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Vermont Country Sampler

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- Statewide Calendar of Events
- Strawberry Festivals
- Map, Inns, B&B's
- Dining, Real Estate
- Entertainment, Book Reviews

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June 2011

N. Cassidy

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Guilford Church Old-Fashioned Strawberry Supper on June 25

A summer tradition for the whole family, the Annual Strawberry Supper at Guilford Community Church will be held on Saturday, June 25.

Enjoy baked ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, fresh-baked rolls, strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream, coffee, iced tea, and milk.

All proceeds benefit the church, supporting 20 local

programs and organizations that serve the community.

There will be three seatings to choose from, at 4:30, 5:45 and 7 p.m. The price is \$10 adults, \$5 children 11 and under, and \$3 preschoolers. For reservations, call (802) 257-1819.

The Guilford Community Church is located on Church Dr. in Guilford, VT.



Josh Maiocco, local musician, tries out the guitars at the swap tent at Roots on the River.

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Roots on the River—New Faces and Old Favorites

This year's 12th annual Roots on the River Music Festival in Bellows Falls, VT brings us four days of entertainment filled with old favorites and new faces alike. Concertgoers will find music at eight locations throughout town, from June 9 through 12. Nearly two dozen performances are scheduled, including perennial headliner Fred Eaglesmith and his band, newcomer Todd Snider, and popular artist James McMurtry, returning for his third appearance.

Kicking off the festival, Thursday's Regional Artists' Night at 7:30 pm at 33 Bridge Street, one of the historic paper mill buildings located on the river, will feature local favorites Rusty Belle, Pete Weiss and the Weisstronauts, and JATOBA.

On Friday, open-air shows will be held throughout the afternoon in the Square and later at the Bellows Falls Farmers' Market. Performers include Patrick Fitzsimmons, Waylon Speed, Kim and Sharon, and Second Wind. At 7:30 in the evening, at the "big tent" site at Every Day Inn, featured artists include Jandee Lee Porter, McMurtry, and the much-anticipated first appearance for the weekend of Fred Eaglesmith.

Saturday will see a full day and night of music under the big tent. Performers include Audrey Auld, Joe Gee, Roger Marin and his band, Tommy Womack, Zoe Muth and the Lost High Rollers, Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams, Tom Snider, and Fred Eaglesmith.

A swap tent of musical instruments and equipment has

become a popular tradition both for those wishing to sell and to buy. With dozens of band members, and hundreds of concertgoers, you never know who might be interested in the offered treasures, and you never know what you might find. There have been a dynamic assortment of classic and vintage items offered every year, some lovingly restored by Stephen Chipman, vintage guitar restorer, and owner of Vintage Parlor Guitars, and organizer of the swap tent. (Anyone having a guitar or other musical equipment that might be good in the sale should contact Chipman before the festival at src@vermontel.net.)

Saturday also features the children's tent of games and activities throughout the afternoon. There will be lots of festival food and drink vendors on site, and the grounds are entirely smoke free, family and pet friendly.

On Sunday, the cherished all-acoustic show at the historic Rockingham Meeting House begins at 12 pm with doors opening at 11:30 am with Chris O'Brien opening for Eaglesmith.

For more information call Vermont Festivals at (802) 463-9595 or visit vermontfestivalsllc.com.

To purchase tickets, and for more information, please visit vermontfestivalsllc.com. Weekend and day tickets are also available at Village Square Books and Fat Franks in Bellows Falls, Misty Valley Books in Chester, Brattleboro Books, Pleasant Valley Brewing in Saxtons River, and Toadstool Books in Keene, NH. Deluxe tickets are available online only. Listen for WOOL's broadcast of many of the performances.

UNDERSTANDING

The farm boy laughs at the wind-cut weather,
While a crow shakes out a coal-hued feather,
And pecks at the sharp and gusty land.
These two are wise—they understand
The earth is not perversely bleak,
And time must come when seeds will speak.
Not boy nor bird finds rude air strange,
Knowing the sun has farther range.



—JESSIE M DOWLIN
Bellows Falls, 1939

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Vermont Country Sampler
June 2011, Vol. XXVI

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Vermont Country Sampler
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Vermont's Top Summer Events

10th Annual Strolling of the Heifers

Brattleboro, VT • June 3 to 5

Three days of events highlighted by the world-famous Strolling of the Heifers Parade featuring calves led by future farmers, many other farm animals, tractors, floats, bands, clowns and more. Green Expo for food, fun, entertainment, and information about healthy local goods and sustainable living. Free. (802) 254-5546. www.strollingoftheheifers.com.

Quechee Hot Air Balloon Festival

Quechee, VT • June 17 to 19

The 32nd annual festival offers music, laughter, children's rides, shopping, great food, daredevil skydivers and breathtaking balloon rides and ascensions. Adults \$10, ages 6-12 \$5, under 6 free. Fri. 3 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 5 a.m. - 9 p.m. (802) 295-2500. www.quecheeballoonfestival.com.

30th Annual LCI Father's Day Fishing Derby

Lake Champlain, VT • June 19 to 21

America's oldest, largest, family fishing derby. Anglers from over 30 states come to Lake Champlain to enjoy family, friends and fishing. Cash and prizes. Registration fees. Opens 12 a.m. on Fri. and closes at 4 p.m. on Sun. (802) 879-3466. www.lciderby.com.

35th Anniversary Vermont Quilt Festival

Essex Junction, VT • June 24 to 26

New England's oldest and largest quilting event. Free gallery talks, demonstrations, classes and lectures. Shop the merchants' mall and bring your quilts for appraisal. Admission \$12, seniors and groups \$10, children under 14 free. Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. At Champlain Valley Expo. (802) 872-0034. www.vqf.org.

Vermont Summer Festival Horse Show

East Dorset, VT • July 6 to August 14

The Vermont Summer Festival attracts the best show jumpers, including Olympic medalists from across the country and around the globe. Food and shopping concessions. Adults \$7, children \$5. Wednesdays-Sundays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (802) 496-9667. www.vt-summerfestival.com.

Third Annual VT Cheesemakers Festival

Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, VT • July 24

With over 50 cheesemakers, the highest per capita number in the country, Vermont is the premier artisan cheese state. Taste local foods; buy, learn and network. Admission \$30. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (802) 479-9371. www.vtcheesefest.com.

Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival

Wilmington, VT • July 29 to August 7

Celebrate the farmer in us all! Over 60 "blue" filled events in over 10 days in Wilmington and neighboring towns! Fees vary. (802) 464-5618. www.vermontblueberry.com.

Vermont Festival of the Arts

Mad River Valley, VT • August 1 through Labor Day

A five-week long celebration of the arts, throughout the Mad River Valley and beyond (Waitsfield, Warren, Moretown, Fayston, Middlesex, Granville, and Rochester). More than 125 events! (802) 496-6682. www.vermontartfest.com.

Addison County Fair & Field Days

New Haven, VT • August 9 to 13

Vermont's largest agricultural fair. Children's barnyard, cattle judging, tractor pulls, crafts, exhibits, live entertainment, midway, parade, ox pulling, draft horses, youth activities. Adults \$10, kids \$2, under 5 free. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. (802) 545-2557. www.addisoncountyfielddays.com.



photo by Nancy Cassidy

Up, up, and away! The balloons float off over the Vermont evening landscape at the Quechee Balloon Festival.

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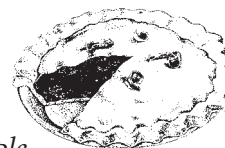
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A Vermont Almanac for Late Spring

by Bill Felker

Where'er you walk cool gales shall fan the glade;
Trees, where you sit, shall crowd into a shade;
Where'er you tread, the blushing flowers shall rise,
And all things flourish where you turn your eyes.

—Alexander Pope

Ephemeris

May 17: The Clover Moon is full at 6:09 a.m.
May 24: The moon enters its final quarter at 1:52 p.m.
June 1: The Mulberry Moon is new at 4:03 p.m.
June 8: The moon enters its second quarter at 9:11 p.m.
June 15: The moon is full at 3:13 p.m.
June 23: The moon enters its final quarter at 6:48 a.m.

The Sun's Progress

On May 21, the sun enters its Early Summer sign of Gemini. Summer solstice occurs on June 21 at 6:21 p.m. The sun enters the Middle Spring sign of Cancer at the same time. Between June 19 and 23, the sun remains at its solstice declination of 23 degrees 26 minutes, and the day's length remains virtually unchanged. Between June 9 and July 3, the day's length varies by no more than five minutes in most of the nation.

The Major Planets of Late Spring & Early Summer

Venus and Mars lie together in Taurus as June moves into Vermont Jupiter moves retrograde from Pisces into Aries, offering its light as a second morning star near Venus. Saturn stays in Virgo, overhead in the evening.

The Stars

The main landmarks of an Early Summer night are Regulus in the west, Arcturus and the Corona Borealis overhead, and Vega in the east. The Milky Way lies along the eastern horizon, together with Cygnus the Swan (the Northern Cross). As the Dog Days and July approach, the Milky Way becomes more and more prominent above you before midnight. When you get up early in the morning for chores, Taurus and all



A yard of bears soak up the sun at artist Barre Pinske's workshop on First Ave. in Chester, VT. To learn more visit www.illanajoffrey.com. photo by Charles Sutton

the major planets will be rising in the east, and the Milky Way will have shifted into the far west.

The Shooting Stars

The Lyrid meteors will be visible after midnight near the center of the sky on June 14 through 16. They usually fall at the rate of about one every six minutes, but the bright full moon will make it hard to spot them.

The Weather Systems in June

Cool fronts are due to reach Vermont on or about June 3, 7, 11, 16, 24 and 30. Major storms are most likely to occur

on the days between June 5–8, June 13–16, and June 24–28. New moon on June 1 increases the chances for freezing temperatures along the Canadian border with the June 2 cool front. Full moon on June 15 could contribute to unstable meteorological conditions in conjunction with the June 15 cool front.

Bill Felker's *Poor Will's Almanack for 2011* is available for \$20 (includes s/h). Mail to Poor Will, P.O. Box 431, Yellow Springs, OH 45387. Bill's weekly radio essays are broadcast on National Public Radio's WYSO Ohio (available by podcast at www.wyso.org). The websites, www.poorwillsalmanack.com or www.poorwillsalmanack.net provide excerpts from his daybook and weekly Almanack updates.

HORIZONS FAR AND NEAR

Why am I so happy here on Judevine Mountain? My friends say I should travel, see the world.

They say I would improve myself, broaden my perspectives, expand my horizons. Why can't

they understand I don't want to go anywhere except out into my woods, down the hill, across

the brook and up into the stand of big white pine about a half a mile from here

—DAVID BUDBILL



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The Romantic Garden

by Bill Felker

I have dreamed about self-sufficiency since I first wanted to run away from home. My fantasies became more intense as I grew older, and they were given an exciting, determinate form in the 1960s when I read my first copies of the Mother Earth News.

At that time, Mother Earth was the basic back-to-the-land magazine. I used to spend hours with it, learning about how people were dropping out of the mainstream economy and were actually making a go of it on small homesteads, being independent, raising families without television and urban poisons.

I think it was the romance of it all that appealed to me most. I was drawn to the tales of living close to nature, far from the city and its artificial social and technological demands. There was something idyllic, daring, rugged, manly about the old-fashioned ways of doing things—heating with wood, producing crops without chemical fertilizers, raising livestock, plowing with horses, getting along without electricity, without gasoline engines.

It didn't take many issues of Mother to make me realize that just four or five acres could make me free, free to wear the clothes I wanted, to think the way I wanted, and to make the world I wanted. And at that time of my life, just exactly what I wanted was less important than the idea of being free to do it.

I knew I had to begin, and so I dug a garden in the shade behind the garage of my rented house in the middle of Knoxville, Tennessee. The plot was maybe ten feet by fifteen. The soil was hard clay. There was no drainage. I thought it was beautiful. No one in the Felker family had farmed or gardened since the early decades of the century. Except for a long patch of raspberries that once spread out of control behind the family home in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and one row of carrots that my mother planted in 1948, I'd never seen food grow. So the Knoxville garden was a defiant garden, and a revolt of sorts. I was breaking with tradition. I was taking up the old trade again, the one the Felkers had discarded because they'd been seduced by education and business success. Joining the thousands of families that had left their farms in 20s and 30s, they made good in the city and never cared much for looking back. I wasn't going to be like them. I was going to be a rebel. I was going back to the land.

The spring was warm and promising that year, and I sowed my first seeds into the red, dry clay, down clean, straight rows, guiding on white string I'd gotten from the supermarket. Lettuce, radishes, carrots, beans. I tamped down the earth with the back of a new hoe, and I dampened the soil with a light spray from the hose. Everything sprouted, and for two weeks afterwards, the earth responded to gentle weeding and the benign city water. The lettuce was especially rewarding, glowing pale green leaves soon taller than the beans.

Then on a Saturday afternoon it started to rain. At first I looked out the window and smiled. Nature was taking care of the plants. No watering needed today. Then I noticed how hard it was raining, and how long. It seemed I'd never noticed that before. There hadn't really been any reason to notice. After about ten minutes, I saw the danger and ran out the back door, across the small yard, and over to the garden. The beans were prostrate, the radishes almost washed away, the carrots gone. Only the lettuce, which occupied a slightly less vulnerable position closest to the garage, were even a



Visitors try their hand at driving the team at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

little protected from the storm. I rushed back to the house, got an umbrella, then waded out to save the lanky young sprouts. But the wind kept shifting, the raindrops became heavier and faster, and they pounded, bruised, and finally tore the delicate leaves apart before my eyes.

When I replanted, slugs appeared, more slugs than I'd ever imagined could exist. An article in Organic Gardening magazine suggested dishes of beer to rout the slimy pests, and so I baited my tiny field with dishes of Blatz. Dozens of slugs succumbed to the traps, but those who didn't drown kept eating the vegetables. I read a note in Mother Earth that said that slugs could easily be captured by hand if you went out at night with a flashlight and caught them in the act. Indeed, I found a lot of slugs this way, but not enough. Several hundred came out after I'd gone to bed. Those were apparently the fastest and hungriest slugs of all, and the second planting quickly ceded to their appetite.

A third garden was never planted on Tennessee hardpan. We moved away that summer, and I went on to larger, drier, sunnier, and far more successful gardens in different locations. A thunderstorm and ravenous gastropods, however, had given me my first and maybe my best lesson in the challenges of self-sufficiency.

I never ran away from home, and I think that was probably fortunate. I never got all the way back to the land, either; that was very likely a blessing, too, considering my lack of skills. I have, however, continued to dwell on issues of autonomy and elbowroom, and, piece at a time, the blueprints and the tools for understanding the childhood fancy and romantic rebellion seem to be coming together. I am seventy years old now. Maybe in a few more years and a few more gardens, I'll figure it out.

"I am seventy years old now. Maybe in a few more years and a few more gardens, I'll figure it out."

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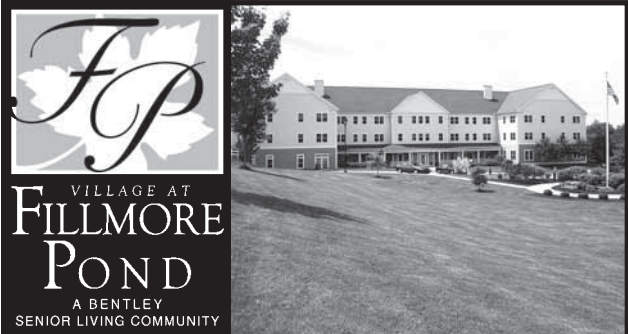
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FROG WATER

It was time to clean the spring and yet
the water tasted as good as ever.
It hadn't gone less cold or less wet
but one feels better never

to let the cleaning chore go too long.
The spring is only a step up the hill
where one doesn't care to foster frog song
running the scale from bass to shrill.

Frogs were hiding where the walls are untiled.
We were bailing frogs when down halfway.
Their white legs shone as the water riled;
they found it was safer to leave than to stay.

One couldn't tell which was father or mother.
They all were sleek and much of a size.
They seemed pleased to leave one way or another;
maybe the chlorine stung their eyes.

I saw one land on a goldenrod;
it eased him down with gentle grace.
He blended in with the muddy sod;
another one quickly took his place.

We all are given to do our thing.
We bailed them out and by careless count any
sixteen frogs in a private spring
are sixteen squatting frogs too many.

—WILLIAM MUNDELL



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Springtime Song

by Burr Morse

One day a while back I put on my other hat as a jazz musician and made my annual trip up to Johnson State College to be a judge for an elementary/middle school jazz festival.

It was a rather unorthodox ride up this year because of the route I took. Normally my "one track" mind leads me on the dirt road short cut to Route 12 in Worcester but I exercised my one once-a-year exception on dirt roads that day—"never in mud season!" I got in my car and turned left, down County Road to Montpelier where I took an "all blacktop" ride up toward Morrisville. Just before I left, Betsy asked if I wanted a great music CD for the road but I turned her down. "CD player's busted," I said, which was the truth, but I had a different sort of "music" on my mind.

Lately I've been thinking a lot about spring peepers because their music has started here in Vermont. In fact I was right there for the down beat. It happened recently in the middle of the morning when I was out on our acreage with the tractor. We had gotten a permit to burn a pile of brush. I had just reached the pile and shut off the tractor's engine. As you may know, we have had way too much rain around here lately but at that point in time, the sun had made a momentary "surprise appearance." Instantly my mind went from the doldrums into a state of peak awareness. I remember looking at the nearby trees and seeing the beginnings of leaves and hearing from a couple crows somewhere in the distance. "This is good," I thought. "Can't wait till summer blossoms." And then it happened—like the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on steroids—"HAL-LE-LU-JAH...HAL-LE-LU-JAH...HAL-LE-HAY-LU-JAH!!!!" The world was ALIVE with

"Their burst of song came in triple forte and not just from their usual swamp but from all directions!"

peepers! Their burst of song came in triple forte and not just from their usual swamp but from all directions—hell our whole farm is nothing but a swamp these days! They continued all the rest of that day and were still at it when I woke up the next morning.

This puzzled me because I thought *Pseudacris crucifer*, our common spring peepers, were nocturnal. Had they suddenly changed their modus operandi? If they had, I was OK with it because I love those little buggers.

I decided to start early and dedicate my day in Johnson to the peepers as well as the students. As I headed up Route 12 from Montpelier to Morrisville, I celebrated my "day off the farm" with wide-open windows, the radio turned off, and an ear peeled for peepers. It seemed, in fact, that their song followed me right up Route 12 past Wrightsville Dam where water was critically high, and on to the brooks and swamps north of Worcester. I stopped at a pull-off by wet lands on both sides of the road up close to Elmore. "Should



A flock of sheep graze by the Mettowee River in Pawlet, VT. photo by Andrew Donovan

get 'em in stereo here," I thought, but when the car stopped and I shut off the engine, there were no peepers. Strangely, when I continued on, they started up again. I was almost in Johnson when all of a sudden I socked myself hard in the forehead. "Hell those ain't peepers at all," I scolded myself. I had been warned at my last car checkup of a noisy left front wheel bearing!

As usual, I was very impressed at the quality of music coming from those students at Johnson. While there, I did poll several people from different areas of Vermont about the presence of spring peepers in their communities. Some said they had heard 'em; others had not, but all of them looked at me a little strangely as though I suffered from some kind of Springtime malady—maybe a bit of "post sugaring stress disorder."

I came home through Stowe because there are some big swamps in that neck of the woods. My trip was largely uneventful. The only "peep" I heard was from that front wheel bearing—Argh—stupid, STUPID!

I fully expected the creatures to be singing when I drove in to my yard but they weren't. "They must have declared a 'weather' day," I thought, as I zipped up my jacket and went out into the atmosphere which had turned bitter cold.

The next time I heard them was a few days later when our temperatures turned warmer, but their song was much less

raucous. These days our neighborhood *Pseudacris crucifers* are lulling me to sleep every night but have silenced by morning time. They are, indeed, nocturnal.

The more I think of it, their raucous, twenty-four hour début was quite predictable. Just like the rest of us, it's been a long, cold winter and when the first warm sunny day of Spring comes along, all God's creatures come alive with exceptional vitality, even the spring peepers—"REJOICE!" they sing, "WINTER'S OVER!"

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STRAWBERRY ICE-CREAM

One pint of cream, one pint of milk, one quart of strawberries, one small pint of sugar. Mash the strawberries and sugar together and let them stand thirty minutes, then add the cream, rub through a strainer into the freezer and freeze.

—Mrs. J. C. Hunt

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Rub a piece of butter the size of an egg into a little flour, pour in two cupfuls of sour cream, one teaspoonful of soda and a little salt. Mix into dough and roll into cakes one-half of an inch thick and ten inches in diameter. Prick with a fork and bake in a quick oven. When done split them open with a knife and spread with nice butter, lay the bottom piece on a plate and cover it with strawberries nearly an inch deep. (It is better to have the strawberries sprinkled with sugar a few hours before they are put into the cake.) Put over this the top of the cake with the crust side down and a layer of strawberries gain; over this lay the bottom piece of another cake and more berries and put on the top piece right side up. Serve with sweet cream. Short cakes are sometimes made in this way by substituting raspberries or other fruit for strawberries.

—Minnie Smith

STRAWBERRY SAUCE—COLD

Cream one cupful of sugar and one-third of a cupful of butter, add the beaten whites of two eggs and one cupful of ripe crushed strawberries; fine for cottage pudding, plain boiled tapioca and other simple pudding; gives flavor of strawberry short-cake.

—A. D. F.

