

Vermont Country Sampler



November 2018

Free

- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
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- Plenty of Good Reading!

N. Cassidy

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Lot 109 - 18.41 acres - \$100,000

Beautiful building lot nestled in the woods with views over a ten acre field and the Green Mountains to the west in the distance.



For Further Information or to Arrange a Tour, Please Contact:
Sam Sammis, Owner
 2 South Main St., Randolph, VT
 Sammis@NewEnglandLand.com
 (802) 522-8500

GREEN MOUNTAIN STOCK FARM

RANDOLPH, VERMONT



November Journal

Taking Stock

by Bill Felker

At the end of November, I took inventory of what was happening around the yard and in the alley. When I compared my notes with the observations from the same day in previous years, I found that little had changed one year to the next.

My seasonal inventories are like that. They often recreate the past; sometimes they also heighten my awareness of the present and give me a feel for the future. The repetitions of events reinforce a sense of grounding. They bring few surprises or disappointments.

This year, someone asked me if I could give an excuse for my listings, some practical application for writing down the same phenomena year after year. I made up a response on the spur of the moment about the metaphoric quality of all nature, but later I thought about Einstein's statement about insanity as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. And so then I asked myself: What is doing the same thing over and over and expecting

the same results, even being excited about the same results?

Fifty years ago, I was always hungry for new sensations. I did everything I could just to do it, just because it was different from what I had done before. These days, I find novelty in repetition. I am glad to find the same plant in the same place blooming at the same time year after year. I am glad to hear the cicadas and the katydids summer after summer.

If each year is generally like the previous year, next year may well be the same as this year. But I am never completely sure, and so I live in a low-grade state of cosmological suspense. There is much at stake, it seems to me, in tracking the recurrence of the most common events; maybe even sanity is at stake.

And there is always compensation enough in doing the experiment one more day. Each time, I am reassured and reaffirmed by the results: I can know at least a portion of the future. It is a place I have visited before. It is familiar ground. It is home.



Jersey cows rest in an autumn pasture in central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Brattleboro, VT

Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market on the Move

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market is excited to announce that the market will open its 13th season on November 3rd, 2018 in their new home, the Church Building at 80 Flat Street in Brattleboro, VT.

The move from the River Garden on Main St. is the culmination of two years work by the Steering Committee and the Market Manager to secure a dedicated site that would meet the need for more space and more accessible parking in a downtown Brattleboro location.

As Sherry Maher, Market Manager, notes, "the River Garden was the perfect home for our first decade and we leave there reluctantly."

The decision to move was based on extensive feedback

from customers and input from vendors over a six-month long feasibility study that was funded by a USDA grant and guided by Kitchen Table Consultants, specialists in working with local food systems.

Input from both vendors and customers was gathered throughout the process. Steering Committee member, Janice Baldwin, acknowledges the "challenge of moving" but believes that "customers, both old and new, will be drawn to the spacious, convenient location. "The Church Building offers considerably more space for both vendors and customers, is fully handicap accessible, and offers free parking in the adjacent lot.

The market will be a short

walk to the Brattleboro Cop, Dottie's, NEYT, Senior Housing. It is a comfortable distance for customers who walk or bike to market and only a block from Main St. allowing for easy access.

Though the location will be new, the schedule will be the same: Saturdays from November through March 10 am to 2 pm.

Along with fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs cheese and other farm products, you'll find yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful

handmade gifts. Come dazzle your senses and join us as we launch the new location of the Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market.

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market is a project of Post Oil Solutions, an equal opportunity, grassroots community sustainability nonprofit organization in Southeastern Vermont.

For more information, call Sherry Maher, Market Manager at (802) 869-2141 or e-mail farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org.

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Fri. & Sat. December 21 & 22

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NOVEMBER



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November!

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The Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP) supports those fleeing hardship elsewhere and seeking asylum in the United States. We provide basic needs and a supportive community to a growing number of guests.



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Susan G. Komen New England



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November 2018, Vol. XXXIV

The Vermont Country Sampler is distributed free over-the-counter in and out of Vermont. Advertising rates on request. Deadline 10th of preceding month.

Calendar of Events published free of charge. Mail your information to us by the 15th of the preceding month.

Vermont Country Sampler
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Percheron draft horses pull a wagon full of visitors around the fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Billings Farm & Museum November Festivities

The Billings Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage. Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a nearly 150-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits exploring Vermont's rural heritage.

November weekends

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, will be open Saturday and Sunday, November 3 & 4, 9-12, and 17 & 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tour the dairy farm, farmhouse, and farm life exhibits, with daily programs and activities. An Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd programs are scheduled for 3:15 p.m. each day.

Veteran's Day weekend activities

Autumn is a great time to visit Billings Farm & Museum. Explore the farm as it buttons down for winter. Board the farm wagon pulled by a team of draft horses for a brisk ride around the farm during the long Veteran's Day weekend of November 9-12.

A Late 19th-century Thanksgiving

Billings Farm & Museum, will be open for Thanksgiving Weekend, Friday-Sunday, November 23-25, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The weekend will feature traditional cooking demonstrations in the farmhouse, horse-drawn wagon rides, farm tours, and hands-on food preparation and preservation activities.

Learn about late 19th century Thanksgiving traditions. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed at the Billings Farm—preparations, menu, and entertainment—and the demanding work of the harvest.

You'll be welcomed to Frederick Billings's farmhouse,

where farm manager George Aitken and his family lived and worked from 1890 to 1910.

The event will feature costumed staff demonstrating cooking traditional Thanksgiving fare in the farmhouse, holiday programs, milking the herd, and horse-drawn wagon rides. The operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the tours of the farm manager's house—along with all programs and activities—are included in the entrance fee.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., a charitable non-profit institution. Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a nearly 150-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

Billings Farm & Museum offers a year-round calendar of programs and family-friendly events. It is open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends November through February, and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: adults: \$15; 62 & over: \$14; children 5-15: \$8; 3-4: \$4; 2 & under: free.

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





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Country Doctors, a Vanishing Breed in Healthcare Today

by Roger Allbee

Like many, I grew up in a small rural Vermont community where the country doctor was 'king.'

No matter the time of day or evening, he or she could be contacted, and if the problem was severe, a visit to the home was in order. The country doctors of my early youth knew and treated every member of the family, from birth to death, and the minutes or hours spent with a patient was not a criteria, better treatment and wellness was the objective. The doctors were respected in the community and knew every aspect of what was needed for better health.

Rudyard Kipling, when he lived at Naulakha in Dummerston, Vermont, wrote "doctors of Vermont carry on practice over radius of twenty miles or more, in frequency of snow to reach patients, and often on snowshoes to proceed. They travel on mountain roads in all seasons, in all weather, at all hours, afoot, or horseback, or carriage."

Yes, healthcare has changed over the years, and so has the role and availability of the country doctor of the past. Healthcare has become specialized and more complex, both on the regulatory side, with insurance cost and reimbursement, as well as the ability to better address community needs more broadly. The country doctor of my youth took out my tonsils, fixed a broken ankle and knuckle, removed a cyst...many functions that would be sent to a specialist today.

Healthcare in Vermont

In recent national surveys (Merritt Hawkins in 2016), Vermont ranked as the third best U.S. State when it comes to healthcare and physician access. While a rating of this type is important, it hides some importance facts, and these include:

- Vermont only spends about six percent of its resources on primary care and only about five percent on community health services;
- Preventable care is the most important step that can be taken to manage healthcare. Many of the top risk factors leading to illness and premature death are preventable, according to statistics;
- In 2013, the U.S. spent far more on healthcare than thirteen other high income developed countries, driven largely by greater use of medical technology and higher prices. Despite this spending, Americans had poor health outcomes, including shorter life expectancy and greater prevalence of chronic conditions.
- It is estimated that thirty to forty percent of total healthcare spending is wasted in the United States, and although our country spends twice as much per capita on medical care as do other industrialized nations, we are in the last place in preventing deaths.

Grace Family Health and Hospital in Townshend, VT

There is some good news in Vermont, however, at places like Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital in Townshend, Vermont. The focus on primary and preventive care, and in servicing further community needs with the resources of Community Health Teams is redesigning the country doctor's role of the past.

A Community Health Team is an innovative strategy using an interdisciplinary team of healthcare providers that have the ability to do what the country doctors of the past were



Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital in Townshend, VT.

able to do. The teams have trained nurses, social workers, diabetes educators, and nutritionists, integrated with primary care physicians and advanced practitioners. These services recognize that it is the whole patient and the community that is important in healthcare.

Community factors

It is often stated that only about 10% of healthcare is due to doctors and hospitals. Most is due to community and family factors and jobs, food, education, and the community. These factors today are referred to as community healthcare or population health. These integrated teams have the ability, not restricted by the clock, to address a wide range of medical issues and needs within the community.

Initiatives like these include an increased focus on food as medicine and are helping to sway healthcare back to its historical roots, where the doctor was part of the local community and attention was paid to the whole patient as well as his or her family.

While this type of healthcare is extremely important, it operates primarily through grant funding as preventive care and community healthcare is still not a real financial objective of our healthcare system in Vermont or the United States today.

When a state like Vermont spends such a small amount

even on primary care, a lot needs to be done to change the economic paradigm.

Country doctors of the past are a vanishing breed but attention to primary care and preventable health does save on healthcare costs.

Roger Albee recently retired as the CEO of Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital in Townshend, Vermont. He also is a former Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the State of Vermont. Information on the agricultural history of Vermont can be found on his blog at www.whatceresmightsay.blogspot.com.

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

—DYLAN THOMAS
United Kingdom 1914-1953



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40th Annual Putney Craft Tour Thanksgiving Weekend

November 23, 24 & 25

Windham County in Southern Vermont is a place rich with artistic vision, talent and craftsmanship. It boasts five popular craft and artisan open studio tours spaced at different times of the year. The granddaddy is the Putney Craft Tour, which will have its 40th anniversary this Thanksgiving weekend, on November 23, 24 & 25. It's the oldest continuing crafts tour in the country. It has been named a Top Ten Vermont Winter Event by the Vermont Chamber and is a Vermont Arts Council designated event.

Connections are what it's all about, both for the artists and the people who visit their studios. Thousands of visitors move through the studios over the course of three days and engage with the artists, the real draw of such tours, as well as the distinctive, original pieces for sale. People say it's much more interesting and exciting to see something in a studio where it was created and to speak to the artist who made it than to see a piece in a shop or gallery.

Potter Ken Pick, founding member

There are several founding members of the tour who will be opening their studios again this Thanksgiving, as well as some new to the tour. One of the founders is potter Ken Pick who arrived in Putney in 1969 after receiving an MAT from Antioch-Putney Graduate School, an education degree. But pottery was never far from his heart, and in 1973, he began to earn a living from his craft.

"There are still five or six of us who were here from the beginning," Pick said. "We banded together in one location before we evolved the tour concept. This year we have 25 artists on the tour. We wanted to bring in new young people who arrived in the area," he says.

"And, because it's Thanksgiving, there are a lot of people visiting family from all over the country," Pick said. "People are coming from all over the New England states, New Jersey, New York, and even from overseas."

Judy Hawkins, landscape painter

Judy Hawkins, another original member, says that preparing for the Tour is always critical to have the best presentation of her paintings to the public. She is energized by the wonderful interactions she has with visitors to her studio. Most of the time Judy works in isolation, with little feedback while new ideas percolate. Her approach to painting landscapes is based on her intuitive interpretation and recollections to create a sense of place. Judy has exhibited her paintings on an ongoing basis through Burlington City Arts. She also had a two-month painting show at Skinny Pancake in Burlington and National Life in Montpelier.

Judy has a web presence on Blink, the Art Design Consul-



Dena Gartenstein Moses at her loom. Visit her studio during the Annual Putney Craft Tour on Thanksgiving weekend.

tants' website and on her own website, www.judyhawkinspaintings.com

She sells her paintings through the Artful Home website and to many new and repeat collectors throughout the country. Judy's husband Craig built her studio in 2000, and four years later built an addition. Gardens and a small pond with a waterfall surround her studio. Her studio is open by appointment or by chance and during the three day Putney Craft Tour.

The artisans love the interaction

Silver jeweler Jeanne Bennett, who has been on the tour for over 15 years, appreciates the feedback she gets. "It's nice to get the work out in public. I'm up in the woods and I love hearing everyone's feedback." In addition to first-timers, Bennett, like most of the artists, has repeat customers that

come back "to see what's new and add to their collection."

Potter David Mischke also loves the interaction with customers. "It's wonderful to meet people, explain how you make the pottery. They learn that it requires more skill and experience to make a living than they realize. I had an open house before the crafts tour took shape. I made cookies and served a juice-wine-vodka punch. People stayed and had a great time."

There's no cookies or punch now, but Mischke says 500-700 people usually come each day to see and buy his functional stoneware pottery distinguished by beige/brown exteriors and bright blue Chung glaze interiors.

More than anything the tour is great entertainment. Driving the back roads and finding the studios is an adventure in itself although the studios are well marked and maps provide clear directions. The studios are all within a 12-mile radius.

Erica Noyes from Boston says, "I have been coming on the tour since I was in High School. (I graduated in 1994.) I grew up in Maine, but have family in Vermont, so that is how I started attending. I went to Bennington College, so it was easy for me to do the tour in those years. I live in Boston now, but try to make it up every year with my husband. I tell everyone that it is the best event of the year!"

Putney also reflects the power of the creative economy. "It's not just the crafts studios who benefit, but area B&Bs, stores, restaurants, and retailers." Ken Pick says. "Local shop owners say it's their biggest weekend because of the tour." In fact for the last four years, we've been partnering with other cultural entities in Putney including the Sandglass Theatre and Next Stage Arts to put on special performances during the tour. We also coordinate with local restaurants to offer Putney Craft Tour specials. We call it the "Putney Crafts Tour's Craft, Culinary and Performance" weekend. "People love it!"

The tour includes wine and cheese tastings as well as demos.

Visitors may start at *The Gleanery Restaurant*, 133 Main St. in Putney, VT for information, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. Visit www.putneycrafts.com.

Chester, VT

Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops on November 15-17

Get ready for the holidays by decorating a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments. We supply all the wire, glue guns, and equipment necessary to make the decorating fun and successful.

Open to the public, the workshops will take place in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. (Rt. 11 West) in Chester, VT. They will once again benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.

Space is limited, so participants must pre-register and are encouraged to bring clippers and glue guns if they have them. Choose from four different workshop sessions: Thursday evening November 15, 6:30-8 p.m.; Friday

November 16, 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m., and Saturday November 17, 9-10:30 a.m. Each session will offer homemade refreshments, great camaraderie, and all the essentials to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Men and women are welcome to come alone or register with a friend or group. A \$5 early-bird discount on the fee of \$40 per wreath will apply to those who preregister and pay by Monday November 5.

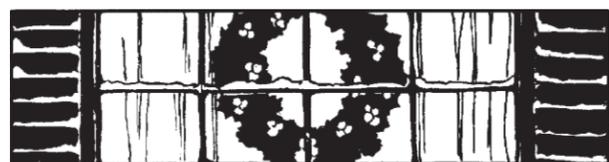
Checks should be made out to *St. Luke's Church*, designated for the wreath workshop, and mailed to *Lillian Willis* at PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

For additional information and registration, please contact *Lillian Willis* at (802) 875-1340 or lbwillis@comcast.net.



photo by Lillian Willis

Jessica Buchanan with daughter Sophia and Jill Brunning with daughter Annika, of Chester, VT, have fun together decorating their wreaths.





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Poor Will's Guide To Farming and Gardening

by Bill Felker

November 1: Dig in late bulbs, garlic, shrubs and trees as soon as possible, preferably before the weather turns much chillier around November 4.

November 2: As the moon wanes throughout this week, prepare to seed your earliest bedding plants for 2019 in a warm location under lights.

November 3: Cabbage worms still eat the cabbage. Some years, houseflies still find their way indoors. Crickets sing in the milder afternoons and nights. A few butterflies hunt for flowers. Grasshoppers are still common.

November 4: Major bird migrations through East end in November's first week. Wind speed increases to its winter level. Clouds lie lower in the sky, and the percentage of sunny days drops twenty percent from October's peak. Gardeners should test the soil and mow the lawn for the last time. Farmers should plant the final winter wheat and complete the harvest of corn, sugar beets and soybeans.

November 5: Late Fall, a three-to-four-week transition period of chilly temperatures and killing frosts, usually arrives by today.

November 6: The cold front that usually arrives around November 5-7 will likely be strengthened by tomorrow's new moon. Precipitation will precede that front. The end of Daylight Saving Time on November 4 will contribute to a rise in seasonal stress as the early dark evenings increase the effects of the moon and the weather.

November 7: The Shattering Ginkgo Moon, having brought down almost all the golden ginkgoes in the nation, becomes the Starling Murmuration Moon today and will end what is normally the mildest time of the month.

November 8: Deer are mating, and their activities contribute to an increase in the number of accidents involving cars and deer. Half of those incidents happen between 6:00 p.m. and midnight, and almost all of them occur when weather conditions are mild and clear. The early evenings of Standard Time will increase the likelihood of accidents involving deer.

November 9: Throughout the nation, practically all weeds and wildflowers become dormant.

November 10: Mock orange and forsythia are thinning; their leaf-fall measures the last phase of autumn.

November 11: Honeysuckles weaken, berries becoming more prominent. Across the countryside, most of the woodlots are dark and empty.

November 12: Plan frost seeding in January. Fertilize pastures for improved winter hardiness and stimulation of growth in Early Spring. Feed trees and shrubs. Remove tops from everbearing raspberries. Supplies should be on hand for the bedding plant season, which usually begins with the first pansies and begonias under the new November and December moons.

November 13: Sugar maples, burned by frost, gradually drop their foliage. Almost every junco has arrived for winter. Indoors, older Christmas cacti are budding or even blooming. In the fields, most winter wheat has sprouted. In the garden, mulch strawberries with straw.

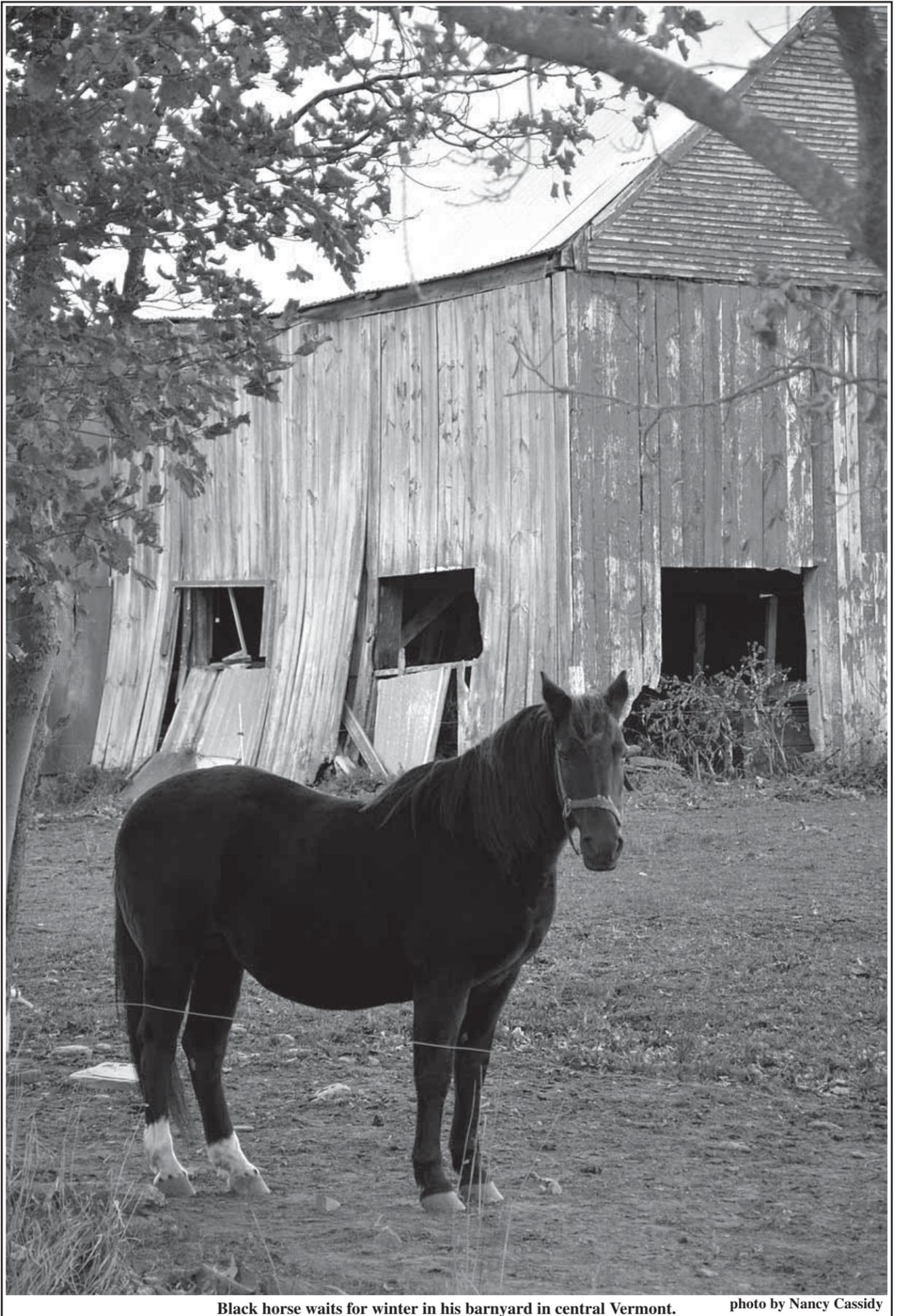
November 14: The moon reaches apogee this morning. Apogee, combined with the moon's weak position between full and new should diminish the power of the cold front which usually crosses the United States in the middle of the month.

November 15: The moon enters its second quarter this morning. Feed the lawn so that the winter's rain and snow, freezing and thawing, will gently work the fertilizer through the soil. Mulch perennial beds after watering to prevent drying and cold damage.

November 16: The poinsettia crop is typically shipped by this week. Christmas cacti in bloom are on display in stores.

November 17: Colors deepen in the swamp. Protected by the flowing water, cress brightens; dock and ragwort grow back beside the dead field grasses.

November 18: Beech, honeysuckles, boxwood, Osage,



Black horse waits for winter in his barnyard in central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

pears, sycamores and the strongest of the maples keep scattered color in the landscape past Thanksgiving.

November 19: The fifth significant cold wave of November is due to cross your land within the next three days, and this is a front that carries snow to the North four years in a decade. Throughout the nation, precipitation is likely before Thanksgiving.

November 20: Many Northern pastures have stopped growing, and some owners are feeding hay to livestock at this point in the year.

November 21: Transplant some of your herbs in pots; bring them inside for winter seasonings. Wrap young transplants to protect them against frost cracking. Clean up the last of the garden.

November 22: today is normally a pivot day for the arrival of much colder weather. The Sun has now moved to within

two degrees of solstice, and it enters the Early Winter sign of Sagittarius today.

