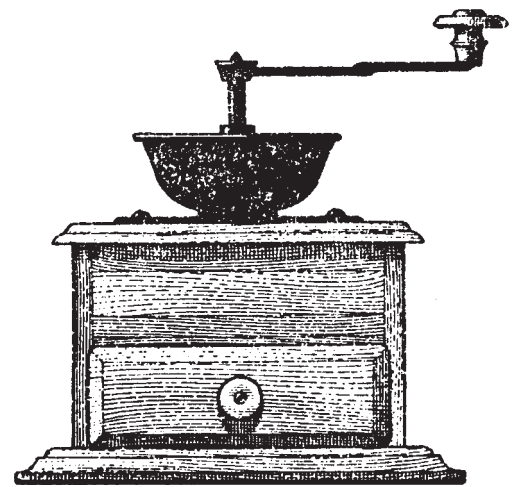
BELMONT. Mount Holly Community Historical Museum. Open year-round on the second weekend of the month. Tarbellville Rd. (*turn right immediately after the Belmont Store, museum is on your right*). (802) 259-2460. www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org.

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

BENNINGTON. Art exhibits, permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Exhibits running through the middle of May include: "On the Move, When I Think of Home," and "Great Cats—Big and Small." Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Fri, Sat & Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org.

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

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Exhibits, arts businesses and studios, classes & workshops, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café coming soon. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, located in the old Brandon Training School, now known as Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.



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Order your passes online at vtstateparks.com/html/fees.htm#passes.

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Vermont Country Calendar

BRATTLEBORO. Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery. Your community arts venue since 1999: art exhibits, live music, photography, film, comedy, live theatre, film and literary festivals, and community events. 139 Main St. (802) 254-9276. www.hookerdunham.org.

BRATTLEBORO. First Fridays Gallery Walk. 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. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Exhibit: "Flora—A Celebration of Flowers in Contemporary Art" through June 22. Programs and exhibits. Admission \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, children under 6 free. First Fridays free after 5:30 pm. Hours: Sun, Mon, Weds, Thurs 11 am – 5 pm; Fri till 7 pm; Sat 10 am – 5 pm; closed Tuesdays. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

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

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

CENTER RUTLAND. The Rutland Railroad Museum. Housed in the Rutland Depot, built in 1917. See railroad artifacts and historical exhibits including HO & N scale model railroad layouts and a children's layout. 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. Info: John Schaub (802) 768-8427. rutlandrailroadmuseum.org.

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

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

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

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world housed in a 100-foot-long converted dairy barn built in 1863. Events and exhibits. Free admission, donations welcome. Open 10 am – 6 pm daily summertime. By appointment off-season. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Programs for all ages. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, mounted specimen, wildlife garden. Hiking trails in the Village Park behind the Museum. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 3 to 12, 2 and under free, \$15 for families. Open Thurs, Sat & Sun 10 am – 4 pm. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. nature-museum.org.

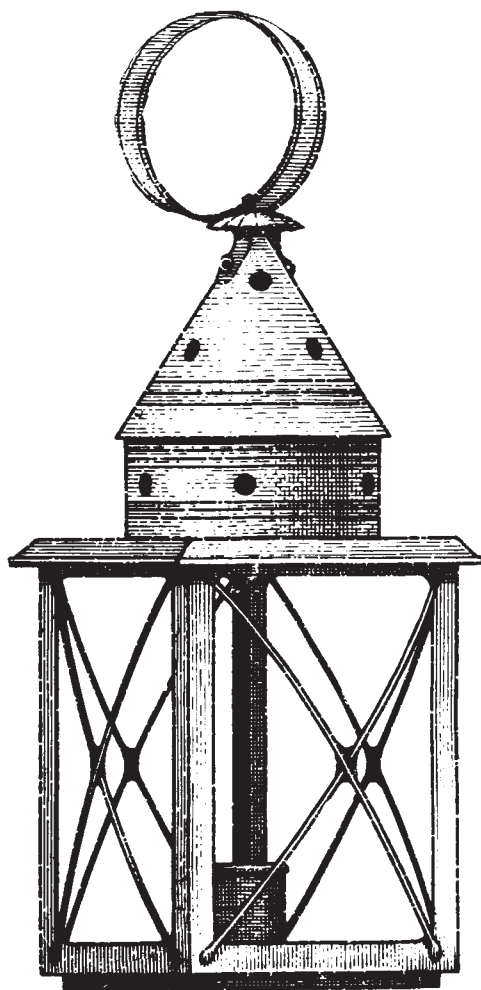
GRANVILLE, NY. The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, First Fridays, and gift shop. Tues-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am – 4 pm. Admission \$5, under 12 free. Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Monthly bird monitoring walk. Admission: adult \$7, senior \$6, child 3-17 \$3.50. Open daily May 1 thru October 31, 10 am – 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

LUDLOW. Black River Academy Museum. Exhibits and programs. Admission \$2, seniors and students \$1. Winter hours by appointment. 14 High St. (802) 228-5050.

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

MANCHESTER. Visit Historic Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home. Visit the Rowland Agricultural Center at Hildene Farm or board the Pullman palace car, Sunbeam. Admission: \$16 adults, \$5 children 6 to 14, under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.org. 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 10 am – 4 pm weekdays and 10 am – 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. vermontmuseum.org.

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

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$ 12, under 6 free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Exhibit of Russell Snow's works, titled "Whirligigs—Imagination in Motion." Now on display through mid-May in the Vermont Folklife Center's sales gallery featuring 16 of his larger and more intricate pieces. Exhibits, gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Folklife Center, 88 Main St., (802) 388-4964. info@vermontfolklifecenter.org. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

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

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

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

ROCHESTER. Art Exhibits. Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. BigTown Gallery, 99 North Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

RUTLAND. Exhibit—Emerging Artists: New Juried Members. Opening reception May 9, 5-7 pm. The gallery open Thursday and Friday 12-6 pm and Saturdays 12-5 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org. May 9-30.

RUTLAND. Exhibit—Chaffee Invitational: 30 Under 30. Opening reception May 2, 5-7 pm. The gallery open Tues-Fri 12-6 pm, and Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org. May 2-30.



19th Annual Bloom-Time Festival and Spring Plant Sale

Join the Friends of the Horticulture Farm for a Spring Day in the garden at our 19th Annual Bloom-Time Festival, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday May 17. The festival takes place at the UVM Horticulture Research and Education Center (the Hort. Farm) in South Burlington, VT.

Walk our paths, take a wagon tour, smell the flowers, bring a picnic to enjoy under our flowering trees, savor the sweet smell of crabapples and lilacs, stroll through the flowering shrub collection, and observe the plein air painters at work. Sara Salatino of Full Circle Gardens will speak on Easy Care Perennials for Problem Places.

There will be music, hay

rides, face painting and a nature hunt for the whole family!

Shop for annuals and vegetable starters from the UVM Greenhouse, Master Gardeners, Farmer Training Program, and hostas from the Friends of the Hort Farm.

Bring the kids and your friends to this free public event. (No pets, please.) We'll be there rain or shine.

The Bloom-Time Festival takes place at the UVM Horticulture Research and Education Center (the Hort. Farm) just off Rt. 7 (Shelburne Road) at 65 Green Mountain Dr., behind IDX, in South Burlington, VT.

For more information call (802) 864-3073 or go to friendsofthehortfarm.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Museums, exhibits & galleries continued)

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. 40 craftspeople keep the shelves stocked with a wide variety of handcrafted items. Open to new members. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am - 3 pm. 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

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

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

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

SPRINGFIELD. Art Exhibit. 9 am - 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Great Hall Public Art Showcase, 100 River St. (802) 258-3992. bobf@springfielddevelopment.org. Facebook.

SPRINGFIELD. "Art on the River Gallery." A new exhibition space for small works at One Hundred River Street hosts a photograph show "802: Just Vermont" May 2 to August 19 with works by local photographers John Sinclair and Goldie May. Contact: Nancy Lanoue at (802) 885-6156 or e-mailnlanoue@comcast.net.

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

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

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

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

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

WINDSOR. Art Exhibits. Admission free. Open Tuesday-Friday 11 am - 5 pm, Saturday 11 am - 3 pm, and by appointment. Nuance Gallery, 85 Main St. (802) 674-9616. nancysilliman@myfairpoint.net.

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Art Gallery. Free. Fri-Sun, 10 am - 5 pm. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd. (802) 674-6825. www.ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. A *Place in the Land*, our Academy Award®-nominee film is shown on the hour in the theater. Special events. Open daily for the season from May 1 through October 31, 10 am - 5 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

HORSEBACK RIDING, WAGON RIDES

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

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. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" at 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

CHITTENDEN. Mountain Top Equestrian Center. Open daily for all riding abilities, English & Western. One, two and three hour trail rides from May through October. Lessons Mid-June through Labor Day. Children's Horsemanship Camp July & August. 40 miles of trails, two outdoor arenas, cross country jumping course. Friday and Sunday Specials. Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. Reservations required: (802) 483-2311. www.mountaintopin.com.

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

RECREATION & NATURE CENTERS

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. Mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

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

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

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

DAILY EVENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

ST. ALBANS. The 48th Vermont Maple Festival. Free. Fri 10 am - 6 pm, Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 10 am - 4 pm, plus Fri and Sat Night Shows. Main Street, Taylor Park, Downtown. (802) 524-5800. info@vtmaplefestival.org. www.vermontmaplefestival.org. *Through April 27.*

TINMOUTH. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys (Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner). Traditional and original acoustic music. \$10 suggested donation. Refreshments for sale. 7 pm at Old Firehouse, Mountain View Rd. at Rt. 140. www.tinmouthvt.org.

RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



Hours: Wed-Sat 12-5, closed Sun thru Tues.
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Private Transaction

When Truman sold his farm to younger folks he sought to make the deed out by himself, he didn't hold to trite legal descriptions. "It took me fifty years," he said, "to learn what I had bought because it wa'n't on paper." A certain piece of land, described To Wit: —he smiled to think how much the law left out. It mentioned nowhere that his hillside rose highest above the valley for its view, or that one half his field stood up on edge, pinned to the mountain's steepness, so it seemed, by two outcropping points of rusty ledge. It never mentioned that the morning sun most often chose to climb his pasture's line, or that the moon, friendly and dallying, at times played hide and seek among his pine. He wanted to write in what he was selling: those gnarled and twisted beech along the ridge that never would be lumber worth the cutting. Yet by their steadfast leaning to the weather,

for him, they held a worth beyond the telling; that knoll of brush he had been quick to call a waste, that ripened to wild blueberries in fall. He'd name the alder swamp, lush and wild growing: it took him years to learn that he had bought a wealth in mountain springs, pure and full flowing. Nowhere was it mentioned, when he bought the land, of rights of animals to passage, food and shelter; or that one rocky mound long had been claimed by foxes as a den; or that a falling acorn might belong to him whose ears first heard it hit the ground. Somewhere he'd write in the observation that trees didn't care who they were growing for, they'd go on meeting season after season. He'd add one final sentence and admit really the land could not be owned, by reason that one life is too short quite to possess it.

—WILLIAM MUNDELL
Newfane, VT, 1973

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Vermont Country Calendar



WATERBURY CENTER. Turkey Take-Out Dinner. Menu: turkey and stuffing, mashed potato, vegetable, cranberry sauce, roll, beverage, dessert. \$9. Reservations required. 4-6 pm. Waterbury Center Community Church, Waterbury/Stowe Rd, Rt. 100. (802) 244-8089. bbtravelers@aol.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

BELLOWS FALLS. Friends of the Library Annual Booksale! Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org. Also April 28, 29, 30.

BETHEL. Concert: Cantare Con Spirito performing vocal works of Brahms. Suggested donation of \$15. 7 pm. Bethel Town Hall, 134 S. Main St. For reservations please call (802) 332-6020. info@barnarts.org. cantareconspirito.com. www.BarnArts.org.

DORSET. Rummage Sale. Children's clothing and toys, women's separates, ladies' boutique, men's clothing, jewelry and accessories, footwear, linens, attic treasures, books, miscellaneous house wares, and small appliances. Coffee, donuts and lunch available. 9 am to 12:30 pm. Outside sale at 8:30 am, bag sale at 11:30 am. At Dorset Church, 143 Church St., off Route 30. (802) 867-2260.

HARTFORD. Roast Pork Supper. Menu: roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls, and homemade pies for dessert. Served family style. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$4, pre-schoolers free. Handicapped accessible. Seatings at 5 & 6 pm. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Rt. 14. (802) 295-9635.

HUNTINGTON. Volunteer Work Day. From trail work to hanging art. Lunch provided. 9 am - 2 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. Call (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org.

HUNTINGTON. Earth Day Festival. Learn basic map and compass skills in new Orienteering course for trail hiking. For adults and kids, 12 and up. Fee \$20-25. 12-3 pm at Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-registration required. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org.

RANDOLPH. Beat the Band! Bands from across the region, representing all musical genres—including indie folk, bluegrass, rock, country, Cajun and klezmer. The first- and second-place bands perform their own concert during Chandler's 2014-2015 season. Tickets: \$12. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. 17th Annual Home & Recreation Show. Sponsored by Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Southern Vermont. Free admission. 9 am - 3 pm. At Spartan Arena, behind the Diamond Run Mall. (802) 773-0672. cvthomebuilders@yahoo.com. www.cvthomebuilders.com.

