

Vermont Country Sampler

February 2015

Free

- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
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- Sights to See, Things to Do
- Plenty of Good Reading!

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Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market is in Full Swing

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market is open and going strong at the beautiful River Garden in the heart of downtown! In fact we're open through March 2015!

You will still find just about all you might need from apples, bread, carrots, dosas, eggs, and focaccia, to onions, parsnips, quiche, remedies, squash, therapeutic salves, vinegars, vegan granola, winter squash and yacon...not to mention a whole lot in between even though there's no zucchini!

Maple Nut Kitchens will be joining us with a great selection of gluten free granolas. And another new face will be Allison of Roots in Silver with a beautiful selection of very unique handcrafted jewelry.

Clay Hill Corners is back with their fabulous quiche and tarts, and you'll find

ethnic foods from Thai Hut and Dosa Kitchen for a great lunch selection!

This week the Incurable Semantics will be playing in the lunch cafe. And we still have our most popular Market Match Coupons for 3SquaresVT/SNAP shoppers to turn \$10 into \$20 each week. Debit cards are always welcome.

Brave the cold outside and step into the warmth at the Winter Farmers' Market, every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through March.

The Brattleboro Farmers Market is a project of Post Oil Solutions. The winter market is held indoors at The River Garden, located at 157 Main St. in downtown Brattleboro, VT. We're on Facebook. And you can get more information at www.postoilsolutions.org.

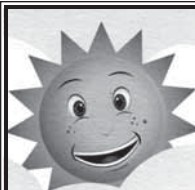


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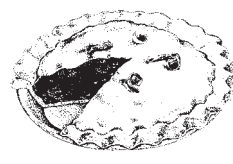


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photo by Alex Chaloff
Holophonor Septet will be performing at the Vermont Jazz Center in Brattleboro in March. The septet features Josh Johnson (alto saxophone), Mike Cottone (trumpet), Eric Miller (trombone), Diego Urbano (vibraphone), Miro Sprague (piano), Dave Robaire (bass) and Jonathan Pinson (drums).

Brattleboro, VT Spring Concerts at the Vermont Jazz Center

Plan to hear some really great jazz this season at the Vermont Jazz Center in Brattleboro, VT. Founded in the early 70's by jazz guitarist Attila Zollar and now run by pianist Eugene Uman, the center has a long history of hosting jazz greats as well as musicians who go on to make a name for themselves. The Vermont Jazz Center is located in Brattleboro's Cotton Mill Hill Complex; the site includes a classroom, office space and 170-seat performance hall.

Tickets for these concerts are sliding scale \$20-\$40. Buy on-line (secure server) from vtjazz.org or at the door. You can also buy tickets at In the Moment, 143 Main St, Brattleboro, VT. Or call the Jazz Center at (802) 254-9088 to reserve tickets.

Julian Lage Trio, Saturday, February 14th, 8 p.m. Julian Lage is the guitarist on everyone's A list—receiving the highest reviews for recordings with luminaries Fred Hersch, Gary Burton, Anthony Wilson and Nnenna Freelon. He's also receiving accolades for a trio he recently formed with bassist Scott Colley and Kenny Wollesen (drums). It is this group that will perform for us at the Jazz Center. A child prodigy, Lage performed with Carlos Santana when he was only nine and recorded a duo album with David Grisman when he was 11. In 1997 he was the subject of an Academy Award nominated documentary, *Jules at Eight* that explored the life of a prodigy.

Bill Charlap Trio, Saturday, March 14, 8 p.m. The Bill Charlap Trio includes bassist Peter Washington and drummer Kenny Washington. One of the world's premiere jazz pianists, Bill Charlap has performed with many leading artists, from Phil Woods and Tony Bennett to Gerry Mulligan and Wynton Marsalis. He has received two Grammy Award nominations, for *Somewhere: The Songs of Leonard Bernstein* and most recently *The Bill Charlap Trio: Live at the Village Vanguard*.

Emerging Artist Series: Melissa Aldana and Crash Trio, Saturday, March 28th, 8 p.m. Melissa Aldana, a young Chilean tenor saxophonist, is the first female instrumentalist to win the Thelonious Monk Competition. She is the third generation in her family to accept the saxophone as her calling. During the last two years, Melissa has been playing and performing with bassist Pablo Menares (also from the Chilean jazz scene), and Cuban drummer Francisco Mela, they are the Crash Trio.

Holophonor Septet featuring Miro Sprague, Saturday, April 18th, 8 p.m. The members of Holophonor met in 2012 attending the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance. For two years, they lived and studied together under the guidance of jazz legends Terrence Blanchard, Herbie Hancock, and Wayne Shorter, and toured Israel, Japan, Sweden and Turkey, and performed at the Kennedy Center. After graduation, they chose to stay together and continue to perform and teach. The members are: Josh Johnson (alto saxophone), Mike Cottone (trumpet), Eric Miller (trombone), Diego Urbano (vibraphone), Miro Sprague (piano), Dave Robaire (bass) and Jonathan Pinson (drums).

Carmen Lundy, Saturday, May 16th, 8 p.m. Carmen Lundy is a true vocal master: she has released 14 albums under her own name, she is a highly regarded composer, an artist, an educator and an actress. The musicians with whom she plays include some of the best in the world: Ray Barretto, Kenny Barron, Bruce Hornsby, Mulgrew Miller, Terri Lyne Carrington, Roy Hargrove, Jimmy Cobb, Ron Carter, Marian McPartland, Regina Carter, Steve Turre, Geri Allen, Robert Glasper, and the late Kenny Kirkland. For her concert at the VJC she will be playing with a quintet including pianist Patrice Rushen.

Eugene Uman's Convergence Project, Saturday, June 6th, 8 p.m. The music composed and performed by Eugene Uman, pianist and leader of the Convergence Project, balances on an artistic tightrope between fresh, innovative and exploratory on one side, and accessible and enjoyable on the other. After the release of their second disk, "Six Elements," The Convergence Project is gearing up for the next phase of their development. The members are Michael Zsoldos (saxophones), Jeff Galindo (trombone), Sebastian Cruz (guitar), Uman (piano), Stomu Takeishi (bass) and Satoshi Takeishi (drums). Cellist Eugene Friesen appears whenever possible as guest artist.

The Vermont Jazz Center is located at 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222 in Brattleboro, VT. For information call (802) 254-9088. Visit vtjazz.org.

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February 2015, Vol. XXX

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Calendar of Events published **free of charge**. Mail your information to us by the 10th of the preceding month.

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94th Annual Harris Hill Ski Jump February 14 & 15

The Harris Hill Ski Jump, the only Olympic-sized, 90-meter ski jumping hill in New England, will play host to its annual two-day ski jumping event February 14 and 15, 2015. In addition to its traditional jumps, this year's event will include both a Men's and Women's International Skiing Federation (FIS) Cup. This will be the first ever women's FIS event in the U.S. The weekend's events will also serve as a stop on the United States American Ski Jumping (US-ASJ) series.

Founded in 1922, the annual jumping competition held on Harris Hill attracts several thousand spectators each year not only to watch local jumpers reach great heights but also to view world renowned jumpers soar in the sport of ski jumping.

The three major competitions, merged with the annual Pepsi Challenge and Fred Harris Memorial Tournament, will draw the best male and female ski jump-

ers from across the globe to Brattleboro.

Competition each day will start at 11 a.m. and will conclude by 4 p.m. Gates open at 10 a.m. A family event, Harris Hill Ski Jumping Competition weekend includes opening ceremonies, appearances by Jumper the mascot, food and drink vendors, beer tent, souvenirs, a bonfire and more. Dress warm and wear boots. We love dogs but leave them at home. Parking is free.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth age 6-12 years, age five and younger are always free.

Harris Hill Ski Jump is a non-profit organization. The yearly event is put on entirely by volunteers.

Harris Hill Ski Jump is located on Cedar St. off Rt. 9 in Brattleboro, VT. (877) 887-6884. For details and early ticket sales, please visit harrishillskijump.com. Follow the event on Twitter at @harrishillhkipt or Facebook at harrishillskijump.



A skier flies off the jump through the air.



Crowds attend the festivities at Harris Hill Ski Jump.



Watching the skiers come down the jump at Harris Hill.



Harris Hill Ski Jump readies for competition on a bright winter day, Brattleboro, VT.

photo courtesy of Harris Hill Ski Jump

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Sleigh Ride Week at Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum's Sleigh Ride Week is scheduled for February 14-22, 2015 at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. Festivities will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature horse-drawn sleigh, tours of the dairy farm and farmhouse, and a variety of activities celebrating Presidents Week.

Climb aboard the Billings Farm sleigh for a horse-drawn ride through the frosty farm fields. On the weekends, try sledding with jack jumpers. In commemoration of Presidents' Day, sample the favorite cookies of the Presidents, including Grover Cleveland's Snickerdoodles, Ulysses Grant's Lemon Drops, James Monroe's Waverly Jumbles, and Harry Truman's Coconut Cookies. Hands-on activities on the weekends will include making presidential silhouettes and learning presidential trivia.

In the barns, discover Vermont dairying—past and present—and learn about the development of Billings Farm, still one of the best Jersey farms in America. The horse barn, calf nursery, milk room, cow barn, and sheep barn are stops along the self-guided tour. Up-close programs with the livestock will be offered including An Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd programs at 3:15 p.m. each day.

The restored and furnished 1890 Farm House will be open for touring, featuring the farm office, family living quarters, creamery, and ice house.

Sleigh Ride Week admission includes sleigh or wagon rides (depending on the weather), jack jumper sledding, the farm, farm house, and activities, plus A Place in the Land, an Academy Award® nominee film.

Billings Farm is an operating dairy farm that continues a 144-year tradition of agricultural excellence, offering farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's heritage and values. Since 1983, the Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage.

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

Billings Farm & Museum is open weekends through February, and daily during Presidents' week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open daily May 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

The Farm & Museum is north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.



Percheron draft horse wait to pull the sled at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

Woodstock, VT

Bring Your Kids to Billings Farm & Museum for Vacation Fun!

Billings Farm & Museum, invites you to bring your kids for some great February school vacation week programs featuring a hands-on experience of the farm.

Farm Vet for a Day—Tuesday, February 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For children ages 10 to 15. Wear your work boots and be prepared to get dirty while working

alongside a large animal veterinarian. Learn the anatomy and physiology of ruminant (cows and sheep) and non-ruminant (horses) animals. Help groom and participate in a physical exam of a farm animal. Fee: \$75/non-members.

Almanzo's Day at Billings Farm—Wednesday, February 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For children ages 8 to 12. Based on Laura Ingalls Wilder's book *Farmer Boy*, spend the day in Almanzo's winter world while you groom a cow, feed the chickens, and snack on popcorn. Enjoy outside activities as well, including a horse-drawn sleigh ride, weather permitting. Fee: \$40.

Fun on the Farm—Thursday, February 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For children ages 6 to 8. Dress up as a cow after visiting the barns, make a felted wool ball with wool from our sheep, churn butter, and bake cookies. Discover what is in the Mystery Bag as we have Fun on the Farm! Fee: \$40.

All programs require warm, comfortable clothing for indoor and outdoor activities, a bag lunch, (ice-cold milk is provided) and an appetite for farm work—and fun! To register or for additional

information, please call the museum on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (802) 457-2355.

Each program has limited enrollment and advance registration is required.

The Billings Farm & Museum is open weekends in February and daily from February 14 to 22, 2015, for Sleigh Ride Week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

The Farm & Museum is one-half mile north of the village green on Rt. 12. Call (802) 457-2355 or visit www.billingsfarm.org.



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Springtime In February

by Ron Krupp

Some gardeners' melancholia drives them to fill the void with masses of greenery and blossoms inside their home. After removing the Christmas tree and Chanukah paraphernalia, they have more space and light and now need some color.

One old woodchuck trick is to "Bring in the Woodies." Even in mid-winter, you can take cuttings of forsythia, shad, lilac, and quince bushes, bring them inside, and place in a vase of warm water. In about 7 to 10 weeks, you may have midwinter blossoms adorning your home, but it doesn't always work. To increase your chances, cut the stems at an angle, beat them lightly with a hammer, remove the bark of the lower stems, and place them in water.

Forsythia, lilac and pussy-willow

The forsythia produces small yellow flowers, and quince has large sprays of blossoms in different colors, like pink and salmon. They, like forsythia, can be started in February or later. White shad, shadblow, or what some call serviceberry is the first to blossom in the Vermont woods and is a sure sign spring is here. After the shad come the pin and chokecherries and then the apple blossoms.

You can also force lilac stems. The Druids cut lilacs on January 1st and plunged them into water. How well the leaves sprouted determined that year's good will and growth.

The woody most people are familiar with is the pussy willow. The common pussy willow (*Salix discolor*) is a shrub or small tree, 10-18 feet high, that is one of the first to blossom in spring. Female catkins are the familiar pussy willow blossoms that are easily forced by bringing them into a warm room.

Some florist shops sell almond, plum, quince, shad, forsythia, crab apple, pussy willow, witch hazel, magnolia, and other woody stems already budded out. They take little time to blossom.

As the sun stops its retrograde motion and our light-deprived lives begin to quiver, it's time to force the woodies into action. Remember to cut the stems when the moon is waxing rather than waning. The expansive action of the moon enhances leaf and flower development.

Paperwhites, daffodils, and tulips

Besides the woodies, you can force bulbs to bloom and brighten winter's gloom. Paper-whites (narcissus) and amaryllis are among the easiest bulbs to force. The idea is to trick them into behaving as though they've finished winter. Place about three paper-white bulbs (about 89 cents per bulb) in a 5-inch-wide clay pot full of loose soil. Refrigerate for about two weeks. Leave about one-fourth of the bulb above the soil line and water them once a week to keep the soil moist. Remove the pot and place it in direct sunlight in a cooler room. The more light they have, the longer they will bloom and stand strong.

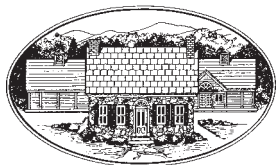
Tulip and daffodil bulbs are more difficult to trick into blooming. They need to be refrigerated in soil for 10-15 weeks. If they're started too late, they bloom when the bulbs are flowering in your front yard. Water the bulbs once a week until they make three-to four-inch sprouts. Place in direct sunlight and they should bloom in about five weeks.

Beautiful amaryllis

Amaryllis are the rich person's bulb, costing as much as \$10 per bulb, but they can last for years with proper care. Place one bulb in a deep, narrow pot. They don't need any refrigeration and if placed in direct sunlight will bloom in five to six weeks. Make sure to let the flowers die off, allowing it to produce a full set of leaves that last about five weeks. Let the leaves wither some before placing the bulb in the garden soil. Dig the plant up in the fall and store the bulbs over the winter in a cellar or cool, dark room before forcing them again in the spring. Clip all the leaves, feed with compost, and in about six weeks, you'll have blooms again.

As you can see, gardening never ends, even in winter, when you are really into it. There is always something to learn and do, like ordering seed catalogs, planning the garden, caring for houseplants, or forcing woodies and bulbs.

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



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Sheep and goats are all barnyard friends, East Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

CHESTER

WINTER CARNIVAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

7:30 - 10:30am

Winter Carnival Breakfast, American Legion
American Legion Women's Auxiliary

11:00am

Sled Races, sleds provided, Pinnacle

11:00am

Cross-Country Ski Tour, Pinnacle
Bring your skis and have some fun!

11:00 - 3:00

Disc Golf, Pinnacle
3-hole course, come play anytime. Discs provided

12:00 noon

Snow Sculpture Judging
Snow sculptures around town

1:00 - 4:00pm

Dog Sled Rides, Pinnacle
Braeburn Siberians offering free rides

12:00 - 4:00pm

Scavenger Hunt - \$100, \$50 & \$25 prizes

6:00pm

Bonfire, Cobleigh Field
Winners announced for Scavenger Hunt and Snow Sculptures

6:00 - 8:00pm

Ice Skating Party, Cobleigh Field
Music provided by Alan Mowrey (DJ Freeze)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

10:00am

Broom Hockey Tournament
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The Seasons of February

by Bill Felker

The First Quarter—February 1–7 In the Time of the Skunk And Opossum Moon

The Week That Doves and Cardinals Call

The first excitement of the daybook was a simple one. I saw a parallel to my own seeming lack of growth and change. I saw that nature was as deliberate as I was, that the movements I made in a day toward my purposes were as slow as the progress of a season; so, I thought, my seasons might, in time, take on the bright color, the clear direction, the sense, and the harmony of the year.

* * *

The Groundhog Day Thaw will get underway by February 1 as the last cold front of January moves east. Thunderstorms can make their appearance with that thaw, and the temperature of the earth sometimes surges well above 40 degrees, telling the pastures to start growing.

Sparrows are mating, and the great morning chorus that lasts deep into summer is well underway, the grackles whistling and chattering by a quarter to eight, the crows and cardinals and doves joining in.

By the middle of the month, the day's length will be about an hour longer than it was on December 26th, and the brighter afternoons tell the groundhogs and opossums that it is mating time. Raccoons, beavers and skunks seek partners, too. Owls sit on their eggs. Flies appear in the sunny corners of the barn.

Moss will be growing a little more on the old logs then, and crocus, daffodil and tulip foliage will push out above the mulch. Garlic planted in late November could be at least six inches tall. Henbit might be blossoming in the alleys.

The Second Quarter—February 8–14 In the Fading of the Skunk And Opossum Moon When Starlings Swarm to the City

We live in the middle of these and so many other events, and each of us and each event occur and reside in sync so that when we see or touch one, we need not see or touch the other to know what time it is. We are all joined by filaments of power and order, sliding in and out of place like the contained fragments of a kaleidoscope as the globe spins.

* * *

Inventory in the snow, in the afternoon before the thaw, gibbous moon rising in the clear, robin's-egg blue sky: Bamboo leaves grayed and shriveled by the cold January, some leaves shedding.

Ice around the pond waterfall, the heater helping the iris to grow back maybe three inches. Tight brown buds on the lilacs. Hackberries on the snow, and branches, leftovers from the starling flock of yesterday. Stalks of astilbe, hosta, aster, Jerusalem artichokes, ferns sticking up.

Winterberry dark olive green brown leaves, seeds holding. Last petals of oakleaf hydrangea. Peeping of robins, passing of crows. Skirts of sunflower seed hulls left all around the bird feeders. Crab apples in the snow, ravaged by the starlings a day ago. A little green sweet William foliage showing through the ice. Rose of Sharon pods half empty, pods open like hands to the sky.

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through blue morning glories,
potato patches awaiting
rain clouds' swell,
scent of coffee and cinnamon,
woodsmoke when apple logs burn
in December...
worn corduroy
and denim faded to winter sky,
notepads and lists heralding
good intentions...
time's relentless ticking
the sound of colors we remember...
all braided into ovals
the shape of tears.

—MARY LOU HEALY

The Third Quarter—February 15–21 In the First Days Of the Flowering Moss Moon When Earliest Spring Arrives

The advance of spring is neither logical nor linear. Spring does not always obey the measurements of the sun, sometimes arrives all at once, sometimes hardly comes at all. And, like all seasons, it is evocative of different years, blending and separating, transporting the observer back a decade or a half century, teaching that nothing belongs where it seems to belong but that everything is welded together in repetition.

* * *

Before the thaw arrived last week, six to ten inches of snow were still left, pocked with rabbit tracks, dog tracks and my own footprints from the previous day. On Friday, the wind was straight from the south, chilly at midmorning but mild by the middle of the afternoon, highs finally rising into the 40s. The sun was bright through the day, and the wind blew all night, shifting to the southwest. On Saturday morning, cardinals were singing by 7:30. The snow was stubborn but was ceding to the wind. I could walk most of the alley on

bare ground, and the oases of open earth were broadening under the trellis and bird feeders and around the sweet Williams and the iris.

A cardinal in the back woodlot sang at 7:12 Sunday morning, crows right behind him. Starlings were all around downtown when I went to get the newspaper at 8:30. Out in the country, the morning horizon was hazy with spring.

In the woods in the afternoon, temperature of 45 degrees, the sky robin's egg blue, I listened to crows and peeping robins and a pileated woodpecker. The frozen river had softened to decaying floes shifting away from shore, still held by the curve of the banks. Under the trees, the melting had revealed thousands of box elder seeds, pale like a new hatch of winged insects.

The path west into the low sun had lost its hard slickness, was slushy and easy to walk. Edges between spring and winter were everywhere. Extensive holes in the cover had opened around scattered tree trunks and plants, showing clumps of oak leaves, chickweed and sweet rocket, ragwort and great mullein, innumerable honeysuckle berries. By the time I got home, dozens of pussy willows were opening along the sidewalk, and the moon was coming up full over the house across the street.

The Fourth Quarter—February 22–28 In the Second Quarter Of the Blooming Moss Moon When Maple Sap is Flowing

Frequency becomes a new marker of change as February unravels. The first stage in the progress of spring is the sighting of "firsts": first bluebird, first robin, first turkey vulture and so forth. After that, quantity counts as much as much as novelty. The number of robins, the number of blackbirds, the number of blooming bulbs, the number of pussy willow catkins emerging take on more and more importance until the next stage of the year arrives, the stage at which all the old first creatures and events are commonplace and give way to new firsts and new quantities.

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A Vermont Almanack for Late Winter

by Bill Felker

After the cruel Deep Winter,
I went out through town
To the headwaters of the Spring,
To the watershed of time,
Touching buds in the thaw.

Phases of the Skunk and Opossum Moon And the Flowering Moss Moon

When the snow melts, skunks and opossums court and scout for food throughout late winter. And even though snowdrops and aconites may be reluctant to bud in the cold, fallen trees may harbor flowering mosses in the sun.

February 3: The Skunk and Opossum Moon is full at 6:09 p.m. *February 6:* Lunar apogee: the moon's position farthest from Earth. *February 11:* The moon enters its last quarter at 10:50 p.m. *February 18:* The Flowering Moss Moon is new at 6:47 p.m. *February 19:* Lunar perigee: the moon's position closest to Earth. *February 25:* The moon enters its second quarter at 12:14 p.m.