STRAWBERRY PIE

Line a pie plate with rich biscuit dough; prick the bottom to let out the air and bake. When cold fill with fresh ripe strawberries, well sprinkled with powdered sugar, spread over this a meringue made with the whites of two eggs and two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar; put in the oven just long enough to set but not cook the berries.

—Mrs. T. R. Duncan

STRAWBERRY CAKE

Three eggs, one cupful of sugar, two cupfuls of flour, one tablespoonful of butter, and one heaping teaspoonful of baking-powder; beat the butter and sugar together and add the eggs well beaten. Stir in the flour and baking-powder well sifted together and bake in deep tin plates. This quantity will fill four plates. With three pints of strawberries mix a cupful of sugar. Spread the fruit between the layers of cake. Cover the top layer of strawberries with a meringue made with the white of an egg and a tablespoonful of powdered sugar.

—Mrs. Charles Ross

STRAWBERRY SAUCE—HOT

Cream together one-half cupful of sugar and one tablespoonful of butter. Add one cupful of boiling water and put into a double boiler. When it comes to a boil stir in one tablespoonful of corn-starch previously dissolved in a little cold water. Let heat thoroughly. Take from the fire and stir in a cupful of strawberries or any desired fruit, crushed. Serve hot.

—A. T. B.

STRAWBERRIES IN SHREDDED WHEAT BASKETS

One quart of strawberries, three-fourths of a cupful of sugar, one-half cupful of ice-water, or chopped ice, six shredded wheat biscuits, one-half pint of thin cream, powdered sugar. Wash and pick over the berries, crush two-thirds of them, add the sugar and ice water, set in a cool place one hour. Prepare the biscuit by cutting with a sharp-pointed knife, an oblong cavity in the top of the biscuit, about one-fourth of an inch from sides and ends; carefully remove the top and all inside shreds, making a basket. Fill with the crushed berries, letting the syrup saturate the biscuit. Put whole berries, of a uniform size, on top; sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve with cream. Shredded wheat biscuits can be bought of any grocer. They are made of entire-wheat and especially good for a weak stomach.

—A. A. C.



Kids, Vermont strawberries, and a friendly black dog! photo by Nancy Cassidy

STRAWBERRY SOUFFLÉ

Beat the yolks of two eggs in one-half cupful of ripe crushed strawberries, juice of two oranges and one-half cupful of sugar together, then cook for two minutes; add one-quarter of a package of gelatine soaked till soft, the whipped whites of two eggs, and when cold one cupful of whipped cream; turn into a soufflé dish surrounded with a paper band; cover with strawberry jelly and place on ice till needed.

—Mrs. J. H. Tibbitts

STRAWBERRIES AU NATRAL

Select fresh ripe juicy berries, remove neither hulls nor stems; with a tiny brush remove all sand underneath the sepals. Arrange on a pretty glass dish or on individual dishes. Serve with a spoonful of powdered sugar in

small paper cup at side of plate. If berries are not fresh picked place on ice two hours before serving to freshen them.

—Lillie

COTTAGE PUDDING

One cupful of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, two eggs, one cupful of sweet milk, three cupfuls of flour, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar sifted with flour, one teaspoonful of salt; rub the butter and sugar together, beat in the yolks, then the milk and soda, the salt, and the beaten whites alternately with the flour. Bake in a buttered mold; turn out upon a dish; cut in slices; eat with a sauce. Strawberry, lemon or vanilla is nice.

—Mrs. O. P. Morris

These recipes were contributed by "one thousand homemakers" to Woman's Favorite Cookbook, circa 1902.

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A Far Meadow

by Bob Lake

Cast off beauties of another age
 My heavy footed friends
 their memories dimmed by time,
 walk easy in their leather raiments
 while I ride behind
 and guide the rake
 to share their duties with them
 in this splendid meadow.

The land here lays open only to the woods
 no passersby to see me,
 I sing to them
 and tell them of their beauty.
 They take their pleasure here
 to lightly trot up gentle knolls
 and catch the wind of empty lungs.

This is their place now
 pullers of the iron tools
 that man has fashioned from his ores.
 But deep within these massive things
 are hearts
 untamed
 from another day.

I remember a late spring time
 timothy and clover shadowy green
 heavy with the morning's dew
 the sun had just reached the meadow then
 as we approached from above
 on the open hillside road.
 The mower was oiled and rolled easy
 the lowered sickle quickly now
 was gone from view
 they waited.

I engaged the gears
 a bit more firm now in my grip
 I spoke to them much like a voice they knew
 not so much a sound
 much more of friends sharing a call to work.

Mowing,
 a steady world of different telling sounds.
 I was glad for the keen edged sickle
 the falling grasses neatly laying spent
 as round the field
 our steady course was set.

Mowing.
 Mowing.

Together in late morning we rested
 They stood tethered in the shade
 And I sipped from a canteen of sorts.
 Warmer now
 my morning coat became my pillow
 resting
 a mowing sound still moved within me.

Resting deeply on this meadows edge
 my thoughts returned to them
 hearing now the sounds
 of another time...
 I could see them clearly through the time
 it was them, not as a team now.
 They carried men in armour,
 great silvered figures
 mounted, resplendent with sashes
 banners, lance and broadsword.
 They carried men with ease
 their strides of muscled spring.

A nasal song rose from their well arched necks
 a sharpened ear
 and searching eye
 at ready.

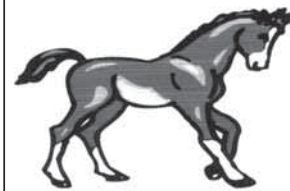
I thought with fear of men aground
 when charges passed
 amidst a trembling earth

oh gods be truly just
 and put an end to times as these...

My rest now quickly ended
 started
 by a great shake
 to rid themselves of flies.

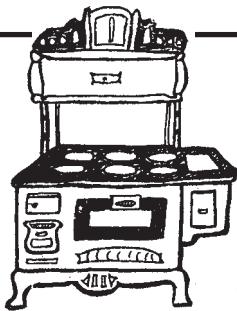
Smiling now
 I readied them to finish out the final rounds
 they
 as willing unto me
 as to a distant master
 they
 gliding easily together
 pulling our chariot of sound
 with lush green banners
 unfurling in our wake
 they
 no less any measure of heart
 given now to me
 ask nothing
 but my dreams...

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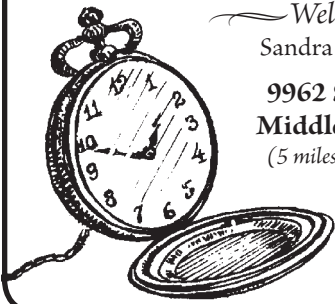
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Doe and fawn pause on the edge of a meadow in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Summertime Strawberry Suppers in Vermont

Saturday, June 18th—Forestdale, VT. Annual Baked Ham and Strawberry Shortcake Supper. Baked ham, potato salad, tossed salad, homemade rolls, and beverages. Strawberry shortcake. 5-6:30 pm. Goodwill offering. Grace Episcopal Church on Rt. 73. (802) 247-6418.

Saturday, June 18th—Manchester Center, VT. Annual Ham and Strawberry Supper. Baked ham and homemade baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, broccoli salad, homemade rolls, and beverages. Freshly-picked strawberries on homemade biscuits with real whipped cream. Served family-style, reservations recommended if stairs are a problem. Adults \$10, children 8 and under \$5. One seating at 6 pm at the First Baptist Church, Rts. 7A & 30. For reservations call (802) 362-3473.

Wednesday, June 22nd—Plymouth, VT. 59th Annual Strawberry Festival. Barbeque, entertainment, free face painting, live music by Chris Kleeman. Vermont products raffle. Hot dogs, burgers, boca burgers, baked beans, homemade salads and beverages. Strawberry shortcake with homemade biscuits, whipped cream, and vanilla ice cream. Park entrance is free for the evening, food is a la carte. 5 pm till dusk, rain or shine. At Camp Plymouth State Park off Rt. 100 at Echo Lake. For information call Terry Bascom (802) 672-5390.

Sunday, June 23rd—Cornwall, VT. 10th Annual Strawberry Festival. Food and family fun. Live music. Lunch with hot dogs, potato salad, beans, fruit salad and beverages. Strawberry shortcake or sundaes. Pies and jams for sale. 11 am - 3 pm. First Congregational Church of Cornwall, Rt. 30. (802) 462-2170.

Friday, June 24th—Waterbury, VT. 36th Annual Strawberry Supper. Delicious buffet dinner at historic downtown church followed by strawberry shortcake (made with local berries!). Full meal includes drink & dessert, or you can get "just desserts." Take-out too! \$8 adults, \$4 dessert only, \$5 children. 5 pm to 7 pm. Waterbury Congregational Church, 8 N. Main St. (802) 244-6606.

Saturday, June 25—Dummerston Center, VT. Annual Old-Fashioned Strawberry Supper. Ham and baked beans, potato and macaroni salads, coleslaw, homemade breads, beverages, and 10" double-tiered old-fashioned strawberry shortcakes with fresh local strawberries and real whipped cream! Adults \$10, children \$5. Sponsored by the Dummerston Congregational Church. Held at Evening Star Grange Hall, 1008 East West Rd. 5 pm - 7 pm. (802) 254-9158.

Saturday, June 25th—Guilford, VT. Annual Strawberry Shortcake Supper. Baked ham and baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, deviled eggs, fresh-baked rolls, beverages, and strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream. Seatings at 4:30 pm, 5:45 pm, 7 pm. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children under 10, kids 4 and under \$3. At the Guilford Community Church, 38 Church Dr. off Bee Barn Rd. (802) 257-1819.

Sunday, June 26th—Middleton Springs, VT. 35th Annual Strawberry Festival. To benefit the Middletown Springs Historical Society. Museum exhibits, live music. Local crafts artists. Strawberry shortcake with homemade biscuits, ice cream, and whipped cream for \$5 per person. Coffee, ice tea, and lemonade also available. 2-4 pm on the Green. (802) 235-2376.

Sunday, June 26th—Monkton, VT. 25th Annual Strawberry Festival at the Monkton Firehouse. To benefit the Russell Memorial Library. (802) 453-4471.

Monday, June 27th—Vergennes, VT. 34th Annual Strawberry Festival. Strawberry shortcake with homemade pound cake, strawberries and ice cream, and beverages for \$5. Vergennes City Band will be playing. 6 pm till dark in the Vergennes City Park. (802) 877-6758.

Saturday, July 2—North Pomfret, VT. Annual Strawberry Supper. Baked ham and baked beans, potato salad, tossed salad, deviled eggs, rolls, dark breads, coffee, punch, strawberry shortcake & whipped cream. Ladies Circle Bazaar and quilt raffle tickets. Supper benefits the North Pomfret Congregational Church. Seatings at 5, 6, 7 & 8 pm at the Pomfret Town Hall. Call for reservations! (802) 457-1014.

Sunday, July 3rd—E. Poulney, VT. 2nd Annual Strawberry Festival. On the Green at 6 pm. Strawberry shortcake. Town band plays and Horace Greeley sings! Bring your own chairs. \$5 adult, \$3 children. (802) 287-2577.

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BENNINGTON, VT

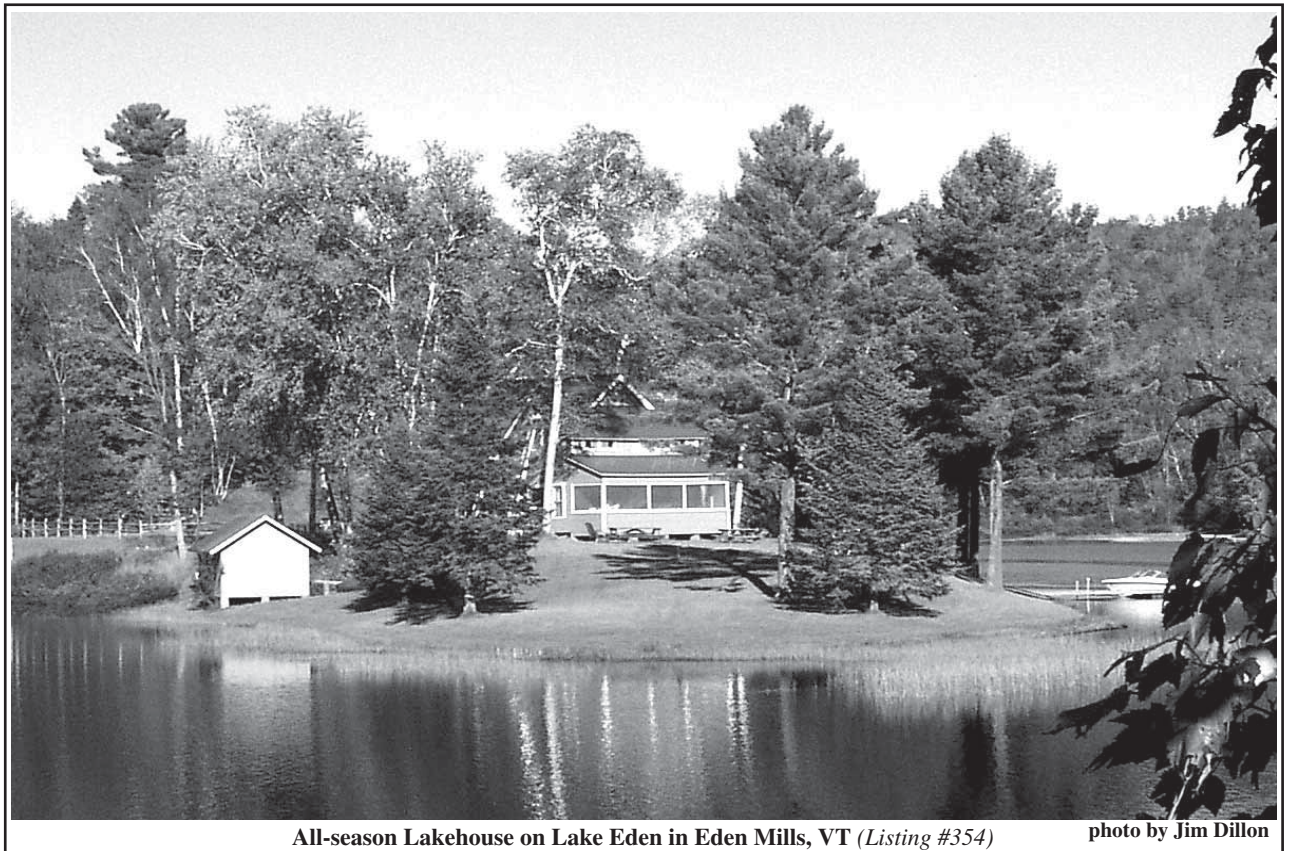
Historic Home in Old Bennington. This lovely historic family home built in 1828, furnished with fine antiques, located on two acres of gardens, lawns and meadow, is just down the street from the historic Bennington Battle Monument in the Village of Old Bennington. Other local attractions include the Bennington Battle Monument, the Old First Church, the Bennington Museum, Bennington Pottery, Bennington College. Near Manchester Center and the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA. The first floor has a formal library-styled parlor, perfect for a quiet read. The family room, the original old kitchen, has a wood-burning fireplace. It is a great place to gather for enjoying a drink and watching the fire or a bit of TV. Meals can be enjoyed in the separate dining room or in the updated kitchen at the antique kitchen table. Conveniently located on the first floor, one bedroom has a queen bed and a full bathroom with a tub/shower. Upstairs, there are two bedrooms and one and a half bathrooms. There is also a cozy TV room. One bedroom overlooks the back garden through a big bay window. The sleeping porch with one twin bed is enclosed and usable all year. The upstairs full bath has a vintage deep claw-footed tub. A half-bath is adjacent to the sleeping porch. Three bedrooms and 2.5 baths, sleeps 6-7. Two-night minimum, or weekly. Pets considered. Contact Lucy Baldwin, monumenthouse@aol.com. (Listing #1330)

DANBY, VT

Tranquil Pond and Mountain Views. Four-bedroom, two-bath house. Five minutes from the quaint village of Danby, this fully-furnished, child-friendly house with sun room and deck overlooks a fresh water pond. Large 20' x 28' family room with second deck overlooks picturesque mountain scenery all year round. Large kitchen, dining room, washer/dryer. Both front and rear decks have views of the Green Mountains and the Green Mountain National Forest to the east and north. Only minutes away are the Appalachian and Long Trails in the Forest with great hiking, and easy trails for children to hike, like the four-mile round trip to Little Rock Pond. 20 minutes north of Manchester, VT and the Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Just step out the front door for walks or cross-country skiing. In winter the Forest is open for snowmobiling. Nearby to Bromley and Stratton and Okemo. Weekend, week, seasonal rentals. No pets. Contact Shellie Buckman, (856) 912-4373. srosner111@comcast.net. (Listing #265)

EDEN, VT

Fabulous All-season Lakehouse with 600' Lakefront on Lake Eden. Enjoy one of the finest lakefront properties on one of the cleanest, most pristine lakes in Vermont. Soak in both sunrises and sunsets as you relax at your vacation home in Eden Mills located on a peninsula surrounded by water on three sides. Swim off the large platform dock, fish for bass or trout from our rowboat or canoe, or bring your own boat. Originally a charming cabin built in the 1930s, it has been renovated and expanded, providing modern convenience while preserving that rustic feel. Gourmet kitchen, breakfast nook, fieldstone fireplace, charming screened-in porch, barbeque, laundry, wireless internet. Great all-season rental within 30 minutes to Stowe, Jay Peak, Smugglers' Notch and Craftsbury XC ski areas. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms; sleeps eight maximum: one BR King size bed, one BR Queen Size bed, one BR with two twins. Three-day minimum, or weekly. No pets. Contact Jim Dillon, (802) 879-6084. jimdillon807@gmail.com. (Listing #354)



All-season Lakehouse on Lake Eden in Eden Mills, VT (Listing #354)

photo by Jim Dillon

LONDONDERRY, VT

Charming Converted Church. Sleeps 8-10. Lovely, private, four-bedroom-plus-loft, two-bath home overlooks water. Very comfortable open-style living, dining and kitchen area including a great fireplace and stained glass windows. Amenities include a washer/dryer, cable TV, VCR, phone, A/C, dishwasher, woodstove in ping-pong room. Three bedrooms, two baths downstairs. One bedroom plus loft upstairs. Beds include one queen, one full, six twin. Patio and small pond for canoeing or skating. Convenient to town, restaurants & shops. Very centrally located between Stratton, Bromley (alpine slide and fun park) and Magic. Manchester's outlets and antiques and historic Weston with theater and Vermont Country Store are within 15 minutes. Enjoy hiking, golf, snowmobiling VAST trails, x-c skiing, fishing, swimming (Hapgood Pond and more) and kayaking. Weekend, week, month. No pets. Contact Virginia Herman, (845) 471-7061. gingerherman@earthlink.net. (Listing #13)

ROCKINGHAM, VT

Charming 1820 Four-Bedroom Stone House. To reach this charming stone house, you cross the nearby 1870 Lower Bartonville Village covered bridge, which one Vermont guidebook calls "a magnificent span." L-shaped kitchen-dining-living room, with bared ceiling beams and stone walls and fireplace, never isolates the cook from the party. Great house for couples or families. Four bedrooms, two baths, fireplace, washer and dryer, microwave, DVD/VCR, cable TV, high-speed internet access. Barbeque and large rear deck overlook fields and woods. Come and relax in this cozy rental in a small, traditional Vermont village with great local swimming holes near the covered bridge. Just five miles from I-91. Charming shops including an independent bookstore, and free tennis, in nearby Chester. Wonderful house for skiing or any season of the year. Week, weekend, and season rentals. Contact Cate, (212) 799-4048 or (802) 875-2376. catebreslin@cs.com. (Listing #39)

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

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



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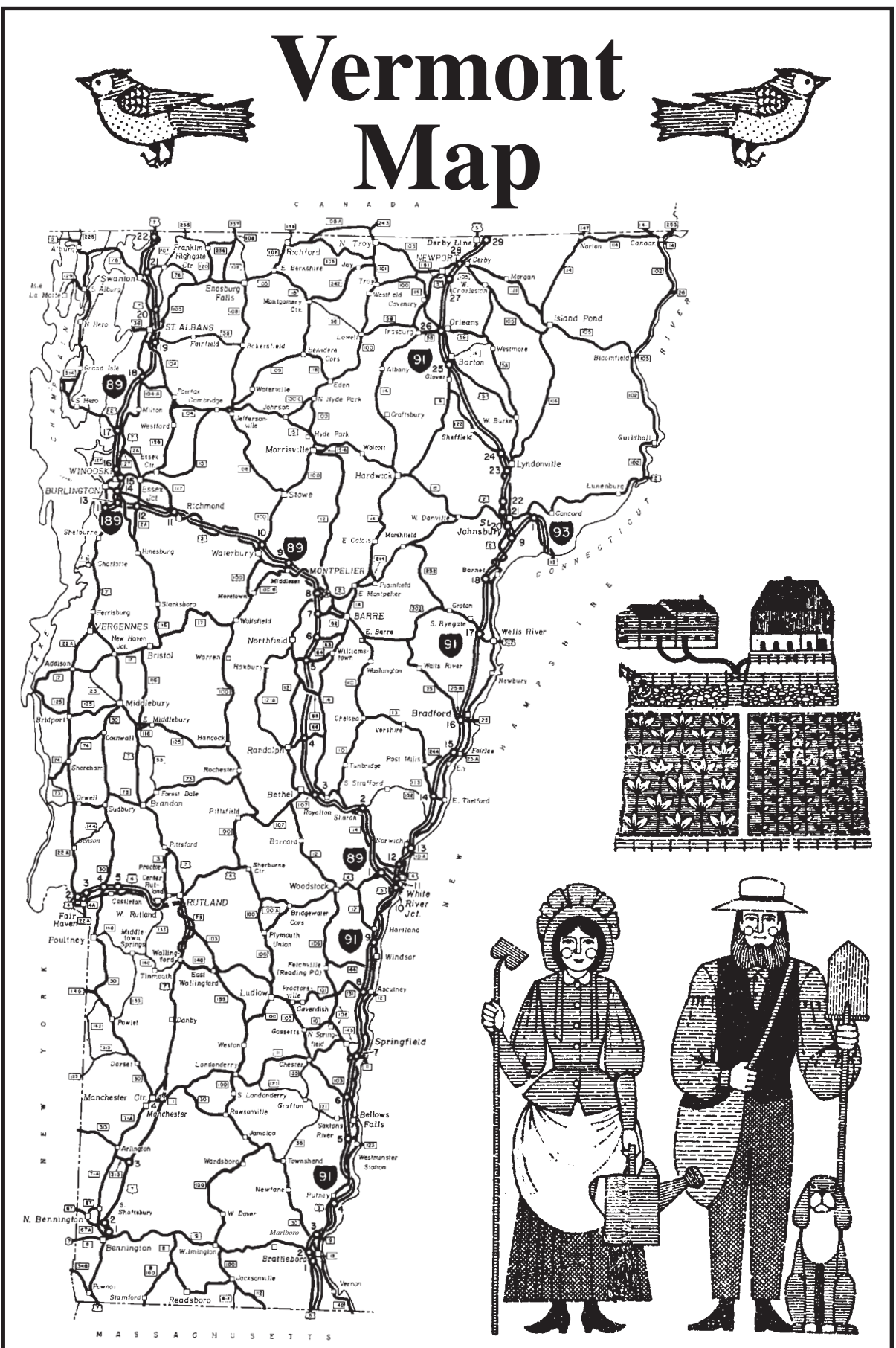
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I met a man mowing
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 So smoothly and flowing
 His swathes fell away,
 At break of the day
 Up Hambleton way;
 A yellow-eyed collie
 Was guarding his coat—

Loose-limbed and lob-lolly,
 But wise and remote;
 The morning came leaping,
 'Twas five o' the clock,
 The world was still sleeping
 At Hambleton Lock,—
 As sound as a rock
 Slept village and Lock;

'Fine morning!' the man says,
 And I says, 'Fine day!'
 Then I to my fancies
 And he to his hay!
 And lovely and quiet,
 And lonely and chill,
 Lay river and eyot,
 And meadow and mill.
 I think of them still—
 Mead, river and mill;

For wasn't it jolly
 With only us three—
 The yellow-eyed collie,
 The mower and me?

