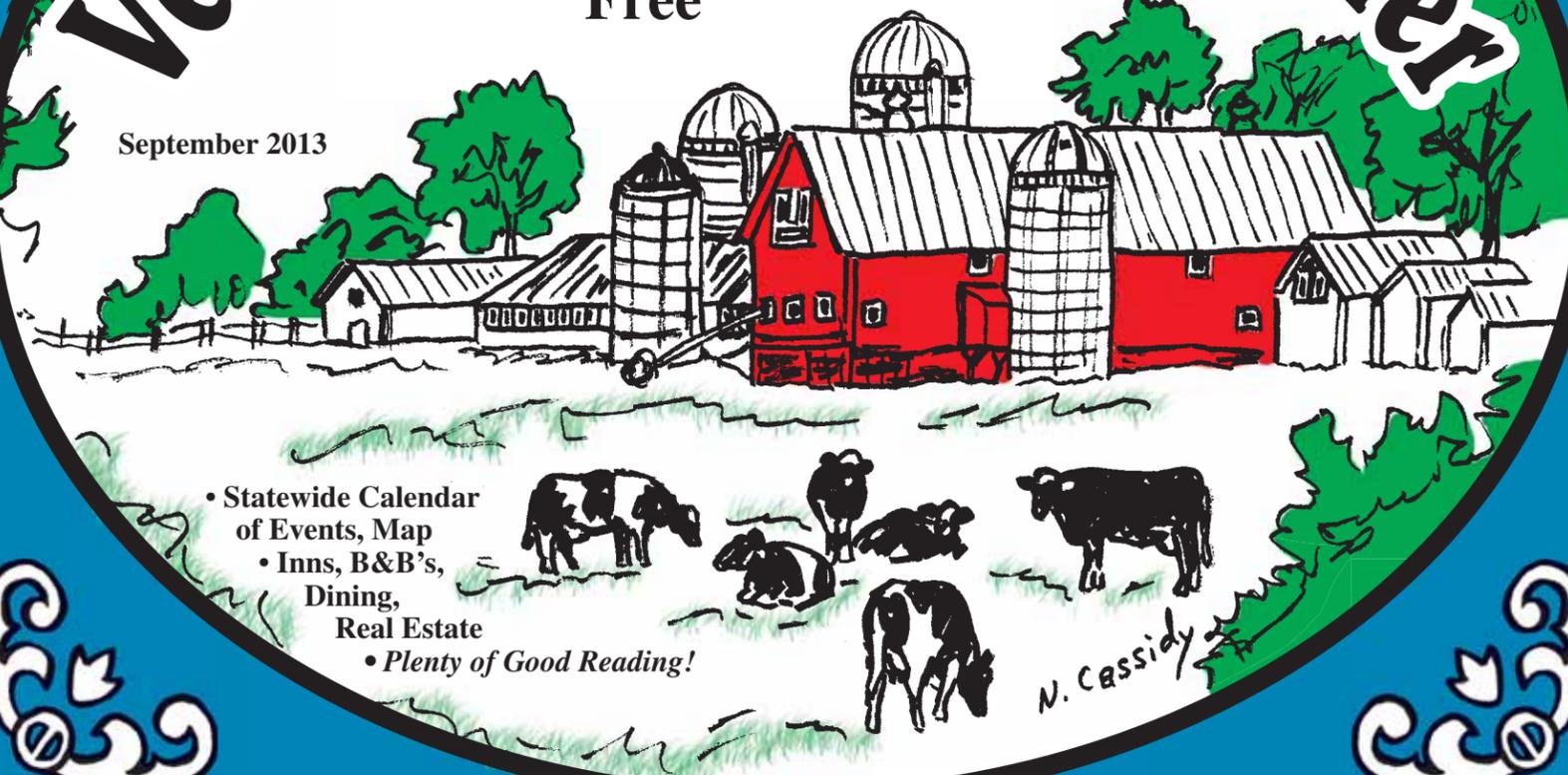


Vermont Country Sampler

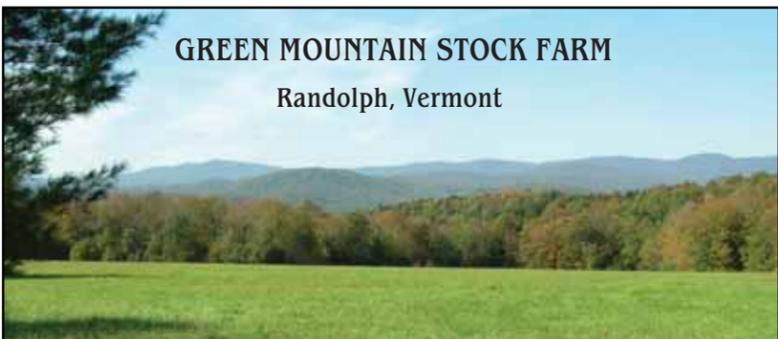
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September 2013



- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
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N. Cassidy



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Athens Historic Preservation Society Hosts Annual Pig Roast

You are invited to the Second Annual Pig Roast on the lawn of the Athens Brick Meeting House in Athens, VT on Sunday, September 15 at 1 p.m. This will be a good old-fashioned pig roast with all the fixins'. The cost is \$15/plate; children 12 and under are \$10. The Athens Brick Meeting House will be open for tours.

This event is being sponsored by the Athens Historic Preservation Society. The Meetinghouse is historically significant to this region, particularly for the thirteen towns which formed a group for religious purposes including Athens, Grafton, Rockingham, Townshend, Londonderry, Weston, Chester, Acton, Springfield, Landgrove, Windham, Putney and Mt. Holly. These towns comprised the "Old Athens Circuit," through which cir-

cuit preachers traveled to perform religious services.

For years after regular religious services ceased at the Meetinghouse, the Meetinghouse was maintained by funds raised at summer events for speeches by various politicians and other notables.

Consider joining the Athens Historic Preservation Society. Your membership will assist us in conserving the Meetinghouse, other local historical information, and enable us to provide future cultural and historical programming.

The Athens Brick Meeting House is on Rt. 30, Meeting House Rd., in Athens, VT.

For more information about the day's event or the Athens Historic Preservation Society call Beth Ann Agostini at (802) 365-7740.



Monarch butterfly rests in the early autumn flowers in Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Pure Lepidoptery

by Bill Felker

What more felicitie can fall to creature
Than to enjoy delight with libertie,
And to be Lord of all the workes of Nature,
To raigne in th' aire from th' earth to highest sky,
To feed on flowres and weeds of glorious feature,
To take whatever thing doth please the eie?

—Spenser

Today, I am watching the last butterflies of the year, and I have no ulterior motive. I am done with trying to identify and count them, have given in to my confusion about their names and markings and their meanings. Rum and cola in my hand, I have put aside my lepidoptery, or, closer to the truth, I have chosen to purify it of its purpose. The butterflies, after all, seem to come from nowhere, appear and disappear like fantasies or daydreams. I know too little about them to be scientific or to draw objective conclusions about their habits. Their temporal and spatial borders are uncharted for me, and it is an easy step from curiosity to procrastination, from studying to distraction and sloth.

The afternoon is full of sun, and the breeze is cool. The chasm between observation and wasting time, which seemed so wide just a little while ago, has collapsed around me, and

my sense of application and utility, of duty and obligation and responsibility, has been unplugged. The butterflies' passionate fluttering search for sweetness and brightness is teaching me to draw no conclusions, to avoid the issues at hand, to forget the inevitable, to embrace excuses, to postpone commitment, to put off until tomorrow, to pretend, even to avoid indifference or nonattachment or anything wise or virtuous or transcendent that might lead to enlightenment or wisdom or knowledge.

Freed by my ignorance and lassitude, I have nothing to gain from the butterflies. I can do nothing with their bodies. I cannot capture their souls. These particular butterflies do not balance the planet, nor can I see the hurricane their wings may now be stirring in the Caribbean. I cannot connect their dots. I cannot feed the hungry with them, clothe the naked with them, cannot visit the sick with them or bury the dead with them. They dance in front of me without Jesus or the Buddha, without salvation, without heaven or hell, without sin or virtue, without selfishness or magnanimity, without humility or kindness or goodness or evil, without history or the future. Floating among these disconnections, I enjoy delight with liberty, am pure and clean and loopy, untied and clueless.

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September 2013, Vol. XXIX
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Come Celebrate Autumn in Vermont!

Vermont State Fair

Rutland, VT • August 30 – September 8, 11 am – 11 pm

The Rutland region has celebrated agriculture with the Vermont State Fair since its inception in 1846. Come soar to the stars on a Ferris wheel, gallop away on a carousel, try your luck in the duck pond and partake in sausages and fried dough. Experience true rural life in a small city and a week of events that include a demolition derby, tractor pulls, and harness racing. www.vermontstatefair.net, (802) 775-5200.

Southern Vermont Garlic & Herb Festival

Bennington, VT • August 31 & Sept. 1, 10 am – 5 pm

Garlic lovers unite! From garlic ice cream to garlic jelly, garlic pickled, roasted, and braided, the place to be is the Annual Southern Vermont Garlic & Herb Festival at Camelot Village in Bennington. Voted by Reuters as one of the Top 10 World's Best Garlic Festivals, enjoy the live music, celebrate, and savor. Adults \$5, children under 12 are \$1. www.lovegarlic.com, (802) 447-3311.

New World Festival

Randolph, VT • September 1, noon to midnight

Bask in Vermont's own Brigadoon, where Celtic and French Canadian cultural heritage come alive through music and dance. Musical traditions fostered by the festival are carried out continuously on six performance stages in Randolph's historic village center. The event also includes work of local artisans, delicious local food, and children's activities. Adults \$37 (\$32 in advance), students \$11, children \$5. Downtown Randolph and Chandler Music Hall. www.newworldfestival.com, (802) 728-6464.

Killington Hay Festival

Killington, VT • Labor Day—Columbus Day

Hay is not just for horses in this celebration of harvest art and creativity. Tour the region to laugh and photograph over 30 giant hay animals, from beautiful to whimsical. Enter the photo contest. Want to learn more about the creations? Examine each sculpture for scavenger hunt clues. The region hosts a variety of daily activities and weekly events throughout the five-week period. Free. www.discoverkillington.com, (802) 422-2146.

South End Art Hop

Burlington, VT • September 6–8, Fri. 5–10 pm, Sat. 10 am – 10 pm, Sun. 11 am – 4 pm

Jump into a celebration of the arts located in Burlington's South End, Vermont's first arts district. There's something for everyone with 500 artists, over 100 sites, thousands of works of art, outdoor sculpture, performing art, live demos and workshops. Take home original work from the artist market, inspire young creators with kids' activities, and enjoy a fashion show. www.seaba.com, (802) 859-9222.

Tunbridge World's Fair

Tunbridge, VT • September 12–15

Immerse yourself in village culture and experience Vermont's heritage at the same time. Explore family farm traditions from the past with antique farm machinery, implements, and an authentic one-room schoolhouse. Learn about Vermont's farming future from children and families competing with livestock, gardening, and crafts. Enjoy great fair food and an old-fashioned carnival atmosphere harking back to an era when the farming community gathered for harvest picnics and trotting races. Admission. www.tunbridgeworldsfair.com, (800) 889-5555.



An exhibitor waits with his team of oxen at the Tunbridge World's Fair. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Oktoberfest

Stowe, VT • September 27–29, Fri. 7–11 pm, Sat. 10 am – 8 pm, Sun. 11 am – 5 pm

Willkommen to Oktoberfest in the iconic mountain village of Stowe! This family-friendly celebration of the harvest and fall foliage features a free Friday night "Rocktoberfest" and Saturday's Grand Parade down Main Street. Come hungry for two days filled with wurst and oompah bands, singing and dancing, Vermont micro-brew beer, and fun! Kids will enjoy games and activities, including "Das Jumping Fun Haus." Fri. free, Sat./Sun. \$7. www.stowerotary.com, (802) 253-4788.

Weston Antiques Show

Weston, VT • October 4–5, 10 am – 5 pm

Gala preview October 3, 5–7:30 pm

Rated one of the best small shows in New England by the New York Times, the Show attracts 35 outstanding dealers to the historic Weston Playhouse at the peak of foliage season. Peruse English furniture, accessories, Americana, folk art, silver, samplers, paintings, oriental rugs, and jewelry. From the casual aficionado to the serious collector, everyone will find something of interest in exhibits that reflect a range in specialty and price. Show \$10, Gala preview \$50. www.westonantiquesshow.org, (802) 824-5307.

Harvest Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT • October 12–13, 10 am – 5 pm

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live on a

farm in the 1800s? Step back into time and join friends for a husking bee, barn dance, and a variety of 19th century harvest activities. Lend a hand pressing cider, preserving apples, harvesting garden vegetables, and "putting up" crops for the winter. Kids will enjoy apples-on-a-string, fence-building, butter churning and making ice cream. Adults \$12, seniors \$11, children ages 5–15 \$6, ages 3–4 \$3, ages 2 and under free. www.billingsfarm.org, (802) 457-2355.

Mount Snow Oktoberfest

West Dover, VT • October 12–13, 11 am – 5 pm

Don your lederhosen and dirndls for two fun-filled days for little and big kids alike. Little kids enjoy festival games, face painting, pumpkin painting and the famous schnitzel toss. Big kids have games of their own with the keg toss, yodeling contest, stein holding, and horseshoes. Take in oompah music, fill your belly with authentic German fare, and enjoy brews from German and domestic breweries in commemorative steins. Admission varies. www.mountsnow.com, (800) 245-7669.

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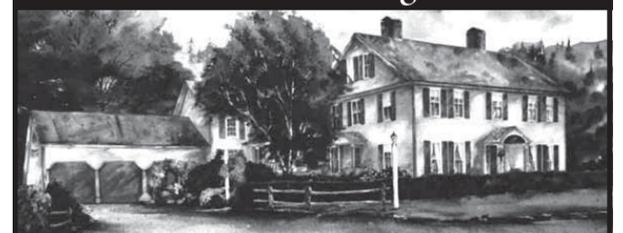
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Perfect Pictures

by Burr Morse

My wife often says “we’ve lived too long in this world”. What she means is the world is changing too fast and we’re not “keeping up”, nor do we really want to. Y’see old age’ll do that—we get stuck in our ways. To use a cussed modern phrase, we’ve got a “double whammy” goin’ on in that department: we’re old and we’re old Vermontahs. Both qualities find us wearing the good ol’ days like a badge.

The other day I was showing a young lady who works for us how to couple an empty quart berry basket to a full one and turn them over. “It’s an old ‘Indian trick’” I said, “and a great way to check the berries on the bottom to make sure they’re alright.” I puzzled over her look of consternation. Was it because I’d used a phrase totally untranslatable to her generation, or was it that I’d used the word “Indian”, talk deemed by them derogatory? Not wanting to “open up a can of worms” I let the subject drop. A few days later, I had the opportunity to do some fact-checking. While on a business trip in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom, I stopped to visit Ralph Swett, a good friend of mine and full blooded

“What she means is the world is changing too fast and we’re not ‘keeping up,’ nor do we really want to.”

Abenaki. Sitting across from Ralph at his kitchen table, I asked the question: “Are you offended when someone calls you an Indian?” He said “no” quicker’n a whistling arrow and went on to describe his heritage. “The Indians were very spiritual people” he said. I sensed our common wavelength. America today could sure use less “political correctness” and more spiritualism!

These days it seems the generation “gap” is more like the Grand Canyon. It’s never more apparent than a walk down



The Fall Festival Craft Show on the Green in Chester, VT is a popular autumn destination—plenty to see and do! photo by Fullerton Inn

any “Main Street USA” where young people sport hair that’s all colors of the rainbow and wear rings in weird places. They also talk at two distinct volumes, either silently by “text” or loudly with an infusion of “f-bombs”. Back in the day, swearing was much more subdued but, as I recently found out with one of my writings, could still make a hell-of-an-impression.

I had just sent out one of my email stories where I had used the words “damn” and “hell” in order to lend accuracy and flow to some Vermont dialogue (in my opinion, the difference between “cuss” and “swear” is that cuss words are “printable” in the public press and swear words are not). A few days later, however, I received the following message by email from Rhonda in Kentucky: “Mr. Burr, I wanted an email about your happenings in Vermont, but I find your language leaves a lot to be desired. Do you always talk like that?” Shocked, thinking of the f-bombs, I wrote back to her: “To answer your question about my language, yes I do always talk like that. I’m sorry that you are offended but, you see, if you want ‘happenings in Vermont’, you gotta take a few minor cuss words ‘cause that’s how real Vermonters talk—to leave ‘em out would be like eatin’ pancakes with Log Cabin instead of my maple syrup and I bet you like my maple syrup!” In her reply, she cited the Bible and in no way let me off the hook—“But now put off all these...filthy communication out of your mouth.”— Col. 3:8.

At that I “rested my case” and in a way, agreed with her. If I can’t tolerate modern kids’ “f-bombs”, why should I expect her to tolerate my “damns”? I will, however, keep writing about old “Vermontahs”, right down to the way they talked. I’ll also try a little harder to understand kids these days because we are, indeed, living in the same world. And for Rhonda, I’ll close with another Bible verse: “Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” — Psalm 133:1.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open year-round. Visit their Country Store, Sugarhouse, Woodshed Theater, Outdoor Farmhouse Museum, and more. For maple products by mail and to order balsam wreaths for Christmas time, call (800) 242-2740 or visit www.morsefarm.com.

Chester, VT

39th Annual Fall Festival Craft Show on the Chester Green

Enjoy the sights and smells of autumn at this festive craft show on the Green in Chester, VT.

Come celebrate the 39th Annual Fall Festival Craft Show on September 21–22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There is something for everyone in one of the “Most Beautiful Villages” in New England.

Visitors will have the opportunity to watch crafts demonstrations and speak with local New England art-

ists. Browse and purchase high quality handmade crafts including baskets, glass, quilts, fiber art, woodcarvings, paintings, jewelry, photography, pottery, and more. A wide variety of food will be available.

The Craft Show is sponsored by the Chester Rotary Club.

For more information: call Nancy Rugg at (802) 875-2444. Visit www.chesterfallfestival.org.



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10th Annual Vermont Woodworking and Forest Festival

You're invited to attend the 10th Annual Vermont Fine Furniture, Woodworking & Forest Festival on Saturday & Sunday, September 28 & 29, 2013 at the Union Arena on Rt. 4 in Woodstock, VT. The festival runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. The partner event, Forest Festival weekend, will be right down the road on Elm St. in Woodstock at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

The Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association (VWMA) is sponsoring the woodworking festival in support of Vermont's forests and its bounty of wood products. Visit www.vermontwood.com for more information on supporting the wood products manufacturing industry in Vermont.

Learn how Vermont's forest stewards care for our forests and see what our talented woodworkers make from the trees. A new exhibit, "The Vermont Forest to Finished Wood Products Story" will be on display to illustrate the process that occurs between the forest landowner, forester, logger, trucker, sawmill, kiln, and woodworker. Our working forests provide prized northern hardwoods for value-added wood products such as flooring, furniture, carvings, cabinetry, woodenware, and more. Our craftspeople are innovative and creative in responding to consumer demands and concerns, most notably in the trend toward green products and environmental sensitivity.

Families, architects, consumers, interior designers, and all lovers of wood, forests and all things involving nature should attend this event. Take advantage of the opportunity to visit with woodworkers and purchase from more than 40 companies that will be exhibiting. The Vermont Fine Furniture & Wood Products Design Competition for Vermont woodworking apprentices and professionals will be hosted at the 2013 Festival.

Our demonstration space features craftsmen making bowls, spoons, boats, chairs, chainsaw carvings, marquetry & inlay, and more. Tasty food, kids' activities, live music, and more will delight all ages.

The nearby Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park will host woodworking and sawmill demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, forest walks, educational activities, an Audubon workshop, and other events for the whole family. A short, complimentary shuttle ride is available to transport attendees between locations.

Admission is \$10 for 18 and over, which helps to support



photo by Erin Lorentz
Scott Duffy, owner of Rockledge Farm Woodworks in Weathersfield, VT displays his original and custom designed furniture and accessories made from native hardwoods and burls at the Vermont Woodworking and Forest Festival in Woodstock, VT.

the Vermont forest products industry; kids are free and welcome. All Forest Festival park activities are free. The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has named this event a Top Ten Fall Event for three years! There is something for everyone!