The Sun

By the time the Groundhog Day Thaw is over, the sun will have climbed past a declination of 16 degrees, more than 30 percent of the way to spring equinox. The pace of spring quickens and the sun reaches 40 percent of the way to equinox by February 12. On the 18th, Cross-Quarter Day, the sun reaches its halfway point to equinox. It enters the early spring sign of Pisces at the same time.

The Stars and Planets

After Supper: Venus, continuing to move retrograde, is the evening star in Capricorn, deep along the western horizon. Mars follows close behind Venus in Aquarius. Sirius, the Dog Star, lies due south, Orion to its west, Cancer walking like a stick figure to its east.

In the Middle of the Night: Jupiter finally abandons his position in Leo for the first time since last October and crosses the sky in Cancer (following Orion), overhead throughout the night as the Pleiades sink deep toward the western horizon, leading on Aldebaran, the bright red eye of Taurus.

Just before Sunup: Saturn remains the morning star, sharing Scorpio with glowing Antares. Libra drifts due south along the horizon, followed by Scorpius and then by Sagittarius. The Summer Triangle is rising, and all of winter's evening stars are setting.

Meteorology

If strong storms occur this month, they will be most likely to strike on or around February 2-4, 6-9, 14-18 and 24-25. Full moon on February 3 (and a bitter end to the Groundhog Day Thaw) and new moon on February 18 (foiling hopes for the arrival of early spring) are likely to increase the intensity of the weather systems that typically arrive near those dates.

Notes on Home

by Bill Felker

When I am restless in the winter, this landscape doesn't seem enough, these few acres of woods and homes just a taste, only a promise of the great world. But when I go too far out, I gather my landmarks of home around me. Distant locations only make sense against a familiar, local gauge.

Time benefits from a master point like Greenwich; from that arbitrary set point, we can know the sun throughout the world, and even plot the instant and the physical place where the past and future blend to a single day, balance in a temporal vacuum.

Even if I do not live in Greenwich, I know its lati-

tudes and longitudes follow the sun through the entire globe. In the same vein, place has no scaffolding without home.

I live on the Prime Meridian. So if I know where and when I am in Vermont, I know also, if I were to travel, comparative time and location: Rome is ahead now, Paris behind, Tokyo ahead, Buenos Aires in Early Autumn.

The winter wind here is not parochial. Hibernation here is not a state of isolation. The hills above my paths are not barriers. This white river disappearing around the last bend, runs beneath the ice, goes out to the end of the world.



Snowfall on horses eating hay in the barnyard in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Peak Activity Times for Livestock, Fish, Game and Dieters

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are more active as the barometer is falling one to three days before the weather systems that arrive near February 3, 6, 11, 15, 20, 24. As cold waves arrive and the barometer rises, take notes about how you feel, both mentally and physically. After the cold waves pass out to sea, take more notes: Do you feel better or worse as the barometer drops?

Holidays for Homesteaders

February 27, 2015: Dominican Republic Independence Day: Consider marketing lambs and kids to this market, a sizeable market to the southeast of Vermont.



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Grandpa’s “Skyhook”

by Burr Morse

Do you believe in skyhooks? My Grandpa Morse sure did. They were especially handy when we were putting away farm equipment for the winter. He taught me so much about levers, block and tackle, and not “busting my gut”, but when we really got stumped on how to get something back to the far recesses of the storage shed, Grandpa’d call for the skyhooks. He always said those magic words with a wink and, by golly, the problem at hand always magically fell into place right then and there.

Skyhooks—I never saw them but if Grandpa believed in them, that was good enough for me. I gave up on Santa Clause and the Easter Bunny early on—a big bag of wind in red clothing and a rabbit that lays eggs?—c’mon, give me a break! Skyhooks, on the other hand, were real and essential for me well into my teens. Grandpa died back in 1975 but to

“The snow was coming down so hard by mid-morning that I kept my tractor going all day long plowing our yard.”

this day I occasionally search the heavens for aid from one of his wonderful devices.

Recently a couple of events have made me think of skyhooks. Both relate to a huge dumping of snow we got on Saint Valentine’s Day. The first one happened about midnight on the 14th. The snow was coming down so hard by mid-morning that I kept my tractor going all day long plowing our yard. I quit at supertime, exhausted and thinking the snow would soon stop.

Around midnight I was aroused from a deep sleep by the alarm system down at our store. I sleepily pulled on my multi-layers to the “whoop, whoop, whooping” of the siren which sounds loud and clear in my bedroom. When I exited my house, I was amazed to find the huge accumulation that had fallen since I had hit the sack—it hadn’t stopped! I wallowed, painfully, out my walk and down the driveway to my tractor in the lower barn. It started easily, hardly cool from its day of labor. I put it into a low gear and crept down the roadway that circles our store.

Our alarm system is hooked up to the state police but I knew those folks would be pre-occupied by the storm and might not be able to respond quickly. I had also been told



Winding road after a snowstorm in Bethel, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

to never enter my building if I suspected there was a thief at work inside. The scene was surreal, the falling snow in the middle of the night. I was glad to hold my “hero” instinct at bay. The tractor labored as it approached the store, its “footprints” sunken a full 12 inches in fluffy snow.

Suddenly it occurred to me that for a thief to have entered my building, his boots would have left a deep furrow from the road to his entry point—that is if he wasn’t lowered by skyhooks! I kept my eyes peeled for his furrow as the tractor slowly completed its circle but I saw none. I stopped the machine at the front door. Before I got off and approached, I lifted my eyes toward heaven, beseeching Grandpa Morse:

“You sure?” I asked.

“I’m sure,” he said. “Skyhooks only work for good people.”

I went in and found all was well, except for a cardboard sign that had fallen, like a dry leaf, in front of the offending motion detector.

The other event happened in broad daylight the next day, in our sugar woods. I was out in the “Valentines’ dumping” with my snowshoes on, working on our maple tubing. Each grueling step sank deeply into the soft snow but the pressure of our oncoming sugar season kept me plodding. All of a sudden, I dropped up to my middle into a depression that had been camouflaged by drifted snow. My snowshoes, anchored by the snow and miscellaneous deadfall, held me like I was in a leg-hold trap. I had just started pondering my options when my cell phone rang.

“How ya doin’ Harry—it’s Salvatore from Imaginative Ideas.” (I knew he was trying to sell me something because he used my real name, Harry) “Say—we’re makin’ a new plastic phone book cover. We wantcha ta be on it.” “No thanks” I said, quickly hanging up the phone. Imaginative ideas—plastic phone book covers, indeed!—I scoffed and then I had a second thought. I needed an “imaginative idea” and his mention of “plastic” reminded me of a coil of plastic tubing I used for repairs that hung from my middle. Thank you Salvatore!

I looked up, beseeching Grandpa once again, and there overhead, was a stout maple limb. I uncoiled the tubing and tossed it with the skill of Roy Rogers over the limb, grabbed both ends, and pulled myself back to snowy terra firma. After brushing the snow off and making sure my legs worked OK, I looked heavenward again and thanked Grandpa Morse for the most wonderful tool of all, his magical skyhook!

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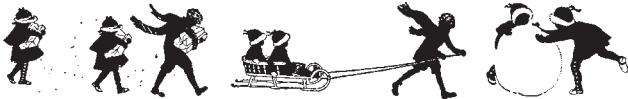
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So Fred, the perfect fool,
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—JAMES HAYFORD
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Come and See Us



Viking Nordic Center—44 Years and Counting

by Dylan McNair

From infants to Olympians, we’ve seen them all on the 39 km of groomed trails that make up Viking Nordic Center in Londonderry, VT. Some learned to snowplow down little Wigo’s Hill, others came to us looking for new trails to conquer, new forests to ski. Still others have come just for good chili and friendly hospitality. Whatever the draw, Viking has been a destination for locals and visitors alike for 44 years this past December.

A great many changes occur over 44 years. Trails have come and gone, styles advanced, and the forward march of time brought with it faster skis, lighter poles, and an impressive array of ski waxes. Gone are the days when the Warming Hut smelled of pine tar and all our skis sported leather straps. Gone are the children we watched struggling to complete laps of the field. In their place we now see high-tech binding systems, and local champions pushing each other to ever greater feats of stamina and skill. Our trails have opened up to snow shoers and most recently fat bike riders, but our roots are skiing and that is where our hearts lie.

Quite often though, it is what hasn’t changed that comforts us. We still unearth our skis from the attic every fall, pray for snow every December, and groom our trails when it finally arrives. We still wait out the cold winter nights in anticipation of a sunny ski through the woods come morning, and treat our friends to a hot chocolate when the weather drives us inside. All it takes is one good day on the trails to realize that Nordic skiing is still, at it’s heart, the same sport that it was when we opened in 1970.

And what is it about Nordic skiing that is so appealing? Nordic skiing is versatile. You can be a weekend wanderer, plodding your way through evergreen forests at your leisure, a die-hard racer, pushing yourself to the limit as trees whip by you on either side, or anything in between. No other sport can boast so great a range of participants as Nordic skiing.

Nordic skiing is social. When you go to the mountain with friends you may chat on the slow chairlift ride to the peak, but when you are actually skiing you might as well be alone. In Nordic, you can ski and converse with as many people as will fit on the trail. Nordic skiing is all about being outside and reveling in the beauty of Vermont’s forests in winter. Why wouldn’t you bring a friend along?

Finally, Nordic skiing is work. Whether beginner or expert, Nordic skiing is tough. It is often said that if you smile while Nordic skiing, you’re working every muscle in your body. Our experience shows us that this is pretty much truth. Nordic is a sport that takes practice, dedication, and just a small amount of bravery to master. But like any difficult task, the reward is well worth the effort.

As winter sets in on our 44th year here at Viking, we reflect on our history as a Nordic center, and the pride of being part of the development of our sport here in Vermont. Whether you’re new to Nordic skiing or a veteran of many seasons, come and join us this year. We’ll be waiting with open arms, hot lunches, and plenty of skiing to keep you occupied.

Viking Nordic Center is located at 615 Little Pond Rd. in Londonderry, VT, just off Rt. 11, 20 minutes from Manchester and nearby to Bromley, Stratton, Okemo, and Magic Moun-



photo by Viking Nordic Center
Ray Auger owns the record for the most consecutive days skied at Viking Nordic Center. He is a National Ski Patrol member and the director of the nordic ski patrol.

tain ski areas. There are 37 km of groomed Nordic trails for classic skiing, skate skiing, snowshoes, and fat bikes. Visit the cafe with hearty soups, sandwiches, chili, cookies, beverages, and hot chocolate. There’s a ski shop and repairs are made if needed. We offer lessons, ski and pulk (enclosed sleds for little kids) rentals, and on-snow babysitting. Enjoy our sundeck, picnic tables, clubhouse, warming hut, and trailside cabin.

Viking is operated by Malcolm and Dana McNair. For rates and information call (802) 824-3933. E-mail skiandstay@vikingnordic.com. Visit www.vikingnordic.com.



photo by Viking Nordic Center
Malcom McNair working his magic in Big Bird, the big trail groomer at Viking Nordic Center in Londonderry, VT.

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Cold Weather Fare
Soups and Chowders

One of the best parts of winter is coming in from the cold to a simmering pot of soup or a hearty chowder. Homemade soups are easy to make and way better for you than canned. We all have our favorites but here are some rules from Marion Harland to follow, from a hundred years ago.

Farmer’s Chowder

Parboil and slice six fine potatoes; fry half a pound of sweet salt pork (chopped) and when it begins to crisp add a minced onion and cook to a light brown. Pack potatoes, pork and onion in a soup kettle, sprinkling each layer with pepper and minced parsley. Add the hot fat; cover with a pint of boiling water and simmer thirty minutes. Turn into a colander and drain the liquor back into the kettle. Have ready a pint of hot milk into which has been stirred a tablespoonful of butter rolled in flour; add to the liquor, cook one minute, return the potatoes to the kettle and serve.

Cream of Celery Soup

Cut a bunch of celery into small bits and put it over the fire in enough water to cover it. Stew until very tender; rub through a colander, and stir into it a pint of hot veal or other white stock Cook together two tablespoonfuls of butter and the same of flour, and pour slowly upon them a pint of hot milk in which a pinch of soda has been dissolved. When thick and smooth, add gradually, stirring constantly, the celery and stock. Season with pepper and celery salt, and serve.

“Left-Over” Stock

Have a crock in your refrigerator expressly for this. Collect for it the bones of cooked meats from which the meat has been carved; the carcasses of poultry, bits of gristly roasts and steaks, cold vegetables, even a baked apple now and then. Twice a week put all, cracking the bones well, into the stock-pot; cover deep with cold water and cook slowly until the liquid is reduced to half the original quantity. Season to taste, and strain, rubbing all through the colander that will pass. By addition of barley, rice, tomatoes or, in fact, almost any vegetable or cereal, you may make excellent broths from this compound of “unconsidered trifles.”

Oyster Stew

Three dozen oysters and one quart of their juice. One quart of milk. Two tablespoonfuls of butter rolled in one of flour. Paprika, or cayenne, and salt to taste. A pinch of mace. Pinch of soda in the milk. Scald the liquor in one saucepan and the milk in another. Make a roux of butter and flour and add the scalding milk gradually, stirring to a smooth mixture. Now put this with the hot oyster juice; add the oysters and cook until they “ruffle,” not an instant afterward. Send crackers around with it.

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Visitors on a sleigh ride at Taylor Farm in Londonderry, VT. photo by Greg Nesbit

Muffin, Biscuit and Scone Recipes from a Century Past

A winter day is a perfect time for baking. The heat from the oven and the fresh-baked smell permeating the house really warm you up. These recipes from Woman’s Favorite Cookbook by Annie R. Gregory, circa 1902, might give you some new ideas, though over 100 years old.

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

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

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

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



JENNY KISSED ME
Jenny kissed me when we met,
Jumping from the chair she sat in.
Time, you thief! who love to get
Sweets into your list, put that in.
Say I'm weary, say I'm sad:
Say that health and wealth have missed me;
Say I'm growing old, but add—
Jenny kissed me!
—LEIGH HUNT
1784-1859

Free Calendar Listings
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“We Must Survive This Day”

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

It’s difficult to remember how hard life in rural Vermont could once be. We forget that survival was often a real concern. Day-to-day living no longer requires earlier eras’ austerity, stoicism and courage, the steady grind of brutally-hard work, the absolute necessity of not miscalculating life-decisions.

Captain Aubrey in the film *Master and Commander*, facing a terrifying sea battle, says to his cabin boy “We must survive this day.” I always think of that line when I see old Castleton people who pulled through terrible times and created, from whatever fate had thrown at them, good, meaningful lives.

Betty Dimick lived in a little house on Castleton’s Frisbee Hill Road for over fifty years. She was short and stout and had a lot of medical problems, but it didn’t seem to slow her down much. She was always busy, involved in things, upbeat by nature, and hard to offend.

She would have turned eighty-five the end of January. She was born in North Poultney, one of five children. Her father worked on farms and drank. Because of the drinking, the family moved often, to Hubbardton, to Tinnmouth, to Whitehall, New York and Raceville, New York, little, poor, tough-to-make-a-living-in, kinds of towns.

When Betty was eleven, her mother left her father and somehow managed to support herself and her children by sewing for people. These were difficult years. The family returned to Poultney, and Betty graduated from Poultney High. In 1949, she came to Castleton and entered the Normal School.

By washing dishes and working in the kitchen, Betty managed to pay her way. She lived in the basement of Leavenworth Hall in a partitioned-off area called The Foyer with four other girls from Pittsford and West Rutland. They remained her lifelong friends.

She stayed at the teachers’ college three years, but one day she was introduced to a local boy, Bill Dimick, who lived with his family out on Burke’s Curve on the road to West Rutland. That’s when Betty realized that what she most liked about school was the idea of getting an education. She did genuinely enjoy working with children, but she was more interested in getting married.



Betty Dimick

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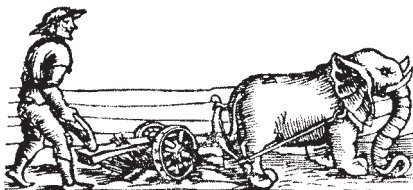
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Betty Dimick’s six children in a much earlier time, in Castleton, VT.

On September 2, 1952, she and Bill went to the Federated Church, and Reverend Olaf Johnson married them following the morning service. Olaf announced that there would be a wedding ceremony right after church, and so, to Betty’s chagrin, the whole congregation stayed on.

Bill got a job in Castleton at Harold Brown’s grain mill, and in 1960 town father Harold, who had taken an interest, helped the couple buy a little house out on Frisbee Hill Road.

One night six years later, thirty-nine-year-old Bill told his wife to leave the back door open; he was going out to get a deer. The next morning, she found his body behind the house.

He’d had a massive heart attack, and he’d left her with six children: Scott, Sheri, Todd, Mark, Lori-Anna, and Dale. Two-year-old Dale had a form of cerebral palsy. He would always have the mind and the abilities of a ten-year-old child.

Like her mother before her, Betty had to be the mainstay of her young family. Since her college years, she’d belonged to, and been active in, the Castleton Federated Church. When she died, she’d been a member for over sixty years. She always brought Dale, her daughter Lori, and her grandchildren with her on Sunday mornings. At eighty, she took up the hand bells so she and Dale could perform together.

She was in the Grange most of her life, initially as Junior Matron, working up to Master and Overseer. All of her children were in Junior Grange.

Her daughter Sheri now lives in Burlington, Mark in East Poultney, Lori in Castleton. Five years ago, her son Todd returned to be with his mother in the little Frisbee Hill house. He did outside yard work and helped with Dale but died, suddenly, of heart disease just like his father.

In the last years of her life, Betty sat in a comfortable chair close by her living room window, where her house plants were grouped in the light. What brought the room alive were the photo portraits and famed snapshots, dozens of them on the wall and covering a low table not far from where she sat. These were of her mother, her sisters and brother, her six

children, and now her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She said to visitors, “I’m proud of them all.”

Her funeral, held in the middle of December, was on a cold, damp day, the snow around the Federated Church smudged with mud and road grit. Her family filled all the center pews.

Scott, Joshua, Andrew, Ashley, and Jacob Dimick were pall bearers. Betty’s casket stood in front of a pulpit decorated with evergreen swags and poinsettia plants. Everyone sang “Amazing Grace” and the old Vermonter standby, “I Come to the Garden Alone.”

In the end, Betty “had survived this day.” Out of many hardships and losses, she had made for herself and her family a good life.

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

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The Old Farmer's Almanack For the Year of Our Lord

1854
February

"A Good Life, and No Wrinkles"

A good life keeps the conscience clear, and a clear conscience makes its possessor happy. Be industrious in the line of your duty, then, if you would keep the wrinkles from your forehead, a little moisture and dust on which will bring neither dishonor nor shame.

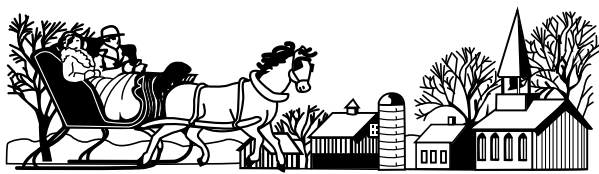
Ha! "why dost thou shiver and shake," Mr. Stubbs? Haste to the woods, haste! animation is about to taper down into veritable nonentity here, over this little bed of embers!

"Edith, awake!" Come, boys, with the axes! Yoke up Cherry and Golding; hitch on Dobbin, and away to the woods with your team! Make an effort to have a woodpile sufficient for the year, and thus prevent burning up the fence in summer, to cook your porridge.

Many a wrinkle will it save, too, friend Darby, in the brow of your good wife Joan. The farmer that leads a good life (and why should any lead a bad one?) is he that takes pleasure in pleasing and obliging his wife. To do good, then, is the way to be good.

And now, my good madam, if you love music, as I presume you do, why not string up the old spinning-wheel, and set it agoing, to the well-known ditty that our foremothers used to practice so often, namely, Stocking Yarn? Nothing like music to take out the wrinkles.

—Robert B. Thomas



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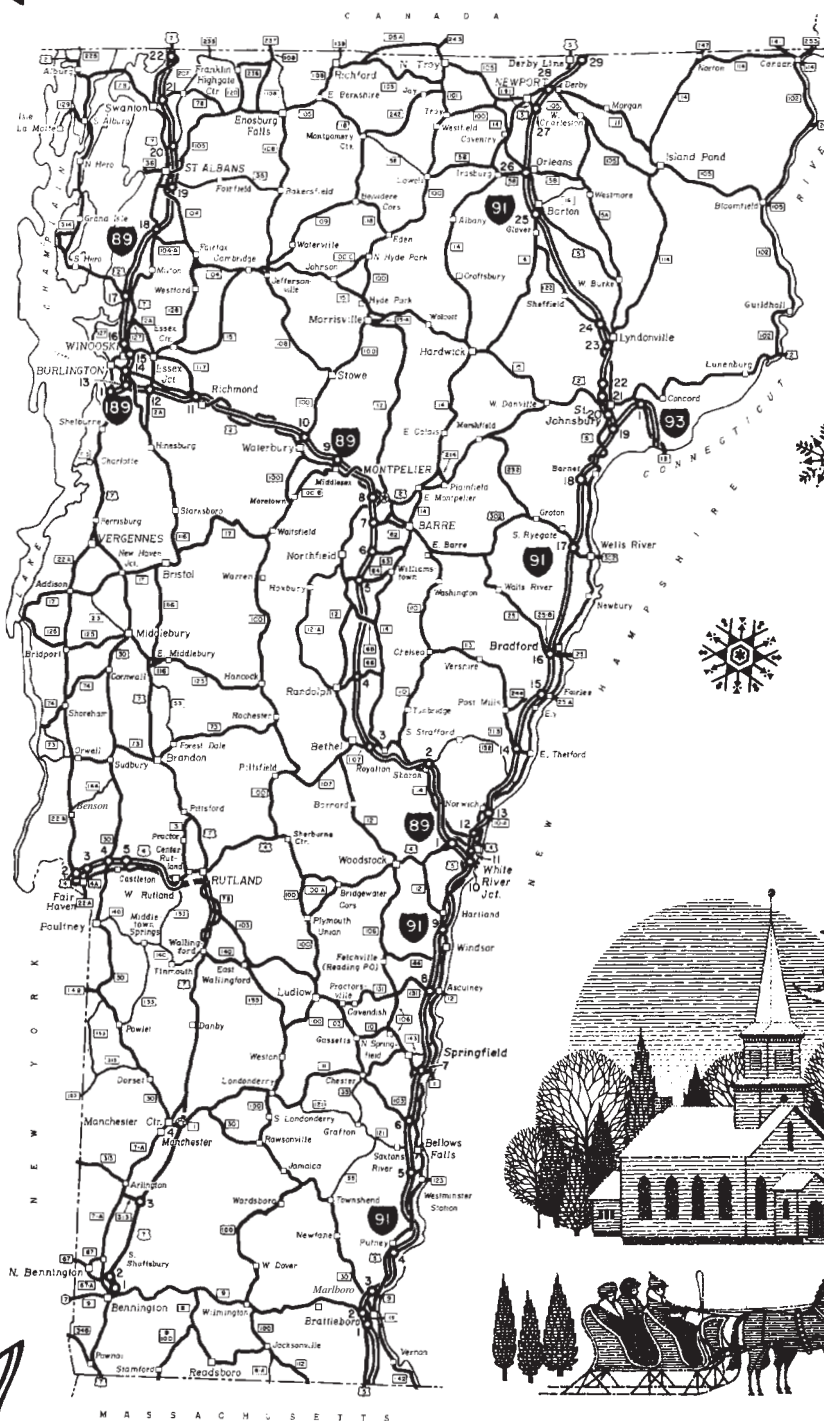
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Vermont Map



Come on Down to the Rutland Winter Farmers Market!