—PATRICK R. CHALMERS



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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

BELLOWS FALLS. Fish Ladder and Watershed Visitor Center. Exhibits, displays, and activities focusing on the Connecticut River. Water most likely to be running between Memorial Day and July 4th. Open Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm and Sundays 12-4 pm from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Free. Next to the Post Office on Bridge St. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

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

BELMONT. Mount Holly Farmer's Market features Vermont-made and Vermont-grown products, fresh produce, baked goods, hand crafts. Rain or shine. Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm. On the Belmont Village Green. (802) 259-2322. *June through October.*

BENNINGTON. Cruise-In. Show your classic car, truck, or sports car, muscle car, or street rod. Over 200 cars. Music by DJ Rich Ryder, food by Nan-Z's. Sponsored by Hemmings Motor News. 5:30-8 pm in Hemmings parking lot, 222 Main St. (802) 442-3101. www.hemmings.com. *June 9 & 23, July 21, August 4 & 18.*

BENNINGTON. JuneARTS. A month long celebration of the arts, with events all over town—exhibits, openings, studio tours, performances, and more! (802) 442-5758. www.betterbennington.com.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum—Exhibits and Public Programs, Founding Documents, Fine Art, Grandma Moses, and more. Admission \$10, under 18 free. 10 am to 5 pm daily. closed Wednesday. 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Battle Monument. The tallest structure in Vermont commemorates the Battle of Bennington, a battle that led to the turning point in the Revolutionary War. Daily 9 am - 5 pm. Admission adults \$2; children 6-14 \$1; 5 and under free. At 15 Monument Circle. (802) 447-0550. historicvermont.org/bennington. *Open through October 31.*

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Farmers Market. Local produce, fresh meats, eggs, jams, teas, soaps, crafts, fresh-squeezed lemonade! Saturdays through October 29, 10 am - 1 pm; and Tuesdays through October 25, 3:30-5:30 pm. Beside the Walloomsac River walk at the Bennington Station, corner of Depot and River Sts, downtown. For info call Sarah Sanfilippo. (802) 688-7210. info@walloomsac.org. www.walloomsac.org.

BERLIN. West African Dance. Dance instructor Pape Ba from Senegal teaches a variety of dances to live drumming. A weekly dance event every Wednesday from 6:30-8 pm. All levels are welcome. Capital City Grange Potluck—share delicious food with your friends and future friends, starting about 6:30 each First Saturday, all are welcome, no charge. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org.

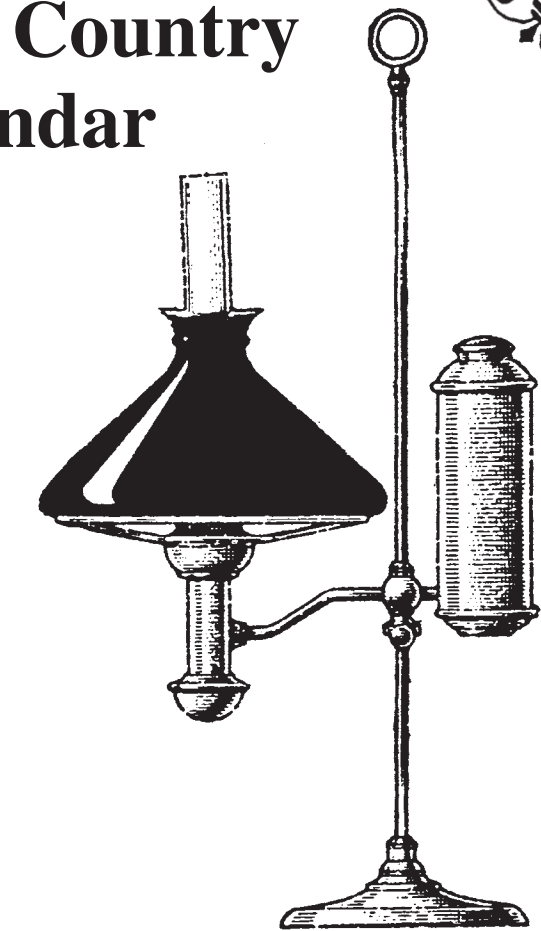
BRANDON. Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace. Also houses the Brandon Visitor Center with public restrooms, which is open daily 8 am - 6 pm, 365 days a year. The museum is at 4 Grove St., next to the Baptist Church at the corner of Routes 7 and 73 West. (802) 247-6401. info@brandon.org.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

BRANDON. Farmer's Market. Produce, breads, jams, honey, maple products, local meats, and crafts. Fridays, 9 am - 2 pm. In Brandon's Central Park. (802) 273-2655. Cijka4@localnet.com. brandon.org. *Through mid-October.*

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Area Farmers Market. All homegrown, homemade, and hand-crafted. Over 50 vendors with agricultural products, crafts, live music, and ethnic foods. Saturday market on Rt. 9 (Western Ave.) past the Creamery Bridge, May 7 through October 29, 9 am - 2 pm. Wednesday market downtown at the Gibson-Aiken Center on Main St., June 8 through October 26, 10 am - 2 pm. Rain or shine. (802) 254-8885. www.brattleborofarmersmarket.com.

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

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



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

BRATTLEBORO. Post Oil Solutions. This organization meets frequently and sponsors many events with a mission to advance cooperative, sustainable communities. For info contact Tim Stevenson at info@postoilsolutions.org or visit www.postoilsolutions.org.

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

BROWNINGTON. Old Stone House Museum. See the new exhibit about textiles in northern Vermont during the early 19th century. Celebrate the Orleans County Historical Society's new archival building. 109 Old Stone House Rd. (802) 754-2022. information@oldstonehousemuseum.org. www.oldstonehousemuseum.org.

BURLINGTON. Exhibit. GLOW: Living Lights. Explore the mysterious and brilliant world of bioluminescence and animals that "glow, from fireflies to flashlight fish. Also workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3 - 17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. Monday - Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org. *Through September 6.*

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

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

CHESTER. Chester Farmers Market. Fresh local and organic produce, meats, cheeses and locally made crafts and other goods. 11 am to 2 pm Sundays, from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day weekend. This summer we're located at the Vermont Country Store between the covered bridge and the Grist Mill. on Route 103 in Rockingham, VT. www.chestervermont.org.

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

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

CHESTER. Monthly Activities at the Gassetts Grange Hall. Craft workshops, Thursdays 2-4 pm, everyone welcome, free refreshments and coffee. For info call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500. Bingo Thursdays 6-9 pm. Dance and monthly community breakfast buffets first Saturdays. Monthly Country Jamboree. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction Rts. 10 and 103N. For info call Dave, (802) 875-2637.

Bats in Need of Assistance From Vermont Homeowners

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking Vermont homeowners to give special considerations in dealing with bats at their residences this summer.

Populations of the once common little brown bat that is typically found in buildings have plummeted due to a disease known as White-nose Syndrome. As the bats return to their summer colonies this month, the department asks that homeowners consider methods to address conflicts with these animals that do not harm the bats.

"The bats that have survived the disease are now leaving caves and mines and migrating to their summer range," said Scott Darling, the department's bat expert. "The females return to their maternity colony sites to give birth and raise their young. In the case of the little brown bat, these maternity colonies are usually in an attic, barn, or under roof shingles."

Populations of the little brown bat have been reduced so greatly that homeowners may want to wait and see how many bats they have left in their residence before removing them. "The numbers of bats present may be so low that the concerns people once had may now be insignificant," said Darling.

"People should continue to respond to potential rabies exposures by contacting the Rabies Hotline (1-800-4RA-BIES). However, when no exposure has occurred, if you are considering removing or excluding bats from a building, please try to use methods that will not harm the animals."

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is currently in the process of listing the little brown bat and the northern long-eared bat as state endangered because of the loss of an estimated 90% of the populations of these two species in the three years since the disease was first diagnosed in Vermont. As part of the listing proposal, approaches are being evaluated that will maintain the ability of homeowners to properly respond when a rabies exposure risk has occurred.

The little brown bat is one of two species of bats often found in houses and barns. The other is the big brown bat which is also impacted by White-nose Syndrome, but to a lesser degree.

For information on addressing bats in your living quarters or in your residence visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com to download the pamphlet *Bats in Your House*.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing, continued)

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

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

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

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

DORSET. Eighth Annual Dorset Farmers' Market. Over 40 vendors with the freshest seasonal produce, artisan breads, grass-fed meats, cheeses, condiments, sweets, gourmet prepared foods, unique artisan goods and plant & flower sets. Live entertainment. 10 am - 2 pm. On the lawn at H.N. Williams General Store, Rt. 30. For info call Nicole Henry, (518) 222-1149. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com. *Sundays through October 9.*

DORSET. 36th Annual Dorset Theatre Festival. Plays include: June 3-5, Charlotte's Web; June 22-July 3, Superior Donuts; July 7-23, Hitchcock's Dial M for Murder; July 28-August 13, Noises Off; August 18-27, Mauritius. At The Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. For tickets call (802) 867-2223. dtf@dorsettheatrefestival.org. www.dorsettheatrefestival.org.

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

EAST HARDWICK. Free Sunday Garden Skills Workshops & Tours. Sunday mornings from June 12 to mid-August. Have a fun and a relaxing time together talking plants! Seed saving, plant propagation, plant and weed i.d., aphids, edibles—you name it. Starts at noon, lasting 30 minutes. No charge, but please phone us first, by the day before if possible, to let us know you're coming. Perennial Pleasures Nursery and Tea Garden, 63 Brick House Rd. (802) 472-5104. annex@perennialpleasures.net. www.perennialpleasures.net.

EAST THETFORD. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center. A certified organic, fifty-acre vegetable and berry farm. Farmstand and Hello Cafe (with wireless internet) is open for the season. Cooking and gardening classes, seasonal events, pick-your-own. Open Mon-Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. www.cedarcirclefarm.org. *Open through October.*

FAIRLEE. Railroad Station Outdoor Flea Market. Antiques, household & misc. items. Every Saturday & Sunday, weather permitting, located on Main Street (Rte. 5), in front of the railroad station. For information call (802) 333-4809. *Through October 9.*

FERRISBURGH. The Elderberry Plants are Ready! Two cultivars, Coomer & Berry Hill, from the stock of Lewis Hill, are ready. The elderberry has a long history on the Vermont homestead, and is used for plant medicine, stream bed erosion control, food for birds. \$12/plant. Honey Gardens Apiaries, 2777 Rt. 7. For more information call (802) 877-6766. www.honeygardens.com.

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

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Exhibits, gift shop, family activities, and special events. New Beginning Family Birding Series. Master Gardeners Evening, Fish Ladder in Bellows Falls. Fairy House Tour September 25-26. Admission: adults \$5, seniors/student \$4, children 3-12 \$3, family \$15. Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 1-4. The Nature Museum, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. lillianwillis@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, and gift shop. New exhibit: *Rivals in Slate, Brother in War*, from June 5 through December 30. Museum is open Tues thru Sat 10-5, Sun 1-4 pm. Admission \$5. Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

HARTLAND. Summer Farmer's Market. We feature locally grown produce and hand-picked music. This year the market is collaborating with Hartland's own Bugbee's Rubbish Removal for on-site rubbish and recycling collection during market hours for a small fee. Fridays 4-7 pm at the Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5. (802) 436-2500. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com. *Open Fridays June 3 through Sep. 30.*

HUBBARDTON. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. The only Revolutionary War battle fought entirely in Vermont. Bring your flag to be raised over the Hubbardton Battlefield and receive a certificate. Visitor's Center with restrooms. Adults \$2, 14 and under free. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site is at 5696 Monument Hill Rd, seven miles north of Rt. 4. (802) 273-2282. www.historicvermont.org. chimneypoint@historicvermont.org. *Open May 28 through October 10.*

ISLE LA MOTTE. 2011 Pilgrimage and Tourist Season. St. Anne's Shrine, 92 St Anne's Rd. (802) 928-3362. fstanne@pshift.com. www.saintanneshrine.org. *Through October 10.*

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

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

LEBANON, NH. The Lebanon Summer Farmers' Market. Fresh local and organic produce, vegetables, fruits, free-range meats, breads, cheeses, homemade crafts, free music. Thursdays 4-7 pm in Colburn Park. (603) 448-5121. farmersmarket@lebcity.com. lebanonfarmersmarket.org. *Open June 2 through September 30.*

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

LONDONDERRY. West River Farmers Market. Organic local fruits, vegetables, and meats; award winning wines and cheese; specialty foods; crafts from over 50 vendors! Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm. In the park along the West River next to the Mill Tavern Restaurant, at the intersection of Rt. 11 and Rt. 100. (802) 875-5004. wrfmvt@yahoo.com. www.westriverfarmersmarket.com. *Open Saturdays through October 8.*

LUDLOW. Black River Academy Museum. Exhibits, programs, gift shoppe. Tues-Sat 12-4 pm. 14 High St. (802) 228-5050. www.bramvt.org. *Open through Oct. 11.*

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

LYME, NH. Outdoor Buffet and Live Musical Entertainment on Post Pond at Loch Lyme Lodge. Every Sunday starting July 3 and ending on September 4. 6 pm sharp! For more info contact us at (603) 795-2141, (800) 423-2141. www.lochllymelodge.com.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon Town Band Concert in the Park. Every Wednesday evening starting June 8 and running through the summer. Bring your lawn chairs, family, and a picnic! Free. 7 pm at Bandstand Park. (802) 626-9696. info@lyndonvermont.com. www.lyndonvermont.com.

MANCHESTER CENTER. The Manchester Farmers Market. Over 20 vendors bringing fresh-picked produce, local meats, cheeses, wine, fruit, preserved and prepared foods, and quality handcrafts. Thursdays 3-6 pm. Adams Park, Rt. 7A. For more information call Nicole Henry at (518) 222-1149. mfmvt@yahoo.com. www.manchestermarket.org. *Open June 4 through October 6.*

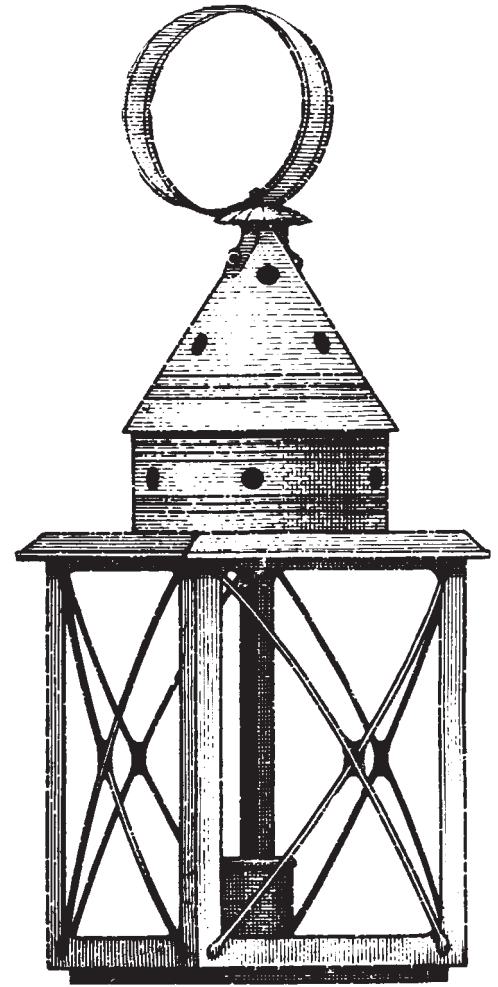
MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Arts Center. Exhibits, gallery, special events, concerts, gift shop, and café. SVAC, Yester House Gallery, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org.

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

MANCHESTER. Celebration of Peonies at Historic Hildene. Come and see the blooms during the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June when the formal garden signals the beginning of the season with 1,000's of peony blooms—many of them from the original 1907 plants. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Tickets: \$13 adults, \$5 youth under 14, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene. www.hildene.org.

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

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



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. Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm and Sun 1-5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

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

MONTPELIER. Book Sale. High-quality, organized by subject, many brand-new. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. Sallen@kellogghubbard.org. *June 13 through July 16.*

MONTPELIER. 34th Annual Capital City Farmers Market. Almost 100 vendors selling fresh produce, meats, cheese, eggs, crafts, baked goods, and prepared foods to snack on! Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm at 60 State St. and Elm St. (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com. *Through October.*

MOUNT HOLLY. Mount Holly Farmers Market. Vermont-made & Vermont-grown products—fresh produce, baked goods, hand crafts. 10 am - 1 pm, rain or shine. On the Belmont Village Green. For info call (802) 259-2322. ssmith@vermontel.net. *Open Saturdays June 4 through October 1.*

NEWPORT. "Puzzled!...Putting All the Pieces Together." An exciting community-wide event. Begins with workshops in June with the full exhibit beginning July 9th during the Aquafest Street Fest/Arts On Main event. All supplies provided. Memphremagog Arts Collaborative, 158 Main St. (802) 334-1966. memphremagogartscollaborative.com. *June 4 through Labor Day.*

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market. Local and organic produce, meats, cheeses, eggs, handicrafts, baked goods, prepared foods, and live music. 9 am - 1 pm. Route 5, one mile south of Norwich village. (802) 384-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Open Saturdays through October.*

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

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

PEACHAM. Peacham Farmers Market. This years market will be as much a weekly community event as a source for quality foods and crafts. With live folk music, children's activities, and locally-made ice cream, the market offers a charming way to spend the afternoon, for kids and adults alike. Thursdays 3 pm - 6 pm on the Historic Academy Green in the heart of the village. (802) 592-3161. www.peacham.net/market. *Open through September 29.*

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Open daily May 23 - October 31, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. On Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

Vermont Country Calendar

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. lynnettecombs@gmail.com.

