

# Vermont Country Sampler

January  
2022

- Calendar of Events
- Map, Inns, B&B's
- Dining, Real Estate
- Entertainment
- Book Reviews
- Plenty of Good Reading!

Free



N. Cassidy

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**GREEN MOUNTAIN STOCK FARM**  
RANDOLPH, VERMONT



Visitors enjoy a horse-drawn sled ride at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum



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### January Journal

In the weeks after Christmas, I often fill my list books with fresh schedules. Sometimes, I put the whole year out before me, with projects for every month. Sometimes, though, I waver between dreams of the future and the myopia of hibernation.

On the one hand, I can count, if I choose, all the steps to spring. Everything lies out in promises so rich and sweet. Dawn is coming earlier for the first time since June. In a few days, my gnomon will actually measure the turn of the earth toward April; the sunlight will fall

just a little lower on my far north wall.

The year past, which ended with the collapse of the final autumn foliage, is already five weeks old. The dark morning sky already prophesies the summer: An hour before sunrise, Orion has set. Sirius has moved deep into the west, Cancer and Gemini following it. The Big Dipper is overhead. June's Arcturus is coming in from the east, and August's Vega has risen in the northeast.

This week, the titmice will call. In two weeks, the owls will court, in three weeks the crows will become restless,

in four weeks, the cardinals will sing, in five weeks the doves will sing, in six weeks, the skunk cabbage will be open, in seven weeks the sap will run in the maples, in eight weeks snowdrops will bloom, in nine weeks, the pussy willows will open, and then the aconites, and then the finches will turn gold. There is hardly time to get ready.

On the other hand, winter fever—like spring fever—short circuits my ambitions. It convinces me to stretch out like the cats in front of the wood stove, to remain unthinking and still, to retreat

into the moment, to be here alone and rest and sleep.

There is challenge enough to come, the fever tells me: conflict, passion, pain, encounter.

The road ahead is fast and wide, cluttered and loud; the end is certain and hard. I should stay here and be cleansed and cherished. Winter is an angel, my body says; winter lasts forever; hide beneath its wings.



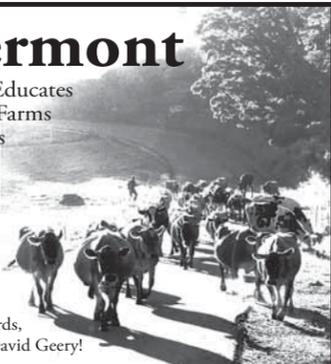
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## Vermont Country Sampler

January 2022, Vol. XXXVIII

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Current and back issues of the Sampler and calendar are available online at [www.vermontcountrysampler.com](http://www.vermontcountrysampler.com)

# Winter Wonderland at Billings Farm & Museum

## Farm Animals, Outdoor Activities, Crafts, Holidays, Sleigh Rides, Films & More!

Enjoy scenic winter landscapes among the barns and pastures of Billings Farm & Museum in January. Open each Saturday & Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., visitors of all ages will enjoy engaging activities indoors and out.

### Winter Activities

**Farm Animals and Winter Fun** – Visit the cows, sheep, chickens and goats all cozy in the animal barns. Learn what winter farm work entailed in 1890 in the Winter on the Farm program offered each day at 12 & 2 p.m.

**Snowshoeing** – Bring your own or rent from the nearby Woodstock Inn & Resort Nordic Center—and venture through the picturesque snow-covered farm fields and along the Ottauquechee River.

**Bring Your Own Sled** – Kids and grown-ups can speed down the small hill next to the orchard.

**Gather Round the Fire Pit** – Warm up with hot chocolate and s'mores, available for purchase on site.

**Family Crafts and a Story Walk** – Families can enjoy making a Dove of Peace paper craft, hunt for the snowmen in the Farm Life Exhibits and follow the Story Walk along the pasture fence, featuring “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Robert Frost.

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend January 15-17

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *A Time for Justice*, the 38-minute award-winning documentary film by Charles Guggenheim that captures the spirit of the civil rights movement will be shown in the museum’s theater.

Horse-drawn sleigh rides are offered on Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reservations for rides will be taken upon arrival at the ticket desk, on a first come, first served basis. The cost is \$5 per person in addition to the purchase of a general admission ticket.

### Billings Backyard Workshops January 8 and January 22

**Making Felted Soap** – Have fun at this popular workshop on Saturday, January 8 from 10-11:30 a.m., onsite at Billings Farm. Using locally made soaps and wool from our own Billings Farm & Museum sheep, fiber artist Tiana St. James will walk participants through the processes of both wet felting and needle felting to make a charming and sustainable product. Register by January 7 to reserve a spot.

**Kimchi, Kraut, and More!** – Expand your knowledge and skill in the kitchen and follow along with Chef Emery as she leads this cooking workshop on Saturday, January 22 on Zoom from 10-11:30 a.m. Chef Emery will demonstrate how to make your own sauerkraut and kimchi. Learn about other “lacto-fermented” foods, and how they can be used in unique and delicious ways in your everyday kitchen as you make a multi-purpose sauce using Kombucha. Register by January 19 to receive advance instructions, recipes and preparation details. Registered participants will receive a recording following the live presentation. Learn more about the Billings Backyard Workshops and register at [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

### Torchlight Snowshoe Event on January 14

Snowshoe or walk from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on the Billings Farm trail by torchlight as evening light begins. Gather around the fire pit and warm up with complimentary s'mores and hot drinks. Learn about the wildlife here and the history of the land, guided by National Park rangers. Tickets must be purchased to attend. Adults \$10, youth 4-15 \$5, children 3 & under are free.

### Sleigh Rides by Reservation

Billings Farm & Museum offers private horse-drawn

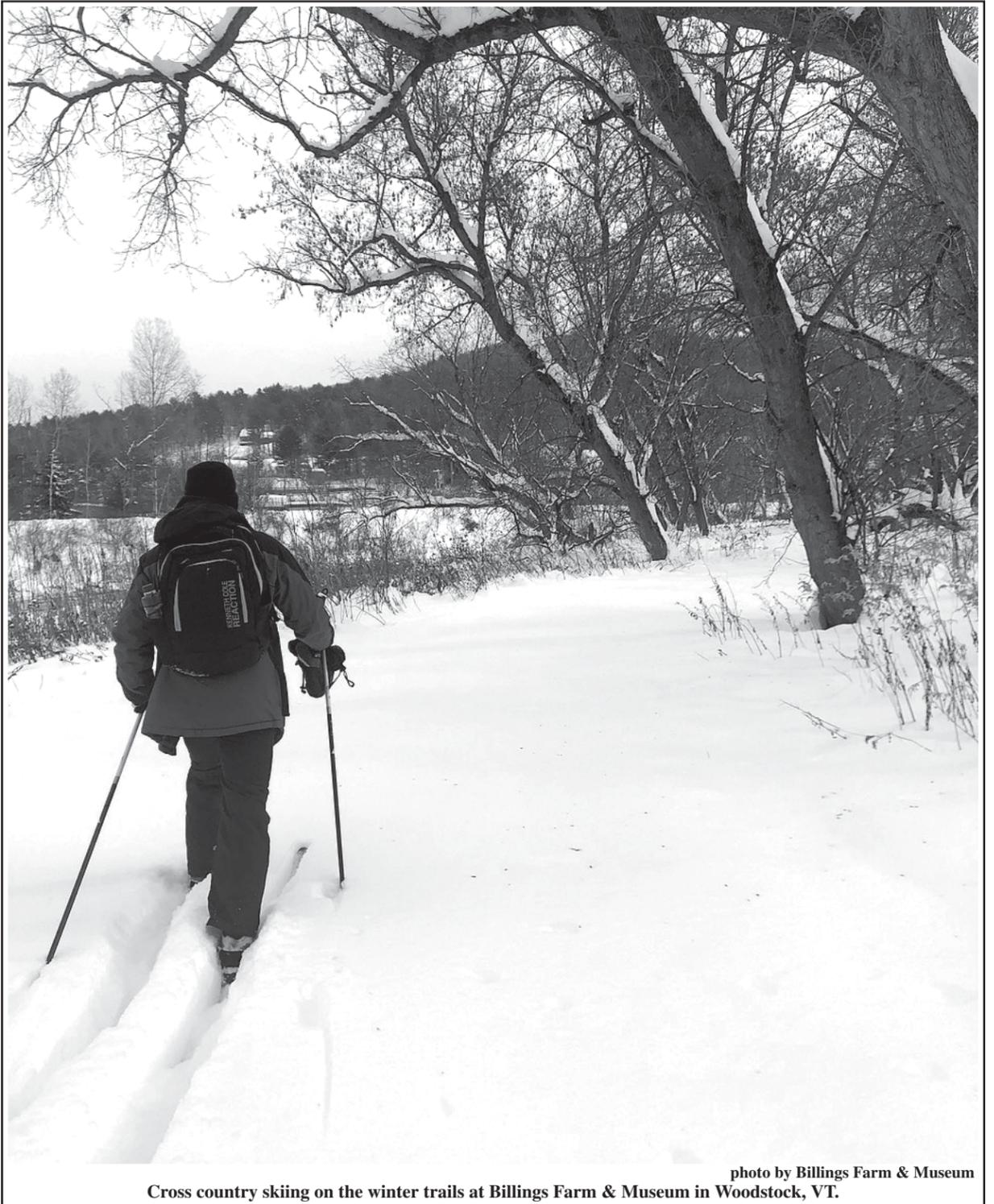


photo by Billings Farm & Museum  
Cross country skiing on the winter trails at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

sleigh rides to families throughout the winter. Reservations and payment are required in advance. Reserve online at [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org) or call (802) 457-2355.

### The 12th Annual Woodstock Film Series

The screenings return to the Billings Farm Theater with two showings on Saturdays, at 3 & 5:30 p.m. Enjoy select documentary films that reflect the museum’s vision to share place-based stories of people near and far and to inspire conversations that increase connections with each other

- January 1 – “Kedi”
- January 8 – “Street Gang: How We Got to Sesame Street”
- January 15 – “The Loneliest Whale”
- January 22 – “Try Harder”

Reservations are strongly recommended as seating is limited. Online and phone ticket sales close at noon on the Friday before the showing. Tickets may be available for purchase at the ticket desk on the day of the film if seating allows. Filmgoers must show proof of vaccination to enter and are required to wear a mask during a film viewing. Learn more and purchase tickets at [billingsfarm.org/filmseries](http://billingsfarm.org/filmseries) or call (802) 457-5303.

### Visiting Safely

All guests over the age of 2 are required to wear a face covering in all indoor spaces. All guests must wear masks outdoors when around people and unable to maintain 6’ physical distances. No entry is permitted without a face covering. Visit [billingsfarm.org/safety](http://billingsfarm.org/safety) for details. Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution.

Billings Farm & Museum is located at 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock, VT.

Admission: adults 16-61 \$16; 62 & over \$14; students 16 & up \$9; children 4-15 \$8; children 3 and under are free. Open weekends November through February 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April through October open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org), [facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum) and [instagram.com/billingsfarm](https://www.instagram.com/billingsfarm). Call (802) 457-2355.



photo by Billings Farm & Museum  
Family sledding down a hill at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

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## Brattleboro, VT

# A Season of Festive Concerts At Brattleboro Music Center

From chamber music to Northern Roots, Brattleboro Music Center is hosting a season of sublime concert experiences.

Each year, the Chamber Music Series features artists and ensembles with international reputations, as well as gifted emerging young artists, performing chamber music of the highest quality.

For the safety of our artists, venue staff and our community as a whole, we are requiring proof of vaccination or negative results of a COVID-19 PCR test administered within 72 hours for admittance to events at the Brattleboro Music Center. In addition, masks must be worn at all times while at the venue.

All concerts will be held at the Brattleboro Music Center.

### Palaver Strings

Friday, January 7th at 7 p.m.

The Palaver Strings Chamber Series returns to the Brattleboro Music Center with "Painted Dreams."

In the throes of a New England winter, Palaver Strings musicians hope that "Painted Dreams" helps audiences close their eyes and think of sunnier times. Performers include Domenic Salerni and Maya French, violin; Brianna Fischler and Lysander Jaffe, viola; and Ben Swartz and Kamyron Williams, cello.

The program begins with Adolphus Hailstork's Divertimento for Violin and Viola, written as a wedding gift to two of his musician friends, Eva Cappelletti-Chao and Phillippe Chao. It is followed by Jeffrey Mumford's beautifully layered and textured string quartet, A Veil of Liquid Diamonds. An avid painter as well as a composer, Mumford writes that his work is "inspired by cloud imagery, suspended structures that continually split off and recombine as analogous to the formation of layers of simultaneous musical development."

The program concludes with Tchaikovsky's dashing and daring Souvenir de Florence, Op. 70, which he wrote on one of his visits to Italy, drawing on both Italian themes and the Russian melodies of his homeland.

Admission is \$20.

### Sarasa Ensemble

Friday, January 14th at 7:30 p.m.

The Brattleboro Music Center's Guest Series continues with the Sarasa Ensemble presenting "Music from the Heart."

Performers include Reginald Mobley, countertenor; Elizabeth Blumenstock and Christina Day Martinson, violin; Keats Dieffenbach and Jenny Stirling, viola; Jennifer Morsches and Timothy Merton, cello; and Michael Beattie, organ.

This concert focuses on the resurgence of music following the devastation of Germany's 30 Years War in the 17th century, a rich lineage that led to the likes of Johann Sebastian Bach. The program will include works by Bach, as well as Philipp Heinrich Erlebach, Johan Adam Reincken, and Clamor Heinrich Abel.

Program: PH Erlebach Overture No 5 in F major for strings and basso continuo; JS Bach "Jesus ist ein guter Hirt" from BWV 85; CH Abel Bataille in D major for strings and basso continuo; PH Erlebach Air traquenar from Overture No IV in D minor; PH Erlebach motet "Trocknet euch ihr heissen Zähren"; JA Reincken Hortus Musicus IV in D minor for two violins and basso continuo; JS Bach Cantata BWV 54, "Widerstehe doch der Sünde".

Tickets: general/senior \$20, student \$10, under 18 free.

### Castle of our Skins—Sound & Applique

Saturday, January 22nd at 7 p.m.

Born out of the desire to foster cultural curiosity, Castle of our Skins is a concert and educational series dedicated to celebrating Black artistry through music.

From classrooms to concert halls, Castle of our Skins invites exploration into Black heritage and culture, spotlighting both unsung and celebrated figures of past and present.

The concert will include world premiere compositions by Elizabeth Brown, Renée Baker, and Lauren McCall, all inspired by African American quilting traditions.



Performers gather for the annual Northern Roots Festival in Brattleboro, VT.

New quilts and poetry commissions by quilters L'Merchie Frazier and Alpha M. Bruton and Shirley Graham du Bois, as well as Creative-in-Residence poet Marlanda Dekine-Sapient Soul also will be featured.

Tickets are \$20 general admission.

### Musicians from Marlboro

Monday, January 24th at 7:30 p.m.

In celebration of their recent purchase of Potash Hill, and the special partnership shared with the Brattleboro Music Center, our friends at Marlboro Music are donating the performer fees for this concert. We are grateful for their generous gift. Admission is by donation, and will support scholarships for BMC Music School students.

Performing will be Daniel Phillips & Stephanie Zyzak, violin; Tanner Menees & Maiya Papach, viola; Alexander Hersh & Alice Neary, cello; Evren Ozel, piano.

Program: Schumann: Piano Trio in F Major, Op. 80; Perkinson: String Trio; Schoenberg: String Trio; Dvořák: String Sextet in A Major, Op. 48.

Suggested donation is \$10-\$25.

### Northern Roots Festival 2022

Friday, January 28th and Saturday, January 29th

This cornerstone of the traditional music calendar in New England is the 15th year and we are marking the occasion with two in-person concerts!

The Northern Roots Festival is known as a showcase of the variety of northern musical traditions including Irish, Scottish, English, French Canadian, Shetland and more. This year is no exception.

The Friday night concert is on January 28th at 7:30 p.m. It features Hanneke Cassel and Yann Falquet, Arthur Davis and Emma Schneider, Rachel Bell and Karen Axelrod, and Rachel Clemente and Dan Houghton.

The Saturday evening concert is on January 29th at 7:30 p.m. Lineup includes Yann Falquet, Becky Tracy, and Keith Murphy; Ben Gagliardi and Armond Aromin; Benedict Koehler and Hilari Farrington; Emerald Rae and Dan Frank.

Tickets are \$20 adult, \$10 youth (14 and under). Combo tickets for both concerts is \$35 adult, \$15 youth. Tickets are available on [www.bmcvt.org](http://www.bmcvt.org) or by calling (802) 257-4523. Seating is limited and safety protocols require proof of vac-

ination or negative PCR test. Buy your tickets in advance. Both concerts will be held at the Brattleboro Music Center.

### Palaver Beehive—Behind the Looking Glass

Friday, February 11th at 7 p.m.

We'll explore some of the new musical ideas that propel our chamber music tradition into the future. We start our evening with Caroline Shaw's Entr'acte, composed in response to a Haydn quartet and in dialogue with the classical tradition in general. Riffing on classical gestures, Shaw's music takes us, in her words, to "the other side of Alice's looking glass, in a kind of absurd, subtle, technicolor transition."

We'll continue with a new set of original fiddle tunes by Palaver's own violinist, Elizabeth Moore.

We conclude with Florence Price's A Minor String Quartet, which incorporates both twentieth-century compositional ideas and African-American vernacular music.

We hope you will join us for this journey beyond the looking glass, as we catch a glimpse of a bold and brilliant future for our craft.

Tickets are \$20.

### Musicians from Marlboro

Saturday February 12th at 2 p.m.

In celebration of their recent purchase of Potash Hill, and the special partnership shared with the BMC, our friends at Marlboro Music are donating the performer fees for this concert. We are grateful for their generous gift.

Admission is by donation, and will support scholarships for BMC Music School students.

Performers include Sara Couden, mezzo-soprano; Giorgio Consolati, flute; Ryan Roberts, oboe; Yoonah Kim, clarinet; Emilie-Anne Gendron & Ji Won Song, violin; Jordan Bak & Sally Chisholm, viola; Yi Qun Xu, cello; William Langlie-Miletich, double bass.

Program includes Haydn: Divertissement in G Major, Hob. IV:7; Gubaidulina: Ein Engel; Prokofiev: Quintet, Op. 39; Stravinsky: Three Songs from Shakespeare; and Brahms: String Quintet in F Major, Op. 88.

Admission by suggested donation \$10-\$25.

Brattleboro Music Center is located at 72 Blanche Moysse Way in Brattleboro, VT. (802) 257-4523. [www.bmcvt.org](http://www.bmcvt.org).

## Song of the Rabbits Outside the Tavern



We who play under the pines,  
We who dance in the snow  
That shines blue in the light  
of the moon  
Sometimes we halt as we go,  
Stand with our ears erect,  
Our noses testing the air,  
To gaze at the golden world  
Behind the window there.

Suns they have in a cave  
And stars each on a tall white stem,  
And the thought of a fox or night owl

Seems never to trouble them.  
They laugh and eat and are warm,  
Their food seems ready at hand,  
While hungry out in the cold  
We little rabbits stand.

But they never dance as we dance,  
They have not the speed or the grace.  
We scorn both the cat and the dog  
Who lie by the fireplace.  
We scorn them licking their paws,  
Their eyes on an upraised spoon,  
We who dance hungry and wild  
Under the winter's moon.

—ELIZABETH COATSWORTH  
1893-1986, Nobleboro, ME



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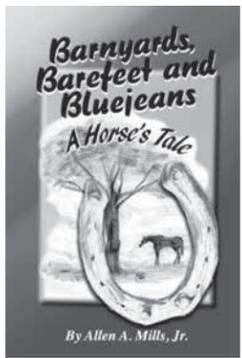
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# Sleeping Beauty—The Garden in Winter

by Judith Irven

As we think about what constitutes a lovely garden, our thoughts usually turn to colorful blooms—perhaps a beautiful expanse of daffodils, a crab apple tree covered in pink blossoms, or a long meandering border brimming with colorful flowers in summer.

But what about the garden in winter, when everything is sleeping under a blanket snow? This can be equally beautiful. It's all about the contrast of the seasons—something I relish about living in the Green Mountain State!

In winter the landscape assumes the elegance of a black-and-white photograph, and we become acutely conscious of its abstract shapes and textures.

As outside temperatures drop, distant views become crystal sharp in the dry air. Sometimes it feels like we can see forever. The remote mountain feels almost touchable, and indirectly becomes part of the garden scene.

The low sun, streaking through the leafless trees, paints giant black-and-white stripes on the ground that could camouflage a zebra. Thus, in wintertime, both the trees and their shadows become an essential part of our garden pictures.

In winter our eyes are drawn to walls and steps, trees and shrubs, as well as the remains of perennials we left standing to feed the birds—all of which become part of the winter garden scene.

So here are some suggestions to help you make your garden as lovely in winter as it is in summer. You can find lots of other ideas on my North Country Reflections website at

<https://northcountryreflections.com/writings/the-winter-garden/>

## The views from our windows

The main structural elements of the garden, like a beautiful stone wall or an elegant arbor, as well as the trees and shrubs, are often collectively referred to as the 'bones of the garden'.

And it is in wintertime, when the trees are bare and the flowers are dormant, that we become especially aware of the garden's structural elements. As I like to say—winter exposes the bones of the garden!

It also stands to reason that, in winter, much of the time we enjoy the view of the garden from the warmth of our house, looking out from our windows.

So, as you plan a new garden or contemplate proposed changes to your existing one, start by thinking about how the bones of the garden will look from the important windows in your house in every season.

It can also be helpful to take a photograph of what you see from the window, and then make a black and white print. Now use this to imagine the winter scene and sketch out potential ways to embellish it.

Ask yourself whether the combined structural elements, including the ones you are contemplating, will create a balanced and cohesive picture even when the flowers are no longer there.

Sometimes all it takes is the addition of one or two trees or perhaps a grouping of shrubs to provide a pleasing winter presence that will stand out in the snow.

## Sculptural pruning

As you look into the interior of older trees you will often observe a clutter of dead or crossing branches in the interior. This is not a particularly attractive sight, especially in winter, when there are no leaves to hide the mess. It is also not the best for the overall health of the tree, since the dead wood provides an entrance point for disease and the crossing branches mean that some of the leaves cannot get enough light for effective photosynthesis.

But this same visibility makes mid-winter a great time to do some careful pruning.

For pruning large trees it is always best to bring in a professional arborist. But many home owners enjoy pruning smaller trees like crab apples. Before you start, check your local library for a good book on pruning, such as 'Pruning and Training' by Christopher Brickell or 'Pruning Made Easy' by Vermont author Lewis Hill.

Generally, you want to start by carefully removing any dead branches, followed by those that are rubbing directly on another branch. And finally remove any branches that are growing inwards, towards the center of the tree. (The pruning books I mention show how to do this correctly)

And, for trees that are prone to bleed sap—like maple and birch—be sure to only prune them in December and January when they are fully dormant.

