

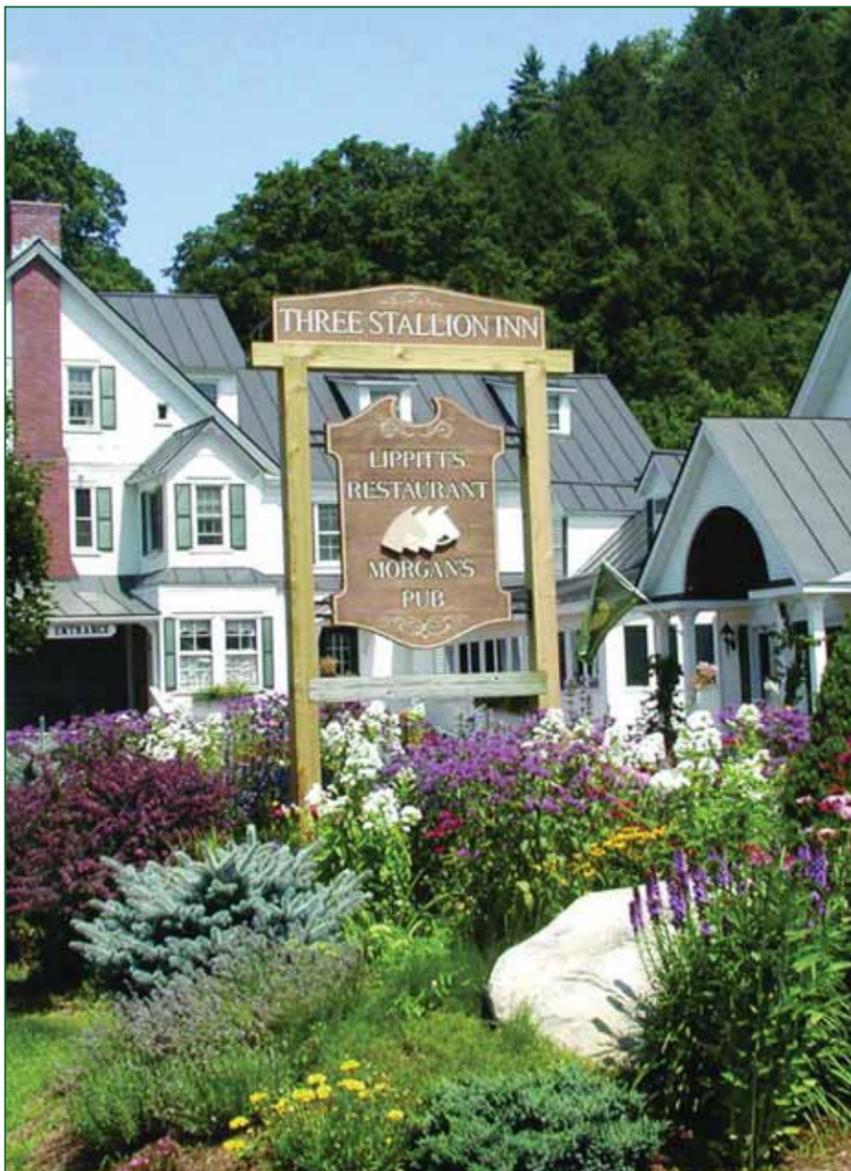
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4th Annual No Gardener Left Behind Expo in Bellows Falls

The 4th Annual No Gardener Left Behind Expo will be held on the first day of the Bellows Falls Farmers' Market. Opening day takes place Friday, May 11, from 4-7 p.m., at the Waypoint Center, on the Island, in Bellows Falls, VT. Post Oil Solutions will be partnering with the Bellows Falls Farmers' Market to present this free event.

The No Gardener Expo takes you through the various stages of becoming food sufficient and food secure including gardening, canning, storing, and cooking your own food. There will

be a number of demonstrations and displays including seed starting, soil preparation, composting (including worm composting with kits for sale), self-watering containers, hoop house, cold frames, grow light, solar dehydrators (again, with kits for sale), mushroom tinctures, canning, and cooking demonstrations, and a lot more. School gardens and community gardens will also be represented, as well as Master Gardeners.

For further information, contact Tim Stevenson at info@postoilsolutions.org.

Walk in the Woods: Surveying and Boundary Lines

Come for a Walk in the Woods in Halifax, VT on Saturday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join licensed surveyors—Byron Kidder, Malcolm Moore and David Mann—or an indoor and outdoor presentation covering the topics of: surveyor's law defined, types of surveys, standards of practice, when to survey and its importance, cost variables, parts of the survey process, how to select a professional, interpreting written records, gathering extrinsic evidence, rules of construction and the expert in court.

It will be the first Saturday of Vermont turkey season and ticks and other biting insects may be out. Dress accordingly!

There is no charge for this workshop, and no registration is required. All are wel-

come. Bring a bagged lunch.

Here are directions to the workshop location at 171 Butterfield Rd. in Halifax, VT. From Brattleboro—take Rt. 9 west about 13 miles from the intersection of Rt. 9 and I-91. Look for the Golden Eagle Motel on your left, then the Southeastern Vermont Dairy Goat Association on your right. Take a left onto Butterfield Rd. (If you get to the 100-mile-view at Hogback, you've gone too far.) Take Butterfield Rd. south a little over three miles to 171 Butterfield Rd, on the right. If you reach a T-intersection, you've overshot it by a few hundred yards.

Sponsored by the Vermont Woodlands Association and the Woodland Owners Association. (802) 747-7900. Visit www.vermontwoodlands.org.



Soldiers on the march during a Civil War Reenactment.

photo by Sue Brown

The 3rd Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration Hosted by Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT

Billings Farm & Museum announces the 3rd Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate Vermont's rich dairy heritage during this two-day event, by meeting Vermont cheese makers and sampling their delicious artisan cheeses and taking part in engaging dairy education programs.

The Cheese & Dairy Celebration will showcase many of Vermont's artisan cheese makers, who will offer

cheese samples, discuss their products, and have cheese available for purchase. Visitors can Judge Jerseys with the farm manager to improve their bovine knowledge, participate in a dairy scavenger hunt, "name the calf" contest, and dairy educational programs. Especially for the children: making cow pizza (and learning about the nutritional needs of our dairy herd), fresh chocolate ice cream, and games.

The Billings Farm & Museum, is owned and operated

by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable nonprofit institution, founded by Mary French and Laurance Spelman Rockefeller.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 141-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

Billings Farm & Museum is open daily April 28 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

weekends Nov. – Feb., and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission: adults: \$12; 62 & over: \$11; children 5-15: \$6; 3-4: \$3; 2 & under: free. The operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the restored and furnished farmhouse are included in the entrance fee.

The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Route 12.

For information call (802) 457-2355 or go to www.billingsfarm.org.

The Nature Museum Presents "Food for Thought" on May 26

"The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway," wrote Michael Pollan in The New York Times Magazine.

On Saturday, May 26, The Nature Museum at Grafton will present "Food For Thought," a day-long celebration of the interrelationship between food and nature. Participants will explore sustainable food systems and the cultural food revolution.

This event is part of the Museum's Pale Blue Dot program series, inspiring people to stewardship of our earth's natural resources. Authors, musicians, farmers, business owners, and naturalists will share their knowledge and talents. There will be workshops on cheesemaking, butchering, vermicomposting, and saving songbirds with your coffee cup.

Presenters include author and VPR commentator Ron Krupp and acclaimed kitchen garden designer Ellen Ecker Ogden. Severine von Tscharner Fleming will screen her

documentary film, "The Greenhorns," about a nonprofit organization that works to support young farmers.

Founded in 2010, the Pale Blue Dot is a series of events designed to rouse people to discover pioneering approaches to earth's ecological challenges. The Pale Blue Dot seeks to spark change, however small, and ignite movement towards a new paradigm of living on earth.

"Food for Thought" takes place around Grafton, VT. Check-in will begin at 8 a.m. at the White Church at 55 Main St. Keynotes and workshops are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an afterparty at Phelps Barn from 5-7:00 p.m. Farmers' market and restaurant vendors will sell lunch and other local wares at The Nature Museum from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for the day. Limited child care tickets are available for \$20 per child. Pre-registration encouraged.

For info or to register, call the Museum at (802) 843-2111 or email info@nature-museum.org. Visit www.nature-museum.org.

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Vermont Country Sampler

May 2012, Vol. XXVIII

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

Advertising rates available upon request. Deadline the 15th of the preceding month.

Vermont Country Sampler

P.O. Box 226, Danby, VT 05739 • (802) 293-5752
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Cavalry on the move during a Civil War Reenactment.

photo by Sue Brown

Vermont Civil War Weekend and Encampment

The Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors, Inc. (CVHR) will be hosting the Vermont Civil War Weekend and Encampment at the crossroad of Harbor and Bay Roads in Shelburne, VT on May 19-20, 2012.

The encampment is at a location that has broad scenic vistas and it is possible to imagine the camp being in the 1800's in this Vermont setting.

The Civil War Weekend will begin on Friday, May 18th with a field day for school children. Over 450 area school children are expected this year to have the chance to delve into history and get an up close view of a soldier's life in the American Civil War. The field day program is based on a series of stations showcasing the varied aspects of a soldier's life during the US Civil War. There will be a dozen stations providing a tangible glimpse into history, including a chance to try "hard tack" crackers and talk about a soldier's diet; examine the contents of an infantry soldier's tent, haversack & backpack; hear about Vermont's role during the Civil War; get the southern perspective of the war from a Confederate soldier; learn drill from an infantry officer; learn about women roles during the war; set up a "Dog Tent;" and see the cavalry horses and troopers in action.

On the weekend, there will be two days of demonstrations of infantry drills, cavalry, artillery, and battles on Saturday

and Sunday. These demonstrations will show the use of 19th century military tactics.

In addition, visitors will have the chance to amble through authentic Union and Confederate camps to see and talk to soldiers going about their daily duties. Several sutlers (sellers of period equipment, apparel and goods) will also be in attendance. This event is a chance to step back in time and see volleys of musketry, patrolling troopers on horseback, soldiers engaged in camp-life, and to relive history.

The Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors, Inc. (CVHR) is a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers with a mission to recreate the life of soldiers during the American Civil War. This includes wearing authentic wool uniforms, eating period food, sleeping in canvas tents and discarding all the trappings of the 21st century.

The CVHR provides an opportunity to the public to attend this event and have a chance to step through a portal in time and become immersed in the 1860's. The units that comprise the CVHR include the 2nd Vermont Volunteer Infantry, Co. A; 2nd Mississippi (Magnolia Rifles), 1st Vermont Cavalry, Co. K; The Civil War Medical Coalition, Grays & Blues of Montreal; and the associated Green Mountain Citizens all work hard to be authentic and properly portray the soldiers of the time period.

The State of Vermont has a deep history in regards to the Civil War. The State raised 17 Regiments of Infantry, 3 Light Artillery Batteries, 1 Battery of Heavy Artillery, 1 Cavalry,

and 3 Companies of Sharpshooters, totaling 34,238 men. This was more than 10% of the population of the State. A portion of this great history is being relived through the efforts of the Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors, joined by several more reenacting Units in Shelburne, VT. This event is free to spectators. Donations welcome.

For info contact Johnathan Croft, Secretary of the CVHR (www.cvhri.com) & 1st Sergeant—2nd Vermont Infantry, Company A at (802) 879-3490 or cvhri@comcast.net.

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photo by Sue Brown

Firing a cannon during a Civil War Reenactment.



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Barnstorming Explorations Along the Connecticut River Valley

In this photography exhibition running through May 29 at the Newberry Gallery at the Vermont Pretzel & Cookie Co. in Bellows Falls, VT, Lowell Fewster explores barns' simplicity, vernacular design, beauty and utility.

As many classic barns disappear, he is preserving a memory of their presence. The Connecticut River Watershed has been the primary locus of his barn photography, in the broad alluvial plane of rich farming land in Connecticut and Massachusetts and among the scenic hills and valleys of Vermont and New Hampshire.

Photography and barns were a part of Lowell Fewster's upbringing in Upstate New York. Growing up in a Kodak family he was taking pictures at the age of six with a hand-me-down Kodak box camera. About this age he was also exploring the family farm, hiding and creating forts in the hayloft

in the large post and beam gambrel-roofed barn his father built in 1942. Some of his earliest photographs were of the barns and Angus cattle. At a Maine Photographic Workshop five years ago he created a photo essay on "disappearing barns," and began to focus his efforts on the classic barns that have sheltered livestock and hay on family farms.

The exhibit consists of more than thirty images. This is his sixth solo exhibition.

Fewster's work will be on display at the Newberry Gallery from April 7 until May 29, 2012 at The Newbury Gallery located at the Vermont Pretzel & Cookie Company at 24 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls, VT.

The Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 7 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 8 am to 3 pm.

For more information call (860) 683-0308.



Two lambs with their mama in a springtime barnyard in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Come Celebrate May in Vermont with Festivities, Antiques, Marathons, and Open Studios

May in Vermont is an ideal time to be outdoors and take in the freshness of spring. Across the state, you'll find festivals, marathons, art shows, ever so green golf courses and peaceful opportunities to enjoy the budding lilacs. Here's a look at what's happening in May. For a comprehensive listing of events visit www.VermontVacation.com.

Essex Spring Craft & Fine Art Show and Vermont Antique Show

May 5-6, 2012 • Essex Junction, VT
Meet and enjoy the offerings of quality dealers' art, books, China, clocks, country, dolls, early American, ephemera, farm implements, folk art, furniture, glassware and much more. www.cvexpo.org.

Sugarbush Mad Triathlon

May 12, 2012 • Waitsfield, VT
Have fun while you run, paddle, and bike! Runners blast out of Lincoln Peak with a 7.2-mile run, then paddle 6 miles down the Mad River, cycle 10 miles back to Lincoln Peak, and enjoy a 3-mile trail run, totaling 26.2 miles. Enjoy the Kid's triathlon and BBQ celebration at 4 p.m. www.madtriathlon.com.

Spring Fest at Shelburne Museum

May 13, 2012 • Shelburne, VT
The world-class museum opens for the season with indoor and outdoor activities for visitors of all ages. Tour the museum gardens; plant some flowers; enjoy a Mother's Day doll tea party. www.shelburnemuseum.org.

Battle of Shelburne Crossroads, Civil War Weekend

May 19-20, 2012 • Shelburne, VT
Civil war weekend and encampment with demonstrations, drills and lots of opportunities to interact with citizen historians. A 2012 Top 10 Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial event. www.vermontcivilwar150.org.

The Shires of Vermont Marathon

May 20, 2012 • Bennington and Manchester, VT
This scenic point-to-point 26.2 mile course connects Bennington and Manchester. The race starts at the Bennington Center for the Arts and ends at Hildene Meadows in Manchester. 9 a.m. www.shiresofvermontmarathon.com.

Vermont Open Studio Weekend

May 26-27, 2012 • Statewide
Vermont's natural scenic beauty is enhanced each spring when the work of more than 285 Vermont artists and craftspeople can be seen firsthand during Vermont's Annual Open Studio Weekend. A statewide celebration in which Vermont artists and craftspeople invite the public to visit their studios during Memorial Day Weekend. www.vermontcrafts.com.

Killington Stage Race

May 26-28, 2012 • Killington, VT
Watch the pack of accomplished cyclists compete in this stage race. Ten categories and three days of racing on Killington and downtown Rutland. www.killingtonstagerace.com.

Vermont Dairy Festival

May 31 - June 3, 2012 • Enosburg Falls, VT
An old-time country fair with rides, midway, food, games, entertainment in the park. Agricultural contests and exhibits, animal barns. Chicken Barbeque, fireworks! Pancake breakfast, horse pulls. www.vermontdairyfestival.com.



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Annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival in Rockingham, VT

Come to beautiful Herricks Cove on the Connecticut River for the Annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival in Rockingham, VT on Sunday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Herricks Cove is a beautiful spot on the Connecticut River and the perfect setting for this festival. Learn how to identify waterfowl and how to fly fish, and see live owls, eagles and reptiles.

This festival includes nature presentations, activities and programs featuring

live animals, guided nature walks, tasty food, workshops, a wildlife parade, crafts for children, and birding.

Suggested donation is \$2.00 for an individual and \$5.00 for a family. Food will be available.

Herricks Cove is located on the Connecticut River just off of Rt. 5 three miles north of Bellows Falls, VT. For more info contact Alma Beals at madalma13@yahoo.com or call (802) 722-3355.



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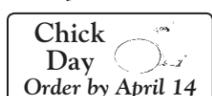
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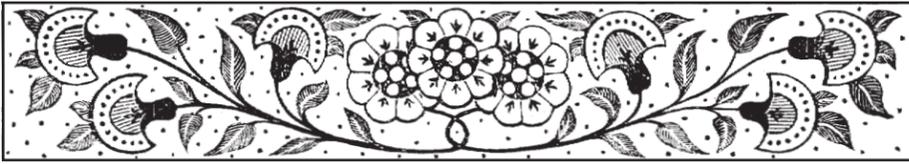
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Finding Your Song

by Sally O'Kane McClintock

Finding your own song, your own voice, is not always easy. Sometimes finding the right song can take almost a lifetime. Or you can begin life with your own song, then lose it for years. I remember a song my sister made up when she was a small child, a song I sometimes feel I have traveled with all my life.

*Once I had a very pretty song
But I lost it
Then one day I heard someone else singing
And it was my song*

In the beginning, I had my own song. My mother told me that when I was a baby, she often found me singing to myself in my crib. As I grew up, I became too self-conscious to sing alone openly, perhaps because no one in our family sang freely except for my father, who broke into song at any time of day with "Do ye ken John Peel?" When he was not at home, my mother might sing, but changed her song to whistling when he appeared.

One day, over-hearing me singing in the shower, my father praised my voice. Embarrassed, I stopped for good, confining my voice to the church choir only.

In college, I was content to sing in the chorus of the operetta, "The Mikado," until I wished for the part of Katisha. When I was a child, my father had given me a recording of her eloquent solo, "The Hour of Gladness," and it seemed her song was my song. Katisha was a tall and forbidding character and I was tall and thought I could act the part. So I mustered the courage to try out for it, but someone else was chosen—a short village woman—and she sang my song.

Four years later in the early months of my first marriage, I was not too shy to sing "Happy Talk" from "South Pacific" to my husband as we walked down city streets. But when marital discord changed my mood, I stopped singing so freely and "hung my harp on the willows."

But I never stopped singing lullabies to my four children when they were babies. When two of them were older, I sang in the Philharmonic Chorus, my son joining me and

my daughter playing viola in the orchestra. Fifteen years later, I was singing in the Cathedral Choir with my second husband, but no solos. Learning the parts was sometimes hard, and finding the right notes not always easy. Our director liked to say, "Remember, notes are your friends."

I never sang my own song until 20 years later, when my cane pointed me to the part I would sing when the right time came.

When I was 77, widowed five years, my daughter Jessie encouraged me to attend a Village Harmony music camp with her and her sister Kate. We would learn songs from South Africa, Georgia, Bulgaria, and Corsica, as well as gospel, shape-note, and Appalachian songs. There would be a final concert at a church. I agreed to go, to her surprise.

I had recent knee problems and used a cane, so we stayed in a first-floor cabin. The surroundings were beautiful—woods and river and inviting buildings. There were five hours of practice every day, and dancing every morning with a little band. Jessie and Kate played the fiddle and flute while I sat nearby on a big blue exercise ball, wistfully watching the dancers and guarding my knees.

Housekeeping and kitchen chores were shared at the camp, but with my cane, I wasn't expected to take part. So I wasn't there when Norman cut his finger while chopping carrots. Nor when Melinda stabbed a sealed trash-bag of garbage, when told to let out the air. Or to watch Joseph begin his bread-making before he took the covered mass of dough to class to rise while we sang. As the time of our concert approached, tryouts were announced for solo parts. I didn't know if I could sing a solo and just watched, but none of the songs appealed to me anyway. When people tried out for the three solos in "Almost Home," an Appalachian song, I listened to their different fake accents and thought they were too extreme. In the evening, I entertained my daughters and onlookers by singing "Almost Home" in an exaggerated accent, bending over my cane and adding comic remarks.

"Seventy-seven years had passed since I was that babe in a crib, singing to myself."



Megan was one of the soloists chosen, and in the morning she had a proposition for me. "How would you like to sing one of the parts?" She wanted to change to another song for the concert if she could find a substitute for her solo.

"Why are you asking me?" I said, since I hadn't tried out for the part. "Why do you think I could sing it?"

"Because when I saw you singing the song with your cane," she explained, "I realized you could do it."

When I told my daughters about the solo, they asked me, "Do you want to take the risk?" I said "I like risks," and closed my bedroom door to be alone. I took out the song sheet and sang through the part to see if I could do it. It seemed I could handle it, with lots of practice. In the morning I told Megan I would sing her solo. I wrote down the words to the song and took them with me everywhere to practice alone and with the other soloists.

When the time of the concert came, Kate drove me to the church. On our way, I looked at the music and practiced my accent, singing from Ralph Stanley's "Almost Home."

*Almost home, I'm almost home.
I know my race is nearly run.
Through trouble and sorrow I've already come.
I can't turn back now for I'm too near home.*

I couldn't turn back either, nor did I want to, as we neared the concert and my first solo. The church was filled and a friend brought a stool for me to sit on behind the choir, if I got tired standing with my cane. When it was time for my solo part in "Almost Home," I stepped forward with my cane, happy and confident, ready to sing to the audience.

When I was done, there was applause and thumbs up from our singers, smiles and nods and hand-squeezes. Seventy-seven years had passed since I was that babe in a crib, singing to myself. Now I had my own song back, a song I could share with others.

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The Barnabas Stone

by Burr Morse

I grew up listening to Grandma Mildred Morse talking about one Barnabas Doty like he was first cousin to Jesus himself. You see, Grandma was a proper lady; I always figured there must be a few "skeletons in her closet" but if there were, she kept the lid on that in good shape. I guess old Barnabas' time on earth was far enough back so that the "goods" on him passed muster. He was born in Rochester, Massachusetts in 1738 and ended up in Montpelier, Vermont where he died in 1807. Betsy said I should write about him because, according to Grandma, he was an ancestor of mine and, well, there are a couple other "rock solid" reasons, so to speak.

First of all, there's a cemetery named after Barnabas just a mile away from our house. When I was a kid, the Doty Cemetery was just a farmer's hayfield at the corner of two roads in East Montpelier Center. It had once been "populated" by the deceased, including Barnabas, but time and generations had not been kind to the ancient burial ground. Sadly, the dead "lose their vote" and sometimes whole cemeteries simply disappear over time. In my research on cemeteries of East Montpelier, one account described another of East Montpelier's "missing" cemeteries this way: "The stones are in a pile, broken and disarranged. Reportedly, they were thrown aside about fifty years ago."

It seems the Doty Cemetery didn't even rate a "broken pile of stones"—they were simply all gone. Grandma Morse, though, would not accept this kind of treatment for her hero. Enter Mildred Morse, detective. It took her years but she finally found that Barnabas' stone was in a museum in Hooksett, New Hampshire. One day, she and my father headed down to Hooksett on a singular mission; to bring the Barnabas stone back to Doty Cemetery where it belonged. And, sure enough, at the end of the day, my 98-pound grandma returned with the stone.

Once Barnabas' stone was set in the lower corner of that "hayfield," burial lots in Doty Cemetery started selling. Today



Burr Morse at the Doty Cemetery in East Montpelier Center, VT.

it stands as the most beautiful of East Montpelier's cemeteries surrounded by ornamental black chain links on granite fence posts. There are lots of stones there now including one for my parents, Harry and Dot Morse. My father always said "I'm goin'ta be buried with Barnabas, by God" and now he is.

There's one other "rock solid" reason I write on this subject of Barnabas Doty. Grandma Morse gave Betsy the "lapstone" which belonged to Barnabas' father, another Barnabas Doty born way back in 1707. Grandma referred to it as a "lapstone" and she knew because she used one as a kid. You see, back before central heat and horrid things like Gore-Tex and Vaetrex, folks would keep a special fieldstone atop their woodstove at the ready. Placed under a buffalo robe, it would provide the perfect comfort for long sleigh rides in New England winters. Grandma Morse told of another common use: whole families would huddle under the buffalo robe around the lapstone in their Sunday morning pew—it seemed that the "fire and brimstone" of those times might have warmed the soul but fell short for human bodies in an unheated church!