ST. ALBANS. The 48th Vermont Maple Festival. Family activities. Free. 9 am - 5 pm. Main Street, Taylor Park, Downtown. (802) 524-5800. info@vtmaplefestival.org. www.vermontmaplefestival.org. Also April 27.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Film Festival. Venues: Tupelo Music Hall, Hotel Coolidge, and Main Street Museum. Visit website for schedule and tickets. info@wrif.org. www.wrif.org. Through April 28.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

HUBBARDTON. Hike at the High Pond Natural Area. Explore the Nature Conservancy land between Brandon and Hubbardton. Easy 3 mile roundtrip hike to the pond. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Free. Contact leader, B. Ellis, (802) 388-0936, for meeting time and place. www.greenmountainclub.org.

RUPERT. Vermont Sheep Shearing School. Hands-on experience shearing sheep with the guidance of professional shearers. Lead instructor: Chet Parsons. Participants should have their own equipment. Bring a bag lunch, we will supply coffee and bagels. Lunch time entertainment by The Ruminators. Cost \$125, \$50 for auditors. For information and to register call (802) 483-2463 or e-mail Jim McRae atvtshearer@yahoo.com. 8:30 am - 3 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Fourth Sunday Welcome Table Dinner. Free, everyone welcome. 5:30 pm. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. www.gracechurchvt.org.

ST. ALBANS. The 48th Vermont Maple Festival. Free. 10 am - 4 pm. Main Street, Taylor Park, Downtown. (802) 524-5800. info@vtmaplefestival.org. vermontmaplefestival.org.

TINMOUTH. Presentation: "Roosevelt's Forest Army"—The Civilian Conservation Corps. Sponsored by The Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society. 2 pm at the Old Firehouse just off VT Rt. 140 in Tinmouth Center. For info call (802) 446-3953. wilburs@greenmtn.edu.

WESTMINSTER. Small-Scale Self-Sufficiency Workshop. Led by Rachel Ware. 1 pm. AlpineGlo Farm. Free, though participation is limited, and registration is required. Call Tim Stevenson at (802) 869-2141.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Film Festival. Venues: Tupelo Music Hall, Hotel Coolidge, and Main Street Museum. Visit website for schedule and tickets. info@wrif.org. www.wrif.org. Also April 28.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

BELLOWS FALLS. Friends of the Library Annual Booksale! Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org. Also April 29, 30.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

BELLOWS FALLS. Friends of the Library Annual Booksale! Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org.

CHESTER. Poetry Seminar with Professor Michael Palma: "A Strange Courage, the Poetry of Wallace Stevens and William Carlos Williams." Free, donations encouraged. 7-8:30 pm. Misty Valley Books, 58 The Common. (802) 875-3400. www.mvbooks.com. Also May 7.

RUTLAND. Performance: "Peter Pan." Touring production. Tickets \$6.50. 10 am. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0570. paramountvt.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 1

BARRE. Primo Maggio Community Dinner & Program. Traditional Italian lasagna dinner (meat & vegetarian) & cash bar starts at 5:30. Film screening: The Internationale with introduction and by award-winning New York filmmaker Peter Miller at 7 pm. A documentary about a musical anthem with stories and performances by Pete Seeger, Billy Bragg and others. Musical tribute to Pete Seeger with Ben Koenig & Mark Greenberg ("Anything Goes") and Friends at 8 pm. Tickets \$20-\$25 online or at the door. Old Labor Hall. (802) 479-5600.

PUTNEY. Green Writer's Press Book Release Party. Meet the publisher, Dede Cummings, and two outstanding authors from the new press: *The Beavers of Popple's Pond* by Vermont nature writer Patti A. Smith, and *Winter Ready*, poems by seventh generation Vermonter Leland Kinsey. \$10. 7 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org.

RUTLAND. Musical. "Hair"—National Broadway Tour. About searching for truth, peace and love in a Vietnam war era America. Tickets: \$44.50/\$49.50. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Opening Day of the 31st season at Billings Farm & Museum. Horse-drawn wagon rides, free ice cream and hands-on programs. Admission (includes all programs and activities): adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

SPRINGFIELD. Local photographers Goldie May and John Sinclair host an opening reception from 4-7 pm for their photography show on exhibit through August 19 at Art on the River Gallery, 100 River Street. For info contact: Nancy Lanoue (802) 885-6156 or nlanoue@comcast.net.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Bow Thayer with Perfect Trainwreck. The Mallett Brothers open. Tickets \$15. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. BowThayer.com. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

BETHEL. White Elephant and Food Sale. Half price after 12 p.m. Light refreshments available. 9 am - 2 pm. Miller Memorial United Methodist Church (The Little Yellow one), 122 N. Main St. (802) 234-9441.

HUNTINGTON. Earth Day Celebration—Parent + Child Adventure. Play fun games, make unique crafts, enjoy a little drama, sing songs, do something kind for the earth, taste earthy snacks to connect with your wild self and the earth! Face painting and henna art. Fee \$25 parent/child pair. Pre-register. 1-4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

MANCHESTER. Rutland Railroad Historical Society Annual Convention. Presentations, walking tours, a visit to the restored Pullman car Sunbeam at Hildene, dinner, and evening presentation. Opens at 8:30 am at First Congregational Church with coffee and doughnuts galore and swap/sell tables for members. \$30 registration fee includes a buffet lunch. You may register in advance or at the door. You can also sign up for membership for a \$15 fee. For further information, including a registration form, go to rutlandrr.org, write Philip Blanchard, P.O. Box 1402, Ogdensburg, NY 13669, or call Phil Jordan at (802) 733-7504. *Also May 4.*

PAWLET. Roast Pork Supper. Menu: roast pork, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, coleslaw, rolls, jello and each month one of Rosalie's famous desserts (i.e. brownie sundae, maple sundae, Hawaiian wedding cake, chocolate sheet cake, strawberry shortcake) coffee, iced tea or lemonade. Adults \$10, children \$5. Takeouts available by calling the church the day of the dinner. Come early as we fill up fast (often by 4:30). 5 pm. Pawlet Community Church, Rt. 133. (802) 325-3022. judycool049@vermontel.net. *Also June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, and November 1.*

SO. BURLINGTON. Bird Walk. With Bridget Butler, The Bird Diva. You have probably heard her Bird Show on VPR. Now, take a guided bird walk at the Hort Farm with Bridget. Find out what bird species reside in our fields and woods and what plants can draw certain species of birds to your yard. RSVP and pre-pay your \$30 fee early to secure a spot. Space is limited. Bring binoculars. 8-11 am. UVM Hort Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Art Gallery Opening for the Season. Open May-June 10 am - 6 pm daily; July-October Thursday-Sunday 10 am - 5 pm daily. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. garymilek.com.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies. Watch the spring shearing of the farm's ewes and demonstrations of Border Collies herding sheep in the farm fields. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also May 4.*

SUNDAY, MAY 4

HUNTINGTON. Family Program: Signs of Spring. Explore the wetlands, forests, and fields of Audubon. Families with children ages 5 and up. Fee: \$12 adult-child pair, \$5 each additional child. 1-3 pm. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-registration required. Call (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.

MANCHESTER. Rutland Railroad Historical Society Annual Convention. Choice of walking tours. For further information, including a registration form, go to rutlandrr.org, write Philip Blanchard, P.O. Box 1402, Ogdensburg, NY 13669, or call Phil Jordan at (802) 733-7504.

PLYMOUTH. The Plymouth Historical Society Celebrates its 20th Anniversary. A bus tour of locations illustrating moments in the town's colorful heritage begins at 1 pm at the Society's Community Center and concludes at 4 pm with a tea at the Echo Lake Inn followed by a return to the Historical Society. Free. RSVP to tbone6547@aol.com or (802) 672-3179.

ROCKINGHAM. Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival. Nature presentations, programs featuring live animals, guided nature walks, crafts, tasty food, workshops, birding and much more. More than 25 outdoor, wildlife, environmental and conservation groups including Wildlife Encounters, So. VT. Natural History Museum, and Lindsay Bezich with her lovingly crafted, giant hand Puppet Pals. Rain or shine from 10 am - 4 pm. Donation \$2 person or \$5 family. Shuttle service available from outlying parking lots. For info contact Alma Beals at almabeals@gmail.com, or (802) 722-3355. www.nature-museum.org.

SHELburne. Dairy Day at Shelburne Farm. Meet spring calves and their moms in the Brown Swiss herd. Wagon rides. Explore barns and buildings at the dairy. Fee \$5 per carload, walkers are free. 1-4 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

RUTLAND. Concert: Ani DiFranco. A folkie in punk's clothing, her music's empowering attitude and anger is tempered by the poignant candor of singer/songwriter confessionalism. Tickets: \$39.75-\$46.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. www.righteousbabe.com.

Spring Bounty from Garden and Field

Mother Earth's generous supply of food begins in early May and gives fresh vegetable-hungry people lots of choices.

There are parsnips that have weathered over the winter to be dug and savored. In Vermont you can find baskets of local parsnips for sale at farmers markets and country stores. Rhubarb and ramps and asparagus come up right after the snows melt as readily as spring daffodils and tulips.

Dozens of edible wild greens fling themselves out of the earth and can be prepared as salads or cooked like spinach. These tasty and pungent delights include marsh marigolds, sorrel, lamb's quarters, water cress, dandelions, milkweed, and fiddleheads.

Here are some recipes from turn-of-the-century and modern-day cooks.

CREAM OF FIDDLEHEAD SOUP

Wash and rub the brown chaff off of two and a half cups of fresh fiddleheads, trimming the ends. Process them in three baths of boiling water draining after each and bringing each new bath to a boil before putting the fiddleheads in.

Saute a quarter cup each of chopped onion, and carrot and one to two shallots. Peel and dice a couple of medium potatoes. Simmer all the vegetables in chicken broth just to cover till tender, about 30 minutes, while reserving a half cup of fiddleheads to simmer separately in water or broth for garnish. Season to taste. When done puree till smooth. Add a cup of hot milk or cream but do not boil. Garnish with the reserved cooked fiddleheads. Serves six.

—Caroline Davenport, 1933

CREAMED BAKED ASPARAGUS

1 bundle of asparagus
2 tablespoonfuls of flour
1/2 pint of bread crumbs
1 level teaspoonful of salt
2 tablespoonfuls of butter
1 pint of milk
4 eggs

Trim and boil the asparagus for ten minutes; hard boil the eggs, remove the shells and chop them fine. Make a white sauce—rub the butter and flour together, add the milk, stir until boiling and add the salt and pepper. Mix the eggs with the sauce. Cut the asparagus into lengths of one inch, put a layer of asparagus in the bottom of a baking dish, then a layer of sauce, then a sprinkling of bread crumbs, and so continue, having the last layer of crumbs. Bake in a quick oven until a golden brown, about twenty minutes.

—Sarah Tyson Rorer, 1902

BAKED RHUBARB PUDDING

Grease a pudding-dish and put into it a layer of bread-crumbs that have been soaked in a pint of water to which have been added the juice of a lemon and a half cupful of sugar. Sprinkle these crumbs with bits of butter, and put over them a thick layer of stewed rhubarb well sweetened. Now add more crumbs and more rhubarb, and proceed in this manner until the dish is full. Sprinkle the top of the pudding with dry bread-crumbs dotted with bits of butter. Bake, covered, for half an hour; uncover, and bake for ten minutes longer.

—Marion Harland, 1903

SPRING PARSNIP FRITTERS

Peel, boil, and mash three large parsnips. Remove the large fibers and woody parts. Add one beaten egg, one cup milk, one tablespoon butter, one teaspoon salt, three tablespoons flour. Shape into cakes and fry. Serves six.

—Bowles & Towle, 1947



RHUBARB FRITTERS

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

—Marion Harland, 1903

MINT SAUCE

Almost every cook knows to serve mint sauce with roast leg of lamb, but you have never eaten a perfect mint sauce until you taste one that is made of freshly picked wild spearmint prepared about an hour before it is to be eaten. Into your electric blender put the juice of a half lemon, a scant half-cup of water, two tablespoons sugar, and one packed cup of freshly picked wild spearmint. Blend at high speed until perfectly smooth, chill in the refrigerator for about an hour, stir, and serve with roast lamb or veal.

—Euell Gibbons, 1962

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Vermont Country Calendar

WILLIAMSTOWN. Williamstown Historical Society Presentation: "The Art of Snowshoe Making." Presented by Marie Boutin, local snowshoe maker. 6 pm potluck dinner and meeting. 7:30 pm program presentation at the Museum building on Main St. (802) 433-5565.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

CHESTER. Poetry Seminar with Professor Michael Palma: A Strange Courage, the Poetry of Wallace Stevens and William Carlos Williams. Free. Donations for the professor encouraged. 7-8:30 pm. Misty Valley Books, 58 The Common. (802) 875-3400. www.mvbooks.com.

SO. BURLINGTON. Workshop: The Art of Hedges. Jeff Young, a long time park maintenance expert will explain how to build and maintain that evergreen hedge, the types of plants to use in your zone, and the art of keeping them healthy, beautiful and under control. \$20. 5:30-7:30 pm. UVM Hort Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

BELLOWS FALLS. Rockingham Free Public Library's Grand Re-Opening Celebration! Thursday morning storytime at 10:30 am. A presentation of Alan Fowler's photographs documenting the Library's renovation at 6 pm. At 7 pm, preservationist and photographer, Bill Hosley, will present "More Than Books: Libraries, Community, and Historic Preservation", a slide-show and discussion about 200 years of American Library service. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org. Also May 9 & 10.