Baby, it's cold outside! And then it's not. Mother Nature has been a bit unpredictable this winter, but you know what you can be sure of? The Vermont Farmers Market at the Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St in Rutland on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 4 p.m. till 7 p.m.

Your local farmers, crafters, artisans and chefs have been hard at work to bring all the goodness you expect to find at the Vermont Farmers Market each week.

Artisans and crafters

weave fibers, work metals, carve woods and sew fabrics. Whether you need a little something to keep you warm, a new treasure, or an elegant gift for a friend you will find a wide array to choose from at the Market.

Wild crafters offer tinctures, teas, and herbal elixirs that soothe, heal and relax our bodies after long days at work or play. Artisans create breads, cheeses, wines, whiskey, soap and lotion.

The chefs have been busy too, cooking up all your favorite lunches and take-home dinners. Leave room for des-

sert or take home cupcakes, cookies, pastries, and pies to cap off a hearty winter meal. Check out how many gluten free options are available!

And don't forget to stock up on jams, relishes, salsas, and chutneys.

Our farmers continue to keep us nourished with squashes, apples, turnips, potatoes, and kale, as well as pastured meats and free range eggs and fresh greens all winter! They sell out quick so get there early.

Stop by the Wednesday market from 4-7 p.m. between the weekends to pick

up what you need on your way home from work. On Saturdays there's live music and every market day has a festive atmosphere.

Plan to shop at the Vermont Farmers Market at the Vermont Farmers Food Center this winter. We'll be here till May (when the outdoor market starts). You can use credit, debit or EBT cards to make your purchases.

The Vermont Farmers Market is located at 251 West St., Rutland, VT. (802) 753-7269. On Facebook. Visit vtfarmersmarket.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities, museums, exhibits, and galleries; community suppers; farmers markets; community dances and music; sleigh and wagon rides; and recreation and nature centers.

DAILY EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

BENSON. Down Home Ice Fishing Derby. All Vermont waters and Lake Champlain. Fish: all legal species. Check in at the Benson Town Office on Stage Rd. 5 am – 6:30 pm. Tickets \$20 per person. Sponsored by the Benson Fish and Game Cub. Contact Thomas Bartholomew, Benson Fish & Game Club, (802) 537-2468.

BRATTLEBORO. Eighth Annual Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival. 12 noon - 5:30 pm at McNeill's Brewery, 90 Elliot St. Workshops for all instruments, panels, concerts, sessions, dance band, family dance. 7:30 pm at New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat St.: Performance featuring the best of Northern Musical Traditions. Tickets: day \$20, eve. \$20, both \$35; youth (under 12): day \$10, eve. \$10, both \$15. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org/northern-roots-festival.

CASTLETON. Basket Raffle. Benefit for the Benson Village school's 8th grade class trip. Doors open at 11 am, drawing held at 2 pm. 50/50 tickets. \$5 admission, \$2 for extra tickets. At the Castleton American Legion, Rt. 4A. (802) 537-4242.

CHESTER. 21st Annual New Voices. Come hear newly-published authors: Allegra Jordan, *The End of Innocence*; Tim Johnston, *Descent*; Amy Rowland, *The Transcriptionist*; Christopher Scotton, *The Secret Wisdom of the Earth*; John Allen, *Marmite Cowboy*; David McCullough, Jr., *You Are Not Special*; and Christopher Scotton, *The Secret Wisdom of the Earth*. Admission \$10. 2 pm. At the Stone Church, 211 North St. Also cross-country ski or snowshoe with the authors at Grafton Ponds (fee Saturday morning, meet the authors at a reception after the readings, and have dinner with them at the Fullerton Inn. (802) 875-3400. www.mvbooks.com.

COLCHESTER. Free Ice Fishing Festival—Getting Started in Ice Fishing. No need to buy a fishing license! Kids will receive free ice fishing gear, and all will enjoy a fish fry while learning from ice fishing professionals. Pre-registration is recommended but not required. 1-5 pm. Malletts Bay Access Area, 982 W. Lakeshore Dr. at the end of Rt. 127 (Prim Rd.), on West Lakeshore Dr. (Rt. 127). (802) 828-1000. To register go to www.register-ed.com/events/view/53958. Visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Winterfest & Penguin Plunge. Events throughout the day. Penguin Plunge at 11 am, After-Plunge party at Vermont Arts Exchange, 11:30 am – 2 pm, \$1 admission. Ice sculpture competition. Indoor winter carnival at Village School of North Bennington. Drink & food specials at Kevin's Sports Pub & Restaurant. 8 am – 10 pm. (802) 447-1163.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 753-7269, info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 2.*

RUTLAND. Les Contes D'Hoffman—Live in HD from the Metropolitan Opera. Tickets \$20. 12:55 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

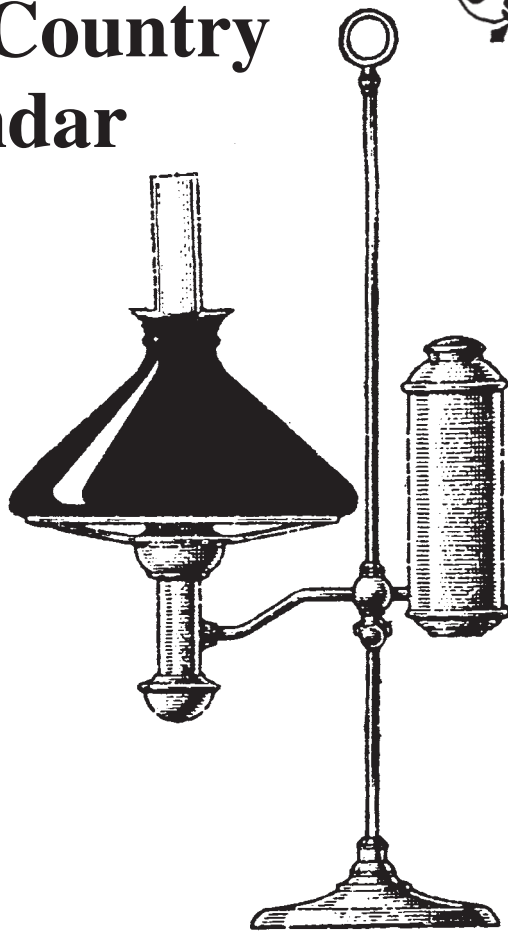
SALISBURY. Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby. Fish: rainbow trout, small/largemouth bass, landlocked salmon, lake trout, northern pike. Separate kid's division. \$20 adults, \$10 kids 12 and under. Check-in at Lake Dunmore Kampersville Store. Fish all of Lake Dunmore. 6 am Saturday to 3 pm Sunday. Holly Hathaway, (802) 352-4501, (802) 388-7507. hollyvt2005@yahoo.com. *Also February 1.*

SHOREHAM. Free Soup and Sandwich Luncheon. Families welcome. Homemade soups, sandwiches, beverages and desserts. Non-perishable donations to the food shelf gratefully accepted. 11 am – 1 pm. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School St. (802) 897-2687.

STATEWIDE. Free Ice Fishing Day. A day when anyone, resident or nonresident, may go fishing without a fishing license. Vermont's ice fishing season for trout, salmon and bass runs from January 17 through March 14 on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to the 2015 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. For more information, contact Nicole Corrao, (802) 318-1347. Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us. vtfishandwildlife.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

CHITTENDEN. 10th Annual Paintball Biathlon. Featuring the children's BKL race. Competition combines cross-country skiing and shooting at targets. Advance registration. Admission. Mountain Top Inn & Resort Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center, 195 Mountain Top Rd. (802) 483-6089. mountaintopinn.com.



ENOSBURG FALLS. Featured Artist Reception. 1-3 pm. Open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm. Sunday 10-2 pm. Artist In Residence—a Cooperative Gallery, 321 Main St. (802) 933-6403. info@artistinresidencecoop.com. artistinresidencecoop.com. *First Sunday of every month.*

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

SALISBURY. Lake Dunmore Ice Fishing Derby. Awards at the store at 3:30 pm. Holly Hathaway, (802) 352-4501. hollyvt2005@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. For info contact Doug Patac (802) 753-7269, info@vtfarmersmarket.org www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 29.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

BENNINGTON. All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner. Spaghetti with marinara and meat sauce, garlic bread, green salad with Nancy Bower's homemade dressing, brownies with real whipped cream and beverages. \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 12 and under, 3 and under are free. The church is accessible to all. 6-8 pm. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St. (802) 442-2911.

HANOVER, NH. Dartmouth Winter Carnival. Ice sculpture, sports, hot chocolate, firepit, festivities. (603) 646-3399. For schedule visit dartmouth.edu. *Through February 8.*

RANDOLPH. First Friday Music Series presents Bow Thayer. Tickets \$19 (\$35 for two) includes a free drink at the cash bar and free snacks. 7:30 pm at Chandler/s Upper Gallery, 7173 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

BARRE. Concert: Shelby Lynne. Where rock, country, and soul meet. Admission. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Francesca Andereg, solo violin. Tickets: \$17/\$13. 7:30 pm at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.immanuelretreat.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 12th Annual Collegiate A Capella Concert. Lineup includes two award-winning Tufts groups, the Tufts Amalgamates and the Tufts Beelzebubs, as well as the Dartmouth Aires, the Clark Bars, University of Vermont Cat's Meow, and more. Tickets: \$75-\$20. Doors open at 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Latchis Theater, 48 Main St. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

GRAFTON. Grafton Winter Carnival. A day of fun in the snow for the whole family. 9 am – 4 pm. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. info@grafftonponds.com. www.grafftonponds.com. www.grafftoninnvermont.com.

GRAFTON. Workshop: Tracks and Trees with Lynn Levine. Join us at The Nature Museum for a snowshoe animal tracking and tree identification hike and workshop with author, tracking expert, and forester Lynn Levine. An expert tracker and consulting forester for over 36 years. Lynn will introduce her new tracking book, *Mammal Tracks and Scat: Life-Size Tracking Guide*, and use the tree guide she created for identifying trees in the winter. 9:30 am – 12 pm. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

No Use Sighin'

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

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

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

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

—EDGAR A. GUEST
1921



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Vermont Country Calendar

(February 7, continued)

HANOVER, NH. 39th Annual Winter Carnival Concert: Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble. The best of big band jazz, from the 1920s to the present. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Dartmouth Winter Carnival. Ice sculpture, sports, firepit, festivities. (603) 646-3399. For schedule visit dartmouth.edu. *Also February 8.*

MANCHESTER. 11th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Trekking through the woods and target shooting. Event site opens at 8:30 am and shooting competitions will be held 9 am – 3 pm. Vendors. Food by Shaftsbury Country Store and Deli. Registration fee. No charge for spectators. Old Skinner Hollow Farm on Rt. 7A. (802) 688-4662. www.svtpb.org. *Also February 8.*

NEWPORT. Winterfest. Sponsored by Newport Parks & Recreation. In downtown Newport. (802) 334-6345. newportlive.org. newportrecreation.org.

PUTNEY. Black History Month Staged Reading: Pierce to the Soul. The story of Elijah Pierce, a barber, preacher and a folk artist of no small significance. \$10 suggested donation. 7:30 pm. Next Stage, in the former United Church at 15 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-0102. www.nextstagearts.org.

RIPTON. Ripton Community Coffee House Concert: Cricket Blue. Admission at the door: \$10, \$8 for teens and seniors & \$3 for children. Doors open at 7 pm for all shows. Open mic at 7:30 pm followed by intermission with beverages and baked goods for sale then featured performers at 8:30 pm. At the Ripton Community House, 1305 Rt. 125. (802) 388-9782. rcch.org. *Also March 7.*

RUPERT. Winter Sleigh Rides. In a Sweetheart Sleigh built for two; fee \$150 for a 45 minute tour around the wintry landscape of the farm and forest. Group sleigh rides in a 12-person sleigh for \$185 for 45 minutes through the woods and through the fields. Call to reserve. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. *Saturdays and Sundays through March.*

RUTLAND. Concert: Paul Huang. Violinist. Tickets: adults \$20, students \$10. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 2.*

SO. HERO. Birnn Chocolate and Wine Pairing. A special wine and chocolate pairing with Snow Farm Wine and Vermont made Birnn chocolates. Tickets available through our website. A single tickets \$35, couples \$60 (excluding tax). 2-4 pm. Snow Farm Winery, 190 West Shore Rd. (802) 872-9463. www.snowfarm.com.

WATERBURY CENTER. Green Mountain Club's 19th Annual Winter Trails Day. Winter hikes leave from the Visitor's Center throughout the morning and end up back there for a bonfire, music, beer, and food from 3-5 pm. Kids will enjoy making snow sculptures, a scavenger hunt, indoor crafts, and s'mores! Fee: \$10, kids 12 and under free. Green Mountain Club Visitor's Center, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Rt. 100. (802) 244-7037. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WATERBURY. Annual Winterfest. A ten-day festival. (802) 244-7174. recreation@waterburyvt.com. waterburywinterfest.com. *Also February 8.*

WEST PAWLET. Twelfth Annual Woodchuck Festival. A fun and friendly competitive family day, from an obstacle course to our famous cow plop bingo. Woodchuck Cafe has hot dogs, burgers, and all sorts of awesome foods. Elli Park offers with her amazing baked goods. Arts and crafts. Silent auction. Special guest Phil the Woodchuck. The all-volunteer event raises funds for West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary. Free admission. From 10 am – 3 pm at Mettawee Community School, 5788 Rt. 153. (802) 645-0398. scigal007@yahoo.com.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Winter Weekends. Tour the operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities. See *A Place in the Land*, the Academy Award nominee film in the theater. Warm up with a cup of spiced cider. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also February 8 & 28.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

BARRE. 9th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. Up to 24 Dealers in a relaxed setting offering primitives, furniture, art, toys, books, photos, and ephemera from the New England area. Admission: early buyers \$5 (8 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 8 am – 1:30 pm. Canadian Club, 414 E. Montpelier Rd., Rt. 14. (802) 751-6138. www.montpelierantiquesmarket.com. *Also February 22 and March 8 & 22.*

BRATTLEBORO. Contra Dance. Caller Steve Zakon-Anderson. Music by Becky Tracy and Keith Murphy. Dancers of all ages welcome, no experience necessary, all dances taught and called, no partner necessary. Bring clean, soft-soled, non-street shoes for dancing. Beginners workshop at 6:45; dancing 7-10 pm. Admission \$10 (\$7 students/seniors/low income). The Stone Church, corner of Main/Grove St. (413) 320-2729. www.petersiegel.com. www.brattcontra.org. *2nd and 4th Sundays.*

HANOVER, NH. Dartmouth Winter Carnival. Ice sculpture, sports, hot chocolate, firepit, festivities. (603) 646-3399. For schedule visit dartmouth.edu.

MANCHESTER. 11th Annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon. Event site opens at 8:30 am and shooting competitions will be held 9 am – 3 pm. Vendors. Food by Shaftsbury Country Store and Deli. Registration fee. No charge for spectators. Old Skinner Hollow Farm on Rt. 7A. (802) 688-4662. www.svtpb.org.

MONTPELIER. Concert: Beethoven & Arnowitt VIII. 3 pm. Unitarian Church of Montpelier, 130 Main St. (802) 223-6743. info@capitalcityconcerts.org. www.mapiano.com. www.capitalcityconcerts.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

SMUGGLERS NOTCH. 14th Annual Northern Vermont Snowshoe Race. Treks, walks and races on snowshoes. 1/2K kids' fun run, a 4K fun run/walk, and an 8K race that is a qualifier for the 2015 US Snowshoe Association National Championship. Rentals at the Nordic Center. Smugglers' Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Adventure Center, 4323 Rt. 108 South. (802) 644-1173. www.smuggs.com.

WATERBURY. Annual Winterfest. Volleyball tourney, 10 am at Ice Center grounds. Dog Park play day, 1 pm at Ice Center grounds. Open Skate & Winterfest closing ceremonies, 2:15-3:45 at the Ice Center. (802) 244-7174. recreation@waterburyvt.com. waterburywinterfest.com.

WEST PAWLET. Benefit Pancake Breakfast. A fundraiser for the fire department. Menu includes pancakes—regular, chocolate chip, blueberry and cranberry as well as waffles, West Pawlet's world-famous home fries, scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon. Beverages include coffee, tea, milk and orange juice. \$8 for 12 years and up, \$5 for 5-12 years and free to children under 5. 7:30 am – 11 am at the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department firehouse at 2806 Route 153, Main Street. (802) 345-4312.

Free Calendar Listings

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

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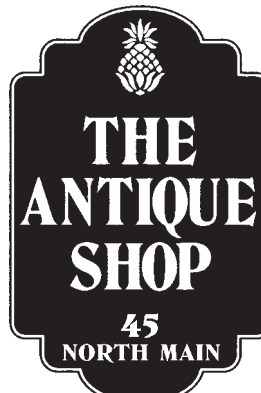
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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Winter Weekends. Tour the operating dairy farm, restored 1890 Farm House, plus programs and activities. See *A Place in the Land*, the Academy Award nominee film in the theater. Warm up with a cup of spiced cider. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also February 28.*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Zap Mama & Antibalas. Contemporary African music. Tickets: \$49-\$15, students \$5. 7 pm. Latchis Theater, 48 Main St. (802) 748-2600. info@catamountarts.org. www.catamountarts.org.

CASTLETON. Concert: A Far Cry. 17 young professional musicians perform music by Dvorák, Caroline Shaw, Boccherini, Britten, and Taraf de Haïdouks. Tickets adult \$15, senior/child \$12, children under 12 \$10. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Castleton State College Fine Arts Center. (802) 468-1119. www.castleton.edu/casellatheater.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

EAST MONTPELIER. Cross-Country Ski Outing at Morse Farm. Groomed trails at a lovely ski touring center. Fee charged. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club, Ottauquechee Section. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leader, Iris Berezin at (802) 295-2294. www.greenmountainclub.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Kronos Quartet in Beyond Zero: 1914-1918, a heart-stopping sound-and-film narrative of WWI. Preceded by works from Stravinsky, Ives, Webern, Ravel and Rachmaninoff evoking the immense impact of World War I. Tickets: \$17-\$50. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Concert: Zap Mama & Antibalas. Contemporary African music. Tickets: \$49-\$15, students \$5. 7 pm. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy. (802) 748-2600. info@catamountarts.org. www.catamountarts.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

MONTPELIER. Farmers Night 2015 Free Concert Series. "An Evening with Sojourner Truth." This living history portrayal by Kathryn Woods uses spiritual music and Sojourner Truth's own words to recreate the remarkable life of the famous abolitionist, feminist, and escaped slave. Free. 7:30 pm in the House Chamber, Vermont State House. (802) 828-2291. vermonthistory.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. For info contact Doug Patac (802) 753-7269, info@vtfarmersmarket.org www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 29.*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

BENNINGTON. Winter Lecture: The Bennington Fish Culture Station. With Monty Walker, The Bennington Fish Culture Station. Free. 7 pm. One World Conservation Center Education Center, 413 Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. oneworldconservationcenter.org.

SO. WOODSTOCK. Winter Warriors. Great horse-related activities on winter evenings! Trucks and Trailers. Learn about the importance of trailer safety, tips for truck/trailer driving, and maintenance. New technologies and innovations. Hot and cold drinks provided; please bring a snack to share. 6-7 pm in the Members' Room, Green Mountain Horse Association, 5491 South Rd. (802) 457-1509. www.gmhainc.org. *Also March 12.*

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Winter Carnival. Events for all ages! Junior Olympics, a pancake breakfast, children's cooking classes, figure skating show, Grand Day at the Senior Center, a children's show, Variety Show, Queen's and Princess Pageants and Chili Cook-Off, and more. (802) 254-9561. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 22.*

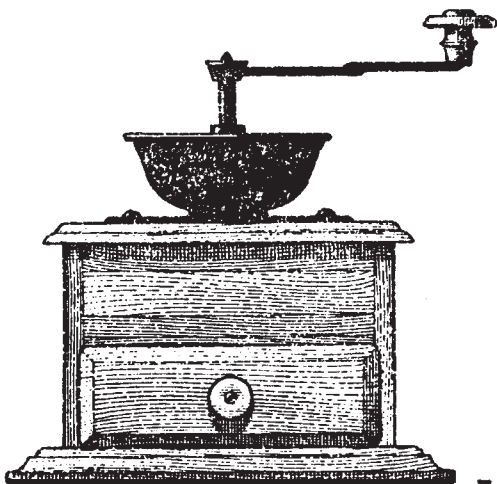
BURLINGTON. Concert: Death with Rough Francis and Special guests. The band that was "Punk Before Punk Was Punk." Tickets: Advance \$49.50/\$39/\$33.75; Day of show, all seats \$60. 7 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org. www.deathfromdetroit.com.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: World Music Percussion Ensemble-Deep Forest Electro-Acoustic. African chants, Caribbean ska and South American samba in collaboration with local dancers. Tickets: \$9-\$10. 8 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Film Screening and Talk. Jeff Danziger, political cartoonist. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Burlesque Performance: Gypsy Layne at Oldcastle Theater. Bawdy humor, live music, dynamic dance routines, and cheeky sex appeal. Tickets: \$22 in advance, \$26 at the door. Doors open at 7 pm, show at 8 pm. Vermont Arts Exchange, 29 Sage Street Mill. (802) 442-5549. www.brownpapertickets.com. vtartxchange.org. gypsylayne.com. *Also February 14.*

ROCKINGHAM. Love beyond Love—A Weekend Retreat for the Lover's Soul for Valentine's Day Weekend. Explore love through art, music, movement, poetry and stories. Program fee \$400 per person (including lunch, tea & dinner); weekend accommodation \$250 per room (two nights for up to two guests, including breakfast). Call for information or registration. Yagna Inn, 61 Williams Rd. (802) 463-1405. info@yagna.us. yagna.us. *Through February 15.*



Winter Beauty

I love the wondrous beauty
Of these eastern hills at night,
When the snow upon the ground,
Sparkles with a spectral light.

