

Vermont Country Sampler



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

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May 2013

N. Cassidy

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Townshend Farmers' Market Opening for the 6th Season

Join us on a new day at a new location for the opening of the Townshend Farmers' Market's sixth season. Opening on June 7th, the Townshend Farmers' Market will be held on the lawn at the West Townshend Country Store at the intersection of Route 30 and Windham Hill Rd., in West Townshend, VT. The new hub for local food in the West River Valley, the market will be open every Friday from 4-7 p.m. through mid-October. The market will be open rain or shine. Look for us in the big white church just next to the store during stormy weather!

Located at one of Vermont's historic country stores, the Townshend Farmers' Market boasts a great array of locally grown and produced foods, delicious baked goods and prepared foods from talented chefs in the area, beautiful plants for your gardens, along with other items such as handmade soaps, hand blown glass hand carved chairs and more. And Friday night is Pizza Party Night at the West Townshend Country Store, so visit the market, gather up your supplies for the weekend, and enjoy dinner from the market or great wood fired pizza, and settle

down for some great music.

Special event plans are in the works, such as Shop with a Chef, Kid's Market Day(s), and our 2nd Annual Pie Contest. And EBT customers will find great value at the market this season when Harvest Health Coupons are available.

Plan your regular Friday visit to the market to pick up your locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised grass-fed meats, fresh baked breads, and more. You can take Friday nights off from cooking and let one of the market chefs take care of your dinner or have a pizza! It is a great place to connect with your neighbors and friends, meet farmers from the region, and learn how and where your food is grown. Best of all, dollars spent with local farmers stay in the area helping to strengthen your local economy.

The Townshend Farmers Market is a joint project of Post Oil Solutions and the West River Community Project. Vendor applications are available at www.postoilsolutions.org.

For more information call Sherry at (802) 869-2141 or email farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org.



Mother ewe with triplets to look after crosses a spring field.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

May Journal

Every year I watch the landscape run away with May, the quantity of fresh leaves, the quantity of new sprouts, the quantity of new flowers in bloom taking me by surprise in spite of all my preparations.

Is this wild surge of the earth, I ask myself, really what I waited for all winter? Or was my anticipation a vigil for something altogether different, something that I had called by the wrong name or that I had, in self-deception, transformed into an unfocused, metaphysical longing?

At the crest of my mid-May questioning, I think deep down that I was more content before this passionate season arrived, happier when I could watch each of its fragments emerge slowly from the deliberate corners of February. Everything was still possible then, and I was safe in the unlimited potential of youth and time. I grew too comfortable in that lean, protected space, and I was finally loath to abandon it.

After my crisis peaks in the brimming of May, the perfect vision of what life might have brought loses its power. I realize I cannot really understand or experience all the possibilities I once envisioned. I come to terms with what I have done and what I have failed to do. I can hardly imagine the empty trees or the easy fantasies of March. Summer simply

seems the way things ought to be. I am lulled again, comforted again like I have always been in summer, allowing myself to believe that nothing will ever change. Forgetting the excitement of early spring's anticipation, my body adapts from hope to apathy, from expectation to acceptance.

And I never quite know why. Maybe some hormonal message has overpowered me, an ancient reptilian message that the warmth produces, softening and rephrasing the earlier messages, telling my spirit to lie out in the sun. Whatever the physiology, I give up control, my loss ceding to summer's flow and the sense that it is futile to look or wait for the answer, that there is no secret that eludes me, that the dark winter pursuits of ultimate fulfillment are vain and presumptuous.

—Bill Felker

Springtime on the Farm

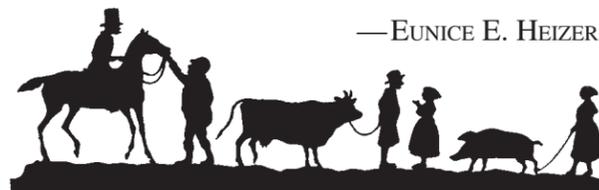
Spring is on the hillside
Spring is everywhere,
In the hills and valleys,
Even in the air,

Happy birds are building,
With a merry song,
Nests to house their babies
When the days are long.

Hyacinths and tulips
Pushing with their might,
Breaking out of prison,
Seeking for the light.

Life itself is stirring
With its radiant charm.
Oh, what is half so wonderful
As springtime on the farm!

—EUNICE E. HEIZER



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Vermont Country Sampler

May 2013, Vol. XXIX

The Vermont Country Sampler is distributed free over-the-counter in and out of Vermont. Back issues, \$2 per issue, first class. Subscriptions \$24/year.

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Advertising rates available upon request. Deadline the 10th of the preceding month.

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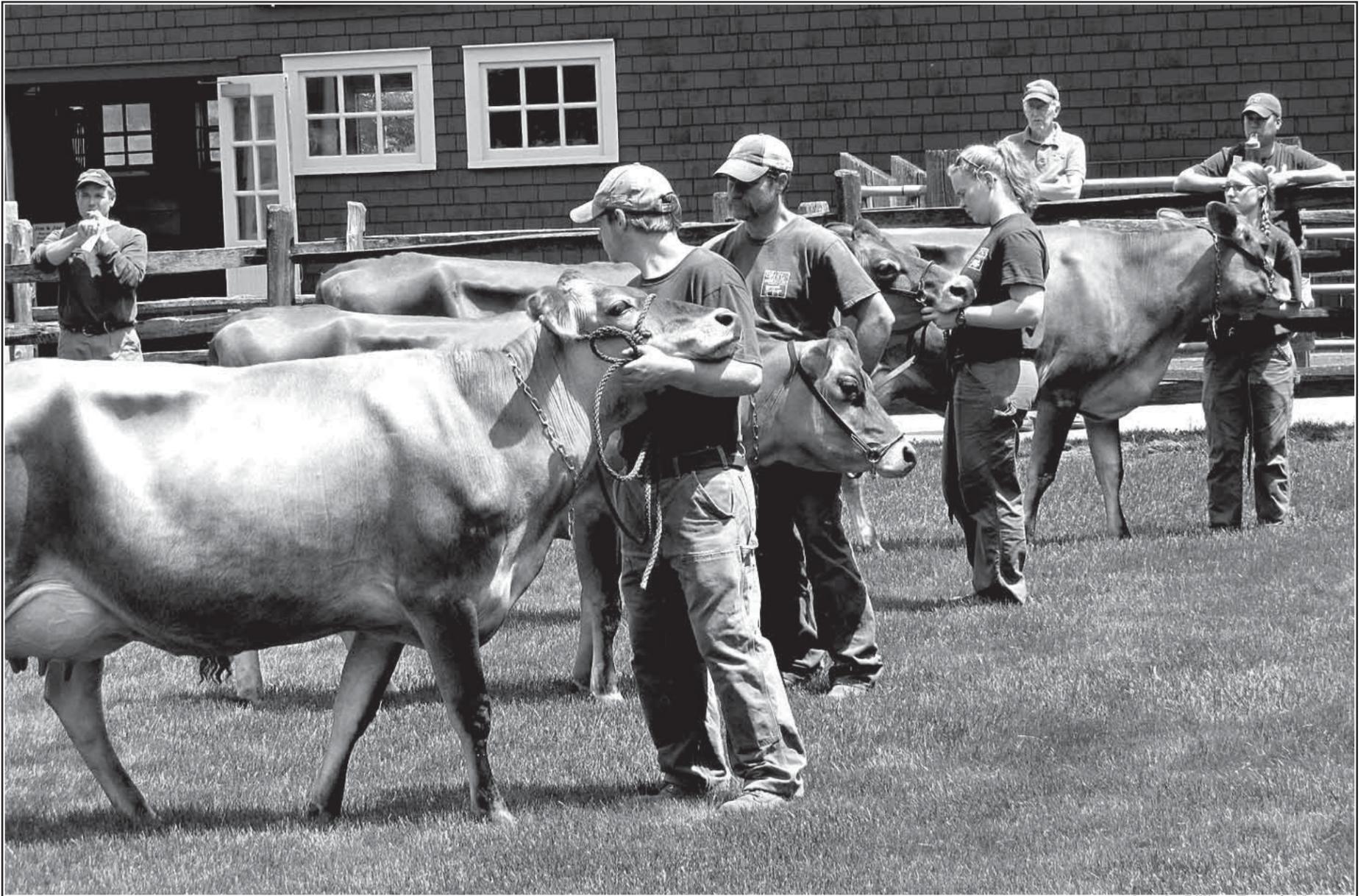
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Judging the Jerseys with the Farm Manager at Billings Farm's Cheese and Dairy Celebration in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum 4th Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration

Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage, is now open for the season! Plan to come to the 4th Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration, taking place on Saturday and Sunday, May 25 and 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate Vermont's rich dairy heritage during this two-day event. Meet Vermont cheesemakers, sample their delicious artisan cheeses, and take part in engaging dairy education programs.

The Cheese & Dairy Celebration will showcase many of Vermont's artisan cheesemakers, who will offer cheese samples, discuss their products, and have cheese on hand for purchase. Visitors can Judge Jerseys with the farm manager to improve their bovine knowledge and participate in a dairy scavenger hunt and a "name the calf" contest. New this year: Inside-Out Cow (have fun learning the body parts of a cow) and Cow Make-Over (learn what it takes to groom a cow being judged in a show). Especially for the children—crank fresh chocolate ice cream and make dairy headbands and moo masks.

The operating dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and the restored and furnished farmhouse are included in the farm and museum entrance fee.

Also offered in May: Billings Farm & Museum announces

its popular spring farm programs for children, ages 3 and up. Farm Programs for Preschoolers will be offered each Wednesday morning in May, 9–10:30 a.m. Each morning will feature a farm theme story, visit to the farm, hands-on activity, and snack. The cost is \$5 per person and includes admission to the Farm & Museum.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 142-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values.

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

Billings Farm & Museum is open daily April 27 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 Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. For information call (802) 457-2355 or www.billingsfarm.org.

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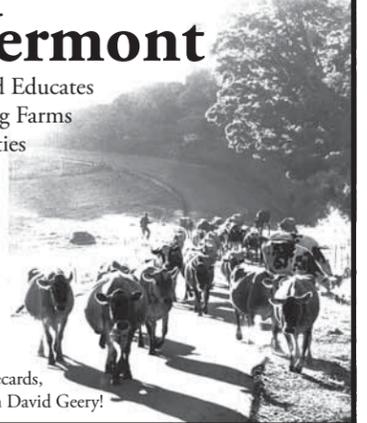
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14th Annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival on May 5

Where can you learn about barred owls and bats, see a wolf and a wallaby, and enjoy a day outside along the beautiful Connecticut River? The 14th Annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival in Rockingham, VT of course!

This year's festival takes place on May 5th. Enjoy nature presentations, activities and programs featuring live animals, guided nature walks, crafts, tasty food, workshops, a kids' wildlife parade, birding and much more. For the early risers, a 7 a.m. guided bird walk is planned.

Come for an hour or stay all day. This is a perfect event for families with plenty for kids to do and see. The festival will run rain or shine from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations of \$2 person or \$5 family are requested. Shuttle service is available from outlying parking lots. And please don't bring your pets—it interferes with the wildlife exhibits.

The festival brings together more than 25 outdoor, wildlife, environmental and conservation groups from all over New England and beyond. W.I.L.D. Center and Zoological Park of New England will be there all day with a diversity of live animals from many continents. Other presenters include Vermont Institute for Natural Science, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, The Wolf Conservation Center, the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum and many more.

New this year, Lindsay Bezich brings her Puppet Pals, lovingly crafted, giant hand puppets and marionettes, to the festival. Her show will be filled with silliness, crowd participation, and unique, memorable characters, her program of charming and positive short stories will delight the young and the young at heart!

Children will have an opportunity again this year to make masks and costumes and be part of a "wildlife parade" at the festival.

Herricks Cove is a beautiful spot on the Connecticut River and the perfect setting for this festival that celebrates the wonders of wildlife. Herricks Cove is located just off of Route 5 less than three miles north of Bellows Falls, VT.

Directions to Herricks Cove from the north: Take Exit 6 off I-91 and bear right off the ramp onto Rt. 103 south. Follow 103 to its junction with Rt. 5 (103 ends there) and turn



A saw whet own visits the Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival. photo by Julie Waters

left on to Rt. 5 north. After descending the hill and crossing the Williams River, take the first road to the right (Herricks Cove Rd.). Watch for signs.

Directions to Herricks Cove from the south: Take Exit 6 from I-91 and at the end of the ramp turn left on to Rt. 5 north. Follow Rt. 5 past the junction with Rt. 103 (sharp right at the junction). After descending the hill and crossing the Williams River, proceed with directions above.

The event is co-sponsored by the Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, The Nature Museum and VT Fish and Wildlife.

For more information please contact Alma Beals at madalma13@yahoo.com, or call (802) 722-3355. Look for our Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival page on Facebook or The Nature Museum website at www.nature-museum.org.



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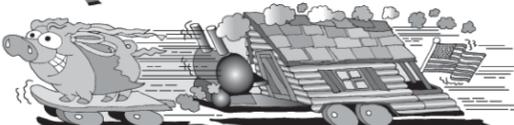
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Open Studio Weekend Marks Twenty-One Years!

Over Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-26, yellow signs will dot the Vermont landscape as artists and craftspeople open their studios to the public. It's a statewide celebration of the visual arts and the creative process.

More than 240 artists and artisans participate in this event from towns all over Vermont. Open Studio Weekend represents a unique opportunity to meet a wide variety of artists and crafts-

people in their studios, some of which are only open to the public during this event.

Open Studio Weekend features the work of glassblowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers and wood carvers.

Many galleries will host gallery talks and feature special exhibits in conjunction with this event.

Visitors return to Open

Studio year after year. Martha Fitch, executive director of the Vermont Crafts Council reports that—"About 40% of the map changes each year as studios take a year off, and new studios join the tour."

The Vermont Crafts Council launched Open Studio Weekend in 1993 to foster an appreciation for the creative process and the role that artists and craftspeople play in the vitality of Vermont's communities.

The Vermont Crafts Council is a non-profit organization serving the Vermont visual arts community. Open Studio Weekend is sup-

ported by the farmers who own Cabot Creamery, The Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing.

The Vermont Crafts Council publishes a free map booklet with directions to participating sites. The Vermont Studio Tour Guide is available at Vermont Information Centers, from individual studios and galleries, and by request.

For additional information about Open Studio Weekend go to www.vermontcrafts.com or call Vermont Crafts Council at (802) 223-3380.

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The Circus is Coming, the Circus is Coming!

Bellows Falls Opera House Memorial Day Weekend, May 25

Circus Terrificus is coming to town! See internationally-famous big top performances to please both adults and children at the Bellows Falls Opera House in Bellows Falls, VT on Saturday, May 25th, Memorial Day weekend.

The Women's Community Club of Grafton is bringing the special circus to the Connecticut River Valley area. The circus will be the club's major fund raising effort for its scholarship awards this year.

Troy Wunderle's Big Top Adventures of Rockingham, VT, is organizing and presenting the two performances. The circus will be in the style of the Cirque du Soleil, and will feature some of its former stars as well as performances from the Paris troop, Sequence 8.

See a world-famous young juggler whose performance with cigar boxes is said to rival that of juggler, comedian, movie star W.C. Fields. Eric Bates, the grandson of local Grafton residents Dottie and Tom Cannon, will be performing.

Eric and his four-man juggling troupe will join a trapeze duo that starred with Cirque du Soleil, a clown from Ringling Bros., an award-winning gymnastic duo, a gold medalist in aerial hoop and four renown jugglers headline the show. Balloons, food, concessions and circus memorabilia will fill the theater and lobby.

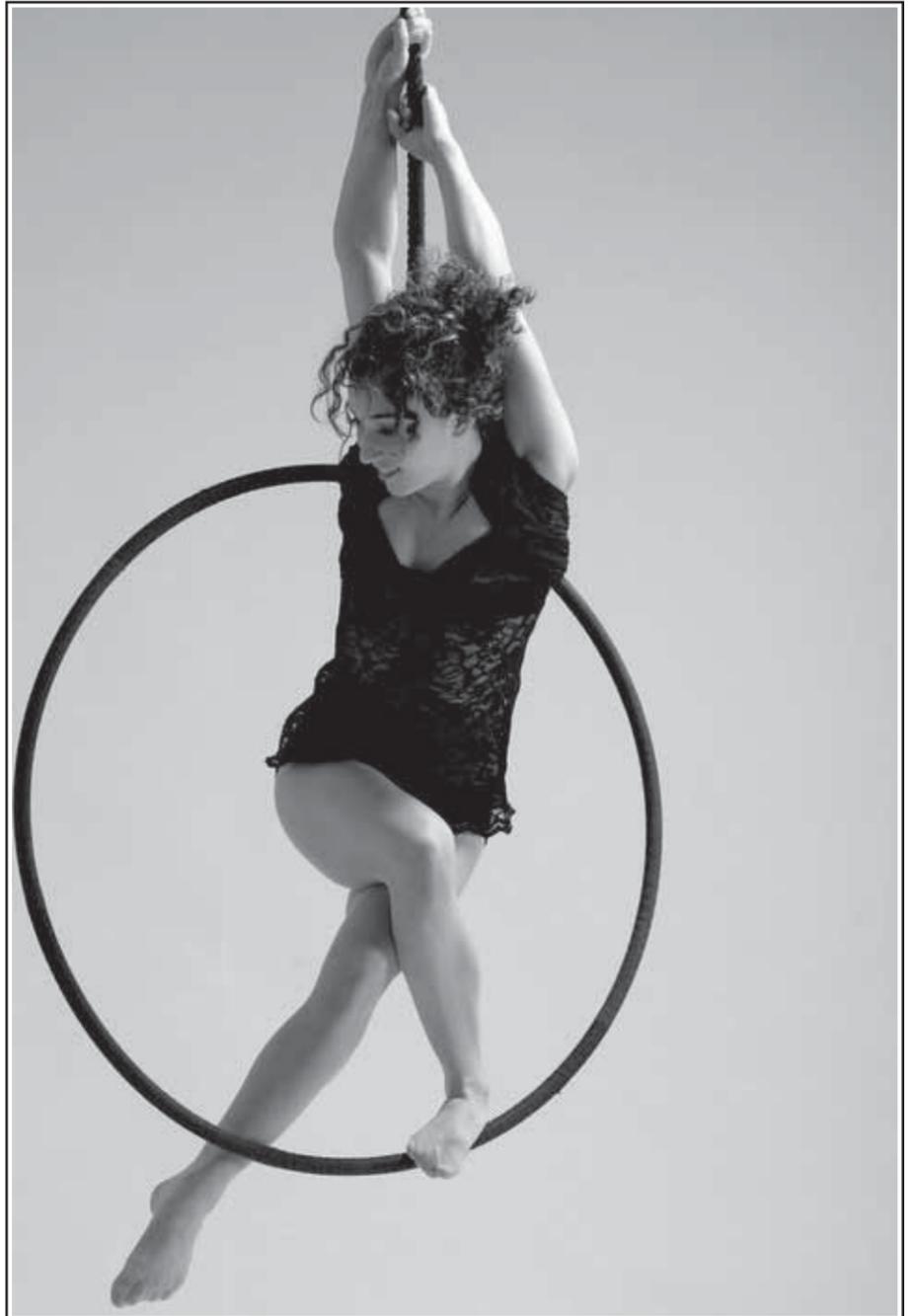
A special children's matinee at 2 p.m. is planned for children under 12 years old. Another performance for the general public is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the 2 p.m. matinee are \$15 for children under 12 (children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult), adults \$25 ahead of time, \$30 at the door. The adults only 7 p.m. evening performance is \$25 ahead of time, \$30 at the door. VIP tickets with preferred seating are \$50. VIPs will have a cocktail party before the evening performance and meet the artists after the show.

Circus Terrificus is sponsored by the Women's Community Club of Grafton, Vt. All proceeds will benefit its scholarship fund. The Women's club has set its goal to award \$15,000 in scholarships for 2013, which it awards in June each year.

Other sponsors from area towns helping to support the event include the Windham Foundation: Grafton Fund, The Windham Antiques Center, WW Building Supply, Chester Hardware, Lisai Market of Bellows Falls, Lisai Market of Chester, Pleasant Valley Brewery, Grafton Village Bakery, Barrett Valley Associates, and Durand Toyota Ford of Westminster.

Bellows Falls Opera House is located on the Square in downtown Bellows Falls, VT. Advance tickets are available at www.brattleborotix.com, wcctickets@aol.com, by calling (802) 843-1180, or at Misty Valley Books in Chester, Village Square Books in Bellows Falls, Ruggles & Hunt in Walpole, NH, and Gallery North Star in Grafton, VT.

For more information about the circus visit Circus Terrificus on Facebook or www.graftonvermont.org.



© richardblouin.com

Circus Terrificus will feature this unique hoop performance by the Paris troop Sequence 8 on May 25 at the Bellows Falls Opera House.

Immanuel Episcopal Church in Bellows Falls Launches Immanuel Retreat Center

Immanuel Episcopal Church in Bellows Falls, VT is undertaking a new ministry of hospitality, adult education and spiritual formation. It is launching Immanuel Retreat Center, a conference center hosting weekend workshops in spirituality, ministry and the arts. The center can also be rented with overnight accommodations, catering, and daytime conference and performance space available. It also offers space to individuals for personal retreats.

The Rectory has now been re-purposed into the Retreat House. It sleeps eleven

people in five bedrooms. One bedroom is handicap accessible on the first floor. It will also house a chapel and modest library focused on western spirituality. There is a living room with adjoining dining room, and a spacious kitchen.

Immanuel Retreat Center combines the residential retreat house with the church (which seats 200 as a lecture/worship/performance) and the chapel/conference room in the church's adjoining parish house.

Beginning in June, the space will be offered for rent

to groups. From summer forward, there will be weekend workshops in spirituality and the arts, some in partnership with Stone Church Arts.

Immanuel Retreat Center will be formally dedicated by the Bishop of Vermont, Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely, on Sunday June 2 at 5 p.m. when it will officially open.

Immanuel Retreat Center is located at 14 Church St., Bellows Falls, VT.

For more information call (802) 463-3100, e-mail immanuel@sover.net. Visit www.immanuelretreat.org.



Rain

For Maris—

This afternoon the rain rustles in the long dry grass,
And I think of rain as a glass
Through which the year must pass,
And you and I...
If the casual drops sigh
Among the dogwood branches, we shall know
That the leaves now fallen will not grow
Again, and not the flowers
Nor ever the same hours.
And if the rain says, *Remember...*
We shall know that though November
Lies along the sky today,
April is not far away,
And if I sigh, remembering, and hold this year apart,
I must yet know how May will find again your heart.

—AUGUST W. DERLETH
1935



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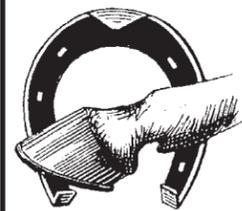
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— Drafts to Minis —



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The Old Barn

by Ellen Barden Ford

— circa 1917 —

It is late afternoon and I am following the narrow path through the rank grass of the orchard to bid good bye to the old gray barn where many of the happiest hours of my childhood were spent. Tomorrow the old barn is to be torn down. They say it is past usefulness and a blot on the landscape with its sagging roof and rotting timbers.