Also, to avoid stressing any tree, in a single year you should not remove any more branches than will produce 25% of the tree's total leaf area. Thus, if a tree requires a lot of pruning to bring it back into shape, it may need to be done over multiple winters.

## Welcoming the birds to the winter garden

Like many of people, Dick and I love to welcome birds to our garden, especially during the winter months when their natural food is more scarce.

Chickadees are delightful little birds that happily visit the sunflower seed feeders we hang near our windows, and they are joined from time to time by nuthatches and titmice. Other birds, including juncos that look for their food on the ground, appreciate a little seed scattered around in a sheltered spot which does not get too much snow and the woodpeckers like to visit our suet feeder.

Indeed, in locations at lower altitudes you will probably see many other winter birds in your garden, even bluebirds!

To attract any birds to your feeders it is always helpful to plant some shrubs and small trees fairly close to the house. Not only will they provide a sheltered landing spot as the



The 'Spirit Keeper' watches over Judith and Dick's garden in Goshen, VT all winter long. photo by Dick Conrad

birds fly in across the garden, but also a safe place where they can peck open seed hulls.

And for some birds, shrubs that keep their berries in the winter months also provide an excellent source of food. While the cedar waxwings and evening grosbeaks leave our mountainous locale in the winter months, in years past we have observed birds like pine grosbeaks in January, enjoying the bright red fruit on the winterberries—*Ilex verticillata*—that grow around our driveway.

## Elegant ornaments for all seasons

To my eye nothing looks more special than the sight of a beloved garden ornament set against a white snowy backdrop.

Let me tell you about two unique Vermont artists who have specialized in creating elegant garden ornaments that can stay outside all season long.

The first artist is Stephen Procter—who works out of his ceramics studio in Brattleboro, Vermont. And his specialty is creating large and very elegant pots that can stay out in all temperatures and all weathers. I urge you to visit his website <http://www.stephenprocter.com/> where you can see some of the many lovely designs he can make.

And it is many years ago since Dick and I were fortunate enough to discover Bill Heise, a wonderful sculptor in Burlington, who sadly is no longer living. Bill's speciality was creating all manner of whimsical creatures out of pieces of iron that he would carefully salvage. And again, all his pieces can remain outdoors in all weathers.

At that time we were able to acquire four of his creations, all of which still have pride of place in our Goshen garden. While they look superb all year long, they are especially stunning in the snow. In this picture you can see one that Bill called 'The Spirit Keeper', who keeps a careful watch over the way up to our vegetable garden all winter long—until spring arrives once again to kiss the garden awake.

Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT where together they nurture a large garden. You can subscribe to Judith's blog about her Vermont gardening life at [www.northcountryreflections.com](http://www.northcountryreflections.com). Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer. To see his photographs go to [northcountryimpressions.com](http://northcountryimpressions.com).



## Interlude

I'll dream the northern winter through,  
And hope to waken in the spring  
When that first faint soft twittering  
Comes in my elm beside the way,  
When piles of snow slip fast, and gray  
Of winter turns to sunny hours,  
And little buds swell full to flowers,  
And roses bloom, for they too slept  
And waited while the winter crept  
Upon them in their blooming prime.

So I shall sleep through winter time  
And wake, earth's nectar in each vein  
When Spring comes winging North again!

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON  
1876-1970, Springfield, VT

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## January In the Field & Garden

by Bill Felker

Check houseplants, and especially plants that were brought inside before frost, for spider mites, whiteflies, scale and aphids. Plant your bedding plant seeds as the moon turns new tomorrow.

The dark moon is right for vaccinating the animals due to give birth in February. Trim their feet, and clip udders and hind quarters before birthing.

Epiphany (Three-Kings Day) is usually celebrated on or near January 6. Milk-fed lambs and kids are often in demand for this market.

Weigh your livestock (newborns and mothers) at birth, and at least every 30 days thereafter in order to assess and deal with health issues.

Heavy winter lice infestations can decrease weight gains dramatically, and they especially threaten the health of pregnant animals.

January 10 is Plough Monday, a traditional day to begin the farm and garden year. Explore the "Hothouse Market" for lambs and kids now.

Most lamb and kid growth occurs in the last weeks of pregnancy. Provide your ewes and does special feed and care during this time.

Prepare landscaping, garden and field maps, including plans for double cropping, intercropping and companion planting.

Provide fresh, warm water for your chickens daily, especially during the coldest weather.

While full moon on the 17th will encourage sap to flow, it will also bring severe weather to the country.

Lent begins on February 22, and pre-Lenten parties often create demand for lambs and kids for cookouts throughout the month ahead.



photo by Billings Farm & Museum  
Winter settles over the farm fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

Consider winter supplements for livestock: molasses, slippery elm and willow bark, flaked oats, seaweed and mashed raw carrots.

Review your records: animals that gave birth last year after full moon could well do it again. Double-check to see that all the lambs and kids have actually been born! Reach in, wearing a rubber glove, and make sure.

Watch for late abortions in weak animals after full moon. Always check teats for milk flow as kids and lambs are born.

Check your chickens, turkeys and ducks for mites. Keep coops and pens clean through the winter and use pesticides carefully.

Plan for self-sufficiency in fish with a small pond. You can dig one in your back yard and raise tilapia or catfish.

As January ends, average temperatures in all areas of the United States climb one degree, a major statistical move toward spring today.

Winter fertilizing provides a little insurance against spring rain delays. The frozen soil of winter also resists compaction from heavy equipment.

Reserve your spring chicks for March, April or May so they can gain weight and be ready to lay by Late Summer.

Seed bedding plants and early cabbages under lights under the dark moon around Groundhog Day.

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## A Natural Calendar for the Progress of Spring

Although winter may seem long and gray, its progress slowly unravels spring. A natural calendar offers reassurance that the coldest days of the year will really and truly lead to warmth.

**January 1-26:** Deep Winter begins - a six week period when high temperatures often stay below freezing and the most snow falls.

**January 4:** The Earth reaches perihelion its position closest to the Sun.

**January 23:** Average date of the January thaw.

**January 26:** Cardinals begin their spring mating songs, and deep winter ends.

**January 27:** Late Winter begins - a three-week transition to Early Spring.

**January 28:** Average temperatures start to rise one degree per week.

**February 1:** Doves start to call after sunrise.

**February 2:** The first snowdrops and aconites could blossom in the sun.

**February 17:** Today is winter's Cross Quarter Day: The sun is halfway to equinox.

**February 18:** Average date for the start of Early Spring, a six-week period that gradually brings the landscape to life.

**February 27:** Average temperatures now rise one degree every three days - a pattern that persists until the middle of summer.

**March 1:** Woodcocks begin courtship.

**March 4:** Pussy willows open.

**March 15:** Earliest daffodils bloom.

**March 20:** Equinox occurs.

**March 25:** Pollen appears on pussy willow catkins.

**March 30:** Cabbage butterflies come looking for nectar.

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# A Vermont Almanack for Deep Winter

by Bill Felker

But let the months go round, a few short months,  
And all shall be restored. These naked shoots  
Barren as lances, among which the wind  
Makes wintry music, sighing as it goes,  
Shall put their graceful foliage on again,  
And more aspiring and with ampler spread  
Shall boast new charms, and more than they have lost.

—William Cowper

## The Sun

Perihelion, the point at which the Earth and the Sun are closest to one another, occurs on January 4 at 2:00 a.m. The Sun enters the Late Winter sign of Aquarius on January 19.

The Sun enters the Late Winter sign of Aquarius on January 19, and its declination passes 17 degrees 20 minutes by the 31st, one quarter of the way to spring equinox.

## Phases of the Sandhill Crane Migration Moon And the Tufted Titmouse Moon

As sandhill cranes complete their late autumn migrations to the South, tufted titmice begin their winter mating calls, "tee, tee!"

**January 1:** Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closest to Earth): 6 p.m.

**January 2:** The Sandhill Crane Migration Moon becomes the new Tufted Titmouse Moon at 1:33 p.m.

**January 9:** Second Quarter: 1:11 p.m.

**January 14:** Lunar Apogee (the Moon is farthest from Earth): 4 a.m.

**January 17:** Full Moon: 6:48 p.m.

**January 25:** Last Quarter: 8:41 a.m.

**January 30:** Lunar Perigee (when the Moon is closest to Earth): 2 a.m.

## The Planets

Mars, in Ophiuchus, rises after midnight and leads Venus (still bright in the west on New Year's Eve), in Sagittarius, out of the southeastern sky before dawn. Saturn is visible briefly in the southwest at the beginning of the month in Capricorn. Jupiter, in Aquarius, is the bright Evening Star in the southwest. The new moon will not interfere with viewing.

## The Stars

If you go out after supper and look directly above Orion, the brightest star you see will be Capella, of the constellation Auriga. Immediately to the right of that star are three constellations which remain visible throughout most of the year. The closest to Capella, directly above the Pleiades (a tight cluster



Young deer, all haired up for the winter, in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

of stars up and to the right of Orion), is Perseus, shaped a little like a prancing horse. To the northeast or upper right of Perseus, the zig-zagging group of bright stars is Cassiopeia, and due north of that cluster, close to the northern horizon, and looking a little like an upside down house, is Cepheus.

As January wanes, Orion moves more westerly in the mid evening, and to the upper left of that vast group of stars, past Castor and Pollux, the markers of Gemini, you may be able to make out the stars of the constellation, Cancer, its shape almost like a person without hands walking along behind Gemini. After Cancer, and shaped like a sickle, comes Leo, easily found since Regulus, now the strongest star in the eastern sky, is its leading edge.

## The Shooting Stars

The Quadrantid meteor shower occurs between January 1 and January 5, reaching its best (up to 40 meteors in an hour)

on January 3 and 4. Look for these meteors in the eastern sky, near the constellation Bootes after midnight. Orion will be over in the west by that time.

## Meteorology

High-pressure systems are due to cross the country on or around the following dates: January 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 25, 31. Lunar perigee on January 1 and the new Tufted Titmouse Moon on January 2 will intensify the New Year's cold front.

Look for precipitation on New Year's Eve and a brisk beginning to the year. Full moon on January 17 will bring deep cold to the middle of the month, but in the aftermath of that frigid time, the waning moon will accelerate the January Thaw just before the January 25 high-pressure system.

At the end of the month, lunar perigee on January 30 and the new Mourning Dove Moon on February 1 will spoil or delay the Groundhog Day Thaw, bringing a stormy phase.

## Deep Winter Journal

by Bill Felker

### Part I

In some ways, nothing changes with the arrival of the New Year. The trees are still bare, and no new sprouts have appeared in the undergrowth. Pussy willow catkins are thin and tight. Forsythia buds show no hint of their February blush.

The progress of the year, however, can be gauged by whatever milestones you select. You can track storms and snow or the frequency of birdsong, the state of last year's plants, or the steady shifting of the sun and stars. The motions are slow and easily measured. This is a simple place to begin to know the year.

January scatters the last of the wildflowers, or it feeds them to the sparrows and downy woodpeckers. Almost all the goldenrod and aster seeds are gone. Only a few wingstem and ironweed kernels still hang to their stalks.

On bright sunny mornings, starlings, chickadees, pileated woodpeckers, sparrows and crows may be calling. Overwintering robins look for the honeysuckle berries. Multicolored Asian lady beetles, late autumn migrants to the Miami Valley, could be emerging on your windowsills on warm afternoons. Owls are staking out their territories in the woods.

Last year's plants are giving way to the weather, leading the landscape back toward the sun. The hulls of last June's sweet rockets and August's wild cucumbers are empty, brittle and delicate like shed snakeskin. Milkweed pods are stained and empty.

The dried flower clusters of purple coneflowers and zinnias, tough and unyielding a month ago, crumble between your fingers. Honeysuckle and euonymus berries still hang to their branches, but their firmness is gone. Osage fruit is darkening quickly, breaking down, becoming squashy. Each change is transformation, measuring the progress of Earth toward equinox.

### Part II

In January, I always take an inventory of what is happening around the yard and in my life.

I check the oak leaf hydrangea by the back porch. It often keeps half its leaves, even when the days stay below freezing. I stand and look at the wood pile for a while, trying to estimate how much wood is left.

I look in the front garden to see if the snowdrops have

come up; usually they have, at least a little, their white tips an easy gauge of earliest spring. I check the pussy willows, sometimes I count how many are opening. That's another way to measure the progress of the year.

I take a look at the honeysuckle bushes, note whether any of their berries are left. I finger the seed heads of the New England asters to see if all the seeds are gone. I kick the fat Osage fruits to understand how they are doing: they are chartreuse green when they tumble down in October and November, turn yellow and yellow through the fall, start to get mushy in the middle of winter, fall apart in spring.

I find the plants that keep their green through the coldest times: the hellebores, the creeping charley, the chickweed and pachysandra, garlic mustard, mullein, sweet rocket, and sweet William, and I am reassured by their deep color and hardiness. I look under the mulch to see if the peony stalks have started to come up. I bend down and scratch the dirt in the rhubarb patch; sometime the first red knuckles of next year's pies are visible.

All this inventory of the yard and garden gives me a sense of place and control. On the other hand, inventory of my life at the end of the year is a little more complicated.

### Part III

Spring lies hidden in the buds: hard, scarlet buds on the wild multiflora roses; box elder buds, barely visible, tucked tightly to their green branches; privet buds, minute and black; pale, supple buds on the honeysuckle.

Blood-red buds on blackberry canes, their color spreading to the sides of the stalks; fleshy, orange buds on the buckeyes; tight, round, silver buds on the dogwoods; stiff, woody buds on the crab apples; pale green buds on the lilac; sharp and thorn-like buds on the American beech; deep purple bud clusters on the red maples; gray, velvety buds on the white magnolia:

Tiny russet linden buds; yellow-brown, fat sweet gum

buds growing beside their dangling fruit; birch buds with their willowy catkins; buds of the tree-of-heaven, hiding in the hollows of last year's branches; flushed azalea buds protected by their shining leaves.

### Part IV

As the thaws move north from the Gulf of Mexico, remnants of the past year no longer point back to October.

On the hillsides, the springs are clear and the vegetation bright. New chickweed covers parts of the bottomland. Basal foliage of sweet rocket and leafcup is lush and tall, waiting for April and May. Wood mint is growing back. Some skunk cabbage is open.

As you walk through the wetlands in the January Thaw, small, pale moths may follow you, and you may see crayfish crawling along through the shallow water.

In the greenhouse, jade tree flowers have come to the end of their cycle, the white petals rusting. In the dooryards, snowdrops have come up, many with their pale white bud-like tips showing.

The first signs of the season of junco migration marks the third week of the year; watch for those birds to form small flocks and move north for breeding.

Crow migration season occurs toward the end of this week, southern birds joining the overwintering flocks, jousting for position as pairing off starts for spring mating.

By the close of the month, the first major waves of robins and bluebirds cross the Ohio River. And resident crows, sparrows, starlings and blue jays become more active, contributing to a substantial increase in the volume of morning birdsong. The full onslaught of change now starts to ride over the land, momentum building inexorably and mightily, pulling the Northern Hemisphere with the godlike energy of the entire solar system back toward summer.

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Florence, VT

# Deep Winter "1955"

by Allen A. Mills

One year, very long ago, when January turned to February, and on my father's birthday, February 7th, I would turn ten years old. Two numbers, Wow! I was no longer a kid, in my estimation but practically a grown man. First, however, I had to endure the month of Deep Winter January!

With the New Year, we were plunged into subzero temperatures sometimes remaining below zero for several days and nights. But all the farm chores still had to be done everyday regardless of the weather.

A wooden plank walkway protruded from the east side of our cow barn. This platform was raised to allow a wagon or sleds to be parked below the end of it which would allow us to empty the wheelbarrows full of manure into the sleds parked below as we cleaned out the gutters in the stables.

I inquired of my father, why we were still cleaning out the stables by hand with shovels and wheelbarrows, when most other farmers had gutter cleaners. He said, "Because with the "L" shape design of our stable it would be difficult to

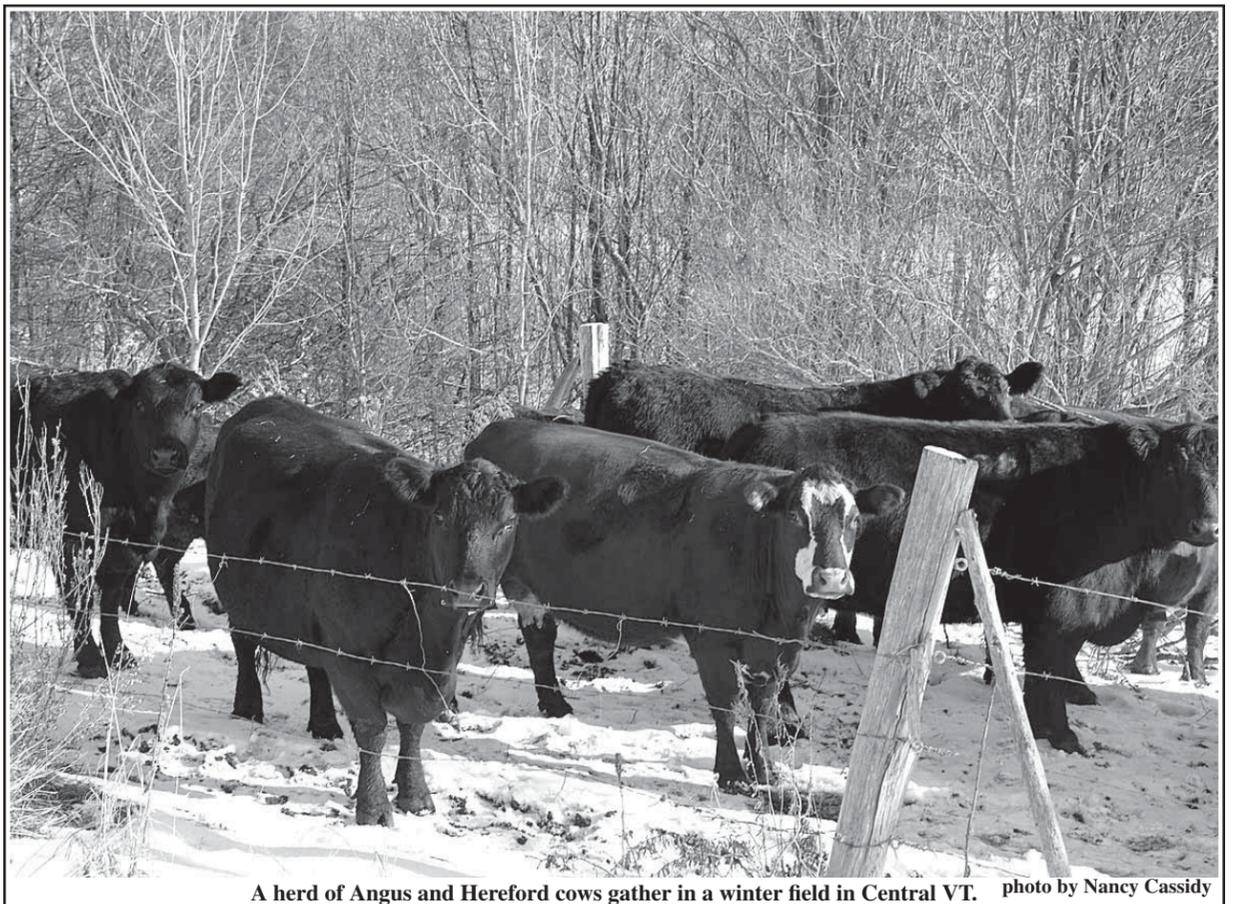
**"I objected even more when she tied a wool scarf over my hat. Boys do not wear head scarves..."**

put in." He felt the work of maintaining and keeping it from freezing wasn't worth the trouble.

On the weekends, after morning milking and our breakfast, our entire family would go to the barn and help with the morning chores. As my father and I were cleaning out the gutters, my mother, and my sisters, Ferne Marie and Kathy, would be feeding the cattle loose hay for the morning feeding. This left my younger sister, Jan, as the door tender. Her job was to open and close the door to the manure platform as my father made many trips with the wheelbarrow to clean out the gutters.

We cleaned the barn quickly and then my father would hook up the horses and spread the manure before it froze in the sleds. He wanted me to ride the back of the sled and help him spread the manure but first I would need to get some more warm clothes on.

Back then there were no terms like: base layers and insulated foot gear. The only word was "wool" and the thicker the better. I had a wool union suit with a trap door in the back. Use your imagination about the trap door if you have never been there. Then there were jeans, a flannel shirt, and a sweatshirt. Then came the wool snow pants, a Johnson wool coat, previously worn out by Harry Wedin and patched up by my mother for my use. Rubber boots with three layers of



A herd of Angus and Hereford cows gather in a winter field in Central VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

socks, a red and black checked wool hat and leather mittens with wool liners protected my feet, head, and hands. My mother insisted that for this job, I cover it all with my father's extra pair of bib overalls and long denim coat. I objected in that boys do not wear bib overalls. I objected even more when she tied a wool scarf over my hat. Boys do not wear head scarves and I was not going to! "Just do as you are told and don't make your father wait for you" was her response to my objections.

As soon as I climbed on the back of the sleds, my father had the horses all hooked up and with a big iron bar he broke the runners loose from the ice, climbed on himself and we headed out with the sleds for the north end of the meadow. We spread the manure on the field as quickly as we could and started back for the barn.

As the subzero north wind bit at any exposed skin, I was thankful for the "wool head scarf." I wondered if that was why sheep seem to blat all the time, because of their heavy coats of picky wool.

When we got back to the barn, my father told me to go up into the silo and help my sister, Ferne Marie, pitch the silage down the chute to feed the cattle. The first two inches

of silage was frozen which make the job more difficult. It seemed a strong thrust with the fork was needed to pierce the frozen silage.

It was while I was making one of these strong thrusts that I drove the fork through by boot and through my foot as well. When we were back in the barn, my mother examined my foot. It was still oozing blood and my mother said that Dad would have to take me down to Dr. Smokey's (Smolinski) for a tetanus shot.

I objected to the shot but my sister, Ferne Marie, in her usual comforting sisterly way said, "If you don't get the shot, you will probably get "Lock Jaw." You won't be able to eat or talk ever again." I got the shot!

We plowed and shoveled our way through January and after a welcomed January thaw and my sister, Ferne Marie's birthday, we looked forward to Ground Hog's Day to see what the next six weeks would have in store for us.

Allen A. Mills, Jr.'s book about his childhood on the family farm in Florence VT, **Barnyards, Barefeet and Bluejeans—A Horse's Tale** can be ordered from Shire Press at Northshire Bookstore for \$20 (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

## Vermont Winter Farmers' Markets

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**Bennington Holiday and Winter Farmers' Markets** at Bennington High School cafeteria. Saturdays through April 16. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (802) 733-6559. benningtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org.

**Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market.** At C.F. Church Building, 80 Flat St. Saturdays through March 26. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (802) 869-2141. brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org.