HARTLAND. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at member's gardens. 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 e-mail with our minutes which contain information on our projects, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

ROCKINGHAM. Lecture. More than Books: Libraries, Community, Historic Preservation. Museum scholar Bill Hosely traces almost 200 years in American library practice with a special focus on New England. Free. 7 pm. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-3456 x 112. clg@rockbf.org. www.rockbf.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

BELLOWS FALLS. Rockingham Free Public Library's Grand Re-Opening Celebration! "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle" event with the Library's Teen Advisory Council at 4:30 pm. Free screening of the film "The Book Thief" (PG13) at 7 pm. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org. Also May 10.

BURLINGTON. 11th Annual Fundraising Gala for the Burlington Emergency Shelter. Non-ticketed event, but RSVP's are required. 6 pm at the Hilton Hotel. (802) 862-9879 or visit www.beshelter.org/site/gala.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Arts Walk. 5-7 pm. Downtown Middlebury & Marble Works, Main Street & Merchants Row. (802) 388-7951 x 2. info@middleburyartswalk.com. www.middleburyartswalk.com. Second Friday of every month.

RANDOLPH. Concert: The TradNation Project. A collaboration between musicians and dancers from Québec's traditional music scene. Dentdelion and Les Poules à Colin will perform. Tickets: adults \$20, students \$10. 7:30 pm. Also a one-hour performance at 10 am, recommended for grades 1-6; all seats \$6. There will be a pre-concert dinner in the Esther Mesh Room. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

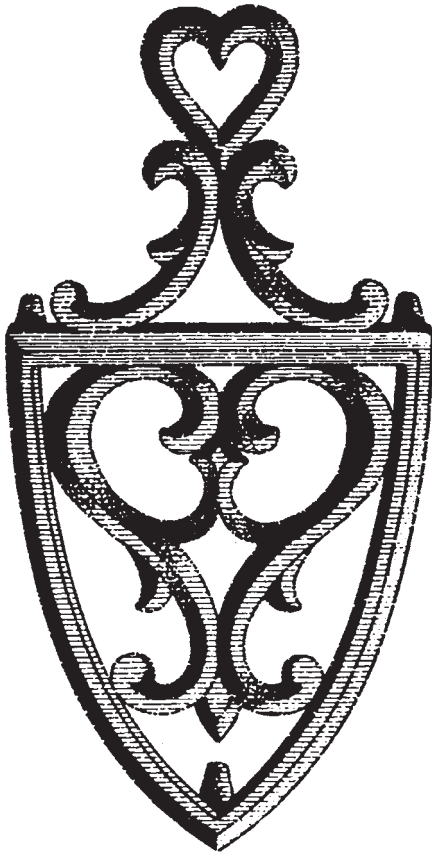
SOUTH BURLINGTON. Vermont Foodbank Annual Hunger Action Conference. Humorist Kim Weitkamp will speak about the contribution of anti-hunger groups. At the Sheraton Conference Center. Registration is open and for www.vtfoodbank.org/conferenceor. www.vtfoodbank.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Vermont All State Music Festival. Hundreds of Vermont's finest high school musicians present performances. 6 pm parade through downtown St. Johnsbury. 7 pm Jazz Ensemble Concert. Tickets \$7. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

TUNBRIDGE. Ed Larkin Contra Dancers Open House. Music by Harold Luce and others. \$8 per person. Refreshments at intermission. 7:30-10 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. For info e-mail clydo46@gmail.com. Also July 11 and August 8.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

BELLOWS FALLS. Rockingham Free Public Library's Grand Re-Opening Celebration! Festivities begin at 10 am with live music. Peruse art, photo, and historical collections displays. Light refreshments provided. The official ribbon cutting at noon with speeches from community leaders, and celebratory cake. A special Saturday story time at 11 am. Face-painting, Lego building, and Mother's Day craft activities throughout the day. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. rockinghamlibrary.org.



HINESBURG. The 17th Community Yard Sale. Sale site at Hinesburg Fire Hall an addition to sales at homes and businesses. Extravaganza takes from 8 am to 1 pm. For info contact Walter Hausermann at walterh@gmavt.net or (602) 324-9208 or Natacha Liussi at nml1961@gmail.com or (802) 482-5189.

HUBBARDTON. Program: Battle for the 14th Colony: Mark R. Anderson, author of the new book, The Battle for the Fourteenth Colony, takes a fresh look at America's Revolutionary War doomed campaign of 1774-76 to bring Quebec into the continental fold. Book signing. 3 pm. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm, Thurs. - Sun., and Monday holidays. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton. May 24 to October 13, 2013.

HUNTINGTON. The Green Mountain Wood Carvers monthly "Carve-In." Visitors can take a sneak peek at the August Class project—a covered bridge scene carved in relief. Ask questions and become a member! 9:30 am - 2 pm at The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. greenmountainwoodcarvers.org. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy and caller David Millstone. No partner necessary. Beginners and singles always welcome. All dances taught and called. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8 (Students \$5, under 16 free). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Second Saturday dances continue through June 2014.

PITTSFORD. Mother's Day Gift Show. To benefit the Lothrop Elementary PTO. Join us for a wonderful variety of jewelry, purses, pottery, hand made goods, home decor, artwork and more. 9 am - 2 pm. Lothrop Elementary School Gym, 3447 Rt. 7. (802) 483-6351. kfield16@yahoo.com.

PUTNEY. Yellow Barn Artist Residencies. Trio Cleonice, The Russian Soul—The Russian Voice. Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich Piano Trios. \$12. 8 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-0102. nextstagearts.org. www.yellowbarn.org.

RUTLAND. Special Fishing Day. For children up to age 13. Hosted by Rutland Kiwanis Club and Rutland Recreation & Parks Dept. 8:30 - 11 am at Combination Pond. A parent/guardian must accompany the child. Register at 8:30 am. Prizes. Fish provided by the VT. Fish & Game Dept. (802) 773-1822. rutlandrec.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Vermont All State Music Festival. 2:30 pm Band & Orchestra Concert. 4:30 pm Chorus Concert. Tickets: adults \$9, seniors/students \$7. Tickets for both Saturday concerts: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors & students. St. Johnsbury Academy Gymnasium, 1000 Main St. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

WILLISTON. Local historian-author Richard Allen will present a slide show "The Williston Diaries," 19th-century Williston history based on the Civil War diaries of Adelaide Isham Crossman and Ellen Metcalf. 11 am at the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library. (802) 878-3853.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

BRANDON. Mother's Day English High Tea. Featuring singer Fred Barnes who will serenade guests with music from the 1920s, plus light tunes and romantic ballads. Menu includes toasted crumpets with honey butter, a variety of small sandwiches, fat rascals, treacle tart, a selection of small cakes, and finished with an English strawberry trifle. Tickets \$24 by reservation only. 11:30 am - 4 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071.



The Frog

Be kind and tender to the Frog,
And do not call him names,
As "Slimy-skin," or Polly-wog,"
Or likewise "Uncle James,"
Or "Gape-a-grin," or "Toad-gone-wrong,"
Or "Billy Bandy-knees":
The Frog is justly sensitive
To epithets like these.

No animal will more repay
A treatment kind and fair,
At least so lonely people say
Who keep a frog (and, by the way,
They are extremely rare).

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Vermont Country Calendar

(May 11, continued)

HUNTINGTON. Opening Reception for "Wings of Clay" Bird Ornaments Exhibit. Come and peruse original ceramic bird art done by students of Williston Central School. Ornaments will be offered for sale as part of our Bridges to Birds fundraising. These delightful pieces will contribute directly to our walkway and "treehouse" space. Information about these projects will be available. Visit the art teacher, Mrs. M.C. Baker's blog at mrsbakertartroom.blogspot.com 12-4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

MONTPELIER. Second Sunday Concert. Nancy & Lilly Smith (mother & daughter) perform. In the chapel at 9:30 am. Coffee is available and the concert is free and open to the public. Bethany Church UCC, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert. The Wailin' Jennys—Nicky Mehta, Ruth Moody and Heather Masse. Together, they perform Americana roots music. Tickets: \$45; students \$25. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org. www.thewailinjennys.com.

WEST TOPSHAM. Maple Breakfast Buffet. Pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, eggs fritatta, biscuits, toast, home fries, sausage, bacon, ham, sausage gravy, maple French toast bake, assorted fruit, donuts, beverage of choice. Our own maple syrup and maple cream. \$13.95 plus tax, under 6 \$6.50 plus tax. Horse & wagon rides, weather permitting. 8 am - 1 pm. Limlaw Family Maple Farm, 246 Rt. 25. (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

SO. BURLINGTON. Plant Walk—Take a Walk on the Wild Side. Join Herbalist and registered dietitian Melanie Brotz on an interactive tour of the UVM Hort Farm to learn about abundant edible and medicinal plants commonly thought of as weeds in our area. \$20. 6-8 pm. UVM Hort Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

CHESTER. Rural Vermont's 29th Annual Celebration. Everyone who eats is invited for storytelling about real food and dynamic conversation about food freedom. Potluck, cash bar, much more. Free. Donations welcome. At the American Legion, Route 103. For info or to RSVP call (802) 223-7222. www.ruralvermont.org.

HUNTINGTON. Family Program: Who's Hooting? Swoop into the world of the most mysterious flying mousetraps and find out why owls are such silent and successful predators. Ages 3-5 with adult companion. Fee: \$10 adult/child pair, \$4/additional child. 9-10:30 am. Education Barn, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-registration required: (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org.

NORWICH. Upper Valley Electric Vehicle Forum. Electric vehicles, electric bikes, charging stations, solar from manufacturers, businesses and local owners. Dave Roberts from Drive Electric Vermont will speak on the future of EVs from 7-8 pm. 5:30-7 pm at the Montshire Museum parking lot and Porter Community Room. For info contact Bob Walker, walker@serg-info.org, (802) 785-4126 and Karl Kemnitzer, kkemvt@gmail.com, (802) 738-0640.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

BURLINGTON. Bread & Puppet Theater 50th Anniversary Celebration: Birdcatcher in Hell. A piece originally created for Nixon and Vietnam that's been updated and redesigned for the Bush-Obama years. Tickets \$25. 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org. breadandpuppet.org.

CABOT. Concert: Sheesham, Lotus & Son. Mixing oddities of their own devising such as the Sepia-phonoc monophone, and the Contrabass Harmoniphonium with fiddle, banjo, harmonica and sousaphone, they will be joined by old-time duo Mayfly (fiddler and banjoist Katie Trautz and multi-instrumentalist Julia Wayne). Advance reservations recommended. Tickets \$17. 7 pm. Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

RANDOLPH. The Next Generation Sixth Annual Concert. An evening of performances by outstanding young musicians who have seriously studied classical instrumental or vocal music. Tickets: adults \$20; students \$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. director@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Spencer's Theatre of Illusion. Blending the theatrical elements of a Broadway-style production with the high energy of a rock concert. Tickets: \$19.75 students; 24.75 adults. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.spencersmagic.com.

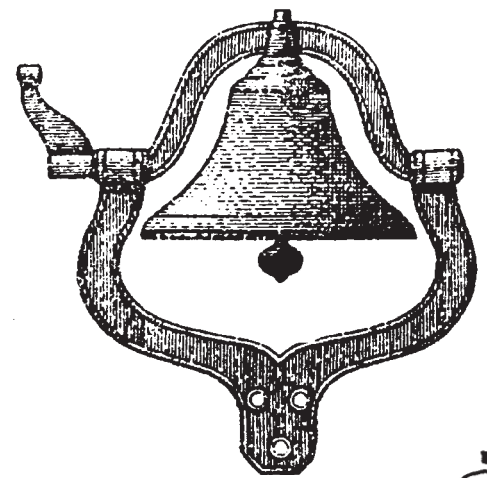
TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission \$9, \$7 for teens, free for children 12 and under. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org. Also June 20.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

BETHEL. The Eighth Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair. This year's theme is "Bethel Inventors," highlighting the inventions of Hugh Batcheller who amassed 87 patents as well as manufacturing many of his own inventions. Vendors include postcard, ephemera, sports memorabilia and stamp dealers. The Bethel Historical Society will be selling books, maps and postcards and its new book: The Elusive Architect—George Guernsey, as well as a limited edition of covers with a special United States Postal Service cachet. Home cooked food will be offered by the Whitcomb HS Boosters. Free admission. 9 am to 3 pm at Whitcomb High School Gym, 273 Pleasant St. For info contact Nick Nikolaidis at (802) 234-5064. nick@nikolaidis.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Eugene Uman Convergence Project. Launching a hot new CD inspired by the language of jazz, the edge of rock and the lift of Latin rhythms. Tickets: \$20 general admission; students \$15. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Concert. Brattleboro Concert Choir presents Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia* directed by Susan Dedell. An exhilarating fusion of sound and drama, *Missa Gaia* opens the door to places within and without. A grand celebration of creation, it was premiered on Mother's Day, May 10, 1981 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Tickets \$15 general, \$8 students, on-line at www.brattleborotix.com. 7:30 pm. Centre Congregational Church. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org. Also May 18 at 4 pm.



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Visit The Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington, VT For Stunning Exhibits and Great Outdoor Birding Activities

The Birds of Vermont Museum is opening for their regular season on May 1. This year the new exhibits are "Perilous Passages" and "Wings of Clay." They will be open daily May 1 through October 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come and explore the museum's trails and take in a workshop or class or early morning bird walk. The museum has a great gift shop, displays of hand carved birds that will engage kids and adults and restroom facilities. Plan a visit with your family. Admission is \$7, discounts for seniors and children. Here are some of the summer activities coming up.