November 23: The moon is full early this morning, making it likely that Thanksgiving will be a chilly one.

November 24: In warmer climates like southern California, daisy trees and golden sennas are in bloom. Pink blossoms appear on the silk floss trees and maroon and ivory flowers on the Dutchman's pipe vine. In the Southwest, the cascalote trees are blooming. In Baton Rouge, the exotic gingers are still open.

November 25: Cover round bales of hay with heavy tarps before the late fall rains and snows intensify.

November 26: The moon reaches perigee near sunrise. Perigee so close to full moon is likely to complicate the last day of Thanksgiving travel with cold and snow.

November 27: Often one or two trough heaters will keep the water from freezing all the way in your fishponds.

November 28: In the more northerly woods, second spring, the late greening of the undergrowth, is halted by November's most bitter weather. The most stubborn leaves fall, and the pods of thimble plants explode in the winds.

November 29: The moon enters its final quarter this morning. As it reaches a weak position between full and new, the moon is likely to contribute to a softening of the harsh Thanksgiving weather and allow a slight warm-up for the first days of December.

November 30: The last bulb planting (including the garlic crop) and perennial transplanting should be done in anticipation of the arrival of Early Winter.

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A Vermont Almanack for Late Autumn

by Bill Felker

Whence is it, that the flow'ers of the field doth fade,
And lieth buried long in winter's bale?
Yet, soon as spring his mantle hath displayed,
It flow'reth fresh, as it should never fail?

—Edmund Spenser

The Sun's Progress

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 4. Set clocks back one hour at 2:00 a.m. On November 23, the sun enters its early winter sign of Sagittarius.

Phases of the Shattering Ginkgo Moon and the Starling Murmuration Moon

Starlings are among the earliest birds to gather in flocks after their fledglings have left the nest. Even in Middle Summer, small groups dive and soar through the air, all the birds seeming to perform their acrobatics as a single creature. Larger and larger flocks form as winter settles in, and great "murmurations" (the name for a flock of starlings that flies and plays in unison) can be seen zooming up then down and around above cut-over fields.

November 7: The Shattering Ginkgo Moon becomes the new Starling Murmuration Moon at 11:02 a.m.

November 14: The moon reaches apogee at 10:57 a.m.

November 15: The moon enters its second quarter at 10:03 a.m.

November 23: The moon is full at 12:39 a.m.

November 26: The moon reaches perigee at 7:10 a.m.

November 29: The moon enters its final quarter at 7:19 p.m.

The Planets

Now in Aquarius, Mars is visible in the southwestern sky after sundown. Venus reappears early this month in the east as the morning star. Jupiter is not visible this month, but he joins Venus in Libra in December. Saturn in Sagittarius skims the western horizon at dusk.

Thanksgiving in a Lean Year

"Let us give thanks." Aunt Debby said.
"Everybody bow your head."

"Now Lord, come here," Aunt Debby prayed,
"You're our friend. We're not afraid.
We want to thank You for our food,
Not very fancy but cooked up good.
You helped us raise it. We have had
A puny harvest but not so bad
As might have been. We can't complain.
We could have used a lot more rain,
But that's your business, Lord, not ours,
To run the sunshine and the showers.
Nobody expected, anyway,
To get right rich off yellow clay."

We thank you for these kinfolk here.
Not many people died this year,
Just a few too sick to live.
We thank You for the strength You give
For work to earn our daily bread
And keep our stock and children fed.

Some years are lean and some are fat
Seems like years have to run like that.
Maybe sometime soon You can afford,
Without any hardship to others, Lord,
To give us a year that is fat and strong.
But if you can't, we'll get along;
We always have and we can again."
And all the people said, "amen."

—BESSIE MARLIN MASON
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Two mixed Hereford cows and a funny little roan and white baby by a stone wall in central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Stars

Late Autumn brings back Orion as an easy marker of sky time. By 11:00 p.m., it has emerged from the east, following a cluster of seven stars, the Pleiades and the red eye of Taurus, Aldebaran. A few hours before dawn, all those stars have moved to fill up the southern sky.

The Shooting Stars

The Taurid shower brings a handful of meteors per hour on November 4 and 5, and the crescent moon should not interfere with meteor watching. The Leonids (at the rate of about 15 per hour) should be more rewarding. Watch for them near the constellation Leo after midnight on November 17 and 18.

Meteorology

Weather history suggests that the cold waves of Late Fall usually reach Vermont on or about November 2, 6, 11, 16, 20, 24 and 28. Snow or rain often occurs prior to the passage of each major front.

If strong storms occur this month, weather patterns suggest that they will happen during the following periods: November 4-7, 14-16 and November 22-27.

It is probable that the new moon on November 7, full moon on November 23 and lunar perigee on November 26 will bring stronger-than-average storms to the United States, complicating Thanksgiving travel.

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The Bright Wings Chorus Performs at the Old Firehouse

Come to Tinmouth on Friday, November 9 to see The Bright Wings Chorus in a concert at 7:30 p.m.

This fabulous group of singers, directed by Brendan Taaffe and featuring local hero Wheaton Squier, is on their final, farewell tour. Please join them to celebrate their years of making harmony together.

Over the span of four albums in seven years, The Bright Wings Chorus has brought to life the music of celebrated composer Brendan Taaffe. Rooted in the American shape note music, an early hymn tradition, the singers of Bright Wings are soulful, rhythmic and soaring. Their performances and recordings have set a standard for choirs throughout North America and the UK and many of their songs have become standard repertoire. Of their first album, Here

Below, one reviewer said, "If you are moved by the sacred, if you need music that takes hold of your bones and won't let go, you should own a copy of Here Below. It's simply the most powerful stuff I've heard in a long time and I don't know what to do with it except tell you over and over that you must have it."

The Bright Wings Chorus is Meg Chittenden, Kimberley Moore, Mia Bertelli, Addie Rose Holland, Wheaton Squier, Brendan Taaffe, Stephen Higa, Avery Book, and Casey Steinberg.

Tickets are \$10 general/\$15 generous.

The Old Firehouse is located at Rt. 140 and Mountain View Rd. in downtown Tinmouth, VT.

For more information call (802) 770-0857 or e-mail info@brendantaaffe.com. tinmouthvt.org/events



Bright Wings Chorus will be performing in Tinmouth, VT at the Old Firehouse on November 9th.



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Tinmouth, VT

50th Annual Game Supper Hosted by the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department at Tinmouth Community Center

Come and enjoy the food and the camaraderie at Vermont's largest and longest running game suppers on November 17th at the Tinmouth Community Center in Tinmouth, VT.

All proceeds to benefit the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department.

This wild gourmet feast with renowned all-you-can-eat menu consists of the best

game recipes anywhere including: Venison and Moose Sauerbraten, Cornbread Chili, De-boned roasts with secret marinades, Italian wild meatballs, Smoked deer, moose, and bear and endless mashed potatoes, squash, and salads. If you're not a big fan of game, come for the delicious chicken pie.

There are over 100 homemade pies to choose from!

Beverages include coffee, cider, and milk.

Serving 4 p.m. till all are served. Early birds welcome. Always enough for all. Take-outs are available. Over 500 people are served and no one has to wait outside. Come see why this Tinmouth Community event is so special.

Tickets: adults \$15, chil-

dren ages 6-12 \$10, children under 6 are free.

The game supper is held at the Tinmouth Community Center, 573 Rt. 140, Tinmouth, VT.

For more information call the Town Office at (802) 446-2498 or Marshall "Mo" Squier at (802) 235-2718.

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Rupert, VT

November Events at Merck Forest & Farmland Center

Autumn has come to Merck Forest and Farmland Center. There are plenty of family-centered fun activities and events, or you can just enjoy a stroll around the farm, or an invigorating hike along our 30+ miles of trails.

Autumn Event Schedule

To learn more about the details of an event which interests you, please call the Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836. Advance reservations—made on a first-come first-served basis—are necessary for many events due to space limitations or scheduling considerations. For outdoor events, please dress for the weather: sturdy shoes/boots, layered clothing, snow/rain gear, flashlight/headlamp, snacks and water. Outdoor events are held weather-permitting.

Forest Makers Workshop: Gnome Homes & Fairy Houses. November 17, 1-4 p.m. For children and adults. Spend the afternoon creating log homes and the wee folk to live in them. This workshop will start with a brief hike in the woods to gather the natural materials to embellish your creation; other materials and tools to make a house and two fairy/gnome creatures will be provided. \$25 per house; space is limited to 8 groups of crafters.

Guided Evening Hike—Full Beaver Moon Walk. November 24, 6-8 p.m. Join us on a staff-guided hike in the evening landscape. This hike will be of moderate difficulty and will take place only if weather conditions permit. Participants must be dressed appropriately for the weather with sturdy footgear, headlamps, water and snacks. Reservations are requested. Fee: \$5 per person. The last hike of the year is scheduled for December 22nd.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization in the Taconic Hills 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. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located between Rupert and Dorset, at the top of the very large hill at 3270 Rt. 315 (Rupert Mountain Rd.) in Rupert, VT. Once you reach the top of the big hill turn into Merck Forest's driveway. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

Old Things

I love old things; old friends, old homes,
Old ladies with their quiet ways;
Old trees that whisper in their sleep,
Old songs that tell of bygone days.

I love old roads that dip and turn
by bank and meadow as they go;
I love old fields when autumn comes,
Old blooms which in my garden blow.

I love old clothes to loiter in,
Old pipes whose bowls are packed with dreams,
Old leather chairs at eventide,
Old novels with their word-worn themes.

I love old thoughts, when twilight comes
And sits upon my windowsill;
They bring me back my youth's high aims
And bid my heart have courage still

—EDWIN CARLILE LITSEY
Beechland, KY 1874-1970

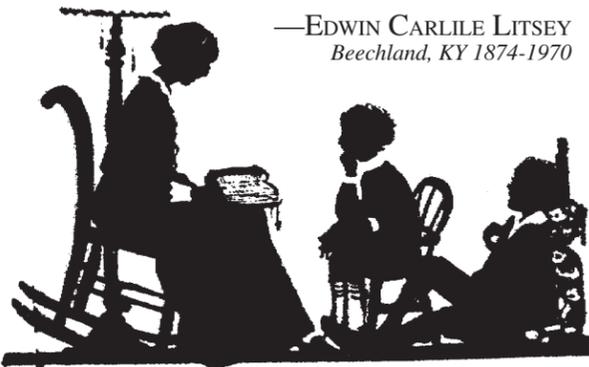


photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center
The Ridge Cabin in the fall at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT.

Autumn Maple Recipes, circa 1922

Maple Layer Cake

- 3 eggs
- 1 cupful soft maple sugar
- 1 cupful pastry flour
- ¼ cupful grated maple sugar
- ½ teaspoonful salt
- 1 teaspoonful baking-powder
- 1 cupful cream

Beat the yolks of the eggs until light. Add the soft maple sugar and the flour sifted with the salt and baking-powder. Fold in last the whites of the eggs beaten very stiff. Mix quickly and bake for about one-half hour in two greased and floured layer-cake pans in an oven registering 320°F. Put together with the cream whipped and sweetened with the grated maple sugar and sprinkle top with powdered sugar.

Maple Charlotte

- 2 cupfuls rich milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoonfuls granulated gelatin
- 2 tablespoonfuls cold milk
- ½ teaspoonful almond extract
- ⅛ teaspoonful salt
- 1 cupful maple syrup
- ½ cupful chopped blanched almonds or shredded coconut

Scald the milk in a double-boiler and pour it slowly over the egg-yolks well beaten; return to the double-boiler and cook five minutes. Add the gelatin which has soaked a few minutes in the cold milk and the salt. Remove from the fire and add the maple syrup. Let cool, and when beginning to set, add the almonds or shredded coconut or half of each and the extract. Beat until frothy and fold in the stiffly beaten egg-whites. Turn into wet individual molds to stiffen. Serve with or without whipped cream.

Maple Nut Gingerbread

- 1 cupful maple syrup
- ⅓ cupful butter
- 1 cupful cold water
- 2 cupfuls whole-wheat flour
- 1 cupful chopped nuts
- ½ teaspoonful salt
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoonfuls baking-powder
- 1 teaspoonful ginger
- 1 teaspoonful cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoonful soda

Cream the butter and syrup together. Add the eggs well-beaten. Mix and sift the dry ingredients together, and add alternately with the water. Add the chopped nuts last. Bake in a 350°F oven for forty-five minutes, or until done.

Maple Doublets

- 1 cupful maple syrup
- 3 eggs
- 1 tablespoon melted margarin
- 3 cupfuls pastry flour
- ½ teaspoonful salt
- 2 teaspoonfuls baking-powder

Combine the syrup, egg-yolks well beaten, and the melted margarin. Add the pastry flour sifted well with the salt and baking-powder. Fold in the whites of the eggs beaten stiff. Drop far apart on a greased baking-sheet as they spread in baking. Avoid making them too large. Bake at 400°F for about twelve minutes. Put together in pairs with maple fondant.

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Middlebury, VT

Henry Sheldon Museum Hosts Annual Dinner and Meeting

The Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury, VT is hosting its annual dinner and meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

Stephen Perkins, Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society, is the keynote speaker. Perkins will present a talk entitled "The Past, Present, and Future of Historical Societies." A lifelong Vermonter, Stephen Perkins' professional career has led him on a path of preserving and celebrating Vermont's unique history and iconic landscape.

The dinner and meeting will take place at the Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College, 217 Golf Course Rd. in Middlebury.

Tickets are \$50 per person. RSVP by November 6. Reservations may be made online at www.henrysheldonmuseum.com. A cash bar

opens at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the presentation the talk.

The Henry Sheldon Museum offers a diverse, in-depth look at the history and art of the Mid-Lake Champlain region of Vermont.

The Museum is located at One Park Street in downtown Middlebury, VT across from the Ilsley Library. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Research Center hours are Thursday and Friday 1-5 p.m. or by appointment. Admission to the Museum is \$5 adults; \$3 youth (6-18); \$4.50 seniors; \$12 family; \$5 research center.

For more information and the museum or the dinner and meeting visit the Sheldon Museum website at henrysheldonmuseum.org or call (802) 388-2117.

Shoreham, VT

Annual Lazyman's Lobster or Baked Ham Dinner

Come to the Annual Lazyman's Lobster or Baked Ham Dinner on Saturday, November 11, 2018 at the Shoreham Congregational Church.

In addition to the main course, you will feast on baked potato, winter squash, salad, homemade rolls, cider, beverages, and homemade pies. The cost is only \$22 for the lobster dinner (\$20 for seniors) or \$12 for the ham dinner (\$10 for seniors). There will be two seatings — one at 5 p.m. and the other at 6:30 p.m.

This will be the last chance to purchase tickets (\$3 each or 2 for \$5) for the beautiful raffle quilt; the drawing for the quilt will be during the 6:30 p.m. seating of the dinner.

Tickets for the dinner are by advance reservation only, since quantities are limited.

Shoreham Congregational Church is located at 28 School Rd. in Shoreham, VT.

Call Judy at (802) 349-9957 to make your reservations today!



A hunting party on the porch of the Pierce House, a hotel located at 15 Court Street in Middlebury, VT, circa 1900. The photograph shows 7 men, 6 dogs, and 23 trophies. Pictured left to right are Hub Potter, Jim Smith, Harry Williams, Ed Daniels, John Higgins, DeWitt Walch, Cushing Hill, and Arthur Coffin. The house is still standing on Court Street.

Vergennes, VT

Special Event Celebrates Steamboat Pioneer Captain Jahaziel Sherman and His Second Wife Harriet Daggett Sherman

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has just received on loan the only known portrait of steamboat pioneer Captain Jahaziel Sherman of Vergennes (1777-1844), and his second wife, Harriett Daggett Sherman (1792-1873).

The museum invites the community to a special free Steamboat Pioneer Program event on November 11th from 3-5 p.m. to preview the paintings, hear about Jahaziel's adventures, and help us bring the portraits home to stay. The event is free and open to the public and will take place at the Vergennes Opera House. Light refreshments will be served.

Special guest speaker nautical archaeologist Kevin

Crisman, Ph.D., is Director of the Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation at Texas A & M University. He will be speaking at 4 p.m. and will share stories of Jahaziel's adventurous life and recent archaeological discoveries of Sherman's early steamboats in Lake Champlain. Kevin participated in the field investigation of Sherman's steamboat Phoenix more than 30 years ago and co-authored an article on Captain Jahaziel Sherman in the fall issue of *Vermont History*.

"Sherman's importance in local, regional, national, and technological history is indisputable," says Crisman, who has been searching

for a likeness of Sherman for 38 years. "He was at the forefront of the world's steamboat revolution." After running a steamboat on the Hudson in competition with Robert Fulton, Sherman moved to Vergennes in 1813 to command the first boat of the Lake Champlain Steamboat Company (LCSC). He oversaw construction and operations of six Lake Champlain Steamboats: Phoenix I, Phoenix II, Champlain, Congress, Franklin, and Water Witch, as well as projects on the Hudson River, Lake George, and the St. Lawrence. Remarkably, two of these vessels survive as Underwater Preserves, and a third was recently identified at the Shelburne Steamboat Graveyard.

Remarkably, two of these vessels survive as Underwater Preserves, and a third was recently identified at the Shelburne Steamboat Graveyard.

"The portraits of Sherman and his wife left Vermont by 1874, and their location after that time was completely unknown. A concentrated research effort in 2017 turned up no trace of the portraits until their owner contacted LCMM this summer.

The Vergennes Opera House is located at 120 Main St. in Vergennes, VT. For more information call the museum at (802) 475-2022. The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is located at 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. in Vergennes, VT. lcmm.org.

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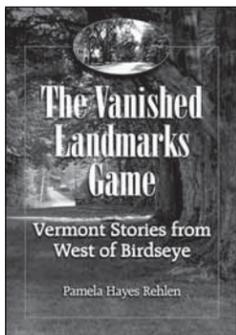
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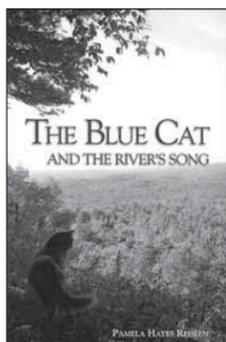


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by Pamela Hayes Rehlen
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Old-time and present-time people and places from west of Vermont's Birdseye Mountain. Here are their stories.

The Blue Cat And The River's Song
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen
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“Happy Birthday to Me!”

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

One of the people who toured our house this Colonial Day introduced herself to me as Nelson Langdon’s daughter from Springfield, VT. I realized that she must be Martha Towers’s niece. So I asked if she’d been at her aunt’s 100th birthday party, and she had.

We talked about the Federated Church reception held that June day in 2012. Nearly fifty people had been expected, a gathering of far-flung Langdons, some church parishioners, and some second-generation Castleton old-timers.

After this niece left, I thought how when I was a girl, I would never have been able to imagine one day going to Martha Towers’s 100th birthday party. I would never have been able to imagine sharp, high-spirited, Martha old and bent, brought down by the passage of time.

I can hear my mother’s voice—a ghost in my head—saying, “Martha’s a lot of fun.” They’d known each other since they were children and lived on farms not far from each other at the Castleton end of the road leading up to the site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Hubbardton.

Later, they were part of a group—my aunts and uncles, my father, kids who’d grown up in Castleton, and Fair Haven—who graduated from the Normal in the 1930s and student-taught in primitive school houses around the state.

Martha was often in the passenger seat of roadsters that sped along back roads through Whiting, or Windsor, or Woodstock, sometimes over Killington Mountain, through tiny village four corners, spinning past silent, sleeping farms, getting home from dances just in time to teach school the next morning.

However, on the afternoon of her hundredth birthday party, Martha was pretty quiet, although surrounded by relatives from Rutland; Bolton Landing, New York; Warwick, Rhode Island; and New York City who were noisy enough to make up for it.

“...spinning past silent, sleeping farms, getting home from dances just in time to teach school the next morning.”

I’d walked down the rain-slicked driveway to the back door of the Federated Church between Darlene Langdon, a niece from New York City, and Jean Smith a niece from Rutland.

It was cool and rainy that day, and I remember that the church-downstairs was as filled with flower bouquets as a hospital room. Long tables were covered with blue and yellow cloths and then sprinkled with glittery gold stars.

Martha had been born one of five children on the Fort Warren Farm, at that time a prosperous dairy showplace. She graduated from Fair Haven High School with my father, played the piano, led the singing for assemblies and was often the star of any event. When she became a teacher, she showed herself to be the kind no student forgets.

Fellow 100th birthday party attendees, Shirley Coburn Sequin and Madeline Brough Young remember being in her first grade in 1957 when Martha had their class make Easter hats, and march down the center of Castleton’s Main Street singing, ‘In My Easter Bonnet.’

For her mother’s celebration, Martha’s daughter Carol had arrived from Binghamton, New York and was staying in the South Street family house in which she and her younger brother had grown up.

Carol went to Smith when she was sixteen. First a librarian and later an engineer and professor of engineering, she married, had one daughter, settled in Binghamton, New York, and came home to visit and help out, but never came back to live.

There are probably no Langdons left in Castleton now. At the time of her 100th birthday party, there was only Martha, her son Chris, and Mark Langdon, an unmarried nephew.

When she was in her thirties, Martha had settled down and married local boy Jerome ‘Bucky’ Towers. The couple had two children, Carol, and then Chris, who was developmentally-disabled. Chris was not expected to live very long, but was sitting that day of her 100th birthday at his mother’s side.

The party was from one to three, and the room stayed full.



Martha Langdon Towers, circa 1938

When we all sang, each time we got to the refrain “Happy Birthday to you,” Martha pounded her chest and mouthed, “To Me.”

My father was long-dead by then, but he would have liked, and expected, that response. He recognized that Martha never wanted to be overlooked. She was a big personality who always intended to be at the front of the line.

When I thought it was time for me to head home, I stopped by Martha’s top table to say good-bye and found her sitting alone, a little lop-sided with tiredness, and dusted with cake crumbs.

We’d had a matey relationship for quite a while by then, and so I said, “When you get to heaven, (and thought to myself that it might not be for awhile as Martha’s mother, Belle Russell, also lived to be over 100) everyone’s going to have been waiting for you for a long time.”

I told her there would be a raucous celebration, with the old gang, and it wouldn’t be in any church basement. (She may have smirked.)

Martha brightened and pulled herself together. I could see that she was ready for that party and looking forward to it.

Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, Vermont. She is the author of stories, articles, essays, magazine features, and of two books: The Blue Cat

and the River’s Song (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye (\$20 plus shipping and handling.) available at the Castleton Village Store, P. O. Box 275, Castleton, Vermont 05735, and at a number of Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-2213. All the back issues of these columns are available to read under the archives at www.vermontcountryssampler.com.

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My Heart's in the Highlands

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here;
 My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer;
 Chasing the wild deer, and following the roe,
 My heart's in the Highlands wherever I go.
 Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North,
 The birthplace of valour, the country of worth;
 Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,
 The Hills of the Highlands for ever I love.