Barnabas' stone is nothing special, just a rock that someone once picked up from the ground but it's sure special to us. It's granite in makeup, round on top and flat on the bottom but most especially, has a history that pre-dates George Washington! We display it proudly in our home. Someday Betsy and I will join Harry and Dot Morse and Barnabas Doty, by

God. That'll be OK though—it's only natural, like a rock plucked from the earth. When that time comes, our two boys will get the lapstone and whatever "material goods" remain. As the saying goes about material goods, "Y'can't take 'm with you." All you can do is leave stuff behind—memories, honest deeds, and maybe a little warmth.

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One day, not here, you will find a hand
 Stretched out to you as you walk down some heavenly street;
 You will see a stranger scarred from head to feet;
 But when he speaks to you you will not understand,
 Nor yet who wounded him nor why his wounds are sweet.
 And saying nothing, letting go his hand,
 You will leave him in the heavenly street—
 So we shall meet!

—CHARLOTTE MEW
 1869-1928



Burr Morse with Barnabas Doty's "lapstone."

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Roger Swain, the Former Host of The Victory Garden Speaks. Sunday, May 6 at 4 p.m. at Damon Hall, Hartland, VT. Contact: Linda Schneider, lkshartland@yahoo.com, (802) 295-1573. Hartland, Woodstock and Cornish Garden Clubs present: Roger Swain, former host of The Victory Garden on PBS Television. His topic of the day will be the New Victory Garden, pertaining to sustainability in our current culture. He will address why people should plant gardens, edible landscaping and fruit orchards. *Fee: \$10 at the door.*

Rural Vermont Presents a Raw Dairy Processing Class. May 9, 1-4 p.m. in Wheelock, VT. Contact Shelby Girard, (802) 223-7222. shelby@ruralvermont.org, www.ruralvermont.org. Learn how to make butter, yogurt & mozzarella cheese with cows' milk! Class presented by Rural Vermont and taught by Tamara Martin of Chandler Pond Farm. Pre-registration required. All proceeds benefit Rural Vermont. *Fee: \$20-40 sliding scale.*

Rural Vermont's Annual Celebration. May 16, 6:30-9 p.m. at The Wilder Center, 2087 Hartford Ave. (Rt. 5, Wilder, VT (just north of White River Junction). Contact Shelby Girard, (802) 223-7222. shelby@ruralvermont.org, www.ruralvermont.org. You're invited to join us for this festive occasion and annual gathering of Rural Vermont supporters. Celebrate Rural Vermont's recent progress towards Vermonters Feeding Vermonters over potluck food and drink with live and local music. Also Rural Vermont's annual meeting, farm fresh five raffle, awards ceremony, and board elections. Keynote address by Ben Hewitt: "The Future is in the Dirt: Growing the Culture of Vermonters Feeding Vermonters." This will be a lively presentation and conversation that digs into the challenges and potential of Vermont's rapidly growing local foods movement. How can we build healthy, regionalized economies that honor the producers, consumers, and environment? The answers are not always obvious, but the need to find them has never been more urgent. *Fee: \$5-\$10 sliding scale.*

Northeast Kingdom Farm to Yarn Tour Weekend. May 19-20 in various towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom. Contact NEKTTA at (802) 626-8511. assist@travelthekingdom.com. www.travelthekingdom.com. A free two day event! Visit fiber producing farms and learn about where local fiber originates and how the animals are lovingly raised and cared for. Farm activities include tours, meeting the critters, knitting and spinning demos and more. Visit one or several farms as you choose. Refreshments and additional demonstrations will be available at Mountain Fiber Folk in Montgomery, VT on Saturday and Sunday. Download a map and a complete list of participating farms at www.travelthekingdom.com. *Cost: free.*

Holistic Orchard Intensive with Michael Phillips. May 19, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Maple Frost Farm, 277 Holden Hill Rd., Langdon, NH. Contact Jack Mastrianni, (603) 835-6488, jamastrrianni@yahoo.com.

Michael Phillips, author of *The Apple Grower and The Holistic Orchard*, will discuss the key role fungal duff management and optimal nutrition plays for fruit trees and



A Jersey heifer, Tootsy by her nametag, munches hay in the Springtime sun. photo by Nancy Cassidy

woody berries. We will meet in a homestead orchard in southwestern New Hampshire during the spring bloom period. This is an excellent time to identify the insect and disease dynamics faced by New England growers. The core paradigm for this hands-on, day-long workshop centers on orchard health and the subtleties of a biodiverse ecosystem.

Michael will share varietal and rootstock choices across the fruit spectrum - from apples to pears to peaches to cherries to berries - along with mulch and pruning instruction to manage them properly. A holistic spray schedule that supports system health is so very different from toxic thinking. We'll find plenty of time to address individual questions and then end with a rambunctious wassail sure to kindle those hopes of offering the "good fruit" to one's own family and community. *Register now! Limited to 40 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee: \$75.*

Rural Vermont Presents Raw Dairy Processing Class. May 23, 1-4 p.m. Turkey Hill Farm, Randolph Center, VT. Contact Shelby Girard, (802) 223-7222, shelby@ruralvermont.org, www.ruralvermont.org. Learn how to make cottage cheese and yogurt panna cotta with cows' milk! Class presented by Rural Vermont and taught by Margaret Osha. Pre-registration required. All proceeds benefit Rural Vermont. *Fee: \$20-40 sliding scale.*

Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend Coming on May 26-27

Yellow signs will once again dot the Vermont landscape over Memorial Day Weekend, leading locals and tourists alike to the workspaces of 259 artists and craftspeople who will open their studios to the public for Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend's landmark 20th year. Many artists and craftspeople are only open to the public during this event.

As always, the two-day state-wide event is held over Memorial Day weekend, this year on May 26th and 27th.

Visitors will be able to learn how art and craft is made at the studios of glass blowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers and wood carvers.

Many galleries are hosting

gallery talks and featuring special exhibits during Vermont Open Studio Weekend.

The Vermont Crafts Council will honor two craft studios that have been part of the Open Studio Weekend for all 20 years: Glassblowers Harry and Wendy Besett from Hardwick and furniture maker Bob Gasperetti from Mount Tabor.

The Vermont Crafts Council publishes a free map booklet with directions. The Vermont Studio Tour Guide is available at Vermont Information Centers, from individual studios and galleries, or by e-mailing a request to vt1crafts@aol.com.

For more information visit www.vermontcrafts.com or call the Vermont Crafts Council at (802) 223-3380.

Summer Trail Crew for Teens at Merck Forest & Farmland

Merck Forest & Farmland Center in Rupert, VT is sponsoring the Summer Trail Crew, a week-long sleepover camp for teens ages 14-18. It will take place June 2-29; July 8-13; July 22-27; and August 5-10.

The camp provides an educational outdoor experience working on a trail crew. The program includes annual trail maintenance and technical trail projects, and will emphasize team-building and exploration of Merck's vast forest and farmland re-

sources. It will be led by Trail Crew Coordinator, Chris Wall, an experienced leader in summer educational programming. The fee is \$195 per week for members, \$50 additional for non-members. Additional week-long camps are \$145. Students can apply for scholarships.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is an educational non-profit located on 3,160 acres of forest and farmland in the Taconic Mountains of southwestern Vermont, just west of Manchester, VT.

The Center is open to the public year round, seven days a week from dawn to dusk. There are cabins which may be rented, seasonal events plus a Visitor's Center.

There is no admission fee and the public is invited to enjoy the thirty miles of trails for hiking, cross-country

skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315 (off Rt. 30), Rupert, VT 05768.

To register for the Summer Trail Crew call Chris Wall at (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.



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Juggling Jerry

Pitch here the tent, while the old horse grazes:
 By the old hedge-side we'll halt a stage.
 It's nigh my last above the daisies:
 My next leaf'll be man's blank page.
 Yes, my old girl! and it's no use crying:
 Juggler, constable, king must bow.
 One that outjuggles all's been spying
 Long to have me, and he has me now.

We've traveled times to this old common
 Often we've hung our pots in the gorse.
 We've had a stirring life, old woman!
 You, and I, and the old gray horse.
 Races, and fairs, and royal occasions,
 Found us coming to their call:
 Now they'll miss us at our stations:
 There's a Juggler outjugglers all!

Up goes the lark, as if all were jolly!
 Over the duck-pond the willow shakes.
 Easy to think that grieving's folly,
 When the hand's firm as driven stakes!
 Ay, when we're strong, and braced, and manful,
 Life's a sweet fiddle: but we're a batch
 Born to become the Great Juggler's han'ful:
 Balls he shies up, and is safe to catch.

Juggling's no sin, for we must have victual.
 Nature allows us to bait for the fool.
 Holding one's own makes us juggle no little;
 But, to increase it, hard juggling's the rule.
 You that are sneering at my profession,
 Haven't you juggled a vast amount?
 There's the Prime Minister, in one Session,
 Juggles more games than sins'll count.

I've murdered insects with mock thunder.
 Conscience, for that, in men don't quail.
 I've made bread from the bump of wonder—
 That's my business, and there's my tale.
 Fashion and rank all praised the professor:
 Ay! and I've had my smile from the Queen:
 Bravo, Jerry! she meant, God bless her!
 Ain't this a sermon on that scene?

I've studied men from topsy-turvy,
 Close, and, I reckon, rather true.
 Some are fine fellows—some, right scurvy—
 Most, a dash between the two.
 But's it's a woman, old girl, that makes me
 Think more kindly of the race.
 And it's a woman, old girl, that shakes me
 When the Great Juggler I must face.



We two were married, due and legal:
 Honest we've lived since we've been one.
 Lord! I could jump then like an eagle;
 You danced bright as a bit o' the sun.
 Birds in a May-bush we were! Right merry!
 All night we kissed, we juggled all day.
 Joy was the heart of Juggling Jerry!
 Now from his old girl he's juggled away.

It's past parsons to console us.
 No, nor no doctor fetch for me.
 I can die without my bolus;
 Two of a trade, lass, never agree!
 Parson and Doctor!—don't they love rarely,
 Fighting the devil in other men's fields!
 Stand up yourself and match him fairly:
 Then see how the rascal yields!

I, lass, have lived no gypsy, flaunting
 Finery while his poor helpmate grubs.
 Coin I've stored, and you won't be wanting,
 You shan't beg from the troughs and tubs.
 Nobly you've stuck to me, though in his kitchen
 Many a Marquis would hail you Cook!
 Palaces you could have ruled and grown rich in,
 But your old Jerry you never forsook.

Hand up the chirper! Ripe ale winks in it;
 Let's have comfort and be at peace.
 Once a stout draught made me light as a linnet.
 Cheer up! the Lord must have his lease.
 May be—for none see in that black hollow
 It's just a place where we're held in pawn,
 And, when the Great Juggler makes as to swallow,
 It's just the sword-trick—I ain't quite gone!

Yonder came smells of the gorse, so nutty,
 Gold-like a warm—it's the prime of May.
 Better than mortar, brick and putty,
 Is God's house on a blowing day.
 Lean me more up on the mound; now I feel it—
 All the old heath-smells! Ain't it strange?
 There's the world laughing, as if to conceal it,
 But He's by us, juggling the change.

I mind it well, by the sea-beach lying,
 Once—it's long gone—when two gulls we beheld,
 Which, as the moon got up, were flying
 Down a big wave that sparked and swelled.
 Crack, went a gun: one fell, the second
 Wheeled round him twice, and was off for new luck:
 There in the dark her white wing beckoned—
 Drop me a kiss—I'm the bird dead-struck!

—GEORGE MEREDITH
 1828–1909

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Raising Chickens

by Charles Sutton

This is the season when farm stores have “chick days” when orders for baby chicks and other poultry are to be picked up. Post offices also will be handling expressed mailed day-old chicks.

This reminds me of the time my brother Fred and I went into the chicken-raising business (at ages 11 and 10) during World War II. We also looked after a large Victory Garden as part of the war effort.

Back then one didn’t have a computer to google “chicken raising” for information, but the US Dept. of Agriculture provided informative booklets on all phases of agriculture.

Can you imagine the excitement when the first box of White Leghorn chicks arrived and we freed them under our homemade brooder device. Thanks to mother’s adeptness with sewing we had a tent-like devise heated with a light bulb at the top. Curtains around the outside allowed to chicks free access in and out with no danger of being crushed against each other. Newspapers sufficed for the ground cover. We provided drinking water and trays of starter mash.

To further protect the chicks we built a wooden foot-high barrier around their lining area. The whole encampment was in the center of a basketball court my brother and I had made inside a barn.

But to our surprise in only a week or so one morning we found many of the chicks roosting on the barrier with many others having flown over, exploring the barn. Time to move them to the regular chicken house in a nearby shed!

We made a small profit selling the flock as pullet hens, but keeping a dozen for laying eggs. These hens had a good life ranging freely around the property. They had a habit of visiting us when my parents had cocktails on the terrace outside our house. The chickens enjoyed bits of cheese and crackers. We were spared processing the chickens for food as there was a Polish couple in town who had a rubber-finger feather plucking machine, and they would kill and dress out poultry for a small fee.

My next adventure with chickens (lots of Rhode Island Reds) was working on a small dairy farm summers during high school and college years. Being the braveish, most fool-hearty or low-man-in-the-pecking order among the farm hands, I was recruited to help the farm manger Dick kill and process pullets, hens and capons every week. Somehow I reasoned if I could catch and clean my own fish, why not chickens? This training came in handy when I had my own chickens again years later in Maine.

My last venture as a chicken farmer involved a small flock of mixed breeds which were housed in a built-to-order



photo by Andrew Donovan

Barnyard hens wait for crumbs from visitors by the door to Taylor Farm’s farm store in Londonderry, VT.

chicken house at my home in Maine. Likewise these hens were allowed to roam free during the day and locked in the house at night for their own protection as we lived on the edge of a forest that harbored wild animals that enjoyed chicken dinners.

The hens survived some bitter cold (sub-zero for weeks) in their little house heated by only one light-bulb hanging over their watering device. The saving miracle was 6 to 8 inches of sawdust, wood shavings, ground leaves and other composted materials, including raw vegetables scraps from our kitchen which “cooked” all winter and generated their own heat. An amazing sight was seeing steam coming out of the house in the bitter cold.

There’s one anecdote about those times. One day the local post office ended up with a box of chicks that were

unclaimed, and I was asked if I would like them. Visions of replacing by aging hens disappeared when I finally realized all the chicks were turning into roosters. No wonder nothing resulted from the ‘laying’ mash given them for food. They were delicious as boilers but processing them farm-yard style—well, I hope that’s my last time!

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Green Mountain Gardener

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by Dr. Leonard Perry

Extension Professor, University of Vermont

Brambles are those members of a particular genus (*Rubus*) in the rose family, generally with thorns and with edible fruits. Common examples are the raspberry and blackberry, with several types of each to choose from, and many cultivars (cultivated varieties). Which you choose to grow will depend on your personal preference for fruit, and your site.

Brambles, and in particular raspberries, are a favorite fruit of many, and one of the easiest fruits to grow. They usually produce a big crop by the third year after planting, and remain productive for 5 to 12 years, perhaps more. Brambles are usually planted in rows, with each foot of row of raspberries producing at least a pint, with one to 4 quarts per bush if planted singly. So, a 10-foot row with 5 plants should produce enough fresh fruit for several people, and perhaps some left for making jam or freezing. Rich in antioxidants, raspberries have health benefits. A fact I like is that they are easy and quick to pick, without much bending over.

Other benefits of growing brambles are that they bloom late, so spring frosts seldom injure the flowers. They get few insects, which are easy to control, and by choosing virus-free plants and keeping wild brambles at a distance, they are relatively disease-free in home gardens.

Bramble history

The term "brambles" comes from an ancient Old English word, dating back at least 800 years. Red raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*), though, were mentioned by the Greeks and Romans even earlier. "Rubus" means red, and "idaeus" means belonging to Ida. Legend has it that the nymph Ida pricked her finger while picking berries for Zeus while he was still a baby, staining the originally white berries red with her blood. Another story has it that Greek gods were believed to have brought raspberries from the sacred Mt. Ida in Turkey. In North America, red raspberries were first cultivated in the mid-1700s.

Black and purple raspberries

The black raspberry is native, and has been cultivated only since the mid-1800s. Purple raspberries, hybrids of the red and black, came about shortly after that. Blackberries, although native to North America, weren't cultivated here until that period as well, even though they had been taken back to Europe and cultivated there in the 1600s. Early settlers had viewed them as just wild and weedy. A main difference between raspberries and blackberries is that when picked, the center of raspberry fruit is hollow—the core or "receptacle" stays on the plant. The central core remains inside picked blackberries.

The black raspberries (*R. occidentalis*) are called "black caps" in some areas. Not all people like the slightly musky aroma and flavor of their summer fruit. Unlike the red raspberries, these don't spread rampantly underground producing suckers or new shoots. Instead, their tips fall over and root where they touch the soil. They're also less hardy than red raspberries, a couple of the more common and hardy ones (to zone 4) being 'Bristol' and 'Jewel'.

Similar to the blacks are the purple raspberries, with even

less suckering, relatively drought tolerant once established, and resistant to most pests and diseases. A couple of the more common and hardy selections to look for are 'Brandywine' and 'Royalty.'

Red and yellow raspberries

Red raspberries are by far the most common bramble, with the most cultivars. These come in two types. The summer-bearing, or one crop, bear fruit in mid-summer on canes produced the previous year—"floricanes." You'll want to pay attention to cold hardiness on all brambles, as this varies with cultivar. Among the hardiest choices of one-crop red raspberries for zone 3 (-30 to -40 degrees F in winter) are 'Boyne' and 'Latham'. Hardy to zone 4 (-20 to -30) are the popular 'Canby' and 'Taylor'.

The fall-bearing, or two crop red raspberries, bear fruit in summer on floricanes and then again in fall on this year's canes—"primocanes." The two crop are sometimes seen as "everbearers," although this isn't the case. Among the good choices are 'Heritage' and 'Jaclyn', both hardy to zone 3, and 'Fall Red' which is hardy to zone 4.

Yellow raspberries generally are fall-bearing, and being rather delicate are seldom found in stores. For this reason they're a great candidate for home gardens. There are not too many choices of these, a couple good ones hardy to at least zone 4 being 'Anne' and 'Fall Gold.'

Blackberries

Blackberries can be grouped into upright and trailing types, and ones with or without thorns. Upright ones grow from roots, similar to raspberries, as well as a central crown. The trailing ones have arching stems from a central crown. Although trailing ones may be seen as "dewberries", this really refers to a separate species of trailing blackberry that tends to be sweeter and grows in zones 5 to 9.

The original native blackberries were thorny and upright, but aren't seen much as harvesting with such thorns can be difficult. Roots of blackberries are generally hardy, but the hardiness of the tops varies. Often the upright with thorns are more hardy (USDA zone 6) than the upright thornless cultivars, although 'Darrow' is hardy to zone 4. Both 'Illini' and 'Kiowa' are hardy to zone 5, and have a long harvest season. 'Arapaho' is less hardy (zone 6) but has no thorns. The Prime series from Arkansas fruits on first year canes (primocane), with Prime Jan listed as hardy to zone 4.

The trailing cultivars, particularly the thornless ones, are generally less hardy although 'Chester' and 'Triple Crown' are listed as hardy to zone 5. Both are good selections, semi-upright, and thornless.

And now to plant

Once you've chosen your brambles, plant in a well-drained soil in full sun. Space 2-feet apart in rows (farther apart for trailing blackberries). Rows should be about 6-feet apart for raspberries, and perhaps 10-feet apart for blackberries. Often trailing blackberries need cross pollination between cultivars in order to fruit (so buy more than one), but most brambles are self-fertile and will produce fruit just with the aid of bees (so you can have just one cultivar).

Water well for the first few weeks, if little rain, until plants are established. If you have fertile soil you may only need compost at planting. Testing the soil with kits from your local Extension office will yield results on how much fertilizer and lime, if any, to add. Otherwise, use about 2 to 3 pounds of a low analysis, organic fertilizer such as 5-3-4 per 100 linear feet of row. Apply this again about a month after planting.

More on choosing brambles and their culture, more cultivars, and lesser known ones such as the loganberry or boysenberry, can be found online (homefruitgrowing.info) or from the *Fruit Gardener's Bible* by Lewis Hill and Leonard Perry.

For more information contact Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, Dept Plant and Soil Sciences, Jeffords Hall, 63 Carrigan Dr., University of Vermont, Burlington VT 05405. (802) 656-0479.

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Vermont Farmers Markets



Bellows Falls Farmers Market. Waypoint Center. Fridays 4-7, May to October. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. bffarmersmarket.com.

Bennington—Walloomsac Farmers Market. Bennington Station at River Street Park. Tuesdays 3:30-5:30, Saturdays 10-1, May 12- October 27. info@walloomsac.org. www.walloomsac.org.

Brandon Farmers Market. Central Park. Fridays 9-2. May 25-October 12. cijka4@gmail.com.

Brattleboro Area Farmers Market. May to October. Saturdays 9-2, Rt. 9 near Covered Bridge. Wednesdays 10-2, Gibson-Aiken Center. farmersmarket05301@yahoo.com. brattleborofarmersmarket.com.

Bristol Farmers' Market. Town Green. Saturdays 10-1, June 2-October 6. bristolfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.bristolfarmersmarket.com.

Burlington—Fletcher Allen Health Care Farmers Market. Fletcher Allen Health Care, McClure lobby entrance, 111 Colchester Ave. Thursdays 2:30-5:30, May 10-October. tanya.mcdonald@vtmednet.org.

Burlington—Old North End Farmers Market. H.O. Wheeler School, 6 Archibald St., moving soon, check web-site. Tuesdays 3-6:30, June 5-October 30. nicholas.parrish@gmail.com. www.oldnorthendfarmersmarket.org.

Burlington—New North End Farmers Market, Inc. Elks Lodge 925 North Ave. Thursdays 3-6:30, May 24-September 27. newnorthendmarket@hotmail.com. newnorthendfarmersmarket.wordpress.com.

Burlington Farmers Market. City Hall Park. Saturdays 8:30-2, May 12-October 27. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. www.burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Chelsea Farmers Market. North Common, intersection of Rt. 110 and 113. Friday 3-6. Late May to Mid- October. chelseacommunitymarket@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/chelseafarmersmarket.

Craftsbury—The Common Market, Craftsbury's Farmers Market. On the common. Saturdays 10-1, May 26-October 6. cherylcrytzer@yahoo.com.

Danville—Caledonia Farmers Market Assoc. Wednesdays 9-1, May 12-October 27. West of Danville village on Rt. 2. elizeverts@yahoo.com. http://sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Derby Farmers Market. Rt. 5 next to Elks Lodge. Saturdays 9:30-2:30, May 25-October 6. gardenymom@hotmail.com. derbyfarmersmarket.org.

Dorset Farmers Market. H.N. Williams Store, Rt. 30. Sundays 10-2, May 20-February 24. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Enosburg Falls Farmers Market. Lincoln Park Main St. kingstaste@franklinvt.net. Saturdays 9-1, Tuesdays 4-7:30. May 19-October 30.

Essex Junction—Five Corners Farmers Market. Lincoln Place off Railroad Ave. Fridays 3:30-7:30, June 1-October 5. 5cornersfarmersmarket@gmail.com. 5cornersfarmersmarket.com.

Grand Isle—Champlain Islands Farmers Market. St. Joseph's Church. Saturdays 10-2, May 26-Sept. 22. deniseboutin@gmail.com. champlainislandsfarmersmarket.com.

Groton Growers Farmers Market. On the lawn in front of Groton's Community Building. Saturdays 10-1, May 26-October 27. myfarmersmkt@gmail.com.

Hartland Farmers Market. The Library Fields at 153 Rt. 5. Fridays 4-7, June-September. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

Jericho Farmers' Market. Mills River Park. Thursdays 3:30-6:30, June 7-September 27. jerichofarmersmarket@gmail.com. TwoTownOnline.org.

Johnson Farmers Market. United Church on Main Street. Tuesdays 3-6, May 22 - October 9. icecutting@gmail.com.