Union Arena is located on Rt. 4 just west of the village of Woodstock, VT. For more information please call the VWMA office at (802) 747-7900 or e-mail info@vermontwood.com. Visit www.vermontwoodfestival.org and www.nps.gov/mabi.

The Fall Cricket

SOME evening, before the sweet languor of summer
Has once more succumbed to the cool breath of fall,
Down deep in the grasses and thick vines and bushes
He chirps, and we hear his prophetic call.
"The summer is waning," he mournfully tells us,
"The roses and daisies are fading away;
Already the night laps its dusky wings over
The hour that was yesterday part of the day.
"'Tis coming, 'tis coming—October is coming,
The month of cool nights and bright sunny days,

Of many-hued forests, good cheer, autumn fulness,
To close amid frost and sad, leaf-strown highways.

"I'm with you, I'll tarry, right under your window
You'll hear my low voice with its metal-like ring,
Till bats, birds and insects, save me, have retreated;
Clear into November I'll merrily sing;

"Take comfort, be merry, life has but one journey,
Live, love and be happy, bless God for your home,
Close doors and draw shades, snuggle up to the fireside,
And hear my farewell, for my going has come."

—WILL TEMPLER



photo by Erin Lorentz
Bears by Tim Patillo of Patt Chainsaw Carving of Rutland.

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Recipes from a Century Past

Blue Skies, Colorful Days and Crisp Ripe Apples!

This recipe collection is from The Encyclopedia of Practical Horticulture published in 1914 in North Yakima, Washington. These simple recipes offer an intriguing glimpse into the kitchen of 100 years ago.

SHAKER APPLE PIE

Pare, core, and cut into eighths sour apples and put into a lower crust; add a half a pint of seeded raisins. Put on the upper crust being careful to not let it stick to the lower crust. Bake in a slow oven until the apples are thoroughly cooked and the crust is nicely browned. This will require about forty minutes. While the pie is hot take off the top crust and lay it aside, then with a wooden or silver knife stir the apples and remove any hard pieces that may be left. Add sugar, nutmeg, and a small piece of butter and replace the top crust.

CLARIFIED APPLES

Make a syrup of 2 cups of sugar and 1 cup of water. Pare, core, and cut into sixths 6 large tart apples. Cook a few at a time in the syrup until clear remove and drain; add the rind and juice of one half lemon to the syrup boil until thick; remove the lemon rind and put over the apples.

CODDLED APPLES

Take tart ripe apples of uniform size and remove the cores. Place the fruit in the bottom of a porcelain kettle; spread thickly with sugar; cover the bottom of the kettle with water and allow the apples to simmer until tender. Pour the syrup over the apples and serve cold.

APPLE CONSERVE

For each pound of quartered and pared apples, allow three quarters of a pound of sugar and half a pint of water. Boil sugar and water until a rich syrup is formed; add the apples and simmer until clear. Take up carefully, lay on plates and dry in the sun. Roll in sugar and pack in tin boxes lined with waxed paper.

APPLE FRITTERS

One cup of sweet milk, one egg, one teaspoon of baking powder, one-fourth teaspoon of salt, one half cup of chopped apples; flour to make a batter stiff enough to drop heavily from the spoon. Fry in deep fat.

APPLES IN MAPLE SYRUP

Cut eight apples in halves and remove the cores with a teaspoon; put into a baking pan with 1 cup of maple syrup and one and one-half cup of water and 2 tablespoons butter. Bake until the syrup is thick and serve with whipped cream.

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APPLE BROWN BETTY

Pare and chop six apples. Place a layer of apple in a well-buttered pudding dish, then a layer of bread crumbs; sprinkle with brown sugar and cinnamon; repeat until the dish is full; add several generous lumps of butter and pour sweet milk or hot water on until it comes within an inch of the top of the pan. Bake in a moderate oven until brown and serve with plain or whipped cream.

APPLE CHARLOTTE

Pare, core, and slice apples; cook in butter until soft and dry; add sugar to taste. Line a plain mould with snippets of bread an inch wide dipped in melted butter; let one overlap the other; arrange lozenges of bread similarly in the bottom of the mould. Fill the center with the apple and cover the top with bread. Bake for half an hour in a hot oven. Serve with cream and sugar or a hot sauce.

TO DRY APPLES

Select sound fruit that has matured. Pare, core, and quarter and slice lengthwise. String and dry near the fire or spread on frames covered with muslin or netting and let dry in the sun. Although some have a prejudice against dried apples they can be made very palatable with a little care. If the winter apples are not keeping well it is a good plan to dry them.

A Keeper of an Apple Cookbook With Lots of Tempting Recipes!

As we hunker down for autumn and the oncoming chilly weather, treat yourself to a cookbook that will keep you happy all winter—and year round, for that matter.

An Apple a Day by Karen Berman and Melissa Petitto (Race Point Publishing) is a marvelous apple recipe cookbook. It has one unique apple recipe for each 365 days of the year! Every month also features a special apple recipe from celebrity chefs, with quotes, cooking tips, and even their photos.

You'll find different and 'mouth-watering' ways to make applesauce, baked apples, pies, tarts, muffins, crisps, pastries and more. There are also ethnic recipes featuring apples in unusual ways. Try Vietnamese Spring Roll with Chicken and Apples or Crispy Pork Belly Salad with Apple and Thai Herbs.

Curious about what's recommended for each holiday?

Featured are Caramel Apple Popcorn Balls for Halloween; Turkey Breast Roulade with Apple-Walnut Stuffing for Thanksgiving; Fruitcake-Stuffed Baked Apples for Christmas; and Apple Rum Crepes with Apple Cinnamon Filling for New Year's Day.

There are nearly 50 tasty-looking drinks using apple juice such as Kiwi-Apple Smoothie, Apple-Lime Cooler, Raspberry Apple Chiller and Hot Buttered Rum with Apple Cider.

Some dishes warrant full-page color photos. These will whet your appetite—especially the Pork and Apple Meatballs with Balsamic Glaze and the Roasted Chicken with Apples and Plums.

An Apple a Day by Karen Berman and Melissa Petitto is available at your bookseller for \$25 or can be ordered from the publisher www.racepointpub.com.



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Autumn Fruit Gardening Tips

by Dr. Leonard Perry

Extension Professor, University of Vermont

In addition to harvesting many tree fruits, and even some small fruits, fall is the time for some other crucial activities to keep your fruit plants healthy and productive the coming year.

Whatever the fruit plant, fall is not the time to prune, unless you must or for the 3Ds—to remove diseased, damaged, or dead branches. Pruning in early fall may stimulate growth that won't harden before winter. By pruning later in fall, the wounds won't heal so diseases can enter and get established. If pruning is needed, mark your calendar for next late winter to early spring. Then is the time to fertilize too, not in the fall.

Strawberries

As with pruning and many other gardening practices, patience in covering strawberries is best (but often hard for gardeners). Wait until late fall to cover them, about the time hard frosts start to freeze the soil—perhaps late November. Covered earlier, the strawberries often don't harden properly for winter. You can purchase straw, one bale covering about 100 square feet about 3 to 6-inches deep. Make sure not to use hay, as it often contains weed seeds.

Alternatives for fall mulch on strawberries are pine needles, but these may make the soil too acid over time; salt hay if you live near the seacoast; or shredded leaves, such as running over them with the lawn mower. Whole leaves tend to pack down and become dense, smothering plants.

Raspberries

If you're growing fall (also called two-crop or everbearing) raspberries, such as 'Fall Gold' or 'Heritage', you'll hopefully be picking some this month. If you prune such fall raspberries to the ground after harvest, you won't get an early crop next year but should get a larger fall crop.

The other one-crop raspberry cultivars, as well as blackberries, won't fruit on the same wood again, so you can cut these "canes" that have fruited back this fall. Again, have patience, as cutting back these canes in late fall will let more nutrition from the stems go back into the roots for the coming year. Since pests can overwinter in these older canes and may be present, don't compost them but either burn (if allowed in your area) or take to your local recycle center.

Now is the time to pick up drops and weed

Perhaps one of the key practices to reduce future pests on fruit trees, if you do nothing else, is to remove the "drops" or fallen fruit. Make sure to pick all fruit too, as it will eventually fall, or may attract deer browsing on fruit and stems. If you have grapes, pick any fruit and rake up fallen fruit. Rake up fallen leaves too. Many types of pests and diseases overwinter in fallen fruit and leaves, so removing them (burying, or to a local recycle center) greatly reduces these potential problems without having to use many or any chemical sprays.

Fall is a great time to get back on top of weed control if



Apples, ripe for the picking, at a Vermont Orchard.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

you haven't been able to keep up. I love weeding this time of year as it is cooler, and the weeds don't regrow. If you have grassy areas around fruit trees or between rows of small fruit bushes, mow them so the grass will go into winter short (3 inches high, or so, is fine). This reduces habitats for both pests and critters such as field mice and voles. In particular, trim or keep grass (and mulch) away from trunks that the latter love to chew on during winter.

Mulching around your trunks

You can mulch around trunks of trees with wood chips, bark or similar, just don't mulch up against the trunks. A couple inches deep is fine, particularly if you use a weed fabric underneath. If you have time for this in the fall, it will be one less activity to worry with during the busy spring season.

If you planted new fruit trees this year, you may wish to wrap the lower trunks with a tree wrap material, or tree guard, available online or from full-service garden stores. They help protect the tender bark from possible chewing by animals when the snow gets deep, as well as protecting from winter sun injury ("sunscauld"). Such injury happens on the south side of trees with rapid temperature fluctuations from sunshine on cold winter days.

For older trees you can just use cylinder of wire mesh, such as hardware cloth, around lower trunks to prevent mouse damage. Try to avoid using poison baits for mouse control, as non-target species (such as pets) can get into these.

If you have deer in your area, you may need to protect

shrubs and trees with some sort of repellent or fencing. If just a few deer, and plenty of alternative food, and a mild winter, repellent sprays, fragrant soap in cloth bags (don't hang directly on plants, as the dissolving soap attracts rodent feeding), or similar solutions may be sufficient. Otherwise, some sort of fencing may be needed. If individual trees, a simple cage of 5-foot deer fence around plants may work. Larger plantings may need taller fencing, or other versions such as electric fencing.

Before this past growing season becomes a foggy and distant memory, evaluate your plantings and how they performed, and make notes for the coming year. Did you have pests or problems you need to watch for next year, and be ready for handling? Did some plants not perform well or produce, so perhaps need a change in culture, or maybe another partner for cross pollination? Did you have enough fruits, or do you have space and time for a few more? You can find more details on all aspects of growing fruits in *The Fruit Gardener's Bible*, by Lewis Hill and Leonard Perry.

For more information contact Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, Dept. Plant and Soil Sciences, Jeffords Hall, 63 Carrigan Dr., University of Vermont, Burlington VT 05405. (802) 656-0479. Have you visited Perry's Perennial Pages lately? Go to: www.perrysperennials.info.

Apples in the Kitchen

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

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

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

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

—Ron Krupp

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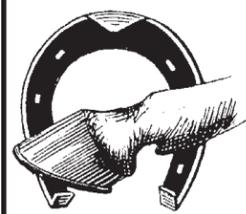
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Sheep herder with his border collie participate in the herding trials at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT. photo courtesy of Merck Forest and Farmland Center

Rupert, VT

Fall Festivities at Merck Forest and Farmland Center

Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT is an educational nonprofit organization with 3,162 acres to explore. This includes a 3,100 acre managed forest, certified-organic sugaring operation and a 62-acre farm. They offer on-site demonstrations, apprenticeships, workshops, and school programs as well as recreational and volunteer opportunities. Visit the farm, venture into the forest or stay overnight in a rustic cabin or lean-to. With over thirty miles of trails for

hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding there is a multitude of recreational opportunities. They are open to the public year round, 7 days a week from dawn to dusk. There is no admission fee.

eyes will be captivated by the Merck Forest and Farmland Center's stunning autumn colors. Please be prepared with sturdy footwear and a rain jacket just in case! Please call ahead to sign up.

9th Annual Sheep Dog Trials And Farm Festival September 7 & 8, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come spend the day at the farm! Merck Forest and Farmland Center's 9th Annual Sheep Dog Trial and Farm Festival takes place the second weekend in September this year on September 7 & 8, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event ties the history of Vermont's sheep farming with a current working farmscape.

The Sheep Dog Trial and Farm Festival provides a great way to experience part of Vermont's heritage of sheep farming. This two-day family event is combined with the final leg of the Northeast Border Collie Association's 2013 Vermont Triple Crown Sheep Dog Open. Visitors will see handlers and their border collies compete for the title!

MFFC's Farm Festival will include foods from regional farms, artisan cheeses, local crafters who specialize in fiber arts, horse drawn wagon rides, a variety of children's activities including a hay bale obstacle course, face painting, "learn to drive a sheep", and more. There will be balloon sheep herding, making wool bracelets, sheep-to-sweater activity, and potato plowing crafts. And be sure to see the sheep shearing and blacksmithing demonstrations.

Plan to join us for this great fall festival weekend! Admission is \$5/adults, \$3 children 4-12, under 4 is free.

Free Fall Foliage Hike September 29, 1-4 p.m.

This hike is guided by our staff and lasts approximately three hours. You'll travel a moderate loop during which your

Farm Chores—Special Fall Series

September 14 – October 26. Saturdays, 2-4 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of farm fun! Work with our staff to collect and wash eggs, water and feed the animals, and tour the grazing garden. Learn how the farm operates. Call ahead to sign up. Bring drinking water with you! \$2/person. Ages 3 and up (children must be accompanied by their parent/guardian).

Empire State Capital Volkssporters 5k/10k Walk

September 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Empire State Capital Volkssporters will hold a one-day 5k/10k walking event at Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Founded in 1987 and affiliated with the American Volkssport Association, the near-350 members of ESCV promote fun, fitness, and friendship as they pursue walks in places noted for their scenic, cultural and/or historic significance. \$2/person. Visit www.walkescv.org for more information.

Social Knitting Circle

September 28, 1-4 p.m.

Join fellow knitters for a social knitting club. All skill levels welcome. Ideal for those who want to get started on a project, continue a project or have a question and need advice. Just show up! Open to all ages. Meets at the Joy Green Visitor Center. Free. Also on October 26, November 23, January 18, February 15, March 15 & April 19.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rt. 315 in Rupert, VT, in the southwest corner of the state. Their certified organic pure Vermont maple syrup and other farm and forest products may be purchased at the Joy Green Visitor Center open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or their Online Store. For more information please call (802) 394-7836. Visit www.merckforest.org.

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Horses, Mules & Oxen For Today's Farms & Forests

by Rebekah Perry

It is fair season! We are all used to seeing horses, ponies and oxen pulling those tremendous loads of cement blocks across the pulling rings. Their sheer power is impressive, as is their ability to stand quietly until it is their turn and then dig in and pull at the drop of the evenner.

But what else can horses & oxen do? How else can their strength, stamina and intelligence be used to our benefit? Come find out at the 2013 Draft Animal Power Field Days, held at the Orleans County Fairgrounds in Barton, VT on September 28 & 29, 2013. This regional event is dedicated to working draft animals and their many uses.

On a growing number of farms throughout the Northeast and across the continent there are horses, mules and oxen being put back to work making hay, cultivating vegetables, logging and more. As the price of fuel increases it is easier to make the choice to harness a team instead of starting up the tractor. As bodies age it can be more comfortable to sit on a horse-drawn implement than a tractor. As we consider the costs and benefits of using an engine vs using muscle power for any given task, it becomes clearer that some tasks are uniquely suited to engines (loading manure in the spreader, for instance) and some are better suited to using animals—in the garden, they can learn to see the rows and not step on plants. It is all a matter of “appropriate technology”—choosing the best tool for the job at hand.

All your draft animal questions answered

What are the equipment options for people interested in using animals to power their farms? Is it possible to put a Power Take-Off (PTO) shaft behind a team (yes!)? How do I choose a good team? Who can teach me more about using animals safely and efficiently? I've seen oxen pulling with headyokes strapped to their horns, or using a yoke and working in harness—which is best? Do I need big horses to harvest my own firewood or can a Morgan accomplish what I want to do? What are the differences between using horse and mules?

These questions and so many more will be answered in workshops, demonstrations, roundtables and presentations at the Draft Animal Power Field Days this September.

Equipment demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the weekend, including modern horse-powered implements, historical equipment that has been reconditioned and “home made” or modified equipment for a variety of tasks and applications.

Learning firsthand from the experts

Learn about plowing with former national Plowing Champion, Sam Rich. The VanOrd's will have a collection of ox equipment and paraphernalia to see and ask questions about. Selections from Fred Websters' collection will be on hand to hear about and see in action. There will be demonstrations and presentations related to using horses in CSA & market gardens all weekend and Stephen Leslie will be signing copies of his book, *The New Horse-powered Farm* on Saturday afternoon. Want to get your hands on the lines? Saturday afternoon will feature a “Test Drive A Team” session when



Former National Walking Plow Champion, Sam Rich demonstrates plowing with a brand new sulky plow made by White Horse Machine. photo by Central Vermont Photo

you can get a mini-lesson with in instructor and take a turn on the lines. Enjoy a wagon or stagecoach ride, watch young oxen in training, learn how to adjust a mower for optimum results—and so much more! There is something for everyone so bring the family.

Find out how horses think on Friday afternoon

The Draft Animal-Power Field Days kicks off on Friday afternoon, September 27 at 3:00 with a presentation by Doc Hammill called “The Heart & Mind of the Horse”. If you have interest in horses of any size for riding or driving, you won't want to miss this fantastic presentation. Doc will combine his unique perspectives as a veterinarian and a Gentle Horsemanship trainer to explain and explore how horses think, react and respond to the world around them. This presentation will be echoed throughout the weekend with other presentations by Doc and Perry on subjects such as groundwork & relationship building, starting a horse under saddle, harnessing & hitching a young horse and more.

There will be presentations and demonstrations starting at 8:30 on Saturday morning and going through 5 pm. Join us for a Local Harvest Dinner prepared by Applecheek Farm in Hyde Park on Saturday evening (pre-registration required for dinner) followed by Cowboy Poetry and an Open Mike Music evening on the theme of draft animals & sustainable land use. On Sunday morning, presentations will start at 8:45 am and go until noon. After lunch there will be a Teamster Round-table discussion and an Obstacle Course demonstration, among other activities.

A growing annual event

This event is a continuation of the Northeast Animal-Power Field Days held in Tunbridge, VT from 2007 to 2010 and in Deerfield, MA in 2011. In 2012 the newly formed Draft Animal-Power Network, an organization that grew out of the event in Tunbridge, decided to take a break from the large

Field Days event in 2012, instead electing to have a smaller Annual Gathering at the Perry Family Farm in Brownington. 2013 marks the return of the Field Days event, this time at the Orleans County Fairgrounds, an excellent facility having so much under cover space in case of hot or wet weather. Come on out and join the fun! See animals in action and bring your questions for the teamsters and presenters.

Ticket prices are \$15 for the day on Saturday or \$10 for the afternoon. Sunday is \$10. Reduced rates are available for teens and seniors, kids are free.

For more information about the event or to purchase tickets online, go to www.animalpowerfielddays.org or call event organizer, Rebekah Perry at (802) 754-2396.



Mark Cowdrey demonstrates the Piggyback Log Arch that he designed to fit on a Pioneer forecart. photo by Central Vermont Photo



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www.tinmouthvt.org

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For two copies of the Cookbook, either the new Third Edition or the Second Edition or one of each (the two editions have completely different recipes) please send \$5. For the cost to purchase larger quantities of either cookbook, please contact Mary Croft.

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Shoreham, VT

**6th Annual Tour de Farms
Great Food, Fun and Bicycling!**

Delicious foods, delightful bicycling, and spectacular scenery are in store for all who participate in the Sixth Annual Tour de Farms! Scheduled for Sunday, September 15, 2013 in Shoreham, VT, the Tour de Farms offers two loop rides (10 and 30 miles) and a very mellow two-mile "tricycle route" for walking or biking with young children.

At frequent designated stops, family farmers will treat bicyclists to tasty samples of local foods such as fresh and aged cheeses, make-your-own chicken soup, many different kinds of apples, organic beer, lots of vegetables and much more.

Because the event is a tour and not a race, the pace is low key, allowing ample time to chat with farmers and relax with friends in the beautiful Champlain Valley.