Farewell to the mountains high covered with snow;
 Farewell to the straths and green valleys below;
 Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods;
 Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods;
 My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
 My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer;
 Chasing the wild deer, and following the roe,
 My heart's in the Highlands wherever I go.

—ROBERT BURNS
Dumfries, Scotland 1759-1796

Pawlet, VT

50th Annual Wild Game and Chicken & Biscuit Supper

The Pawlet Vol. Fire Department hosts their 50th Annual Wild Game and Chicken & Biscuit Supper on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at the Pawlet Firehouse on Rt. 133 in the village at 5 pm.

The menu includes venison roast, venison stew, bear roast, moose meatballs and chicken and biscuits and

salads with pie for dessert. Milk, coffee, and water are also available. \$12 adults, \$6 for children 10-6 and children under 5 free. This is a major fundraiser for the department. Hope to see you!

For more information call (802) 325-3222. pjfd155@gmail.com. pawletfire.org.

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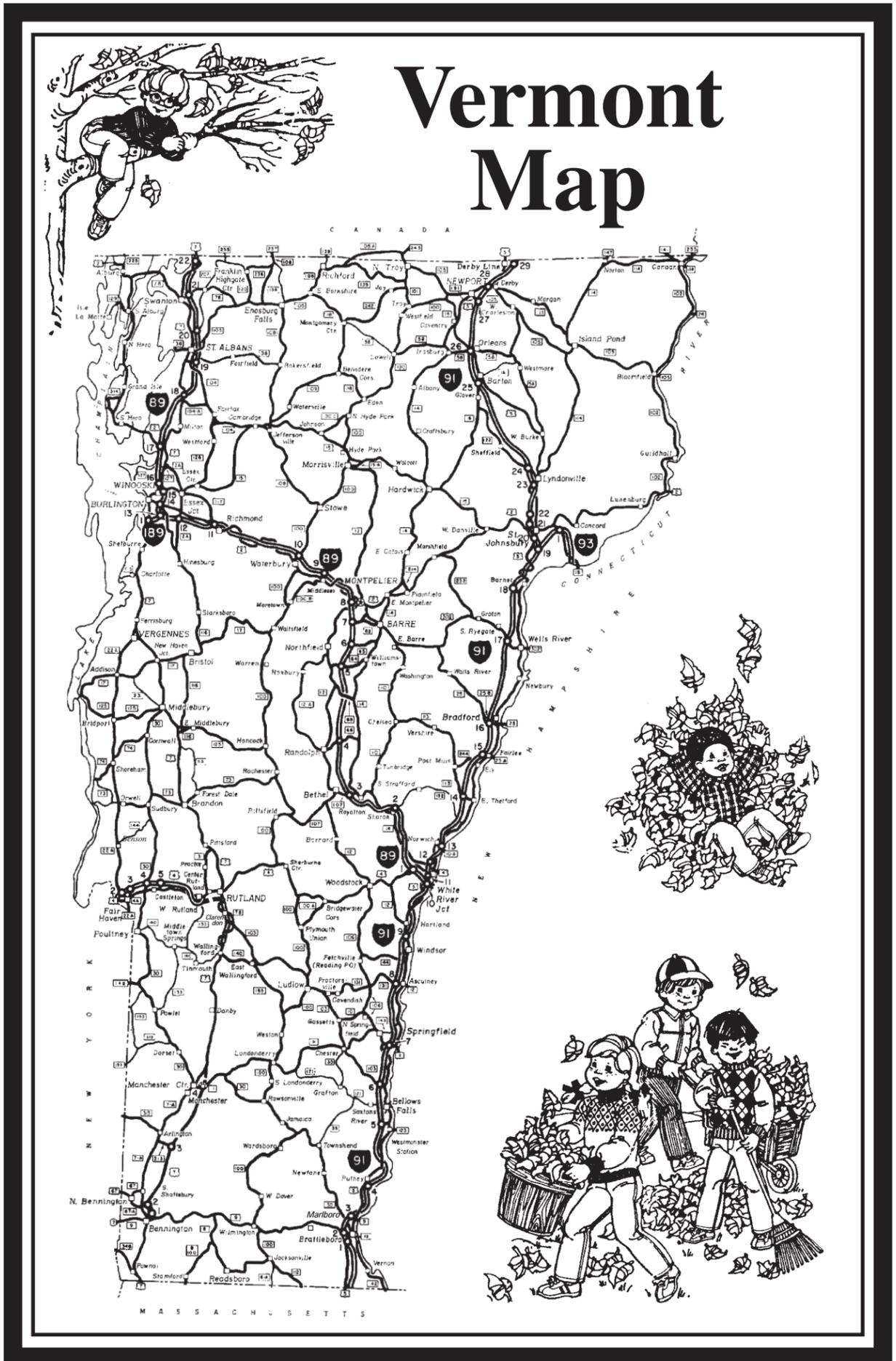
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Rutland, VT

Friends of the Rutland Free Library November Book Sales

Come to the Rutland Free Library on Court St. on Fri., November 2nd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sat., November 3rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the November Book Sale hosted by the Friends of the Rutland Free Library.

See thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Most items are \$.25–\$3.00. Always a good selection of rare and antique books at discounted prices.

November's sale will feature a highlight of all holiday books, as well as a Buy-

One-Get-One- Free Sale on all essays, short stories, and drama books.

The schedule continues through the winter with different featured sale items each month: Fri., Dec. 7, 10-4 and Sat., Dec. 8, 10-2; Fri., Jan. 4, 10-4 and Sat., Jan. 5, 10-2; Fri., Feb. 1, 10-4 and Sat., Feb. 2, 10-2; Fri., Mar. 1, 10-4 and Sat., Mar. 2, 10-2.

The Rutland Free Library is located at 10 Court St. in Rutland, VT. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

BELLOWS FALLS. Fourth Annual Chowder and Chili Cookoff. \$5/person. Serving: 12 noon - 3 pm. Judging: 3-4 pm. Start at the Flat Iron and make your way around downtown shops. (802) 463-4280. bfdda@sover.net.

BENNINGTON. Fallapalooza. Store-to-store trick-or-treating. In-store specials all day. Roaming railroad rides. Gift and food vendors. Children's activities. Live entertainment. Medieval combat demonstrations. Pumpkin carving and decorating. Four Corners North activities. 11 am - 3 pm. betterbennington.org.

BURLINGTON. Masterworks Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra with violinist Jennifer Koh. Rossini, Vijay Iyer, Beethoven. Tickets: adults \$60/\$47/\$31/\$13, students \$10. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. Halloween Express Party and Train Ride. Pre-boarding party one hour before departure time. Halloween Express Train, approximately an hour in duration: story time with cookie and juice, popular costumed characters and more. Cost: \$25-\$29; children under 1 year old share a seat with an adult at no extra charge. 9 am - 4 pm. Main Street Station, 1 Main St. (802) 872-9000. www.halloweenexpressvt.com. Also October 28.

DUMMERSTON. 11th Annual On-the-Farm Apple Harvest Dinner. Five-course meal showcases our delicious heirloom apples and cider and other local foods prepared by Chef Tristan Toleno. BYOB. Tickets: \$50, registration required. 6-8 pm. Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. events@scottfarmvermont.com. scottfarmvermont.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 38th Annual Essex Fall Craft Show. Come and discover that perfect something you can only find at the craft show. Admission: \$8 (\$5 with coupon). 9 am - 5 pm. Robert E. Miller Expo Centre. vtcrafts.com. Also October 28.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 13th Annual Nightmare and Spookyville Vermont. Live stage combat, an original theatrical story line, interactive scares and special effects, created by an all-volunteer crew. Evil fae, zombies, werewolves, demons, serial killers and cannibal clowns. Spookyville, children's show with interactive stories and kooky characters. Tickets: \$10-\$15. 6-10:30 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 355-3107. nightmarevermont.org.

HARTLAND. Turkey Supper. Roast turkey, homemade stuffing, gravy, squash, mashed potatoes, rolls, pickles, cranberry sauce, coleslaw and homemade pies. Admission: \$12, children 6-12 \$6. 4:30-7 pm. First Universalist Church, 8 Brownsville Rd. (802) 436-1152. clydo46@gmail.com.

MONTPELIER. The Poe Spooktacular. Costume contest with great prizes, decadent desserts and a great dance party with the 21-piece LC Jazz Big Band. Tickets: \$20-\$25. 8 pm doors open; 8:30 pm A Little Piece of Poe; 9 pm dancing to LC Jazz; 9:45(ish) pm costume contest; 10-11 pm more dancing. Lost Nation Theater, 39 Main St. (802) 229-0492. lostonationtheater.org.

NORTH HERO. Annual Spiny Softshell Turtle Beach Cleanup Day. Volunteers will pull up vegetation to prepare turtle nesting sites for next year. See hatchling turtles and learn about long-term recovery efforts. Dress in layers of warm clothes and bring work gloves, leaf rake, short-handled tools, and lunch. Kids welcome. 10 am - 4 pm. North Hero State Park. (802) 377-2628. lazarericus@gmail.com. vtfishandwildlife.com.

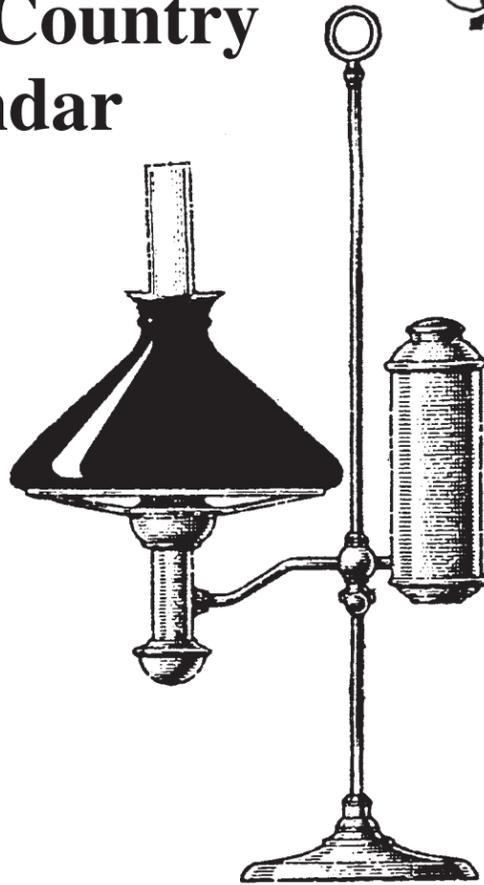
RANDOLPH. Roast Pork Supper. Knights of Columbus fundraiser. Admission: adults \$12, children \$5. 5 pm. Our Lady of the Angels Church, Rt. 66 & 43 Hebard Hill Rd. (802) 276-3014.

RANDOLPH. Performance. Vitaly: An Evening of Wonders. This master illusionist has mystified fans the world over. Tickets: adult \$38, student/child \$15. 7:30 pm. Main Hall, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Super Saturday Volunteer Workday. Many happy favorite memories are made as teams of volunteers work together on projects up on the farm or in the woods. 9 am - 3 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. 59th Annual Halloween Parade. Lineup at 5:30 pm, parade at 6:30 pm. Parade Route: Madison St. & Strongs Ave. to Wales St., left to West St., left onto Merchants Row ending at the plaza. (802) 773-1822. www.rutlandrec.com.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. From farm fresh veggies and fruits to artisan cheeses, handcrafted breads, maple syrup, Vermont crafts, prepared foods, and more. Live music. EBT and debit cards. 9 am - 2 pm, in Depot Park across from Walmart. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October 27 then indoors at 251 West St. November 3 through May 4, 2019.



SO. ROYALTON. Fall Festival. Chili cook-off hosted by the South Royalton Fire Department. Kids activities at the Red Door Church, trunk-or-treat, hayrides, bouncy houses, face painting, costume parade, free food and more. Free. 2-5 pm. South Royalton Green, Chelsea St. (802) 299-9033. klrogers1475@yahoo.com.

ST. ALBANS. Fourth Annual "Haunted Museum" Trick-or-Treat. Costumes encouraged. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Free, bring a non-perishable donation for our local food shelf. 12 noon - 2 pm. Saint Albans Museum, 9 Church St. (802) 527-7933. stamuseum.org.

WARDSBORO. 16th Annual Gilfeather Turnip Festival and Gilfeather Turnip Contest. Gilfeather turnip soup and turnip recipe tastings at the Turnip Café, outdoor soup kiosk, farmer's market, craft vendors, turnip seeds. Gilfeather Turnip Cookbook. Tee shirts, turnip-theme gifts, live music and entertainment. Free admission. Rain or shine. 10 am - 3 pm. On Main St. (802) 896-9490. friendsofwardsborolib.org.

WOODSTOCK. Glad Rags Fall Sale. High-quality new and used men's, women's and children's clothing, household items, linens and shoes, and new items donated by area merchants. Bring reusable bags for shopping. Cash and personal checks only. 9 am - 3 pm. Masonic Hall, 0 Pleasant St. (802) 342-8396. cradice1@earthlink.net. gladrags.org. Also October 28.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

BURLINGTON. Spooky Campfire Stories for Kids. Kids ages 6-12 and their parents are invited to gather around their campfire for some of our favorite outdoor spooky stories. Free. 2-3 pm. 101 Cherry St. (888) 615-9973. mkeat@lbean.com. lbean.com/lb/shop/514659.

BURLINGTON. Halloween Express Party and Train Ride. Cost: \$25-\$29; children under one year old share a seat with an adult at no extra charge. 9 am - 4 pm. Main Street Station, 1 Main St. (802) 872-9000. halloweenexpressvt.com.

CHESTER. Vermont Voices: Matthys Levy presents his new novel, *Building Eden*. Free and open to all. 2 pm. Phoenix Books Misty Valley, 58 Common St. (802) 875-3400. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

COLCHESTER. Third Annual Horses for Hope Halloween Celebration, to benefit the American Cancer Society. Trick or treating with ponies, pony rides, pony-paddy bingo, purple elephant sale (tag sale). Kids' games and crafts. Rider demonstrations, luminary ceremony and more. Handicap accessible, Port-a-potty, snack stand. Cost: \$5 for trick or treat with ponies, other items available for a small fee. 10 am - 2 pm. Enniskerry Farm, 906 Middle Rd. eaploof@etsd.org. enniskerryfarm.com.

DUMMERSTON. Hard Cider Tastings. Whetstone Ciderworks of Marlboro, VT will pour samples, answer questions, and sell their delicious, dry, food-friendly artisanal hard ciders—showcasing heirloom and traditional European cider apples, mostly grown at Scott Farm. No fee or registration. 21 and over. 11 am - 3 pm. Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. events@scottfarmvermont.com. scottfarmvermont.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 38th Annual Essex Fall Craft Show. Discover that perfect something you can only find at the craft show. Admission: \$8 (\$5 with coupon). 10 am - 4 pm. Robert E. Miller Expo Centre. vtcrafts.com.

FERRISBURGH. Lecture & Slideshow: Historic Sites as Venues for Contemporary Art. Artist and writer Ric Kasini Kadoury explores what happens when historic sites and contemporary art join forces to bring ideas from the past into the present. \$5, or free with museum admission. 3 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org.



VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Attracting Birds Naturally to Your Yard to Feed and Watch

Vermonters love to see birds around their home, and putting out bird feeders is a popular way to attract our feathered friends to back yards. Vermont is among the top states in the country for people who report feeding and watching birds near their home.

However, birds aren't the only wildlife attracted by birdseed. Vermont's abundant bear population is increasingly coming into conflict with people as they raid people's bird feeders, often leading the bear to continue to seek food sources in residential areas. As a result, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department urges Vermonters to hold off on putting bird feeders out until snow is well-established. With plenty of seeds and berries on the landscape, birds have enough native foods to tide them over until bears are hibernating.

"Nature provides birds with ample natural food options, from flowers to seeds to fruits and insects," says John Buck, Vermont Fish & Wildlife's migratory bird biologist. "Vermonters can plant a variety of native plants and provide other resources that will naturally attract birds from spring through fall. These natural food sources are healthy for birds and provide bird-lovers with a safe alternative to putting out bird feeders. Providing natural food sources also helps prevent a concentration of birds in one place around

a feeder, reducing the likelihood of disease transmission and unnatural predation rates."

As Vermonters put their gardens and yards to bed this fall, Buck has several recommendations for fall plantings, as well as seeds to procure for the spring, that will safely encourage birds in backyards:

- Maintain natural diversity in your yard by adding fruiting shrubs, mixed-age trees, tall grasses, and bare patches to welcome several species and fulfill multiple habitat requirements.

- Plant a variety of native plants to provide food sources for birds, such as dogwood, choke cherry, or highbush blueberry. A list of local native shrubs that attract birds and other wildlife can be found at vtfishandwildlife.com.

- Purchase seeds for spring planting including black-eyed Susan, milkweed, and coneflowers.

- Help birds overcome parasites by providing dust baths made of equal parts fine sand and wood ash in a bird bath or small planter.

- Provide water year-round.

Encourage birds to backyards with natural gardens of flowers, seeds, and berries instead of store-bought seeds.

For more information: go to tinyurl.com/VtBackyardHabitat. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, October 28, continued)

MANCHESTER. Fiber Arts Workshop: Handmade for the Holidays. Make felted soap using Hildene goat milk soap, wool and alpaca fiber. Wet felting and needle felting so must have good hand strength. Fee: \$20, plus \$15 for materials. Registration required by October 26, limited to 15 participants. 2–4 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7960. hildene.org.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Dances taught by David Millstone. Music by Thal Aylward and Carol Compton (piano and recorders). All dances taught beforehand and prompted to live music. Bring shoes to change into, no high heels. Potluck snacks at the break. Admission: \$10. 1–4 pm. Tracy Hall. davidmillstone7@gmail.com. Also November 11, December 9.

SHELburne. Haunted Happenings. Dress up in your most playful costumes to trick-or-treat on the grounds of Shelburne Museum. Spooktacular games, food, music, and more. 10 am – 1 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

Waterbury. Haunted Horns: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet Family Halloween Concert. Come in costume. Enjoy wacky, scary, mysterious, and fun favorites in this 50-minute performance. Parade of costumes; everyone gets a treat. 2 pm. Waterbury Congregational Church. (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

WOODSTOCK. Glad Rags Fall Sale. Bring reusable bags for shopping. Cash and personal checks only. 10 am – 1 pm. Masonic Hall, 30 Pleasant St. (802) 342-8396. cradice1@earthlink.net. gladrags.org.

WOODSTOCK. Family Halloween. Children in costume receive free admission when accompanied by an adult (adults pay the regular admission fee). Pumpkin carving, doughnuts-on-a-string, wagon rides, hand-cranked pumpkin ice cream, plus “not-too-scary” Halloween stories, pumpkin games, and animal programs will be featured. Costume parades around the farm will be held at 12 & 2 p.m., and all children will receive a ribbon. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Join us for a panel discussion on writing for middle grade and young adult readers with Julie Dao, *Kingdom of the Blazing Phoenix*; Amy Rose Capetta, *The Brilliant Death*; and Katherine Arden, *Small*

Spaces. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Vermont Foodbank. \$3 ticket comes with a coupon for \$5 off a copy of the featured books. Coupons expire at closing the evening of the event. Free for attendees under 18. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

MIDDLEBURY. Exhibit: Growing Food, Growing Farmers. Researchers Greg Sharrow and Andy Kolovos explore the grass-roots food movement at Boardman Hill Farm, where Greg and Gay Cox have lived and farmed for more than three decades. Vermont Folklife Center, 88 Main St. (802) 388-4964. November 1 through December 31.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

BRATTLEBORO. The Seventh Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. Showcasing more than 20 dramatic features, documentaries and shorts. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 257-2461 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. Through November 11.

BRATTLEBORO. First Annual Emerging Artist Jazz Festival. During Friday’s Gallery Walk, high school and college-age groups at various Brattleboro venues. All day Saturday, college showcases and headliner bands including New York’s King Klave and Sonic Asylum. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. vtjazz.org. Also November 3.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Jean-Guihen Queyras, cello, performs J. S. Bach’s six Suites for Unaccompanied Cello. This special event includes a reception at intermission. Tickets: \$28, youth \$10. 7–9 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168.

PEACHAM. Annual Christmas Show. Small antiques, fine handcrafted gifts, specialty foods, ornaments, and invited artists. Market Cafe and catering open 10–3. 10 am – 7 pm. Upstairs at the Peacham Town Hall, Church St. (802) 592-3332.

RUTLAND. Concert: Blue Öyster Cult Pioneering the heavy metal style while providing inspiration to psychedelic jam bands and arena rockers alike. Tickets: \$49, \$59. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Rare and antique books at discounted prices. Buy one, get one free sale on all essays, short stories, and drama books. Most items \$.25 – \$3. Friday 10 am – 4 pm, Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org. Through November 3.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

BRANDON. Rutland County Audubon Society Annual Bird Seed Sale and Membership Drive. No need to pre-order. Cash or check only. Stop by for some seed and bird chat! 9 am – 1 pm. Brandon Blue Seal Feeds, 57 Alta Woods, Rt. 7. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

BRATTLEBORO. First Annual Emerging Artist Jazz Festival. All day college showcases and headliner bands including New York’s King Klave and Sonic Asylum. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. vtjazz.org.

BRATTLEBORO. The Seventh Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 257-2461 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. Through November 11.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers’ Market 13th season. Fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs cheese and other farm products. Yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful handmade gifts. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm. New location—Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. Saturdays, November 3 thru March 10.

DUMMERSTON. Holiday Harvest Pie Workshop, with pastry chef Laurel Roberts. Make the quintessential holiday pie with our crisp apples, sweet pears and tart quince poached in cider and honey, tucked into a flaky pastry crust. Take home your pie, dough, and a mixed tote of apples, pears and quince. Fee: \$50; registration required. 10 am – 1 pm. Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. events@scottfarmvermont.com. scottfarmvermont.com.

LYNDONVILLE. The North Pole Express. Fully enclosed and heated vintage coaches. Snuggle in (pajamas are encouraged but not required) for narration, hot cocoa, gingerbread cookies and caroling. Santa presents all passengers with a special gift. Reservations required. Cost: \$25. Rides at 12 noon, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm. 1000 Broad St. (802) 626-1400. thelyndonfreighthouse.com.

MIDDLEBURY. 94th Annual Holiday Bazaar. Gift and personal items: artwork, crafts and handmade items, toys, books, “attic treasures,” jewelry. Raffle for a handmade quilt. Santa visiting from 10 am – noon. Full luncheon served, or take out from 11 am. Homemade cakes, pies, cookies, breads and more. A Gardening Table will offer a wide variety of indoor and outdoor plants, bulbs and seeds. Free admission. 9 am – 3 pm. Congregational Church of Middlebury, 30 N. Pleasant St. (802) 388-8946. midducc.org.