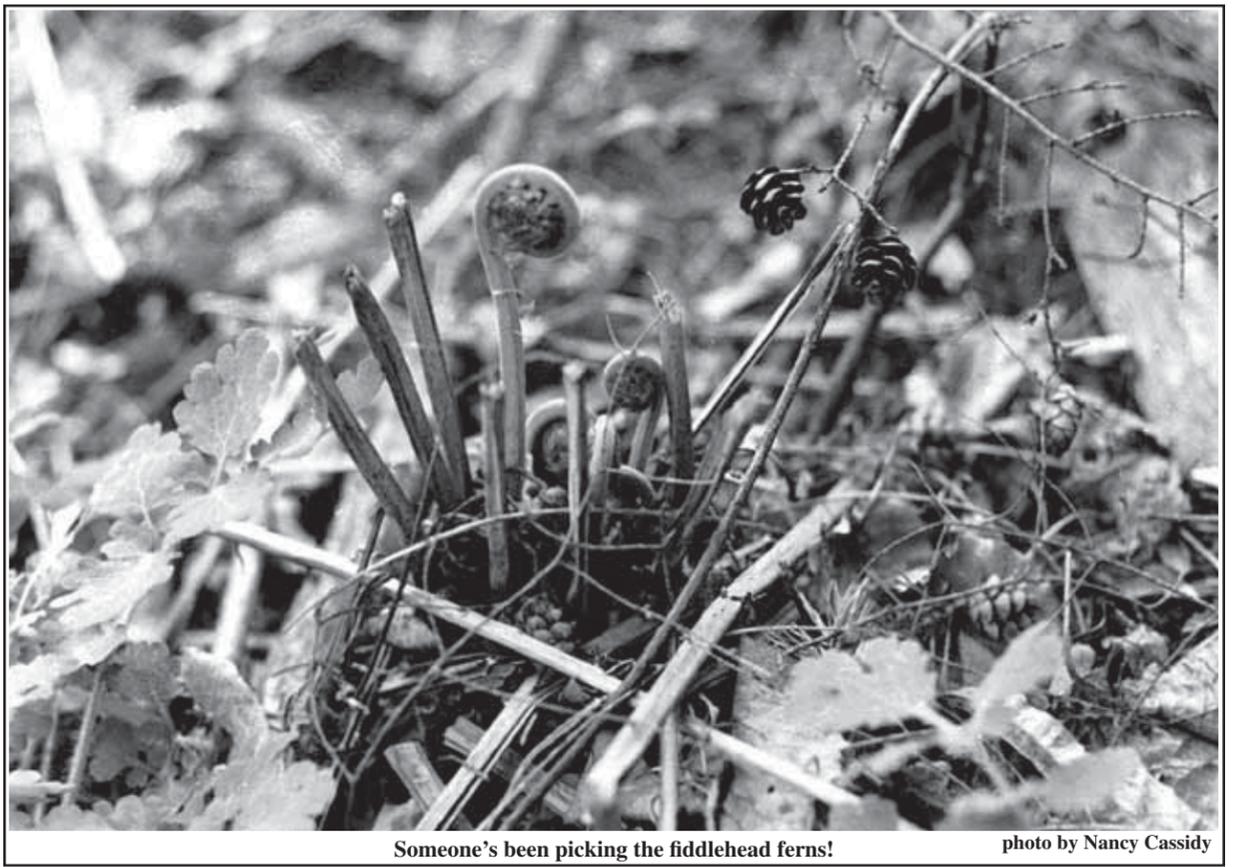
Londonderry—West River Farmers Market. Intersection of Rte 11E & 100N. Saturdays 9-1, Memorial Day Weekend—Columbus Day Weekend. wrfmvt@yahoo.com. westriverfarmersmarket.com.

Ludlow Farmers Market. 53 Main St. in front of Okemo Mountain School. Fridays 4-7, May 25-October 5. lfmkt@tds.net. www.ludlowfarmersmkt.org.

Lunenburg Farmers Market. Town Common on Rt 2. Wednesdays 2-6, June 6-October 10. comments@topofthecommon.org. www.topofthecommon.org/b.html.

Manchester Farmers Market. Adams Park, Rt. 7A North. Thursdays 3-6, June 7-October 4. mfmvt@yahoo.com. www.manchestermarket.org.

Middlebury Farmers Market. By the Falls at the Marble Works. Wednesdays and Saturdays 9-12:30, May - October. middleburyfm@yahoo.com. middleburyfarmersmarket.org.



Someone's been picking the fiddlehead ferns!

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Milton. Milton Grange Farmers Market. Saturday 9:30-1:30, June-October. jamesbmilton@comcast.net.

Montpelier. Capital City Farmers Market. Corner of State and Elm Streets. Saturdays 9-1, May 5 - October 27. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Mount Holly Farmers Market. Belmont Village Green. Sat 10-1, June - October. pappynmammy@vermontel.net. ssmith@vermontel.net.

Newport Farmers Market. On the causeway in Newport between the Gazebo and COC Info center. sargentsbearnecessities@gmail.com. Wednesdays, 9-2 from June 15 to October 15. Saturdays, 9-2 from May 15 to October 15.

Norwich Farmers Market. 300 Rt. 5 next to Fogg's True Value Hardware Store. Saturdays 9-1, weekly from May through October. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Peacham Farmers Market. Academy Green. Thursdays 3-6, May 26-September 29. janealper@gmail.com. www.peacham.net/market.

Plainfield Farmers Market. Mill Street Park. Fridays 4-7, June 1-October 5. clearlyfamilyfarm@gmail.com.

Putney Farmers Market. Carol Brown Way, just off of US Route 5, across from the Putney Food Co-op. Sundays 11-3, May 27-October 7. pcoopmarketing@gmail.com. putneyfarmersmarket.org.

Randolph Farmers Market. Saturdays 9-1, May 19-October 20. Rt. 66 next to OSSU building. mrs.flint@hotmail.com.

Richmond Farmers Market. Volunteer Green. Fridays, June -Labor Day 3:30-7, after Labor Day 3:30-6:30. June 8-October 12. rfm05477@gmail.com.

Royalton Farmers Market. Town Green. Thursdays 3-6:30, May 26-October 6. bushrod.powers@valley.net.

Rutland County Farmers Market. Depot Park. Saturdays 9-2, Tuesdays 3-6. May 12-October 27. www.rutlandcountyfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland—Vermont Farmers Market. Downtown Rutland in Depot Park. Saturdays 9-2, May 12-October 27. vtfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

Shelburne Farmers Market. In Shelburne Center on Rt. 7 and Church St. Saturday 9-1, May 26-October 13. tod.whitaker@gmail.com. sbpavt.org.

Springfield Market. 6 Main Street, People's United Bank parking area. Saturdays 10-1, June 2 - October 6. (802) 263-5390. springfieldcommunitymarket@gmail.com. www.springfieldcommunitymarket.com.

Stowe Farmers Market. Rt. 108, Mountain Rd. Sunday 10:30-3, May 20-October 14. info@vtlink.net. stowefarmersmarket.com.

St. Albans—Northwest Farmers Market. Taylor Park. Saturdays 9-2, May 19-October. nwfmvmt@gmail.com. nwfmvmt.org.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Farmers Market Assoc. Municipal parking lot behind Anthony's Diner. Saturday 9-1, May 12-October 27. elizeverts@yahoo.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Townshend Common Farmers Market. At the intersection of Route 30 & Route 35 in Townshend. Thursdays 3:30-6:30, June 7-October 11. farmersmarket@postoilolutions.org. postoilolutions.org.

Waitsfield Farmers Market. Rt. 100, Mad River Green. Sat 9-1, Mid-May through Mid-October. marketmanager@waitsfieldfarmersmarket.com. www.waitsfieldfarmersmarket.com.

Williston Farmers Market. Rt. 2, on the Village Green, corner of Rt. 2 & Central School Dr. Wednesdays, 4-7 pm, June 6-October 10. info@willistonfarmersmarket.com. www.willistonfarmersmarket.com.

Windsor Farmers Market. Windsor Town Green, State St. mike.cammock@gmail.com. Sundays, 12-3 pm. May 20-October 28.

Winooski Farmers Market. Champlain Mill Green, Winooski Falls Way. Sundays 10-2, June 3-October 21. winooskimarket@gmail.com.

Woodstock—Market on the Green, downtown on Rt. 4. Wednesdays 3-6, June 13-October 10. lalitaroli@yahoo.com. www.woodstockvt.com.

Woodstock—Mt. Tom Farmers Market. Mt. Tom parking lot on Rt. 12 North. Saturdays 9:30-12:30. foxxfarm@aol.com. www.mttomfarmersmarket.com.

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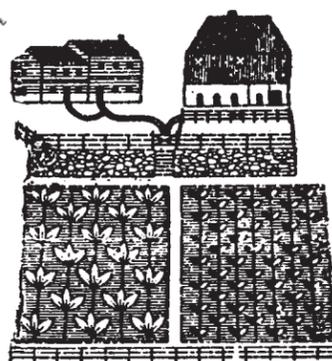
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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

ADDISON. Chimney Point State Historic Site. Special Exhibit: What Lies Beneath—9,000 Years of History at Chimney Point. Admission adults \$3, children 14 and under free. Wed-Sun and Monday holidays, 9:30 am to 5 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 7305 Rt. 125. (802) 759-2412. www.HistoricVermont.org/chimneypoint. May 26 – October 8.

BARRE. Exhibits: Sweet—a sumptuous multi-media show that pays homage to edible sweets, Paintings and Sketchbook—works by Hal Mayforth. Free. Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-4. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com. April 17 through May 26.

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, broadsides, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items of ephemera which shed light on the lives and times of past Vermonters. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Farmers Market. Local produce, meats, eggs, cheese, prepared foods, and entertainment. On Fridays 4-7 pm, opening May 11. “No Gardener Left Behind” Expo with mini-workshops sponsored in part by Post-Oil Solutions. www.bffarmersmarket.com. (802) 463-2018. May 11 through October 19.

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

BELLOWS FALLS. Exhibit: Barnstorming: Explorations Along the Connecticut River Valley. Photos by Lowell Fewster. Open Monday to Friday from 7 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 8 am to 3 pm. The Newberry Gallery at the Vermont Pretzel & Cookie Company, 24 Rockingham St. (860) 683-0308. April 7 to May 29.

BELMONT. Mount Holly Community Historical Museum. Open year-round on second weekend of the month. Tarbellville Rd. (turn right immediately after the Belmont Store, museum is on your right). (802) 259-2460. www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. Art Exhibits, Permanent Collections, Theater Productions, Workshops. Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Outdoor Farmers Market. Fresh vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, meats, crafts, and more. Entertainment and prepared foods. Saturdays 10 am – 1 pm at the scenic Riverwalk Park along the Walloomsac River at Bennington Station on Depot Street. Tuesdays 3-6 pm at Greenberg's, 321 Main St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. info@walloomsac.org. www.walloomsac.org. Saturday mornings and Tuesday afternoons May 5 through October.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum—Exhibits and Public Programs, Founding Documents, Fine Art, Grandma Moses, and more. See Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Fine Art, Vermont Furniture, and the Bennington Flag – one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films. Current exhibit: Memento Mori—The Art and Commerce of Gravestones in Bennington, through May 22. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

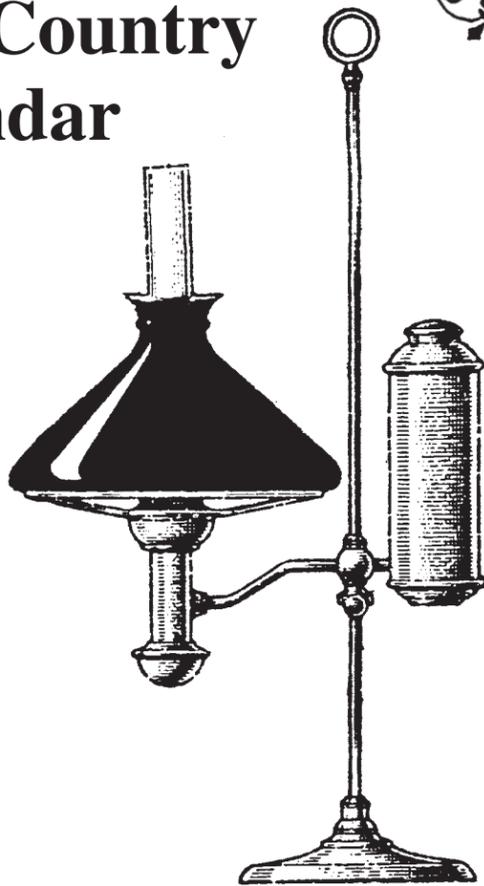
BERLIN. Afro-Caribbean Dance. With live percussion every Thursday from 10:30 am – 12 pm. All levels welcome. Also Capital City Grange Potluck: share delicious food with your friends and future friends, starting about 6:30 each first Saturday, all are welcome, no charge. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 985-3665. capitalcitygrange.org.

BRANDON. Sustainable Living Book Exchange. Self-service—take a book, leave a book. Donations accepted. Neshobe Farm, 142 Steinberg Rd. off Rt. 7 just north of the village. For more information call (802) 310-8534.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

BURLINGTON. 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, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Summer Farmers' Market. Local produce, meat, cheese, crafts, entertainment. At City Hall Park, corner of College St. & St. Paul St. Every Saturday 8:30 am – 2 pm, through October. Accepting EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. chrismwag31@gmail.com. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Farm Tours. Artisan Cheese Tour, Vermont Farm Tour, Urban Farm Tour, Vermont Vineyards, and Islands Bike Tour. Call for information, rates and schedule. (802) 922-7346. chris@vermontfarmtours.com. www.VermontFarmTours.com. May 19 through December 15.

BURLINGTON. First Friday Art Walk. Visit over 30 galleries, studios, and interesting venues all around town. Free. 5-8 pm. Map available. (802) 264-4839. www.artmapburlington.com.

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

CHESTER. Exhibit: The Paradis Suite—Watercolors by Jeanne Carbonetti. Free. Wednesday through Sunday 11 am – 6 pm. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts, 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. info@vtica.org. www.vtica.org. May 5 through June 17.

CHESTER. Art Exhibit. See the mixed media sculptures of curator, Bryce LeVan Cushing. Wednesday thru Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and by appointment. At BLCARTGRP Gallery, in the rear of the MoonDog Cafe Building, 297 Main St. For info contact (802) 843-1162 or visit www.brycelevancushing.com.

CHESTER. Monthly Public Astronomy Meetings for the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group. Second Tuesday of the month – free to the public at Whiting Library, 7 pm. Star parties and other events. Membership inquiries and information contact the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group, PO Box 424, Chester, VT 05143. www.sovera.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

CHESTER. Peace of Paradise—Holistic Wellness Emporium. Wellness services and products. Reiki, apothecary, acupuncture, massage, meditation, yoga and drumming. Classes, workshops and seminars. Events, groups and gatherings. Locally-made creations, yoga mats, drums, jewelry and art. Open Thurs–Sun, 12-5 pm. On the Village Green at 78 The Common. (802) 875-8008. www.peaceofparadisevt.com.

CHESTER. High Tea at Inn Victoria. Afternoon savories, sweets, fruit, and a variety of teas. \$19.99 per person. Open by reservation on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3-4:30 pm. Inn Victoria, 321 Main St. (802) 875-4288. innvictoria.com. www.innvictoria.com.

CHESTER. Art Exhibits. Gallery hours: Wed.– Sat. 11 am – 6 pm, Sun. 12-5 pm. Admission free. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts, 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. www.vtica.org.

CHESTER. Activities at Gassetts Grange Hall. Bingo every Thursday 6:30-9 pm, refreshments sold in the kitchen. Monthly round and square dance 7-11 pm, and community breakfast buffet 8-10 am, first Saturdays (May 5). Open mike country jamboree hosted by the Green Mountain Express, 1-4 pm, second Sundays (May 13). At the Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For information call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500.

CHESTER. Gallery 103. Dedicated to promoting fine American Craft and Design, with an exclusive showroom of Junker Studio Ironwork. Monthly “Featured Artists.” Owned and operated by Elise & Payne Junker. Gallery is open every day 1-5 pm (often later) closed Tuesdays. On Rt. 103, just south of town. (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

CHESTER. A Contemporary Vermont Art Gallery. Fine art, fine crafts, jewelry, furniture, gifts. DaVallia Art & Accents, On the Green. (802) 875-1203. www.theDaVallia.com.

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

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

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

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

EAST THETFORD. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center. A certified organic, fifty-acre vegetable and berry farm. Farmstand and Hello Cafe (with wireless internet). Spring flowers, hanging baskets, tender greens. Seasonal events, pick-your-own. Open Mon–Sat 10 am – 6 pm, Sun 10 am – 5 pm. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. www.cedarcirclefarm.org. *Open through October.*

FERRISBURGH. Rokeby Museum, a National Historic Landmark, one of the best-documented Underground Railroad sites in the country. The farm was home to a family of Quakers, farmers, abolitionists, authors, and artists. Furnished house and outbuildings, exhibits, tours, hiking trails, and special events. House tours Thurs–Sun 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm. Fee: \$6 adults, \$4 seniors/students, \$2 children 12 and under. Open Tues–Sun, 10 am – 4 pm. Grounds open year round during daylight. Rokeby Museum, Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org. *May 13 through October 14.*

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum, Rt. 122. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world. Free admission, donations welcome. Opening for the season June 1 through October, open in the spring by appointment. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. Enjoy mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing, swimming and kids camps in summer. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. grafftonponds.com.

GRAFTON. Grafton Valley Arts Guild invites you to visit the Cricketers Gallery in historic Grafton Village at 45 Townshend Road. Open Thursday thru Sunday from 10 am – 4 pm. (802) 843-4824. www.grafftonvalleyartsguild.com.

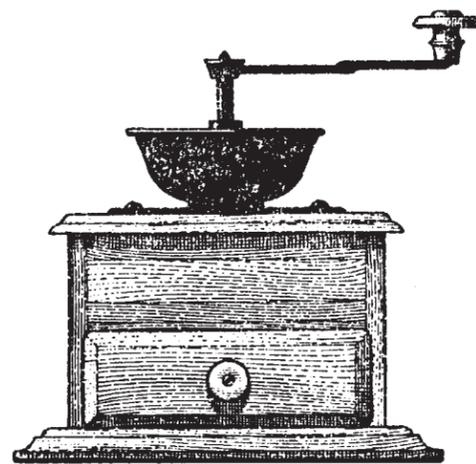
GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Exhibits, gift shop, family activities, and special events. Admission: adults \$5, seniors/student \$4, children 3-12 \$3, family \$15. Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 1-4. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. First Fridays. A monthly community event held with Slate Valley Museum, The Pember Library and the Museum of Natural History. 7-9 pm. At the Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, and gift shop. Civil War programs: Ulysses S. Grant, After Appomattox on May 5 & Rebecca Cameron on May 20. Civil War Exhibit: Rivals in Slate, Brothers in War, through June 2. Admission \$5, under 12 free. Tues-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am – 4 pm. Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

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

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



Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

The West Rutland Marsh is a designated Important Bird Area having met the necessary Vermont ornithological criteria as an essential habitat for one or more species of birds.

With the sustainability of the marsh in mind, Audubon in partnership with the Town of West Rutland and State and Federal agencies, have already established certain conservation and easement plans for the watershed while continuing to advocate for their expansion.

The West Rutland Marsh is more than a boardwalk, it is more than the birds that find sanctuary in the marsh, it is more than the marsh itself. It is an interdependent com-

munity of plants, animals and soils, and the waters that sustain them and we the people with our awesome potential to affect change.

Special birds of West Rutland Marsh include Virginia Rail and Sora as well as American Bittern and Marsh Wren. If you listen carefully, you may hear Least Bittern and, if you are really lucky, you’ll catch a quick glimpse of one. This is one of the few places in Vermont the Least Bittern can be found reliably in season.

Even more rare is the Sedge Wren, with only a handful of records. In May of 2009, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, way off course, put in an appearance. Just two days prior, one was observed in Arlington, VT.

On Saturday, May 5, Vermont Green Up Day, you’re invited to join Rutland County Audubon and other com-

munity members to clean up the West Rutland Marsh Important Bird Area. Meet at the West Rutland Town Hall at 9 a.m. For information, contact Marv Elliott at (802) 775-2415.

The next West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk takes place Thursday, May 17. Now in our 11th year, this is a monthly bird monitoring exercise. To date over 1,475 participants have tallied 144 species from least Bittern to Rusty Blackbird. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 7 a.m. For information contact leader Roy Pilcher at (802) 775-3461. The summer schedule includes June 23, July 19, August 18, and September 20.

Join us for the Century Count XVII on Sunday May 27, as we visit some of our local birding hotspots to attempt to tally 100 spe-



cies in one day. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 6 a.m. Bring lunch. For information contact leader Roy Pilcher at (802) 775-3461.

The RCAS Annual Meeting, Potluck, and Presentation is on June 27. For details call Roy Pilcher at (802) 775-3461.

To reach the West Rutland Marsh, go into West Rutland on Rt. 4A and then off to the right on Marble St. You’ll come to the marsh and the boardwalk on the left.

For more information on birding in Rutland visit Rutland County Audubon Society’s website at www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

HUBBARDTON. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. The only Revolutionary War battle fought entirely in Vermont. Bring your flag to be raised over the Hubbardton Battlefield and receive a certificate. Adults \$2, 14 and under free. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd, seven miles north of Rt 4. (802) 273-2282. www.historicvermont.org. chimneypoint@historicvermont.org. *Open May 26 through October 8.*

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, gift shop, video, restrooms, refreshments, and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 10 am - 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org. *May 1 through October 31.*

ISLE LA MOTTE. St. Anne's Shrine officially opens for the pilgrimage and tourist season on May 22. The shrine is at 92 St. Anne's Rd. For activities and events or call (802) 928-3362 or visit www.saintanneshrine.org. *May 19 - October 8.*

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

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

LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. Discussion includes an in-depth look of at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. Meets the first Monday of each month and is open to all levels. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Taconic End Farm. For more info call Annie Claghorn, (802) 247-3979. foxclag@gmavt.net.

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Woodworking, Oil and Watercolor Painting, Kirigami and much more. Registration fee. Monday-Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Rt. 103 South. (802) 228-8770. info@fletcherfarm.org. fletcherfarm.org.

LYNDONVILLE. Lyndon Summer Farmers' Market at Lyndonville's Bandstand Park. Fridays starting May 18 from 3-7 pm, rain or shine. lyndonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.lyndonfarmersmarket.com.

MANCHESTER. 83rd Annual Members Exhibition. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org. *May 5 through June 17.*

MANCHESTER. Revolutionary War Tour. Visit historic sites from Manchester to Bennington. Your guide will be Dick Smith, author of *The Revolutionary War in Bennington County*. 8-passenger tour vehicle. More than 25 points of interest including over 15 sites on the National Register. Fee. Daily 9:30-11:45 am. (802) 362-4997. bcrrdisc@aol.com. www.backroaddiscovery.com. *Through September 28.*

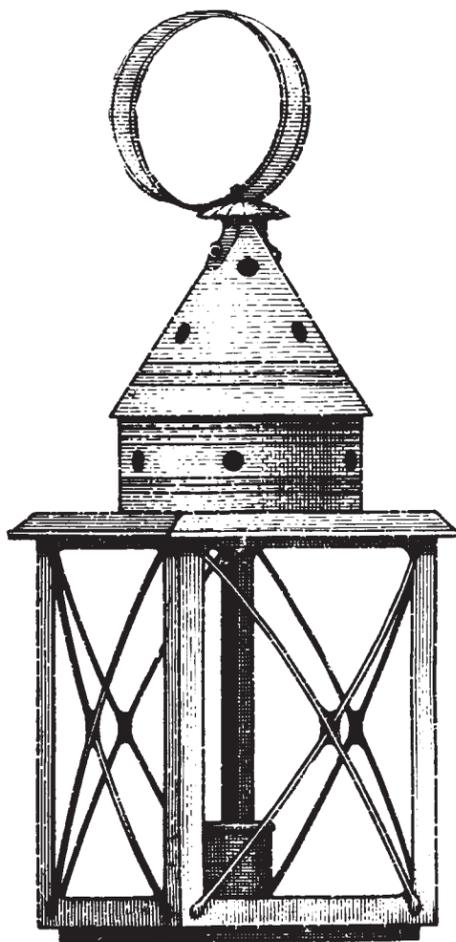
MANCHESTER. Boswell Botany Trail. A bucolic wildflower walk, stately white birches, native orchids, grasses and moss, and most of the 67 varieties of fern found in Vermont, all in a unique glacial microclimate. Explored at a leisurely pace by most walkers in a half-hour or less. At Southern Vermont Art Center, off West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Celebration of Peonies. Traditionally the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June when the Formal Garden signals the beginning of the season with 1,000's of peony blooms; many of them from the original 1907 plants. Admission: \$16, youth \$5, under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 - 4:30 pm. Historic Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7961. www.hildene.org.

