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March 2017

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March Journal

Late Winter Thaws

by Bill Felker

Even though I love staying by the wood stove in late winter, thaws liberate me temporarily from the subliminal, creeping fear that my spiritual woodpile is inadequate for the long nights that still remain. Thaws crack and dismantle the dark cataract of winter across my vision. Thaws call up vague childhood excitement, whisper some ancient truth.

I remember one year—I think it was the last day of school before the Easter break. I must have been in sixth or seventh grade, and I was walking home into a hard, chilling wind. The sun had been shining and tall piles of snow were dissolving. A brook of snowmelt ran down the blacktop toward me, and I felt a joy and a sense of freedom that I have never forgotten.

I remember another year after a great thaw—I must have been only six or seven years old—I pulled on my

rubber boots and went wading in a flooded vacant lot near our house, the water in places maybe six inches deep, and I looked for frogs and fish that could not possibly have been there, but I felt happy in the clear, spring-like wetland.

Will I outgrow my child-like love of thaws, or is it something so primal that even sickness and age cannot suppress it? Even when the future narrows, what is the promise of icemelt? Nameless and precognitive, it cannot be held hostage by words or knowledge, by impossibility or by physical limits. Within the window of thaws, promise outraces and preempts all of the limits of seasons; the deep memory of receding snow, legacy of stone-age ancestors, intuitions and cradles a pure and abiding longing, as though the limits of time and space were only porous atoms to be effortlessly pierced by desire.



photo courtesy of Silloway Maple
Daniel Lambert with his sister Rebecca Ward's kids Devon and Ellis help carry the sap buckets at Silloway Maple in Randolph Center, VT.

Vermont Maple Open House Weekend March 25th & 26th

Sugar makers throughout Vermont will open the doors of their sugarhouses on March 25th and 26th, celebrating sugaring season and inviting visitors in to experience and enjoy this remarkable time of year when pure Vermont maple syrup is made. Whether it's the sight of steam rising from the sugarhouse, the inviting aroma of boiling sap, or the sweetly divine flavor of syrup as enjoyed in traditional sugar-on-snow, visitors are treated to an experience for the senses!

Activities offered at participating sugarhouses include:

- Tours of sugarhouse and woods
- Pancake breakfasts
- Maple candy-making demonstrations
- Live music
- Horse-drawn sleigh rides
- Sugar-on-snow
- Sampling of maple syrup
- Maple donuts, maple cotton candy, maple creamies and other maple goodies to try

on their menus. We invite you to expand your "maple uses" repertoire by visiting our partnering Vermont breweries, distilleries and restaurants.

Have you ever tried a Maple Mojito? Would you like to try a slice of Maple Fennel Sausage pizza? With so much going on for the weekend, we have you covered with a variety of lodging options to make the most of your

visit. Our partnering inns and B&Bs will also feature maple prominently throughout your stay. Whether you're looking for a fun family outing, a couple's get-away, or a weekend experience, there is plenty to see and do!

Come and see for yourself why Maple is the Official Flavor of Vermont!

For more information visit vermontmaple.org.

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Maple syrup and maple specialty products to purchase. Maple sap boils away in an evaporator, almost ready to be drawn off as finished syrup.

New this year, we have grown the event to include additional Vermont businesses who specialize in their own crafts and support Vermont sugar makers by highlighting uses for maple in their products and

The Winter Lamb
Hush now, have you not heard?
Born to the cutting cold,
The winter lamb comes furred—
A white ball slickly rolled,
Well-snouted, dour, absurd.
There in the littered fold
Its first unmuffled word
Is clamorous and bold—
Sleep easy, now you've heard.
—JAMES HAYFORD, 1950

Guilford Church Sugar-on-Snow Supper Set for March 18th

The Annual Sugar-on-Snow Supper at Guilford Community Church, Guilford, VT will be held on Saturday evening, March 18. There are three seatings to choose from, at 4:30, 5:45, and 7 p.m. Prices are \$12 adults, \$6 children age 11 and under, and \$3 for preschoolers.

Directions: take I-91 to VT Exit 1 (Brattleboro), go south on Rt. 5 just past the Guilford Country Store, turn left on Bee Barn Rd., then left again to 38 Church Dr.

The menu features ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, freshly baked rolls, sugar-on-snow, homemade donuts, pickles, and coffee, tea or milk. A half-gallon of maple syrup will be raffled off during each seating.

The Guilford Community Church is one of the five oldest churches in Vermont, founded in 1767. The money raised at the Sugar Supper helps support the church's outreach in the community.

For reservations, please call (802) 254-9019 or email guilfordchurchsupper@gmail.com. Visit www.guilfordchurch.org for more information.



Enjoying sugar-on-snow at the Guilford Supper.

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David Silloway walks down the hill past the sugarhouse while boiling at Silloway Maple in Randolph Center, VT. photo courtesy of Silloway Maple

Randolph Center, VT

Life in the Sugarwoods

by Bette Lambert

My entire life has been spent in the sugarwoods, one way or another. As a child, riding always on the gathering sled or trailer, hanging on for dear life, mittens soaked with sap slopping up out of the filter, and hours in the sugarhouse while Dad boiled. He gave us tastes of hot, fresh syrup, and let us cook hotdogs on wires or sticks, and filling the wood pallet from the woodshed was a constant job. The sugarhouse roof held great appeal, and we lay up there, we our heads over the open flaps in the cupola, wishing we could bottle that sweet steam and breathe it in all year 'round. Dad would swing open the big door of the arch, where the fire roared, and let us cook hotdogs on wires or sticks. And marshmallows. The boiling went on late into the night, and there was always an old couch with a pile of oats to nap in. Dad loved to tell visitors all about the process, and give out samples. Often he would save some sap 'til the next day, special timing for busloads of schoolchildren to see.

I grew and gained the job of driving the bulldozer through the sugarwoods, learning to anticipate just where to stop for each man gathering the sap to pour it into the tank. "Whoa!" was frequently yelled to me. There was some impatience when I drove off the road. It was sometimes hard for a girl to see just where to go, if there was fresh snow. My brother David would take over, backing up and using the blade to push the rig out. The sapsled would jackknife, and there would be some time lost, but he always righted things, and on I'd climb again to drive on. The trip from the home farm woods to the sugarhouse was taken at top speed, often with Stuart driving and singing "Casey Jones" at the top of his lungs. The snow sprayed up from the tracks, and I was on top of the world, a team with my brothers and Dad. At the end of each season came the bucket washing, with Dad holding each one onto a set of revolving brushes in a tub full of sudsy hot water, and me rinsing in another tub. David hauled them to a nearby garage, to stack in pyramids clear to the ceiling, to dry. Mom put the spouts through a lye water boiling, and then

spread them on cookie sheets to dry in our woodstove oven.

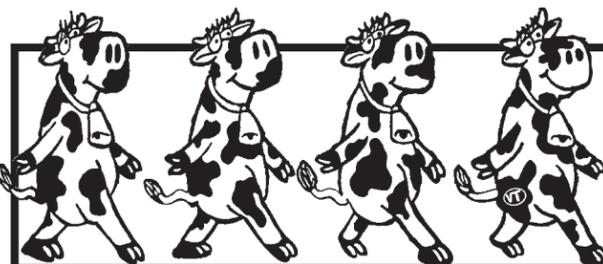
We changed over to tubing in the seventies, and Dad spent the winter making drops (the short section of tubing with a spout on one end) and tying them into bundles of twenty-five. He was comfortable in front of the fireplace. The snow was deep that year, and we trod through the woods with coils of tubing, running from tree to tree. Just like the men now, he had studied all the newest methods and equipment, and took on a whole new way of "gathering". We had tremendous trouble with squirrels chewing the tubing, and the men spent some time in the woods shooting. They even ran an ad for someone to hunt them! The UVM Extension newsletter advised trapping them and letting them go elsewhere. We had a great laugh over that, thinking of our sugarmaker neighbors. Though I hated the change from our traditional buckets and a lifetime of gathering sap with the family, I will say, I do appreciate the complicated and impressive systems of tubing that the men set up, and have come to love "walking the lines", looking them over.

Wool socks. Boot liners. Snowpants. Turtleneck, sweater,

coat, neckwarmer, hat, glove for left hand. Thermos, wire ties, nipper, wire twister, spare glove for left hand, all in back pack. Off to woods. Each time I refill my coat pocket with wire ties, I drink, and rap a hardboiled egg against a tree to crack the shell. Sidestep, twist on a tie, sidestep. Put hand on dog's head to thank him for keeping me company. So silent and beautiful deep in the woods. Trudge along, whistle or sing for awhile. This is work? Everyone should be so blessed.

Bette Lambert helps run the family sugaring operation at Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd., Randolph Center, VT. (802) 272-6249. sillowaymaple@hotmail.com. www.sillowaymaple.com.

Bette wrote "A Farm Wife's Journal", homeschooled her six children on their farm, and currently is the marketer and makes the value-added products for Silloway Maple.



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Billings Farm & Museum Opens April 1st for 35th Season

Opening Day
Saturday April 1st

Billings Farm & Museum celebrates the opening of its 35th season on Saturday, April 1, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. featuring horse-drawn wagon rides, complimentary Wilcox Ice Cream (Vermont's Original Ice Cream), and interactive farm programs. Admission includes the operating dairy farm, restored farmhouse, farm life exhibits, and Academy Award®-nominee film, *A Place in the Land*.

Billings Farm is the only outdoor history museum in the country that integrates a fully-operational dairy farm with educational exhibits and interactive programs. The farm continues a 146-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values. The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution.

Baby Farm Animal Celebration
Friday & Saturday, April 14th & 15th

Billings Farm & Museum Annual Baby Farm Animal Celebration takes place on Friday and Saturday, April 14th and 15th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Farm's most popular event will feature the opportunity to meet the farm's baby animals and enjoy family-centered programs. Horse-drawn wagon rides and heirloom seed and children's craft activities also will be featured.

Our skilled staff will introduce you to the farm's calves, lambs, chicks, ducklings, and goslings and discuss their care, diet, and growth, while you see them up close. Craft activities including making pom-pom chicks and lamb handprints will be available for children.

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

Billings Farm and Museum is open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends November through February 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12.

Admission includes all programs and activities plus the farm life exhibits, 1890 Farm House, working dairy farm, and horse-drawn wagon rides. Adults \$15; 62 & over \$14; children 5-15 \$8; 3-4 \$4; 2 & under free. For more information call (802) 457-2355 or visit our website at www.billingsfarm.org.



Brand new lambs with their mother in the barn at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Bennington, VT

Exhibit of Advertising Dolls at the Dollhouse Museum

Campbell's makes soups. Heinz makes ketchup, canned beans and many other foods. The Fisk Co. made tires. Aunt Jemima pancake mix has been around since 1889, Cola-Cola since 1885, and Cracker Jack, which is considered by some food historians to have been America's first junk food, albeit a tasty one, since 1896. One thing they have in common is that over the years they all used dolls in their advertising. And the new permanent exhibit at the Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont in Bennington, VT showcases more than two dozen of these kinds of advertising dolls, all of them from the collection of the late Earlene Smith of Londonderry.

The Dollhouse Museum features many dollhouses and hundreds of dolls, along with puppets and vintage

toys for boys, including model trains, planes, and toy soldiers. The new collection of advertising dolls includes several versions of the Pillsbury Doughboy, who is known as "Poppin' Fresh"; a Dutch Boy doll from the Dutch Boy Paint Company; and two "Little Debbie" dolls from the McKee Food Company, whose founders began selling cakes from the back seat of their 1928 Whippet automobile during the Great Depression and which now sells more than 900 million cartons of the Little Debbie snacks that are named for a granddaughter.

One of the most popular early dolls was a 1905 Aunt Jemima cloth doll that was offered to customers of the pancake mix. It was a flat printed piece of cloth that would be cut, stitched and stuffed by the customers

for their children. Most of the early dolls were sold cheaply or given away not in toy stores but in the grocery stores where the products were sold.

The advertising doll collection includes one representing the Fisk Tire Company, which was a major manufacturer of tires in the 1920s and whose ads featured a young boy in pajamas holding a candle and ready for bed, with the company motto: "Time to Retire".

Another is a young girl in a yellow dress holding a yellow umbrella and a container of Morton's Salt, in keeping with the company's boast that unlike other salts it didn't cluster and harden when damp, the company slogan being: "When it rains, it pours." Two others date back to the 1995 centennial of Cola-Cola, which originally was a patent medicine that contained coca leaves and kola nuts. It was created by John Pemberton of Atlanta, Georgia, who was looking for an alternative to

the morphine he had become addicted to after suffering a Civil War wound.

"We think this is an exciting and educational addition to the museum because it tells us a good deal about how popular brands that we now take for granted came to be," said Jackie Marro, the owner and curator of the museum. "It's fun the know that the model for the Little Dutch Boy was really an Irish-American boy named Michael Brady who happened to live near the artist who painted the logo in 1907, and who himself grew up to be a well-known political cartoonist."

The Dollhouse and Toy Museum at 212 Union St. in Bennington, is opened Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2 for children over three, \$4 for adults and \$10 for families. More information can be found on the museum's website, dollhouseandtoy-museumofvermont.com or by calling (802) 681-3667.

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The Morton Salt Girl will be on display at the Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont in Bennington.

Chester, VT

2017 LEGO Contest is Coming on March 18th

The 2017 LEGO Contest is taking place on Saturday March 18th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NewsBank Conference Center in Chester, VT. This event is open to LEGOmaniacs Pre-K through Grade 8 and their families and interested observers.

Participants should construct their original creations (no kits allowed), with a maximum size of 24" x 36", and bring them on March 18 between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to the Conference Center, generously donated by NewsBank for the event. Entries will be judged in different grade categories from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for their originality, imagination, and presentation. If a structure is a team entry, the age of the oldest member will determine the grade category. There is also a separate family team class for collaborating children and parents. Unique motorized LEGOs will be considered in a separate section.

At 12:30 p.m. LEGO prizes will be awarded to winners and runners-up in the different classes, with special awards for the Judges' choice for Best in Show and Most Vermont creations. The Creators' Choice Award will be given to the entry that the contestants themselves vote as the most outstanding creation.

Refreshments will be on sale to encourage everyone to stay and view the different entries, as well as to share ideas and techniques during the judging. Again this year young people may create an additional construction at a special LEGO station. They will not be able to remove their creation from the special area and won't be able to enter them in the contest, but this is a good opportunity for students to construct something different, perhaps with a friend, for some additional fun.

The registration form may be downloaded from the special events section at www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org, www.ourchester.org, or www.chestertelegraph.org. Printed forms are available at the Whiting Library on Main St. in Chester, at Chester-Andover Elementary School, and at the Library and the Elementary School in Grafton, VT.

Entries by Friday, March 10 are \$10. After that date and on the day of the contest, entries will be \$15. A check for the registration fee should be made out to "St. Luke's Church" and mailed, along with the registration form, to the Registrar, Lillian Willis, PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

Sponsored for the sixth year by St. Luke's, this event will benefit both the church and the Children's Section of Chester's Whiting Library.

The NewsBank Conference Center is located at 352 Main St., in Chester, VT. For additional information, please contact Lillian Willis at (802) 875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.



A young entrant with her Pretty Princess Castle at the LEGO Contest in Chester, VT.



Two boys playing with the LEGO Football entry and others looking on. This entry was by two seventh-grade boys and was awarded Best in Show in 2016.



Bellows Falls, VT

St. Patrick's Fiddle Frenzy at the Stone Church

The Stone Church on the Hill, Immanuel Episcopal Church, in Bellows Falls, VT, presents the 12th Annual St. Patrick's Fiddle Frenzy on Friday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m., celebrating the Emerald Isle, and our own fair land, with Celtic music and more.

This year they are excited to welcome a young, high energy band from Boston, OctoPladd!

OctoPladd is a band that plays melodious and heartfelt music while also funky

and occasionally goofy, not unlike their name. United by their roots in bluegrass, they draw on myriad influences to produce Appalachian melodies tempered with chromaticism and groove. *Bluegrass Today* says they are "Remarkably talented young pickers." And Joe K. Walsh says "OctoPladd comprises four of the most exciting instrumental voices now emerging in the acoustic string band world..."

The quartet combines the

sweeping lines of Julian Pinelli's violin with the snap and groove of mandolinist Ethan Setiawan. Sam Leslie adds tasteful guitar sauce, supported by the powerhouse Noah Harrington on bass. They met in Boston's thriving roots music scene and their hope is to create music with an electric edge.

Avery Merritt will be performing in this concert in the place of Julian Pinelli. Avery is a Boston based multi-style fiddle player. He has played fiddle since the age of four and plays bluegrass, jazz, and alternative styles. At the age of eight after his introduc-

tion to classical, his interest turned to bluegrass studying with Phil Salazar. Avery won first place in both advanced fiddle and band categories at the Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Competition. His interest in jazz led him to study with Christian Howes at the Creative Strings Academy where he played with Billy Contreras and many other premier jazz violinists.

Tickets are \$45, \$20, \$15, \$10. The Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St., Bellows Falls, VT. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. www.stonechurcharts.org.



Julian Pinelli, Noah Harrington, Ethan Setiawan, Sam Leslie of OctoPladd from Boston will perform at the St. Patrick's Fiddle Frenzy in Bellows Falls this March 17.

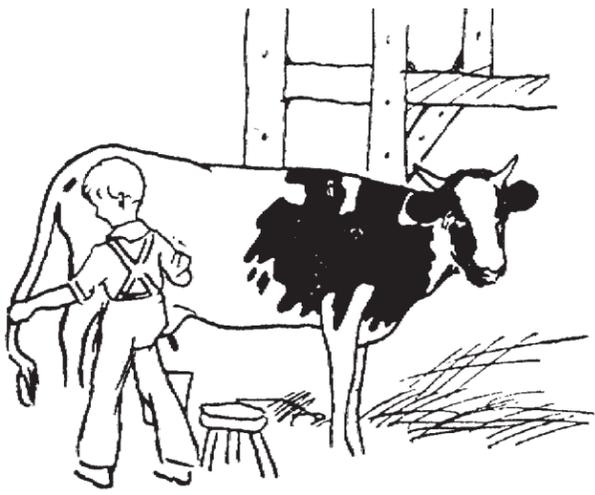
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 Refreshments at noon. Presentation at 1 pm.



The Natural Calendar

Gardening and Farming Notes

by Bill Felker

March 1: Spring is the time to complete the culling process. If your animals are tagged, and if you have kept good records, you may make the best decisions.

March 2: Frost-seed the pastures where the ground is still freezing and thawing on a regular basis.

March 3: Today is lunar perigee day: Expect storms and stress on friends and animals.

March 4: Watch to see at what water temperature your fish activity increases. Supplement the fishes' diet as breeding time approaches. Or you may choose to just catch the fish!

March 5: Chickens are happiest and work more when their water is between 50 and 70 degrees.

March 6: Make a plan for pasture rotation in order help control parasites.

March 7: Transplant collards, cabbage broccoli and kale to the garden as conditions permit.

March 8: As the days lengthen, watch for your mares to come into heat.

March 9: Plan a food plot in your woodlot to attract deer. One of the favourite browse foods for deer is clover, especially if it is planted near oak trees.

March 10: How many chickens are enough? About a dozen birds can provide eggs for a family of four.

March 11: Daylight Saving Time begins tomorrow: Set clocks ahead an hour before bed tonight.



A hayrake sits in a snowy field in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

March 12: Full moon today: Expect cold, wind and snow.

March 13: Consider mixing a little grain with milk if you can feed your kids and lambs.

March 14: Scout for wild turkeys flocking.

March 15: The mass flowering of violets and dandelions will arrive in three or four weeks: a great time for bees!

March 16: Watch for termites to swarm near old barns and outbuildings.

March 17: St. Patrick's Day: Plant peas and potatoes as conditions permit.

March 18: Check weight of kids and lambs every two weeks in order to track weight gain or loss. Why not weigh yourself, too!

March 19: Organize paperwork for animals you plan to sell or show.

March 20: The season of flowering fruit trees is underway through the South: time for a quick trip down the coast in search of Spring.

March 21: May apples emerge around the time morel mushrooms appear.

March 22: Transition livestock slowly to fresh pasture.

March 23: A small amount of fresh lawn clippings can be a welcome spring supplement for your chickens.

March 24: When to wean your kids? Some rules of thumb are: 1) when the kid is eight weeks old, 2) when the kid has tripled its birth weight, 3) when the kid is chewing its cud.

March 25: Spray fruit trees with dormant oil on milder days under the darkening moon.

March 26: Consider using your extra goat milk to fatten up your weaner pig.

March 27: Today is new moon day: Increased chances for ice and snow.

March 28: Consider planting nutritious ladino clover and alfalfa in your hog pasture.

March 29: Clean and disinfect the henhouse as winter turns to spring.

March 30: Lunar Perigee occurs today: More late ice and snow

March 31: Full moon time is approaching (arriving on the 11th): the recommended lunar practice is to dehorn, castrate and tattoo your kids one week before or after the full of the moon.

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Starting Tomaters in Vermont

When March's ripping, roaring steeds
Begin to slow up some,
It's time to plant tomaters seeds
And wonder if they'll "come,"
"That paper bag — where is it gone,
With paper scraps inside
To which the seeds was sticking on,
Like ladybugs that's dried?"

"Hunt up the old chipped sasser now,
That b'longed to Grandma Gough;
We'll soak the buggers, anyhow,
And watch the pink come off;
And here's the boxes, full of dirt
As rich as Burbank tills,
The sun can't say that he'll feel hurt
To see our windersills.

"They'll soon poke up their heads and arms
Right through the meller sile,
And stand as straight as little palms
Along the sacred Nile;
Them boxes, painted household green,
Are pretty apt to bear
The biggest plants — that cracked tureen
Sucks in the winder air.

"They like warm water, dishpan broth
Jest stimulates their veins;
They need a little grease and froth
To ease their growing pains;
By George! they're cute as little kings
That strut upon the stage,
As though they'd do tremendous things
When they become of age."

They grow so fast it takes a stick
To hold 'em up that's stout;
They get to be as tall and thick
As rozbries, jest about;
The preacher asks for thirteen plants,
Which makes your heartstrings pull,
And both your husband's in-law aunts
Take home their aperns full.

One eve in May you're pretty glad
To transferplant the lot;
Of course, at first they wilted bad,
The moon shone out so hot;
But soon they got to growing grand,
They blossomed and they bore,
The neighbors begged and et and canned
And you had three or four.