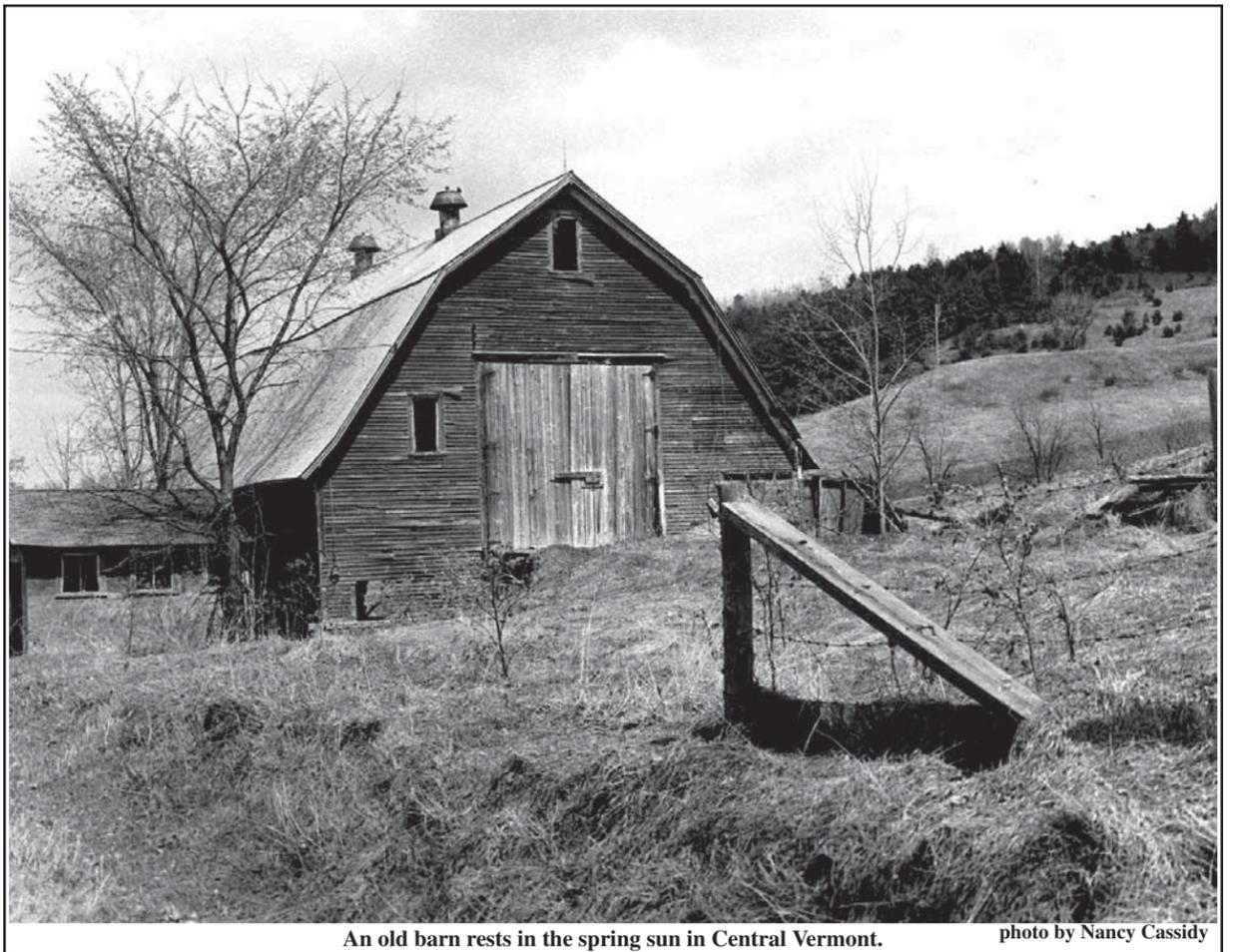
As we turn back the pages of memory the pictures that stand out the clearest to most of us are those etched on our impressionable childish minds. The years have left them so vividly clear to me that I can close my eyes and see a little barefoot girl crossing the old plank threshold. Sometimes she comes with a happy face and a book in her hand. Sometimes she is a sorrowful little girl and sometimes an angry one. If angry the restful quiet of the old barn is like a soft cool hand on her passionate little heart and her face as she steps over the old threshold has the peaceful look of one whom nature has calmed and comforted.

"I can close my eyes and see a little barefoot girl crossing the old plank threshold."

The owner of the old barn would have said that it was tenantless in the summer except for the three cows that were tied in the little stable at night to be milked.

If you had asked the little girl about the summer tenants of the old barn she would have given you a shy smile in answer but if you had an understanding nature you could have read many things from her eyes. She could have told you of the barn swallows with their soft twitter that darted about among the rafters caring for their young, of the little grey mice that scampered about on their own affairs, of the young woodchucks with their soft eyes that explored the empty barn bay playing like so many kittens, of the big toad that lived under the old plank step and came out to enjoy the cool of the evening and to get his supper, and of the many insects that chirped and buzzed and hummed and were so interesting to watch. So many other scenes my memories furnish me.

Shearing the sheep was an interesting time for the children. We always looked in on our way to school and I can see the plank floor swept clean with the table where the men rolled, tied, and weighed the fleeces. We rushed home at night to see if our special pets had bloody spots on their white wool where the shearers had cut them, and if so we reproached the shearers and comforted the sheep with sliced apple or potato.



An old barn rests in the spring sun in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Threshing, too, was an interesting time for the children. The noisy old threshing machine seemed full of mystery. To see the grain as it came from the field put in to the machine and the clean grain come out at one place and the straw out of another seemed a miracle we never tired of watching.

Well, the old barn is full of dusky shadows and I must go. Dear old barn, well have you served the purpose for which you were built. You have been a home for many of God's humble creatures. Beasts, birds, and insects and the haunts of my childhood will never seem so dear without you.

I will go to the stable door and see if the evening primrose still grows there. Here it is, a thrifty plant with its satiny yellow flowers just opening.

As I look in the old stable I can see the little girl with some of the yellow flowers in her hand, sitting on a stool back of the cows and talking to her father while the milk tinkles and foams in the big tin pail.

Many years have passed since then but I never see an evening primrose without thinking of the one that grew by the old stable door.

At the bend in the orchard path I turn for a last look at the old barn. The soft rays of the rising moon, the dancing leaf shadows of the old elm, the distance and perhaps the tears in my eyes lay a transforming hand upon the old ruin and it appears before me, a veritable fairy palace. One long look and another picture is added to my book of memories

The Catamount Prowl 2013 is Coming to Bennington!

Bennington, VT is going Cat Crazy this season. Get ready for 34 fiberglass Catamount sculptures, embellished by area artists, to go on display in and around Bennington from May through October!

The Catamount was a good choice for a community street art event. The history and mythology of the Green Mountain Catamount dates back to the early 1760s. Also known as the Eastern Cougar or Felis concolor cougar, the Catamount became an icon

of the Green Mountain State, posing great danger to early settlers.

During land disputes in the late 1700s a stuffed Catamount was placed atop Fay's Tavern's roadside sign facing New York. The famous Bennington landmark later became known as the Catamount Tavern.

Join the fun at an unveiling party to welcome the Catamount sculptures to the streets of Bennington. Come on May 22nd to the Bennington Brush Building on North

St. between 5 and 8 p.m. to see all the "Big Cats" in one place with refreshments provided by the Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Meet the artists and sponsors and get a first look at the Catamounts.

Later in the season there will be a gallery opening to celebrate the 20 table top Catamount sculptures on display from summer into fall. Proceeds of a silent auction will go directly to the 20 schools they will represent.

The greater Bennington community will benefit from the Catamount Prowl. Area merchants and businesses have sponsored large and small versions and are working with the Chamber of Commerce and regional artists to create a festive streetscape.

Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center is located at 100 Veterans Memorial Dr., Bennington, VT. (802) 447-3311. www.bennington.com.

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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.

Hildene's spectacular "Celebration of Peonies" takes place from mid-May to mid-June. 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. During the balance of the Vermont blooming season perennials of every color grace the garden. The estate's gardens have been extensively restored with a focus on preservation and conservation.

The garden, a family affair

The garden was designed by President Lincoln's granddaughter, Jessie Lincoln, for her mother, Mary Harlan Lincoln, wife of presidential son, Robert Todd Lincoln. Documents suggest that Robert collaborated with his daughter in bringing the garden to life. The two generations of Lincoln women had a "passion for peonies."

Few herbaceous plants can rival the peony for floral display and foliage. Visitors see and smell these heirloom beauties, affectionately known as the Queens of the Garden and quickly understand why the Lincoln women were passionate about their peonies.

Tours of the family's 24-room Georgian Revival mansion built by President Lincoln's son, Robert Lincoln and wife Mary in 1905, conclude with a stroll through the formal garden where the fragrance of these heirloom beauties fill the air.

Many varieties and two special cultivars

The garden is an American version of a European parterre style, designed to resemble a stained glass window. It is home to approximately 20 varieties of peonies. Two very special ones, Jessie Lincoln and Hildene, have been named by the prestigious American Peony Society as newly discovered cultivars. The original peony roots for the Lincolns' garden were purchased from a grower in Paris, France more than 100 years ago, making these centennial blooms even more worthy of the attention given them each year during the celebration.

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.

Visit the Museum Store for seeds to take home

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



Peonies in bloom at Hildene in Manchester, VT.

photo by Alan Nyiri

by Jessie Lincoln are available there. Exploring Hildene's formal garden is only part of the excitement of a day at The Lincoln Family Home and estate. Guests also enjoy visiting the other gardens, the mansion and Lincoln exhibit, Hildene Farm and cheese-making facility, the 1903 restored wooden Pullman palace car, Sunbeam, and the woodlands and trails that crisscross the 412 acre 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 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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"Seeds, Shovels, Buckets and Boots" Manchester's New Field, Farm & Food Festival

The Manchester and the Mountains Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a new regional field, farm and food festival—"Seeds, Shovels, Buckets and Boots" to be held on May 17th and 18th in Manchester and Dorset, VT.

The weekend event will begin on Friday evening, 6-8 p.m., May 17th, with a mix and mingle gathering (and yes there will be food) at the Dorset Inn in Dorset, VT. There will be an interactive session keynoted by nationally recognized Master Gardener, TV personality and author Charlie Nardozi.

Charlie, just back from a trip to Italy, will speak and show a slideshow on the topic, "Vegetables in the Italian Garden." Buffet

dinner to complement Charlie's presentation is \$35 per person. Enjoy a dessert and coffee station and Q & A with Charlie, and a cash bar.

Saturday morning, May 18, begins with a Continental Breakfast at Hildene in Manchester, VT at 8:30 a.m. and a tour of the gardens with Hildene's Garden Horticulturist, Andrea Luchini. Tickets are \$20 per person.

The festival continues with a full day of exhibits and demonstrations from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at J.K. Adams on Rt. 30 in Dorset, VT. Mio Bistro will be hosting a lite bites garden cafe. Lectures and demonstrations include noted author and kitchen design expert Ellen Ecker Odgen on "The Art of Food" speaking at 10:30

a.m. Other workshops will include Composting with Eric Berger at 11:30 a.m., Alan Beniot speaking about "Good Bug - Bad Bug" at 12:30 p.m., Bob Aldrich on How to Grow Orchids at 2:30 p.m., Tracy Medeiros signing her new book, The Vermont Farm Table Cookbook from 2-4 p.m.

Vermont Victory Greenhouses will show how easy it is to have your own greenhouse. Whether its flowers or vegetables, we've got you

covered. Make this your best planting season ever!

Seeds, Shovels, Buckets and Boots is sponsored by Casablanca Motel, The Vermont Bird Place and supported by the Inn at Manchester, Backroads Discovery, Hildene, H.N. Williams, Mettowee Mill Nursery and r.k. Miles.

Tickets for the Saturday show are \$15. For information call (802) 362-6313 or go to visitmanchestervt.com.

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Swamp People

by Burr Morse

Our Morse family version of “smelling the roses” is more like “lime-lighting the lady’s slippers.” Yup, we’ve all grown up idolizing this rare and beautiful member of the orchid family. Just like maple sugarin’, it’s part of Morse DNA to love wildflowers and the showy Lady’s Slipper is the cr me de la cr me of wildflowers. We’ve got a swamp right here on the farm where they grow. Although deemed rare and endangered, they’ve been here all my life so far but like maple sugarin’ again, their season is elusive, short, and in some years wanting. My brother Tick made a scouting excursion one spring and returned excited—“They’re as good as I’ve ever seen. Better get up there within a few days,” he said.

That was the perfect call to action for the rest of us, even a few whose swamp sloggin’ days are on the wane. Cousin George and his wife Marge got wind of the trip and immediately wanted in. George and Marge have both been slowed by strokes but have wonderful attitudes and sense of adventure. Word spread here in Vermont’s “slow lane” and before we knew it, our party included George’s sisters Harriet Gallagher

“It was a beautiful, sunny day as our procession crept under the shade of huge white pines...”

and Ella Maynard and Ella’s husband Everett. All but Harriet are over eighty years old!

We organized at a place on our farm where a trail leads to the swamp (and I ain’t goin’ ta tell you where that is). Besides all of George’s folks, there were my siblings Tick and Susie, Paul Cate the naturalist, Jane Richmond the photographer, and Allen Jacobs, a man with a strong back. As our group formed, the wisdom of this adventure seemed a bit questionable; after all, none of us were “spring chickens”.

Tick’s Honda off-road vehicle and Paul’s Toyota pickup would be our limousines, accessible by a short step ladder and a silent prayer. We finally got everyone crowded on front driver’s seats and a rag-tag collection of folding chairs in the beds and headed out “Granny Clampett” style.

It was a beautiful sunny day as our procession crept under the shade of huge white pines to a winding down grade. Finally the woods road leveled in a hemlock forest at the edge of the lady’s slipper swamp. Viewing the lady’s slippers, though, would require walking a hundred feet out into the swamp over teetery planks that Tick had previously laid down.

We held an impromptu vote; the elders of our party voted unanimously—press on! While we disembarked carefully, very carefully, my thoughts went to an earlier time...



photo by Susan Shattuck
Friends and relatives of Burr Morse set off on an outing to view the rare spring Lady’s Slippers back in the swamp on Morse Farm in Montpelier, VT.

I was nine and my buddies, Dougie Schaefer, Claude Young, and I had labored through the woods to get to there. It was not lady’s slippers that brought us that day but our boyish attraction to quicksand, deep, bottomless, scary pockets of quicksand. “That quicksand’ll swallow you right up!” Dougie said, and Claude added, “I heard you’ll go clear t’China!” All of a sudden the sucking power of a “triple-dawg dare” had me inching out into the swamp. My buddies stood at the edge egging me on. “Go, Go, Go...you’re a chicken...you ain’t goin’ ta give up yet are ya?” I persisted until the mud had sucked me in up to my knees and one of my brand new Keds had been claimed by the depths.

Now, fifty-two years later, I was back in the swamp holding Marge by her therapy belt and encouraging her one baby step at a time. George was first in line employing both his trusty cane and two younger men at his side. Then came Harriet and Ella and last in line was Everett Maynard who will be eighty-nine on his next birthday! We plodded on until finally, one last swamp hummock introduced the show we had come to see.

Into the distance stood pink and white lady’s slippers punctuated by random clumps of blue flag. They seemingly “smiled” at us, their strange visitors. We stayed long enough to “soak in” this natural wonderland and snap a few photos. Finally we made our snail’s pace retreat.

We got loaded up in the two vehicles with no incidents and had a very pleasant ride back to where we had started. Unlike my earlier venture to the swamp, we all returned with our footgear intact and our maturity had long-since erased fears of sudden trips to China. Some things, however, never change. The lady’s slipper swamp is an alluring place for nine-year-olds and ninety-year-olds alike. We seniors, though, are just a little better at “smelling the roses.”

Morse Farm Maple Sugar Works is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT, and is open year round 9-5, summertime 8-8. Visit the Sugar House, Country Store, Woodshed Theatre, Outdoor Farm House Museum, and more. To order maple products call (800) 242-2740 or visit www.morsefarm.com. Shipping available.



photo by Susan Shattuck
Lovely rare Lady’s Slippers, Vermont’s native orchid.

29th Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale Coming May 11

The 29th Annual Famous Tinmouth Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 8-10 a.m. in beautiful downtown Tinmouth, VT to benefit the Tinmouth School. Come get flowers, shrubs, treats and a sparkle shine for your car!

The sale takes place at the Old Firehouse on Mountain View Rd. in the center of town.

Plants can be viewed 7:30-8 a.m., prior to the 8 a.m. starting bell, but no selections or purchases will occur before 8 a.m. The Tinmouth sale is well known due to its large selection of hardy

perennials for both sun and shade and reasonable prices.

Come early for the best selection of locally grown and dug perennials and shrubs, and a nice assortment of young plants generously donated by the Greenleaf Nursery. Many have been raised organically. Large perennials are \$4 each, smaller pots are only \$3. Bring your own boxes or containers to carry plants. This is a great sale for stocking up.

Experienced gardeners are on hand to answer questions and help with plant choice. If it grows in Tinmouth, it will grow at your house!

Everyone is in on the fun! The first grade class is raising seedlings to sell. There will be coffee, refreshments, and a bake sale to support the third and fourth grade class, and a carwash to support the fifth and sixth grade class at the Tinmouth School.

All proceeds from the Plant Sale support the Tinmouth Community Schol-

arship Fund which began offering higher education scholarships to Tinmouth residents in 2012. Take a drive to Tinmouth to refresh your perennial gardens. You won’t be disappointed.

For more info, contact Cathy Reynolds at (802) 446-2928 or eworks@vermontel.net. www.tinmouthvt.org.

Gone Away

When you forget, and all of us forget,
Until long dead are all the things we did
And what we said and tried to say here, yet,
Yet will there be in these fields where we hid
A wind blowing, and a sun in clover,
And an old muttering blackbird flying over,
And all, just as we left it last.—And they
Won't seem to mind that we have gone away...

—CHARLES MALAM

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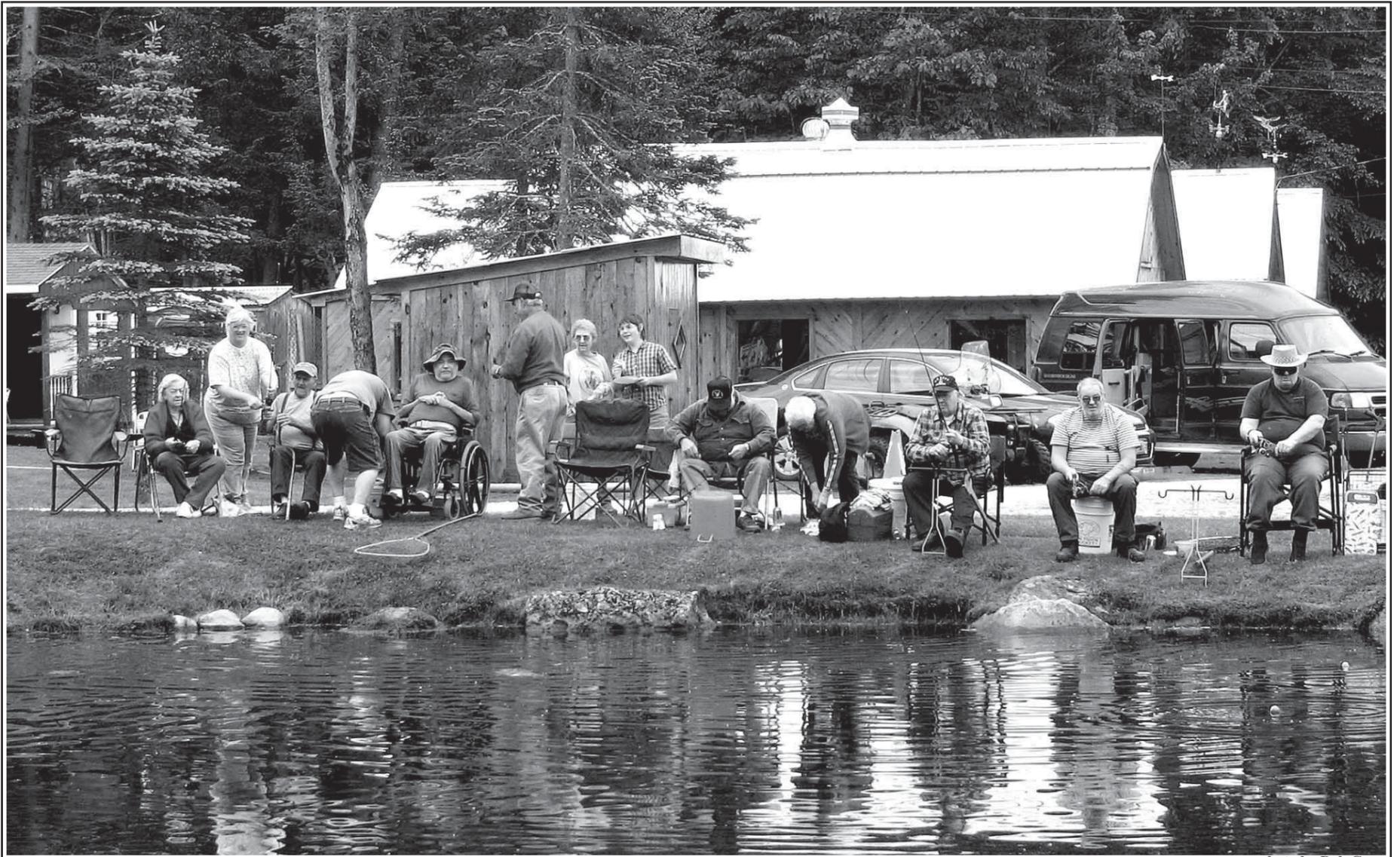


photo by Bob Case

Avid fishermen and women all lined up to cast their lines at the Annual Teenie's Handicapped & Seniors Fishing Derby at Teenie's Tiny Poultry Farm in Chittenden, VT.

Chittenden, VT

32nd Annual Teenie's Handicapped & Seniors Fishing Derby

The 32nd annual Teenie's Handicapped & Senior Citizens' Fishing Derby will take place Sunday, June 2nd, at Teenie's Tiny Poultry Farm in Chittenden, VT. The event draws hundreds of older folks and wheelchair-bound fishermen of all ages for a free day of great fishing and free food, rain or shine.

Longtime Chittenden residents Teenie and Bob Bearor organize and host the fishing derby at their farm northeast of Rutland, VT. The event this year is dedicated to the memory of Kenny Lawrence, the Bearors' longtime friend and co-worker, who helped make the derby happen for 15 years.

Federal fish hatcheries stock the Bearors' pond with salmon and rainbow, brown and native trout for the event. Anglers bring their own chairs, bait and tackle; there is a limit of four catches per person. Whether they get lucky or not, they're sure to take home a prize or two from the drawings held all afternoon for goodies provided by local merchants and residents.

Volunteers cook and serve up hot dogs, sausage, ice cream and other food. Individuals and local and national restaurants, food manufacturers and other businesses generously provide the food and beverages.

His father was behind Bob's desire to stage the Fishing Derby. "Being in a wheelchair did nothing to dull his love of fishing," says Teenie, "but wheelchair access for fishermen was really limited."

Determined to find an easy way for Bob's dad, paraplegics and seniors and the disabled generally to angle at leisure, the Bearors built their pond. Bob's dad didn't live to see it, but in 1982, Teenie and Bob began opening it to the handicapped and seniors the first Sunday in June each year. Participation has grown from about 50 that first year to 300 or more in recent years. "The weather almost doesn't matter," says Bob. "We've had some of the biggest groups in the pouring rain."

A pictorial cancellation commemorating the event from the U.S. Postal Service—Bob has been driving for the Postal Service for 57 years—will be a special highlight of the fishing derby this year. Postal personnel will be on site to handle the cancellations.

Food will be served at 11:30 a.m. Fishing begins at 1 p.m.

Teenie's Tiny Poultry Farm in So. Chittenden, VT is located on Teenie's Tiny Rd., off Chittenden Rd./East Pittsford Rd., off Rt. 7 just north of Rutland, VT.