Volunteer Work Day. Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please help us prepare the Museum for the open season. We have opportunities for all. Come for an hour or all day, bring yourself, a friend, a family. All welcome. If you can't come this day, please consider a couple of hours, a weekly rotation, or something else! Whether you are out in the meadow, helping visitors at the front desk, or deep in the office, we would love your company and assistance. We train, too. Let us know if you're coming so we can provide lunch for everyone.

Earth Day Celebration—Parent & Child Adventure. Saturday, May 3, 1-4 p.m. Join the Birds of Vermont Museum and the Girl Quest Adventure Program to celebrate Earth Day, Green Up Day, and National Play Outside Day! Play fun games, make unique crafts, enjoy a little drama, sing songs, do something kind for the earth, taste earthy snacks to connect with your wild self and the earth! Face painting will be included too. Fee \$25 parent/child pair. Limited spaces available. Pre-register (802) 434-2167 for this very special Earth adventure. Rain date May 4, 2014.

Early Birder Morning Walks. Every Sunday, May 4 - June 29, 7:00-9:30 a.m. Join us for an early morning ramble

in the Birds of Vermont Museum forest and meadows. Walks are led by experienced birders. Finish the walk with bird-friendly coffee at the viewing window inside the Museum. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Early mornings are often damp with dew and boots are definitely in order. Don't forget bug spray/tick repellent! Free, donations welcome. Please pre-register.

Green Mountain Woodcarvers Monthly Carve-In. Saturday, May 10, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Museum is delighted to host the Green Mountain Wood Carvers (GMWC) May Carve-In! The GMWC is a group of carvers from Vermont with members from around New England. They meet monthly for "Carve-Ins" around the State and host a annual Show and Class in Morrisville (in August). At the Carve-In, members will be working on a variety of carving projects; you can take a sneak peek at the August Class project too: a covered bridge scene carved in relief. Carvers are always happy to explain how they carve and to share their expertise with others. Ask questions and become a member! More info: greenmountainwoodcarvers.org.

"Wings of Clay" Bird Ornaments Exhibit: Opening Reception. Sunday, May 11, 12-4 p.m. Join us to celebrate original ceramic bird art by students of Williston Central School! All visitors welcome to explore details about the birds, admire the art, and support art for all ages. Ornaments will be for sale as part of our Bridges to Birds fundraising; these delightful pieces will contribute directly to our walkway and "treehouse" space. Information about these projects will be available. Thanks to Mrs. MC Baker, art teacher, and 3rd and 4th graders of Williston Elementary. This is also part of our special programming for "Why Birds Matter", this year's International Migratory Bird Day theme. Ornament purchases and donations welcome

"Perilous Passages" Evening Reception. Saturday, May 17, 6:30-9:00 p.m. We'll kick off our season-long recognition of the Passenger Pigeon's extinction with an evening gathering: Explore our new exhibit, learn about the Passenger Pigeon, meet artists and tour new artwork. There will be wine, cheese, and fascinating conversations. The following artists are currently planning to attend (this list is subject to change without notice): Michelle Saffran, Elizabeth Spiny. This is also part of our special programming for "Why Birds Matter," this year's International Migratory Bird Day theme. Suggested donation \$10. Prints and cards are for sale (art for sale also; available after exhibit closes in October).

Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington, VT. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

Haverhill, NH. Concert: Singer/songwriter Steve Forbert. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Court Street Arts. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

Huntington. "Perilous Passages" Evening Reception. We'll kick off our season-long recognition of the Passenger Pigeon's extinction with an evening gathering. Tour new art work, share a glass of wine, and attend a fascinating conversation. 5-9 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

Milton. Plein Air Open Art Day. All mediums welcome. Bring friends, supplies and set up. Art supplies for sale. Free. 7 am - 3 pm. To register call (831) 224-5152. Milton Grange, Rt. 7. (802) 893-1208. miltonartistsguild.org.

Rutland. An Evening With Ira Glass: Reinventing Radio. The creator of the Public Radio show "This American Life" plays funny and memorable moments from the show, and talks about what was behind their creation. Tickets: \$59.75, 64.75, 69.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.thisamericanlife.org.

Rutland. Long Trail Clean-Up. All are welcome to join us for our annual clean-up and maintenance, preparing the trail for the hiking season. We will clear waterbars, trim brush and cut blow-downs on the lower elevation stretches. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leave at 9 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center St. Leader: Larry Walter, (802) 775-3855. www.greenmountainclub.org.

Rutland. Reinventing Radio: An Evening With Ira Glass. The creator of the Public Radio show *This American Life* mixes stories from the show, live onstage, and plays funny and memorable moments from the show. Tickets: \$59.75-\$69.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.thisamericanlife.org/contributors/ira-glass.

Sharon. Sharon Sprouts Garden Work-day. 10 am - 1 pm at Sharon Elementary, exit 2 off I-89. Info: Keenan Haley at (802) 763-7425. www.sharon.owsu.org. *Third Saturday of every month.*

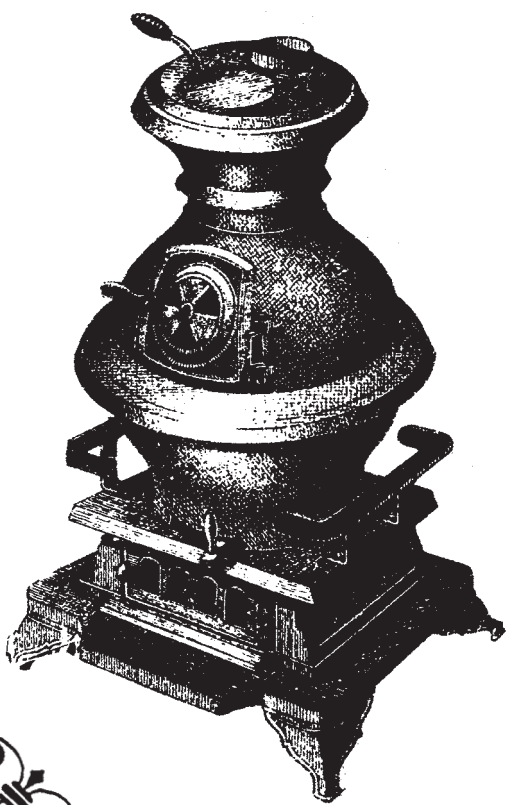
So. Burlington. 19th Annual Bloomtime Festival. Awaken your senses to the scents of lilacs, flowering crabapples, magnolias and more! Perennials, lilacs, indoor and veggie starter plants, and gardening books will be on sale. Hay ride tours of the Hort Farm, Plein Air artists. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. UVM Hort Farm, 65 Green Mountain Dr. off Rt. 7. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

Washington. Wood-Fired Outdoor Pizza Oven Workshop. Slide presentation highlighting all the steps involved in building your own outdoor wood-fired pizza oven. Each participant will make their own pizza, and enjoy lunch on the farm. Fee \$80. 10 am - 1:30 pm. Vermont Grand View Farm, 1638 Scales Hill Rd. (802) 6854693. www.eventbrite.com.

White River Junction. Planting Festival. Sponsored by the Upper Valley Apple Corps, a project of Transition 5 Villages and Occupy the Upper Valley. (802) 294-2425. uvapplecorps.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Bennington. Orchestral Concert: Sage City Symphony. Program includes Allen Shawn's Concerto for Cello, with Maxine Neuman as soloist, and Edward Elgar's Enigma Variations. Free admission. 4-6 pm. Greenwall Auditorium, Bennington College. (802) 447-2149.



Brattleboro. Concert. Brattleboro Concert Choir presents Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia*. An exhilarating fusion of sound and drama, *Missa Gaia* opens the door to places within and without. Tickets \$15 general, \$8 students, on-line at www.brattleborotix.com. 4 pm. Centre Congregational Church. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

Hanover, NH. Chamberworks Concert: Machado y Brasil. The Back Bay Guitar Trio (David Newsam, John Mason, Sharon Wayne) is joined by special guests guitarist John Muratore and flutist Alex Ogle to perform compositions by Celso Machado and other Brazilian composers. Free. 1 pm. Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

Rutland. First Annual Bike Blessing. Sponsored by Red Knights Motorcycle Club - VT. Chapter 3 and All Saints' Anglican Church. BBQ beginning at 10 am. Registration at Ponderosa Steakhouse parking lot. Rutland County Sheriff escorted ride starts at 11 am, barbecue to follow at Police Academy. \$10 a bike. 50/50 cash raffle, music, (barbecue only \$5 per person). All welcome. (802) 773-2747. www.rutlandvermont.com

Rutland. Bike Safety Day. For children up to age 13. There will be a road safety course, mountain bike skills course, bike checks and helmets provided. Bring your bike! Hosted by Rutland Kiwanis Club, Killington/Pico Cycling Club and Rutland Recreation & Parks Dept. A parent/guardian must accompany the child. 10 am - 1 pm at Giorgetti Park. (802) 773-1822. rutlandrec.com.

Rutland. Screening. Metropolitan Opera Live—Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. Mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, singing her first Met performances of the Cinderella title role, and the high-flying tenor Juan Diego Flórez as her Prince Charming. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 students. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

MONDAY, MAY 19

Burlington. Concert: Flynn Show Choirs. Powerhouse performing troupe of over 50 of Vermont's best young singers, actors, and dancers, aged 9-18. Selections from *Big River*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Willy Wonka*, and *The Muppets Movie*, as well as pop music by Fleetwood Mac, Dolly Parton, Sara Bareilles, Taio Cruz, and more! Tickets \$16 adults, \$12 students. 6 & 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org. *Also May 20.*

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Manchester Center. Off the Shelf Event. Garrison Keillor will present his new book, *The Keillor Reader*. Tickets are \$33 for one seat and one copy of *The Keillor Reader*. Bring a friend—two seats and one copy of *The Keillor Reader* are \$38 and are available at The Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center or in Saratoga Springs, NY. 7 pm at Manchester Elementary and Middle School, 80 Memorial Ave. Sponsored by Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com. garisonkeillor.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Burlington. Sixth Annual Green Mountain Comedy Festival. Headliner Tig Notaro, as well as comedians Myq Kaplan and DeAnne Smith, and over 100 Vermont comedians in more than 30 shows in Burlington and Central Vermont. Stand-up, improv, sketch, and musical comedy. Admission. claire.shapiro@gmail.com. www.GreenMountainComedy.com. *Through May 25.*

Norwich. Book & Author Event. Jennifer Senior discusses her new book, *All Joy and No Fun: The Paradox of Modern Parenthood*. Free. 7 pm. Reservations are recommended. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

Shelburne. Wednesday Workshops: Toys. Program cost includes materials. Session one, 1-2:30 pm. Session two, 4-5:30 pm. Space is limited, pre-registration required. Fee \$35. Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education, Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346 x 3368. shelburnemuseum.org.

Woodstock. Billings Farm Pre-school Program. Read the delightful rhyming book, *To Market, To Market* and discover what happens when the shopper goes to market, to market to buy a fat pig, and brings it home again, home again, jiggle jig. Then it's off to our 1890 Farm House to see where the animals in the story end up. We'll find farm animals in a matching game and enjoy a healthy market snack. \$5 per person includes admission to the Farm & Museum. 9-10:30 am. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the village green on Rt. 12. Advance registration required. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Bethel. Spam-A-Thon Dinner. \$6 per person to defray the cost of hanging floral baskets on Main Street. Presented by the Bethel Business Assn. 5 pm at The White Church.

Burlington. Sixth Annual Green Mountain Comedy Festival. Over 100 Vermont comedians in more than 30 shows in Burlington and Central Vermont. claire.shapiro@gmail.com. GreenMountainComedy.com. *Thru May 25.*



Eighth Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair

The Eighth Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair takes place on May 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Whitcomb High School Gymnasium in Bethel, VT. Admission is free.

This fair has become a popular addition to the events calendar of Bethel, VT.

The theme of this year's show is "Bethel Inventors," highlighting the inventions of Hugh Batcheller, who amassed 87 patents, as well as considerable wealth by manufacturing his own inventions. There will be many postcard, ephemera, sports memorabilia and stamp dealers. They will have numerous interesting items for sale including many Bethel and Vermont items.

The Bethel Historical Society will also have a table with books, as well as maps and postcards for sale. Our new book: *The Elusive Architect—George Guernsey* will be available.

This year, the Bethel Historical Society will issue a limited edition of covers with a special cachet. The United States Postal Service will be operating a temporary Post Office station on site from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will can-

cel mail or other collectible items with a special pictorial postmark. The USPS will also have recent commemorative stamps for sale.

Historical exhibits of Vermonters in Major League Baseball will be on display as well as a selection of Vermont panoramic photos by Louis L. McAllister. A special attraction this year will feature railroad memorabilia which has never been publicly shown before.

A popular activity again this year will be genealogy assistance offered by Joseph Smith Memorial Site representatives.

Delicious home cooked food will be offered by the Whitcomb High School Boosters.

The Bethel Historical Society wishes to thank each of our participants who are making this event possible and for helping us to preserve the history of our town.

The Whitcomb High School Gymnasium is located in Bethel, VT at 273 Pleasant St. For more information contact Nick Nikolaidis, President, Bethel Historical Society at (802) 234-5064. nick@nikolaidis.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

QUECHEE. Lecture: Beauty & Intrigue of Backyard Ants. Would you guess there were nearly as many ant species as bird species in New England? Four New England biologists have written a new Field Guide to the Ants of New England that E.O. Wilson calls "groundbreaking". Join one of these biologists, Nicholas Gotelli, to learn more about these fascinating creatures and their secret lives. Free. 7 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

BURLINGTON. Sixth Annual Green Mountain Comedy Festival. Over 100 Vermont comedians in more than 30 shows in Burlington and Central Vermont. claire.shapiro@gmail.com. www.GreenMountainComedy.com. Through May 25.