**Dorset Winter Farmers' Market.** At J.K. Adams, 1430 VT Rt. 30. Sundays through May 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Helen Wood, (802) 384-4499. dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

**Middlebury Winter Farmers' Market.** At VFW Post, 530 Exchange St. Saturdays through April 30. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

**Montpelier—Capital City Winter Farmers' Market.** At 133 State St. parking lot. 2nd and 4th Saturdays, January 8 through April 30. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (802) 498-8214. www.capitalcityfarmersmarket.com.

**Norwich Farmers' Winter Market** at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Saturdays January 8 & 22, February 12 & 26, March 12

& 26, and April 9 & 23. (802) 384-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org.

**Rutland—Vermont Winter Farmers' Market.** At Food Center Building, 251 West St. Saturdays through April 30. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (802) 417-8661. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

**St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Winter Farmers' Market.** At St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 51 Depot Square. First and third Saturdays through April 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (802) 592-3088. caledoniafarmersmarket.com.

## Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Colorful 2022 Calendar

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's 2022 calendar is filled with stunning photos of Vermont wildlife, including the red eft, Eastern brook trout, black bear, moose, and osprey as well as scenes of Vermonters engaging with some of our most treasured species and landscapes.

It highlights work by well known Vermont photographers including Nancy Anisfield, Jim Block, Josh Blouin, Ian Clark, Dale Cockrell, Roger Irwin, Jeff Parsons, and Tiffany Soukup.

"Vermont's wildlife, habitats, and people are interconnected—this calendar celebrates that," says Wild-

life Program Director Mark Scott. "It showcases raptors and amphibians alongside game species like white-tailed deer and wild turkey, as well as Wildlife Management Areas that support these species and uses ranging from hunting to wildlife photography."

The calendar includes hunting, fishing and trapping season dates for each month, along with beautiful photography.

The calendar is \$15 from Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department with a printable free-shipping mail-in order form on their website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



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# Old-Time Soups and Chowders for a Winter's Day

by Ella Shannon Bowles & Dorothy S. Towle

— Circa 1946 —

## Tried-And-True Corn Chowder

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1/3 cup diced salt pork | 2 1/4 cups fresh corn, or 1 can |
| 1 onion, sliced         | corn, chopped                   |
| 3 cups boiling water    | 1 1/2 teaspoons salt            |
| 3 cups diced potatoes   | 1/8 teaspoon pepper             |
| 2 cups hot milk         | 6 crackers, split               |

Try out the pork and cook the onion in the fat. Remove the pork and add the boiling water to the fat and onion. Turn into a chowder kettle, add the potatoes, and cook fifteen minutes. Add the corn, hot milk, and seasonings. Remove from the fire just before the chowder comes to a boil. Add the split crackers and serve at once. *Serves six.*

## Black Bean Soup

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 cups black beans      | 1/4 teaspoon mustard      |
| 6 cups water            | 4 tablespoons fat         |
| 2 medium onions, sliced | 1 tablespoon lemon juice  |
| 1 clove garlic          | 1/4 cup sherry            |
| 1 1/2 teaspoons salt    | 1 lemon, sliced           |
| 1/4 teaspoon pepper     | 1 hard-cooked egg, minced |

Soak the beans overnight. Drain. Add the water, onions, garlic, salt and pepper, and cook until soft. Strain through a coarse sieve. If too thick, add warm milk. Add the mustard, fat, lemon juice, and sherry. Serve with a slice of lemon covered with minced hard-cooked egg floating in each bowl.

## Fish Chowder

- |                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 medium-sized fresh codfish, sliced | 2 tablespoons flour |
| 1/2 pound salt pork, sliced          | 1 1/2 cups hot milk |
| 3 medium-sized onions, sliced        | 2 teaspoons salt    |
|                                      | 1/4 teaspoon pepper |
|                                      | Soda crackers       |

First, put the fish head in a saucepan, cover with cold water, and start it cooking. Then try out the salt pork in a skillet until the slices are crisp and brown. Remove the pork and fry the sliced onions in the fat until very light brown. Cut the pork slices into bits, add them to the fat and onion, and put the combination in the chowder kettle. Add the codfish slices and the strained water in which the fish head was boiled. Then add enough water so the liquid stands about two inches above the fish. Cook slowly for about twenty minutes. Make a paste of the flour and a little cold water. Mix with the hot milk and stir into the chowder. Add the seasonings, and let the chowder boil up once. Place halved soda crackers in the bottom of a tureen and turn the hot chowder over them. Serve at once.

## Julienne Soup

Jean Baptiste Julien, a native of France, opened the first public eating house in Boston in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Julien, known as "Prince of Soup," originated the vegetable soup which bears his name.

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 small onions                | 3 young carrots    |
| 2 tablespoons butter          | 1 stalk celery     |
| 3 quarts clarified beef stock | 3 turnips          |
| Salt, pepper, mace            | 1 pint green beans |

Cut the onions fine. Put the butter in a soup kettle, stir until melted, and fry the onions until brown. Add the clarified beef stock, salt, pepper, and a dash of mace. Boil one hour. Add the remaining vegetables cut into thin strips about an inch and a half long. Boil two hours. *Serves eight to ten.*



photo courtesy of Rutland Historical Society

Out hiking on the Long Trail, circa 1914. Photo from the Dr. George Marshall Lantern Slide Collection.

## Salt Pork Chowder

It is often hard to tell where a chowder leaves off and a stew begins. The recipe given here is known in the mountains as a stew; in the coastal part of New England it is referred to as a chowder. But under whichever name it appears, it is a substantial tasty dish and inexpensive to make. Do not depend on salt pork chowder as an unexpected-company dish. It needs planning and slow cooking to bring it to the peak of perfection. Nor should you prepare the ingredients with a stingy hand; every experienced mountain cook will tell you that the dish is much better warmed over than on the day it first comes from the kettle.

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 large carrots       | 8 potatoes, cut in cubes |
| 3 medium-sized onions | 8 cups boiling water     |
| 1/8 pound salt pork   | Salt and pepper          |

Slice the carrots and onions, and put them in a chowder kettle. Cover with water and cook about half an hour. Slice the pork and fry it in a skillet until brown. Add the fat to the vegetables; there should be about five tablespoons. Add the potatoes, boiling water, and seasonings. Cook until the potatoes are soft. The pork slices may be diced and added, if desired. *Serves eight.* About twenty minutes before serving, add dumplings made as follows:

### Dumplings

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 teaspoon baking powder | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 2 cups flour             | Sweet milk        |
| 1 teaspoon table fat     |                   |

Sift the baking powder with the flour. Work in the table fat. Add the salt and mix with milk until the mixture will drop from a spoon. Drop the dumplings on top of the boiling chowder. Cover the kettle closely, and do not open for twenty minutes.

## Peas-Porridge

Mrs. Hannah Glass, whose *Art of Cookery*, 1710, was used in most New England homes until the end of the eighteenth century, gives the following recipe for peas-porridge.

"Take a Quart of Green Peas, put to them a Quart of Water, a Bunch or dry'd Mint, and a little Salt. Let them boil till the Peas are quite tender, then put in some beaten Pepper, a Piece of Butter as big as a Walnut, rolled in Flour, stir it all together, and let it boil a Few Minutes. Then add two Quarts of Milk, let it boil a quarter of an Hour, take out the Mint, and serve it up."

## Pea Soup

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 cups dried peas            | 1 ham bone, or 1 pound |
| 4 quarts cold water or stock | lean salt pork         |
| 1 stalk celery, diced        | Salt and pepper        |
| 1/2 onion                    |                        |

Soak the peas overnight. Put in a soup kettle with the water or stock, vegetables, and ham bone. Boil until the peas are tender. Strain, add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with croutons. *Serves ten.*

We thank Barbara Towle for permission to share these recipes with you.



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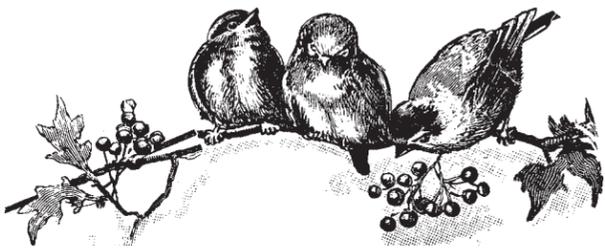
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# Grammy

11 Dutton Avenue

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

My grandmother's Fair Haven house has been in our family for close to a hundred years. She died in 1971, but it was important to me to hold onto her place—because it had been her place—so since then we've had renters.

Mary Hitchcock Hayes, my Grammy, lived there by herself for a good part of her life, and our last tenant, who just left, stayed for twenty-seven years.

Both she and my grandmother wanted to end their days in the house, but neither managed, although they came close. My grandmother finally went to Sagers, where the Fair Haven elderly and infirm often wound up, and our tenant to the Bennington Veterans' Home.

11 Dutton Avenue, when I was a child, was one of the few houses on an elm-lined street leading into the wilds of West Castleton where not a lot of people had any reason to go. Across the street there were fields and woods.

The elms were out in front by the place where a car could pull in, a sort of driveway, close to the bedroom side of her house. There was moss growing on a massive square of pale marble that marked the beginning of a slate sidewalk leading to the porch and a bank of ferns under the front bay window.

Moving farther away from the house, all around was open, undeveloped land. I have a deckle-edge black and white photo of me, a streak of white hair and a proper little coat, playing with a cocker spaniel by the back coal shed. A close-by hand pump on a pile of stacked slate stands taller than I do.

The photo is full of dazzling sunlight. A weedy young maple grows up next to a chicken coop, but other than that there isn't another building. It could be a prairie scene.

A little while ago, I read about Fair Haven's distinctive

**"...on an elm-lined street leading into the wilds of West Castleton where not a lot of people had any reason to go."**

'cross houses.' They were constructed after the mid-1800s slate industry boom started to transform Fair Haven from a tiny village, by Nolan Adams, a local man, who built them in the shape of a cross.

These are exactly-similar Fair Haven places, some with porches on their right side, some on their left, some without porches, some with back porches, most with front bay windows, but all with the same long narrow center block at right angles to the street.

My grandmother's house appears to be one of these and was probably built in 1894. My grandfather bought it for her when he moved to Benson to live on, and manage, a farm, and by then her three children were grown, her two daughters moved away and my father, the youngest, at the Castleton Normal School.

She loved this house, and all my growing up years—from the time when I first lived there with her during the Second World War—I absorbed and shared her strong feelings.

When my father received his World War II call-up from the Fair Haven draft board, my mother had to have a place to live and probably my grandfather Hayes thought of arranging an upstairs apartment in my grandmother's house.

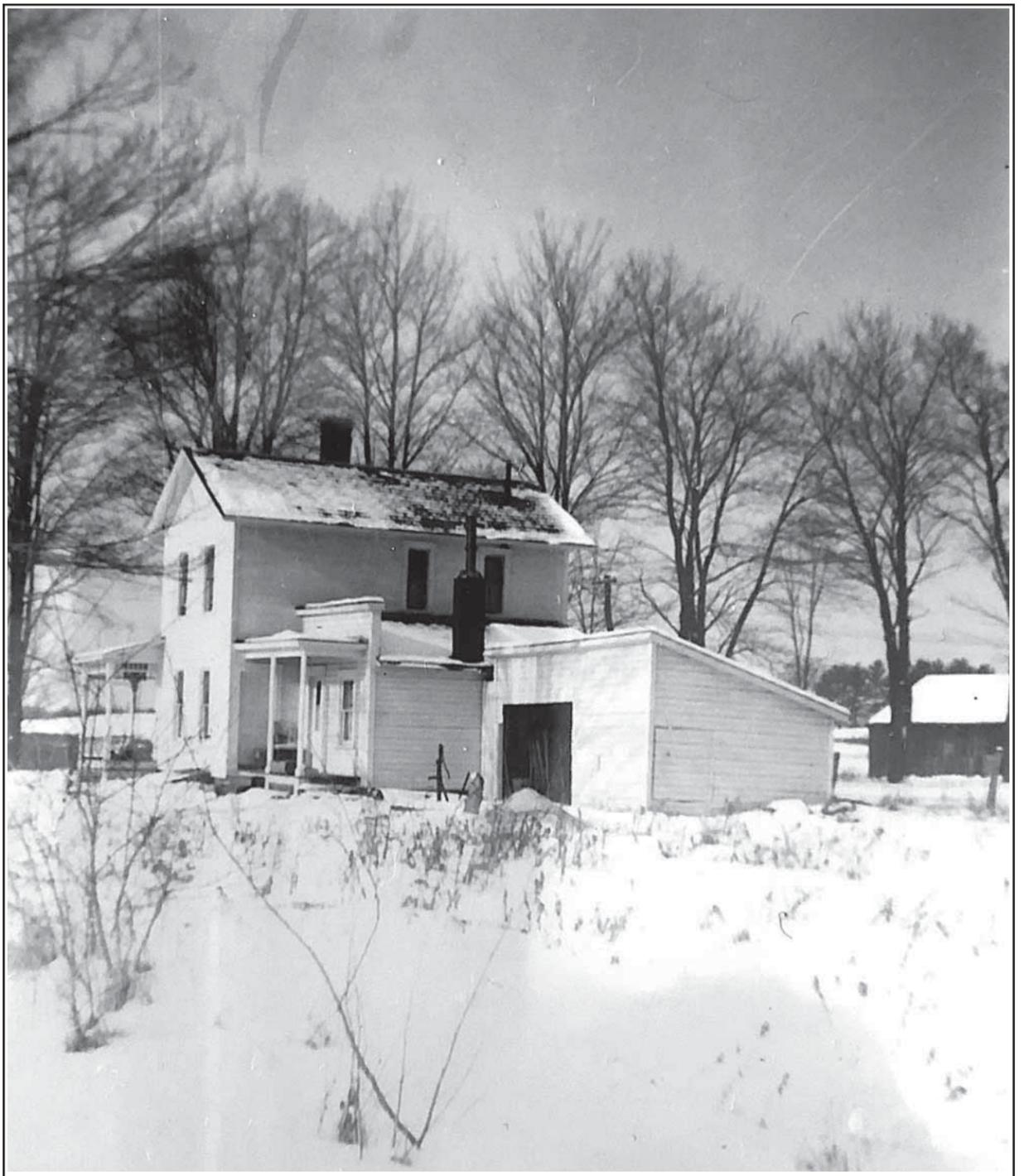
This was done in a practical, minimal way so that it couldn't have been easy on either my mother or my grandmother.

The largest bedroom became our living room. The front bedroom, which looked out over Dutton Avenue, was our bedroom. Its windows opened onto the flat roof of the downstairs bay, and one spring morning I took all my clothes off and climbed out onto this little stage and danced merrily and unselfconsciously until a passing motorist alerted my mother.

Actually, the three upstairs rooms were perfectly laid out for a small apartment, the bedroom right over my grandmother's downstairs bedroom, became a kitchen with a suitcase-sized kerosene stove and groceries kept in a bureau

But there was no plumbing in that room. The bathroom was right around the corner—at the head of very steep back stairs—and my mother had to do her washing up in there.

We lived at Dutton Avenue through the war years. Now, when I visit and go upstairs I'm back in that years-ago apart-



11 Dutton Avenue, Fair Haven, VT in the 1920s.

ment. The light doesn't pour in like it did long ago—Nolan Adams's buildings are known for the light and open feeling of their rooms—because a new house is close by next door and giant white pines, planted to mark the south property line, tower and shade.

The front room is just the same except for an altered view now that Dutton Avenue is paved and widened, and the elms are gone, and there are new houses built on the former fields across the street, and the woods have been cleared away. The little bathroom is still there and the once-kitchen is returned to being a bedroom.

Every charming feature is diminished or gone, but still there are places of the heart, and, for me, this house is one of them.

*Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, Vermont. She is the author of stories, articles, essays, magazine features, and of two books: **The Blue Cat and the River's Song** (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and **The Vanished Landmarks Game - Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye** (\$20 plus shipping and handling) available at the Castleton Village Store, P. O. Box 275, Castleton, Vermont 05735, and at a number of Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-2213. All back issues of these columns can be read in the archives, usually on page 11, at [vermontcountrysampler.com](http://vermontcountrysampler.com).*

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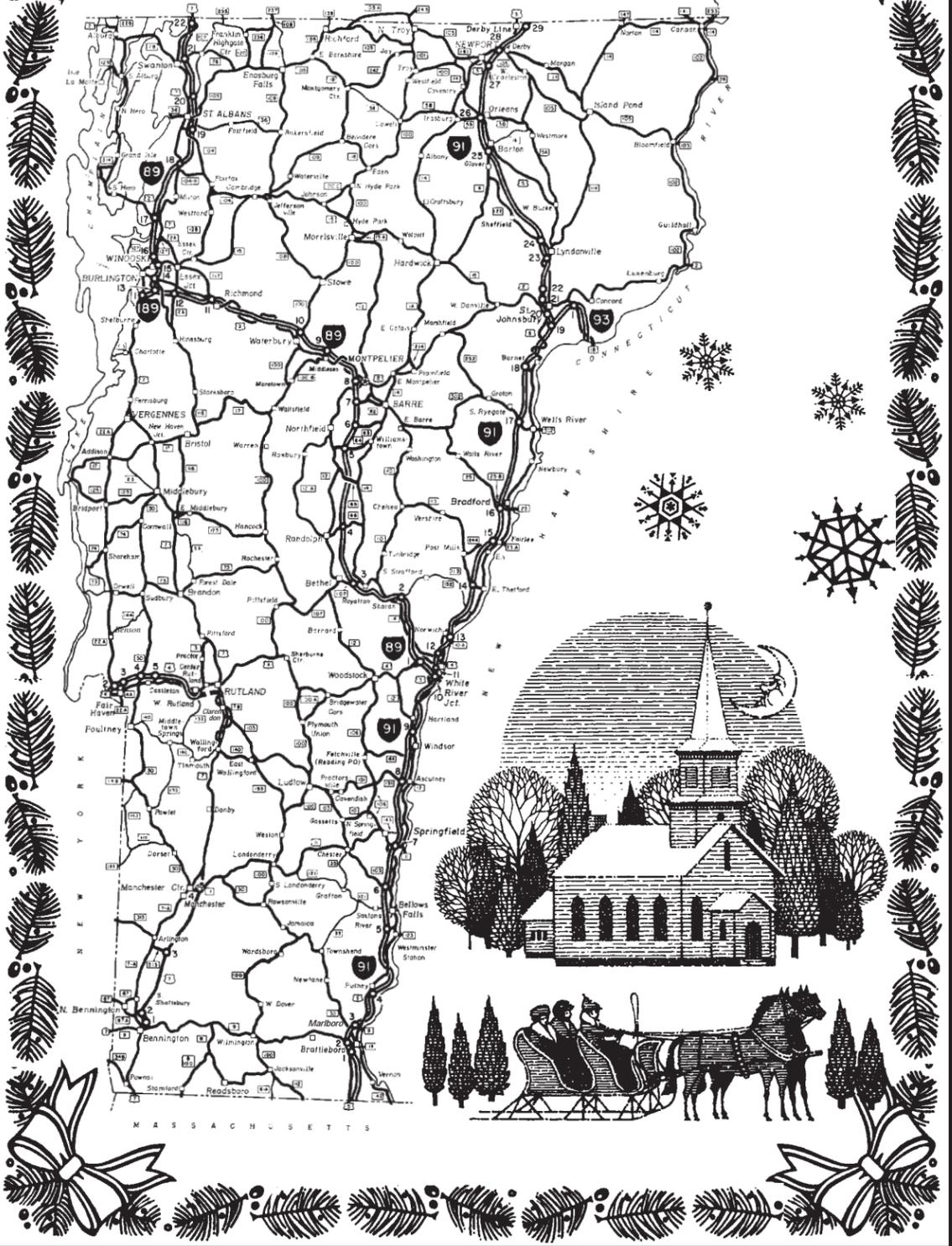
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# Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the Ongoing Activities for daily listings.  
Call ahead to confirm events before going.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2022

**BARRE.** Art Exhibits. Wednesday–Friday 11:30 am – 5 pm, Saturday 11:30 am – 4 pm, and by appointment. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. [www.studioplacearts.com](http://www.studioplacearts.com).

**BELLOWS FALLS.** Bellow Falls Third Fridays (BF3F). Some merchants stay open later. Bellow Falls Opera showing movies. Greater Falls Farmers Market 4-7 pm. (802) 460-2333. [bellowfallsvt.org](http://bellowfallsvt.org). *Third Fridays*.

**BENNINGTON.** The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Admission \$4 adults, \$2 children three and older, \$10 families. Please wear masks. Sat. and Sun. 1-4 pm. 212 Union St., corner of Valentine St. (401) 578-9512. [dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com](http://dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com).

**BENNINGTON.** Bennington Museum. Works by Grandma Moses. Adults \$12, seniors (62+) and students \$10, under 18 free. Friday–Monday, 10 am – 4 pm through December, reopening in April. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. [benningtonmuseum.org](http://benningtonmuseum.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Guild of Vermont Furniture Makers Exhibit: “Evolving Traditions”, contemporary works in wood, through February 13. Exhibit: B. Lynch, “Pull Back the Curtain,” a fantastical universe of the Reds and the Greys, set in the 18th century, using puppetry, drawing, painting, linoleum block printing, and digital animation, through February 13. Vermont Glass Guild Exhibit: “Inspired by the Past.” Contemporary works in glass exhibited alongside historical counterparts, through March 5. Exhibit: Delita Martin, “Between Worlds,” a year-long installation in the museum’s front windows that reimagines the identities and roles of Black women in the context of Black culture and African history, through May 31. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. [www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Winter Farmers’ Market. Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. [farmersmarket@postoisolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@postoisolutions.org). *Saturdays through March 9*.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. [stonechurchvt.com](http://stonechurchvt.com).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Vermont Jazz Center. Concerts online and in-person, classes, workshops. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. [www.vtjazz.org](http://www.vtjazz.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Itty Bitty Public Skating. An introduction to ice skating for preschool children and their parents/caregivers. \$8 per family per visit. 10:45-11:30 am. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 865-7558. [eweaffer@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:eweaffer@burlingtonvt.gov). [www.enjoyburlington.com](http://www.enjoyburlington.com). *Saturdays and Sundays January 8 through March 6*.

**BURLINGTON.** Catamount Trail Association. Cross-country ski tours and special events. Catamount Trail Association, 1 Mill St., Suite 350. (802) 864-5794. [info@catamounttrail.org](mailto:info@catamounttrail.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Contemporary Art Gallery. Thursday–Saturday 11 am – 5 pm, and by appointment. Soapbox Arts, 266 Pine St., Suite 119. (802) 324-0014. [info@soapboxarts.com](mailto:info@soapboxarts.com). [www.soapboxarts.com](http://www.soapboxarts.com).

**BURLINGTON.** ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Exhibits, workshops, programs, museum store. For all ages. Adults \$18, students & seniors \$16, children 3-17 \$14.50, children 2 and under free. Open seven days a week! ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. [www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org).