—DANIEL L. CADY
Windsor, VT 1926

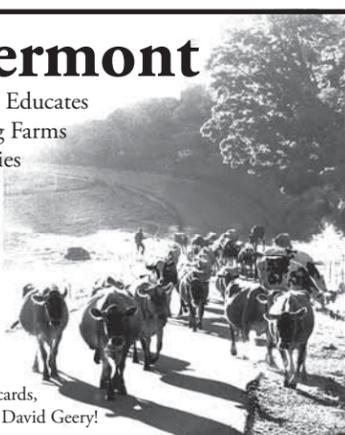
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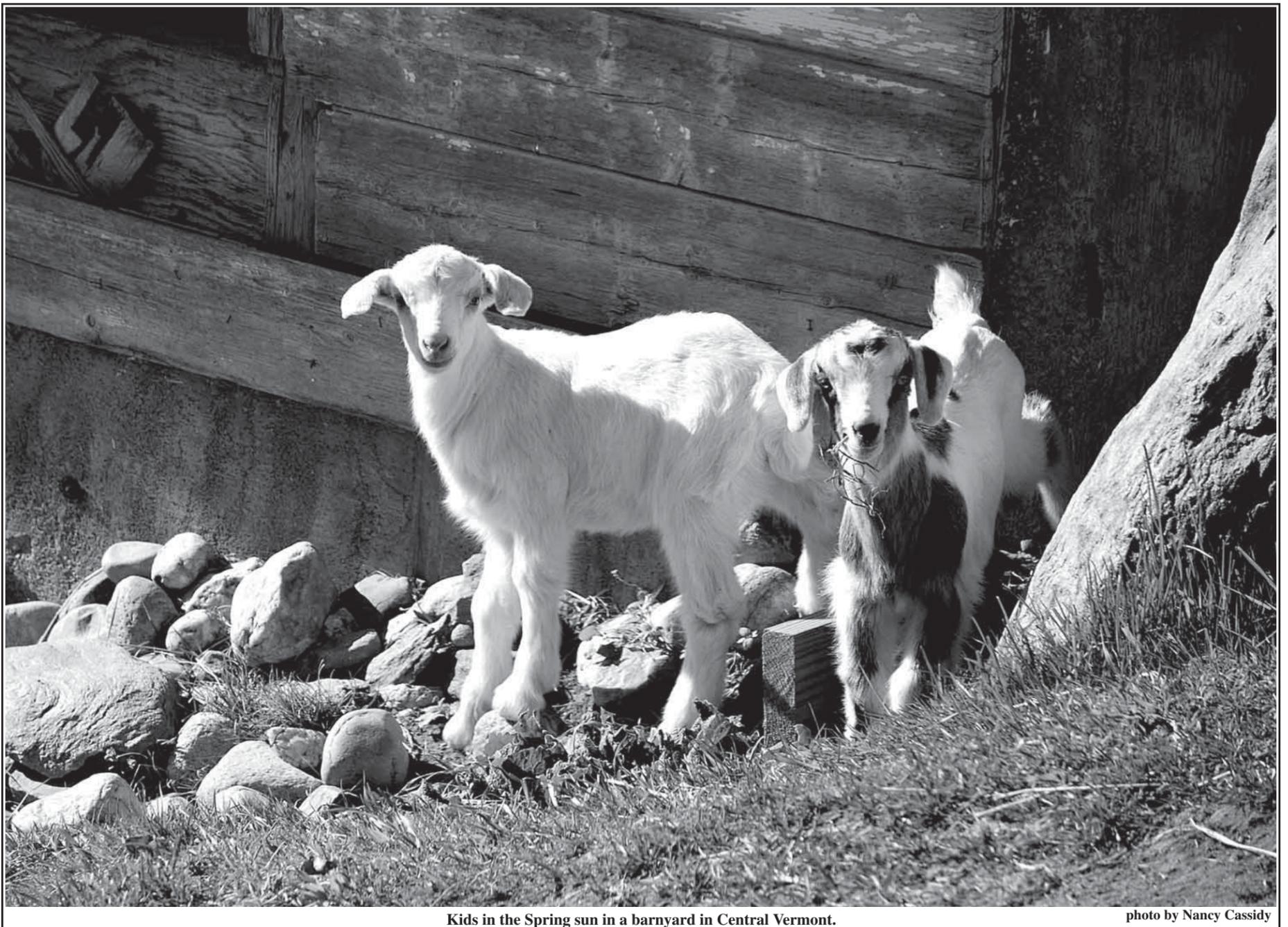
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including this photo from John David Geery!



Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
Vermont Chamber of Commerce: visitvt.com
Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/t9/gmfl
Discover Vermont Vacations: discoververmontvacations.com
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
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Kids in the Spring sun in a barnyard in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

A Vermont Almanack for Early Spring

by Bill Felker

And so we celebrate
renewal of the world:
happy are they
who find their love therein,
their heart's desire.

—Manuscript of Benedictbeuern

The Sun's Progress

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12. Equinox occurs at exactly 5:29 a.m. March 20. The Sun enters the middle spring sign of Aries on March 21.

Phases of the Maple Flower Moon and the Apple Blossom Moon

When the maple trees flower, then the best of sap tapping is over and the earliest wildflowers arrive in the woods. Then come all the crocuses and the daffodils.

March 3: Lunar perigee (when the moon is closest to Earth)

March 5: The moon enters its second quarter at 6:32 a.m.

March 12: The Maple Flower Moon is full at 9:54 a.m.

March 18: Lunar apogee (when the moon is farthest from Earth)

March 20: The moon enters its fourth quarter at 10:58 a.m.

March 27: The Apple Blossom Moon is new at 9:57 p.m.

March 30: Lunar perigee (when the moon is closest to Earth)

The Stars

Cancer and Gemini lie in the center of the evening sky on east.

The Planets

At the end of March, Venus is the bright morning star, low in the east before dawn. Jupiter enters the western sky before sunrise. Mars moves retrograde, its red glow complementing the scarlet eye of Taurus along the western horizon after dark. Saturn, in Sagittarius, travels above the southern tree line as the Sun brightens the east.

Meteorology and Peak Activity Times for Livestock, Fish, Game and Dieters

Weather history suggests that high-pressure systems reach the Northeast around March 3, 5, 10, 14, 19, 24 and 29. Lunar perigee on the 3rd and 30th, full moon on the 12th and new moon on the 27th increase the chances for severe weather near those dates.

Fishing and hunting may be most rewarding and dieting could be most frustrating near these dates at midday when the moon is new, in the afternoon and evening when the moon is in its first quarter, at night when the moon is full and in its third quarter, in the morning when the moon is in its fourth quarter.



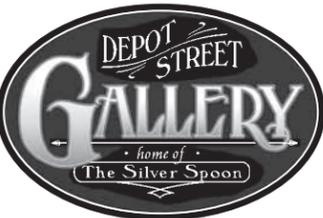
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Early Springtime Cooking with Maple

Maple Cooking Tips

from Vermont Maple Festival Cookbook

Measuring—Syrup tends to “hug” the sides of the measuring cup or spoon so first grease the container lightly then scrape out all the syrup.

Method of mixing—Combine syrup with liquid in recipe or melt shortening then mix thoroughly with liquid shortening.

Grades—Grade A Dark Amber or Grade maple syrup have a stronger flavor and will yield more maple flavor in a flour batter. In an icing or other cooking where delicate flavors are found, use fancy or grade A Medium Amber.

How to experiment—Start by using the lesser amount and remember to record the amounts and your results. If the results are not what you want, don’t quit. Try again and increase syrup if sweeter product is wished. If it is dry, don’t decrease liquid as much. If texture is too coarse, you probably need to mix syrup and liquid shortening more thoroughly. If it has a burned outer edge, lower oven temperature.

In making jellies—Maple syrup usually is not used as a substitute because the flavor fights with the flavor of the fruit. If you substitute, you can only substitute for ¼ of the sugar in order to have a proper jell formation.

Other uses—Baked beans, apple pies, pickles, ham sauces or glazes, sweet potatoes, candied carrots and others.

Hard Sugar—Use any grade maple syrup. Heat the syrup to between 252° and 257°F. Remove from heat and begin stirring the hot, thick syrup immediately. Continue stirring until crystals form (syrup begins to stiffen). Pour the partly crystallized syrup into molds to harden.

Granulated (stirred) Sugar—Use any grade Vermont maple syrup. Heat the syrup to between 252° and 257°F. Begin stirring immediately and continue stirring until granulation is completed.

Sugar-on-Snow—Use fancy or medium amber Vermont maple syrup. Heat the syrup to between 234° and 238°F. Without stirring, pour the syrup immediately onto the snow or ice; it will form a glassy, taffy like sheet of candy.

Substituting Maple Syrup for Granulated Sugar: what to do instead of using one cup of granulated sugar—Use ¾–1 cup of maple syrup, because maple syrup is less sweet than granulated sugar. If you like sweet muffins use the larger amount of syrup. If you prefer something not as sweet, use only ¾ cup.

Decrease liquid to 2 to 4 tablespoons per 1 cup syrup used, because syrup contains more moisture than the solid granulated sugar which the recipe called for.

Add: ¼–½ teaspoon baking soda (note exception), because maple syrup has a slight acidity which needs to be neutralized for the batter to rise and form properly. (Do not add soda if recipe calls for buttermilk, sour milk, or sour cream since these liquids do the same thing.)

Decrease oven by 25°F, because the maple syrup will tend



photo courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society Library
Sugaring with oxen in Vermont in the early 1900’s. The women here were most probably from Windham, VT, the home of the photographer Henry Luther ‘Harry’ Chapman (1875-1967), and might have been members of his family.

to caramelize and burn on the top and edges before a batter using a solid sweetener like sugar.

Maple Meringue Bars

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| ¾ cup butter | ½ teaspoon baking powder |
| ½ cup sugar | ¼ teaspoon salt |
| 1 egg, separated | 1 teaspoon vanilla, almond or maple extract |
| ¾ cup flour | 1 cup Vermont maple syrup |
| ½ cup chopped walnuts | |

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cream butter and sugar, add egg yolks and beat until well blended. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Add to egg mixture, beat well. Add flavoring and beat. Spread in bottom of greased 9”x9” cake pan. Sprinkle chopped nuts on top. Boil maple syrup to 233°F. Beat egg white until stiff and gradually add hot syrup, beating constantly. Spread meringue over crust and bake at 350°F 28 minutes. Yield: 16 bars.

Maple Gingerbread Squares

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ¾ cup Vermont maple syrup | 2 eggs |
| ½ cup milk | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| ¼ cup brown sugar or granulated maple sugar | ¼ teaspoon salt |
| ½ teaspoon baking soda | 1 tsp baking powder |
| ½ teaspoon ginger | ½ teaspoon cinnamon |
| | 1½ cups flour |

Combine maple syrup, eggs, milk, vanilla, and brown or granulated maple sugar. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into greased 9” square baking pan. Bake at 350°F 25–30 minutes. **Maple Glaze:** 1½ cups confectioner’s sugar, ½ cup Vermont maple syrup, 1 tablespoon water. Mix well and drizzle over warm cake.

Maple Egg Nog

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| ½ cup Vermont maple syrup | 3 well beaten eggs |
| 2 cups milk | ¼ cup brandy or rum |
| ½ cup heavy cream (whipped) | (may omit) |
| | ½ teaspoon ginger |

Combine ginger, eggs, milk, maple syrup and salt, beat until well blended. Add the rum or brandy. Pour into glasses. Top with whipped cream.

Maple Johnny Cake

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ⅓ cup Vermont maple syrup | 1½ cups flour |
| ⅔ cup cornmeal | 3 tablespoons baking powder |
| ½ teaspoon salt | ⅔ cup milk |
| 2 eggs | ½ cup melted shortening |

Sift flour, cornmeal, baking powder and salt together. Beat eggs. Add milk, maple syrup and eggs. Add dry ingredients then melted shortening. Bake in a 9”x9” pan at 350–375°F 20–30 minutes. Recipe may also bake 12 muffins.

Maple Bran Muffins

| | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 cup commercial sour cream | ⅔ cup Vermont maple syrup |
| 3 well beaten eggs | 1 cup all-purpose flour |
| 1 cup all-bran | 1 teaspoon baking powder |
| ½ cup each raisins and chopped nuts | ½ teaspoon baking soda |

Combine cream, syrup and eggs. Mix sifted flour, baking powder, baking soda, bran, raisins and nuts. Add liquid to dry ingredients and mix quickly. Pour into greased muffin tins. Fill ⅔ full. Bake in 350°F oven about 20 minutes.

Earth Waits

Here where the mountain laurel comes to bloom
Like great white sheep who graze without a sound,
And deer come loping down steep cattle runs,
Are old lost meadows waiting to be found.
White birch and alder crept across these fields
Where long ago the summer grasses swayed
And stone walls tumbled to the patient earth
Where once the eager children laughed and played.
Now mountain silence lies upon the land
For city streets have claimed its hill-born men;
But hands remember how to hold a plow
The good earth waits; they will come back again.



—INEZ GEORGE GRIDLEY
1908-2005, Grahamsville, NY

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photo courtesy of Merck Forest & Farmland Center

Visitors enjoy a pancake breakfast on the deck of the Frank Hatch Sap House at Merck Forest & Farmland Center in Rupert, VT during the annual Maple Celebration.

Rupert, VT

Come to Merck's Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast

Sweet! It's time for Merck Forest & Farmland Center's Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast in Rupert, VT. This festive occasion is part of the Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Open House Weekend on March 25-26, to recognize the hard work that goes into sugaring operations. It's also an opportunity for good food and family entertainment.

All are welcome to join the fun. Guests ride in a horse-drawn wagon up to the Frank Hatch Sap House where the staff will serve MFFC-raised breakfast sausages, locally-grown eggs, pancakes drizzled with Merck's Vermont-certified organic maple syrup, Tall-Cat Coffee, Battenkill Creamery products, and juice. The cost for breakfast is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children aged 4 to 12, and free for children younger than 4. Tickets are available at the door, and breakfast will be served from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There are a variety of family-oriented activities to enjoy. After breakfast, visitors may check out the maple-tap demonstrations, explore the property on the self-guided scavenger hunt, and visit the new babies in the Small Animal Barn. Thirty miles of mountain trails are open to hikers.

The Pancake Breakfast is also the perfect opportunity to become part of the Merck Forest family: a membership table will be located in the Sap House where you can learn about the benefits of a membership in Merck Forest & Farmland Center.

Directions: Merck Forest & Farmland Center is located between Rupert and Dorset, at the top of the very large hill on Route 315 (Rupert Mountain Road). Please do not rely solely on your GPS: once you reach the top of the big hill on

315, turn into Merck Forest's Driveway. If you start going downhill, you've missed the driveway.

Upcoming Events

Pruning Workshop: Apple Trees & Blueberry Bushes. March 4, 2017, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$20 pp. Please call (802) 394-7836 to register.

Sheep Shearing School. Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. Fee to audit \$50 per day; one-day hands-on shearing fee \$150; two-day hands-on shearing fee: \$275 (second day is at Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, VT.) To register for this class, contact Jim McRae at (802) 483-2463 or vtshearer@yahoo.com.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization located in the Taconic Mountains of southwestern Vermont. The Center's mission is the sustainable management of its forest, the promotion of innovative agricultural practices on its upland farm, the education of local students in outdoor exploration and the study of natural sciences, and the creation of recreational opportunities for individuals, families and school groups. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rte. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.



photo courtesy Merck Forest & Farmland Center
Take a horse and wagon ride at Merck Forest & Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.



photo courtesy Merck Forest & Farmland Center
Visit the baby lambs at Merck Forest & Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

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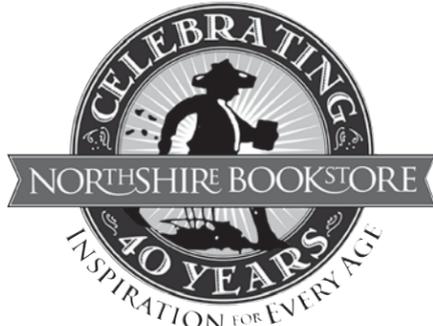
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Maplefest 2017!

Producers of Vermont's delicious maple syrup products are at work once again tapping their maple trees and boiling the sap. Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce looks forward to celebrating the season with its Maplefest 2017! This year's celebration of the beginning of spring in Vermont will be held on Saturday, March 25th and Sunday, March 26th, all over Poultney.

Maplefest 2017 will include a fun run, a pancake breakfast, tours of maple sugar houses, horse-drawn wagon rides and maple story time, video of the maple process, a big craft fair, a basket party, and a maple supper. And the opportunity to sample sweet treats such as maple fried dough, sugar-on-snow, maple sugar candy and maple cotton candy.

Register for the 5-K Fun Run now by going to www.poultneyvt.com. The first 35 paid registrations get Maplefest T-shirts! You can also register on the day of the race at 9 a.m. at the Poultney High School.

Take part in the workshop: "Cooking with Maple Syrup—Make a Meal with Maple." Come by yourself for \$5, or bring a couple of kids with you for just \$10. The workshop features recipes for delicious pastured pork from the GMC Cerridwen Farm and other locally sourced products. Learn to cook it with maple, and follow up by eating the results! Eleanor Tison and her crew make it fun. Pre-register at www.poultneyvt.com or pick-up a form at Williams Hardware, Stitchy Women, The Original Vermont Store, and Stone Valley Market, all in Poultney.

Visit the Maplefest Craft Fair where you can peruse loads of handmade crafts and local products, including painted sap buckets, yarn, knitted items, jewelry, greeting cards, sachet, photographs, art glass, wood and tin products, jams and pickles, quilted items, wooden bowls, goat milk soap, displays of art, and more. There will also be delicious baked goods and food specialties.

- Here are some of the other events to look forward to:
- Maple sugarhouse tours on both Saturday and Sunday.
 - Town-wide Maplefest celebration on Saturday starting at 8 a.m.
 - Stonebridge Visitors Center opens at 8 am, with maps to sugarhouses, event schedules, and maple scavenger hunt entries.
 - Pancake breakfast with real maple syrup topping at the United Methodist Church, Main Street, hosted by the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee and the Poultney Rotary.
 - Maplefest bag sales: get 20-25 percent off any non-sale items you can fit into the green recyclable bags!
 - Vermont Sweetwater Bottling Company products available. Maple fried dough and other maple specialties from Pelletier's Maple.
 - The historic Bentley House Bed and Breakfast and Bird-house Inn Bed and Breakfast are holding open houses with tours and complimentary snacks.
 - Local restaurants have maple specialties on the menu all day long.



photo courtesy of Poultney Chamber of Commerce
Visitors enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride around town during Poultney's Maplefest.

- An official "Maplefest Tree Tapping Ceremony" will be held at 10 a.m., with Representative Patti McCoy and a special guest doing the honors.
- Horse-drawn wagon rides through downtown Poultney.
- Maplefest craft fair at Poultney High School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch and refreshments available.
- The Poultney Historical Society will open the historic East Poultney Schoolhouse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with tours and exhibits.
- Maple story time at the Poultney Public Library at 11 a.m., including songs, crafts, and a special maple snack.
- Maplefest basket party at St. Raphael's Parish Hall on E. Main St. starts at 11 a.m., with drawings starting at 1 p.m. Soup and sandwiches from the St. Raphael's Catholic Women's Club.
- Poultney First Annual Maple Sugar Flag Football Tournament to raise money for the Shrine Hospitals.
- Poultney's own Maple Sugar Bear will be based at the

Stonebridge Visitors Center to welcome guests, but will also circulate through the town. Have your picture taken with the Sugar Bear! He will also be giving out sugar maple seeds throughout the day.

- Maplefest Dinner at Young At Heart Senior Center in Poultney, which is handicapped accessible. Dinner will include maple glazed ham, maple sweet potato mash, vegetable, beverage, and a choice of desserts including maple bread pudding.
- Photos from the event by Linda Atwood from At The Woods Photography.

People from all over the area are converging on Poultney that day. Come along and bring your family. You don't want to miss out on the fun!

For more information call Mary Lee at Stitchy Women at (802) 468-5370 or visit the Poultney Area Chamber website at www.poultneyvt.com.

Visit a Vermont Maple Sugarhouse This Spring!

- Audubon Vermont**, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington, VT. (802) 434-3068. vt.audubon.org.
- Bragg Farm Sugarhouse and Gift Shop**, 1005 VT Rt. 14 North, East Montpelier, VT. Doug and Barb Bragg, (802) 223-5757. www.braggfarm.com.
- Couture Maple Shop / Bed and Breakfast**, 560 VT Rt. 100, Westfield, VT. Jacques and Pauline Couture, (802) 744-2733. www.maplesyrupvermont.com.
- Dakin Farms**, 5797 Rt. 7, Ferrisburgh VT. Sam Cutting IV, (802) 425-3971. www.dakinfarm.com.
- Dutton Berry Farm**, 3083 Depot St., Manchester Ctr, VT. Paul and Wendy Dutton, (802) 365-4622.
- Evans Maple Farm**, 61 Spaulding Hill Rd., East Dummerston, VT. Faith Evans, (802) 257-0262. www.evansmaplefarm.com.
- Goodrich's Maple Farm**, 2427 US Rt. 2, Cabot, VT. Glenn and Ruth Goodrich, (802) 426-3418. www.goodrichmaplefarm.com.
- Green Mountain Sugar House**, 820 Rt. 100 N, Ludlow, VT. Doug and Ann Rose, (802) 228-7151. www.gmsh.com.
- Green's Sugarhouse**, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd., Poultney,

- VT. Richard and Pam Green, (802) 287-5745. www.greensugarhouse.com.
- KandS Ruane Maple Sugar Farm**, 128 Mountain View Rd., Tinmouth, VT, Kevin and Sherri Ruane. (802) 446-3105.
- Krueger-Norton Sugarhouse**, 780 Button Hill Rd., Shrewsbury, VT. Art Krueger and Trish Norton, (802) 492-3653. www.kruegernortonmaple.com.
- Limlaw Family Maple Farm**, 246 VT Rt. 25, West Topsham, VT. Bruce Limlaw, (802) 439-6880. www.limlawmaplefarm.com.
- Merck Forest and Farmland Center**, Sugarhouse Address: 3270 Rt. 315, Rupert, VT. Laurie Martin, (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.
- Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks**, 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. Burr Morse, (802) 223-2740. www.morsefarm.com.
- Shelburne Sugarworks**, 746 Shelburne-Hinesburg Rd., Shelburne, VT. Steven Palmer, (802) 233-4408. www.shelburnesugarworks.com
- Silloway Maple**, 1089 Silloway Rd., Randolph Ctr, VT. David Silloway, (802) 728-3625. www.sillowaymaple.com.
- Smith Maple Crest Farm**, 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd., Shrewsbury, VT. Jeff and Mary Smith, (802) 492-2151. www.smithmaplecrestfarm.com.
- Sugar and Spice Restaurant and Gift Shop**, 43 Rt. 4, East Mendon, VT. (802) 773-7832. vtsugarandspice.com.
- Sugarbush Cheese and Maple Farm**, 591 Sugarbush Farm Rd., Woodstock, VT. Lawrence and Elizabeth Luce, (802) 457-1757. www.sugarbushfarm.com.
- Wood's Cider Mill and Sugar House**, 1482 Weathersfield Center Rd., Springfield, VT. Willis and Tina Wood, (802) 263-5547. www.woodsidermill.com.

For a full listing of sugarhouses around Vermont visit the Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Association at www.vermontmaple.org.

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The Passing Era of St. Mark's Church

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

When I walk down Castleton's Main Street past one-time Saint Mark's Episcopal Church—now the home of a young family—it's hard for me to believe what the place was like in the 1970s when my husband and I were part of a tiny, high-minded, high-church, Anglican community led by young Father Monty, who lived in the rectory next door with his wife Marion and their two small children.