For more information contact Teenie or Bob Bearor at Teenie's Tiny Poultry Farm at (802) 773-2637 or Reggi Dubin at (802) 483-6161. E-mail teenie.bearor@gmail.com or rdubin3@gmail.com.

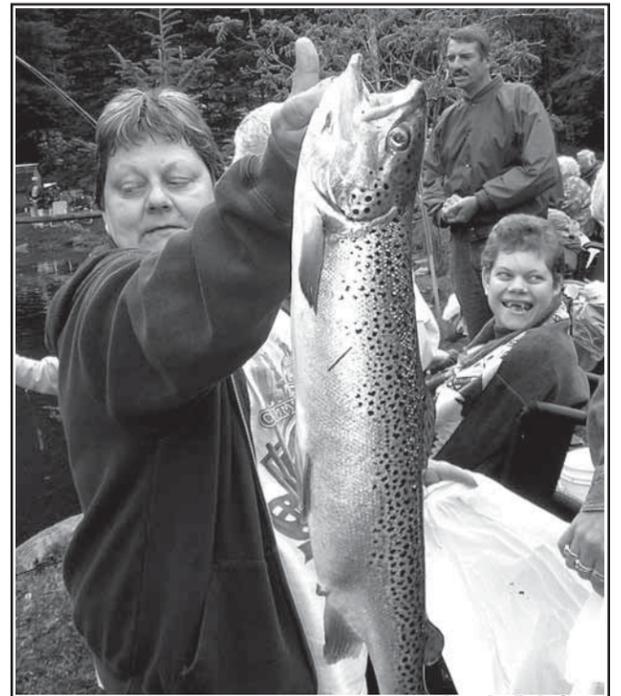


photo by Bob Case

Happy lady with her catch of the day!



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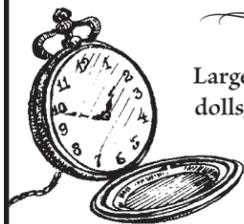
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Hereford calf with its mother on a spring day in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Beautiful Sunday

It was such a bright morning
That the cows, coming out of the cool dark barns
feeling a good deal better,
Stood for a while and blinked,
And the young heifers said to each other,
'Oh my!
I never saw such a pretty day!
Let's jump over fences!
Let's go running up and down lanes with our tails in the
air.'
And the old sisterly Jerseys
Thought to themselves, 'That patch of white clover
Over in the corner where the woodchucks are
Ought to be about ready for a good going over.'

Well, you never saw anything in your life like the way
the young ducks are acting.
They were tearing in and out of the water
Making enough noise to be heard all over the township;
Even the robins were scandalized
And sat around in the trees looking sideways and one-
eyed at them.
All the crawdads in that part of the creek
Picked up and moved, and the sober old snake
Slipped off his rock and went for a walk in the briars.

The ghosts of dead spiders
Had been busy all night, and every few feet along the road
There was a rope of gossamer.
The old white horse taking two old gray people to meeting
Held up his head and said to himself,
'Look at those ropes!
Watch me bust them!
Whammy, there goes another one!
Doggone, I'll bet there isn't another horse in 42 counties
Can run along a road pulling a buggy and busting ropes
and cables.'
And all of a sudden he felt so good
That he threw up his hindquarters and gave a big two-
legged kick,
And the old gray woman said, 'Well, I swan to gracious,'
And the old gray man got all tangled up with the lines
And nearly fell out of the buggy reaching for the whip.
'Whoa, there,' he said. 'Whoa, there, Roosevelt!
Hold on now! What in the Sam Hill is into you?'

About 14 hundred May apple stems,
With their parasols up, marched down the hill
And all the spring beauties turned up their pale, peaked
noses
And said, 'Don't them May apples
Think they're somebody
With their bumbershoots up!'

Oh, it was a grand day, a specially grand day,
And all the flowers were so sweet
That the butterflies sneezed.
And the young goats and the lambs
Couldn't think of anything special enough
In the way of capers and didoes,
So they just stood still and looked wise.



—JAKE FALSTAFF

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Vermont Spring: Ephemeral and Precious

by Judith Irven

When the yellow-green haze of young leaves starts to envelop the trees we know that spring has come. It begins in the valley one warm sunny day; but it will take two weeks or longer before the green veil imperceptibly reaches the mountaintops.

And, as spring arrives in the mountain woods, free at last from winter's snow, everywhere dainty flowers push up through the crackly brown leaves.

Around my home, as in much of Vermont, the soil is predictably acidic, and in May the forests are carpeted with Spring Beauties (*Claytonia virginica*) and Trout Lilies (*Erythronium americanum*), punctuated with clusters of both the Red and the Painted Trillium.

Every now and then I see other less-common beauties, such as Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Goldthread (*Coptis groenlandica*), and Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*). And I am always delighted to come across a sizable clump of squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*), or its close relative Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) with the flowers hanging along the stem like laundry hung out to dry.

But should you drive along the back roads in the limestone regions of state, be sure to keep an eye open for a colony of white Large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) stretching back into the woods—a truly unforgettable sight. Since the Large-flowered Trillium require an alkaline soil they are picky about their location; but in the right spot they will multiply without end, as this picture shows.

All these diminutive spring plants are known as 'ephemerals', and they are nature's opportunists. Their annual emergence is precisely timed to coincide with that brief window in May when the ground has thawed but before the trees have fully leafed out, so the sun is still illuminating the forest floor. In the span of a few short weeks these plants complete their entire annual cycle of leafing out, flowering and setting seed, after which they retreat below the ground until next spring.

Spring Ephemerals in the Garden

In our gardens we have spring ephemerals too, retreating below ground before the weather gets hot. First to come are the familiar flowers from bulbs, especially snowdrops, squills, crocuses and daffodils. Then, around the middle of May, the bed outside my window is filled with the clearest blue of a colony of Virginia bluebells. Over the years they have gradually self-seeded, and now they are picture-perfect among clusters of pale yellow English primroses and some white Bloodroot.

Two bleeding hearts (both relatives of the woodland Dutchman's breeches and Squirrel Corn), the substantial Old-fashioned Bleeding Heart, (*Dicentra spectabilis*) and the smaller Fringed Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra exima*) also flower in mid-May, as another reminder that winter is truly over.

The Crimson Balloon

The first Saturday in May is also the official state Green-up Day, a wonderful Vermont tradition that has been going for over forty years. An estimated 15,000 people, armed with special green bags, fan out along the roadsides to gather up a winter's accumulation of trash, bottles and cans.

And the trash we find sometimes takes on peculiar forms. When walking through the forest I spied a mysterious crimson object off in the distance, resting on the ground



A woodland filled with white Large-flowered Trilliums near Salisbury, VT. photo by Dick Conrad

among a thousand Spring Beauties. Upon closer inspection I discovered a Mylar balloon, presumably launched some four months earlier as part somebody's New Year's celebrations. That balloon must have made a very long journey in both time and space before descending in springtime into Vermont's woods.

May: The Gardener's New Year

May is when my gardening year begins in earnest. This is when I can dig the soil without danger of compacting it as I walk.

And, as befits the Gardener's New Year, I was inspired by the Crimson Balloon to compile a list of New Year Resolutions—for the garden. I just hope my resolutions will not prove to as ephemeral as the spring flowers, but rather that they will stay with me throughout the season.

These are my New Year's Resolutions:

1. As soon as they have finished flowering, I will carefully dig all excess daffodils that have multiplied beyond all expectations in my flowerbeds. I will replant them, 'in the green'—bulbs, leaves and all, in the bank along the edge of our road. Here they can multiply to their heart's content and provide springtime pleasure for passers-by for decades to come.

2. I will plant additional kale and chard, both excellent nutritional foods that also grow really well in our mountain summers. I will freeze the excess at easy intervals throughout the summer, rather than waiting until winter is imminent to be overwhelmed in the kitchen by mountains of green.

3. I will grow more cherry tomato plants, since I know that, at our elevation, the larger varieties of tomato only ripen in September—when summer's salad season is almost past. Tossed in a little olive oil and garlic, I will roast all the excess cherry tomatoes. I will then freeze them for winter treats—in January, thawed and served with pasta and little Parmesan cheese, they are beyond delicious.

4. Using my soil knife, a very important tool in my tool bucket (available at A.M. Leonard, amleo.com), I will dig out the dandelions that seem to arrive in the flower beds from

nowhere, all the way down to the bottom of their incredibly long tap root. I know that if I just pull and break the root, three more dandelions will soon return to haunt me.

5. Next fall I will scour the flowerbeds for any wayward grasses that may be over-running my perennials. I know from past experience that merely pulling the grass will leave plenty of roots to re-sprout. So instead I will carefully lift each perennial root mass and soak it in a bucket of water for a few hours, so that I can tease out those pesky grass roots. I will then take my trusty garden fork, loosen the soil in the bed and chase down any remaining white roots, after which I will divide and replant my perennials to better fill the flowerbeds.

And my most important resolution of all...I will stop worrying about perfection in the garden, as I know there is no such thing. I will enjoy the pleasures of each and every season as it comes around, as if it were my last.

A Great Resource

To learn more about our wildflowers, seek out Kate Carter's convenient pocket-sized book *Wildflowers of Vermont*, which she has illustrated with over 200 beautiful color photographs.

Judith Irven is a landscape designer who lives with her photographer husband, Dick Conrad, in Goshen, VT. Her northcountryreflections.com website is devoted to her garden writings.



White Large-flowered Trillium. photo by Dick Conrad

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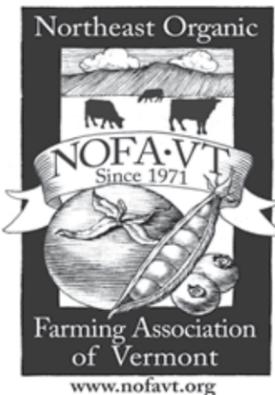


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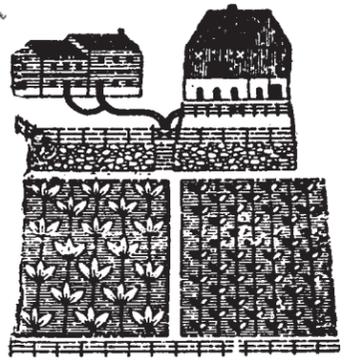
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Vermont Map



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—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT, 1954

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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. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm, Wed-Sun and Monday Holidays. 8149 VT Rt. 17W. (802) 759-2412. historicsites.vermont.gov. *Open May 25 - Oct 14, 2013.*

BARRE. Art Exhibits. Classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Tuesday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm, Saturday noon - 4 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com.

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, 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. 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.*

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. Catamount Prowl 2013. The 34 fiberglass catamount sculptures will be embellished by area artists and on display in and around Bennington from May through October. Gala & auction October 26, 2013. (802) 447-3311. www.bennington.com.

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

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 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, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Also free admission to visit the Gift Shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wed. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Battle Monument Opens for Season. Vermont's tallest structure, the Bennington Battle Monument is open to the public for exploration from 9 am to 5 pm daily. Admission \$3 adults, \$1 children ages six through 14 years. Children under six years and scheduled school groups are free. (802) 447-0550. historicsites.vermont.gov. Through October 31.

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Outdoor Farmers Market. Entertainment and prepared foods. 10 am - 2 pm. At the River Walk on Depot St. Katherine Keys. (802) 688-7210. walloomsac.org. *Saturdays May thru Oct.*

BRADFORD. Old Church Theater's Comedy. "Catch Me If You Can!" A comedy-whodunit set in the Adirondacks. 7.30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays and Sunday at 4 pm. Old Church Theater. 137 N. Main St. (802) 222-3322. www.oldchurchtheater.org. *May 3-12.*

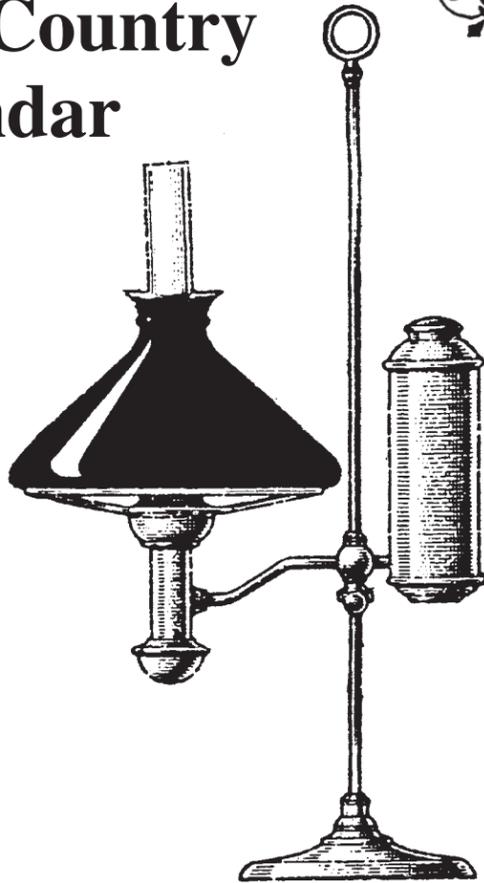
BRANDON. Sustainable Living Book Exchange. Self-service—take a book, leave a book. Donations accepted. Neshobe Farm, 142 Steinberg Rd. off Rt. 7 just north of the village (come to the house). Info: (802) 310-8534.

BRANDON. Brandon Visitor Center. Information and public restrooms, open daily 8 am - 6 pm, 365 days a year. 4 Grove St., next to the Baptist Church at the corner of Routes 7 & 73 W. Also houses the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace. Open mid-May through mid-Oct. (802) 247-6401. info@brandon.org. brandon.org.

BRANDON. First Fridays. Our restaurants and merchants are keeping their doors open till 9 pm the first Friday of each month. Visit "indie" shops, galleries, and restaurants. (802) 247-6401. www.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. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" at 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. 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. 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. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3 - 17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. Monday-Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. At Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org.

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 from 11 am - 1 pm. Rutland Railway Association, 79 Depot Lane. rra@rutlandrailway.org. www.rutlandrailway.org.

CHESTER. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts. Art Exhibits, Programs and Music. Free admission. Wednesday through Sunday 11 am - 6 pm. VTica, 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. info@vtica.org. www.vtica.org.

CHESTER. Chester-Andover Family Center Food Shelf and Thrift Shop. Great selection of clothes for the entire family including shoes and accessories, household items, books, videos, puzzles, games, etc. Food Shelf and emergency financial assistance to those in need. Thrift shop hours: Tues. 10-4, Wed. 1-7, Fri. 10-4, and Sat. 9-2. 908 VT Rt. 103 South. (802) 875-3236. cafc302@gmail.com. www.chesterandoverfamilycenter.weebly.com.

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

CHESTER. High Tea at Inn Victoria. Afternoon savories, sweets, fruit, and a variety of teas. \$19.99 per person. Open by reservation. Inn Victoria, 321 Main St. (802) 875-4288. innkeeper@innvictoria.com. www.innvictoria.com.

CHESTER. Gallery 103—an Artisan Marketplace. Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch Chocolates and VT Maple products. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon 10-5, closed Tues-Thurs. Located on Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Community Dinner. On the third Wednesday of every month, we gather for a free community supper. Really; it's free! We have a great time with old and new friends. The food is great; the fellowship is wonderful—and you don't have to wear fancy clothes! 6 pm. United Church of Craftsbury, 7 Church Lane. (802) 586-8028.

Rokeby Education Center and Underground Railroad Exhibit

Rokeby Museum will open its new Education Center and exhibit on Sunday, May 19 at 2 p.m. Join us as we cut a big red ribbon and celebrate a decade of planning and fund raising for the \$1.2 million project.

The Center provides much-needed facilities, including rest rooms and meeting space, and houses the new 2,500 square foot exhibit—"Free & Safe: The Underground Railroad in Vermont."

"Free & Safe" introduces visitors to Simon and Jesse—two fugitives from slavery who found shelter at Rokeby in the 1830s. The exhibit traces their stories from slavery to freedom, introduces the abolitionist Robinson family who called Rokeby home for nearly 200 years, and explores the turbulent decades leading up

to the Civil War. Employing audio and lighting effects and museum theatre, "Free & Safe" will educate, engage, and challenge young and old, Vermonters and visitors, black and white.

When it opens in May, there will be nothing else like it in the Northeast.

Rokeby Museum is a National Historic Landmark that connects visitors with the human experience of the Underground Railroad and with the Robinson family, who lived on and farmed this land for nearly 200 years.

Rokeby Museum is located at 4334 Route 7 in Ferrisburgh, VT. Open from May 19 through October 27.

For further information, contact Museum Director Jane Williamson at rokeby@comcast.net or (802) 877-3406. Visit www.rokeby.org.



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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

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. www.mountainviewranch.biz.

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 THETFORD. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center. A certified organic, fifty-acre vegetable and berry farm. Farmstand and Hello Coffee Shop (with wireless internet). Spring flowers, hanging baskets, tender greens. Coffee Shop open 8-5, farm stand open 10-6. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. www.cedarcirclefarm.org. Open through October.

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

FERRISBURGH. New Exhibit: "Free and Safe: The Underground Railroad in Vermont." This new exhibit will introduce you to Simon and Jesse, two fugitives from slavery who were sheltered at Rokeby in the 1830s. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rte 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby@comcast.net. www.rokeby.org. Open May 19 through October 27.

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum, Rt. 122. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world. Events and exhibits. Open June 1 through November 1, 10 am - 6 pm. Open in the winter by appointment. Free admission, donations welcome. (802) 525-3031.

GLOVER. The Museum of Everyday Life. New exhibition, "Healing Engine of Emergency—the incredible story of the Safety Pin." A self-service museum, open every day from 8 am - 8 pm. At 3482 Dry Pond Rd. (Rt. 16) a short distance south of the Shadow Lake Rd. For more information call (802) 626-4409. www.museumofeverydaylife.org.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Programs for all ages. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, mounted specimen, wildlife garden. Hiking trails in the Village Park behind the Museum. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 3 to 12, 2 and under free, \$15 for families. Open 10 am - 4 pm Thurs or by appointment through Memorial Day and then Thurs, Sat & Sun. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. info@nature-museum.org. www.nature-museum.org.

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. Mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400.

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.graftonvalleyartsguild.com.

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

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.

HUBBARDTON. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. Children's colonial dress-up basket. Bring your flag to be raised over the Hubbardton Battlefield and receive a certificate. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm. Thurs. - Sun., and Monday holidays. 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. Open May 25 to October 14, 2013

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. May 1 through October 31, 10 am - 4 pm. November 1 through April 30, open by appointment. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

LANDGROVE. Horse-Drawn Wagon and Carriage Rides. Rides leave on the hour from Landgrove Inn. Call for reservations. (802) 824-4663. www.karlpfistersleigh.com.

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.

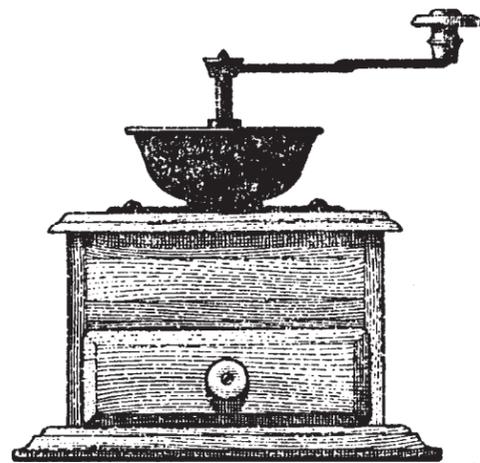
LEBANON, NH. ValleyNet Community Technology Center. 10-seat computer lab in the new Grafton County Senior Citizens Council building, Campbell St., downtown. 9 am - 4:30 pm, Mon-Fri. Free. (802) 649-2126.

LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Discussion includes an in-depth look of at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. Meets the first Tuesday 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.

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Woodworking, oil and watercolor painting, kirigami, basketry, and much more. Spring classes. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Rt. 103 South. (802) 228-8770. www.fletcherfarm.org.

LYME, NH. Flea Market on the Common. 9 am to 4 pm. Sponsored by the Lyme Boy Scout Troop 273. Find Bargains or set up your booth. Last Saturday of the month. (603) 795-2897 or (802) 333-4625. May through September.

MANCHESTER. "Celebration of Peonies." From mid-May through mid-June, stroll among more than 1,000 fragrant peony blossoms in the Hoyt Formal Garden to the rear of the Lincoln's mansion. Admission (includes all parts of the site) is \$16 for adults, \$5 for children 6-14, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Lincoln Family Home at Hildene is located off Rt. 7A just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.



Birding Hot Spots in Rutland County

Rutland County Audubon is developing a list of places to bird in our area—places that are special to us and are representative of variety of habitats we are fortunate to have in our area. These are places that are publicly accessible; some large, some small. A few involve hiking and others can be canoed or kayaked.

The spots are selected because they host special birds or habitats. Some are chosen because they are a

good place to take kids or a place for a quick break from our everyday lives.

We hope you will visit these places and report your sightings to www.ebird.org as well so that we can increase the knowledge of the birds of Rutland County. If there is a place that is special to you, please let us know!

Pittsford Trail Network

The Pittsford Trail Network encompasses several trails that are easy walking

and located in scenic areas throughout Pittsford, VT. One is especially productive for birding—the Cadwell Loop.

The trail is an easy 2.4 mile loop that covers a variety of habitats. Located at the confluence of the Furnace Brook and Otter Creek, the Cadwell Loop passes brushy areas, small ponds and open fields with the riparian habitat attracting a wide variety of species.

In early spring, if there has been a heavy snowfall, the area can be flooded, and at any time there can be muddy patches.

By late February or early March, however, ducks and blackbirds pour into the area. The first Song Sparrows return while the American Tree Sparrows are still present. Mixed flocks of sparrows, including White-Crowned, Lincoln's and Fox, can be found during spring and migration.

Year-round the area is reliable for Red-bellied Woodpecker, along with all our other woodpeckers. Eastern Bluebirds are also present during the whole year. Caro-



lina Wrens are frequently heard. Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks the most common raptor species.

May and September can be good for migrating flocks of warblers with Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler hanging around for summer nesting activities.

Baltimore Orioles can be found along the Otter Creek in May and June and when the leaves are gone, it is easy to spot the used nests.

Parking is a pull-off just east of the Cooley Bridge on Elm Street. From there you can start the loop in either direction. Printable maps are available near the parking area and also from the Pittsford Trail Network at trails.pittsfordvermont.com.

For more information visit Rutland County Audubon Society's website at www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

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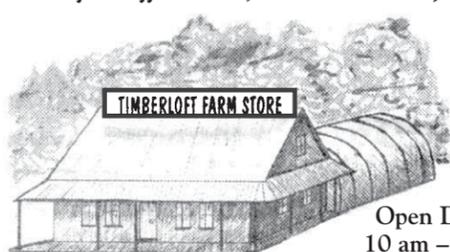
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Vermont Country Calendar

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

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, under 5 free. Open 10 am - 5 pm seven days a week Memorial Day through October 31. Open weekends in the winter. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$12, under 6 free. Spring hours: Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm. Summer/fall hours: Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm and Sun 1-5 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. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A community meal that is free to all. 9 am - 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org. UCCBethany@comcast.net. *Every Tuesday.*

MONTPELIER. Capital City Farmers' Market. Accepts EBT and debit cards. 9 am - 1 pm. Every Saturday May through October. 60 State St. (802) 223-2958.