Rutland and Burlington, VT

Veterans Town Hall Events Coming November 4th

Special town hall events for veterans and members of the community will take place in Burlington, VT at Contois Auditorium and Rutland, VT at American Legion Post 31 on Sunday, November 4th at 1 p.m.

Inspired by author Sebastian Junger, these events are community forums aiming to establish a greater understanding between local veterans and the friends and neighbors they fought for.

“Support of our military does not start with a ‘support the troops’ bumper sticker and culminate with grilled chicken on Memorial Day weekend,” says Kyle Aines, one of Community College of Vermont’s Veteran & Military Resource Advisors, who will host this year’s Rutland event. “As military members struggle to reintegrate back into society, it is imperative that society have a clear understanding what they are transitioning from. The Veteran’s Town Hall is that bridge and connection.”

Warrior storytelling

In the tradition of warrior storytelling, veterans are invited to describe the pride, grief, rage, or quiet appreciation of life that war bestowed upon them. Veterans are invited to share what their service means to them through a story, summary of service, message, letter home, excerpt from a war journal, or even the story behind a photograph. Non-veterans are invited to attend, to listen, and to learn. These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued.

“For many veterans, it may be difficult to speak of their experience out of concern for judgment and misunderstanding,” says Jon Turner, Burlington event host and an outings leader for the Sierra Club Military Outdoors. “Having an opportunity to gather with community members to be heard assists with the reintegration process and makes it possible to find trust in those whom we did not serve with.”

The event format is drawn from a June 2015 Vanity Fair article by Sebastian Junger, highlighting the challenges of post-traumatic stress among veterans. He suggested “making every town and city hall in the country available to veterans who want to speak publicly about the war” and believed holding these community forums would “return the experience of war to our entire nation, rather than just leaving it to the people who fought.”

U.S. Representative Seth Moulton (D-MA), a Marine combat veteran, hosted the first such Veterans Town Hall in Marblehead, Massachusetts, in 2015.

Veteran’s Town Hall established in Vermont

The first event of this kind in Vermont was held last November at Burlington’s City Hall, where both Turner and Aines spoke and where the Burlington event will again take place this year. It was spearheaded by local event coordinator Kristen Eaton with input and assistance from Aines and Turner, as well as from Joshua Gerasimof (V.A. peer support specialist and founder of the Vermont chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing), Katherine Long and John Tracy of Senator Leahy’s Office, and many others.

“We had a very good turnout at last year’s Veterans Town Hall,” says Aines. “The impact and value of this event was palpable on the faces of the civilians in attendance and the veterans that shared a piece of their story. I knew I had to help make this a reality for both the veterans and civilians of Rutland.” The Community College of Vermont has provided support for both locations, and in Burlington, the Mayor’s Office is sponsoring the venue.

Veterans Town Hall will take place at Contois Auditorium, 149 Church St. in Burlington, VT and at the American Legion Post 31, 33 Washington St. in Rutland, VT. Seating is first come, first served. RSVPs are encouraged at vivetstownhall.eventbrite.com. Questions may be directed to Kristen Eaton at btvvetstownhall@gmail.com.



Rutland Winter Market
At the Vermont Farmers Food Center
251 West St., Rutland, VT
Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm
November through May

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Do Your Holiday Shopping Here. Everything For Your Holiday Table.
Order Your Vermont Thanksgiving Turkey!
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Home Baked Goods including Gluten-free.
Farm Fresh Eggs, Poultry and Range-fed Meats.
Vermont Wine and Cheese. Prepared foods to eat here or take home. Crafts, Jewelry, Knits.
Live Entertainment!

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Fall Holiday Fair • November 17
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Both from 9 am to 4 pm
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Vermont Country Calendar

MONTPELIER. Concert: J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*. Vermont musicians with players from the New York City Ballet and Opera Orchestras and the Orchestra of Saint Luke's. Also Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in; arias including *Süsser Trost, Mein Jesus Kömmt; Benedictus* from the Mass in B-minor; *Erbarne dich* from the Saint Matthew Passion. Tickets: \$15-\$25. 7:30 pm. Saint Augustine Church, 16 Barre St. capitalcityconcerts.org.

PAWLET. Roast Pork Dinner. The menu includes: roast pork baked with topping, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, hot vegetables, cabbage, salad, applesauce, fruited Jello, rolls with butter, and hot and cold beverages, and this month's special dessert. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children up to 12 and free for ages 5 and under. 4:30-6:30 pm at the Pawlet Community Church, Rt. 133. Takeout orders can also be made on the day of the dinner by calling the church at (802) 325-3022.

POULTNEY. Opening Reception for the Art Exhibit: "I Know What I Saw—The paintings of Rita Fuchsberg and Digital Photography of Irene Minkoff". Free. Everyone welcome! 4-7 pm. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St. www.stonevalleyarts.org.

RANDOLPH. Performance: The Telling Project. A moving, thought-provoking, bridge-building evening of storytelling and theater, presented on the eve of Veterans Day. Tickets: adults \$28, students/children \$12. 7:30 pm. Main Hall, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

RANDOLPH. Arts and Crafts Fair. Handmade and one-of-a-kind crafts. Custom-crafted wreaths & centerpieces. 9 am – 3 pm. Held in the Parish Hall, a fully handicapped accessible building, Our Lady of the Angels Roman Catholic Church, Route 66 and Herbard Hill Rd. ourladyvt.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: The Starline Rhythm Boys. Country, bluegrass, and Americana group. Tickets: adults \$24, students \$12. 7:30 pm. Main Hall, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464.

RIPTON. Concert: Americana-roots and folk duo, Dana and Susan Robinson. Vivid songwriting and storytelling, fiddle tunes, clawhammer banjo, elegant melodies, and rich harmony singing. General admission \$10, generous admission \$15, under 12 \$3. 7:30 pm, open mic followed by featured performers. Doors open at 7 pm. Ripton Community Coffee House, Rte 125. (802) 388-9782. rcchfolks@gmail.com. rcch.org

RUTLAND. Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale. Thousands of organized, gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Rare and antique books at discounted prices. Buy one, get one free sale on all essays, short stories, and drama books. Most items \$.25 – \$3. Friday 10 am – 4 pm, Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Story Time: *Paul and His Ukelele*. With author Robert Broder and illustrator Jenn Kocsmiersky. Free and open to all ages. 11 am. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

RUTLAND. Rutland County Audubon Society Annual Bird Seed Sale and Membership Drive. No need to pre-order. Cash or check only. Stop by for some seed and bird chat! 8 am – 1 pm. Garland's Agway 70 Park St. birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

SHELburne. Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides. A crisp November afternoon is a great time to get outside with your family and enjoy Shelburne Farms by horse drawn wagon ride! Enjoy light snacks and activities back at the education center before or after your ride. Fee: \$10 adults, \$7 children under 12, children 2 and under free. Registration required. 4:15 pm, 5 pm, 5:45 pm, 6:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Aromatherapy for Winter Health, with Kelley Robie. Learn how to make herbal remedies to avoid common winter ailments. Make a herbal hand sanitizer, sinus oil blend, sore throat spray and a room disinfectant with natural materials. Fee: \$10, includes materials cost. 10 am – 12 noon. UVM Horticulture Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. fhfv.org.

WOODSTOCK. November Weekends at Billings Farm & Museum. Enjoy the dairy farm and farmhouse during the late fall—when the brilliance of foliage has softened and the weather is still pleasant. Farm life exhibits, daily programs and activities. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also November 4, 9-12, 17-18.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

BRATTLEBORO. The Seventh Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. Showcasing more than 20 dramatic features, documentaries and shorts of all genres from the U.S. and around the world. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 257-2461 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. *Through November 11.*

BURLINGTON. Concert: J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*. Vermont musicians with players from the New York City

Ballet and Opera Orchestras and the Orchestra of Saint Luke's. Also Brandenburg Concerto No. 2; arias including *Süsser Trost, Mein Jesus Kömmt; Benedictus* from the Mass in B-minor; *Erbarne dich* from the Saint Matthew Passion. Tickets: \$15-\$25. 3-5 pm. Cathedral of Saint Paul, 2 Cherry St. www.capitalcityconcerts.org.

BURLINGTON. Veterans Town Hall Event. Community forum aiming to establish a greater understanding between local veterans and the friends and neighbors they fought for. These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued. Seating is first come, first served; RSVPs encouraged. 1 pm. Contois Auditorium, 149 Church St. btvvetstownhall@gmail.com. vtvetstownhall.eventbrite.com. vtvetstownhall.org.

CHESTER. Vermont Voices. Yvonne Daley presents her book, *Going Up the Country: When the Hippies, Dreamers, Freaks, and Radicals Moved to Vermont*. Free and open for all. 2 pm. Phoenix Books Misty Valley, 58 Common St. (802) 875-3400. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

GREENSBORO. 7th Annual Harvest Barter Fair. Bring items you have grown, preserved, baked, or raised to swap with neighbors. Bring items with an estimated value of \$5, or \$5 increments. 2-4 pm. Lakeview Union School, 189 Lauredon Ave. (802) 755-6336. swapsisters@gmail.com.

RUTLAND. Veterans Town Hall Event. Community forum aiming to establish a greater understanding between local veterans and the friends and neighbors they fought for. These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued. Seating is first come, first served; RSVPs encouraged. 1 pm. American Legion Post 31, 33 Washington St. btvvetstownhall@gmail.com. vtvetstownhall.eventbrite.com. vtvetstownhall.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: "A Celebration of Lives". On All Saints Sunday. Grace Church Sanctuary Choir and Castleton University Chorale and soloists perform Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*, accompanied by Alastair Stout on the organ. 7 pm. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. gracechurchvt.org.

RUTLAND. Performance: Howie Mandel, judge on *America's Got Talent*. Tickets: \$59, \$69. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Aromatherapy for Winter Health. Join Kelley Robie and learn how to make a herbal hand sanitizer, sinus oil blend, sore throat spray and a room disinfectant with natural materials. Fee: \$10, includes materials. 10 am – 1 pm. UVM Horticulture Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. November Weekends at Billings Farm & Museum. Enjoy the dairy farm and farmhouse during the late fall—when the brilliance of foliage has softened and the weather is still pleasant. Farm life exhibits, daily programs and activities. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also November 4, 9-12, 17-18.

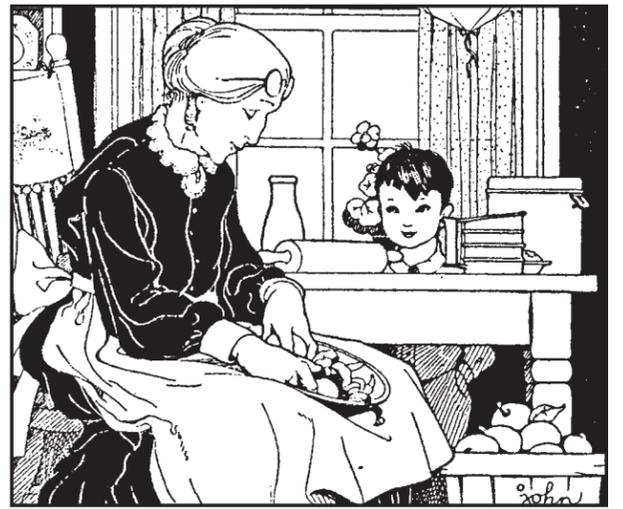
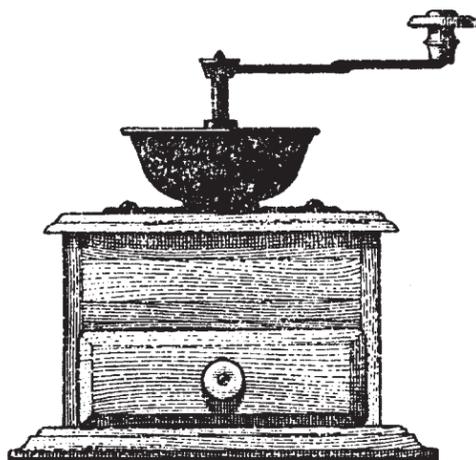
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

BRATTLEBORO. The Seventh Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 257-2461 or visit brattleborofilmfestival.org. *Thru Nov. 11.*

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Judy Chaves presents her book, *Secrets of Mt. Philo*. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

GRAFTON. Musical Train Excursion: Roots on the Rails. Explore the hidden valleys, quaint villages, craggy mountains and vibrant towns with Livingston Taylor, Susan Werner, and Peter Mulvey. Private train, vintage rail cars. Live music onboard, locally-sourced food and beverages. Green Mountain Express, 92 Main St. (617) 393-9800. rootsontherails.com. *Through November 11.*

MANCHESTER. First Wednesdays Series: Celebrating E.B. White. Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumbine celebrates author E.B. White's versatility and legacy. A Vermont Humanities Council program. Free. 7-8:30 pm. First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. (802) 362-2607.



Vermont Cider & Apples A Treat for All Seasons

Fresh cider, apple pies and fresh apples that store well are a good reason to visit an orchard farm store during the winter.

Some orchards press fresh apple cider long after their trees are bare and the orchards are knee-deep in snow.

The Apple Barn and Country Bake Shop. Rt. 7 south, Bennington, VT. (802) 447-7780. Fresh apples, pears, Vermont products, maple syrup, jams. Full country bake shop with pies, pastries, and homemade bread. Cider mill. Open 7 days a week 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. May through November 28.

Cold Hollow Cider Mill. 3600 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, VT. (800) 327-7537. www.coldhollow.com. Apples, cider, hard cider, baked goods, cider jelly, applesauces, apple butters, Vermont foods, crafts, and other products. Apple Core Luncheonette and Brew. Open daily 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Dutton's Farm Stand, Rt. 11/30, 2083 Depot St., Manchester, VT, (802) 362-3083. *2nd location at 407 Rt. 30 in Newfane, VT, (802) 365-4168. And third location at 308 Marlboro Rd., West Brattleboro, VT, (802) 254-0254.* Over 30 varieties of apples! Fresh-pressed cider, fall produce, jams, cheeses. Pies, cookies and baked goods. Our own maple syrup, fudge, and creemees. Holiday decor, Christmas wreaths and trees. Open year round, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Green Mountain Orchards. 130 West Hill Rd., Putney, VT. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmountainorchards.com. Apples year round, our own cider, baked goods from our own bakery including apple and blueberry pies, jams and butters, and Vermont products. Pick-your-own apples, blueberries and more in season. Open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mendon Mountain Orchard. 1894 US Rt. 4, Mendon, VT. (802) 775-5477. www.mendonorchards.com. Apples and cider. Our own baked goods including many varieties of pies, turnovers, and cheesecake and carrot cake. Pick-your-own apples in season. Pasture-raised meats. Open daily 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Thursday, November 8, continued):

BRATTLEBORO. 11th Annual LEGO Contest and Exhibit. Design and build an original LEGO structure. Admission is \$5 for adults and teens, \$3 for children ages 6-12, free for children 5 and under. The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center at Main St. and Rts. 119 and 142. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Through November 11.*

BRATTLEBORO. The Seventh Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 257-2461 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. *Through November 11.*

GRAFTON. Musical Train Excursion: Roots on the Rails. Explore the hidden valleys, quaint villages, craggy mountains and vibrant towns with Livingston Taylor, Susan Werner, and Peter Mulvey. Private train, vintage rail cars. Live music onboard, locally-sourced food and beverages. Green Mountain Express, 92 Main St. (617) 393-9800. rootsontherails.com. *Through November 11.*

PITTSFORD. Workshop: Metal Bookmark Stamping. Free. 6-7 pm. Maclure Library, 840 Arch St. (802) 483-2972. contact@maclurelibrary.org. maclurelibrary.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

BRATTLEBORO. 11th Annual LEGO Contest and Exhibit. Admission is \$5 for adults and teens, \$3 for children ages 6-12, free for children 5 and under. The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center at Main St. and Rts. 119 and 142. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Through November 11.*

BRATTLEBORO. The Seventh Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 257-2461 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org. *Through November 11.*

GRAFTON. Musical Train Excursion: Roots on the Rails. Explore Vermont with Livingston Taylor, Susan Werner, and Peter Mulvey. Private train, vintage rail cars. Live music onboard, locally-sourced food and beverages. Green Mountain Express, 92 Main St. (617) 393-9800. rootsontherails.com. *Through November 11.*

RANDOLPH. Concert: Darol Anger & the Furies. American roots master. Tickets: \$26. 7:30 pm. Live & Upstairs, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Performance: comedian Kathleen Madigan. Tickets: \$35. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903.

ST. JOHNSBURY. William Eddy Lecture: Somali refugee Abdi Nor Iftin tells the true story of immigrating to America via luck and perseverance. Free. 7 pm. St. Johnsbury School, 257 Western Ave. (802) 748-2372. fairbanksmuseum.org.

TINMOUTH. Concert: The Bright Wings Chorus. Rooted in shape note music, soulful, rhythmic and soaring. Tickets: general \$10, generous \$15. 7:30 pm. The Old Firehouse, Mountain View Rd. (802) 770-0857. brendantaaffe.com. tinmouthvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. November Weekends at Billings Farm & Museum. Enjoy the dairy farm and farmhouse during the late fall. Farm life exhibits, daily programs and activities. Horse-drawn wagon rides around the farm. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also November 10-12, 17-18.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

BARRE. Medium Lauren Rainbow. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House. City Hall, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. barreoperahouse.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Big Woods Voices, four veteran area singers celebrating their common passion for a cappella harmony. Tickets: \$15, \$20, \$35. 7:30 pm. The Chapel at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. Tickets and information: (802) 460-0110. stonechurcharts.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 11th Annual LEGO Contest and Exhibit. Design and build an original LEGO structure. Admission is \$5 for adults and teens, \$3 for children ages 6-12, free for children 5 and under. The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center at Main St. and Rts. 119 and 142. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Also November 11.*

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 13th season. Fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs cheese and other farm products. Yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful handmade gifts. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. New location—Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. *Saturdays, November 3 through March 10.*

BRATTLEBORO. The Seventh Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 257-2461 or visit brattleborofilmfestival.org. *Also November 11.*

BURLINGTON. Greek Pastry Sale & Take-Out Dinner. Pastry Sale starts at 10 am. Take-out dinner from 11 am to 7 pm. Greek Orthodox Church, Corner of Ledge Rd. & So. Willard St. (802) 862-2155.

GRAFTON. Musical Train Excursion: Roots on the Rails. Explore the hidden valleys, quaint villages, craggy mountains and vibrant towns with Livingston Taylor, Susan Werner, and Peter Mulvey. Private train, vintage rail cars. Live music onboard, locally-sourced food and beverages. Green Mountain Express, 92 Main St. (617) 393-9800. rootsontherails.com. *Also November 11.*

HANOVER, NH. Concert: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra's perform Bernstein's Candide Overture and West Side Story Medley, Mahler's Symphony No. 5, and a work by William Grant Still. Tickets: \$25. 8 pm; free pre-concert talk at 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HARTFORD. Christmas Bazaar. Crafts, Christmas items, baked goods, cookie walk, jams, pickles. Silent Auction. Coffee and homemade doughnuts. Lunch: corn chowder, sandwiches, and dessert. 9 am - 2 pm. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple St. (802) 295-9635.

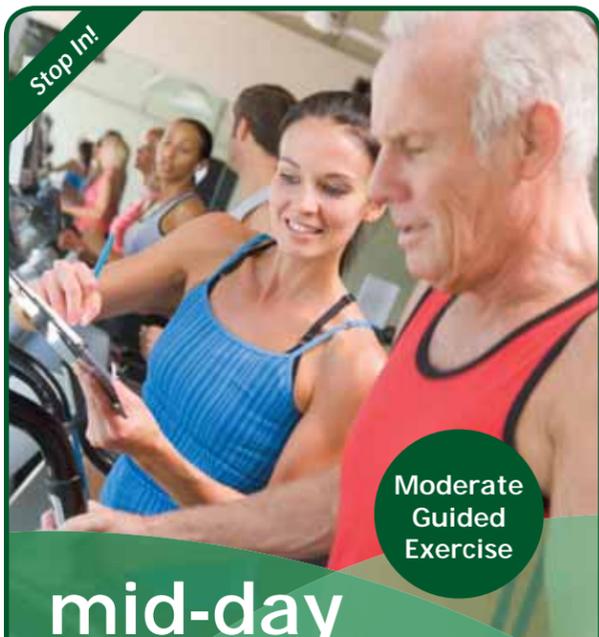
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS. Walk on Coy Hill. A safe hunting-season walk on dirt roads with nice views, interesting old houses and alpacas. Moderate, approximately 5 miles. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. 10 am. Contact leaders for meeting location and details: Gerry & Chryl Martin, (802) 492-2244. greenmountainclub.org.

NO. BENNINGTON. Concert: Michael Chinworth. His live performances attempt a engaging synthesis of pop and obscure experimentation. Tickets: \$10 at the door. 7 pm. Historic Park-McCullough, 1 Park St. (802) 442-5441. info@parkmccullough.org. parkmccullough.org.

PAWLET. 50th Annual Wild Game and Chicken & Biscuit Supper. Hosted by the The Pawlet Vol. Fire Dept. The menu includes venison roast, venison stew, bear roast, moose meatballs and chicken and biscuits and veggie salads with pie for dessert. Milk, coffee, and water are also available. \$12 adults, \$6 for children 10-6, children under 5 free. Beginning at 5 pm. At the Pawlet Firehouse on Rt. 133 in Pawlet Village. For more information call (802) 325-3222. pvfd155@gmail.com. pawletfire.org.

PLAINFIELD, NH. Annual Christmas Bazaar. Sponsored by Blow-Me-Down Grange 234. Many crafters plus vendors. Refreshments available. 9 am - 3 pm. Free admission. Plainfield Town Hall. (603) 448-0773.

PROCTOR. Annual Falling into the Holidays Craft and Vendor Fair. Amazing crafters and direct sales companies. 9 am - 2 pm. Proctor Elementary School, 14 School St. (802) 459-2225.



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Cost: Only \$42 monthly.

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Vermont Country Calendar



RUTLAND. Concert: Tusk, the Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band. Tickets: \$29, \$39. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Story Time and Celebration. Songs and party games from the Victorian period featuring Heather Ballanca and Kim Spensley, illustrator and author of *A Hound's Holiday*, and musician Steve Spensley. This event is free and open to all. 11 am. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

SHOREHAM. Annual Lazyman's Lobster or Baked Ham Dinner. Main course, plus baked potato, winter squash, salad, homemade rolls, cider, beverages, and homemade pies. Cost: lobster dinner \$22 (seniors \$20) or ham dinner \$12 (seniors \$10). Two seatings: 5 pm and 6:30 pm. Reservations required. Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. (802) 349-9957.

WEST RUTLAND. Pancake Breakfast. Menu: pancakes, both plain and blueberry, French toast, scrambled eggs, omelets, home fries, corned beef hash, coffee, juice, tea, milk. Cost: adults (13 years and above) \$9, 4-12 years \$3. 8-11 am. Masonic Lodge, 63 Franklin St.