Marion was a quiet, sheltered woman, in contrast to larger-than-life Monty. She once sat on a Rutland jury that convicted a burglar. Her boundless compassion was such that it tortured her the man had been found guilty, and she came to me, the only attorney in our little congregation, to ask if she could make it up to this person by sending him quite a bit of money she'd inherited.

I feel a lot of nostalgia thinking back to this incident and to the tiny community of people—all dead now, or moved away—who went to Saint Mark's Church in the seventies and were part of the world Father Monty created.

We always had a round of activities outside of Sunday morning services. Every spring, the Episcopal Bishop came down from his Rock Point diocesan headquarters to visit. Following an afternoon's liturgical extravaganza, we trooped across Main Street in a procession headed up by the bishop and Vermont celebrity author Keith Jennis to Gladys', Mrs. Count Orlovski's, grand house for a formal tea.

Then there were the one-morning-a-week Dartmouth theology lectures. We Saint Markians solemnly gathered at 47 Main Street in the Leenman family's serene, sunny, living room, with avocado plants on the window ledge and spider plants hanging overhead, and waited for a driver, who as soon as it was finished, raced the morning's lecture over the mountain from New Hampshire. While we were waiting, Mr. Leenman, a Dutch pastor, played music recorded by the Catholic monks at Weston Priory.

Later in the seventies, probably to boost our numbers—which never grew, we Saint Markians started having pot luck suppers in the church basement, a place that was tiny and dark and flooded in the spring. However, on late fall evenings the basement was a dry and cozy spot. We had candles and ate on discarded cable spools from Carris Reels. It was like being safe in a cave with all your best friends.

Upstairs in the sanctuary, we followed what seemed to be a liturgical calendar from 1930s England. For example, during Lent, Monty told us that Mothering Sunday was coming up, and he gave everyone a recipe for Simnel Cake, which, ingredient-wise, looked like World War II rationing was still in effect.

I went home and made this Simnel Cake, and it was delicious. We all brought our cakes in and shared them, as tradition dictated.

On Palm Sundays, Monty, gloriously robed, led us three times around the church building – not much of a trek. Usually we were trudging through thin, wet snow, and always loudly singing entrance-to-Jerusalem type hymns.

When Count Orlovski died, my husband went to the funeral at Saint John's across the street and came home to tell me that he was startled at how plain Catholic liturgy was in comparison to ours.

As the seventies wore on, ever-ecclesiastically-restless Monty became more extreme. One Sunday morning, we arrived to find that he'd spent the night pulling out all the Saint Mark's seating. We walked into an empty room, discarded



The lovely little former St. Mark's Church in the summertime in Castleton, VT. The building is now a private residence. photo by Wenger Rehlen

pews piled up against the wall. Monty told us that this was how the earliest Christians worshiped, standing together around a primitive altar.

I realized the limits of my commitment to Monty's vision when I became pregnant with my first child. There were no youngsters in our congregation, and ecstatic Monty began planning a grand christening. But four generations of my family, including me, had been baptized down the street at the Federated Church, and I knew I wasn't going to turn my back on that. I had a premonition that my family church would be there long after Saint Mark's was gone.

More than just my letting him down, Monty was experiencing other personal disappointments, and was moving away from high church Anglicanism toward the mysticism of Russian Orthodoxy. He bought icons and started singing different hymns.

And then one day Monty told us that he was leaving Saint Mark's, and entering a Russian Orthodox monastery. His children were going to boarding schools. Marion would join a Russian Orthodox convent not far from her husband.

An era was over. With new leadership, the little mission station church struggled on for a few decades more, and then was disbanded, deconsecrated, the building sold as a residence.

I know it's all changed inside, and there's a kitchen now

at the head of the sanctuary, but I remember so powerfully Saint Mark's dim interior on winter evenings, the smell of old incense, the dull gleam of the communion plate, and the tiny red wink of the seemingly-eternal sanctuary light.

Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, VT. She is the author of stories, articles, essays and magazine features, and of two books: *The Blue Cat and the River's Song* (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and *The Vanished Landmark's Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye* (\$20 plus shipping and handling) available at the Castleton Village Store, P. O. Box 275, Castleton, VT 05735, and at a number of Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-5027.

"Then one day Monty told us that he was leaving St. Mark's, and entering a Russian Orthodox monastery."

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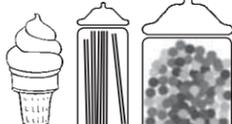
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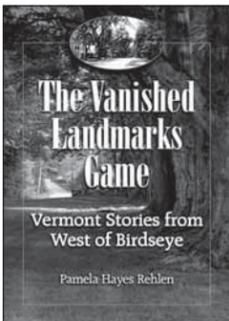
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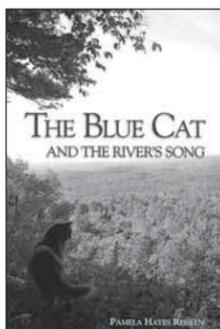


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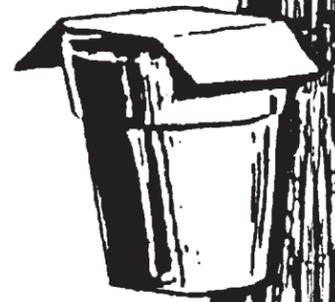
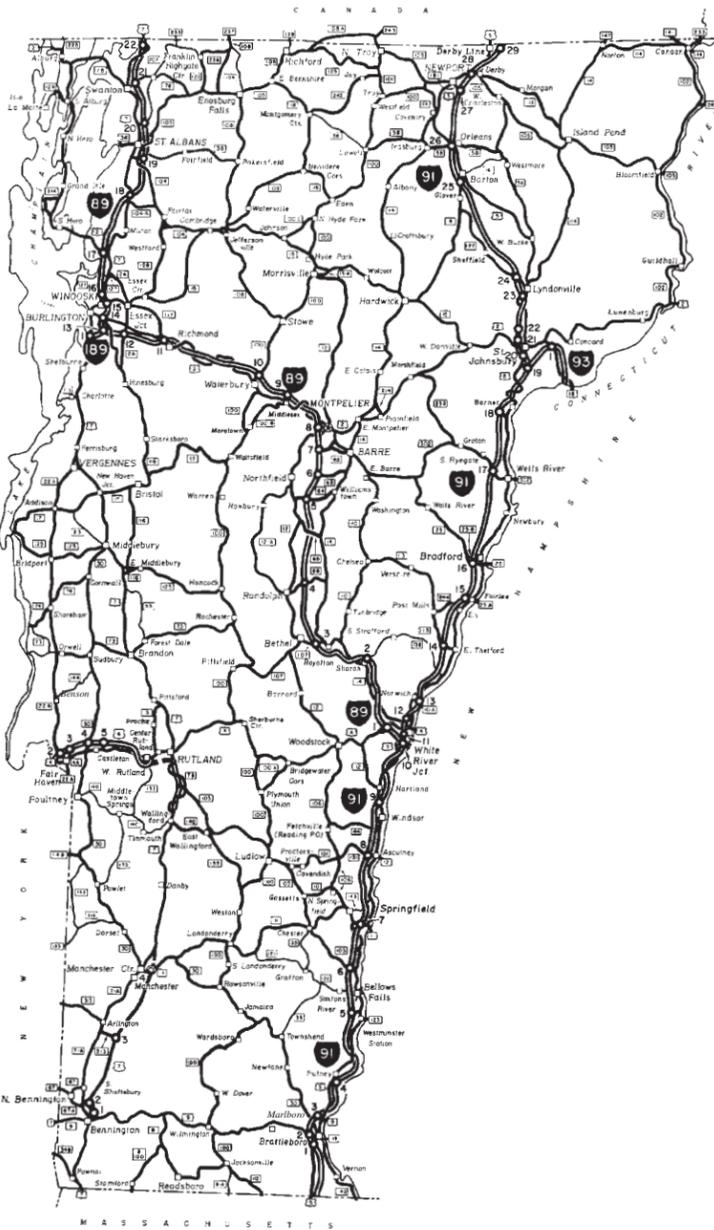
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Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities; museums, exhibits, and galleries; and winter farmers markets.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

BRANDON. Antiques and Collectibles Sale. 10 am – 2 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center at Park Village, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. info@cmacvt.org. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Ice Fishing Derby at Retreat Meadows, adults \$7, juniors \$3. Family Day at Brattleboro Area Middle School Gym, \$2 per child, 10 am – 1 pm. Retreat Farm open barn, free, 12-4 pm. Sleigh/Hay Rides, 1-4 pm, at Fairwind Farm on Upper Dummerston Rd., adults \$8, 12 and under \$4, call (802) 254-9067. Murder Mystery Dinner at the American Legion, \$35 per person, 6 pm. Call or visit website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. brattleborowintercarnival.org. Also February 26.

BURLINGTON. Brurlington Winter Bash. Winter celebration for kids. Yummy comfort food for sale. Free. 12 noon – 3 pm. 130 Gosse Ct. (801) 881-7767. eallen@burlingtonvt.gov. enjoyburlington.com/event/brurlington-winter-bash.

CASTLETON. 45th Annual Great Benson Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Rotary. For all legal species on all VT waters and Lake Champlain. Check-in at Crystal Beach on Lake Bomoseen, Rt. 30. (802) 558-2561. fairhavenrotary@gmail.com. Also February 26.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 18th Annual Vermont State RV & Camping Mega Show. Adult \$7, children under 16 free with adult. Free parking. 10 am – 7 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (772) 631-7920. www.eastcoastshows.com. Also February 26.

GRAFTON. Fifth Annual Winter Carnival. Skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, and ice skating. Ice Bar: local libations 2-7 pm. Tickets available at the gate. Ice Bar tickets sold separately. 9 am – 4 pm. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. www.graftonponds.com.

HARTLAND. Roast Beef Supper. All welcome. Price: \$7-\$15. 5-7 pm. Hartland Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792. Also March 4.

NORWICH. Contradance. Featuring music by Gypsy Minor, with caller Nils Fredland. Admission \$9, students \$6, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Community dance at 6:30 pm. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Musicians from Marlboro perform Thomas Adès's Arcadiana, piano trios by Haydn and Fauré and Brahms's String Quintet in G Major. Tickets: \$35, students \$10, kids 5 and under free. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. www.vtfiddleorchestra.org. www.youngtraditionvermont.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 29.

SOUTH POMFRET. Concert: Wheezer & Squeezer. Jeremiah McLane and Timothy Cummings present a rare and masterful Old World blend of traditional dance repertoire from Brittany, central France, and the British Isles, as well as original compositions. Tickets \$15. \$20 with CD. 7 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. South. (802) 457-3500. www.artistreevt.org.

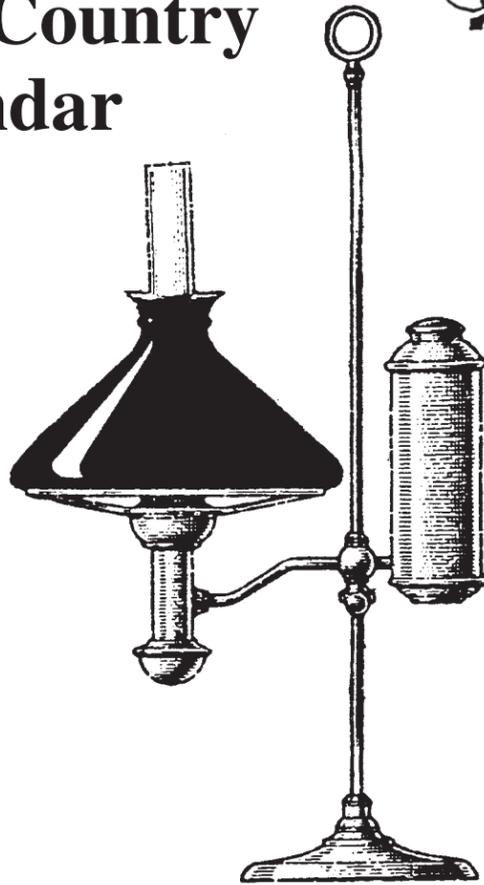
ST. ALBANS. St. Albans Town & City Firefighters Associations Perch Derby. For Yellow Perch on Lake Champlain. 7 am to 3 pm. Check-in by Lazy Lady Island. (802) 309-8701. Jasonbonnett79@gmail.com.

WOODSTOCK. Sleigh Ride Weeks at Billings Farm. Hop aboard our horse-drawn sleigh pulled by our team of Belgian or Percheron draft horses for a tour of the farm. Presidential cookie favorites and spiced cider will also be offered. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep – all inside for the winter – and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. 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. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

BRATTLEBORO. 61st Annual Winter Carnival. Brattleboro Figure Skating Club Ice Show at Nelson Withington Skating Facility, adults \$7, students \$3, 2 pm. Princess Pageant at BUHS Auditorium, \$6 admission, 3 pm. Withington Memorial Hockey Cup, Nelson Withington Skating Facility, free, 4:15 pm. Call or visit website for schedule. (802) 348-1956. brattleborowintercarnival.org.

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RUTLAND. Musical: *Marry Me a Little*. A musical revue featuring songs by Stephen Sondheim. Tickets: \$20. 7:30 pm; Feb 26 matinee 2 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org. Also March 2-4.

STOWE. 72nd Annual Stowe Derby. One of the oldest and most unique ski races in North America. It started in 1945 as a personal challenge between two amazing skiers—Austrian, Sepp Ruschp who was hired to come to America and head the new ski school at Stowe and Erling Strom, world famous mountaineer from Norway—to race from the top of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak to the historic village of Stow on one pair of skis! 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. Stowe Mountain Resort. (802) 253-7704 x 22. stowederby@teammssc.org. www.stowederby.com.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

BURLINGTON. Concert: The Chieftains. Majestic tin whistles, soaring fiddles, thunderous bodhrán drums, and concertinas redolent of the verdant hills of Ireland. Tickets: \$25-\$70. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnitix.org.

WOODSTOCK. JAGfest. Polkadots—The Cool Kids Musical; book by Melvin Tunstall III, music by Greg Borowsky & Douglas Lyons; lyrics by Douglas Lyons. Admission free, reservations required. 10 am. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 332-3270. JAGProductionsVT.com.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

BURLINGTON. Concert: Tommy Emmanuel with special guest Joe Robinson. Fingerstyle guitarist Emmanuel operates as a one-man band who handles the melody, the supporting chords and the bass all at once. Tickets: \$48.79/\$39.11. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnitix.org.

BURLINGTON. Mardi Gras Party featuring Planet Zydeco and Yankee Chank plus Katie Trautz and Alec Ellsworth, to benefit the Tom Sustic Fund. Tickets: \$10. 7-10 pm. Hotel Vermont, 41 Cherry St. (855) 650-0080. www.hotelvt.com. youngtraditionvermont.org.

SHOREHAM. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Menu includes pancakes with maple syrup, latkes with applesauce, sausage, home fries, and beverages. Cost: adults \$7, children \$4, family \$20. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Shelf. 5-7 pm. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Michael Arnowitt, Pianist. Program includes Igor Stravinsky's ballet *The Rite of Spring* and other pieces written in 1911 by Ravel, Schoenberg, Bartok, and Rachmaninov. Free. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. townhalltheater.org.

NORWICH. Program: Celebrating E.B. White. Drawing on his stories, essays, poems, and letters, Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumrine celebrates White's versatility and enormous legacy. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Free. 7-8:30 pm. Norwich Congregational Church, 15 Church St. (802) 649-1184. www.norwichcongregational.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, meats, cheeses, and crafts. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.

Sowing Herbs and Other March Gardening Tips

by Leonard Perry, UVM Horticulturist and Charlie Nardozi, Garden Consultant

Sowing herbs indoors, growing shamrock plants, and planning crop rotations for this year's vegetables are some of the gardening activities for this month.

Probably the biggest gardening project for March is to start transplants. Cabbage, broccoli, and other cole crops that can be set out early in the spring, as well as slow-growing flower varieties like verbena, pansies, and petunias, can all be started this month. But wait until April to sow seeds for tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and most flower varieties that cannot be transplanted until the danger of frost has past.

Starting herbs

To get a jump on the herb gardening season, start seeds of basil, parsley, sage, and thyme indoors. Start seeds in flats filled with moistened seed-starting mix. Once the seeds germinate, place the plants under grow lights for 14 hours a day (timers make this easy) and keep soil moist.

Check the seed packet to determine if the seeds can be started indoors or should be sown directly in the ground when the weather warms up. Starting seeds indoors not only gives you a jump on the growing season, often leading to earlier harvests, but also allows you to have many varieties you can't find at greenhouses and garden stores.

Keep in mind that seed catalogs and packets often give "days to germination" which is the time for seeds to sprout, not the time until they are ready to plant outside. You can find these times for the above plants, and more, online (pss.uvm.edu/ppp/consumer.html) in the Vermont Extension leaflets on Indoor Seed Sowing for Flowers and Vegetables.

Rotate your crops

As you begin planning and planting your vegetable garden beds, remember to rotate crops: avoid planting crops in the same family in the same spot more than once every three years. Tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant are in the same family; so are squash, cucumbers, and pumpkins. Many pests and diseases overwinter in the soil, so moving plants around can disrupt their life cycles and minimize your need for pest and disease controls.

The familiar St. Patrick's Day shamrock plant is available at florist shops and many grocery stores this time of year. It has tiny, dark green, triangular leaves and grows to a height of about six inches. Shamrocks like cool air, moist soil (except in their dormant period), and bright light. Ideal temperatures are between 50 and 65 degrees (F), and over 75 degrees may cause plants to become dormant. Soils should not be kept too wet or waterlogged.

Checking your outdoor perennials

Take a walk around your yard to check for perennials that may have heaved out of the ground, exposing their roots to drying winds. Gently tamp them back into the soil or, if the soil is too frozen, surround them with mulch as protection, tamping them down later.

Other gardening activities for this month include watching for and attending flower and garden shows, signing up for a garden tour this summer (pss.uvm.edu/ppp/forpecon.htm#tours), taking stock of gardening supplies, and removing winter mulch from perennials.

Leonard Perry is a UVM Horticulturist, leonard.perry@uvm.edu., www.uvm.edu. Charlie Nardozi is a nationally known horticulturist, author, gardening consultant, and garden coach; gardeningwithcharlie.com.



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Wednesdays 3-6 pm, starting November 2
Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, starting November 5

**Vermont Farmers Food Center,
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Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

POULTNEY. Game Night. Games for young children as well as adults. Bring your own or play ours. Experienced game players help new players get started. 7-10 pm. Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St. (518) 282-9089 or (802) 287-5556. poultneypubliclibrary.com. *Thursdays through March 23.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

EAST MONTEPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Watch sap boiling in our big wood-fired evaporator and taste the new crop of maple syrup. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through mid-April.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Flower Show. Three days of a spectacular 12,000-square-foot indoor landscape. Over 100 vendors, 35 workshops, experts on hand, family room, plant sale, landscaped display with moving trains, books, local artists. Food available. Adults \$16, seniors \$12, children 3-17 \$5, two-day pass \$25, three day pass \$35. 10 am - 6 pm. Champlain Valley Expo Center, 105 Pearl St. (802) 425-5117. greenworksvermont.org. *Through March 5.*

FAIRLEE. Winter Doe Camp: A Winter Retreat for Adventurous Women. Cost (all inclusive): \$390; discounts and day rates available. Hulbert Outdoor Center, (802) 425-6211. www.voga.org. *Through March 5.*

MONTEPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" - sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am - 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*

RUTLAND. Concert: Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, with some very special guests - their children! This fierce fiddling duo commands the stage with raw energy and passion. Tickets: \$30 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.vso.org.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, new and gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. Most items \$.25-\$3. 10 am - 4 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. *Also March 4.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

BRANDON. Concert: Cradle Switch. Five-piece acoustic Americana group. Tickets: \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for the show. BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. www.brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. New England Center for Circus Arts' Seventh Annual Circus Spectacular. High flying aerialists, acrobats, and jugglers from Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Mechanics, Celebrity Cruise Lines productions and Circus Bella. Funds raised will support NECCA's "Circus in the Neighborhood." Tickets \$15-\$50. 7:30 pm. Latchis Theater. (802) 254-9780. www.necenterforcircusarts.org. *Also March 5.*

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS. Winter Trails Day. Guided group hikes, winter workshops, snowshoe demos, kids' activities, a bonfire, a raffle, and more! Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. \$10 suggested donation per person; kids under 12 free. 8:30 am - 5 pm. Long Trail Brewing Company, 5520 US Rt. 4. greenmountainclub.org/winter-trails-day.

EAST MONTEPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through mid-April.*

EAST POULTNEY. Snowshoe Outing. Moderate snowshoe of 3-4 miles. Sponsored by Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. 10:30 am. at the Church on the Green in East Poultney. Leader: Diane Bargiel, (413) 687-1109. www.gmckillington.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Flower Show. Spectacular 12,000-square-foot indoor landscape. Over 100 vendors, 35 workshops, experts on hand, family room, plant sale, landscaped display with moving trains, books, local artists. Food available. Adults \$16, seniors \$12, children 3-17 \$5, two-day pass \$25, three day pass \$35. 10 am - 6 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 425-5117. greenworksvermont.org. *Also March 5.*

ESSEX. Essex Winter Carnival. Music, story telling, snow sculptures, snowshoe and X-country ski demonstrations, great food, refreshments, and more. 10 am - 3 pm. Essex Middle School. (802) 878-1375. recreation@ccsvt.org. www.ejrp.org.

HARTLAND. Winter Dance Series: "The Moonlighters" Big Band. Music from Swing to Soul, Soft Rock, Basie to Blues, Ballroom and more. Swing Dance Lesson at 6:30 (free with admission fee), "The Moonlighters" Big Band from 7:30-10:30 pm. Refreshments. Admission: \$12 or \$22 per couple. Damon Hall, 1 Quechee Rd. (603) 252-0368.

HARTLAND. Roast Beef Supper. All welcome. Price: \$7-\$15. 5-7 pm. Hartland Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-2792.

LYME, NH. Immersion Day: Storyteller Eshu Bumpus. All ages are welcome to join us for this half-day of listening, learning, and experiencing Zimbabwe culture with tradition-bearers Solomon Murungu and Eshu Bumpus. 8:45 am - 2 pm. Crossroads Academy. info@revelsnorth.org. revelsnorth.org.

MONTEPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" - sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am - 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*

PERU. 32nd Annual Kare Andersen Telemark Festival. Fun for the entire family! One of the oldest events of its kind in the U.S. The annual race, clinics and fun for the entire family. 8 am - 3:30 pm. Bromley Mountain Ski Resort, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. bromley.com. *Also March 5.*

RANDOLPH. Live & Upstairs Concert: the DuPont Brothers. Vermont-made folk-Americana. Tickets: \$12; bring your dinner receipt from One Main to receive a \$5 discount. 6. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RIPTON. The Ripton Community Coffee House: Quiles and Cloud. Timeless blend of storytelling, vocal harmony and acoustic instrumentation. Admission \$10/\$15, kids under 12 \$3. 7:30 pm open mic followed by featured performers. 7 pm. Rt. 125. (802) 388-9782. rcch.org.