The Tour attracts approximately 600 bicyclists from Vermont, northeastern states, and Canada. Roger Frey of Earl's Cyclery captured the Tour experience when he said "The Tour de Farms is a benefit ride unlike any other. You sample fresh farm foods while pedaling through pristine Vermont countryside. What could be better than that?"

The Tour de Farms is co-organized by the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) and the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and is a fundraiser for both nonprofit groups.

Plenty to see, plenty to eat!

Each year, the Tour is enhanced by the addition of new features, such as wood-fired pizza for sale and a stop at a quirky art gallery. This year's Tour will offer a handful of new farmers and food producers and slightly different routing on the 30-mile route, as well as a short (one-mile each way) route to a special farm-to-school stop for families with young children. Participants can expect to sample from Vermont



A bicyclist greets the draft horses at Doolittle Farm on the Tour de Farms. photo by Chuck Helfer

Trade Winds Farm, Doolittle Farm, Golden Russet Farm, many local school gardens, Champlain Orchards, Neshobe Farm, Bridport Creamery, Petal Fall Acres and many more!

Those not interested in bicycling may wish to consider volunteering! Volunteers are needed to assist with various aspects of the Tour de Farms, including registration, parking, farmers' helpers, sign set up, and ride marshalling. In return for a three-hour time commitment, volunteers will receive a free Tour de Farms t-shirt and one free registration to the event. Those who volunteer well in advance of the event are more likely to secure assignments of personal interest.

Advance registration fees for the Tour de Farms are \$28 for adults and \$13 for kids 16 and under. Day-of registration fees are \$50 for adults and \$20 for kids 16 and under. Children in trailers and bike seats ride free and don't need to be registered, and participation in the two-mile "tricycle route" is \$5 the day-of, no advance registration necessary.



A solo bicyclist on a dirt road between Shoreham and Orwell, VT on the Tour de Farms. photo by Chuck Helfer

Advance registration is now open at www.acornvt.org and stays open until 5:00 p.m. on September 9. The Tour de Farms will be held rain or shine; no refunds will be issued. All routes begin and end at the Shoreham Town Green. On-site, day-of registration runs from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on September 15. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the VT Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition via Nancy@VTBikePed.org or (802) 225-8904, or ACORN www.acornvt.org (802) 382-0401.

Shoreham Apple Fest

At 12:30 p.m. on September 15, Shoreham will kick off Apple Fest on the town green, complete with continuous live music, crafts, and a farmers' market featuring a variety of delicious items for sale. Apple Fest continues until 5:00 p.m. and all proceeds benefit the Platt Memorial Library in Shoreham.

This year's Tour is sponsored by Earl's Cyclery & Fitness, Vermont Bicycle Tours, City Market, Healthy Living Market & Cafe, AARP, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, American Flatbread, Cabot Creamery, Old Spokes Home, Otter Creek/ Wolaver's, and Woodchuck Hard Cider.

ACORN (Addison County Relocalization Network) is a non-profit community network based in Middlebury whose mission is to revitalize our local economy. For more information, please call (802) 382-0401 or visit: www.acornvt.org
The Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition is a nonprofit organization that works to transform Vermont into a truly bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly state for residents and visitors alike. For more info, call (802) 225-8904 or write to Nancy@VTBikePed.org. Visit VTBikePed.org.

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A Vermont Almanack for Early Autumn

by Bill Felker

Here and there swamp maples are turning, the woods are lit up by these subtle changes, a single bright leaf here or there, the ferns beginning to pale, the bush-blueberries already bright-red in leaf. There is still goldenrod everywhere, and the asters are beginning.

—May Sarton

The Blackberry Moon and the Harvest Moon

Although harvest of fruits and vegetables has been taking place all summer, the harvest of field corn is one of the major turning points in the farm year. Sweet corn from the South began to reach markets in April; now the entire northern half of the United States and Canada brings in corn for silage and grain.

September 5: The Harvest Moon is new at 6:36 a.m. *September 12:* The moon enters its second quarter at 12:08 p.m. *September 19:* The moon is full at 6:13 a.m. *September 26:* The moon enters its final quarter at 10:56 p.m.

The Sun's Progress

The sun moves toward fall at a little more than one degree every three days until it reaches equinox at 3:44 p.m. (EST) on September 22, entering the sign of Libra at the same moment.

The Planets of September

Jupiter continues in Gemini, rising before Mars after midnight and shining high in the east at sunup. Mars, moving retrograde into Leo this month, rises later than Jupiter and is visible lower along the eastern horizon in the early morning. Saturn is in conjunction with Venus on September 20, both planets low on the western horizon at sundown.

The Stars

Throughout the evening, the setting of the Corona Borealis and Hercules mark the closing of tomato season along the Canadian border. The Summer Triangle, just a little west of overhead complements the Harvest Moon, and it also turns leaves throughout the northern half of the United States. Far on the eastern horizon, the Pleiades are rising, promising full leaf-turn, then leaf-fall, then winter.

The Shooting Stars

The Piscid meteors fall through Pisces, in the southern sky, on the night of September 21. The Alpha Aurigid meteors pass through between August 28 and September 5.

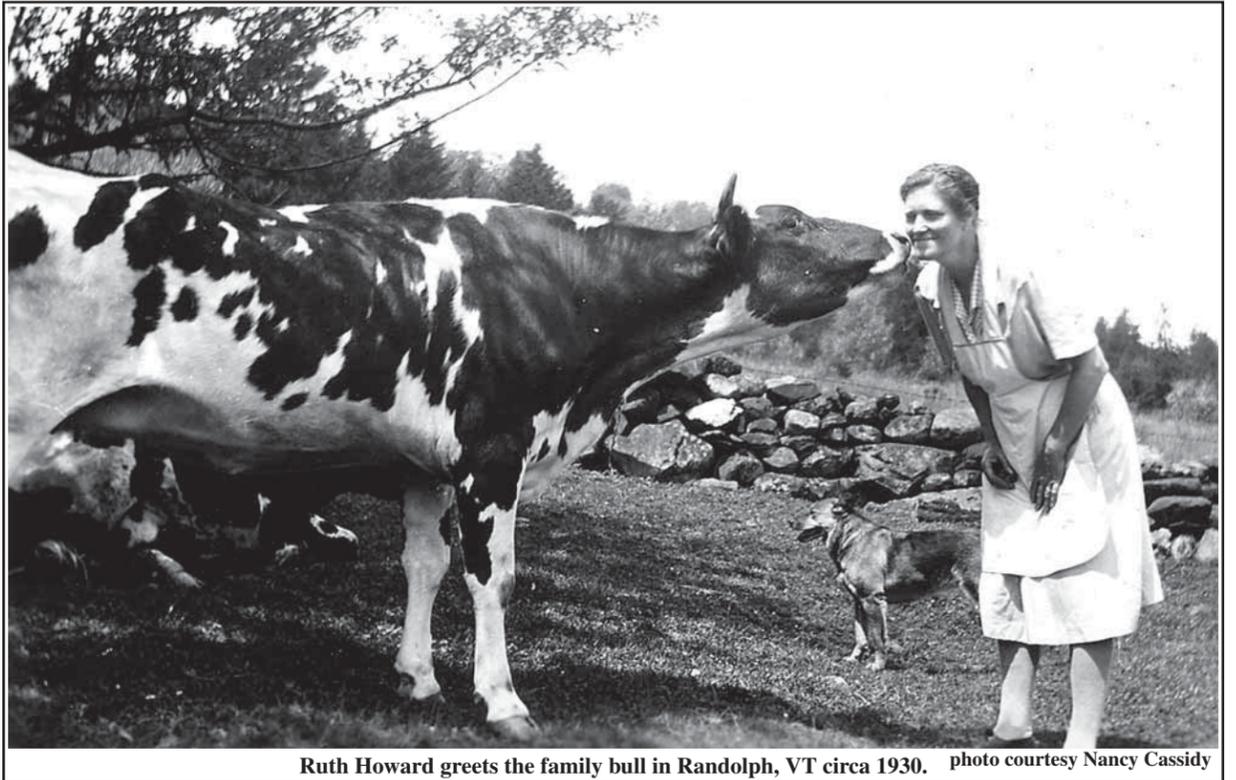
Meteorology and Game and Livestock Activity

Weather history suggests that cold waves usually reach the Northeast on or about the following dates: September 3, 9, 13, 16, 21, 25 and 30. Storms can occur prior to the passage of each major front. Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are more active (and often more troublesome) as the barometer is falling one to three days before these weather systems.

Natural Calendar

Wind comes in ahead of the first September cold, pulling off foliage from box elders and sycamores, red creepers, elms and hickories, blowing chinquapin leaves into the rivers. The locusts and cottonwoods are gold. The hedgerows are bright scarlet. The grape vines and the milkweed are yellow. Black walnut trees are bare. Before sunrise, Orion lies in the middle of the southern sky, forecasting winter.

The Japanese beetles seem to be gone now. Chiggers have disappeared from the garden. Taking their place, cucumber beetles hide in the roses. The mornings bring occasional robins passing through, and once in a while a cardinal will call.



Ruth Howard greets the family bull in Randolph, VT circa 1930. photo courtesy Nancy Cassidy

Cricket song has replaced cicada song. Yellow jackets become more numerous, cabbage butterflies, swallowtails and monarchs tamer and more reckless in the search for nectar on favorable sites to lay their eggs. Aphids are disappearing in the colder nights. Damers are still hunting near the water, but damsel flies are gone. Elaborate spider webs hang between the withering nettles, catching the light of the sun.

Milkweed Pod Time

When the milkweed pods come open, then frost season is on the way, and Canadian geese, great-crested flycatchers, blue-gray gnatcatchers, ruby-throated hummingbirds, eastern wood peewees and bank swallows move down their flyways toward the Gulf of Mexico. Buzzards gather at their roosts. Crows are the only birds to call before dawn. Monarch butterflies become more numerous, still visit the late phlox and the zinnias in the afternoon sun; other insects, however, become less common in the field and garden as the number of pollen-bearing flowers dwindle. Spiders understand; they weave fewer webs. Bees compete for the remaining nectar. Winter's craneflies swarm, a fraction of their December size.

When milkweed pods open, peak leaf coloration starts in northern New England. In the Mid-Atlantic States, fallen leaves begin to cover the undergrowth, and the canopy is visibly thinning. Honey locusts are half yellow, buckeyes in the middle of full leafdrop. Hickories are gold, like the ashes. The first white mulberry, sycamore and cottonwood leaves have come down in the wind. Barberries are red, and

rose hips have turned alongside them.

Touch-me-nots are still blooming, but their foliage deteriorates. Late summer's clearweed has green seeds. Older wingstem and ironweed are done blossoming. Wild lettuce leaves are stained with decay. Queen Anne's lace and bright blue chicory die back suddenly. The first goldenrod is brown. White vervain is gray, streaked with maroon, tattered, laced from insects. Boneset is rusting. Beggarticks are ready to stick to your clothing. Roadside sunflowers and Jerusalem artichokes enter their final week.



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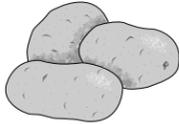


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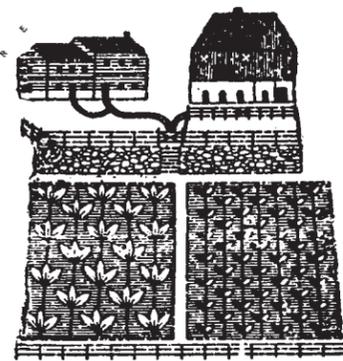
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Two women working down below
In the Ox-bow valley, where flowers grow;
Two icemen loading a rattling truck,
A pair of gardeners forking muck;
While over the river I see two crows
Being chased by two little kingbird foes.
And down the road ride Joe and Sue
On a red-wheeled bicycle built for two.

Always two, and I want to cry
For the hurt in my heart; and I don't know why
My heart goes out from the pasture hill
to the lone man fixing his cider mill

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT, circa 1946

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Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

ADDISON. Chimney Point State Historic Site. Special Exhibit: What Lies Beneath: 9,000 Years of History at Chimney Point. Admission: adults \$3, children 14 years and under free. Open 9:30 am - 5 pm, Wed. - Sun. and Monday Holidays. 8149 VT Rt. 17W. (802) 759-2412. historicsites.vermont.gov/chimneypoint. Open through October 14, 2013.

ARLINGTON. Equinox Skyline Drive. An unforgettable drive to the summit of Mount Equinox. Scenic picnic areas. Hiking trails at the summit. Newly opened visitor's center. Admission: automobiles, \$15 car and driver, \$5 per passenger (under 10 free); motorcycles \$12 bike and driver, no passenger fee. Open 9 am - 5 pm. 42 Skyline Dr. off Rt. 7A. (802) 362 1115. www.equinoxmountain.com.

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.

BARTONSVILLE. Friday Night Bingo. 6:30 pm. Bartonsville Grange (located across from Rockingham State Police Barracks on Rt. 103), 116 Upper Bartonsville Rd. (802) 875-4438. *Every Friday.*

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

BELLOWS FALLS. Green Mountain Flyer Fall Train Rides. Go north along the Connecticut River, then northwest along the Williams River. See Brockways Mills Gorge and the newly rebuilt Bartonsville covered bridge. Departs 11 am and 2:30 pm. Tickets \$15-\$25. For reservations call (800) 707-3530. www.rails-vt.com. *Tuesdays and Fridays October 1-25.*

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.

BELMONT. Mount Holly Farmer's Market features Vermont-made and Vermont-grown products, fresh produce, baked goods, hand crafts. On Belmont Village Green, Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm, rain or shine. (802) 259-2322. *Through October*

BENNINGTON. Catamount Prowl 2013. The Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce announces Catamount Prowl 2013. The 34 fiberglass catamount sculptures will be embellished by area artists and on display in and around Bennington 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.

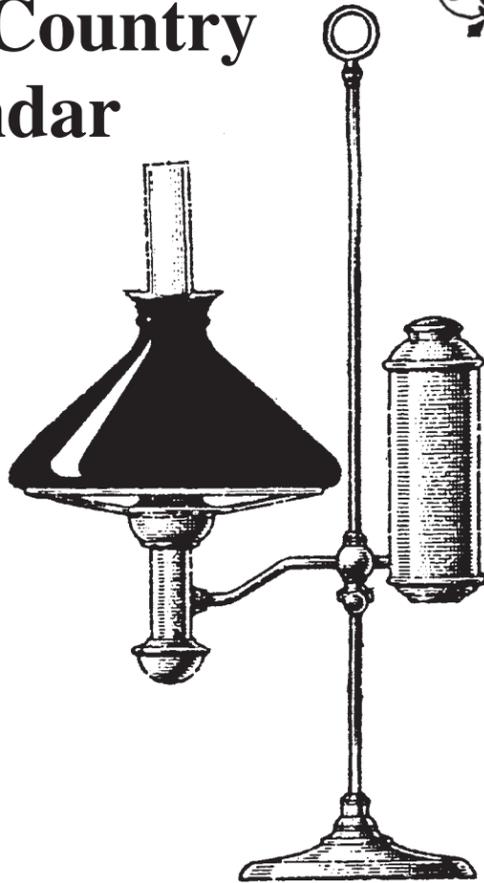
BENNINGTON. Art exhibits, permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Society of Animal Artists 53rd Annual Exhibition and Tour August 31 through November 3. Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. 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. Free admission to visit the Gift Shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Battle Monument. Vermont's tallest structure is open to the public from 9 am to 5 pm daily. Admission \$3 adults, \$1 children ages six through 14 years. children under six years 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 Saturday. At the River Walk on Depot St. Katherine Keys. (802) 688-7210. www.walloomsac.org. *Through October.*

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



BRANDON. Exhibits: Remembering the Brandon Training School, an exhibit of the historical and social significance of the Brandon Training School. Free. 11 am - 4 pm daily. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. www.cmacvt.org.

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 and 73 West. Also houses the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace open through mid-October. (802) 247-6401. info@brandon.org. brandon.org.

BRANDON. First Fridays. Brandon's downtown will be keeping the lights on and the doors open until 9 pm (or later) the First Friday of each month. Shop. Eat. Drink. Browse. Stroll. Bump into friends. Chat. Just enjoy the evening! Sponsored by the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce. (802) 247-6401. info@brandon.org. brandon.org. *Through September.*

BRANDON. Farmer's Market. Seasonal vegetables and plants, honey, Vermont maple syrup, handcrafted jewelry, local mohair, wool and alpaca products, hand knit and crocheted items, baked goods, jams, jellies, local meats and much more. 9 am - 2 pm. In Central Park, 20 Park St. (802) 273-2655. cijka4@gmail.com. *Every Friday through October 11.*

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. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

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

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

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

BRATTLEBORO. Post Oil Solutions meets frequently and sponsors events with a mission to advance cooperative, sustainable communities. For information 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 venues all around town. Free. 5-8 pm. Map available. (802) 264-4839. www.artmapburlington.com.

Looking for Apples? UVM Apple Sales Begin August 30

Apple Sales at the UVM Horticulture Research Center in South Burlington, VT begin August 30 and will continue every Friday through November 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Available varieties will change each week as the ripening season moves along. Proceeds from Apple Sales go to supporting research and education programs at the farm.

Available varieties and approximate dates: Paula Red (8/31); Zestar! (8/31); GingerGold (9/02); Silken (8/31); Sunrise (8/31); McIntosh (9/07 through end of season); NY 74828 (9/07 through end of season); NJ 109 (9/07); Honeycrisp (few, 9/14); Gala (9/14); NY 75414 ('Speckles', 9/14); Cortland (9/14 or 21 through end of season); Liberty (9/21 through end of season); Macoun (9/28 through end of season); Golden Supreme

(9/28 through end of season); Empire (9/28 through end of season); Mutsu (second week of October); and Northern Spy (second week of October).

In addition to our IPM fruit, we will also have our Certified Organic crop, available only while our limited supplies last. Certified Organic apples from the Hort Farm are the product of a major USDA-funded project led by Plant and Soil Science professor Lorraine Berkett.

Directions to the farm: The Horticulture Research Center is located behind GE Healthcare (former IDX) and the Heritage car dealerships off Shelburne Rd. in South Burlington, VT.

Updates on apple sales will be posted regularly to: www.uvm.edu/hortfarm. Or you can contact Terry Bradshaw at tbradsha@uvm.edu or (802) 658-9166.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

CASTLETON. Pond Hill Professional Rodeo. Great family fun set on top of one of the most panoramic views in Central Vermont. See cowboys and cowgirls compete in classic rodeo events! Admission. 8 pm. Pond Hill Ranch, 1683 Pond Hill Ranch Rd. (802) 468-2449. horses@pondhillranch.com. www.pondhillranch.com. *Through August 31.*

CASTLETON. Castleton Farmers' Market. Fresh local produce, fruit, baked goods, prepared foods, maple products, jams and jellies, and more. On Main St., in the parking lot next to Citizen's Bank, across from Castleton Library. Thursdays 3:30-6 pm. Lori Barker. (802) 273-2241. *Through October 3.*

CENTER RUTLAND. The Rutland Railroad Museum. 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 available to educational groups and schools for tours by appointment. Open Saturdays from 11 am - 1 pm. Rutland Railway Association, 79 Depot Lane. For information call John Schaub at (802) 768-8427. info@rutlandrailroadmuseum.org. www.rutlandrailroadmuseum.org.

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. Bingo. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50, Raffle tickets, and Speed Ball cards also on sale. 6:30-9 pm; doors open at 5 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rte 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Every Thursday.*

CHESTER. Monthly Community All-you-can-eat Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, pancakes, real Vermont maple syrup, toast, and beverages. \$7 donation at the door. 8-10 am. Also Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rts. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Saturdays September 7, October 5, November 2, and December 7.*

CHESTER. Green Mountain Express hosts Monthly Open Mike Country Jamboree. All musicians and singers, bands and singles welcome. Refreshments, raffles and 50/50 tickets on sale. Admission \$5 donation. 1-4 pm. Gassetts Grange, junction of Rte 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Sundays September 15, October 13, November 10, December 15.*

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 every day 10 am - 5 pm, closed Tuesday. Located on Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Community Dinner. On the third Wednesday of every month, we gather for a free community supper. Really; it's free! Have a great time with old and new friends. The food is great; the fellowship is wonderful! 6 pm. United Church of Craftsbury, 7 Church Lane. (802) 586-8028.