WOODSTOCK. Ninth Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series Screening: *Dateline Saigon*. Profiles of five Pulitzer Prizewinning journalists — The New York Times's David Halberstam; The Associated Press's Malcolm Browne, Peter Arnett, and United Press International's Neil Sheehan and the legendary photojournalist Horst Faas. Tickets: adults (16 & up) \$6-\$11, refreshments included. 3 pm & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, VT Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest.

WOODSTOCK. November Weekends at Billings Farm & Museum. Enjoy the dairy farm and farmhouse during the late fall. Horse-drawn wagon rides around the farm. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also November 11-12, 17-18.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

BRATTLEBORO. The Seventh Annual Brattleboro Film Festival. At the Latchis Theatre. For schedule call (802) 257-2461 or visit www.brattleborofilmfestival.org.

BRATTLEBORO. 11th Annual LEGO Contest and Exhibit. Admission is \$5 for adults and teens, \$3 for children ages 6-12, free for children 5 and under. The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center at Main St. and Rts. 119 and 142. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

CHESTER. Vermont Voices. Archer Mayor presents his new detective story, *Bury the Lead*. Free and open for all. 2 pm. Phoenix Books Misty Valley, 58 Common St. (802) 875-3400. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

GRAFTON. Musical Train Excursion: Roots on the Rails. Explore the hidden valleys, quaint villages, craggy mountains and vibrant towns with Livingston Taylor, Susan Werner, and Peter Mulvey. Private train, vintage rail cars. Live music onboard, locally-sourced food and beverages. Green Mountain Express, 92 Main St. (617) 393-9800. rootsontherails.com.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: Lucinda Williams and Her Band, Buick 6, celebrating the 20th anniversary of Williams' Grammy-winning album *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road*. Tickets: \$44.50-\$59.50. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Dances taught by David Millstone. Music by Thal Aylward (violin and viola), Carol Compton (piano and recorders). All dances taught beforehand and prompted to live music. Bring shoes to change into at the hall, no high heels. Potluck snacks at the break. Admission: \$10. 1-4 pm. Tracy Hall. davidmillstone7@gmail.com. Also December 9.

RUTLAND. Screening: Metropolitan Opera performance of Nico Muhly's new opera, *Marnie*. Gripping reimagining of Winston Graham's novel, set in the 1950s, about a beautiful, mysterious young woman who assumes multiple identities. Tickets: adults \$23, students \$10. 12:55 pm; run time about three hours, with one 30-minute intermission. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

VERGENNES. Steamboat Pioneer Program: Preview portraits of steamboat pioneer Captain Jahaziel Sherman of Vergennes (1777-1844), and his second wife, Harriett Daggett Sherman. Nautical archaeologist Kevin Crisman will share stories of Jahaziel's adventurous life and recent archaeological discoveries of Sherman's early steamboats in Lake Champlain. Light refreshments will be served. Free. 3-5 p.m. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022. www.lcmm.org.

WOODSTOCK. November Weekends at Billings Farm & Museum. Enjoy the dairy farm and farmhouse during the late fall—when the brilliance of foliage has softened and the weather is still pleasant. Farm life exhibits, daily programs and activities. Horse-drawn wagon rides around the farm. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also November 12, 17-18.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

CHESTER. Wreath Decorating Workshop. Decorate a beautiful pre-made evergreen wreath with natural materials and ribbon. All supplies and snack provided. Get an early start at on the holidays. \$40 per wreath. Make check out to St. Luke's Church and mail to PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. 6:30-8 pm. St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. For questions and registration, contact Lillian Wills at (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. Also November 16 & 17.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Bird Walk. A monthly monitoring bird walk. Meet at the marsh boardwalk on Marble Street at 8 am. For questions e-mail birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org. Visit rutlandcountyaudubon.org. Also December 15.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

CHESTER. Wreath Decorating Workshop. Decorate a beautiful pre-made evergreen wreath with natural materials and ribbon. All supplies and snack provided. Get an early start at on the holidays. \$40 per wreath. Make check out to St. Luke's Church and mail to PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. 9-10:30 am or 1-2:30 pm. St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. For questions and registration, contact Lillian Wills at (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. Also November 17.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Friday, November 16, continued)

LUDLOW. Okemo Mountain School Annual Ski and Snowboard Swap. 4-7 pm. Clock Tower Base Lodge. Okemo Mountain Resort. (802) 228-1513. (802) 228-1600. *Through November 18.*

RANDOLPH. 17th Annual Holiday Market. Juried show. Thursdays and Fridays 12 noon – 6 pm, Saturdays 9 am – 6 pm, Sundays 11 am – 5 pm, and during performances. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org. *November 16 through December 23.*

RUTLAND. Concert: Don McLean. One of America's most enduring singer-songwriters. Tickets: \$45-\$65. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

BARRE. 3rd Annual Fall Model Railroad Show. Hosted by the Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association. Multiple operating HO, N, Z, G, and O-scale layouts, in addition to over 75 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books! Hands-on train activities for children. Food stand. Admission \$6 adults, \$2 children 6-12, free under 6, \$6 per family with an active military identification. 10 am – 4 pm. Barre City Auditorium, 20 Auditorium Hill, exit 7 of I-89. (802) 598-0905. ronpiro@aol.com. nwvrrailroad.org.

BRADFORD. 63rd Annual Wild Game Supper. Menu includes bear, moose, buffalo, elk, venison, wild boar, rabbit, pheasant with rice, and pulled venison; along with potatoes, squash, rolls, cabbage salad, beverages and gingerbread with whipped cream. Tickets: \$30, children under 10 \$20, advance reservations preferred. 2 pm on. United Church of Christ vestry, 245 N. Main St. (802) 222-4034. www.bradforducc.org/wild-game-supper.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 10 am – 2 pm. New location—Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. *Saturdays, November 3 thru March 10.*

CHESTER. Wreath Decorating Workshop. Decorate a beautiful premade evergreen wreath with natural materials and ribbon. All supplies and snack provided. Get an early start at on the holidays. \$40 per wreath with \$5 discount if registered and paid by November 5. Make check out to St. Luke's Church and mail to PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. 9-10:30 am. St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. For questions and registration, contact Lillian Wills at (802) 875-1340. lbwillistc@comcast.net.

LEBANON, NH. Performance. Marrakech to Mumbai: Dances of the People, presented by Gina Capossela and The Raqs Salaam Dance Theater, with the Upper Valley Chinese Dance Group. Over 70 dancers perform works from Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Italy, Turkey, Iran, and India. Tickets: \$25, \$30. 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

LUDLOW. Okemo Mountain School Annual Ski and Snowboard Swap. 9 am – 5 pm. Clock Tower Base Lodge. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1513. (802) 228-1600. *Also November 18.*

PAWLET. Final session in the Vermont Reads 2018 programs: View exhibits that interpret the immigration experience of many families who moved to the local area to work in the slate industry. Cost: \$5. Free. 1-2 pm. Slate Valley Museum. (802) 325-3123. pawletpub@gmail.com.

PITTSFORD. Pittsford Holiday Craft Fair. Local artists and crafters with unique, creative gifts. Chili cook-off. Coffee and donuts will for sale in the morning. All proceeds benefit the Pittsford Christmas for Kids Fund. 9 am – 2 pm. Lothrop Elementary School Gym, 3447 Rt. 7. Contact Kelly Connaughton, (802) 770-4767. kfield16@yahoo.com.

RUPERT. Gnome Homes & Fairy Houses. Spend the afternoon creating log homes and the wee folk to live in them. Brief hike in the woods to gather natural materials; other materials and tools provided. Reservations requested. Fee: \$25 per house. 1-4 pm. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. Located between Rupert and Dorset, at the top of the very large hill. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Concert: Joe Nichols. Country music. Tickets: \$50, \$60. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

TINMOUTH. 50th Annual Game Supper. Wild gourmet feast with all-you-can-eat menu: venison and moose sauerbraten, cornbread chili, de-boned roasts with secret marinades, Italian wild meatballs, smoked deer, moose, and bear. Chicken pie and endless mashed potatoes, squash, salads. Over 100 homemade pies, coffee, cider, and milk. Take-outs available. Adults \$15, children ages 6-12 \$10, under 6 free. 4-7 pm. Community Center, 573 Route 140. (802) 446-2498.

WILLISTON. Annual Christmas Bazaar. Crafts, bake sale, meals to go, plants, attic treasures, Solmate socks, and silent auction. Lunch served from 11 am – 1 pm: Homemade soups, pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches & chili. Free admission. 9 am – 2 pm. Williston Federated Church, 44 North Williston Rd. (802) 878-5792. steepie.org.

WOODSTOCK. Ninth Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series Screening: *Burned: Are Trees the New Coal?* Vermont filmmakers Alan Dater and Lisa Merton's feature-length documentary looks at the latest energy industry solution to climate change. Tickets: adults (16 & up) \$6-\$11, refreshments included. 3 pm & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, VT Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest.

WOODSTOCK. November Weekends at Billings Farm & Museum. Enjoy the dairy farm and farmhouse during the late fall. Farm life exhibits, daily programs and activities. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also November 18.*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

GRANVILLE, NY. The Granville Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Sponsored by the Mettowee Valley Ecumenical Council. No charge for dinner. Takeouts available. 3-6 pm at the United Church of Granville, 18 Church St.

LUDLOW. Okemo Mountain School Annual Ski and Snowboard Swap. New and pre-owned ski and snowboard equipment, clothing and accessories. Sellers keep 75%, OMS receives 25%. 9 am – 1 pm. Clock Tower Base Lodge. Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Rd. (802) 228-1513. (802) 228-1600.

WOODSTOCK. November Weekends at Billings Farm & Museum. Enjoy the dairy farm and farmhouse in the late fall with farm life exhibits, programs and activities. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

BURLINGTON. 28th Annual Free Thanksgiving Community Dinner and Coat Drive. Coat drive starts at 10 am (last year 1000 were given away). Dinner from 10 am – 5 pm. Sweetwaters, 120 Church St. (802) 864-9800. www.sweetwatersvt.com.

MONTPELIER. 46th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Family-style dinner with all the fixings. All are welcome. Delivery service available for those unable to leave their homes. Served from 11:30 am – 2 pm. Bethany Church, 115 Main St. To volunteer or make a donation, call (802) 229-9151. wcysb.org.



Deer Hunting

On a gray day, growing grayer
Snow on the ground, more coming,
Late on a November afternoon,
I came to the end of a farm lane,
Kept open perhaps by a logging operation,
Every twenty years.

There was a cellar hole
Of unmortared granite stones,
Slowly losing to the patient power
Of rain and ice and roots.
In the center a clump of birch
Doing its best to erase
The fragile traces
Of the lives lived here
At the end of a lane
In the snowy woods.

I looked at the stone walls
Leading away from this
Temporary disturbance
In the flinty earth,
And thought of the labor
That went into these works.

A rod a day of wall, they said,
For two men and a span of oxen.
The New England disease
Must have been
A chronic bad back.

And I thought
Of the hopes, dreams, joys,
Disappointments and tragedies
Of the vanished people
Who once lived
In a small farmhouse
At the end of this lane
In the snowy woods.

Gone to Ohio?
Lured by tales of flat fields of rich soil
Away from these steep and stony meadows?
Was it hard to leave
The family, friends, and neighbors
And the meager product
Of generations of toil?

I skirted the edge

Of the overgrown clearing
In the vain hope
Of seeing my deer
In the dwindling light,
And found a family graveyard;
Some tumbled stones,
A few still erect,
The older ones of slate,
Lichened and flaked and illegible,
In later generations, marble.

I read of Moses (killed by a tree),
Rachel (died in childbirth).
They loved their Bible names
And the viruses,
And so I've seen
Faith, and Charity, and Chastity,
And once even Silence.
What was on her parents' minds?

I knelt before a standing stone
And scraped until I could read
Of Sarah, age 9;
And Justin, age 7;
And Rebecca, age 4;
All swept away

In the pitiless March of 1842
By an ague.
I felt a flow of tears
On my cold cheeks
As I thought of this
Slaughter of the innocents,
Of a pain
Beyond belief or understanding.
Maybe leaving for Ohio
Was easier after this.

Now very small flakes were coming,
Invisible except on the sleeve
Of my hunting shirt.
Shooting light now gone, I slung my rifle
And turned back
Down the snowy lane
Thinking of my own mortality,
And my own loved children,
And of my bond of humanity
To my fellows,
The people who lived and loved
And suffered
In a house
At the end of a lane
In the snowy woods.

—FRANK HAAS
Westminster West, VT 1928-2018

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Vermont Country Calendar

POULTNEY. Free Thanksgiving Dinner. Menu includes roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, rolls, pickles, olives, cranberry sauce, and more. Homemade desserts and beverages. 12-2 pm at the Poultny United Methodist Church, 108 Main St.

WELLS. Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner. Turkey and all the fixings, along with dessert and drinks. Take-outs available. Deliveries in Wells. Please call ahead so we know how many turkeys to cook. 3 pm. Wells Village School, Rt. 30. (802) 645-0934.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

BRATTLEBORO. Strolling of the Heifers presents Pop-Up Holiday Gift Shop. Over 40 local artisans in one place. Art, crafts, textiles, specialty food, wellness and more. Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 12 noon - 4 pm. 157 Main St. strollingoftheheifers.com. *Through November 24, also December 21-22.*

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am - 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. *Open Fri., Sat. & Sun., November 24, 25; November 30, December 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23.*

KILLINGTON. Audi FIS Ski World Cup Weekend. Includes the women's giant slalom and slalom races and is expected to bring U.S. Ski Team superstars to compete against the best women's technical alpine skiers in the world. General admission and parking are free. 7 am - 6 pm. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd. www.killington.com. *Through November 25.*

NORWICH. 24th Annual Pods for the Pulpit Craft Fair. Two floors, 40+ vendors. No admission fee. 10 am - 4 pm. Tracy Hall on Main St. *Also November 24.*

POULTNEY. Lakes Region Farmers Market Christmas Craft Fair. Handcrafted items and gifts. Quilts, jewelry, paintings, home-baked goods and country treats. Locally produced specialty foods. Apples and fresh cider. Candles, pottery, maple syrup and Christmas decorations. Free admission. Poultny High School, 153 Main St. 10 am - 4 pm. poultnymarket@gmail.com. *Also November 24.*

PUTNEY. The 40th Annual Putney Craft Tour. The oldest continuing crafts tour in the country is held during the Thanksgiving weekend. Glass blowers, potters, jewelers, weavers, painters, woodworkers, photographers - even artisan cheesemakers, winemakers and custom bicycle makers. Wine and cheese tastings and demos. 10 am - 5 pm. Visitors may start at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. in Putney for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. www.putneycrafts.com. *Through November 25.*

RUTLAND. Comedy Performance: Gilbert Gottfried, "the comedian's comedian." Tickets: \$25 advance, \$30 day of show. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House at the Billings Farm. Horse-drawn wagon rides around the farm. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also November 24 & 25.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

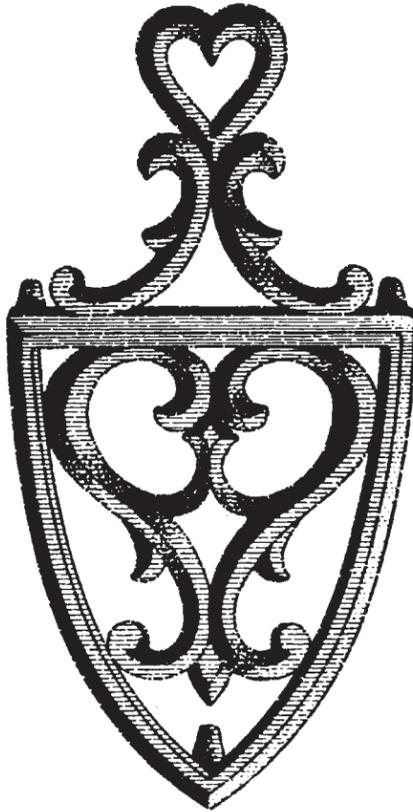
BRATTLEBORO. Strolling of the Heifers presents Pop-Up Holiday Gift Shop. Over 40 local artisans in one place. Art, crafts, textiles, specialty food, wellness and more. Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 12 noon - 4 pm. 157 Main St. strollingoftheheifers.com. *Through November 24, also December 21-22.*

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 13th season. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. New location - Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoolsolutions.org. *Saturdays, November 3 through March 10.*

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am - 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. *Also open Fri., Sat. & Sun., November 25; November 30, December 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23.*

BURLINGTON. Sixth Annual Jingle Bell Express. One-hour train ride. Goodie bag, treats, special guests, caroling, storytelling and other surprises. Tickets: \$25, children 2 and younger free if sitting on adult's lap. 10 am, 12 noon and 2 pm. Arrive 15 minutes early. Main Street Landing, 1 Main St. (802) 862-4943. flyntix.org. *Thru November 25.*

BURLINGTON. Annual Women's Festival of Crafts. Over 50 artisans' booths. Handmade jewelry, artwork, pottery, greeting cards, clothing, recycled and upcycled art, housewares, herbal products, and more. Free and open to the public. 10 am - 5 pm. Burlington City Hall, 149 Church St. (802) 888-2480. womensfestivalofcrafts.com. *Also November 25.*



KILLINGTON. Audi FIS Ski World Cup Weekend. Includes the women's giant slalom and slalom races and is expected to bring U.S. Ski Team superstars to compete against the best women's technical alpine skiers in the world. General admission and parking are free. 7 am - 6 pm. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd. www.killington.com. *Through November 25.*

LYNDON CENTER. Northeast Kingdom Craft Fair. over 50 vendors selling hand-crafted items. Lunch and homemade baked goods. Free admission. 9 am - 3 pm. Lyndon State College. (802) 274-8935. On Facebook.

NORWICH. 24th Annual Pods for the Pulpit Craft Fair. Two floors, 40+ vendors. No admission fee. 10 am - 4 pm. Tracy Hall on Main St.

POULTNEY. Lakes Region Farmers Market Christmas Craft Fair. Handcrafted items and gifts. Quilts, jewelry, paintings, home-baked goods and country treats. Locally produced specialty foods. Apples and fresh cider. Candles, pottery, maple syrup and Christmas decorations. Free admission. Poultny High School, 153 Main St. 10 am - 4 pm. poultnymarket@gmail.com.

PUTNEY. The 40th Annual Putney Craft Tour. The oldest continuing crafts tour in the country is held during the Thanksgiving weekend. 10 am - 5 pm. Visitors may start at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. in Putney for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. putneycrafts.com. *Also November 25.*

RANDOLPH. Performance. No Strings Marionette Company: *Handsome & Gretel*. Tickets: \$8 all seats. 11 am. Main Hall, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Full Beaver Moon Walk. Staff-guided hike, moderate difficulty, will take place weather-permitting. Dress appropriately for the weather with sturdy footwear, headlamps, water and snacks. Reservations requested. Fee: \$5 per person. Call for time. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. Located between Rupert and Dorset. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Comedy Performance: "The Loggers' Holiday Variety Show," Rusty DeWees' nearly all-new evening of comedy and music. Tickets: \$20-\$35. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting. Santa visits Downtown and helps to light the tree in Depot Park. Caroling, hot chocolate, goodies. Meet & greet Santa following the tree lighting. Free double feature movie and photo booth with Santa at the Paramount Theater immediately following. 6 pm.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House at the Billings Farm - preparations, menu, and entertainment. Holiday programs and activities. Horse-drawn wagon rides around the farm. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also November 25.*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am - 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. *Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday, November 30, December 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23.*



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, November 25, continued)

BURLINGTON. Annual Women's Festival of Crafts. Over 50 artisans' booths. Handmade jewelry, artwork, pottery, greeting cards, clothing, recycled and upcycled art, housewares, herbal, and more. Free. 10 am – 4 pm. Burlington City Hall, 149 Church St. (802) 888-2480.

KILLINGTON. Audi FIS Ski World Cup Weekend. Includes the women's giant slalom and slalom races and is expected to bring U.S. Ski Team superstars to compete against the best women's technical alpine skiers in the world. General admission and parking are free. 7 am – 6 pm. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd. www.killington.com.

PUTNEY. The 40th Annual Putney Craft Tour. The oldest continuing crafts tour in the country. 10 am – 5 pm. Visitors may start at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. in Putney for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. www.putneycrafts.com.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House. Horse-drawn wagon ride. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

BURLINGTON. Book & Author Event. Suzanne Gordon presents her book, *Wounds of War: How the VA Delivers Health, Healing, and Hope to the Nation's Veterans*. 7 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

CLARENDON. Holiday Market. Local artists, crafts, and food for fun and to raise funds for renovations. Free admission. 12-4 pm. North Clarendon Chapel, Old 7, between Moulton and North Shrewbury Road. (802) 468-7047. www.clarendonheritage.org.

PITTSFORD. Crockett Card Sale. Free. 6 pm. Maclure Library, 840 Arch St. (802) 483-2972. contact@maclurelibrary.org. maclurelibrary.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

BRATTLEBORO. Fifth Annual Brattleboro-West Arts Fine Art and Craft Sale. Original works: paintings, pastels, photography, botanical etchings, pottery, textiles, woodworking, jewelry, glass. 4-8 pm. 118 Elliot St. brattleboro-west-arts.com. Through December 2.

BRATTLEBORO. Strolling of the Heifers Quilt Expo. Beautiful handcrafted quilts from local quilters, quilted crafts, quilting supplies and more. 11 am – 4 pm. The River Garden, 157 Main St. strollingoftheheifers.com. Also December 1.

BRATTLEBORO. Special Film Screening: *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*. 28-minute documentary short film, presented by the director, Vanessa Vadim. Set in the quilt-makers' homes and yards, and told through the women's voices. 5 pm. Latchis Theatre. strollingoftheheifers.com.

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. lhstrees.com. Open Fri., Sat. & Sun., December 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23.

CALAIS. Concert: The Sky Blue Boys & Cookie will rock the joint with a slew of cool new songs. Never a cover charge, always fine food and drinks at the Whammy Bar. 7:30 pm. The Whammy Bar at the Maple Corner Store, 31 West County Rd. (802) 229-4329. www.banjodan.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 26th Annual Vermont International Festival. Crafts, ethnic goods, delicious food, international music, dance, and stories. Ethnic exhibits and booths. Tickets: adults \$7, ages 6-12 or senior (65+) \$5, family (2 adults and their children) \$20, under 6 free. 5-8 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 863-6713. vermontinternationalfestival.com. Through December 2.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert. Jupiter String Quartet celebrates Debussy in this centenary year of his passing, with a program of Ravel and Debussy's solitary string quartets, plus Dutilleux's *Ainsi la nuit*. Tickets: \$28, youth \$6. 7:30-9:30 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168.

RUTLAND. The Rutland County Farmer's Market Christmas Craft Fair. Reasonable-priced Christmas wreaths and decor; crafts in fiber, fabric, wood and glass; jewelry; baked goods and specialty foods with the flavor of Vermont; prepared foods, apples, cider and veggies. Free admission. 9 am – 2 pm. At the Athletic Center at College of St. Joseph, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 773-4813. Through December 2.