SHELBURNE. Bedrock to Birds: Exploring the natural history of the Shelburne landscape at spring migration. Instructors: Walter Poleman, UVM; Matt Kolan, Field Naturalist, Shelburne Farms. Pre-registration required; contact registration@shelburnefarms.org. Fee \$300 includes tuition & meals plus optional accommodations. Friday 5 pm through Sunday 1:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. Through May 25.

WEST DOVER. First Annual Fiddlehead Festival. Marketplace featuring Vermont products, food & entertainment. Cash prizes for our fiddlehead competition. Best pickled fiddleheads, barbeque competition, fiddling competition. Area artisans show their works. Huge block party. Mount Snow Valley. (802) 464-8092. info@visitvermont.com. www.vermontfiddleheadfestival.com. Through May 25.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

BENNINGTON. 29th Annual Mayfest Juried Arts & Craft Festival. Over 125 arts and crafts vendors, ethnic food, family activities, live entertainment. Main Street closes down for the largest event of the year. Free. 10 am - 5 pm. (802) 442-5758. admin@betterbennington.com. www.betterbennington.com.

BURLINGTON. Sixth Annual Green Mountain Comedy Festival. Over 100 Vermont comedians in more than 30 shows in Burlington and Central Vermont. claire.shapiro@gmail.com. www.GreenMountainComedy.com. Also May 25.

HUBBARDTON. Program: Meteor Storm Night. The Green Mountain Alliance of Amateur Astronomers invite you to observe this predicted meteor storm, as debris from Comet 209P/LINEAR, discovered in 2004, burn up in Earth's atmosphere. Bring blankets and flashlights. Call to confirm. 8-10 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicssites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton.

HUBBARDTON. Memorial Day Remembrance. At noon battlefield flags will be raised to full-mast and tribute paid to the soldiers of Hubbardton at the battle monument. 2 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicssites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton. May 24 to October 13, 2013.

HUNTINGTON. Workshop: Exploring Bird Language. An introduction to the five voices of the birds. Open your senses to the movements of the natural world, learn to move invisibly through the forest. For adults and teens, 16+. Fee \$30. 8 am - 12 noon. Education Barn, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-registration required: (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org.

MANCHESTER. Hike to Lye Brook Falls. Hike up an abandoned rail bed into the Lye Brook Wilderness to one of the highest waterfalls in the State. A moderate four miles. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and non-members welcome. 9 am. Call leader, Sue Thomas, for details and meeting place at (802) 773-2185. www.greenmountainclub.org.

NORWICH. Contradance. Music by Cuckoo's Nest, caller Ruth Sylvester. Please bring a pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. All dances taught. Beginners and singles welcome. Admission \$5, under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8 pm. At Tracey Hall, 300 Main St. For information call (802) 785-4607. Dances resume fourth Saturday in September.

ORWELL. Early Bird Nature Walk. Sue Wetmore introduces you to the birds of spring and spring migration. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. No pets please. Meet in front of the Museum. 8 am. Open daily, 9:30 - 5:30. Admission \$5 for adults, free for children under 13. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicssites.vermont.gov. May 24 through October 13.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. Opening Day of President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Experience the excitement of the Killington Stage Race as hundreds of cyclists speed through the historic village! New exhibition: The Coolidges, Plymouth, and the Civil War. Adults \$7.50, children 6 to 14 \$2, under 6 free. Family pass \$20. 9:30 am - 5 pm daily. 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicssites.vermont.gov. May 24 through October 19.

SHELBURNE. Urban Moonshine Herbal Conference. A day of inspired thinking, herbal classes and walks, and an evening of food, drink and celebration. To benefit the Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism's community herbal clinics. Children welcome, 12 and under free! Fee: conference portion \$50, evening dinner & festivities \$20 + cash bar. Pre-registration required visit www.urbanmoonshine.com/conference. 8 am - 6 pm, evening festivities 6-9 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend. 240 artisans and artists open their studios across Vermont to show visitors how they make their work. The Open Studio Map & Guide is available on the website of the Vermont Crafts Council or at information centers and galleries throughout Vermont. Free. 10 am - 5 pm each day. (802) 223-3380. vt1crafts@aol.com. vermontcrafts.com. Also May 25.

WARDSBORO. The Friends of the Wardsboro Library Annual Spring Plant Sale. Large variety of hearty perennials, colorful annuals, shrubs, Gilfeather® turnip seedlings, vegetables, and herbs. VT Extension Master Gardeners information table. "Garden Talkback" by Erica Bowman at 10 am. Annual "Best Raffle Ever" featuring a hand-crafted "twig chair" by Albert Litchfield, owner of Litchfield Woodworks. Wardsboro Library trustees bake sale on the Town Common. Plant sale 9 am to 2 pm at 170 Main St. on the front lawn of the Wardsboro Library and the Wardsboro Town Common at Rt. 100 and Main St. Free admission and parking. Rain or shine. www.friendswardsborolibrary.org.

WATERBURY CENTER. Sugar Social. Sugar-on-Snow with donuts, pickles and hard boiled eggs. All-Maple Bake Sale with baked beans, candy, pies, breads & more. Admission. Sat & Sun 1-5 pm. Waterbury Center Community Church, next to Cold Hollow Cider Mill, Waterbury/Stowe Rd. Rt. 100. (802) 244-8089. bbtravelers@aol.com. Thru May 25.

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Vermont Country Calendar

WINDSOR. Memorial Day Weekend Sale at Cider Hill Gardens & Art Gallery. Featuring Cider Hill's usual selection of hard to find herbs and vegetables. Open 10 am - 6 pm daily. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. garymilek.com. *Through May 26.*

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Cheese & Dairy Celebration. Meet local cheese makers and sample and purchase their cheeses! Dairy education programs. Make cheese, ice cream and butter. Admission includes all programs and activities: adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also May 25.*

SUNDAY, MAY 25

BURLINGTON. Sounds from the Soul: An evening of Call and Response Chanting. Tickets \$25. 7 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend. 240 artisans and artists open their studios across Vermont to show visitors how they make their work. The Open Studio Map & Guide is available on the website of the Vermont Crafts Council or at information centers and galleries throughout Vermont. Free. 10 am - 5 pm each day. (802) 223-3380. vtlcrafts@aol.com. vermontcrafts.com.

WINDSOR. Memorial Day Weekend Sale at Cider Hill Gardens & Art Gallery. Featuring Cider Hill's usual selection of hard to find herbs and vegetables. Open 10 am - 6 pm daily. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. garymilek.com. *Also May 26.*

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Cheese & Dairy Celebration. Meet local cheese makers and sample and purchase their cheeses! Dairy education programs. Make cheese, ice cream and butter. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, MAY 26

SHELBURNE. Morning Birdwalk. Join naturalist Matt Kolan to explore the shrubland, grassland, wetland, and forest habitats in search of the sights and sounds of our feathered friends. Pre-registration required. Fee \$6. 7-9 am. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

WINDSOR. Memorial Day Weekend Sale at Cider Hill Gardens & Art Gallery. Featuring Cider Hill's usual selection of hard to find herbs and vegetables. Open 10 am - 6 pm daily. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. garymilek.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Pre-school Program. Read *The Cow in the House* and learn about the noisy old house that is keeping the man from sleeping and what happens when he is advised to bring a cow into the house. We'll visit the farm animals, listening to the sounds they make. We will act out the story to hear for ourselves and enjoy a noisy snack! \$5 per person includes admission to the Farm & Museum. 9-10:30 am. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the village green on Rt. 12. Advance registration required. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

BURLINGTON. Concert. Celtic Woman—The Emerald Tour. Traditional Irish anthems, pop standards and original music. Tickets \$107/\$76/\$44.50. 7 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org. celticwoman.com.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

BRATTLEBORO. Concert. Windham Orchestra and Panopera join forces for a semi-staged production of Puccini's *Tosca*. Tickets: pick your own price \$10-40; Premium seating (3-4 rows in center front section) \$75. 7:30-9:30 pm. Latchis Theatre, Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmvt.org. *Also June 1.*

BURLINGTON. Burlington Discover Jazz Festival Concert. Regina Carter—Southern Comfort. Regina Carter, violin; Marvin Sewell, guitar; Will Holshouser, accordion; Jesse Murphy, Bass; TBD, drums. Tickets \$20-\$40. 8 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org. reginacarter.com.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Discover Jazz Festival. A 10-day Jazz Festival. Music resonates from every corner 7 days a week, 12-10 pm. Flynn Center, Church Street Marketplace, Waterfront and City Hall Parks, clubs and restaurants. (802) 863-7992 x 7992. discoverjazz.com. www.flynnjazz.org. *Through June 8.*

MIDDLEBURY. Opera Company of Middlebury presents *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, Comic Opera by Rossini. Tickets: \$50-\$65. 8-10:30 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 Pleasant Street. (802) 382-9222. contactus@ocmvermont.org. townhalltheater.org. *Also June 1, 5, 6, and 7.*

PUTNEY. Concert: Momenta Quartet. Beethoven's Op. 74 quartet and Ives's String Quartet No. 2. Tickets \$12. 8 pm. Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-6637. info@yellowbarn.org. www.yellowbarn.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

BURLINGTON. Burlington Discover Jazz Festival Concert. An Evening With Tony Bennett. Also, Antonia Bennett. Tony Bennett, vocals; Mike Renzi, piano, music director; Marshall Wood, bass; Gray Sargent, guitar; Harold Jones, drums. Tickets \$62-\$152. 8 pm. Also a concert with Grégoire Maret Quartet at 10 pm, tickets \$25. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 864-5741 x 10. flynncenter.org. tonybennett.com.

MIDDLEBURY. 5th Annual Rhubarb Festival. Sponsored by the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. All things rhubarb and more! Enjoy a springtime taste of rhubarb: lunch (turkey cutlets, rhubarb chutney, salad, rhubarb dessert, kids' entrées, take-outs), rhubarb pies, other homemade pies, confections and savories. UU cookbooks, used books, jewelry, scarves, handmade aprons, Dad's Day gifts, and a wide variety of plants for sale. Kids Karnival and all-day music. Free admission. Lunch tickets at door. 10 am - 2 pm. Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, Charles Ave. at 2 Duane Court. Parking in high school lot. (802) 388-8080. www.cvuus.net.

SHELBURNE. Water Critter Fun! Hike down to the pond and dip in to look for the animals that call it home, and discover the amazing adaptations that allow them to survive. Bring your mud boots for some pond dipping fun! Fee \$12 plus \$6 each additional child. Pre-registration required; contact registration@shelburnefarms.org. 9:30-11:30 am and 12:30-2:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SHELBURNE. Create a Spring Flower Arrangement & Tea Time at The Inn at Shelburne Farm. Learn how to create amazing flower arrangements to welcome spring into your home. Leave with your own floral masterpiece. Instructor: Victoria Dilley, floral designer for the Inn. Pre-registration required; contact registration@shelburnefarms.org. Fee: \$30 includes materials, tea & sweets and savories. 1-3 pm. The Inn at Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

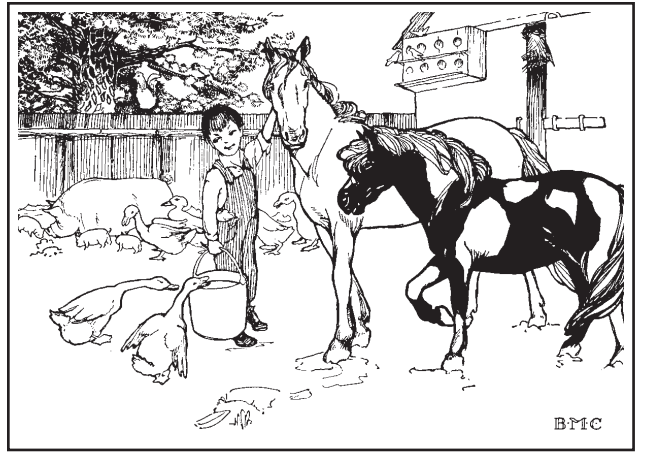
WALLINGFORD. Hike Bear Mountain. Follow the Long Trail through old farm fields lined with stone walls, up to an overlook, then on past the infamous Patch Hollow to Spring Lake. A moderate four miles. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather. Sponsored by the Killinging Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. 9:30 am. Call leaders Gerry & Cheryl Martin for meeting place. (802) 492-2244. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

BRATTLEBORO. Concert. Windham Orchestra and Panopera join forces for a semi-staged production of Puccini's *Tosca*. The opera tells the brutal truth about what drives us, our passion and desires. Tickets: pick your own price \$10-40; Premium seating (3-4 rows in center front section) \$75. 3 pm. Latchis Theatre, Main St. (802) 257-4523. www.bmvt.org.

NEWPORT. A Vermont Music Series: Christ Nicotera & Heather Webster in Concert. Heather plays the silver flute and Native American flutes; Chris plays classical guitar and Celtic harp. Light refreshments following. Donation. 4 pm. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 44 Second St. (802) 334-7365. concerts@nowplayingnewport.com. www.nowplayingnewport.com.