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

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

DORSET. Dorset Farmers Market. A producer-only market with 50 area vendors. Food, crafts, and live local music. Rain or shine. Sundays from 10 am - 2 pm. Outdoors on the lawn at the H.N. Williams General Store, Rt. 30. Nicole Henry, (802) 353-3539. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. *Through October 13.*

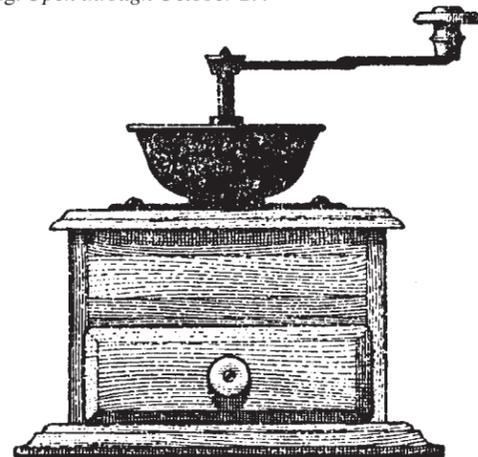
EAST THETFORD. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center. A certified organic, fifty-acre vegetable and berry farm. Flowers, hanging baskets, tender greens. Coffee Shop (with wireless internet) open 8-5, farm stand open 10-6. Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. 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. www.northwoodscenter.org.

FAIRFIELD. President Chester Arthur Historic Site. Open Sat. and Sun. and Mon. holidays 11 am - 5 pm. Donation appreciated. 455 Chester Arthur Rd. (802) 933-9362. historicites.vermont.gov. *July 4 thru October 14.*

FAIRLEE. Outdoor Flea Market. Every Saturday & Sunday, weather permitting. 20 vendors selling antiques, collectibles, crafts & treasures. 7:30 am - 3 pm. Free. Railroad Station, Main St., Rt. 5. (802) 333-4809. *Thru October 13.*

FERRISBURGH. Exhibit: "Free and Safe—The Underground Railroad in Vermont." This exhibit introduces you to Simon and Jesse, two fugitives from slavery who were sheltered at Rokeby in the 1830s. Learn about the abolitionist Robinson family who called Rokeby home for nearly 200 years. Admission \$10 adults, \$9 seniors, \$8 students, children under 5 free. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby@comcast.net. www.rokeby.org. *Open through October 27.*



Walking With Bella

by Bill Felker

One night at the end of summer, I took my border collie, Bella, and went walking in the nature preserve at the edge of town. Once I made my way to the open pastures, my eyes were drawn to the landmarks above me.

The moon was well up in the sky, gibbous and bright, half way past its first quarter, and big enough to light my way. Overhead, I could see the Summer Triangle, Altair, Deneb, and Vega.

Ahead of me, fog lay in long, white patches. As I approached it, I felt myself

grow more alert. My eyes less useful, I stepped more carefully and deliberately. My sense of smell, usually dull or taken for granted, quickly found new odors around me. The scream of the crickets and the rasp of the katydids were magnified by my vigilance and sense of isolation in the dark.

In the safety of morning, I could take my self-sufficiency for granted. I knew my way because I could see it there in front of me. Here at night, I kept looking up, checking the moon and stars. Without them, I

would have had to admit my vulnerability. I was especially glad to have Bella beside me. We were partners in the adventure, no longer dog and master.

Deprived of solar light, I reverted to a more fundamental self, to a more honest portion of my brain, one which

was more mindful. In the day, my head often wandered well ahead of my feet, preoccupied and distracted. Here in the night, I didn't daydream, ruminate, worry or scheme. I didn't review the past or plan the future. Bella was my companion, and there was enough to do in the present.

Plea for a Fox

Here the bittersweet each year
Hangs golden grapes above his door,
And these bright gum leaves, drifted here,
Pattern with red his narrow floor.

He loves this slope with its tangled briars
And the scolding crows that stay all year;
He loves the hill where he barks at night
And the velvet owls that peek and peer.

So leave the brush upon this slope
And clear elsewhere; he needs a place
Where he may delve in cool sweet rocks
Or make a path through Queen Anne's Lace.

Then watch next spring from the other slope,
From the tilted rock that's tall and bare;
In the fluted light of the setting sun
You will see small foxes playing there.

—FRANCES MORTON O'NEILL, 1936

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Vermont Country Calendar

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum. One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world housed in a 100-foot-long converted dairy barn built in 1863. Events and exhibits. Sunday afternoon performances of Birdcatcher in Hell at 2 pm, September 8-22. Free admission, donations welcome. Open 10 am – 6 pm and after shows, daily. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org. Open through November 1.

GLOVER. The Museum of Everyday Life. 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. museumofeverydaylife.org.

GRAFTON. The Vermont Museum of Mining and Minerals features displays and specimens from all over the Green Mountain State and around the world. Open Saturdays, Sundays and major holidays, Memorial Day through mid-October, 10 am – 12 pm & 1-4 pm, or by appointment. 55 Pleasant St. (802) 875-3562. www.vtmmm.org.

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Programs for all ages. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, mounted specimen, wildlife garden. Hiking trails behind the Museum. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 3 to 12, 2 and under free, \$15 for families. Open Thurs, Sat & Sun 10 am – 4 pm. 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. graftonponds.com.

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

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

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

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. Admission: adults \$2, children 14 years and under free. Open 9:30 am – 5 pm. Thurs. – Sun., and Monday holidays. 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. historicsites.vermont.gov/Hubbardton. Open through October 14.

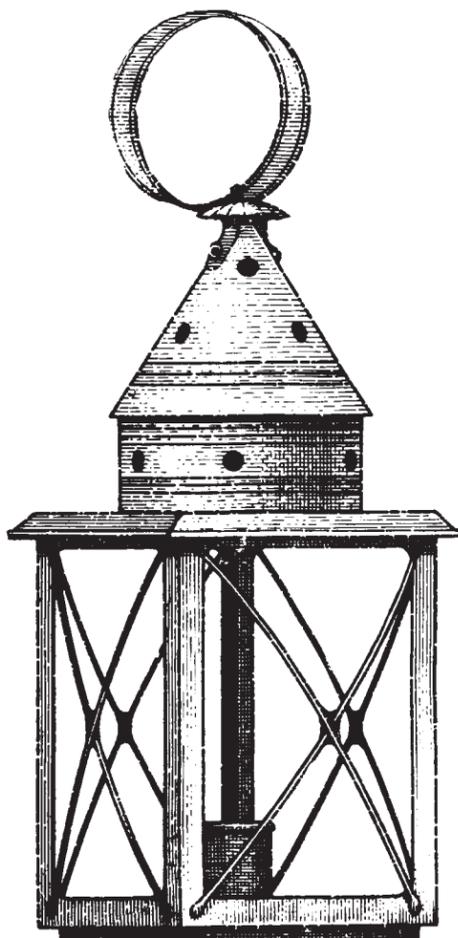
HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. May 1 through October 31, 10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

KILLINGTON. Hay Festival. Hay is not just for horses in this celebration of harvest art. Over 30 giant hay animals, from beautiful to whimsical. Photo contest. Free. (802) 422-2146. www.discoverkillington.com. *Labor Day through Columbus Day.*

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. www.listencs.org.

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

LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. Discussion includes an in-depth look of at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. Meets the first 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. foxclag@gmavt.net.



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

LUDLOW. Ludlow Farmers Market. Do some alternative grocery shopping for fresh local products, get ready-made dinner items, buy a charming little gift, or just have a snack. It's fresh food time! 4-7 pm Fridays.. Okemo Mountain School, 53 Main St. (802) 734-3829. www.ludlowfarmersmarket.org. *Through October 11.*

LUDLOW. Black River Academy Museum. Admission \$2, seniors & students \$1. Tuesday-Saturday 12-4 pm. 14 High St. (802) 228-5050. info@bramvt.org. bramvt.org.

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

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

MANCHESTER. Visit Historic Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln. Special activities, lectures, bird walks, museum store, visitor's center, and walking trails. Tickets: \$16 adults, \$5 youth under 14, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.com. www.hildene.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Manchester Farmers Market. Thursdays 3-6 pm. Adams Park, Rt. 7A North, downtown. Contact Nicole Henry, (802) 353-3539. *Thru October 3.*

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Admission: adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, under 5 free. Open 10 am – 5 pm seven days a week, weekends in the winter. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org. *Through October 31.*

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. 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. Middlebury Art Walk. Visit downtown Middlebury on the second Friday of every month. 5 to 7 pm. Downtown Middlebury & Marble Works, Main Street & Merchants Row. (802) 388-7951 x 2. info@middleburyartwalk.com. www.middleburyartwalk.com.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing events continued)

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

MONTPELIER. North Branch Nature Center. Programs and workshops. 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.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. bethanychurchvt.org. UCCBethany@comcast.net. *Every Tuesday.*

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

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.

NEWFANE. Museum of The Historical Society of Windham County. Free. Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday noon - 5 pm (also by appointment). On the Newfane Common. www.historicalocietyofwindhamcounty.org. *Through October 13.*

NORTHEAST KINGDOM. Annual Fall Foliage Festival. Six unique festivals held over six consecutive days, now over 50 years running. Local crafts, hymn sings, band concerts, church suppers, historical tours and the most beautiful fall colors you have ever seen! Walden, Cabot, Plainfield, Peacham, Barnet and Groton, VT. (800) 639-6379. nekinfo@nekchamber.com. www.nekchamber.com. *September 30 through October 5.*

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. Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm. Rt. 5 South. (802) 384-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

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. www.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. historicites.vermont.gov. *Through October 14.*

PERU. Bromley's Sun Mountain Adventure Park. Aerial Adventure Park and Sun Mountain Flyer. 22 rides & attractions for every member of the family. Sun Deck with great food and drink specials from 5 pm 'til close. At Bromley Mountain Ski Resort, VT Rt. 11. (802) 824-5522.

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. World's largest maple museum. Tour through Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Admission: adults \$5, children \$1. Open 8:30 am - 5:30 pm daily. New England Maple Museum, 4578 Rt. 7, north of the village. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com.

PITTSFORD. Pittsford Farmers Market. Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. at the New England Maple Museum, 4578 US Rt. 7. (802) 483-6351. kfield16@yahoo.com. *Through October.*

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

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. New Exhibition: Rooting for the Home Team—The Coolidges and Our National Pastime. 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. historicites.vermont.gov. *Through October 20.*

POULTNEY. Lakes Region Farmers Market, Local produce, meat, maple, crafts, and more. Thursdays from 9 am to 2 pm along Main St. www.poultneyvt.com. *Through October 3.*

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

PROCTOR. Wilson Castle Guided Historic Tours. Daily from 9 am - 5 pm. Adults \$10; children ages 6-12, \$6; ages 6 and under free. Murder Mystery tours. Haunted Castle tours in October. Wilson Castle, 2708 West St. (802) 773-3284. wilsoncastle.com. *Through mid-October.*

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards Farm Store. Apples and cider year round. Farm store and bakery. Pick your own fruit. Horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides year-round by reservation. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in the Village. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtorchards.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. Toy and gift shop. May-October amusement rides. Free admission to the museum. Seasonal train rides \$4, carousel \$2, children 2 and under ride for free. 10 am - 5 pm daily except holidays. On the 2nd floor inside Quechee Gorge Village, Rt. 4. (802) 295-1550 x 102. vermonttoymuseum.com or quecheegorge.com.

RANDOLPH. Exhibit: "Meditations on Color and Light," oil paintings by Vermont artist Kevin Fahey. Fri & Sat 3-6 pm, Sun noon to 3 pm or during Chandler events. Chandler Downstairs Gallery, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. outreach@chandler-arts.org. www.chandler-arts.org. *Through September 24.*

RANDOLPH. The Randolph Farmers Market. Accepting EBT cards. 9 am - 1 pm every Saturday on Center Street. Barb Meany (802) 728-6329 or Art Rollins (802) 728-9123. randfarmmarket@yahoo.com. *Through October 12.*

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. localfood@turkeyhillfarmvt.com. www.turkeyhillfarmvt.com.

ROCHESTER. Art Exhibit. Folk Vision: Folk Art from New England and Beyond. Wed-Fri 10-5; Sat 12-5; Sun-Tues by appointment. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com. *Through October 5.*

ROCHESTER. Contra Dance. Live music. Admission at door. 7:30-10 pm. At Pierce's Hall, Main St. *Third Thursdays through September.*

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~ Champlain Orchards 2013 Farm Events ~

Tour de Farms and Applefest — Sunday, September 15, 1-3 pm

Visit the orchard to pick-your-own apples, shop at the farm market, sample our hard and ice ciders and enjoy live music by Shady Rill from 1-3 pm.

Fall Concert with Pete Sutherland — Sunday, September 29, 2013

Known equally for his potent originals, intense re-creations, and age-old ballads and fiddle tunes. Bring your family and a picnic, pick-your-own apples, visit the farm store and enjoy Pete's tunes from 1-3 pm!

15th Annual Harvest Festival — Sunday, October 13, 11 am - 5 pm

Join the entire Champlain Orchards family as we celebrate the fall harvest on Columbus Day Weekend! Enjoy a great local food barbeque, ciders, and music by The Bondville Boys.

Cider Fest — Saturday, October 19, 3-7 pm

Pick apples, make cider, taste local hard and ice ciders, enjoy excellent local food, and hear old-time string band American roots music by Run Mountain from 3-7 pm.

3597 Rt. 74, Shoreham, VT—four miles west of the village
www.ChamplainOrchards.com • (802) 897-2777 • Open daily 9-6

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Vermont Country Calendar

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

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. Rutland Farmers Market. Vermont products, baked goods and more direct from local farmers, Saturdays 9 am- 2 pm, Tuesdays 3-6 pm, Downtown Rutland's Depot Park. (802) 773-4813, (802) 753-7269. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Through October.*

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.

RUTLAND. Castleton Downtown Gallery. Castleton Faculty Exhibition featuring the work of 13 Castleton faculty members runs through May 11. 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—check in with the Welcome Center. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. shelburnefarms.org.

SOUTH WALLINGFORD. Bingo every Wednesday at 6 pm, doors open at 4 pm. There will be a jackpot! Maple Valley Grange #318 Hall, Rt. 7. (802) 446-2872. www.wallingfordvt.com.

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

SPRINGFIELD. Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center. Exhibits, classes, workshops. Tues - Sat 11 am – 5 pm. 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. 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. ALBANS. Book Cellar—Library Used Book Sale. \$3 per bag of books! Sponsored by Friends of the St. Albans Free Library. Tuesdays from 10 am - 8 pm. Held in the library basement. St. Albans Free Library, 11 Maiden Lane. (802) 524-1507. www.stalbansfreelibrary.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Storytime in the Children's Library. Part of the Athenaeum's Acorn Club. 10:30 am. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. (802) 748-8291. www.stjathenaeum.org. *Fridays and 1st and 3rd Saturdays.*

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

TOWNSHEND. Friesans of Majesty. Beautiful Friesian horses bred and trained right here in Vermont. Carriage and sleigh rides, wedding carriage, horse camp, tours, performances, and of course getaways in our cottage or loft apartments. Friesans of Majesty, 185 Maggie Ladd Rd. (802) 365-7526. www.friesiansofmajesty.com.

WAITSFIELD. Vermont Festival of the Arts. Over a hundred events every day in August. Check the website for details. Throughout the Mad River Valley. (802) 496-6682. info@vermontartfest.com. www.vermontartfest.com. *August 1 through September 2.*

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

WELLS. Farmers Market. The Wells Village Farmers Market, 9 am to 1 pm Saturdays, at Wells Country Store, on Route 30. Helen Wood. (802) 325-3478. *Through October.*



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.dimsuvt.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 Every Friday from 4-7 pm, indoors and outdoors, year-round. West Pawlet Fish & Game Club (next to the Post Office), 2849 Rt. 153. wpcfmkt@gmail.com. Facebook.

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

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

WEST TOWNSHEND. 6th Annual Townshend Farmers Market. Rain or shine. Look for us in the big white church just next to the store during stormy weather! At West Townshend Country Store at the intersection of Rt. 30 and Windham Hill Rd. (802) 869-2141. posttoilsolutions.org. farmersmarket@posttoilsolutions.org. *Fridays through mid-October.*

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

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—an alternative experiment in material culture studies. 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. mainstreetmuseum.org.

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

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. www.listen.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. White River Flyer Fall Train Rides. Departs 12 pm for Cedar Circle Farm in Thetford for a half hour layover. Brief stop at the Montshire Museum at 12:15. Passengers staying at the museum will reboard for White River Junction at 2:15 pm, arriving at 2:30 pm. You can also board at the museum at 12:15 pm, travel to Cedar Circle Farm, and return to the museum at 2:15 pm. Beer and wine tasting events offered on Thursday for an additional \$17.50. Tickets \$10-\$25. For reservations call (800) 707-3530. www.rails-vt.com. *Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, September 26 through October 27.*



Rutland Railroad Museum model train lay-out.

Annual Rutland Train Show Coming September 28

This year's Rutland Railway Association's Annual Rutland Train Show looks to be the biggest and best ever. The event will be held at the Franklin Conference Center on Strongs Ave in Rutland, VT on Saturday, September 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The show's focus is on railroad history, model railroading and rail travel. Exhibits will range from a real Vermont Rail System locomotive to a multitude of model railroad lay-outs and equipment and historical displays with information by the Rutland Historical Society. Of special note this year will be attendance of the Amherst Belt Lines, one of the country's premier model railroad clubs. They will bring an 18' by 30' model railroad featuring all the sights, sounds and motion of the real thing.

John Schaub, Curator and Director of the Rutland Railroad Museum will present a special display of his model railroad construction technique and will demonstrate the skills he utilizes in his profession as model railroad builder and rail historian.

Entry fee is \$5 for adults, with kids under 12 free. Proceeds of the event benefit the Rutland Railroad Museum located in the historic Center Rutland Depot, 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland, VT.

Franklin Conference Center is located at the Howe Center, 1 Scale Ave. off Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT. For more information about the Rutland Train Show call John Schaub at (802) 768-8427. info@rutlandrailroadmuseum.org. Visit www.rutlandrailroadmuseum.org.

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Vermont Country Calendar

(Ongoing, continued)

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. Framers Market. Sunday 11:30 am to 2:30 pm on the State Street Common (across from the library). Cecile Corr, (802) 698-3642. cjdem39@yahoo.com. windsorfarmersmarket.blogspot.com. *Through October 27.*

WINDSOR. Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery. Group Pottery Show of Distinguished Local Potters through September 15. Open Thursday-Sunday 10 am – 6 pm. At 1747 Hunt Rd., off State St. (800) 232-4337. ciderhillgardens.com. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. www.garymilek.com. *Through October.*

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.*

WINDSOR. Old Constitution House State Historic Site. Where on July 8, 1777 the first Constitution of the Free and Independent State of Vermont was adopted at the Elijah West Tavern. Exhibit: Toasters, Spiders, Dutch Ovens—18th Century Tavern Cooking. Admission: \$2.50, children 14 and under free. Sat, Sun and Monday Holidays, 11 am – 5 pm. Old Constitution House, 16 Main St. (802) 672-3773. historicssites.vermont.gov. *Through October 14.*

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

WOODSTOCK. Art workshops, ceramic studio, classes, special events. ArtisTree Community Art Center, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500. info@artistreevt.org. artistreevt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, festivities and museum. *Wagon Ride Wednesdays:* Horse-drawn wagon rides every Wednesday through September 25. *Foodways Fridays:* late 19th and early 20th-century recipes, every Friday through October 18. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. Open through October 31, 10 am – 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. 27th Annual Quilt Exhibition. Quilts made exclusively in Windsor County. Demonstrations, and activities for children and adults. 10 am – 5 pm. Adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Through September 22.*

WOODSTOCK. Woodstock Market on the Green. In the village, Rt. 4. Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Lalita Karoli and Cathy Emmon. lalitikaroli@yahoo.com. woodstockvt.com. *Through October 9.*

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

BONDVILLE. Annual Bondville Fair. In operation since 1791! Agricultural displays and contests, quilt show and exhibit, crafts. Rides & games, free entertainment. Fairgrounds on Rt. 30 across from Stratton access road. (802) 297-9810. bondvillefair.org. *Also August 25.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair & the state's largest event. At Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt.15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. *Through September 2.*

EAST THETFORD. 5th Annual Tomato Tasting by the River. A casual afternoon of celebration and music, honoring the heirloom tomato. Advance registration. Tickets: \$25; children under 12 \$15. 2-4 pm. Cedar Circle Farm, Pavillion Rd. off Rt. 5. (802) 785-4737. CedarCircleFarm.org.