STOWE. A Traditional Christmas in Stowe. Tree lightings, lantern parade, wagon rides, Santa and reindeer visits, carolers. Candy cane pulling, wreath making, gingerbread and cookie decorating. Performances, ice skating and more. 7 am – 8 pm. (802) 585-5131. Through December 2.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

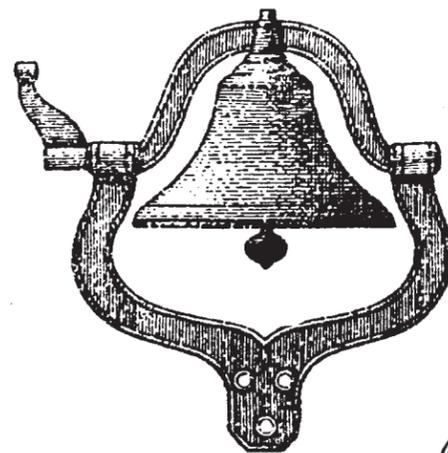
BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market 13th season. Fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs, cheese and other farm products. Yummy treats, delicious pies, pickles and preserves, and beautiful handmade gifts. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm. New location—Church Building, 80 Flat St. (802) 869-2141. Saturdays, November 3 through March 10.

BRATTLEBORO. Fifth Annual Brattleboro-West Arts Fine Art and Craft Sale. Original works. 10 am – 6 pm. 118 Elliot St. brattleboro-west-arts.com. Also December 2.

BRATTLEBORO. Strolling of the Heifers Quilt Expo. Beautiful handcrafted quilts from local quilters, quilted crafts, quilting supplies and more. 11 am – 4 pm. The River Garden, 157 Main St. strollingoftheheifers.com.

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. Open Fri., Sat. & Sun., December 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 26th Annual Vermont International Festival. Crafts, ethnic goods, food, international music, dance and stories. Exhibits and demonstrations by cultural and ethnic organizations. Tickets: adults \$7, ages 6-12 or senior (65+) \$5, family (2 adults and their children) \$20, under 6 free. 10 am – 6 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 863-6713. Also December 2.



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Way Back Then

When the Newspaper Guild Went to Bat

by Charles Sutton

After a year as a reporter/photographer at the Daily Kennebec Journal in Augusta, Maine, I transferred to the Portland Press Herald (also owned by the Guy Gannet family) as a general assignment and police reporter. Unlike the Daily "KJ" the Portland newspaper was a "closed shop." To be employed there one had to join and remain a member of the Portland Newspaper Guild.

That really was no concern as weekly dues were modest (a dollar or two) and it was reassuring to know if one ever had a problem with management the Guild would be there to help. However, when the New York City newspapers went on strike en masse in December, 1962, guild members throughout the country were assessed extra fees to support the strike that lasted 114 days. As those weeks dragged on with the extra deductions from our paychecks a certain resentment set in. We—most of us making around \$80 a week—were paying for strikers who already had been better paid than we were;

and in my own case, I had recently married and inherited a family (a wife and her three children) and a "full" paycheck was much needed without extra deductions.

In retrospect this was a small price to pay for always having the backing of fellow employees through a union or guild, if an adversarial situation arose.

I hadn't been in Portland for long when the Guild went to bat for women employees in the newsroom who produced the society pages and covered stories and events of particular interest to women. Under the existing pay scale writers for these stories (usually women) were paid less than reporters and editors (usually men). The Guild said this was unfair—

women reporting and editing news deserved the same pay as other news staffers, men. They were doing the same job while covering a specific type of news. The Guild won its point and the women were put on the same pay scale as other writers and editors which pleased us all.

On a personal level the Guild took up my case when I filled in as an editorial writer for two weeks, but wasn't given the pay differential. I was told I didn't qualify for the extra pay as the job was temporary and I was on trial for a possible opening. Not so, said the Guild, I did the job and should be paid as such. Only then did I get the extra amount due in my paycheck.

I did enjoy the upstairs private office and time to research and write editorials. I learned indirectly that although I wrote some really good editorials I rattled too many cages to be given the full-time job.

"The Guild won its point and the women were put on the same pay scale as other writers and editors."

I eventually moved on to other newspapers that didn't have newspaper guilds. In recent years with so many daily newspapers facing financial crises,

downsizing, and often new ownership, the Guild has had to assume a more difficult role—helping to keep the presses rolling in belt-tightening partnerships rather than being adversaries. I was pleased to learn my old guild—the Portland Newspaper Guild's—overtures to an investor-buyer helped save the financially-stressed Portland newspaper, by helping to get a new owner who would honor the union contract and members' jobs. Well done!

There is a lot of economic and political pressure to downgrade or eliminate unions, guilds, and organizations that go to bat for better wages and working conditions for their workers. In my career in journalism I have been fortunate that the newspapers (with or without guilds or unions) I worked for, then all family-owned, were unusually supportive of their employees with the goal to serve the community rather than a bottom line. Would that it were like this now!

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Vermont Country Calendar

PITTSFORD. Holiday Art & Craft Show and Basket Raffle. Proceeds benefit the Maclure Library. 9 am – 2 pm. Lothrop Elementary School Gym, 3447 Rt. 7. Contact: Tammy Hitchcock, tamara.hitchcock@gmail.com or contact@maclurelibrary.org.

RUTLAND. Festival of Trees. Auction items include vacation getaways, sport ticket packages, gift certificates, one-of-a-kind experiences, home furnishings and more. Hundreds of silent-auction items. Delicious hors d'oeuvres, towering dessert table. Tickets: \$10. Cash bar open at 5:30 pm. Live auction at 6:45 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. The Rutland County Farmer's Market Christmas Craft Fair. Reasonable-priced Christmas wreaths and decor; crafts in fiber, fabric, wood and glass; jewelry; baked goods and specialty foods with the flavor of Vermont; prepared foods, apples, cider and veggies. Free admission. 9 am – 2 pm. At the Athletic Center at College of St. Joseph, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 773-4813. *Also December 2.*

STOWE. A Traditional Christmas in Stowe. Tree lightings, lantern parade, wagon rides, Santa and reindeer visits, carolers. Candy cane pulling, wreath making, gingerbread and cookie decorating. Performances, ice skating and more. 7 am – 8 pm. (802) 585-5131. *Also December 2.*

WOODSTOCK. Ninth Annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series Screening: *Puzzle*. A closely observed portrait of Agnes, who has reached her early 40s without ever venturing far from home or the tight-knit immigrant community in which she was raised by her widowed father. That begins to change in a quietly dramatic fashion when Agnes receives a jigsaw puzzle as a birthday gift. Tickets: adults (16 & up) \$6-\$11, refreshments included. 3 pm & 5:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org/filmfest.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Experience the traditions of a 19th century Vermont Christmas. Visit the authentically decorated farmhouse and the dairy farm for interactive programs; farm life exhibits, holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Adults 16-61 \$16, seniors 62 and over \$14, student 16 and up \$9, children 5-15 \$8, children 3-4 \$4. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also December 2, 15-16, 22- January 1.*

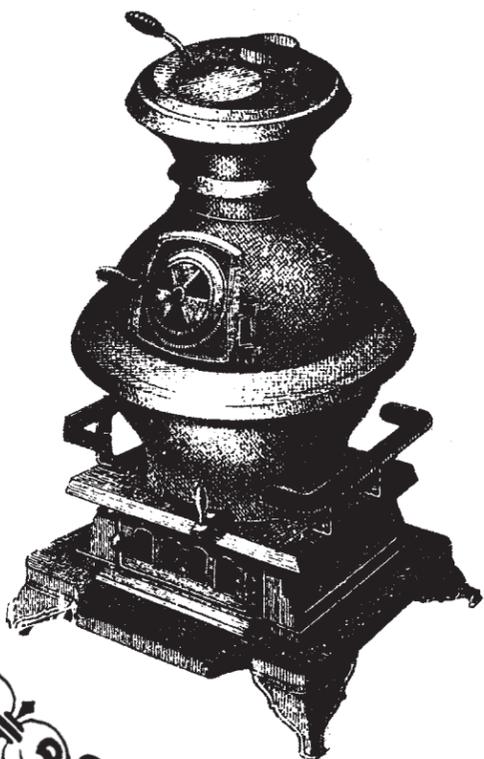
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

BRATTLEBORO. Fifth Annual Brattleboro-West Arts Fine Art and Craft Sale. Original works: paintings, pastels, photography, botanical etchings, pottery, textiles, woodworking, jewelry, glass. 11 am – 5 pm. 118 Elliot St. brattleboro-west-arts.com. *Also December 2.*

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ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2018

BURLINGTON. Saturday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, we'll choose a new picture book, a classic or a staff favorite to read aloud together. Free and open to all ages. 11 am. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. phoenixbooks.biz. *Through November 17.*

CASTLETON. Coffee Hour. Enjoy homemade goodies, hot brew and good company. Free. 9-11 am. Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St. (802) 468-3093. *Continues on Fridays.*

ESSEX. Saturday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, we'll choose a new picture book, a classic or a staff favorite to read aloud together. 11 am – 12 noon. Phoenix Books Essex, 2 Carmichael St. (802) 872-7111. *Through November 17.*

ESSEX. Wednesday Story Time. Enjoy timeless tales and new adventures with your little ones. Each week, we'll choose a new picture book, a classic or a staff favorite to read aloud together. Free and open to all ages. 10 am. Phoenix Books Essex, 2 Carmichael St. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz. *Through November 14.*

HANOVER, NH. Public Astronomical Observing. Dartmouth Department of Physics and Astronomy offers free viewing through its astronomical telescopes, under good weather conditions. If weather is questionable, call to confirm. Free. 8-10 pm. Shattuck Observatory, 15 Observatory Rd. (603) 646-9100 option 2. Tressena.A.Manning@dartmouth.edu. *Friday nights in good weather.*

MILTON. Children Read to Cleo the Therapy Dog. 10-11 am. Milton Public Library, 39 Bombadier Rd. (802) 893-4644. library@town.milton.vt.us. miltonlibraryvt.org. *First and third Saturdays.*

ORLEANS. Vermont Reindeer Farm. Come see the only live reindeer in the whole state of Vermont! Many other farm animals to pet & feed. Nature trail, Reindeer games & gift shop. Vermont Reindeer Farm, 3108 Chilafoux Rd (in West Charleston). (802) 754-9583. On Facebook.

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.*

POULTNEY. Weekly 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. *Ongoing every Thursday.*

POULTNEY. Check Out a Bike at the Poultney Public Library. Five bicycles available to be checked out for two days, with a helmet and a lock. A current Poultney Public Library patron over the age of 18 will need to sign a borrower agreement form. Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St. (802) 287-5556. poultneypubliclibrary.com.

POULTNEY. Stone Valley Arts. A non-profit community arts center. visual art shows, literary events, music concerts, dance performances, guest speakers, and classes in dance, drawing, music, scriptwriting, yoga and meditation. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St. (802) 884-8052. stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com. www.stonevalleyarts.org.

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards Farm Store. Apples and cider year round. Pick-your-own fruits in season. Horse-drawn wagon rides by reservation. Farm store with our own bakery. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtorchards.com.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$15.50, seniors (62 plus) \$14.50, youth (4-17): \$13.50, children 3 and under free. Open 7 days a week 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. 17th Annual Holiday Market. Juried show, offering a beautiful and eclectic selection of fine art, crafts, and local products. Thursdays and Fridays 12 noon – 6 pm, Saturdays 9 am – 6 pm, Sundays 11 am – 5 pm, and during performances. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. outreach@chandler-arts.org. chandler-arts.org. *November 16 through December 23.*

November Sun

Rain-softened, mellow
Sunshine of waning November
Dapples the apple-leaves russet and amber and yellow—
Don't you remember?
Trailing behind him
Jocund red fungus-heads, why does he hide in December
Where we can't find him?
Changed to a frost-crimsoned, orange-faced, sleep-headed
fellow—
Blizzards behind him?



—J. C. CHADWICK
England, November, 1915



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Veteran's Town Hall Events

Sunday, November 4th at 1 pm



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and the communities they served.*

Veterans are invited to share what their service means to them through a story, summary of service, message, letter home, excerpt from a war journal, or even the story behind a photograph. Non-veterans are invited to attend, to listen, and to learn.

The Event is held at both of these locations:

Contois Auditorium, 149 Church St., Burlington
American Legion Post 31, 33 Washington St., Rutland

For questions e-mail: btvvetstowhall@gmail.com

RSVP's appreciated:

www.vtvetstowhall.eventbrite.com



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities 2018, continued)

RANDOLPH CENTER. Silloway Maple Sugarhouse Tour. Open year 'round. Tour our solar powered, wood-fired maple sugarhouse. Hear how syrup used to be made, compared with today's modern ways. See the reverse osmosis machine, where part of the water is removed before boiling. Sample maple candy, shop for syrup, cream, and sugar – ship or bring home. Take your children and dogs on a self-guided hike to see the tubing system in the woods. 7 am – 8 pm. Silloway Maple, 1303 Boudro Rd. Call ahead and we'll meet you at the sugarhouse! (802) 272-6249 or (802) 249-0504.

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, 30 miles of trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store. Free. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

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

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@vermonthherbal.com. On Facebook and Twitter. www.vermonthherbal.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Newberry Market. A year-round, public indoor market with vendors offering local products, cheeses, clothing, gifts, pottery, and specialty foods. Free admission. Open every Thursday year round 11 am – 6 pm. Newberry Market, 19 South Main St. (802) 299-0212. newberrymarketwrj@gmail.com. newberrymarketwrj.com.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. 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 shown every hour in the theater. Admission: adults \$16, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open April 2 through October 31 for the season, 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. 20 miles of trails and carriage roads are open year-round. Gardens and mansion. Vermont's only national park. Guided tours \$4/\$8, under 15 free. Walk the grounds free. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 x 22. nps.gov/mabi.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

ARLINGTON. Visit the Canfield Gallery and the Russell Collection. Library hours: Tues & Thurs 9 am – 8 pm, Wed 9 am – 5 pm, Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am – 3 pm. The Russell Collection is open Tues 9 am – 5 pm. Martha Canfield Memorial Library, 528 East Arlington Rd. (802) 375-6153. marthacanfieldlibrary.org.

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. Exhibit: "Anything for Speed: Automobile Racing in Vermont" open thru March 2019. Admission: adult \$7, seniors \$5, students free, families \$20. Open Monday-Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. Vermont History Center, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthhistory.org. *Through March 30.*

BELLOWS FALLS. River Artisans Cooperative. Really Handmade... Really Vermont. River Artisans is the longest continually operating craft cooperative in the state of Vermont. The works of 30+ of New England's finest craftspeople await you in our shop located in this historic riverside village. The shop is open year round Wednesday through Monday 10 am – 4 pm (closed Tuesday). River Artisans Cooperative, 28 the Square. (802) 460-0059.

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

BENNINGTON. Laumeister Art Center at Southern Vermont College. Vermont Pastel Society Juried Show on exhibit through November 17. Permanent collections, Covered Bridge Museum, art studios, theater productions, workshops. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. Laumeister Art Center, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. artcenter@svc.edu. www.artcenter.svc.edu.

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, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Admission: adults \$10, seniors and students over 18 \$9. Admission is never charged for younger students, museum members, or to visit the museum shop. Open 10 am – 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. The Stephanie Stouffer Galleries. Compass is now the sole agent for Stouffer's original artwork, and also retails some of the commercial products which carry Stouffer's iconic designs. Visitors can browse galleries dedicated to Stouffer's 'everyday' collection and holiday and Christmas collections. Open Monday through Saturday from 10 am – 5 pm. At The Compass Music and Arts Center, located in Park Village at 333 Jones Dr. (Park Village used to be the Brandon Training School, located 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon off of Arnold District Rd., off Rt. 7.). (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. 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. Open Monday-Saturday 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. Five New Exhibits. "Emily Mason: To Another Place," 50 paintings and drawings. Michael Poster's "If she has a pulse, she has a chance," 32 photographic portraits of people in recovery. Orly Cogan's "Don't Call Me Princess," painted and embroidered linen pieces. Robert Perkins' "Every Day". And "Heaven, Earth, Home" sculptures and drawings by Elizabeth Turk. Open every day except Tuesday, 11 am – 5 pm. Admission: adults \$8, seniors \$6, students \$4, 18 and under free. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. brattleboromuseum.org.

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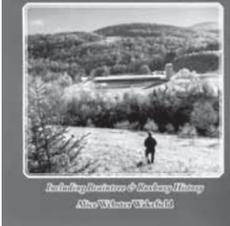
The night is freezing fast,
To-morrow comes December;
And winterfalls of old
Are with me from the past;
And chiefly I remember
How Dick would hate the cold.

Fall, winter, fall; for he,
Prompt hand and headpiece clever,
Has woven a winter robe,
And made of earth and sea
His overcoat for ever,
And wears the turning globe.



—A.E. HOUSMAN
Cambridge, England 1859-1936

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

BURLINGTON. Fleming Museum of Art. More than 20,000 objects that span the history of civilization, from early Mesopotamia through contemporary America. Admission: 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.

CENTER RUTLAND. The Rutland Railroad Museum. Housed in the Rutland Depot, built in 1917. See railroad artifacts and historical exhibits including HO & N scale model railroad layouts and a children's layout. The museum is also available to educational groups and schools for tours by appointment. Open Saturdays from 11 am - 1 pm. Rutland Railway Association, 79 Depot Lane. For information call John Schaub at (802) 768-8427. info@rutlandrailroadmuseum.org. www.rutlandrailroadmuseum.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. www.svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene House Tours of Robert and Mary Lincoln's home. The museum store in our 100-year-old carriage barn welcomes visitors for distinctive gifts. Tours daily at 2 pm with a prior reservation, not recommended for children under 10. Admission \$20 adults; children 6 to 14, \$5; under 6, free. A fee of \$7.50 for the tour is added to the general admission. No admission charged for Welcome Center and Museum Store. Open daily year round 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, Rt. 7A, south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.org. www.hildene.org.

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, 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. Exhibits: "Waterfowl Wonders and Amusing Animals, by Three Self-Taught Carvers", Chuck Herrmann, Bill Holway, and Gary Starr. "Doughboys and Flyboys: WWI Stories from the Home and Battlefield". New Outdoor Sculptures: "Big Fish" by Martin McGowan, and "Anyman aka The Head" by John Matuszt. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$4.50, youth (6-18) \$3, family \$12. Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. The Henry Sheldon Museum, One Park St. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org. Exhibits through November 11.

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, seniors \$4.50, family \$12. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm and select Sundays in December 1-4 pm. The Henry Sheldon Museum, One Park St., across from the Ilsley Library. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.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. 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. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MONTGOMERY CENTER. Montgomery Center for the Arts. Exhibits, classes, special events for all ages. Exhibit: Growing Food, Growing Farmers. Researchers Greg Sharrow and Andy Kolovos explore the grass-roots food movement at Boardman Hill Farm, where Greg and Gay Cox have lived and farmed for more than three decades, Nov 1 thru Dec 31. 2 Mountain Rd. montgomerycenterarts@gmail.com. montgomerycenterforthearts.com.

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. Admission: adults: \$7; families: \$20; students, children, seniors: \$5; members and children under 6: free. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier and the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre. 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. 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.

READING. Exhibit: *The Solace of Amnesia*. Curated by Alexis Rockman and Katherine Gass Stowe. Approximately twenty-five artists are represented in *The Solace of Amnesia*, which includes over thirty paintings, photographs, works on paper and sculptures selected from the Hall Art Foundation collections. Admission \$10. Open by appointment Saturday and Sunday for tours at 11 am and 2 pm. Free unguided tours first Fridays from 5-8 pm. Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Rt. 106. (802) 952-1056. vermont@hallartfoundation.org. hallartfoundation.org. Through November 25.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes, Art in the Park October 6 & 7 in Main Street Park. Open Mon-Fri 10 am - 5 pm, Sat 9 am - 3 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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

SO. POMFRET. Exhibits, workshops, classes, events. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. artistreevt.org.

SPRINGFIELD. The Great Hall Presents "Healing: The Transformative Imagery of Art." Great Hall, One Hundred River St. (802) 885 3061, bob@springfielddevelopment.org. ninajamison150@gmail.com. Through March 30.

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

STOWE. Members' Art Show and Festival of Trees & Light. Decorated evergreens, Hanukkah display, and over 100 artworks. Donations welcome. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. mail@helenday.com. helenday.com. November 20 through December 29.

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. Gallery open 7 days a week in the summer. 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. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. *A Place in the Land* our Academy Award®-nominee film shown every hour in the theater. Admission: adults \$15, 62 & up \$14, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open Saturday and Sunday, November through February from 10 am - 4 pm. Also open February vacation week from 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org.

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

Fall Model Railroad Show in Barre, VT on November 17

Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association will host its Annual Fall Model Railroad Show on November 17 at the Barre City Auditorium in Barre, VT.

The event will feature multiple operating HO, N, G, and O-scale layouts, in addition to over 75 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books! There will be hands-on train activities and a face painter for children. The Berlin Volunteer Fire Department will be selling hot dogs, sandwiches, snacks, and beverages during the show.

and meets every Wednesday evening at the Association's HO-scale layout in the Pinewood Plaza in Essex Junction, VT. Meetings are devoted to construction of the layout, operating sessions, and promotion of the hobby. Anyone interested in model railroading is encouraged to join.

Admission is \$6 adults, \$2 children 6-12, free under 6, \$6 per family with an active military identification. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Barre City Auditorium, 20 Auditorium Hill in Barre, VT. Take exit 7 off I-89. (802) 598-0905. ronpiro@aol.com. www.nwvrailroad.org.



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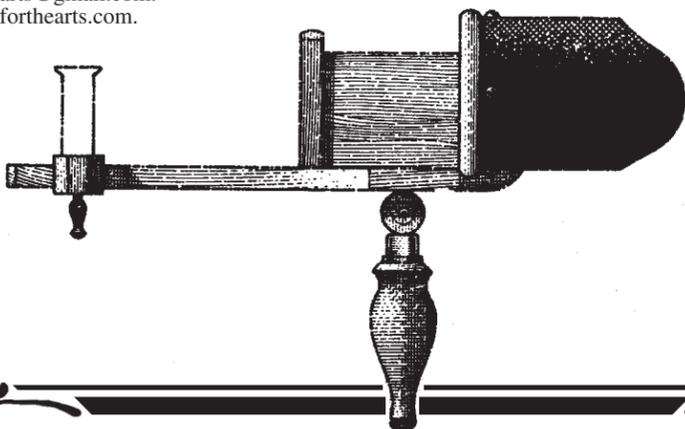
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Green Mountain Gardener

Snags Dead Trees Support Life

by Dr. Leonard Perry

Horticulture Professor Emeritus, University of Vermont

When you hear the word “snag”, you may think of a run in a stocking or pulled thread in a fabric. In the natural and landscape contexts a snag (sometimes called “wildlife tree”) is a dead or dying tree that, hard to believe, can support more life than a living tree. Think of them as wildlife condos. How is this possible? The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife provides some answers and many details (wdfw.wa.gov/living/snags/).