MANCHESTER. Visit Historic Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln. Special activities, lectures, bird walks, museum store. Tickets: \$16 adults, \$5 youth under 14, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.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, under 5 free. Open weekends till Memorial Day. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Farmer's Market at American Flatbread Restaurant in the Marbleworks. Second and fourth Saturdays from 9:30 am - 1 pm, through May. Pam Taylor, (802) 388-0178. middleburyfm@yahoo.com. www.middleburyfarmersmarket.org.



MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Arts Walk. Join us on the second Friday of the month from May through October. More than 40 venues will be displaying art. Stores remain open, becoming galleries displaying the work of dozens of area artists. 5-7 pm. Free. Downtown Middlebury. (802) 388-7951 x 2. info@middleburyartswalk.com. www.middleburyartswalk.com.

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. Saturdays 10 am - 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Exhibits, gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Mon-Sat, 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 11 am - 4 pm. At 88 Main St., downtown. (802) 388-4964. info@vermontfolklifecenter.org. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Capital City Summer Farmers' Market. Fresh, local vegetables, spring greens, seasonal fruits, pasture-raised meats, artisan cheeses, baked goods, maple syrup, jams, jellies, pickles, prepared foods, crafts, live entertainment. At the corner of State St. & Elm St. in downtown Montpelier. Every Saturday 9 am - 1 pm, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com. *May 7 through October 29.*

NORWICH. Norwich Summer Farmers Market. Local and organic produce, fruits & vegetables, meats, artisan cheeses, eggs, handicrafts, baked goods, prepared foods, and live music. Saturdays May 5 through October, 9 am - 1 pm. On Rt. 5, one mile south of Norwich village. (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

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

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

ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. In 1776, this military complex was one of the largest communities in North America. 300 acres of pasture, woodlands, spectacular vistas of Lake Champlain and trails, some wheelchair accessible. Visitor's Center and Museum with archaeological artifacts. Open daily 9:30 am - 5 pm. Admission: adults \$5, children 14 and under free. On Mount Independence Rd., off Rt. 73. (802) 948-2000. historicvermont.org. *Open May 26 through October 8.*

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Groups over 12 can request "Sugar on Snow" by reservation. Off-season rates through May 23. Spring hours 10 am - 4 pm daily. New England Maple Museum, 4578 Rt. 7, (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

The Avenger of Injustice

That day the old buck rammed
The little kid
That could barely keep its feet
And stretched it bleating on the ground,
I blew my lid.
I damned
Him and I beat
Him with my fists.

I am so sick of seeing folks pushed around,
So seldom in position to enter the lists.
If I had had a gun
The census on my place would have read less one.

He stood right still, the gentle brute,
And let me pound.
He looked surprised,
But his hide is tough.
When I had had enough—
My hands were sore—
I wondered why I'd been so exercised.
I found the kid
Who'd tottered off and hid,
Not hurt, just scared,
And told it someone cared.
I may have given it a kiss.
And then I patted the buck:
Go thou and butt no more.
If I had had the terrible luck
To kill him, would that have evened any score?
I seldom do a thing like this.



—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT, 1953



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

PLAINFIELD. Monthly Sacred Harp Sing. A free event, with beginners and loaner books available. The second Sunday of every month at 3 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center above the Co-op in Plainfield. For more information, contact Lynnette Combs at (802) 426-3850. lynnnetcombs@gmail.com.

POULTNEY. Free Historical Self-Guided Audio Walking & Driving Tours. View and learn about Main Street Poultnery, East Poultnery Village, and the Quarries, Farms & Forests. (802) 287-5252, (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyvt.com. www.poultneyhistoricalsociety.org.

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

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$10.50, seniors \$9.50, youth (3-18) \$8.50, children 3 and under free. Open 10 am – 5:30 pm, 7 days a week. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

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

RANDOLPH CENTER. "Carving a Bird" Exhibit. Come see beautifully hand-carved birds by Bob Spear and Dick Allen of the Birds of Vermont Museum. Images, tools, examples of various stages, and finished carvings on display. Find out what resources are available for carvers from beginners to experts. Hartness Library, Vermont Technical College. (800) 431-0025. *Through May 31.*

ROCHESTER. Art Exhibit: Rhode Island Past and Present. Opening reception May 5. Big Town Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com. *May 2 through June 10.*

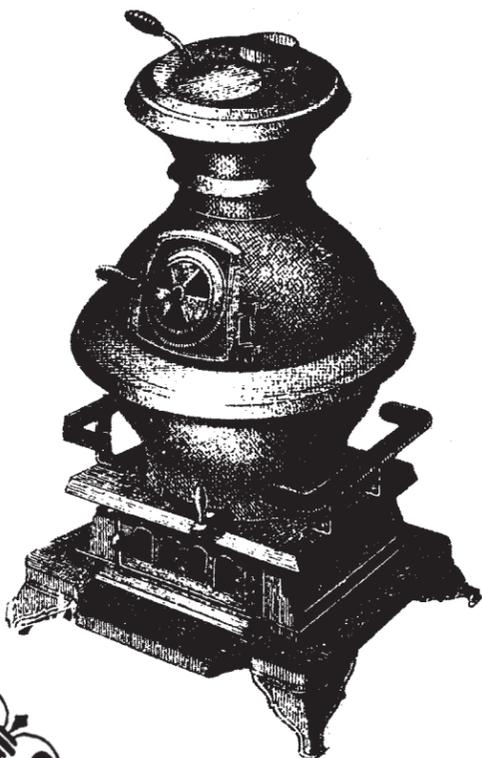
RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops, teen trail crew camp, and seasonal events and celebrations. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester.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

RUTLAND. Downtown Rutland Farmers Market. Over 90 vendors, ethnic foods, music. Grass fed meats, locally grown veggies, apples, fresh baked breads and pastries. Maple syrup, dog treats, pickles, jams, jellies, cheeses, wine tasting, local crafters and artisans. Have lunch, meet friends, visit. Dogs welcome on leash. Located outside in downtown Rutland at Depot Park. Every Saturday, May 12th through October 27, 9 am till 2 pm. Smaller Tuesday market, 3 pm till 6 pm, June through October. For info call Sherry at (518) 282-9781. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. www.rutlandcounty-farmersmarket.org.

RUTLAND. Annual Student Art Show. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org. *April 28 through May 19.*

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

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center—Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings, gift shop. Gallery open Tues-Sat 10 am to 5 pm. 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org).



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

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

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

SOUTH WALLINGFORD. Line Dancing every Tuesday. Beginners and experienced. \$5 per person, snack bar available. 6:30 pm at the Maple Valley Grange Hall, Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

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

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

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

WEATHERSFIELD. Weathersfield Trail, Cascade Falls Rd. Of four hiking trails that go to the summit of Mt. Ascutney, the Weathersfield Trail is probably the most scenic. Highlights include Little Cascade Falls (.04 miles), Crystal Cascade Falls (an 84 foot high waterfall at 1.1 miles), Gus's Lookout and the West Peak Vista where hang gliders launch from in the summer. Great observation platform on the summit for hikers. For more info Vermont Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation at (802) 886-2215. [weathersfieldvt.org](http://www.weathersfieldvt.org).

WEST NEWBURY. Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. All dances taught. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller, Donna Weston on piano. Admission by donation, all ages welcome. 8 pm at the Community Hall at 219 Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 429-2316 or adamrboyce@juno.com. *Fourth Saturdays.*

WEST RUTLAND. Reiki Healings. Herbal remedies and teas, crystals and stones. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. www.vermontherbal.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Home Buyer Education Classes. Call for schedule. NeighborWorks office at 110 Marble St. (802) 438-2303 x 216. www.nwvt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Art Exhibition: Works of Rachel Gross. The Two Rivers Print Making Studio, 85 North Main St. (802) 295-5901. [tworiversprintmaking.com](http://www.tworiversprintmaking.com). *Through May.*

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

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Co-op's First Friday Celebration. Live music by local artists, samples of local foods, 5% off all purchases for every shopper. 4-6 pm at the Upper Valley Food Co-op. The First Friday of every month is celebrated by businesses in White River Junction. (802) 295-5804. Kye@uppervalleyfood.coop. www.uppervalleyfood.coop.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. The Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one of which is significant and each one of which tells some kind of story about human beings and the complex—sometimes baffling—universe we are a part of. As well as studying and cataloging objects we present live music, glass lantern slide presentations, vaudeville shows and spectacles to the public. Open Thursday to Sunday, from 1-6 pm. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., opposite Railroad Row, near the underpass. Parking adjacent to the rear of the Museum building on the riverside and across the road on Railroad Row. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. www.mainstreetmuseum.org

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Listen Community Dinner. Free nutritious meals served 5-6 pm every Monday and Wednesday. Take-home available. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave. (603) 398-2780.

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery. Potted herbs, vegetable starts and unusual perennials in addition to very large collections of primroses, wildflowers & woodlanders, peonies, daylilies and hostas. Meander through well-established display gardens nestled within our wild apple orchard, woodlands and fields. Hours for May through July: 10 am – 6 pm daily. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com. [ciderhillgardens.com](http://www.ciderhillgardens.com).

WINDSOR. Old Constitution House State Historic Site. Visit it as it was more than 200 years ago. See an exhibit recounting the writing of the most progressive constitution of its time. Open 11 am – 5 pm, Sat-Sun. Admission: adults \$2.50, children 14 & under are free. 16 N. Main St. (802) 672-3773. www.historicvermont.org. *May 26 through October 8.*

WINDSOR. Exhibition: Nine Generations: Photographs by Deanna Meadow. Opening reception with live music and refreshments, May 5, 4-6 pm. Free admission. Regular gallery hours: Tuesday 11 am to 5 pm; Wednesday 1 to 5 pm; Thursday & Friday 11 am to 5 pm; and Saturday 11 am to 3 pm. Nuance Gallery, 85 Main St. (802) 674-9616, nancysilliman@myfairpoint.com. *May 5 through June 16.*

WINDSOR. American Precision Museum. Peruse many historical and interesting exhibits and collections. Admission adults \$6, students \$4, under 6 free, family \$18. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. www.americanprecision.org. *May 26 through Oct 31.*

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, wagon rides, special events and museum. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4, children 2 and under free. Open daily. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *May through October 31.*

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

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

TUESDAY, MAY 1

CHESTER. Country on the Common is celebrating its 2nd birthday from May 1 through May 6. "Balloon sale" with discounts up to 50%. Whimsical boutique features colorful clothing in an array of lightweight fabrics for summer from around the world, custom jewelry and locally handcrafted treasures. Most clothing items under \$30. Mon 11-5; closed Tuesdays; Wed thru Sat 11-5; and Sun 11-4. Country on the Common, 80 The Common, (802) 875-3000. www.countryonthecommon.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

RUTLAND. Presentation: Horses Like Lightning—A Story of Passage through the Himalayas. Dartmouth anthropologist Sienna Craig recounts her years spent living in the remote Himalayan kingdom of Mustang, Nepal. Free. 7 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. Paula Baker, (802) 773-1860. www.vermonthumanities.org.

WALLINGFORD. 91st Annual May Breakfast. Menu: bacon, eggs, pancakes, waffles, sausage, stradas, fruit, muffins, etc. served buffet style. \$8 adults, \$4 children 4 yrs to 12 years, under 4 free. Hosted by The Ladies Aid of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford. 6:30-9:30 am in the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, 189 Main St. For more info e-mail Evelynntrd73@aol.com.

THURSDAY, MAY 3

BELLOWS FALLS. First Thursdays Concert with Cheryl Wheeler. New England song-writer. Admission \$18.50/\$35. Advance tickets online at brattleborotix.com. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House Lower Theater, 7 The Square. (802) 463-9595. flyingunderradar.com.

CHESTER. Full Moon Drumming Circle. Bring your own drums or we have drums to borrow or buy. Fee: \$5-\$10 sliding scale. 7:30-8:30 pm. Peace of Paradise, 78 the Common. Call to pre-register. (802) 875-8008. www.peaceofparadisevt.com.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

BRADFORD. Spaghetti Supper. Sponsored by Global Campus Bradford to benefit Bradford Historical Society. Meat and vegetarian sauces. \$8 per person, under 6 free. 5-7 pm at the Grace United Methodist Church. (802) 274-2190.

MANCHESTER. Children's Arbor Day at Hildene. Kids, ages 5 to 7, will help plant a sapling disease resistant Washington Hawthorne in the Lincolns' historic Hawthorne Allee. Two sessions, 10 am and 12:30 pm. Each child will take home a seedling. Registration required, Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7961. hildene.org.

QUECHEE. Kayak Wine & Dine on Dewey's Pond. VINS, Wilderness Trails, and The Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm provide you with a relaxing flat water paddle followed by a delicious three-course meal at the inn. Fee: \$36 (over 18 only) plus additional kayak rental fee of \$25. Pre-register by May 2. 6-9 pm. Meet at Dewey's Pond. (802) 359-5001 x 223. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Library Book Sale. 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Library Basement, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org. *Also May 5.*

WEST RUTLAND. Play: The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie. A classic murder mystery. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. West Rutland Town Hall Theater. (802) 775-0903. www.marblevalleyplayers.org. *Also May 6, 11 & 12.*

Vermont Country Calendar

SATURDAY, MAY 5

BENNINGTON. Tour of the Dragons Bike Race and Criterium. Professional cycling teams race through the streets. Downtown activities. (802) 442-5758. admin@betterbennington.com. www.betterbennington.com.

CHESTER. Grand Opening of Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts. Exhibit: The Paradis Suite: Watercolors by Jeanne Carbonetti. Free. Open Wednesday through Sunday 11 am – 6 pm. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts, 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. info@vtica.org. www.vtica.org. *Exhibit runs May 5 through June 17.*

CHESTER. Round and Square Dance. Arnie Stoddard, caller. Hosted by Green Mountain Express. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For info call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500.

CHESTER. Community Breakfast. Menu: Bacon, sausage, eggs, home fries, pancakes, all the fixins and beverages. Buffet-style served from 8-10 am. \$5 at the door. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For info call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500.

DUMMERSTON. Annual Fruit Tree Sale. Best quality bare root trees, plus lilacs and a selection of perennials. Zeke Goodband, the orchardist at Scott Farm, will answer any fruit growing questions and provide advice on planting and tree care throughout each day. 9 am – 4 pm. The Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. scottfrm@sover.net. *Also May 6.*

DUMMERSTON. Long Trail Work Weekend. Please bring pack frames, shovels, hoes, and clippers, and meet on Saturday at the West Dummerston Covered Bridge at 7 am or at the parking lot on the Long Trail on Route 30 at 8 am. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For more information call Mark Brown at (802) 254-4647. www.greenmountainclub.org. *Also May 6.*

GRANVILLE, NY. Civil War Program: Ulysses S. Grant—After Appomattox. Steve Trimm will provide a historic interpretation of General Grant in the years following 1865. Enjoy an afternoon of conversation with one of the most influential men of the Civil War. Donations accepted. 2 pm. Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

EAST THETFORD. Gardening Class: Earth!—Soil Testing and Preparation. Led by Cat Buxton and Will Allen. Fee: \$20. 10:30 am – 12 pm at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. www.cedarcirclefarm.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. Pancake Breakfast. To support the Slate Valley Museum and enjoy a great breakfast. Pancakes, french toast, or eggs with choice of sausage or bacon and one drink for \$8. 7 am to 1 pm. Rathbun's Maple Sugar House, 1208 Hatch Hill Rd. (518) 642-1417.

HUNTINGTON. Build Your Own Birdhouse. Cavity-nesting birds need a hollow place like a dead tree or a bird box to lay their eggs and raise their young. Join us for a morning of bird box building. Once the construction is done, we'll play bird-themed games and search the Audubon Center for early-bird travellers! Suitable for families with children age 4 and up. Fee: \$25 per family. 10 am – 12 pm. Sugarhouse Parking Area, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. www.vt.audubon.org.

LEBANON, NH. Ballet Performance: Cinderella. Presented by the City Center Ballet. Tickets \$18, seniors & children \$14. 1:30 & 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. *Also May 6.*

LEBANON, NH. Bel Canto Spring Concert. Admission \$12, students \$6, 12 and under free. 3 pm. First Congregational Church, 8 Park St. (603) 448-1889. www.belcantosingers.org.

MANCHESTER. 83rd Annual Members Exhibition. Opening reception 2-4 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. www.svac.org. *Through June 17.*

NORWICH. Ephemeral Zoo. Come and meet amphibian and aquatic creatures from local marshes and ponds, participate in special indoor and outdoor activities and hands-on explorations. 10 am – 1 pm. At Montshire Museum, off Rt. 5. Contact Laura@VitalCommunities.org for more information.

NORTH BENNINGTON. Basement Music Series Concert. Caravan of Thieves performs Vaudevillian Gypsy swing. Tickets \$24. Cash bar and food available. 8 pm, doors open at 7 pm. Vermont Arts Exchange, Sage Street Mill. (802) 442-5549. vtartxchange.org.

POULTNEY. Green-up Day. Grab your boots, your green-up bags, your friends and family, and let's Green-Up Poultny! Bags and a sign-up sheet at the Poultny Town Office on Main Street. (802) 287-2010. poultnyvt.com.

RANDOLPH. Jungle Joe's Wildlife Adventures. This eco-adventure spotlights 15 of the most popular exotic animals on loan from The Bucks County Zoo & Conservation Society. Multi-media show with live animals. Tickets \$23/\$16. 3 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

ROCHESTER. Opening Reception for the Exhibit: Rhode Island Past and Present. Big Town Gallery, 99 N. Main St. info@bigtowngallery.com. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com. *Exhibit runs May 2 through June 10.*

RUPERT. Full Moon Hike. Join us for a four-mile hike under the Full Flower Moon. The evening walk allows time to view blooming spring wildflowers and watch the moon rise. Fee: \$5. 6:30 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Friends of the Library Book Sale. 9:30 am – 2 pm. Library Basement, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Seussical the Musical. Tickets: \$19.50/\$12.50. 2 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Perennial Garden Maintenance Workshop. Master Gardeners and volunteers needed to help Brian Vaughan, Perennial Garden Curator, tidy up this fabulous garden in time for our May 19th Bloom-Time Festival. Learn proper techniques for dividing perennials. Bring pruning shears and weeding tools if you have them. Take home a free perennial plant! Free. 9 am – 12 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

STATEWIDE. Green-Up Day. Towns across Vermont are hosting community efforts to pick-up and green-up our state. Work projects, activities, and festivities. Contact your local town office to see what you can do. Or visit www.greenupvermont.org.

THETFORD CENTER. Concert: Continuing the Journey—A Wide Open Door. By the Thetford Chamber Singers. Tickets: \$12, 12 and under \$6. 7:30 pm. First Congregational Church, on the Green. *Also May 6.*

WOODSTOCK. Wild Woolly Weekend—Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies. See the shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes by Craig Marcotte at 10:30 and 12:30 pm, 2:30 and 4:30 pm., with spinning and carding demonstrations of fleece into yarn. Watch herdsman, Steve Wetmore, and his team of Border Collies herd sheep at 11:30 am, 1:30, and 3:30 pm. Children's farm art show and children's wool craft activities. Teago Volunteer Fire Dept. provides lunch. Admission: adults: \$12; over 62: \$11; children 5-15: \$6; 3-4: \$3; under 3: free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also May 6.*

WOODSTOCK. Freelance Family Singers Spring Concert. A wide variety of music performed by the choruses and vocal ensembles and soloists. Guest appearance by University Chorus of the Upper Valley. Directed by Ellen Satterwaite. Free admission. Donations of non-perishable items for the food shelf welcomed. 7 pm. First Congregational Church of Woodstock on Elm St. (802) 457-3980. *Also May 6.*

SUNDAY, MAY 6

BRANDON. Sunday Jazz at Brandon Music. Jonathan Lorentz, Anthony Santor, and Gabe Jarrett perform a concert of modern sax-led jazz in a benefit for the new Compass Music and Arts Center. Our famous desserts during intermission at special fixed price. Early Bird dinner offering from 4-6 pm, consisting of chili, cornbread, and dessert of your choice, all for \$10. Tickets \$18 at the door, \$15 pre-paid. 7 pm. Brandon Music Café at Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Youth Orchestra Spring Concert. Tickets \$15/\$10. 3 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. info@vyo.org. www.flynnntix.org. www.vyo.org.

CHESTER. Book & Author Event. Vermont author Howard Frank Mosher presents his new book, *The Great Northern Express: A Writer's Journey Home*. Reception and book signing to follow. Free admission. 4 pm. Misty Valley Books, On the Green. (802) 875-3400. info@mvbooks.com. www.mvbooks.com.

CHESTER. Tarot 101 Workshop with Raven Mardirosian. Fee: \$55. 10-11:30 am. Peace of Paradise, 78 the Common. Call to pre-register. (802) 875-8008. peaceofparadisevt.com.

DUMMERSTON. Annual Fruit Tree Sale. Best quality bare root trees, plus lilacs and a selection of perennials. Zeke Goodband, the orchardist at Scott Farm, will answer any fruit growing questions and provide advice on planting and tree care throughout each day. 9 am – 4 pm. The Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. scottfrm@sover.net.

DUMMERSTON. Long Trail Work Weekend. Please bring pack frames, shovels, hoes, clippers, and water and snack, and meet on Saturday at the West Dummerston Covered Bridge at 7 am or at the parking lot on the Long Trail on Route 30 at 8 am. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For more information call leader Mark Brown at (802) 254-4647.

HARTLAND. Talk with Roger Swain. Roger is the acclaimed former host of the Victory Garden program on PBS. Q&A after the presentation. Admission \$10. 4-6 pm at Damon Hall.

HUNTINGTON. Drawing Birds and Blossoms. Join Vermont wildlife and landscape illustrator Libby Walker Davidson and teacher/naturalist Gwendolyn Causer. Begin by drawing ephemeral spring wildflowers. We'll have time to add color washes to our drawings, if desired. Shift to more gestural sketching with the birds, focusing on form, movement and field marks. Indoor space available in case of rain. Bring your nature journal, favorite drawing pencils, and binoculars. Watercolors, brushes, and field guides will be provided. Binoculars available to borrow. Appropriate for adults; children 8 years and older welcome with adult companion. Fee: \$20. 1-4 pm. Sugarhouse Parking Area. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. vt.audubon.org.



LEBANON, NH. Ballet Performance: Cinderella. Presented by the City Center Ballet. Tickets \$18, seniors & children \$14. 2:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

ROCKINGHAM. 13th Annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival. More than 25 outdoor, wildlife, environmental and conservation groups. The Granite State Zoo will be there with live animals. Presented by Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society. Food available. \$2 per person or \$5 per family. 10 am – 4 pm. Herrick's Cove on Herrick's Cove Rd., on the Connecticut River, off Rt. 5, north of I-91 exit 6. (802) 722-3355. madalma13@yahoo.com.

RUTLAND. Loyalty Day Parade. Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Rutland County Post 648. Best and largest parade in the state. Downtown Rutland, music and dancing to Follow at VWF Post. In downtown Rutland at 2 pm.

THETFORD CENTER. Concert. By the Thetford Chamber Singers. Tickets: \$12, 12 and under \$6. 4:30 pm. First Congregational Church, on the Green.

WEST RUTLAND. Play: The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie. A classic murder mystery. Tickets: \$15. 2 & 7:30 pm. West Rutland Town Hall Theater. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.marblevalleyplayers.org. *Also May 11 & 12.*

WOODSTOCK. Bel Canto Spring Concert. Admission \$12, students \$6, 12 and under free. 3 pm. North Universalist Chapel, 7 Church St. (603) 448-1889. www.belcantosingers.org.