HUBBARDTON. Mount Independence-Hubbardton Military Road Car Tour. The Crown Point Road Association offers a driving tour along part of the 1776 Mount Independence-Hubbardton Military Road, from the Hubbardton Battlefield to Otter Creek. 9:30 am. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. www.historicssites.vermont.gov/hubbardton.

ROCHESTER. Summer Reading Series Presents Cristen Brooks & David Huddle. Free. 5:30 pm. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

VERGENNES. 32nd Annual Vergennes Day. Pancake breakfast, crafters, car show, music, children's venue, horse & wagon rides, bandstand music, chicken BBQ, children's venues, face painting, car show. Free Bet-Cha Transit shuttle to venues. Sponsored by City of Vergennes, organized by Addison County Chamber of Commerce. 7 am – 4 pm. Vergennes City Park plus other venues, Main St., Rt. 22A. (802) 388-7951. www.vergennesday.com

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

ADDISON. The Shortest Distance between Two Points Guided Walk. Delve into history while walking across the new Lake Champlain Bridge. Meet at the Chimney Point museum. Binoculars welcome. Rain or shine, dress for the weather. \$6. 1 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Route 17W. (802) 759-2412. www.historicssites.vermont.gov/chimneypoint.

BONDVILLE. Annual Bondville Fair. In operation since 1791! Agricultural displays and contests, quilt show and exhibit, crafts. Rides & games, free entertainment. Fairgrounds on Rt. 30 across from Stratton access road. (802) 297-9810. bondvillefair.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair & the state's largest event. Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt.15. (802) 878-5545. champlainvalleyfair.org. *Through September 2.*

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Theater Presents *The Total This & That Circus and Pageant in Two Parts—Part 1 This, Part 2 That.* Followed by guest performances of *Living Newspapers* by John and Trudi Cohen and *Elephant* by Clare Dolan. Free admission, donations welcome. 2:30 at The Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org.

LYNDONVILLE. 168th Annual Caledonia County Fair. The oldest fair in Vermont. At Mountain View Park. (802) 626-5917. www.vtfair.com.

PUTNEY. 11th Annual Twilight on the Tavern Lawn Concert with Prydein. Bagpipe rock quintet that brings a rock'n'roll sensibility to a traditional Celtic repertoire. Free. 5:30 pm on the Putney Tavern lawn (bring a lawn chair or blanket) or at Next Stage at 15 Kimball Hill in case of rain. (802) 387-5772. www.twilightmusic.org.

WINDSOR. Behind the Scenes Tour. Tour the museum's storage area to view rare machines not currently on display and learn more about the collection and our historic building. \$10 tour fee. Admission to the museum itself is free on Sundays. Sunday, 3 pm. American Precision Museum, 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. apm@americanprecision.org. www.americanprecision.org.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. This is Vermont's largest fair & the state's largest event. Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt.15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. *Through September 2.*

Green Mountain Club, Killington Section Outings

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont!

Unless otherwise noted, all trips leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions. Hike leader has discretion to refuse anyone who is not adequately prepared. For more information visit greenmountainclub.org.

Saturday, August 24

Big Branch to Baker Peak, Mount Tabor, VT

We will follow the Long Trail south, past Lost Pond Shelter and on to the rocky summit of Baker Peak. Descend via

the Lake Trail, with a dramatic rock slide left by Tropical Storm Irene. Moderate, with some steep ups and downs, eight miles. 8:30 a.m (rain date August 25). *Leader: Sue Thomas. (802) 773-2185.*

Monday, September 2

Half Moon Pond State Park, Hubbardton, VT

Hike to High Pond and back to State Park and a possible second hike to Moscow Pond and back to State Park. State Park day use fee applies. Easy to moderate, 1.5-4.5 miles. 9:30 a.m. *Leaders: Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee, (802) 775-3855.*

Saturday, September 14

Hogback Supper Hike, Goshen, VT

Bring supper along and enjoy the sunset over the valley from a viewpoint on Hogback Mountain (easy, short walk back to the cars). Easy to moderate, 2.5 miles. 4:30 p.m. (rain date September 15). *Leader: Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185.*



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Ages 2-18

Vermont Country Calendar

POULTNEY. Slate Valley Museum Annual Dinner & Silent Auction. Music Provided by Green Mountain College. Cash bar. \$35. Please pay in advance by Wednesday, August 14, 5 pm; Dinner begins at 6:30 pm. Lake St. Catherine Country Club, Rt. 30. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair & the state's largest event. Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt.15. (802) 878-5545. champlainvalleyfair.org. *Through September 2.*

POWNAL. Beginning Farmer Field Day for Diversified Vegetable Producers. A full day of diversified vegetable divulgence covering a range of topics, including CSA planning and marketing strategies, soil health, cover crops, disease, and pest management. Learn about organic production methods and strategies. Bring a bagged lunch. \$40. 10 am - 4 pm. Mighty Food Farm, 549A Cedar Hill Rd. (802) 434-4122. info@nofavt.org. nofavt.org.

SHELBURNE. Concert: The Dupont Brothers. Set up your lawn chair and blanket, bring a picnic dinner, or purchase local food prepared by Shelburne Farms. Free. Gates open at 5:30 pm; concert starts at 6:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

BRIDGEWATER. Annual North Branch Bluegrass Festival. Bands, music workshops, songwriter's contest, rough camping, games, horseshoes. 10 am on. At 74 Chateaugay Rd. For tickets call (802) 672-3042. info@nbbluegrass.com. www.nbbluegrass.com. *Through September 1.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair & the state's largest event. Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt.15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. *Through September 2.*

KILLINGTON. Motorcycle Rally. Three-day premier motorcycle rally, presented by Americade. Includes social events, vendors' village, bike & stunt shows, live music, and 12-mile parade, plus five days of touring Vermont's Green Mountains. Fee. (802) 422-2105. amy@killingtontown.com. www.killingtonclassic.com. *Through September 1.*

MANCHESTER CENTER. A summer evening with author Michael Paterniti, *The Telling Room: A Tale of Love, Betrayal, Revenge, and the World's Greatest Piece of Cheese*. 6-7 pm reception, wine and cheese from Consider Bardwell. 7-8 pm reading and audience discussion. Free. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MORETOWN. Farm and Homestead Resiliency Strategies. See the systems and species used in converting 10 degraded acres of hillside into a resilient small farm/homestead. \$20. 5-7:30 pm. Whole Systems Research Farm, 66 Dean's Mountain Rd. (802) 434-4122. info@nofavt.org. nofavt.org. www.wholesystemsdesign.com.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

BRIDGEWATER. Annual North Branch Bluegrass Festival. Bands, music workshops, songwriter's contest, rough camping, games, horseshoes. 10 am on. At 74 Chateaugay Rd. For tickets call (802) 672-3042. info@nbbluegrass.com. www.nbbluegrass.com. *Through September 1.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair & the state's largest event. Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt.15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. *Through September 2.*

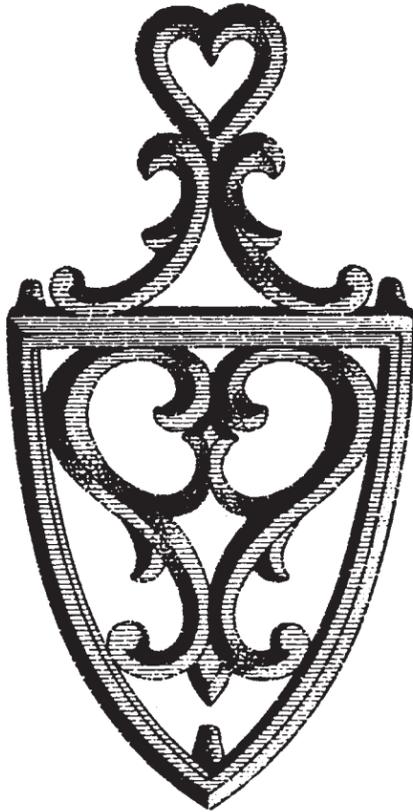
RUTLAND. 168th Annual Vermont State Fair. More free entertainment than any other fair! Agricultural events, horse & cattle shows and exhibits, farm museums. Midway with over 35 rides, games and concessions. Demolition derbies. Harness racing. Concert with Travis Tritt. Camping available. Fairgrounds on Rt. 7. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.net. *Through September 8.*

WATERBURY CENTER. Lawn Fest & Craft Show. Lawn sale of many items, books, collectibles. Saturday lunch includes homemade baked beans and chili, hot dogs and other baked goods. 9 am-4 pm. Waterbury Center Community Church, Rt. 100. (802) 244-8089. bbtravelers@aol.com. *Through September 2.*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

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

BENNINGTON. 18th Annual Southern Vermont Garlic & Herb Festival. Live music, kids activities, food including garlic ice cream, multiple garlic products, farm products and over 150 vendors. No pets please. Admission \$5, kids \$1. Free parking. 10 am- 5 pm. Camelot Village, Rt. 9 West. (802) 447-3311. www.lovegarlic.com. *Through September 1.*



BRIDGEWATER. Annual North Branch Bluegrass Festival. Bands, music workshops, songwriter's contest, rough camping, games, horseshoes. 10 am on. At 74 Chateaugay Rd. For tickets call (802) 672-3042. info@nbbluegrass.com. www.nbbluegrass.com. *Also Sept. 1.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair & the state's largest event. Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt.15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. *Through September 2.*

GUILFORD. 41st Annual Labor Day Weekend Festival. Sponsored by The Friends of Music at Guilford. Concert at 7:30 on the 1897 Guilford Tracker Organ with Clark Anderson. Admission by donation. Held at the Organ Barn on Kopkind Rd. For more information, go to www.fomag.org or call (802) 254-3600. *Also September 1.*

JAY. The Jay Peak Trail Running. Three-day family festival. 5K races, 25K race, 50K race, kids race. Registration. Jay Peak Resort, Rt. 242. (603) 899-3210. www.jaypeaktrailrun.com. *Through September 1.*

NORTHFIELD. Northfield Labor Day Celebration. Three days of free entertainment. Labor Day Parade, food, games, foot races and fun. Sat & Sun 10-10, Mon 10 am - 3:30 pm. Around the Northfield Commons, Depot Square. (802) 485-9206. northfieldlaborday.org. *Through September 2.*

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. The Ninth Annual Plymouth Folk & Blues Concerts. Stars from Vermont and nationally known musicians. Wagon rides on Saturday; children's crafts and face painting both days. Free. Admission charged to tour buildings. Organized by Jay Ottaway and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. 2-5 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. plymouthfolk.com. historicsites.vermont.gov. *Also September 1.*

SPRINGFIELD. Wellwood Orchard Celebrates Customer Appreciation Day. Free hot dogs, chips, soda, kids games, balloon art, petting zoo, contests, wagon rides and prizes. Local Fire & Police depts. are coming to visit. Music by John Laware. Cheryl the Clown & face painting by Linda Weiser. PYO apples. 10 am to 3 pm. 529 Wellwood Orchard Rd., off of Center Rd. (802) 263-5200. www.wellwoodorchards.net.

ROCHESTER. Summer Reading Series Presents Ann Aspell & Major Jackson. Free. 5:30 pm. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

RUTLAND. Increase Your Farmer's Market and Farm Stand Sales. Learn how to attract more customers into your booth or farmstand through your display and merchandising. Tour the Rutland Farmers Market to evaluate what we've just learned. \$15 for classroom and market session, optional \$15 charge for 1:1 display evaluation. 10 am - 1 pm. RAFFL Office, 67 Merchants Row, 3rd Fl. (802) 417-7096. garland@rutlandfarmandfood.org.

RUTLAND. 168th Annual Vermont State Fair. More free entertainment than any other fair! Agricultural events, horse & cattle shows and exhibits, farm museums. Demolition derbies. Harness racing. Camping available. Fairgrounds on Rt. 7. (802) 775-5200. vermontstatefair.net. *Through September 8.*

RUTLAND. Workshop: Increase Your Farmers' Market & Farm Stand Sales. Learn what works and what doesn't from one of the best! After the classroom session we'll take a tour of the Rutland Farmers Market to evaluate what we've just learned. \$15. 10 am - 1 pm. RAFFL Office, 3rd floor of the Rutland Opera House, 67 Merchants Row. (802) 417-7096. garland@rutlandfarmandfood.org. nofavt.org.

The Mirror Of My Realm

In the corner back beyond,
Where the brook enters the spruces,
I have a little pond;
Its banks are smoothly lawned
And it has several uses.

The cattle come to drink,
A frog lives in the brink,
It is my swimming pool;
I take there what I think
Is the only sport that's cool.

On the cool grass I sit
At dusk and look at it,
Composing clouds and the elm
That rises opposite—
The mirror of my realm.

It takes far things and tall
And lays them at my feet
While sleepy thrushes call.
I haven't to leave my seat
To have my world complete.

—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT, 1953



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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. Pentangle Arts Presents the Annual Mozart Festival. Led by celebrated violinist Scott Woolweaver. Sponsored by Vermont Liturgical & Music Association. Donation. 3 pm. Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, 7 South St. (802) 457-3981. info@pentanglearts.org. www.pentanglearts.org.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

BRANDON. Concert: Maiden Vermont and Curbstone Chorus. Two very popular area singing groups. Tickets are \$20 to benefit CMAC. Reservations recommended. 3 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr.—in Park Village, formerly the Brandon Training School. (802) 247-4295. info@cmactvt.org. www.cmactvt.org.

BRIDGEWATER. Annual North Branch Bluegrass Festival. Bands, music workshops, songwriter's contest, rough camping, games, horseshoes. 10 am on. At 74 Chateauguay Rd. For tickets call (802) 672-3042. info@nbbluegrass.com. www.nbbluegrass.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair & the state's largest event. Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt.15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org. Also September 2.

GUILFORD. The Guilford Fair. Live music—fiddle, jazz, swing, bluegrass, folk, and more. Ox pull. Horse show, horse and pony pulling, draft horse demonstrations, cattle show. Carnival with games and rides. 8 am - 5 pm. Fairgrounds on Fairground Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow off Guilford Center Rd. (802) 254-7406. sites.google.com/site/guilfordfairvermont/home. Also September 2.

GUILFORD. 41st Annual Labor Day Weekend Festival. Sponsored by The Friends of Music at Guilford. Concert at 2 pm with the Guilford Festival Orchestra directed by Ken Olsson. Admission by donation. Grounds open at noon to picnickers. A hearty vegetarian lunch, warm chocolate chip cookies, and fresh lemonade will be for sale. (In case of rain both lunch and concert will be relocated to Broad Brook Grange on the Guilford Center Rd.) Held at the Organ Barn on Kopkind Rd. (802) 254-3600. www.fomag.org.

NORWICH. Sunday Outdoor Craft Fair. Food and live music—open rain or shine. Local musicians Juke perform. Free. 10 am - 3 pm. Norwich Farmers Market. www.norwichcrafts.org. Also October 13.

ORWELL. Hike into History. Vermont Archeology Month annual guided hike. 2 pm. Mount Independence, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. elsa.gilbertson@state.vt.us. www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

NORTHFIELD. Northfield Labor Day Celebration. Family-friendly free entertainment. 10-10, Mon 10 am - 3:30 pm. Around the Northfield Commons, Depot Square. (802) 485-9206. northfieldlaboraday.org. Also September 2.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. The Ninth Annual Plymouth Folk & Blues Concerts. Free. Admission charged to tour buildings. 2-5 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. plymouthfolk.com.

RANDOLPH. 21st Annual New World Festival. Concerts, music and dance workshop sessions, children's activities, and open dancing on five stages from noon until 11 pm. Downtown Randolph, in Chandler Music Hall and Gallery, in all-weather tents on both sides of Main Street, and in historic Bethany Church. Main Street closed to traffic. Adults \$34 advance, \$39 after August 23, After 6 pm \$21. Students 13-18 \$11, children 2-12 \$5. (802) 728-6464. www.chandlerarts.org. www.NewWorldFestival.com.

RUTLAND. 168th Annual Vermont State Fair. More free entertainment than any other fair! Agricultural events, horse & cattle shows and exhibits, farm museums. Demolition derbies. Harness racing. Camping available. Fairgrounds on Rt. 7. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.net. Through September 8.

THETFORD. Presentation: A Time Before Vermont. With Michael Caduto exploring the Abenaki through stories, slides, discussion, music and dance. Caduto imagines a living past, exploring the deep connection Native peoples maintain with their homeland. Free. 2-5 pm. Hughes Barn Museum, 2274 Rt. 113. (802) 785-2068. info@thetfordhistoricalsociety.org.

WOODSTOCK. Play: Yasmina Reza's ART. A hilarious comedy about an art lover, who buys what is in essence a pure white painting for a horse-choking sum. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 students. 7 pm. King Farm Barn. (802) 332 6020. info@barnarts.org. www.barnarts.org. Also September 6-8.

WOODSTOCK. Labor & Leisure Day at Billings Farm & Museum. Work and fun on the farm! Wagon rides, building a split rail fence, ice cream making, and laundry – using a washboard and wringer. Admission (includes all activities) \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am - 5 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

ESSEX JUNCTION. Champlain Valley Fair. Vermont's largest fair & the state's largest event. Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt.15. (802) 878-5545. www.champlainvalleyfair.org.

GUILFORD. The Guilford Fair. Live music. Ox pull. Horse show, horse and pony pulling, draft horse demos, cattle show. Carnival with games and rides. 8 am - 5 pm. Fairgrounds on Fairground Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow off Guilford Center Rd. (802) 254-7406. sites.google.com/site/guilfordfairvermont/home. Also September 2.

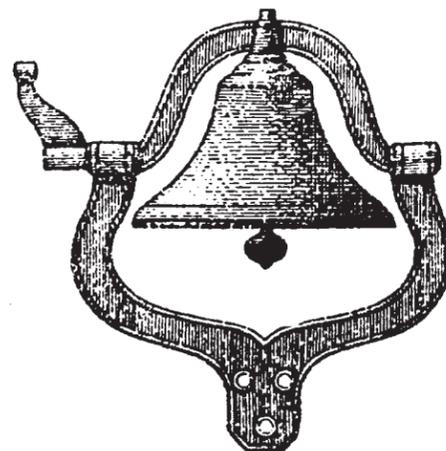
NORTHFIELD. Northfield Labor Day Celebration. Family-friendly free entertainment. Labor Day Parade at 10:30 am, food, games, foot races and fun. Free admission, handicapped-accessible. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Around the Northfield Commons, Depot Square. (802) 485-9206. northfieldlaboraday.org.

RUTLAND. 168th Annual Vermont State Fair. More free entertainment than any other fair! Agricultural events, horse & cattle shows and exhibits, farm museums. Fairgrounds on Rt. 7. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.net. Through September 8.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

MANCHESTER CENTER. A demonstration with water color master Charles Reid. Free. 6:30-7:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com. www.pleinair-vermont.com.

RUTLAND. 168th Annual Vermont State Fair. More free entertainment than any other fair! Agricultural events, horse & cattle shows and exhibits, farm museums. Fairgrounds on Rt. 7. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.net. Through September 8.



Windsor, VT

Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery Hosts a Print, Pottery and Sculpture Show

Windsor, VT's best kept secret, Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery, invites you come see their new mixed media show featuring five distinguished Vermont artists. The show opens August 16th and runs through September 15th. It is open Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This year's mixed media show features five distinguished Vermonters. Inside the gallery's big room, the beautifully detailed botanical series of signed, limited edition, watercolor reproductions prints, of painter and Cider Hill partner Gary Milek are for sale. While some of these meticulous prints have vintage status, as Gary has been painting for over fifty years, all the floral lithographs are fifty percent off their retail price, a first at Cider Hill and a sign of the lean times for most, in the world of fine art in America.

The distinctive, utilitarian pieces of Susan Leader Pottery of Andover, VT are also displayed in the gallery's big room. You can recognize her work at once and it will most likely bring a smile to your face. There is just something so very Vermont about her works. Her pottery is collectable and reasonably priced.

Holly Walker of Randolph, VT is also in the gallery's big room. Her pots are intuitively stylized hand built works. She approaches each piece as a painter, brushing colored slips on the dimpled surface of her raw terra cotta. She builds up the glazes in multiple layers, resulting in highly-colored glossy finishes.