**CHARLOTTE.** Clemmons Family Farm. 148-acre historic farm, African-American owned land and cultural heritage resource. Visit website for more info. (765) 560-5445. [www.clemmonsfamilyfarm.org](http://www.clemmonsfamilyfarm.org).

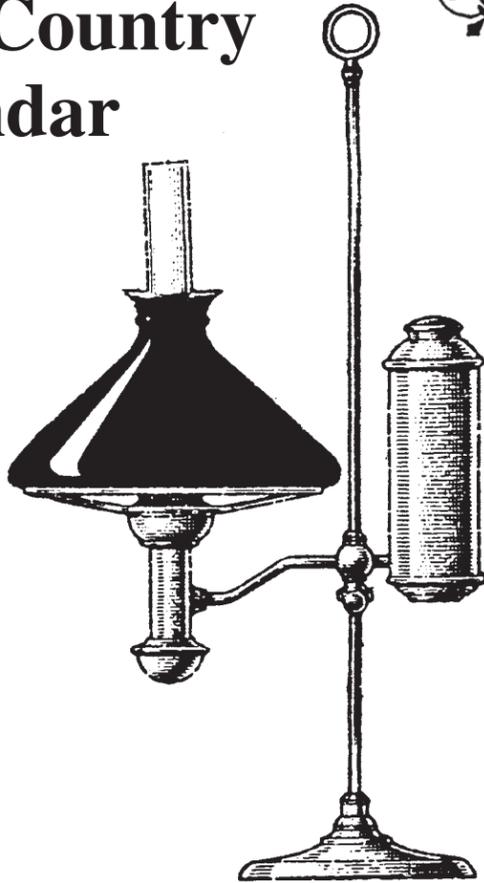
**COLCHESTER.** Sam Mazza’s Farm Market. Home-grown produce. Bakery, ice cream, fudge, wines and specialty foods. Open 7 am to 7 pm. 277 Lavigne Rd. (802) 655-3440. [sammazzafarms.com](http://sammazzafarms.com).

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**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Vermont Genealogy Library. Classes, archives, research, books. Open Tuesday 3-9:30 pm and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Vermont Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd. (Rt. 117). [mail@vtgenlib.org](mailto:mail@vtgenlib.org). [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

**GLOVER.** Bread and Puppet Theater. Open for drop-in visits to see museum puppets, masks, costumes, paintings, buildings, and landscapes. Bread and Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Rd. (802) 525-3031. [breadpup@together.net](mailto:breadpup@together.net). [breadandpuppet.org](http://breadandpuppet.org).

**GRAFTON.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Reservations required. 11 am – 4 pm (final ride 3:30 pm). (802) 843-2400. The Grafton Inn, Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. [graftoninnvermont.com](http://graftoninnvermont.com). *Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Feb. 12, 19-20, 26*.



**HANOVER, NH.** Community Dinner in Hanover. To-go meals available upon request. Free. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. [office@oslchanover.org](mailto:office@oslchanover.org). *Every Thursday*.

**HARDWICK.** The Vermont Curators Group Itinerary. Hardwick to Waitsfield. Five exhibitions. Meandering scenic route on a trip through at least 11 towns. 251 Club of Vermont. [vt251.com](http://vt251.com). [vermontcuratorsgroup.com](http://vermontcuratorsgroup.com).

**HUNTINGTON.** “The Gift of Art” Art Show. Included with admission to the museum. Open when the museum is, 10 am – 4 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. [birdsofvermont.org](http://birdsofvermont.org). *On exhibit through April 30, 2022*.

**LEBANON, NH.** AVA Gallery and Art Center. Exhibits, classes, programs. Tues–Fri 11 am – 6 pm, Sat–Sun 11 am – 4 pm. 11 Bank St. [www.avagallery.org](http://www.avagallery.org).

**MANCHESTER.** Art Exhibits, Classes, Programs. Exhibit: Hiroshige and the Changing Japanese Landscape. Japanese woodblock prints by Utagawa Hiroshige (1797-1858), through February 27. Exhibit: “The World Between the Block and the Paper”. Group exhibition of Mokuhaanga prints in collaboration with Japanese print collective the Mokuhaanga Sisters, through March 27. Wednesday–Saturday 10 am – 4 pm, Sunday 12 noon – 4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 2522 West Rd. (802) 367-1311. [www.svac.org](http://www.svac.org).

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**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury College Museum of Art. Collection of several thousand objects ranging from antiquities to contemporary art. Free admission. Tuesday through Friday 9 am – 12:30 pm, 1:30-4 pm; Sunday 12-5pm. Middlebury College Museum of Art, Mahaney Center for the Arts, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-5007. [www.museum.middlebury.edu/visit](http://www.museum.middlebury.edu/visit).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Exhibit: Pride 1983. Through interviews with organizers, photographs, and scanned images of historic documents, the exhibit, curated by Meg Tamulonis of the Vermont Queer Archives, explores the origins and lasting legacies of Vermont’s first Pride March on June 25, 1983, in Burlington. It can also be viewed online at [vtfolklife.org](http://vtfolklife.org). Vermont Folklife Center, 88 Main St. (802) 388-4964. [vtfolklife.org](http://vtfolklife.org). *Through March 25*.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Holiday Train Exhibit. The popular Lionel trains with a Green Mountain backdrop and a brand-new feature: a caboose that livestreams a video of the train traveling through its layout. Available with museum admission. Tue–Fri 1:30-3:30 pm, Saturdays 1-3:30 pm. Reservations required on Saturdays. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (802) 388-2117. [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org). *Through January 8*.

**MONTPELIER.** Exhibit: “The Catamount in Vermont”. An exhibition that explores the feline symbol of Vermont through the lenses of art, science, and culture. 10 am to 5 pm Wednesdays–Saturdays. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 479-8500. [vermonthistory.org](http://vermonthistory.org). *Through May 31*.

**MONTPELIER.** Cross Vermont Trail Association. A project to build a multi-use, four-season path across the width of Vermont, following the Winooski River and Wells River valleys. (802) 498-0079. [crossvermont.org](http://crossvermont.org).

## Fireside Chant

Apple wood for fragrance,  
Ash for violet glow,  
Hornbeam, larch and sassafras,  
Such lovely words to know.  
Sycamore’s serenity,  
Hickory’s embrace,  
Oak to scatter golden sparks  
Before the watcher’s face.

Juniper for incense,  
Birch for flame and flare—  
Someone to come walking in  
With snowflakes in her hair.  
Darkness past the windows,  
Wind above the eaves,  
And friend to friend relating  
The thoughts the heart believes.

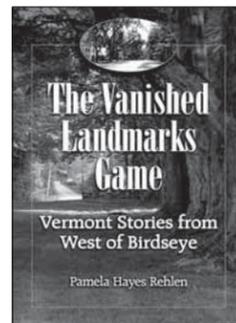
Hemlock, spruce and poplar.  
Say them softly now:  
Chestnut, pine and mountain  
ash,  
Beech and cherry bough.

—ESTHER WOOD  
1905-2002, East Blue Hill, Maine



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## Captivating Stories from Castleton



### The Vanished Landmarks Game Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye

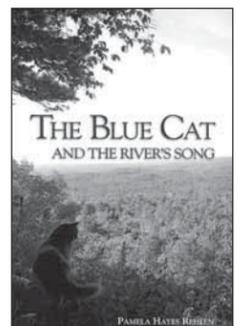
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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing Activities 2022, continued)

**MONTPELIER.** Nature programs online and in person. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org. (802) 229-6206.

**MONTPELIER.** Northeast Wilderness Trust. Forever-wild conservation is about freedom for wildlife, natural processes, and the untrammeled evolution of the landscape. We work with partner organizations and landowners to evaluate land for wilderness conservation. Northeast Wilderness Trust. (802) 224-1000. newildernesstrust.org.

**MORRISVILLE.** Exhibit. "Tradition/Improvisation," Fiber works by Vermont artist Kristina Snook. River Arts, 74 Pleasant St. (802) 888-1261. info@riverartsvt.org. www.riverartsvt.org. *Exhibit open through January 15.*

**NEWFANE.** Dutton's Farmstand. Winter squash, fruits and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, pies, bread, cookies, creemees! Dutton's Farmstand, 391 & 407 Rt. 30. (802) 365-4168. duttonberryfarm.com.

**NORTH SPRINGFIELD.** Displays and exhibits about the town's history. Free. Saturdays 1-4 pm, or by appointment. Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Rt. 106. (802) 886-7935. sahs@vermontel.net.

**NORWICH.** Montshire Museum of Science. All ages. Adults \$18, children 2-17 \$15, under 2 free. Reservations. Tues-Fri 10 am - 5 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, One Montshire Road off Rt. 5. (802) 649-2200. montshire.org.

**NORWICH.** Mindfulness Meditation. In-person and online. Approximately one hour of sitting and walking meditation, followed by a reading most days, and discussion. Free, donations welcome. 9-11:30 am. St Barnabas Episcopal Church, 262 Main St. (703) 727-5208. joyceandpat@gmail.com. *Tuesdays January 4 through June 28.*

**ONLINE.** Exhibit. "Pattern & Purpose: American Quilts from the Shelburne Museum". Free. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. www.shelburnemuseum.org.

**ONLINE.** Birding Hotspots in Rutland County. Publicly accessible places, variety of habitats. www.eBird.org. Rutland County Audubon. utlandcountyaudubon.org.

**ONLINE.** Poetry Event: Recite! Poets, amateurs, first-timers, and those who just want to listen. Free. 7-9 pm. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green. (802) 457-2295. normanwilliams.org. *Second Tuesdays.*

**ONLINE.** Outdoor Radio. Over 50 episodes online, with topics ranging from birds to bats and beavers to peepers. Co-hosts: Kent McFarland and Sara Zahendra. Find episodes on the VCE website Vermont Center for Ecostudies. www.vtecostudies.org.

**ONLINE.** Forevergreen: A Vermont Adventure in Music. Bringing the music of Vermont and the artists who have an affinity for the Green Mountain State directly to you. All shows stream live at 7 pm on Vermont Tourism YouTube and Facebook. vermontvacation.com/forevergreen.

**ONLINE.** 2022 Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses Available Online. License gift certificates also available. John.Hall@vermont.gov. vtfishandwildlife.com.

**ONLINE.** 4-H at Home. University of Vermont Extension programs for kids of all ages on veterinary science, civic engagement and environmental leadership to gardening and nutrition, babysitting and learning to code. Free. uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home.

**ONLINE.** Middlebury Collage Exhibit: "Itty Bitty: Tiny Texts in Special Collections". Books from the 17th to 21st centuries that measure between 1.8 and 10 centimeters, from religious manuscripts to cookbooks, children's books to Shakespeare. View the works online at go.middlebury.edu/tinybooks. Davis Family Library, Middlebury College, 110 Storrs Ave. (802) 443-5494. www.middlebury.edu. *Exhibit through May 31, 2022.*

**ONLINE.** 'Twas the Night'. New England Center for Circus Arts's Online Circus Show. Celebrate solstice and the holiday season with the annual end of year circus extravaganza gone virtual. \$15-\$50, buy tickets online. Watch streaming on demand at your leisure. (802) 254-9780. www.necenterforcircusarts.org. *December 26-January 2.*

**ONLINE.** Solstice Seeds 2021 Catalogue of Open Pollinated Seeds. Solstice Seeds, Hartland, Vermont. solsticeseedsvt@gmail.com. solsticeseeds.org.

**ONLINE.** Exhibit: In Plain Sight: Rediscovering Charles Sumner Bunn's Decoys. Shorebird decoys carved by the members of the Shinnecock-Montauk Tribes, based on extensive research and resolving historic controversy. Shelburne Museum. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org. *Through October 5.*

**ONLINE.** Interactive All-Vermont Band Guide. Big Heavy World. (802) 865-1140. bigheavyworld.com/band-guide.

**ORLEANS.** Vermont Reindeer Farm. Attend our Reindeer School, visit Dasher, Prancer & Cupid out in the Reindeer

Pasture! Farm visits by appointment only, book your tour online! Vermont Reindeer Farm, 3108 Chilafoux Rd. (802) 754-9583. vtreindeerfarm.com. *Through December 31.*

**POULTNEY.** Art Gallery. Classes, workshops, events. Sundays 1-4 pm, Fridays 5-7:30 pm by appointment. Stone Valley Arts Center at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St. stonevalleyarts.org.

**QUECHEE.** VINS Nature Center's Outdoor Exhibits. Adults \$17.50, seniors (62 plus) \$16.50, college students \$16.50, educators & vets \$16.50, youth 4-17 \$15, kids 3 & under free. Open daily 10 am - 4 pm. Covid protocols. 149 Natures Way off Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

**RUPERT.** Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Workshops, events, children's activities, over 30 miles of hiking trails, overnight camping in reserved lean-to's and cabins, and tenting. 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 7, 2022.*

**RUTLAND.** Chaffee Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes, gift shop. Wed, Thurs & Fri 12-4 pm and Sat 10 am - 2 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

**RUTLAND.** Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. A discovery center that highlights the rich heritage of Vermont while building skills in our youth, especially in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) through interactive exhibits and programs. \$5 ages 1 to 64, \$4 for seniors 65+, \$2 for anyone with a valid EBT card and identification. Friday & Saturday 10 am - 2 pm and 2-4 pm, Sunday 12-4 pm. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. (802) 282-2678. www.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild. A Cooperative Craft & Fine Art Gallery. Backroom Gallery exhibits change every six weeks. Open Tues-Sat 10:30 am - 5:30 pm. Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, 430 Railroad St. (802) 748-0158. nekartisansguild.com.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections, Star Space Astronomy Tours. Admission: adults: \$12, seniors (65+) and children 5-17 \$8, 4 and younger free. Planetarium admission: \$7. Wednesday through Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. COVID protocols. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org

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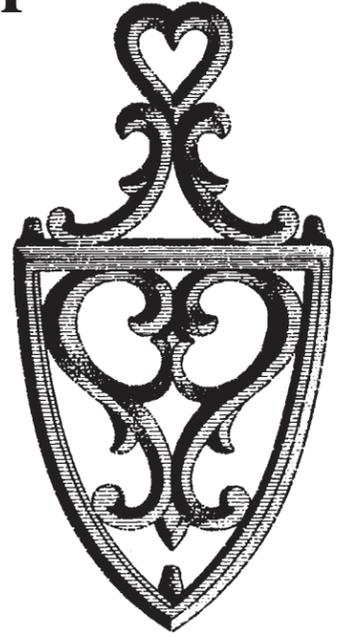
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# Vermont Country Calendar



**ST. JOHNSBURY.** The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Hike the trails, open seven days dawn to dusk! Gallery and Dog Chapel open Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am – 5 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580.

**SHELburne.** Exhibit: Adrienne Ginter & Erika Lawlor Schmidt. Hand-cut paper works that tell stories from nature, and monotypes that reflect the natural world. Pierson Library, 5376 Shelburne Rd. (802) 865-7296. shelburnevt.org. *Through January 31.*

**SHELburne.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh or Wagon Rides. Giddy-up on these 20-minute rides from the Farm Store & Welcome Center. Adults \$10, children (3-17) \$8, children under 3 free. Registration at cwright@shelburnefarms.org or (802) 985-8686. 11 am – 2 pm every half hour. Meet at our Farm Store & Welcome Center, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. shelburnefarms.org. *Dec. 26-30, Jan. 2.*

**SHELburne.** Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum. See the Museum's buildings and campus bedecked in beautiful holiday lights. Adults \$15, ages 3-17 \$10, 2 and younger free. 5-8 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org/visit/winter-lights. *Weekends through January 1.*

**SHELburne.** Shelburne Farms. Walking trails. Programs and activities for the whole family. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides through January 2. Welcome Center parking lot. Admission by donation. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

**SHELburne.** Winter Compass – Exhibits by 14 Artists. Furchgott Sourdiffe Gallery, 86 Falls Rd. (802) 985-3848. mail@fsgallery.com. www.fsgallery.com/exhibits/winter-compass. *December 25- January 31.*

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Exhibit: "Hometown Watercolorists". Five members of the Vermont Watercolor Society show their work in landscapes, portraits, abstracts, and still lifes: Joey Bibeau, Lynn Cummings, Alice Eckles, Martin Lalonde, and Lauren Wooden. South Burlington Public Art Gallery, 180 Market St. (802) 536-1722. *Through January 7.*

**SOUTH ROYALTON.** Christmas Light Display and Nativity. Free drive-thru. Art display and apple cider, free at the local church, on site. Dusk to 10 pm. At the Joseph Smith Birthplace, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 357 LDS Lane off Dairy Hill Rd. off Rt. 14 between South Royalton and Sharon. (802) 763-7742. *On display through New Year's Day.*

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont Atlas of Life. Lectures, field trips, events for naturalists to get together. Vermont Center for Ecostudies. www.vtecostudies.org. inaturalist.org/projects/vermont-atlas-of-life.

**STATEWIDE.** Vermont State Parks. Vermont has 55 developed and staffed state parks and undeveloped state park lands to use and enjoy. (888) 409-7579. www.vtstateparks.com.

**STATEWIDE.** The 251 Club. Since 1954, organization of Vermont enthusiasts whose objective is to visit the state's 251 towns and cities. New memberships welcome. (802) 233-8649. www.vt251.com.

**STOWE.** Friday Music Residency. Funk, jazz, blues, country, reggae, and rock. Free. Fridays, 5-9 pm, with bar service till 9 pm. Stowe Cider, 17 Town Farm Lane. (802) 253-2065. stowecider.com. *Friday evenings through March.*

**STOWE.** Peace Pups Dogsledding. All sorts of dog powered activities available year round. Times vary, visit website for bookings. Prices range \$50 to \$120. Peace Pups Dogsledding, 239 Cross Rd. (802) 888-7733. ken@peacepupsdogsledding.com. peacepupsdogsledding.com.

**STOWE.** Exhibits. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. helenday.com.

**STOWE.** Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum. Celebrating Vermont's Skiing History. Admission by suggested donation: individuals \$5, families \$10. Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum, 1 South Main St. (802) 253-9911. vtssm.com.

**STRATTON.** Learn to Ski or Ride. Enjoy a 2-for-1 Learn To Ski or Learn To Ride lesson package any Monday through Friday of January. Include a ski or snowboard rental, boots, helmet, half-day group lesson and a Learning Zone lift ticket. Price varies. All day. Stratton Mountain Ski Resort, 5 Village Rd. 1 (800) 787-2886. www.stratton.com.

**WAITSFIELD.** Naturalist Snowshoe Program. Join one of Mad River Glen's Naturalists for a guided snowshoe trek on Stark Mountain! Easy to moderate difficulty. Two-hour programs. \$25 per person (minimum of \$50 for 1 or 2 people). Tubbs Snowshoes rentals available. Snowshoe Trail Pass (without a program) \$5. 10:30 am. For reservations and info call (802) 496-3551 x 125. naturalist@madriverglen.com. www.madriverglen.com. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

**WATERBURY.** Board & Tabletop Games. Lifelong gamer Vinni Yasi hosts a morning of fun and strategy for teen and adult players. 9 am – 1 pm, first Saturday of every month. Free. Waterbury Public Library, 28 N. Main St. (802) 244-7036. www.waterburypubliclibrary.com. *First Saturdays.*

**WEST BRATTLEBORO.** Dutton's Farmstand. Holiday decor, wreaths. Season's best fruits and vegetables. Our own maple syrup, apples, cider. Baked goods, creameries! Dutton's Farmstand, 308 Marlboro Rd. (802) 254-0254. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

**WEST MARLBORO.** Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. 600 mounted specimens of native northeastern birds and mammals, close to 250 species represented. Northeastern Mineralogy Collection. Wednesday through Monday 10 am to 4 pm. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Free Community Dinner. LISTEN's hearty three-course community dinners are served in the dining hall and on a "to go" basis. Free. Monday-Saturday 4:30-5:30 pm. LISTEN Community Dinner Hall, 42 Maple St. www.listencs.org.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Noon Time Hockey. For ages 15 and up: this program is open play, participants are required to have some hockey experience and must have complete hockey gear to play. Admission \$5.00 to \$80.00 per play/resident/non-resident fees. 12-1 pm. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 451 Highland Ave. (802) 295-5036. kmcnall@hartford-vt.org. *Fridays January 7 through March 11.*



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# Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2022, continued)

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Art Exhibits, Workshops. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 North Main St., Suite 160. (802) 295-5901. [tworiversprintmaking.org](http://tworiversprintmaking.org).

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Two Rivers Printmaking Studio Holiday Show. Prints and handmade gift cards by artist members. Free. 5-7 pm. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio, 85 North Main Street, Suite 160. (802) 295-5901. [www.tworiversprintmaking.com](http://www.tworiversprintmaking.com). *Through January 29.*

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Exhibit: Julie Crabtree & Amanda Ann Palmer. Fiber-art landscapes inspired by the Scotland coast, and hand-thrown pottery, respectively. Long River Gallery, 49 S. Main St. (802) 295-4567. *Through February 28.*

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** Public Skating. Skate rentals and sharpening are available on site. Rentals \$5 per pair and skate sharpening \$5 per pair. Memberships are available online, at the Rec. office, or the arena. Friday 1:15-2:30 pm, Saturday 4:15-5:45 pm, Sunday 3:10-4:30 pm. Public skating blackout dates are December 25, February 18, 2022. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 45 Highland Ave. (802) 295-5036. [hartfordvt.myrec.com](http://hartfordvt.myrec.com). *Through the winter.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Scenic Billings Farm & Museum in January. Visit the cows, sheep, chickens and goats all cozy in the animal barns and learn what winter farm work entailed in 1890, Saturday and Sunday 12 & 2 pm. Bring your own snowshoes or rent from the nearby Woodstock Inn & Resort Nordic Center and venture through the snow-covered farm fields. Bring your own sled – kids and grown-ups can speed down the small hill next to the orchard. Warm up with hot chocolate and s'mores around the fire pit, available for purchase on site. Family crafts and a story walk. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Private Winter Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Experience the beauty of our Farm with your own private ride (can have 10 adults and 5 children per party). \$350 per ride. Approximately 30 minutes. call for a reservation time. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org/winter-sleigh-rides](http://www.billingsfarm.org/winter-sleigh-rides). Available December, January, and February.

**WOODSTOCK.** Horse-Drawn Winter Group Sleigh Rides. \$5 per person. 30 minutes. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org/winter-sleigh-rides](http://www.billingsfarm.org/winter-sleigh-rides). December 27-January 2, January 15-17, February 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, & 25.

**WOODSTOCK.** Art Exhibit: Paula Cloudpainter. "Cloudmaps and Other Travels Through the Atmosphere," watercolors and mixed-media paintings. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green. (802) 457-2295. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org). *Through December 31.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Woodstock History Center. Free admission. Open Wed-Sat. Woodstock History Center, 26 Elm St. (802) 457-1822. [www.woodstockhistorycenter.org](http://www.woodstockhistorycenter.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Christmas at the Farm. Victorian Christmas traditions. Sleigh rides from December 27 – January 2, conditions permitting. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). *Dec. 26-Jan. 2.*

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

**MANCHESTER.** Christmas Brunch at the Equinox. Join us for a festive Christmas Brunch Buffet in the scenic Equinox Colonnade. Reservations necessary. 10:30 am – 3 pm. Equinox Golf Resort & Spa, 3567 Main St. (802) 362-4700. [dining@equinoxresort.com](mailto:dining@equinoxresort.com). [www.equinoxresort.com](http://www.equinoxresort.com).