WOODSTOCK. Ice Cream Sunday. In celebration of Dairy Month, lend a hand making, then tasting homemade ice cream. Learn the history and scientific facts about this dairy treat. Admission includes all programs and activities: adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Every Sunday in June.*



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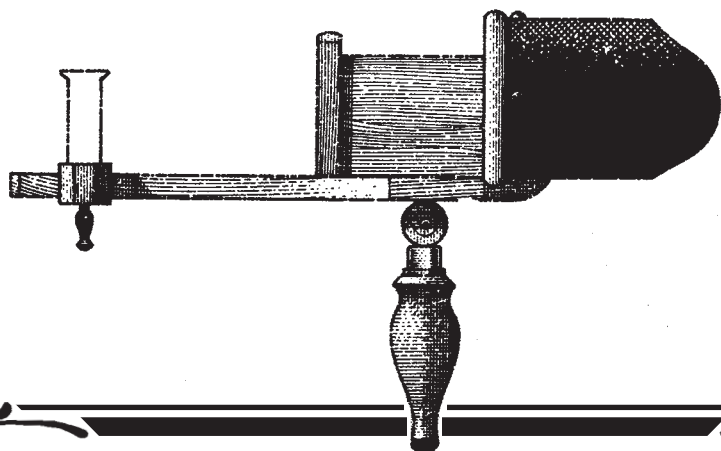
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Learning from the Master

by Burr Morse

They say you're never too old to learn and, believe me, my sixty-six years is living proof of that. One of my most memorable lessons came by way of music from a great teacher. It happened a few years ago but has recently resurfaced in my mind through the sudden death of my friend John Mead.

John, a fellow trombone player, was ten years older than me. We were kind of the "odd couple" as trombone players go because he had a Ph.D. in music, taught at college level, and played professionally. I, on the other hand, picked myself up by the boot straps. My playing was nurtured much like the crops on our farm, with a lot of hard work sprinkled with a little TLC.

Over time, the fruits of my playing developed well enough to find me in some of Vermont's popular groups including the Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra. It was in the VPO where I, playing the second "bone" part, first heard of a dynamo who would soon be our principal trombonist. Knowing that

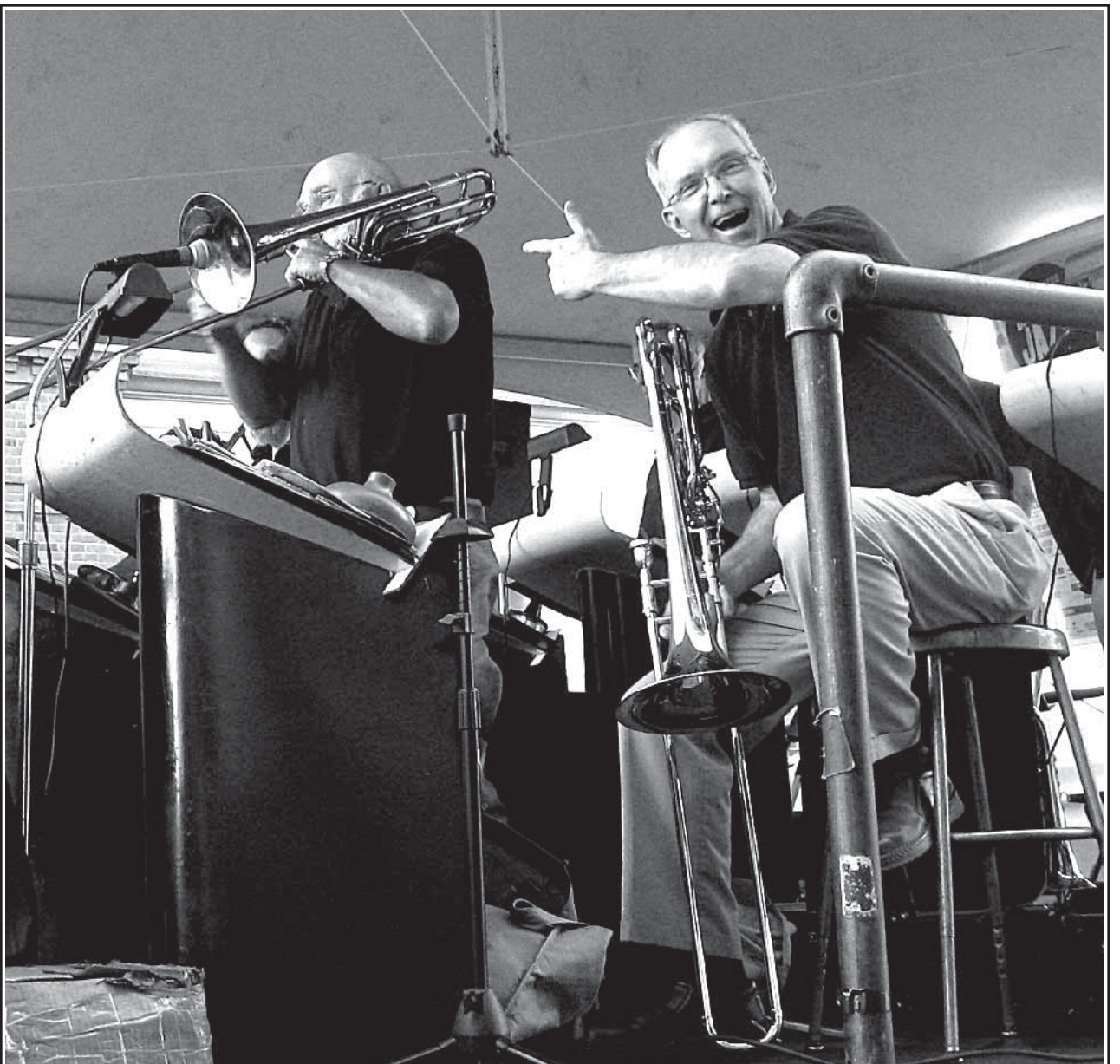
"He offered both critique and praise of my playing. With each passing measure I felt myself improve."

I would be sitting right beside him made me a bit nervous to say the least. I sat rigid on the edge of my chair like a toy soldier when John Mead, a tall man with a grey beard, approached. He held his horn in his left hand and stretched his right hand out for a shake, "I've heard about you," he said, "You're the maple man."

Remembering John Mead

And that was it, quicker'n "Flight of the Bumblebee", John had beat me to the draw totally disarming my fears. On top of that, he quickly proved to be a typical trombone player, a special human being predisposed toward practical jokes, wry comments, and roguish grins.

Before long, he became my mentor. Whether carried by his interest in me as a maple sugarmaker or recognizing my raw musical talent, he offered both critique and praise of my playing. With each passing measure, I felt myself improve. One time after we had played together for about a year, he turned to me during a break, "When we get to that passage"—he pointed to some measures on his part marked pianissimo which had notes way up high in the trombone range—"I want you to play those measures for me." He explained that, through some past chemotherapy treatments, he had lost his confidence in playing high pitches at low volume (and I'm convinced he made that up just for the sake of my "lesson"). He ended his request with another of his roguish grins and beckoned to the conductor, "We can't let him know we're doing this."



Burr Morse (left) playing his trombone with Randy Wheeler (right) in the Vermont Jazz Ensemble on Church Street in Burlington VT. photo courtesy of Burr Morse

John's request put me right on edge because the part I was asked to play, although soft and subdued, was critical to the piece. I knew that any classically trained ear in the audience or among my fellow musicians would be zeroing in on that passage like a hawk to a field mouse. Having this great man place his confidence in me, however, spurred me on. I played the passage fine during the following rehearsals and again on the first of two concerts. John complemented me and even said the conductor had been praising him on the quality of that passage! Although feeling great about my debut as covert "principal trombonist", I could not totally relax because we had one more concert to do. Just before the downbeat of that concert, John dropped his bomb. Turning to me with a veritable masterpiece of trombonist grins, he said, "Y'know Burr, nobody has ever played that two concerts in a row without really screwing it up."

"Oh c'mon John, don't do this to me!" I exploded to his face but behind his back I was thinking, "I'll show you, you son of a *%&!". I held it together through the first part of the concert. When those dreaded measures were suddenly upon me, I breathed deep, visualized the first critical pitch in my mind, and, like a seasoned professional, "nailed it", mostly out of spite! John shook my hand after the concert but didn't make a big deal of my success. "Never two concerts in a row John, huh big guy?" I mimicked, fishing for praise. "Oh, OK" he said, "once in a while there's an exception."

Looking my best!

I walked away from that musical event not only feeling great but with a new level of confidence that still carries me through both my lives of music and maple. One of our coun-

try's early mentors, Ben Franklin, said, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn," and he knew our country would do so. Trombonist John Mead's adjusted version for me was "Y'can't do that two times in a row without screwin' it up," knowing I would have success.

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

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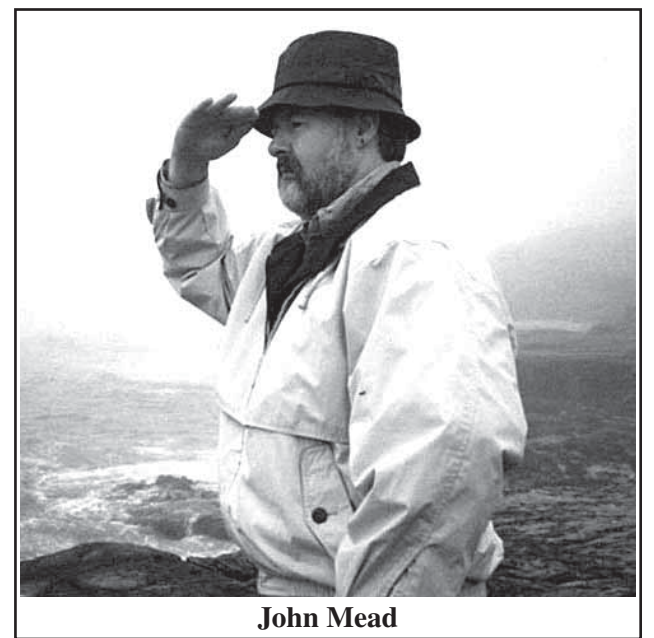
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TradNation Performs at Chandler Music Hall

The TradNation Project, featuring musicians from Québec's thriving traditional music scene, comes to Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT for two performances on Friday May 9. The 10 a.m. student matinee showcases the five young musicians of Les Poules à Colin. The esteemed traditional music group Dentdelion opens for the young band Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. They will perform repertoire from their own families, new roots-inspired music compositions, and music learned from local traditions that are unique to the only officially French-speaking population in North America. A pre-concert dinner precedes the evening performance at 6 p.m.

The TradNation Project was created with the goal of sharing the instrumental, song and dance traditions from the rich cultural heritage of French Québec, a vital part of Vermont's cultural heritage.

Les Poules à Colin

The featured performers, Les Poules à Colin, recent performers at Chandler's New World Festival, are winners of Vermont's Young Tradition competition (2009) and the Prix de la culture Desjardins (2010). The young musicians from Québec's Lanaudière region are inspired by roots music passed down from their families and learned at camps and in jams.

Their performances sparkle with unpretentious natural talent and enthusiasm, and respect for their repertoire—beautifully arranged original and folk-trad songs and tunes in both French and English. As the offspring of traditional musicians, they all study music and have grown up alongside and learned their craft firsthand from some of Québec's finest in a region famous for its musical traditions. Their first album "Hébertisme Nocturne" was recorded with a grant from the Lanaudière Youth Fund and the Québec Arts Council (2011).

Dentdelion

Fans of Chandler's New World Festival are well acquainted with Dentdelion. The band features two families and two generations with emphasis firmly placed on originality heavily influenced by Québec tradition. Dentdelion is composed of fiddler-singer Claude Méthé, guitarist-singer-accordionist-foot-percussionist Dana Whittle, flutist Denise Levac, her son, multi-instrumentalist Colin Savoie-Levac, on banjo mandolin, guitar and feet, and Claude and Dana's daughter



Le Poules a Colin from Quebec perform in the TradNation concert at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on May 9.

Béatrix Méthé on fiddle and vocals. Their repertoire of original tunes and vintage songs features fresh, new melodies and is "carefully cultivated and lovingly weeded in the communal garden of these five joyful musicians." The addition of the second generation adds to the beauty of this music.

Pre-concert dinner at Chandler

The pre-concert dinner in the Esther Mesh Room of Chandler's Upper Gallery will be hosted by French students from Randolph Union High School who are raising money

for their May 16 trip to Montréal. A variety of sweet and savory crepes will be for sale, and a salad and bread bar will fill out the meal. A cash bar will be available. Reservations are encouraged.

Tickets to the evening performance can be ordered online or by calling the Chandler Box Office at (802) 728-6464 from 3-6 p.m. weekdays. Those interested in the matinee should contact Emily Crosby at (802) 431-0204.

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St. in Randolph, VT. Wheelchair accessible and an assisted listening system is available. For more information call (802) 728-9878. Visit www.chandler-arts.org.

The Wailin' Jennys Coming to Chandler on May 11

The Wailin' Jennys bring their tight vocal harmonies and Americana roots music to Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on Sunday May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Starting as a happy accident of solo singer-songwriters getting together for a one-time-only performance at a tiny guitar shop in Winnipeg, The Wailin' Jennys have grown into one of today's most beloved folk acts.

Founding members Ruth Moody and Nicky Mehta along with Heather Masse create exquisite music on the folk-roots scene. They appear frequently on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion," and have performed at packed venues across the Canada, the U.S. and throughout the world.

The Wailin' Jennys have a wide range of musical backgrounds. Soprano Ruth Moody (vocals, guitar, accordion, banjo, bodhrán) is a classically trained vocalist and pianist. She recently released her first solo album *The Garden*, whose title track was the fourth most played song of 2010 on international folk radio.