MONTPELIER. Special Exhibit: Plowing Old Ground—Vermont's Organic Farming Pioneers. Agricultural writer Susan Harlow and farmer/photographer John Nopper have documented the stories of Vermont's pioneer organic farmers. Black and white photographs with narratives collected from oral history interviews. Exhibit open Tues-Sat 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. www.vermonthistory.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 information contact Daniel Hertzler at danhertzler@gmail.com. *Fourth Sundays.*

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers' Market. 9 am - 1 pm. Rt. 5 South. (802) 384-7447. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays starting May 4.*

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

ORWELL. Mount Independence State Historic Site. Open daily, 9:30 - 5:30. Admission \$5 for adults, free for children under 15. 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov/MountIndependence *May 25 - October 14.*

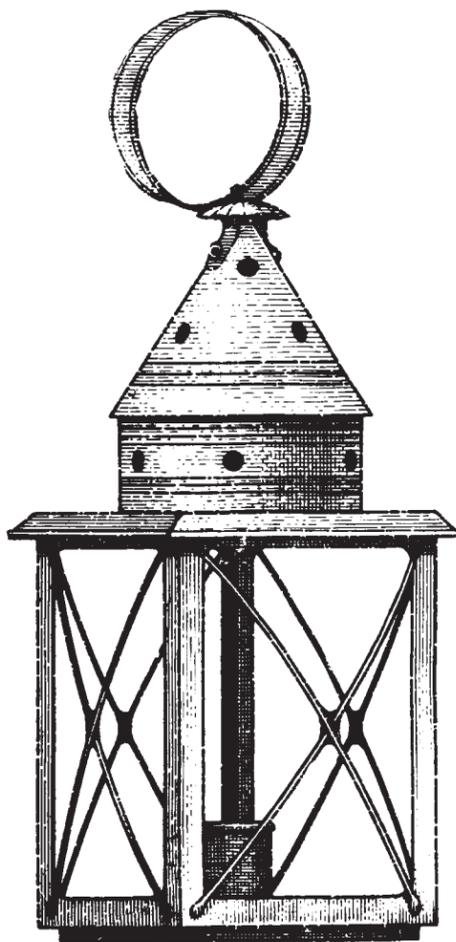
PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Groups over 12 can request "Sugar on Snow" by reservation. Off-season rates through May 16. Spring hours 10 am - 4 pm daily. 4578 Rt. 7, south of town. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

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.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Tuesday Tales of The Notch. Thursday Mornings at the Old Notch School. Wednesday Afternoons with Farmer Fred. Adults \$7.50, children 6 to 14 \$2, under 6 free. Family pass \$20. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm daily. 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicsites.vermont.gov. *May 25 - October 20.*

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. New Exhibition: Rooting for the Home Team—The Coolidges and Our National Pastime. This exhibit examines President Coolidge's interest in the sport, and most especially, Mrs. Coolidge's passion. Adults \$7.50, children 6 to 14 \$2, under 6 free. Family pass \$20. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm daily. 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicsites.vermont.gov. *May 25 - October 20.*

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



QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$12, seniors \$11, youth (4-17) \$10. 10 am - 5 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.

QUECHEE. Vermont Toy Museum. Collection of more than 100,000 toys. Visit the toy and gift shop. From May-October there are amusement rides. Free admission to the museum. 10 am - 5 pm daily except holidays. On the 2nd floor inside Quechee Gorge Village shopping complex, Rt. 4. (802) 295-1550 x 102. vermonttoymuseum.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Turkey Hill Farm. Farmer's Kitchen cooking classes. Farm skills workshops. 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.

ROCHESTER. Art Exhibits. Masterworks: Sculpture and Prints by Hugh Townley through July 28. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Help with animal chores; meet at the pig barn at 3:30 pm sharp. Assist Merck staff in taking care of the chickens, pigs, sheep and draft horses Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Sunset Dinner Tours. Travel with Vermont Backroad Tours over the scenic back roads to a special location to watch the sunset. Then, in the twilight, we'll stop for dinner at a local family restaurant. After dinner, ride across the Vermont countryside returning to the origin of the tour. Rate \$60 per person plus dinner. Seating limited to 12 guests. Call for reservations and other tour information. (802) 446-3131. www.vtbackroadtours.com.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center—Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings, gift shop. Annual Student Art Exhibit May 3-26. Gallery open Tues-Sat 10 am to 5 pm. 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11 am - 6 pm, Friday and Saturday 11:30 am - 7 pm. Chaffee Downtown Art Center, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through May 4 then outdoors downtown.*

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.



A Walk in the Woods—Managing Your Timber for Wildlife

Join Nancy Patch, VT County Forester, and Steve Hagenbuch from Audubon VT for a Walk in the Woods for a walk in the woods for managing your timber for wildlife, entitled, "Ecological Forest Management for Timber & Wildlife." on May 18th from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Enosburg, VT. The day will begin with a meet & greet and presentation; followed by a walk in the woods to see a variety of ecological silviculture applications for timber, birds, and other wildlife.

Participants are to meet at 2767 Woodward Rd., Enosburg, VT. All are welcome and there is no charge to attend. Please pre-register by

May 16th by calling (802) 747-7900 or e-mailing info@vermontwoodlands.org. Limited to 30 participants. Please bring a lunch and dress for outdoors.

Directions: from the south: Rt. 105 to Enosburg Falls, through village to East Berkshire. Turn right onto Rt. 118 toward Montgomery. Take second dirt road on right (Woodward Rd). Go approximately three miles, watch for signs and mailbox #2767 to turn left.

For more information contact Vermont Woodlands Association at (802) 747-7900 or visit www.vermontwoodlands.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

RUTLAND. Castleton Downtown Gallery. Free admission. Open Mon, Wed, Sat 1-6 pm, Fri 1-7 pm. Center Street Alley. For info call Bill Ramage at (802) 468-1266.

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. shelburnefarms.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Art Exhibition. At The Great Hall, entrance off Pearl St. or One Hundred River Street. (802) 885-3061. Through May 10.

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. Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center. Exhibits, classes, workshops. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

STATEWIDE. Salvation Farms. Volunteer opportunities to glean and process Vermont raised, surplus fruits and vegetables for use by vulnerable populations. For more information contact (802) 522-3148. info@ourfarmsourfood.org. salvationfarms.wordpress.com.

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. dogmt.com.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Admission \$8, \$6 for teens, \$3 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org. Fourth Fridays.

WALLINGFORD. Men's Breakfast. First Sundays at 9 am. First Congregational Church, S. Main St., Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Cai's Dim Sum Teahouse at C.X. Silver Gallery. Dine with art all around. More than 30 authentic unique dishes, la carte with many vegan, gluten-free, and wheat-free options. Walk-ins welcome on second Sundays from 10 am – 8 pm or evenings throughout the month with reservations—call one or two days in advance. C.X. Silver Gallery, 814 Western Ave. (802) 579-9088. www.dimsuvmvt.com.

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

WEST PAWLET. West Pawlet Community Farmers Market. Fresh, honest food and goodies brought to you from your local farmers, chefs, and crafters. Good food, good hospitality, good neighbors. Every Friday from 4-7 pm, indoors and outdoors, year-round. West Pawlet Fish & Game Club, 2849 Rt. 153. wpcfmkt@gmail.com.

WEST RUTLAND. Reiki Healings. Herbal remedies and teas, crystals and stones. All are welcome. 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.

WEST TOWNSHEND. 6th Annual Townshend Farmers Market. Locally grown and produced foods, delicious baked goods, prepared foods, beautiful plants, handmade soaps, hand blown glass, hand carved chairs and more. Rain or shine. Look for us in the big white church just next to the store during stormy weather! Friday is Pizza Night at the store. 4-7 pm every Friday. At West Townshend Country Store at the intersection of Rt. 30 and Windham Hill Rd. (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postsoilsolutions.org. postsoilsolutions.org. Fridays June 7 through mid-October.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one significant and telling a story about human beings and the universe we are part of. Open Thurs-Sun 1-6 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (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. listencs.org.

WILMINGTON. Scenic Horseback Trail Rides. \$25/40 minutes. Children over 6 can ride alone. Pont rides for younger children. Year round by reservation. Flames Stables, Rt. 100 south. (802) 464-8329.

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery. Winter hours for Gallery only: through April by appointment. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com.

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

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. Dinner (soup, cheese and bread, coffee and tea) 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance 6 pm; potluck dessert 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-9:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation includes dinner, under 18 free. At The Little Theater, 54 River St. (802) 785-4039. hoffmanathome@gmail.com. Third Fridays through May.

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

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, festivities and museum. See *A Place in the Land* in the theater. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Open April 27-October 31, 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Woodstock Winter Farmers' Market. Fourth Saturdays and April 20, 10 am – 1 pm, through May. At The Masonic Hall, 30 Peasant St. For info call Anne Dean at (802) 457-3889. anneldean@gmail.com. Through May.

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 Street. (802) 457-2557.

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Vermont Country Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

SWANTON. Community Breakfast at Holy Trinity. Hot and cold breakfast items. Come and bring a friend. 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. Also May 15, June 5 & 19.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

BENNINGTON. Program: Genealogy and Family History—Getting Started Tracing your Roots. Free. 7-9 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. www.netrop.org. www.oneworldconservationcenter.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Tibetan Scholar and Teacher, Anyen Rinpoche, "What is authentic happiness?" He is the author of *The Union of Dzogchen and Bodhichitta, Momentary Buddhahood, Dying with Confidence* and *Journey to Certainty*. \$10 donation suggested. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

RUTLAND. Play: *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*. Presented by Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre in the Brick Box. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.actorsrepvt.org. Also May 3 & 4.

RUTLAND. Concert: John Popper of Blues Traveler. Join singer/songwriter/harmonica genius John Popper and BT's keyboard player Ben Wilson in this special evening of music, jokes and stories from the road. Tickets: \$24.50-29.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center Street. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

GRANVILLE, NY. Exhibit Opening. Slate Valley Museum to host exhibit: *Economic Geology: A Study Through Photography*. 7-9 pm. at the Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. slatevalleymuseum.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Author Appearance: Rob Williams, "Most Likely to Succeed: What the Vermont Independence Movement Can Teach Us about Reclaiming Community and Creating a Human Scale." Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Seth Glier. The 22-year-old singer, pianist and guitarist aims straight for the gut and has quickly established himself on the national scene performing over 250 shows a year. A cash bar will be available. Tickets: \$16 advance, \$19 day of show. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. sethglier.com.

RUTLAND. 7th Annual Spring Fling Yard and Bake Sale. Rides, games, food. Midway by Amyland Amusements. Sponsored by Center Lodge #34, Free and Accepted Masons. At 51 Washington St. Also May 4 & 5.

RUTLAND. Library Book Sale. In the basement. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. Also May 4.

RUTLAND. Play: *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*. Presented by Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre in the Brick Box. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.actorsrepvt.org. Also May 4.

TINMOUTH. Tinmouth Old Firehouse Stage Spring Concert with Jenni Johnson and the Jazz Junketeers. Homemade refreshments and free organic coffee from Vermont's Canopy Coffee and free tea. Tickets \$10. Doors 7 pm, concert 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, corner of Mountain View Dr. and Rt. 140, next to the Town Office. old.firehouse.concerts@gmail.com. www.tinmouthvt.org.

VERGENNES. Concert: Snake Mountain Bluegrass & The Connor Sisters. Tickets \$10. 8 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. www.vergennesoperahouse.org.

WEST SWANTON. Woodcock Walk. Join Park Ranger, Dave Frisque for an evening woodcock walk at the Steven J. Young Marsh. We will discuss the habits and habitats of this unique member of the shorebird family and hopefully observe the evening aerial courtship display. Dress for the weather and bring waterproof footwear and a flashlight. Meet at the Tabor Rd. parking lot across from the Stephen J. Young Marsh one mile past the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge headquarters at 7:30 pm. Please call and reserve a spot for the walk. (802) 868-4781. www.fws.gov.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

BARRE. Concert: The Teetotallers. Three giants of the Irish tradition scene: fiddler Martin Hayes, virtuoso multi-instrumentalist Kevin Crawford, and filigree finger-picking guitarist John Doyle. Tickets \$10-\$30. 8 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188.

BENNINGTON. Wildflower Monitoring Walk. Join Mary Fuqua on a wildflower exploration at the Norman & Selma Greenberg Reserve to monitor spring ephemeral wildflowers. Meet up at 2 pm in the parking lot at the Greenberg Reserve. Free. 2-3:30 pm. (802) 447-7419. netrop.org. oneworldconservationcenter.org.



BURLINGTON. Vermont Community Garden Network Spring Plant Sale. A wonderful selection of perennials, herbs, and veggie starts to benefit neighborhood gardens and garden-based outreach and education. 10 am - 3 pm. Integrated Arts Academy, 6 Archibald St. (802) 864-8475.

CASTLETON. Truck Day. A petting zoo of trucks instead of animals for vehicle lovers of all ages. Visit vehicles and their owners to learn about their work and collect passport stamps. Crafts, prizes, picnic food and baked goods for sale. Free but \$1 donations welcome for public library. 10 am - 2 pm. Castleton Elementary School, off Rt. 30 just north of Rt. 4. (802) 468-5574.

CHESTER. Community Breakfast. Menu: bacon, sausage, eggs, homefries, pancakes, all the fixings, and beverages, buffet style from 8-10 am. \$5 donation at the door. The Green Mtn. Express hosts a round and square dance from 7-11 pm. Refreshments are sold in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets are on sale. \$5 donation at the door. At Gassetts Grange, jct. of Rts. 10 & 103N. For more information call Dave at (802) 875-2637.

CHITTENDEN. Book Sale! 9:30-12:30 at the Chittenden Public Library, 223 Chittenden Rd. (802) 773-3531.

GRAFTON. Spring Concert. Springfield Community Chorus Sings! "Mozart's Requiem" with orchestral accompaniment. Donation. 7 pm. Grafton White Church, 55 Main St. (802) 885-5475. pasture2442@yahoo.com.

HARTLAND. Walk and Tea Party. 8-mile loop. Moderate, but hilly, with steep parts. Return to leader's home for tea & home-baked goods. Group size limited; call to insure a spot! Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leader: Katie Rawson, (802) 436-1125. www.greenmountainclub.org.

LEBANON, NH. Performance. City Center Ballet presents *Giselle*, a romantic ballet in two acts. A visual feast with stunning costumes, evocative lighting, and gorgeous scenery. \$25; seniors \$20; Students \$12; \$5 more day of show. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. www.citycenterballet.org. Also May 5.

MIDDLEBURY. Antiques Appraisal Day. For only \$7/ item or \$25 for four, receive professional information about family heirlooms and collectibles and support the Sheldon Museum at the same time. Expert appraisers will offer verbal appraisals of antiques including furniture, art, jewelry, military items, toys and ephemera. 10 am - 2 pm. Courtyard Marriott, 309 Court St. (802) 388-2117.

NEW HAVEN. 20th Annual Draft Horse and Farm Equipment Auction. Farm and family friendly event with auction of draft horses, tack and equipment auction, and consignments of wagons, plows, harnesses, etc.. Food for sale on site, restrooms open. Bleacher seating. Auction held rain or shine. Grounds open 8 am. Sale 9 am - 12 pm. Driver's license required to obtain bidder's number. Cash or good check only. Sorry, no dogs allowed on grounds. \$1 for parking goes to farm youth clubs. Addison Co. Field Days Fairgrounds, Rt. 17 east of 22-A, west of Rt. 7. www.gmdha.org or Rose Ann Lombard at rlombard@gmavt.net. Also May 5.

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers' Market. 9 am - 1 pm. Rt. 5 South. (802) 384-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays starting May 4.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Second Wind Reunion. From James Taylor to John Hiatt to The Band, with an ample offering of original and traditional tunes, Second Wind's music moves easily among diverse styles. A cash bar will be available. Tickets: \$13 advance, \$16 day of show. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464.

RUPERT. Trail Work Party—Green Up Vermont Day. Join Merck Forest and Farmland Center for a volunteer work party! Adults and youth (ages 10+). 9 am - 3 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315. Free, reservations required. Call (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org.



Chaffee Art Center's Annual Student Art Exhibition!

Chaffee's Annual Student Art Exhibit is one of the most anticipated shows of the year. Young artists from both the Rutland region's schools and homeschooled have the opportunity to display their work at the Chaffee Art Center. The show is always an amazing display of artistic talent in our community. This year both locations will host the work. K-8 will show at the original Chaffee Art Center and high school students will show at the new Chaffee Downtown Art Center.

The opening reception is on Friday, May 3rd, 5-8 p.m. at both Chaffee Art Center on S. Main St. and Chaffee Downtown Art Center on

Merchant's Row. There will be music, food & beverages! Look for the artistic signage to lead you from one location to the other.

Chaffee Art Center is located at 16 S. Main St., Rutland, VT. Gallery hours are Thurs.-Sat. 12-6 pm; closed Sun.-Wed.

Chaffee Downtown Art Center is located at 75 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT. Gallery hours are Tues.-Thurs. 11 am - 6 pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30 am - 7 pm; closed Sun. & Mon.

For more information call (802) 775-0356. Visit www.chaffeeartcenter.org. Find us on Facebook!

RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



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Vermont Country Calendar

(May 4, continued)

RUTLAND. Musical Comedy: Spank! The Fifty Shades Parody. The hilarious new comedy that brings all the naughty fun of the best-selling book to life. Tickets: \$35.75. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. spankshow.com.

RUTLAND. Play: The Tale of the Allergist's Wife. Presented by Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre in the Brick Box. Tickets: \$15. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.actorsrepvt.org.

RUTLAND. Book Sale. In the basement. 9:30 am - 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. Also May 4.

RUTLAND. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Rummage Sale and Plant Sale. 9 am - 3 pm. Half price after 12 noon. 1 Hillside Rd. off Woodstock Ave.

RUTLAND. Rutland Winter Farmers Market. The last winter market. After this it will be downtown outdoor markets. 10 am - 2 pm. 251 West St. in the old Mintzer Building. (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

STATEWIDE. Green Up Vermont 2013. Help out in your community. For information call (802) 229-4586. Visit www.greenupvermont.org.

VERGENNES. Concert. The Vergennes Opera House Cabaret Series returns with a brand new offering from the always delightful Bill Carmichael, singing the songs of George and Ira Gershwin. Cash bar and delectable desserts available. Tickets: \$17 single, \$30 couple. 8 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802)877-6737. www.vergennesoperahouse.org.

WESTMINSTER. Early Morning Birding Walk to the Pinnacle. The highest and most scenic peak in Westminster with 20-mile views. Richard Foye, birder extraordinaire, will help fine-tune your birding-by-ear skills. Sponsored by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association. 7-10 am. Meet at Holden Trail kiosk. For information/registration contact Sarah Waldo at (802) 387-6036 or sarah_waldo@hotmail.com. www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Green Up Day at West Rutland Marsh. Join Rutland County Audubon and other community members to clean up West Rutland Marsh, an Important Bird Area. Meet at the West Rutland Town Hall at 9 am. Contact: Marv Elliott, (802) 775-2415. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WOODSTOCK. Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies. The weekend showcases the spring shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes at 10:30 am and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 pm, with spinning and carding demonstrations. Watch herdsman Jim McRae, as his team of Border Collies herd sheep in the farm fields at 11:30 am and 1:30 and 3:30 pm. Children's farm art show and wool craft activity in the activity barn. Admission: adults \$12; over 62 \$11; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; under 3 free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also May 5.

WOODSTOCK. 35th Anniversary Concert with The Freelance Family Singers and University Chorus of the Upper Valley. Uplifting seasonal pieces in choral, small group, solo, and instrumental formats. Refreshments follow the family friendly concert. Free with a suggested donation of a non-perishable food item for the Community Food Shelf. 7 pm. First Congregational Church, 36 Elm St. choralartsuv.org. Also May 5.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

LEBANON, NH. Performance. City Center Ballet presents Giselle, a romantic ballet in two acts. A visual feast with stunning costumes, evocative lighting, and gorgeous scenery. \$25; seniors \$20; Students \$12; \$5 more day of show. 2:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park Street. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. www.citycenterballet.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Author Appearance: Bob Alper, "Thanks, I Needed That." Warm, touching stories that evoke laughter and tears, as told by a rabbi who became a full-time stand-up comic (really). Free. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. northshire.com.

NEW HAVEN. 20TH Annual Draft Horse and Farm Equipment Auction. Draft horses, tack and equipment auction, and consignments of wagons, plows, harnesses, etc. Food for sale on site, restrooms open. Bleacher seating. Rain or shine. 9 am - 12 pm. Driver's license required to obtain bidder's number. Cash or good check only. Sorry, no dogs allowed. \$1 for parking. Addison Co. Field Days Fairgrounds, Rt. 17 east of 22-A, west of Rt. 7. www.gmdha.org or rlombard@gmavt.net.

ROCKINGHAM. Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival. Guided nature walks, live animals, nature presentations, kids' activities, wildlife parade, hand puppets, birding, live music, arts and crafts and workshops. Donation of \$2 person or \$5 per family requested. 10 am - 4 pm. Herrick's Cove, located on the Connecticut River just off Rt. 5 less than three miles north of Bellows Falls. (802) 291-9100. www.vitalcommunities.org.

RUTLAND. 50th Annual Loyalty Day Parade sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Rutland County Post 648. 2 pm. Downtown Rutland.

RUTLAND. Trinity Church invites you to its 3rd annual chicken BBQ from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm on the front lawn. Enjoy a hearty meal while you watch the Loyalty Day Parade march by. 85 West St. (802) 775-4368.

RUTLAND. Annual Spring Rummage Sale. Huge indoor sale with a large selection of clothing, household items and treasures of all kinds, 10 am - 4 pm. Rutland Jewish, Center, 96 Grove St. Also May 6.

WOODSTOCK. Sheep Shearing & Herding with Border Collies. The weekend showcases the spring shearing of the farm's Southdown ewes. Admission: adults \$12; over 62 \$11; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; under 3 free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. 35th Anniversary Concert with The Freelance Family Singers and University Chorus of the Upper Valley. Free with a suggested donation of a non-perishable food item for the Community Food Shelf. 3 pm. First Congregational Church, 36 Elm St. choralartsuv.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

RUTLAND. Artist Talk. Bill Ramage presents Two Paths of Perception. Free, public welcome. Presented by Chaffee Downtown and Castleton Downtown Gallery. 7 pm at Chaffee Downtown, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356.

THETFORD. Bird Walk. Early morning bird walk in the Union Village Dam area. Less than three miles. Easy. Group size limited to 12 participants. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leader: George Clark, (802) 649-2305. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

SHARON. Cruise Night. 5-8 pm. Scallop basket or fish sandwich with French fries. Sandy's Drive-In, Rt. 14. (802) 763-7625.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. 6th Annual Energy Roundtable. Our goal is to collectively establish an energy committee in all 69 Upper Valley towns. Networking and educational opportunities for volunteer energy committee members, town staff, and interested citizens. We welcome all energy enthusiasts to the event, 5:30 pm. Bugbee Senior Ctr. (802) 291-9100. www.vitalcommunities.org.

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Fiddleheads, A Bounty of Spring

Springtime is here and all sorts of favorite edibles are popping out of the ground. Here in the north we get to have fiddleheads. Whether you pick them from your side yard or pick them up at the farmers market, this is a spring treat not to be missed.

Just south of Arlington, VT on Rt. 7 there is a little stand on the left that has a self-serve fiddlehead cooler. Last year a sleeve was \$4.00. These fiddleheads are picked along the Battenkill and washed in the waters of that popular fishing stream. We don't know if there will be fiddleheads for sale there this year, but it's a pretty drive anyway.

Fiddleheads are the tightly coiled top of the Ostrich Fern, *Matteuccia struthiopteris*, just before it unfurls into the leafy fern we recognize. It is this variety that is edible. Some liken the flavor to asparagus.