WOODSTOCK. Wild Woolly Weekend—Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies. See the shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes by Craig Marcotte at 10:30 and 12:30 pm, 2:30 and 4:30 pm., with spinning and carding demonstrations of fleece into yarn. Watch herdsman, Steve Wetmore, and his team of Border Collies herd sheep at 11:30 am, 1:30, and 3:30 pm. Children's farm art show and children's wool craft activities. Teago Volunteer Fire Dept. provides lunch. Admission: adults: \$12; over 62: \$11; children 5-15: \$6; 3-4: \$3; under 3: free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Freelance Family Singers Spring Concert. Guest appearance by University Chorus of the Upper Valley. Directed by Ellen Satterwaite. Free admission. Donations of non-perishable items for the food shelf welcomed. 3 pm. First Congregational Church of Woodstock on Elm St. (802) 457-3980.

TUESDAY, MAY 8

CHESTER. Awareness Through Movement Class. With Lisa Nash. Free. 7-8 pm. Peace of Paradise, 78 the Common. Call to pre-register. (802) 875-8008. www.peaceofparadisevt.com.

HUNTINGTON. Children's Storytime in the Nestling Nook. Join us for stories about birds and more. Intended for pre-schoolers but all ages are welcome. Stories are followed by a craft project, music or nature walk, depending on the topic and the weather. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 10:30-11:30 am. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

MIDDLEBURY. Performance: African Music and Dance Ensemble. Free. 8-10 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, 97 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. middlebury.edu/events.

WHEELOCK. Butter, Yogurt & Mozzarella-Making Workshop. A raw dairy processing class with Tamara Martin and cow's milk. \$20-40 sliding scale, pre-registration required. Proceeds benefit Rural Vermont. 1-4 pm at Chandler Pond Farm. To sign up call Rural Vermont at (802) 223-7222 or email shelby@ruralvermont.org.

WOODSTOCK. Spring Activity Time on the Farm. Read the delightful tale of *Woolbur* then visit our flock of newly shorn Southdowns, work with their wool, and enjoy a tasty treat. For age 3 and up. Admission \$5 per person. 9-10:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also May 16, 23 & 30.*

Vermont Country Calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 10

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

FRIDAY, MAY 11

BELLOWS FALLS. Farmers Market. Local produce, meats, eggs, cheese, prepared foods, and entertainment. "No Gardener Left Behind" Expo with mini-workshops sponsored in part by Post-Oil Solutions. Every Friday 4-7 pm. (802) 463-2018. www.bffarmersmarket.com. *May 11 - October 19.*

HINESBURG. Book & Author Event. Vermont Author Doug Wilhelm presents his new young adult book, True Shoes, about cyberbullying. Free. 1 pm. Brown Dog Books & Gifts, Firehouse Plaza. (802) 482-5189. brown-dog-books-and-gifts.com. www.longstridebooks.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Arts Walk. More than 40 venues will be displaying art. Stores remain open, becoming galleries displaying the work of dozens of area artists. 5-7 pm. Free. Downtown Middlebury. (802) 388-7951 x 2. info@middleburyartswalk.com. www.middleburyartswalk.com. *Second Fridays through October.*

MIDDLEBURY. Performance: Spiritual Choir. Directed by Francois Clemmons. Free. 8-10 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, 97 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. www.middlebury.edu/events.

QUECHEE. Vermont Drinking Water Fair. Join VINS and the Rural Water Association for Vermont's celebration of National Drinking Water Week! Displays, games, nature walks, dowsing demonstrations, goodie bag. Reservations required. 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 5. (802) 241-3424. vermontdrinkingwaterweek@gmail.com. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. Performance: Ken Waldman, Alaska's Fiddling Poet. A highly regarded act that weaves together old-time music with timeless storytelling. Cash bar available. Tickets \$16. Call the box office at (802) 728-6464. 7:30 pm in the Esther Mesh Room, Upper Gallery at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org. www.kenwaldman.com.

NORTH TUNBRIDGE. Contra Dance. Open to the public, all dances taught, no partner necessary, children welcome. Refreshments available. Hosted by the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. Admission \$5. 7:30-10:30 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, 271 Rt. 110. (802) 436-2444. clydo46@gmail.com. edlarkincontradancers.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Play: *The Mousetrap* by Agatha Christie. A classic murder mystery. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. West Rutland Town Hall Theater. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.marblevalleyplayers.org. *Also May 12.*

SATURDAY, MAY 12

BURLINGTON. 27th Annual Kid's Day. Activities for everyone! Sponsored by Burlington Parks and Recreation. Train rides at Main Street Station on Lower College St. Admission \$1. 10 am - 3:30 pm. At Battery Park. (802) 864-0123. www.enjoyburlington.com.

CASTLETON. Green Mountain Conservation Camp Spring Cleanup Weekend. Volunteers needed. Meals will be provided, and people are welcome to stay overnight in the cabins, or they are welcome to bring tents or campers. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has been teaching 12-16 year old kids about the outdoors at these popular camps for more than 40 years. At Kehoe Conservation Camp on the west shore of Lake Bomoseen. For information call VT Fish and Wildlife Dept. at (802) 479-1116, or email FWGMCC@state.vt.us. *Also May 13.*

CRAFTSBURY. Concert: Michele Choiniere with her band. Michele blends traditional Franco-American and Quebec folk songs, original compositions, jazz standards, and covers of well-known artists (e.g. Edith Piaf) backed up by her band, a group of some of Vermont's best musicians including Will Patton on mandolin, David Gusakov on fiddle and Dono Schabner on guitar. \$10 general, \$5 seniors and students, kids free. 8 pm. The Music Box, 147 Creek Rd. (802) 586-7533. www.themusicboxvt.org.

DERBY. Youth Farm Safety Mini-Camp. UVM Extension is offering mini-camps for youth ages 12-15 on tractor safety, ATV, livestock, woodlot, farm first aid and more. Scholarships available. For more info contact Kristen. mullins@uvm.edu. (802) 656-2034. *Also May 13.*

EAST CHARLESTON. Art, Plant and Craft Fair. Exclusively handmade and Vermont-made products, including jewelry, photography, paintings, woodcrafts, garden plants, jams/preserves, soaps, Master Gardener's info, and Eden Ice Cider! Free. 10 am - 4 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

HUNTINGTON. Green Mountain Wood Carvers Carve-In. Monthly meeting and carve-in. Observe and learn. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 10 am - 2 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

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

HUNTINGTON. Managing Your Woods with Birds in Mind: a Workshop for Small Woodland Owners. Audubon Vermont Conservation Biologists and local County Foresters team up to lead a full-day, bird-focused woodland management workshop. Learn bird identification by sight and sound. Hands-on lessons in easy bird habitat assessment. Explore forestry practices that integrate management for timber and birds. Field tour of a planned harvest at the Audubon Center—come prepared for an off-trail walk in the woods. Coffee and refreshments; bring your own lunch. Fee: \$45. 9 am - 4 pm (coffee and registration at 8:30 am). Education Barn at Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Pre-registration required. (802) 434-3068. vermont@audubon.org. Visit www.vt.audubon.org.

LEBANON, NH. Concert. Upper Valley Community Band presented Horns a Plenty. Tickets at the door. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

Green Living

www.GreenLivingJournal.com

A Practical Journal for Friends of the Environment

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Londonderry Chamber of Commerce: 802-824-8178
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www.basinbluegrassfestival.com

Springtime Activities at Shelburne Farms

Shelburne Farms was created as a model agricultural estate in 1886 by William Seward and Lila Vanderbilt Webb. In 1972, it became an educational nonprofit. Today it is an environmental education center, 1,400-acre working farm, and National Historic Landmark on the shores of Lake Champlain in Shelburne, VT. The nearly 400 acres of woodlands are Green Certified from the American Tree Farm System. The grass-based dairy has 125 purebred, registered Brown Swiss cows whose milk is transformed into an award-winning farmhouse cheddar cheese here on the property.

Shelburne Farms visitors may enjoy the walking trails, children's farmyard, inn, restaurant, property tours and special events. Here are some of the many activities offered during May. Plan to come and spend a day at the farm.

Dairy Day at the Farm! Sunday, May 6, 1-4 pm. Fee: \$5/car; walkers free. No registration necessary. Location: the dairy. Come see our dairy where our Brown Swiss Cow herd makes the milk for our yummy farmhouse cheddar. Explore the barns, visit the calves, take a wagon ride and try your hand at milking a cow. Then see the milking parlor in action on this special day!

Of Cows, Caves, and Cheese. Friday-Sunday, May 11-13. Fee: \$350/person. To register call Hilary Sunderland at: (802) 985-0342, or hsunderland@shelburnefarms.org. Take a journey into artisanal cheese-making. Begin at Shelburne Farms with a pasture walk, farm tour, and visit to the dairy at milking time. Make cheddar cheese with the Farm's cheesemakers (we'll age it and ship it to you in time for the holidays!) Then travel to the Northeast Kingdom for a rare opportunity to see The Cellars at Jasper Hill, a revolutionary cave aging facility built into a rocky hillside.

International Migratory Bird Day at Shelburne Farms. Saturday, May 12, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free, no registration required. Rain date: May 13. This year's International Migratory Bird Day theme, "Connecting People to Bird Conservation." Join us at the kennel to introduce both young and old to birding and bird conservation. There will be live bird presentations, bird walks and a variety of fun birding related activities. Environment for the Americas coordinates the day.



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Vermont Foods & Maple Products
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Spring Hours: 10 am - 4 pm
Daily May 23 to October 31: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Green Mountain Draft Horse Beginner Driving Clinic. Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 13, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fees include lunch and light breakfast both days. Both days: \$145, Saturday only, \$90; Sunday only, \$85. To register: download sign-up sheet at www.greenmountaindraft.org, call (802) 877-6802 or e-mail Jean@greenmountaindraft.org. Learn the basics of draft horses, and how to harness and ground drive, while focusing on safety working around these large animals (horses provided!) On Sunday, get in a cart or wagon, drive an obstacle course, then take turns driving on a horse-drawn tour of the farm (Sunday prerequisite is to have taken class on Saturday or in the past.)

Green Mountain Draft Horse Plow Day. Sunday, May 13, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free with admission to property. Teamster registration: download sign-up at www.greenmountaindraft.org, call (802) 877-6802 or e-mail Jean@greenmountaindraft.org. Watch and learn the art of plowing with draft animals. Teamsters, bring your draft animals and plow.

Sun to Cheese Tour. Wednesday, May 16 (and the second Wednesday of every month through October), 2-4 p.m. Fee: \$15/person includes a block of cheese. To register call (802) 985-8686. A behind-the-scenes look at dairy farming and cheesemaking! Hear our farmers and cheesemakers explain the process of turning fresh milk into farmhouse cheddar; tour the dairy and taste cheese with the cheesemakers. The tours will meet at the Welcome Center.

Amazing Amphibians! Saturday, May 19, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m. Fee: \$12/parent & child, \$6/each additional child. Spring is a perfect time to discover Vermont frogs and salamanders! We will hike into their favorite habitats and search for these incredible creatures from egg to adult. Bring your mud boots for some pond dipping fun!

Bird Walk. Thursday, May 24, 7-9 a.m. Fee: \$6/person. To register call (802) 985-8686. Celebrate the return of the dawn chorus. Join naturalist Matt Kolan to explore shrubland, grassland, wetland and forest habitats in search on the sights and sounds of our feathered friends.

Shelburne Farms is located at 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7 in Shelburne, VT. The Welcome Center, where tours begin, is open 9-5:30 p.m. from May 7 on. The children's farmyard and farm tours reopen for the season on May 12. General admission: adults \$8, seniors \$6, 3-17 \$5, and under 3 free. For more info call (802) 985-8686, info@shelburnefarms.org. Visit www.shelburnefarms.org.

RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



Summer Hours: Wed-Sun 12-5, Mon-Tue closed.

765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT
(802) 483-6700 • www.rchsvt.org

Vermont Country Calendar

MANCHESTER. Free Bird Walk. The Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. For info call Randy Schmidt at (802) 362-2270 or email randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. Meet at 8 am at the Welcome Center parking lot. Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7961. www.hildene.org.

MANCHESTER. Workshop: Planning and Maintenance of a Butterfly Garden. Led by Cindy Lewis. Free. Check in at Welcome Center. 10-11 am. Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7960. www.hildene.org.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy. Enjoy live music and experience movement and community with these traditional social dances easily learned by young and old alike. No partner necessary, beginners and singles always welcome. All dances taught and called. Potluck finger food desserts at the break. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8 (students \$5, under 16 are free, seniors by donation). 8 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. For info call Rick Barrows (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Also June 9.

ORWELL. Early Bird Nature Walk. Sue Wetmore introduces you to the birds of spring. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. No pets please. Admission: adults \$5, children under 15 free. Meet in front of the Museum at 8 am. Mount Independence State Historic Site on Mount Independence Rd., off Rt. 73. (802) 948-2000. www.historicvermont.org.

QUECHEE. Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. Paint bird nest boxes, live bird programs, super bird quest kick off with Valley Quest and more! Raffle for a Songbird nest box and a Kestrel/Owl nest box. Free and open to the public. 10 am – 3 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 5. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org. www.birdday.org.

RANDOLPH. Classical Concert with Pianist Paul Shaw. A solo recital by the acclaimed artists followed by a reception in the Gallery. Tickets \$26.50/\$10. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUPERT. Forestry for the Birds. Bring your binoculars and field guide to this early morning workshop. You'll learn about the specific forest management techniques applied in Merck's newest patch-cut and how these techniques can create and sustainable nesting site for migrating birds. Fee: \$5. 7-10 am. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Plant and Rummage Sale. Clothing and household items, perennial plants and houseplants, rain or shine. Free items for kids. 9 am – 2 pm. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1 Hillside Rd. (802) 775-7119.

RUTLAND. Downtown Rutland Farmers Market. Over 90 vendors, ethnic foods, music. Grass fed meats, locally grown veggies, apples, fresh baked breads and pastries. Maple syrup, dog treats, pickles, jams, jellies, cheeses, wine tasting, local crafters and artisans. Have lunch, meet friends, visit. Dogs welcome on leash. Located outside in downtown Rutland at Depot Park. 9 am till 2 pm. For info call Sherry at (518) 282-9781. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through October 27.

RUTLAND. "The Deadliest Catch." A rare, live, interactive event bringing the Bering Sea's toughest crew to Rutland. Tickets: \$54.50/\$74.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Special Fishing Day. For children up to age 13. Hosted by The Rutland Kiwanis Club and the Rutland Recreation & Parks Department. Fish will be provided by the Vermont Fish & Game Department. A parent/guardian must accompany the child. Prizes awarded in various categories. Free. 8:30 am – noon at Combination Pond on Sharon Dr. (802) 773-1853.

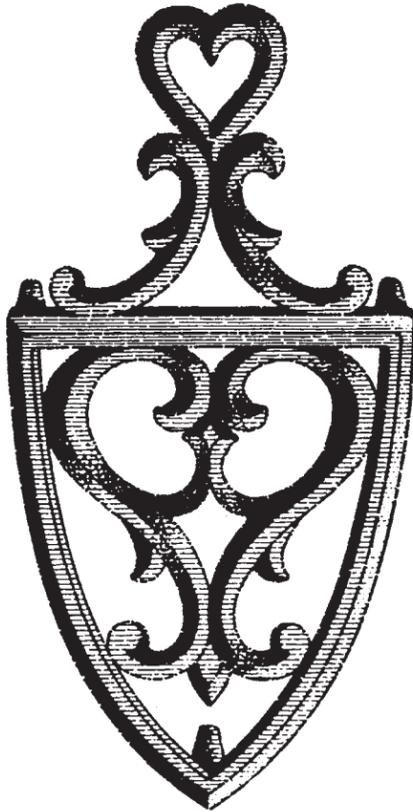
SHARON. Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market at Sharon Elementary School. Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm, May 12. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vfoster@myfairpoint.net.

SOUTH WALLINGFORD. Chicken & Biscuits Dinner. \$8 per person. 4 pm. Maple Wallingford Grange #318 on Route 7.

TINMOUTH. 28th Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale. Tinmouth and greenhouse-grown perennials, herbs and veggie perennials (rhubarb this year, two types), roses, ground covers and shrubs at incredibly reasonable prices. Car wash, lunch items, baked goods, book sale and many other diversions to make the trip well worth it. This is a benefit for the Tinmouth School, and the Tinmouth Community Fund Scholarship fund. 11 am – 1 pm, no early birds. At Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, five miles west of Wallingford. (802) 446-2928. eworks@vermontel.net. www.Tinmouthvt.org.

THETFORD. Farmers Market. Produce, meat, maple syrup, candy, baked goods, quilts, jewelry, woodenware and more. 9 am – 12 pm. On Thetford Hill at the American Legion across from the Elementary School.

TOWNSHEND. Grace Cottage Hospital "Spring Into Health" 5K. \$15 adults, \$10 for ages 13 and under. T-shirt for first 150 sign-ups. 8:30 am. Townshend Common and Leland & Gray High School, Rt. 30. (802) 365-9109.



WEST RUTLAND. Spring Healing and Informative Event. Healers, authors, psychics, mediums, therapists, musicians. Herbal lemonade. Small admission fee. 11 am – 4 pm. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 236-3023.

WEST RUTLAND. Annual Town Wide Yard Sale. Throughout town and on the Town Hall lawn. 8 am – 2 pm. For more info call the town office at (802) 438-2263.

WEST RUTLAND. Play: *The Mousetrap* by Agatha Christie. A classic murder mystery. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. West Rutland Town Hall Theater. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.marblevalleyplayers.org.

WINDSOR. Workshop: "Growing Asparagus." Learn how to be successful and get the most from your perennial asparagus patch. Proper bed preparation, mulching and fertilizing will be discussed. Roots available for sale. Free. 10:30 am – 12 pm at Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilk.com. ciderhillgardens.com.

WALLINGFORD. Chicken BBQ. Menu: barbecued chicken, salad, baked beans, rolls, dessert. Eat-in or take-out. Cost: Adults \$10, children \$5, chicken-only \$5. Starting at noon. Wallingford Volunteer Fire Department, Depot St.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

BRANDON. Sunday Jazz at Brandon Music. Gerry Beaudoin, "straight-ahead" jazz guitar. Our famous desserts during intermission. Early Bird dinner offering from 4-6 pm, consisting of chili, cornbread, and dessert of your choice, all for \$10. Tickets \$18 at the door, \$15 pre-paid. 7 pm. Brandon Music Café at Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. brandon-music.net.

BRANDON. Mother's Day Lunch with Live Music. Featuring harpist Margie Bekoff. Seatings are from 11:30 am until 4 pm in the Music Café. \$20 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and under includes appetizer, entrée and dessert of their choice. Coffee or tea are included, and guests may bring their own wine. Reservations required. Call (802) 465-4071 or email info@brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. Concert: "The Harmonious Mr. Handel." Presented by The Oriana Singers, William Metcalfe, conductor. Tickets \$25, students & children \$10. 4 pm. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St. (802) 864-0471. info@CathedralArts.org. www.CathedralArts.org.

CHESTER. Green Mountain Express Hosts an Open Mike Country Jamboree. Bands and singles welcome. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. Raffle and 50/50 tickets on sale at the door. \$5 donation at the door. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rts. 10 and 103N. For info call Bonnie at (802) 875-3500. *Continues on second Saturdays.*

DERBY LINE. Quintessentials Classics. Performances by Ballet Arts and the Newport Area Orchestra Haskell Opera House, 93 Caswell Ave. (802) 334-2216.

EAST HARDWICK. Mother's Day Tea. There will be a special menu for the day, and complimentary nosegays for every mum. Seating is limited, and reservations are required. 11 am – 4 pm. Perennial Pleasures Nursery and Tea Garden, 63 Brick House Rd. (802) 472-5104. annex@perennialpleasures.net. www.perennialpleasures.net.

FAIR HAVEN. American Legion Post #49 Mother's Day Buffet Breakfast. Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, ham pancakes, french toast, hash, home fries, sausage drinks. \$7 adult, \$3.50 children. 8-11 am. 72 S. Main St. (802) 265-7983.



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. Launches "Got Bats?" Campaign

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is seeking information on summer bat colonies around the state.

Vermont's cave-bat species continue to struggle due to the deadly effects of White-Nose Syndrome. As a result, two species were added to the state endangered species list last July, the little brown bat and the northern long-eared bat. Little brown bats prefer to raise their young in warm attics and barns over the summer. To learn more about the size and location of colonies around the state, the Fish & Wildlife is relying on citizens to report groups of bats found in buildings this summer.

"When White-Nose Syndrome hit, Vermonters were a tremendous help to the Fish & Wildlife Department by reporting sick and dying bats," says state wildlife technician Alyssa Bennett. "These reports helped us track the progression of the disease.

Now we are calling on Vermonters again to help us monitor a species that lives so close to many of us but has declined to only 5-10 percent of their former population. By mapping summer colonies across the state, we hope to gain better understanding of their health and develop a

plan for the little brown bat's conservation and recovery."

The "Got Bats?" campaign will continue throughout the spring and summer. Vermonters are urged to report bat colonies living in buildings by filling out a "Bat Colony Reporting" form by going to "You Can Help Vermont's Bats" on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's homepage, www.vtfishandwildlife.com, or by contacting Alyssa Bennett at (802) 786-0098.

In addition, biologists are seeking citizen scientists to help monitor local colonies. Instructions for volunteering are on the website, along with information on White-nose Syndrome, rabies, bat houses, and other frequently asked questions. The department also provides technical assistance to homeowners seeking to safely exclude unwanted colonies from their home.

For more information contact Alyssa Bennett at the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Rutland regional office at 271 North Main St., Suite 215, Rutland, VT 05701, by phone at (802) 786-0098, or by email at alyssa.bennett@state.vt.us. Visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(May 13, continued)

FERRISBURGH. Opening Day at Rokeby Museum, a National Historic Landmark, one of the best-documented Underground Railroad sites in the country. Twenty filmmakers have pooled their talent to create "The Vermont Movie"—a multi-part epic of Vermont history and culture. Joins us to debut the first part, covering abolition, African-American history, and the Underground Railroad in Vermont. Filmmakers will be on hand to answer questions afterwards. Program at 2 pm. Admission fee: \$6 adults, \$4 seniors/students, \$2 children 12 and under. Rokeby Museum, Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org. May 13 through October 14.

HUNTINGTON. Sunday for Fledglings. Kids (K-3rd graders, especially) are invited to hike, create, explore, carve, act, write, and investigate with us on Sunday afternoons. Free with admission, donations for materials very welcome. Often outdoors (rain and shine). Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 2-3 pm. Pre-registration helpful. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

HUNTINGTON. Early Birders Morning Walk. Join us for an early morning ramble in the forest and meadows led by expert birders. Enjoy the start of the day with us, the birds, and other woodland inhabitants. Finish the walk with bird-friendly coffee at the viewing window inside the Museum. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Appropriate for adults and older children. Free, donations welcome. Pre-registration helpful. 7-8:30 am. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

MANCHESTER. Café Mamie Opens for the Third Season. Chef Mariah Macfarlane will be serving brunch from 11 am - 3 pm. Reservations are highly recommended. Call (802) 366-8298. Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. www.svac.org.

PAWLET. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Annual Mother's Day Brunch. Pancakes with real maple syrup, eggs, bacon, sausage, home fried potatoes and muffins along with coffee, tea and milk. \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. 8-11 am at the Pawlet Firehouse on Rte. 133 in Pawlet Village (802) 325-3222.

TUNBRIDGE. Breakfast & Bake Sale. The Tunbridge Recreation Committee and the Tunbridge Central School 8th grade class will host a breakfast and a bake sale. 8 am - 12 pm. Tunbridge Town Hall, Rt. 110. (802) 889-3310. Continues second Sundays of each month.

VERGENNES. Mother's Day Tea. Treat your Mom to a lovely proper four-course tea. Reservations are required. \$25 per person, plus tax and gratuity. 1 pm. Strong House Inn, 94 West Main St. (802) 877-3337. www.stronghouseinn.com.

WEST HAVEN. Devils Bowl Speedway holds a Mothers Day Special. Grandstand admission adults (age 13 or older) \$10, seniors 62+ \$9, kids under 12 free. 1:30 pm. Devils Bowl Speedway, 2743 Rt. 22A. (802) 265-3112.

WINDSOR. Mother's Day at Cider Hill. Bring Mother and the family along for our garden tour to celebrate the return of woodland, wildflowers and primroses. Free plant for Mother and plant specials all day! Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd. (800) 232-4337. www.ciderhillgardens.com.

WINDSOR. Annual Put-in-Your-Garden Sale. Herbs and vegetable plant sale. Free culinary herbs print with \$200 purchase. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd. (800) 232-4337. www.ciderhillgardens.com.