RUPERT. Pruning Workshop. Rico Balzano of Little Lake Orchards will instruct students in the finer points of pruning apple trees from 10 am to noon, and Merck Farm Manager Jonathan Kilpatrick will cover blueberries from 1 to 3 pm. Bring lunch, gloves, hand pruners & loppers; a few sets of tools are available for those who do not own them. Dress for the weather. Tuition: \$20; space is limited. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, Route 315 (Rupert Mountain Road). (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

Rutland, VT

Come to the Vermont Farmers Market for Leafy Greens, Winter Veggies and Sugaring Season Treats

March can be one long hopeful vigil for the colorful return of spring to our backyards, community gardens and farmland. Fortunately, while we wait for the seasons to change, there's no reason for our dinner tables to lack excitement and variety!

Many of our farmers now do greenhouse growing in the off season so that the indoor winter market still has a great selection of leafy greens alongside the winter

squashes, root vegetables, onions and mushrooms. Local preserves from sauerkraut to beans to jams and jellies and dried and frozen products make it harvest time all the time!

Sugaring season is upon us, with trees tapped and buckets collecting sap for a new round of syrup and other maple products.

This is also the time of year seeds and seedlings start to make their appear-

ance through local seed exchange programs, for you home growers out there. I know I will be getting my garden started soon indoors while waiting for outdoor conditions to improve! I love winter in Vermont, but there is nothing like the first signs of green to brighten up the snowy landscape!

Come by the market, talk to our farmers and food artisans, share your spring plans, and enjoy having access to

some of the best local healthy food products around, all year round.

—Gabriella Mirollo

Vermont Farmers Market is located for the winter at the The Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland, VT. Open Saturdays through May 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays through May 3 from 3-6 p.m. (802) 342-4727. Visit www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

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 For farmer updates, cooking classes, and information about local farms and food, visit www.rutlandfarmandfood.org. 802.417.1528.
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Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Book & Author Event. Anthropologist and children's author-illustrator Charles Norris-Brown, presents his new picture book, *Did Tiger Take the Rain?* In a Nepali village, where it has been uncommonly hot and dry, best friends Usha and Anjali decide to ask Tiger herself why she has taken the rain. Free. 11 am. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays thru April 29.*

RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, new and gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. Most items \$.25–\$.3. 10 am – 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. friends@rutlandfree.org. rutlandfree.org.

TUNBRIDGE. Performance: Shindig with The Stone Cold Roosters. Classic country, swamp-rock, hillbilly-funk, blues, western swing and honky-tonk music. Large dance floor upstairs and a quieter space downstairs for visiting. Bring your own beverages and refreshments. Tickets: \$10. 7:30–10:30 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, 273 Route 110. (802) 738-9602. shindigsvt@hotmail.com.

VERSHIRE. VerShare Snowshoe-a-thon. Snowshoe fundraiser. Two miles, uphill, moderate. \$15–20 suggested donation includes fee food stop and lunch at the Mountain School. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. For meeting time and place contact leader: Maecia Dunning, (802) 333-4340. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WATERBURY. 15th Annual Ben & Jerry's Winter Festival. Snow sculptures, tours, DJ. Local vendors sample and sale, gift shop sale, VINS-Bird on Glove live raptor program (12:30–2 pm). Games, local Girl Scout troop selling cookies. Free. Collecting cash and nonperishable food donations for the Waterbury Food Shelf. 11 am – 4 pm. Ben & Jerry's, 1281 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. (802) 882-1240. amy.weller@benjerry.com. benjerry.com.

WILMINGTON. Harriman Reservoir Ice Fishing Derby. Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Chain Pickerel, Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Yellow Perch. 4 am – 2 pm. Wards Cove Boat Launch. Jonathanboos@gmail.com. *Also March 5.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

BRATTLEBORO. New England Center for Circus Arts' Seventh Annual Circus Spectacular. High flying aerialists, acrobats, and jugglers from Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Mechanics, Celebrity Cruise Lines productions and Circus Bella. Funds raised will support NECCA's "Circus in the Neighborhood." Tickets: \$15–\$50. 1 pm. Latchis Theater. (802) 254-9780. www.necenterforcircusarts.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont Flower Show. Spectacular 12,000-square-foot indoor landscape. Over 100 vendors, 35 workshops, experts on hand, family room, plant sale, landscaped display with moving trains, books, local artists. Food available. Adults \$16, seniors \$12, children 3-17 \$5, two-day pass \$25, three day pass \$35. 10 am – 6 pm. Champlain Valley Expo Center, 105 Pearl St. (802) 425-5117. greenworksvermont.org/vermont-flower-show.

HANOVER, NH. Moonlight Snowshoe and Bonfire. Explore the Slade Brook watershed on snowshoe. After, gather for hot cocoa and treats around a bonfire before heading home under the light of the moon. For ages 6 and up. Extra snowshoes of all sizes available to borrow. Please, no dogs! Free. 5–8 pm. Slade Brook Watershed, 11 Old Lyme Rd. (603) 643-3433. cdragiff@hanoverconservancy.org. www.hanoverconservancy.org.

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Arts Center Snowshoe. Meet at the Equinox Preservation Trust Red Gate parking on West Union St. Snowshoe or hike to the Southern Vermont Arts Center. Eat lunch at the Arts Center (bring your own, they will provide a warm place inside for us to eat), return the same way we came. Bring extra layers, snack and fluids. Total mileage about 4.5 and elevation gain about 600 ft. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. 12 noon – 4 pm. RSVP to Leader: Marge Fish, (802) 384-3654. greenmountainclub.org.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" – sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4–\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am – 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*

MONTPELIER. Flapjack Fundraiser. Pancakes, maple syrup, maple cured bacon, OJ and coffee. To benefit the Central Vermont Council on Aging. Cost: \$8. 8-10 am. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. *Also April 2.*

PERU. 32nd Annual Kare Andersen Telemark Festival. Fun for the entire family—experienced telemarkers, or those just getting started! One of the oldest events of its kind in the U.S. The annual Race, clinics and fun for the entire family. 8 am – 3:30 pm. Bromley Mountain Ski Resort, 3984 VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522. www.bromley.com.

POULTNEY. Frosty Fishing Derby. Fish: Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch. 6 am – 4 pm. Lake St. Catherine State Park. (802) 345-0313 (day), (802) 345-0313 (evening). jj.saltis@hotmail.com.

RUTLAND. The Naked Magicians, the worlds naughtiest and funniest magic show. Tickets: \$35, \$45, \$55. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.vso.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

COLCHESTER. Burlington Irish Festival event. Kuntz Memorial Lecture: "Fenians! Irishmen attack Canada." Local author Liam McKone describes the 1866 armed assault on the British Empire from Vermont and New York. Displays in the Farrell Room, 3rd floor of St. Edmunds Hall, will include clothing and weapons. Admission by donation. 7 pm. St. Michael's College. www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Sally Pinkas, piano, performs solo works from Schumann, a meditative Bach partita and more. 7 pm. Tickets: \$17–\$27. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, meats, cheeses, and crafts. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.*

RUTLAND. Workshop: Oil Painting with Ann McFarren. Two-part oil painting workshop. Paint along with Ann McFarren to create your own waterside landscape painting. Paints, canvas, smocks included. Bring your own oil brushes. BYOB. Tuition: \$65. Advance registration required. 6–9 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

POULTNEY. Game Night. Games for young children as well as adults. Bring your own or play ours. Experienced game players help new players get started. 7–10 pm. Poultnery Public Library, 205 Main St. (518) 282-9089 or (802) 287 5556. poultnerypubliclibrary.com. *Thursdays through March 23.*

RANDOLPH CENTER. Annual Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference. Fee: \$25 (includes lunch and conference materials). At Vermont Technical College. www.regonline.com/organicdairy.

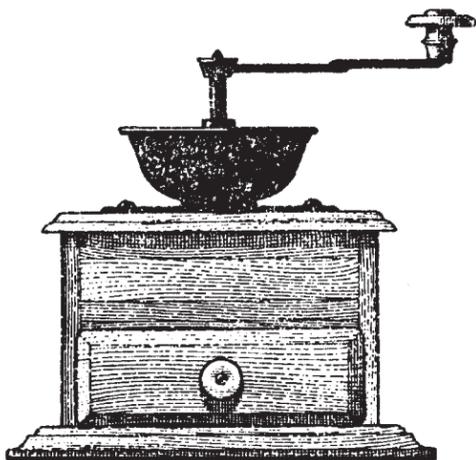
FRIDAY, MARCH 10

BURLINGTON. Lane Series Concert: Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Tickets: adults \$45/38/30, students \$41/\$34/\$26. 8 pm. Flynn Theatre Mainstage. (802) 656-4455. box@flynncenter.org. flynnitix.org.

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Watch sap boiling in our big wood-fired evaporator and taste the new crop of maple syrup. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through mid-April.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. 17th Annual Vermont State Boat and Marine Show. Nearly 100,000 square feet of boats! Admission \$5, children under 16 free with adult. Parking is free. Fri, 12 noon – 7 pm; Sat, 10 am – 7 pm; Sun, 10 am – 5 pm. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (772) 631-7920. eastcoastshows.com. *Through March 12.*

FAIRLEE. 25th Annual Wilderness Paddlers Gathering. Sponsored by Northern Wilderness Travelers. Come enjoy gathering with friends and family to share stories, hands-on workshops, pictures, videos, skills and amazing food with those who love traveling in the woods and on water. Stay in cabins, tents or commute. Fee. At Hulbert Outdoor Center. info@wildernesstravellers.org. www.wildernesstravellers.org. *Through March 12.*



Vermont Winter Farmers Markets

Start your grocery shopping with a trip to a winter Farmer's Market and you'll be pleased at how much of your table can be from Vermont, locally-grown and better tasting.

You'll also find all sorts of crafts, jewelry, and knitted goods for that special gift, not to mention Vermont wines and artisan cheeses. At some markets you can enjoy music and entertainment and have a snack while you shop.

Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market at the Wool Building, 33 Bridge St. March 17 & April 21. 4-7 p.m. (603) 499-2374. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. bffarmersmarket.com.

Bennington Winter Farmers Markets at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. info@walloomsac.org. www.benningtonfarmersmarket.org.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market at River Garden, 153 Main St. Open Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through March 25. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilolutions.org. www.facebook.com/BrattleboroWinterFarmersMarket.

Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM campus, 590 Main St. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. March 11 & 25; April 8. Accepts EBT and debit cards. (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Burlington—University of Vermont Medical Center Farmers Market. Davis Concourse at the UVM Hospital, 111 Colchester Ave. Thursdays through April 27. (802) 847-5823. tanya.mcdonald@uvmhealth.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 April 30. (802) 353-9656. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. 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, (802) 584-3595. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org.

Middlebury Winter Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 5, 12, 19, 26. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier—Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. March 4 & 18, and April 1 & 15 at Montpelier High School cafeteria. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 793-8347. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

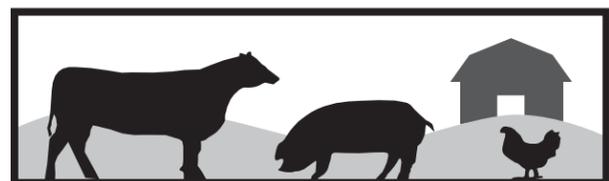
Northfield Winter Farmers' Market. Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. March 5, and April 2. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., March 11 & 25, April 8 & 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 3-6 p.m. through May 6. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Winter Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Windsor Farmers Market at the Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave. March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (802) 359-2551. windsor.vt.farmers.market@gmail.com. www.windsorfarmersmarket@gmail.com.



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Vermont Country Calendar

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

BARRE. Concert: We Banjo 3. An all Ireland banjo champ, a 4 time banjo champ, an all Ireland champ on both fiddle and Bodhran, and a passionate lead vocalist/guitarist. Tickets: \$19-\$33. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 775-0903. barreoperahouse.org.

BARNARD. Workshop with Sue Morse: From Butterflies to Birds to Bears. Wildlife presentation from 8-10 am, then head out to the Nye Swamp in the Les Newell Wildlife Management Area. Free; pre-registration required. Bring a bag lunch and dress for the weather. 8 am - 4:30 pm at the Town Hall, 115 North Rd. (802) 747-7900. kmwanner@comcast.net. vtwoodsandwildlife.org.

HANOVER, NH. Apple Tree Pruning Workshop. Moderately strenuous. Bring your own pruning saw, gloves and snack! Free. Inclement weather date: Sunday, March 12. 2-4 pm. Meet at Balch Hill summit, Balch Hill Nature Preserve. (603) 643-3433. cdragiff@hanoverconservancy.org. www.hanoverconservancy.org.

LINCOLN. Burnham Music Series Concert: singer songwriter Patrick Fitzsimmons and Friends, with special guests. Blisterin' hot countrified jazz and Green Mountain swing. Tickets: adults \$10, teens and kids free. Refreshments will be served. 7:30 pm. Burnham Hall, 52 River Rd. (802) 388-6863.

MIDDLEBURY. Ninth Annual Vermont Chili Festival. Six categories of chili: Veggie, Beef, Chicken, Game, Kitchen Sink and Pork. Live music, parties, street performers, and much more. Tickets: \$5, children under 8 are free. 1-4 pm. Downtown Middlebury, Main St. (802) 772-631-7920. www.experiencemiddlebury.com.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" - sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am - 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*

NORWICH. Contradance. Featuring music by Turning Stile (Aaron Marcus, Joanne Garton, and Easter Hollis), with caller Andy Davis. Admission \$9, students \$6, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. All are welcome, no partner necessary. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Bring a potluck snack to share at the break. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Dance 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Vishten. Multi-instrumentalists and singers, weaving together traditional and contemporary sounds with fiddle, guitar, accordion, harmonium, whistles, piano, bodhrán, jaw harp, Moog, electric guitar and percussive dance. Tickets: \$5-\$15. 7 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org. www.vishtenmusic.com.

RUTLAND. Book & Author Event. Eugenie Doyle celebrates the turn of the seasons with her new picture book, *Sleep Tight Farm*. Free. 11 am. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. phoenixbooks.biz.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 29.*

RUTLAND. Unitarian Universalist Church Coffeehouse Concert: Starline Rhythm Boys. 7-10 pm. UU Church, 117 West St. (802) 558-7587. www.rutlanduu.org.

ST. ALBANS. Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association. Multiple operating HO, N, G, and O-scale layouts, in addition to over 100 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books! Admission: \$5 adults, \$1 children 6-12, free under 6. \$5 per family with an active military identification. 10 am - 4 pm at the Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, 890 Fairfax Rd., Exit 19 from I-89. (802) 598-0905. nwwrailroad.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Bonfire at Dog Mountain. Star filled sky, the warmth of a fire, hot cocoa and the makings for smores. Tiki torches and luminaries throught out the trails. Free. 5-8 pm. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. (802) 748-2700. info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

TUNBRIDGE. Workshop: Wild Apple Tree Release and Pruning. Free. 10 am - 1 pm. 218 Dickerman Hill Rd. (802) 889-3368. vermontwoodlands.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Turkey Supper. Includes all of the fixings and homemade pies. Takeout available. Adults \$10; children 6-12 years \$6; preschoolers free. 4:30-6:30 pm. United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St. (802) 356-9526. moffittanya@comcast.net. *Also April 8.*

BURLINGTON. Comedy Performance. Marc Maron: The Too Real Tour. Tickets: \$25-\$45. 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnntix.org.

BURLINGTON. Wintervale. Good food, hot drinks, outdoor recreation and winter fun. Free ski and snowshoe rentals (if there's snow). Bonfire, chili-cook off. Food for purchase. Hot chocolate tastings. Kids' activities. Free, dog friendly. 11 am - 3 pm. 282 Intervale Rd. (802) 658-3313. info@localmotion.org. www.intervale.org/wintervale.

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through mid-April.*

LEBANON, NH. Twin State Sports Card and Coin Show. Dealers from all over New Hampshire ready to buy, sell and trade sports cards and vintage coins. Free. 9 am - 2 pm. Upper Valley Senior Center, 10 Campbell St. (603) 359-0901. jimbojenni@gmail.com. *Also April 9.*

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" - sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am - 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

BURLINGTON. Burlington Irish Festival event. Dave Gilmore from Dublin and Shane Farrell—whose family hails from County Galway—sing, play, and tell stories. Irish music by the Brayzen Heads, 8 pm Tue, Wed; 9 pm Thu, Fri. RíRá authentic Irish pub and restaurant, 123 Church St. www.burlingtonirishheritage.org. *Through March 17.*

COLCHESTER. Burlington Irish Festival event: Explore your ancestry. Ed McGuire presents "Finding Your Irish Roots." Introduction to the resources at the library, followed by a tour and refreshments. 7 pm. Vermont Genealogical Library, Dupont Hall, 377 Hegeman Ave. on Fort Ethan Allen. (802) 310-9285. www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

BURLINGTON. Burlington Irish Festival event. Irish session with local musicians and singers; food and drink available. 7-9 pm. Radio Bean, 8 North Winooski Ave. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

BURLINGTON. Burlington Irish Festival event. Displays and discussions of history, language, sport, and food in the back room, 1-5 pm. Lively sing-along 5-8 pm, led by Reagh Greenleaf in the main area. Food and drink available. Rí Rá authentic Irish pub and restaurant, 123 Church St. www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar



RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

EAST CHARLESTON. Annual Shed Meet and Wild Game Chili and Cornbread Dinner. Bring your sheds and/or trophies to share and be scored by officials from the VT Big Game Trophy Club. Fee: \$15 includes dinner. 5-8 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 304. www.nckchamber.com.

POULTNEY. Game Night. Games for young children as well as adults. Bring your own or play ours. Experienced game players help new players get started. 7-10 pm. Poultnery Public Library, 205 Main St. (518) 282-9089 or (802) 287-5556. poultnerypubliclibrary.com. *Thursdays through March 23.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

BURLINGTON. Burlington Irish Festival event. Talk: "Brexit and Its Effect on Ireland." Dr. Ciaran Buckley of the Champlain College faculty will describe current developments in the European Union. 12 noon - 1 pm. Fletcher Room at the Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am - 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*

ST. ALBANS. St. Patrick's Day Parade. Irish activities and entertainment for the kids. Sample Irish adult beverages and "green" drinks for the kids. Corned Beef & Cabbage and St. Pat's Treats available for sale. Face painting, Irish Dance Performances. Parade and Admission to event in City Hall are Free. 6-7 pm. Main St. (802) 524-1500. www.stalbansrec.com.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Dance to the splendid tunes of Cedar Stanistreet on fiddle, Guillaume Sparrow-Pepin on accordion and keyboard and Everest Witman on guitar and foot percussion with Mary Wesley calling. Admission \$10, \$8 for teens, 12 and under free. Refreshments available. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 446-2928. tinmouthcontradance.org. *Every third Friday through May then September through December.*

TUNBRIDGE. Lecture: "Violin Making". Violin maker Marc Gregoire discusses making and restoring violins. He will also perform and evaluate violins that attendees bring to the event. Free. 7 pm. Tunbridge Public Library, 289 Rt. 110. (802) 889-9404.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

BENNINGTON. Southern Vermont Wings and Winter Homebrew Festival. Tickets: \$30, includes commemorative glass, the chance to sample all the brews and wings, and vote for the winners of each. 12 noon - 4 pm. Masonic Lodge, 504 Main St. (802) 447-3311.

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Jazz Series Concert: Sheila Jordan, Alan Broadbent, and Harvie S. NEA Jazz Master Sheila Jordan teams up with pianist Alan Broadbent and bassist Harvie S to celebrate the CD release of a concert they recorded 25 years ago. Tickets \$20-\$40, students \$15 w/ valid ID. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Irish Festival event. "Between the Jigs and the Reels: Ireland's History Through Its Music." Musicians Benedict Koehler and Hilari Farrington showcase such Irish instruments as the harp, uilleann bagpipes, button accordion, and tin whistle. 10:30 am - 12 noon. Pickering Room at the Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Concert. Performing Mahler, Beethoven and Mozart. Tickets: adults \$61/\$48/\$32/\$16; students \$10. 8 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

CABOT. Cabot Maple Fest. Pancake breakfast, silent auction, lunch with Cabot grilled cheese sandwiches and homemade soup, sap dogs and maple baked beans, real maple cotton candy, sugar-on-snow, crafts, and family fun. Visit local sugarhouses. Skating and snowshoeing. Free admission and free parking. 9 am - 3 pm. Cabot School Gymnasium, Main St. (802) 563-3338. cabotmaplefest@yahoo.com. www.cabotvermont.org.

CHESTER. 2017 LEGO Contest. Come see the children's creations! Prizes awarded to winners and runners-up in the different classes, with special awards for the Judges' choice for Best in Show and Most Vermont creations. Creators' Choice Award for the entry that the contestants themselves vote as the most outstanding creation. Refreshments will be on sale. 9 am - 1 pm. NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main St. (802) 875-1340. lbwillistc@comcast.net. stlukesepiscopalvt.org. ourchester.org. chestertelegraph.org.

DUMMERSTON. Pruning & Grafting Workshop for backyard fruit growers with Zeke Goodband. Prune a variety of old and young fruit trees from 9-11 am, and practice grafting apple trees from 11 am - 12 noon. Fee: \$40, reservations are necessary. The Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. scottfrm@sover.net. scottfarmvermont.com.

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through mid-April.*

GUILFORD. Sugar-on-Snow Supper. Ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, freshly baked rolls, sugar on snow, homemade donuts, pickles, and coffee, tea or milk. Adults \$12, children age 11 and under \$6, preschoolers \$3. 4:30, 5:45, and 7 pm. Guilford Community Church, 38 Church Dr. (802) 254-9019. guilfordchurch.org.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" - sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am - 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*



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STEEP CANYON RANGERS
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Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, March 18, continued)

MONTPELIER. 20th Annual Green Mountain Film Festival. Ticket office opens at the Savoy Theater. Screenings at various venues around town. (802) 917-1225. gmffestival@gmail.com. www.gmffestival.org. March 17-24.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 29.

STRAFFORD. Workshop: Pruning and Grafting Fruit Trees. Mike Hebb's hands-on workshop describes the basics of pruning apple trees and shows how grafting can be used to control many of the characteristics of growing trees. Fee: \$20. Advance registration required. 1-4 pm. Justin Morrill State Historic Site, 214 Morrill Memorial Highway. (802) 765-4288. director@morrillhomestead.org. Also March 25.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

BURLINGTON. Burlington Irish Festival event. 1-3 pm Festival Ceili: Music, performance and participatory dance, bake sale, displays, and raffle drawing for the Grand Prize trip to Ireland. 3-5 pm Young Tradition Vermont perform, with Denise Dean hosting many talented young local musicians. Contois Auditorium, City Hall, 149 Church St. www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Watch sap boiling in our big wood-fired evaporator and taste the new crop of maple syrup. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through mid-April.

ESSEX JUNCTION. WOKO Gigantic Flea Market. Tag sale items, crafts, antiques, and more. Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. (802) 878-5545. www.cvexpo.org. Also April 23.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" – sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am – 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.