When the watchful partridge
And the frisky squirrel red,
Snug and deeply buried lie,
In a warm but wintry bed.

When the bird tree and the maple,
Darkened branches clearly show,
And the spruce tree and the pine
Downward bend beneath the snow.

When the sky o'er wooded slopes,
Seldom shows a cloud in sight,
And the stars above are hidden
By the greater orb of night.

When the runner of the sled
Crunches through the icy snow
And the fingers sting and tingle,
With old Winter's fiery glow.

* * *

Do you know that many people
Would enjoy the wondrous sight
Of these snow-clad hillsides
On an Eastern winter night?

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Waits River, VT, 1928

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Vermont Country Calendar

WILLISTON. Concert: Brick Church Music Series—Bruce Sklar Trio. Hard, swinging jazz. \$14/\$12. 7 pm, doors 6 pm. Old Brick Church, 100 Library Ln. (802) 764-1141. www.town.williston.vt.us. *Also March 13.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

ADAMANT. Winter Music Series Concert. Sky Blue Boys: Banjo Dan and Will Lindner. Tickets: \$10 in advance at the Adamant Co-op, \$15 at door, optional potluck. 5:30 pm, music 7 pm. Adamant Community Club, 1161 Martin Rd. *Also March 14.*

BARRE. Concert: FullSet, six accomplished young musicians from Ireland. Tickets: \$15-26. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BRANDON. Concert: Sarah Stone and Fred Barnes. Tickets: \$15, pre-concert dinner available for \$20. Reservations required for dinner, starting at 6 pm. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Winter Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm. At River Garden, 153 Main St. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. www.posttoilsolutions.org. *Every Saturday through March 2015.*

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Winter Carnival. Events for all ages! Junior Olympics, a pancake breakfast, children's cooking classes, figure skating show, Grand Day at the Senior Center, a children's show, Variety Show, Queen's and Princess Pageants and Chili Cook-Off, and more. (802) 254-9561. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 22.*

BRATTLEBORO. Concert: Julian Lage. An extremely versatile jazz guitarist, he'll perform with his new, highly acclaimed trio with Scott Colley and Kenny Wollesen. Tickets: \$20-\$40. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088 x 1. vtjazz.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 94th Annual Harris Hill Ski Jump. The only Olympic-sized, 90-meter ski jumping hill in New England. Traditional jumps plus the first ever Women's International Skiing Federation Cup competition. Opening ceremonies, appearances by Jumper the Mascot, food and drink vendors, beer tent, souvenirs, a bonfire, and more. Dress warm and wear boots. Prefer no dogs. Free parking. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 youth 6-12, age 5 and under free. Gates open at 10 am. Competition from 11 am – 4 pm. Harris Hill Ski Jump, Cedar St. off Rt. 9. (877) 887-6884. harrishillskijump.com. *Also February 15.*

BURLINGTON. Northeast Organic Farming Association—Vermont's 33rd Annual Winter Conference. Keynote speaker, workshops, roundtables, exhibits, vendors, children's conference, festivities. Fees: \$65-\$80 per person per day and \$30 per child per day for the Children's Conference. Lunch is \$16 adults, \$10 children. Walk-in registration is \$20 extra per person per day. At Davis Center, University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. www.nofavt.org/conference. *Through February 16.*

BURLINGTON. University of Vermont Lane Series Concert: Jazz for Valentine's Day with Cyrille Aimee and her Quartet. \$30 adult, \$10 student. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. lane.series@uvm.edu. uvm.edu.

CASTLETON. Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Fish: Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. Check-in location: Crystal Beach, Route 30 on Lake Bomoseen. For information contact Stanley Patch, Jr., (802) 468-5001 day, (802) 468-5001 evening. stanandmammie@myfairpoint.net. *Also February 15.*

CHESTER. Winter Carnival. Breakfast at the American Legion, 7:30-10:30 am. Sled Races, sleds provided, at the Pinnacle at 11 am. Cross-country skiing trail run at the Pinnacle at 11 am. Disc golf, 3-hole course with discs provided, at the Pinnacle 11 am – 3 pm, come anytime. Snow sculpture judging around town, 12 noon. Free dog sled rides by Braeburn Siberians, at the Pinnacle, 1-4 pm. Scavenger hunt with \$100, \$50 & \$ 25 prizes, 12-4 pm. Bonfire at Cobleigh Field, 6 pm. Ice skating party with music at Cobleigh Field, 6-8 pm. All outdoor events free of charge. (802) 875-2693. www.chester.govoffice.com. www.yourplaceinvermont.com. *Also February 15.*

COOKEVILLE. Reckless Breakfast performs at the Corinth Coffeehouse. 7-8:30 pm, then open mike from 8:30-10 pm. Corinth Town Hall, 1387 Cookeville Rd. For information call Dave Richard at (802) 439-5980. darichard@tops-tele.com. *Also March 14 & April 11.*

GROTON. Wine and Chocolate Weekend. Come and sample Mead, wine made from honey, paired with locally-made cake truffles. Free. 11:30 am – 4 pm. Artesano, 1334 Scott Hwy. (802) 584-9000. info@artesanomead.com. www.artesanomead.com. *Also February 15.*

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth College Glee Club. A musical Valentine, including Eric Whitacre's Sleep, selections from Brahms' Liebeslieder-Walzer (Love Song Waltzes) and choral arrangements of The Beatles. Free. 4 pm. Top of the Hop, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

HUNTINGTON. Open Museum for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Free. Free. 10 am – 3 pm. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. museum@birdsofvermont.org.

LAKE ELMORE. Morrisville Rotary's Lake Elmore Polar Splash. Round up your family and friends and come out and see this great event. Free. 11 am. Beach House, Beach Rd. (802) 888-6669, (802) 279-2926. tfollert@morristownvt.org. www.polarsplash.dojiggy.com.

LEICESTER. Snowshoe Outing on the Minnie Baker & Chandler Ridge trails. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Non-members and newcomers welcome. Free. For meeting time and place contact leader, Ruth Penfield at (802) 388-5407. www.greenmountainclub.org.

LYNDONVILLE. The Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Events at a variety of venues including a ChowdahFest, Wine and Art Showcase, sledding, winterbiking, and many other activities (most free) for the entire family. Check for schedule at www.lyndonvermont.com. (802) 626-9696. *Through March 1.*

LYNDONVILLE. Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast by donation. Real maple syrup, of course! 7-11 am. Lyndonville Methodist Church, Church St. (802) 626-5057.

MONTPELIER. Full Moon Snowshoe Hike. Under a full moon and surrounded by sparkling snow, let's snowshoe by lunar light! Night activities will illuminate how wildlife survives the long nights of winter. Snowshoes and hot chocolate provided. Fee: \$10. 7-8:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. (802) 229-6206. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org.

NEW HAVEN. Wine & Chocolate Weekend. Celebrate Valentine's Day. Sample pairings that feature Lincoln Peak wines with chocolates from producers around Addison County. 11 am – 5 pm. Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd., just off Rt. 7. (802) 388-7368. vermontwine@gmail.com. www.lincolnpeakvineyard.com. *Also February 15.*

NORWICH. Igloo Build. Learn to build a simple-yet-elegant igloo and other snow dwellings from expert Dr. Bert Yankielun, engineer, adventurer, inventor and author. Admission. 10 am – 2 pm. Montshire Museum. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy. caller: David Millstone. No partner necessary. Admission \$8 (students \$5, under 16 free). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main Street. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Second Saturday dances continue through June 2015.*



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LETTER FROM MY SISTER

January 18, 2015

Dear Cathy,

I'm about to write "Nothing much to report," and that always reminds me of the letters Jim's cousin Margie Potee would send us, beginning with that line. Of course there must have been interesting things in her life, but I guess not from her perspective. She was very heavy and had severe arthritis. Jim and I would help her struggle into the car when we took her out to lunch for a companionable time. He liked to take her places especially because the rest of the family kind of shunned her. Maybe her mother was not married—something like that.

Margie adopted Kitty Lee. You know—the cat I inherited from the kids when they left home. Kitty Lee enjoyed living in Margie's trailer for quite some time—I was happy for her to get this inside home and attention. Kitty Lee eventually disappeared before Margie had to move to a nursing home. When we moved away, Margie wrote us faithfully. When Jim and I visited Fort Wayne, we always saw her, and I was able to visit her when I flew there to help the kids sort through John's things after he died. Margie died in the nursing home—I think after Jim died.

Before she moved to the nursing home, Margie gave us two crystal goblets with the "Potee" crest on them. Probably from a company that pretended they had researched a family's heritage. I stored them here and there—in an attic, a garage, finally in a cupboard in Tacoma. It was on one of them that I rang "that clear, perfect note" to begin my song, as told in "Googling Uncle Tully."

But why am I telling you all this now? Because today I am using both crystal goblets for my daily drinking glasses!

With all my glasses waiting to be washed, I looked in the cupboard and found those two Potee goblets. I thought, why not? Why not have special glasses for my morning water—and all through the day—and the water tastes so pure as I drink from them.

Yes, why not honor Margie and her gift, and the Potees, and ME with crystal glasses!

Love, Sally



Vermont Country Calendar

RUPERT. Winter Sleigh Rides. In a Sweetheart Sleigh built for two; fee \$150 for a 45 minute tour around the wintry landscape of the farm and forest. Group sleigh rides in a 12-person sleigh for \$185 for 45 minutes through the woods and through the fields. Call to reserve. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. *Saturdays and Sundays through March.*

RUTLAND. 13th Annual Winter Fest! Ice skating, snow sculptures, music, hot cocoa, marshmallow roasting and more! Games offered will depend on the snow. Free food, hot drinks, and raffles. Free admission. 10 am – 2 pm at Main Street Park on Rt. 7. (802) 773-1822. www.rutlandrec.com. *Also February 15.*

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 753-7269. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 2.*

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Market. Local vendors will offer meats, poultry, eggs, breads, pies, quiche, herbs, canned produce, Greek specialties, and a selection of handmade crafts in gym from 10 am – 1 pm at Sharon Elementary, exit 2 off I-89. Info: Keenan Haley at (802) 763-7425. www.sharon.owsu.org. *Also March 14.*

SO. HERO. Wine & Chocolate Open House. Visitors can taste our full wine list pairing delicious local chocolate with each wine. 11 am – 4 pm. Snow Farm Winery, 190 West Shore Rd. (802) 872-9463. www.snowfarm.com. *Also February 15.*

STATEWIDE. Fourth Annual Wine and Chocolate Weekend. To celebrate Valentine's Day, wineries around Vermont open their doors to visitors from 12-5 pm to offer samples of their wines with a chocolate confection or another dessert. This event is free, public welcome. Sponsored by the Vermont Grape and Wine Council, a consortium of over 25 wineries, vineyards and farms in Vermont. For more details and a list of participating wineries visit the VermontGrapeAndWineCouncil.com. *Also February 15.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Metropolitan Opera in HD Live: Iolanata by Tchaikovsky and Bluebeard's Castle by Bartok. Tickets: adults \$24, students \$16. 12:30 pm. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. (802) 748-2600. info@catamountarts.org. www.catamountarts.org. *Also February 21.*

WOODSTOCK. The Vermont Flurry: Woodstock Snow Sculpture Festival. Professional snow sculpting teams compete to create large, stunning sculptures. Free and open to the public. On the Woodstock Village Green. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org. *Also February 15.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

BRATTLEBORO. 94th Annual Harris Hill Ski Jump. The only Olympic-sized, 90-meter ski jumping hill in New England. Traditional jumps plus the first ever Women's International Skiing Federation Cup competition. Award ceremonies, appearances by Jumper the Mascot, food and drink vendors, beer tent, souvenirs, a bonfire, and more. Dress warm and wear boots. Prefer no dogs. Free parking. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 youth 6-12, age 5 and under free. Gates open at 10 am. Competition from 11 am – 4 pm. Harris Hill Ski Jump, Cedar St. off Rt. 9. (877) 887-6884. www.harrishillskijump.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Winter Carnival. Events for all ages! Junior Olympics, a pancake breakfast, children's cooking classes, figure skating show, Grand Day at the Senior Center, a children's show, Variety Show, Queen's and Princess Pageants and Chili Cook-Off, and more. (802) 254-9561. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 22.*

BURLINGTON. Northeast Organic Farming Association—Vermont's 33rd Annual Winter Conference. Workshops, roundtables, exhibits, vendors, children's conference, festivities. Fees: \$65-\$80 per person per day and \$30 per child per day for the Children's Conference. Lunch is \$16 adults, \$10 children. Walk-in registration \$20 extra per person per day. At Davis Center, University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. nofavt.org/conference. *Also February 16.*

CASTLETON. Lake Bomoseen Ice Fishing Derby. Fish: Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch. Sponsored by the Castleton Lions Club. Check-in location: Crystal Beach, Route 30 on Lake Bomoseen. For information contact Stanley Patch, Jr., (802) 468-5001 day, (802) 468-5001 evening. stanandmamie@myfairpoint.net.

CHESTER. Annual Chester Winter Carnival. Broom hockey tournament at Cobleigh Field at 10 am. Free of charge. (802) 875-2693. www.chester.govoffice.com. www.yourplaceinvermont.com.

GROTON. Wine and Chocolate Weekend. Come and sample Mead, wine made from honey, paired with locally-made cake truffles. We'll also have a jewelry pairing. Free. 11:30 am – 4 pm. Artesano, 1334 Scott Hwy. (802) 584-9000. info@artesanomead.com. www.artesanomead.com.



LUNENBURG. The Town of Lunenburg Historical Society Presents Burt Porter and "New England Fiddle Music: History and Characteristics". Mr. Porter will illustrate with lively fiddling, the characteristics and factors that have shaped New England fiddle music. Light refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council through its Speakers Bureau program. 2 pm at the Lunenburg Primary School, 49 Bobbin Mill Rd., off Rt. 2. The school is handicap accessible. For more information call Chris at (802) 892-6654. lunenburghistoricalsociety.org.

LYNDONVILLE. The Lyndon/Burke Snowflake Festival. Events include a ChowdahFest, Wine and Art Showcase, sledding, winterbiking, and many other activities (most free) for the entire family. Check for schedule at www.lyndonvermont.com. (802) 626-9696. *Through March 1.*

NEW HAVEN. Wine & Chocolate Weekend. Celebrate Valentine's Day. Sample pairings that feature Lincoln Peak wines with chocolates from producers around Addison County. 11 am – 5 pm. Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd., just off Rt. 7. (802) 388-7368. vermontwine@gmail.com. www.lincolnpeakvineyard.com.

PROCTORSVILLE. Fiddle Concert with Raise the Roof. Tickets \$10. 4-6 pm. Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Depot Street. (802) 226-7497. www.yourplaceinvermont.com.



Vermont Winter Farmer's Market
at the
Vermont Farmer's Food Center
located at
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Rutland, VT
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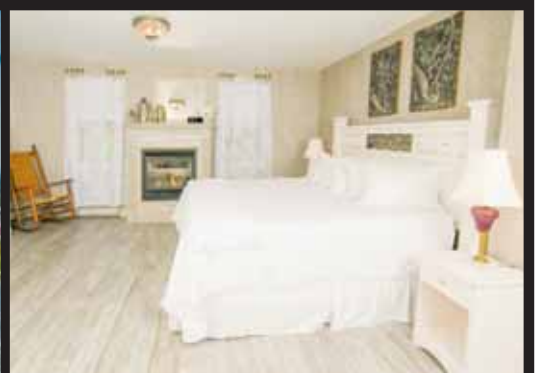
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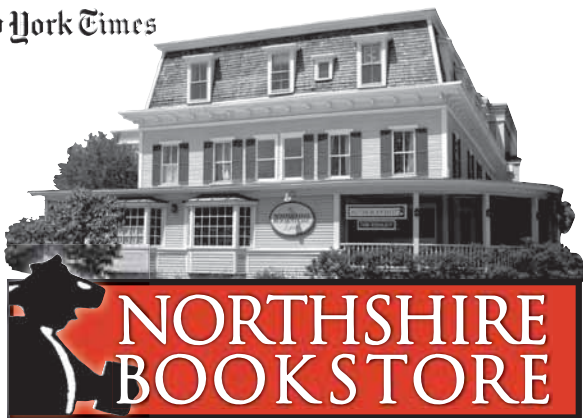
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Vermont Country Calendar

(February 15, continued)

RUTLAND. 13th Annual Winter Fest! This event is free with activities for the whole family. There will be ice skating, snow sculptures, music, hot cocoa, marshmallow roasting and more! Games offered will depend on the snow. Free food, hot drinks, and raffles. Free admission. 10 am – 2 pm at Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St Extension. (802) 773-1822. www.rutlandrec.com.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

SO. HERO. Wine & Chocolate Open House. Visitors can taste our full wine list pairing delicious local chocolate with each wine. 11 am – 4 pm. Snow Farm Winery, 190 West Shore Rd. (802) 872-9463. www.snowfarm.com.

STATEWIDE. Fourth Annual Wine and Chocolate Weekend. To celebrate Valentine's Day, wineries around Vermont open their doors to visitors from 12-5 pm to offer samples of their wines with a chocolate confection or another dessert. Sponsored by the Vermont Grape and Wine Council. For more details and a list of participating wineries visit the VermontGrapeAndWineCouncil.com.

WOODSTOCK. The Vermont Flurry: Woodstock Snow Sculpture Festival. Professional snow sculpting teams compete to create large, stunning sculptures. Free and open to the public. On the Woodstock Village Green. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Winter Carnival. Events for all ages! (802) 254-9561. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 22.*

BRATTLEBORO. Eighth Annual Domino Toppling. Veteran domino toppler and YouTube superstar Lily Hevesh and other domino whiz kids will arrive in Brattleboro 48 hours in advance to begin setting up the big show. Admission \$5, free for children 8 and under. Reservations not necessary. Doors open at 4:30 pm. 5 pm. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, Main Street. (802) 257-0124. info@brattleboromuseum.org. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

BURLINGTON. NOFA Vermont's 33rd Annual Winter Conference. Monday Intensives. Waterman Lounge & Billings Student Center, University of Vermont. (802) 434-4122. www.nofavt.org/conference.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Winter Carnival. Events for all ages! (802) 254-9561. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 22.*

GRAFTON. Workshop: Wild Walkers: Ancient Fire Skills. the fourth gathering of Wild Walkers, a partnership program with the Vermont Wilderness School for kids ages 10 to 14. Be trained in ancient fire making skills in the woods and fields around The Nature Museum. 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy—“Visions from Cape Breton: A Celtic Family Celebration.” Featuring Celtic fiddling, step-dancing, and song with MacMaster and Leahy's children alongside dancers and singers from the traditions of their hometowns of Cape Breton and Lakefield, Ontario. Tickets: \$50/\$45. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 864-5741. www.chandler-arts.org. www.nataliemacmaster.com. www.leahymusic.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Winter Carnival. Events for all ages! (802) 254-9561. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 22.*

BURLINGTON. Concert: Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy. A whirlwind of fiddle-driven music, dance, and song, combining the best of French, Celtic, bluegrass, and Cajun with the music and stories of Cape Breton. MacMaster and Leahy's children alongside dancers and singers from the traditions of their hometowns of Cape Breton and Lakefield, Ontario. Tickets: \$15-\$48. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.flynncenter.org. www.nataliemacmaster.com.

GRAFTON. Workshop: Brave Bears: Wild Animal Tracking Camp. This five-hour vacation camp for Brave Bears, ages 6 to 9, will be led by The Nature Museum's experienced and energized environmental educators. Learn tracking skills inside, and then embark on a snowshoe adventure to identify tracks and prints left by our furry and feathered friends. 10 am – 3 pm. The Nature Museum at Grafton, 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

MONTPELIER. Farmers Night 2015 Free Concert Series. “The Vermont Way” with former Governor Jim Douglas reading from his new book. A guided tour through forty years of Vermont history and politics. Free. 7:30 pm in the House Chamber, Vermont State House. (802) 828-2291. vermonthistory.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 29.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Winter Carnival. Events for all ages! (802) 254-9561. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 22.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. 16th Vermont State RV and Camping Mega Show. Admission: adults \$7, children under 16 free with adult. Parking is free. 10 am - 7 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (772) 631-7920. www.eastcoastshows.com. *Through February 22.*

PUTNEY. New Visions Series Performance: *Do Elephants Dream of Eclectic Sheep* by Amanda Maddock. Tickets \$8. 7:30 pm. Sandglass Theater, 17 Kimball Hill. (802) 387-4051. sandglasstheater.org. *Also February 21.*

RUTLAND. Concert: Lonestar. Reunited with original lead singer Richie McDonald, the country music quartet is embarking on an twenty-year anniversary tour. Tickets: \$39.75-\$59.75. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance. Join The Old Sam Peabody Band with caller Delia Clark. Dance workshop for instruction at 6:45 pm. Dance with potluck dessert break 7-10 pm. Suggested price \$8, kids and seniors by donation. The Little Theater, 54 River St. Steve Hoffman, (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. Delia Clark, (802) 457-2075. Facebook/OldSamPeabody

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Winter Carnival. Events for all ages! (802) 254-9561. www.brattleborowintercarnival.org. *Through February 22.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. 16th Vermont State RV and Camping Mega Show. Over 100,000 square feet of RV's inside and out. Parking is free. 10 am - 7 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (772) 631-7920. www.eastcoastshows.com. *Also February 22.*

GUILFORD. Chamber Music Concert: The Variable Winds. Performing on flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, and horn. A warming teatime reception follows. 4 pm. Guilford Community Church, Church Dr., off Rt. 5 near Guilford Country Store. (802) 254-3600. office@fomag.org. www.fomag.org.