Fiddleheads can be steamed or sautéed, served hot or cold, and used as a simple vegetable or in an entree. When you get your fiddleheads, wash them to remove any brown chaff and trim the ends a little. Bring three pots of water to a boil, dunk them in one. When it comes back to the boil, remove the fiddleheads and dunk them into the second. Repeat with the third pot. They are then ready to prepare and enjoy. Some think that the three rinses removes any bitter taste. Some just do it for tradition's sake. And some people don't do it at all. It's up to you.

Fiddleheads can be eaten crunchy, soft, or in-between. It's a personal preference. In any case, don't miss out. Fiddlehead season is upon us.

A Few Fiddlehead Recipes...

Fiddlehead and Ham Casserole

Okay, this qualifies as comfort food. Had a tough day? A cold day? A special day worth celebrating? This is an absolutely delicious meal that doesn't need any special occasion. It's made from fine quality, simple ingredients and there's nothing like it to hit the spot on a cold spring evening. Serve it with crusty bread, a green salad, and fresh fruit.

4 tablespoons butter	4 tablespoons flour
2 cups milk	½ teaspoon salt
1 Tbsp. chopped parsley	1 teaspoon chopped chives
1½ cups ham, trimmed, diced and cooked	3 cups fiddlehead ferns, steamed until cooked but still crisp
Buttered bread crumbs	

Make a smooth white sauce of the butter, flour, milk and salt. Add the parsley and chives to the sauce. In a casserole, alternate layers of ham, cooked fiddleheads, and the white sauce until the dish is filled. Complete it with a layer of the white sauce on top. Cover the top of the dish with buttered crumbs and bake at 350°F until the sauce is bubbling and the crumbs are browned. This should take about 30 minutes.



photo by Nancy Cassidy
Someone has already picked some of these fiddleheads!

Fiddlehead, White Bean and Shrimp Salad

1 pound cooked shrimp	15-ounce can white beans, drained and rinsed
1 cup trimmed and cleaned fiddleheads, blanched until tender	1 cup diced red onion
4 tsp. chopped parsley	3 tbsp. rice wine vinegar
Freshly ground black pepper	Salt

Combine all ingredients except parsley in a bowl. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Toss in the parsley. Divide among 4 plates and serve with crusty French bread.

Steamed Fiddleheads With Wild Leek Greens

1 lb. Fiddleheads cleaned	½ cup plain yogurt
½ cup mayonnaise	1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice, or to taste
3 tbsp. finely chopped Wild Leek greens	3 tsp. Dijon-style mustard

Steam the fiddleheads over boiling water for 5 minutes, or until they are crisp-tender. Drain, then chill in a bowl of ice and cold water to stop the cooking. When they have cooled transfer to colander to drain. In a small bowl whisk together the yogurt, mayonnaise, lemon juice, mustard, wild leek greens. Add salt and pepper to taste, whisking until the sauce is smooth. Serve the Fiddleheads topped with the sauce. Serves 4 to 6.

Vermont Country Calendar



THURSDAY, MAY 9

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.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

BARRE. BASH (Big Arty SPA Happening). Eats, silent auction, music by the Mellow Yellow Band. Cash bar by the Grand View Winery. BASH benefits SPA art programs. 7-9 pm. Studio Place Arts. 201 N Main St. For tickets call (802) 479-7069. www.studioplacearts.com.

CLAREMONT, NH. The Feminine Tone Spring Concert. Entitled "Rejoicing in Song," the concert explores the breadth of human emotion as expressed in multicultural musical traditions and styles. Joining the chorus are Hafiz Shabazz, Moonlight Davis, Eugene Uman, and Kelly Batchelder. Free, suggested donation of \$10 at the door. 7:30 pm. First Congregational Church, 72 Pleasant St. (802) 484-5097. choralartsuv.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. An interview with author Fred Waitzkin, "The Dream Merchant." Andrew McKeever, Manchester Journal Managing Editor, sits down to interview author Fred Waitzkin as he makes his fiction debut with *The Dream Merchant*, an exquisitely written heart-of-darkness tale about a charismatic yet morally ambiguous salesman. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

THETFORD. "The Four Elements." A concert by the Thetford Chamber Singers. Music spanning five centuries of choral music, including the premiere of a new commissioned work by Upper Valley-based composer Kevin Quigley. Tickets \$15 at the door, \$12 advance; students and financially challenged \$8. 7 pm. First Congregational Church of Thetford (Rt. 113 & Academy Rd. in Thetford Hill). choralartsuv.org. www.thetfordchambersingers.org. Also May 12.

WALPOLE, NH. Apple Blossom Gala. Join us for a festive spring evening of wine, food, art, music, and dancing to benefit BMAC's education programs. Alyson's Orchard. For tickets call (802) 257-0124 x 103. office@brattleboromuseum.org. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

BARRE. Onion River Chorus Spring Concert. Bach, Purcell and an original piece, Silent Thunder, by guest conductor Dick Riley. Admission \$12 adults, \$8 students. 7:30 pm. First Church in Barre, Universalist, 19 Church St. (802) 476-4300.

BETHEL. Introduction to Working Horses. The day-long session will provide hands-on experience and intensive exposure to the fundamentals of logging with horses. Come prepared to work outdoors all day, dressed for the weather conditions. Sturdy work boots, gloves and chainsaw safety equipment, including hard hat with eye and ear protection are suggested. Cost: \$50 per person; Pre-registration required. Minimum class size 5, maximum 10. Register by May 1, 2013. (Bring your own lunch). 9 am - 4 pm. Earthwise Farm and Forest, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. (802) 234-5524. www.earthwisefarmandforest.com.

BRANDON. Mother's Day Weekend English Style High Tea. Adults \$22.95, with children under 12, \$12.95. 3-6 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. Call for reservations. (802) 465-4071. brandon-music.net.

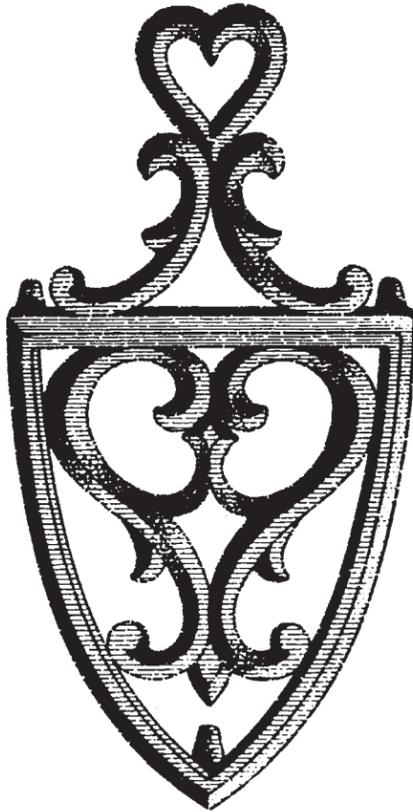
BURLINGTON. Burlington Kids Day. Vermont's largest children's festival!. Join the parade! Entertainment, craft activities, games, displays and more. 9 am - 3 pm. Battery Park. Tickets (802) 864-0123. enjoyburlington.com.

EAST CHARLESTON. Art, Plant & Craft Fair. Featuring exclusively handmade and locally sourced Vermont products. Come browse the vendor booths and pick up a handcrafted gift for Mother's Day! Free admission. 10 am - 4 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551. www.northwoodscenter.org.

HARTLAND FOUR CORNERS. The Feminine Tone Spring Concert. Joining the chorus are Hafiz Shabazz, Moonlight Davis, Eugene Uman, and Kelly Batchelder. Free, suggested donation of \$10 at the door. 7:30 pm. Hartland Unitarian Universalist Church. (802) 484-5097. choralartsuv.org. www.thetfordchambersingers.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Author Appearance: Jim Sterba, "Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds." An eye-opening look at how Americans lost touch with the natural landscape, spending 90 percent of their time indoors. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

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. Make books, carve stamps and go on a guided Quest! Free with museum admission. 10:30 am - 3:30 pm. Montshire Museum, One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.Montshire.org.



RANDOLPH. Concert: Myra Flynn. Her original indie/soul/folk songs blend soulful vocals with a lyrical delivery. She returns to her hometown in support of her third record. A cash bar will be available. Tickets: \$25. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464.

ROCKINGHAM. Plant and Book Sale. The Rockingham Library and Friends are holding their popular annual plant and book sale from 8 am to 2 pm at the Masonic Temple, 61 Westminster St, adjacent to the library. Call (802) 463-4270 or email friends@rockinghamlibrary.org.

RUTLAND. Long Trail Clean-Up. All are welcome to help prepare the Green Mountain Club Killington section of The Long Trail for the summer season. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, water and lunch. Tools will be provided. For info call Herb Ogden (802) 293-2510 or Wayne Krevetski (802) 282-2237. Rain date May 12. Leave at 9 am from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City.

RUTLAND. Kid's Fishing Day. Rutland Kiwanis Club and the Rutland Recreation & Parks Department will be hosting a free fishing day for children up to age 13. A parent/guardian must accompany the child. Registration is at 8:30 am. Prizes awarded. Fish provided by the Vermont Fish & Game Dept. 8:30-11 am. Combination Pond, Sharon Drive (off Stratton Rd.) (802) 773-1853.

SHREWSBURY. Used Musical Instrument Rummage Sale. Free admission. 9 am - 3 pm. Shrewsbury Town Hall.

SO. BURLINGTON. 18th Annual Bloomtime Festival. Awaken your senses to the scents of lilacs, flowering crabapples, magnolias and more! Perennials, lilacs, starter plants and gardening books on sale. Lectures: 10 am, Growing Hops in the Northeast; 11 am, Vermont Pests; 12 pm, How 'bout Them Apples?; 1 pm, Eicoid Mycorrhizae. Hay Ride Tours of the Hort Farm, On The Border Morris Dancing, Plein Air Artists. Free. 10 am - 3 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop: Found Objects Mobiles. Instructor: Shelley Saylor. Learn to make mobiles with everyday found objects. Workshop fee \$20. Materials fee \$5. Materials list available upon registration. 10 am - 1 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

TINMOUTH. 29th Annual Tinmouth Famous Plant Sale. To benefit the Tinmouth School. Large selection of hardy perennials for both sun and shade and reasonable prices. Come get flowers, shrubs, treats and a sparkle shine for your car! 8-10 am. Plants can be viewed 7:30-8 a.m. but no purchases prior to 8 a.m. starting bell! Old Firehouse, corner of Mountain View Dr. and Rt. 140, next to the Town Office. (802) 446-2928 or eworks@vermontel.net. Directions at tinmouthvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. "The Four Elements." A concert by the Thetford Chamber Singers. Tickets \$15 at the door, \$12 advance; students and financially challenged \$8. 7:30 pm. North Universalist Chapel. thethetfordchambersingers.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 12

BRANDON. Mother's Day Lunch. With harpist, Margie Beckoff. \$29.95, including both the meal and performance. Children under 12 are \$14.95. 11 am - 3 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. Call for reservations. (802) 465-4071. brandon-music.net.

MONTPELIER. Onion River Chorus Spring Concert. Bach, Purcell and an original piece, Silent Thunder, by guest conductor Dick Riley. Admission \$12 adults, \$8 students. 7 pm. Unitarian Church, 130 Main St. (802) 476-4300.

Covey Hill

My mother used to question, "How"
(At spring when buds were on the bough)
"Does home on Covey Hill look now?"

And then she'd smile at me and say,
In such a little wistful way,
"I'd like to go back there some day."

And yet how strange she never went,
Nor claimed a word, nor a word sent,
But lived as though she were content.

She used to say her home was fair,
And that it wasn't far to there,
But never, never told me where.

Now she has gone, I know I will
Search through the coming years until
I find a place called Covey Hill.

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT, 1944

English Style High Tea and Lunch On Mother's Day Weekend

Come celebrate Mother's Day at Brandon Music in Brandon, VT. Two unique events will be offered—an English style High Tea on Saturday, May 11 from 3-6 p.m. featuring a parade of hats, and a lunch on Sunday, May 12 from 11-3 p.m. with harpist, Margie Beckoff.

A High Tea is a wonderful way to treat your mother or that special person in your life to something a little different. The menu includes a pot of tea, delicious toasted crumpets with honey butter, small sandwiches, scones and preserves, "Fat rascals" (awesome Yorkshire fruit scones), small cakes, and English style strawberry trifle.

As an added feature, at 4 p.m. there will be a parade of hats by Maria Ammatuna

of Creative Fiber Designs. Guests are encouraged to take part in the fun and wear their own hat. The bigger the better! Tickets for the High Tea are \$22.95 for adults, with children under 12, \$12.95.

For our "encore" on Mother's Day itself, Brandon Music will serve a delicious three-course lunch while guests are serenaded by harpist, Margie Beckoff. Tickets are \$29.95, including both the meal and performance. Children under 12 are \$14.95.

Reservations are required as seating is limited. Call (802) 465-4071 or e-mail info@brandon-music.net to reserve your seat. Visit brandon-music.net. Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd. Brandon, VT.

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AntiquesAndUniquesVT@gmail.com 802-279-5762

Vermont Country Calendar

(May 12, continued)

MOSCOW. Hike Cotton Brook Road Loop. With short uphill stretch. Moderate. Five hours. Meet at Montpelier High School. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leader: Ken Hertz, (802) 229-4737 or membership@gmcmontpelier.org. www.greenmountainclub.org.

SHELBURNE. Spring Fest. Opening-day at Shelburne Museum features indoor and outdoor activities for gardeners, families, and visitors of all ages. Experience 400 lilacs in 90 varieties in bloom this time of year! Admission: adults \$22, children ages 5-18 \$11, children under free, family day pass \$55 (2 adults and their children ages 5-18), Vermont residents half price—\$11 adults, \$5 children. 10 am - 4 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd., off Rt. 7. (802) 985-3346. www.shelburnemuseum.org.

THETFORD. Hike and Coffee. Early afternoon Mother's Day hike in hills behind the Trebitz house, followed by "Kaffeeklatsch" at their home. Four miles on uneven backcountry trails. Newcomers and non-members welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Ottaquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Leaders: Heinz and Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129. www.greenmountainclub.org.

THETFORD. "The Four Elements." A concert by the Thetford Chamber Singers. Tickets \$15 at the door, \$12 advance; students and financially challenged \$8. 4:30 pm. First Congregational Church of Thetford (Rt. 113 & Academy Rd. in Thetford Hill). thetfordchambersingers.org.

MONDAY, MAY 13

BELLOWS FALLS. The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart. Fiddler Adam Boyce portrays Mr. Taggart including some live fiddling and humorous sketches. Free. 7 pm. Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. (802) 463-4270. www.vermonthumanities.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

RUTLAND. Artist Talk. Steven Schaub presents Leaping Outside the Box: Reimaging Photography. Free, public welcome. Presented by Chaffee Downtown and Castleton Downtown Gallery. 7 pm at Chaffee Downtown, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

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.*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

MANCHESTER. Historical Society Program: Benedict Arnold. Presented by Prof. Paul Andriscon, of Castleton State College. Arnold was an American Revolutionary War general but defected to the British Army in 1780. His wartime actions included the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in 1775. 7 pm. First Congregational Church. (802) 867-0331. info@dorsetvhistory.org. www.dorsetvhistory.org.

SWANTON. Community Breakfast at Holy Trinity. Hot and cold breakfast items. Come and bring a friend. 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. Also June 5 & 19.

THURSDAY, MAY 16

DORSET. Third Thursday Lunch Program: Treatment of the Tories in Southern Vermont in the American Revolution. presented by Grant Reynolds from Tinmouth, VT. 12 pm. Bley House, Dorset Historical Society, Rt. 30 at Kent Hill Rd. (802) 867-0331. info@dorsetvhistory.org. www.dorsetvhistory.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. Talk on Slate Valley. VPR host and commentator Willem Lange will tell stories about the place now known as the Slate Valley. 7 pm at the Slate Valley Museum. \$10 donation. Reservations requested. (518) 642-1417. slatevalleymuseum.org.

PUTNEY. Windham Orchestra Concert: Beethoven in Vermont. The Orchestra's season finale, under the direction of Hugh Keelan, features works of Beethoven. The Egmont Overture and "Triple" Concerto for violin, cello and piano, joins the premiere of Concertino for Tuba by James Adams. Tickets \$15/\$10 students & seniors. 7:30 pm. Currier Center, The Putney School. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

BENNINGTON. Bennington-Walloomsac Outdoor Farmers Market. Entertainment and prepared foods. 10 am - 2 pm. At the River Walk on Depot St. Katherine Keys, (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org. *Saturdays through October*

CORNISH, NH. Square Dance. Sponsored by the Auxiliary of the Cornish Fire Dept. to benefit the family of Chris Palmer. With Adam Boyce, caller and fiddler. All dances are taught, and all experience levels welcome, as well as those who choose to just listen. Suggested donation: \$7 per person, \$12 per couple and \$20 per family. 7:30 pm. Cornish Town Hall at the Fairgrounds. For more information, contact Lois Fitts at (603) 542-2837. adamrboyce@juno.com.

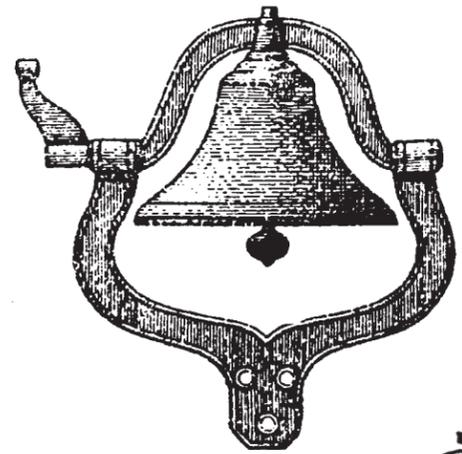
DORSET. "Seeds, Shovels, Buckets and Boots." A field, farm and food festival sponsored by Manchester and the Mountains Chamber of Commerce. Author Charlie Nardozi Charlie will speak and show a slideshow on the topic, "Vegetables in the Italian Garden." Lite bites. \$35 per person, cash bar. 6-8 pm at Dorset Inn. (802) 362-6313. www.visitmanchestervt.com. *Also May 18.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. Alan Benoit Sustainability Series Present: Native vs. Invasive Plants. Alan Benoit and Brian King will team up once again to talk about some common invasive plants, the trouble they cause and some native alternatives that are available. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com. www.sustainabledesignofvt.com.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Next Generation. Annual evening of performances by outstanding young musicians studying classical instrumental or vocal music. Tickets: \$16/\$10 advance, \$19/\$13 day of show. 7:30 pm. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. 5th Annual Flea Market & Craft Fair to Benefit BROC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont. 9 am - 3 pm. President's Building at The Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 South Main St. *Also May 18 & 19.*

RUTLAND. Musical: Rutland Youth Theater's production of Disney's The Little Mermaid. Tickets: Under 18/Sr's \$8, adults \$10. 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. *Also May 18.*



VERMONT REGIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE:

Mt. Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce: 877-VT-SOUTH
Londonderry Chamber of Commerce: 802-824-8178
Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce: 800-756-8880
Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce: 802-247-6401
Addison County Chamber of Commerce:
800-SEE-VERMONT
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A Vermont Almanack for Late Spring

by Bill Felker

Spring, Old Blue Eyes—
Spring, Old Blue Skies—
The sun a flower in Easter's hat—
And every robin's bobulating;
Every stream's crumpling up its
Twisted tissue paper of ripples
To unwrap the gift,
The filmy bling
That blankets dandelions with come hither,
And coaxes freshets to oe'rfall the lips of rocky dens.
That stuffs envelopes of rain
And slips them under the door of sleep.
That gaily busks the meadow grass.
That turns the oceans like a verdant gem
Within the rolling planet's palm
To show the hidden sparkle
In the depths of every living thing.

—Robert Paschell

The Phases of the Apple Blossom Moon and the Mock Orange Moon

Late spring envelops the land, pulling down the apple blossoms, turning redbud flowers to leaves, and bringing the most fragrant time of year with the flowers of Japanese honeysuckles, peonies, iris and mock orange.

May 2: The Apple Blossom Moon enters its final quarter at 6:14 a.m. May 9: The Mock Orange Moon is new at 7:29 p.m. May 17: The moon enters its second quarter at 11:35 p.m. May 24: The moon is full at 11:25 p.m. May 31: The moon enters its final quarter at 1:58 p.m.

There will be a penumbral (partial) eclipse of the moon on May 25, visible throughout the Americas, except in the Northwest. Watch for it between 11 p.m. (EST) and midnight.

The Sun's Progress

The sun enters Gemini, moving to within just a small fraction of its summer solstice position, on May 21.

The Planets

Venus once again becomes the bright evening star beginning on May 7, when it moves into Taurus. It will keep its dominance during the evening throughout the remainder of the year. Venus is in conjunction with Mercury on May

25 and with Jupiter on May 28. Saturn continues in Virgo, overhead south of Arcturus in the middle of the night.

The Stars

Throughout the evenings of May, the Big Dipper overhead tells about planting all the corn. Castor and Pollux setting in the west make the radishes fat and the lettuce lush. Rising Vega and Cygnus in the east foretell ripening wheat and tomatoes, warm from the sun.

The Shooting Stars

The Eta Aquarids are active on May 5 and 6. Find them after midnight in Aquarius above the southeastern horizon. The dark moon should favor meteor viewing, and the early morning of May 5 should produce the most meteors.

Meteorology

Cool fronts are due to reach Vermont on or about May 3, 8, 13, 16, 22, 25, and 30. New moon on May 9 and full moon on May 24 could 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 3-12 and May 17-24.

Natural Calendar

When apple blossoms fall, then the first sweet rocket, fleabane, sweet Cicely, daisy, fire pink, common plantain, white clover, chamomile, star of Bethlehem, lily-of-the-valley, sweet William, and wood sorrel almost always open.

The woods are filled with garlic mustard, green and white among the still bare trees. It's the best time of all for blue forget-me-not, golden ragwort, water cress, wild geranium, late winter cress, and the wild purple phlox.

Strawberries come into full bloom when the last crabapple petals are gone. A few early poppies and peonies unravel then. Early iris and lupines are budding. Summer hostas are eight to ten inches tall. Ferns, day lilies, comfrey, and summer phlox have reached almost two feet. The woodland paths are thick with violets.

Deep into late spring, the canopy of leaves becomes thicker every day. In the valleys, the woods are flushed, pale but luminescent. Mayflies are out along the water. Bullfrogs call. Flea time begins for pets, a sign that insect activity is nearing the economic threshold on the farm.



Vermont Country Calendar



TINMOUTH. Tinmouth Old Firehouse Stage Spring Concert—Mayfly with Katie Trautz. A native Vermont fiddler who has toured internationally sharing traditional music and original folk songs. Homemade refreshments and free coffee and tea. Tickets \$10. Doors 7 pm, concert 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, corner of Mountain View Dr. and Rt. 140, next to the Town Office. tinmouthvt.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Come to an exuberant contra dance with live music. Bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$9, \$7 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments available. 8-11 pm. Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. (802) 235-2718 or (802) 446-2928 for info or directions or visit www.Tinmouthvt.org. *Third Friday of every month.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Karla Bonoff. Admission: \$35. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

WOODSTOCK. Third Friday Contra Dance and Dinner. Music by Old Sam Peabody, calling by Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. Dinner (soup, bread and cheese, coffee and tea) 5:30-7:30 pm; family dance 6 pm; potluck dessert 7:30 pm; contra dance 8-9:30 pm. \$8 suggested donation includes dinner, under 18 free. At The Little Theater, 54 River St. (802) 785-4039.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

BETHEL. 7th Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair. Theme: "Space, Years of Discovery." Postcard, ephemera, sports memorabilia and stamp dealers. 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 pictorial postmark. genealogy assistance offered by Joseph Smith Memorial Site representatives. Historical society book table. Home cooked food available. Hosted by The Bethel Historical Society. 9 am - 3 pm. Whitcomb High School Gymnasium, 273 Pleasant St. (Rt. 12). (802) 234-5064. nick@nikolaidis.com. bethelvermont.com.