SHELBURNE. Maple Sugaring Celebration. 4-H Pancake Breakfast. Scavenger hunt, sugar-on-snow. 10 am. Pancake breakfast \$8 adult, \$4 child. 9 am – 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

SHELBURNE. Sugar-on-Snow. Horse drawn ride through the snow, weather permitting. Sugar-on-snow includes a doughnut and pickle and other maple goodies. Live music. 12-4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. www.palmersugarhouse.com. Saturdays and Sundays through April 16.

WATERVILLE. Burlington Irish Festival event. Irish Heritage Ceili (party). A "session" at 4 pm kicks off the festivities. Dale and Darcy Cahill perform from 5-7 pm, followed by dinner and the Heather Morris dancers. Raffle drawings, food and drink, and magic show. Town Hall, on VT 109. (802) 644-2731. burlingtonirishheritage.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

MONTPELIER. 20th Annual Green Mountain Film Festival. Ticket office opens at the Savoy Theater. Screenings at various venues around town. (802) 917-1225. gmffestival@gmail.com. www.gmffestival.org. March 17-24.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, meats, cheeses, and crafts. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

BELLOWS FALLS. Lenten Retreat: Celtic Morning and Evening Prayer services, silence, song, chant, optional spiritual direction, informal discussion and personal time as well as the circle sessions and singing workshops. 5 pm Thursday through 3:30 pm Saturday. Cost: \$275 for tuition and all meals. Save 20% on Early Bird pricing. Various housing and commuter options. Immanuel Retreat Center, 12 & 14 Church St. (802) 460-0110. sca@sover.net. www.stonechurcharts.org. Through March 25.

MONTPELIER. 20th Annual Green Mountain Film Festival. Ticket office opens at the Savoy Theater. Screenings at various venues around town. (802) 917-1225. gmffestival@gmail.com. www.gmffestival.org. March 17-24.

POULTNEY. Game Night. Games for young children as well as adults. Bring your own or play ours. Experienced game players help new players get started. 7-10 pm. Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St. (518) 282-9089 or (802) 287 5556. poultneypubliclibrary.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

BURLINGTON. Burlington Irish Festival Performance: The Celtic Cats present their high-energy step dancing, showcasing pieces on which they have worked all year. Tickets available at the door: general public \$7, UVM students \$5. 7-9 pm. Patrick Gymnasium, 97 Spear St. on the UVM campus. vprimave@uvm.edu. www.burlingtonirishheritage.org.

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Watch sap boiling in our big wood-fired evaporator and taste the new crop of maple syrup. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through mid-April.

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. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" – sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am – 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. www.morsefarm.com. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.

MONTPELIER. 20th Annual Green Mountain Film Festival. Ticket office opens at the Savoy Theater. Screenings at various venues around town. (802) 917-1225. gmffestival@gmail.com. www.gmffestival.org. March 17-24.

N. CLARENDON. Grocery Bingo. Benefit hosted by the Clarendon Fire Association Auxiliary. Refreshments will be available. Cost: One strip \$4, Four strips \$12. Doors open at 6 pm and Bingo starts at 7 pm. Clarendon Elementary School. (802) 773-1791.

WINDSOR. Dogsled Rides. 45-minute rides with Braeburn Siberians. With 36 Siberian huskies. Adults \$75, children 6-10 \$45, children 5 and under free. Fridays 12, 1, 2, 3, & 4 pm, and Sundays 12, 1, 2, 3, & 4 pm. To book a ride, call Great River Outfitters at (802) 674-9933. www.braeburnsiberians.com. Fridays & Sundays through March.

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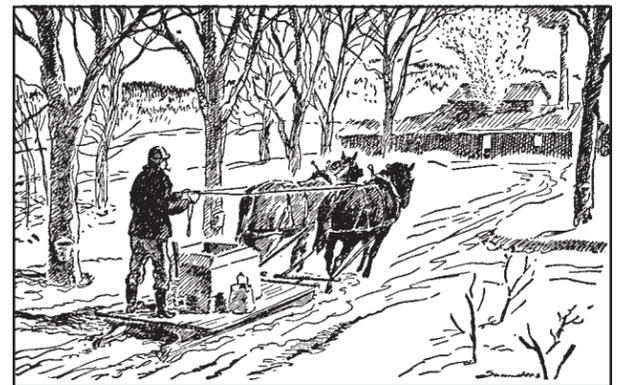
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An early robin sings;
Beside the barn the cattle
Stand warming in the sun,
And it is clear that spring is here
And sugaring has begun.

Go yoke the brindle oxen,
And get the draw-tubs out,
The maple grove shall echo
The teamster's hearty shout;
Old Jack, the dog, is waiting
To help the work along;
At every tree a bucket,
In every heart a song.

Is there a season dearer
Than this to country folk,
When every old brown sugarhouse
Is sending up its smoke?
We've weathered the long winter
That sealed our northern clime,
And thank the Lord, we've lived to see
Another sugaring-time.

—FLORENCE BOYCE DAVIS
Duxbury, VT, 1873-1938



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SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2017, 8pm

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SUNDAY MARCH 19, 2017, 3pm

PARAMOUNT THEATRE, RUTLAND

Vermont Country Calendar

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

BURLINGTON. Performance: Shen Yun, the world's premier classical Chinese dance and music company. Tickets: \$73-\$123. 2 pm & 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Watch sap boiling in our big wood-fired evaporator and taste the new crop of maple syrup. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through mid-April.*

FERRISBURGH. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Pancake breakfast with buttermilk pancakes, bacon, and sausage, 7:30-11:30 am, adults \$7.95 (plus tax), kids \$4.95 (plus tax). Sausage hoagie cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili for lunch. Free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon. Live music with the Bob Degree, 12-4 pm. Observe boiling the traditional way. Dakin Farm, Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. dakinfarm.com. *Also March 26, April 1 & 2.*

HARTFORD. Sugar-on-Snow Supper. Menu: baked ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, and homemade rolls. Raised donuts and sugar-on-snow for dessert. Adults \$15, children under 12 \$7. Handicap accessible. Seatings at 5 & 6 pm. At the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Rt. 14. Reservations recommended. Call (802) 295-2510. *Also April 8.*

HVERHILL, NH. Concert: Session Americana. An absolute must-see, must-hear. Tickets \$22. 7:30 pm. Court Street Arts, 75 Court St. (603) 989-5500. www.courtstreetarts.org.

HUNTINGTON. Maple Open House Weekend. Located in the foothills of Camel's Hump, approximately 6,500 taps. Free maple cream donuts and fudge. Cotton candy and syrup for sale. Call ahead to inquire about boiling. Open 11 am - 3 pm for open house. Tafts Milk & Maple Farm, 1470 Taft Rd. (802) 434-2727. taftmaple@aol.com. www.vtmaplesyrup.com. *Also March 26.*

JERICHO. Maple Open House Weekend. Traditional sugarhouse that boils with wood and offers educational tours. Antique equipment museum to browse, lambs to feed, sugar-on-snow and of course maple cream, syrup, granulated sugar, candies, free samples. Open 9 am - 5 pm. End O Road Maple Sugarhouse, 89 Fields Ln. (802) 899-4126. hneil148@aol.com. vermontwares.com/endoroadmaple. *Also March 26.*

LUNENBURG. 12th Annual Lunenburg Maple Festival. Static, interactive and photographic displays. Many sugarhouses open for visitors. See the tapping of a tree, examine antique equipment. Photo, quilt square, pie baking contests. Homemade meals, fabulous pancake breakfast. 8 am - 4 pm. Lunenburg Primary School, 49 Bobbin Mill Rd. (802) 892-6654. topofthecommon.org.

MANCHESTER. Maple Open House Weekend Festivities. Live Music from 12-2 pm. Specialty foods, vendors, maple creamies and fudge. Sugar house tours. Public welcome to our sugarhouse whenever we are boiling. Free syrup and cider samples. Dutton Farmstand, Rt. 11/30 (up the mountain from center of Manchester Center, on left hand side across from Red Sled Motel.) (802) 362-3083. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

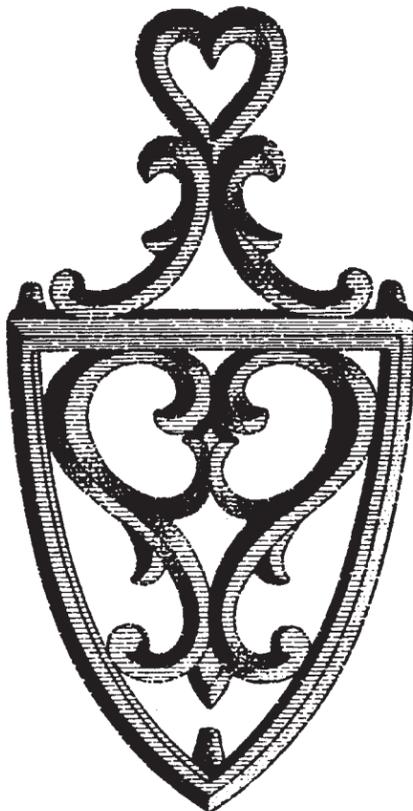
MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" - sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am - 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*

NORWICH. Contradance. Featuring music by Moving Violations (Van Kaynor, fiddle; Ron Grosslein, fiddle & mandolin; Eric Eid-Reiner, piano), with caller Chris Ricciotti. Admission \$12, students \$9, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. All are welcome, no partner necessary. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Bring a potluck snack to share at the break. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Dance 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

POULTNEY. Maple Open House Weekend. Friendly family operation. Free syrup samples. Maple syrup, maple cream, maple candy, maple fudge, and granulated maple sugar. Guided tours, maple-on-snow, maple cotton candy. Green's Sugar House, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. www.greensugarhouse.com. *Also March 26.*

POULTNEY. Annual Maplefest. Fun run, pancake breakfast, tours of maple sugar houses, horse-drawn wagon rides, maple story time, video of the maple process. Basket party, maple supper. Maple fried dough, sugar on snow, maple sugar candy and spun maple gold. Craft fair 10 am - 4 pm. (802) 287-2010. poultneyvt.com. *Also March 26.*

PUTNEY. Maple Open House Weekend. Family maple farm where they started making maple syrup over 50 years ago. Their sugar bush spans over 1,000 acres. Maple Syrup Tasting Table, samples, hand-dipped ice cream, sales table, gifts. Hidden Springs Maple, 162 Westminster Rd. (802) 387-5200. info@hiddenspringsmaple.com. www.hiddenspringsmaple.com. *Also March 26.*



RANDOLPH. Tenth Annual Mini-Mud Youth Variety Show. Almost 50 young performers from at least 11 communities and two states will share their talents in up to 20 acts. Tickets: \$10-\$35. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. www.vishtenmusic.com.

RUPERT. Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. Ride in a horse-drawn wagon up to the Frank Hatch Sap House for MFFC-raised breakfast sausages, locally-grown eggs, pancakes drizzled with organic syrup, Tall-Cat Coffee, Battenkill Creamery products, and juice. Cost: adults \$10, children aged 4 to 12 \$5, under 4 free. Maple-tap demonstrations, self-guided scavenger hunt, visit the new babies in the Small Animal Barn. Thirty miles of mountain trails open to hikers. 9 am - 2 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rte. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org. *Also March 26.*

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 29.*

STATEWIDE. Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. Visit a maple sugarhouse this weekend and experience the inviting aroma of boiling sap. Taste new season maple. Some sugarhouses have pancake breakfasts, sugar-on-snow, horse-drawn sleigh rides, tours and walks in the woods, and live music. And they all give you a sample of their maple syrup. For a list of sugarhouses visit vermontmaple.org. *Also March 26.*

SHELBURNE. Sugar-on-Snow. Horse drawn rides through the snow, weather permitting. Sugar-on-snow includes a doughnut and pickle and other maple goodies. Live music with plenty of seating & parking. Bring your skis/snowshoes and trek through our sugarbush! 12-4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. www.palmersugarhouse.com. *Saturdays and Sundays through April 16.*

WAITSFIELD. Mad River Valley Maple Festival. Learn about how maple syrup originated and the steps from tapping trees to syrup. Maple candy and cream, maple milk shakes, maple cotton candy, maple drizzled ice cream, maple creamies, maple beer and cocktail samples, maple pizza, maple breads/muffins from our pizza oven and maple kissed fire cider. 11 am - 4 pm each day. 54 Quarry Rd. (802) 496-3081 or (802) 279-8054. www.hartshornfarm.com. *Also March 26.*

WHITINGHAM. 19th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake Breakfast, Sugar House Tours, Artisans Tours, Craft Fair, Horse-drawn sleigh rides, Sugar-on-Snow Baked Ham Dinner. Maps available at info booth at the Whitingham Municipal Center, Rt. 100. (802) 368-2658. www.whitingham-maplefest.us. *Also March 26.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through mid-April.*

FERRISBURGH. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Pancake breakfast with buttermilk pancakes, bacon, and sausage, 7:30-11:30 am, adults \$7.95 (plus tax), kids \$4.95 (plus tax). Sausage hoagie cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili for lunch. Free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon. Live music with the Banjo Dan (The Sky Blue Boys), 12-4 pm. Observe boiling the traditional way. Dakin Farm, Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. dakinfarm.com. *Also April 1 & 2.*



March Stowe Notes

— Circa 1893 —

by Edward Martin Taber

This morning about ten o'clock the thermometer stood at four degrees, and I think it did not go much higher in the course of the day, which was overcast, snowing, and with a steady north wind. I noticed it again at five, and it had gone down a degree.

From about three to four o'clock I walked in the west pasture. I went for the purpose of collecting some balsam boughs, which, being laid on the top of the stove, exhaled a pleasant odor.

The walking was very difficult, owing to the loose snow drifted in between the hummocks and hiding the underlying ice. The brook could be heard but faintly, muttering under a double covering of ice and snow.

The spruces and balsams were heavily weighted; a touch would send the feathery mass scattered like powder from the ends of the branches.

I passed up on the edge of the old road through a small group of balsams, and on to the ridge among the branching sumachs. The position of the sun might be occasionally detected by an obscure gleam in the gray expanse of the sky. The fine snow sped almost horizontally on the steady wind. Coming home by the pines, I was stopped by a faint note. I saw a bird that I took at first for a blue jay rise from the ground and slip behind an evergreen. Almost at the same moment, with a soft and broken cry, a vermilion-hued bird flew close above my head, swerved suddenly to one side, and disappeared in the boughs of a spruce close on my left hand. In the swift glance upward I saw distinctly the reddish chest, pale belly, and ashy under tail-coverts.

This disappearance was immediately followed by the passage of one darker tinted, that with a powerful and easy flight swept across the pasture and settled in the top branches of a sumach. I waited patiently for the reappearance of the first, for although I felt convinced they were the male and female pine grosbeak, I wanted another glimpse of the vermilion plumage. Had I not seen them, I think I should have recognized the note, so strange, so plaintive.

Casting a glance after the one departed (the female), I was startled to see a flock rise suddenly above the thicket of sumach where she had settled. They rose high into the air, and descended fluttering among the evergreens on the crest of the hill. I immediately set out in pursuit, but before I had retraced my steps to the pine, they were up again, this time sweeping down toward me, over the snowy undulations. They passed within a rod of me, a considerable flock flying rather low. The males were brilliantly tinted — a deep red, almost crimson, on the crown; the females flying showed an orange spot on the rump.

Sometimes a thin lisp intermingled with their twitter, which latter sound reminded me somewhat of the distant chant of frogs, sometimes a cry, like the jay's, but fainter and softened, more like a sea bird's but not so plaintive. They appeared to me to be as large as robins. They seemed mightily at home. It was a beautiful spectacle. They lit in the pine's swaying boughs, scattering the snow, the bright males contrasting finely with the dark green foliage. My last sight of them was in the air, making another descent a little farther along the slope, fluttering, falling, changing place.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, March 26, continued)

HUNTINGTON. Maple Open House Weekend. Located in the foothills of Camel's Hump, approximately 6,500 taps. Free maple cream donuts and fudge. Cotton candy and syrup for sale. Call ahead to inquire about boiling. Open 11 am – 3 pm for open house. Tafts Milk & Maple Farm, 1470 Taft Rd. (802) 434-2727. www.vtmaplesyrup.com.

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" – sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am – 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*

NEWFANE. Third Annual Soup Fest and Silent Auction, supporting the West River Railroad Station Restoration. Silent Auction and 50/50 raffle. Soup Supper served at 5:30 pm, followed by desserts. Exhibit of the West River Railroad's "36 Miles of Trouble", including the Newfane Railroad Station diorama, vintage photographs and other artifacts. Admission: \$5. Doors open at 4 pm. NewBrook Fire Station, Rt. 30. (802) 348-7891. www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Calling by Chris Levey, with music by Carol Compton (keyboard, accordion, and recorders), and Thal Aylward (violin and viola). Band is open to community musicians. All dances taught, no partner needed, all are welcome. Admission \$8, \$4 age 25 and under. 3-6 pm. Tracy Hall, Main St. (802) 785-4121. christopher.g.levey@dartmouth.edu. *Also April 30.*

POULTNEY. Maple Open House Weekend. Friendly family operation. Free syrup samples. Guided tours, maple-on-snow, maple cotton candy. Green's Sugar House, 1846 Finel Hollow Rd. (802) 287-5745. www.greenssugarhouse.com.

POULTNEY. Annual Maplefest. Fun run, pancake breakfast, tours of maple sugar houses, horse-drawn wagon rides, maple story time, video of the maple process. Basket party, maple supper. Maple fried dough, sugar on snow, maple sugar candy and spun maple gold. Big craft fair 10 am – 4 pm on Saturday. (802) 287-2010. poultneyvt.com.

PUTNEY. Maple Open House Weekend. Family maple farm where they started making maple syrup over 50 years ago. Their sugar bush spans over 1,000 acres. Maple Syrup Tasting Table, samples, hand-dipped ice cream, sales table, gifts. Hidden Springs Maple, 162 Westminster Rd. (802) 387-5200. info@hiddenspringsmaple.com. www.hiddenspringsmaple.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival. A String Trio plays music by Bach, Mozart, Robert Fuchs and Dohnanyi, and a piece by Vermont composer Gwyneth Walker – "When the Spirit Sings", a set of Spirituals arranged for String Trio. Ms. Walker will speak about her piece. Admission by donation. 4-6 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 431-0204. outreach@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Annual Maple Celebration and Pancake Breakfast. Ride in a horse-drawn wagon up to the Frank Hatch Sap House for MFFC-raised breakfast sausages, locally-grown eggs, pancakes drizzled with organic syrup, Tall-Cat Coffee, Battenkill Creamery products, and juice. Cost: adults \$10, children aged 4 to 12 \$5, under 4 free. Maple-tap demonstrations, self-guided scavenger hunt, visit the new babies in the Small Animal Barn. Thirty miles of mountain trails open to hikers. 9 am – 2 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rte. 315, Rupert, VT. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.

SHELBURNE. Sugar-on-Snow. Horse drawn ride through the snow, weather permitting. Sugar-on-snow includes a doughnut and pickle and other maple goodies. Live music with plenty of seating & parking. Bring your skis or snowshoes and trek through our sugarbush! 12-4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. www.palmersugarhouse.com. *Saturdays and Sundays through April 16.*

STATEWIDE. Vermont Maple Open House Weekend. Visit a maple sugarhouse this weekend and experience the inviting aroma of boiling sap. Taste new season maple. Some sugarhouses have pancake breakfasts, sugar-on-snow, horse-drawn sleigh rides, tours and walks in the woods, and live music. And they all give you a sample of their maple syrup. For a list of sugarhouses visit vermontmaple.org.

WAITSFIELD. Mad River Valley Maple Festival. Learn about how maple syrup originated and the steps from tapping trees to syrup. Maple candy and cream, maple milk shakes, maple cotton candy, maple drizzled ice cream, maple creamees, maple beer and cocktail samples, maple pizza, maple breads/muffins from our pizza oven and maple kissed fire cider. 11 am – 4 pm each day. 54 Quarry Rd. (802) 496-3081 or (802) 279-8054. www.hartshornfarm.com.

WHITINGHAM. 19th Annual Whitingham Maple Festival. Pancake breakfast, self-guided artisans, sugar house tours craft fair, lunch. Horse-drawn sleigh rides from 10 am – 2 pm, by donation, on Rt. 100 across from Twin Valley Middle School. Maps available at info booth at Twin Valley High School, Rt. 100. (802) 368-2658. whitingham-maplefest.us.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

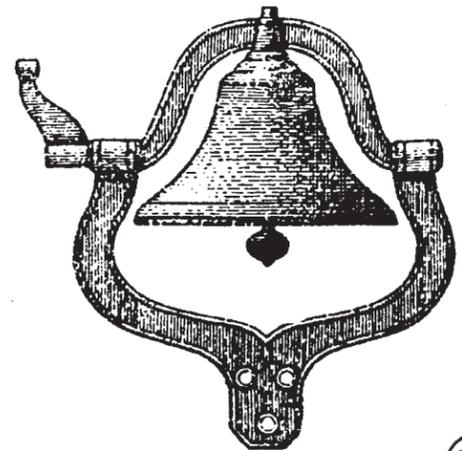
RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, meats, cheeses, and crafts. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.*

SOUTH ROYALTON. Vermont Farmers Market Conference. This one-day conference offers learning and networking opportunities for market managers, board members, and organizers. Cost: \$50/person. 8 am – 4:30 pm. Vermont Law School, 164 Chelsea St. nofavt.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Watch sap boiling in our big wood-fired evaporator and taste the new crop of maple syrup. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through mid-April.*

MONTPELIER. Morse Farm Sugar Works Sugar-on-Snow. Treat yourself to "the works" – sugar-on-snow, a raised donut, dill pickle, and a beverage! Sugar-on-snow is served inside, on the back deck. Cost: \$4-\$6. Seatings every half hour, 10 am – 4 pm. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com. *Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through March.*



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Way Back Then

When Stranded, Phone Home!

by Charles Sutton

Families have their favorite sayings that sometimes but not always are good advice. Two that I grew up with were "avoid beginnings," and the other, "neither a borrower nor a lender be." They both applied on a winter trip home from college.

I was a student at Cornell University and borrowed a friend's car for a trip home in the dead of winter. On the side of "this is a good idea" was that my only cost would be to buy gas. Also, I would save on the train tickets for the day-long ride on The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad from Ithaca to New York City and from there on another train to my hometown of Fairfield, Connecticut. Sometimes train rides can be fun viewing interesting terrain and scenery, enjoying a good meal and drinks in the dining car, and having a comfortable seat for a smooth ride. None of these applied to that DL&W RR, that ran through New York's Lehigh Valley, and which we students called 'The Leaky Valley Railroad.' That bumpy train ride seemed better for hauling coal than people.

Because of the timing of an exam, I didn't leave for home until late in the day, but I figured I would still get home around midnight or shortly thereafter. The car was a 1950s Ford sedan that had seen better days. Its owner, fellow student Nick Wood, warned me the heater sometimes didn't work and the tires were worn down. But "it ran perfectly." Nick was in New York City and thought he didn't need his car, but then decided he did, so if I drove it to Connecticut, he would come out and pick it up. He would be most grateful.

All went well even though the heater only put out a trickle of heat. This wasn't a particularly cold winter day, and the

late afternoon sun radiated through the windows. It was after dark when the trip suddenly took a turn for the worse—sliding off the road into a snowbank!