AFTER DARK MUSIC SERIES

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Saturday, February 28, 7 pm

Chris Smither

Chris Smither, honing a synthesis of folk and blues for 50 years, is truly an American original. Having released a series of timeless records since the early 1970s, Chris' newest release, Still On the Levee, is a career-spanning retrospective double CD. Recorded in New Orleans, with special guests including Allen Toussaint and Loudon Wainwright III. Reviewers and fans from around the world agree that Chris is a profound songwriter and a blistering guitarist. Chris melds the styles of his two major influences, Lightnin' Hopkins and Mississippi John Hurt, into his own signature guitar sound.

\$27 advance, \$30 door.

Doors open at 6:30 with first come, first seated
Concert held at the Town Hall Theater
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Cabaret Seating

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Vermont Country Calendar

LYNDONVILLE. Chowdah Fest and Silent Auction. Taster tickets only \$5. 4-6 pm. Riverside School Barn, 30 Lily Pond Road. (802) 626-9696. www.theriverside.school.org.

LYNDONVILLE. 3rd Annual Burke Wine & Art Snowcase. Tickets: \$70 per couple, \$40 per person. 6-9 pm. Moore Community Room, Lyndon State College, 1001 College Rd. (802) 748-2600. www.catamountarts.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

RUTLAND. The Irish Comedy Tour. Tickets: \$25. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. (802) 753-7269, www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 2.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

EAST BURKE. 4th Annual Randonnee Rally. Alpine ski touring for steep, aggressive terrain. Burke Mountain Resort, 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. (802) 626-7300. skiburke.com.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich: Carol Compton on keyboard, accordion, and recorders; Thal Aylward on violin and viola. Calling by Chris Levey. Admission \$8 adults, \$4 ages 25 and under. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD. *Also March 29, April 19.*

PERU. Kare Andersen's 30th Annual Tele Fest. Come rip with some of the best tele skiers in the East! Bromley Mountain Ski Resort, 3984 Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com.

STOWE. 70th Annual Stowe Derby. One of the oldest and most unique ski races in North America. (802) 253-7704 x 22. stowederby@teammmsc.org. www.skireg.com/3735. stowe.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. (802) 753-7269, www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 29.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

ESSEX JUNCTION. The Vermont Flower Show—"Spring Reflections." Landscaped central display and over 90 vendors. Admission. 12-8 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. www.greenworksvermont.org. *Through March 1.*

NO. CLARENDON. "Show Me Gala" Talent Show. Performers of all ages will sing, dance, and play for your pleasure. This non-competitive talent show is a fundraiser for Friends of Music at Mill River U.H.S. Tickets \$5 per person and \$15 per family, at the door. The snow date is March 5th at 7 pm. Hosted by the Mill River Friends of Music. 7 pm in the Auditorium at Mill River Union High School, 2321 Middle Rd. birwin@rssu.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert. Two local indie bands, TallGrass GetDown and Coquette will be performing. For tickets call the box office at (802) 728-6464 weekdays 3-6 pm. Concert at 7:30 pm. Chandler's Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Pete's Posse. Roots music. Tickets: \$17/\$13. 7:30 pm at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.immanuelretreat.org.

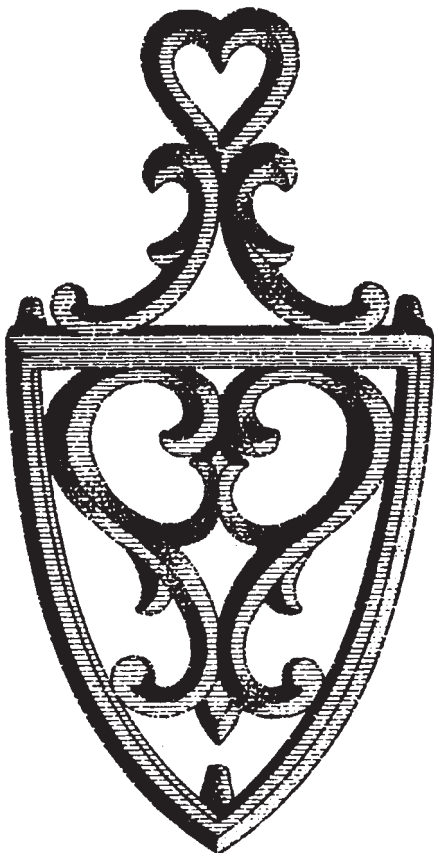
BURLINGTON. 20th Annual Magic Hat Mardi Gras Weekend. Noon pre-parade musical performances, costume contest, free photo booth, and other activities. Parade down Main St.! Live music on the Church Street Stage. (802) 658-2739. www.magichat.net. *Through February 28.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. The Vermont Flower Show—"Spring Reflections." Landscaped central display and over 90 vendors. Admission. 10 am – 8 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. www.greenworksvermont.org. *Also March 1.*

MIDDLEBURY. Concert with Chris Smither. Blues and folk, an American original. Part of the After Dark Music Series. Tickets \$30. Door open 6:30 pm, concert starts 7 pm. First come-first seated. Town Hall Theater, corner of Merchants Row and S. Pleasant St. (802) 388-0216. afterdarkmusicseries.com.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 4-7 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 753-7269. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 2.*



ST. JOHNSBURY. The 15th Annual Northeast Kingdom's Wabanaki Run—Primitive Biathlon Winter Shoot. 9 am – 3 pm. Rain or shine on the grounds of The Caledonia Forest and Stream Club (*4½ miles north of St. Johnsbury off US Route 5*). (802) 748-2528. www.caledoniaforestandstream.com.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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

PROCTOR. Marble Cafe and Gift Shop. Enjoy pastries, soups and sandwiches. Free wifi. Open Tuesday thru Saturday year round from 9 am – 3 pm. At the Marble Museum, 52 Main St. (The museum itself will reopen in the Spring). (802) 459-2750. vermontmarblegifts.com.

RUTLAND. Himalayan Salt Cave. Come relax in the only public Himalayan Salt Cave in North America. Mon–Fri 10 am – 7 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am – 6 pm. \$12. Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, 120 Merchants Row. For reservations call (802) 775-8080. www.pyramidvt.com.

SHELBURNE. Saturday Mornings on the Farm. For ages 5-12. Farm chores and fun, plus bagels and hot chocolate. Grooming and walking donkeys, checking coop for chicken eggs, feeding and caring for barn cats. Parents welcome to stay or drop off. Fee: \$25. Please pre-register. 9 am – 12 pm. One Mitten Farm, 1631 Bay Rd., near the entrance to Shelburne Farms. (802) 825-1182. onemittenfarm.com. *Every Saturday.*

STATEWIDE. Vermont's Ice Fishing Season: January 17 through March 14 for trout, salmon and bass on 40 large Vermont lakes. For a list of those lakes, go to the 2015 Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, available where licenses are sold and at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. For more information, contact Nicole Corrao, (802) 318-1347. Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us. vtfishandwildlife.com.

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

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

WINDSOR. Stuffed Animal Repair. Sue Spear, stuffed animal repair specialist, will fix up stuffed friends. Free. 6-8 pm. Windsor Public Library, 43 State St. (802) 674-2556. *Each Wednesday.*

WOODSTOCK. 5th Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series. Fifteen films and documentaries from around the world. Tickets \$11 for ages 16 and up, \$6 for ages 3-15. Saturdays at 3 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Route 12 & River Road. To purchase tickets in advance call (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *On Selected Saturdays through April 4.*



Chocolate, Chocolate & More Chocolate! by Elie Tarrab

*An Imagine Book published by Charlesbridge
(\$18.95 hardcover, www.charlesbridge.com)*

No matter how it's prepared—in a chocolate Lava Cake or a bite-sized Orange Liqueur Praline—nothing says decadence like chocolate. This beautiful full-color cookbook features more than eighty recipes for chocolate truffles and ganache, candies and cookies, sheets and other treats.

Create chocolate bars with mint, nougat, caramel, or rum raisin and hazelnut. Put a chocolate pencil inside a kid's lunch bag as a surprise. Celebrate with a Champagne Truffle. Round out the dessert menu with ice creams and popsicles, eclairs, soufflés, tarts, brownies, biscuits, macaron hearts, and much more.

To help anyone, even beginners, handle all the necessary techniques, master baker Elie Tarrab gives easy-to-follow instructions on melting and tempering, crystallization, dipping and enrobing, molding, and creating a hollow figurine. With stunning pictures, you'll soon be in chocolate ecstasy!

Valentine's Day Macaron Hearts

Instead of buying a Valentine's Day present, surprise your special someone with these very special treats.

Macarons

1¼ cups almond flour	1½ cups powdered sugar
½ cup egg whites	¾ cup granulated sugar
¼ cup water	¾ drops red food coloring

Filling

9 oz. white chocolate	½ cup strained raspberry puree
3–4 drops rose water	¾ cup heavy cream

Preparation: Preheat the oven to 275°F. In a food processor, mix the almond flour and powdered sugar. Sift together. Add half of the egg whites to the flour mixture and mix well. In an electric mixer, whisk together the remaining egg whites with 1/4 cup of the granulated sugar. Whip the sugar and egg white mixture for 2-3 minutes on a high speed to create a soft meringue. In the meantime, in a pot, bring the remaining granulated sugar and water to a boil. Once the syrup reaches 225°F, slowly pour into the meringue, while continuing to whip. Add in 3-4 drops of food coloring and continue to mix for 8 minutes. Fold the meringue into the flour mixture until it is smooth. Transfer mixture to a piping tube fitted with a ¾-inch tip. To create a heart shape on parchment paper, pipe out a circle, 1¼ to 1½ inches in diameter. Use a spoon to spread the batter upwards and to the right. Pipe out another circle of the same size, close to the first one. Spread the batter upwards and to the left. Fashion the bottom tip of the heart with the spoon. The two circles will now be in the shape of a heart. Pipe the remaining batter and allow the hearts to dry for 20 minutes. Transfer the parchment paper to a baking sheet and bake for 14-16 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow baked hearts to cool completely before removing from the parchment paper.

Filling: Melt the chocolate in the microwave in 30-second intervals, stirring the chocolate between intervals. Use the melted chocolate and raspberry puree to prepare a ganache. For the entire process the chocolate must be kept above 93°F. Bring the liquids almost to a boil. Pour one-quarter of the liquids into the chocolate and mix well, until a thick texture is achieved. Add the rest of the puree in equal stages, blending after each addition till an elastic, shiny texture is achieved. At this stage it is best to use a hand-held blender or mixer creating a finer emulsion. If the mixture is not shiny and completely smooth add a small amount of puree and blend again. Repeat till desired texture is achieved. Blending in butter can enhance the ganache. Heat it to 93-100°F and add butter at room temperature. Add rose water and mix. Whip the heavy cream until it is fluffy. Fold the cream into the ganache when it reaches 95°F and refrigerate for 3-4 hours.

Assembly: Transfer the chilled filling to a piping tube. Match the hearts in pairs according to size. Pipe out a small amount of filling onto the flat side of one heart. Carefully place the flat side of the second heart onto the filling. Refrigerate for 24 hours before serving. Valentine Day's Macaron Hearts may be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to one week. *Makes 18 large macarons.*

Vermont Country Calendar

COMMUNITY LUNCHEES & DINNERS

CHESTER. Monthly Community All-you-can-eat Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, pancakes, real Vermont maple syrup, toast, and beverages. \$7 donation at the door. 8-10 am. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Monthly on first Saturdays.*

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Free Community Dinner. We gather for a delicious meal. 6 pm. United Church of Craftsbury, 7 Church Lane. (802) 586-8028. *Continues on third Wednesdays.*

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

MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A free community meal. 11:30 am – 1 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org. UCCBethany@comcast.net. *Every Tuesday.*

NEWPORT. Souper Lunch. Free. All are welcome. Noon at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 44 2nd St. (802) 334-7365. www.stmarksnewport.org. *Last Tuesday of each month.*

POULTNEY. The Slate Valley Community Monthly Breakfast. 8-10 am at the Poultney United Methodist Church on Main St. Scrambled eggs, sausage, homemade biscuits, jams, juice, tea and hot chocolate. Adults \$1 and children under 14 free. Handicapped accessible. (802) 287-9087. *Last Saturdays of the month.*

SO. HERO. Free Community Supper. 5:30-7 pm. Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC, 24 South St. (802) 372-4962. *Second Fridays.*

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

SWANTON. Free Open Door Dinner. 5:30-6:30 pm. Nativity St. Louis Parish, 65 Canada St. (802) 868-7185. *January 28, February 25, March 25.*

TUNBRIDGE. Monthly Breakfast & Bake Sale. Hosted by the Tunbridge Recreation Committee and the Tunbridge Central School 8th Grade Class. 8 am – 12 noon. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. www.tunbridgevt.com. *Second Sundays of each month.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Listen Hearty Three-Course Community Dinner. Free. Doors open at 4 pm. Dinner at 5 pm. Listen Community Dinner Hall, River Point Plaza, 42 Maple St. (603) 448-4553. listencommunityservices.org. *Monday through Friday.*

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

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

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

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

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

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

BELMONT. Stephanie Stouffer Studio and Gallery Gift Shop. Hooked pillows and rugs, tapestries, holiday cards, and stoneware. Free admission. Call for appointment. Stephanie Stouffer Studio and Gallery Gift Shop, 250 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-2686. stouffer@vermontel.net. www.stephaniestouffer.com.

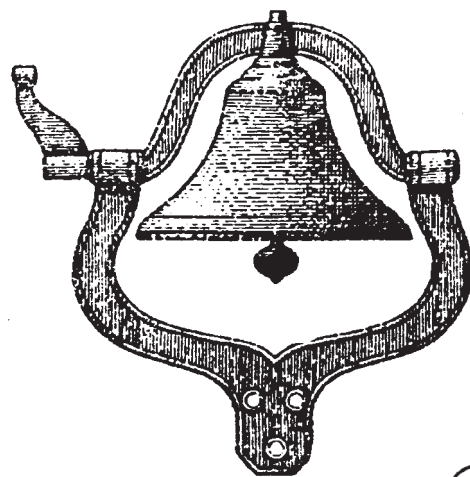
BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Dolls and dollhouses, puppets, trucks and trains, toys, and educational displays. Museum shop. Admission is \$2 for children three and older, \$4 for adults and \$10 for families. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. (802) 681-3767. dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Center for the Arts. Permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors & students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Open Wed-Mon, 10 am – 5 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. thebennington.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Exhibits and programs, founding documents, fine art, and more. See Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, and films. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Free admission to the Gift Shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Arts businesses and studios, classes & workshops, exhibits, concerts, and community events. Winter Art Mart through March 28. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. 10 am – 5 pm Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday through March. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Exhibit: World Leaders & Global Citizens—Photographs by Patrick Leahy. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his service as a U.S. senator. Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, 10 Vernon St. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Through March 7.*



Visit the Vermont State Parks This Winter

The buildings are locked, the staff is gone, and in some cases, the gates are closed in the 50+ state parks around Vermont. But don't let appearances deceive you; the state parks are open for winter fun. This land belongs to the people of the State of Vermont, and they can recreate here any time they wish.

The Catamount (cross country ski) Trail traverses the length of the Green Mountains and touches on park land in several locations (most notably Camel's Hump State Park.) But some of the best winter routes for cross country skiers and snowshoe

enthusiasts are the park roads and nature trails that offer miles of brush-free paths in the snow.

Other park trails may require some ingenuity for safe parking (most park entrances and lots are not plowed in winter), but these trails offer the best opportunities for solitude and nature study.

Several state parks contain major snowmobile routes maintained by the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST). VAST trails can be found on both state forest and state park lands.

State parks on lakes and ponds may offer public ac-

cess for ice fishing, ice boating and skating. Whatever your winter outdoor interest, you can find an opportunity in a state park!

For information on winter recreation, contact Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation at (802) 241-3650, www.vtfpr.org.

To find out more about VAST trails, call (802) 229-0005, www.vtvast.org.

Call Catamount Trail for more info at (802) 864-5794, www.catamounttrail.org.

For membership information, events, and outings for members and non-members call the Green Mountain Club at (802) 244-7037, greenmountainclub.org.

For information about all sorts of outdoors activities contact the Vermont Outdoor Guide Association, at (802) 425-6211. Visit www.voga.org.



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Flynn Center
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May 2, 8:00 pm
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RUTLAND

the Sunday Matinee series

January 25, 3:00 pm
Paramount Theatre
Rutland

March 15, 3:00 pm
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Rutland

In Concert
March 16, 7:30 pm
Latchis Theater
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Carol Compton and Thal Aylward

Chris Levey, caller

All dances taught, no partner necessary, all are welcome! Bring a separate pair of clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes or socks. Bring refreshments to share at the break.

Sunday, February 22 from 1-4 p.m.

Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Admission \$8, under 25 \$4

Info: (802) 785-4121 (Chris)

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

BURLINGTON. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3-17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. Monday–Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. At Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. www.echovermont.org.

BURLINGTON. First Friday Art Walk. Visit over 30 galleries and studios. Free. 5-8 pm. Map available. (802) 264-4839. artmapburlington.com. *First Fridays*.

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

EAST CHARLESTON. Winter Water Woods Exhibition. 26 artworks celebrating NorthWoods' 26th year of natural resource stewardship. Opening reception 4-6 pm, February 22. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. northwoodscenter.org. *February 22 through March 8*.

ENOSBURG FALLS. Art Exhibit. Featured artist reception first Sunday of every month, 1-3 pm. Open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10-2 pm. Artist In Residence—a Cooperative Gallery, 321 Main St. (802) 933-6403. info@artistinresidencecoop.com. www.artistinresidencecoop.com.

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world housed in a 100-foot-long converted dairy barn built in 1863. Events and exhibits. Free admission, donations welcome. Open by appointment November through May. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Hands-on natural history exhibits, mounted specimens and wildlife garden, nature programs for adults and children, plus tours for schools and community groups. Admission to the Museum is free, donations welcome. Visit www.nature-museum.org for upcoming programs. Open Thursdays from 10 am – 4 pm or by appointment. Open Thursdays and Saturdays 10 am – 4 pm from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

GRAFTON. Art Exhibits. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Gallery North Star, 151 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2465. gallery@gnsgraffton.com. www.gnsgraffton.com.

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

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 10 am – 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *Open by appointment November 1 through April 30*.

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

MANCHESTER. Visit Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home. Summer home of presidential son, Robert Lincoln. House, gardens, Pullman car, working farm and cheese-making facility, floating boardwalk, walking/cross country ski trails, museum store and welcome center. Admission: \$18 adults, \$5 children 6-14, under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, under 5 free. Open 10 am – 5 pm on weekends in the winter. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

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

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

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont History Museum and the Vermont Heritage Galleries. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Open 9 am – 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. vhs-info@state.vt.us. www.vermonthistory.org.

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

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Trails, exhibits, live bird programs and animal feeding times. \$11-\$13, under 3 free. 10 am – 5 pm daily. 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000.

RANDOLPH. “Art of Place.” An art exhibit showcasing work from both well-established and emerging artists from around the northeast. Open Fridays 3-6 pm and Saturdays and Sundays 12-3 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org. *Through March 8*.

ROCHESTER. Art Exhibit: “Duet” with works by Varujan Boghosian and Ben Frank Moss, on exhibit through February 14. Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. BigTown Gallery, 99 North Main St. (802) 767-9670. info@bigtowngallery.com. www.bigtowngallery.com.

RUTLAND. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings, gift shop. Gallery open Thursday and Friday 12-6 pm and Saturdays 12-5 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibit: Richard Weis's Artifact—Fifty Years in Art, through February 21. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday-Friday 12-6 pm, and Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown Gallery, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 775-0062. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Castleton Downtown Gallery. Free admission. Open Wed through Sat 1-6 pm. Center Street Alley. For info call Bill Ramage at (802) 468-1266. castletoncollegegalleries@gmail.com.

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

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Concerts, workshops, lectures, and classes for adults, teens, and children. Something for every interest. 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Museum. Home to the finest museum collections of 19th-century American folk art, quilts, 19th- and 20th-century decoys, and carriages. Between November 1 and April 30, open buildings include the Pizzagalli Center for Arts and Education, the Round Barn and the Webb Gallery. Admission: adults \$8, children \$5 (5-12), under 5 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

SHOREHAM. Shoreham Bell Museum. See 5-6,000 bells collected from all over the world. Open most afternoons by appointment or chance year round. Free admission, donations accepted. Shoreham Bell Museum, 127 Smith Street off Route 74 west. For more information call Judy Blake at (802) 897-2780. vtcat@shorehambellmuseum.com. www.shorehambellmuseum.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
Springfield, VT 1936



“Reflections Of the Season”

*Mixed media works by
late artist Harlow Lent*

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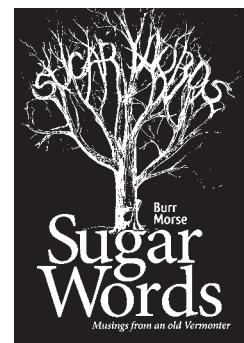
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Museums, Exhibits, and Galleries, continued)

SO. STRAFFORD. Mixed Media Works by Late Artist Harlow Lent. On exhibit in Cafe 232 through the winter. The paintings, completed from 1990-1992 incorporate oil and acrylic on foil and can be viewed during café winter hours: Wednesday through Friday 6 am – 2 pm; Saturday 7 am – 2 pm; and Sunday 8 am – 1 pm. 8-1. Free wifi. Cafe 232, 232 Rt. 132, (802) 765-9232. (802) 885-6156. www.nlwatercolor.com. cafe232.com.