POULTNEY. Poultney Farmer's Market. Fresh fruits, veggies, plants, flowers and herbs. Local bakers with fabulous pies and treats, Vermont maple products and honey, homemade crafts, foods and much more. Every Thursday 9 am to 2 pm on Main Street. (802) 325-3205. webmaster@vtfarmersmarket.org. *Open Thursdays June 23 through October 6.*

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

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

PROCTOR. Vermont Marble Museum. The world's largest marble exhibit. Visit the art gallery & sculpture studio, exhibits, custom fabrication showroom, and gift shop. Admission: \$7 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 teens, children free. Open 9 am - 5:30 pm daily. At 52 Main St. (800) 427-1396. cmigliorie@vermont-marble.com. www.vermont-marble.com. *Through October 29.*

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

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$10.50, seniors \$9.50, youth (3-18) \$8.50, children 3 and under free. 10 am - 5 pm, 7 days a week. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of the Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

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

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

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

RUTLAND. Sunday Rutland City Band Concerts. 7-8:30 pm in the gazebo in Main Street Park, at the corner of Main St. (Rt. 7) and West St. Free, families welcome. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. (802) 775-5378. www.rutlandrec.com. *June 19 through August 21.*

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers Market. Over 90 Saturday vendors, and a dozen Tuesday vendors. Fresh spring greens, produce, grass-fed meats, artisan cheeses, freshly baked organic breads, honey, jellies & jams, maple syrup & maple products, hot foods, wines, wool, glasswork and jewelry—a great place to shop, eat and visit! Entertainment. 9 am to 2 pm every Saturday and Tuesdays 3-6 pm. Located downtown in Depot Park. For more info call Greg Cox (802) 683-4606 or Judy Dark at (802) 773-4813. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

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

RUTLAND. Wednesday Concerts in the Park. Free, families welcome. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. 7-9 pm in the gazebo in Main Street Park, at the corner of Main St. (Rt. 7) and West St. (802) 773-1822 x 13. www.rutlandrec.com. *Through August 10.*

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

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center—Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings. Open Wed. through Sat. 10 am to 5 pm and Sun. 12 noon until 4 pm. 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPRINGFIELD. Springfield Community Market. Local produce, crafts and music in a home-spun atmosphere. Every Saturday from 10-1 in the parking lot of Chittenden Bank on Main St. (802) 263-5390. springfieldcommunitymarket.com. *Open Saturdays May 28 through October 8.*

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

STATEWIDE. Fishing Season is Here: Trout, Salmon, Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, and Walleye. Licenses available at agents statewide and from Fish & Wildlife's website. Pick up the 2011 Guide to Hunting, Fishing & Trapping where fishing licenses are sold or from VT Fish & Wildlife Dept., 103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671. (802) 241-3700. vtfishandwildlife.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Free Town Band Concerts. Monday at 7:30 pm in the bandstand by the courthouse in the park. www.stjohnsburyband.org. *June 6 through August.*

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

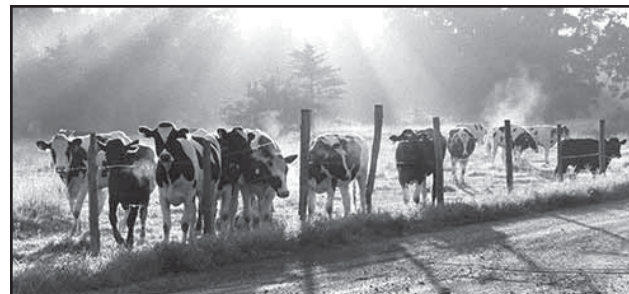
TINMOUTH. Contra Dance every fourth Friday of the month. Admission \$8, \$6 for teens, \$3 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. Tinmouthvt.org.

TOWNSHEND. Townshend Common Farmers Market. Local vegetables, fruits, meats, eggs, cheese, syrup, honey, other local foods, and crafts. Thursdays 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm on the Townshend Town Common. (802) 869-2141. www.posttoilsolutions.org. *June 2 through October 13.*

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

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

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



The Vermont Landscape
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(Ongoing, continued)

WELLS. Wells Village Farmers Market. Saturdays 9 am – 1 pm. At Wells Country Store, Wells Four Corners on Rt. 30. (802) 325-3478. *Open Saturdays through October.*

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. *Continuing fourth Saturdays.*

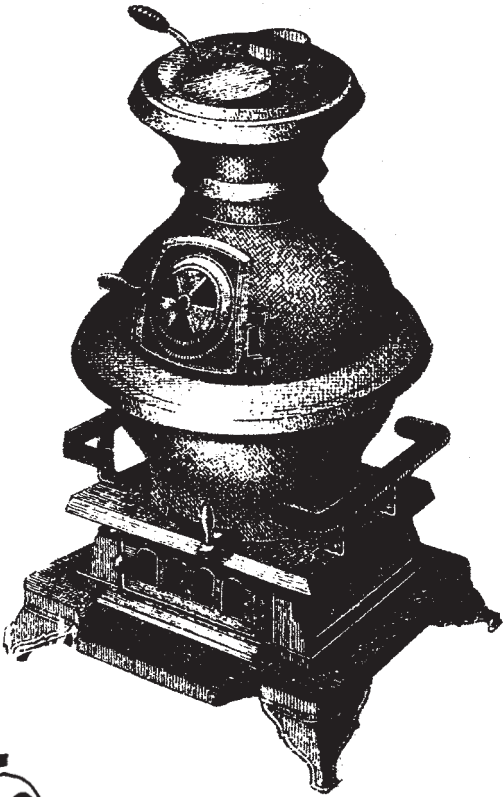
WEST RUTLAND. Free Financial Fitness Classes by NeighborWorks® of Western Vermont. Topics covered include: Basic Budgeting, Using a Checkbook, Saving and Investing, Borrowing Basics, Credit, and Renting in Vermont. Call to find out the dates of topics that interest you. 3-5 pm Thursdays at the NeighborWorks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

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

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

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Co-op's First Friday Celebration. Live music by local artists, samples of local foods, 5% off all purchases. 4-6 pm at the Upper Valley Food Co-op. For more information call Kye Cochran at (802) 295-5804. www.uppervalleyfood.coop.



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

WILMINGTON. 29th Annual Wilmington Antique & Flea Market. Southern Vermont's largest weekend market. Outdoor shopping, collectibles, clothing, jewelry, furniture, house-wares, vegetables and plants. Food concession, free parking and admission. At Wilmington Antique & Flea Market, Inc., Rts. 9 & 100. (802) 464-3345. *Open weekends through mid-October.*

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

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery. Potted herbs and unusual perennials in addition to very large collections of primroses, wildflowers & woodlanders, peonies, daylilies and hostas. Meander through well-established display gardens nestled within our wild apple orchard, woodlands and fields. Cornish Artists' Guild Summer Art Show through September 11. Open 10 am – 6 pm daily. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com. ciderhillgardens.com.

WINDSOR. Old Constitution House State Historic Site. The restored Old Constitution House looks as it did more than 200 years ago. See an exhibit recounting the writing of the most progressive constitution of its time. Open 11 am – 5 pm, Sat–Sun. Admission: adults \$2.50, children 14 & under are free. 16 N. Main St. (802) 672-3773. www.historicvermont.org. *Open through October 10.*

WINDSOR. American Precision Museum. Peruse many historical and interesting exhibits and collections. Admission. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. www.americanprecision.org. *Open through October 31.*

WOODSTOCK. Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. Vegetarian dinner 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance at 6 pm; potluck dessert at 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-10:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation, under 18 free. At the Little Theater, 54 River St. (802) 785-4039. *Every third Friday.*

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

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, festivities, horse-drawn wagon rides, and museum. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

HANOVER, NH. Spring Show—Sheba in Wonderland. A premier hip-hop dance group. Tickets \$4. 8 pm at The Moore Theater. Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Lilac Walk & Talk. 45-minute tours of the Hort. Farm's lilac collection with Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator. Catch a tour starting at 5:30 pm. Bring your lilac questions, friends and a picnic! Free. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SWANTON. Community Breakfast. \$2.50 per person. 7-9 am. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185. holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. www.holytrinityswanton.org. *Also June 15 and September 7.*

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

ENOSBURG FALLS. 55th Annual Vermont Dairy Festival. Midway rides, pageant. Sponsored by the Enosburg Lions Club. 6-10 pm. (802) 933-5921. www.vermontdairyfestival.com. *Through June 5.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. The Manchester Farmers Market. Over 20 vendors bringing fresh-picked produce, local meats, cheeses, wine, fruit, preserved and prepared foods, and quality handcrafts. Thursdays 3-6 pm. Adams Park, Rt. 7A. For info call Nicole Henry at (518) 222-1149. mfmvt@yahoo.com. www.manchestermarket.org. *June 4 through October 6.*

SHELburne. Lunch and "Behind the Scenes" Formal Garden Restoration Tour. Fee: \$25. 11:30 am – 2 pm. Rain or shine. At the Inn at Shelburne Farms, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. For info call (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Rhododendron Walk and Talk. Tour the Hort. Farm's Rhododendron and Azalea collection with Hal Bill—the finest in New England. Rain or shine. Free. 6-7:30 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org. *Also June 5.*

TOWNSHEND. Townshend Common Farmers Market. Local vegetables, fruits, meats, eggs, cheese, syrup, honey, other local foods, and crafts. Thursday afternoons through October 13, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm on the Townshend Town Common. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

BRATTLEBORO. Tenth Annual Strolling of the Heifers Weekend! Gallery Walk and Street Fair Friday night. Downtown on Main Street. (802) 254-5546. www.strollingoftheheifers.com. *Also June 4 & 5.*

BURLINGTON. 28th Annual Burlington Discover Jazz Festival. Come hear the sounds of jazz, blues, funk and Latin music. For ten days, over 40,000 revelers enjoy a unique mix of concerts, dances, jams, street parties, cruises on Lake Champlain, meet-the-artist sessions, and workshops. (802) 863-7992. www.discoverjazz.com. *June 3-12.*

CHESTER. 4th Annual Spring Quilters Weekend. A Country Treasures event throughout Chester. For more information call (802) 875-4377. sue@vermontquilting.com. www.vermontquilting.com. *Through June 5.*

ENOSBURG FALLS. 55th Annual Vermont Dairy Festival. Youth run, entertainment, midway. Sponsored by the Enosburg Lions Club. 4-10 pm. (802) 933-5921. www.vermontdairyfestival.com. *Through June 5.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Beth Hart. \$30. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Films. Gala Benefit Film & Party. Screening of Circus Dreams by Norwich's Signe Taylor, a behind-the-scenes look at Vermont's own Circus Smirkus. Admission \$35. 7 pm at Northern Stage, 12 N. Main St. (802) 478-0191. info@wrif.org. www.wrif.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

BELLOWS FALLS. Fish Ladder and Watershed Visitor Center Open House and Tour. Learn how fish use the ladder and how the dam helps create hydropower. Exhibits and hands-on activities. Free, all ages welcome. Tour 1-2 pm, open 10 am – 4 pm. on Bridge St. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

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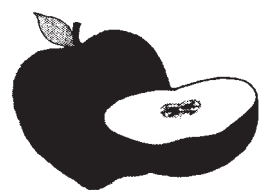
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Country Calendar



BERLIN. Capital City Grange Potluck and Contra Dance. Share delicious food with your friends and future friends, starting about 6:30 pm. Contra dance, Susan Kevra calling to Atlantic Crossing, 8 pm. All are welcome, no charge. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org. *Continues on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays.*

BETHEL. Bethel Historical Society Museum Grand Opening and Anniversary Supper. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Bethel Historical Society. Dinner served at 5 pm at the Bethel Town Hall. Admission \$10. The menu includes ham and chicken, baked beans, potato, tossed salad, rolls and butter, beverages, cake and ice cream. Enjoy entertainment by Spencer Lewis and The Pea Pickers. For reservations call (802) 234-5064.

BRATTLEBORO. Tenth Annual Strolling of the Heifers Weekend! Parade at 10 am followed by the day-long 11-acre Live Green Expo. Food, fun, family festivities, entertainment, demonstrations, film festival and exhibits. (802) 254-5546. www.strollingoftheheifers.com. *Also June 5.*

BROWNINGTON. Spring Benefit Dinner. Enjoy dinner at the Museum. 6 pm. Reservations required. The Old Stone House Museum, 109 Old Stone House Rd. (802) 754-2022. www.oldstonehousemuseum.org.

CASTLETON. Roast Turkey Church Supper. \$9 adults and \$5 for children under 12. 5-6:30 pm. Castleton Federated Church, Main St. (802) 468-5105. **CHESTER.** 4th Annual Spring Quilters Weekend. A Country Treasures event throughout Chester. For more information call (802) 875-4377. sue@vermontquilting.com. www.vermontquilting.com. *Also June 5.*

DERBY LINE. Performance: The Pirates' Den. Annual dance recital of classical ballet, funky hip-hop, and cheerleading. Students between 4 and 17 years old will dance on the theme: Le repaire des pirates! \$10 adults, \$7 children 5-12 years old. 7:30 pm. Haskell Opera House, 93 Caswell Ave. (802) 334-2216. www.haskellopera.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Paddle the Kingdom. The Clyde River flows 40-miles northwest from Island Pond to Lake Memphremagog and features a wide variety of terrain and paddling levels. \$25 includes canoe rental. 10 am. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org

EAST HARDWICK. Annual Children's Parade. Celebrate the end of the school year! Awards for best costume and best decorations for girls, boys, bicycles, tricycles, pets, wagons, doll carriages. There will be a plant swap on the Grange lawn, entertainment and interesting demonstrations by various community organizations. 11 am. Main St. www.heartofvt.com.

ENOSBURG FALLS. 55th Annual Vermont Dairy Festival. Arts and crafts, midway, food, stage shows, two-hour parade, entertainment, chicken barbeque at noon. Fireworks and magicians. Sponsored by the Enosburg Lions Club. 9 am - 9:30 pm. at the fairgrounds. (802) 933-5921. www.vermontdairyfestival.com. *Also June 5.*

HUNTINGTON. Woodcarving Demonstration. Free with museum admission. 1-2 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

JAMAICA. First Annual Jamaica History Day. Take a self-guided tour between 10 am and 4 pm including 22 buildings along Main Street, the Historic District of Jamaica, Vermont. Check in at the Historic Bank Building which houses the Jamaica Historical Society and receive a map and brochure of the buildings on the tour. (802) 874-4151. jamaicavthf@gmail.com.

LYNDONVILLE. Concert: Country Music Superstar Chris Cagle. 8 pm. \$35 general admission on the track (standing) in front of the stage; \$30 in the Grandstands (covered). Caledonia County Fairgrounds. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

MANCHESTER. Pullman Parade! Hildene's restored Pullman car, *Sunbeam*, arrives in town with a grand parade and festivities! 10 am Rt. 7A, Manchester Village to River Rd. Manchester Lions Club Barbeque at noon. Free Wilcox ice cream. Festivities at Historic Hildene, off Rt. 7A, south of town. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene. www.hildene.org.

MOUNT HOLLY. Mount Holly Farmers Market. Stop by and check us out! Vermont-made & Vermont-grown products—fresh produce, baked goods, hand crafts. Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm, rain or shine. On the Belmont Village Green. For info contact Stephanie Smith at (802) 259-2322 or ssmith@vermontel.net. *Saturdays through October 1.*

NEWBURY. TenneyFest. Silent auction, live music, book sales, silent auction, food and ice cream sales, and activities for children—all to benefit the Tenney Memorial Library. Free admission. 11 am - 2 pm. Tenney Memorial Library, Main St. (802) 866-5366. ckidder@fairpoint.net.

NORWICH. Concert: Joanie Madden and Friends—A Celtic Extravaganza. Joanie is a founding member of Cherish the Ladies. A rain or shine outdoor event. Food available. Tickets \$40. 5:45 pm. Upper Valley Events Center, Rt. 5. (603) 437-5100. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

POULTNEY. Annual Town-Wide Yard Sale. One man's trash is another man's treasure. Rotary chicken barbeque from 10 am - 2 pm. Fried bread dough. Businesses offering bargains, too! 9 am - 4 pm on Main St. and throughout town. (802) 287-4144, (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyvt.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Wren Kitz and Peter Squires perform. Experimental and indie-folk. Seating is limited for this performance. Handicap accessible and cash bar available. Tickets \$12. 7:30 pm. Live & Upstairs! Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. tickets@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org. *Also April 16.*

RUTLAND. National Trail Days. Trail Maintenance Day on the Long Trail. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided. Free. For more information call Herb Ogden at (802) 293-2510.

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

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Rhododendron Walk and Talk. Tour the Hort. Farm's Rhododendron and Azalea collection with Hal Bill—the finest in New England. Rain or shine. Free. 10 am - 12 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Advanced Pruning Techniques. Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator, offers a workshop for advanced gardeners. Rain or shine. Free. 10 am - 12 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. FarmWay Shopping Train Excursion. Enjoy a round-trip train ride with music and snacks along the Connecticut River and through the Upper Valley to FarmWay in Bradford for shopping, a cookout, and a free gift. Tickets: adult \$30, children \$20. Depart at 10 am from Union Depot, 102 Railroad Row. (800) 707-3530. dmurphy@vrs.us.com. www.rails-vt.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Chris Smither. \$25. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. For tickets call (603) 437-5100. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Films. Screenings: Thief and Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up? at 10 am; Neshoba at 12 pm; No One Knows About Persian Cats at 2 pm; Teenage Paparazzo at 4:30 pm; The Topp Twins—Untouchable Girls at 7 pm; Dogtooth at 9 pm. Tickets \$9, students \$5, all-film pass \$50. Screenings at Northern Stage, 12 N. Main St. (802) 478-0191. info@wrif.org. www.wrif.org.

WOODSTOCK. Third Annual Trek to Taste. Celebrate local food and local trails by walking up three different beautiful routes, each leading to delicious treats from area farms and chefs and fun activities! Live music, live animals and informative displays. 10 am - 3 pm at Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park. (603) 727-6582. aurora.h.coon@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

BENNINGTON. 2nd Annual Climb of your Life. A vertical American Lung Association road race up the steps of the Monument. Bennington Battle Monument at 15 Monument Circle. (802) 447-0550. historicvermont.org. www.climbofyourlife.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Tenth Annual Strolling of the Heifers Weekend! Farm tours, farm breakfast, cycling Tour de Heifer. (802) 254-5546. www.strollingoftheheifers.com.

CHESTER. 4th Annual Spring Quilters Weekend. A Country Treasures event throughout Chester. For more information call (802) 875-4377. sue@vermontquilting.com. www.vermontquilting.com.

CHITTENDEN. Teenie's Fishing Derby for Handicapped & Senior Citizens. Limit of four catches per person. Food served at 11:30, fishing starts at 1 pm. Prize drawings all afternoon. Museums open all day. All free. Bring your own chair, bait & tackle. 11:30 - 3 pm. Teenie's Tiny Poultry Farm, Teenie's Tiny Rd. (802) 773-2637. rdubin3@gmail.com.

DERBY LINE. Concert: Miss Bobbi Dee & the Country Classics. Tickets \$17.50. 7 pm. Haskell Opera House, 93 Caswell Ave. (802) 334-2216. www.haskellopera.org. www.bobbidee.com.

DORSET. Eighth Annual Dorset Farmers' Market. Over 40 vendors with the freshest seasonal produce, artisan breads, grass-fed meats, cheeses, condiments, sweets, gourmet prepared foods, unique artisan goods and plant & flower sets. Live entertainment. 10 am - 2 pm. On the lawn at H.N. Williams General Store, Rt. 30. For info call (518) 222-1149. *Sundays through October 9.*



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Vermont Country Calendar

(June 5 continued)

ENOSBURG FALLS. 55th Annual Vermont Dairy Festival. Pancake breakfast 7:30 – 12 pm, arts and crafts, horse pulling, stage shows, milk run 9 am, rib dinner 12 noon, country & western jamboree, town band 5 pm. Dairy farm tours. Fireworks and magicians. 7:30 – 5 pm. (802) 933-5921. www.vermontdairyfestival.com.

GLOVER. Annual Bread & Puppet Open House. Music, shape-note singing, shows and freshly-baked sour dough rye bread. 1-4 pm. Bread & Puppet Theater and Museum, 753 Heights Rd. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

HUNTINGTON. Free Early Morning Birding Walk. 7 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. Also June 12.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Lilac Pruning Workday. Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator will give a quick review of proper lilac pruning techniques. Experienced pruners team up with "green" pruners to beautify the Hort Farm's lilacs. Bring tools and gloves if you have them. Free. 9 am – 4 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WEST HAVEN. The West Haven Historical Society Open House and Picnic. 12:30 pm. Bring a dish to share. Enjoy touring our new museum located behind the church in "The Center." In case of rain, the picnic will be at the Community Hall. (802) 265-3675.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Indie Films. Screenings: Idas Dance Club and Much Ado About Mostar at 10 am; Camp Victory, Afghanistan at 11:45; Poetry at 1:30 pm; Farewell at 4:15 pm; To Be Heard at 6:30 pm. Movie tickets \$9, students \$5, all-film pass \$50. Closing night benefit bash at 8 pm at Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., admission \$5. Screenings at Northern Stage, 12 N. Main St. (802) 478-0191. info@wrif.org. www.wrif.org.

WOODSTOCK. Ice Cream Sundays at Billings Farm & Museum. Celebrate Dairy Month! Make and taste hand-cranked ice cream. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also June 12, 19 & 26.

MONDAY, JUNE 6

SHELBURNE. Morning Birdwalk. Join naturalist Matt Kolan exploring woodlands, wetlands, and fields. Fee \$6. 7-9 am. Meet at the Welcome Center. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

WOODSTOCK. Annual Covered Bridges Half Marathon. This popular road race features four covered bridges and the beautiful riverbanks of the Ottauquechee River. From Pomfret and Woodstock to Quechee. For info contact charlie@kimbellenterprises.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

EAST CHARLESTON. Near Full Moon Paddle. Join NorthWoods for one of our popular moonlight paddles. Smell the evening air, listen for sounds of spring, and paddle under the light of the rising moon. Bring flashlight, snack and extra clothing. Weather permitting. \$10. 8 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551.

LYNDONVILLE. Annual American Society of Dowsers Convention. Schools, speakers, workshops & lots of fun. Dowsing schools and workshops are held on the two days preceding the convention and two more days of workshops follow the convention. Registration fee. Lyndon State College, Vail Hill Rd. (802) 684-3417. asd@dowsers.org. www.dowsers.org. June 8-14.

SHELBURNE. Sun to Cheese Tour. A behind-the-scenes look at dairying and cheesemaking. Fee: \$15. 2-4 pm. Meet at the Welcome Center. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

BENNINGTON. Cruise-In. Show your classic car, truck, sports car, muscle car, or street rod. Over 200 cars expected, trophies awarded. Music by DJ Rich Ryder, food by Nan-Z's. Sponsored by Hemmings Motor News. Held at their parking lot at 222 Main St. from 5:30-8 pm. (802) 442-3101. www.hemmings.com. Also June 23, July 21, August 4 & 18.