I was in an isolated area of the Catskills heading up a steep hill when without warning the rear of the car skidded to the left and into a mound of snow. I got out to look. Fortunately I wasn't down in a ditch which would mean getting a tow truck. I tried to storm my way onto the road but with those balled tires the effort failed. I should have known better than to floor the pedal—the wheels just sink deeper.

This was well before cell phones and I didn't have Triple AAA. I just needed a push or to dig my way out. I remembered that back down the mountain I had gone through a small village, just houses and one bar. But at this hour of the night, even if I walked back down there, how would

I get any help? Bang on doors? I would have to wait until morning when I could try to borrow a shovel.

If one dares to make a list of life's most unpleasant experiences, high on my list would be being stranded in that unheated car on a cold winter night awaiting the dawn that took forever to come. With a nightmare one remembers less and less, but in this case I will never forget being huddled behind the steering wheel bundled up in all dirty laundry and socks that I was bringing home to wash, watching the condensation from my breath freezing onto the windshield.

In the morning I did walk back to that village where a friendly and concerned bartender gave me hot coffee and lent me his shovel. I dug myself out easily enough, returned the shovel, and proceeded on my journey.

Arriving home in Connecticut I found I had put my parents through a long night of worry. They were about to call the State Police to see if there had been an accident. Once dug out, I should have called them. I felt badly that I hadn't and it reminded me of another family saying, "Saying sorry doesn't make it right."

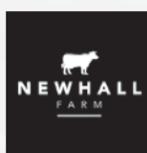
"It was after dark when the trip suddenly took a turn for the worse—sliding off the road into a snowbank!"

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Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Unitarian Universalist Church Coffeehouse Concert: Guy Davis. The blues remain his first and greatest love. 7-10 pm. UU Church, 117 West St. (802) 558-7587. www.rutlanduu.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Watch sap boiling in our big wood-fired evaporator and taste the new crop of maple syrup. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through mid-April.*

FERRISBURGH. Sugar-on-Snow Party. Pancake breakfast with buttermilk pancakes, bacon, and sausage, 7:30-11:30 am, adults \$7.95 (plus tax), kids \$4.95 (plus tax). Sausage hoagie cooked in sap or a bowl of maple chili for lunch. Free samples of maple syrup, ham, bacon. Live music with Bob Degree, 12-4 pm. Observe boiling the traditional way. Dakin Farm, Rt. 7. (800) 993-2546. dakinfarm.com. *Also April 2.*

SHELBURNE. Sugar-on-Snow. Watch the maple sap being boiled and take a horse drawn ride through the snow, weather permitting. Sugar-on-snow includes a doughnut and pickle and other maple goodies. Live music with plenty of seating & parking. Bring your skis/snowshoes and trek through our sugarbush! 12-4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. www.palmersugarhouse.com. *Saturdays and Sundays through April 16.*

WOODSTOCK. 35th Season Opening Day at Billings Farm & Museum. featuring horse-drawn wagon rides, complimentary Wilcox Ice Cream (Vermont's Original Ice Cream), and interactive farm programs. Visit our award-winning Jersey herd, draft horses, and sheep and tour the restored 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land* our Academy Award-nominee film will be shown every hour in the theater. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 and under free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

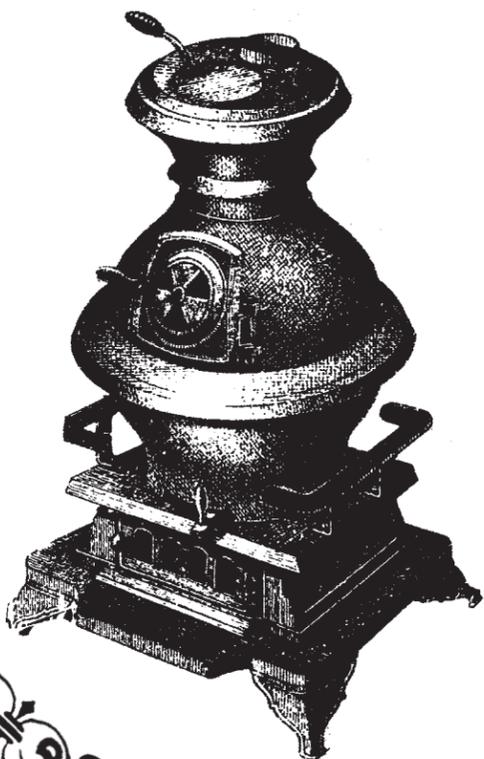
SUNDAY, APRIL 2

EAST MONTPELIER. Sugar-on-Snow at Bragg Farm. Ice cream parlor with maple soft serve and maple milkshakes. Maple tasting, 10-minute video, walking trail. Watch sap boiling in our big wood-fired evaporator and taste the new crop of maple syrup. Gift shop and lots of maple. Free admission. 12-5 pm. Bragg Farm, 1005 Rt. 14 North. (802) 223-5757. braggfarm.com. *Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through mid-April.*

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MONTPELIER. Flapjack Fundraiser. Pancakes, maple syrup, maple cured bacon, OJ and coffee. To benefit Turtle Island. Cost: \$8. 8-10 am. Morse Farm Sugar Works, 1168 County Rd. (800) 242-2740. maple@morsefarm.com. www.morsefarm.com.

SHARON. Spinning and Fiber Crafts. Bring a spinning wheel, drop spindle or fiber craft. Experienced spinners and knitters are available to help and can answer questions. Free. 2-4 pm. Baxter Memorial Library, 5114 Route 14. (802) 282-5814. bondore132@yahoo.com.



SHELBURNE. Sugar-on-Snow. Watch the maple sap being boiled and take a horse drawn ride through the snow, weather permitting. Sugar-on-snow includes a doughnut and pickle and other maple goodies. Live music with plenty of seating & parking. Bring your skis/snowshoes and trek through our sugarbush! 12-4 pm. Palmer's Sugarhouse, 332 Shelburne Hinesburg Rd. (802) 985-5054. michelendavid@yahoo.com. www.palmersugarhouse.com. *Saturdays and Sundays through April 16.*

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2017

BURLINGTON. 22nd Annual Burlington Irish Festival. Music, lectures, movies, drama and dance. A fun-filled and informative week, celebrating Irish-American culture and community. For a complete schedule of events and more information visit burlingtonirishheritage.org. admin@burlingtonirishheritage.org. *March 7-24.*

BURLINGTON. Monthly Film Screenings. 6 pm. Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake St. Sponsored by Vermont International Film Foundation. Jan. 26-June 29. Film House & Lake Lobby, 60 Lake St. (802) 660-2600. vtiff.org.

CHESTER. Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Breakfast 8-9:30 am for \$7. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Monthly on first Saturdays.*

PLAINFIELD, NH. The Attic Shop. New and used items include antiques, books, gift items, collectables, jewelry, furniture, glassware, artwork, and gently used clothes. Free coffee. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. Blow-Me-Down Grange, 1107 Rt. 12A. (603) 448-0773. *Every Saturday.*

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17): \$12.50, children 3 and under free. Open April 9 - October 31: 10 am - 5 pm. November 1 - April 8: 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. Third Annual Issues Playwriting Contest. Writers from Vermont, or those with a strong Vermont connection, are invited to submit original plays that frame and delve into pressing topics important to Vermont communities, with a running time of at least 45 minutes. Submissions must be no later than May 31st. Each finalist play will receive a \$100 cash prize and will be given a staged-reading production. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. www.chandler-arts.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. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers. Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 29.*

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

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist. Tai' Chi Gung classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 pm at the store. Free intro classes. Meditations at the store Wednesdays at 5 pm. Usul & Karuna Reiki Healings & Classes. Handmade Herbal Medicines, Oils, Essences, Crystals, Gemstones & Books. Teas, Lotions, and Capsules. All are welcome. Open Tuesday & Wednesday 1-6, Thursday 11 am - 4:30 pm, Saturday 1-6 pm, Sunday 1-4 pm, closed Friday and Monday. Vermont Herbal General Store, 578 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermontherbal.com. On Facebook and Twitter. 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.



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Saturday

Maple Bake Off! 10 am to 4 pm

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Barr Hill Gin on site serving homemade
Vermont cocktails, 12-4 pm

Hot Dogs Boiled in Sap, 12-2 pm
(Proceeds to benefit the Vermont Philharmonic)

Sunday

North Branch Vineyards Wine Tastings 12-4 pm

Hot Dogs Boiled in Sap, 12-2 pm
(Proceeds to benefit the Vermont Philharmonic)

Vermont Country Calendar

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. www.studioplacearts.com.

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items which shed light on the lives and times of past Vermonters. One admission fee for both the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. Adults: \$7; families: \$20; students, children, seniors: \$5; members and children under 6: free. Monday through Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. www.vermonthistory.org.

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Exhibit: Advertising Dolls. More than two dozen advertising dolls, all of them from the collection of the late Earlene Smith of Londonderry. 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. www.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. shirley@thebennington.org. www.thebennington.org.

BENNINGTON. Exhibit: "We the People" by artist Renée Bouchard. Southern Vermont College Gallery, 982 Mansion Dr. (802) 447-4041. svc.edu.renee-bouchard.com. Through April 7.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. Founding documents, fine art, Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Vermont furniture, and the Bennington Flag—one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films. Adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. Admission never charged for younger students, members, or to visit the museum shop. 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. Exhibit: Vermont—Ideals & Ordeals, through February 11. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Open daily 11-5, closed Tues. Admission \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, free for youth 18 and under. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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

BURLINGTON. Fleming Museum of Art. Adults \$5, family \$10, students and seniors \$3, children 6 and under free. Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Wed 10 am – 7 pm, Sat–Sun noon – 4 pm. Fleming Museum of Art, 61 Colchester Ave. (802) 656-0750. fleming@uvm.edu. www.flemingmuseum.org.

CHESTER. 103 Artisans Marketplace. Cabin Fever Expo: A Cure for Cabin Fever—10 featured artists on display through March 19. Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch Chocolates and Vermont Maple products. Greenleaf Café now open. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open every day 10 am – 5 pm, closed Tuesday. Located at 7 Pineview Dr. and Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. www.103artisansmarketplace.com.

HARTFORD. Hartford Historical Society Museum. Tours and exhibits cover the history of Hartford, including the Abenaki tribes. Free. Monday-Friday 9 am – 1 pm. Garipay House, 1461 Maple St. (802) 296-3132.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, exhibits, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$7, senior \$6, child 3-17 \$3.50. Open by appointment from November 1 through May 1. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org.

LEBANON, NH. AVA Gallery and Art Center. 11 am – 5 pm. 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117. avagallery.org.

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. Admission: \$20 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. 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, kids 4 and under are free. Open 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 10 am – 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

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

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

MIDDLEBURY. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse. Exhibits, gift shop full of Morgan horse t-shirts, books, and posters. Free admission, donations accepted. Open Thursday & Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse, 34 Main St. (802) 388-1639. www.morganhorse.com/museum.

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MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

Model Railroad Show Coming To St. Albans, VT on March 11

The NWV Model Railroad Association will host Vermont's largest model railroad show for its 30th year on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, Exit 19 from I-89 in St. Albans, VT. The show is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for

adults, \$1 for children between 6 and 12 years old, and free for children under 6. We also offer a special admission of \$5 per family with an active military identification.

The show will feature multiple operating HO, N, G, and O-scale layouts, in addition to over 100 tables of exhibits

and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books! There will be a face painter and many hands-on train activities for children. A food stand will be available at the show.

The Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association, Inc. was formed in 1978, and meets every Wednesday evening at the Association's HO-scale layout in the Pinewood Plaza in

Essex Junction, VT. Anyone interested in model railroading is encouraged to join.

Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center is located at 890 Fairfax Rd., in St. Albans, VT (Exit 19 from I-89) in northwestern Vermont.

For more information contact Ron Piro at (802) 598-0905. ronpiro@aol.com. Visit our website at www.nwvrrailroad.org.



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Sunday, March 26th from 3-6 p.m.

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Vermont Country Calendar

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier and the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre. Admission: adults: \$7; families: \$20; students, children, seniors: \$5; members and children under 6: free. Open 9 am - 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. info@vermonthistory.org. www.vermonthistory.org.

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Exhibit: Making Music. Explore the science and the art behind making and playing four instrument families—strings, percussion, air instruments, and electronic instruments. 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. Ice Age Mammals on the Meadow outdoor exhibit through April 2017. Forest Exhibit: experience the sights and sounds of the natural forest. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17): \$12.50, children 3 and under free. Open April 9-October 31: 10 am - 5 pm. November 1-April 8: 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

ROCHESTER. BigTown Gallery. Exhibits, readings, events. Gallery hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. info@bigtowngallery.com. bigtowngallery.com.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. 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.

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am - 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, in the center of Saxtons River on Main Street, across from the Saxtons River Inn, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, and classes for adults, teens and children. Community Art Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SHELburne. Shelburne Museum. Renowned for its collection of American folk art and quilts. Home to holdings of decorative arts, design, decoys, and carriages. The paintings collection includes French Impressionists as well as over 400 18th-20th century American works. Over 20 gardens. Historic houses and community buildings. Admission: adult \$24, ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. www.shelburnemuseum.org.

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

SPRINGFIELD. 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. Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: "Signs of Life". Contemporary paintings and intricate collages. Mary Welsh's collages are made of found materials; Roger Sandes's paintings look like silk and feel like eggshell. The Great Hall at One Hundred River Street. (802) 885-3061. Facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield. Through April 21.

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. Open every day 9 am - 5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Summer hours: Gallery open seven days a week. Dog Chapel open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Carving Studio and Sculpture Center Gallery. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am-1 pm, or by appointment. 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. info@carvingstudio.org. carvingstudio.org.

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.

HORSEBACK RIDING & WAGON RIDES

BATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Sleight Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods. Adults \$12, kids 3-12 \$8, minimum \$75, additional after 5 pm. Fair Winds Farm, 11 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwinds@fairwindsfarm.org. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards. Horse-drawn sled rides with Percheron draft horses. Accommodating up to 10 people for a 20-minute ride for \$100. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. By reservation only, weather permitting. (802) 380-6244. www.greenmtorchards.com.

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.

VERMONT FARMERS MARKETS WINTER 2017

Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market at the Wool Building, 33 Bridge St. Third Fridays through April 2017. 4-7 p.m. (603) 499-2374. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. bffarmersmarket.com.

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

Battleboro Winter Farmers' Market at River Garden, 153 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., through March 25, 2017. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. www.posttoilsolutions.org.

Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM campus, 590 Main St. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. March 11 & 25; April 8. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.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 6. (802) 353-9656. 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, (802) 584-3595. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org.

Middlebury Winter Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 5, 12, 19, 26. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier - Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. March 4 & 18; and April 1 & 15 at Montpelier High School cafeteria. 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. March 5, and April 2. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. March 8 & 22; April 12 & 26. 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 3-6 p.m. through May 6. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

St. Johnsbury - Caledonia Winter Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First Saturday, through April 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Maple Pie and Lost Mufflers

Spring comes quickly, by and by.
It brings with it
sugar snows and maple pie,
and dandelion greens, not so serene
and lost mufflers on muddy roads.
Did I forget the sounds of peepers and toads?

—RON KRUPP



THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE ONE GALLON OF PURE VERMONT MAPLE SYRUP

It takes four maple trees, at least forty years old, growing in the mountain "sugarbush" to yield enough sap in six weeks to produce one gallon of maple syrup.

It takes a "gathering crew" to climb the mountains daily during March and April to collect the dripping sap and haul it down to the "sugarhouse."

It takes forty gallons of sap, boiled down in the "evaporator" to concentrate the sweet sap-water into one gallon of maple syrup.

It takes a four-foot log, burned in the raging fire in the "arch" under the evaporator for each gallon of syrup produced, and the whole sugarmaker's family to continually fire the arch, operate the evaporator and sterilize, filter, grade, and pack each gallon of maple syrup.

So, if you had to climb the mountain, tap the trees, haul the sap, cut the wood, stoke the fires, and pack the syrup to the nations only strictly enforced maple law, what would you charge for a gallon of Maple Syrup?




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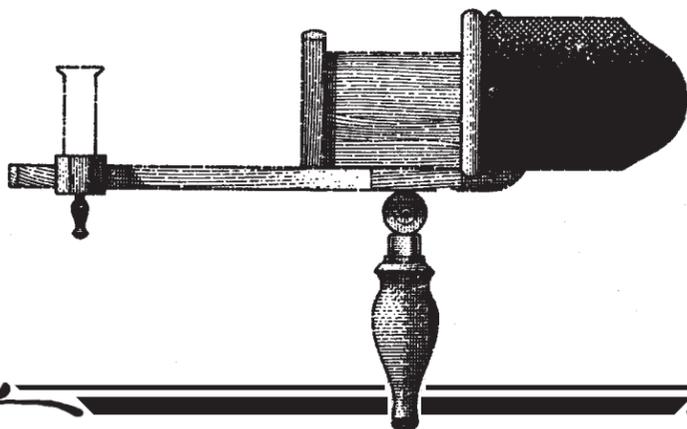
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Winter Dancing

by Burr Morse

Winter blues are settling in big time around here but, in spite of our below zero tedium, the smart Vermonter always takes an "if y'can't beat em, join em" attitude. Although that approach is a bit elusive of late, this ol' guy is trying. Just like the other day when Betsy and I took our little granddaughter out in the deep snow and taught her the traditional art of making snow angels. Caitrin caught on fast, endowed already with the "angel gene", of course, but only after we adults got on our backs and spread our "wings". We laughed, threw a little snow at each other, and went back inside to the warmth of wood heat, hot chocolate, and good thoughts of angels in the snow.

Then there are our two Black Labs, Averill and Fern. Dogs and kids are a lot alike...most of life is exciting, especially winter! My cue of choice to them is "wanta come help?", and those two are at the door doing their impressions of Tasmanian Devils! Once out, the chase begins, two black blurs bounding, tumbling, and wrestling. As we head down our driveway, they're both on their backs, slithering along with gravity and saying in dog talk "ooh that feels good!". It's a perfect example of foolish winter fun or even a bit of

"Just north of Worcester, only ten miles from our farm, the whole scene changed to a crystalline "Robert Frost" world."

doggie break dancing. And speaking of dancing, winter supplies its own forms of choreography; even our snowplows get into the act.

I received an email the other day from Mary Hayes who used to live up in Calais on Wheeler Road. Mary says:

"I was working the 3 to 11 shift at a local factory and remember meeting the snow plow every time we had a storm in the middle of that hill. I think the driver looked for me every night and would just raise up one side of the plow (in snowplow terms, a 'wing') for me to go by." I laughed at Mary's description, thinking of a square dance, between a small car and a snowplow truck..."Ace of Diamonds, Jack of Spades, lift your wing and promenade!"

Up here in the north country, plowers of snow have indeed worked their trade into a near art form. I got to see a true



Burr Morse boiling sap in his sugarhouse at Morse Farm Sugarworks in Montpelier, VT. photo courtesy Morse Farm

"artist" in action the other day. Our snow plow tractor had broken down right after we'd had a huge dumping of snow and I asked our neighbor Kenny Santor if he would plow our yards. Knowing where all our "hidden obstacles" are, I suggested I ride with Kenny as he plowed. He accepted my companionship but I would soon find out that he didn't need my guidance. In addition to handling the multiple levers and buttons to control both the plow and the truck, he seemed to have a built-in radar about potential problem obstacles. Experienced plowers are repelled by two things: welding on broken plows and shoveling to get their rig unstuck. He skillfully avoided both problems while carrying on a running conversation with me. When we parted that day, our yards were flat and inviting and our snow banks were higher but

more importantly, I had ridden in the presence of an artist...a world-class sculptor of winter landscape!

Ralph Waldo Emerson said "It is not the length of life but the depth of life." Well Ralph, there's a lot of folks around here feeling life is gettin' pretty darn deep these days. Winter is long and challenging and you can either fight it or you can dance with it. Right now I'm still dancing but gettin' a little slow on my feet.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. Open year-round with Vermont products, pasture-raised beef, bacon, and gifts. Order Cabot cheddar cheese, Maple products, Balsam Wreaths, and much more at (800) 242-2740 or www.morsefarm.com.

The Old Man's Complaints and How He Gained Them

You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
The few locks which are left you are grey;
You are hale, Father William, a hearty old man,
Now tell me the reason I pray.

In the days of my youth, Father William replied,
I remember'd that youth would fly fast,
And abused not my health and my vigour at first
That I never might need them at last.

You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
And pleasures with youth pass away,
And yet you lament not the days that are gone,
Now tell me the reason I pray.

In the days of my youth, Father William replied,
I remember'd that youth could not last;
I thought of the future whatever I did,
That I never might grieve for the past.

You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
And life must be hastening away;
You are cheerful, and love to converse upon death!
Now tell me the reason I pray.

I am cheerful, young man, Father William replied,
Let the cause thy attention engage;
In the days of my youth I remember'd my God!
And He hath not forgotten my age.

—ROBERT SOUTHEY
London, England 1774-1843



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| 20% Calf Starter | 26% Turkey Starter Mash |
| Cracked Corn | 21% Turkey Grower Pellets |
| Whole Corn | Whole Barley |
| 16% Dairy Pellet | Whole Oats |
| 20% Dairy Pellet | Molasses (Lb) |
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Spring at Chandler Center for the Arts

Chandler Center for the Arts is proud to present an exciting January. In addition to our Main Stage series, we offer Live & Upstairs, a series of smaller, more intimate performances in the renovated Esther Mesh Room in Chandler's Upper Gallery. Plan to come and enjoy an event this season at Central Vermont's historic music hall.

March 11th, 7:30 p.m.—Vishtén. Tickets: \$10-\$35. Chandler brings Vishtén to the Main stage this spring. The concert, will be an evening of driving rhythms and east-coast French-Acadian swing of the traditional music from Prince Edward Island (PEI) and the Magdalen Islands. A workshop is offered at 3 p.m. for musicians interested in learning Acadian tunes.

Vishtén, a New World Festival favorite, is a contemporary Acadian group which has become a distinctive and powerful international voice. For over a decade, Pastelle and Emmanuelle LeBlanc and Pascal Miousse have been crafting their own brand of new traditional music and creating a trademark sound that combines traditional French-Acadian songs and tunes and energetic rhythms with original compositions.

All highly accomplished multi-instrumentalists and singers, Vishtén's unique blend of fiddle, guitar, accordion, harmonium, whistles, piano, bodhrán, jaw harp, Moog, electric guitar, and percussive dance make for an exciting tour de force weaving together old-world and contemporary sounds. The band has earned its place as one of the most respected bands in the international touring scene! For more information on Vishtén, visit their website: www.vishtenmusic.com

In the workshop preceding the concert, participants will learn a repertoire of Acadian tunes from Prince Edward Island and the Magdalen Islands. Along with the tunes themselves, Vishtén will answer questions about the very distinct rhythms and teach the unique fiddle bowing technique of this high-energy music. The workshop is intermediate-advanced level, all instruments welcome. To reserve your spot, contact Emily Crosby at outreach@chandler-arts.org or (802) 431-0204.

This workshop and performance is supported by the Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture, in Montpelier, Vermont. Chandler Music Hall is fully accessible and equipped for the hearing.