**ONLINE.** Vermont Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops. Contemplative and festive carols, and a dash of warm-weather cheer from Brazil. Tickets start at \$10. 9 am. (802) 864-5741 x 110. [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org).

**RUTLAND.** Holiday Lights Live! Drive through the fairgrounds and witness the beautiful holiday light displays. \$30/vehicle. 6-9 pm. Vermont State Fair, 175 S Main St. (802) 775-5200. [vermontstatefair@outlook.com](mailto:vermontstatefair@outlook.com). [www.vermontstatefair.org](http://www.vermontstatefair.org). *Also December 26.*

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Community Fire. This monthly fire is an open invitation to meet the people living around you. \$5 suggested donation. 5:30-8:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. [info@mainstreetarts.org](mailto:info@mainstreetarts.org). [www.mainstreetarts.org](http://www.mainstreetarts.org). *First Saturdays through April.*

**SHELburne.** Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum. See the Museum's buildings and campus bedecked in beautiful holiday lights. Adult tickets are \$15, ages 3-17 are \$10, those 2 and younger are free. 5-8 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. [shelburnemuseum.org](http://shelburnemuseum.org). *Weekends through January 1.*

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

**WOODSTOCK.** Christmas at the Farm. Victorian Christmas traditions. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Through January 2.*

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

**BURLINGTON.** Reindeer Live at ECHO. Up-close look at these incredible reindeer from Vermont Reindeer Farm. Free with museum admission. 10 am – 3 pm. ECHO, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. [www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org).

**ONLINE.** Screening: *Tomorrow*. Cyril Dion and Mélanie Laurent, together with a team of four people, carry out an investigation in ten different countries to figure out what may lead to a mass extinction before the end of the 21st century and how to avoid it. Hosted by Pentangle Arts. Free but must register. (802) 457-3981. *Streaming through December 29.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Christmas at the Farm. Victorian Christmas traditions. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org). *Through January 2.*

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, Americana concerts. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. [stonechurchvt.com](http://stonechurchvt.com).

**BURLINGTON.** Sled Dogs Live at ECHO. Learn about the incredible October Siberians Sled Dogs huskies before meeting them up-close on the terrace. Free with museum admission. 10 am – 3 pm. ECHO, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. [www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org).

**HANOVER, NH.** Community Dinner in Hanover. To-go meals available upon request. Free. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. [office@oslchanover.org](mailto:office@oslchanover.org). *Every Thursday.*

**MANCHESTER.** New Year's Family Concert. Join the Taconic String Band for their end-of-year concert for the young and young-at-heart. A live event, the concert will also be livestreamed. 3 pm. Inn at Manchester Celebration Barn, 3967 Main St. For more information and tickets mid-December go to [www.taconicmusic.org](http://www.taconicmusic.org).

**MIDDLEBURY.** Screening: *Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog*. From award-winning director Lynn Roth, this film portrays the timeless and unbreakable bond between a boy and his faithful dog as it is put to the ultimate test in 1930's Germany. By Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Selects. Adult \$16, children under 12 \$7. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. [tickets@townhalltheater.org](mailto:tickets@townhalltheater.org). [www.townhalltheater.org](http://www.townhalltheater.org).



**Vermont Foodbank**  
[www.vtfoodbank.org](http://www.vtfoodbank.org)

## Useful Vermont Websites

**Vermont State Parks:** [vtstateparks.com](http://vtstateparks.com)  
**Green Mountain National Forest:** [fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl](http://fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl)  
**Vermont Recreation Planner:** [vermontvacation.com](http://vermontvacation.com)  
**Hunting & Fishing:** [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com)  
**Vermont Recreation & Travel:** [voga.org](http://voga.org)  
**Things to Do:** [findandgoseek.net](http://findandgoseek.net)  
**Mountain Biking:** [vmba.org](http://vmba.org)

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## Herbs for Winter

### Fresh Rosemary for Every Season

by Jodi Larison

Extension Master Gardener Intern  
University of Vermont

While rosemary is not a perennial in Vermont, you can still grow and enjoy fresh rosemary all year. Just plant it in a container. Bring it outside in warmer weather and inside before the first frost.

Why rosemary? It is attractive, resembling a small pine tree, and has a pleasant scent, is easy to grow and offers great flavor and versatility as a culinary herb. All common rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) plants provide edible rosemary.

Rosemary can be grown from seed, though not recommended, or by rooting stem cuttings. Plants usually can be purchased for under \$10 and are available at garden centers during warmer months and by mail order anytime. Make sure the plant you choose is a common rosemary plant with an upright form.

Select an appropriate container for potting your rosemary. My rosemary plant was about 7 inches tall when I bought it and is now 22 inches tall. After purchasing, I planted it in a

decorative, partially glazed ceramic container 10 inches in diameter and 9 inches in height with a drainage hole at the bottom, a container it could grow into. An alternate option would be to use a smaller container and then transplant to a larger one as the plant grows.

For planting, use soil amended with compost. Drainage is important, as rosemary will not tolerate excess water, but do not let your plant dry out. If you notice that some leaves are no longer green, more water is needed.

I fertilize my plant with a food-safe, water-soluble fertilizer when it is outside. Rosemary needs sun, so place your rosemary in a spot where it will get at least 6 hours of sunlight daily.

The only pruning I have done is to clip off stems when harvesting fresh rosemary for cooking or to remove dead stems. If you choose, you can prune your plant to shape it.

While rosemary is an herb that can be used to flavor many foods, I use it mostly in cooking chicken and potatoes. I keep things simple, using only three ingredients and minimizing clean-up by using one dish for prep and cooking.

To prepare the chicken, use skinless boneless breasts or thighs. Remove visible fat, place in a single layer in an oven-safe glass baking dish, then add balsamic vinegar and fresh chopped rosemary leaves. Turn the chicken so it is fully covered with vinegar and the chopped rosemary leaves are evenly distributed on both sides.

As a guide, for 2 pounds of chicken try 1/4 cup of balsamic vinegar and 1 tablespoon of fresh chopped rosemary leaves. When you prepare this dish again, adjust the amount of vinegar and rosemary according to your personal preferences.

The chicken can be served hot or cold. When serving hot, I pair it with a starch and a vegetable such as rice and Brussels sprouts. Cold, it can be incorporated into a salad or sandwich.

For potatoes, I use a similar approach, mixing cubed, bite-sized pieces of potato, olive oil and fresh chopped rosemary in an oven-safe glass baking dish. I bake the potatoes until they are crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, stirring a couple times during the cooking process. Any type of potato will work but I like to mix two or three types.

Other ingredients that can be used in either of these dishes would include, but not be limited to, garlic, onion or pepper. You can find many online recipes using fresh rosemary with many types of meats and fish, as well as in baking. Bon Appétit!

*Jodi Larison is a UVM Extension Master Gardener Intern from West Dover.*

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# Vermont Country Calendar



## Muffin, Biscuit and Scone Recipes from a Century Past

### Entire Wheat Drop Biscuits

One-fourth of a cup of butter, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, two scant teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, a generous pinch of salt, enough whole-wheat flour to make a stiff batter. Drop by spoonfuls in heated pans and bake in quick oven twenty minutes.

—A Farmer's Wife

### Corn Muffins

Sift together one and two-thirds cupfuls of flour, one cupful of corn-meal, either white or yellow, and three level teaspoonfuls of baking-powder. Beat to a cream two tablespoonfuls of butter with three tablespoonfuls of sugar and add to them three well-beaten eggs. Dilute this with a pint of whole milk, add a little salt, beat hard and put into two dozen small, well-buttered gem-pans. They bake in a few minutes. Serve hot with butter and jam if you like.

—C. E. Silloway

### Pop-overs

Beat two eggs together until thoroughly mixed; add one cupful of milk. Put one cupful of flour, sifted twice, into another bowl; add to it gradually the eggs and milk and a little salt; beat until smooth. Put at once into greased hot gem-pans and bake in a moderately quick oven for forty-five minutes. If properly baked, they should swell six times their original bulk, and may be used for breakfast or luncheon, or served with a liquid pudding sauce as a dessert. Iron gem-pans insure better results than those made of lighter metals.

—Sabylla I. Martin

### Muffins of Buttermilk (Good)

Use a pint of rich buttermilk and mix in sufficient flour to make the batter very stiff. Add an egg, beaten in, a little salt, and add last one-half of a teaspoonful of soda, dissolved in a very little hot water. Bake in patty-pans or rings. They require a quick oven.

—Mrs. Julia Robinson

### Graham Gems

In a mixing bowl put two and one-half cupfuls of cold water. Sift in three cups of graham-meal, stirring briskly while you add the meal. Beat for five minutes, and drop them from the spoon into a hot pan and into a hot oven. This recipe I learned from a lady physician who has no faith in soda, yeast or molasses, as factors in producing good bread.

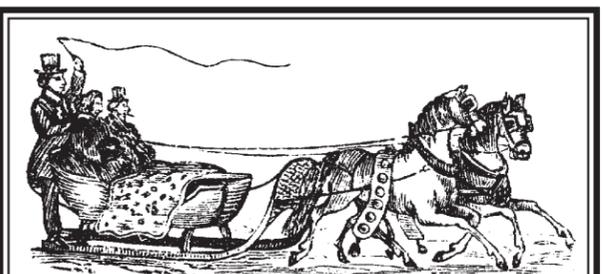
—Mrs. Carrie Otis

### Tasty Scones

Two cupfuls of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, one-half of a teaspoonful of salt, one-third of a cup of sugar, three tablespoonfuls of butter, one egg, currants if desired. Add enough milk to make a soft dough, divide in half, flatten with the hand into a round cake the thickness of a biscuit, mark with a knife into four scones and bake quickly. Serve with jam and butter.

—Mrs. N. T. Morden

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



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**WOODSTOCK.** Christmas at the Farm. Victorian Christmas traditions. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Through January 2.*

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

**ADDISON.** Leader's Choice Snowshoe. End the year right with a strenuous snowshoe that will make it difficult to stay up past midnight. Hike location and length determined by conditions. Snowshoes required. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. For details and to register call Leader: Ellen Cronan at (908) 595-2926. greenmountainclub.org.

**BENNINGTON.** "Noon" Year's Eve Party for Kids. Welcome in the "Noon" Year with music, dancing, party hats, noisemakers, sparkling grape juice, and the countdown to Noon! Tickets \$5/per child, limited, purchase online. 11 am - 12:30 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802)447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk & Americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. www.stonechurchvt.com.

**BURLINGTON.** Performance. *Burlington Does Broadway.* Presented by Lyric Theatre Company and the VSO. Tickets \$35-\$65, online sale only. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

**CLAREMONT, NH.** First Night. 6-10 pm. Free, fun community event. The evening kicks off at 6 pm with events at Arrowhead Lodge, the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center and Myer Maple Lanes. Fireworks at Arrowhead starting at 10 pm. Hosted by Claremont Parks & Recreation Dept. www.claremontparks.com.

**GRAFTON.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. By reservation. 11 am - 4 pm (final ride 3:30 pm). (802) 843-2400. The Grafton Inn, Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. www.graftoninnvermont.com. *Also January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; February 12, 19-20, 26.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Free Community Dinner. Prepared by the Hanover Community Kitchen. To-go meals available upon request. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. office@oslchanover.org.

**LUDLOW.** Okemo Family New Year's Eve Party. Midnight arrives early! Fun, family friendly activities and a fireworks show. Free admission. A la carte food service, cash bar. Snow tubing Park & Timber Ripper Mountain Coaster 12-8 pm. Ice skating at the Ice House 12-9 pm (tickets). NYE Kid's Night Out, supervised activities for 3-6 year olds, \$75, 5-8:45 pm, reservations (802) 228-1600. 5:30-9 pm. Jackson Gore Inn, 111 Jackson Gore Rd. (802) 228-1400. www.okemo.com.

**MANCHESTER.** New Year's Celebration. Taconic Music's annual event featuring the Taconic String Band playing Viennese waltzes, tangos, Broadway tunes and more, ending with the traditional Radetzky March. 5 pm. Inn at Manchester Celebration Barn, 3967 Main St. For more information and tickets go to taconicmusic.org

**MOUNT HOLLY.** New Year's Eve. Celebrate the New Year mountain-style with friends, fireworks, and a bonfire. Sponsored by the Mount Holly Community Association. 9-10 pm. At Star Lake, 37 Lake St. www.mhcavt.org.

**POULTNEY.** Literary Open Mic. Hosted by David Mook and other guests Free, donations welcome. 7-9pm. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St. www.stonevalleyarts.org. *Fourth Fridays.*

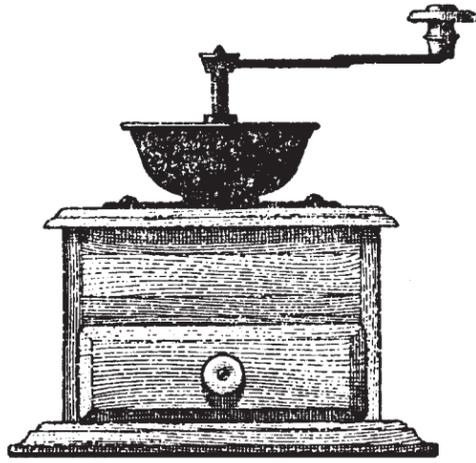
**RUTLAND.** Holiday Farmers' Market. 10 am to 2 pm. At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. *After today, Saturdays through May 7, 2022.*

**ST. ALBANS.** New Year's Eve with Cozy O'Donnell. This is an age 21+ event. \$10 cover charge. 9 pm - 12 midnight. The Depot, 50 Kingman St. (802) 528-5945. lauren@micnewengland.com. thedepotvt.com. *Also January 1.*

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** First Night North. A New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts. 60+ performers, 200+ artists. Storytelling, hypnosis, dance, circus, comedy, magic. Pancake supper 6-8 pm at St. Johnsbury School. Food trucks. Masks, proof of covid vaccination or 72-hour negative PR test will be required for all attendees including children. Buy an admission button. (802) 748-2600 x111. avanzandt@catamountarts.org. www.firstnightnorth.org.

**STOWE.** New Year's Eve Celebration. Ice rink open, hot cocoa giveaway, fire show by Cirque De Fuego, torchlight parade, NYE silver & white skate, festive music with complimentary silver and white beads, glowing necklaces, and more. 7 pm fireworks show. 12 noon - 10 pm. Lodge at Spruce Peak, 7412 Mountain Rd. (802) 760-4700. sprucepeak.com.

**STRATTON.** New Years Eve Fireworks Hike. Watch the celebration from mid-mountain. Moderate exertion, must be at least 12 years old. After the fireworks, finish the evening in the Courtyard with a fire and hot chocolate. Hiking route not lit up. Dress for the weather. Extra layers strongly recommended. Hiking on snow



and variable surfaces. Fee \$75 plus tax. Meet at 7 pm in the Courtyard, 5 Village Lodge Rd. www.stratton.com.

**WARREN.** New Year's Eve Fireworks and Torchlight Parade. Enjoy the light show with a torchlight parade on Spring Fling and awesome fireworks display to follow. Free. 7-8 pm. Lincoln Peak Courtyard at the Sugarbush, 1840 Sugarbush Access Rd. (802) 583-6300. www.sugarbush.com.

**WARREN.** New Year's Eve Snowshoe Tour and Fireworks. Enjoy a guided snowshoe tour to the top of the Gate House Quad to watch the New Year's Eve Fireworks display. Cost \$79 for tour with snowshoe rental, \$64 for tour only. 5:30-8:30 pm. The Farmhouse at Sugarbush, Gatehouse Lane. (802) 583-6590. www.sugarbush.com.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION.** New Year's Eve Skate. Ring in the New Year on Ice! Bring your family, meeting your friends, or just come by yourself to the arena. Enjoy prizes, refreshments, music, New Year's swag and the company of other winter-living skaters. Fee \$5. Pre-registration is encouraged. 2-4 pm. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, Hartford High School, 45 Highland Ave. (802) 295-5036. hartfordvt.myrec.com.

**WOODSTOCK.** Christmas at the Farm. Victorian Christmas traditions. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 2.*

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

**BROOKLINE.** Tracking Walk. With Phillip Hamilton. Each animal track is a mystery just waiting to be solved. 8 am - 5 pm. Putney Mountain Trailhead, 443 Putney Mountain Rd. www.putneymountain.org. *Through January 31.*

**GRAFTON.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Advance reservations. 11 am - 4 pm (final ride 3:30 pm). (802) 843-2400. The Grafton Inn, Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. www.graftoninnvermont.com. *Also January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; February 12, 19-20, 26.*

**MANCHESTER.** Hildene Holidays. Robert and Mary Lincoln's home is decorated as though it were Christmas Eve 1912. Experience the time, traditions, and nostalgia of holidays past. COVID protocols. Admission \$23 adults, \$6 youth, under 5 no charge. Thurs - Mon, 10 am - 4 pm. Hildene, 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (802) 367-7960. www.hildene.org.

**ONLINE.** First Wednesdays Talk: The Legacy of Nicholas Black Elk. Historian Damian Costello explores the life of the man behind the famous book Black Elk Speaks. Free, advance registration required. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 748-8291. info@vermonthumanities.org. stjatheneum.org. vermonthumanities.org.

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** On-Screen Opera: *Cinderella.* Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's *Cendrillon* with an all-new English translation in a 90-minute adaptation, with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard. Masks, proof of vaccination (or negative PCR test), and valid ID required. Tickets: adults \$25, students \$16. 12:55 pm. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org. *Also January 8.*

**SAXTONS RIVER.** Community Fire. This monthly fire is an open invitation to meet the people living around you. \$5 suggested donation. 5:30-8:30 pm. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. info@mainstreetarts.org. www.mainstreetarts.org. *First Saturdays through April.*

**STOWE.** Concert. The Black Jacket Symphony performing Queen's "A Night at the Opera" featuring Marc Martel, performing a full set of Queen's greatest hits. Tickets \$35-\$45. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

**WAITSFIELD.** Naturalist Snowshoe Program. Join one of Mad River Glen's Naturalists for a guided snowshoe trek on Stark Mountain! Two-hour programs. \$25 per person (minimum of \$50 for 1 or 2 people). Tubbs Snowshoes rentals available. 10:30 am. For reservations and info call (802) 496-3551 x 125. www.madriverglen.com. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

# Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, January 1, continued)

**WOODSTOCK.** 12th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. *Kedi*. The "Citizen Kane" of cat documentaries from Turkish filmmaker Ceyda Torun isolates the profound relationship between man and cat. Tickets \$15. 3 & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum Theater, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Christmas at the Farm. Victorian Christmas traditions. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 2.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

**MIDDLEBURY.** On-Screen Metropolitan Opera Performance: *Cinderella*. Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's *Cendrillon* with an all-new English translation with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard. Tickets are adult \$24, student \$10. 1 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. tickets@townhalltheater.org. townhalltheater.org.

**RUTLAND.** Christmas Bird Count. Join birdwatchers across the country in this annual tradition. For information on how to participate contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Christmas at the Farm. Victorian Christmas traditions. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 3

**STOWE.** Stowe Lantern Tour. Theme: Holiday Scavenger Hunt. Each guest carries a lit lantern. Leisurely stroll through town with stories of history and ghosts. Open to adults and students 12 and up who are fully vaccinated for covid. Tickets: adults \$12, students 12-18 \$6; reservation required. 7-8 pm. Visitor Information Center, 51 Main St. (802) 253-7321. gostowe.com. Also January 5 & 7.

**STRATTON.** Learn to Ski or Ride. Enjoy a 2-for-1 Learn To Ski or Learn To Ride lesson package any Monday through Friday of January, these packages include a ski or snowboard rental, boots, helmet, half-day group lesson and a Learning Zone

lift ticket. Price varies. All day. Stratton Mountain Ski Resort, 5 Village Rd. 1 (800) 787-2886. www.stratton.com.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

**NORWICH.** Hanover Garden Club Program: Mastering the Art of Vegetable Gardening. Learn more about gardening at this monthly series. Free. 1-2:30 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, 1 Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. montshire@montshire.org. www.montshire.org.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

**BRATTLEBORO.** First Wednesdays Talk: "Atlantic Is a Sea of Bones". Jarvis Green, founder of the Black theatre company JAG Productions, invites us to reflect on the afterlives and the legacies of the transatlantic slave trade. Green will explore how Black queer and feminist artists have created ways to honor this history and heal ancestral trauma. Free. 7 pm. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. (802) 254-5290. brookslibraryvt.org.

**NEWPORT.** First Wednesdays Talk: "21st-Century Refugees". Dartmouth professor Richard Wright traces recent changes in border policy and the implications for asylum seekers and refugees. Free. 7 pm. Goodrich Memorial Library, 202 Main St. (802) 754-6660. goodrichlibrary.org. vermonthumanities.org.

**RUTLAND.** First Wednesdays Talk: "Slow Democracy and the Power of Community". Author and advocate Susan Clark explains the Slow Democracy movement in which ordinary people mobilize to find local solutions to local problems. Free. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. vermonthumanities.org.

**STOWE.** Stowe Lantern Tour. Theme: Holiday Scavenger Hunt. Each guest carries a lit lantern. Leisurely stroll through town with stories of history and ghosts. Open to adults and students 12 and up who are fully vaccinated for covid. Tickets: adults \$12, students 12-18 \$6; reservation required. 7-8 pm. Visitor Information Center, 51 Main St. (802) 253-7321. gostowe.com. Also January 7.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, and Americana concerts. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Check website for artist line-up. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. www.stonechurchvt.com.

**HANOVER, NH.** Community Dinner in Hanover. To-go meals available. Free. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. Every Thursday.

**RIPTON.** Cross Country Ski to Goshen Dam. Beautiful X-C ski, 2-4 miles in, depending on route, snow conditions, and if group prefers to do as a loop. If snow is not good, will do as a hike or snowshoe. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leader: Morris Earle at marrisearle@gmail.com. greenmountainclub.org.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Music and Movement. Singing, scarf play, movement and jam sessions. Free. 10:30-11:30 am. South Burlington Public Library, 180 Market St. (802) 846-4140. www.southburlingtonlibrary.org.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. www.stonechurchvt.com.

**BURLINGTON.** Lake Champlain Music Festival. Concert. A Beethoven trio mini-festival performing early and middle period Beethoven trios. Tickets \$40 per concert or \$70 for both. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, Southwick Music Building, 384 South Prospect St. (802) 846-2175. info@lccmf.org. www.lccmf.org. Also January 9.

**GRAFTON.** Ice Bar 2022. Gather your friends and family at our Ice Bar! Real bars and sculptures forged from ice, a selection of craft beers, a cocktails made with Vermont spirits, bonfires, local food trucks, and a DJ. Admission \$45. 5-8 pm. Grafton Inn, 92 Main St. (802) 843-2248. info@graftoninnvermont.com. www.graftoninnvermont.com.