SPRINGFIELD. Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center featuring fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Exhibits, classes, workshops. 6th Tuesday - Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

SPRINGFIELD. The Great Hall Presents: Fibrations! New England Fiber Art & Mixed-Media Invitational Exhibition. The Great Hall, 100 River St. (802) 885-3061. jam@vermontel.net. *Through March 31.*

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

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Winter hours through April 30: Thursday through Monday 11 am – 4 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

STOWE. Exhibit: "Menagerie: Animals in Art." Twelve artists portray a variety of animals: foxes, cows, dogs, horses, turkeys, bees, hedgehogs, butterflies, bobcats, and more. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 9 am – 5 pm. West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park, 17 Towne Farm Lane. (802) 253-8943. www.westbranchgallery.com. *Through March 29.*

STOWE. Art Exhibits, Classes, Workshops. Wed-Sun 12-5 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. helenday.com.

WOODSTOCK. ArtisTree Community Art Center. Exhibits, classes, music, special events. Tues 11 am – 8 pm, Wed-Sat 11 am – 4 pm. Mount Tom Building, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500. info@artistreevt.org. www.artistreevt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Admission: adults \$14, age 62 & up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open November-February Weekends, 10 am to 4 pm; Christmas and February Vacation Weeks, 10 am to 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

COMMUNITY DANCES AND MUSIC

BENNINGTON. Contradance. Caller Peter Stix, music by Spare Parts with Eric Buddington. Admission \$10. 7:30-10:30 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 Rt. 7 south. (802) 447-2173. info@benningtondance.org. www.benningtondance.org. *First Fridays.*

BERLIN. Afro-Caribbean Dance. With live percussion every Thursday from 10:30 am – 12 pm. Drumming and dance from Mali Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Also Capital City Grange Potluck starting about 6:30 each first Saturday, all are welcome, no charge. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 985-3665. capitalcitygrange.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Contra Dance. Caller Steve Zakon-Anderson. Music by Becky Tracy and Keith Murphy. Beginners workshop at 6:45; dancing 7-10 pm. Admission \$10 (\$7 students/seniors/low income). The Stone Church, corner of Main/Grove St. (413) 320-2729. www.petersiegel.com. www.brattcontra.org. *Second and fourth Sundays.*

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

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Music Center. Individual lessons, as well as classes for kids, teens, and adults; instrumentalists, singers, and non-musicians; absolute beginners and accomplished musicians. Daytime adult program, programs for kids, conducting class. Brattleboro Music Center, 38 Walnut St. (802) 257-4523. bmcvt.org.

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

BURLINGTON. Old Time Jam Session. Repertoire is southern Appalachian old-time, fiddle tunes and songs. Intermediate & advanced with beginners welcome. When beginners attend, we start with a slow jam for the first half hour and then play to tempo for the remainder of the session. 1-3 pm, first and third (and fifth when they occur) Sundays. Radio Bean, 8 N. Winooski Ave. For information contact Tim Stickle at tstickle@uvm.edu.

BURLINGTON. Shapenote Singing. Meet to sing from the Sacred Harp, an early American hymn-singing tradition. Bring water and a copy of the Sacred Harp book, if you have it. 6:30-8:30 pm. Check in advance for specific location at UVM: sometimes it's at Ira Allen Chapel, sometimes it's at 427-A Waterman Building. For information e-mail: uvm.shape.note@gmail.com. Visit www.youngtraditionvermont.org. *Every Tuesday.*

CHESTER. Green Mountain Express hosts Monthly Open Mike Country Jamboree. All musicians and singers, bands and singles, experienced or not, welcome. Refreshments, raffles and 50/50 tickets on sale. Admission \$5 donation at the door. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange, at the junction of Route 10 & Route 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Third Sundays monthly.*

DANVILLE. Family Contra & Square Dance. First Friday of each month, July through May. By donation. Chip Hedler caller and David Carpenter band leader. 8 pm at Danville Town Hall. (802) 563-3225 orsamlyman@sover.net.

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

MONTPELIER. Contra Dance. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners welcome! Please bring soft-soled shoes. 8-11 pm. Capital City Grange, 6612 Rt. 12, Northfield St., just south of the I-89 overpass. For more information visit youngtraditionvermont.org. *1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays with rotating callers and musicians.*

MONTPELIER. Old-Time Music Session. Intermediate ability, but you should be able to play at dance (one step down from warp) speed. 6-8 pm. Bagitos Cafe, 28 Main Street. For information contact R.D. Eno at rdeno@fairpoint.net. *Every third Tuesday monthly.*



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Vermont Country Calendar

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich: Carol Compton on keyboard, accordion, and recorders; Thal Aylward on violin and viola. Calling by Chris Levey. Admission: \$8 adults, \$4 ages 25 and under. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD. *February 22, March 29, April 19.*

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy and caller David Millstone. All dances taught, beginners welcome. Admission \$8 (Students \$5, under 16 free). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Second Saturdays.*

NORWICH. Contradance. Music by Cuckoo's Nest, caller Ruth Sylvester. Admission \$5, under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. 8 pm. At Tracey Hall, 300 Main St. For information call (802) 785-4607. *Fourth Saturdays.*

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

PLAINFIELD. Monthly Sacred Harp Sing. A free event, with beginners and loaner books available. The second Sunday of every month at 3 to 5 pm at the Community Center above the Plainfield Co-op. For more information, call (802) 595-9951. nscottieharrison@gmail.com.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Admission \$9, \$7 for teens, 12 and under free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. Tinmouthvt.org. *Every fourth Friday.*

TUNBRIDGE. Ed Larkin Contra Dancers Open House. \$8 per person. Refreshments at intermission. Second Friday's through May. 7:30-10 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. For info e-mail clydo46@gmail.com.

WEST NEWBURY. Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. All dances taught. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller, Donna Weston on piano. Admission by donation, all ages welcome. 7:30 pm at the Community Hall at 219 Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 429-2316 or adamrboyce@juno.com. *Fourth Saturdays.*

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BRATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Wagon Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" at 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

CHITTENDEN. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 30-minute rides Wednesday through Sunday. \$30 for 15 years and older, \$20 for 4 - 14 years, 3 and under free. Private rides available. To reserve, call the Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center at (802) 483-6089 from 9 am - 5 pm or after hours call the front desk at (802) 483-2311. Mountain Top Inn & Resort, 195 Mountain Top Rd. www.mountaintopinn.com. *Wednesdays through Sundays through March.*

LANDGROVE. Karl Pfister Horse-Drawn Sleigh, Wagon and Carriage Rides. Prices: \$20 adult, \$10 children under 12, under 2 free. Private rides are \$120 for 1-4 people, \$180 for 5-12 people. Rides leave on the hour from Landgrove Inn, Landgrove Rd. off Rt. 11. Call for reservations. (802) 824-4663. www.karlpfistersleigh.com.

LONDONDERRY. Sleigh and Wagon Rides at Taylor Farm. Sleighs run 11 am - 6 pm every hour on the hour Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Rides last 45 minutes and include a fireside stop to toast marshmallows and enjoy hot cider. Wool blankets provided. Come early and pack up a picnic basket of goodies from our farm store. We will host sleigh rides well into the Spring if we have enough snow! Our sleighs can each hold up to 10 adults. Prices: \$20 for everyone over age 7, \$10 for ages 7-2, under 2 free; private rides \$150 for 1-5 people, \$200 for 6-10 people. Mid-week private rides available on request with advance notice. Taylor Farm, 825 Rt. 11. By reservation only, call (802) 824-5690. www.taylorfarmvermont.com.

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards. Horse-drawn wagon rides year-round by reservation. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtorchards.com.

RUPERT. Winter Sleigh Rides. In a Sweetheart Sleigh built for two; fee \$150 for a 45 minute tour around the wintry landscape of the farm and forest. Group sleigh rides in a 12-person sleigh for \$185 for 45 minutes through the woods and through the fields. Call to reserve. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. *Saturdays and Sundays through March.*

SHELBURNE. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). If there's not enough snow, we'll have wagon rides. Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 child, 2 and under free. 11 am - 2 pm, first come, first served. Private 20-minute sleigh rides at 2:30 & 3 pm, \$120 for up to 12 people, reservations required. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. *Every Saturday and Sunday through March 1.*

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm Sleigh Ride Weekends. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, jack jumper sledding. Visit the operating dairy farm featuring the Jersey herd, calf nursery, draft horse teams, sheep, and oxen, and restored farmhouse. Admission: \$14 adults, \$13 seniors, \$8 children 5-15, \$4 children 3 & 4. Open 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *February 14 through 22.*

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EAST CHARLESTON. Northwoods Stewardship Center. Outdoor programs, outings, workshops, classes, and more. 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. www.northwoodscenter.org.

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. In the winter enjoy cross country skiing with snowmaking, snowshoeing, dog sledding, and snowtubing. Mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

HUNTINGTON. Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Help monitor bird populations in the different habitats at the Green Mountain Audubon Center. Our monthly walks gather long-term data on the presence of bird species, their abundance, and changes in populations. Donation appreciated. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. Vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org.

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

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

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Help with animal chores Saturdays 2-4 pm. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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

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These are the people living in this land;
Proud and narrow, with their eyes on the hills.
They ask no favors. Their lips defend
With speech close-rationed their hoarded souls.

You cannot love them or know them at all
Unless you know how a hardwood tree
Can pour blond sugar in a pegged-up pail
In the grudging thaw of a February day.

—DILYS BENNETT LAING
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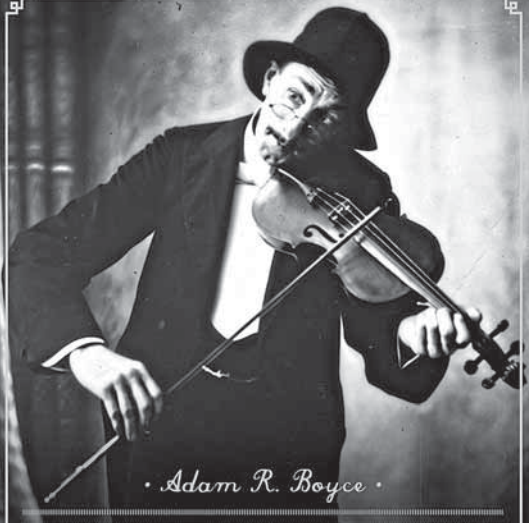


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“Visions from Cape Breton: A Celtic Family Tradition”

Featuring Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy

Electrifying Celtic fiddling, step-dancing, and song will raise the roof at Chandler when Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy return to Randolph, VT on February 17 at 7:30 p.m. This world-renowned husband-and-wife team have performed many times at Chandler. Their new show, “Visions from Cape Breton: A Celtic Family Tradition”, celebrates the latest chapter in their long musical and personal journey.

For the first time on stage, the celebrated duo will include their own children in the performance, along with dancers and singers who bring to life their Celtic traditions. The Randolph show will be the second stop on a 60-city tour of the United States for MacMaster, Leahy, and their six children.

Both MacMaster and Leahy come from strong musical families. MacMaster’s uncle, Buddy MacMaster, is a noted Cape Breton fiddler, as are her cousins Ashley MacIsaac and Andrea Beaton. MacMaster herself began fiddling at nine years old and was only 16 when she released her first album. While remaining true to her heritage, she has incorporated various influences into her music, including Scottish and Irish music and American bluegrass. A Boston Herald writer commented on her powerful stage presence: “To call Natalie MacMaster the most dynamic performer in Celtic music today is high praise, but it still doesn’t get at just how remarkable a concert artist this Cape Breton Island fiddler has become.”

Donnell Leahy is the best known member of “Leahy,” the legendary Canadian folk music group comprised of eight of the 11 Leahy siblings, all talented in instrumental music, singing, and step-dancing. In addition to being the front man and lead fiddler for the family group for more than 20 years, Donnell performs as a solo act and with brothers Doug and Angus. Like MacMaster, he keeps a strong sense of his Irish/Canadian heritage while finding inspiration in music from cultures around the world.

These two great musical families were joined when MacMaster and Leahy married in 2002. While still maintaining solo careers, they love to collaborate and find it no problem to combine work and family life. The joy audiences feel from them onstage is part of their daily life, according to Leahy. “The reality is we’re pretty happy all the time,” he said. “The music dictates the mood of the show. When we play, it’s all about the music. It’s too hard to fake that. People pick up on that. They know it’s genuine.”

As both come from a tradition where music is part of daily life, it has been very natural to pass the art on to their six children and, now, to make them part of their show. The



Donnell Leahy and Natalie MacMaster will be performing in Randolph on February 17 at Chandler Music Hall.

photo by Rebekah Littlejohn

children are homeschooled, with lessons continuing when on tour. “We’re parents first...all our decisions start with the kids in mind,” Leahy notes.

Tickets to the performance in the Main Hall may be purchased online at www.chandler-arts.org or by calling the box office at (802) 728-6464 weekdays 3-6 p.m.

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

Chandler’s First Friday Music Series Presents Bow Thayer

Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT presents Bow Thayer as part of their new “First Friday” music series, on Friday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Gallery.

Bow and his band will perform music from his new record, *Eden*, released in 2013, as well as some old favorites. He is an accomplished songwriter who cultivates influences from the worlds of rock, blues, folk, progressive rock, and bluegrass. Ameri-

can Songwriter magazine says this “onetime Levon Helm compatriot is the best artist to come from New England in recent years.”

Admission \$19 (two for \$35) includes a free drink at the cash bar and free snacks. Reserved by calling the box office at (802) 728-6464.

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Beatrix Potter

Writer, Painter, Gardener and Farmer

by Judith Irven

As a toddler I still remember listening with rapt attention as my mother recounted the adventures of a host of little animals—Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin, Tom Kitten, Jemima Puddleduck and many more. How I loved those tiny books, just 4” x 5½” and perfectly sized for little hands, with their delicate pictures and delightful stories by the beloved English author, Beatrix Potter.

A quarter of a century later and the pattern repeated itself, as I read these same stories to my three children. It would not be long before they could recite the words of each succeeding page before it was even turned.

These charming tales captivate adults too; the personalities of the little animals are timeless, often reminding us of quirky people we know. There is Mrs Tittlemouse, the meticulous housewife who dislikes messy guests, Tabitha Twitchet the anxious mother who wants her children to stay out of trouble when guests are expected, and Jemima Puddleduck who naively thinks she has found the perfect ‘starter home’ in which to raise her ducklings, only to discover her landlord is a decidedly suspect character.

Perhaps my favorite is Timmy Willie, the Country Mouse, who goes to town by mistake where he is befriended by Johnny Townmouse and his sophisticated friends. But, despite the generous hospitality of the town mice, the noise and bustle of the city leaves Timmy Willie nervous and depressed, so in the end he thankfully returns to the peace of the countryside.

A new Beatrix Potter book

However, while I was well aquatinted with Beatrix Potter’s stories, I knew almost nothing of her life. So last Christmas it was a marvelous pleasure to receive a book by Marta McDowell entitled *Beatrix Potter’s Gardening Life* (Timberpress.com).

As I read Marta McDowell’s delightful book I discovered some surprising connections with my own life. I was born less than twenty miles from Hill Top Farm. My childhood was spent elsewhere but, as a young adult, I returned several times to the Lake District to hike the fells that Mr. and Mrs. Heelis had bequeathed to the National Trust a quarter of a century earlier.

In the 1960s I studied for six years at the Royal College of Science in Kensington. But only after reading Marta McDowell’s book did I realized that the college was situated right on the site of the earlier Royal Horticultural Society Gardens which Beatrix, her brother Bertram and their governesses had frequented some ninety years before.

And finally the author, Marta McDowell, lives just two miles from where, almost half a century ago, I read the stories of Peter Rabbit and his friends to my own children.

Growing up in Victorian England

Of course, in order to understand somebody’s gardening life, one also needs to understand the idiosyncrasies of the time and place in which that person lived. For the first half of her life Beatrix Potter lived with her parents in strait-laced Victorian London. And then, at age 40 and with her own income, like a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis,

she breaks free of societal constraints, to live life on her own terms as a country gardener and farmer.

As an added treat, the book is richly illustrated with her watercolor paintings of flowers and animals.

A child of the city

Beatrix Potter was born in 1886 to recently-wealthy parents who lived in the upscale London borough of Kensington. As was the custom with upper-class English families, Beatrix and her younger brother Bertram were educated by a succession of governesses. (Later Bertram was dispatched to boarding school.) Outings primarily consisted of walks with the governess to the nearby formal gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society as well as to Kensington Gardens.

Each summer the entire family, along with a complete retinue of staff, left London for an extended family sojourn. Initially their destination was a large house in Scotland, and in later years a similarly imposing residence in the English Lake District. Beatrix loved these times away, an opportunity to observe the natural world and to experiment with her own little garden. She also expanded her artistic eye, drawing both animals and flowers in amazing detail.

And, along the way, she and Bertram also managed to smuggle an astounding succession of pet animals into the household, including rabbits, mice, frogs and a hedgehog, many of which made their way back to the big house in London.

Setbacks and sadness

Following the custom of the time, as a young unmarried woman Beatrix continued to live in her parent’s house and accompany them on their summer vacations. Since her parents were also artistic (and her father an accomplished photographer) she also took private art lessons. However, although determined she was also quite shy, and socialized mainly among her parent’s friends.

Beatrix became intensely interested in the details of insects, fossils and fungi as seen through her microscope, and when she was twenty-nine wrote a serious scientific paper on the reproduction of fungi. But, as a woman, her work was rebuffed by the male establishment at both Kew Gardens and the Linnean Society.

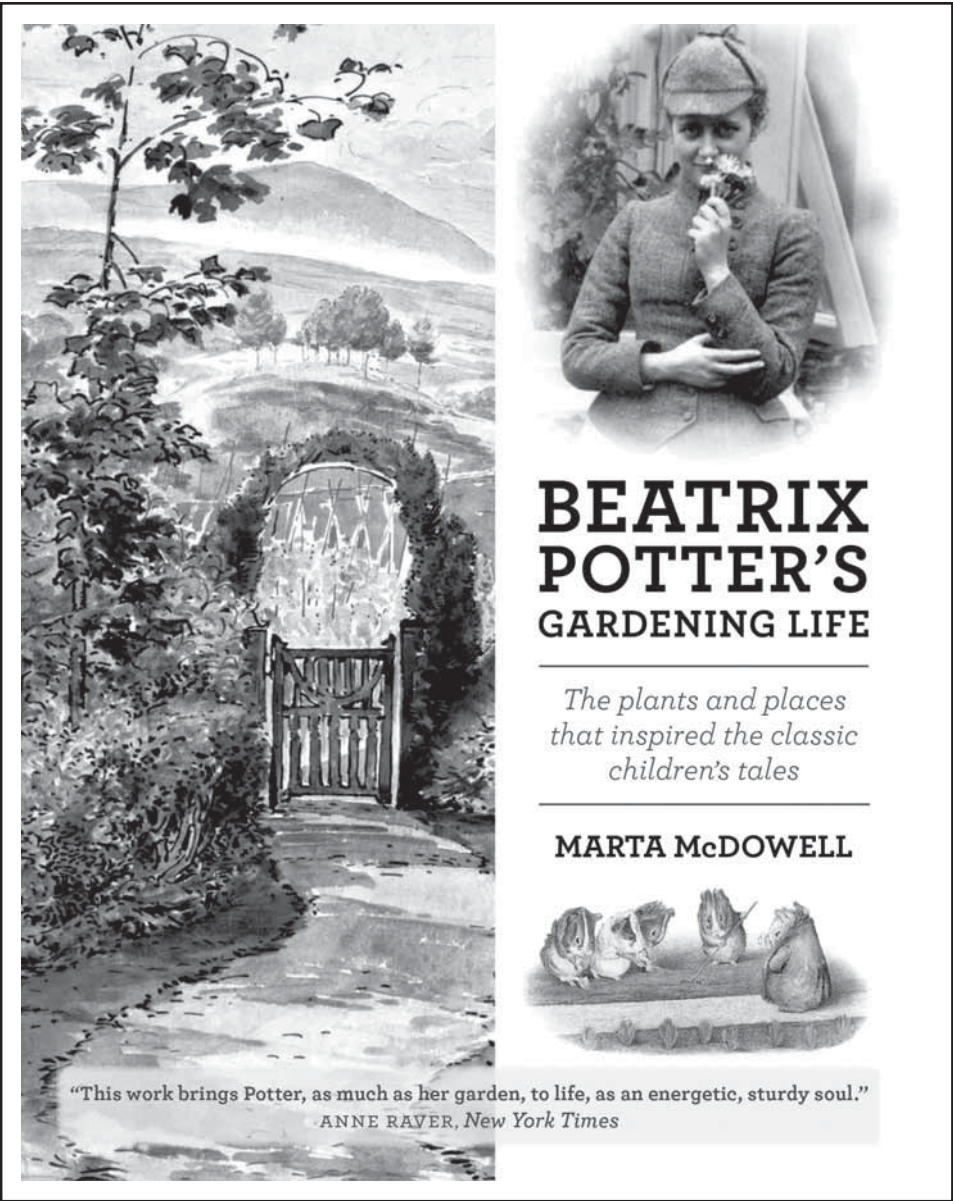
She also started to write short stories for the young children of one of her previous governesses, leading to writing her first complete book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* fully illustrated with her meticulous line drawings. However, after publisher after publisher rejected her manuscript, she decided to print it herself and quickly sold 450 copies.

This success caused the publishing house Fredrick Warne and Co. to reconsider their position and in 1902 *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, now illustrated in color with her own paintings, was officially published. This proved to be a hugely successful venture for all concerned, and soon she wrote six more books.

Then, when she was nearly 40, a love affair blossomed between Beatrix and her publisher, Norman Warne. Sadly her parents repudiated him as ‘trade’, so the couple were secretly engaged for a whole year. Then, like lightning out of the blue, tragedy struck; Norman collapsed and died of leukemia.