Patrick Johnson of Marlboro, VT presents figurative hand-built textural and large sculptural pieces in the gallery and throughout the picturesque gardens.

The large handmade ceramic vessels by Stephen Procter of Brattleboro, VT round out the show. His masterful works commands a presence in the display area of the gardens.

Sarah and Gary Milek have created, cultivated and nurtured their passions of horticultural and fine art together to create the "Wonderfulness" which is their sense of place at Cider Hill.

The nursery and display gardens became paired with the Cider Hill Art Gallery when Gary Milek constructed the gallery fifteen years ago. Now it seems like it has always been there within the confines of the gardens. Through many years of devoted toil and care the gardens flourished and grown. Together the gallery, nursery and extensive gardens have become the perfect venue for out-of-doors exhibitions.

So come, see the fine works of these five distinguished Vermont artists. Search for the perfect plant for that unresolved spot in your garden. Then sit on the porch, gratified that you have met your quest, and catch that end of summer breeze surrounded by the tranquil beauty at Cider Hill.

Cider Hill Gardens & Gallery is located at 1747 Hunt Rd., Windsor, VT. It's easy to find. Go 2-1/2 miles west from the traffic light in the center of Windsor, where you turn onto State St. At the end of State St., go up the hill to Hunt Rd.—do not bear right toward the hospital. When you think you've gone too far, you're almost there! Look for sign on the left.

They are open Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through the end of October. The Gallery is also open November and December Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., winters by appointment.

For more information call (802) 674-6825. flowers@ciderhillgardens.com. Visit ciderhillgardens.com.



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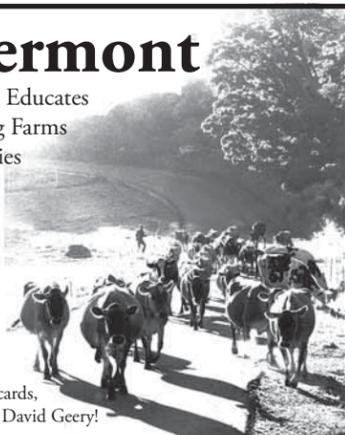
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Check out our local artist notecards, including this photo from John David Geery!



Contradance with Northern Spy

David Millstone, caller

8 pm, Saturday, September 14th
Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Admission \$8 (students \$5, under 16 free, seniors by donation)
All dances taught. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary.
Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing.

(802) 785-4607 • rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu

Vermont Country Calendar

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

BURLINGTON. Three-Day South End Art Hop. The city's fine arts district will be displaying the works of art and outdoors sculpture of more than 500 artists. Performing arts, live demos and workshops, kids' activities, fashion show. (802) 859-9222. www.seaba.com. *Through September 8.*

GRANVILLE, NY. First Friday. Carolyn Guest will demonstrate her Polish folk art of paper cutting. Admission. 7-9 pm. Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org. www.sheepshearcuttings.com.

RUTLAND. 168th Annual Vermont State Fair. More free entertainment than any other fair! Agricultural events, farm museums. Fairgrounds on Rt. 7. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.net. *Through September 8.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

BENSON. Benson Bear Obstacle Challenge Race. Tackle the Benson Bear's 5+ miles and 45+ military-inspired obstacles including walls, hurdles, tires, barb wire, towers, ramps and more! 9 am. Shale Hill Adventure Farm, 517 Lake Rd. (802) 537-3561. shalehilladventure@aol.com.

DORSET. Discover Dorset. Over a dozen town-wide events, food and music. Local artists will open their studios. The Dorset Inn hosts local cheese makers, J.K. Adams hosts a pie-baking contest, and Someday Farm demonstrates farm to table ideas. Mountain biking demonstration, kids' games on the Green, and a scavenger hunt. Free. 10 am - 4 pm. Dorset Green at Rt. 30. (802) 867-0281. www.dorsetvt.com. *Also September 8.*

ORWELL. Soldiers Atop the Mount. Step back to 1776 and 1777 as reenactors demonstrate Revolutionary War camp life, military tactics, colonial crafts, firing artillery, cooking, and making clothing. Drilling lessons and Mistress Davenport's schoolhouse. Walk or hike-about the trails on Saturday. Admission: adults \$5, children 14 and under free. 2 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site. On Mount Independence Rd., off Rt. 73. (802) 948-2000. historicsites.vermont.gov. *Also September 8.*

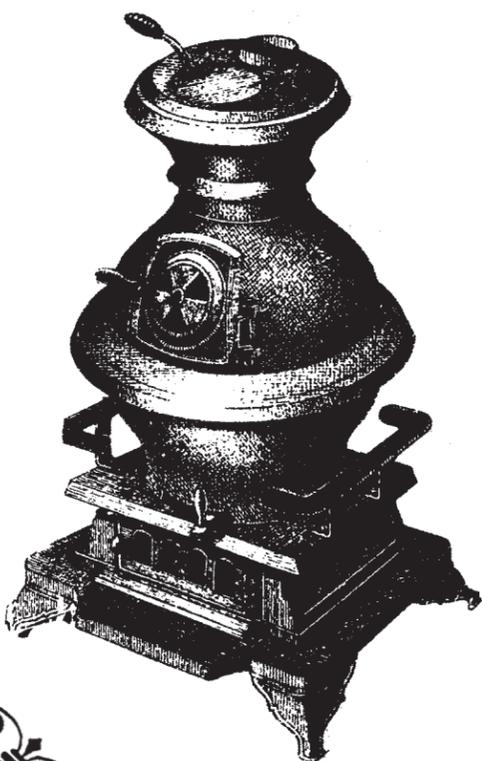
RUPERT. Ninth Annual Sheep Dog Trial and Farm Festival. Two days full of fun for the family! Trials, foods from local vendors, traditional farm activities and children's games, horse-drawn wagon rides, and fiber arts with regional crafters. \$5 adult, \$3 children 5-12, 4 & under free. 8 am - 4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Route 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org. *Also September 8.*

RUTLAND. 168th Annual Vermont State Fair. More free entertainment than any other fair! Agricultural events, horse & cattle shows and exhibits, farm museums. Fairgrounds on Rt. 7. (802) 775-5200. www.vermontstatefair.net. *Also September 8.*

SPRINGFIELD. Annual Market Madness. An annual old-fashioned street fair and farmers market involving multiple businesses and vendors with lots of family fun in Downtown Springfield! Music, dancing, food, ice cream social, quilt display and raffle, Harpoon beer tent, fresh local produce, arts & crafts, antique tractors, classic cars, artist village. Vault's Artful Flea Fundraiser. 12 noon - 6 pm. For more info visit www.springfieldonthemove.net.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Pam Weeks presents her book, *Civil War Quilts*. Part of The Civil War in Vermont Series. Free. 3 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.



ORWELL. Soldiers Atop the Mount. Step back to 1776 and 1777 as reenactors demonstrate Revolutionary War camp life, military tactics, colonial crafts, firing artillery, cooking, and making clothing. Annual reading of the Declaration of Independence and music by the Seth Warner Mount Independence Fife & Drum Corps. Admission: adults \$5, children 14 and under free. 2 pm. Mount Independence State Historic Site. On Mount Independence Rd., off Rt. 73. (802) 948-2000. historicsites.vermont.gov.

ROCKINGHAM. Summer Social Concert Series: Stockwell Brothers. Doors open 1:30 pm, concert begins at 2 pm. Tickets available at Village Square Booksellers, Shona Grill, and online at www.brattleborotix.com. Rockingham Meeting House, Meeting House Rd, off Rt. 103, exit 6, I-91. (802) 463-9595. vermontfestivalsllc.com.

RUPERT. Ninth Annual Sheep Dog Trial and Farm Festival. Two days full of fun for the family! Trials, foods from local vendors, traditional farm activities and children's games, horse-drawn wagon rides, and fiber arts. \$5 adult, \$3 children 5-12, 4 & under free. 8 am - 4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Route 315. (802) 394-7836. www.merckforest.org

RUTLAND. 168th Annual Vermont State Fair. More free entertainment than any other fair! Agricultural events, horse & cattle shows and exhibits, farm museums. Fairgrounds on Rt. 7. (802) 775-5200. vermontstatefair.net.

THETFORD. Apples and Cheese Day. Farm and home exhibits of 18th and 19th century life. Demonstrations, live music, activities for all ages. Free. 2-5 pm. Hughes Barn Museum, 2274 Rt. 113. (802) 785-2068. info@thetfordhistoricalsociety.org. thetfordhistoricalsociety.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

RUTLAND. Burlington Ensemble in concert with "Precocious Prodigies." The concert will feature the String Quartet by Mendelssohn and Mozart's Piano Quartet in G minor. Tickets: www.burlingtonensemble.com: \$20/ adult, \$5/students and children. Information: burlingtonensemble@gmail.com or (802) 598-9520. 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary at Grace Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301. www.gracechurchvt.org.

TUNBRIDGE. The Tunbridge World's Fair. Explore family farm traditions from the past. See harness racing. Midway, grandstand, agricultural events, fair food! (800) 889-5555. www.tunbridgeworldsfair.com. *Through September 15.*

WOLCOTT. Seed Saving Education with Tom Stearns. This two-hour hands-on workshop will provide beginning seed savers with the basics of seed saving. Free. 6-8 pm. High Mowing Organic Seeds Trials Fields, Marsh Rd. (802) 472 6174. highmowingseeds.com. *Also October 19.*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

BENNINGTON. 47th Annual Bennington Car Show. Special Marquees: Studebaker, Corvette, and Austin Healy vehicles. Food, Fun, Free Parking, Tractor Pull, Vendors. Quilt Show just down the street. Concert Saturday night. Willow Park. (802) 447-3311. www.benningtoncarshow.com. www.bennington.com. *Through September 15.*

RUTLAND. Paula Poundstone. Appearing on stage with a stool, a microphone, and a can of Diet Pepsi, Poundstone is famous for her razor-sharp wit and spontaneity. Tickets: \$29.50/\$34.50/\$39.50. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. www.paulapoundstone.com.

TUNBRIDGE. The Tunbridge World's Fair. Explore family farm traditions from the past. Harness racing, midway, grandstand, agricultural events, fair food! (800) 889-5555. tunbridgeworldsfair.com. *Through September 15.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

BARTON. 40th Annual Vermont Trappers Association Rendezvous. Trapping seminars, blackpowder shoot, Saturday night pig roast. Hunting, fishing, blackpowder & trapping supplies, taxidermy displays, arts & crafts, pie baking contest, door prizes, and more! Family events. Public welcome. 9 am - 5 pm. Orleans County Fairgrounds, 278 Roaring Brook Rd. (802) 885-4499. flytrap_adc@vermontel.net. *Also September 15.*

BRANDON. Mt. Philo Hawk Watch. Travel to the top of Mt. Philo (by car) to watch for migrating Broad-winged Hawks and other raptors. Meet in the parking lot behind the Mobil station on Rt. 7 in Brandon. Bring lunch. \$3 fee to enter the state park. If the weather is not conducive to hawk-watching, we will travel to other birding hotspots in the Champlain Valley. 9 am. Leader: Roy Pilcher, (802) 775-3461. www.rutlandcountyadubon.org.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy. Caller, Rebecca Lay. All dances taught and called. Bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor and potluck finger food snacks for the break. Admission \$8, students \$5, under 16 free, seniors by donation. 8 pm. Tracey Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Every second Saturday.*

ORWELL. Reading the Forested Landscape. Ecologist Tom Wessels offers an illustrated talk and an outside walk. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 1-5 pm. Mount Independence, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. elsa.gilbertson@state.vt.us. historicsites.vermont.gov.



Organic Farming Exhibit at The Vermont History Museum

The organic farming movement has a long history in Vermont and part of it has been documented in an exhibit at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, VT.

The Exhibit, *Plowing Old Ground—Vermont's Organic Farming Pioneers* is free and open to the public through October 19, 2013.

Agricultural writer Susan Harlow and farmer/photographer John Nopper have documented the stories of Vermont's pioneer organic farmers. The result is a stunning exhibit of black and white photographs with narratives collected from oral history interviews.

Six working farms and their farmers are highlighted including Jack and Anne Lazor of Butterworks Farm in

Westfield, VT; Paul Harlow of Harlow Farm in Westminster, VT; Jake and Liz Guest of Killdeer Farm in Norwich, VT; Joey Klein of Littlewood Farm in Plainfield, VT; Bruce Kaufman from Riverside Farm in Hardwick, VT; and Vermont's first officially certified organic farmer Howard Prussack of High Meadows Farm in Putney, VT.

Images and comments by writer and organic farming advocate, Samuel Kamen will also be included.

The Vermont History Museum is located at 109 State St., in Montpelier, VT. (802) 479-8514. www.vermonthistory.org.

You can visit the Museum, Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Vermont Country Calendar

PITTSFIELD. 2013 Peak Mountain Bike Race. Fee. (802) 928-503-4249. thomas.a.villareal@gmail.com. peakracesmtb.eventbrite.com.

SO. STRAFFORD. Taylor Valley Tree Farm Tour. Three three-hour walking tours available to choose from. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. (802) 747-7900. www.vermontwoodlands.org.

TUNBRIDGE. The Tunbridge World's Fair. Explore family farm traditions from the past. Harness racing, midway, grandstand, agricultural events, fair food! (800) 889-5555. tunbridgeworldsfair.com. *Through September 15.*

WEST BARNET. Pancake Breakfast. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, home fries, toast, juice, and Vermont maple syrup. \$7; senior \$6; under 12 \$3. 8-10 am. Lake View Grange Hall. (802) 748-8180.

WOLCOTT. Hands-on Seed Saving for the Home Gardener & Farmer. Full-day intensive workshop. To register visit www.nofavt.org or call (802) 434-4122. Fee: \$40. High Mowing Organic Seeds Trials Fields, Marsh Rd. (802) 472-6174 x144. www.highmowingseeds.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

ATHENS. 2nd Annual Pig Roast. A good old-fashioned pig roast with all the fixins'. \$15/plate; children 12 and under \$10. The Athens Brick Meeting House open for tours. Sponsored by the Athens Historic Preservation Society. 1 pm. On the lawn at the Athens Brick Meeting House, Rt. 30, Meeting House Rd. (802) 365-7740.

HUBBARDTON. Pittsford Ridge Hike. Explore part of the evacuation route up to Pittsford Ridge taken by the Americans after the Battle of Hubbardton on July 7, 1777, on a hike led by site interpreter Carl Fuller. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 2-5 pm. Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. (802) 273-2282. www.historicsites.vermont.gov

SHOREHAM. Sixth Annual Tour de Farms. Two loop rides and a two-mile tricycle route for young children. Farmers treat bicyclists to samples of local foods. Advance registration: \$28 adults, \$13 kids 16 and under. Day-of registration: \$50 adults, \$20 kids 16 and under. Children in trailers and bike seats free. Tricycle route \$5 day-of. Register 9:30 - 11:30 am. 12:30-5 pm Apple Fest on the town green, with live music, crafts, and farmers' market. Shoreham Town Green. (802) 225-8904. www.vtbikeped.org.

SHOREHAM. Tour de Farms & Shady Rill Concert. A glorious day of great food, stunning scenery, toe-tapping music, and the camaraderie of bicyclists on 10, 25, and 30-mile routes having a wonderful time in the great Vermont outdoors. Bring a picnic, come pick your own apples and visit the farm store. 1-3pm. Champlain Orchards, 3597 VT Route 74 W. (802) 897-2777. champlainorchards.com.

TUNBRIDGE. The Tunbridge World's Fair. Explore family farm traditions from the past. Harness racing, midway, grandstand, agricultural events, fair food! (800) 889-5555. www.tunbridgeworldsfair.com. *Through September 15.*

WOLCOTT. Trials Field Walk. For professional growers and home gardeners. Guided tour highlighting some of over 800 vegetable, herb and flower varieties being grown, compared and evaluated in the four-acre HMS trials garden. Free. 3:30-5 pm. High Mowing Organic Seeds trials field, on Marsh Rd. (802) 472-6174. www.highmowingseeds.com.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

ADDISON. Atlatl Workshop. Bob and Cheryl Berg teach traditional and modern techniques of atlatl and dart construction, flint knapping, hafting stone points, and cordage making. Pre-registration required. Noon - 5 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Route 17W. (802) 759-2412. www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

BURLINGTON. Ninth Annual Burlington Book Festival. Authors, workshops, and presentations at many venues throughout Burlington. Visit website for schedule. burlingtonmag@gmail.com. www.burlingtonbookfestival.com. *Through September 22*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

ADDISON. 18th Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship. Based on the ancient hunting technique of using the atlatl or spear thrower. Demonstrations and workshops on flint knapping, Woodland pottery, and other crafts and skills. 10:30 am - 4:30 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Route 17W. (802) 759-2412. www.historicsites.vermont.gov/chimneypoint.

BELMONT. Roast Pork Dinner. Menu: roast pork with all the fixings and home-baked pies for dessert. To benefit the Mt. Holly Rescue Squad. At the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont with settings starting at 5 pm and 6 pm. Served family style. Admission \$10 adults and \$5 children 11 years and under. For more information call (802) 259-3445.

CHESTER. 39th Annual Fall Festival Craft Show. Handmade crafts: baskets, glass, quilts, fiber art, woodcarvings, paintings, jewelry, photography, pottery. Wide variety of food available. 10 am - 4 pm. On the Chester Green. (802) 875-2444. www.chesterfallfestival.org. *Also September 22.*

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. The Plymouth Cheese and Harvest Festival. Wagon rides, historic farm & craft demonstrations, barbecue & harvest treats. Admission to tour the historic buildings: adults \$8, children 6-14 \$2, under 6 free. 10 am - 5 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicites.vermont.gov.

ROCHESTER. Panel discussion on folk art. Bring your own questions and join the conversation. Refreshments to follow. 5 pm. BigTown Gallery, 99 North Main St. (802) 767.9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Colors of the Kingdom Autumn Festival. Pancake breakfast (\$6.50), Train rides (\$12, \$6 12 & under), farmers' market, parade, music, book sale, arts & crafts, free planetarium shows. 8 am - 5 pm. (800) 639-6379. nekinfo@nekchamber.com. www.nekchamber.com.

STOWE. Fourth Annual Oktoberfest. Authentic Bavarian dishes and Bavarian music. Barbecue 4 pm. Entry free. Tickets for the barbecue are \$29 per person. Trapp Family Lodge, 700 Trapp Hill Rd. (802) 253-5713. jv@trappfamily.com. www.trappfamily.com. *Through September 26.*

WESTMINSTER WEST. Accessibility Day. Sponsored by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association. Once-a-year opportunity for a vehicle ride to a special trail site—Paul's Ledges for lunch with leaders Tony Coven and Bev Major. Advance registrations a MUST for riders. Hikers do not need to pre-register. Bring water, bag lunch, and sweater or jacket for chilly weather at the top. Meet at Westminster West Church to carpool. Contact Bev Major at (802) 387-5737. bev@dishmail.net. www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

ADDISON. ISAC Atlatl Championship. Second morning of atlatl International Standard Accuracy Competition. After ISAC, master class/coaching for boys and girls and experimental archaeology workshop for students. Starts at 10 am. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Route 17W. (802) 759-2412. www.historicsites.vermont.gov/chimneypoint.

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— JESSIE M. DOWLIN
Bellows Falls, VT, 1943

Free Calendar Listings

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

Vermont Country Sampler

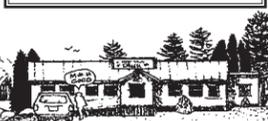
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Vermont Country Calendar

FERRISBURGH. Natural History Day. Guided hike on the trail, gallery talk, and activities for children all afternoon. Admission \$10 adults, \$9 seniors, \$8 students, children under 5 free. 1-5 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby@comcast.net. www.rokeby.org.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas. Scottish fiddle and cello music of unrivaled beauty. 7:30 pm. Adults \$30; students \$15. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. www.alasdairfraser.com. www.nataliehaas.com.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

CHESTER. Poetry Seminar: Michael Palma on Hoffman, Poe and Crane. 7 pm. Misty Valley Books, on the Green. (802) 875-3400. mvbooks.com. Also October 2, 9, & 16

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

BARTON. Draft Animal-Power Field Days. Featuring oxen, mules, and horses. Camping available. Held at the Orleans County Fairgrounds, off I-91 at exit 25. dapnetinfo@gmail.com. www.draftanimalpower.com. Through September 29.