CASTLETON. 116th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Botanical and Bird Club at Castleton State College. Visit west-central Vermont for birding and botanizing. Registration contact Debbie Benjamin at (802) 635-7794. dbenjamin@myfairpoint.net. www.vtbb.org. Through June 12.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

BRADFORD. Old Church Community Theater Play: "Wait Until Dark." A thriller by Frederick Knott. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 4 pm. At The Old Church, 137 North Main St. (802) 222-3322. oldchurchtheater.org. info@oldchurchtheater.org. June 10-19.

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

DERBY LINE. Concert: Slant Six Swing Band. Tickets \$10. 7:30 pm. Haskell Opera House, 93 Caswell Ave. (802) 334-2216. www.haskellopera.org. www.slantswingband.com.

RUTLAND. Concert with Paul Geremia—Acoustic blues and folk music. Tickets \$15. 7:30 pm. The Brick Box at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

RUTLAND. Book & Author Event. Donald Wickman presents his new book, *A Very Fine Appearance: The Vermont Civil War Photographs of George Houghton*. Free. 7 pm. Annie's Book Stop, 170 S. Main St. (802) 775-6993. www.vermonthistory.org.

WINDSOR. Oh, So Many Varieties—Peony Days! Celebrate the beauty and fragrance of ancient peonies. View our collection of more than 100 varieties and look over our potted peonies for sale. Daily specials, "Growing Peonies" tip sheets, light refreshments. Talk & tour 10:30-11:30 am. Open 10 am – 6 pm daily. Free. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. Through June 12.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

BENNINGTON. Hemming Motor News Great Race. The world's premier time, speed & endurance vintage car rally on public highways! www.greatrace.com. Through June 17.

DERBY LINE. 2nd Annual Stand-Up Comedy Night. A Stanstead Cultural and Recreational Centre fundraiser. Adults only. Tickets \$20. 7:30 pm. Haskell Opera House, 93 Caswell Ave. (802) 334-2216. www.haskellopera.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Clyde Wetlands Conservation Project and Paddle. Free, donations welcome. 9 am – 1 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

EAST THETFORD. Up!—Staking and Pruning Garden Class. Led by Cat Buxton. Fee \$20. 10:30 am – 12 pm. Cedar Circle Farm, Farmstand and Education Center, Pavillion Rd., off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. CedarCircleFarm.org.

MANCHESTER. 25th Annual Manchester Antique and Classic Car Show. Featuring Corvette and Mercedes. Car exhibits, flea market, antique motorcycle rally, antique toy car exhibit, special dinner event. Admission \$10, children under 12 free. Dorr Farm, Rt. 30. (800) 362-4144. manchestercarshow.com. Also June 12.

SUNDAY MORNING

Our neighbor's home cured, apple wood smoked, slab bacon I've sliced myself. Mary Jo's cage free, organic eggs "the girls"

have made for us. Two for each of us, one for Lu Shan, our dog. And sometimes my own home grown potatoes par boiled and fried

in oil with onions, green pepper, celery, herb salt and black pepper. A little stack of toast from bread baked locally and spread with local

butter. Three or four kinds of jam, one of which I made myself from my own grapes. A pot of tea—Keemun or Assam, a little golden Yunnan

tossed in. Then sit down at the table as the early morning sun comes through the windows.

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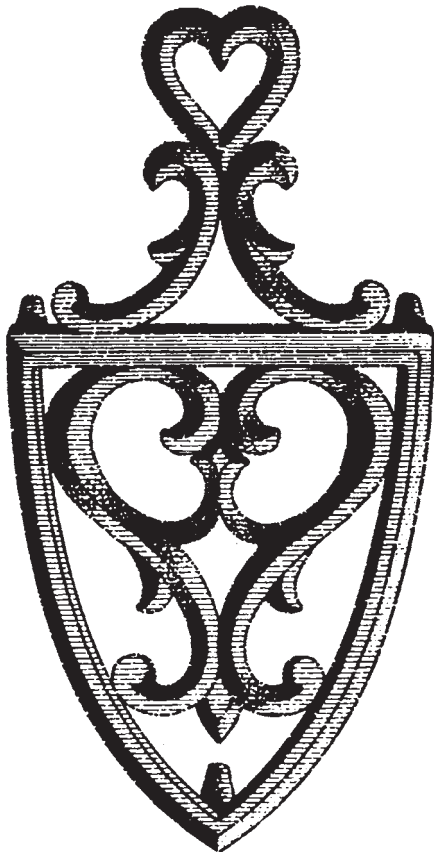
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Vermont Country Calendar



MONTPELIER. 34th Annual Capital City Farmers Market. Almost 100 vendors selling fresh produce, meats, cheese, eggs, crafts, baked goods, and prepared foods to snack on! 9 am – 1 pm at 60 State St. at corner of Elm St. (802) 223-2958. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com. Every Saturday through October.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy. Caller: David Millstone. Please bring a separate pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, under 16 are free, and over 60 by donation. 8 pm. Tracy Hall. For more information contact: Rick Barrows at (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu.

RUTLAND. Extreme Country Stampede Tour & Gayle Sheldon Memorial Ride. Featured artists: Rachel Timberlake, Corey Cox and Crossin Dixon. Tawasaurus Wrex Monster Truck Show. Tickets \$30. Gates open at 12 noon. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 South Main St. www.extremecountrytour.com. Also June 12.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Days. The popular weekend celebration when day use entry into all state parks and historic sites is free! In addition, you can fish in any state park without a license. Come join in the festivities and enjoy all the Vermont State Parks have to offer. www.vtstateparks.com. Also June 12.

STOWE. Forestry School: Silviculture, Recreation and Wildlife Management. Sponsored by Vermont Woodlands Association. Michael Snyder, Commissioner of FPR, will lead this workshop. Moderate hiking. Bring a bag lunch. Fee \$25. Rain or shine. 9 am to 3:30 pm at Stowe Town Hall and Sterling Forest. To register visit website. (802) 747-7900. www.vermontwoodlands.org.

WINDSOR. Oh, So Many Varieties—Peony Days! Celebrate the beauty and fragrance of ancient peonies. View our collection of more than 100 varieties and look over our potted peonies for sale. Daily specials, "Growing Peonies" tip sheets, light refreshments. Talk & tour 10:30-11:30 am. Open 10 am – 6 pm daily. Free admission. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. www.ciderhillgardens.com. Also June 12.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

DORSET. Eighth Annual Dorset Farmers' Market. Over 40 vendors with the freshest seasonal produce, artisan breads, grass-fed meats, cheeses, condiments, sweets, gourmet prepared foods, unique artisan goods and plant & flower sets. Live entertainment. 10 am – 2 pm. On the lawn at H.N. Williams General Store, Rt. 30. For info call Nicole Henry at (518) 222-1149. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com. Sundays through October 9.

HARDWICK. 2nd Annual Hardwick Historic House Fair. Stop by this free event to learn more about your historic house. Experts on historic restoration and research will be on hand to answer your questions and explain the types of work they do. Includes a short architectural walking tour. Enjoy refreshments, sign up for door prizes, and learn all about your home and neighborhood! 11 am – 4 pm. Hardwick Town House, 127 Church St. (802) 472-5920. www.nekart.org.

HUBBARDTON. Staying Connected: Wildlife Habitat. Monica Erhart, Linkage Coordinator for Staying Connected, talks about Vermont's critical wildlife corridors and their importance for wide-ranging mammals followed by a wildlife walk. Adults \$2, 14 and under free. 1 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd, seven miles north of Rt. 4. (802) 273-2282. www.historicvermont.org. chimneypoint@historicvermont.org.

HUNTINGTON. Free Early Morning Birding Walk. 7 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Road. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

JOHNSON. Northeast Heritage Music Camp. A week long folk music camp featuring world class instruction in multi-level classes in fiddle, whistle, flute, guitar, piano, banjo, and other instruments as well as chorus, dance calling, step-dancing, shape-note singing, song-writing, harmonizing, ensemble classes, and more. Evening concerts, dances, & jam sessions. Johnson College. (781) 646-3242. www.northeastheritagemusiccamp.com. June 12-18.

MANCHESTER. 25th Annual Manchester Antique and Classic Car Show. Admission \$10, children under 12 free. Dorr Farm, Rt. 30. (800) 362-4144. carshow@manchesterchamber.net. www.manchesterchamber.net.

MIDDLEBURY. Tour of Local Gardens. Visit seven gardens in Cornwall, Weybridge, and Middlebury from 12-5 pm, followed by late afternoon reception in the Sheldon Museum's garden. Fee \$25. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

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

ORWELL. Program: Mad Matt the Democrat. Historian Vincent Feeney talks about Matthew Lyon, indentured servant, Green Mountain Boy, son-in-law to Thomas Chittenden, land speculator, entrepreneur, and Vermont congressman. Admission: adults \$5, children 14 and under free. 1 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mount Independence Rd., off Rt. 73. (802) 948-2000. www.historicvermont.org.

RUPERT. Program: Vermont and the Civil War. Howard Coffin discusses the Civil War's impact on Vermont. A Vermont Humanities Council program. Free. 7 pm. Rupert Congregational Church, 2890 Rt. 153. (802) 394-7738

SOUTH HERO. Champlain Harmony: A Day of Shape Note Singing. Bring your family and friends or come by yourself and make some new friends! All are invited to join in! Free. 1-5 pm. Masonic Lodge, South St. (802) 318-6229. info@islandarts.org. www.islandarts.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Days. The popular weekend celebration when day use entry into all state parks and historic sites, and the museum at the Vermont Historical Society is free! In addition, you can fish in any state park without a license. Come join in the festivities and enjoy all Vermont State Parks and State Historic Sites have to offer. www.vtstateparks.com. www.historicvermont.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. 21st Annual Lions Club Car Show. Classes of antique and classic cars, tractors, races cars, awards. Door prizes, food available. Rain date June 12. 9 am – 3 pm. At the field on Sykes Ave. just off I-91. Admission by donation. (802) 295-9540.

WINDSOR. Oh So Many Varieties—Peony Days! Celebrate the beauty and fragrance of ancient peonies. View our collection of more than 100 varieties and look over our potted peonies for sale. Talk & tour 10:30-11:30 am. Open 10 am – 6 pm daily. Free. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. www.ciderhillgardens.com.

WOODSTOCK. Ice Cream Sundays at Billings Farm & Museum. Celebrate Dairy Month! Make and taste hand-cranked ice cream. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also June 19 & June 26.

MONDAY, JUNE 13

HUBBARDTON. War Stories: New Tales from the Battle of Hubbardton. Historian Kate Kenney from UVM shares fascinating "new" stories about the soldiers of Hubbardton. Adults \$2, 14 and under free. 1 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd, seven miles north of Rt. 4. (802) 273-2282. www.historicvermont.org. chimneypoint@historicvermont.org.

ORWELL. Program: Wildflowers of the Mount. Join wildflower expert Ann Honan on a walk. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Admission: adults \$5, children 14 and under free. 1 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mount Independence Rd., off Rt. 73. (802) 948-2000. www.historicvermont.org.

MONTPELIER. Book Sale. High-quality, organized by subject, many brand-new. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. Sallen@kellogg-hubbard.org. Through July 16.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

RUTLAND. Concert. The Sully Erna Avalon Tour. Tickets \$44.50/\$29.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

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Four Corners Farm.
Rt. 5, S. Newbury, VT.
(802) 866-3342.

Harlow's Sugarhouse.
Rt. 5, Putney, VT.
(802) 387-5852.

Liebig's Strawberries.
Button Falls Rd.
W. Pawlet, VT.
(802) 645-0888.

Norris Berry Farm.
686 Davis Rd.
Hinesburg, VT.
(802) 453-3793.

Nye's Berryland.
586 Plains Rd.
Milton, VT.
(802) 524-2826.

Wellwood Orchard.
Wellwood Orchard Rd.
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Vermont Country Calendar

(June 15 continued)

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Botanical Illustration and Identification. A Two-day workshop, first session 6:30-8:30 pm; second session on June 18, 10 am – 12 pm. Fee: \$30. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. www.friendsofthehortfarm.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Sydney Lea Poetry Reading. Vermont native and award-winning poet, novelist, and non-fiction writer Sydney Lea will read from his poetry. 7:30 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 748-8291. www.stjathenaeum.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Wine & Fiddle Train Excursion. Sample a variety of Vermont wines, enjoy live music, and relax during a narrated two-hour train ride along the Connecticut River. Admission: adult \$24, wine tasting \$10. 2:30 pm. Union Depot, 102 Railroad Row. (800) 707-3530. dmurphy@vrs.us.com. rails-vt.com.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

HARDWICK. Agricultural Tours in the Hardwick Area. All-day caravan organized by the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE). Hear the stories, tour the facilities, and meet the people that make this area so rich in community-based agricultural enterprises. Tom Stearns will lead a group of up to 25 people to several farms and businesses in Hardwick, Craftsbury, Albany, Greensboro and East Hardwick. Informative, fast-paced, fascinating. \$50 per person, with no charge for children under 10. 10 am at The Center for an Agricultural Economy, 41 S. Main St. Call to register. (802) 472-5840. www.hardwickagriculture.org.

SO. ROYALTON. Growing Local Fest in the White River Valley. A celebration of all things local! Expanded South Royalton Farmers' Market; workshops on solar power, wildcrafting, community radio, canning, composting and more; keynote speaker Tim Stevenson, founding director of Post Oil Solutions; musicians throughout the day, evening concert with Haywire. Food vendors, free tastings; demonstrations, readings, children's activities; and the official release of Upper White River Valley "Growing Local Guide." Rain or shine with big tent. Sponsored by Building a Local Economy (BALE). Free admission. 1:30-9 pm on the South Royalton Green. (802) 498-8438. balevt@gmail.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Outing—Sundown Songsters. Join us for an evening bird walk to listen for thrushes and other sounds of the evening. Meet at the Shrewsbury Town Hall at 6:30 pm. Free. Sponsored by RCAS. (802) 492 3502. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

BROWNINGTON. Antique Gas & Steam Engine Show. Members of the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Association set up their collection of classic old engines on the museum grounds. A great show and lots of great people to meet. 1-5 pm. Old Stone House Museum, 109 Old Stone House Rd. (802) 754-2022. information@oldstonehousemuseum.org. www.oldstonehousemuseum.org. Also June 18.

DANBY. Auction to Benefit Town-Wide Celebration of the Charter Signing. For all ages. Danby Four Corners Town Hall. (802) 325-3015.

LUDLOW. Summer Outdoor Concert Series—Dr. Burma. Barbeque and cold drinks. Free admission. 6 pm until sundown, bring your lawn chairs. Rain or shine. Okemo Mountain at Jackson Gore Inn. (802) 228-4041. www.okemo.com. *Fridays through September 2.*

QUECHEE. 32nd Annual Quechee Hot Air Balloon and Craft Festival. Continuous bands, entertainment for all ages, fine arts, and over 60 crafters. Food, beer & wine gardens, festivities. Over 20 hot air balloons with flights scheduled for 6 pm. Balloon Glow 8 pm. Admission \$12, children 6-12 \$5, under 5 free. On the Quechee Green. (802) 295-7900. www.quecheeballoonfestival.com. *Through June 19.*

WEST RUTLAND. Play. The Marble Valley Players perform 'Allo, 'Allo!—a wacky wartime farce. Tickets \$15. June 17 & 18, 7:30 pm; June 19, 2 pm. At the West Rutland Town Hall Theater, Marble St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountlive.org. *Through June 19.*

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

BENNINGTON. The "Great Race" Finish Line!! Watch history occur as the 103 year-old race that begins this year in Tennessee comes to an end right here on Main Street. Since 1908 this famous race has attracted hundreds of spectacular vehicles. (802) 442-5758. www.betterbennington.com.

BENNINGTON. 250th Anniversary Founders Day. Events include a visit by Gov. Peter Shumlin, a walking tour of Old Bennington, driving tour of the Battle of Bennington, historic lectures at the Old First Church and the Bennington Centre Cemetery, displays of documents from the founding of Bennington, book signings, a parade featuring the Marquis of Granby Ancient Fyfe Drum Corps, and much more! 10 am till 4 pm. www.benningtonmuseum.org/settlers-day.

BERLIN. Contra Dance. Will Mentor calling to Clew Bay. All are welcome, no charge. 8 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org. *Continues on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays.*

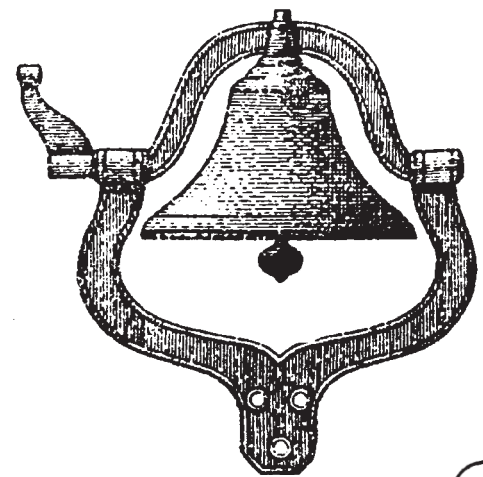
BELMONT. Roast Beef Dinner. Sponsored by the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Dept. All you can eat—served home style. Adults \$10, children 11 and under \$5. Seatings start at 5 pm. At The Odd Fellows Hall. (802) 259-3445.

BENSON. Benson Car Show. Live entertainment, library book sale, great food, cake walk, vendors. Vote for your favorite car. To benefit The Veterans Monument Committee. Rain date June 19. 10 am – 3 pm at Benson Community Hall. (802) 537-4231.

BRANDON. 2nd Annual Civil War Days. Champlain Valley Historic Reenactors, a Civil-War era historic house tour, historic presentations by Author Howard Coffin and Prof. Kevin Thornton. Brandon's 250th Birthday party with cake and singing. Silent film with piano accompaniment at in the Town Hall—1926 Buster Keaton film "The General." \$10 ticket for the house tour and presentations. All else by donation. Registration at the Stephen A Douglas Birthplace, 4 Grove St (Route 7 at 73 West). Starts at 10 am. House Tour at 11 am. Presentations at 2 pm. Singing at 4:15 pm. (802) 247-6401. info@brandon.org. www.brandon.org.

BRIDPORT. Bridport's 250th Birthday Celebration. BBQ, fireworks, street dance, and lots of other fun family events. Bridport Park. (802) 758-2483. *Also June 19.*

BROWNINGTON. Antique Gas & Steam Engine Show. Members of the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Association set up their collection of classic old engines on the museum grounds. 8 am – 5 pm. Old Stone House Museum, 109 Old Stone House Rd. (802) 754-2022. www.oldstonehousemuseum.org.



Musings of a June Morning

by Bertha Holmes Doren

circa 1910

As I grow older, I find a sweetness in human nature that I never used think was there. Like finding a pansy seedling in a garden overgrown with pigweeds.

And I just suspect that it is our business and pleasure to make the finding of pansy seedlings a life work, whether in our own life gardens or in our neighbors' or in our enemies'.

I feel as if there is a happy secret that I know, that though other people see the gray hairs beginning to come and think I'm getting old, it's their mistake—I'm young and having the happiest time. And the best part of it is, that it is absolutely true, barring the trifling matter of a gray hair now and then, which is only a matter of the body, anyway.

All my life I have felt the necessity of occasionally escaping from humans into the woods to air away the human notions and let nature and the other world sweeten my soul and let me find my own individuality.

I look in the eyes of Bobbie, our old cat, and feel the lack and the possibility of a universal language. We understand each other to a certain extent but beyond that we are dumb. It is the same with our pet Shetland ponies. Sometimes it almost seems

as if a new language would spring forth full-grown, complete, and yet absolutely plain and so simple that we wonder how it has escaped us so long.

It seems as if there must be truths that we are all reaching slowly and blindly, but surely. For a long time—some years—I have felt that just outside of my consciousness there is a world that is not perceived by us with our limited powers.

In prayer I often use the words "Thou, who are just outside." And whether it is chance or whether it is not, it always seems to bring better and quicker results than if one addresses a vague God away way off.



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Vermont Country Calendar

COLCHESTER. Lone Pine's Annual Car Show/Sock Hop Weekend. Music, giveaways, free BBQ at noon, spaghetti supper at 5 pm, Sock Hop 7:30-10 pm. Lone Pine Campsites, 52 Sunset View Rd. (802) 878-5447. www.lonepinecampsites.com.

COLCHESTER. Libby's Blue Line Diner 21st Annual Classic Car Show. Celebrate 21 years of fine dining! To benefit Ronald McDonald House. Free admission. 4-8 pm at Libby's Diner, One Roosevelt Hwy, Rt. 7 south. (802) 655-0343. www.libbysbluelinediner.com.

COLCHESTER. The 30th Annual Lake Champlain International Father's Day Fishing Derby. This family friendly event includes \$700,000 in possible cash plus three Starcraft boats rigged with Yamaha outboards! Registration fee. Call (802) 879-3466 or visit www.lciderby.com for more information.

CRAFTSBURY. Concert: Katie Trautz and the Tall Boys. Old-time meets new folk, music intertwined with haunting melodies and southern fiddle tunes. Tickets \$10 general, \$5 students & low-income seniors, kids free, 8 pm. The Music Box, 147 Creek Rd. (802) 586-7533. www.themusicboxvt.org.

DERBY LINE. Concert: Mike Goudreau Jazz Band. Come and enjoy a great evening of classic jazz hits and original compositions! Tickets \$15. 7:30 pm. Haskell Opera House, 93 Caswell Ave. (802) 334-2216. www.haskellopera.org. www.mikegoudreau.com.