Mezzo Nicky Mehta (vocals, guitar, harmonica, drums, ukulele) is a trained dancer raised on classical music, 70s A.M. radio, and influenced by alternative pop. She was nominated for a Canadian Indie Music Award for her album, *Weather Vane*.

Alto Heather Masse (vocals, upright bass) is a Jazz Voice graduate of New England Conservatory of Music.

In 2004, The Wailin' Jennys released their first album *40 Days* to great critical acclaim, and in 2005 it won them a Juno Award.

Their next CD *Firecracker* found them stepping into the world of alt-country, pop and rock. It was nominated for a Juno Award and won a 2007 Folk Alliance Award. It charted for over 56 weeks on the Billboard charts and was followed up by their 2009 release *Live at Mauch Chunk Opera House*, which also spent over a year on the Billboard bluegrass charts.

Their newest studio album, *Bright Morning Stars*, was produced with award-winning Mark Howard.

Reserved tickets can be ordered online at www.chandler-arts.org or through the box office by calling (802) 728-6464 from 3-6 p.m. weekdays.

Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St. in Randolph, VT. (802) 728-9878. Visit www.chandler-arts.org. Wheelchair accessible and an assisted listening system is available.



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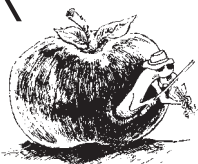
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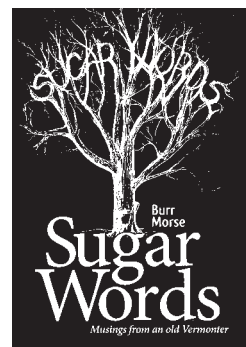
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A Vermont Almanack for Late Spring

by Bill Felker

Wide are the meadows of night,
And daisies are shining there,
Tossing their lovely dew,
Lustrous and fair;
And through these sweet fields go,
Wand'ers 'mid the stars—
Venus, Mercury, Uranus, Neptune, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars.
'Tired in their silver, they move,
And circling, whisper and say,
Fair are the blossoming meads of delight
Through which we stray.

—Walter de la Mare, "Wanderers"

The Phases of the Daffodil Moon and the Tulip Moon and the Cherry Pie Moon

Daffodils and tulips are two of the easiest gauges of Late Spring. Watching them as you walk or drive or ride your bike or horse, you need no almanac or calendar to tell you that summer soon will bring you cherry pies.

April 29: The Tulip Moon becomes new at 1:14 a.m. *May 6:* The moon enters its second quarter at 10:15 p.m. *Apogee May 14:* The moon is full at 2:16 p.m. *May 18:* Perigee: The moon's position closest to earth *May 21:* The moon enters its final phase at 7:59 a.m. *May 28:* The Cherry Pie Moon is new at 1:40 p.m.

The Sun

On May 21, the sun enters Gemini and lies within just a small fraction of its summer solstice position

Planets

Venus will move retrograde into Pisces throughout the month, keeping its position as the morning star throughout May. Mars remains in Virgo, visible in the south well after dark. Jupiter stays in Gemini as the evening star throughout April and May, following Orion into the sunset. Saturn travels with Libra into the far west at dawn until May 10. After the 10th, it is visible in the evening, rising in the east.



Twin lambs follow their mother in a spring barnyard in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

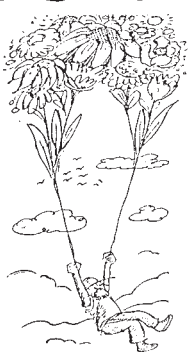
Meteorology

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are thought to be more active as the barometer is falling one to three days before the weather systems that arrive near the following dates: April 3, 7, 12, 17, 22, 25, 29. Full moon on April 14 is likely to bring increased chances of storms to Vermont, and the new moon on the 28th combines with

the last cold front of the month to threaten serious frost throughout the state.

The Shooting Stars

The Eta Aquarids are active on May 5 and 6. Find them after midnight in Aquarius above the southeastern horizon. The dark moon should favor meteor viewing, and the early morning of May 5 should produce the most meteors.



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NOFA Vermont Announces CSA Open Farm Day

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont announces the first CSA Open Farm Day. On Sunday, May 4, 2014 from 1-4 p.m. farms across Vermont will open their greenhouses, barns, and fields to community members.

This day is an opportunity for everyone to get to know a local farmer, and falls just before the beginning of most

farms' CSA programs. CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture, and is a form of direct farm-to-consumer sales in which the customer typically subscribes in the spring for a weekly share of the season's produce.

Over 40 farms will participate in this year's CSA Open Farm Day. Farm activities may include tours, demonstrations, product tasting,

scavenger hunts, and more. Everyone is welcome to this community event.

Learn more and find a participating farm near you at www.nofavt.org/CSA-day.

The 2014 CSA Open Farm Day is made possible in part by a Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant.

NOFA Vermont is member-based organization working to grow local farms, healthy food, and strong communities in Vermont.

Our members are farmers, gardeners, educators and food lovers of all sorts—anyone who wants to help us create a future full of

local food and local farms. Our programs include farmer and gardener technical assistance, farm to school support, organic certification, advocacy, an online apprentice and farm worker directory, an annual Winter Conference, and programs that work to ensure access to fresh, local food to all Vermonters, regardless of income.

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, PO Box 697, 14 Pleasant St., Richmond, VT 05477. For more information call (802) 434-4122. caitlin@nofavt.org. www.nofavt.org.

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Hereford cattle rest near a pond under in a lush springtime mountain meadow in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

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North Country Book News

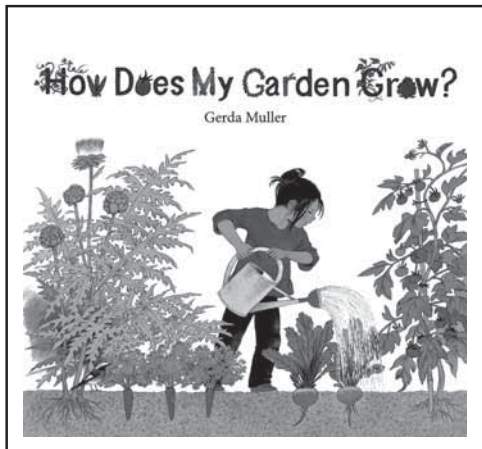
Children's Book Reviews

Bud and Blossom, Leaf and Tree—Springtime is Here!

Trees now starting to bud out happily reminds us that spring is here to stay. If we live in the country there's an abundance of trees to see and admire. But for most city kids there are only a few or no trees at all.

That's what school teacher Katherine Oliver Sessions discovered in San Diego, CA in the 1880s—a desert town with no trees at all! In *The Tree Lady* by H. Joseph Hopkins and illustrated by Jill McElmurry (*Beach Lane Books*, \$16.99, simonandschuster.com/kids), one will learn how this determined woman planted trees throughout the city. She wrote letters to gardeners all over the world asking for tree seeds that could grow in hot, dry weather and steep hills and canyons. And she then planted them along streets, around schools and in small parks and plazas. And by the turn of the century from elms to oaks to eucalyptuses and palms, trees were growing everywhere. Kate and volunteer tree planters and their trees are beautifully illustrated throughout this true story. She received many awards and was called the Mother of Balboa Park.

Trees also play an important part in this charming story entitled *Oliver's Tree* by Kit Chase (*C.P. Putnam's Sons*, \$16.99, www.penguin.com/youngreaders). Here the baby elephant Oliver plays hide and seek and other games with two best friends, Lulu the owl and Charlie the bunny. But they are stymied over what to do when the elephant is the wrong size to play in the trees, and sadly Oliver exclaims "elephants just don't belong in trees." Determined to help their friend, the owl and bunny build a tree house on the ground much to the surprise and delight of the baby elephant. A sweet story told with charming illustrations.



Spring is an especially good season for children to learn about different kinds of trees, and how they reproduce offspring trees. In *Spring Blossoms* by Carole Gerber and illustrated by Leslie Evans, (*Charlesbridge*, \$16.95, www.charlesbridge.com), two girls and their dog take us on a rhyming tour of trees with all their colored blossoms. We see dogwood, crab apple, magnolia, cherry, white oak, American beech, red maple, redbud, white pine and balsam fir. Additional information about trees and their life cycles is included.

Leslie Evans' full-page color illustrations are done in linoleum block print, watercolor, collage, and digital at her letterpress studio, Sea Dog Press in Watertown, MA. To see more of her work go to www.seadogpress.com.

If your children think they would like to have a vegetable garden this spring, *How Does My Garden Grow* written and illustrated by Gerda Muller (*Floris Books*, \$17.95, www.florisbooks.co.uk) shows how gardening can be an adventure with feasts to behold as vegetables mature and reach edible size. In this story Sophie, a city girl, visits her

grandparents in the country and learns the joys of growing one's own food even if it means hard work and rescuing the potatoes from a swarm of potato beetles, and dealing with other pests. Many vegetables are depicted growing below and above ground. One will see and learn about lesser known vegetables like celeriac root, Jerusalem artichokes, endive, lamb's lettuce, fennel bulbs, and even flowers that can be eaten for dinner.

The story is accompanied and bordered by all sorts of instructive, labeled drawings and lists of all things gardening, very entertaining and informative. This book was originally published in French and Floris, the publisher, is headquartered in Scotland. Lucky for us it is available here.



Children's Book Reviews

Honoring Our Mothers

Mother's Day is a time when we show our appreciation for the so many things mothers do for us all year long. In these classic tales about an immigrant family from Russia, *The Keeping Quilt (25th Anniversary edition)* and *The Blessing Cup* both by Patricia Polacco (*Simon & Schuster*, \$17.99 each, www.simonschuster.com), we see how a mother, the grandmother and even the great-grandmother are the ones who care for us by carrying on family traditions no matter how humble or poor their conditions may be.

Based on true family stories, the author relates how her great-grandmama Anna came to America with only a few possessions, one being a babushka that "she liked to throw in the air when she was dancing."

Anna's mother made a colorful quilt out of the babushka that was passed down for almost a century, used as a baby blanket, wedding

canopy, Sabbath tablecloth, and warming blanket for the elderly.

Another tradition was an engagement gift of a gold coin, a dried flower, and a piece of rock salt. The gold was for wealth, the flower for love, and the salt so their lives would have flavor.

In *The Blessing Cup* a beautiful china tea set is passed on through the generations, one of the few possessions that survived with the family in their brutal expulsion from Russia by the czar's soldiers.

Polacco's detailed drawings capture the ethnicity of old Russia with its colorful ceremonies and religious traditions. And we see the Americanized modern families still treasuring the historic quilt and blessing cup.

A cup from the original set is in the author's possession today. The original keeping quilt is on display in the University of Findlay, Ohio, museum.



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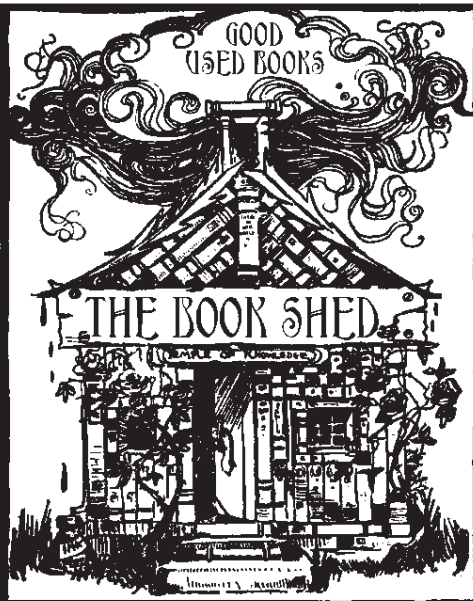
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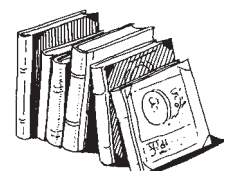
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Foraging & Feasting

A Field Guide and Wild Food Cookbook

by Dina Falconi and
Illustrated by Wendy Hollender
(Botanical Arts Press, Accord, NY)

Imagine venturing into the countryside with bowl intent on collecting enough wild plants to make and eat a tossed salad. Don't forget also to bring along a simple vinaigrette dressing and eating utensils.

According to Dina Falconi, author of this fascinating book on foraging and feasting, this is what happens when she takes beginners on edible-plant walks near her home in New York's Hudson River valley. And she writes:

"Wild salads convert inexperienced foragers into regular enthusiasts. Hundreds of wild salads later, they find the salads just as delicious."

The author has been teaching foraging for 20 years on how to find, harvest and enjoy these free gifts from the wild, including many ways to use them in cooking. Some may consider many of these plants weeds, but to Dina they are real food. One only has to learn what part of the plant is edible and when it should be harvested for the best taste.

She adds many edible flowers to her wild salads, making them "beautiful and tasteful, full of rich colors and subtle flavors... One of my life's quests is to eat as many flowers as possible." She writes, "I encourage you to get to know flowers and explore how they fit into your cuisine."

Her list includes: chickweed, chicory, cornflower, dandelion, dayflower, day lily, field garlic, hollyhock, lavender, lilac, linden, marigold, mint, nasturtium, pansies, red clover, rose and violets. She also recommends eating the flowers from common vegetables like beans, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, leeks and others.

Her foraging includes berries which have lured many of us even as children to search the fields for a quick treat. She includes black and red currants, blackberries, black and red raspberries, high bush blueberries, elderberries, and gooseberries.