CANAAN. Fall Doe Camp: A Backcountry Retreat for Adventurous Women. Classes include: mountain biking, firearms, marksmanship & safety, fly fishing, and more. \$349; discounts for daily drive-ins, camping, mother/daughter teams and groups. 8 am - 5 pm. Jackson's Lodge & Log Cabins. 1-800-425 8747. www.voga.org. Through September 29.

STOWE. Oktoberfest. A three-day family-friendly celebration. \$7. (802) 253-4788. stowerotary.com. Through September 29.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

BARTON. Draft Animal-Power Field Days. Featuring oxen, mules, and horses. Over 40 workshops, demos & discussions advancing the practical application of draft-animal power. Presenters: Doc Hammill and Neal Perry. Topics include animal training, care & management; market gardening; forestry; and haying. Harvest dinner and open mic and lots more! Camping available. Held at the Orleans County Fairgrounds, off I-91 at exit 25. dapnetinfo@gmail.com. www.draftanimalpower.com. Also September 29.

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Castlebay, Celtic Duo. Poignant ballads interspersed with joyous dance tunes played on Celtic harp, guitar, fiddle and tin whistle. Admission. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BRISTOL. Bristol Harvest Festival. Crafters, children's venue, apple pie contest, farmer's market, 70-plus crafters and vendors, bandstand music, children's venue with pony rides, petting zoo, face painting, Police Property Sale, Art Show, 5K Race. Free. 10-4. Bristol Town Green, West St. (802) 388-7951 x1. www.bristolharvestfest.com. www.addisoncounty.com.

EAST BURKE. Annual Fall Foliage Festival. Parade starts at 10 am. Rubber duck race, live music, kids area with a jump house, face painting and more. Horse drawn wagon rides, farm animal petting zoo, cow plop bingo, craft show, beer & wine tent, and more! 9 am - 3 pm. In the village. (802) 467-1266. burkechamber@burkevermont.com. www.burkevermont.com.

GRANVILLE, NY. Quarry Dog Day. Dog-related crafters and artists. Slate splitting and trimming demonstrations. Photo booth in the trimming shanty. Pet parade on the rail trail. Exhibit highlighting history of quarry dogs. Admission. 10 am - 3 pm. Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

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. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. Every fourth Saturday.

ORWELL. Presentation: Losing America—An Encounter with Lt. Gen. John Burgoyne. English actor-playwright Howard Burnham offers an encounter with 'Gentleman Johnny' Burgoyne. 2 pm. Mount Independence, 497 Mount Independence Rd. (802) 948-2000. elsa.gilbertson@state.vt.us.historicsites.

PERU. 31st Annual Peru Fair. An old-fashioned country fair! Pig roast, booths, artisan crafts, music, dancing, food, exhibits. \$6 admission, under 6 free. 9 am - 4 pm. Parade at 9:45 am. Rain or shine. Perufair.org.

PITTSFORD. Ninth Annual Harvest Fair & Craft Show. Home décor, quality crafts, local artwork, local produce, baked goods and preserves, maple products, basket & quilt raffles. Free decorated Jack o'Lantern contest. Farm animals and dairy booth. 10 am - 4 pm on the Village Green, Rt 7. (802) 483-9972. PittsfordHarvestFair@comcast.net.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra. Jamie Laredo conducts the orchestra in their annual Made in Vermont tour. 7:30 pm. Adults \$27, seniors \$23, students \$10. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. chandler-arts.org.

ROCHESTER. Archaeology at the Bingo Schoolhouse. Dig at the Bingo archaeological schoolhouse site. Free. 10 am - 3 pm. Bingo Schoolhouse, Rt. 100, next to 2nd bridge on Bingo Rd. (802) 747-6717. dlacy@fs.fed.us.

RUTLAND. Annual Rutland Train Show. Learn about railroad history, model railroading and rail travel. Exhibits range from a real Vermont Rail System locomotive to a multitude of model railroad lay-outs and equipment and historical displays. Admission \$5 adults, under 12 free. 10 am - 3 pm at the Franklin Conference Center at the Howe Center, 1 Scale Ave. off Strongs Ave. For info call JohnSchaub at (802) 768-8427. info@rutlandrailroadmuseum.org. rutlandrailroadmuseum.org.

WOODSTOCK. 10th Annual Vermont Woodworking and Forest Festival. Demonstrations, exhibits, visit with woodworkers. Admission \$10 for 18 and over. 9 am - 6 pm. Union Arena, Rt. 4. (802) 747-7900. vermontwoodfestival.org. Also September 29.

WOODSTOCK. Forest Festival. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park hosts demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, forest walks, educational activities, an Audubon workshop, and other family events. A shuttle available between the woodworking festival at Union Arena and the park. On Rt. 12—park in the Billings Farm & Museum parking lot and come into the Visitor's Center. (802) 457-3368 x 18. www.nps.gov/mabi. Also September 29.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

ADDISON. Guided Walk: The Shortest Distance between Two Points. Learn about history while walking across the new Lake Champlain Bridge. Meet at the Crown Point, NY, museum. Binoculars welcome. Rain or shine, dress for the weather. \$6. 1 pm. Chimney Point State Historic Site, 8149 VT Rt. 17W. (802) 759-2412. www.historicsites.vermont.gov/chimneypoint

BARTON. Draft Animal-Power Field Days. Featuring oxen, mules, and horses. Workshops, demos & discussions advancing draft-animal power. Ice cream social and lots more! Camping available. At the Orleans County Fairgrounds, off I-91 at exit 25. dapnetinfo@gmail.com. www.draftanimalpower.com.

RANDOLPH. Myra Flynn & Gregory Douglass CD-Release Party. 7:30 pm. Adults \$25, students \$10. Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

SHOREHAM. Concert: Pete Sutherland. A warm-voiced singer and multi-instrumentalist known equally for his potent originals and age-old ballads and fiddle tunes. Bring a picnic, come pick your own apples and visit the farm store. 1-3pm. Champlain Orchards, 3597 VT Rt. 74 W. (802) 897-2777. champlainorchards.com.

WOODSTOCK. 10th Annual Vermont Woodworking and Forest Festival. Demonstrations, exhibits, visit with woodworkers. Admission \$10 for 18 and over. 10 am - 4:30 pm. Union Arena, Rt. 4. (802) 747-7900. www.vermontwoodfestival.org. www.vermontwood.com.

WOODSTOCK. Forest Festival at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, forest walks, educational activities, an Audubon workshop, and more. On Rt. 12. Park at Billings Farm & Museum and come into the Visitor's Center. (802) 457-3368 x 18. www.nps.gov/mabi.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

WALDEN. Annual Fall Foliage Festival: Country Fair. 9 am coffee & donuts at the Walden Methodist Church. Traditional action exhibits, crafts, farm sandwich lunch. Afternoon tours to dairy farm, horse farm and rural school, with dancing and a snack. Family-style Barbecue Beef Supper with mashed potatoes, veggies and home baked pies, beginning at 5:30 pm, \$12. For supper reservations, call (802) 533-7122. For information, call (802) 563-2777 (evenings). www.nekchamber.com.



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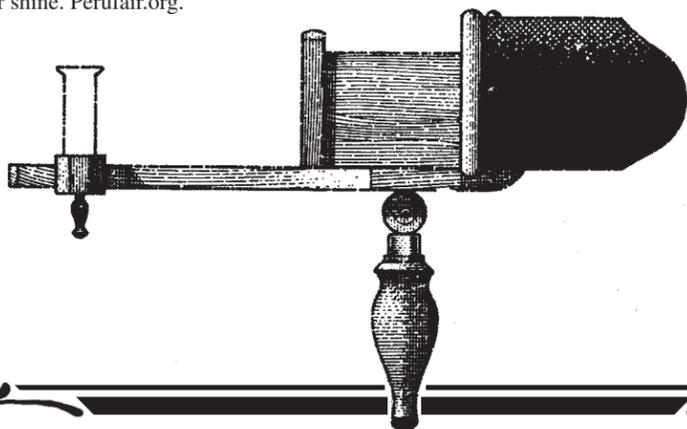
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A Garden Encounter

by Judith Irven

One of my favorite fantasies is that I pick up my entire garden and set it down somewhere along the rocky coast of Maine.

Here my fantasy garden sits right beside the sparkling blue sea, with seagulls and the occasional osprey swooping overhead. A gentle sea fog keeps it moist all summer long and, with winters running 10° or more warmer than here in Vermont, a whole new palette of plants becomes available.

While my fantasy garden will never happen, perhaps the next best thing is to be invited into just such a garden and strike up a conversation with its charming gardener. And this is exactly how it happened this past July.

Down the Liniken peninsula

Dick and I, along with my brother Patrick from England, were exploring Ocean Point at the far end of the Liniken peninsula, one of the numerous long fingers of land along the Maine coast that stretch down into the Atlantic ocean. We delighted to find a public trail that ran above the rocky shoreline at Ocean Point, and we were totally surprised to see the trail actually traversed the private back lawns of some gray-shingled coastal homes.

And here, just thirty feet from the trail, was this beautiful garden; a perfect gift for all who passed by!

What a sight—masses of daylilies at their peak of perfection, embracing all the ‘hot’ colors you can imagine! There were pinks and reds, yellows and oranges and they lit up the garden like fireworks.

But, for me, the real stand-outs were surely the robust clumps of hydrangeas; each plant had a dozen or more enormous flower heads (panicles) in a clearest deep blue like the northern sky, and set off by huge dark green leaves.

The contrast of their ‘cool blue’ flowers beside the ‘hot’ colors of the daylilies was nothing short of stunning.

These were the Bigleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*), possibly the cultivar ‘Nikko Blue’, and we had seen them growing all around the Boothbay area. With their brilliant blue flowers that can last for four weeks or longer, they seem like the perfect garden plant—providing you have the right conditions.

They like an acid soil and are hardy to Zone 6; they are also salt tolerant, making them an ideal match for this windswept location.

But alas, since Bigleaf Hydrangeas are typically only hardy to Zone 6, they are certainly not suitable for my Vermont garden.

So reluctantly I conclude the only place I will be able to create this wonderful pairing of hot and cool colors will be in my ‘fantasy garden’.

We meet the gardener

There we were, stopped dead in our tracks, savoring this rainbow of colors, when suddenly the gardener herself appeared, scissors in hand, all ready to deadhead her daylilies! Now that is truly the sign of a dedicated gardener, someone who takes the time to remove the spent flowers from every daylily stalk each morning, so that the new blooms of the day will not be disfigured.

She smiled and waved and I waved back. Then, she beckoned to us to come on in.

Of course, as gardeners will, we got chatting about gardens, first our own and then about the nearby Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens where Dick, Patrick and I had spent the entire previous day.

But then we discovered that she had grown up in Summit, New Jersey, living not far from Dick’s old house. More talk about shared acquaintances followed until, some thirty minutes later, we resumed our walk.

We even returned the following morning for Dick to take photographs and to continue our chat!

But it was only after we left that I realized I had neglected to ask her name.

So, dear Liniken gardener—
—if you read this please know how much your hospitality was appreciated by this fellow gardener. Thank you so much for both your time and for your beautiful garden.

And to all my other readers—
—the message in this story is for us all to make time to experience and enjoy the chance encounters, of gardens and of gardeners, that we may meet along the trail.

To quote my friend Abi Sessions:
To deepen your experience, you need to slow down and hold yourself open to whatever happens along the way!

Hydrangeas for Vermont gardens

Bigleaf Hydrangeas set their buds on the previous year’s wood, and unfortunately these ‘old wood’ buds are unable to withstand our typical Vermont winters, resulting in few if any flowers the following summer. So over the years there have been various attempts to breed a cultivar of the Bigleaf Hydrangea that sets buds and blooms on the current year’s wood, so called ‘new wood’.

The first of these was the ‘Endless Sum-



The Bigleaf Hydrangea, with its mesmerizing sky-blue flower heads, flourishes in the milder climate of the Boothbay region of Maine. photo by Dick Conrad

mer’ Hydrangea, which was particularly unsuccessful in my Zone 4 garden. I am now growing various others ‘on trial’ but so far the plants remain puny, finally putting out a flower or two by the end of the season. However, there is a new variety called ‘Twist and Shout’ that shows some promise, which I plan to try next season.

But there are several other types of hydrangeas that do grow extremely well in our colder climates. The flowers are mostly creamy white, some with cultivars that offer pinkish or greenish overtones. I know of no blue ones!!

The Smooth Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), especially the cultivar ‘Annabelle’, is justifiably popular. It has huge cream-colored floppy heads that last for weeks although, as it matures, it will take up a lot of space in a small garden.

One of the best known is the fall-flowering Peegee Hydrangea, (*Hydrangea paniculata*) which you can see in many Vermont gar-

dens at this time of year. I particularly like the cultivar ‘Tardiva’. It blooms profusely with conical-shaped creamy-white flower panicles. Its flowers arrive in mid-August and they last until the end of October, turning a nice dusky pink after the early frosts.

Peegee Hydrangeas are also extremely long lived so, over the years, people have planted them in cemeteries all across New England. When I was a student at Vermont Technical College we dubbed them the ‘The Cemetery Plant’.

So, as you drive around Vermont this coming fall, keep an eye open for the venerable Hydrangeas that grace our old country cemeteries, a beautiful reminder of the generations of Vermonters who came before us.

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.

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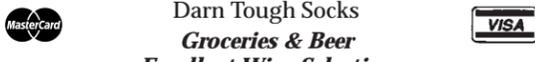


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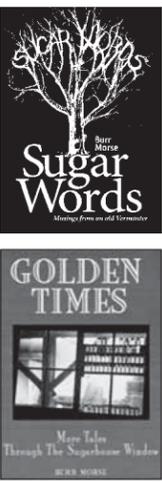
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A Vermonter's Favorite Vacation Destination—Maine

by Charles Sutton

If one lives in a vacation state like Vermont where do you go for a vacation for something different, and maybe also nearby? Many Vermonters head for southern Maine to enjoy its ocean shoreline and refreshing sea breezes. But also to eat lobster, usually more than once.

When I began a newspaper career some 50 years ago in Maine one was able to buy 'off-the-boat' lobsters for 69 cents a pound in September, right after Labor Day when most of the tourists had gone home. They were cheaper than hamburger!

One can get lobsters today (10 times the price) at many of Vermont's larger supermarkets—good enough as a treat but they just don't compare in freshness and flavor to lobsters right out of those chilly Gulf of Maine waters.

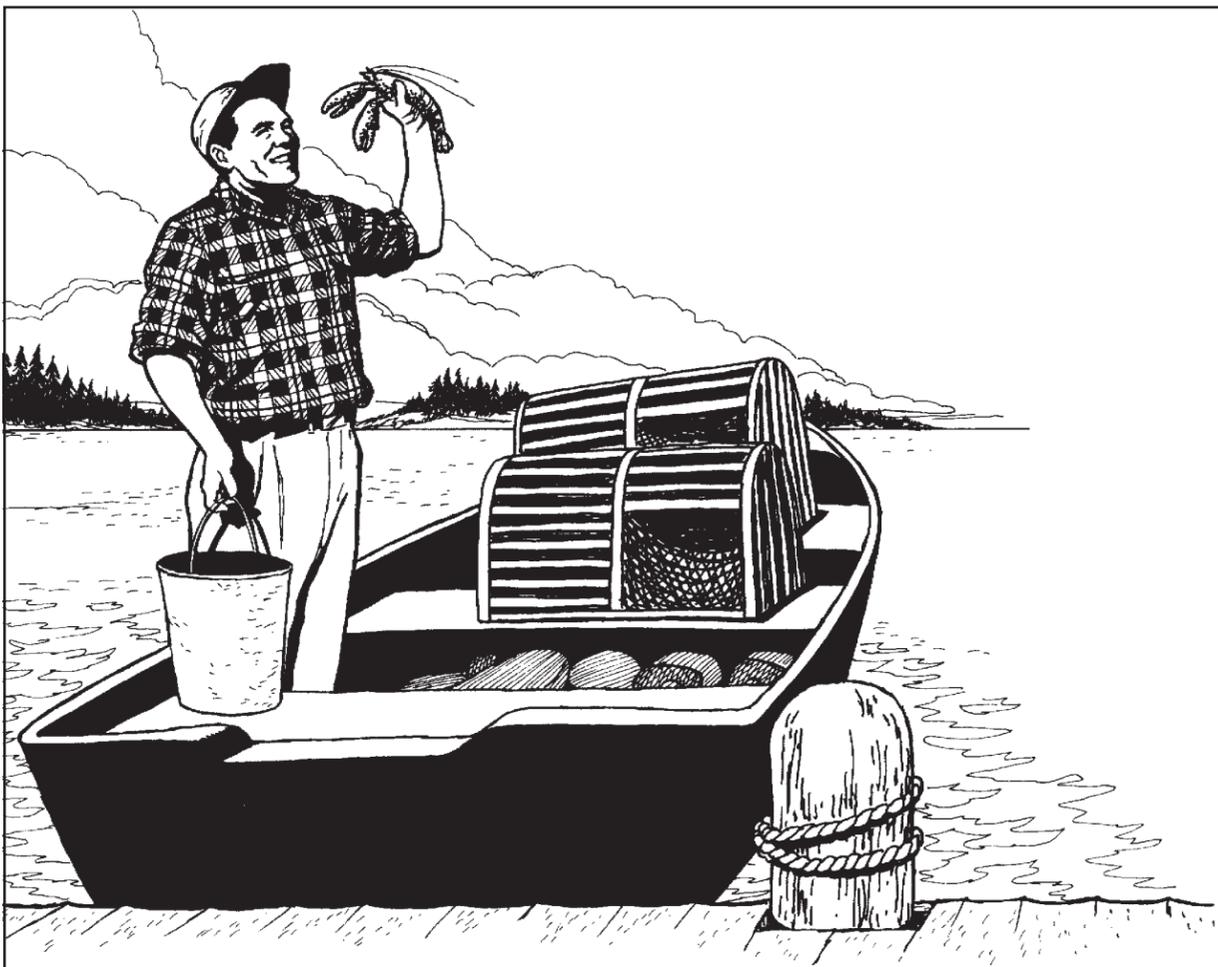
Many of the lobsters we consumed back then were steamed in a kettle over a drift-wood fire at a friend's cottage at Indian Point on Sagadahoc Bay, south of Bath. We'd get the lobsters from a pound at Five Islands and boil them in sea water and seaweed. This was delicious hand-to-mouth food. We cracked the cooked lobsters open with rocks on the rocks. Lobster was never tastier.

Before our lobster feast the bravest of us might go into the bay for a quick swim. The incoming tide was particularly cold so we would usually wait for the outgoing tide waters warmed up a little in the bay inlets.

Our day at the oceanside would end before dusk as that was when the salt-water mosquitoes would come out in droves. One afternoon when we were there to also watch a full solar eclipse, the ensuing weird partial darkness told the mosquitoes it was time to leave their homes in the marshes to sweep the shores for food, human or otherwise. This cut our day short because even with the full afternoon sun re-appearing, the mosquitoes weren't about to go home—they thought they were out for the night. We had no choice but to pack up and go.

At home we usually got lobsters from a pound at Pine Point, part of Scarborough, Maine, also known for their famous Pine Point steamers. One day we saw the lobsterman there getting the tiny, difficult pieces of meat out of the lobster legs, using a home-made device that looked like a pick a locksmith might use. "Can we get one of those devices from you?" we hopefully asked. "Nope," he said. "This is a family secret." And I suspect it still is.

Years later when my wife and I revisited Maine, we stopped at the Five Island lobster pound near Indian point. Heading to the car with two freshly steamed 1½ pound



lobsters, I was attacked by salt marsh mosquitoes. They swarmed over the car, attacking the hood, as if drawn to the engine's warmth. Though we were trapped inside, we still enjoyed our lobsters.

One of our friends had grown up in a lobsterman's family on Cape Elizabeth near Portland. The family was very poor so Gerry (that was her name) would swap home-made lobster rolls for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at school. The family had lobster but could not afford 'luxury' items like jams, jellies and peanut butter!

How many of us would make such a swap today?



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High Mowing Organic Seeds Fall Workshops and Field Walk

High Mowing Organic Seeds in Wolcott, VT is an independently-owned, farm-based seed company dedicated to supporting sustainable agriculture and providing farmers and gardeners with the highest quality certified organic seed. High Mowing Organic Seeds offers over 650 heirloom, open-pollinated and hybrid varieties of vegetable, herb and flower seeds. High Mowing sponsors a number of informative workshops and field walks. Here are some taking place this fall.