MONDAY, MAY 14

LEBANON, NH. Concert with Gordon Lightfoot. A benefit for Cover Home Repair. Tickets \$69.50/\$59.50/\$49.50. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

RUTLAND. Downtown Rutland Farmers Market. Locally grown veggies, grass fed meats, apples, fresh baked breads and pastries. Maple syrup, dog treats, pickles, jams, jellies, cheeses, wine tasting, local crafters and artisans. Vendors, ethnic foods, music. Dogs welcome on leash. Located outside in downtown Rutland at Depot Park. 3 pm till 6 pm. For information call Sherry at (518) 282-9781. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. www.rutlandcountyfarmersmarket.org. June through October.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

SWANTON. Community Breakfasts at Holy Trinity. Fee: \$2.50. 7-9 am. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185 x 10. holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. www.holytrinityswanton.org.

WILDER. Rural Vermont's 27th Annual Meeting. Keynote speaker Ben Hewitt, author of *Making Supper Safe: One Man's Quest to Learn the Truth About Food Safety*. Finger food potluck, live music, cash bar, annual meeting, farm fresh five raffle, and more! Fee: \$5-\$10 sliding scale. 6-9:30 pm. At The Wilder Center. To reserve call Rural Vermont at (802) 223-7222 or email shelby@ruralvermont.org. www.ruralvermont.org.

WOODSTOCK. Spring Activity Time on the Farm. Read *Pancakes, Pancakes* then visit the animals that provide the ingredients for making pancakes. Age 3 and up. Admission \$5 per person. 9-10:30 am. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

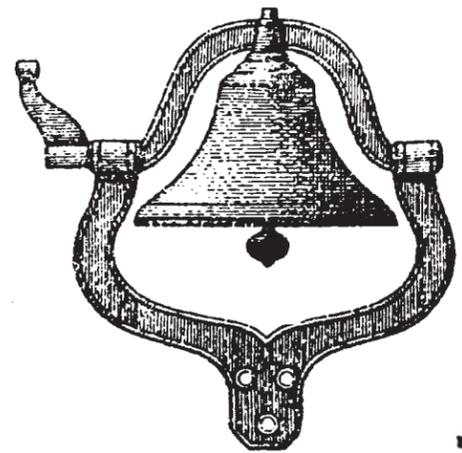
BENNINGTON. Workshop: Butterflies Everywhere! With Terri Armata and Bruce Evey. The area's foremost expert on butterflies and the Director of OWCC team up to lead a program on butterflies, their life cycles, plants and gardens that attract them. Admission free. 7-9 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 US Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. oneworldconservationcenter.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

BENNINGTON. Kerry Ryer-Parke. Eclectic folk and contemporary music. Admission. 8 pm. Meetinghouse Cafe of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 108 School St. (802) 440-9816. info@uubennington.org. uubennington.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Free Library Book Sale. Huge annual sale, over 15,000 titles. Preview sale, 6-9 pm, \$10 admission. First Baptist Church, Main St. (802) 442-9051. www.benningtonfreelibrary.org. Also May 19.

RANDOLPH. Performance by The Next Generation. Hear outstanding young musicians perform. Tickets \$19/\$13. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.



Springtime Dandelion Recipes

Traditional Pennsylvania German Recipe for DANDELION GRAVY

½ lb. ham, diced small	2 Tbsp. flour
3-4 cups buttermilk	1 lb. fresh dandelion greens
2 eggs, beaten	boiled potatoes

Brown diced ham in an 8" to 10" skillet and add buttermilk. Beat eggs with flour, thinned with a small amount of buttermilk to eliminate lumpiness. Add eggs and flour to the skillet and bring to a boil. Put washed, chopped dandelions into the skillet. Let the mixture return to a boil and boil for 2 minutes. Serve over boiled potatoes or if you are so inclined, you can serve it on toast or mashed potatoes.

—Hilda Naftzger

FRIED DANDELION BLOSSOMS WITH HONEY

fully opened dandelion blossoms	½ tsp. baking powder
1 cup milk	½ tsp. salt
1 egg, beaten	honey to taste
1 cup flour	

Choose only fully opened blooms, being sure to remove all of the bitter stem. Next, thoroughly combine the milk, egg, flour, baking powder, salt, and honey in a bowl. Dip the blossoms into batter and drop into hot oil over a medium heat. Fry until golden brown. Remove and drain on absorbent paper. Serve hot or cold.

DANDELION FLOWER JELLY

1 qt. dandelion blossoms (without stems)	
2½ cups water	1 tsp. lemon or orange extract
1 package Sure-Jell	4½ cups sugar

In the early morning, pick blossoms. Remove and discard the stems. Wash the flowers well and then boil the blossoms in the water for 3 minutes. Drain off 3 cups of the liquid and discard the blossoms. Add Sure-Jell, lemon or orange extract, and sugar. Boil for 3 minutes, then skim off the foam on top. Put in jars and seal. Its taste resembles honey and is good on any bread.

—Mrs. Joe L. Miller

BASIC DANDELION CROWNS

The small white section of the dandelion which connects roots and leaves is called the "crown." It, too, is good eating. It lacks the bitterness of the leaves and tastes a bit like artichoke and asparagus combined. When you clean your dandelions, save the crowns in a separate bowl and prepare according to the recipe below to serve as a separate side dish.

fresh dandelion crowns	salt to taste
(about 6 per person)	fresh ground pepper

butter or margarine

Put washed dandelion crowns into a pot with water just to cover. Bring to a boil, simmer for 5 minutes, strain, and repeat, this time adding a dash of salt to the water. Strain, return to the pot with a pat of butter and a dash of freshly ground pepper. Heat slowly until butter melts and serve.

—Frank Good

These recipes are excerpted from *The Dandelion Celebration: A Guide to Unexpected Cuisine* by Peter Gail, published by Goosefoot Acres Press, PO Box 18016, Cleveland OH 44118-0016. It is available for \$10.95 from the publisher.

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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. Vegetarian dinner 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance at 6 pm; potluck dessert at 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-10:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation includes dinner, under 18 free. Temporary dance venue: Masonic Lodge on Rt. 4, 1/4 mile east of the Green. (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

ADDISON. New Lake Champlain Bridge Celebration. Living history encampment and historic crafts and skills demonstrations showing the range of Chimney Point history, children's activities, special presentations, and organizations. Parade, boat flotilla, music, evening dance, and more. Free admission. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 7305 Rt. 125. (802) 759-2412. HistoricVermont.org/chimneypoint. Also May 20.

BELLOWS FALLS. Rockingham Library Benefit Plant Sale. Native plants and shrubs, bulbs, perennials, annuals, vegetable starts, herbs, ground covers, trees, bamboo and ornamental grasses You can contribute – ready to dig into your garden and start dividing plants? Donate your extra plants to Friends of the Rockingham Library for this sale. The library will also be holding an all-day book sale the same day. 8 am – noon. At the Masonic Temple. 463-4270. friends@rockinghamlibrary.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Free Library Book Sale. Huge annual sale, over 15,000 titles. Well organized, easy browsing. Free admission. 9 am – 4 pm. First Baptist Church, Main St. (802) 442-9051.

BENNINGTON. Second Annual Native Plant Sale. Purchase Native Plants from Project Native for your gardens. Pre-orders, day of sale purchase, and special orders available. Consultants on hand. Check out our Butterfly Garden Packages! Admission free, donations appreciated. 10 am – 2 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 US Rte 7 South. (802) 447-7419. www.oneworldconservationcenter.org.

BETHEL. 6th Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair. Postcard, book, ephemera, sports memorabilia and stamp dealers. Bethel Historical Society will have a table with books, as well as maps and postcards for sale. Historical exhibits featuring old pictures, postcards and other interesting items will be on display. The Bethel Historical Society will issue a very limited number of a special postage stamp, with a Civil War theme. The United States Postal Service will be operating a temporary Post Office station on site from 11 am – 2 pm and will cancel mail or other collectible items, with a special show cancellation commemorating tropical storm "Irene." Delicious home cooked food in the lobby by the Whitcomb High School Boosters. Hosted by the Bethel Historical Society of Bethel, VT. Free admission. 9 am – 3 pm at the Whitcomb High School (gymnasium), 273 Pleasant St. (802) 234-5064, nick@nikolaidis.com.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir: American Idols. The music of Eric Whitacre, Moses Hogan, and Alice Parker. 7:30 pm. First Baptist Church. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org. Also May 20.

EAST CHARLESTON. Hummingbird Havens. Come learn about hummingbirds, the jewels of the sky. Discover the incredible journey these little marvels take, their unique physiology, and what you can do to bring them into your garden and your life. Topics include feeder maintenance and placement, non-invasive nectar producers and strategies for meeting hummingbird's needs throughout the season. Fee: \$5. 10 am – 12 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

EAST THETFORD. Gardening Class: This Rots!—Demystifying Compost. With Cat Buxton and Nic Cook. Fee: \$20. 12-2 pm at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. www.cedarcirclefarm.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. Civil War in Vermont Bus Tour. Join Civil War historian and author Howard Coffin as we take a bus tour throughout the Vermont side of the Slate Valley to rediscover our own community and its importance to the Union effort. Fee: \$50. Sign up on our website or call Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

GROTON. Groton Growers Farmers Market. Locally grown seasonal produce, hand made arts & crafts, specialty foods, and more. 10 am – 2 pm. Groton Community Building, Rt. 302. (802) 584-3595.

HUNTINGTON. Bird Day Festival. Celebrate the return of migratory birds to Vermont with Audubon Vermont and the Birds of Vermont Museum. The day will be jam packed with activities, including: admission to the Birds of Vermont museum, a live bird presentation, live music, bird walks, children's programs, art projects, raffles and more! Admission \$2. 9 am – 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

NEWPORT. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Uncorking Spring! A casual evening of music, wine tastings, hors d'oeuvres, raffles, and door prizes to support the VSO's Symphony Kids Educational Outreach programs. 5-7 pm. Bean Thai Cuisine, 158 Main St. For info or tickets call (802) 870-9293 x 25. www.vso.org.

NORTHEAST KINGDOM. Farm to Yarn Tour Weekend. Free two-day event! Visit fiber producing farms and learn about where local fiber originates and how the animals are lovingly raised and cared for. Tours, meeting the critters, knitting and spinning demos and more. Visit one or several farms as you choose. Refreshments and additional demonstrations will be available at Mountain Fiber Folk in Montgomery. 10 am – 5 pm. For information call (802) 626-8511. assist@travelthekingdom.com. Also May 20.

PITTSFORD. Rutland County Humane Society Yard Sale. Fundraiser and bake sale. 9 am – 2 pm, at RCHS, 765 Stevens Rd. (802) 483-9171. rchsvt.org.

SHELburne. Civil War Weekend—Battle of Shelburne Crossroads. A Civil War Encampment with two days of battles, infantry, cavalry and artillery demonstrations, and soldier and 19th-century Civilian camp life. Free. 9 am – 5 pm. At the crossroads of Harbor and Bay Rds. (802) 879-3490. cvhri@comcast.net. www.cvhri.com. Also May 20.

SO. BURLINGTON. 17th Annual Bloomtime Festival. Come awaken your senses to the scents of lilacs, flowering crabapples, magnolias and more! Perennials, lilacs and gardening books will be on sale. UVM Greenhouse and Common Ground will be on hand selling indoor and veggie starter plants. Open to the public. Free. 10 am – 3 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WALLINGFORD. 14th Annual Wallingford Community Bike Safety Day: "Cycles Along." This fun, interactive event has something for all ages. Prize give-a-ways, face painting, refreshments and much more. 10 am – 1 pm at the Wallingford Elementary School. For more information call Russ Lattuca at (802) 446-2693 or Rodney Ward at (802) 446-3672.

WESTMINSTER. Spring Outing. Short hike to the Pinnacle. Sponsored by the Brattleboro Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free, non-members welcome. For more information call Dot MacDonald at (802) 257-7657. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WINDSOR. Workshop: Growing Blueberries and Raspberries. Learn how to get the most out of your berry plants. Growing tips, planting, mulching, pruning and fertilizing will be discussed. Berry plants for sale. Free. 10:30 am – 12 pm at Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com.

WOODBURY. Green Mountain Conservation Camp Spring Cleanup Weekend. Volunteers are needed. Meals will be provided, and people are welcome to stay overnight in the cabins, or they are welcome to bring tents or campers. The Fish and Wildlife Department has been teaching 12-16 year old kids about the outdoors at these popular camps for more than 40 years. Buck Lake Conservation Camp off Rt. 14. For info call (802) 479-1116, or email FWGMCC@state.vt.us. Also May 20.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

ADDISON. New Lake Champlain Bridge Celebration. Living history encampment and historic crafts and skills demonstrations showing the range of Chimney Point history, children's activities, special presentations, and organizations showing what the area has to offer. Festivities culminate in fireworks. Free admission. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 7305 Rt. 125. (802) 759-2412. HistoricVermont.org/chimneypoint.

BRANDON. Sunday Jazz at Brandon Music. Israeli-born Benny Sharoni, master saxophonist. Our famous desserts during intermission at special fixed price. Early Bird dinner offering from 4-6 pm, consisting of chili, cornbread, and dessert of your choice, all for \$10. Tickets \$18 at the door, \$15 pre-paid. 7 pm. Brandon Music Café at Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Concert Choir: American Idols. The music of Eric Whitacre, Moses Hogan, and Alice Parker. 3 pm. First Baptist Church. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Sapsucker Sunday Birding Series. Whether you're hoping to improve your ID skills or just want to share the pleasure of bird watching, these outings will start your Sunday off right! We'll exploring the rich diversity of warblers, thrushes, and other species that enrich our Northeast Kingdom biodiversity. Binoculars and field guides available. All are welcome. Fee: \$10. 7-9 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org. Also May 27.

EAST THETFORD. Gardening Class: Create!—Flower Design Basics. Led by Cat Buxton. Fee: \$20. 12-2 pm at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. www.cedarcirclefarm.org.

FERRISBURGH. Rokeby Museum Opening Day. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby@comcast.net. www.rokeby.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. Performance: Civil War Widow, Rebecca Cameron. Portrayed by Maxine Getty. Free, donations accepted. 2 pm. Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.



MORNING SCHEDULE: EARLY MAY

Cat gets me up at 4:30.
Wants to go out. Back to bed 'til 5:00, can't sleep, might as well get up.

Make tea, get back in bed, read some ancient Chinese poems, maybe write a poem myself. Up again at 6:00.

Fry two eggs, toast, a big hunk of rye, butter, jam. Get dressed for the woods, over-alls, boots, gloves and so on. Head out in

the early morning light: 7:00. Chilly, in the 30s. Drop some trees, stack brush, stack blocks of wood, a couple hours.

See Spring Beauty on my way home. Five little petals in a whorl white and purple-striped: brilliant pink. Five filaments with purple anthers in a

perfect circle. Nothing fearful about this symmetry. Oh, little almost-not-there beauty, hello sweet flower. Welcome back.

—DAVID BUDBILL

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Vermont Country Calendar

(May 20, continued)

HUNTINGTON. Sunday for Fledglings. Kids (K-3rd graders, especially) are invited to hike, create, explore, carve, act, write, and investigate with us on Sunday afternoons. Free with admission. Often outdoors (rain and shine). Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 2-3 pm. Pre-registration helpful. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

HUNTINGTON. Early Birders Morning Walk. Join us for an early morning ramble in the Birds of Vermont Museum forest and meadows. Led by experienced birders familiar with Vermont birds. Finish the walk with bird-friendly coffee at the viewing window inside the Museum. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Appropriate for adults and older children. Free, donations welcome. Pre-registration helpful but not required. 7-8:30 am. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: Camerata New England Presents Beethoven. Tickets \$32/\$25. 2 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

NORTHEAST KINGDOM. Farm to Yarn Tour Weekend. Free two-day event! Visit fiber producing farms and learn about where local fiber originates and how the animals are lovingly raised and cared for. Tours, meeting the critters, knitting and spinning demos and more. Visit one or several farms as you choose. Refreshments and additional demonstrations will be available at Mountain Fiber Folk in Montgomery. 10 am - 5 pm. For information call (802) 626-8511. assist@travelthekingdom.com.

SHELburne. Civil War Weekend—Battle of Shelburne Crossroads. A Civil War Encampment with battles, infantry, cavalry and artillery demonstrations, and soldier and 19th-century Civilian camp life. Free. 9 am - 5 pm. At the crossroads of Harbor and Bay Rds. (802) 879-3490. cvhri@comcast.net. www.cvhri.com.

STOWE. Concert: Bella Voce, "Songs of Wind and Waves." Vermont's premier women's chorus performs beautiful music of Brahms, Holst and Walker. Guest artist: Rebecca Kauffman, harp. Tickets \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and students. 3 pm. Stowe Community Church, 137 Main St. (802) 999-8881. director@bellavocevt.org. www.bellavocevt.org.

WALLINGFORD. Free Concert with The Needhams. 6:30 pm. First Baptist Church of Wallingford, School St.

MONDAY, MAY 21

MARLBORO. Spring Exploration. Museum Assistant Director Mike Clough will lead us on a walk around the Hogback Mountain Conservation Area. We'll look for frog eggs and tadpoles, porcupine sign and tracks in the mud; seeking out signs of spring. Kid's activities and family fun. Admission free. 4 pm. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

RANDOLPH CENTER. Workshop: Cottage Cheese and Yogurt Panna Cotta. A raw dairy processing class with Margaret Osha and cow's milk. \$20-40 sliding scale, pre-registration required. Proceeds benefit Rural Vermont. 1-4 pm at Turkey Hill Farm. To sign up call Rural Vermont at (802) 223-7222 or email shelby@ruralvermont.org. www.ruralvermont.org.

SO. BURLINGTON. Rhododendron Walk and Talk. Hal Bill and Ron Krupp offers a tour of the Hort Farm's Rhododendrons and Eastern U.S. Native Azalea collections in bloom. These "Jewels in the Crown" are one of the best collections in New England. Event is rain or shine. Fee \$10. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. info@friendsofthehortfarm.org. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Spring Activity Time on the Farm. Read *Then and Now*. We'll take a stroll through the museum exhibits and find the kitchen, general store, and schoolroom, play the "old fashioned" memory game, and enjoy an "old fashioned" snack! For age 3 and up. Admission \$5 per person. 9-10:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also May 30.

THURSDAY, MAY 24

HUNTINGTON. Feathered Frenzy for Pre-Schoolers. Join us as we learn how our feathered friends spend their spring. Discover the beauty of birdsongs as we hike through our forest and fields. We'll build nests, check out feathers, and marvel at the delicacy of bird eggs. 10-11 am. Sugarhouse Parking Area, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. Please pre-register. (802) 434-3068. Vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

JEFFERSONVILLE. Vermont Artisan Festival. A featuring the most talented and unique VT artists, craftsmen, musicians, performers and chefs. Free. Fri 3-6 pm, Sat & Sun 9 am-4 pm. Smugglers' Notch Resort, 4323 Rt. 108S. (802) 644-6506. nichole@cambridgeeventanddesign.com. www.vtartisanfestival.com. Through May 27.

LYNDONVILLE. Farmers Market. Fresh, local grown produce, homemade jams, jellies, baked goods, crafts, entertainment and more every Friday. 3-7 pm at Bandstand Park on Main St. www.lyndonfarmersmarket.com.

NEWPORT. Readings at the MAC Center for the Arts. Monthly gathering of poets, writers, and those who just want to enjoy and join in the conversation. Refreshments. 6-8 pm. MAC Center for the Arts, 158 Main St. (802) 334-1966. www.memphremagogartscollaborative.com.

PUTNEY. Yellow Barn presents Grisey's *Le Noir de l'Etoile*. For six percussionists placed around the audience. Adm. 8:16 pm. Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill Rd. (802) 387-6637. info@yellowbarn.org. yellowbarn.org.

SWANTON. Free Open Door Community Dinner. Free. 5:30-6:30 pm. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185 x 10. holytrinityepi@myfairpoint.net. www.holytrinityswanton.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. With Sarah Blair on fiddle and Brendan Taaffe on guitar. All dances taught and you do not need a partner. Beginners are always welcome. Admission is \$9, \$7 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, five miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718 or visit www.tinmouthvt.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

BELMONT. Baked Ham Supper. Menu: baked ham with all the fixings and home-baked pies for dessert. At the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont with settings starting at 5 pm and 6 pm. Served family style. Admission \$10 adults and \$5 children 11 years and under. For more information call (802) 259-3445.

BENNINGTON. 27th Annual Mayfest Arts & Crafts Festival. Main Street closes down for this largest event of the year. Over 150 juried arts and crafts vendors from all over the Northeast. Ethnic food, family activities, live entertainment, bazaar. Free admission. 10 am - 5 pm. (802) 442-5758. admin@betterbennington.com. www.betterbennington.com.

CASTLETON. Open Studio Weekend at Karen Deets Stained Glass. See the private studio of a glass artist with 35 years experience. Visit a stained glass studio nestled in the Bomoseen State Park woodlands. Sales, refreshments and demonstrations. Free. 10 am - 5 pm. Lower level of private home near Glen Lake at 728 Moscow Rd. (802) 265-8668. www.karendeets.com. Also May 27.

Free Calendar Listings

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

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6th Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair on May 19

The 6th Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair takes place May 19, 2012 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Whitcomb High School (Gymnasium), 273 Pleasant St. in Bethel, VT. The fair has become a popular Bethel event and is hosted by The Bethel Historical Society. Admission is free.

There will be many postcard, book, ephemera, sports memorabilia and stamp dealers in attendance. They will have numerous interesting items for sale including many Bethel and Vermont items. The Bethel Historical Society will have a table with

books, as well as maps and postcards for sale. Historical exhibits featuring old pictures, postcards and other interesting items will be on display, specifically relating to the Great Flood of 1927. A special attraction will be Genealogy Assistance offered by Joseph Smith Memorial Site representatives.

This year, the Bethel Historical Society will issue a very limited number of a special postage stamp, with a Civil War theme. It will be showing Bethel's native son, Charlie Fairbanks. Charlie was a sharpshooter in the Civil War. The image comes

from a daguerreotype in our collection. Also available, will be two cacheted envelopes for the event.

The United States Postal Service will be operating a temporary Post Office station on site from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will cancel mail or other collectible items, with a special show cancellation commemorating tropical storm "Irene."

A new addition to the Postcard and History Fair, will be the live radio broadcasting by

WCVR from Randolph, VT. Delicious home cooked food will be available in the lobby by the Whitcomb High School Boosters.

The Bethel Historical Society wishes to thank each of our participants who are making this event possible and for helping us to preserve the history of our town.

Whitcomb High School is located at 273 Pleasant St., Rt. 12. For more information call (802) 234-5064.

"Horns-A-Plenty" at Lebanon Opera House on May 12

The Upper Valley Community Band will be performing from the stage of the Lebanon Opera House in Lebanon, NH at 7:30 pm on May 12. Begin your Mother's Day celebration with the toe tapping, hand clapping, heart stirring music performed by the seventy plus members of the band under the baton of Carole I. Blake, director.

This year's spring concert will feature the UVCB's French horn section, all eight

of them, in their renditions of "The Four Hornsmen" (x2), and "Horns-A-Plenty."

There will be an international flavor to the concert, with the "English Folk Song Suite," and the Grainger arrangement of "Country Gardens." These selections will be directed by the band's assistant conductor, Cynthia Boehm-Patenaude.

Tickets for the May 12 concert are \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students, preschoolers free. They are available at the door or from any band member. Plan to join the members of the Upper Valley Community Band for an entertaining evening of music.

The Lebanon Opera House is "On the Green" in Lebanon, NH inside City Hall. The street address is 51 North Park St. (802) 295-3864. www.uvcb.org. www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

Free Calendar Listings
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Vermont Country Calendar

DORSET. Holman Studios Open Studio Weekend. Featuring furniture by Steve Homan and paintings by Georgine MacGarvey. Free. 10 am – 5 pm. Holman Studios, 171 Dogpatch Lane. (802) 867-0131. www.georginemacgarvey.com. Also May 27.

GRAND ISLE. Grand Isle Art Works Open Studio Weekend. Experience the art of over 55 Vermont artisans. Free. 10 am – 5 pm. Grand Isle Art Works, 259 Rt. 2. (802) 378-4591. info@grandisleartworks.com. www.grandisleartworks.com. Also May 27.