**MONTPELIER.** Nature Book Club. Read Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*, and discuss an Indigenous perspective on connecting to the natural world, botany, and teaching. Free, registration required. 7-8:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**RUTLAND.** Robert De Cormier Centennial Concert. Eight Vermont choruses join forces to celebrate the legacy of Robert De Cormier on the hundredth anniversary of his birth. Free. 7:30. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. gracechurchvt.org.



Sheep and goats out in the barnyard on a sunny winter day in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

# Vermont Country Calendar

**STOWE.** Stowe Lantern Tour. Theme: Holiday Scavenger Hunt. Each guest carries a lit lantern. Leisurely stroll through town with stories of history and ghosts. Open to adults and students 12 and up who are fully vaccinated for covid. Tickets: adults \$12, students 12-18 \$6; reservation required. 7-8 pm. Visitor Information Center, 51 Main St. (802) 253-7321. [gostowe.com](http://gostowe.com).

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. [farmersmarket@postoisolutions.org](http://farmersmarket@postoisolutions.org). *Saturdays through March 9.*

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. [www.stonechurchvt.com](http://www.stonechurchvt.com).

**BURLINGTON.** Itty Bitty Public Skating. Introduction to ice skating for preschool children and their parents/caregivers. \$8 per family per visit. 10:45-11:30 am. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 865-7558. [eweafar@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:eweafar@burlingtonvt.gov). [www.enjoyburlington.com](http://www.enjoyburlington.com). *Saturdays and Sundays January 8 through March 6.*

**CABOT.** 12th Night Celebration. Storytelling, theater, puppets and comedy, classical music, brass band, English Morris dance. Ice skating, wagon rides, snow painting, hot cocoa station, paper lantern sunset parade. Proof of vaccination (or PCR test) and valid ID, plus masking at all times, required for indoor events. 12 noon – 9 pm. At the Willey Building Auditorium, Cabot Village Common, Cabot United Church, and The Den Garden (outdoors). (802) 793-3016. [director@cabotarts.org](mailto:director@cabotarts.org). [cabotarts.org](http://cabotarts.org).

**GRAFTON.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Advance reservations. 11 am – 4 pm (final ride 3:30 pm). (802) 843-2400. The Grafton Inn, Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. [www.graftoninnvermont.com](http://www.graftoninnvermont.com). *Also January 15, 22, 29; February 12, 19-20, 26.*

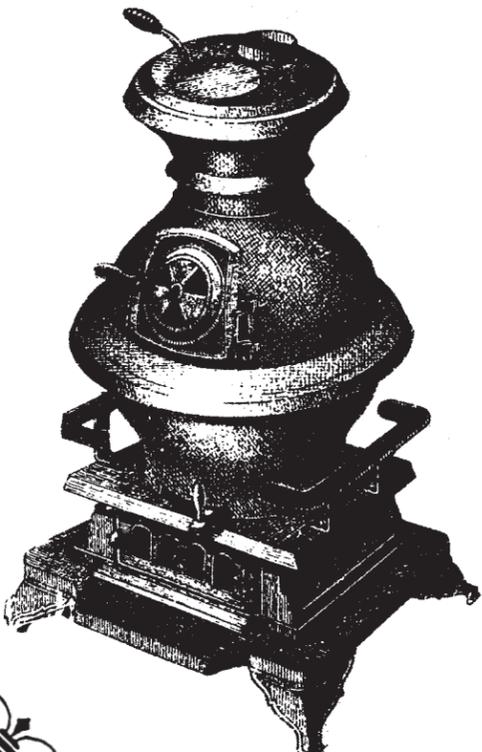
**HARTFORD.** Kids Paper Crafting Class "Playing with Penguins". Learn the basic skills of card making; paper, stamps, and inks. We will be making up to 20 note cards. All supplies included. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult and will be working together. Fee: \$30. 9 am – 12 pm. Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge St. To learn more and to register, visit [hartfordvt.myrec.com](http://hartfordvt.myrec.com). (802) 295-5036.

**MONTPELIER.** Woodcarving Program with Ken Benton. Learn the story behind wood as we go from log to spoon. \$50. 12-5 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. [info@northbranchnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@northbranchnaturecenter.org). [www.northbranchnaturecenter.org](http://www.northbranchnaturecenter.org).

**NORWICH.** Creepy Crawly Craft Party. Visit live insect colonies and learn all about these fascinating creatures. Combine science and art through insect-inspired projects, with plenty to take home. Free with museum admission. 10 am – 4 pm. Montshire Museum, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. [montshire.org](http://montshire.org).

**PUTNEY.** Concert: Vermont Mandolin Trio. Tickets \$18 advance, \$22 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 451-0053. [info@nextstagearts.org](mailto:info@nextstagearts.org). [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

**RIPTON.** Hike Spirit in Nature Trails. Easy to moderate hike, 3-4 miles maximum, minimal elevation gain. Depending on conditions snowshoes, microspikes and poles recommended. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. To get details and register contact leader Liana Merrill at [merrill.liana@gmail.com](mailto:merrill.liana@gmail.com). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).



**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). *Saturdays through May 7, 2022.*

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Screening. Opera: *Cinderella*. Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's *Cendrillon* with an all-new English translation. Masks, proof of vaccination (or negative PCR test), and valid ID required. Tickets adults \$25, students \$16. 12:55 pm. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** Billings Backyard Workshop: Making Felted Soap. Tiana St. James will walk participants through the processes of both wet felting and needle felting to make a charming and sustainable product. Fee \$15 per spot. 10-11:30 am, advance registration available. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

**WOODSTOCK.** 12th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. *Street Gang*. Takes us inside the minds and hearts of the Sesame Street creators. Tickets \$15. 3 & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum Theater, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

**BOLTON.** Winter Outing to Harrington's View. Climb the Duck Brook trail and Long Trail to Harrington's View with views of Champlain and Bolton Valleys. Easy to moderate snowshoe, leisurely pace, 4.8 miles, 1600' elevation gain. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Leader: Ted Albers, [ted@ted-albers.net](mailto:ted@ted-albers.net). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**BURLINGTON.** Lake Champlain Music Festival Concert. A Beethoven trio mini-festival performing early and middle period Beethoven trios. Tickets \$40. 3 pm. UVM Recital Hall, Southwick Music Building, 384 South Prospect St. (802) 846-2175. [info@lccmf.org](mailto:info@lccmf.org). [www.lccmf.org](http://www.lccmf.org).

**PUTNEY.** Concert: House of Waters. This group has scored an Emmy winning documentary for ESPN, and has shared the stage with influential musical leaders. Sponsored by Oak Meadow. Tickets \$17 advance, \$20 at the door. 7 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 451-0053. [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

## MONDAY, JANUARY 10

**ONLINE.** Winter Webcomic Workshop. Intensive five-day cartooning workshop, with Kane Lynch. Build the skills to turn your ideas into a web-ready comic and to build a sustainable comics-making practice into your everyday life. Tuition: \$400-\$1,050. 12-6 pm. The Center for Cartoon Studies. (802) 295-3319. [registration@cartoonstudies.org](mailto:registration@cartoonstudies.org). [cartoonstudies.org](http://cartoonstudies.org). *Through January 14.*

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

**ONLINE.** Poetry Reading. Carol Westberg & Laura Foley—"Ice Lands" and "Why I Never Finished My Dissertation." Two acclaimed local poets present their new collections. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. [info@norwichbookstore.com](mailto:info@norwichbookstore.com). [norwichbookstore.com](http://norwichbookstore.com).

**ONLINE.** Cozy Mystery Celebration. Catherine Bruns will discuss *The Enemy You Gnocchi*, Amita Murray will talk about *Arya Winters and the Tiramisu of Death*, and Lynn Cahoon will celebrate *Two Wicked Desserts*. Tickets: pay-what-you-can. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (802) 362-2200. [northshire.com](http://northshire.com).

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

**HANCOCK.** Snowshoe on the Long Trail. North from Middlebury Gap on Long trail, to Silent Cliffs and towards Burnt Hill turnoff. 1-2 miles each way, strenuous. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. With questions or to register contact Leader Morris Earle at [morrisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**ONLINE.** Book and Author Event. Jillian Cantor revisits the glittering Jazz Age world of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, retelling this timeless American classic from the women's perspective. Presented by Norwich Bookstore. Free, register online. 7 pm. (802) 649-1114. [info@norwichbookstore.com](mailto:info@norwichbookstore.com). [norwichbookstore.com](http://norwichbookstore.com).

**ONLINE.** Program. *Willow: A Beaver's Tale* with Patti Smith. Follow the life of this remarkable matriarch of a beaver colony on a wild brook in southeastern Vermont. Free. 6-7 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. [info@northbranchnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@northbranchnaturecenter.org). [www.northbranchnaturecenter.org](http://www.northbranchnaturecenter.org).

**PUTNEY.** Meet Your (New) Neighbor. Join us for an evening getting to know our new neighbors. A link to the virtual meeting will be sent out to registered participants prior to the event. Sponsored by Vermont Community Foundation Spark Connecting Community Grant. Free, registration required. 7 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 451-0053. [info@nextstagearts.org](mailto:info@nextstagearts.org). [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Book and Author Event. A talk with Bill Mares. Local author will share drawings and tales from his new book. Free. 6-7 pm. South Burlington Public Library, 180 Market St. (802) 846-4140. [sbplinfo@southburlingtonvt.gov](mailto:sbplinfo@southburlingtonvt.gov). [www.southburlingtonlibrary.org](http://www.southburlingtonlibrary.org).



## Winter Air

by Bertha Holmes Doren  
~ circa 1918 ~

Ventilation during the long bitter Northern winters is much more of an object for the housewife's care than where the climate is less severe.

When the mercury huddles itself all in the bulb of the thermometer and the wind blows a gale, there is some excuse for airing the house at bed-time and then shutting doors and windows, deciding to take chances on the evils of bad air as portrayed in our old physiology textbook rather than shiver in misery all night.

On most winter nights, however, it pays to open the bedroom windows or (if they freeze down or allow the wind to blow directly on the bed), an outside door. Usually the outside living room door is left open a couple of inches even in weather far below zero, and wide open on warmer nights.

The wood-stove in the adjoining sleeping-room was an experiment this winter. It was somewhat in the way, and caused quite a lot of extra dirt from wood and ashes, but the comfort derived from it more than made up for the inconvenience.

Such a cozy place it has been to do the mending, and to write letters. Our beloved old S.A. Nutt geranium (the double dark red kind) and the pink oxalis are full of buds and blossoms, not having had any setback by freezing all winter.

The plants in the kitchen, alas, have a different tale to tell, for our kitchen door blew open one cold night and we found tragic results. The cistern pump has never rallied from the freeze for it "loses its prime" and requires 50 strokes to get a pail of water, the first 20 being administered in an exceedingly rapid and energetic manner.

But the old physiology book was right and it is doubtless due to its lessons that people are more careful about airing

*"If you wish to convince a person that the world is growing worse instead of better...put him into an unaired room to sleep."*

their houses now than they were a generation ago. To the old saying "Early to bed, etc." might be added "Give him plenty of God's pure air to make him happy and free from care."

It is no small task to see that every used room is aired every day during these long bitter Northern winters, especially when the windows freeze down, or snow drifts in, and we are urged to save fuel. Nevertheless, the house should have an airing morning and evening, and windows opened during the night, besides. If one is to rise in the morning feeling fresh and rested, there must be some way of getting pure air at night.

The habit of taking a cold in winter can be overcome to a great extent by sleeping in well-aired rooms, but we have come to the conclusion that it cannot be done in one year. Lowered vitality in winter has several causes and lack of fresh air at night is one of them. And the mental attitude depends so much on physical condition. If you wish to convince a person that the world is growing worse instead of better, and that he is a much-abused person in particular, put him into an unaired room to sleep.

Therefore, when father growls and grumbles and the children quarrel and fret and you feel that you are justified in giving them all your candid opinion of their conduct, it may not be original sin or an inheritance of bad temper from "his" family but simply a deficiency of oxygen to burn up yesterday's worn out cells.

Stuffy houses are an abomination, and surely no country house should be guilty of closeness. While we cannot all breathe the balsam-scented mountain air, even if it is extremely cold sometimes, we can get the full benefit of what we have, and be glad it is not city air, smelling of smoke, saloons, and all sorts of odors.

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# Vermont Country Calendar

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. [www.stonechurchvt.com](http://www.stonechurchvt.com).

**ESSEX JUNCTION.** Concert. Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Amy Helm. Proof of vaccination required. Tickets \$28-\$33 plus tax. 8 pm. The Double E, T Rex Theater, 21 Essex Way, Suite 300. [www.doubleevermont.com](http://www.doubleevermont.com). [info@doubleevermont.com](mailto:info@doubleevermont.com).

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

**LEBANON, NH.** The Anonymous Coffeehouse. Several acoustic acts. Patrons may come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks available. Free admission. 7:30 pm. First Congregational Church of Lebanon, 10 S. Park St. (603) 448-4281. [anoncoffeehouse@gmail.com](mailto:anoncoffeehouse@gmail.com). [www.anoncoffee.org](http://www.anoncoffee.org). *First and third Fridays through March 25.*

**ONLINE.** Book & Author Talk. Harley Rustad, *Lost in the Valley of Death*, in conversation with Katie Ives. One man's search to find himself. Free, register online, 7 pm. Presented by Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. [info@norwichbookstore.com](mailto:info@norwichbookstore.com). [www.norwichbookstore.com](http://www.norwichbookstore.com).

**SOUTH POMFRET.** The Flurry: Vermont Snow Sculpture Contest. Vermont's Sanctioned Snow Sculpting Competition. The Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Rd. (802) 457-3500. [info@artistreevt.org](mailto:info@artistreevt.org). [www.artistreevt.org](http://www.artistreevt.org). *Also January 15 & 16.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Torchlight Snowshoe Event. Snowshoe or walk on the Billings Farm trails by torchlight as evening light begins, guided by National Park rangers. Tickets must be purchased to attend, Adults \$10, youth 4-15 \$5, children 3 & under are free. 4:30-6:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

**BRANDON.** Winter Regulars and Rarities Birding Trip. Rutland County Audubon hosts our birding expedition to points north, such as Dead Creek WMA and the Champlain Bridge. Dress warmly, bring lunch and a beverage. Current Covid guidelines apply. Meet at 8 am at Otter Valley Union High School at 2997 Franklin St. to caravan.

For more info contact: [birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org). [www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org](http://www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. [www.stonechurchvt.com](http://www.stonechurchvt.com).

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. [farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org). *Saturdays through March 9.*

**BURLINGTON.** Itty Bitty Public Skating. An introduction to ice skating for preschool children and their parents/caregivers. \$8 per family per visit. 10:45-11:30 am. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 865-7558. [eweaffer@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:eweaffer@burlingtonvt.gov). [www.enjoyburlington.com](http://www.enjoyburlington.com). *Saturdays and Sundays January 8 through March 6.*

**CHARLOTTE.** Winter Hike at Charlotte Wildlife Refuge. An easy to moderate 3.1 mile network hike through woodlands and farms. The 290-acre property includes 2.25 miles of gravel trails winding through agricultural fields and meadows. Pets not allowed on this hike. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leader: Ken Corey at [kac4964@gmail.com](mailto:kac4964@gmail.com). [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**GRAFTON.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Advance reservations. 11 am - 4 pm (final ride 3:30 pm). (802) 843-2400. The Grafton Inn, Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. [www.graftoninnvermont.com](http://www.graftoninnvermont.com). *Also January 22, 29 and February 12, 19-20, 26.*

**MONTPELIER.** Winter Discovery Hike for Families. Led by naturalist Fiona Modrak. Free, registration required. 10:30 am - 12 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. [northbranchnaturecenter.org](http://northbranchnaturecenter.org).

**ONLINE.** Class on Zoom: "Getting Started on Your Family History". Lynn Johnson will discuss types of records, where to find them, common errors, and helpful hints. Hosted by The VT Genealogy Library. Fee \$10. 10:30 am - 12 pm. To register call (802) 871-5647. [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org).

**ONLINE.** Book & Author Event. Civil rights attorney and author Michelle Coles will discuss her new novel for young adults, *Black Was the Ink*. Tickets: pay-what-you-can. 4:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (802) 362-2200. [northshire.com](http://northshire.com).

**PUTNEY.** Concert: Walter Parks and Rob Curto. Tickets \$18 advance, \$22 at the door. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 451-0053. [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

**RUTLAND.** Performance. *Dinosaur World Live!* Using stunning puppetry to bring remarkably life-like dinosaurs to the stage. Tickets \$24. 2 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. [eric@paramountvt.org](mailto:eric@paramountvt.org). [www.paramountvt.org](http://www.paramountvt.org).

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org). *Saturdays through May 7, 2022.*

**SOUTH POMFRET.** The Flurry: Vermont Snow Sculpture Contest. Vermont's Sanctioned Snow Sculpting Competition. The Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Rd. (802) 457-3500. [info@artistreevt.org](mailto:info@artistreevt.org). [www.artistreevt.org](http://www.artistreevt.org). *Also January 16.*

**SPRINGFIELD.** Class. Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor. Join Instructor Robert O'Brien and learn the techniques of watercolor to paint the winter landscape. Fee \$85, register by January 8. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. [galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org).

**STOWE.** Concert: AliT. Alison Turner, better known as AliT, is a singer-songwriter based in Vermont. Free. 4-7 pm, with bar service till 9 pm. Stowe Cider, 17 Town Farm Lane (802) 253-2065. [stowecider.com](http://stowecider.com).

**WAITSFIELD.** Naturalist Snowshoe Program. Guided snowshoe trek on Stark Mountain! Easy to moderate difficulty. Two-hour programs. \$25 per person (minimum of \$50 for 1 or 2 people). Tubbs Snowshoes rentals available. Snowshoe Trail Pass (without a program) \$5. 10:30 am. For reservations and info call (802) 496-3551 x 125. [www.madriverglen.com](http://www.madriverglen.com). *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

**WOODSTOCK.** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. *A Time for Justice*, the 38-minute award-winning documentary film by Charles Guggenheim that captures the spirit of the civil rights movement will be shown in the museum's theater. Horse-drawn sleigh rides 11 am to 3 pm. Fee \$5 per person in addition to admission ticket. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org). *Through January 17.*



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# Vermont Country Calendar



**WOODSTOCK.** 12th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. *The Loneliest Whale, The Search for 52.* A cinematic quest to find the elusive creature known as the "52 Hertz Whale." Tickets \$15. 3 & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum Theater, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

**CRAFTSBURY.** First Annual Craftsby Scramble. Race the mid-January cobwebs out. A freestyle team sprint for all ages. Registration \$15. 10 am — 12:30 pm. Craftsby Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767. www.craftsbury.com.

**GRAFTON.** 2022 Komen Benefit Vermont Snowshoe. Demo snowshoes and light breakfast donated. In-person registration 8:30 am, Snowshoeing 9:30 am. Hosted by Susan G. Komen. At Grafton Trails & Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. For questions call (802) 548-4691. For details and to register online go to [komen.org/vermontsnowshoe](http://komen.org/vermontsnowshoe).

**LINCOLN.** Winter Snowshoe Outing on Mt. Abraham. Microspikes and snowshoes required. Difficult snowshoe, moderate pace. 5.8 miles. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Contact leader by Jan. 14: Jill George, [jillghiker@gmail.com](mailto:jillghiker@gmail.com). www.greenmountainclub.org.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Film Screening: *The Wild Sea.* A stunning and poetic documentary that portrays the heroic efforts of a network of marine wildlife rescue volunteers. Attendees 12 and over must be vaccinated and all attendees must wear masks. Tickets adult \$16, youth 12-17 \$11, child under 12 \$7. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. [info@midfilmfest.org](mailto:info@midfilmfest.org). [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

**SOUTH POMFRET.** The Flurry: Vermont Snow Sculpture Contest. Vermont's Sanctioned Snow Sculpting Competition. The Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Rd. (802) 457-3500. [info@artistreevt.org](mailto:info@artistreevt.org). www.artistreevt.org.

**WOODSTOCK.** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. *A Time for Justice*, the award-winning documentary by Charles Guggenheim that captures the spirit of the civil rights movement will be shown in the museum's theater. Horse-drawn sleigh rides 11 am to 3 pm, \$5 per person in addition to admission ticket. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am — 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also January 17.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 17

**WOODSTOCK.** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. *A Time for Justice*, the award-winning documentary by Charles Guggenheim will be shown in the museum's theater. Horse-drawn sleigh rides 11 am to 3 pm, \$5 per person plus admission ticket. Adults \$16, seniors 62 & over \$14, students 16 & up \$9, children 4-15 \$8, children 3 & under free. 10 am — 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

**ONLINE.** Program. "The Real Dirt on Truffles" with Rowan Jacobsen. Join award-winning writer on this deep dive into the world of truffles. Free. 6-7 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Talk: "Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Suspense". Drawing on twelve film clips, film expert Rick Winston will discuss Hitchcock's craft. Free. 6 pm. South Burlington Public Library, 155 Dorset St. (802) 846-4140. [igittelsohn@southburlingtonvt.gov](mailto:igittelsohn@southburlingtonvt.gov). www.sburcomlib.com. vermonthumanities.org.

**STOWE.** Winter Rendezvous. 39th Annual LGBTQ Pride Celebration. Skiing and snowboarding on Mount Mansfield and Spruce Peak. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at the Trapp Family Lodge. Ice skating, horse-drawn sleigh rides, snowmobiles, dog sledding, hot tubs, and bonfires. www.gostowe.com. Through January 23.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. www.stonechurchvt.com.

**BURLINGTON.** Concert. Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar. A renowned gospel/neo-soul collective hailing from Augusta, Georgia, known for their opulent harmonies, clever musical theater covers, and beautiful, anthemic originals. Tickets \$15-\$45. 7:30 pm. The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

**HANOVER, NH.** Community Dinner in Hanover. To-go meals available. Free. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. Thursdays.

**ONLINE.** Book & Author Event. Dr. Radhule Weininger will discuss her latest book, *Heart Medicine: How to Stop Painful Patterns and Find Peace and Freedom—at Last*. Tickets: pay-what-you-can. 6 pm. Pre-register. Northshire Bookstore. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.



## FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

**BARRE.** The Vermont Burlesque Festival: The Granite City Showcase. This event features adult beverage tastings, live music, comedy, variety acts and burlesque headliners you won't want to miss. Tickets \$34-\$39. 7 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. [staff@barreoperahouse.org](mailto:staff@barreoperahouse.org). www.barreoperahouse.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Comedy Show. Eating While Fat. Josie Leavitt addresses fat shaming, hilarious attempts at exercising, dieting, and the struggle for body acceptance. 8 pm. The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org. Also January 22.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Historian Joseph Ellis presents his culminating work on the American Founding, *The Cause: The American Revolution and its Discontents, 1773-1783*. Tickets: pay-what-you-can. 5:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

**PLYMOUTH.** Puffin Winter Camp. For grades 3-9. Enjoy snow tubing, making new friends, skiing, snow shoeing, delicious home cooked meals, great staff, classic camp songs, and more! Free, register via link. 2-6 pm. Bethany Birches Camp, 2610 Lynds Hill Rd. (802) 672-5220. [camp@bethanybirches.org](mailto:camp@bethanybirches.org). Also January 22 & 23.