Independence and happiness at last

After this dreadful calamity Beatrix sought solace by restarting her life away from London as an independent woman. Using royalties from her early books plus a small inheritance from an aunt, she purchased Hill Top Farm, complete with 40 acres of land, in the heart of the English Lake District. Here she underwent a complete metamorphosis, to become an expert gardener and an accomplished farmer. She laid out her property with care, allowing space for flowers,



vegetables, and a small fruit orchard. She also raised cows, chickens, pigs and sheep, with her sheep eventually winning prizes in local shows.

Beatrix continued to write books at a steady rate, now incorporating her personal experiences as a gardener and farmer. The observant reader can easily pick out Hill Top Farm, with its distinctive front porch, long straight garden path and stacked stone wall in *The Tale of Tom Kitten*.

And she does not shy away from telling her young readers about the realities of country life, as when Pigling Bland and his siblings are sent to market, or the collie dogs dispatch the Foxy Whiskered Gentleman who had been scheming to cook Jemima Puddleduck for dinner.

She also published a range of what today we might call ‘spin-off publications, such as painting books, wall calendars, china tea sets and more, which made excellent money both for Beatrix and for her publisher.

Finally, at age 47 she falls in love again, this time with her local solicitor friend, William Heelis, and Beatrix becomes a married woman. Over the years Mr. and Mrs. Heelis expanded their land holdings considerably and become actively involved in conservation. Eventually they bequeathed over 4000 acres of some of the most beautiful land in England to the National Trust for the public to enjoy forever.

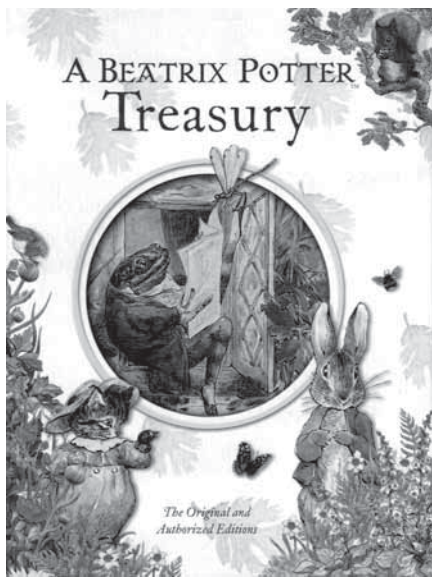
In conclusion

Beatrix Potter was at heart a country woman and finally, through her own resourcefulness, she was able to break free from societal constraints. As she says at the end of the story of Timmy Willie and Johnny Town-mouse: “*One place suits one person, another place suits another person. For my part I prefer to live in the country, like Timmy Willie.*” And now, more than a

century later and like plenty of others, I too prefer the country and have chosen to live in the beautiful state of Vermont.

Judith Irven is a landscape designer and Vermont Certified Horticulturist. You can hear her speak at this year's Vermont Flower Show in Essex Junction: “The Artful Garden—Decorating Our Outdoor Spaces”, 12 noon on Friday, February 27; and “The Armchair Gardener—Regional Gardens to Visit and Enjoy”, at 12 noon on Saturday, February 28. Visit greenworksvermont.org.

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. Dick is a landscape and garden photographer; to see his photographs go to www.northcountryimpressions.com.



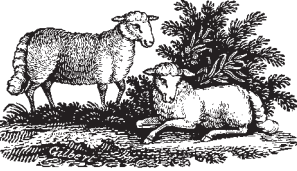
Beatrix Potter



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Bonne Mama And Ice Skating

by Charles Sutton

If the ice is just right (and the snow cleared off) there's much fun to be had ice skating on a country pond or lake. If one gets too cold, shelter is never further away than your parked car.

Seeing skaters reminds me of my grandmother, my father's mother, who insisted on being called Bonne Mama (French for grandmother) because she disliked her first name, Maude.

She was divorced and was a single mother at the turn of the 1900's when such a status was more frowned upon than it is today. She was inventive, fiercely independent, and watched over her son, my father, Frederick, like a hawk. She made sure he did well in school—good enough to earn a scholarship to Cornell University (Class of 1917).

She followed him to Ithaca, NY where she managed a tea house at Beebe Lake on the Cornell campus. I don't suppose Frederick was too happy about it, a son finally getting away from home, but she was smart enough to leave him alone.

Bonne Mama was successful running the tea house, having steady customers from the student body, especially in the winter, who liked ice skating on the lake, which being quite shallow froze early. She hired a student to skate out on the ice and sell hot chocolate from a large thermos to the skaters. But best of all, mounted on his chest was a tin container of warm pastries, donuts and similar treats.

Bonne Mama's variation of 'curb service' on ice was indicative of her clever ways to make ends meet. All her life she did various odd jobs and willingly rented a room in her apartment in New York City for extra income.



photo courtesy of Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University
Ice skaters in an earlier time on Bebee Lake at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

My father only completed two years at Cornell before going into the Naval Air Service during World War I. He attended cadet training just before the war ended. For this service Cornell awarded him, and others who left early for the war, a full bachelor's degree—a much appreciated gesture.

There was no G.I. Bill then to help pay for post-service education, so rather than returning to college, my father started a banking and investment career in New York City.

At some point in life children are no longer looked after by their parents and roles are reversed. From early on my father looked after his mother, and as his income improved, he helped pay for her to move to a nicer apartment. Some years later this 'baton' was passed to a man named Jack Crooks—Bonne Mama's new husband.

My brother Fred and I saw more of our grandmother then, as she and Jack used to visit us at our home outside the city, which she always referred to as 'the farm.' It once was a working farm, but now only had a large victory garden, fruit trees, and chickens raised as part of the World War II effort. Being city-bred and raised, Bonne Mama loved to feast on our garden, going there with a salt and pepper shaker in hand for tomatoes picked off the vine and eaten in the garden.

Part of her independent spirit was shown in the clothes she wore—bohemian with lots of jewelry, especially ornate earrings. I think my father was embarrassed by her earring collection and made sure our mother rarely wore earrings, and then just tiny pearls.

In our mid-teens my brother and I took turns driving Bonne Mama and Jack to 'the farm' for day-long visits. We didn't mind this shuttle service as it was an excuse to drive the family car, an old Pontiac, with our newly-obtained driving licenses. Part of the ritual was loading up the car with their boxes of stuff for the country, including magazines, food and clothing, with an equal number of boxes going back on the return trip.

Jack was an avid card player so one can imagine how delighted he was when he learned both Fred and I had been taught to play bridge. Bonne Mama was not a player, and if mother or father were not available, Jack, Fred and I would bid for the dummy and play against the other two. Jack rewarded us boys—winner or loser—with shiny 50-cent pieces.

When Jack died Bonne Mama's health began to fail. We continued bringing her to 'the farm' to visit for the day, but she always insisted on going home to her apartment, saying she had good neighbors watching after her.

She finally had to come and stay with us, never complaining, and accepting the idea that her end was near.

Our home was at the top of a hill near a steep road leading down to a small pond which my brother and I kept clear in the winter for ice skating. Bonne Mama loved hearing about our adventures there, perhaps reminding her of an earlier, happy time—and the ice skating tradition, now enjoyed by her grandsons.

***"She was inventive, fiercely independent,
and watched over her son, my father,
Frederick, like a hawk."***



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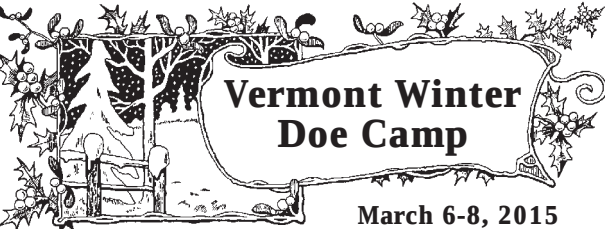


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Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, VT
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New England Fiddle Music: History and Characteristics

On Sunday, February 15, beginning at 2 p.m., at the Lunenburg Primary School, The Town of Lunenburg Historical Society invites the public to meet Burt Porter as he presents "New England Fiddle Music: History and Characteristics."

Mr. Porter will illustrate the talk with lively fiddling. He will explain and demonstrate jigs, hornpipes, and clogs. A comparison of the relationship between Yankee fiddling and New England fife-and-drum and classical violin music will also be examined.

Light refreshments will be served. The program is free and the public is welcome. This presentation is sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council through its Speakers Bureau Program.

The Lunenburg Primary School is located at 49 Bobbin Mill Rd., off Rt. 2 in the center of Lunenburg, VT in the Northeast Kingdom. The school is handicap accessible.

For more information please visit lunburghistoricalsociety.org or call Chris at (802) 892-6654.

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Adventurous Women Return to Winter DoeCamp

Announcing a Winter Retreat for Adventurous Women! Vermont Outdoors Woman is hosting its Annual Winter Doe Camp to be held at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT on March 6-8, 2015. Winter Doe Camp is a women's weekend retreat for outdoor skill development, adventure, education, camaraderie and just plain fun. Registration is now open.

Spend the weekend learning winter outdoor skills while staying near the shores of Lake Morey! Participants stay in heated cabins and play in the snow all day. Delicious, hearty and well balanced meals are served buffet style in Hulbert's sunny dining hall.

New classes this year include: Forest Management and Mismanagement; How to Pick, Pack, & Carry A Winter Backpack; Forest Wildlife Habitat and Management; Map and Compass Skills 1 and 2; Fibers: Weave a Flat Strap; Cheese Making; Planning your Multi-Day Hike; Gourmet Outdoor Eating; Becoming a Deer Hunter; Dog Sledding and more! And of course, the shooting range will be busy all weekend and we'll have many of our most popular classes returning.

Thanks to an incredible lineup of volunteer outdoor educators, we are offering nearly 40 classes such as archery, traditional winter camping, survival, land navigation, ax skills, camp fire cooking, cross country skiing, ice fishing, nature, arts & crafts, handgun, muzzleloader and rifle instruction, Nordic skating, wild fibers, critter calling and more. We will be holding our popular raffle on Sunday and there will be spare time throughout the weekend for socializing by the fireplace.

The minimum age is 15 and minors must be accompanied by an adult. Cost for the all-inclusive weekend program is \$370. Mother/daughter discounts, group discounts for three or more and day rates are available. Don't miss the opportunity to receive an affordable outdoor education in a stress-free, supportive environment.

Sponsored in part by Hulbert Outdoor Center, Vermont Outdoors Woman, Vermont Outdoor Guide Association and Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

For more information on Winter Doe Camp classes, schedules, instructors and discounts visit: www.voga.org/winter_doe_camp.htm. To learn more about Vermont Outdoors Woman, visit: www.outdoorwoman.org or call (802) 425-6211. info@voga.org.

The 15th Annual Northeast Kingdom's Wabanaki Run

The Caledonia Forest and Stream Club is sponsoring The 15th Annual Northeast Kingdom's Wabanaki Run—A Primitive Biathlon Winter Shoot on Saturday, February 28, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is held rain or shine on the club's grounds in St. Johnsbury, VT.

A primitive biathlon takes place on snowshoes instead of cross-country skis and muzzleloading firearms instead of modern rifles.

This is a target shoot for traditional muzzleloaders, hunters, sportsmen, reenactors, shooters, and traders.

Period dress is encouraged—18th, 19th, 20th century soldiers, mountainmen, plainsmen, buckskinners, and settlers, etc.

The course is 1¼ mile long. There are four shooting stations. Classes are for smooth bore and rifled bore

with first place medals for women, seniors over 65, and juniors under 16. There are places to view the course and spectators are welcome. The club's fields and woodlands make for a great outdoor family day and spectator admission is free. Refreshments will be available.

Directions: go 4½ miles north of St. Johnsbury on US Rt. 5, then across the bridge on Pierce Rd. Follow the signs and go .7 mile then turn left onto Field and Stream Rd. and go a short distance to the field.

For additional information and entry forms call Arthur Wood, (802) 748-2528, www.caledoniaforestandstream.com. Write Arthur Wood, Caledonia Forest and Stream Club, PO Box 603, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. The club is also on Facebook.



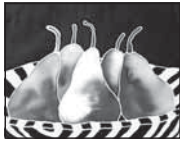
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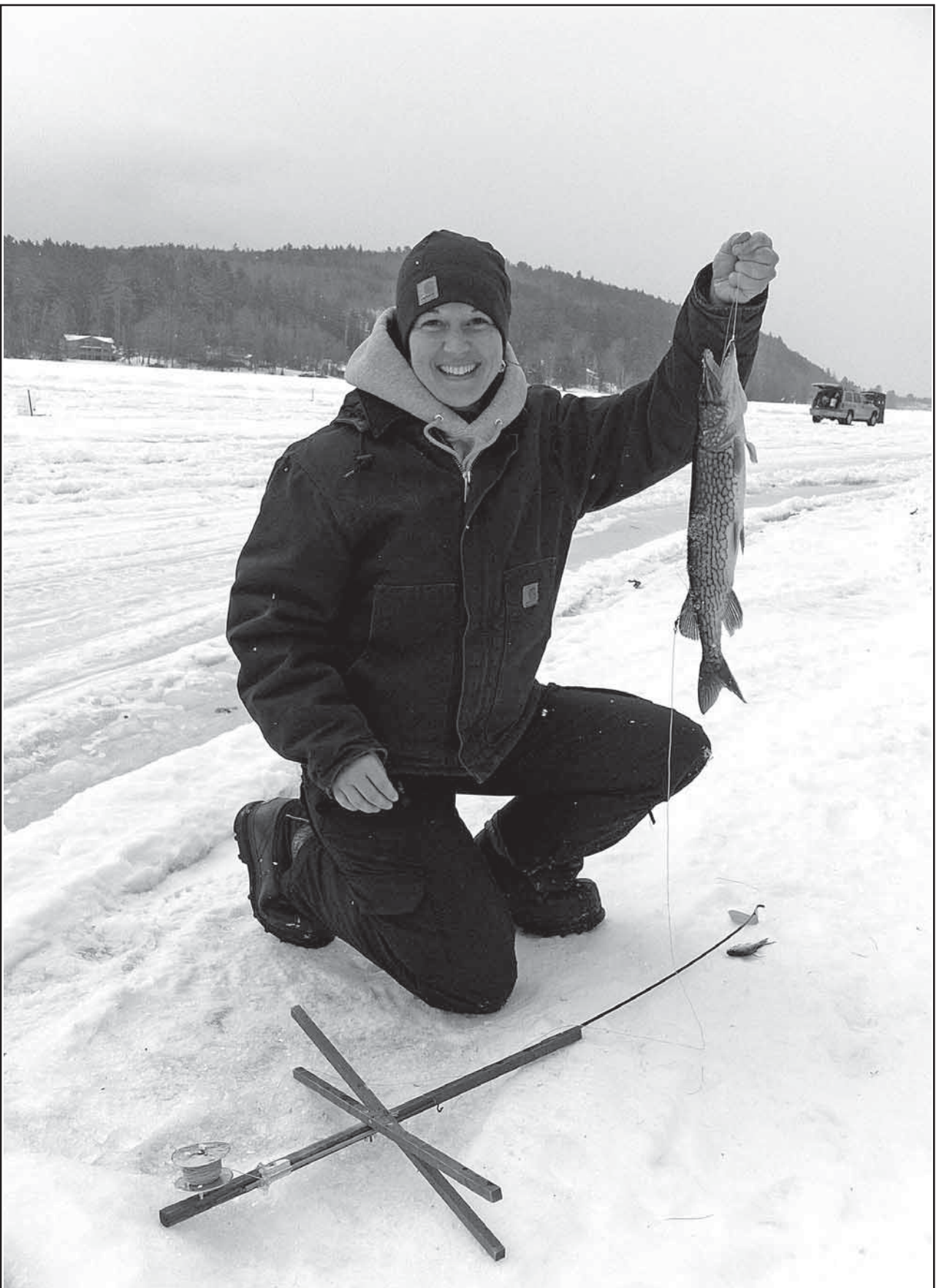
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Learning to ice fish at the Annual Winter Doe Camp in Fairlee, VT. photo by Cheryl Frank Sullivan

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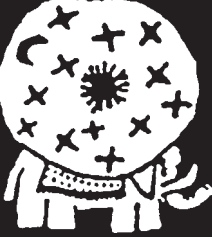
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North Country Book News

The Man from Vermont Charles Ross Taggart The Old Country Fiddler

by Adam R. Boyce

(The History Press, \$19.99, www.historypress.com)

A lone entertainer gives a lifetime of pleasure to countless people all over America in this fascinating biography of Charles Ross Taggart (1871-1953). "Charlie" traveled the country by train and later by car to present one-man vaudeville acts that included fiddling, impersonations, humorous readings, and his own "pianologues"—mostly humor with fine music.

Charlie got his early inspiration and how-to-do-it advice from one-man traveling entertainer Franck G. Reynolds of Boston. Years later this biography's author, Vermonter and fiddler Adam Boyce, relates getting similar encouragement from Yankee fiddler Harold Luce of Chelsea who gave him his first fiddle lessons beginning in 1991. Since then Boyce has composed more than 100 fiddle tunes and fiddles and calls simultaneously for square and contra dances. He does reenactments, mostly through the Vermont Humanities Council, of Charlie Ross Taggart—The Man from Vermont. And we read:

"Taggart added numerous alter egos to his routines called 'character sketches,' changing into different costumes right before the eyes of the audience."

Charlie also performed "ventriloquism, throwing his voice to make it sound as if a little boy were hiding in the nearby upright piano. He referred to this boy as his 'ventriloquial assistant.'"

"He also created a number of original stories and characters, including his famous 'Pineville Folks' monologues, mostly based on real people back home in the East Topsham, VT area."

He was a master of trick photography, appearing in his own photos as two different individuals and differently dressed. Once more, a sign that this was one humorous man.

Charlie performed in a variety of diverse venues which added up into the thousands over all those years: men's and women's clubs, missions, prisons, even on battleships, reform schools, private parties, insane asylums, hospitals, YMCAs, churches, schools and colleges.

In addition to using booking agents, Charlie rented his own halls and did his own publicity through posters and circulars.

Here's how his very first job was recalled by Charlie himself:

"I had a good crowd. Came out of curiosity. The night of the performance, I drove to the village, hitched my horse under the meeting-house shed, then climbed the stairs to the hall, lit lamps, placed a small table by the door, and waited. Admission was fifteen cents, children, two cents. When the hall was fairly filled, I asked a friend to take my place at the door, and the I proceeded to the stage to give my performance."

And here's how the night ended:

"I drove home that night with my heart filled with exultation, and my pockets filled with change."

He ended up with \$7.50 after paying a dollar for the hall and a dollar for printing. "That's the first money my talents ever earned me, but I have kept them busy with more or less success ever since."

Charlie Taggart entertained appreciative audiences in a career that spanned 43 years, traveling by train, and later by car, including a 1921 Ford Model T sedan.

Because he was so hard-working and determined to make people happy, he was able to earn top dollar which was much needed to support his family back home in Newbury, VT. He sent three daughters to college to get the education he never

had: Evelyn, a trumpeter, University of Missouri; pianist Miriam, Smith College, where Charlie's wife had attended; and violinist Elizabeth,

Grinnell College in Iowa. When Charlie was home the family often played together as a "home orchestra" on the family porch.

At the height of his career in the mid-1920s he was earning \$25 per performance, and most of the time \$115 for six performances a week. Charlie's agent, Redpath, booked him into Lyceum tours where Charlie would be by himself traveling from one place to another or Chautauqua summer tours for a set number of weeks. These tours included a caravan of political speakers, prohibition advocates, ministers, singers and entertainers. Charlie was able to rub elbows with the likes of orator and statesman William Jennings Bryan; and at another time he and other performers had dinner with a talkative newspaper editor who became the future President Warren Harding!

Midway through his career, Charlie connected with the Victor Talking Machine Company in New Jersey, eventually making over 40 recordings on their label. He was also recorded by Columbia, Edison and Brunswick in the years from 1911 through 1927.

Although born in Washington, D.C., Charlie grew up in East Topsham, VT. In the later years of his life he lived out-of-state, but returned to New England, settling in Readfield, Maine. Although suffering a major stroke, he continued playing, "doing one-handed piano pieces. He strapped the fiddle bow onto his paralyzed right hand with a loose rubber band." He died on July 4, 1953.

If you are intrigued by The Man from Vermont and wish you could have enjoyed one of his performances, the book's author can take you back to his time and place through live one-hour performances dressed as the old country fiddler character and playing Taggart's music, reading his poems, and talking about the highlights of his life.

The upcoming schedule for these living history portrayals in Vermont include the Jewish Community Center in Stowe, VT, at 3 pm on March 1; the Springfield Town Library, in Springfield, VT at 7 pm on April 1; and Damon Hall in Hartland, VT at 2 pm on May 17.

The Man from Vermont—Charles Ross Taggart, The Old Country Fiddler by Adam R. Boyce is available from your favorite bookstore or bookseller for \$19.99 or it can be ordered from the publisher, The History Press. Go to www.historypress.net.

Book Review

by Charles Sutton

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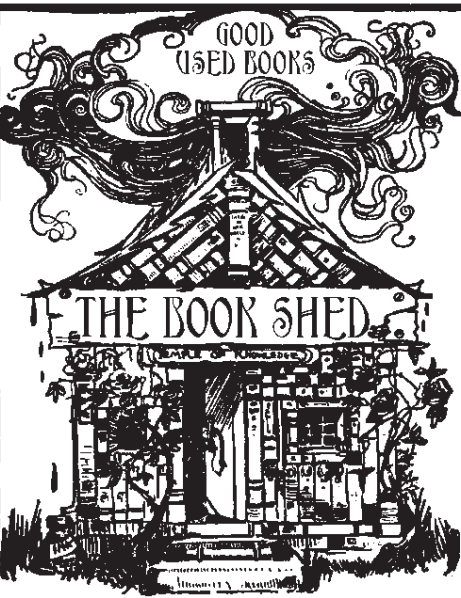
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VT Humanities Council Presents Veterans' Book Group in WRJ

The Vermont Humanities Council is pleased to partner with The Veterans Affairs Medical Center in White River Junction to present their inaugural Veterans Book Group.

This free program will provide an opportunity for Veterans to connect with other Veterans, build relationships, read insightful materials, and share experiences. Former service members who served in combat situations may participate.

The group will explore a wide variety of materials, including books, movie excerpts, poetry, articles, photos, and short stories. Books will include *The Things They Carried*, *Jarhead*, *Redeployment*, and *War*. Participants receive free copies of all readings, and a light dinner will be provided at each session.