GREENSBORO BEND. Hill Farmstead Brewery 2nd Anniversary Celebration. Musical entertainment, fresh oysters and clams from Matunuck Oysters, custom charcuterie from Vermont Salumi, cheese from The Cellars at Jasper Hill, grilled cheese sandwiches by Miss Zoe Brickley, Coffee Van from Baristas Beans, draft offering from Hill Farmstead, and camping! Admission \$10. 12-6 pm. Hill Farmstead, 403 Hill Rd. (802) 533-7450. www.hillfarmstead.com.

HARDWICK. 62nd Hardwick SpringFest. A daylong celebration of spring. 5k Race at 9 am, parade on Main St. at 11 am and the fair at Atkins Field from noon to 4 pm with exhibitors/vendors fair, crafts fair, rides, games and food. Free admission. 9 am – 4 pm. 150 Granite St., Atkins Field at Cooper Brook and Main St. (802) 472-5840. hardwickagriculture.org.

MANCHESTER. Free Bird Walk. The Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch and local birders meet to conduct a survey of the wild birds present on the grounds of Hildene. For info call Randy Schmidt at (802) 362-2270 or email randy@thevermontbirdplace.com. Meet at 8 am at the Welcome Center parking lot. Hildene, Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 367-7961. www.hildene.org.

RUTLAND. Performance: Whose Live Anyway? Starring Ryan Stiles. Hilarious improvised comedy and song all based on audience suggestions. Tickets: \$54.50/\$29.50. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SOUTH WALLINGFORD. Tag Sale. Breakfast served. Lunch with hot dogs and sandwiches. Bake sale. 8 am – 2 pm. Maple Valley Grange #318, Rt. 7 South. For info call Goldie Nemeth at (802) 446-3836.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Crafts Council 20th Annual Open Studio Weekend. Visit over 259 Vermont artists and craftspeople working in their studios—glass blowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers and wood carvers. Free map/booklet with directions available at galleries, and by calling (802) 223-3380. www.vermontcrafts.com. Also May 27.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Caledonia Farmers Market. Locally grown, homemade baked goods, Vermont made crafts, entertainment, local produce, and more. 9 am – 1 pm. Behind Anthony's Diner, 50 Railroad St. (802) 592-3088. *Through October.*

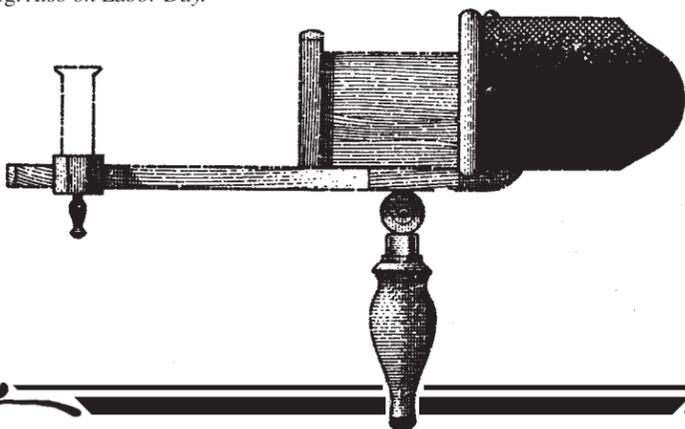
VERGENNES. 4th Annual Green Mountain Comedy Festival. Cash bar. Tickets \$12/\$8. 8 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 453-5213. www.vergennessoperahouse.org.

WOODSTOCK. 3rd Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration. Meet Vermont cheese makers and sample their delicious artisan cheeses. Take part in engaging dairy education programs. Judge Jerseys with the farm manager. Dairy scavenger hunt, name the calf contest, make cow pizza, fresh chocolate ice cream, and play games. Admission: adults: \$12; over 62: \$11; children 5-15: \$6; 3-4: \$3; under 3: free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also May 27.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

BRANDON. Sunday Jazz at Brandon Music. Sharon Jones, swinging sultry vocals, soul-funk style. Our famous desserts during intermission. Early Bird dinner offering from 4-6 pm, consisting of chili, cornbread, and dessert of your choice, all for \$10. Tickets \$18 at the door, \$15 pre-paid. 7 pm. Brandon Music Café at Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. brandon-music.net.

BRATTLEBORO. Annual Memorial Day Dawn Dance. Starts with an English country dance at 2:30 pm Sunday afternoon, followed by an all-night contra dance at 8 pm with three bands and couple dancing in between, ending at 7 am Monday morning. Tickets \$7-\$25 at the door or online. At the Gibson-Aiken Center, 207 Main Street (Rt. 5). (802) 257-1571. info@dawndance.org. www.dawndance.org. Also on Labor Day.



EAST CHARLESTON. Sapsucker Sunday Birding Series. Whether you're hoping to improve your ID skills or just want to share the pleasure of bird watching, these outings will start your Sunday off right! Binoculars and field guides available. All are welcome. Fee: \$10. 7-9 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

GUILFORD. 4th Annual Spring Organ Recital & Holiday Barbeque. Meal will be inside barn in case of rain. Grilled options, beans, salads, dessert, cakes, watermelon, cold drinks. BYOB beer and wine. \$15 concert only, \$25 concert & barbeque. 3 pm at the Organ Barn, two miles up Packer Corners Rd. from junction with Weatherhead Hollow Rd. (802) 254-3600. www.fomag.org.

HUNTINGTON. Sunday for Fledglings. Kids (K-3rd graders, especially) are invited to hike, create, explore, carve, act, write, and investigate with us on Sunday afternoons. Free with admission. Rain and shine. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 2-3 pm. Pre-register. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org.

HUNTINGTON. Early Birders Morning Walk. Join us for an early morning ramble. Finish the walk with bird-friendly coffee at the viewing window inside the Museum. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Appropriate for adults and older children. Free, donations welcome. 7-8:30 am. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Crafts Council 20th Annual Open Studio Weekend. Visit over 259 Vermont artists and craftspeople working in their studios—glass blowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers and wood carvers. Free map/booklet with directions available at galleries, and by calling (802) 223-3380. www.vermontcrafts.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Memorial Celebration Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Noon-4 pm. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (802) 748-2700. info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

WILMINGTON. 25th Annual Great Duck Race. One of the valley's most beloved traditions. Games, face painting, music, bake sales. A total of 1500 yellow rubber ducks will be released around 12 pm, and will float down the Deerfield River. Cheer on your duck. Over 100 prizes awarded to the fastest ducks! Tickets available on the bridge in Wilmington center at 10:30 am till sold. At Boyd Family Farm, 125 East Dover Rd. (802) 464-5618. www.boydfamilyfarm.com.

WOODSTOCK. 3rd Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration. Meet Vermont cheese makers and sample their delicious artisan cheeses. Take part in engaging dairy education programs. Judge Jerseys with the farm manager. Dairy scavenger hunt, name the calf contest, make cow pizza, fresh chocolate ice cream, and play games. Admission: adults: \$12; over 62: \$11; children 5-15: \$6; 3-4: \$3; under 3: free. 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, MAY 28

HUBBARDTON. Memorial Day Remembrance at Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. The only Revolutionary War battle fought entirely in Vermont. At noon battlefield flags will be raised to full-mast and a tribute will be paid to the soldiers of Hubbardton at the battle monument. Admission: Adults \$2, 14 and under free. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd, seven miles north of Rt 4. (802) 273-2282. www.historicvermont.org.

NORWICH. Contradance with Cuckoo's Nest. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. All dances taught, no partner necessary, beginners welcome. Please bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor. Admission \$8, under 16 free, over 60 by donation. 8 pm. At Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu.

WILMINGTON. Memorial Day Parade. Starts at 11 am at the Country Store and follows Main Street to the Twin Valley High School. (802) 464-8591.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

BENNINGTON. The Secret Lives of Beavers. With Jennifer Lovett. Admission free, donations appreciated. 7-9 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 US Rte 7 South. (802) 447-7419. oneworldconservationcenter.org.



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A Vermont Almanack for Late Spring

by Bill Felker

One has only to sit down in the woods or fields or by the shore of the river or lake, and nearly everything of interest will come round. The change of the seasons is like the passage of strange and new countries; the zones of the earth, with all their beauties and marvels, pass one's door.

—John Burroughs

The Phases of the Frog and Toad Mating Moon and the Black Swallowtail Moon and the Firefly Moon

While swallowtail butterflies become more common in the garden, fireflies begin to flicker in the field grass and lawns. When Late Spring is warm and wet, the fireflies will be mating at the end of May along the 40th Parallel. In drier or colder areas, the lightning bugs start later and end later. Whatever their local timetable, they signal summertime.

May 5: The Frog and Toad Mating Moon is full at 10:35 p.m. **May 12:** The moon enters its final quarter at 4:47 p.m. **May 20:** The Black Swallowtail Moon is new at 6:47 p.m. **May 28:** The moon enters its second quarter at 3:16 p.m. **June 4:** The Black Swallowtail Moon is full at 6:12 p.m. **June 11:** The moon enters its final quarter at 5:41 a.m. **June 19:** The Firefly Moon is new at 10:02 a.m. **June 26:** The moon enters its second quarter at 10:33 p.m.

The Sun's Progress

During the evening of May 20, an annular eclipse of the Sun will be visible in all of North America. Summer solstice occurs on June 20 at 6:09 p.m. The sun holds steady at its solstice declination of 23 degrees 26 minutes (and the day's length remains virtually unchanged) between June 19 and 23.

The Planets

Mars, in Leo, lies in the western sky after sundown, disappearing beneath the horizon by midnight. Jupiter and Venus are the two morning stars in Taurus by the end of May. In Virgo, Saturn is well up in the east at dusk.

The Stars

The stars of the Early Summer night suggest activities in the months ahead: Arcturus for the end of the danger of frost; the Corona Borealis for checking livestock and pets for worms; Regulus in Leo for hunting ticks and lice; Vega in the far east for summer marketing time; Castor and Pollux, setting in the west, for weaning the April lambs; Libra along the southern horizon reminding you to cull before opening up the paddocks; Scorpius promising the Dog Days ahead and the harvest of winter wheat; and finally far in the east, the Summer Triangle rising, stars that will lie above you as autumn breeding of sheep and goats begins.



Scotch Highland cow and her baby out in their field in the spring in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

The Shooting Stars

On May 5–6, the Eta Aquarid meteor shower falls near Aquarius, low in the southeast several hours after midnight. The bright full moon, however, may limit the number of shooting stars you will see. The Lyrid Meteors fall through Lyra, overhead after midnight on the nights of June 14–15 and June 15–16. The dark moon should make meteor watching easy.

Meteorology

Cool fronts are due to approach Vermont on or about May 2, 7, 11, 15, 21, 24, and 29. New moon on May 12 increases the chances for freezing temperatures with the weather system that occurs close to that date. Frost is also likely to occur with the May 7 and 12 fronts. Full moon on May 5 could also contribute to unseasonable cold and to unstable meteorological conditions. Tornadoes, floods or prolonged periods of soggy pasture are most likely to occur within the following windows: May 8–14 and May 17–24.

In June, cool fronts pass through on or about the 2nd, 6th, 10th, 15th, 23rd and 29th. Major storms are most likely to occur on the days between June 5–8, June 13–16, and June 24–28. New moon on June 19 increases the chances for freezing temperatures at upper elevations. Full moon on June 4 could contribute to unstable meteorological conditions in conjunction with the June 2 and 7 cool fronts.

Phenology for the Coming Summer

When you hear quail whistling in the woods, look for tent caterpillars in the trees.

When goslings leave the nest, mulberry season peaks.

When you see the first monarch butterfly, watch for young coyotes to come after your chickens and new lambs.

When May apples have fruit the size of a cherry and honeysuckle flowers have all come down, look for cucumber beetles to reach the economic threshold on the farm.

When fireflies light up the night, chinch bugs hatch in the lawn, and powdery mildew becomes a problem in the garden phlox.

When pie cherries ripen, painted turtles and box turtles lay their eggs, and giant (but harmless) stag beetles prowl the grass.

When black-eyed Susans flower across the northern states, then the wheat harvest is over in the Gulf region.

When long seedpods have formed on the locust trees, then annual cicadas will soon start to chant.

When you see the first black walnuts on the ground, then you know that this year's ducklings and goslings are nearly full grown.

When you see lizard's tail in flower along the rivers and lakes, and when the black raspberry season ends along the roadsides, then go looking for corn borers in the corn.

When black-eyed Susans bloom along the freeways, then turtles will be hatching near the rivers and lakes.

When you see blackberries setting fruit, then the earliest field corn will start to tassel.

When you see green berries on the poison ivy, then you know that the days will soon be shortening.

When you hear the first cicadas sing, then May apples will be ready for May-apple jam.

When touch-me-nots bloom in the woods, then the best bullhead and crappie fishing ends for the year.

When blueberries ripen, then cottony maple scale eggs hatch on the silver maples.

When long seedpods have formed on the locust trees, then chinch bugs start leaving brown patches in your lawn. Watering the lawn frequently allows normal growth to keep pace with insect damage.

When the first apple and cherry tree leaves become yellow and drift to the ground, alewives head back to sea from their estuaries along the Atlantic.

When midsummer road kills increase, expect thunderstorms and intense Dog Day heat.

When elderberry flowers turn to fruit, then giant green June beetles appear in the garden and poisonous white snakeroot is budding in the woods. That's the time to dig your garlic before the heads break apart and plant your autumn turnips

When the Rose of Sharon flowers, the summer apple harvest will soon be in full swing.

When the roadside grasses turn like the winter wheat, look for local sweet corn in the market.

Bill Felker's Poor Will's Almanack for 2012 is now available. Send \$20 (includes s/h) to Poor Will, P.O. Box 431, Yellow Springs, OH 45387. Bill's weekly radio essays are broadcast on National Public Radio's WYSO Ohio (available by podcast at www.wyso.org). His websites, www.poorwillsalmanack.com or www.poorwillsalmanack.net provide excerpts from his daybook and weekly Almanack updates.

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Ken Waldman's Music And Poetry at Chandler

Ken Waldman travels as Alaska's Fiddling Poet and he brings both art forms to the Esther Mesh Room of Chandler's Upper Gallery on Friday May 11 at 7:30 PM. Vermont musician Colin McCaffrey joins him. A cash bar will be available.

The arts in Alaska take a back seat to environmental issues and the political scene, but the state has developed an interesting musical and literary culture. Its vast open spaces have inspired artists and given them room to grow.

Ken Waldman proudly wears his statehood on his sleeve. Alaska's Fiddling Poet combines two very different art forms into one highly regarded act that weaves together old-time music with timeless storytelling. The songs and stories are understated and straightforward and communicate simple human truths.

In 1985 Waldman moved to Fairbanks to start an MFA program as a fiction writer. He started writing poetry and "grew obsessed with poetry for some years afterward. Simultaneously, I remained obsessed with fiddling". Inevitably he wrote a number of poems about fiddling and as his fiddling improved, he started performing. "I found that the poems about fiddling, combined with the actual fiddling, made a whole greater than either part.

The fiddler/poet is convinced that his transformation from a beginning fiddler who had never written a poem to a someone who is able to earn a living through the combination of these two art forms could never have happened as dramatically anywhere other than Alaska, a state that's more than double the size of Texas, with a population not much bigger than Vermont's. The opportunities and connections afforded him have been invaluable.

Audiences can expect a classic old-time string band sound. Waldman describes it as "an evening of musical variety, Alaska storytelling, and fun, and most everybody finds something to laugh about." Journalists have compared him to Garrison Keillor and while he doesn't think it's a close match, he does combine storytelling with music. "If it helps people to think, 'Oh, it's the Alaskan Garrison Keillor guy,' I'm not going to go out of my way to dissuade them. Maybe they'll be more apt to come by and see something new and different."

Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$16 day of show. Call Chandler Box Office at (802) 728-6464. If available, tickets will also be available at the door on May 11. The performance space is wheelchair accessible.

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



Ken Waldman



Listen, Hilaria...

"...Listen, Hilaria; we are born and die and then are immortal. But death is not the quiet sleep that comes at the end of life; or the little curtain that falls while we cast off the winter garment of the body, and wander off into June sunshine and singing waters.

There is a death that comes to all of us in life, as it came to me when was taken from me the sight of my eyes, as it came to you when the Welshman from Claregalway entered your sleeping-room—and we sit a little while by ourselves in an apart dark place, and we learn truths, of how certain things one believes to be good are but vulgar selfish things, and how certain things the small think evil are but futile accidents.

And we learn to be kind: such wisdom comes when we are dead. And those who have never died in life, Hilaria, are pleasant shallow people, soulless as seals. O Hilaria, open your blind eyes!"

—Donn Byrne, 1928

From *Blind Raftery and His Wife, Hilaria*

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~Abby, Ai, & John Metcalf~



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We who were born
In country places
Far from cities
And shifting faces,
We have a birthright
No man can sell,
And a secret joy
No man can tell.
For we are kindred
To lordly things:
The wild duck's flight
And the white owl's wings,

The pike and the salmon,
The bull and the horse,
The curlew's cry
And the smell of gorse.
Pride of trees,
Swiftness of streams,
Magic of frost
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No baser vision
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On the naked hills.

—EILUNED LEWIS

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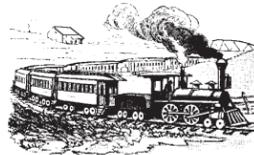
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There are things to remember while on the farm. Dress appropriately—these are working farms so wear boots and clothes that can get dirty. Heed the words of the farmer—pay attention to posted signs. Do not leave children unattended. Respect the animals—do not bring food onto the farm or feed the animals. And although farmers love dogs, their farm critters may not feel the same. Please leave your dog at home. This is a free and fun event for all ages. Bring your family for a great day!

For more information contact Northeast Kingdom Travel & Tourism Association at (802) 626-8511 or e-mail Info@TraveltheKingdom.com. Visit www.TraveltheKingdom.com.

Farms Open for Tours

On Saturday May 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tannery Farm Cashmeres & Boreas Farm Cashmere, 173 Crystal Ave., Danville, VT. (802) 684-0174. www.tfcashmeres.com. tanneryfarm@gmail.com. boreas25@localnet.com. Farm activities: hoof trimming demo, spinning demo, and assessing cashmere fiber demo. Presentation of different types of cashmere yarn products, i.e. roving, cashmere yarn, blended yarns; finished goods. Presentation on healthy features of chevon (goat meat) with food samples, and the opportunity to visit our meat store. Farm critters: black cashmere goats including about 30 kids, 24 does, & 2 bucks.

Agape Hill Farm, 618 Houston Hill Rd., Hardwick, VT. (802) 472-3711. www.agapehillfarm.com. enkagape@aol.com. Farm activities: there will be needle felting demos and the chance to walk a llama in the obstacle course. Farm critters: llamas, sheep, goats, angora rabbits, horses, cows, chickens, pigs, and ducks.

Valley View Alpacas, 1791 Mathewson Hill Rd., Lyndonville, VT. (802) 626-9567. lorigododge@yahoo.com. Farm activities: meet & greet with the alpacas including pictures! Yarn, raw fiber, and finished knit products will be available for sale and we may have a spinning demo. Refreshments will be offered. Farm critters: alpacas, chickens, and Liz, our resident llama.

Farms Open for Tours

On Sunday May 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Will-Ewe Farm, 1317 Vail Dr., Lyndon, VT. (802) 626-8349. larrylyn@myfairpoint.net. Farm activities: spinning, carding and picking of farm fleece. Farm critters: Cormo sheep, Cormo border L-X's (a cross between Cormo ewe with a Border Leicester Ram), and one angora rabbit that will be available to visit.

Northern Vermont Llama Co., 766 Lapland Rd., Waterville, VT. (802) 644-2257. northernvillamaco@myfairpoint.net. Farm activities: learn how to needle felt using cookie cutters!! Meet the llamas and miniature donkeys! Our fiber shop will be open, too. Farm critters: llamas, miniature donkeys, and angora bunnies.

North of the Andes Alpacas, 6394 Chester Arthur Rd., Enosburg Falls, VT. (802) 933-5166. www.noaalpacas.com. northofandes@myfairpoint.net. Farm activities: spinning and wet felting. Farm critters: alpacas.



A workshop student feeds her llama, Casper, at Agape Hill Farm in Hardwick, VT. Casper has beautiful white fiber.

Buzz & Honey's Fleecy Flock, 3174 North Main St. (Rt. 118), Montgomery, VT. (802) 326-2073. www.mtfiberfolk.com/folk.html. honeywizvt@yahoo.com. Farm activities: spinning demos, wheel and drop spindle. Farm critters: sheep and chickens.

Dillner Hillside Farm, 528 Hillwest Rd., Montgomery Village, VT. (802) 326-4824. dillnerhillside@fairpoint.net. Farm activities: tent set up with examples of farm products: fleece, roving, yarn, knitwear, maple syrup and goat milk fudge. Drop spindle spinning demos. Farm critters: colored angora goats, sheep, dairy goat, angora rabbits, bantam chickens, waterfowl. An assortment of baby animals—goat kids, a lamb, baby chicks, etc.

Farms Open Both Days

Willowbend Farm, 44 Rt. 105 Charleston Rd., Island Pond, VT. (802) 723-6369. www.thewillowbendfarm.com. isolation@kingcon.com. Farm activities: meet our flock and learn about taking the fiber from shearing to yarn—try your hand at spinning! There will be yarn, roving, various knitted goods, and our farm-made, lanolin based hand-cream for sale. Farm critters: our Cormo ewes (Scampy, Rosie, Hannah, Willow and Cedar) and our Ram (Lucky Lyndon). Maybe some baby lambs, too. Plus our four dogs!

Wooly Buggah Farm, 182 Center Pond Rd., Newark, VT. (802) 467-1169 or (802) 535-7182. www.woolybuggahfarm.com. woolybug@vmlink.net. Meet the animals and tour the

farm. Baskets of hand dyed and painted yarn will be available. Farm critters: sheep, horses, and chickens.

Cedar Brook Alpacas & Aramaar Alpacas, 1040 West Glover Rd., Irasburg, VT. (802) 754-2021. www.cedarbrookalpacas.com. dkvangelder@gmail.com. rmrichards@myfairpoint.net. Farm activities: barn tours, animal handling, fiber demonstrations, "How to Care For Alpacas" information, sale of alpaca products, refreshments. See the farm critters—alpacas and a guardian livestock dog.

Log Cabin Farm Alpacas, 3112 Barton-Albany Rd., East Albany, VT. (802) 673-6441. www.logcabinfarm.com/FarmFiberTour.htm. jane@logcabinfarm.com. A hands-on experience with our alpacas and a chance to learn more about their care and what alpaca ownership is all about. The barn will be open for tours and the farm store will have our fiber, yarn and roving on display for purchase. Light refreshments available. Farm critters: alpacas and one guard llama.

Coventry Falls Alpacas, 380 Heermanville Rd., Coventry, VT. (802) 754-9365. Tigger00123@hotmail.com. Farm activities: meet the animals. Check out our farm store, featuring yarn spun from our own animals, roving, fleece, alpaca made products, and more. Farm critters: two Bactrian camels, one guard llama, and alpacas.

Mountain Fiber Folk, 188 Main St., Montgomery Center, VT. (802) 326-2092. www.mtfiberfolk.com. mountainfiberfolk@mac.com. Open both days 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Spinning demos and refreshments offered on both days.

The Course of Early Summer

In Early Summer's first week, lilies and thistles bloom, mulberries ripen, cedar waxwings migrate, box turtles lay eggs, and winter wheat turns pale gold green. Cucumber beetles appear in the cucumber patch, hollyhocks and purple coneflowers open in the dooryards, and blue chicory flowers in the waysides. Catalpas and privets and pink spirea bloom as the first cutting of hay gets underway. Nodding thistles, Canadian thistles, the first chicory, first daisy fleabane, the first great mullein, the first Asiatic lily, the first orange trumpet creeper and the first tall meadow rue open.

June brings the deepening of Early Summer's second week. Moth mullein, wild garlic, crown vetch and quick-

weed bloom come in along the highways. Heliopsis and delphinium blossom beneath the new white petals of the oakleaf hydrangea. The mornings become quieter now, but young grackles beg for food from their parents all day. Canadian geese are molting. Firefly time starts in average years. Giant cecropia moths emerge. The first monarch butterfly caterpillars feed on carrot tops and parsley. Black and red raspberries start their season, and blackberries set their fruit.