EAST BURKE. 3rd Annual Vermont Invitational Lumberjack Competition. Fun for the whole family! Watch record holding, championship lumberjacks from New England and beyond compete in a variety of lumberjack competitions including: Log Rolling, Ax Throwing, Underhand Chop, 2 Man Cross Cut, Stock Chainsaws and more! Delicious BBQ, chairlift rides and more! 11 am. Burke Mountain Ski Area, 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. (802) 626-7300. www.skiburke.com

HARTLAND. Outing—Flora and Plant Communities of Esquia Bog. Best known for its spectacular showy lady's slipper orchid display, at its peak during our visit, this bog has a remarkable diversity of plants in its upland and wetland habitats. Instructor Ted Elliman looks at several invasive species and discusses control efforts. Wear water resistant footwear, bring lunch, and any field guides you have. Sponsored by New England Wild Flower Society. Fee: \$49. 10 am – 2:30 pm. To pre-register call (508) 877-7630 x 3303.

HUNTINGTON. Spring Bluebird Woodcarving Class with David Tuttle. Fee. 9 am – 4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

JEFFERSONVILLE. Green Mountain Relay Race. A 200-mile team relay designed for runners of all abilities. The route travels north-south through the heart of Vermont and the Green Mountains. 5 am – 5 pm. Cambridge Elementary School, 190 School St. (303) 800-5353. www.greenmountainrelay.com. Also June 19.

MANCHESTER. Free Bird Walk at Historic Hildene. The Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. For more information, please call Randy Schmidt at (802) 362-2270 or email randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. Meet at 7 am the Welcome Center parking lot, off Rt. 7A. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.com. www.hildene.org.

NORTH HERO. Honoring Native Ways. Island Arts is sponsoring a celebration of native history, art, and culture. Blessings, ceremonies, lectures on native history, exhibits, dancing, drumming, flute playing, singing, and storytelling. Arts and crafts will be displayed and can be purchased. A family event. Food available. Free admission. 10 am – 5 pm. Shore Acres, 237 Shore Acres Dr. (802) 318-6229 www.islandarts.org

QUECHEE. 32nd Annual Quechee Hot Air Balloon and Craft Festival. Continuous bands, fine arts, and over 60 crafters. Entertainment, food, beer & wine gardens, festivities. Over 20 hot air balloons with flights scheduled for 6 am and 6 pm. Admission \$12, children 6-12 \$5, under 5 free. On the Quechee Green. (802) 295-7900. www.quecheeballoonfestival.com. Also June 19.

RUTLAND. 4rd Annual Family Fun Day. Free family fun—bounce house, obstacle course, games, crafts, dunking booth, cotton candy, live music and more. Sponsored by Calvary Bible Church. 11 am – 2 pm at Main Street Park, Rt. 7. (802) 775-0358.

SALISBURY. Morning Bird Walk. Sue Wetmore takes participants on a morning walk to find breeding birds of the Branbury area. Warblers, thrushes, vireos, and more are some of the possible species to spot. If you're lucky, you may see a peregrine falcon nesting on Rattlesnake Point! Fee. 7-11 am. Branbury State Park, 3570 Lake Dunmore Rd., Rt. 53. (802) 241-3655. parcs@state.vt.us. www.vtstateparks.com.

SHELBURNE. Wild Edibles Workshop. Field naturalist Matt Kolan leads an introduction to foraging followed by a collaboratively prepared light lunch made from the morning's foraged foods. Fee \$35. 8:30 – 1 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. For info call (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Benefit Feast with the Beasts. Our signature celebration of the season! We are especially honored to feature local, Northeast Kingdom food at this event, artfully prepared in a buffet with something for everyone. \$50 per person includes buffet dinner and wine or beer. 6 pm. Fairbanks Museum, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Annual St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Spring Gala. Celebrate our annual gala with an array of delectable hors d'oeuvres and an auction of works of art by well-known Vermont artists. 6:30 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 748-8291. www.stjathenaeum.org.

TUNBRIDGE. A Walk in the Woods: Northern Hardwood Forest Management. Sponsored by Vermont Woodlands Association. Join Paul Harwood, Consulting Forester, on his property in the heart of maple country. Mild to moderate hiking. Bring a bag lunch for after tour. Held outside rain or shine. 9 am – noon. No charge or registration. Directions: from Tunbridge Village and Rte. 110, drive through the Mill Covered Bridge and bear left on the Spring Road. Travel 2.4 miles to the Harwood driveway on the left. Follow the driveway (0.6 miles) to the end. Watch for signs starting in the Village. (802) 747-7900. www.vermontwoodlands.org.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk. Monthly bird monitoring exercise. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 7 am. For information call leader Roy Pilcher (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Carol and Friends. Music for SAPS animal rescue. \$25. 7:30 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (603) 437-5100. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

BENNINGTON. Annual Father's Day Car Show. Awards, dash plaques. Rain or shine. No admission charge. 10 am – 2 pm. At the Vermont Veteran's Home, 325 North St. (802) 823-5626. tkwalsh@myfairpoint.net.

DORSET. Eighth Annual Dorset Farmers' Market. Over 40 vendors with the freshest seasonal produce, artisan breads, grass-fed meats, cheeses, condiments, sweets, gourmet prepared foods, unique artisan goods and plant & flower sets. Live entertainment. 10 am – 2 pm. On the lawn at H.N. Williams General Store, Rt. 30. (518) 222-1149. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com. Sundays thru October 9.

EAST HARDWICK. Father's Day Tea. Croquet will be set up on the lawn, and complimentary boutonnières for fathers. Reservations recommended. 11:30 am – 4 pm. Perennial Pleasures Nursery and Tea Garden, 63 Brick House Rd. (802) 472-5104. annex@perennialpleasures.net. www.perennialpleasures.net.

EAST THETFORD. Father's Day Pick-Your-Own Organic Berry Breakfast. Free horse-drawn wagon rides to and from the pick-your-own berry patch. Buy dad the spectacular breakfast he deserves at our Breakfast in the Field Café, featuring strawberries, farm-made pancakes, Hogwash Farm sausage, farm-fresh eggs, toast, coffee, tea, smoothies and more. Live music. Average price \$12. 9 am – 12 pm. Cedar Circle Farm, Farmstand and Education Center, Pavilion Rd., off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. www.CedarCircleFarm.org.

QUECHEE. 32nd Annual Quechee Hot Air Balloon and Craft Festival. Continuous bands, fine arts, and over 60 crafters. Entertainment, food, beer & wine gardens, festivities. Over 20 hot air balloons with flights scheduled for 6 am and 6 pm. Admission \$12, children 6-12 \$5, under 5 free. On the Quechee Green. (802) 295-7900. www.quecheeballoonfestival.com.

RUTLAND. Rutland City Band Concert. Every Sunday 7-8:30 pm. In the gazebo in Main Street Park, at the corner of Main St. (Rt. 7) and West St. Free, families welcome. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. For info call John Krupp at (802) 775-5378. www.rutlandrec.com. June 19 through August 21.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Botanical Identification and Illustration. Join Jane Neroni, painter and illustrator, and Denise Quick, botanist and Master Gardener to learn how to observe, identify and draw native plants. Bring a sketchbook, sharpened #2 pencils, an eraser and a pigma micron .02 pen (a very thin marker pen). A hand lens and Newcomb's Wildflower Guide is helpful as well. Free. 9 am – 12 pm. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthhortfarm.org www.friendsofthhortfarm.org.

STRAFFORD. Rustic Trellis Workshop. Presented by Mark Ragonese and the League of NH Craftsmen. You will take saplings and with simple joining techniques make an outdoor trellis. Fee \$120, materials included. 10 am – 5 pm. At Justin Morrill State Historic Site. Call to reserve, (603) 643-5384. For info call (802) 765-4484. Also June 20.

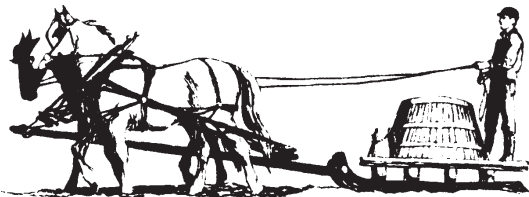
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Father's Day Express Train Excursion. Enjoy a round-trip train ride with live entertainment along the Connecticut River. Optional strawberry "Breakfast in the Field" at Cedar Circle Farm. Tickets: adult \$24, children \$18, breakfast \$15. Leave Union Depot at 11 am, 102 Railroad Row. (800) 707-3530. dmurphy@vrs.us.com. www.rails-vt.com.

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Brandon, Vermont

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www.brandon.org/bluegrass.htm

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www.jewettsgreenmountainfurniturebarn.com

Vermont Country Calendar

(June 19 continued)

WOODSTOCK. Ice Cream Sundays at Billings Farm & Museum. Celebrate Dairy Month! Make and taste hand-cranked ice cream. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also June 26.

MONDAY, JUNE 20

HUBBARDTON. Battlefield Third Sundays. A Hubbardton resident from 1777 (dressed in period attire) comes back to life to talk with visitors about the battle, living in the path of the American Revolution, and everyday life. Adults \$2, 14 and under free. Rain or shine. 1 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd, seven miles north of Rt. 4. (802) 273-2282. www.historicvermont.org. Also July 18, August 15 and September 19.

STRAFFORD. Rustic Furniture Workshop. Presented by Mark Ragonese and the League of NH Craftsmen. You will take saplings and with simple joining techniques make a piece of furniture. Fee \$120, materials included. 10 am – 5 pm. At Justin Morrill State Historic Site. Call to reserve, (603) 643-5384. For info call (802) 765-4484.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

NORWICH. 37th Annual Revels North Summer Solstice Celebration. Morris dancing on the Green then festivities in the Apple Orchard behind Marion Cross School. Picnicking, singing, dancing, and a bonfire and circle dance in the evening. Want to participate? CDs of vocal parts, scores, and info about different cultures are available for downloading on the web-site. (866) 556-3083. www.revelsnorth.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

PLYMOUTH. 59th Annual Strawberry Festival. Barbeque, entertainment, free face painting, live music by Chris Kleeman. Vermont products raffle. Hot dogs, burgers, boba burgers, baked beans, homemade salads and beverages. Strawberry shortcake with homemade biscuits, whipped cream, and vanilla ice cream. Park entrance is free for the evening, food is a la carte. 5 pm till dusk, rain or shine. At Camp Plymouth State Park off Rt. 100 at Echo Lake. For information call Terry Bascom (802) 672-5390.

RUTLAND. Wednesday Concerts: Chris Beard. Free, families welcome. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. 7-9 pm. In the gazebo in Main Street Park, at Main St. (Rt. 7) and West St. For info call Cindi Wight at (802) 773-1822 x 13. www.rutlandrec.com. June 22 – Aug. 10.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

BENNINGTON. Hemmings Cruise-In. Show your classic car, truck, sports car, muscle car, or street rod. Over 200 cars. Music by DJ Rich Ryder, food by Nan-Z's. Sponsored by Hemmings Motor News. 5:30-8 pm at the Hemmings parking lot, 222 Main St. (802) 442-3101. www.hemmings.com. Also July 21, August 4 & 18.

BONDVILLE. Wanderlust Festival. The world's largest festival of its kind, a mix of yoga classes, guided meditations, DJ and band performances, dance parties and other daytime and evening events for fans of rock and electronic music, yoga and environmentally and spiritually conscious living. Admission fee. Stratton Mountain Ski Resort. 1-800-Stratton. stratton.wanderlustfestival.com. Through June 26.

BRANDON. Free Summer Concert Series: The Keating 5 perform. Bring your lawn chairs. Free. 6:30 pm. Central Park, Park St. at Rt. 7. (802) 247-6401. www.brandon.org.

CORNWALL. 10th Annual Strawberry Festival. Food and family fun. Live music. Lunch with hot dogs, potato salad, beans, fruit salad and beverages. Strawberry shortcake or sundaes. Ala carte. Pies and jams for sale. 11 am – 3 pm. First Congregational Church of Cornwall, Rt. 30. (802) 462-2170.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

EAST DORSET. Plant Walk & Talk. Steve Schlusel aka the Weedman leads this informative and fun program. Learn to identify local flora-flowers, edibles, medicinal, and poisonous! No experience necessary. Bring a camera. Great for all ages. Entry fee. 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Emerald Lake State Park, off Rt. 7. (802) 241-3655. parks@state.vt.us. www.vtstateparks.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 35th Annual Vermont Quilt Festival. New England's largest and oldest quilt event. Over 450 quilts will be presented in several exhibits. Over 70 classes with nationally known teachers, children's classes, new quilt appraisals, lectures and free gallery talks, and 85 fabric-related and other vendors. Admission \$12/\$10, children under 14 free. 9 am – 6 pm. In the air-conditioned Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 872-0034. www.vqf.org. Through June 26.

ISLAND POND. Island Pond's Friday Night Live. Jimmy T. and the Sleepy Hollow Boys (Country and Rock & Roll) perform. Please come and enjoy all of the excitement with food, vendors and great entertainment. This is a free event sponsored by the Island Pond Chamber of Commerce. 6 pm at Gazebo Park. (802) 723-9889. www.islandpondchamber.org. chamber@islandpondchamber.org.

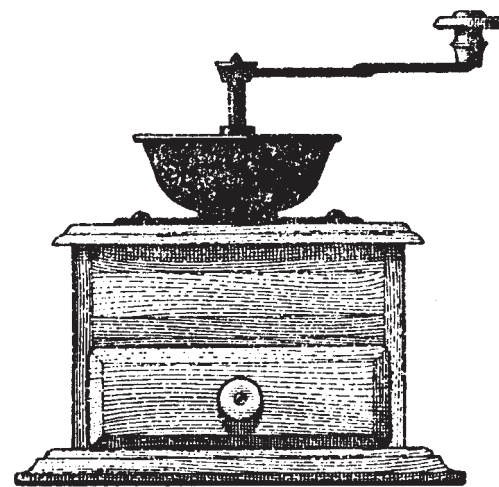
JAY. Doe Camp at Jay Peak Resort. Spend a weekend learning new outdoors skills with other enthusiastic women in the comfort of the brand new Jay Peak Hotel. Or stay in a tent to save some money! Over 35 classes including birding, archery, animal tracking. Scholarships and women with deployed soldiers discounts. Jay Peak Resort, Rt. 242. (802) 425-6211. www.voga.org. Through June 26.

LUDLOW. Summer Outdoor Concert Series—Chris Kleeman. Barbeque and cold drinks. Free admission. 6 pm until sundown, bring your lawn chairs. Rain or shine. Okemo Mountain at Jackson Gore Inn. (802) 228-4041. www.okemo.com. Fridays through September 2.

RUTLAND. Concert. The Machine performs Pink Floyd. Tickets \$28.50/\$23.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Admission \$8, teens \$6, children 5-12 \$3, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org. Continues every fourth Friday except July.

WATERBURY. 36th Annual Strawberry Festival. Delicious buffet supper followed by strawberry shortcake (made with local berries!). Full meal includes drink & dessert, or you can get "just desserts." Take-out too! Adults \$8, children \$5, dessert-only \$4. 5-7 pm. Waterbury Congregational Church, 8 N. Main St. (802) 244-6606. peter@waterburyucc.org.



White River Indie Film Festival Coming June 3-5

Provocative themes ranging from artistic repression in the Middle East to the fight for civil rights to dealing with Hollywood paparazzi are among the many topics on tap during the seventh annual White River Indie Film Festival set for June 3, 4 & 5, 2011 at the Briggs Opera House in downtown White River Junction, VT.

Once again, WRIF's theme is "More Than Just Movies." This year, the non-profit arts organization is making it easier and more affordable by offering an 'all film' pass for only \$50. Individual film tickets will be \$9; \$5 for students with any kind of school identification card. Tickets for the June 3 Opening Night Gala are \$35. An updated schedule and ticket ordering information is posted on www.wrif.org.

Film lovers will be invited to participate in post-film panel discussions, workshops, opening and closing night parties and hands-on seminars led by Upper Valley filmmakers.

All screenings and the opening night Gala will take place at Northern Stage's Briggs Opera House, a comfortable and convenient cultural venue. The closing night party will be hosted by David Fairbanks Ford at his Main Street Museum on Sunday, June 5. All proceeds from the \$5 tickets to the closing night party will be donated to the museum, which is considered a local treasure of ephemera and amazing objects.

"We're delighted to again host the 2011 White River Indie Film Festival at the Briggs Opera House," said Northern Stage Artistic Director Brooke Ciardelli. "We love to partner with them as part of our efforts to engage the community in a full range of artistic expression. Their creative programming gives an important voice to filmmakers who are outside of the commercial mainstream."

Festival director, John Griesemer, said "this year's lineup of films takes a look at a variety of subjects including civil rights, family strife, war, and to lighten things, up, rock music." The festival features provocative films from around the world including ones shot in Korea and Bosnia.

The Gala film is "Circus Dreams" by Norwich filmmaker Signe Taylor. It provides an inside look at Vermont's own Circus Smirkus. Young circus performers will be performing before the screening. "Teenage Paparazzo," a documentary by Adrian Grenier, offers a provocative profile of one of Hollywood's youngest tabloid photographers. Musicians seeking ways to express themselves despite social pressure and government oppression are featured in two foreign films.

The 2011 Festival also includes several workshops on timely topics, including how to use a Flip camcorder, and a session on how to produce a documentary led by local filmmakers Nora Jacobson and Jane Applegate. Director Richard Waterhouse will repeat his popular workshop providing insights on acting for film.

WRIF's 2011 Friday Night Gala coincides with the First Friday celebration in White River Junction. Local shops and galleries will open their doors to visitors.

WRIF 2011 Festival Highlights

No One Knows about Persian Cats (2009), directed by Iranian Bahman Ghobadi, won a Cannes Special Jury Prize for telling the story of two ambitious musicians who try to form a band and obtain visas to perform in London—a kaleidoscopic tour of the crazy, rich and energized music scene thriving under the nose of the ayatollahs.

Farewell (2009), from France, won awards at the Telluride and Toronto film festivals. Sergei, a put-upon family man in the KGB passes secrets to a French businessman in hopes that maybe the Soviet regime will collapse and life will improve for his family.

Teenage Paparazzo (2010). This documentary is by Adrian Grenier, star of the HBO series "Entourage." It was business as usual in Hollywood until one day Grenier notices that one of the photographers stalking him is a 13 year-old boy. He books a video crew and turns the lens on the life of young Austin Visschedyk,

Neshoba (2008), by Micki Dickoff and Tony Pagano, is a searing look at the story of three civil rights workers who disappeared in June, 1964 on the first day of a mission to register black voters in Mississippi. Their bodies were found decades later, buried in mud. The New York Times reviewer said the film reminds us "that the deep springs of bigotry and violence have not dried up."

The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls (2009). This film about Lynda and Jools Topp, identical twin girls who grew up on a New Zealand dairy farm, chronicles their adventures as cross-dressing, yodeling lesbians, including their international fame as well as 50 years of New Zealand history.

Dogtooth (2009) is a skewed, thought-provoking Greek film, directed by Giorgos Lanthimos. It takes us into the world of three young adults confined to an isolated country estate. This strange world is a stage managed by the kids' parents and includes frank sexuality and eerie moods. This selection is our Saturday night feature, recommended for viewers 16 years or older.

Ida's Dance Club (2009) is an Israeli documentary about a ballroom dancing club for Tel Aviv seniors, the majority being emigrants who never truly assimilated into Israeli life. Writer/director Dalit Kimor brings us into the club which is a haven for the dancers.

For a full schedule of films please visit: www.wrif.org or visit us on Facebook.



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Contradance with Northern Spy

David Millstone, caller

8 pm, Saturday, June 11th
Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Admission \$8 (over 60 by donation, under 16 free!)
All dances taught. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary.
Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing.

(802) 785-4607 • rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu

Vermont Country Calendar

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

BERLIN. Traditional Contra Dance. Calling by Mad Robins Callers Collective to our own "house band" of friends and neighbors. Bring soft-soled shoes. Dessert potluck. 8-11 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 225-8921. capitalcitygrange.org. Also August 27, October 22 and November 26.

CASTLETON. Town Wide Yard Sale. 9 am – 3 pm at the Castleton Community Center Green, Castleton Green, and the Community Center. For information call (802) 468-3093.

COLCHESTER. Sam Mazza's 16th Annual Strawberry Festival. Fresh-picked strawberry shortcake with whipped cream. Strawberry milkshakes, strawberry fudge, Pony rides, kid's games, petting zoo, face painting, pavilion. 11 am – 4 pm. 277 Lavigne Rd. (802) 655-3440. www.sammazzafarms.com. smazzafarms@comcast.net

DERBY LINE. Concert: A Tribute to George Gershwin with Michael Arnowitz, a classical and jazz pianist. Tickets \$15. 7:30 pm. Haskell Opera House, 93 Caswell Ave. (802) 334-2216. haskellopera.org. mapiano.com.

DUMMERSTON CENTER. Annual Old-Fashioned Strawberry Supper. Ham and baked beans, potato and macaroni salads, coleslaw, homemade breads, beverages, and 10" double-tiered old-fashioned strawberry shortcakes with fresh local strawberries and real whipped cream! Adults \$10, children \$5. Sponsored by the Dummerston Congregational Church. Held at Evening Star Grange Hall, 1008 East West Rd. 5 pm – 7 pm. (802) 254-9158.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 35th Annual Vermont Quilt Festival. New England's largest and oldest quilt event. Over 450 quilts exhibited. Over 70 classes with nationally known teachers, antique quilt appraisals, lectures and free gallery talks, and 85 vendors. Admission \$12/\$10, children under 14 free. 9 am – 6 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 872-0034. www.vqf.org. Also June 26.

FAIR HAVEN. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Raptor Program. An educational presentation on raptors. Great activity for all ages! Entry fee. 7 pm. Bomoseen State Park, 22 Cedar Mountain Rd. (802) 241-3655. www.vtstateparks.com.