March 25th, 7 p.m.—Mini-Mud. Tickets \$5-\$15. Now in its tenth year, this annual youth variety show celebrates young talent from across the region. Almost 50 young performers from at least 11 communities and two states will share their talents in up to 20 acts for this annual celebration. Performers range in age from 8 to 18. Mini-Mud is an important fundraiser for youth programming offered at Chandler throughout the season.

April 1st, 7:30 p.m.—Anais Mitchell and Sam Amidon. Tickets \$10-\$35. Sam Amidon grew up immersed in folk as part of a musical family based in Brattleboro, VT. His parents, Peter and Mary Alice Amidon, perform and teach traditional forms of song, dance and storytelling; his brother Stefan plays drums with the Sweetback Sisters. Jazz became a new horizon for Amidon, and he began collaborating extensively with Bill Frisell, Shahzad Ismaily on bass and Chris Vatalaro on drums and electronics. Amidon has released at least six albums, and acquired acclaim on NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts, Mountain Stage, and has appeared with many great performers including Regina Carter and the Punch Brothers. For more about him visit www.samamidon.com

Anais Mitchell is a Vermont and Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter who comes from the world of narrative folksong, poetry and balladry. She recorded for Ani Difranco's Righteous Babe Records for several years before starting her own Wilderland label in 2012. Among her recorded works are six full-length albums, including 2010's sensation-reviewed Hadestown, a folk opera based on the Orpheus myth. Mitchell has headlined worldwide as well as supporting tours. The stage production of Hadestown opened Off-Broadway in May 2016. Visit www.anaismitchell.com.

April 8th, 7:30 p.m.—John Jorgensson and the Community Engagement Lab. Tickets \$10-\$25. Music virtuoso John Jorgensson, known for his blistering guitar licks and mastery of a broad musical palette, has earned a reputation as a world-class musician and guitarist who has collaborated with the likes of Elton John, Luciano Pavarotti, Bonnie Raitt and Bob Dylan. In addition to acoustic and electric guitars, he is also regularly featured on the saxophone, clarinet, bouzouki, pedal steel, mandolin, vocals and has garnered



Vishtén, a contemporary Acadian group, will be performing at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, VT on March 11th. photo courtesy of Chandler Music Hall

recognition for contributing to numerous platinum-selling and Grammy-winning albums. The John Jorgenson Quintet creates a unique musical experience that equally entralls the most discerning and the casual music fan. The group's style has been called "gypsy jazz" after the dynamic string-driven swing created by Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli in 1930s Paris, but Jorgenson's compositions draw in elements from Latin, Romanian, Classical, Rock and Greek music.

As Artist-in-Residence for the 2016/17 Vermont Creative Schools Initiative, Jorgenson will bring his quintet into collaboration with the Community Engagement Lab Festival Orchestra, conducted by Paul Gambill, for concerts in April 2017. The Festival Orchestra is comprised of 23 top professional string players from Vermont, Boston and New York City. A portion of each concert will include students performing with Jorgenson and the Festival Orchestra on student works created through Creative Schools Initiative projects.

April 14th, 7:30 p.m.—Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn. Tickets \$15-\$75. Béla Fleck and Abigail Fleck and Washburn play Appalachian murder ballads, gospel, chamber and blues. Béla, an icon and innovator of jazz, classical and world, with more multi-category Grammy wins than any other artist (15 total), and Abigail, a formidable talent with triumphs in songwriting, theater, performance, and even Chinese diplomacy by way of banjo, turn out to be quite a fortuitous pairing. Their recent record, *Timeline*, reveals their astounding chemistry as collaborators, as the two seamlessly stitch together singular banjo sounds (through an assortment of seven banjos spanning the recording) in service to the stories that their songs tell, with no studio gimmickry needed. Washburn and Fleck playfully embrace the notion that they've become a family band. And at home, on stage or on record, it's their deep bond, on top of the way their distinct musical personalities and banjo styles interact, that makes theirs a picking partnership unlike any other on the planet. www.belafleck.com, www.abigailwashburn.com.

May 12th, 7:30 p.m.—The Next Generation. Tickets \$10-\$16. Young classical musicians from high schools and home schools all over Vermont and the Upper Valley will showcase their performing artistry in Chandler's now ninth annual NPR "From the Top" look-alike program. For this concert, the area's top music teachers recommend students whose accomplishments deserve special recognition, and this

performance will feature those students who were selected after a competitive audition.

Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. Box office hours: 12-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1.5 hours before the show on the day of a performance. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. For information call (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org.



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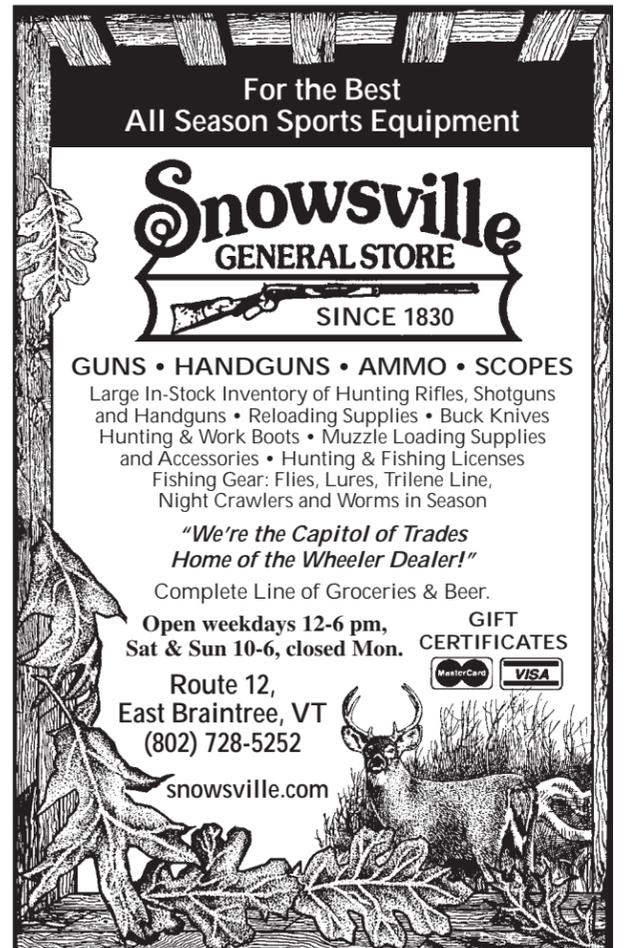
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Sowing the Seeds of Summer

Black-eyed Susans for Every Garden

by Judith Irven

The days are getting longer and winter is drawing to a close. March is upon us and Vermonters are getting serious about planning for the gardening season ahead. What new garden projects should we undertake and what new plants will we try?

It is also 'seed-starting month' in the North Country. If you sow seeds indoors in March, the young plants will have a two-month head start before you move them to their long-term garden home.

Most of us are familiar with those cheery Black-eyed Susans that bloom in our gardens each fall. But many lesser known varieties will light up your beds from mid-summer onwards. And a couple of these are best started from seed right now.

So, in the spirit of something new for this year's garden, may I suggest you try some different kinds of Black-eyes Susans that you have not grown before.

Not only will their exuberant flowers bring pleasure to you and your family throughout the summer, but they will also provide nectar for the bees and, if left standing in winter, their seeds will be enjoyed by the birds.

Those all-American Black-eyed Susans

There are more than two dozen species of Black-eyed Susans, all with distinctive yellow petals radiating out from a central knob. And all are native to North America.

And while some species have additional names—such as daisies, sunflowers or cone-flowers—they all belong to the Rudbeckia genus. Hence we often collectively refer to all the members of the Black-eyed Susan clan as 'Rudbeckias'.

And many are perfectly at home in our gardens. Some are tall, others short; some would look great in a mass planting near the house whereas others could become the mainstay of a new meadow garden.

And are also dozens of cultivated varieties of Rudbeckias—known as 'cultivars' in horticultural parlance—with names like Gloriosa Daisies, Indian Summer, Denver Daisy and Cherry Brandy, that plant breeders have developed especially to provide desirable features such as mammoth flowers, luscious colors, or more compact plants.

Where should I plant Rudbeckias?

Most rudbeckias will flower most prolifically in full sun, although some, like the perennial cultivar Goldstrum, will also bloom nicely in partial shade.

Rudbeckias also vary in height, bloom time and number of flowers each plant produces, so keep these attributes in mind when choosing plants for a particular location.

Many varieties including Cherry Brandy, Denver Daisies, Gloriosa Daisies, Indian Summer, the Claspings Sunflower and Goldstrum, grow between two and three feet tall, making them perfect near the front of the border. To make your Rudbeckias stand out, combine them with grasses that have contrasting textures, such as Tussock Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) or Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*).

Long blooming cultivars such as Cherry Brandy, Denver Daisies and Gloriosa Daisies are also ideal for container plantings, perhaps mixed with a soft Blue Fescue grass.

Since Sweet Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*) as well as the cultivar Autumn Sun both grow five feet high or more, they will stand out well near the back of the border, perhaps in front of some tall Miscanthus grasses.

For a naturalized or meadow garden, where all plants need to be both robust and enduring, choose the cultivar Goldstrum together with a few wild species, such as the roadside Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*), the Claspings Sunflower (*Rudbeckia amplexicaulis*) and Sweet Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*).

Annuals or perennials?

Some species of Rudbeckia are annuals, others biennials and still others are long-lasting perennials. Some are even described as 'short lived perennials'.

For example, the Claspings Sunflower, is an annual. Its seeds germinate in the spring, produce flowers and set seeds all in the course of a single summer. Although those original plants will not survive the winter, next spring their seeds will sprout and continue the cycle.

However the familiar roadside Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)—as well as its cultivated offshoot, the stunning Gloriosa Daisies—are naturally biennial (meaning they germinate in the spring but only flower in their second year).

However, if you plant the seeds of either Gloriosa Daisies or the roadside Black-eyed Susans indoors around now, you will be rewarded with flowers this first year.

And while some of those plants may return and flower for a few more seasons—and thus are sometimes described as short-lived perennials—you cannot count on it. Just enjoy it when it happens!

Still other Rudbeckias are true long-lasting perennials. While they may not begin blooming as early each season, if you choose a perennial variety like the familiar cultivar Goldstrum (*Rudbeckia 'Goldstrum'*) or the very tall Autumn Sun (*Rudbeckia 'Herbstsonne'*) they will return year after year to light up your fall garden.

Should I go with seeds or young plants?

Typically if you try growing cultivars from seed, the new plants may not retain the desired characteristics. So for varieties like Indian Summer (which has enormous flowers between 6" and 9" across), Denver Daisy (with upward-facing yellow and reddish petals around sultry brown cones) and Cherry Brandy (with deep pink petals), your best choice is to seek out young plants at your local garden center.

Gloriosa Daisies, a tetraploid cultivar with twice the normal number of chromosomes, however, is the exception to this rule. When grown from seed the new plants do retain their distinctive features, including huge



A bee alights on a black-eyed Susan in Central Vermont. photo by Dick Conrad

flowers, both singles and doubles, in a wide range of colors—and all from a single pack of seeds! Start them indoors now for a summertime show.

However, if you want to cover a big area with a mass of plants, perhaps a large flower bed or even a meadow planting, then your least expensive approach would be to buy bulk seeds of one or more of the wild species, and plant them directly where you want them to grow.

First loosen the soil and remove all the weeds. Now broadcast the seeds across the entire area and water gently. Do not cover the seeds since they need light to germinate.

American Meadows, an internet company located in Burlington, Vermont, sells bulk seeds for several Rudbeckia species, including the roadside Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), the low growing Claspings Sunflower (*Rudbeckia amplexicaulis*), and the taller Sweet Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*), any of which would be ideal as part of a large meadow planting.

What about self-seeding?

Almost all Rudbeckias will self seed, ensuring you flowers in future seasons.

However some of our favorite varieties, like Goldstrum, Indian Summer and Cherry Brandy, have been developed by plant breeders for their special colors or larger flowers. If these are allowed to self-seed, next year's plants may not come true to type. If this concerns you, plan on dead-heading your plants as each stem completes flowering.

And, as an added bonus, following a regular deadheading routine will trigger the plant to make additional new blooms—something worth considering too!!

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

In My Mother's Garden

There were many flowers in my mother's garden,
Sword-leaved gladiolas, taller far than I,
Sticky-leaved petunias, pink and purple flaring,
Velvet-painted pansies smiling at the sky;

Scentless portulacas crowded down the borders,
White and scarlet-petalled, rose and satin-gold,
Clustered sweet alyssum, lacy-white and scented,
Sprays of gray-green lavender to keep 'til you were old;

In my mother's garden were green-leaved hiding-places,
Nooks between the lilacs—oh, a pleasant place to play!
Still my heart can hide there, still my eyes can dream it,
Though the long years lie between and I am far away;

When the world is hard now, when the city's clanging
Tires my eyes and tires my heart and dust lies everywhere,
I can dream the peace still of the soft wind's shining,
I can be a child still and hide my heart from care.

Lord, if still that garden blossoms in the sunlight,
Grant that children laugh there now among its green and gold,
Grant that little hearts still hide its memoried sweetness,
Locking one bright dream away for light when they are old!

—MARGARET WIDDEMER, 1884-1978



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The 22nd Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival

The Burlington Irish Heritage Festival (BIHF) is pleased to announce the 22nd year of its program of Irish music, dance, history, language, and literature held in connection with St. Patrick's Day.

The 2017 festival in the greater Burlington area extends early and late this year as the variety of events begins on March 7 and finishes on March 24 with Irish dance at the University of Vermont. Tickets must be purchased for the final show; most other events ask for a donation at the door. Festival expenses are mainly covered by the sale of raffle tickets with the grand prize a trip for two to Ireland with airfare, accommodations, and a rental car for a week.

People around the globe celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17. This date actually marks the death in the 5th century of the patron saint of Ireland who introduced Christianity to Ireland using the shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity. The family-friendly Burlington Irish Heritage Festival program to which all ages are invited focuses on the heritage passed down by Irish immigrants who brought their love of music, dance, and story to Vermont.

Festivities start March 7

The History Department of St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT sponsors the annual Kuntz Memorial Lecture at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, when local author Liam McKone presents "Fenians! Irishmen attack Canada." The lecture describes the 1866 armed assault on the British Empire from Vermont and New York to strike a blow for Ireland's freedom from foreign rule. Displays in the Farrell Room, 3rd floor of St. Edmunds Hall, will include clothing and weapons for use to portray these Irish soldiers and take "selFenian" photos.

Irish culture and song on March 12

The authentic Irish pub and restaurant Rí Rá at 123 Church St. in Burlington hosts a Sunday program of Irish culture and song on March 12. Displays and discussions of history, language, sport, and food take place in the back room 1-5 p.m., followed by a lively sing-along 5-8 p.m. led by Reagh Greenleaf in the main area. Food and drink are available at the pub along with the "craic" (Irish for "good fun"), so both body and spirit can be nourished.

Irish geneology and four days of music

Explore your ancestry at the Vermont Genealogical Library, Dupont Hall, 377 Hegeman Ave. on Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester as Ed McGuire presents "Finding Your Irish Roots" at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 14. Introduction to the extensive resources at the library will be followed by a tour and refreshments. Further information at www.vtgenlib.org or call (802) 310-9285.

That same Tuesday, the Brayzen Heads begins a four-evening stint of "trad" (traditional) Irish music at Rí Rá. Brought over from Ireland to perform March 14-17, the duo will fill the pub with tunes each evening, starting at 8 p.m. the first two nights and 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday. St. Patrick's Day and the three nights before will be a lively scene as Dave Gilmore from Dublin and Shane Farrell—whose family hails from County Galway—sing, play, and tell stories for your enjoyment.

Participate in an Irish music session

Radio Bean at 8 North Winooski Ave. in Burlington holds its regular Wednesday Irish session with local musicians and singers on March 15 from 7-9 p.m., always a fun evening with food and drink available. The following evening Reagh Greenleaf repeats his sing-along program at Rí Rá on Thursday 5-8 p.m. with Brayzen Heads starting at 9 pm.

Modern day Irish politics

On St. Patrick's Day itself, March 17, Dr. Ciaran Buckley of the Champlain College faculty shares his expertise on global developments at 12 noon in the Fletcher Room at the Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St. in Burlington. He will describe current developments in the European Union with a talk on "Brexit and Its Effect on Ireland." His views on possible impacts on the political and economic situation in divided Ireland and on the EU will certainly be informative. The 12-1 p.m. schedule for the talk leaves time to digest this food for thought before the Brayzen Heads play their final evening at Rí Rá starting at 9 p.m.

Irish kids' crafts, music showcase, and a Ceili

The Fletcher Free Library once again hosts events on Saturday morning March 18 with two well-loved educational activities, starting with Irish heritage children's crafts for all ages in the Fletcher Room 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Talented musicians Benedict Koehler and Hilari Farrington bring "Between the Jigs and the Reels: Ireland's History Through Its Music" to the Pickering Room at Fletcher Free Library 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. This history showcases such



photo courtesy of Burlington Irish Heritage Festival
Dancers from the McFadden Academy of Irish Dance in Colchester, VT at a ceili.

iconic Irish instruments as the harp, uilleann bagpipes, button accordion, and tin whistle.

For those who will venture into the countryside, Saturday evening features the Waterville Irish Heritage Ceili (party) at the town hall on VT 109 in the heart of the village. A "session" at 4 p.m. kicks off the festivities and Dale and Darcy Cahill perform from 5-7 p.m., followed by dinner and the Heather Morris dancers. Call Damian Turner at (802) 644-2731 for more details about the raffle drawings, food and drink, and even a magic show.

Festival Ceili, raffle drawing and concert

Sunday, March 19, features the signature Burlington Irish Heritage Festival, the Festival Ceili, from 1-3 p.m. at Contois Auditorium in City Hall at 149 Church St. in Burlington, VT. This joyous gathering for young and old offers music, both performance and participatory dance, a bake sale, displays, and the raffle drawing for the Grand Prize trip to Ireland. Young Tradition Vermont wraps up the afternoon 3-5 p.m. with Denise Dean hosting many talented young local musicians.

Festival finale with step dancing showcase

On Friday, March 24, the final event takes place 7-9 p.m. at Patrick Gymnasium, 97 Spear St. on the UVM campus in Burlington. The Celtic Cats will present their high-energy step dancing, showcasing pieces on which they have worked all year. Tickets are available at the door, \$5 for UVM students and \$7 for the general public, for this rousing performance of traditional Irish dance that closes the 2017 festival. More information is available from vprimave@uvm.edu.

The all-volunteer BIHF committee seeks and welcomes others to help plan, organize, and present this annual celebration of our Irish heritage. Please email admin@BurlingtonIrishHeritage.org to join in the effort, suggest additional activities, offer sponsorships, and otherwise support the Festival.

For more information contact the Burlington Irish Heritage, PO Box 311, Burlington, VT 05402. info@BurlingtonIrishHeritage.org. Visit our website at burlingtonirishheritage.org.



Music session with Benedict Koehler and Hilari Farrington.



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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Tales of Our Best Friends of the Woofy Nature

Our relationship with our four-legged friends goes back for eons. They are called man's best friend for good reason. Here are some of their stories to warm your heart as Winter turns to Spring.



A dog's life can be up or down depending on the circumstances. See what happens when one hapless dog gets a chance to make his sad his life a little happier in *Pug Man's 3 Wishes* by Sebastian Meschenmoser (\$16.95. North/South Books. www.northsouth.com).

The already depressed Pug Man wakes up one morning and finds the day is half over. He wonders if it is even worthwhile to get up for only a half a day, but he makes the effort only to find that the second half of the day is miserable—no coffee, no milk, no cereal, and the morning rain-soaked newspaper was unreadable. Pug Man is shown in black and white line drawings that capture his gloom and misery. Just the look on his face is heart-breaking. Then suddenly some colors! A red-dressed fairy with one hair appears and offers to make him happier by fulfilling three wishes. She produces some ideas—"Raspberry drops and creamy cake, chocolate of every type and make, purple kitten, piglet, pony, so you needn't feel so lonely. Castle, car, swimming pool, You've got three wishes—that's the rule." You may have guessed right. His three wishes are coffee and cereal, a dry newspaper, and the friendly piglet. And we learn "Pug Man and Princess Piglet lived happily ever after for the rest of their days (some half and some whole). The author is among Germany's most admired and successful illustrators for children. You will see why his drawings won a 'Dutch Silver Pen' award. This story was first published in Germany.



Is Spring fever bringing you some wanderlust? Consider *Bob The Railroad Dog—The True Story of an Adventurous Dog* by Corinne Fenton and illustrated by Andrew McLean (\$16.99. Candlewick Press. www.candlewick.com) about the early days of the 19th century when railroads were being built in Australia. Meet a railroad buff, a dog named Bob, who rode the rails for the sheer fun of it. This is based on a true story about dog that is rescued by a train guard named Will Ferry from a pack of homeless dogs on their way to be rabbit hunters in outback South Australia. Bob usually waits for Will while he is off on daily train trips, but one day he's invited to come along in the caboose. He loves the railway and travels on trains hauling wheat, cattle, sheep and pas-

sengers by jumping into the cab of one train, leaping off at some wayside spot, and then catching a train going back in the opposite direction. Bob visits towns all over South Australia from Oodnadatta to Kalangadoo! He was always welcomed at any station and at the end of each day would follow a driver or guard home for the night. Every so often he would visit his old friend, the guard Will, but "the moment a train chugged and chuffed and the whistle blew, Bob jumped aboard." Enchanting drawings catch the tiny dog railroading through the vast countryside day and night. His special place on the train was atop the coal tender car just behind the engine. You'll want to hop aboard, too!



Dogs continue to amaze us at how well they learn simple commands, the family routine, even how to herd sheep and cows. But dogs as teachers? Find out how well they do with *A Day with Dogs* by Dorothee de Monfreid (\$19.99. Gecko Press. www.geckopress.com).

We learn the dogs as teachers represent 23 breeds including small dogs like Poodles, Maltese and Chihuahuas to larger species like Dalmatians, Border Collies and Newfoundlands. The dogs spend the day in 30 settings where they do their thing but also teach us the names of objects there. We meet and learn the names of farm animals, insects and flowers, the animals of the sea, forest and the mountains, and other venues. For foods we visit a supermarket but are also introduced to fruits and vegetables. In a forest the dogs show us mushrooms,

anthills, toadstools, acorns, oak and birch trees, chestnuts and ferns. Through the book the dogs display human expressions, usually upbeat and humorous even while doing human tasks like pushing a wheelbarrow, hanging out laundry and being a cook, bricklayer, fisherman, clown, or airplane pilot. To help learn the alphabet the dogs have been named from A (Alex) to Z (Zaza).

When I had a baby sister, one day she suddenly became very inquisitive and kept asking "What's that?" This book will save you such a drill as the dogs introduce close to a thousand objects and their names. That's some vocabulary! The author did the original work in her native French. The original title was *Tout Tout Sur Les Toutous* (Doggies All Over The Place).