Birds and small mammals use snags for nests, food storage, foraging for insects (a staple of the diet for many birds), roosting, and merely perching. Hollow trunks, cavities and dead branches, even on living trees, provide similar “ecosystem resources”. Often wonder where birds go during storms and on cold winter nights? Many retreat to snags. If such trees are near waterways, when they drop limbs or fall into the water, these enhance aquatic habitats. Experts recommend at least three dead trees per acre to support wildlife. Nationwide, snags support over 1000 species of wildlife (www.nwf.org).

Food for birds and bears

A tree may already have large cavities from rots or other damage, or woodpeckers searching for insects to eat may enlarge the size of cavities. The large pileated woodpecker is one of these “excavators” that, when at work, send the bark chips flying. It is searching for carpenter ants, termites, and other insects in the heartwood of a tree.

Closer to the surface, the inner bark is where other woodpecker species, flickers, and sapsuckers find larval and pupal stages of insects. This is important, especially in winter. These birds use the cavities, also, for nesting and winter protection. Raccoons and black bears may peel the inner bark layer, also looking for insects. The outer bark at the surface is where nuthatches and woodpeckers look for bark beetles, spiders, and ants. If the bark is partially detached, this space provides shelter for bats and some butterflies. Small cavities are used by house wrens, bluebirds, and black-capped chickadees for nesting.

Snags are used for more than food and cover. If you hear a loud tapping in such dead trees, this resonating sound is



Beaver pond in the woods in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.

photo by Jeff Gold

from woodpeckers announcing their presence during mating. Large snags—those 12-inches wide or more and over 15 feet tall—make desirable perches for hunting bird species such as hawks, owls, and even eagles. Many birds, such as swallows and mourning doves, use their branches for perches. Tanagers and flycatchers use them for song perches. Mice, squirrels, woodpeckers, and blue jays may use them to store food gathered elsewhere.

Hard snags

When a tree is dying, or recently dead, it forms a “hard snag”. This is one that has the inner bark and heartwood still firm, so is most attractive to the woodpeckers and other “cavity excavators” both for food and nesting. Eventually this inner wood rots from the action of fungi, branches fall off, and tops fall off making the tree shorter. The dead tree is now a “soft snag”, providing a different selection of insects for other birds and wildlife. Even when the soft snag falls to the ground, this provides habitat and a food source for small mammals.

The best stage for those nesting in cavities is in between—the outer sapwood is still firm, providing protection, while the inner heartwood has softened, providing easy excavation for a nesting cavity. Some of the strong excavators, like the pileated woodpecker or flicker, use living trees if the inner heartwood has begun to decay. Their large cavities in such trees are a good indication of this condition.

Softwood for food, hardwood for nesting

While most tree species can be used by birds as snags, softwood species such as firs may be better for food while hardwoods such as maples may be better for nesting. Large conifers such as firs, cedar, larch, pine, and spruce tend to rot more slowly than large deciduous (those that lose their leaves in winter) trees such as oaks, maples, and cottonwoods. Dead trees as small as six feet tall, with trunks only 4-inches across such as birches, are used by black-capped chickadees and other small birds.

If you have room in your landscape, plan for at least one snag, even if a small one. Keep an old or damaged tree, as well as tall shrubs near it to provide wildlife habitat. If in a developed neighborhood or setting, snags are best located away from high traffic or high visibility areas (or passersby may wonder why you’re leaving dead trees). A potential snag is a tree that has splits in the trunk, dead main limbs, fungi on the outer bark, or evidence already of woodpecker activity. Snags can be relocated from elsewhere but, since these are quite heavy and so usually require a professional and crane, they’re best left or used on the ground as a log.

Living trees that are good candidates to make into a snag are those located away from high traffic and visibility, as with dead trees. “Hazard trees”, or those that pose safety

concerns from weak forked trunks or disease, make good snags. If you have a tree providing shade where you want sun, consider making it into a snag. Other snag candidates are trees that need thinning out of a clump, or those with invasive roots threatening paved surfaces or underground water and sewer systems.

To make a living tree into a snag, the easiest way is to “girdle” the trunk. This is similar to what some gardeners often do unintentionally with weed trimmers, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients between tops and roots. Do this as high as possible, removing a four-inch wide strip of inner and outer bark. You can do this to just a branch if you want to have it die and be used as a perch. Eventually the branch will fall off, which may leave a cavity for birds.

Make roosting slits for bats and birds

If you have a snag, you can make roosting slits for bats and some songbirds. Make a slit at least eight inches deep, an inch or more wide, and angled upward. The higher slits are (15 feet or so for bats is good), the more they’ll be used. Make these on the south side of a snag if for bats, which like the warmth.

If you have a snag, or even living tree you’re turning into one, you can create cavities for desirable birds. To begin the cavity and decay process, drill a one-inch hole (use one of those drill bits you find in hardware stores for holes in doors for locksets) slightly downward into the heartwood of the tree. Do this where water might collect, such as below where a branch joins the trunk. Also you can remove a branch that is four inches or wider across, leaving a bit of jagged stub (unlike if you were pruning the tree properly for good health) to rot.

If you cut, or have, a large cavity in a trunk that you want to prevent aggressive, non-native birds such as European starlings and house sparrows from taking over, make it smaller. Use a piece of wood, leather, or metal to cover the cavity, with a hole one and one-eighths (1-1/8) inches wide.

New homes for wildlife in dead or dying trees

So if you have a dead or dying tree, consider if it can be left to support wildlife. Dying or dead trees often can remain intact for many years. If dying branches or trunks pose a safety concern if they fall, or the tree is in a prominent location and really an eyesore visually, then a tree may need taken down by a certified arborist. If you’re unsure about the safety of a tree, consult with an arborist or a town tree warden. Perhaps the tree is still sound, but merely weak branches need removing. When you take a tree or branches down, leave them nearby on the ground to rot and provide habitat, if possible. Then replace the lost nesting cavities with nesting boxes, appropriate for the species in your landscape.

Visit Perry’s Perennial Pages at www.uvm.edu/~pass/perry.

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photo by George Bosworth

Moose are one of the many species that call the recently-expanded Steam Mill Brook Wildlife Management Area home. One of the state's largest wildlife management areas, Steam Mill Brook WMA, in the towns of Walden, Stannard, Wheelock and Danville, has expanded by 225 acres as the result of a recent land acquisition.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Be Alert to Avoid Moose on the Highway

Drivers need to be alert and cautious because moose are on the move, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Moose are more likely to be crossing roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning because this is breeding season for moose.

"Motorists hit 67 moose on Vermont highways during 2017 and 51 so far this year," said Vermont's Chief Game Warden Colonel Jason Batchelder. "We are asking drivers to be especially careful and for people to enjoy watching moose from a distance. Moose can be unpredictable and dangerous if you get too close and they feel cornered or get irritated."

Moose are a threat to motorists, but there are measures you can take to avoid hitting them, according to Fish & Wildlife: Always be aware of the danger—moose cross the road randomly, as well as at their regular crossings.

Increase your roadside awareness and reduce your speed when you see MOOSE CROSSING signs along the highway. When on secondary roads, the recommended speed is 40 mph or less in these moose crossing areas.

Drive defensively and don't overdrive your headlights. Moose are more active at night and early morning, and they are difficult to see because of their dark color.

If you see a moose ahead, slow down or stop. Trying to speed past them before they can move can be a serious mistake.

Vermont highway sections most frequented by moose:

- Rt. 105 from Island Pond to Bloomfield.
- Rt. 114 from East Burke to Canaan.
- Rt. 2 from Lunenburg to East St. Johnsbury.
- Interstate 91 at Sheffield Heights.
- Interstate 89 from Bolton to Montpelier.
- Rt. 12 from Worcester to Elmore.
- Rt 118 near Belvidere Corners and Rt. 109 intersection.

VT Fish & Wildlife cautions drivers that moose are more likely to be crossing roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning. Nineteen people have

died in motor vehicle collisions with moose on Vermont highways since 1985.

For more information contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department in Montpelier, VT at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. E-mail John Hall at john.hall@vermont.gov.

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Glorious November Entertainment at the Hopkins Center

November will bring many kinds of entertainment to the Hopkins Center and the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire. Come in from the cold and enjoy spectacular choral works and cool jazz, award-winning plays and African ensembles. Here are some of the offerings.

Saturday, October 27: The Dartmouth College Gospel Choir gives another edition of "Dartmouth Sings," in which it teams up with other singers and vocal ensembles from across campus, including musical theater types and a cappella groups. *Tickets \$10-\$15. 8 pm at Spaulding Auditorium.*

Friday, November 2: Dartmouth Department of Theater presents Eclipsed, an award-winning play celebrating the women who navigate the nightmare and wreckage of war. In 2003, in the waning days of the Second Liberian Civil War, the captive forced "wives" of a Liberian rebel officer form a hardscrabble sisterhood to take control of their own destiny, drawing on their reserves of defiance, wit and compassion. A chilling, humanizing and surprisingly funny portrait of survival, transformation and renewal, by Zimbabwean American actress and playwright Dana Gurira. *Tickets \$9-\$12. Runs through November 11 at 2 & 8 pm at The Moore Theater.*

Friday, November 2: The fall concert of the Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble features a collaboration with guest composer/performers Joseph Daley (tuba) and Kris Davis (piano), with special guest soloist and former Dartmouth music professor Bill Cole (traditional double-reed instruments). Bandleader, composer and educator Taylor Ho Bynum leads this ensemble dedicated to creative music and the transformative experience of improvisation. *Tickets \$9-\$12. 8 pm at Spaulding Auditorium.*

Sunday, November 4: The Dartmouth College Glee Club, the college's premiere student chorus, presents a program of choral works based on song, by Brahms and French Impressionists Debussy and Ravel. Cincinnati-based Italian concert pianist Fabio Menchetti accompanies the singers and rounds out the program with solo works by those same composers. *Tickets \$2-\$12. 2 pm at Rollins Chapel.*

Wednesday, November 7: Burkinabe musician Mamadou Diabate performs with his band Percussion Mania as part of a residency at Dartmouth. Rippling, riveting West African traditional music from a region where music and life are interwoven from "a true master...a superb reminder of the thrilling power of West African music" (London Evening Standard). *Tickets \$140/\$25. 7 pm at Spaulding Auditorium.*



photo courtesy of the artists
Burkinabe musician Mamadou Diabate and his band Percussion Mania is performing at the Hopkins Center.

Saturday, November 10: Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra's concert. Bernstein's *Candide Overture* and *West Side Story Medley* are paired with Mahler's fifth—Bernstein was one of the greatest Mahler conductors—and a work by William Grant Still. The Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra will perform much of this program during a December tour of Italy that is part of a two-year collaboration with conservatory orchestras in Tuscany. Conductor Filippo Ciabatti gives a free pre-concert talk at 7 pm. *Tickets \$10-\$25. 8 pm at Spaulding Auditorium.*

Tuesday, November 13: Handel Society of Dartmouth College. 100-voice chorus performs the Brahms *Ein*

Deutsches Requiem, Op. 45 a masterwork revealing the composer's deepest feelings about life and death, with guest soloists and full orchestra. *Tickets \$10-\$25. 7 pm at Spaulding Auditorium.*

Friday, November 30: Stratford Festival Coriolanus by William Shakespeare. U.S. Premiere and Exclusive, 4 shows only. Director Robert Lepage's signature high-tech, cinematic storytelling frames superb acting by a veteran Stratford cast, led by André Sills in the title role. A mesmerizing critique of leadership and our media-obsessed present, this landmark production will whet the appetites of old and new theater-goers alike. 2h55m including intermission. *Tickets \$25-\$80. Also December 1&2. 2 & 8 pm at The Moore Theater.*

Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH. For more information call (603) 646-2422. Visit hop.dartmouth.edu.



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Norwich, VT

Plan to Attend the 24th Annual Pods for the Pulpit Craft Fair

November 23rd and 24th will mark the 24th Annual Pods for the Pulpit Crafts Fair, a major fundraising event put on by Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley, Norwich, VT. Funds raised will be shared with The Haven and UVStrong (a team of non-profit agencies that responds to natural disasters in the Upper Valley).

Two floors, with 40+ vendors, will show a wide variety of high quality crafts including jewelry in many forms, pottery, rag rugs, quilting, woodblock prints, herbals, basketry, floor cloths, etchings, felted sculptures, woven goods, fiber art, wreaths, hand spun yarn and woven wool rugs, braided rugs,

porcelain ornaments, photographs, painted gourds, elf slippers, wooden lamps, pickles, wreaths and more. You name it, they've got it. They aim for League-quality craftspeople and the fair is known as a class act around Upper Valley.

Attendees are encouraged to purchase raffle tickets for a colored woodblock print donated by artist Matt Brown of Lyme, NH.

The fair is held Thanksgiving weekend at Tracy Hall in Norwich, VT from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission fee. Everyone is welcome.

Tracy Hall is located at 300 Main St. in Norwich, VT. For more info e-mail margo.nutt@gmail.com.

Digging

Today I think
Only with scents,—scents dead leaves yield,
And bracken, and wild carrot's seed,
And the square mustard field;

Odours that rise
When the spade wounds the root of tree,
Rose, currant, raspberry, or gout-weed,
Rhubarb or celery;

The smoke's smell, too,
Flowing from where a bonfire burns
The dead, the waste, the dangerous,
And all to sweetness turns.

It is enough
To smell, to crumble the dark earth,
While the robin sings over again
Sad songs of Autumn mirth.



—EDWARD THOMAS
London, 1878-1917

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Apples, Apples Everywhere

by Burr Morse

Along with the usual burst of color and increasingly frosty mornings, we got an additional fall benefit this year...apples. Here in mid-November, folks are still exclaiming about the abundance of apples as a simple drive on any of our area's back roads corroborates.

Apple "spillage" highlights lots of roadside wild apple trees, trees largely unseen until a year like this comes around. Because of this year's exceptional crop, those surprise trees extend beyond the roadways and out into our Vermont pastures and wood lots. And, for some reason, all that fruit is refreshingly quite free of worms and ready to use.

In days gone by, before there were so many farmers' markets, roadside stands, and pick-your-own orchards, we paid more attention to our wild apples. Every fall on both lean and abundant years, we'd go scrounge drops from wild apple trees. We never climbed the trees or used a ladder but just waited for the fruit to fall. It was easy to pick it up off the ground (no worries about deer droppings or an occasional slug and none of us ever died from drinking unpasteurized cider).

One year when I was in my mid-teens, I decided to fabricate my own cider press. I had grown up learning from my brother Elliott and our neighbor Carroll Badger, who

had both built their own small, home-made presses. I had the drive, and the apples, but dismally lacked their mechanical abilities.

A cider press consists of two parts: a device to grind whole apples into mush and a press to squeeze cider out of that mush. For my grinder, I used a small electric motor from a washing machine, a belt, and a couple pulleys. The actual grinding device consisted of a round section from a Spruce tree with rows of nails pounded half-way into it. I drilled a hole through the round block's center, give or take a bit, and inserted a metal shaft supported by end bearings and the pulley on one side. Around it, I built a rough board hopper which would allow the apples to slowly drop into the spinning grinder. Once I completed the assembly, all that was left was to plug it in for a test run.

Suspecting there'd be only "minor bugs", I wasn't prepared for what happened...likely because of the "give or take" in my centering the shaft, that thing instantly became a lethal weapon twirling and tumbling around my parents' basement. Worst of all, shrapnel from the "half-pounded" nails flew in every direction. I crouched in a corner, hands over my head, until the angry contraption finally blew a fuse and quieted. All that was left was a basement full of broken parts, a massive

"Yes, two huge rock maple trees have occupied this 'ol guy's spare time for the whole summer of 2018."



clean up job, and some shrapnel scars that I bear to this day!

This year there's been a lot of homemade cider produced. Some, no doubt, sits hardening and will either result in "good batch" stuff for winter cheer or, more likely, foul tasting vinegar. Making good hard cider is an art that takes years or generations to develop, and most amateur attempts fail bitterly. At any rate, it was a pleasure to enjoy this fall in our own little Garden of Eden where fruit dropped freely and "unforbidden", into the

hands of folks who will continue to rave about the year of the apple.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open year-round. Visitors welcome! Come see the Country Store with Vermont products. Tour the Sugarhouse, Woodshed Theater, Outdoor Farmhouse Museum and more. Order Cabot cheddar cheese, maple products, and Balsam wreaths at (800) 242-2740 or morsefarm.com.

Montpelier, VT

46th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club, with support from the Central Vermont community, is hosting the 46th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday November 22nd at the Bethany Church in Montpelier, VT.

The meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome to partake in this family style dinner with all the fixings! Thanksgiving delivery service is available

for those unable to leave their homes and can be scheduled by calling (802) 229-9151.

Volunteers are welcome to come and help on Thanksgiving day, as well as bake pie bakers and cook turkeys. If you are available to volunteer or would like to make a donation, call (802) 229-9151 8:30-5, Monday-Friday.

This event served 742 Central Vermont citizens in 2017, with 428 guests at the sit down meal and 314 deliveries around Montpelier.

We are grateful to those who support the Bureau as well as all the community efforts that make this Thanksgiving celebration possible.

Bethany Church is located at 115 Main Street in Mont-

pelier, VT. The Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club is located at 38 Elm St. in Montpelier, VT.

For more information call (802) 229-9151. Visit www.wcysb.org.

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Apples in the Kitchen

Applesauce: Apples suited for pies are usually good for sauce too, as are a few strongly flavorful types that are too watery or not firm enough for pies. MacIntoshes make excellent sauce.

For Baked Goods: Pies, pancakes, muffins, and cakes: Look for assertive-tasting fruit that's not too watery. The apples should have some tartness. Examples: Granny Smith, Pippin, Rhode Island Greening, Ida Red, Jonathan, and Jonamac.

Baked: Firm fruit that holds its shape makes the best baked apples. This includes Cortland, Northern Spy, and Rome Beauty.

Out-Of-Hand: Most apples that are good for pies, applesauce, and baked apples are delicious raw too, with the exception of very tart or mealy types. Try Braeburn, Empire, Fuji, Honey Crisp, Gala, and Winter Banana.

—Ron Krupp

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Tales of Late Autumn and Thanksgiving

Where we live, in Vermont, there was snow on the ground in mid-October. And even though it had melted by noon, it was a sure sign that the change of seasons is upon us. Time to say good-bye to glorious fall, welcome our friends and families at Thanksgiving, and get ready for the holidays and winter. Don't we all wonder what it will hold for us this year? Here are some stories to help you and your little ones prepare.

Having a dozen or so hungry people show up for Thanksgiving dinner may seem like quite an undertaking for most of us, but suppose family, friends, neighbors and newcomers numbering 200 show up...and they have been doing this for 20 years! Find out how this is done in *Thanksgiving in the Woods* by Phyllis Alsdurf and Illustrated by Jenny Lovlie (\$16.99. Sparkhouse Family. www.sparkhouse.org).

Based on a true story about the farm family who hosts the event on their farm in upstate New York, we follow as one family gets ready for the event. Dozens of people show up at the woods site bordering a stream and put up long tables. The next day (Thanksgiving) the family brings turkey and fixings and neighbors and friends arrive in droves carrying baskets and bags and boxes filled with apples and pickles and pies, every imaginable food to share.

Following the big Thanksgiving dinner there is fiddle, banjo and drum music, with singing and dancing around a bonfire. The evening concludes with the singing of the familiar Maine Shaker hymn from 1848 which is printed in the book: "Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be."

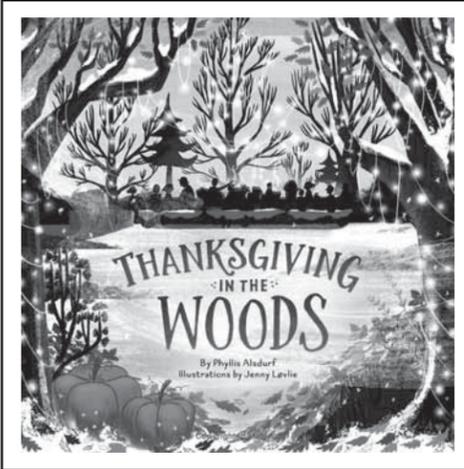
We are told about how the Native Americans generously provided much of the festive foods prepared for our country's first Thanksgivings. But do Native Americans have their own version of Thanksgiving? We find out that their gratitude extends year round in *We Are Grateful—Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell and illustrated by Frane Lessac (\$17.99. Charlesbridge. www.charlesbridge.com). A citizen of the Cherokee Nation takes us on a journey of otsaliheliga (translation: gratitude) through big and small celebrations. In this handsomely illustrated book we follow a Cherokee family through the seasons starting with Great New Moon Ceremony in the late fall.

For wintertime we visit the family at home eating buttery bean bread and hominy soup. The younger children are taught to make corn-husk dolls and play cane flutes. This book provides a unique insight into how Cherokee children and their families live today. Through all the seasons and

throughout the year we are shown how the Cherokee people express their gratitude—otsaliheliga—to celebrate their blessing and daily struggles. Cherokee words are included presented both phonetically and written in the Cherokee syllabary. All good to learn about on this Thanksgiving.

In the delightful *Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter* by Kenara Pak (\$17.99. Henry Holt and Co. www.henryholt.com), a young brother and sister enjoy the last colorful days of fall followed by the glorious first snow of winter. Stunning double-page spreads pay homage to the departing days of autumn. Winter is welcomed in with starry nights and a first snowfall. Autumn might have been great, but so is winter!

The author/illustrator has worked with DreamWorks and Disney and written many children's books. See more of his art at Pandagun.com.



What's your favorite fall color? There is quite a choice among the foliage colors, but this family of squirrels chooses red. In *Hooray for Fall* by Japanese artist Kazuo Iwamura (\$16.95. North/South. www.northsouth.com) squirrel children named Mick, Mack and Molly get newly knitted red scarves from their Mama. They are just the right color for fall-day adventures where they spot red mushrooms, collect red berries, especially enjoy the red leaves, and see a bear eating red persimmons. A red sky is the

perfect color for such a perfect day. If's not over yet—Mama is also knitting Dad a red scarf!

Autumn can bring windy days and a heightening of our senses. In *What Color Is The Wind?* by Anne Herbauts (\$19.95. Enchanted Lion Books. www.enchantedlionbooks.com) we meet a 'Little Giant' who is actually a little boy who can't see. He may have felt the wind and heard its sound, but he has no idea what it looks like and what color it might be. The boy sets out on an adventure asking a dog what color is the wind? "It has a nice color," says the dog, "it is pink, flowery, pale white." Others, both animate and inanimate, have thoughtful replies. The an elephant says "the wind is round, grey and smooth, like a pebble;" the mountain sighs "it is blue;" and the apple says the wind is "red."