GUILFORD. Guilford Community Church Old-Fashioned Strawberry Supper. Menu features ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, fresh baked rolls, strawberries, shortcake and whipped cream, coffee, iced tea, and milk. \$10 adults, \$5 children 11 and under, and \$3 preschoolers. Seatings at 4:30, 5:45 and 7 pm. Directions: take 1-91 to Exit 1 (Brattleboro). Go south on Rt. 5 just past the Guilford Country Store, turn left on Bee Barn Rd., then left on Church Dr. Reservations, call (802) 257-1819.

GRAFTON. Beginning Birding—Meadow Birds. For adults and families with older children. Fee: \$5, family \$20. Binoculars may be borrowed compliments of Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society. 7:30-9:30 am. At The Nature Museum at Grafton. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

ROCKINGHAM. 2nd Annual Bellows Falls Moose Fishing Derby. Over \$1,000 in cash and prizes. All proceeds will go to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife's "let's go fishing" program. Entry Fee. 5 am – 4 pm. At Herrick's Cove boat landing on the Connecticut River. (802) 376-4902. yemvermont@yahoo.com.

VERGENNES. Annual Native American Encampment. Dressed in clothing faithful to 1609, El-nu Abenaki and descendants of early French settlers welcome visitors, demonstrate traditional life skills, diplomacy, and weapons. Admission. 10 am – 5 pm. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd., adjacent to the Basin Harbor Club. (802) 475-2022. info@lcmmm.org. www.lcmmm.org.

WESTMINSTER. Westminster Garden Tour. Visit several beautiful town gardens. Admission. Sat. 10 am – 3 pm, Sun. 12-3 pm. Butterfield Institute, Rt. 5. (802) 722-3607. www.westminstercares.org. Also June 26.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Greg Brown. \$35. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. Tickets: (603) 437-5100. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

WINDSOR. Manage Those Pesky Pests & Weeds: Talk & Lunch in the Garden with Sarah. Enjoy your bag lunch in the garden while Sarah discusses pest management. Learn to deter deer, groundhogs and bugs. Beverages provided. 12-1 pm. Free. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. Also June 12.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

ADDISON. Amateur Radio Service Field Days. The public is welcome. Admission \$3, children under 14 free. Sat. 2-8 pm. Sun. 9 am – 2 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 7305 VT Rt. 125. (802) 759-2412 ChimneyPoint@HistoricVermont.org. historicvermont.org. Also June 27.

CASTLETON. Town-Wide Yard Sale. 9 am – 3 pm. Outdoors at Castleton Community Center Green, Castleton Village Green, and indoors at the Community Center. (802) 468-3093.

DORSET. Eighth Annual Dorset Farmers' Market. Over 40 vendors with the freshest seasonal produce, artisan breads, grass-fed meats, cheeses, condiments, sweets, gourmet prepared foods, unique artisan goods and plant & flower sets. Live entertainment. 10 am – 2 pm. On the lawn at H.N. Williams General Store, Rt. 30. For info: (518) 222-1149. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com. Sundays thru October 9.

DUMMERSTON. 40th Annual Old-Fashioned Strawberry Supper. Baked ham, baked beans, assorted salads, homemade breads, old-fashioned double-layered strawberry shortcake with fresh local strawberries and real whipped cream. Served family-style, no reservation needed. Tickets \$10. Sponsored by the Dummerston Congregational Church. 5 to 7 pm at the Evening Star Grange Hall, 1088 East West Rd. (802) 254-9158. www.dummerston.com.

FERRISBURGH. Vermont Civil War Songbook. Singer Linda Radtke will share a selection of songs popular during the Civil War. House tours Thurs-Sun 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm. Fee: \$6 adults, \$4 seniors/students, \$2 children 12 and under. Rokeby Museum, Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org. May 22 through Oct 11.

EAST THETFORD. 9th Annual Strawberry Festival at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center. Celebrate Vermont strawberries and local organic agriculture. Horse-drawn wagon rides, strawberry picking, kids' crafts, face painting, roving puppetry, live theater by Gabriel Q, and folk music by the Wall-Stiles. A "good food" concession offers strawberry shortcake and cheesecake, grilled sausages, salads, and local organic ice cream, along with wood-fired pizzas by NOFA-VT. A Green Event with a waste recovery station. Rain or shine! Parking \$5 per car. Come by train, bicycle or on foot and get in free! 10 am – 4 pm. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, Pavillion Rd., off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. CedarCircleFarm.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 35th Annual Vermont Quilt Festival. New England's largest and oldest quilt event. Over 450 quilts exhibited. Admission \$12/\$10, children under 14 free. 9 am – 3 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 872-0034. www.vqf.org.

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS. 35th Annual Strawberry Festival. To benefit the Middletown Springs Historical Society. Museum exhibits, live music. Local crafts artists. Strawberry shortcake with homemade biscuits, ice cream, and whipped cream for \$5 per person. Coffee, iced tea, and lemonade also available. 2-4 pm on the Green. (802) 235-2376.

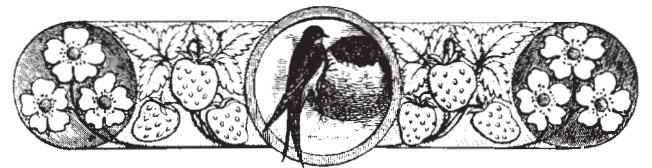
RUTLAND. Rutland City Band Concert. Every Sunday 7-8:30 pm. In the gazebo in Main Street Park, at the corner of Main St. (Rt. 7) and West St. Free, families welcome. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. (802) 775-5378. www.rutlandrec.com. Through August 21.

WOODSTOCK. Ice Cream Sundays at Billings Farm & Museum. Celebrate Dairy Month! Make and taste hand-cranked ice cream. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, JUNE 27

GREENSBORO. Mask Making Workshop for Kids. Design and build the Wonder & Wisdom Funky Fourth Float with some mask-making fun. Janice Walrafen, mask maker and coordinator of the Vermont All Species Project, will be joining us as a resident artist this week. 9 am - 4 pm. Registration required. Greensboro Wonder & Wisdom. (802) 533-9216. info@wonderwisdom.org. www.wonderwisdom.org. Through July 1.

VERGENNES. 34th Annual Strawberry Festival Strawberry shortcake with homemade pound cake, berries, ice cream, and beverages for \$5. Vergennes City Band will be playing. 6 pm till dark in the Vergennes City Park. (802) 877-6758.



Wild Strawberry Pie

by Euell Gibbons

A delightful dessert combines wild strawberries with cream cheese in a pie which will make you the envy of all the cooks in the neighborhood. This requires a 9-inch baked and cooled pie shell. Let an 8-ounce package of cream cheese stay in a warm place until it softens, then blend it with 2 tablespoons of lemon juice, a little grated lemon peel and ¼ cup of sugar. Spread this evenly over the bottom of the pie shell, then fill the shell to the top with well-drained sugared wild strawberries. Cover the berries with a glaze made by cooking 1 cup of the strained juice from the sugared berries with 2 teaspoons of cornstarch. Use low heat and stir constantly until it is thick and clear. Let this glaze cool to lukewarm, then pour it over the berries in the shell. Chill before serving and pass around a bowl of whipped cream for those who want it.

Rural Vermont's Raw Dairy Processing Classes Return

Join Rural Vermont and raw milk enthusiasts in celebrating the passage of S.105, a bill that restores Vermonters' rights to teach, learn, and make dairy products for home consumption!

"Our vision for a Vermont agricultural system is one that places people over profits and serves our local communities rather than Wall Street investors," Jared Carter, executive director of Rural Vermont, explains. In response to Governor Shumlin signing this landmark legislation, Rural Vermont is holding a Raw Milk Victory Celebration and Free Ice Cream Social from 7-8:30 pm on Wednesday, June 8th at Jersey Girls Dairy at 157 Thompson Rd. in Chester, VT. There will be a class on how to make raw milk ice cream and ricotta cheese from 1-4 pm. Pre-registration required with a \$20-40 sliding scale fee.

Learn how to make raw milk butter, yogurt, whipped cream & buttermilk scones at Hawk's Hill Farm in Barnard, VT on Saturday, July 23rd and Saturday, August 13th from 1-4 pm. Same class, two dates! Pre-register, \$20-40 sliding scale fee.

On Thursday, July 28th from 1-4 pm, learn to make kefir, ricotta, & soft serve ice cream with goats' milk at Twin Acres in Randolph Center, VT. Pre-register, \$20-40 sliding scale fee.

To sign up for the classes or for more information, call (802) 223-7222 or e-mail shelby@ruralvermont.org. Visit www.ruralvermont.org.

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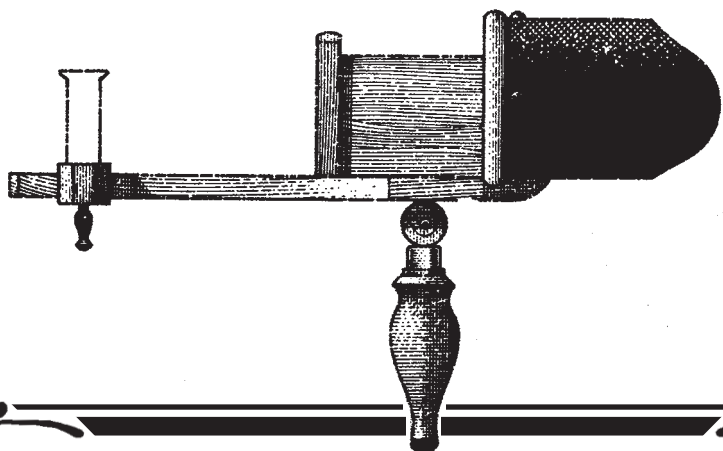
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North Country Book News

Organic Gardening (not just) in The Northeast A Hands-On Month-by-Month Guide

by Henry Homeyer

(Bunker Hill Publishing, Piermont, N.H.)

With local strawberries about to come on the market many gardeners might be wishing they had planted their own, but when and what kind?

Look no further than this well-written and informative but often amusing book that makes gardening a year-round adventure whether your 'green-thumb' is best suited for vegetables, shrubs, or trees. For strawberries, Homeyer advises the day-neutral or everbearing variety that can be harvested all summer long as well as a fall crop, too. "All strawberries hate weeds, so mulch like crazy," he advises.

The author started gardening as a toddler more than 60 years ago, but only started writing about the "gardening magic" 10 years ago. Some 500 articles were written since then; and as he says, his favorites and those of his readers were weeded out for this book.

As for weeds in your garden, he recommends pulling a few every day. "Make it a habit like brushing your teeth."

As a journalist, Homeyer has the knack for finding people with good gardening stories to tell.

An example was finding Joey Klein of Plainfield, VT at the Tunbridge World's Fair where he won a blue ribbon for his 18-inch long organically raised carrots. Joey attributed his success with carrots to weed control, proper watering, and raising them in soil built up with organic matter from cover crops (oats, peas, barley) that are mowed and ploughed into the soil.

For growing giant pumpkins, the author checks out a 225-pound prize winner grown by Karen and Steve Cutter of Cornish, NH, who share their secrets on how to produce such a wonder, grown from Dills Atlantic Giant seeds.

A remarkable story is also told about Bill Shepard of Thetford, VT, who decided that over the course of his life he would create an arboretum, which would not only please him but would nurture wildlife.

Bill today has 30 species of trees growing on half an acre of land surrounding his house. The arboretum cost very little as family and friends gave him seedlings that were generally 12-24 inches tall. The first tree he planted was a thornless honey locust. More unusual trees include beaked filbert, mountain maple, and hackberry, as well as shrubs including witchhazel, elderberry, pagoda and red osier dogwood, blueberries and hobblebush.

Chapter headings invite the reader to learn still more. Some examples: Compost Tea; Weeding 101; Watering 101; Standing Stones in The Garden; Saving Seeds; Growing Garlic; Hoes and Wheelbarrows; and Growing Bananas and Other Unusual Plants from Seed.

This is an exceptional book as it not only includes excellent technical advice, but captures the joy and fun of the growing season, and the people who make it happen.

Organic Gardening (not just) in The Northeast by Henry Homeyer is available at bookstores for \$17.50 or can be ordered from Bunker Hill Publishing, 285 River Rd., Piermont, NH 03770. (603) 272-9221. www.bunkerhillpublishing.com.



Elfie—The Elephant Who Dreamed of Being a Ballerina

and

Do You Speak Lion?

by Patrick 'Tex' Texier

(Published by Korongo Graphics, Randolph VT)

The author of this colorful little children's book was a photographic safari guide in Africa for 37 years and has seen thousands of wild animals living in their natural habitat. Add to those years of experience, a good sense of humor, and a handy hand at drawing cartoons, and one has the makings for this unusual children's book.

A native of France, Tex also tells the story of the elephant wanting to become a ballerina in both English and French.

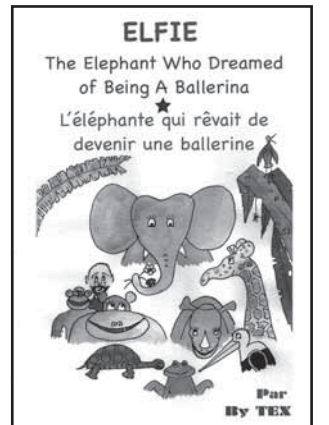
As the story unfolds Elfie gains the support of a hippopotamus and a rhinoceros in her dream, and they get Tallie the giraffe, a star ballet dancer in her day, to agree to teach the elephant to do the ballet. Elfie works up a good sweat learning the movements for her gala premier performance.

Storky the marabou puts together an orchestra of animals playing different instruments: monkeys on the percussion, frogs the bass, and songbirds on all the other instruments.

A large number of jungle animals (and a few humans) turn out for the successful event and Elfie has to give over 20 encores! The amusing full page drawings show the animals all having a really good time.

Tex has authored another children's book with a more serious African theme, *Do You Speak Lion?* This tells the story of an impoverished village of Lodonil where the surrounding kingdom of animals have intimidated the villagers into being too scared

to grow fruits and vegetables, graze animals, catch fish, or even to gather plants for the medicine man. One villager, Mamadou, asks his goat why it has stopped giving milk,



and the goat tells him it can't eat enough grass because of a lion. "Tell the lion to leave me alone," the goat asks. Mamadou not only finds out he can talk reason to the lion, but to other animals, too. The villagers take certain precautions, the bounty is shared, and the village thrives.

The lion tells Mamadou to tell the herders and hunters to wear a red cloth to remind the animals of the new survival rules.

We learn that is why today the Masai people wear the red cloth at all times. Again, Tex's drawings capture the spirit and life of Africa.

Elfie—The Elephant Who Dreamed of Being a Ballerina and *Do You Speak Lion?* both by Patrick 'Tex' Texier can be purchased for \$14 each from the Korongo Gallery, 18 Merchants Row, Randolph, VT 05060. Call (802) 728-6708.



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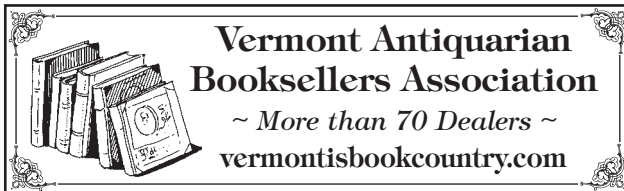
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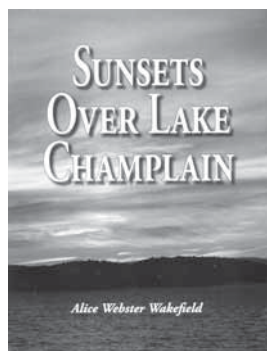


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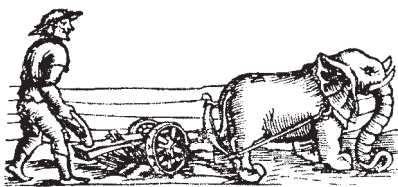
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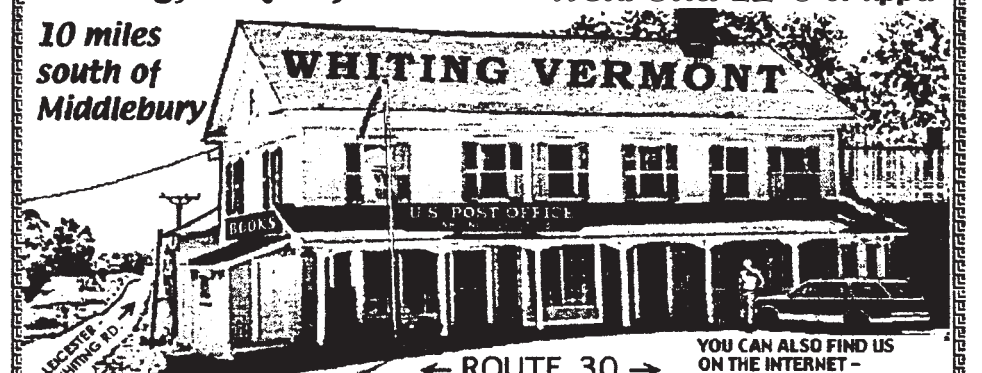
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Asa—The Squirrel

by Doug Hall

(Published by Annex Press, Windsor, VT)

This unusual and touching story about rescuing, raising, and later freeing an animal from the wild began one spring afternoon when the motorist-author accidentally kills a red squirrel on a back road in Hartland, VT, only to discover the dead animal had been moving her baby that is still alive.

Doug Hall brings the tiny squirrel home to his wife Rosemary, and couple quickly prepares a make-shift home in a wooden box and from advice from a friend they start feeding the baby squirrel with an eyedropper—a saving formula of milk, egg yoke, and Karo syrup.

The baby squirrel is hairless, with a purplish pink body, a string of a tail, a little pointed face with whiskers, closed eyes and tiny flat ears. The baby weighs one ounce, and requires feedings three times a day, usually 4 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. All is going well and at the end of one week a livelier baby squirrel is given larger living quarters: a forest green salad bowl lined with pieces of old L.L.Bean flannel pajamas. But somehow the squirrel manages to climb out of the bowl

Book Review by Charles Sutton

and falls 30 inches to the pine floor where Doug just misses crushing it under his shoe. New measures are taken for safer housing, including an out-of-the-way place in an old ski boot.

The pet squirrel is given the name Asa after a friend and old-timer Asa Howe who used to live on Hartland Hill. Shortly thereafter Doug learns that he-squirrel is a she-squirrel, but the couple decides to keep the name, which in Hebrew means healer.

And Doug writes: "I like that; it speaks to my experience with Asa the squirrel. She led me back to my writing desk. That's healing for me." The writing included articles on Asa's progress in the local newspaper, The Windsor Chronicle.

Asa thrives and starts enjoying a diet of almonds, sugar cookies, bits of carrot and sunflower seeds, as well as instant baby cereal mixed with Esbilac baby formula.

Soon it comes time again (she is three months old) to get her weighed at the local post office. This outing usually takes only 15 minutes, but the trip becomes a nightmare and near disaster. Asa manages to escape out of her carrying case—a blue cloth bag—and then scrambles up and out a nearly closed car window. "Using all her squirrel strength, she pulled her body up so that her back feet also got a grip on the edge of the glass," Doug writes. With instinctive agility she leaps to the payment and disappears into neighbor Grace Fontaine's yard and then under her front porch. Perhaps not quite ready for returning to the wilds, Asa appears and returns to Doug and climbs up his arm. After one false start, man and tiny animal return to the car and safely home!

Life returns to normal (as normal as it can be under these unusual circumstances), and Asa's life revolves around jump-



Doug Hall with red squirrel Asa on his shoulder.

ing back and forth on a wooden laundry rack and having free run of the living room. Asa doesn't scratch or gnaw any of the furniture, but limits that to a piece of driftwood and a nail keg which also has become her feeding station. Her survival and growing up is watched carefully and admired by a community of people of all ages, many of whom turn up for her farewell party.

Doug and Rosemary know all along that Asa would have to be returned to her natural habitat, and they decide to free her when the time comes at a two-acre tract of land they own on Hartland Hill. The rural setting includes ash, maple, ironwood, sherry and poplar trees near a little brook. The site is not far from where Asa's mother was accidentally killed and she as a tiny baby was rescued.