BURLINGTON. Bella Voce Spring Concert: Songs of Hope and Freedom. Enjoy a performance of Robert De Cormier's choral masterpiece They Called Her Moses, a cantata about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. \$18 general and \$15 for students and seniors. Advance tickets available at www.flynnitix.org. 8 pm. First Baptist Church, 81 St. Paul St. (802) 879-1218.

DORSET AND MANCHESTER. "Seeds, Shovels, Buckets and Boots." A field, farm and food festival sponsored by Manchester and the Mountains Chamber of Commerce. Continental breakfast at Hildene in Manchester, tour of the gardens and one ticket to the show, \$20 per person. Lectures and demonstrations at J.K. Adams on Rt. 30, 10 am - 4 pm. Admission \$15/\$50. Garden Cafe provided by Mio Bistro, not included with ticket price. (802) 362-6313. www.visitmanchestervt.com.

EAST CHARLESTON. Program: Forest Pest First Detectors. Participants will be given the information and tool-kit to raise awareness about forest pests in their communities. Free. Rain date: May 19. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. Sign up no later than May 10. Call (802) 656-7746. www.northwoodscenter.org.

HINESBURG. Big Truck Day and Children's Festival. Touch and explore fire trucks, dump trucks, school buses, cement mixers, tractors and more. Crafts, face painting, bouncy house, story time, BBQ, bake sale, play zone, children's sing-a-long, special appearances by Monty the Moose from Vermont Children's Hospital at FAHC and Clifford the Big Red Dog. Admission. 9:45 am - 2 pm. Hinesburg Community School, 10888 Rt. 116. (802) 482-3827. www.hinesburgnurseryschool.com.

LINCOLN. Organic Beekeeping For Beginners. This two-day intensive covers all the basics you will need to know to get started with bees. History of beekeeping, equipment, types of hives, bee biology, pest and disease control, harvesting, and overwintering. Live hive demonstration if weather permits. Fee: \$95 (includes course text: Natural Beekeeping 2nd Edition). 8:30 am May 18 through 5 pm May 19. Metta Earth Institute, 334 Geary Rd. South. (802) 349-4279. www.dancingbeegardens.com. *Through May 19.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. Author Appearance: Judith Schwartz, "Cows Save the Planet? And Other Improbable Ways of Restoring Soil to Heal the Earth." Drawing on the work of thinkers and doers, renegade scientists and institutional whistleblowers from around the world, Schwartz challenges much of the conventional thinking about global warming and other problems. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200.

MILTON. Open Art Day. Creating art outdoors in Milton, Vermont, as part of the town's 250th Anniversary celebration by artists from all over. Register at www.miltonartistsguild.org for May 18 event and join the fun from 8 am - 5 pm with a reception starting at 3 pm. Free. (802) 893-4447. Milton Grange, Rt. 7. (802) 893-4447. orcherrystreetstudio@yahoo.com. miltonartistsguild.org.

NEWBURY. Founder's Day. Professor Emeritus Dartmouth College Jere Daniell will address the history of the issuing of the charters to Town of Newbury (VT) and Town of Haverhill (NH) on May 18, 1763. Further events follow on the Newbury (VT) and Haverhill (NH) Commons. Free. 9:30 am. Robert E. Clifford Memorial Bldg., South Court Street. (802) 757-2708. www.haverhillnh.com.

NORTHEAST KINGDOM. Farm to Yarn Tour Weekend. 8 am - 5 pm. Visit farms all over the Northeast Kingdom, including refreshments and additional demonstrations at Mountain Fiber Folk in Montgomery. (802) 626-8511. Download a map at travelthekingdom.com. *Also May 19.*

ORWELL. Early Bird Nature Walk. Sue Wetmore introduces you to the birds of spring and spring migration. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. No pets please. Meet in front of the Museum. 8 am. Admission \$5 for adults, free for children under 15. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. www.historicsites.vermont.gov/MountIndependence. *May 25 - October 14.*

PITTSFORD. Yard Sale to benefit The Rutland County Humane Society. Raise money for homeless animals. Donations accepted. 9 am - 2 pm. 765 Stevens Rd. (802) 483-9171. www.rchsvt.org.

RUTLAND. Musical: Rutland Youth Theater's production of Disney's The Little Mermaid. Tickets: Under 18/Sr's \$8, adults \$10. 2 pm & 7 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

SHELBURNE. Green Mountain Draft Horse Beginner Driving Clinic. Learn the basics of draft horses, and how to harness and ground drive, while focusing on safety. (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.) Fee: includes lunch and light breakfast both days. Both days \$145; Saturday only \$90; Sunday only \$85. Saturday 9 am - 4 pm. Sunday 9:30 am - 2 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. Pre-registration required. Download sign-up sheet at www.greenmountaindraft.org, call (802) 877-6802 or emailjean@greenmountaindraft.org. *Thru May 19.*

SHELBURNE. Family Program: Water Critter Wonders. Ages 5 and up. We will hike down to the pond and dip in to look for the animals that call it home. Bring your mud boots for some pond dipping fun! \$6 per person. 9:30-11:30 am & 12:30-2:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. Pre-registration required. Call (802) 985-8686.

STOWE. Audrey Bernstein Loves Blue: The Debut CD Release Event. Jazz singer Audrey Bernstein and her band. \$30. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Rt. 108N. (802) 760-4634. www.sprucepeakarts.org.

WEST RUTLAND. West Rutland Marsh Bird Monitoring Walk. Join us for this 3.7-mile loop around the marsh (or go halfway). Join us for the full day or half a day. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 8 am. Leader: Roy Pilcher, (802) 775-3461. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

ARLINGTON. Green Mountain Club Outing to The Ball. We'll follow the traditional route up Dry Brook, following an old logging road, but is very steep in places. Great views, 1,800 feet elevation gain. Difficult, eight miles. Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately. Leave at 9 am from Main St Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center St, Rutland, VT. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Call the leader Larry Walter if you have questions. (802) 775-3855.

BRATTLEBORO. Windham Orchestra Concert: Beethoven in Vermont. Beethoven. The Egmont Overture and "Triple" Concerto for violin, cello and piano, joins the premiere of Concertino for Tuba by James Adams. The Putney School chorus will also join the Orchestra for Beethoven's 4 part choral hymn "The Heavens Are Telling." Tickets \$15/\$10 students & seniors. 3 pm. Latchis Theater. (802) 257-4523. info@bmcvt.org. www.bmcvt.org.

Death of a Yellow Violet

To you, little wood children,
Who are where the forest once stood,
I am calling you!

I know what has happened over there.
The giant trees, drawing their feet from the ground,
Have made a great upheaval.
Aster flowers, hush your gossip!
Help the trembling violet to her feet;
Brush away the saffron soil from her pale blue dress;
Let the ears drain her emotion.
Enfold and console the fainting anemone;
Gently brush away the dark leaf mould
From her cheeks of tinted pearl;
Stand by that frightened bird,
Thrown from its bower.
The yellow violet, so frail,
Lay her tenderly away.
Cross her hands upon her breast of jade;
Let her golden hair as it is,
Flowing over her graceful shoulders;
Hear the wind singing a hymn in the laurel—
It is for her.
So lay her to rest, tenderly,
But, lay her to rest,
And may many child violets spring from her tomb.

Now, aster flower, shake the bits of red brown leaves
From your purple hair;
Then rest your bruised body.
From now on, you are the saint of the forest.

—LOUIS BARTLETT CHACE
Driftwind, 1946

Violets in the Kitchen

Violet leaves and flowers have been eaten since the beginning of time, and were among the first plants cultivated for their medicinal, culinary and cosmetic properties. A handy little guide, *Violets in the Kitchen* by Peter Gail, brings you a collection of recipes from various sources for common garden and woodland violets plus plenty of interesting violet lore.

Violet flowers and greens are not only tasty, but are also nature's second richest source of Vitamin C and are also very rich in Vitamin A and iron. The 37 recipes will help you capitalize on all this goodness. In the kitchen, they are

extremely versatile, and may be made into appetizers, soups, salads and greens, souffles and omelets, fish and meat dishes, ice cream and desserts, jams and jellies, candies and beverages, all of which are represented here.

This little book will help you get full value from the bounty of violets which volunteer all around you. Eat and enjoy.

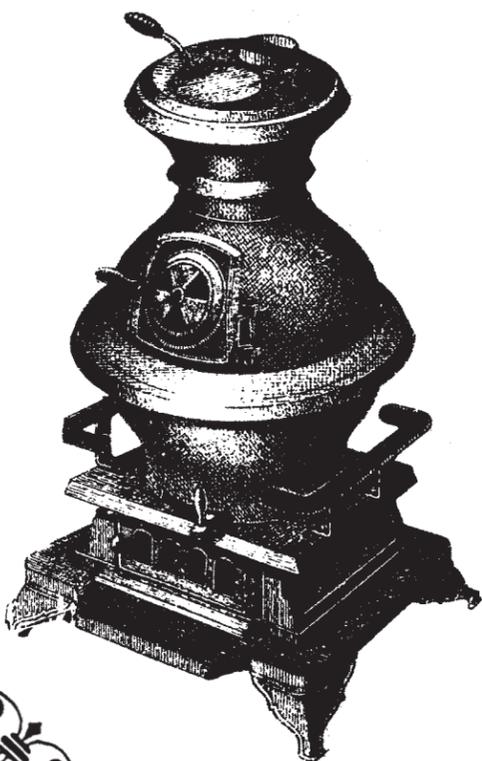
Violets in the Kitchen by Dr. Peter A. Gail is published by Goosefoot Acres Press. It may be ordered for \$7 plus postage and handling from www.dandyblend.com or by calling (800) 697-4858.

Violet Jam

1½ cups violet flowers	1½ cups water
3 Tbsp lemon juice	1 package fruit pectin
3 cups sugar	(Sure-Jell)

Put the violets, ¾ cup of the water, and the lemon juice into your blender and blend at high speed for 1 minute. Add the sugar and blend another 60 seconds. Stir the pectin into the remaining water and boil for a full two minutes, stirring constantly. Pour this hot mixture into the blender and blend another 2 minutes. Pour into jars and seal. Store in your freezer. No vitamins are lost in this process and you retain the fresh flavor of the violets.

—Smith, L. 1973



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Vermont Country Calendar

(May 19, continued)

FERRISBURGH. Exhibit: "Free and Safe: The Underground Railroad in Vermont." Opening Ceremony at 2 pm. This new exhibit will introduce you to Simon and Jesse, two fugitives from slavery who were sheltered at Rokeby in the 1830s. The exhibit traces their stories from slavery to freedom, introduces the abolitionist Robinson family who called Rokeby home for nearly 200 years, and explores the turbulent decades leading up to the Civil War. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rte 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby@comcast.net. www.rokeby.org. *Open May 19 through October 27.*

HARTLAND. Program: Alec Turner—A Trek From Slavery to Freedom. Jane Beck recounts the powerful story of a Virginia born slave who died a freeman, farmer and landowner in Grafton, VT. Free. 2 pm. First Congregational Church, 10 Station Rd. (802) 436-3383. cwmowry@comcast.net. www.vermonthumanities.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Free Class: "Screen Time and Children." With Dr. Lynn Mann, Maryann Morris, and Lisa Kelly. Learn about ways to connect with your children and reduce your family's screen time. Free, but registration required at svhealthcare.org/events. 3 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

NORTHEAST KINGDOM. Farm to Yarn Tour Weekend. 8 am - 5 pm. Visit farms all over the Northeast Kingdom, including refreshments and additional demonstrations at Mountain Fiber Folk in Montgomery. (802) 626-8511. Download a map of farms at www.travelthekingdom.com.

PITTSFORD. Workshop: Pasture Management and Handling Sheep with Dogs. Instructors Chet Parson and Jim McRae will offer training in the benefits of pasture management, pros and cons of intensively rotated pasture, how to set up paddocks on your farm, condition scoring sheep, parasite control, and using dogs to handle sheep. 9 am - 12 pm at Green Acres Farm. Visit vtsheepandgoat.org to download the brochure and registration form.

QUECHEE. Lens on the Wild: Bird Photography Workshop. Join local photojournalist Rob Strong for an exclusive intermediate level portrait session with some of Vermont's most stunning models: hawks, owls, and other birds at VINS. \$35. 1-3 pm. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4. (802) 359-5000 x 223. vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. Cheese, Butter, Yogurt Making Class. Learn how to make delicious soft cheeses, yogurt and butter in your own kitchen! Please bring a container and possibly a cooler so you can take some product samples home. Cost: \$40 per person; Pre-registration required. 1-4:30 pm. Earthwise Farm and Forest, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd. (802) 234-5524. earthwise@hughes.net. www.earthwisefarmandforest.com

SOUTH HERO. Bella Voce Spring Concert: Songs of Hope and Freedom. Enjoy a performance of Robert De Cormier's choral masterpiece They Called Her Moses, a cantata about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. \$18 general and \$15 for students and seniors. Advance tickets available at www.flynntix.org. 3 pm. S. Hero Congregational Church, 24 South Street. (802) 879-1218. director@bellavocevt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert: Keystone Revisited performed in its entirety. The music of Jerry Garcia and Merl Saunders performed by Tony Saunders, Bill Vitt, Jeff Pevar, and Steve Abramson. Admission: \$30. 7 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341.

MONDAY, MAY 20

BENNINGTON. Program: Cows Save the Planet. A presentation and book signing by author Judith D. Schwartz. Cows Save the Planet and Other Improbable Ways of Restoring Soil to Heal the Earth is at once a primer on soil's pivotal role in our ecology and economy and an antidote to those awash in despairing environmental news. Free. 7-8:30 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 Rt. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. www.netrop.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

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. Event is rain or shine. \$10. 6-8 pm. UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Dr. (802) 864-3073. friendsofthehortfarm.org.

STATEWIDE. Vermont Interactive Technologies Workshop: Edible Landscaping. Join ecological designer Mark Krawczyk to learn about the fundamental principles of edible landscape design. Cost: \$10. 6-7:30 pm. Vermont Interactive Technologies locations across the state, including Bennington, Brattleboro, Johnson, Lyndonville, Middlebury, Montpelier, Newport, Rutland, Springfield, St. Albans, White River Jct. and Williston. (802) 288-1581. mparent4@vtlink.org. Register at www.vtlink.org.

WOODSTOCK. Farm Program for Young Children. What unusual things has Henny the hen been putting in her nest to stop the Tomten from taking her eggs? Find out, as we read Hedgie's Surprise. We'll look in our chicken barn nests to see if there are any surprises—perhaps some baby chicks! Craft activity and snack. For children ages 3 and up. Advance registration required. \$5 per person (includes admission to the Farm & Museum). 9-10:30 am. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

MANCHESTER CENTER. "The Meaning of Freedom," a look at the legacy of religion and race during the Civil War. Seth Bongartz will talk about Lincoln and his relationship with the slaves and their own pending freedom. Lars Nielsen will talk about the Jews during the civil war. Dina Janis, Artistic Director of the Dorset Theatre Festival will moderate a Q & A with a theme of freedom and how this has translated into our times today as a nation. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200.

MONTPELIER. Lake Champlain Waterfowl Watch. As winter transitions into spring, thousands of geese and ducks fly along Lake Champlain as they migrate north. We'll spend the day visiting waterfowl hotspots in search of migrating ducks and other water loving birds. Call to arrange carpooling. Fee. (802) 229-6206.

FRIDAY, MAY 24

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Come to an exuberant contra dance with live music. Bring clean, non-marring shoes. 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, 5 miles west of Wallingford. (802) 235-2718 or (802) 446-2928 for info or directions or visit www.Tinmouthvt.org.

VERGENNES. Green Mountain Comedy Festival. 8 pm. Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. (802) 877-6737. www.vergennesoperahouse.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

BARRE. Concert: Soovin Kim, violin, with Ieva Jokubaviciute, piano. All-Beethoven sonatas for violin and piano. Soovin Kim plays on the 1709 "ex-Kempner" Stradivarius. Tickets \$10-\$27. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

Free Calendar Listings

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

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7th Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair on May 18

The 7th Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Whitcomb High School Gymnasium in Bethel, VT.

The fair is hosted by The Bethel Historical Society. Admission is free. This fair is a popular event with collectors and history buffs.

The theme of this year's show is "Space, Years of Discovery." Visitors will learn how a scientist from Bethel, Chris Scheindel (now of Ultramotive Corp. in Bethel, VT), played a big role in the US Space Program. He had developed a sippy straw for use in space. It is shown in pictures of the astronauts in LIFE magazine, Sept. 27,

1963, on the cover and in a story inside. There will also be historical exhibits featuring space theme memorabilia to view.

Many postcard, ephemera, sports memorabilia and stamp dealers will be displaying their wares. 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.

This year, the Bethel Historical Society will issue a very limited edition of covers with a space theme cachet. 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

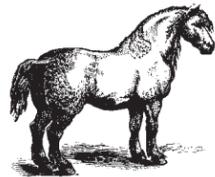
other collectible items with a special pictorial postmark. The USPS will also have recent commemorative stamps for sale and will be taking passport applications.

A popular attraction again this year will be genealogy assistance offered by Joseph Smith Memorial Site representatives.

Delicious home cooked food will be offered in the lobby by the Whitcomb High School Boosters.

The Bethel Postcard and History Fair will be held at Whitcomb High School Gymnasium, 273 Pleasant St. (Rt. 12), Bethel, VT.

For more information contact Nick Nikolaidis, President, Bethel Historical Society at (802) 234-5064. nick@nikolaidis.com.



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Contradance with Northern Spy

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Vermont Country Calendar



BELLOWS FALLS. Circus Terrificus. Done in the style of Cirque du Soleil with former cirque performers. World famous jugglers, aerial hoops, gymnastic duo, clown and more! Balloons, food, concessions and circus memorabilia will fill the theater and lobby. Tickets \$15 under 12 and \$30. 2 & 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House. (802) 843-1180. (802) 843-1236. www.graftonvermont.org.

ESSEX. Book, Author and Dog Event. Phoenix Books Essex will host a reception for Theron Humphrey, the author of author of *Maddie on Things* and his coonhound, Maddie, from 6-8 pm. Local artists also will be exhibiting their works along with Humphrey's unusual photographs of Maddie doing balancing acts. Book signing, too. Phoenix Books Essex is located at Essex Shoppes & Cinema, 21 Essex Way Ste. 407. (802) 872-7111. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

FAIR HAVEN. 22nd Annual Fair Haven Spring Fling. Vendors and great food. Memorial Day parade that follows the military ceremony. Free. On the Town green. (802) 265-8600.

GAYSVILLE. 10th Annual Whale of a Sale. Food sale, all sorts of vendors, local artisans and more. 9 am - 2 pm. The Gaysville Community Church. VT Rt. 107 in the village of Gaysville. Questions or vendor set-up - please call (802) 234-9281.

GOSHEN. Green Mountain Club Outing. This is a moderate 7-mile hike on the Leicester Hollow Trail. We'll go in via the Minnie Baker Trail, then up to beautiful Silver Lake and back down past Falls of Lana. Newcomers are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear. The trip leaves at 9 am from Main St Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center St, Rutland, VT. Sponsored by the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club. Contact Sue Thomas (802) 773-2185. www.gmckillington.org. *Rain date May 26.*

KILLINGTON. The Killington Stage Race. A series of three races structured to cover a variety of terrain and distances, and set against the cool, lush landscape of Vermont's Green Mountains. To register, visit BikeReg.com. For more info. visit KillingtonStageRace.com. *Also May 26 & 27.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. Author Appearance: Julia Reed *"But Mama Always Put Vodka in Her Sangria!—Adventures in Eating, Drinking, and Making Merry."* Reed takes the reader on culinary adventures in places as far flung as Kabul, Afghanistan and as close to home as her native Mississippi Delta and Florida's Gulf Coast. Free. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

NORWICH. Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. Caller: Ruth Sylvester. All dances taught. Beginners are welcome. No partner is necessary. Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. Admission \$8, students \$5, under 16 free, seniors by donation. 8 pm, beginners session 7:45 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. *Dances resume in September.*

STATEWIDE. 21st Annual Open Studio Weekend. More than 240 artists and artisans participate in this event from towns all over Vermont. Meet a artists and craftspeople in their studios, some of which are only open to the public during this event. The Vermont Studio Tour Guide is available free at Vermont Information Centers, from individual studios and galleries, and by request. For additional information call the Vermont Crafts Council at (802) 223-3380. Visit vermontcrafts.com. *Also May 26.*

STOWE. Spring Artisan Market. Local artists and artisans as well as musicians. Look for the white tents. Free. 10:30 am - 3:30 pm. Stowe Village Green. (802) 7932101. adele@stoweaccess.com. www.stovevibrancy.com.

STOWE. Paul McCartney Rock Show: from the Wings Over America tour. World premiere in London on May 16 of this 1980 concert film by Wings. The film includes an exclusive 12-minutes prerecorded interview with Paul McCartney. \$12. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Rt. 108N. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

THETFORD. Open Fields Medieval Festival. Thetford Green comes alive with the sights and sounds of a Medieval village. A King & Queen, knights and ladies, peasants, craftsmen, shepherds, and farmers gather to celebrate the age via music, dance, games of skill and chance, food, traditional crafts, storytelling, Benny the Dragon, feats of juggling and acrobatics, and the No Strings Marionette Company performing *The Hobbit*. Costumes encouraged. Admission. 11 am - 3 pm. Thetford Hill Green. (802) 785-2077. info@VTMedFest.com. www.VTMedFest.com.

WARDSBORO CENTER. "From Our Garden to Yours" Plant Sale. Plant sale, garden raffle, bake sale & library barn open house. Shop for annuals, VT hearty perennials, vegetable seedlings including Gilfeather turnips. Rain or shine. Proceeds benefit Friends of the Wardsboro Library. Free. Sat., 9 am - 12 noon. Library lawn and Wardsboro Town Common, 170 Main St. & Rt. 100 & Main St. (802) 896-3416. www.friendsofwardsborolibrary.org.

WOODSTOCK. Fourth Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration. Meet Vermont cheese-makers and sample their delicious artisan cheeses. Judge Jerseys with the farm manager, participate in a dairy scavenger hunt or "name the calf" contest. Especially for the children: cranking fresh chocolate ice cream and making dairy headbands and moo masks. Admission: adults \$12; over 62 \$11; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; under 3 free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also May 26.*

SUNDAY, MAY 26

EAST CHARLESTON. Program: Hummingbirds. 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. Fee: \$5. 10 am - 12 pm. Northwoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. To register call (802) 723-6551 x 115.

LEBANON, NH. Concert: Toots & The Maytals, Unplugged Acoustic Tour. \$27/\$37/\$47. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. www.tootsandthemaytals.com. www.coverhomerepair.org.

STATEWIDE. 21st Annual Open Studio Weekend. Meet a artists and craftspeople in their studios, some of which are only open to the public during this event. The Vermont Studio Tour Guide is available free at Vermont Information Centers, from individual studios and galleries, and by request. For info call the Vermont Crafts Council at (802) 223-3380. Visit www.vermontcrafts.com.