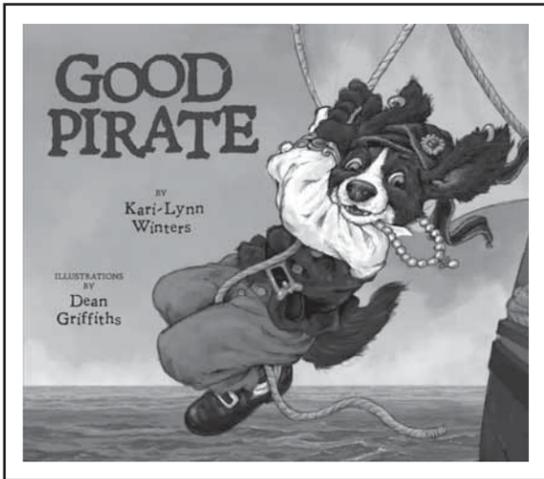


At some stage in their lives daughters can become independent, uppity and seemingly too savvy for their own good. But if this willful daughter is an appealing Springer Spaniel named Augusta aboard a pirate ship full of other dogs with her father as captain, things will happen that will "shiver your timbers." Enjoy these dramas in *Good Pirate* and *Bad Pirate*—two books by Kari-Lynn Winters and illustrated by Dean Griffiths (\$19.95 each. Pajama Press. www.pajamapress.com).

Meet the foul-mouthed Captain Barnacle Garrick, his irresistible daughter, and a motley crew of sea dogs as they capture loot or survive a storm at sea. Depending on the circumstances Capt. Barnacle demands that the crew, including his daughter, be Rotten, Sneaky and Brainy in the *Good Pirate* book and Saucy, Bold and Selfish in the *Bad Pirate* book. How these commands are obeyed is illustrated in some of the most captivating seafaring dog drawings and captain-fearing adventures. You will be intrigued by the bombastic captain with his menacing hook, his free-spirited daughter who loves vanilla as a perfume, and the life of the pirate dogs.

Learn the language of life aboard the ship: gangplank, brig, stern, bow, peg leg, matey, scab, poop deck, quarterdeck; and nautical commands: reef the sails, heave to and 'arr'—a favorite pirate expression used to show anger, sadness or happiness.

See if you can figure out the books' mixed messages of what's good or bad. Sometimes being selfless can also be a bold and saucy move. The prize-winning author and artist both live in Canada.



Book Review by Charles Sutton

Farm Dogs—A Comprehensive Breed Guide to 93 Guardians, Herders, Terriers, and Other Canine Working Partners

by Janet V. Dohner

(\$16.95. Storey Publishing. www.storey.com)

When visiting a working farm you will usually be greeted first off by a farm dog who knows instinctively if you are friendly or not. The dog will announce your arrival by barking loudly as well as a friendly tail wagging. He'll hold his ground between you and the farmstead until someone comes. Ruffled back hair and a display of teeth is not a good sign.

Who these farm dogs are and the many tasks they perform is the subject of this handsome 350-page book—the work of a dog lover with more than 35 years of experience using livestock guard dogs for predator control. Here also is a gallery of beautiful color photographs of 93 out of 350 different breeds of farm dogs performing their jobs, taking a break, or sometimes just playing and having fun.

The farm dogs are grouped according to their main job: livestock guardian, herding, terriers and earthdogs (ratters) and traditional and multipurpose farm dogs. (Not included are non-farm dogs like hunting and sporting breeds, sled-dogs, 'war' or military dogs, hobby and pet dogs).

Kangals and Corgis

There are maps for each category which is a good starting place if you are curious about where such-and-such a breed originated. The author herself uses Kangals, a breed from Turkey, "noted for his solid temperament and gentleness with livestock, children and pets." We also learn that if that dog's warning barks are ignored, "they then confront a predator with a roar and attack if necessary."

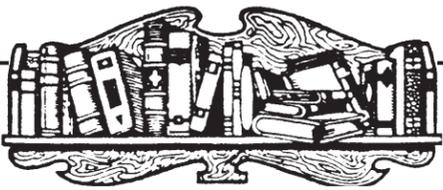
For herding livestock Janet uses Pembroke Welsh Corgies which she writes "are definitely tough, barks, pushy and nippy with cattle, and having short legs is no problem".

With each write-up one learns about the dog's working traits, history, appearance, current status, if and when the breeds crossed the ocean and came to the U.S., and interesting anecdotes. An example of dogs as gifts is when President Eisenhower was given two magnificent Tibetan Mastiffs from Nepal. That breed is used in the Himalayas to herd sheep, goats, yaks and horses and as protection from predatory wolves, bears, snow leopards and lynxes.

Good with children and on the farm

Some interesting breeds that caught our eye were the Hungarian Pumi (excellent watchdogs, fine with children although they may attempt to herd them); Finnish Lapphunds (bark at large reindeer herds to get them moving); Russian Samoyeds (good watchdog, header, also likes sledding, skijoring, packing and hiking); American Rat Terrier (good hunters of rats or mice, squirrels, rabbits, moles and larger animals); and the Belgian-French Bouvier des Flanders (cattle dog, header and drover, with power and presence).

Although they are working farm dogs, many of the breeds also make good companions and are safe with children. The author helps you decide what breed to get with information on breed selection, health care, food and water needs, outdoor living, neutering and spaying and dog rescue. There's a dog for you in this book including many familiar breeds like Collies, Sheepdogs, Shepherds, Dachshunds, Irish and Jack Russell terriers and Airdales. They will be an asset if you get to be a farmer, too. Just when you are about to put this book down, don't forget to read about spitz dogs and curs!



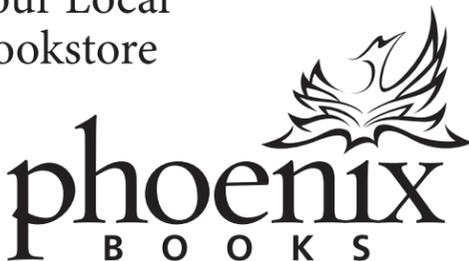
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The Spice Companion
A Guide to the World of Spices
 by Lior Lev Sercarz and
 Photographs by Thomas Schauer
Clarkson Potter/Publishers
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For most of us the word “seasonings” means salt and pepper and spices like vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg. But for the author of this 300-page encyclopedic book spices are also “herbs, roots, bark, berries, rhizomes and any part of a plant that enhances the taste of food.”

Lior Lev Sercarz notes that in many kitchens (including those preparing restaurant food) spices get the short shrift. He asks how many of us also have jars of spices in the cupboard that have been collecting dust for some time, maybe even years?

He notes that in his 20 years in professional kitchens there was a serious lack of knowledge about spices, mainly because they have been thought of as something used only in exotic, ethnic cuisines and not straying far from their countries of origin.

This book highlights 102 spices in the most surprisingly beautiful and intriguing way. On introductory pages each spice is shown as a whole plant, stem or branch as it would be seen growing. On the accompanying page (and these are large pages) the spice is shown ‘scattered’ all over the place. We see the spice in its many forms: the stem with live flowers, or as fruit, seeds, or with flowers coming off or dried. If it’s a pepper there will be its pod or shell spilling out hot ingredients all over the page. You could almost be tricked into getting a kitchen gadget to scrape these dried spices off the page for immediate use in one of your soups or stews! Tempting full-page color illustrations show the spices being used in dishes to grace your table.

Among these drawings are: bean shells (vanilla); nuts (nutmeg, mace); roots (turmeric, galangal); cloves (garlic); fruit (orange, lemon, lime, pomegranate); seeds (sesame), and other plant parts that become a spice.

These wonderful drawings alone could tell their story, but the author adds just the

right amount of text for each spice including its flavor and aroma; origin; harvest season; parts used; general information including history; traditional uses; recipe ideas; and how best mixed in a blend.

Lior gets his spices from all over the world including some from the aptly named Spice Islands, a small group of islands off Indonesia, known for mace, nutmeg, cloves and pepper. In many cases he has recruited small farmers worldwide to grow special orders just for him. He always works from their fresh spices.

A real ‘find’ was a Cambodian farmer who is growing a heritage fine-flavored pepper for him called Kapot. He gets his Saffron from Afghanistan. He attributes the high price for the spice because it takes backbreaking harvesting to pick the flowers by hand and later to pluck three stigmas or threads from each flower. India and Turkey also are major sources for his spices.

The Spice Companion offers 15 ways for blending spices and how to prepare them yourself. Certain areas of the world have their own special blends: Quatre Epices (France)—peppercorns, chives, nutmeg and ginger; Chinese spice power—aniise, chamomile, cloves, Sichuan pepper; Madras curry (India)—curry leaves, cumin, coriander, turmeric, cardamon, Fenugreek seeds and cinnamon; and Ras El Hanout (Moroccan or North African)—cinnamon, cumin, rosebuds, cubeb berries, allspice berries, clove and thyme.

One of Lior’s favorite spices is pepper (little to lots of heat). Twenty-five peppers are introduced, many grown in Mexico with intriguing and spicy names like Guajillo, Chipotle, Bird’s Eye Chili, Ancho, Annatto, Cascabel and others. Among his favorites from the Middle East is Aleppo—magical chile flakes with citrus and sun-dried tomato notes and a mild, pleasant heat. Sadly he writes they are an endangered species due to the continuing war in Syria, made even worse by a lingering drought. “We’ll have to wait patiently and hope the heritage of Aleppo—its town, its people, and the chile—make a revival.”



LIOR LEV SERCARZ
 founder of LA BOÎTE

THE SPICE COMPANION



A GUIDE TO THE WORLD OF SPICES

Photographs by THOMAS SCHAUER

Another of his favorite peppers is the West African Grains of Paradise, a spice made from pyramid-shaped seeds with a woody aroma and light peppery heat. It is even used in the Scandinavian drink Aquavit.

The author grew up on a kibbutz inhabited by a generation of Jews who escaped Europe before the war, or came after and built a country on the idea that food was a means of survival. “All I can remember from my early days is boiled, flavorless dishes—too often oversweetened or way too vinegary.” But as a boy he got the idea to forage for herbs and spices, and he had the good sense to stuff a wild caught rainbow trout with wild herbs to cook on a grill.

Today he notes Israel has close to 70 dif-

ferent ethnic groups, and in turn, each has their uniquely authentic cuisines.

Since 2009 Lior Lev Sercarz has been the chef and owner of a destination spice shop in New York City called La Boîte at 724 11th Avenue where his spices and over 40 custom spice blends are available as well as other goodies including a lovely decorative tin of French-style biscuits (cookies). He teaches courses using spices and making one’s own blends.

After attending culinary school in France, he worked for multiple Michelin-starred chefs before turning to his true passion: helping cooks everywhere embrace new flavors.

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Lior Lev Sercarz mixes spices at La Boîte in New York City.

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Vermont Spring Book, Postcard and Ephemera Fair: Rare Books Can Yield Gem of a Find

by Telly Halkias

The great 15th-century humanist and scholar Erasmus left us with a dictum which resonates with bibliophiles everywhere, even hundreds of years later:

“When I have a little money, I buy books,” Erasmus once wrote. “If I have some left over, I buy food and clothes.”

Clearly, a man who had his priorities straight. Regional fans of collectible pages can seek to align with Erasmus on Saturday, April 8th in Burlington at the 2017 Vermont Spring Book, Postcard and Ephemera Fair.

The fair, which is sponsored by the Vermont Antiquarian Bookseller’s Association (VABA), will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hilton Burlington on Battery Street.

Fair manager Donna Howard, owner of The Eloquent Page—New, Used and Rare Books in St. Albans, VT, said that, at last count, there will be around 22 book and ephemera dealers from New England and the Northeast on hand, and all carry a variety of past treasures, including books, maps, postcards, letters, prints and other such gems.

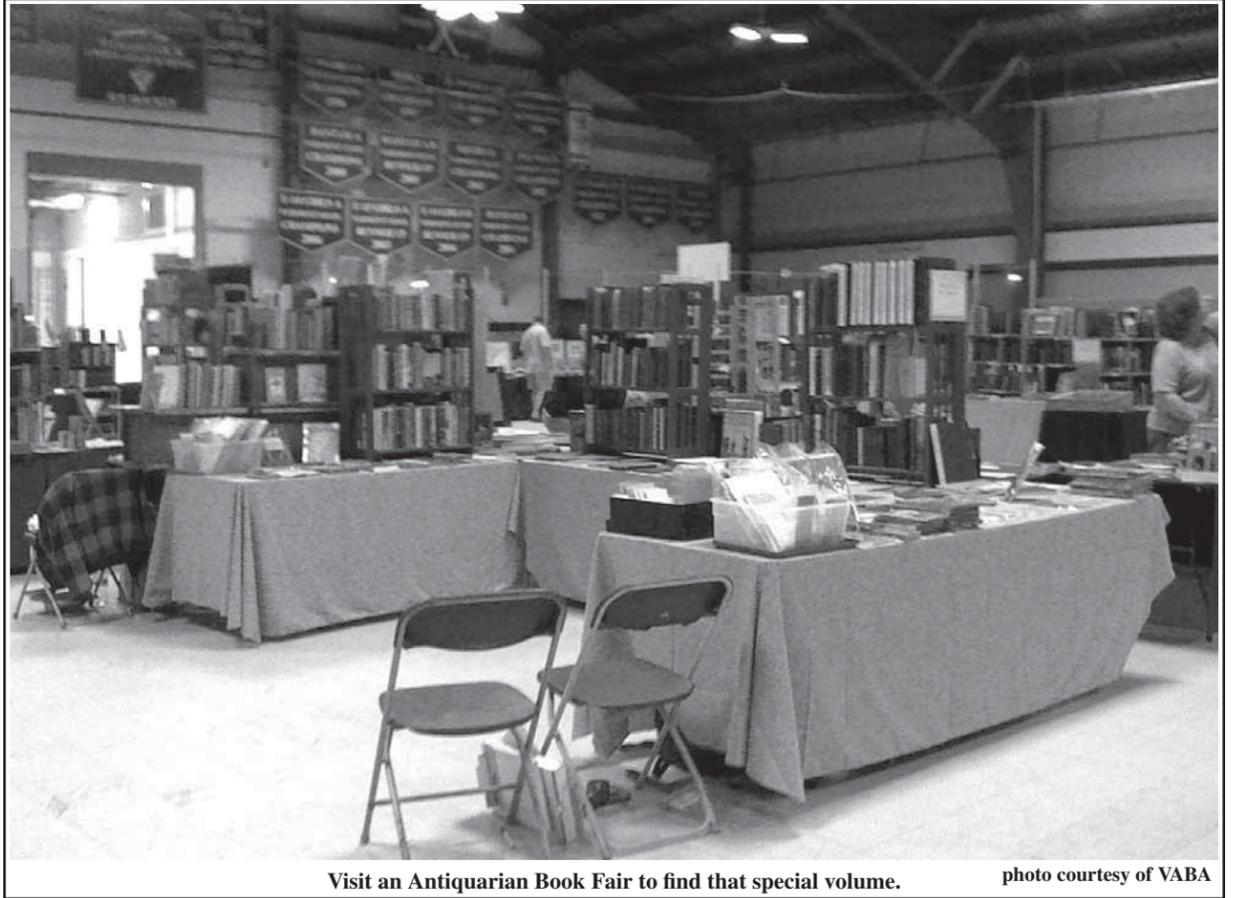
“Various booksellers bring their best, most interesting materials and display it for sale,” said John Hess, manager of VABA’s summer fair in Bennington. “All books are priced, but the price can usually be negotiated, but sometimes not. You could wait until the end of the fair and possibly get a great deal, but that item might be sold earlier in the day.”

Patty McWilliams, owner of Hermit Hill Books in Poultney, VT, emphasized that everything at a book fair is not always ancient and musty. “I bring recently acquired stock that I’m excited about, good regional titles, first edition literature, and unusual history titles,” McWilliams said. “I love photography. It doesn’t always sell, but I still bring it.”

Another important aspect of these fairs, McWilliams continued, is the element of camaraderie among all lovers of books and other such collectibles.

Donna Howard, who owns The Eloquent Page in St. Albans, agreed with McWilliams, noting the positive synergy of both vendors and customers with similar passions. “For me, a book fair is a chance to meet a large number of book lovers at once,” Howard said. “I meet fellow booksellers, collectors, librarians and people who just love books. Everyone I meet knows something that I do not.” Howard explained that she spends the entire day at a fair day talking to people and learning more than she did before. This could include a new title or author, how to identify a particular style of binding, or an illustrator she had never seen.

Ben Koenig of The Country Bookshop in Plainfield, VT was quick to note that contrary to what some browsers and attendees may believe, book fairs are not flea markets. “The benefit of a fair for book lovers is that the items on exhibit have been carefully chosen by knowledgeable booksellers,” Koenig said. “They may or may not be the most expensive books, but they may be unusual, or they may be rarely seen, or they may be in beautiful condition, or they may be perfect for your shelf at home.”



Visit an Antiquarian Book Fair to find that special volume.

photo courtesy of VABA

The variety and care taken in each exhibitor’s booth, Koenig added, is well worth a visit. “Often, it will feel as if you are in a museum in which you can handle these rare items and ask questions of a dealer who knows his or her stock,” he said.

Hess said that booksellers love to tell stories, and on that count, McWilliams didn’t disappoint. She recounted her first book fair with great fondness.

“It was about 18 or 19 years ago, the Burlington Book Fair and it was April 9,” McWilliams recalled. “The morning of the fair, we woke to a major snowstorm, but managed to make the drive to Burlington. Hardly anyone from the public braved the weather, but I did really well selling to other dealers. Everyone was so welcoming and encouraging,” McWilliams said that while it might seem booksellers are in business competition with each other, that’s not really the case. “If someone comes into my shop asking about a book and I don’t have it, I will send the buyer to another vendor that may have it,” she said. “We’re all working to keep the wonderful world of books alive.”

The 2017 Vermont Spring Books, Postcard and Ephemera

fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 8th at the Hilton Burlington, 60 Battery St., Burlington, VT. Admission is free. (802) 527-7243 or visit: vermontisbookcountry.com.

For more information about VABA including membership, contact The Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association, c/o The Eloquent Page, 70 North Main St., St. Albans, VT 05478. (802) 527-7243. books@TheEloquentPage.com. vermontisbookcountry.com.

The Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association offers a guide to member shops including a description of their offerings and contact information. It is available throughout the state at member bookshops, chambers of commerce and welcome centers as well as the VABA website, vermontisbookcountry.com. Or have one mailed to you, free of charge, by contacting Joseph Trenn, the Book Shed, Lake Rd., Benson, VT 05731. (802) 537-2190, bookshed@shoreham.net.

Telly Halkias is a VABA member who neither participates in its annual fairs, nor received its compensation for this article. tchalkias@aol.com. @TellyHalkias on Twitter.

Lunenburg, VT

The Lunenburg Annual Maple Festival on March 25th

The Lunenburg Annual Maple Festival celebrates an important heritage—an understanding and appreciation for all that goes into the process of “sugaring” and the historical importance of sugaring in the town of Lunenburg, Vermont. The Top of the Common Committee invites you to join in this celebration!

On Saturday, March 25th, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Lunenburg Primary School, located above the Common off Rt. 2 on 49 Bobbin Mill Rd., in Lunenburg, VT will serve as the hub for the Festival.

There, visitors can enjoy homemade meals, sign up for a free door prize, pick up a scavenger hunt, and a map and directions to the local sugarhouses that are open

for visitors. Photographs, interactive displays, and local antique sugaring equipment chronicle all that goes into the sugaring process and the local families as they have carried on the tradition over generations.

As in past years, visitors will have the opportunity to cast their vote for the People’s Choice awards in the photo and quilt square contests, take chances on raffles, and purchase maple and Lunenburg themed products, including copies of A Wicked Good Run and Lunenburg T-shirts.

At specific times during the day, these additional activities are available at the school and nearby locations:

• **8-10:30 a.m.** – a pancake breakfast, including sausage, eggs, home fries, beverages

and real maple syrup, will be offered by The Top of the Common Committee. \$7 adults, \$3.50 ages 4-12, under age 4 free. Take-out available.

• **10:30 a.m.** – the judging of the Maple-flavored Pie Contest will begin at the Pie Contest table. Whole pies and pieces will be available for purchase throughout the day, after the winners have been announced for \$2/piece, \$8-\$12/whole pies.

• **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – visitors, with maps in hand, can take self-guided tours through the participating local sugarhouses to visit with sugarmakers, purchase maple syrup and, weather permitting, watch syrup being made. The sugarhouses provide a representation of the diverse methods of sap

collection, fuel, and product sales.

• **12-3 p.m.** – enjoy a luncheon with choice of homemade soups, breads, beverage, and a dessert for \$5.

• **11 a.m. and 2 p.m.** – tapping demonstration on the Common where you can learn about backyard sugaring by seeing how to tap a tree and what makes the sap run.

Enter the photo, quilt square, and pie baking contests! Check out the rules and find up-to-date Festival information by visiting www.topofthecommon.org or calling Chris at (802) 892-6654.

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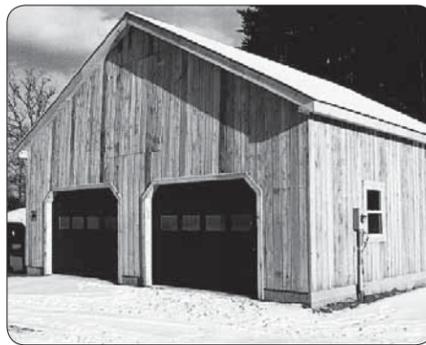
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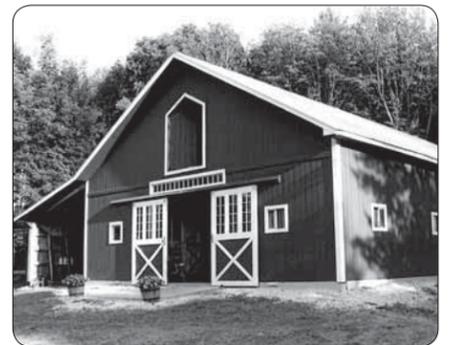
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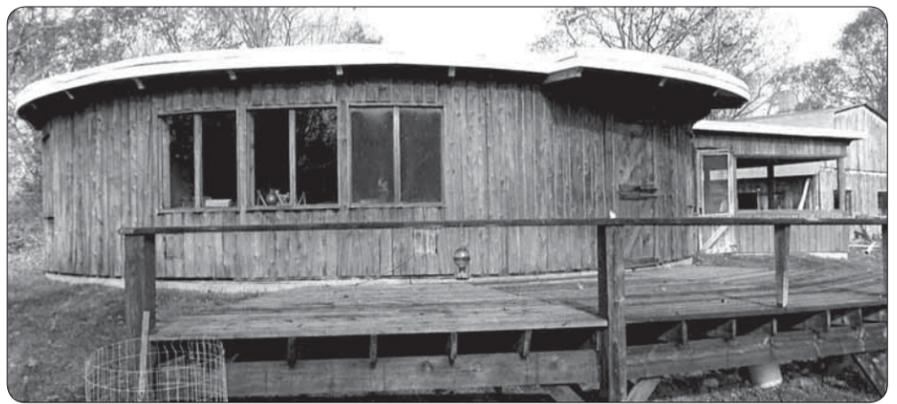
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