**PPUTNEY.** Play. Wild Goose Players presents *Food & Shelter*. A darkly moving fairy tale about love. Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test within 48 hours required for entry to indoor shows. Masks required while inside the venue. Tickets \$40. 7:30 pm. Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 451-0053. www.nextstagearts.org. Also January 22 & 23 and 28-30.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

**BARRE.** Concert. We Banjo 3. Seamlessly converges the shared and varied traditions of Americana, Bluegrass, and Celtic music with pop-sensible songcraft. Tickets \$24-\$34. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. [staff@barreoperahouse.org](mailto:staff@barreoperahouse.org). barreoperahouse.org.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Saturday 10 am — 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. [farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org](mailto:farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org). Saturdays through March 9.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. www.stonechurchvt.com.

**BURLINGTON.** Comedy Show. Eating While Fat. Josie Leavitt addresses fat shaming, hilarious attempts at exercising, dieting, and the struggle for body acceptance. 8 pm. The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnvt.org.

**BURLINGTON.** Itty Bitty Public Skating. An introduction to ice skating for preschool children and their parents/caregivers. \$8 per family per visit. 10:45-11:30 am. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 865-7558. [eweaf@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:eweaf@burlingtonvt.gov). www.enjoyburlington.com. Saturdays and Sundays January 8 through March 6.

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Burlesque Festivals "Nerdy Show". Vermont's favorite genre of burlesque—nerdesque, usually filled with comic book characters, pop culture references and the occasional muppet. Tickets \$20-\$40. 4:30 pm. Club Metronome, 188 Main St. (802) 276-6362. www.vermontburlesquefestival.com.

**BURLINGTON.** Vermont Burlesque Festival's "Classic Evening". This showcase features a mix of classic, neo, and comedy burlesque acts. Tickets \$26-\$99. 7 pm. Flynn Theater, 153 Main St. (802) 276-6362. www.vermontburlesquefestival.com.

**EDEN.** Winter Hike on Belvidere Mountain. This northern peak on the Long Trail offers a panoramic view from its fire tower. Expect a moderate hike, 5.6 miles. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Leader: Mary Lou Recor, [mlrecor@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mlrecor@myfairpoint.net) or (802) 660-2834. greenmountainclub.org.

## VT Fish & Wildlife

### New Vermont Fishing Regulations Begin January 1, 2022

Simplified regulations will provide many new fishing opportunities. Vermont's fishing regulations will look different on January 1, 2022. But don't worry, most of the new regulations have been simplified and provide additional fishing opportunities.

If you fish like you have in the past you will be legal, with a few exceptions.

"We've worked with our biologists, warden service staff, fish and wildlife board, and the public to develop regulations that are easier to understand while providing protection for fish populations," said Director of the Fish Division Eric Palmer. "These new changes allow anyone to fish nearly all waterbodies in the state year-round as long as they practice catch and release."

Some highlights include:

- In certain lakes and ponds, the winter harvest season for trout will start on January 1.

- You can keep 8 trout from streams and rivers. This means 8 total fish of any combination of Brook, Brown or Rainbow Trout.

- Many waters that were previously seasonally closed are now managed under general regulations.

- All of these changes mean that the number of tables in the Fishing Guide is reduced from 10 to 3.

To get all the details, visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) where you can download a copy of the 2022 Fishing Guide & Regulations or grab a hard copy at one of many license agent locations across the state.

## VT Fish & Wildlife

### 2022 Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Licenses Are Available Online

Vermont hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for 2022 and license gift certificates are now available on the Fish and Wildlife Department's website.

"Our licenses for the New Year will be popular based on the increased interest we are seeing from people who want to enjoy more outside activities," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. "Ice fishing is a lot of fun, and it will soon be possible."

"A license gift certificate is the perfect gift for a friend or family member who hunts or fishes," he added. "You can go to our website, fill out the certificate and pay for it online, and then print it to present to your recipient."

A gift certificate link is on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website home page and in the license section. The

person who receives the certificate must go to the website to redeem it and purchase their licenses. Existing permanent, lifetime or five-year licenses can also be updated online on January 1.

Herrick noted that proceeds from license sales have helped pay for some of Vermont's greatest wildlife conservation success stories, including restoring game species as well as helping nongame species such as peregrine falcons, bald eagles, loons, and ospreys. These funds also are used to manage Wildlife Management Areas that provide critical habitat for many species.

Copies of the "2022 Hunting & Trapping Guide and 2022 Fishing Guide" are available from license agents. For online versions go to [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).

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# Vermont Country Calendar

**GRAFTON.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Advance reservations. 11 am – 4 pm (final ride 3:30 pm). (802) 843-2400. The Grafton Inn, Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. www.graftoninnvermont.com. Also January 29; February 12, 19-20, 26.

**HYDE PARK.** Jane Austen Tea. Victorian era enthusiasts discuss the works of Austen and the history of teatime over scones, finger sandwiches, and tea cakes. Price: \$25. 2:30-5 pm. Governor's House, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. onehundredmain.com. Also January 29.

**LEBANON, NH.** Concert. Recycled Percussion. Each turbo-charged performance overflows with comedy, music, jaw-dropping staging, and brilliant drumming. Tickets \$35-\$45. 4-7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

**MONTPELIER.** Tracking Course. Join naturalist trackers Jonathan Shapiro and Dave Muska for a three-month wildlife tracking immersion! \$285. 9 am – 4 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. info@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org. Through March.

**ONLINE.** Billings Backyard Workshop – Kimchi, Kraut, and More! Chef Emery will demonstrate how to make your own sauerkraut and kimchi. Fee \$15. Register by January 19 to receive advance instructions, recipes and preparation details. 10-11:30 am. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 north of the village. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through May 7, 2022.

**RUTLAND.** Performance. Comedian Bob Marley. Tickets \$25-\$45. 5:30 and 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. eric@paramountvt.org. www.paramountvt.org.

**SPRINGFIELD.** Painting Class. Paint Primitive New England Scenes on Canvas Board—Winter Village Scene. Artists of all abilities. Join instructor Debra Craigie. Tickets \$80, register by Jan 19. 9 am – 3 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

**WAITSFIELD.** Naturalist Snowshoe Program. Join one of Mad River Glen's Naturalists for a guided snowshoe trek on Stark Mountain! Easy to moderate difficulty. Two-hour programs. \$25 per person (minimum of \$50 for 1 or 2 people). Tubbs Snowshoes rentals available. Snowshoe Trail Pass (without a program) \$5. 10:30 am. For reservations and info call (802) 496-3551 x 125. naturalist@madriverglen.com. www.madriverglen.com. Every Saturday and Sunday.

**WOODSTOCK.** 12th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. *Try Harder.* This humorous and heartfelt look at the reality of the American college application process focuses on San Francisco's top public high school, Lowell High school, where seniors are stressed out. Tickets \$15. 3 & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum Theater, 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

**BARRE.** Performance. *The Snow Maiden* by No Strings Marionettes. Mythical figures, animals and humans from one of Russia's most beloved folk tales. Tickets \$7.50. 2 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. staff@barreoperahouse.org. www.barreoperahouse.org.

**MIDDLEBURY.** Winter Hike. An easy to moderate 6-8 mile hike on the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) that meanders through Wright Park. May be very slippery. welcome. Newcomers and non-members and well-mannered and leashed dogs welcome. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. For details and to register. call Leader: Ellen Cronan at (908) 595-2926. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**SHELburne.** LaPlatte River Snowshoe. Follow the LaPlatte River Marsh Natural area, the Shelburne Bay Clarke Trail and perhaps some of the Ti-Haul trail. Between four and six miles, mostly flat, easy snowshoe, leisurely pace. Get familiar with the walks around Shelburne Bay and the LaPlatte. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Leader: Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net. www.greenmountainclub.org.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

**EAST CHARLESTON.** Program. Identifying Potential Roost Trees for Bats in Vermont. Join presenter Alyssa Bennett to learn about potential roosting/habitats of Vermont's endangered bat species. Free. 11 am – 1 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

**LEBANON, NH.** Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival. Hand-selected collections of the most inspiring action, environmental, and adventure films from the Canadian mountain film festival. Tickets: \$22-\$25. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House. (603) 448.0400. info@lebanonoperahouse.org. lebanonoperahouse.org. Also January 26.

**NORWICH.** Mindfulness Meditation. In-person and online. Approximately one hour of sitting and walking meditation, followed by a reading most days, and discussion. Free, donations welcome. 9-11:30 am. St Barnabas Episcopal Church, 262 Main St. (703) 727-5208. joyceandpat@gmail.com. Tuesdays January 4 through June 28.

**ONLINE.** Book & Author Talk. Keila Vall de la Ville, *The Animal Days*, with Kianny Antigua. A woman's story of movement as a both a lifestyle and a rite of passage. Free, register online. 7 pm. Presented by Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. www.norwichbookstore.com.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Book and Author Event. A talk with Gregory Maguire introducing his new novel, *Brides of Maracoor*. Free, registration required. 6:30-8 pm. South Burlington Public Library, 180 Market St. (802) 846-4140. www.southburlingtonlibrary.org.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

**BURLINGTON.** Concert. Greensky Bluegrass. Presented by Higher Grounds. Tickets \$45.25. 7 pm. The Flynn, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynnvt.org.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Lecture. *Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Suspense*. Film expert Rick Winston will discuss the evolution of Hitchcock's craft. Free. 6-7 pm. South Burlington Public Library, 180 Market St. (802) 846-4140. www.southburlingtonlibrary.org.

**LEBANON, NH.** Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival. Hand-selected collections of the most inspiring action, environmental, and adventure films from the Canadian mountain film festival. Tickets: \$22-\$25. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House. (603) 448-0400. ebanonoperahouse.org.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. www.stonechurchvt.com.

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### Cabot, VT

## Cabot Village 12th Night Celebration

Cabot Arts Presents the 12th Night Celebration in Cabot Village, VT on Saturday, January 8th from 12 noon till 9 p.m.

The festival features an eclectic array of performing arts and activities for all ages. Eight acts will provide entertainment ranging from storytelling, theater, puppets and comedy, to classical music, a brass band, and English Morris dance!

Outdoors on the Cabot Village Common will be ice skating, wagon rides, snow painting, hot cocoa station, and a paper lantern sunset parade led by Burlington's

street band, The Brass Balagan!

Proof of Vaccination (or PCR test) and a valid ID, plus masking at all times, will be required for indoor events.

Festival Highlights include:

- Simon Brooks (Storytelling)
- Sandglass Theater (Puppets and Comedy)
- Cabot Community Theater (Mummers Play)
- ASL Interpreter (American Sign Language interpreter during the afternoon program)
- Paper Lantern Contest (with Prizes!)

- Tara Goreau (mural painting)
- Scrag Mountain Duo (classical program)
- The Brass Balagan (Brass Street Band)
- Sunset Lantern Parade
- Community Dinner (Takeout – by Donation)
- Dave Keller Band (Blues & Soul)
- The Midnight Capers (Morris Team)
- Wassail Community Sing (Outdoors at The Den Garden)
- Sandy Ducharme (Floorcloth Raffle)

Admission is free for all events. Venues include: Willey Building Auditorium, Cabot Village Common, Cabot United Church, and The Den Garden (outdoors).

For more information contact: Dana Robinson at (802) 793-3016 or director@cabotarts.org. cabotarts.org.



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# Vermont Country Calendar

**HANOVER, NH.** Community Dinner in Hanover. To-go meals available upon request. Free. 5-6 pm. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. (603) 643-3703. office@oslchanover.org. *Every Thursday.*

**WEST RUTLAND.** Audubon West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk. Join us for the full 3.7 mile loop in this National Audubon IBA (Important Bird Area), or go halfway. Kids, new birders and non-members always welcome! Grow your birding skills with our friendly and accomplished birders. Meet at the marsh boardwalk on Marble Street at 8 am. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. www.stonechurchvt.com.

**JOHNSON.** Performance. Paula Poundstone, comedian famous for her razor-sharp wit and spontaneity, drawing from her own complex life. Mask, proof of vaccination (or negative PCR test), and valid ID required. Tickets \$50, \$40, \$30, students free. 7 pm. Dibden Center for the Arts, NVU-Johnson, S. Pond Rd. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

**MANCHESTER CENTER.** Book & Author Event. Ted Flanagan will present his debut novel, *Every Hidden Thing*. Big city politics, nasty secrets, a dirty cop, and a deranged sociopath. Tickets: pay-what-you-can. 5:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

**POULTNEY.** Literary Open Mic. Hosted by David Mook and other guests Free, donations welcome. 7-9 pm. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St. www.stonevalleyarts.org. *Fourth Fridays.*

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

**BRATTLEBORO.** Live Music. Stone Church presents rock, jazz, folk, americana concerts. Thurs. Fri. and Sat. The Stone Church, 210 Main St. (802) 579-9960. www.stonechurchvt.com.

**BRATTLEBORO.** Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 16th Season. Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoisolutions.org. *Saturdays through March 9.*

**BURLINGTON.** Itty Bitty Public Skating. An intro to ice skating for preschool children and their parents/caregivers. \$8 per family per visit. 10:45-11:30 am. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 865-7558. eweaffer@burlingtonvt.gov. www.enjoyburlington.com. *Saturdays and Sundays January 8 through March 6.*

**CRAFTSBURY.** Craftsby Marathon Ski Festival. Classic races and the 50k on Saturday, Freestyle and 30k on Sunday. Registration \$15-\$60. Craftsby Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767. www.craftsbury.com. *Also January 30.*

**CUTTINGSVILLE.** Winter Outing on Spring Lake Ranch Trails. A small network of skiable trails between Patch Hollow and Spring Lake. Depending on snow cover, we will cover most of them either as a cross country ski and snowshoe outing or as a hike. Two-four miles; elevation gain 400 feet. Lunch probably at Minerva Hinchey Shelter. Vaccination required. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Leader: Herb Ogden. (802) 293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net. gmckillington.org.

**FERRISBURGH.** Winter Hike at Kingsland Bay State Park. An easy hike, 2-3 miles, minimal elevation gain. Depending on conditions snowshoes, microspikes and poles recommended. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leader David Andrews at vtrevda@yahoo.com. (802) 388-4894. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**GRAFTON.** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. Adult \$20, youth \$12, 5 & under free. Reservations. 11 am – 4 pm (final ride 3:30 pm). (802) 843-2400. The Grafton Inn, Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. graftoninnvermont.com. *Also February 12, 19-20, 26.*

**HANOVER, NH.** Screening. Met Opera in HD: *Rigoletto*. Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher resets the opera's action in 1920s Europe for this production. Tickets \$22, advanced registration required. 1-4:30 pm. Hopkins Center, Spaulding Auditorium, 4 E. Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu.

**HUNTINGTON.** Snowshoe Outing on the Camels Hump Loop. We'll take Forest City Trail to Montclair Glen Lodge, then climb the Long Trail to the Camel's Hump summit and return along the Burrows Trail. A difficult snowshoe, moderate pace. six miles, 2400' elevation gain. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Contact Leader by Jan. 27: David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or (802) 899-9982. www.greenmountainclub.org.

**HYDE PARK.** Jane Austen Tea. Victorian era enthusiasts discuss the works of Austen and the history of teatime over scones, finger sandwiches, and tea cakes. Price: \$25. 2:30-5 pm. Governor's House, 100 Main St. (802) 888-6888. onehundredmain.com.

**ONLINE.** Book & Author Event. Isabel Allende's sweeping novel, *Violeta*, tells the epic story of Violeta Del Valle, a woman whose life spans one hundred years and bears witness to the greatest upheavals of the twentieth century. 7 pm. Tickets: pay-what-you-can. Northshire Bookstore. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

**RUTLAND.** Vermont Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, At Vermont Farmer's Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 417-8661. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 7, 2022.*

**ST. JOHNSBURY.** Performance. Comedian Paula Poundstone is famous for her razor-sharp wit and spontaneity, drawing from her own complex life. Mask, proof of vaccination (or negative PCR test), and valid ID required. Tickets \$52, \$42, \$32, \$15, students are free. 7 pm. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1000 Main St. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON.** Winter Concert Series: Eclectica. An eclectic mix of multiple genres and composers. Free. 12:30-1:30 pm. South Burlington Public Library, 180 Market St. (802) 846-4140. sbplinfo@southburlingtonvt.gov. www.southburlingtonlibrary.org.

**STOWE.** Concert. Dave Alves, pianist, guitarist, and singer. Jazz, rock, motown, R&B, and pop. Free. 4-7 pm, with bar service continuing until 9 pm. Stowe Cider, 17 Town Farm Ln. (802) 253-2065. stowecider.com.

**VERGENNES.** Performance. Rusty DeWees with a terrific night of humor, storytelling and great music. Tickets \$12-\$25. 7:30 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. www.vergennesoperahouse.org.

**WAITSFIELD.** Naturalist Snowshoe Program. Guided snowshoe trek on Stark Mountain! Easy to moderate difficulty. Two-hour programs. \$25 per person (minimum of \$50 for 1 or 2 people). Tubbs Snowshoes rentals. Snowshoe Trail Pass (without a program) \$5. 10:30 am. For reservations and info call (802) 496-3551 x 125. www.madriverglen.com. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

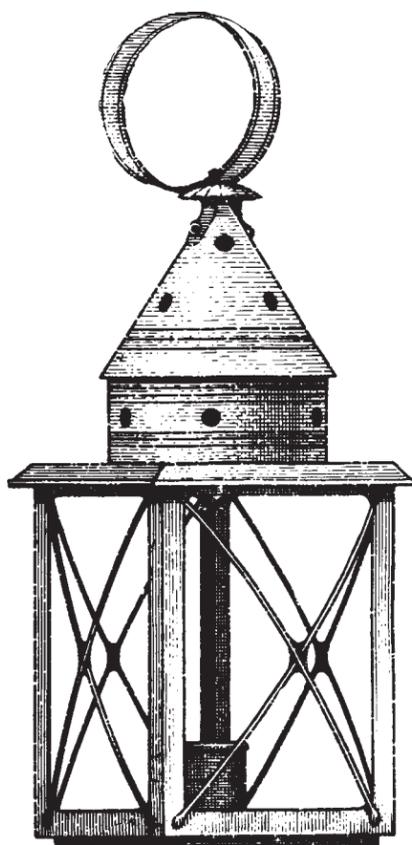
**BRADFORD.** All-Day Gaming. 12-Hour Tabletop Game Day. Come for a game or two, or stay all day. Board games to try. Or bring your favorites. Open to everyone (children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Price \$5, children 12 & under free. 9 am – 9 pm. The Space On Main, 174 Main St. (802) 449-6246. thespaceonmain@gmail.com. thespaceonmain.org/gaming. *Last Sundays.*

**CRAFTSBURY.** Craftsby Marathon Ski Festival. Classic races and the 50k on Saturday, Freestyle and 30k on Sunday. Registration \$15-\$60. Craftsby Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. (802) 586-7767. www.craftsbury.com.

**RUTLAND.** Screening. The Metropolitan Opera performs *Rigoletto*. Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher creates a bold new take on Verdi's timeless tragedy. Tickets \$23. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. eric@paramountvt.org. paramountvt.org.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 31

**BURLINGTON.** Itty Bitty Public Skating. Itty Bitty Public Skating provides an intro to ice skating for preschool children and their parents/caregivers. \$8 per family per visit. 10:30-11:30 am. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 865-7558. eweaffer@burlingtonvt.gov. www.enjoyburlington.com. *Mondays and Wednesdays.*



## Building the Kitchen Fire In Vermont Winter

To turn out with a frozen yawn  
And in the blue-black dark,  
And haul your socks and brogans on  
Without no mean remark,  
And poke through both the entry doors  
And grope to left and right,  
And find the matchbox, strike a match  
And light a lantern light;

And set the lantern on a chair,  
And then look down to see  
If there is any kindling there  
Jest where it oughter be;  
Then lift the lid and take both hands  
To feed the fire-food in,  
And touch it off and curl all up  
To feel the heat begin;

And stand there till your legs get weak  
As No. thirteen wire,  
And then decide you'll take a peek  
To see what ails your fire,  
And lift the old cracked lid again  
From off its iron seat,  
But not a vittermine of fire  
Or callory of heat—

It's quite a thing, it's quite a chore  
To make two cold sticks spark,  
Without, as I have said before,  
No malapert remark;  
The fire collapsed, but 'twan't your fault  
No more than ourn, a bit,  
When Europe scrapped and called on us  
To make the Hell-Bosch quit.

It didn't ketch, that's all; you know  
It means a woodshed trip,  
Which means that you must sweep some snow  
Unless you want to slip;  
You grab the broom, unlock the door,  
But such a blast of air!  
It blows the cat inside the house,  
The lantern off the chair.

A batch of woodshed kindling sends  
Your hopes of heat-waves higher,  
And when your new endeavor ends  
You've got a Christian fire;  
You sling the milkpails on your arm  
And start out through the dark —  
"Come cold, wail wind, I've beat you both  
Without no mean remark!"

—DANIEL L. CADY  
1861-1934. Brownsville, VT



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# North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

## Fending Off the Chill of Winter with a Good Book

"The north wind doth blow, and we shall have snow, and what will poor Robin do then, poor thing?" Well, if he has any sense he will snuggle up inside with a good book, which is what clever children and their adults should do on the blustery January winter days when they come inside from sledding and building snowmen. Here are a few good stories to warm up by.

When winter's snows are here lucky children are out on the nearest slope with their saucers, cardboard boxes, Flexible Flyers and sleds. This may be up-and-down fun but isn't there a better, steeper slope—something more challenging?

In *The Iciest, Diciest, Scariest Sled Ride Ever* by Rebecca Rule and illustrated by Jennifer Thermes (\$17.95. *Islandport Press*. [www.islandportpress.com](http://www.islandportpress.com)) seven eager children with a dog borrow Grandpa Bud's old trawler sled homemade out of two double-ruler sleds hitched to a plank seat.

They go to the same steep, icy slope off Old Mountain Road where Grandpa sledged as a kid. No easy task as they have many slips and falls trying to get the sled up the steep slope. A wonderful drawing, among many others, shows the chain of these kids crawling on their bellies hauling the over-sized sled up the hill.

Finally, at the top, they are a little scared as the "highest, mightiest, iciest" sledding hill stretches out below them with their village seemingly so small and so far away. Off they go, laughing or screaming all the way down, piling up at the bottom. No problem—they'll do it again!

Travis sleds which can carry from two to 12 to 100 people were common in the early-to mid-20th century. The Uncle Sam Sled, considered the world's longest, long runner sled (75 feet) could carry at least 75 adults or 100 children. It is on display at the New Hampshire Farm Museum, Milton, NH.