SUTTON. Rock Climb Wheeler Mountain. From this classic slab of rock, guides will introduce participants to the basics of rock climbing with a top rope—from harness, to knots, to climbing techniques. Gear provided. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Wheeler Pond trailhead at 10 am. Fee: \$25. 10 am - 2 pm. Register by May 17. (802) 723-6551 x 115. david@northwoodscenter.org. www.northwoodscenter.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Century Count XVIII. An annual tradition. RCAS attempts to tally 100 bird species in a day by visiting the county's best birding spots. Meet at the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 6 am. Leader: Roy Pilcher, (802) 775-3461. rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WOODSTOCK. Fourth Annual Cheese & Dairy Celebration. Meet Vermont cheese-makers and sample their delicious artisan cheeses. Judge Jerseys with the farm manager, participate in a dairy scavenger hunt or "name the calf" contest. Especially for the children: cranking fresh chocolate ice cream and making dairy headbands and moo masks. Admission: adults \$12; over 62 \$11; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; under 3 free. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, MAY 27

HUBBARDTON. Memorial Day Remembrance. 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. 12 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. www.Historicsites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton.

POULTNEY. Memorial Day Parade. 10 am. Parade route starts at Stewart's Shop and continues up Main St. to the Poultney Cemetery. (802)287-9751.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

TINMOUTH. Tinmouth Old Firehouse Stage Spring Concert—The Washed Up Beulah Band. The young men of this quartet have created vibrant music from a glorious American tradition, "Jubilee Gospel. Homemade refreshments and free organic coffee from Vermont's Canopy Coffee and free tea. Tickets \$10. Doors 7 pm, concert 7:30 pm. Old Firehouse Stage, corner of Mountain View Dr. and Rt. 140, next to the Town Office. www.tinmouthvt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Concert with Bow Thayer. Admission: \$15. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 188 S. Main St. (802) 698-8341. www.tupelohallvermont.com.

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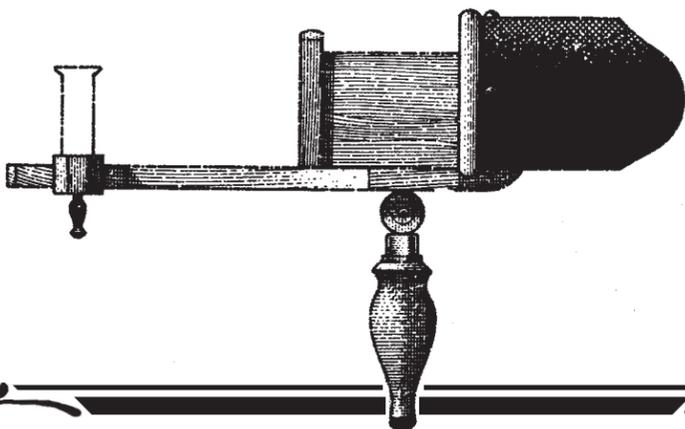
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Spring Fest Celebrates New Season at Shelburne Museum

Celebrate spring at Shelburne Museum with Spring Fest on Sunday, May 12, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.! Opening-day at the Museum features indoor and outdoor activities for gardeners, families, and visitors of all ages. Tour the gardens and participate in landscape discussions with guest experts including Charlie Nardozzi and Judith Irven. Observe artists at work as they capture the beauty of the Museum's 400 lilacs in 90 varieties that bloom this time of year! Bring the kids and enjoy a special doll tea party, music and other fun family activities in celebration of Mother's Day and Mother Earth.

Shelburne Museum offers

over 150,000 works of art, displayed in 37 buildings of which 25 were historic and relocated to the museum grounds. The museum's collection includes works by Monet, Manet and Degas and collection of folk art including signs, quilts, and weathervanes.

Shelburne Museum is located at 6000 Shelburne Rd., off Rt. 7 in Shelburne, VT.

Admission: adults \$22, children ages 5-18 \$11, children under free, family day pass \$55 (2 adults and their children ages 5-18), Vermont residents half price—\$11 adults, \$5 children. (802) 985-3346. www.shelburne-museum.org.

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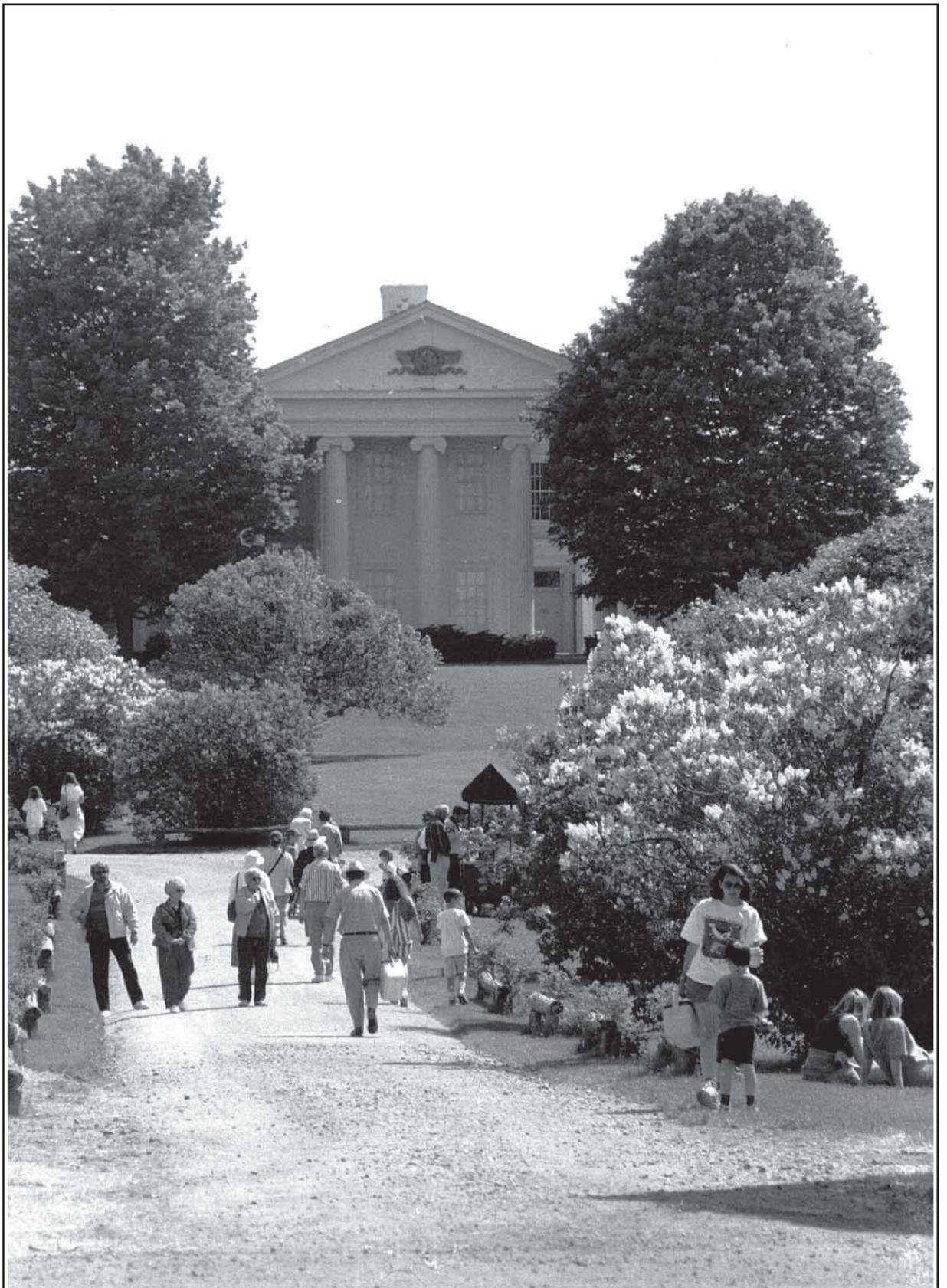


photo by Nancy Cassudy

Stroll among the over 400 lilacs in bloom during the annual Spring Fest at Shelburne Museum in Shelburn, VT.

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Where once the eager children laughed and played.
Now mountain silence lies upon the land
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—INEZ GEORGE GRIDLEY
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When Vermont Changed its Course

by Tony Marro

It was fifty years ago this past January that Philip H. Hoff, a young Burlington attorney, raised his hand and was sworn in as governor of Vermont. He was the first Democrat to have been elected governor since before the Civil War, and he was sworn in by the Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court who—like all the other members of the supreme court—was a Republican, in front of a legislature that was overwhelmingly Republican. He took office along with a Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer and Auditor of Accounts who were Republicans. Every state agency under him, from Agriculture to Water Resources, was headed by a Republican. And as he quickly began telling backers who wanted him to move faster and more radically to change things, it was going to be hard to do because “I’m the only Democrat in my administration, you know.”

That was a long time ago and Vermont was a very different place. As Kevin O’Connor noted last year in the Rutland Herald: “Vermont is often stereotyped as the seedbed of socialist Bernie Sanders and counterculture ice cream company Ben & Jerry’s. But back before the Interstate and the Internet it could be summed up in one word—Republican.”

Looking back

Fiftieth anniversaries tend to be occasions for looking back, and it’s worth looking back at what Vermont was when Hoff became governor and how much he did to help transform it. It was a time when Vermont not only was Republican but was still being seen as the last stand of the Yankees—a place that was small, rural, fiscally conservative, and slow to change or embrace new ideas. The population was largely Protestant and whiter than Sweden. There were only a handful of ethnic restaurants in the entire state and no one could imagine, as is now the case, a sushi bar in the Bennington Price Chopper. It was before the ski industry had transformed the economy; before the Interstate had helped both the tourism industry and the second home market to expand; before the population explosion of the ‘60s had added more than 50,000 people—many of them younger, wealthier, better educated and more open to change than the native Vermonters—to a place that long had been known for having more cows than people.

One town, one representative

And it was a place with a legislative House that was one of the most malapportioned in the nation. Every town—all 246 of them—had a single representative, no matter what the size. That meant that Democrat Hoff, who represented more than 30,000 people in Burlington, could have his vote negated by Republican Ethel Eddy of Stratton, which in those days before the ski resort opened had just 24 residents and may have had more bears than people. That made the legislature more Republican and conservative than the state as a whole, with a significant percentage of farmers who wanted to keep state government limited and who repeatedly beat back any attempts to consolidate things like schools, highway departments or social agencies by insisting that they worked best under the “local control” of the towns. As Hoff told the New York Times shortly after

taking office: “With a population of less than 400,000 persons, Vermont has 800 school directors, 246 road commissioners, and 246 overseers of the poor. It’s ludicrous, utterly ridiculous and wasteful. It may be political suicide, but I am determined to end this sort of provincialism.”

A catalyst for change

He did, to a large degree, although he never achieved the serious consolidation of schools that he wanted. It wasn’t all his own doing, as he has often acknowledged. The changing economics and demographics played a major role. But he had a vision for government that was far more progressive and aggressive than most of his predecessors had, and was a catalyst for change who set in motion many things that transformed the state in important ways.

As John McClaughy, a former aide to President Reagan and himself a staunch Vermont conservative, noted in 1984, Hoff was “one of the savviest” politicians in modern Vermont history, and had brought “freewheeling exuberant change to replace the cautious, prudent, unimaginative rural dominated governments” that had preceded him.

Hoff had been raised in Turners Falls, Massachusetts; gone to Williams College on a football scholarship; enlisted as a Naval aviator during World War II despite not even knowing how to drive a car (he washed out as a pilot because of bad vision and ended up in the submarine service); and then went to Cornell Law School on the G.I. Bill. He had served just one term in the state legislature before running for governor, but he was poised, articulate, radiated energy and enthusiasm and often was compared often to President Kennedy—a comparison he did nothing to discourage. He also had an attractive wife, Joan, who proved to be an effective campaigner.

A Democrat in a Republican state

The long story short is that Hoff was elected in 1962 by a bare 50.6% of the vote and proved to be so wildly popular that he was re-elected two years later in a landslide that put all six statewide offices in Democratic hands, and then to a third term, which no Vermont governor had sought since 1840. The last activist governor had been Ernest W. Gibson, Jr., (1947–1950) a progressive Republican who had criticized the administration of incumbent Republican Governor Mortimer Proctor as “a study in still life.” But between him and Hoff there had been five governors who saw themselves as caretakers, not looking to expand government in any significant way.

Hoff expanded the role in government in ways large and small. He managed to bring about reapportionment with the help of the courts, and once that happened he fashioned a bi-partisan coalition that help him to institute long-range planning, abolish the poll tax as a voting requirement, end the death penalty in most cases, increase state aid to education from \$5 million annually to \$15 million, and bring scores of federal programs into the state. There was a significant expansion of parks and recreation areas; new zoning and land-control measures enacted; and the clutter of billboards removed from Vermont

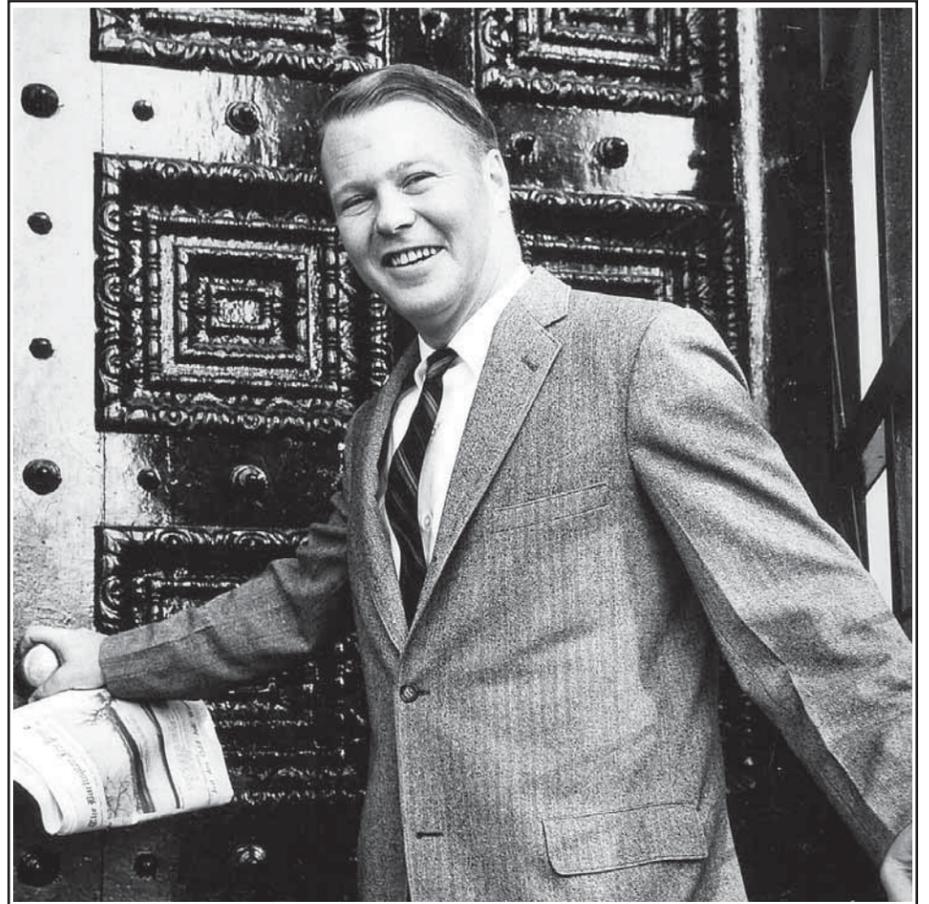


photo courtesy of the Hoff Family Collection
Governor Hoff at the Vermont State House door.

roads. Laws were enacted to prevent discrimination against minorities and women. The 246 Overseers of the Poor were replaced by a state social services system. The three small teachers colleges at Castleton, Johnson and Lyndon were transformed into much larger and more robust liberal arts schools. A Legal Aid program was created and a Consumer Protection Office was established.

Even his wife sometimes thought he was moving too fast. “We hardly get used to one idea when you throw another at us,” she complained at one point. “It’s more than we can take.” But in the process he helped create a new liberal and activist tradition for state government that continues right through today.

Crafting change

Hoff himself took the lead in most of this, but it happened only after the legislature was reapportioned from 246 members to 150, with many of the newcomers more progressive than the people they replaced. As Rep. Emory Hebard, a conservative Republican from Glover, complained about the blizzard of progressive legislation that went flying through in Hoff’s later years: “All those farm boys who used to vote ‘No’, they aren’t here any more.”

By the time Hoff stepped down as governor his popularity had begun to decline. The main reasons were two things he did during his last term that were unpopular and eroded his base. The first was to become increasingly opposed to the Vietnam War, which many traditional Democrats (many of them war veterans) supported, and to be the first Democratic governor to openly break with Lyndon Johnson on the issue. The second was to work with New York Major John

Lindsay to create a summer program that brought large numbers of black and Hispanic teenagers from New York to live, work, study on college campuses with Vermont teenagers. The program not only wasn’t accepted by many Vermonters—including many blue-collar Democrats who feared that blacks would move in permanently and compete for jobs—but also revealed a latent racism that was troubling.

At the same time, there were increased whispering about the serious drinking he was doing, and they turned into an open campaign issue when he ran for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Winston Prouty in 1970. When he admitted that he’d had a drinking problem during his last years in office, his poll numbers took a nose dive and he lost to Prouty. Hoff—who stopped drinking totally on July 3, 1973 and says he hasn’t had a drink since then—said many years later that he never regretted his stands against the war and for civil rights, but they had cost him about 30% of his Democratic base. “Once you get beyond your constituents, you’re going to get out of there,” he said. “And that’s what happened to me.”

His legacy

Hoff, who is now 88, stayed active in Democratic politics, served three terms in the State Senate in the 1980s, and worked to increase the number of minority lawyers in Vermont as chairman of the Vermont Law School Board of Trustees.

But he’s best remembered for his three terms as governor, when, in the words of his Commissioner of Administration William F. Kearns, Jr., “He picked up the state by the back of the neck and gave it a damned good much-needed shaking.”

PHILIP HOFF
HOW RED TURNED BLUE
IN THE
GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE
Samuel B. Hand, Anthony Marro,
and Stephen C. Terry

More About Philip Hoff and Vermont...

Read the recently published book, *Philip Hoff: How Red Turned Blue in the Green Mountain State* which was co-authored by Samuel Hand, Anthony Marro and Stephen Terry and published by Castleton State College through the University Press of New England.

Hand was a long-time professor of history at UVM and Marro and Terry had covered Hoff and state government as young reporters. Terry later became a U.S. Senate aide, managing editor of the Rutland (VT) Herald, and a utility executive. Marro was editor of Newsday from 1987 until 2003.

The book was described by Tom Slayton on Vermont Public Radio as “probably the best book of Vermont political history in recent years...an accurate and brilliantly detailed story...”

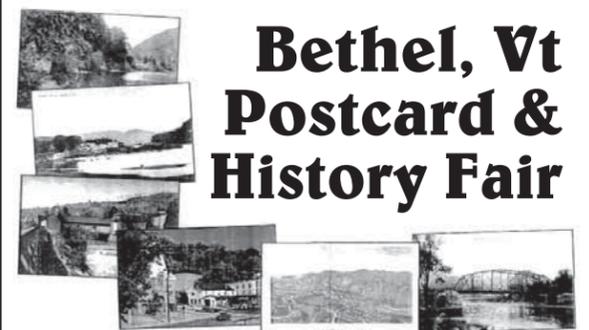
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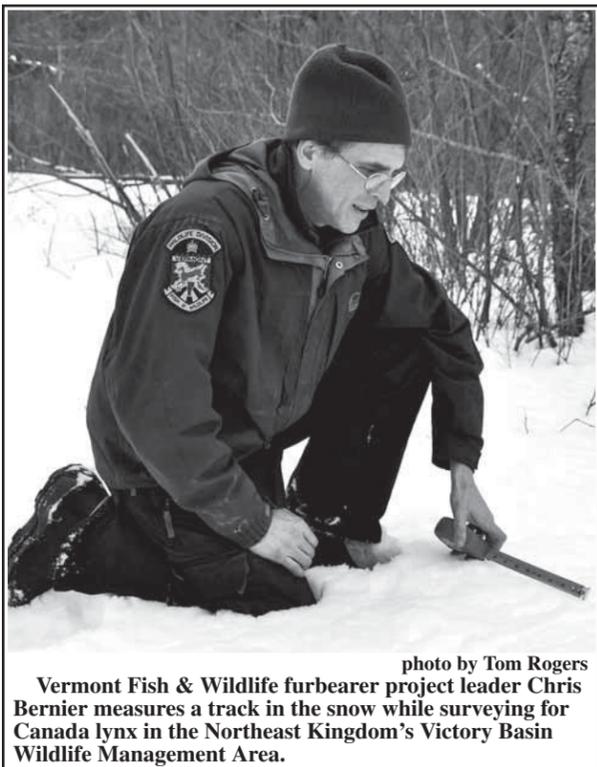


photo by Tom Rogers
 Vermont Fish & Wildlife furbearer project leader Chris Bernier measures a track in the snow while surveying for Canada lynx in the Northeast Kingdom's Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area.



photo by Erwin Bauer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Canada lynx have once again been spotted in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom over the last ten years after centuries with few confirmed sightings.

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Researchers Track Canada Lynx

Canada lynx are appearing in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Although only four confirmed sightings occurred in the state from the late 1700s to the early 2000s, lynx sightings have been on the increase every year since 2003. The department is conducting surveys to determine the full extent and distribution of lynx in Vermont.

A large, carnivorous feline species, Canada lynx are rarely seen because they are nocturnal and secretive. They are similar to bobcats in appearance, but lynx have larger bodies and longer ear tufts than bobcats. The easiest way to distinguish a lynx from a bobcat is by the lynx's solid black-tipped tail and enormous, furry paws.

According to Chris Bernier, biologist for Vermont Fish & Wildlife and the lynx survey leader, most confirmed lynx sightings have been on publicly owned lands in the Nulhegan Basin at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. "Lynx require specific habitat to thrive," said Bernier. "These large, unbroken tracts of mixed-conifer forest are perfect for this species and their primary prey, the snowshoe hare. We

were all very excited when lynx sightings started popping up again in Vermont."

Lynx are listed as 'threatened' under the Federal Endangered Species Act and as 'endangered' under Vermont's Endangered Species Law. State and federal biologists elsewhere in the country have worked to stop the loss of quality lynx habitat that was driving local population declines, so Vermont's biologists were encouraged to see lynx recolonize the state naturally. "It speaks to the success of our habitat conservation efforts in the state," said Bernier.

The surveys are being conducted in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and include the help of volunteers including members of the Vermont Trappers Association. "The support and participation of Vermont's trappers have been invaluable in this effort," said Bernier. "They are our eyes and ears on the landscape. We're working with the Vermont Trappers Association to identify appropriate conservation measures for this species in the state."

Bernier believes the Nulhegan Basin lynx have formed a reproducing, resident population that likely dispersed from Maine following a boom in the lynx population in that state. His team has also conducted surveys in similar habitat in nearby Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area but has not detected lynx there.

Fish & Wildlife Department Deputy Commissioner Kim Royar, who previously led the furbearer project, says that the department is also partnering with New Hampshire Fish & Game, in addition to wildlife agencies in Ontario and Quebec. "We view lynx conservation as a regional effort," she said. "To move freely, wide-ranging species such as lynx require the conservation of large blocks of forested habitat connected by travel corridors. They range across several states and provinces, transcending political boundaries."

"Canada lynx are rarely seen because they are nocturnal and secretive."

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A Spring Tradition

Annual Northeast Kingdom Farm to Yarn Tour

The Annual Northeast Kingdom Farm to Yarn tour, a welcome sign of spring, will be hosted on Saturday, May 18th and Sunday, May 19th at locations across the region. The event is free and families are welcome.

The knitters, spinners and farmers of the Mountain Fiber Folk Co-op started the Farm to Yarn tour several years ago with five farms in the Montgomery, Vermont area participating in a one day, open house style event. This area is just south of the Canadian border not far from Jay Peak.