Thanks to botanical artist Wendy Hollender, readers are treated to exquisite one or two-page drawings in color of the edible 50 plants described in the book. These drawings

are scientifically perfect to the plant's specifications, but they also capture one's imagination because they resemble museum quality pastels or oil paintings. Seasonal changes in shape and color of each plant as well as its seeds and flowers and root structure are drawn to perfection.

Dina says her students follow each plant's progress through the seasons so they can learn the best time for harvesting. Her trips into the secret world of plants is also a time to learn and relate to the natural world and experience an eco-system firsthand.

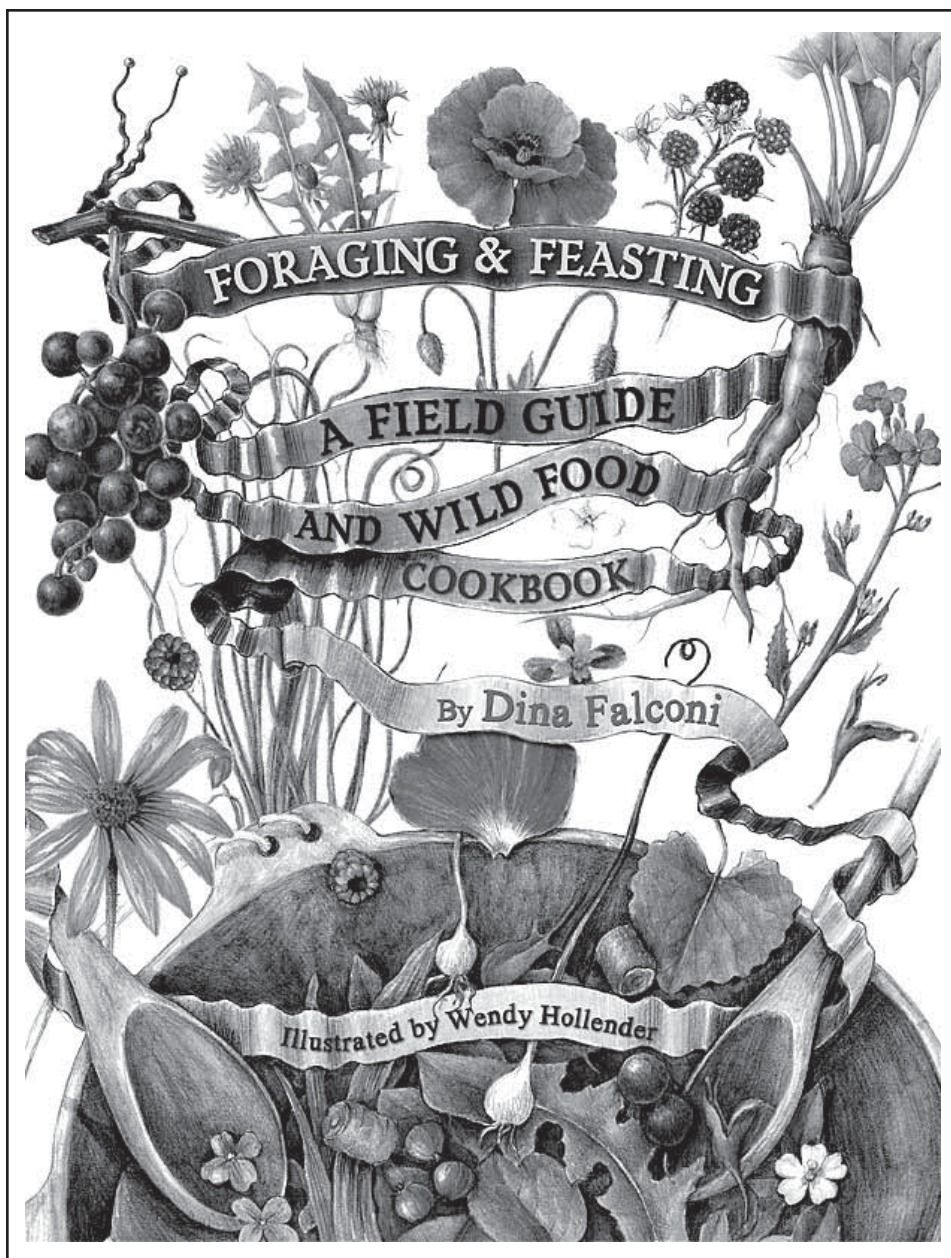
At one point she has the students pair off with one walking with eyes closed and the partner leading, as an unusual way to attune oneself to nature. One time when she was leading such a march she suddenly came upon a bear! Before she think of what to do and warn her students, the equally surprised bear ran away.

Her book reminds me of a time when, as a child, our property was overrun with burdocks with their annoying burrs. My older brother Fred and I were encouraged to destroy them by digging them up (not an easy job). Fred, a budding naturalist, had read the roots were edible, and sure enough he saved the roots and one evening had mother roast them for us. Not too bad, we thought, for a weed!

We see Dina also encouraging the reader to harvest this earthy, sweet and bitter tap root and has recipes on how they can be used in soups, stew, sautés, shepherd's pie and even beverages.

I have experienced other so-called weeds in my vegetable garden and maybe you have, too—sheep and wood sorrel, lambs' quarters, and Jerusalem artichokes. Among her 100 recipes Dina has ways to use and cook these plants. You will be surprised to see what can go into a wild plant salad; sorrel can be used in grilled cheese sandwiches; lambs' quarters in frittata; and the Jerusalem artichokes in wild shepherd's or cottage pie or braised with meats.

Dina, as a young girl, started learning how to cook nourishing dishes in a small, chaotic



kitchen in a railroad apartment in New York City's East Village. Later she recalls "this inner city kid started her foraging days at a summer camp—a life altering and mind-blowing discovery."

Dina Falconi is a clinical herbalist, wild-crafted, permaculturist and founding member of the Northeast Herbal Association. She is the author of *Earthy Bodies & Heavenly Hair: Natural and Healthy Personal Care for Everybody*.

Wendy Hollender relocated to Accord NY

in 2009 after living 30 years in Manhattan, where she taught at the New York Botanical Gardens. She holds workshops in botanical drawing as well as permaculture and gardening at her Hollengold Farm.

Foraging & Feasting—A Field Guide and Wild Food Cookbook by Dina Falconi and illustrated by Wendy Hollender is available at your bookseller or from Botanical Arts Press, 222 Lower Whitfield Rd, Accord, NY 12404 for \$40. BotanicalArtsPress.com.



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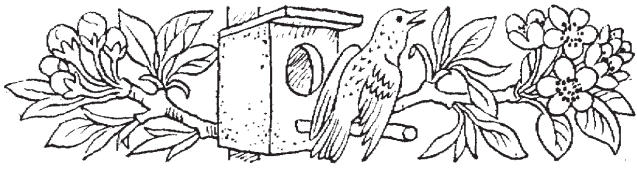
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The Seasons of Late Spring

by Bill Felker

Lilac and Maize-Stalk Time

Out of its little hill faithfully rise
the potatoes' dark green leaves,
out of its hill rises the yellow maize-stalk,
the lilacs bloom in the dooryards.

—Walt Whitman

When lilacs bloom, daddy longlegs begin hunting in the undergrowth, darners are out in the swamps. Cliff swallows migrate as buckeyes and garlic mustard come into full bloom. Yellow wood sorrel blossoms in the yard, and the first cycle of cabbage moths is at its peak.

Most dandelions have gone to seed by the time lilac blossoms emerge. Ruby-throated hummingbirds arrive at your feeders then, and golden seal and Solomon's seal come into bloom. There are buds on the black raspberries, mock orange, and mulberries. Sedum opens in the woods. Nettles are waist high along the fencerows.

When you see your first daddy longlegs, oak leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear almost everywhere. Some maples are fully leafed, and some are dropping seeds. The high tree line is completely alive all across the country either with new glowing foliage or orange buds or golden flowers

The Season of Petal Fall

Now fields and trees all blossoming appear,
leafy the woods, and loveliest the year.

—Virgil

When apple blossoms fall, then the first sweet rocket, fleabane, sweet Cicely, daisy, fire pink, common plantain, white clover, chamomile, black medic, star of Bethlehem, lily-of-the-valley, sweet William, meadow goat's beard, May apple, and wood sorrel almost always open.

The woods are filled with garlic mustard, green and white among the still bare trees. It's the best time of all for blue forget-me-not, golden ragwort, water cress, wild geranium, miterwort, swamp buttercup, late toad trillium, late trillium



Belgian draft horse Lincoln (l.) and Percheron Rex (r.) plow the fields at Sterling College in Craftsbury Common, VT. photo courtesy Sterling College

grandiflorum, late winter cress, white spring cress and the wild purple phlox.

Mock orange and strawberries come into full bloom when the last crabapple petals are gone. A few early poppies and peonies unravel then. Early iris and lupines are budding. Astilbe and clematis have formed flower heads. Summer hostas are eight to ten inches tall. Ferns, day lilies, comfrey, summer phlox have reached almost two feet. In the parks, the paths are thick with violets.

A third of the goslings have emerged from their eggs by this week of the year. The thrush, catbird, and scarlet tanager arrive when wild cucumber sprouts by the rivers and nettles grow up past your knees.

This deep into late spring, the canopy of leaves becomes thicker every day. In the valleys, the woods are flushed, pale but luminescent. Mountain maples, lilacs and wild cherries flower. Poison ivy develops to a third of its June size—pacing the Virginia creeper and wild grapes. All the sweet gum flower clusters fall to the street as chives blossom in the garden. Redbuds fade, their leaves replacing flowers almost overnight.

Mayflies are out along the water. Bullfrogs call. Minnows and chubs are flushed red for their mating season. Flies become pesky in the mild afternoons.

Flea time begins for pets, a sign that insect activity is nearing the economic threshold on the farm. Spitbugs grow in the shelter of swamp parsnips, announcing that the first cut of hay is not so very far away.

Iris, Peony and Mock Orange Season

Star-eyed strawberry-breasted
Throstle above her nested
Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin
Forms and warms the life within;
And bird and blossom swell
In sod or sheath or shell.

—Gerard Manley Hopkins

After redbud trees change their flowers for seedpods, late spring enters its glory, keeping the promises of March and April. Iris bloom quickly spreads across the country, and mock orange flowers squeeze out into the warmest afternoons, four or five days after the iris, about a week in advance of the peonies.

Then when azaleas lose their petals, daisies and the first clematis and the first cinquefoil open all the way, the first strawberry ripens, and the first swallowtail butterflies visit the star of Bethlehem and bleeding hearts. The last quince flowers fall, and lilacs decay.

The yellow heads of meadow goatsbeard appear along the roadsides next to the sweet clover foliage spreading out for

June. The pink and violet of sweet rockets replace the purple wild phlox in the woods and pastures. All of the buttercups blossom, and by the end of the week, the first pyrethrums presage the poppies. Horseradish and comfrey are budding. The shy lesser stitchwort blooms in the alleys.

Locust leaves emerged last week; their first flowers now open as the high canopy slowly closes in. Rich-scented four-petaled flowers of the silver olive are open. Tall meadow rue is unfolding knee high, pacing the angelica. Lizard's tail has three leaves now. Golden ragwort, pale violet Jacob's ladder, columbine, and the wild geraniums are still in full flower. July's wood nettle is up a foot or so.

Multiflora roses and wild raspberries are budding. Black walnuts and oaks become the major sources of pollen. Deep red ginger has replaced the toad trillium close to the ground, around the fingers of white sedum.

Cedar waxwings migrate up the rivers as the last buckeye flowers fall. Half the goslings are bigger than your shoes. When the first firefly glows in your lawn, flea beetles come feeding in the vegetable garden.

Honeysuckle Season

Onward and nearer rides the sun of May;
And wide around, the marriage of the plants
Is sweetly solemnized. Then flows amain
The surge of summer's beauty; dell and crag,
Hollow and lake, hillside and pine arcade,
Are touched with genius.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Musketquid"

In honeysuckle time, snow-on-the-mountain blossoms across the central Appalachians, and the first of the sweet Williams, the first clematis, and the first spiderwort open. White spotted skippers and red admiral butterflies visit the garden. Leafhoppers look for corn.

Bright green six-spotted tiger beetles race along the deer paths of the woods. Grasshoppers come to the fields. Northern Spring Field Crickets, the first crickets of the year to sing, are singing. Baby robins are out of the nest. The antlers of white-tailed bucks are a third grown. Reckless adolescent groundhogs wander the roadsides.

When honeysuckles blossom, then mulberries and wild grapes flower. Multiflora roses, spirea, yellow sweet clover, Rhododendrons follow the azaleas, joined by the raspberries and blackberries. Wild strawberries climb, bright yellow, through the purple ivy and the sticky catchweed.

When all the honeysuckles open, middle summer's wood nettle, wild lettuce, wingstem, dogbane and golden groundsel have grown up to your hips. Grasses along the riverbanks are waist-high and more. Poison hemlock reaches your chin, angelica over your head.

Wood hyacinths and spring beauties disappear during honeysuckle week. Violets stop blooming until autumn. Hydrangea snowballs lose their luster. Sweet Cicely is going to seed. Garlic mustard and winter cress weaken under the closing canopy, spring phlox is getting old. Ragwort flowers turn to fluffy seed heads. Watercress falls over in the sun.

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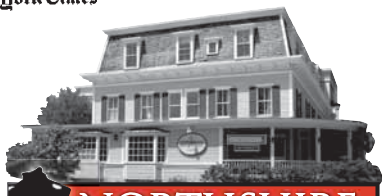
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