This group will be led by Michael Heaney, retired history professor and Vietnam

Veteran and Rev. Mary Lewis Webb, Chaplain at the VA Medical Center.

Meetings take place the 4th Wednesday of the month starting in January 2015, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, VT, in The William Yasinski Research Building (Building 44), Conference Room 103 A.

Schedule includes Wednesday, January 28, Wednesday, February 25 (location change: Building 44, 2nd Floor Atrium), Wednesday, March 25, Wednesday, April 22, and Wednesday, May 27.

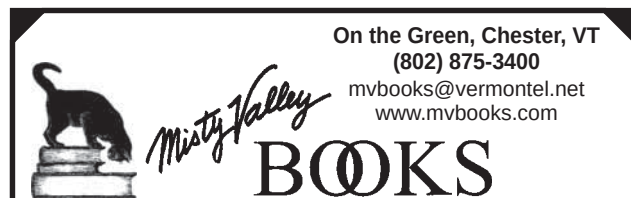
The Veterans Book Group program is offered by the Vermont Humanities Council in partnership eleven other state humanities councils across the country.

To sign up or for more information, contact Chaplain Mary Lewis Webb at: MaryLewis.Webb@va.gov or call (802) 295-9363 x 5417.



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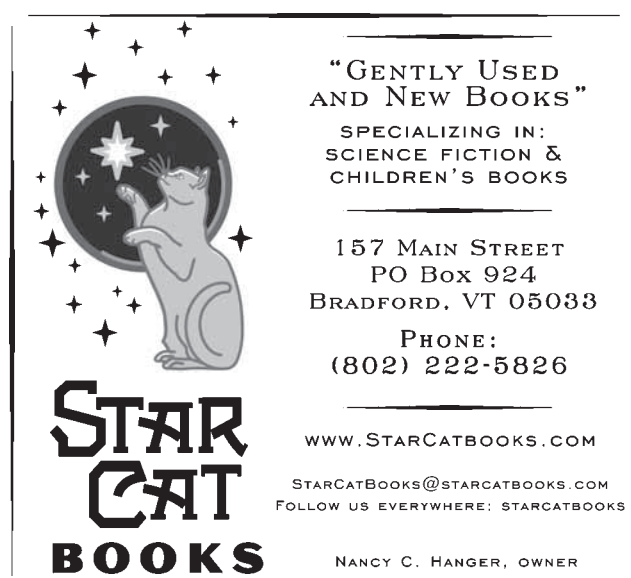
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Folk tales may tell themselves, but when beautifully portrayed as they are in *The Illustrated Treasury of Hans Christian Anderson Fairy Tales* by Russian artist Anastasia Archipova (\$16.95, www.florisbooks.co.uk), they are even more meaningful and enjoyable.

You will be especially pleased with the drawings of the tiny, no-taller-than-a-thumb Thumbelina as she journeys on a lily pad, atop a daisy, finding shelter with a mouse all winter, and rescuing a swallow who later finds her a mate—the king of the flower people, just her size.

This treasury also includes such favorite as *The Emperor's New Suit*, *The Princess and the Pea*, and *The Little Mermaid*.

You will be amazed at the wonderful way the folk stories are illustrated in *The Glass Mountain—Tales from Poland* by Jan Pienkowski, retold by David Walser (\$17.99, www.candlewick.com). Here truly eye-catching paper cutouts done with scissors and pinking shears enliven eight Polish folktales where dragons often command center stage. Inviting names include *The Frog Bride*, *The Warsaw Mermaid* and *The Trumpeter of Krakow*. The book includes a list of words to help up say it in Polish.

During World War II the author (a young boy) and others in a bomb shelter were visited by a soldier who did paper cuts for the children. Jan was mesmerized and he later became the master paper cut artist he is today.

For nearly five decades, the d'Aulaires, a husband and wife team, both writers and artists, created remarkably interesting and beautiful children's books. Now, thanks to the New York Review of Books for reproducing fascinating classics, the *D'Aulaires Book of Norse Myths* by Ingri and Edgar Darin

D'Allaire (\$29.95, nyrb.com), will intrigue the whole family with an unusual glimpse into the world of Norseland myths.

On the opening two-page spread you will see drawings of all the major players in this saga. Among them you'll meet Freya, the goddess of love and beauty whose necklace was the Milky Way; Ull, a shaggy one, the god of skiers; Balder, the god of light and peace; Thor, the thunder god who represents the union of heaven and earth; Tjasse, the storm giant who unfortunately has kidnapped the keeper of the 'apples of youth'; and Berserk (a name common to us), a man in raging fury who wore a bearskin cloak, thereby acquiring the strength of a bear.

Other players as the old world become the new include trolls—some who have many heads; Norns—the spinners of the threads of life; Valkyries—maidens who chose which warriors would die and battle; and the Jotuns or frost giants—personifications of wild and destructive forces in nature.

The stories take place in nine Norse worlds supported by a giant ash tree, Yggdrasil, mythically the embodiment of the universe.

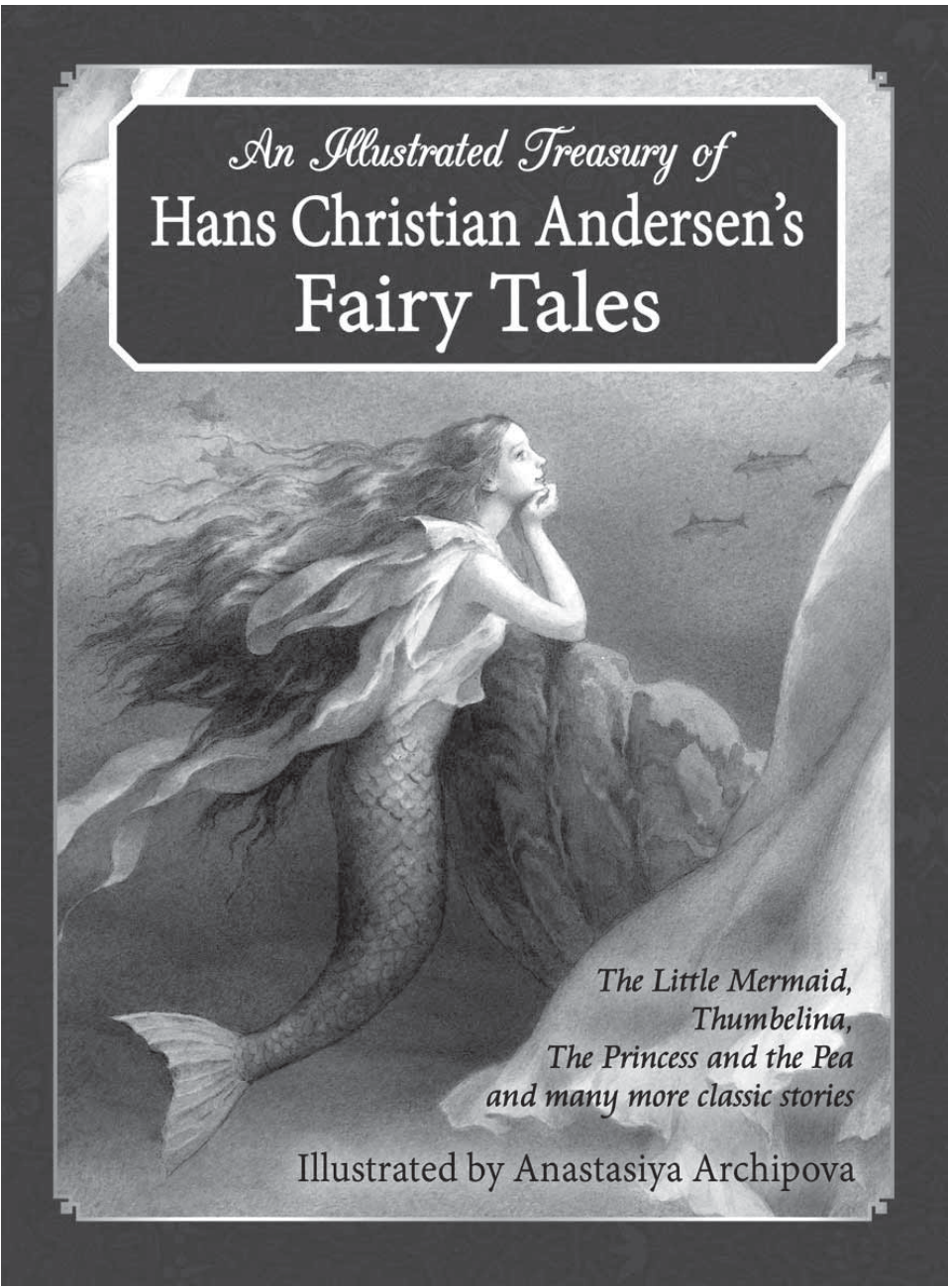
The drawings will surprise you with their inherent humor even in the scariest of scenes. Originally the artists used Bavarian limestone lithography, switching later to acetate sheets, still creating an unusual effect. This wonderful book will entertain you and your family for many an evening.

If they were alive today some of the world's most famous fairy tale writers would be deeply pleased by the exquisite drawings with which Bernadette Watts, of Kent, England, has illustrated their stories.

Bernadette was born in Northampton, England and at the age of six, when she made her first trip to the cinema to see Walt Disney's *Pinocchio*, it was clear to her that she wanted to draw. She grew up to study at Maidstone College of art where her teachers included the now-famous artist David Hockney.

In *The Bernadette Watts Stories and Fairy Tales Collection* (\$34.95, www.northsouth.com), readers can enjoy many double-page after double-page of her artistic masterpieces.

This 310-page large-formatted book includes 18 of the Brothers Grimm folk tales including such favorites as *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Cinderella*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. Other sto-



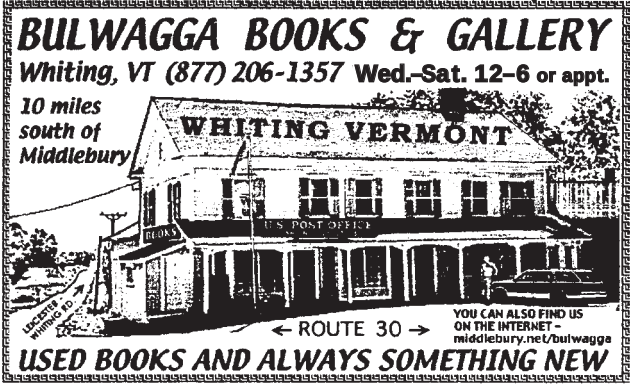
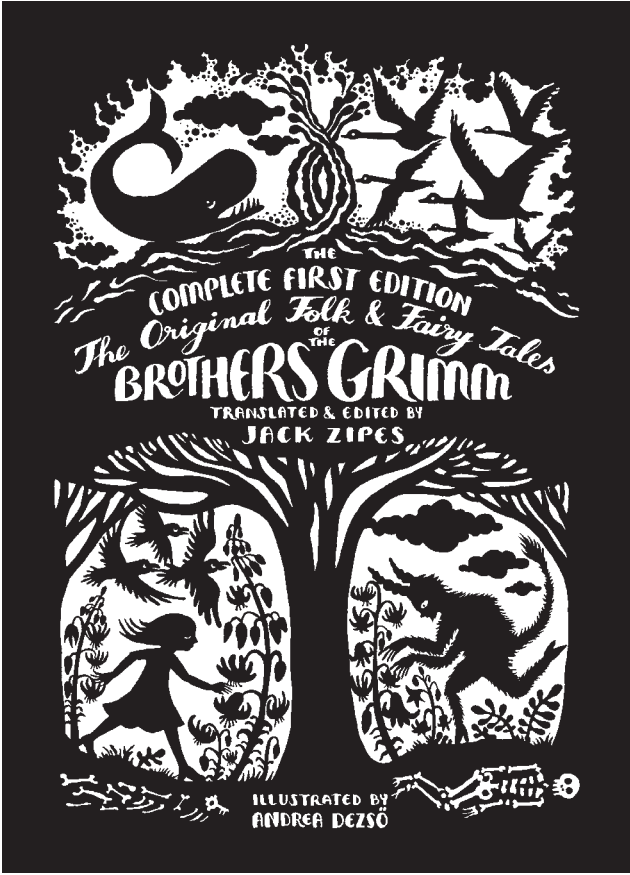
ries in the collection illustrate the works of Hans Christian Andersen, Leo Tolstoy, Jean de La Fontaine, Robert Southey, Gerda Marie Scheidl, and Aesop.

As an extra surprise we have six intriguing stories by Bernadette herself that are just as well written as others in the book, and not surprisingly, enhanced by her beautiful drawings. During her life Bernadette traveled widely in Europe, Asia and Africa which inspired her painted settings for stories from other lands. In her story, *Varenka*, based on a Russian fable, a family is saved when a heavy snowfall hides their house from marauding soldiers.

In her winter story, *The Smallest Snowflake*, a tiny snowflake can't find a special place of her own, but Bernadette comes up with a window box as a good place to winter over. In spring the window box is bathed in sunshine as snowdrop flowers appear and bloom. The Smallest Snowflake had never seen anything so beautiful. "Love filled her heart with such warmth that she melted away with joy. It was spring."

The artist's winter scenes are especially beautiful, and the many animals she so carefully places there will amaze you.

This is a book to keep and enjoy for all seasons.



**The Complete First Edition
The Original Folk & Fairy Tales
of the Brothers Grimm**
Translated & Edited by Jack Zipes

Two centuries ago the German brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published their first volume of *Children's and Household Tales*, followed by a second volume in 1815. In the ensuing years these original 156 stories were heavily edited, rewritten or censored to satisfy the moral and social customs of the time.

Now, thanks to noted fairy tale scholar Jack Zipes, the original stories in all their blunt, sometimes raw approach to the fantastic and absurd situations in people's lives, are available for the first time in this 530-page book. Zipes introduces the fables, legends, myths, and animal stories within their historical context, emphasizing the multiple and original voices of the people who collected and told these stories.

The volume includes eye-catching paper cuts by artist Andrea Dezso as well as 50 largely unknown stories.

The Original Folk & Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm, Translated & Edited by Jack Zipes is available at your bookseller for \$35 or from the publisher, Princeton University Press. Visit www.press.princeton.edu.

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Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

Start your shopping with a trip to a Farmer’s Market and you’ll be pleased at how much of your table can be from Vermont, locally-grown and better tasting, even in the winter. At some markets you can enjoy music and entertainment and most have snacks while you shop.

Bennington-Walloomsac Winter Farmers Markets at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. January through April, first and third Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. info@walloomsac.org. On Facebook.

Bradford Farmers Market, Grace United Methodist Church. Second and fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through April. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-4495. hello bradfordfarmers@gmail.com. facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers’ Market at River Garden, 153 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through March 2015. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. www.postsoilsolutions.org.

Burlington Winter Farmers’ Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. every other Saturday, January 31, February 14 & 28, March 14 & 28, and April 11. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Burlington—UVM Medical Center Farmers Market in the Davis Concourse at the hospital. Every Thursday through May 15, 2:30-5 p.m. Tanya McDonald. tanya.mcdonald@vtmednet.org.

Dorset Winter Farmers’ Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Sundays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through May 5. Carol Adinolfi. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Groton Growers’ Winter Farmers Market at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., through May. Mary Berlejung and Sandi Adams. (802) 584-3595 or (802) 633-3031. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org.

Lebanon, NH—Lebanon Farmers Market at Lebanon Senior Center, 10 Campbell St. Saturdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Kitty and rooster, barnyard friends in Rochester, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

February 21, March 21, April 18. Lindsay Smith, (603) 448-5121. info@lebanonfarmersmarket.org. lebanonfarmersmarket.org.

Middlebury Winter Farmer’s Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Closed January & February; then open Saturdays March 7 through April 25, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jeremy Gildrien & Sharon Kerwin, (802) 989-7223. middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier—Capital City Winter Farmers’ Market. All markets run from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. February 7 & 21 and March 21 at Montpelier High School on Bailey Ave.; March 7 at Montpelier City Hall; March 21 and April 11 & 25 at Montpelier High School. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Northfield Winter Farmers’ Market. Norwich University’s Plumley Armory. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. February 1, March 1, and April 4. Crystal Peterson. (802) 485-5563. northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

Norwich Farmers’ Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. February 14 & 28; March 14 & 28; April 11 & 25. Steve Hoffman, (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Winter Farmers’ Market. Food Center Building at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Wednesdays 4-7 p.m. through May 2. Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org

Sharon Sprouts Farmers’ Markets at Sharon Elementary School. February 14, March 14, 10 am – 1 pm, local lunch

11:30 am – 1 pm. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Winter Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First and third Saturdays through April 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088.

Windsor—The Windsor Farmers Market. First and third Sundays. 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. through May. At the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave. windsor.vt.farmers.market@gmail.com.

Woodstock Winter Farmers Market. At the Masonic Hall at 30 Pleasant St. Saturday, February 21, March 21 and April 18 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Anne Dean, (802) 457-3889. anne ldean@gmail.com.

NOFA-VT Winter Conference: Growing the Good Food Movement

The NOFA Vermont Winter Conference is an annual gathering for Vermont’s farmers, gardeners, homesteaders and foodies featuring three days of learning, inspiration, good food and great conversation on February 14, 15, and 16, 2015 at the Davis Center, University of Vermont in Burlington.

The theme for the conference is “Growing the Good Food Movement” which builds on the important conversations that are taking place locally, nationally, and worldwide about farm and food equity. Many people are working toward a fair and just food system where everyone has access to healthy food, and where the farmers and farm workers who grow that food receive respect and a living wage.

The theme will be addressed throughout the conference in our workshops, the photography exhibit “The Golden Cage”, our featured films, Saturday’s keynote address by author/storyteller Natasha Bowens entitled “The Color of Food: Photography & Storytelling from Farmers of Color,” and in Sunday’s Poetry and Story Slam.

Participants at the conference can also dig into a slew of localvore and homestead-

ing workshops, gardening workshops co-organized by the Vermont Community Garden Network, our Annual Seed Swap, and lots of great music, food, and chances for conversation.

There is a Children’s Conference for the next generation of farmers, gardeners, and foodies with hands-on workshops, art projects, yoga, outdoor play and more. The fee for ages 5-12 is \$30 per day. Visit nofavn.org/childrens-conference.

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont is member-based organization working to grow local farms, healthy food, and strong communities in Vermont. Our members are farmers, gardeners, educators and food lovers of all sorts. Programs include farmer and gardener technical assistance, farm to school support, organic certification, advocacy, an online apprentice and farm worker directory, and the Winter Conference.

Details and registration are online at nofavn.org/conference. The Davis Center at University of Vermont is located at 590 Main St., Burlington, VT. You can contact NOFA-VT at PO Box 697, Richmond, VT 05477. (802) 434-4122. www.nofavn.org.

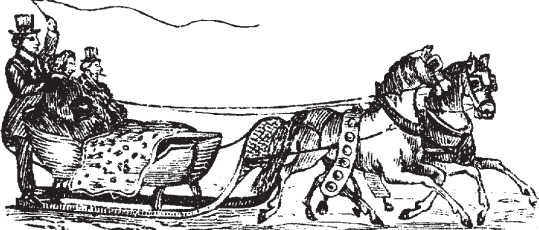


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2076 Corinth. 18x25' Camp, with ½ loft – 90% finished – wired for a generator – 25 acres of land – very private, but access with a car – good views...**Price \$79,900.**

2097 Topsham. 8½ acres of land – surveyed with 990' frontage, on good gravel road. (**Priced over \$5,000 below town assessment**)...**\$25,9000.**

2085 Royalton. 6 acres – driveway and pond – 24x18' horse barn – in-ground septic design – good gravel road...**Price \$74,900.**

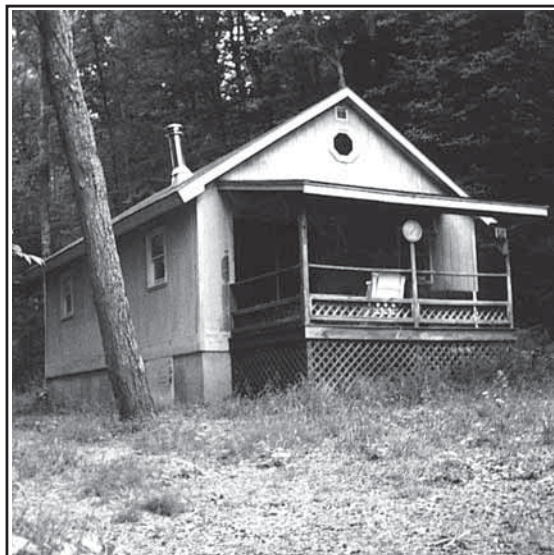


2091 Washington. 4 bedroom cape – older home, but in very good condition – rewired – new 3 zone hot water heat – pellet stove – 1,000 gal. septic – attached barn/garage – town water – 1.2 acres of large back lawn/garden – walk to village...**\$149,900.**

2100 Corinth. Approx. 15 acres – mostly woodland – very private – good get-away and hunting land...**Price only \$16,900.**

2094 Chelsea. 30 acres of land – driveway and campsite on good trout brook – year-round gravel road – close to village...**Price \$44,900.**

2081 Chelsea. Commercial Property – 33 self storage units – permits for 2 more buildings – 5 acres of land, plus mobile home hook up, rental...**Price \$149,500.**



2095 Chelsea. 20x28' Camp – cement foundation – 3 rooms, plus loft – covered porch, gas lights, plus gas cook stove – wood stove for heat – 20 acres land – good gravel road...**Priced to sell \$78,000.**

2086 Royalton. 2½ acre building lot – surveyed driveway and in-ground septic design – small stream – year-round gravel road...**Price \$49,900.**

2096 Orange. 34 acres land – mostly woodland – very private – very good hunting land...**Price \$39,500.**

2083 Chelsea. 50 Acres of Land – good open fields – excellent views to the south – both telephone and electric power on property – good year-round gravel Rd – private building sites...**Price \$200,000.**

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photo by Greg Maino

Ben and Chrissa Turley of Colchester, VT skiing on Section 22 of the Catamount Trail between Bolton Valley and Nebraska Valley.



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