From that point the tour has grown in size and popularity, with many farms opening their gates to welcome visitors.

Folks from near and far enjoy the tours whether they are active knitters, farmers or just looking for a fun, family-friendly event. "Collaboration emerged between the Mountain Fiber Folk Co-op and the Northeast Kingdom Travel & Tourism Association (NEKTTA) and the event

has grown into a two-day weekend event that includes many farms from all parts of the Northeast Kingdom" stated Laura Malieswski, NEKTTA's executive administrator. "It's an event that truly celebrates Vermont's agricultural heritage and it's a great chance for budding fiber producers to learn how to work with fiber as well as what's involved in raising fiber producing animals."

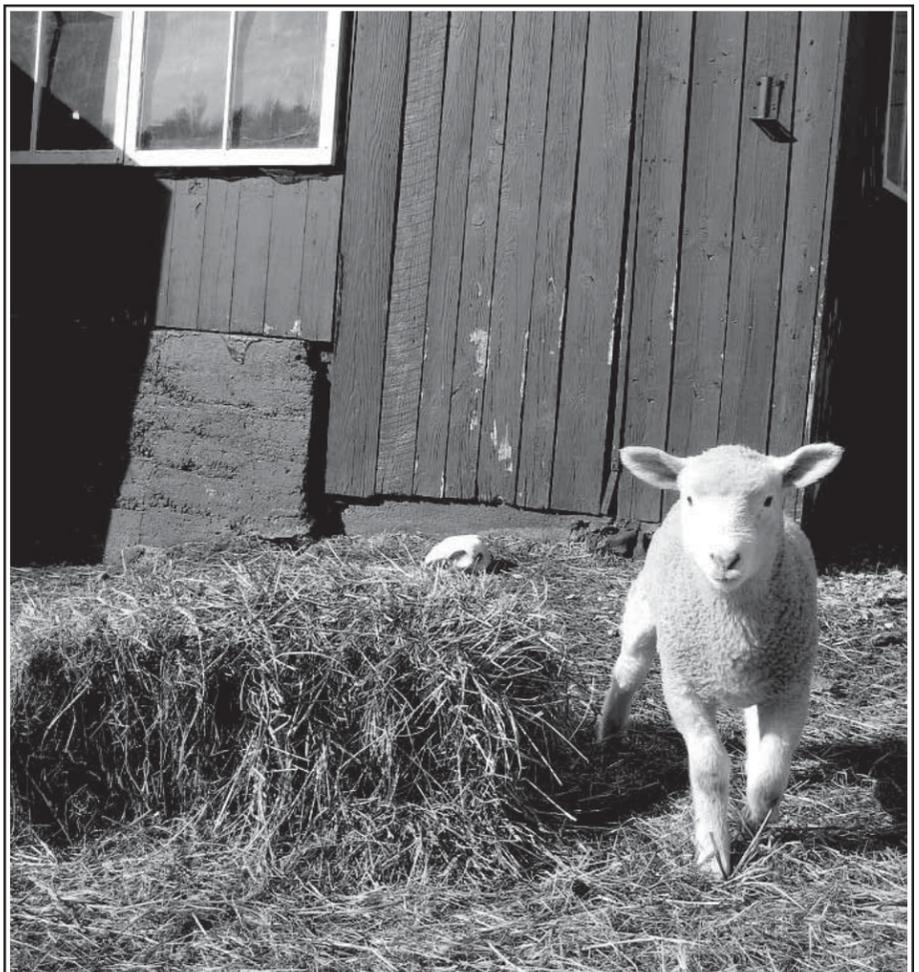
Experiences, and animal interactions vary from farm to farm. Activities include farm tours, spinning demos, fiber arts workshops, a llama obstacle course, and the chance to meet alpacas, goats, sheep, angora rabbits, and other farm and family animals. Visitors will also be able to purchase fiber products including roving, yarn, and hand-crafted items.

Participating farms include Agape Hill Farm in Hardwick, Walden Mountain Alpaca Farm in East Hardwick, Valley View Alpaca in Lyndonville, Tannery Farm & Boreas

Farm Cashmeres in Danville, Maple View Icelandics in Westfield, Willowbend Farm in Island Pond, Cedar Brook Alpacas & Aramaar Alpacas in Irasburg, Log Cabin Farm Alpacas in East Albany, Buzz & Honey's Fleecy Flock in Montgomery, Dillner Hillside Farm in Montgomery and Mountain Fiber Folk Coop in Montgomery Center.

To ensure everyone has a great experience, wear appropriate footwear and clothing, be aware of posted signs and working equipment, be considerate of the needs and comfort of the animals, and leave your dogs at home.

For a full listing of activities at each farm and to download a map of the participating farms visit www.travelthekingdom.com or contact the Northeast Kingdom Travel & Tourism Association at (802) 626-8511. E-mail assist@TraveltheKingdom.com.



A young lamb ventures out in the barnyard at Mountain Fiber Filk in Montgomery Center, VT photo courtesy of NEKTTA

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North Country Book News

Book Review by Charles Sutton

A Remarkable Coonhound and Her Mentor

Maddie on Things

A Super Serious Project about Dogs and Physics

by Theron Humphrey

(Published by Chronicle Books)

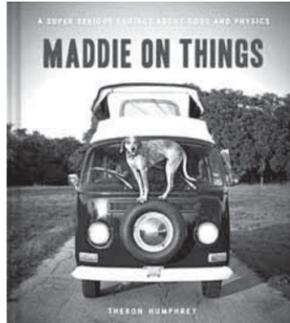
How many of us at some point in our lives have just wanted to quit our job, hit the road in a van or camper, and travel all over America?

This did happen to photographer Theron Humphrey who decided one day in 2011 to do just that, but with the goal of photographing and interviewing one person every day for 365 days as he toured the country. That might be remarkable enough, but what made the adventure in his pickup even more incredible was sharing the journey with a rescued coonhound named Maddie.

"She fit right into my life with those big ears and fantastic white spots," he recalls. But the big surprise came when he started taking pictures of Maddie and discovered her uncanny sense of balance.

His amazing color photos (150 of them in this book) show the dog in her remarkable balancing acts in all seasons of the year in state after state. She poses atop bicycles, fences, a snow-covered fire hydrant, climbing a ladder, often perched on top of many kinds of signs, on a small rock in a Kansas lake, and even straddled between two supermarket carts. She seen atop all sorts of vehicles.

This friendly dog enjoyed other environments too, as we see her in a field of flowers in Texas, sleeping on Theron's shoulder in the truck, at rest under a overturned wheelbarrow in North Dakota, and in a patch of grass in Madison, Wisconsin.



Born and raised in the south, Humphrey had been living and working in Idaho where he was employed in a corporate photo studio. On the road for a year he traveled 65,000 miles and visited all 50 states. Maddie was with him every mile of the way with balancing acts to prove it.

Humphrey and Maddie in Essex, VT on May 25

Professional photographer and wanderer Theron Humphrey with Maddie the coonhound will be at Phoenix Books & Gallery in Essex, VT on May 25th, 6-8 pm. for an "Inspired by Maddie" Art Show and reception.

Phoenix Books is the only stop in Vermont for the Humphrey and Maddie national book tour. The Gallery at Phoenix Books is very excited to have some of Theron's work included in our show, and that we are included on his national book tour," says Colleen Shipman, Phoenix Books manager. For information about also being in the show "Inspired by Maddie" contact her at Phoenix Books.

Theron is currently working on a documentary project, "Why We Rescue" which aims to share the stories of rescued and adopted pets and their owners. He is gathering photos and interviews alongside the book tour. This project is an opportunity to share everyday stories on how those pets can open our homes and hearts to the world by focusing on one shelter/rescue pet story in each state. Rather than play on people's pity by focusing on forlorn dogs in shelter cages, "Why We Rescue" pictures the joy people get from their rescued dogs. (Visit whywerescue.com.)

During the reception, Random Rescue, a unique dog adoption service located in Williamstown, VT, will have information about available dogs and the services they offer, as well as homemade dog treats for sale to benefit their rescue work. A donation wish list will be available before and on May 25th for those who wish to donate items. (Visit visitrandomrescue@gmail.com.)

Maddie on Things—A Super Serious Project About Dogs and Physics by Theron Humphrey also is available from your bookseller for \$15.95, or from chroniclebooks.com.

Phoenix Books & Gallery is located at the Essex Shoppes and Cinema, 21 Essex Way in Essex, VT. (802) 872-7111. colleen@phoenixbooks.biz. www.phoenixbooks.biz.



Children's Book Reviews

Springtime Tales of All Things Bright And Beautiful

This spring share with your children the tale of a seed-saver extraordinaire in *Miss Maple's Seeds* by Eliza Wheeler, (\$16.99, www.penguin.com/youngreaders). Follow the marvelous Miss Maple as she distributes the orphan seeds she collected last year and saved all winter in her home in a maple tree. Her motto for the seeds is "take care my little one for the world is big and you are small."

Miss Maple's seeds will take root in nearby gardens, others will travel on distant winds and faraway tides. Exquisite drawings portray this seed-saver's journey as she plants and frees her seeds.

Experience the joy that even a single seed can give as it grows into a brilliant red flower in *Ava's Poppy* by Marcus Pfister, (\$16.95, www.northsouth.com). The little child Eva finds and cares for the lone poppy she has found in a field. She protects it from the cold wind and heavy rains and gives it water when the earth is dry. Sadly her poppy loses its petals and turns brown and dry. She plants the remains. Her

nurturing has not been lost on the plant kingdom. A tender little plant reappears in the spring. This grand message is told with few words and simple drawings; and the child's expressions say it all.

The great outdoors in all its seasonal splendor can be appreciated year-round in this beautifully illustrated square-format book, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* by Cecil Frances Alexander and illustrated by Anna Vojtech, (\$9.95 paper, www.northsouth.com).

These verses were first published in Hymns for Little Children by its Irish author in the late 19th Century. It may have been inspired by Coleridge's The Rime of the Ancient Mariner who wrote: "He prayeth best, who loveth best: All things great and small..."

Vojtech's 'bright and beautiful' drawings for spring take one right into the world of plants blooming, birds singing, and insects, large and small on the move! See a mouse enjoying a luscious strawberry. Children will love the drawings and could even memorize the hymn.



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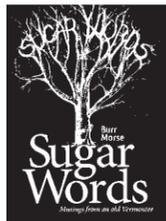
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The Swordfish Hunters

The History and Ecology of an Ancient American Sea People
by Bruce Bourque

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

Imagine for a moment that the Gulf of Maine waters are harboring schools of 100–130 pound codfish, and even more amazing this is a haven for giant swordfish, most at least 10 feet long and weighing over 1,000 pounds.

As unbelievable as this may seem today, this fishery existed along the mid-Maine coast 5,000 years ago! And there to reap the harvest was a community of hunters-gatherers (soon to be skilled fishermen, too) who became known as the Red Paint Indians. We learn they created the tools to build ocean-worthy fishing vessels as well as fishing gear that included sophisticated hooks and lines and even harpoons.

How this particular community of Indians happened to settle there only to disappear with hardly a trace several hundred years later; and what of their story that can be surmised through surviving artifacts (including fish bones) is told in this fascinating book by Maine archaeologist Bruce Bourque.

He also tells of his own remarkable journey studying the Red Paints, first as a graduate student on a dig on North Haven Island in Penobscot Bay, and then devoting the next

clam, blue mussels and softshell clam (but no lobster).

Bourque speculates that Red Paints added swordfish and cod to their main diet of deer, moose and other wild game meat and probably used the clams mostly for bait rather than as a food staple.

Centuries of sea erosion may have washed away countless middens, but the surviving ones have been productive and we learn about the remarkable Turner Farm shell midden on North Haven as “the best preserved and probably the oldest on the Gulf of Maine coast” where Bourque and fellow diggers spent many summers unearthing treasures.

Remarkable finds include harpoons, barbed spears, daggers, delicate bone needles, beaver incisor tools, and animal teeth as well as bird figurines carved from bone.

Also uncovered were pyrite fire kits, stone gouges, adzes, slate bayonets, plummets, unusual rounded beech pebbles muscovite mica as grave furnishings. In his search to locate such artifacts the author found one collector with a basketful, but who only wanted

Book Review by Charles Sutton

40 years to uncovering their mysteries and collecting their artifacts for the Maine State Museum where he is its Curator of Archaeology.

And Bourque writes:

“What has drawn me to study them has been my perception not merely of their robustness but of the suddenness with which they burst on the scene and the geographic extent of their social contacts.

They occupied well-defined temporal and spatial ranges, undertook the rare practice of swordfish hunting, buried their dead in ocher-rich cemeteries that gave them their name, manufactured a highly distinctive suite of bone and stone artifacts, and maintained some kind of complex relationship with faraway cultures.”

The swordfish remains that survived for thousands of years included bones and rostras (fish swords) as well as specialized fishing gear included both barbed and toddling harpoons as well as harpoon tips made from deer and moose bone.

For fishing boats the Red Paints carved dug-outs from huge Maine white pine logs. Uncovered in grave sites were many robust stone adzes and gouges in a variety of sizes designed to shape such solid wood.

Red Paint artifacts were found buried in giant shell middens. Thanks to the calcium carbonate of mollusk shells, buried bones stay preserved and are not dissolved as they would in acid soils. These fascinating heaps of shells included oyster, bay scallop,

other powder made from primal hematite which varied in amounts and brilliance. It is believed the ocher powder came from the Katahdin Iron Works area in northern Maine as part of trade possibly for Red Paint crafted sea-worthy dugouts.

It is difficult to say what the ocher meant to the Red Paint people, but blood symbolism is one likely ritual meaning. The graves were well furnish for the needs of next life, especially with whetstones, fire-making kits, exotic weapons, and craftsmen’s tools. Some of the materials were associated with shamans who were attributed with the ability “to see within, through and beyond” the physical and spiritual worlds.

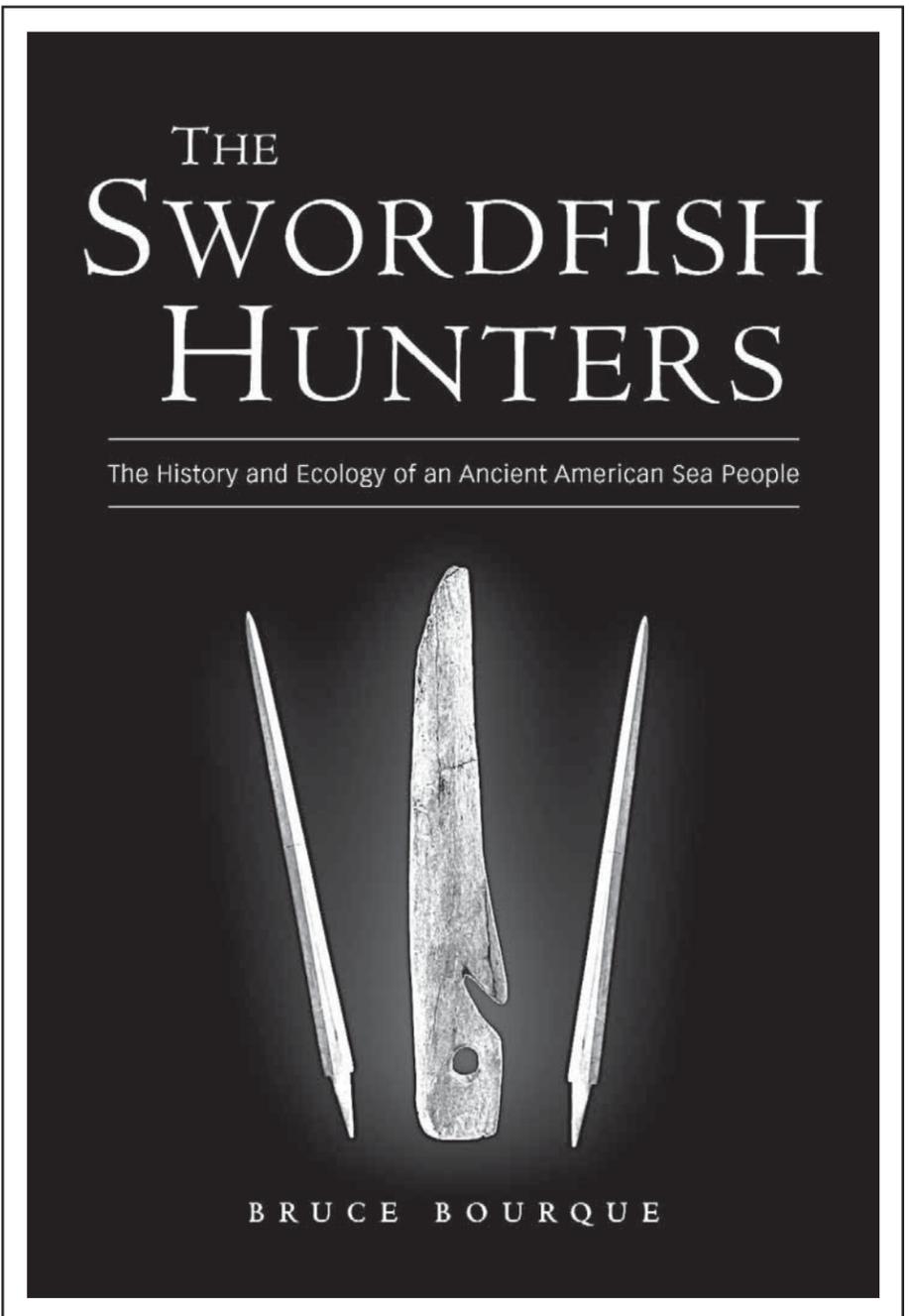
So in addition to shamans, Bourque speculates these special burial sites were exclusively for the sea-captain sword-fishermen and their families as an indication of their prestige, wealth and leadership. Anyone who has the courage to hunt down dangerous and elusive swordfish (or large mammals, too) deserves special treatment dead or alive.

Pinpointing the Red Paints in prehistorical perspective was another mystery to be solved. The author has called their time as the “Moorhead phase” in honor of Warren K. Moorhead, an early archaeologist who devoted years of field research to the Red Paints and personally excavated 197 of their graves.

The Moorhead phase is described as an extension of the Maritime Archaic tradition which dates back 7,500 years. Its predecessor

sell him the basket but without its contents!

All the grave sites were covered with red



were Paleo-Indians, the first humans to enter North America from Siberia around 10,500 years ago.

What happened to the Red Paints? We learn that they suddenly vanished around 3,800 years ago:

“Its elaborate technology disappeared, the cemeteries were abandoned, and swordfish hunting ceased for the rest of prehistory.”

The area did become overrun by immigrants from the south known as the Susquehanna tradition, which could have absorbed some Red Paints, but an outmigration also seems possible.

A mass epidemic has been ruled out as small pox and typhus were introduced to the New World by Europeans only 500 years ago.

Another theory is that as the group disbanded, with its members joining other communities (most likely to the north) where

they assumed new cultural identities. We’re familiar in our short lifetimes of witnessing ecological misdeeds and the over-fishing and depletion of fish stocks (including cod and swordfish).

This may also have been the case back then. The author notes the disappearance of swordfish remains and a rapid decline in cod when the prehistorical Moorehead phase came to an end.

This is a remarkable book about an all-but-forgotten part of our history pieced together in such a way the reader can’t help but ask, hurry up tell me more!

The Swordfish Hunters—The History and Ecology of an Ancient American Sea People by Bruce Bourque is available at bookstores or can be ordered for \$29.95 from www.bunkerhillpublishing.com.

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photo by Dreaming Mountain

Enjoy three large ponds and the spectacular view at this private estate in Johnson, VT. (Listing #476)

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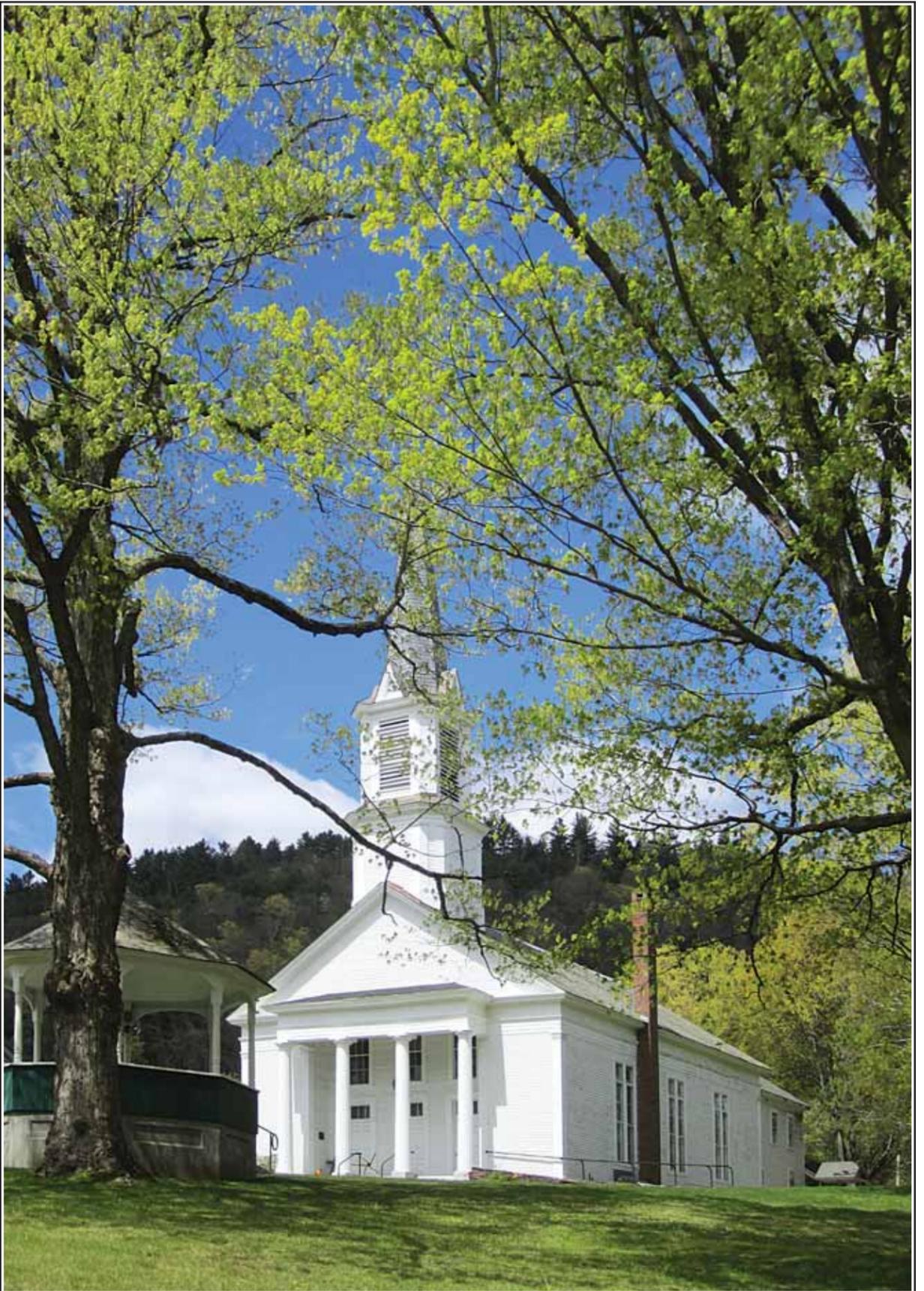


Sketch

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At floods...and finds a village where the walks
Are maple-shaded, edged with flowers gay.

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Well-loved landmark on the village street;
And houses of substantial Yankee mould,
Old-fashioned gardens with gray rustic seat;
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