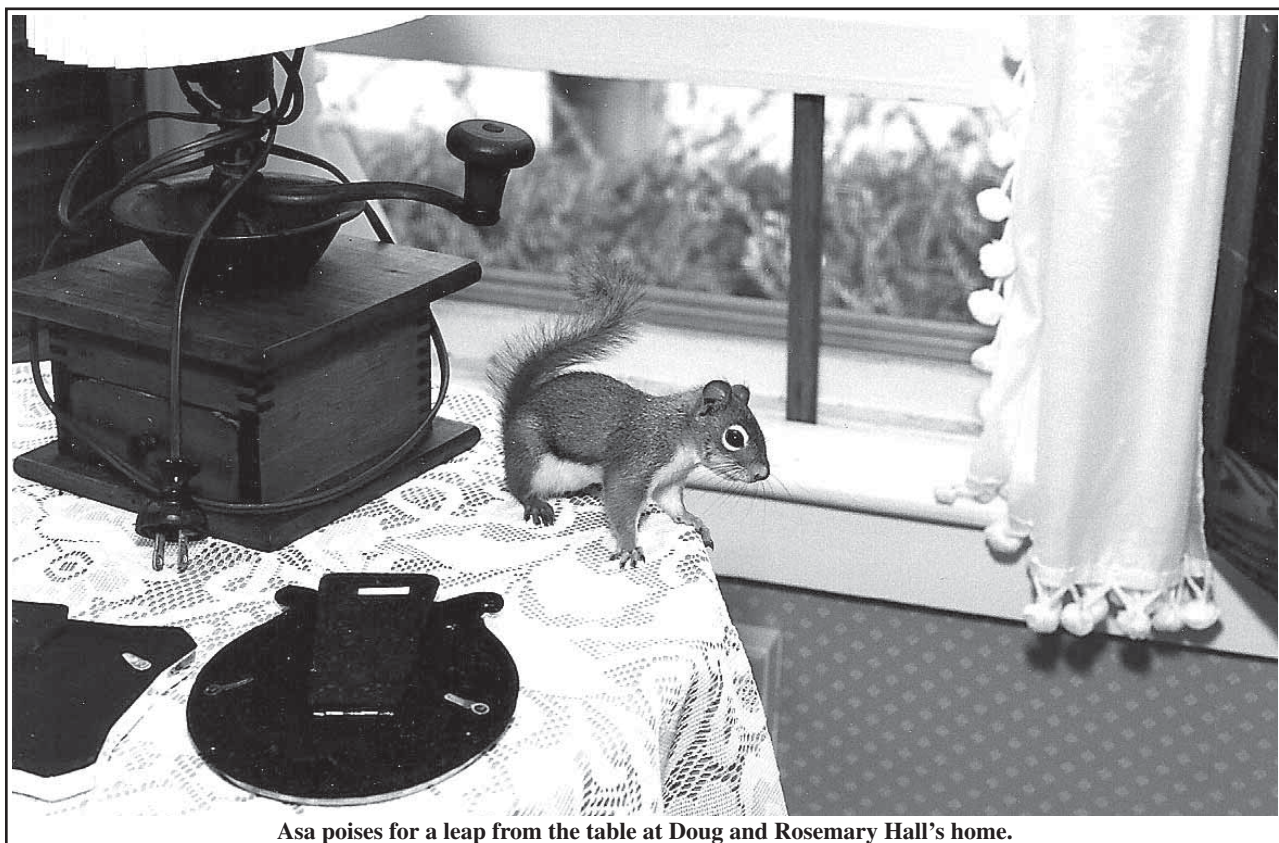
The fateful release finally comes in mid-August and Doug camps out with Asa in a woodshed across from their property. After a restless night, Asa is freed and "in the wink of an eye she is through a fish-shaped hole in the wall and out of the woodshed into the natural world of Hartland Hill."

During the late summer and early fall, Doug makes 11 trips to the area, seeing Asa twice, and finally one last time in February before a big snowstorm. The feeding station—that old nail keg—had been taken there, and Doug filled it with handfuls of sunflower seeds, butternuts and even two French walnuts.

On previous visits Asa had come back to the feeder and Doug, but this time she is seen across the brook and she continues on her way and disappears from view. Although saddened by the farewell, Doug did have the memory of the rescue and having Asa live happily in their home for four months. In an interview about this adventure, Doug quotes a saying from the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh: "If you touch one thing with awareness, you touch everything."

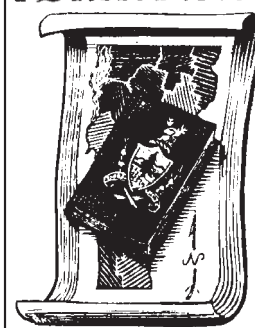
Asa The Squirrel by Doug Hall is available for \$18 (hardcover with full-color glossy photos) at Vermont bookstores and in Windsor, VT at Nuanca Gallery and the Mt. Ascutney Hospital Gift Shop, or can be ordered from asainvt@aol.com.

Doug Hall passed away in the winter of 2011 but lived to see his story about Asa published.



Asa poises for a leap from the table at Doug and Rosemary Hall's home.

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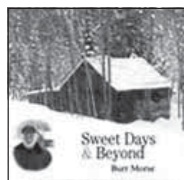
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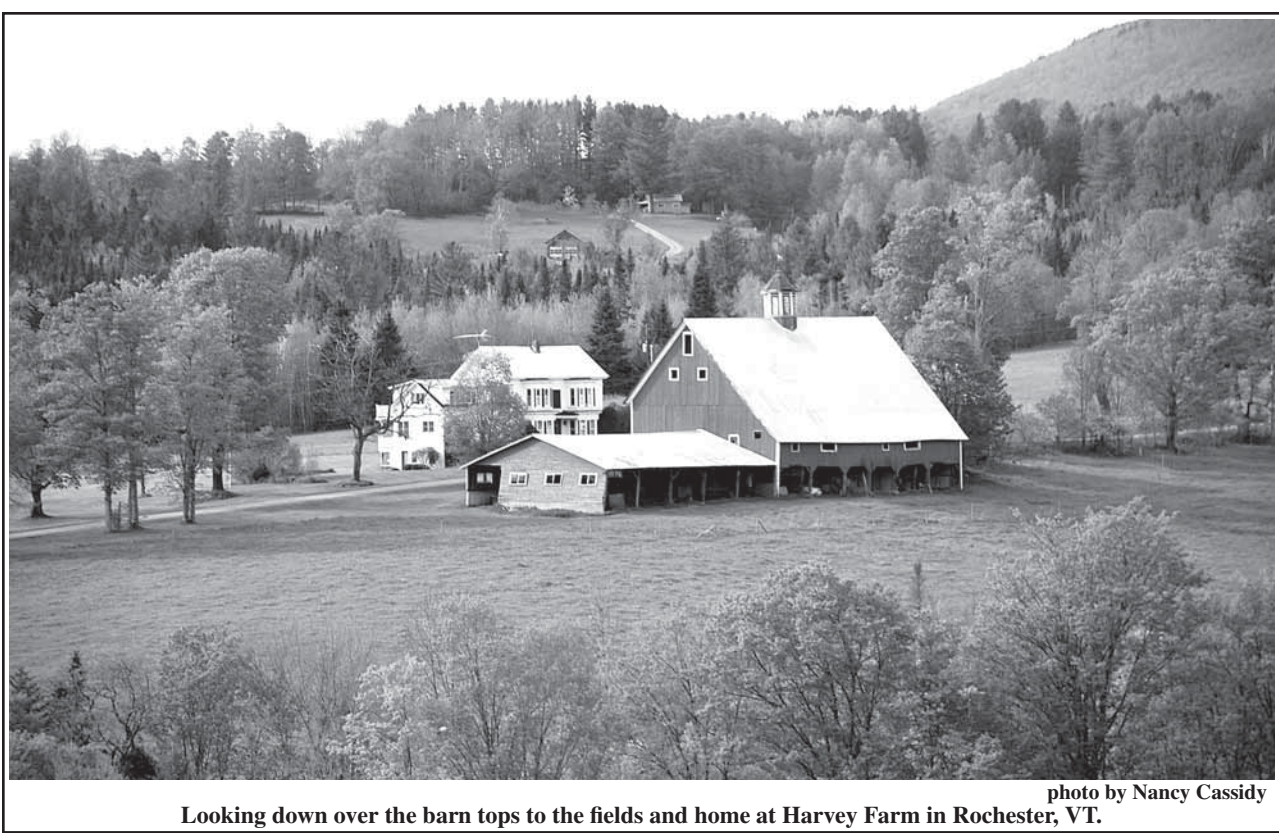
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Looking down over the barn tops to the fields and home at Harvey Farm in Rochester, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

A Vermont Pasture

You have to work your tillage land
 And mow and hoe and plow it,
 But as for pasture, all you do
 Is jest to sheep or cow it.
 And you can walk jest where you please,
 Instead of 'round the edges,
 And Sunday you can go and set
 Upon the pasture ledges.

I've seen a lot of right good folks
 Whose names I ain't repeating,
 Go through the bars on Sunday morn,
 Instead of off to meeting.
 And when a preacher hits too hard
 With his dogmatic sledges,
 You might be saved if you should spend
 A Sunday on the ledges.

You cross the brook on stepping stones
 You've hauled from out the mowing;
 You own the stones and own the brook,
 Although it keeps a-going.
 Then past the logged-off piece you climb,
 That's fenced with blackberry hedges,

And then you sight the but'nut tree,
 And up beyond, the ledges.

At last you're there—you see your house
 And barn, and both your medders,
 And 'way off north the other farm
 You rent to Elmer Cheddars.
 You feel as fine as temperance tots
 Who've jest signed six more pledges—
 The world, By Gol! is quite a place
 From Bagley's pasture ledges.

Your wife and boy are both along,
 And whilst you've been a-looking
 They've fixed it so you'll all go snacks
 On mother's put-up cooking.
 By George! that razberry pie is good,
 Them great, big, bleeding wedges,
 You don't feel wicked, none of you,
 For being on the ledges.

You stand up straight and give a stretch,
 And then go 'round by mother,
 And quote from Waldo or from Walt
 Some outdoor truth or other.
 You're jest as full of nature thoughts
 As England is of hedges—
 There ain't no day that's like a day
 Upon your pasture ledges.

—DANIEL L. CADY

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A Twilight Walk

by Edwin Martin Taber
Stowe Notes, circa 1893

In the afternoon, up on the hill, the white-spotted buff hides of the Jersey cows showed among the tender greens, as they moved quietly, cropping the soft herbage, violet-studded. Their eyes of luxurious contentment, lustrous, with the purple gleams and soft brown lights of a mountain brook, its depths and shallows.

As I descended the hill, with the velvet touch of the caressing south wind upon my cheek, I felt with intensity the delight of living. The joy of life was like a glory around me. So should one feel at all times. Such a mood should be the mental habit of a healthy creature. One should not need this sweet-scented wind, this heart-lifting spring season, for an inspiration. There should be no times of indifference, or unfulfilled desire. Every hour should give enough to exalt it; every season should have its peculiar and equally appreciated delights.

Later I saw a picture of Spring. It was about half-past four. The rain had ceased, but the wind blew fresh and vigorous from the southwest. The cows were huddled near the bars. The old sorrel horse galloped restlessly along by the fence, neighing to some mares in the opposite pasture. The white pine tossed in the wind, and above, vast golden-white clouds sailed in the clear light-blue sky.

I see, I think, a three-toed woodpecker, dodging behind a tree trunk, taking furtive peeps at me, like a tricky goblin. Now is the mystery of the wood reestablished. The eye is invited, baffled, and charmed amid a quivering, fluttering, living sea of green. Tonight, on a walk just before sunset, pine linnets and goldfinches are flitting about in the boughs of the apple trees, among the blossoms.

In the pasture, where the dusk of evening is gathering, the melodious harshness, the ringing, wiry chant of the veery, beside which the sweet lisp of the hermit thrush is almost insipid. Through the misty dimness on the opposite slope, moving down into the hollow, Henry leads the mare, and the stalking colt follows with awkward bounds.

The three-quarter moon is gleaming silvery-bright among the top leaves of the maples in the dooryard.

On the higher places in the west pasture a wind is stirring and there I sit down to rest on a steep rock, the summit of which is on a level with the tops of the young trees beneath.

There is no sound so significant of summer, I think, as the rustle of leaves—low, but almost ceaseless, so intensely

“The three-quarter moon is gleaming silvery-bright among the top leaves of the maples in the dooryard.”

expressive of being, of life, that no other simile would suffice to describe it, unless it should be called the very breath of Nature. Listening to it I find myself trying to exclude all other sounds, just as when one listens to the breathing of a sleeper.

Returning, I pass down the southern slope of the pasture, where, not far from the large pine, the flock of sheep are gathered and have settled themselves for the night—dim whitish forms huddled here and there among the sweet-scented hollows. Ewes with their lambs lie sometimes in little encampments apart from the main body. A few are alarmed, and move away as I pass close by—the one

lamb follows me with an expression of intense and foolish curiosity.

Leaving the small growth behind, and approaching the open, I hear the bizzing of nighthawks, and the piping of frogs is very loud.

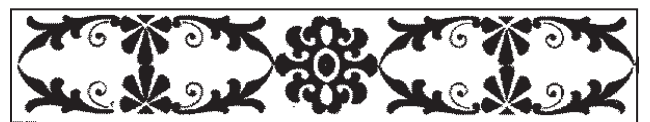
The sneezing and hoof-beats of a horse in the pasture opposite, across the road, are exceedingly loud and near, although the animal is invisible, so thick is the air.

Far down in the valley lights tremble and palpitate. The stars, less bright, are peeping out.



Up the road and through the woods in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy



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9th Annual Strawberry Festival At Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center

Every year on the last Sunday in June, juicy red organically-grown strawberries are cause for celebration at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center in East Thetford, Vermont! The 9th Annual Strawberry Festival, now an Upper Valley family tradition, takes place Sunday, June 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the farm on Pavilion Road, just off of Route 5—rain or shine.

Festival goers are invited to celebrate Vermont strawberries and local organic agriculture while enjoying a host of mostly free activities, such as horse-drawn wagon rides to and from the strawberry patch (10-4); children's coloring projects and face painting (10-4); "Critter Kites" kite making (10-4, \$4 per kite); a raptor demonstration by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (1-3); Gabriel O roving puppetry (11:30-3:30) with a "Garden Variety Puppet Show" from

12-1; live bluegrass music under the tent featuring the Strawberry Farm Band from Bath, NH (1:30-3:30), educational displays, and a self-guided farm tour.

An organic food concession (starting at 11 a.m.) offers homemade strawberry shortcake and cheesecake, strawberry smoothies, grilled local sausages and veggie burgers, farm-fresh salads, a kid's menu, and local organic ice cream-plus wood-fired organic veggie pizzas made by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) in their copper-domed mobile oven.

The Strawberry Festival is a "green event" with a waste recovery station, which yielded but one bag of trash for more than 1200 people in recent years. Folks are invited to bring a place setting (plate, utensils and cup) to help reduce waste and receive a free strawberry smoothie!

The farmstand and Hello Café are also open. Parking is available in designated fields for \$5 per car, and carpooling is encouraged. Come by train, bicycle or on foot and get in free!

Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center is a fifty-acre certified organic farm dedicated to "growing for a sustainable future" through the production of certified organic vegetables and berries, bedding plants, and quality flowers and herbs.

The farm offers a CSA program, dinners in the field, harvest festivals, gardening workshops, cooking classes, and educational farm tours for schools.

Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center is located on Pavilion Rd., off Rt. 5 in East Thetford, VT, along the Connecticut River. For a festival schedule and directions, visit CedarCircleFarm.org or call the farm at (802) 785-4737.



photo by Ian Clark Photography
Picking a basket of organic red strawberries at Cedar Circle Farm in E. Thetford, VT.



Strawberry Time

Strawberry time—and my grandma isn't here,
But I can hear her plainly, "Go on, child dear,
Down to Martin's fallow and pick a bowl or two
To eat with cream and sugar. Do, child, do."
And I would take the largest bowl and pick,
As fast as fast,
To get it full for Grandma, and at the very last
I'd pile the top with bunches of berries dark and red,
I couldn't seem to leave them, although she'd smiled
And said to snatch them off as quickly,
As quickly as could be—
"So we can have a little feast—just for you and me."
I'd soon be running home again, and she would laugh
And say, "Smart girl," and stroke my hair—
You know a grandma's way.

But once when we were eating them old Harriet went by,
And peeked in at the window, and I knew by her eye
That she'd be telling Mother and stirring up a fuss
The way she always did, and loved to do, about us.
And she did!
Then Mother scolded poor Grandma and me,
For she needed all that cream. We were so poor, you see.
But Grandma took it nicely, and braided up my hair,
And rocked me off to sleep in the red rocking-chair.

It's strawberry time, and the loveliest of the year,
But to me it's always lonely since Grandma isn't here,
But I think of her a lot and very often dream
Of when I picked the berries
And *Grandma* stole the cream.

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
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Organic Dairy Production on a Historic Hill Farm

by Cheryl Cesario

Randolph Center is in just about the geographical center of Vermont, where the Green Mountains dictate the agricultural landscape. The rolling hills have always been perfect for grazing livestock and the small-scale family farms that dotted this region were the traditional Vermont dairy farms the state's agricultural economy was once built on. Today, many of the remaining farms in the area are certified organic.

Here, up on this ridge where Pineville Farm sits, the Conant family takes great pride in their herd of registered Ayrshire and Jersey cows, whose milk is shipped to Horizon Organic.

Family and history

Dean and Terri Conant are the third generation on the farm that Dean's grandfather purchased in 1936. At the time, 12 cows were milked in a barn where today's heifer shed stands. Dean's father, Gordie, built a new milking barn across the road in 1962, which housed 60 milking cows. Terri also has dairy farming in her background, as her grandparents had a dairy farm in nearby Stockbridge, Vermont. The couple married in 1983 and moved onto the family farm in 1988 where they raised three children.

Today, three generations are involved with the day-to-day operation of the farm. Dean and Terri are the primary managers, but Gordie is still involved, taking care of the hay mowing and the heifer chores. Daughter Kristi does the night milking and calf chores. She recently purchased her great-grandfather's old farmhouse, and living on the farm has increased her involvement. The Conant's other daughter Kayla helps out as a relief milker, while their son John is currently studying criminal justice in Rutland, Vermont.

Dean and Terri's three-year old granddaughter Leah makes up the start of the fifth generation and spends quite a bit of time on the farm. In September 2010, she showed her favorite calf 'Quiet' at the Tunbridge World's Fair in the 'peewee' division. Dean and Terri have both been extensively involved with 4H for many years, so Leah is definitely making her grandparents proud.

Overview of the farm

Pineville Farm is 225 acres, with additional rented land totaling 125 acres. Approximately 75 acres of the farm are permanent pasture, with an additional 60 acres of hay fields incorporated over the grazing season.

The Conants milk between 60-65 cows year round. Their herd of 140 head is primarily registered Ayrshires with about 20 registered Jerseys. Quality milk production is a primary focus for the Conants, Dean says that Horizon has three tiers for quality and he's always aiming to be in the top tier, providing an added premium for the milk.

The Transition to organic

The Conants have been certified organic by Vermont Organic Farmers for almost four years now. It wasn't a spur of the minute decision. Dean put a lot of thought into transitioning the farm and went back and forth on whether he should take the leap. He says, "With traditional dairying it was the up and down big swings that got me interested in organic. I liked the idea of a guaranteed price." When he started talking with the milk buyers and NOFA-VT, he found that the regulations were not that far off from his cur-



Terri and Leah Conant and their heifer, Quiet, at Pineville Farm in Randolph Center, VT.

photo by Cheryl Cesario

rent management. "It was doable," he says. For Dean and Terri, managing their land organically was not going to be a problem. Most of their land already qualified for certification.

Pasture management and herd health

Grazing had always been a part of the farm's management. Dean's grandfather pastured his cows in day and night pastures. Dean practiced rotational grazing, but says that since he's become organic his pasture management has gotten more intensive.

The grazing season in this part of Vermont is typically May 15th to October 15th. "You can count on it," says Dean. "There's very little variation." The farm's topography means that cows must walk up and down hills on their daily trip to and from the barn. The first week out on pasture takes some adjusting to the terrain.

Water is pumped from an adjacent brook and there is enough pressure to get to all paddocks but a few.

Pineville Farm has been practicing 'days only' grazing and part of the reason was a labor issue. Keeping the cows in at night meant an easier start in the morning when Dean milked alone. Now with his daughter on the farm, he'll be able to get the cows tied in the barn much more quickly and easily.

This year he plans to give his young heifers access to a 20 acre pasture. He'll confine them to the heifer shed and barnyard when severe conditions such as thunderstorms are on the horizon. This will minimize the amount of heifer chasing and fence fixing that would have to be done.

Calves start out in individual pens at one end of the tie-stall barn and then move into stalls. At 5-6 months old, they move over to the heifer shed where they have outdoor access.

Dean and Terri always seem willing to adapt and make changes to their management as the organic program evolves. Dean says, "We have to keep the public's confidence." Overall, the family is very happy as organic dairy farmers. "I have no regrets and I wouldn't go back," he says. Organic production has been a great fit for this farm.

This story is shared with you by permission of the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA). For more information and feature farm articles go to www.nodpa.com or call (413) 772-0444.

Cheryl Cesario works for Vermont Organic Farmers, the certification program of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT). She and her husband raise soon-to-be organic grass-fed beef, pastured pork, and poultry.

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Dairy cows observing the passers-by through the ferns, in Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

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Kingdom Trails is located in East Burke, VT. For more information contact Kingdom Trail Association, P.O. Box 204, East Burke, VT 05832, call (802) 626-0737, write tim@kingdomtrails.org or visit www.kingdomtrails.org or www.skiburke.com.

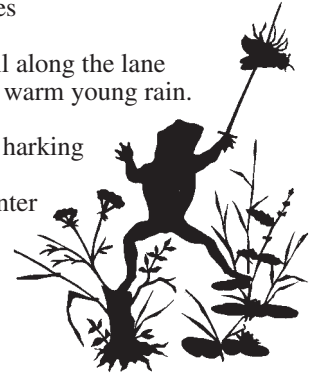
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to the mirth
Of the rain that washes winter
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—JAKE FALSTAFF



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photo by Nancy Cassidy

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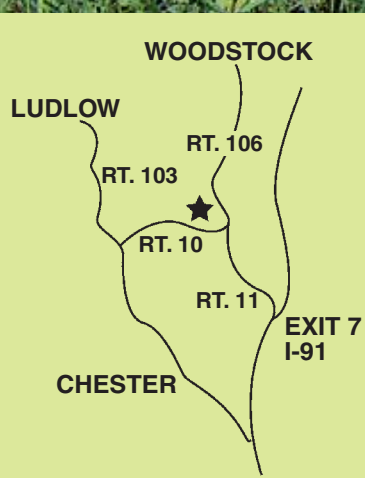
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Coger's Sugar House Gardens of VT