The Arctic, with its sharp contrast between daylight and darkness is a good place to find out how and why this happens. In *The Origin of Day and Night* by Paula Ikuutaq Rumbolt and illustrated by Lenny Lishchenko (\$16.95. *Inhabit Media*. [www.inhabitmedia.com](http://www.inhabitmedia.com)) a snow white rabbit and a black-colored fox work out an agreement where the rabbit gets to determine day so as to hunt for cranberries and plants to eat, and the fox gets darkness—the best hunting time for ground squirrels, lemmings and even caribou meat humans had stored for the winter.

In this fable presented in dramatic scenes of that bitter cold and barren region, the fox, Tiri, gets his darkness (taaq) and the Arctic hare, Ukaliq, gets to enjoy brightly-lit days (ublug) after their negotiations, where the rabbit is savvy enough to keep her distance. (No dinner for the fox). Thanks to these animals we now have day coming to replace night, and when night is gone, day will come again.

Curious children at an early age will wonder and ask "what's under there?" For a delightful and beautifully-illustrated chance to see "what's under there" featuring a "lift-the-flap" counting game, join your kids and guess how many off-spring various animals usually have in *Counting Creatures* by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Sharon King-Chai (\$20.99. *Penguin Random House*. [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)).

You will admire the vivid art work and the unusual display of flaps starting with a bat with one offspring, a mother sheep with two lambs, to a potbelly pig with 10 piglets and finally a frog with 25 tadpoles. In this drawing a large frog watches as the tadpoles are "wriggling, squiggling and wiggling" about in bluish-green waters.

Other animals in their natural settings and the name their offspring are leopard (cubs), wild dog (pups), owl (owlets), fox (kits) arctic hare (leverets), mouse (mice), duck (ducklings), turkey (poults), spider (spiderlings) and butterflies (caterpillars). As a bonus each offspring has its own rhyme. For example: the arctic hare's leverets are "Running and jumping, Little legs thumping."

Author Donaldson also has written a companion A to Z book entitled *Animalphabet*.

Wouldn't be wonderful if books printed in one country were available in foreign language editions, too? This would introduce children to other "ways of saying it" while enjoying a good story. North/South Books of New York has printed such books in a series entitled *Little Polar Bear* by Hans de Beer.

In *Little Polar Bear Finds a Friend* by Hans de Beer (\$17.95. *NorthSouth Books*. [www.northsouth.com](http://www.northsouth.com)) a young polar bear makes a narrow escape from being sent to a zoo and finds a friend in the process.

Our story opens with Lars lamenting to his mother that he wishes he had a friend. (Maybe his wish will come true). When the little polar bear walks unwittingly into a trap he is placed in the hold of a very large plane with other caged animals bound for a zoo. He manages to bust out of his box and with the help of a walrus, frees all the other animals, including a little brown bear named Bea. Lars, the walrus, and Bea make their way to the woods, into a stream, a river, and finally the ocean. Bea has lost her parents and when Lars says she can come live with his family, Bea says they won't accept her as she is brown. They all arrive back home in the Arctic, on the back of the Walrus and Bea voices her fear to Lars' dad. "Don't be silly," he says, "Bears are bears." Lars' mom invites Bea to join their family and Lars has found a friend.

This story is also told in 10 other languages editions. Each has the original story in English as well as its foreign version.

Language editions (take your pick) are in Russian, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Korean.

The first edition printed in Switzerland was *Kleiner Esbar—Nimm mich mit, Lars*.

North/South has already has printed another multi-language children book series, the immensely popular *The Rainbow Fish*.

The arrival of winter is delightfully told in this unusual story of *Old Woman Winter* by Mary Bevis and illustrated by Consie Powell, (\$14.95. [www.greatplaythings.com](http://www.greatplaythings.com).)

The Winters, an elderly but spunky couple, have been sleeping soundly since spring, and now we see them waking up and quickly living up to their namesake: Winter. They put on winter clothing: thick sweaters, long Johns and thick woolen socks, and mukluks (a native Canadian boot).

The couple doesn't like the drab, gray, late-fall look outside. "How monotonous!" They exclaim. "Those people need some sparkle and excitement." The Winters then make up a big batch of extra large snowflakes in their kitchen from a recipe book that also offers other snow delights: corn snow, graupel, sloppy slush, crust, goose-feather, power and sugar snow.

By now the reader is hooked on what the Winters will do next. See the couple admiring a spectacular winter scene!

For more than 28 years children have been intrigued by the tales of Skippyjon Jones, a big-eared Siamese kitten whose life-long goal has been to be like a chihuahua while having humorous adventures.

In a Skippyjon winter adventure, *Skippyjon Jones Snow What* by Judy Schachner (*Dial Books for Young Readers*, \$17.99. [www.penguin.com/youngreaders](http://www.penguin.com/youngreaders)), our hero bounces on his big-boy bed and looks forward to a real adventure awaiting him in the closet. Inside is a magical, snowy forest where seven chimichangos challenge him to the dangerous task of awakening Nieve Que, a frozen princess, by kissing her. Would you, the reader, stoop to such a indignity? Judy's colorful drawings add still more humor to the story line. Enjoy all 20 of the Skippyjon Jones books!



### Book News

## Northshire Bookstore Book & Author Winter Events

Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center, VT is offering a range of in-person and virtual book & author events this winter. Check these out and plan to come by the store or join in online.

**Thursday, January 6th, 6 p.m. Virtual Event. Book-seller Bookchat.** Booksellers from both Northshire locations will host a friendly meetup & tell you about their recent favorite books.

**Tuesday, January 11th, 6 p.m. Virtual Event. Cozy Mystery Celebration.** Join us for a special evening three cozy mystery authors as we celebrate their latest food-related cozies! Catherine Bruns will discuss *The Enemy You Gnocchi*, Amita Murray will talk about *Arya Winters and the Tiramisu of Death*, and Lynn Cahoon will celebrate *Two Wicked Desserts*.

**Saturday, January 15th, 4:30 p.m. Virtual Event. MLK Saratoga presents Michelle Coles Black Was the Ink.** Civil rights attorney & author Michelle Coles will discuss her new novel for young adults. Through the help of a ghostly ancestor, sixteen-year-old Malcolm is sent on a journey through Reconstruction-era America to find his place in modern-day Black progress. This event is presented in partnership with MLK Saratoga as part of their 8th annual Dr. King Celebration Weekend.

**Thursday, January 20th, 6 p.m. Virtual Event. Radhule Weininger—Heart Medicine: How to Stop Painful Patterns and Find Peace and Freedom—at Last.** In conversation with Dr. Michael Kearney. Dr. Weininger will discuss her latest book, which includes guided practices of self-compassion, mindfulness, and embodiment, designed to break life's painful recurring patterns.

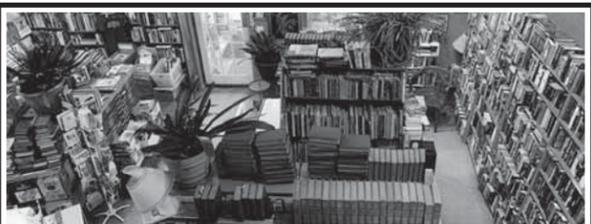
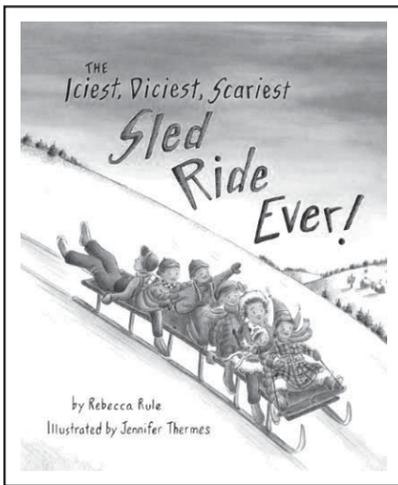
**Friday, January 21st, 5:30 p.m. In-Person Event. Joseph J. Ellis presents The Cause: The American Revolution and its Discontents, 1773-1783.** The Pulitzer & National Book Award-winning historian presents his culminating work on the American Founding, one of the most exciting and engaging histories of the American Revolution in decades. A Northshire Staff Pick and NYTimes Editors' Choice this landmark work of narrative history challenges the story we have long told ourselves about our origins.

**Friday, January 28th, 6 p.m. In-Person Event. Ted Flanagan presents Every Hidden Thing.** Ted Flanagan will present his debut, "a subtle powerhouse of a novel that combines the best of James Ellroy's noir cityscapes with the narrative impulses of Dennis Lehane". Big city politics, nasty secrets, a dirty cop, and a deranged sociopath set the stage for a riveting journey deep into the urban jungle.

**Saturday, January 29th, 7 p.m. Virtual Event. Isabel Allende presents Violeta.** Northshire is proud to be a participating bookstore in the Miami Book Fair's virtual event with acclaimed novelist Isabel Allende. This sweeping novel tells the epic story of Violeta Del Valle, a woman whose life spans one hundred years and bears witness to the greatest upheavals of the twentieth century.

**Saturday, February 5, 5:30 p.m. In-Person Event. Chris Bohjalian in Conversation—The Hour of the Witch.** The beloved bestselling Vermont author Chris Bohjalian returns to Northshire to present the New York Times Bestseller.

Northshire Manchester is located at 4869 Main St. in Manchester Center, VT. (802) 362-2200. Northshire Saratoga is located at 424 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY. (518) 682-4200. Both are at [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com).



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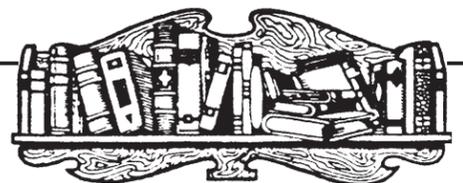
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# Vermont Almanac

## Stories From & For The Land—Volume II

(\$30. For The Land Publishing Company. [www.vermontalmanac.org](http://www.vermontalmanac.org))

Vermont farmers have been adjusting to needs for new crops, dealing with extreme weather conditions, and pandemic-created disruptions in the supply chain.

This latest edition (Vol II) of the Vermont Almanac deals with these and other topics in more with 75 essays, memories and vignettes written by farmers, craftspeople, artisans, writers and educators covering October 2020 through September 2021.

To show its appreciation the Almanac begins the 290-page book with a photograph of each contributor and a brief biography. Stories relate to each month and season.

The first Vermont Almanac (Vol. I) covered October 2019 through September 2020 so this new one picks up where they left off.

The Almanac essays include what to expect for weather for each upcoming month; a historical piece, "A Look Back;" a feature "Nature Notes," of interesting happenings in the natural world; and a section "At Home" informing us about the wonders to be enjoyed both indoors and outside all year long.

The Almanac theme: "This is Vermont" explores "where farming, forests, homesteading and other land-based pursuits" are more crucial than ever, prompted by the pandemic and other critical changes.

Here are some of its articles that depict the great variety and vitality of life in Vermont.

### Innovative dairying

January 2021 is devoted to stories on dairy farms and how well some are doing even though their number has decreased from over 4,000 in 1969 to 636 farms in 2020.

Almanac editor Patrick White, of Middlesex, writes an intriguing story about how the Goodrich Farm, a dairy farm in Salisbury (start-up in 1956) is today operating two million-gallon anaerobic digesters that cook manure and food wastes into natural gas which supplies 40% of Middlebury College's thermal needs.

The farm had originally produced methane from manure for the Green Mountain Power's "Cow Power" program which now has 10,000 cows contributing on 12 farms.

The Goodrich Farm has 900 dairy cows and more than 2,000 acres in hay and corn.

### Lumbering

The Almanac has chosen the cold and snowy month of February (2021) to present an up-date on the lumbering industry.

Professor Tony D'Amato, director of the Forestry Program, UVM, discusses how precarious our forests have become from "muddy winters, sweltering summers and a proliferation of alien invaders."

He warns about the invasive ash borer, a green tree killer, that has endangered Vermont's 130 million high-value ash trees. Ash brings \$650 per 1,000 board feet. Proper management techniques are recommended as well as planting other warm-adapted species like red oak and butternut hickory.

A chart on log prices over a 20-year period shows yellow birch and hardwood maple holding value but red oak and cherry have gone "to the dogs."

An article shows vivid photos of a private sawmill operated by Ellis Page in Thetford who cuts and mills his own trees into valuable lumber. Not incidentally, China is a growing market for Vermont quality hardwood logs used in its burgeoning furniture industry.

While we are on wood, there's a how-to-do-it on growing shiitaki mushrooms on a few logs in your backyard!

### Grains

The month of May (2021) is devoted to farmers growing grains to meet the needs of distilleries and artisan bread-makers that want flour from dependable all-natural sources. For centuries grains were a vital crop in Vermont with 40,000 acres in wheat in 1830. The Erie Canal ended all that with its gateway to cheaper mid-western crops.

There may be no flour mills in Vermont but more and more farms and bakers are milling their own flour on site.

One exceptional success story is told about the Elmore Mountain Bread company whose owners Blair Marvin and Andrew Heyn built their own mill using granite stones from Barre, VT. Word got out and they started the New American Stone Mills in Morrisville. They have produced 125 mills so far shipping them all around the country and world.

Vermont may not be a site for any Mid-West type wheat production with its giant harvesting combines, but grain grower Seth Johnson of Morningstar Farm in Glover has purchased a large used combine for \$35,000 for his own speeded-up use and custom harvesting. Wheat has to be harvested quickly to avoid wet weather that will compromise its quality.

### Hops

Another example of adjusting to new needs is the cultivation of hops used by the growing number of home-brewers and micro-brewers to make their own crafted beers. You will be awed by the (August 2021) photo feature about the 37-acre Champlain Valley Hops farm in Starksboro. This unique farm did require "a massive capital and infrastructure investment to such a risky niche crop."

Pictured is a large handsome field of hops growing on 18-foot high poles wired one to another and then being harvested by German-made Wolf hop picking machines during the 40-day growing season. They are dried and made into pellets or powder, also available as tastier wet hops. The farm produces 67,000 cones of hops. The plant has scales which are what makes "hops happy."

### Migration

September (2021) is the usual month when birds pack up and head south for the winter. Birds of the same feather fly together but you may not see too many of them because they migrate at night. Joan Waltermire, a Vershire poet, tells how you can track birds as done by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology using the U.S. weather surveillance radar network. Results for September 1-3 showed 3,000 to

# VERMONT ALMANAC

STORIES FROM & FOR THE LAND | VOLUME II



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For the Land is the non-profit publisher of the Vermont Almanac. Dave Mance III, Patrick White, and Virginia Barlow are the editors along with many collaborators. For the Land Publishing, 6151 Rt. 7A, Shaftsbury, VT 05262. For inquiries call (802) 439-5651.

Obtain a copy of the Vermont Almanac Vol. I or II at your bookseller or send \$37.62 per copy (\$30 plus postage \$5.50 plus Vermont sales tax) to: For the Land Publishing, PO Box 514, Corinth, VT 05039. Include your shipping address plus a phone number or e-mail address. You can order online at [www.vermontalmanac.org](http://www.vermontalmanac.org).

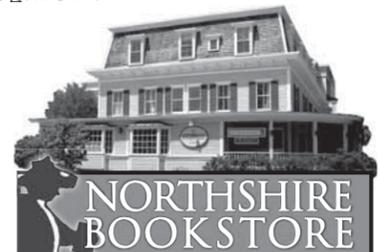
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In the late 1800s they rolled the snow instead of plowing it in order to make way for horse-drawn sleds and sleighs. Here is a team of six horses pulling a snow roller on State Street in downtown Montpelier, VT in front of the Pavilion Hotel. photo courtesy of Vermont Historical Society

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## Book Review by Charles Sutton

### Snow Rollers of Vermont A Half Century of Snow Rolling in Vermont

by Richard Dean Hovey

(\$29.50. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. On Amazon)

It’s reassuring during any snowstorm to hear snow plows rumbling up and down the road. We hope, too, that one of them will soon be in our driveway.

Before today’s snow plows were invented, communities relied on horse or ox-drawn large wooden snow rollers which would flatten the snow and make roadways passable for sled and sleigh or foot travel.

Thanks to Peacham historian Richard Dean Hovey (June 1928-May 2021) the

Peacham Museum was established in a barn there that had been used for roller storage, but had fallen into disrepair. Today it has been restored and houses an extensive collection of antique snow rollers in different sizes and types from around the state.

Hovey authored this large-sized 145-page informative book on the snow roller era (1888 until 1940). Among the extensive photographs in this book are five surviving Vermont antique snow rollers. (Vermont so far has uncovered only 21 old snow rollers most of which are in disrepair).

Snow rolling may sound like fun but records show

that riding atop a roller in bitter, cold weather, often after dark with lanterns, was a miserable job with annual payments for rolling and shoveling ranging from only \$13.20 to \$52.80 per driver. Drivers had to bundle up the best they could with heavy clothing and lap robes. They warmed their feet on heated rocks in a metal box.

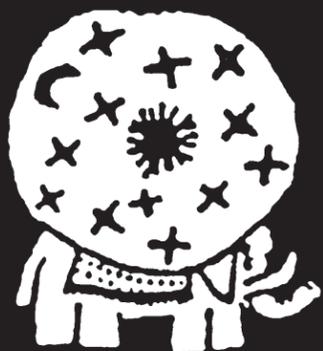
The rollers looked like barrels resting on their sides. They were attached to a horizontal axle which allowed them to turn freely. The rollers were also equipped with a rock ballast called a “Rock Box.”

The book presents 21 of the known surviving rollers with any unusual features and ranging in sizes from 4 to over 5 feet in diameter. Six of these are stored at the Peacham Museum. Those of you interested in how things were built in “the old days” will appreciate details on the construction of roller’s parts including colors photographs

of roller wheels, joints, struts, and axles.

The book gives the location of where the 21 surviving snow rollers are housed. In addition to Peacham, the others can be seen at Coolidge Museum, Plymouth; Tunbridge Fair Antique Museum; Shelburne Museum; Old Stonehouse Museum, Brownington; and with several private collectors. The book has reproduced seven pages of spectacular photographs of snow rollers at work in many Vermont communities.

One has to be grateful to the book’s late author Richard Dean Hovey for all his efforts on behalf of Vermont antiques. He also led efforts to restore Peacham’s blacksmith shop and he and his wife, the late Dorothy Hovey, identified many of the historic buildings in Peacham and for almost 30 years crafted small replicas of the buildings given out as Christmas gifts.



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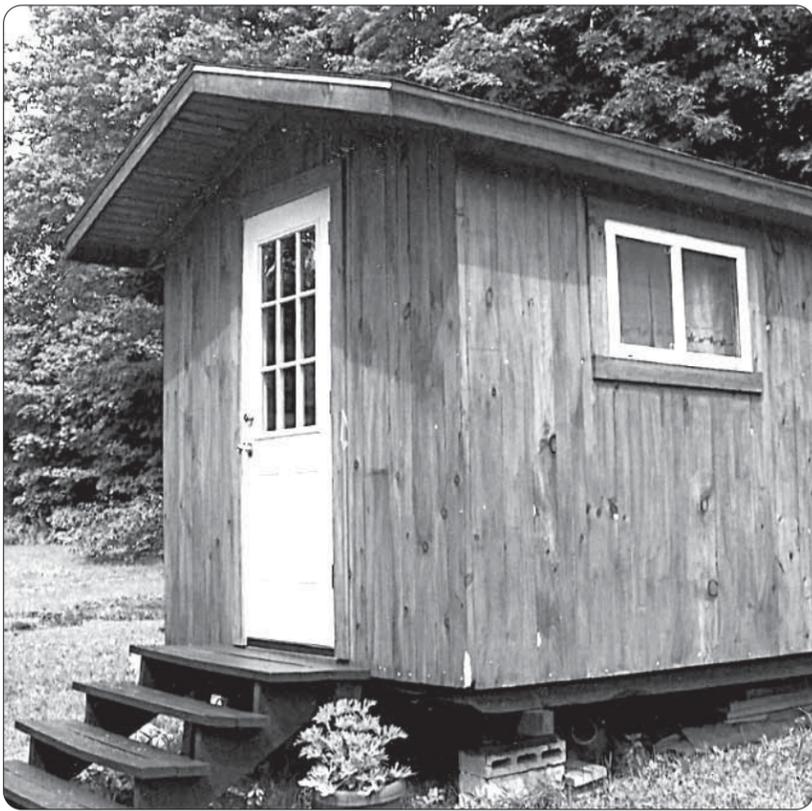


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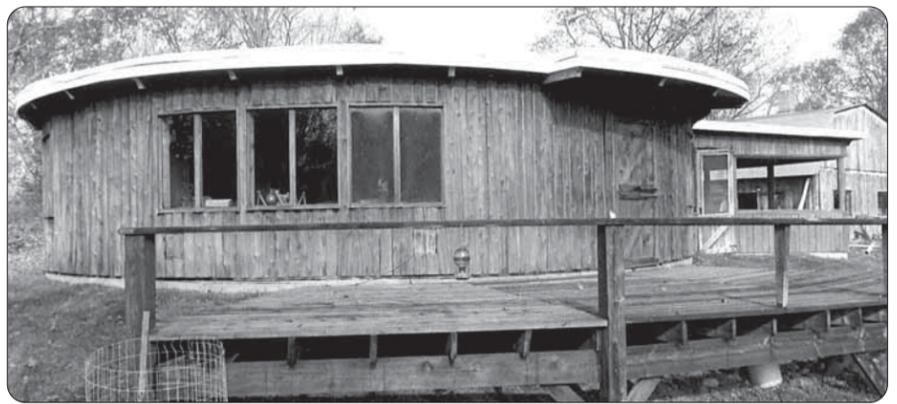
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# Cabot Village

## 12th Night Celebration

Saturday, January 8th, 2022

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**Simon Brooks Master Storyteller** \* **Scrag Mountain Duo Classical** \* **Dave Keller Trio Blues and Soul** \* **Tara Goreau Mural Painting Project** \* **Cabot Community Theater Mummies Play** \* **Midnight Capers Morris Dance** \* **Wassail Community Sing**  
 Paper Lantern Contest \* Activities on the Village Common \* Sunset Lantern Parade  
 Community Dinner \* Wagon Rides \* Raffle for Sandy Ducharme Floorcloth \* ASL Interpreter

**All 12th Night Events are FREE!**  
 For all Festival info visit: [www.CabotArts.org](http://www.CabotArts.org)

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12th Night is funded in part by the Vermont Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Cabot Community Association

## Ring Out, Wild Bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
 The flying cloud, the frosty light;  
 The year is dying in the night;  
 Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
 The faithless coldness of the times;  
 Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,  
 But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
 Ring, happy bells, across the snow;  
 The year is going, let him go;  
 Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
 The civic slander and the spite;  
 Ring in the love of truth and right,  
 Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,  
 For those that here we see no more;  
 Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
 Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
 Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
 Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
 Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
 And ancient forms of party strife;  
 Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
 With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
 The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
 Ring out the darkness of the land,  
 Ring in the Christ that is to be.

—ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON  
 1809-1892, Lurgashall, England

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