The darkening of the winter wheat measures the steady advance of the season, and the third week of Early Summer brings the first harvest in the warmest years. When the wheat is golden brown chiggers roam the woods, and Japanese beetles enjoy the field and garden. Lilies and hostas and Shasta daisies, hollyhock, and mallow color the garden. Smartweed, blueweed, Queen Anne's lace, and sow thistles brighten the roadsides. Red berries appear on the honeysuckle. Pie cherries are ready to pick. Black walnuts and goslings are about half grown.

The full harvest of winter wheat marks the final week of Early Summer, the time when shining orange butterfly weed opens and acorns become fully formed. Sycamore bark starts to shed all along the river and the Antioch green. Thistle flowers change to down as hemlock season closes. Along the backroads, parsnip heads brown in the sun. Privet is done blooming along the streets of the village. In wetlands and ditches, the soft heads of cattails are full of pollen.

—Bill Felker

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Lilacs Bloom in May...and Beyond

by Judith Irven

This year Shelburne Museum's Spring Fest is on May 13, the date chosen to coincide with the peak bloom time of the many so-called 'common lilacs,' *Syringa vulgaris*, that dot the grounds.

In my Goshen garden, about 1000 feet higher, the common lilacs, (which have been here for over 50 years and are almost like small trees) bloom a little later, but they will be completely finished by the end of May.

Common lilacs are wonderfully hardy shrubs beloved by Vermonters. Over the years they have come to symbolize both the emergence of spring after a long cold winter, and the resilience of early settlers who carried small plants as they journeyed to their new lives.

But common lilacs also have a few drawbacks. Their bloom time is brief—lasting no more than a week. And, for the gardener, they are not the most well behaved shrubs in a flowerbed, as they tend to sprout thick suckers in a quite a wide circle about the parent plant.

But we love their fragrance and their message of spring, gladly putting up with the inconvenience of having to keep the suckers at bay.

The 'other lilacs'

Gardeners also welcome the 'other lilacs' that wait till June to put on their show. Plant some this spring, and you will be assured of six weeks of lilac time in the years to come.

Besides, all lilacs are a magnet for swallowtail butterflies which, up here, generally wait till the end of May to arrive en masse—just as my common lilacs have done flowering. But butterflies by the dozen will swarm over my June-blooming lilacs. Another reason I grow them!

Dwarf Korean Little-leaf lilac

The first of the 'other lilacs' to bloom is the dwarf Korean Little-leaf lilac, *Syringa meyeri* 'Paliban.' It has lots of smallish lilac-colored fragrant flowers and its rounded leaves are—true to name—petite and tidy, so it also makes a good backdrop for nearby perennials. It is a gem of a small shrub that remains about four feet high without the need for excessive pruning.

Some years back I planted five to create a low-growing hedge near our bedroom window, and now each morning in early June I delight in watching the clouds of the butterflies as they feast on the nectar.

'Miss Kim' lilac

Miss Kim lilac, *Syringa pubescens subsp. patula*, is the next to bloom. Miss Kim is certainly deservedly popular among gardeners. Not only does she sport fragrant pale-lilac flowers in mid-June but, come the fall, her leaves become a beautiful bronze.

Maybe lured by her diminutive name, gardeners tend to pop Miss Kim lilacs into small gaps around the place. But beware: Miss Kim is no diminutive lady! Left un-pruned, in a few years she will grow quite large—easily to seven feet high and wide. So take this into consideration as you choose a spot for her. I have even seen a very old un-pruned Miss Kim growing to 12 feet high and wide.

Preston lilacs

100 years ago successful plant hybridist Isabella Preston was busy at work hybridizing lilacs at the Ottawa Experimental Farm. And her late blooming 'Preston lilacs,' (actually a cross between the species *Syringa reflexa* and *S. villosa*) have earned her a place in garden history.

Preston lilacs are really nice shrubs for the back of a bed. They grow about 7-8 feet tall and they do not sucker! My favorite is 'Minuet.' It forms a dense shrub that for almost two



For the last two weeks of June, Judith Irven's Minuet lilac is covered in flowers. photo by Dick Conrad

weeks towards the end of June is truly 'covered in flowers.' People driving by on the road actually stop to ask what it is! And it makes a stunning match with some blue Siberian Iris that bloom at the same time.

So what about an ever-blooming lilac??

A few years back now Proven Winners introduced a newly hybridized cultivar they called 'Boomerang' which is said to bloom until frost (only pausing briefly in the heat of summer).

And suddenly a huge controversy erupted on the Internet (the articles are still out there!!) For some people the very idea of having a lilac that would bloom in September is a complete travesty. They feel it completely ruins the specialness of the brief spring season, and everything that lilacs have come to signify.

But for busy homeowners, perhaps juggling a career and little kids and looking for a splash of color in a suburban garden throughout the season, it is clearly a marvel of modern hybridization, and perhaps a blessing. I can empathize with this point of view, as I have been there, too!

One also has to admire the tenacity and ingenuity of Tim Wood, the man responsible for Boomerang. The story of how he achieved his feat offers a fascinating insight into breeding techniques behind the whiz-bang plant introductions of today's horticultural industry.

It seems to boil down to how our gardens convey a sense of place. My Vermont country garden is a celebration of our ever-changing seasons of New England. And a lilac blooming alongside fall asters, black-eyed Susans and tall waving grasses definitely seems out of place.

So at this point in my life and for my particular garden Boomerang does not seduce me! But I still have room in my heart—and in my garden—for those other lilacs that

bloom in June alongside the irises and bring us swarms of butterflies to enjoy.

Judith Irven is a landscape designer living in Goshen, VT. Visit her websites at www.outdoorspacesvermont.com and www.northcountryreflections.com.

When Lilacs Last In the Dooryard Bloomed

When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd,
And the great star early droop'd in the western sky
in the night,
I mourn'd, and yet shall mourn with ever-returning
spring.

Ever-returning spring, trinity sure to me you bring,
Lilac blooming perennial and drooping star in the west,
And thought of him I love.

...In the dooryard fronting an old farm-house near the
white-wash'd palings,
Stands the lilac-bush tall-growing with heart-shaped
leaves of rich green,
With many a pointed blossom rising delicate, with the
perfume strong I love,
With every leaf a miracle—and from this bush in the
dooryard,
With delicate-color'd blossoms and heart-shaped leaves
of rich green,
A sprig with its flower I break.

—WALT WHITMAN



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North Country Book News

Cyberbullying is Focus of Weybridge Author's New Novel

Local author Doug Wilhelm has just released *True Shoes*, his 13th novel for young adults—and it's a sequel to a YA book that hundreds of middle schools across the country have read and discussed.

Wilhelm's *The Revealers*, published in 2003 by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, deals with bullying, and with the powers and choices the Internet age brings to young people. It has been the focus of reading-and-discussion projects at more than 100 Vermont schools, including Middlebury Union Middle School, Vergennes Union Elementary School, Bristol and Shoreham elementary schools, and Otter Valley Union High School—and use of *The Revealers* continues to spread to new schools around the country.

A full-time independent writer and former Vermont correspondent for The Boston Globe, Wilhelm often visits schools to talk about his work. It was in conversations on these visits that he began hatching the ideas for his new book, *True Shoes*, whose story centers on both cyberbullying and young people's creative uses of the Internet.

"Over the past several years I started hearing about what I

would call networked cruelties," Wilhelm explained. "Both kids and adults told me, for example, how rumors were getting flashed across school populations by text message and Facebook posting. At one Florida school, a group of eighth graders told me some very popular students would text out a new rumor with a warning: 'If you don't forward this, the next one will be about you.'

"At the same time, I was meeting middle schoolers who were posting their own films, music, and writing online. I began thinking about the creative and cruel uses of networked technology as active opposites, positive and negative self-expression, in young people's lives."

True Shoes opens with a proverb: "A lie can travel around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes."

"The young adolescents I meet are searching for themselves, for personal power," the author reflected. "It's common for them to express and experiment with power, whether in negative or positive ways. In the Internet age, those expressions—going in either direction—can be incredibly powerful, with long-range consequences."

Both *True Shoes* and *The Revealers* are set in fictional Parkland Middle School, called "Darkland" by its students. The new story also involves a romantic triangle, racial and ethnic tensions, an abusive dating relationship, and a crucial one-on-one basketball game.

"It's an ensemble story," Wilhelm said. "It deals with a lot of stuff!"

"To be a middle schooler is to believe sometimes that no one can understand what it's like to be in your shoes," observes Cornwall writer Alexander Wolff, senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*, in a comment featured on the back cover of *True Shoes*. "Doug Wilhelm's characters show us how that needn't be so, and provide one unforgettable basketball scene along the way. *True Shoes* is testimony to how standing up for others can be more than just the right thing to do. It can set you free."

Wilhelm and his wife, Cary Beckwith, came to Weybridge in 2010; he has also lived in Rutland Town and Montpelier. Wilhelm's son Bradley is a law student at Drexel University. His stepson Nate is a tenth grader at Middlebury Union High School.

True Shoes was published on March 26 by Long Stride Books, a new independent imprint that Wilhelm created. "The book business is changing enormously," he said. "After all the best-known, traditional publishers got swallowed up by big corporations, I saw the chance to go my own way. It's a lot of work and a tremendous adventure."

Long Stride Books and *True Shoes* are distributed by Small Press Chicago, a division of the Independent Publishers Group of Chicago. Along with *The Revealers* and two other novels with FSG, Wilhelm has published nine books in the "Choose Your Own Adventure" series, plus a YA biography of Alexander the Great for Scholastic.

You can reach Doug Wilhelm at 1471 James Rd., Weybridge, VT 05753. (802) 545-2413. longstridebooks.com.



Ars Poetica in Killington, VT

Every fourth Wednesday from 6–8 p.m. there is a gathering of poets, writers, storytellers, and those who appreciate the written word at Sherburne Library on River Rd. in Killington, VT. Come one, come all for readings, writings, discussions, and workshops. Refreshments are served. Donations gratefully accepted. Hope to see you there!

For more information contact Ann Wallen at (802) 422-3824 or Lauren Jane Wilder at (802) 299-1777.

Author Howard Frank Moshier At Chester's Misty Valley Books

Misty Valley Books, on the Green in Chester, welcomes back Howard Frank Moshier on Sunday, May 6, at 4 p.m. The bestselling, nationally celebrated Vermont author's new book is *The Great Northern Express*.

It is a wildly funny and deeply personal account of Moshier's three-month, 20,000-mile journey to discover what he loved enough to live for.

Several months before Moshier turned sixty-five, he learned that he had prostate cancer. Following forty-six intensive radiation treatments, Moshier set out alone in his twenty-year-old Chevy Celebrity on a monumental road trip and book tour across twenty-first-century America.

From a chance meeting with an angry moose in northern New England to late-night walks on the wild-

est sides of America's largest cities, *The Great Northern Express* chronicles Moshier's escapades with an astonishing array of erudite bibliophiles, homeless hitchhikers, country crooners and strippers, and aspiring writers of all circumstances.

Full of high and low comedy and rollicking adventures, this is part travel memoir, part autobiography, and pure, anarchic fun, an unforgettable adventure from a top-notch American writer that demonstrates that, sometimes, in order to know who we truly are, we must turn the wheel towards home.

A reception and book signing will follow Moshier's remarks.

For more information stop by Misty Valley Books at 58 the Common in Chester, VT. (802) 875-3400. Visit www.mvbooks.com or Facebook.

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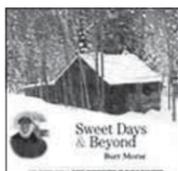
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Voices in the Hills
Collected Ramblings from a Rural Life
 by Nessa Flax

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

It's an unhappy experience to have one's well go dry or to be down to a few scant inches of water. This is not an unfamiliar scenario for families living in rural areas, and especially in The North Country of Vermont!

Author Nessa Flax of Ryegate Corner, VT, writes about such an ordeal and how a dowsler found the right spot to drill a well at her 1840s homestead.

Dozens of memorable essays in this book take a close look at the ups and downs of life in northern Vermont through the seasons.

"Many's the summer we've prayed for rain," she writes. "Walking in the woods always included a side trip: we'd lift the heavy well cover and check the water level." At one time the well had only 4 inches of water!

Well-drillers with their big rigs were finally called and down at 260 feet they hit six gallons a minute, and everyone was overjoyed.

Essays are grouped by season. We learn that winter can hang around much too long in the north. Nessa remembers when it snowed on May 15, frosting the lilac buds; but also what a miracle it is with the reappearance of leaves on the trees after nearly seven months of naked-tree gazing. And her writing captures this magic time: "The harsh lines of winter countryside have given way to leaf-softened shapes. Even on gray days, the scattered yellow of dandelions punctuates green meadows, rainbow tulips' unturned bells ring cheery notes, and wild violets dance purple through the grass."

For an unusually amazing spring sight in her area, Nessa urges readers to see the pink fairyland created by flowering crabapple trees along Route 5 in Newbury. Thanks to the Jolly Workers 4-H Club of Newbury, 270 flowering crabapple trees were planted along the highway in the spring of 1969.

"Not all the trees survived, but the legacy

is undeniably magnificent," she says, and we are told a few of those 4-H kids (now grown up) and 11 families of those dozen Jolly Workers are still living in town.

Journalist she may well be, but Nessa is also a good storyteller, even sharing stories on herself. In her essay on spring cleaning, she uncovers a T-shirt given to her in 1969 during high school in San Francisco as a thoughtful present from Rick, a male gymnast, because girls athletic teams had no such uniforms, just the boys.

"It is as thin and soft as fine fabric now. But the coveted SKYLINE GYMNASTICS is still bright red. I've hand-stitched disintegrating seams innumerable times." Keeping such items is a price she is willing to pay for they

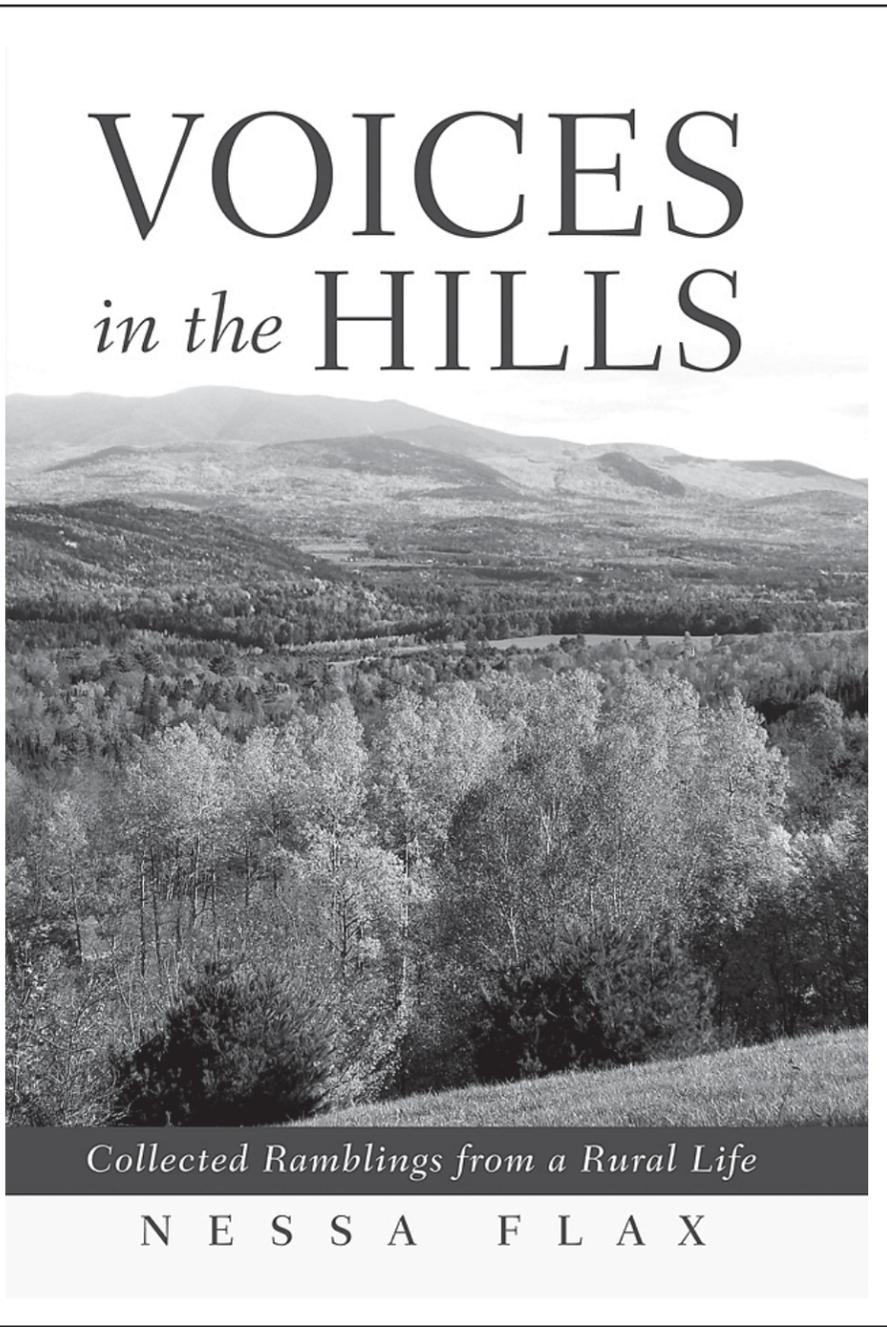
"enrich my life, for memories that make me smile."

Before taking up a writing career she taught school for sixteen years where she established and coached the only varsity fencing program in Vermont and New Hampshire schools.

Her book is to savour through the seasons. The author may have been a city dweller earlier in her life, but she soon learned that living in an old house on the edge of the wild woods can produce unfamiliar sounds in the middle of the night. Imagine her surprise when the sound of wood being gnawed turned out to be from a porcupine who discovered that the pressure-treated porch wood provided a saline treat. Just another North Country happening!

Voice in the Hills—Collected Ramblings from a Rural Life by Nessa Flax is available at bookstores or can be purchased for \$22.50 from the publisher, Bunker Hill Publishing, 285 River Rd, Piermont, NH 03779. Visit www.bunkerhillpublishing.com.

Book Review
 by Charles Sutton



Collected Ramblings from a Rural Life

N E S S A F L A X

Springtime Stories for Children

With springtime comes Mother's Day, and the birth of a whole new world of flora and fauna. Kids love their moms and grandmas, and baby animals love their mommies too. Here are some stories full of springtime delight.

One book celebrating Mother's Day is *Utterly Lovely One*, story and illustrations by Mary Murphy. (Candlewick Press, Somerville, MA, \$16.99, www.candlewick.com). Here a large, fluffy, blue feathered mother bird talks to her baby, her "utterly lovely one." She introduces the baby to animals considered scary or nothing-to-joke-about that are wonderfully depicted as utterly lovely beasts—hence the title of the book. The lovable creatures include an armadillo, crocodile, monkeys and even something as small as a dragonfly and snail, and we learn they are "Both little, both quite, and both utterly lovely." The drawings are also "utterly lovely."

All About Grandmas by Roni Schotter, illustrated by Janice Nadeau. (Dial Books for Young Readers, New York, NY, \$16.99, www.penguin.com/youngreaders), is also ideal for Mother's Day as grandmothers are mothers, too. Children, pick out yours! We see dancing grandmothers, cooking grandmothers, tickling grandmothers. There are others who have a talent for fixing and mending; jamming and pickling; some who gab and complain; others who nag and brag; some are noisy and some are purry. The whole entourage will amuse both young and old. As a bonus learn how the name

grandmother is said in 50 countries around the world. Here's a few examples: grandmere in France, babushka in Russia, po po in China, grootmoeder in Holland, tutu in Hawaii, and vovo in Portugal. A final word: love your grandmother—she's someone special.

For especially beautiful illustrations for this time of the year, *Planting the Wild Garden* by Kathryn O. Galbraith, illustrated by Wendy Anderson Halperin. (Peachtree Publishers, Atlanta, GA, \$15.95, www.peachtree-online.com). will make one appreciate how nature reseeds itself taking advantage of having seeds carried to new locations by wind and water, birds and animals, plants and people. See how beautiful seeds really are as they float through the pages of the book. Especially enjoyable are the animals who spread seeds in their own way. The drawing of the masked-faced raccoons feasting at night on blackberries will encourage one to hang onto this book, for sure.

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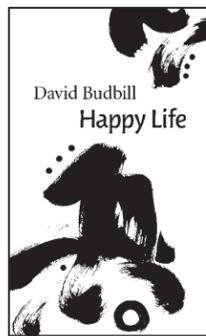
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photo by Grace Knight
Vacation at High Shelter Farm with views of Mt. Ascutney, in Weathersfield, VT. (Listing #1636)

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For photos, rates, and more information about these vacation retreats, go to vermontproperty.com and search by the listing number (provided above) on the home page or on the advanced search page. For information on more Vermont vacation rentals, visit www.vermontproperty.com, write Vermont Vacation Rentals, PO Box 1564, Montpelier, VT 05601 or call (802) 229-2433.



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Peonies in bloom at Robert Todd Lincoln's Hildene in Manchester, VT.

photo by Alan Nyiri

The Celebration of Peonies at Hildene

Spring is both a special and busy time of year at Hildene, the 412-acre Manchester, VT estate that from 1905 to 1975 was home to three generations of President Abraham Lincoln's descendants.

The more than 1,000 fragrant peony blossoms in the Hoyt Formal Garden to the rear of the Lincoln's mansion draw visitors, garden clubs, and horticultural enthusiasts from far and wide to the popular cultural heritage site. The estate's gardens have been extensively restored with the focus on preservation and conservation.

The garden was designed by President Lincoln's granddaughter, Jessie Lincoln, for her mother, Mary Harlan Lincoln, wife of presidential son, Robert T. Lincoln who built Hildene. Recently discovered documents suggest that Robert collaborated with his daughter in bringing the garden to life. The pattern is that of a stained glass window; the privet representing the leading, the flowers the glass. As a young woman, Jessie had seen such windows in the cathedrals of Europe. These same travels introduced her to the garden's French parterre design. The peonies are best experienced from the end of May to mid-June during a time known at Hildene as "The Celebration of Peonies." During the balance of the Vermont blooming season perennials of every color grace the garden.

Proof that Hildene's are heirloom peonies came with the discovery of correspondence from Robert T. Lincoln dated Nov. 9, 1905 and bearing the following directive, "There is at the express office, Manchester Depot, a box addressed to me from Paris, France. It contains peony roots." This was proof positive that the peonies were more than one hundred years old, making them centennial cultivars. Jessie Lincoln's plant list, which included many peonies, further confirmed the age of the garden.

In the summer of 2007, Master Gardener, Cindy Lewis and a dedicated team of Hildene volunteers began to "dig" into the peonies' past in order to identify each one. If future generations were to enjoy these beautiful flowers, they would need to be propagated. Observation and propagation gardens

were created for research purposes and after two years of work, as the French would say, "Voila." Hildene had the honor of having not one, but two of their peonies named as previously unidentified cultivars by the prestigious American Peony Society (A.P.S.). The honored flowers were named "Jessie Lincoln" and "Hildene." Both are identified in the formal garden.

Guests are encouraged to visit the Cutting and Kitchen Gardens behind The Welcome Center. This area, favored by the Lincolns for their leisure time, includes the site of the observation garden, a butterfly garden, Plant-a-Row vegetable garden, soft fruit cage and Hawthorn Allee. Picnic tables are conveniently located near this area.

Since Hildene visits all begin and end in the Welcome Center, The Museum Store is the place to be for products that reflect the rich experience of this historic site. In the spring the shelves and tables come to life, just like the gardens, with all things floral. Heirloom Peony Seeds and seedlings propagated from peonies originally planted by Jessie Lincoln are available there.

Exploring Hildene's gardens is only part of the excitement of a day at The Lincoln Family Home and estate. Guests also enjoy visiting the mansion and Lincoln exhibit, Hildene Farm and solar powered cheese-making facility, the 1903 restored wooden Pullman palace car, Sunbeam, and the woodlands and trails that crisscross the estate.

The Lincoln Family Home at Hildene is located off Rt. 7A just south of the village of Manchester, VT. It is open daily year round from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission includes all parts of the site and is \$16.00 for adults, \$5 for children 6-14. Children under 6, Hildene members and volunteers are free.

To learn more about Hildene call (802) 362-1788, visit www.hildene.org or find us on Facebook.

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