Author-artist Herbauts uses cuts-outs, braille, ridged paper of various textures, and spot varnishes which enable the sightless to feel their way through the book. For those with sight the illustrations are enchanting, worth touching, too, for their textured surfaces. Readers will like the surprise ending where the little boy feels the wind and learns its color.

The author, from Brussels, is a Prix Sorcières winner in 2012. She describes what she does: "I am in the words and the images at the same time. The realm in which I work is the space between the two." What results is amazing.



Book Review

Birds: The Art of Ornithology

by Jonathan Elphick

(\$45. Rizzoli, www.rizzoliusa.com)

Author and ornithologist Jonathan Elphick has created a richly illustrated book that comes as a boxed set with thirty-six framable prints that will fascinate anyone interested in birds, natural history, and art.

With an outstanding selection of bird images from the Natural History Museum in London, it includes natural-history artists such as Audubon, Lear, MacGillivray, and Gould.

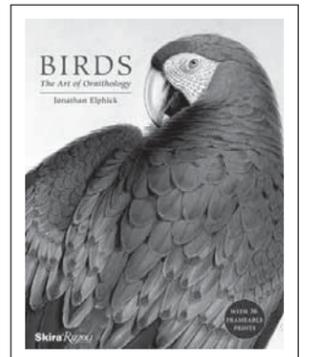
Elphick has organized his beautifully illustrated work in chronologic chapters.

First, the development of printing techniques, from engraving to lithography and beyond. Second, improved methods of specimen preservation enhancing the study of detail. And lastly, the development of the artists' perception of the essence of his ornithologic subject and expressing that artistically.

Looking back, Captain James Cook's well-known 18th century South seas expedition was merely the prototype specimen collecting venture. There was a near mania of competitors rushing to document specimens found on all continents.

The author covers collectors and artists in succinct biographies. Not all were innate naturalists. Elphick discusses the wide cast of characters which enabled these, often multivolume, encyclopedic compilations to be produced: world travelers, seamen, taxidermists, artist/adventurers, engravers, watercolorists, publishers, wealthy patrons, subscribers, and ornithologists.

At the end, I felt overwhelmed with beautiful bird art in the 36 prints, yet wondered, where it will go from here. Over the ages, bird art has gone from stiff, still subjects, to lively representations of the personality of the birds, and now, often de-



pictions of birds as we truly see them: blurred in flight or hidden in foliage.

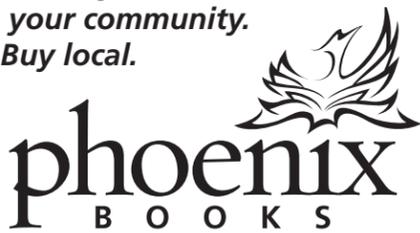
In this anthropocene era, having overconquered the globe, do we hubristically claim there is nothing more to learn and discover of bird differentiation and the intricacies of species? In our rapid-fire internet world do we no longer have the mindset or patience to investigate "every feather around the eye and every scale on the feet?" Today, it's the fantastic digital shots (and questionably photo-shopped) that get "National Geographic" acclaim.

But this book is a gem in its own right. It would be great for perusal or study on a cold winter's night. For our rural community libraries, it would be a lovely addition to set out in a corner reading nook for winter patrons, searching out something to brighten their day.

Jonathan Elphick is a wild-life writer, editor, consultant, lecturer, and broadcaster, specializing in ornithology. During a career spanning almost forty years, his many books include the best seller *Birdsong*, and the award-winning *Birdwatcher's Handbook*. He was a researcher for *Birds & People*, the largest survey of cultural attitudes to birds worldwide, and for the acclaimed best seller *Birds Britannica*.

—Renee Warren
Rutland County Audubon Society

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How to be a Good Creature

A Memoir in Thirteen Animals

By Sy Montgomery, Illustrated by Rebecca Green

(\$20. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, www.hmhco.com)

We know the term “whisperer” means an extraordinary relationship and friendship between a human with an animal, usually a horse or dog. The author Sy Montgomery from a very young age has had this gift of oneness with all sorts of creatures, many forest wild, but also household and farm animals like dogs, chickens, and even a pig.

One will gain an insight into how Sy developed this two-way contact with such diverse creatures as tree kangaroos in Papua New Guinea, an octopus named Octavia, a tarantula spider named Clarabelle, and three Australian emus—huge flightless birds.

With each animal Sy shares the moments when she experiences the joyful oneness with a wild creature. In her own words she describes a few of these surprising events.

Clarabelle, the Tarantula

“And then something magical happened. Holding her on my hand, I could literally feel a connection with this creature. No longer did I see her as a really big spider; now I saw her as a small animal. Of course she was both... but perhaps because the tarantula was furry, like a chipmunk, and big enough to handle, now I saw her and her spider kin in a new light. She was a unique individual, and in my hand, she was in my care. A wave of tenderness swept over me as I watched her walk, softly, slowly, and deliberately, across my skin.”

The author also visits Sam Marshall, a biologist from Hiram, Ohio, who has had pet tarantulas since age 13, and has about 500 of them in his lab. Sy writes how one of his students noted that something unusual happens when Sam walks in. “Even though many of the tarantulas were naturally blind, when Sam—and only Sam—entered the room, five hundred tarantulas invariably turned in their terrariums and oriented toward him.”

Australian Outback Emus

Sy introduces us to tall flightless birds called emus which she studied firsthand for several months in the Australian bush. She names her birds Bald Throat, Black Head and Knackered Leg and writes that “emus are part bird and part mammal, with a little dinosaur thrown in... But on their strong backwards-bending legs, emus can run forty miles an hour and sever fencing wire, or break a neck, with a single kick.”

This research was Sy's first adventure in the bush as a young graduate student collecting data about these little known birds. At the end of her many-month study she was trusted enough by the emus to let her camp out for a night with them close by.

Later she writes that in her last hours with the emus, “I realized something that would prove, to me as a writer, very important. To

begin to understand the life of any animal demands not only curiosity, not only skill, and not only intellect. I saw that I would need to summon the bond I had forged with Molly (her childhood dog). I would need to open not only my mind, but also my heart.”

And she says the emus gave her “peace as soothing as was the calm they feel when they groom their feathers. Joy as spirited as their dance in the wind. Satisfaction as fulfilling as a bellyful of mistletoe.”

An Octopus named Octavia

Sy writes of patience and persistence in developing a friendship with a lone Pacific octopus name Octavia housed at the New England Aquarium in Boston. On their first meeting, she writes, “Her head was about the size of a cantaloupe, and her arms were about three feet long. It was clear that Octavia was not really a young pup. She was a large, perhaps nearly mature octopus who had been living in the wild in the ocean just weeks before.” Initially Octavia refused to interact with Sy, but with time, the two developed a close bond, the octopus glad to attach her

suckers to Sy during their many visits.

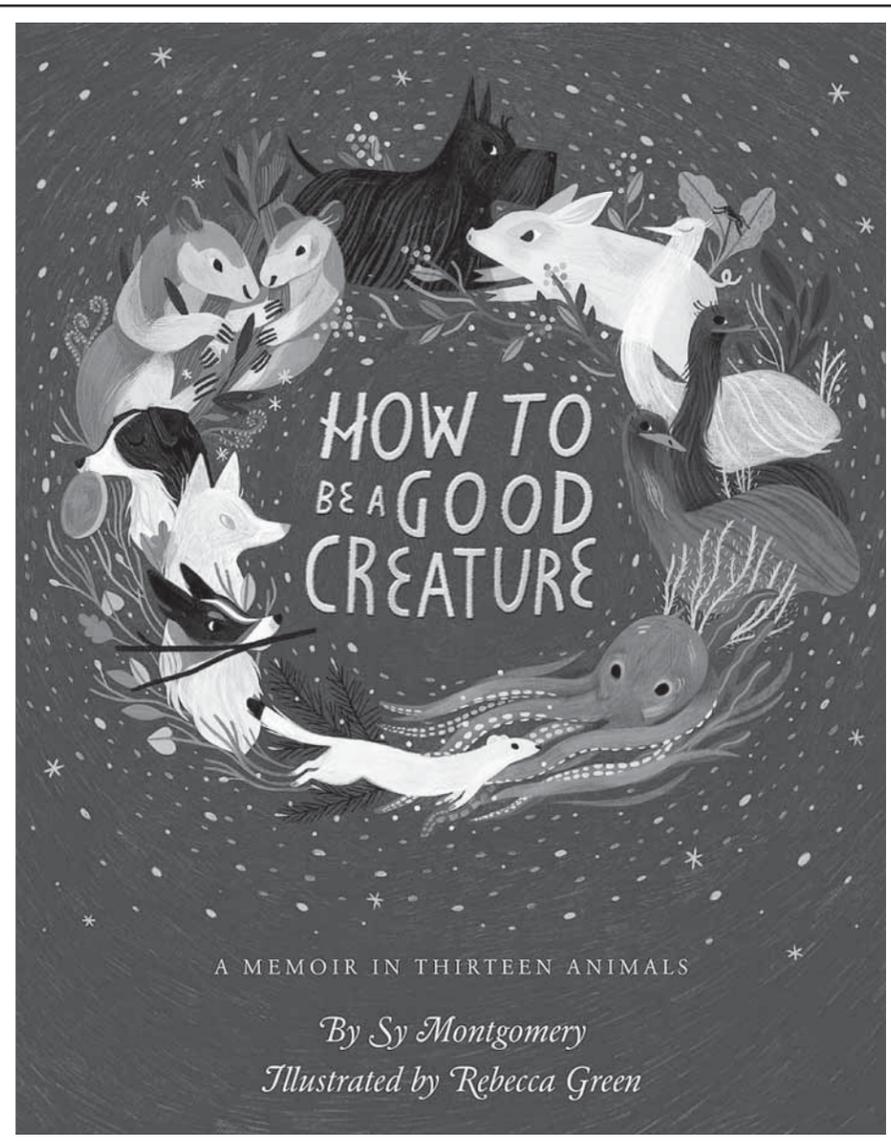
Sadly Octavia laid a big batch (100,000) of eggs that

were infertile yet she dutifully devotes her remaining days to caring for them, a process described by Sy as “profoundly beautiful.” When Octavia became old and sick she ignored Sy and others at the aquarium, but just before she died, she made the effort to greet them for one last time.” Octavia looked us in the eyes and gently but firmly attached her suckers to our skin. She stayed, tasting us for a full five minutes, until she sank to the bottom” where she died.

Sy comments further: “Being friends with an octopus—whatever that friendship meant to her—has shown me that our world, and the worlds around and within it, is aflame with brilliance we cannot fathom—and is far more vibrant, far more holy, than we could ever imagine.”

How to Be a Good Creature concerns not only the life, times and understanding of people and animals, but also how difficult, sad and traumatic it is to deal with their death and dying. Those you who have lost animals will relate to the author's sensitive and thoughtful essays on loss. Domestic animals that Sy and her husband, writer Howard Mansfield, have looked after on their farm in Hancock, NH, have been a pet pig named Christopher Hogwood, a flock of black hens, and border collies Tess, Sally, and Thurber.

Sy also writes about her first dog Molly, a Scottish terrier, that she had when she was young girl living on Army bases: “We'd spend our days watching, sniffing, digging, exploring. She would teach me all about the



A MEMOIR IN THIRTEEN ANIMALS

By Sy Montgomery

Illustrated by Rebecca Green

world—the real world, outside the post, away from school, far from asphalt and brick and concrete. With her at my side, I could learn the secrets of wild animals.”

And that is what Sy has done ever since, traveling the world to study wild creatures resulting in a dozen books for adults about such animals as apes, tigers, octopus, pink dolphins and bears, including *The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration Into*

the Wonder of Consciousness and *The Good, Good Pig*. She also has written 15 books for children with intriguing titles like *The Snake Scientist*, *Snowball the Dancing Cockatoo*, *The Great White Shark Scientist*, *Search for the Golden Moon Bear: Science and Adventure in the Asian Tropics*. She is the co-author with Elizabeth Marshall Thomas of *Tamed and Untamed*, another book about good creatures.



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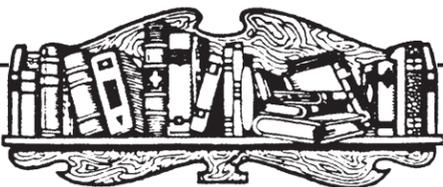
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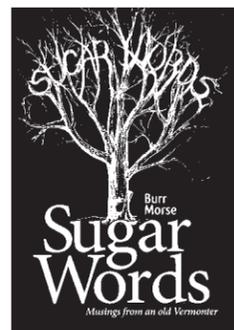
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North Country Reflections

The Promise of Spring

by Judith Irven

November is the perfect month to ready our gardens for the coming years, thus perpetuating the never-ending cycle of the seasons.

By now the above-ground portion of most perennials have died back to the ground and their roots become dormant. Thus late fall is actually the least stressful time to divide and rearrange our garden plants.

Moreover, since the soil is still soft and dig-able, getting out those pesky roots of perennial weeds like dandelions and grasses is a relatively easy task.

Packets of magic

And, in anticipation of many springs-yet-to-come, early November is also an excellent time to nestle some bulbs in among your perennials. Bulbs are like little packets of magic—all winter long they remain buried in the cold soil and then, triggered by the warming ground in early spring and right on cue, each is transformed into a beautiful flower.

To give them enough time to establish new roots, plant your bulbs between four and six weeks before you anticipate the ground will freeze solid in your area.

At the mention of garden bulbs, images of lipstick-red tulips and sunny yellow daffodils always come to mind. I adore daffodils and over the years I have planted thousands, in colors ranging from pure white, to creamy-white with pink cups, and to deep yellow with orange cups. Also, in addition to planting them in my flower beds, I have also established colonies of daffodils in the tall rough grass in our meadow and at the edge of our road.

Daffodils are both extremely resilient and also disliked by animals. As a result these early plantings have now multiplied beyond my wildest dreams. Now each May I look out at a carpet of yellow and white running down the center of each of my beds.

Since daffodils also come in many sizes, I have combined taller varieties towards the back of the bed with shorter varieties nearer the front. I have also planted some that bloom quite early (the end of April in my Goshen garden) as well as others that wait until at the end of May, thus extending the wonderful daffodil season across six or more weeks.

So, at this point I have no need to plant more daffodils! Indeed each spring, after the flowers have faded but before the leaves turn yellow, I usually relocate dozens of bulbs out of my beds to along the edge of the road where I hope they will brighten the scene in perpetuity.



Recently Judith planted an interesting assortment of spring-flowering bulbs in the bed that was created by her new retaining wall. photo by Dick Conrad

By contrast, for me tulips have always proven so disappointing that I have given up planting them. The first year they looked like those pictures in the bulb company catalogs, but after a few years they would virtually disappear, with just a few solitary survivors popping up each spring to remind me of just why I do not plant tulips any more.

But there are also plenty of lesser known bulbs you can plant now to enhance your spring garden. One of my favorites is the flowering onion (*Allium* species) with huge spherical purple or white flower heads atop sturdy stems. Another is the Indian Hyacinth (*Camissia quamash*) which has tall spires of lavender-blue. These have happily naturalized in the moist soil at the edge of our pond.

Tiny treasures

I also have a special affection for the many diminutive spring-flowering bulbs, such as snowdrops, crocus and scilla.

Snowdrops are tough little plants with clear white flowers often edged with green. They start to bloom in the very first weeks of spring—usually just as the snow is receding—and then continue to flower for at least three more weeks.

And, as with daffodils, over the years snowdrops will also multiply and spread themselves around in the beds. So, after they have finished flowering, I like to relocate a few to some new places in the garden.

Siberian Squills or Scilla are also delightful small bulbs that are easily grown in our gardens. They have intense clear blue flowers which open right after the snowdrops and they too will spread themselves around.

I know of several nearby gardens in Brandon and Middlebury where the squills have actually migrated way beyond the confines of the beds and into the lawn, creating a beautiful vision in blue and green. Each spring I make a habit of walking past these gardens to enjoy this spectacular sight.

A new bed offers a 'tabula rasa'

This year I have a brand new bed in my front garden. It is like a blank canvas or 'tabula rasa', that has been stimulating my creative juices.

It is situated atop a beautiful new wall recently built for me by my dear friend and stonemason, Tammy Walsh of Goshen Mountain Landscaping. This splendid wall replaces a rough bank that was too steep to plant or mow. Now, in its place I have a broad flat space with a new bed that is readily visible both from the house and the road.

I have already positioned the main structural plantings in the new bed. At one end I planted a Sienna Glen Maple (a hybrid between a Silver Maple and a Red Maple that will

eventually mature to be somewhat smaller than our more familiar sugar maples) together with a backbone of low-growing shrubs. And, to fill in between the woody plants, I recently added a mix of perennials, grouping each kind as a cluster of three or five plants.

Then finally, to add a special interest in the early part of the season, I purposefully left some open ground between each of the perennial clusters for some diminutive spring bulbs.

Now, with this project in mind, I have just returned from a delightful visit to my local farm and garden store where, in addition to the many varieties of daffodils and tulips, they had an assortment of smaller bulbs to tempt me.

Here I chose a variety of different bulbs, including:

- A large package of the well-known Grape Hyacinths (*Muscari armeniacum*);
- Fifteen Checkered Fritillaries (*Fritillaria meleagris*);
- A new-to-me species of squill called the Amethyst Meadow Squill (*Scilla amethystina*);
- A dozen English bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) to remind me of the amazing bluebells woods I loved to visit as a child;
- Some pink Cyclamen (*Cyclamen coum*) that the package indicates will flower in the summer and also promises will be hardy to Zone 4.

And finally, to add a bit drama to the whole composition, I included a package of twenty *Allium* 'Violet Beauty' which, starting in late May, will sport large purple spheres on twenty inch stems.

Planting now for future pleasures

So, if you too have a few spaces among your perennials, this fall consider planting some bulbs. As you can see, in addition to the familiar daffodils and tulips, there are plenty of other bulbs to brighten the new year in our gardens. Then sit back and dream about spring, both next year and for many years to come!

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.



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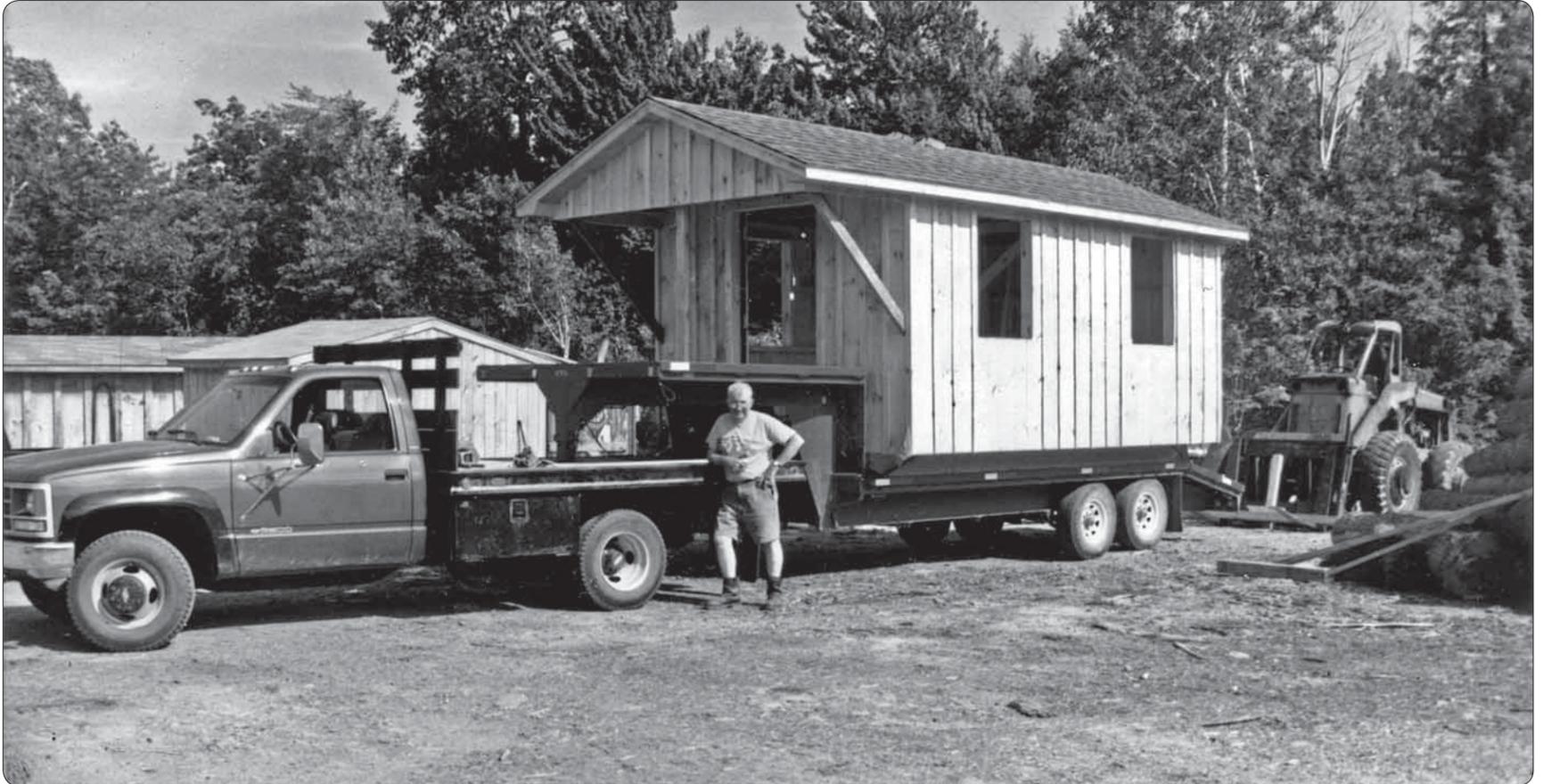
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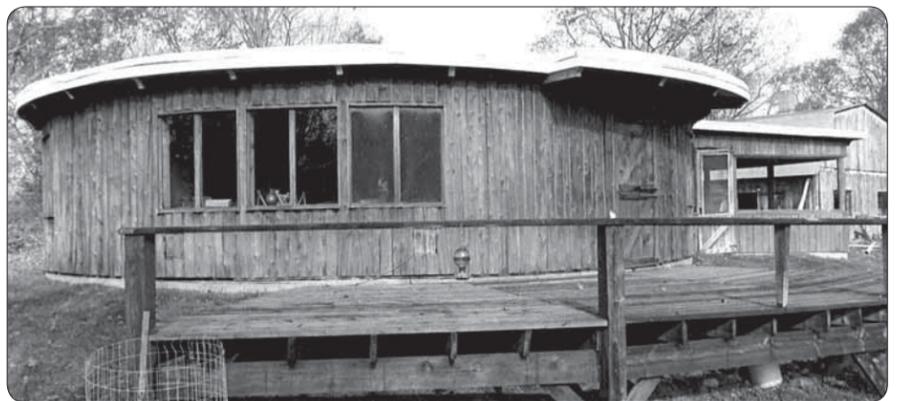
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