Seed Saving Education

Join High Mowing Founder and President, Tom Stearns, as he teaches the art of seed saving this fall. Introduction to Seed Saving takes place Thursday, September 12th, 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, October 19th 10 a.m. to noon.

This two-hour hands-on workshop will provide beginning seed savers with the basics. From planning and planting to harvesting and processing this workshop will build your skills and understanding of saving seed in your own garden or on your farm. This workshop is free and registration is not required.

Hands-on Seed Saving For the Home Gardener & Farmer

This full day intensive seed saving workshop is on Saturday, September 14th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will bring you through every step of the seed saving process. Tour the High Mowing trials fields where you will learn seed saving tips and techniques for various crops. Visit the High Mowing warehouse and lab and learn the most effective and efficient ways to clean seed by hand as well as how to test seeds for germination to ensure the vigor of your crop. This workshop is hands-on and interactive and will include the opportunity for open discussion about the challenges participants are facing saving seed at home.

Presented in partnership with NOFA-VT. Visit www.nofa-vt.org to register or call (802) 434-4122. Fee: \$40.

High Mowing Organic Seeds' Trials Walk

Join High Mowing Organic Seeds on September 15th for a Trials Field Walk for professional growers and home gardeners. This free guided tour from 3:30 to 5 p.m. will highlight some of over 800 vegetable, herb and flower varieties being grown, compared and evaluated in the 4-acre HMS trials garden. The walk will be held at the trials field located on Marsh Rd.

The High Mowing Organic Seeds trials garden serves as a rigorous testing ground for selecting stand-out varieties to offer through their annual seed catalog. Gwenael Engelkirchen, Trials Manager, will lead the walk. Throughout the walk, she will discuss a number of varieties.

For more information contact Koi Boynton at koi@highmowingseeds.com or (802) 472-6174 x144. These workshops will be held at the High Mowing Organic Seeds Trials fields in Wolcott, VT. Visit www.highmowingseeds.com for directions.



photo by High Mowing Organic Seeds
Tom Stearns, President of High Mowing Organic Seeds on a walk with interested gardeners in the Trial Fields.

It's Fair Time In Vermont!

Champlain Valley Fair

Essex Jct., VT • August 24–September 2

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168th Annual Vermont State Fair

Rutland, VT • August 30–September 8

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The Guilford Fair

Guilford, VT • September 1–2

Live music—fiddle, jazz, swing, bluegrass, folk, and more. Horse show, cattle show, crafts, vendors, carnival. 8 am – 5 pm. Off Weatherhead Hollow off Guilford Center Rd. (802) 254-7406. sites.google.com/site/guilfordfairvermont/home.

140th Annual Tunbridge World's Fair

Tunbridge, VT • September 15–18

Free Grandstand. Harness racing; horse, pony & ox pulling. Sheep dog trials, gymkhana. Dairy, ox, goat and sheep shows. Livestock cavalcade, Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, Agricultural exhibits, midway, fair food. (802) 889-5555. www.tunbridgeworldsfair.com.

31st Annual Peru Fair

Peru VT • September 28

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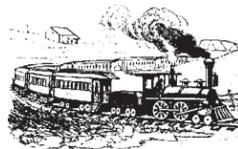
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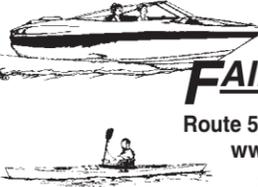
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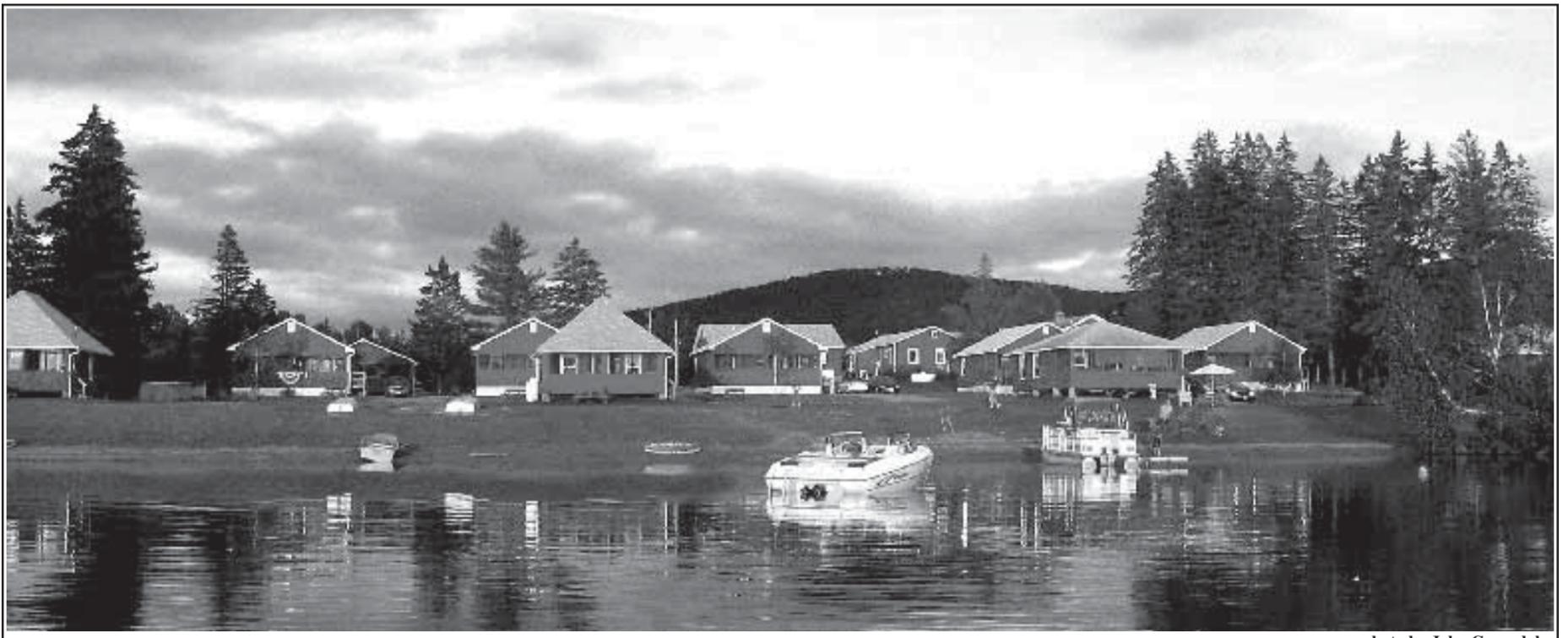
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The cottages line Lake Wallace at Jackson's Lodge in Canaan, VT

photo by John Greendale

Doe Camp—A Backcountry Retreat in Canaan, VT for Adventurous Women!

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& Healing Capacity of Trees and a nine-hour Handgun Personal Defense Course.

Between classes there will be ample free time to explore or just relax on the sandy beach and the evening campfire is always popular. Early morning classes include yoga and birding.

Don't miss the opportunity to receive affordable outdoor education in a stress-free, supportive environment. Cost for the weekend program is \$349. Discounts are available for daily drive ins, camping, mother/daughter teams and girlfriend groups of three or more. Sponsored in part by Jackson's Lodge, Vermont Fish & Wildlife, Vermont Outdoor Guide Association and Waitsfield Telecom.

For more information and to register contact Vermont Outdoors Woman, PO Box 10, North Ferrisburg, VT 05473. Call (802) 425-6211. E-mail vow@voga.org. Visit www.voga.org or www.outdoorswoman.org. For more about Jackson Lodge go to www.jacksonslodgevt.net.

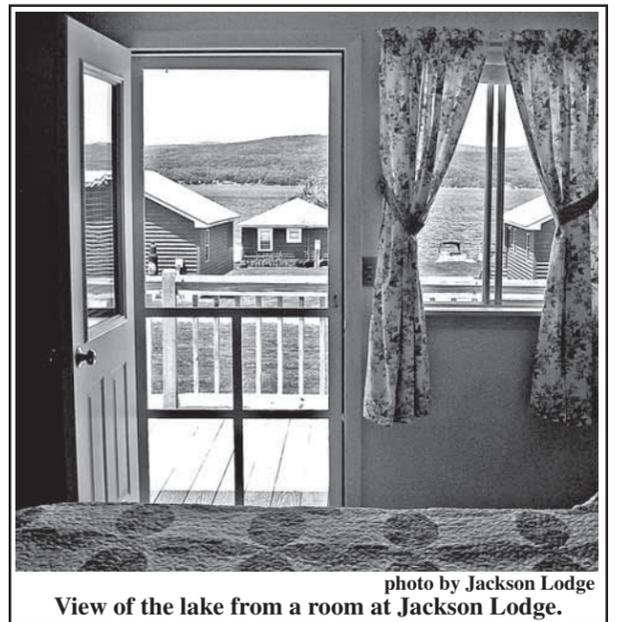


photo by Jackson Lodge

View of the lake from a room at Jackson Lodge.



photo by Hilary Hess

Two friends learn about fly fishing at Doe Camp.



photo by Hilary Hess

Firearm safety and marksmanship class at Doe Camp.





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North Country Book News

Children's Book Review

Llama Llama and the Bully Goat

by Anna Dewdney

(Published by Viking/Penguin Young Readers Group)

This children's story is just in time for back to school and especially for little ones who are new to the school scene.

Many of us can remember unpleasant experiences with bullying, but usually this takes place during childhood when one hasn't learned how to handle or fend off mean, aggressive people.

Some bullies may even believe that is the way to behave as seen portrayed by the mean-spirited Gilroy Goat in this remarkably insightful *Llama Llama* book, the latest in a series of such titled books by gifted writer-illustrator Anna Dewdney.

Readers are introduced to Gilroy Goat who sasses and

picks on the other animals—kitty, rhino, sheep, llama, the gnu Nelly, and giraffe in their pre-K class.

As the story progresses, with colorful action-packed illustrations (some quite amusing considering the serious theme) we see Gilroy tossing toys and sticks, throwing dirt on the others, jeering while the others sing, and calling the llama a 'not-nice name.'

The teacher (a zebra) steps in and in no uncertain terms says calling names is not OK, nor is being mean allowed, and it's time to play nice games. The billy goat bully gets the message and the story ends with all the

animals getting along and being friends. The story is simply told in little verses—easy for very young children to enjoy if read aloud.

The author, who has been a school teacher in Putney, VT, said the *Llama Llama* books have been a 20-year project. She is the mother of two almost-grown girls, lives in a very old house, and has three pet dogs, but

no llamas—unless you count the llamas that live in her enchanting books and certainly in her imagination!

Other titles of this New York Times best-selling author series include *Llama Llama: Red Pajama*; *Mad at Mama*; *Holiday Drama*; *Misses Mama*; *Home with Mama*; *Time to Share*. Her next work will be about *Nellie Gnu*.



Book Review

The Power of Nature

(Aronia Melanocarpa)

by Iwona Wawer

(Published by Mae's Health and Wellness, Omaha, NE)

Don't be surprised someday to see health food stores and other markets offering products made out of Aronia berries also known as chokeberries. These small black, red or purple berries (not to be confused with chokecherries) have a flavorful and tart taste and are rich in vitamins and antioxidants. Billed as a 'superberry' they join more familiar berries known for their health benefits: blueberries, elderberries, currants, cranberries and acai berries.

The author, Iwona Wawer, a Medical University of Warsaw (Poland) scientist and professor, tells us these berries are a major health food staple in Poland where some 15,000 tons of Aronia fruits are produced commercially every year. Poland may be best known for its famous hams and dishes like borsch (beetroot soup), dumplings and cabbage stew, but the author assures us Aronia will become just as popular.

The author explains in detailed technical terms how chemical properties such as antioxidants in these and other fruits are helpful in treating cancers, high blood pressure and their role as anti-bacterial, anti-viral and anti-diabetic agents.

For the home gardeners she recommends planting 2-3 shrubs of the beautiful-flowering Aronia which will produce several pounds of berries in September to add to apples for a low-sugar jam with or for a marmalade with plums. But leave some berries for the birds, she says.

Although the plant is native to northeastern America, most U.S. commercial growers of Aronia berries are now in the Midwest where the Midwest Aronia Association in Omaha, NE sells them in packets of gummy chews or in a concentrate form for adding to smoothies. You can buy them online.

Growers have the advantage that Aronia bushes don't require chemical protection against pathogens, pests and diseases because of their own inherent astringency and disease fighting properties. This might be a good crop to try in Vermont. It likes wet woodlands and swampy areas, and has a short growing season.

The Power of Nature (Aronia Melanocarpa) by Dr. Iwona Wawer can be purchased for \$29.95 from the publisher at (877) 819-6681 or from your bookseller. Visit www.superberries.com.

Misty Valley Books

Michael Palma and the Poetry Of Hoffman, Poe, and Crane

On four Wednesdays beginning September 25, Michael Palma will present another of his prized seminars on poetry at Misty Valley Books, on the Green in Chester, VT. The evenings all begin at 7 p.m. and admission is free.

This time, it is the poetry of Daniel Hoffman, with detours into the work of Edgar Allan Poe and Stephen Crane, that attracts Palma's remarkable attention.

This series is a celebration of the life and work of the outstanding American poet and critic, Daniel Hoffman, who died in April of this year just days before his ninetieth birthday. The first of his many collections, *An Armada of Thirty Whales* (1954), was selected by W. H. Auden for the prestigious Yale Series of Younger Poets. In the 1970s, Hoffman served as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, the position now known as Poet Laureate of the United States. As part of the tribute to his achievements, there will also be discussions of the poetry of two classic American writers, Edgar Allan Poe and Stephen Crane, who were the subjects of definitive book-length studies by Hoffman.

Best known as the author of superb horror stories and as the creator of the detective story, Poe (1809-1849) is also renowned for such poems as "To Helen," "Annabel Lee," and "The Raven." Widely admired for his Civil War novel *The Red Badge of Courage*, Crane (1871-1900) published two volumes of striking and often bitter free-verse poems in the 1890s.

The discussions will conclude with a consideration of the poetry of Daniel Hoffman himself, who continued to produce first-rate work almost to the very end of his life.

Misty Valley Books is located on the Green in Chester, VT. For more information, call (802) 875-3400 or visit www.mvbooks.com.



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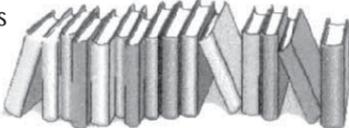
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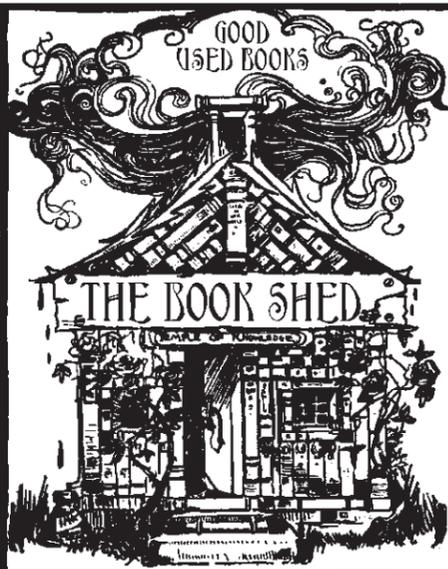
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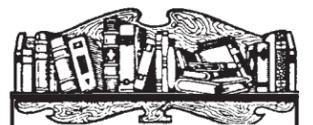
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A Dog Walks into a Nursing Home

Lessons in The Good Life from an Unlikely Teacher

by Sue Halpern

(Published by Riverhead Books—Penguin Group)

Some of us will spend the end of our lives being looked after in a nursing home or similar facility. This sensitive and touching story about a group of Vermont people in such circumstances is told through the experiences of therapy dog Pransky, a female poodle-golden lab mix and her ever-vigilant owner-trainer Sue Halpern. Sue sums up that on-going experience for those with advancing years with the observation and phrase: "Old age is not for sissies."

She and her companion dog have in fact been cheering up and giving solace to residents at the County Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center every Tuesday for the past five years. (The real name of the facility and its residents have been changed to respect their privacy).

County have two wings: one for temporary residents who are recovering from surgeries, accidents or non life-threatening illnesses; the other—where Sue and Pransky spend their time—is for those who have terminal illnesses, either physical, mental or both, and this would be their final home.

The residents have differing backgrounds, education, income, and careers, but now they all share one thing in common on equal terms—the end-of-life experience. They bring with them a few family photos, mementoes and some personal possessions for their new life in a single nursing home room.

Therapy dog brings joy

A visit from Sue and Pransky is much anticipated and appreciated for the magical moments they bring into a daily not-too-joyful routine. Many of the residents had had dogs and now enjoy the chance to play with Pransky as best they can from a wheelchair or up on the bed.

Amazingly, some residents can easily recall their dog's name and things that the dog did, but have trouble remembering the family whose photographs are on the wall or bureau.

There was one only married couple there—the Carters, both nearing 90 years old. Sue writes: "I marveled at their ability to live together in such a small space that cohabiting seemed to make smaller. They had gone from a trailer (on a hard-scrabble farm) to an apartment to this, their whole life condensed into a single square room, a diorama of married life." Not lacking in a sense of humor, Mr. Carter once said: "At eighty-nine, when you wake up in the morning, you're not sure if you want to be alive or dead."

Pransky liked the couple and even more so when Mr. Carter made an effort to get to a cupboard where dog biscuits were stored. Pransky could count on three.

Mrs. Carter called Pransky "eye whiskers," but then later "itches" indicating her memory problems were deteriorating as was her weight and general health. Then suddenly they were gone—Mr. Carter to the memory-care unit and his wife to a different nursing home to be closer to her daughter.

Happy moments

Sue and Pransky are sometimes at the bedside of a dying person. These experiences are especially difficult if both she and the dog have made friends with the dying person. They stay the course, no matter how emotionally and physically draining the situation is, as we see in Grace's final moments.

Grace had been giving Pransky hot-dog shaped biscuits and would often reminisce about living on a farm and in particular the happy times riding atop her big Belgian draft horse named Cadillac Kate. But now as life is fading away, Sue writes:

"...I gave her the nod and she (Pransky) climbed over the rail into the bed. She did not turn three times before sliding down, but

simply burrowed in alongside Grace. One of Grace's children lifted her mother's arm and put it around Pransky's middle. Grace's moaning and writhing did not stop but slowed down, and I swear she lifted a single eyelid and trained it on the warm steady presence next to her, then closed it again."

Even though Grace kept crashing into Pransky, "she lay there with equanimity...if not heroic, then noble." Later at home, she "burrows into her bed, not asleep, not stirring, either. She was spent."

The author was curious about whether the residents would have spiritual awakenings, or in simpler terms "Find God." She learned this wasn't the case—that the habit of religion remained, but interestingly, people of different religious backgrounds enjoyed going to in-house services no matter what the ideology was. They enjoyed singing the hymns and hearing the homilies. Sue became aware of how a spiritual life could continue to evolve and be helpful through her contact

Book Review by Charles Sutton

with Ani who late in life had become a novice in a Buddhist nunnery. Although dying of cancer, "she was full of life, still curious, and still reaching out with what seemed to be youthful vigor."

A few weeks later she came across Ani's obituary with a photograph of her sitting in her maroon robe, smiling, and blowing soap bubbles. The obit said "she had a strong belief that life does not end when the physical body dies, but instead, begins another journey."

Pransky may not have known that her new friends at County were gone forever, but Sue writes, "I came to believe that she knew they were dying, and with a nod of permission knew what to do...she was doing the one thing she could do, which was to provide the comfort of her body—its heft, its warmth and its softness—at the moment when those women were most alone."

Friendly to all

Sue was often amazed that Pransky was so "non-judgmental" about the people and their situations, as if that didn't matter or was of no consequence.

"What Pransky could do and I could not, yet, was meet people exactly where they were (disabled, jolly, mute, demented, frail, lonely, tired, chatty) without a moment's hesitation, and that was a gift." She brought a very young girl with her one day who had the same gift of relating to the person and not the frailty.

She had her own fright with the possible loss of a 'family' member when Pransky got seriously ill. It turned out to be an intestinal tract infection and later cysts between her toes from a change in her diet. After several unnerving trips to the vet, Pransky was well again for nursing home visits.

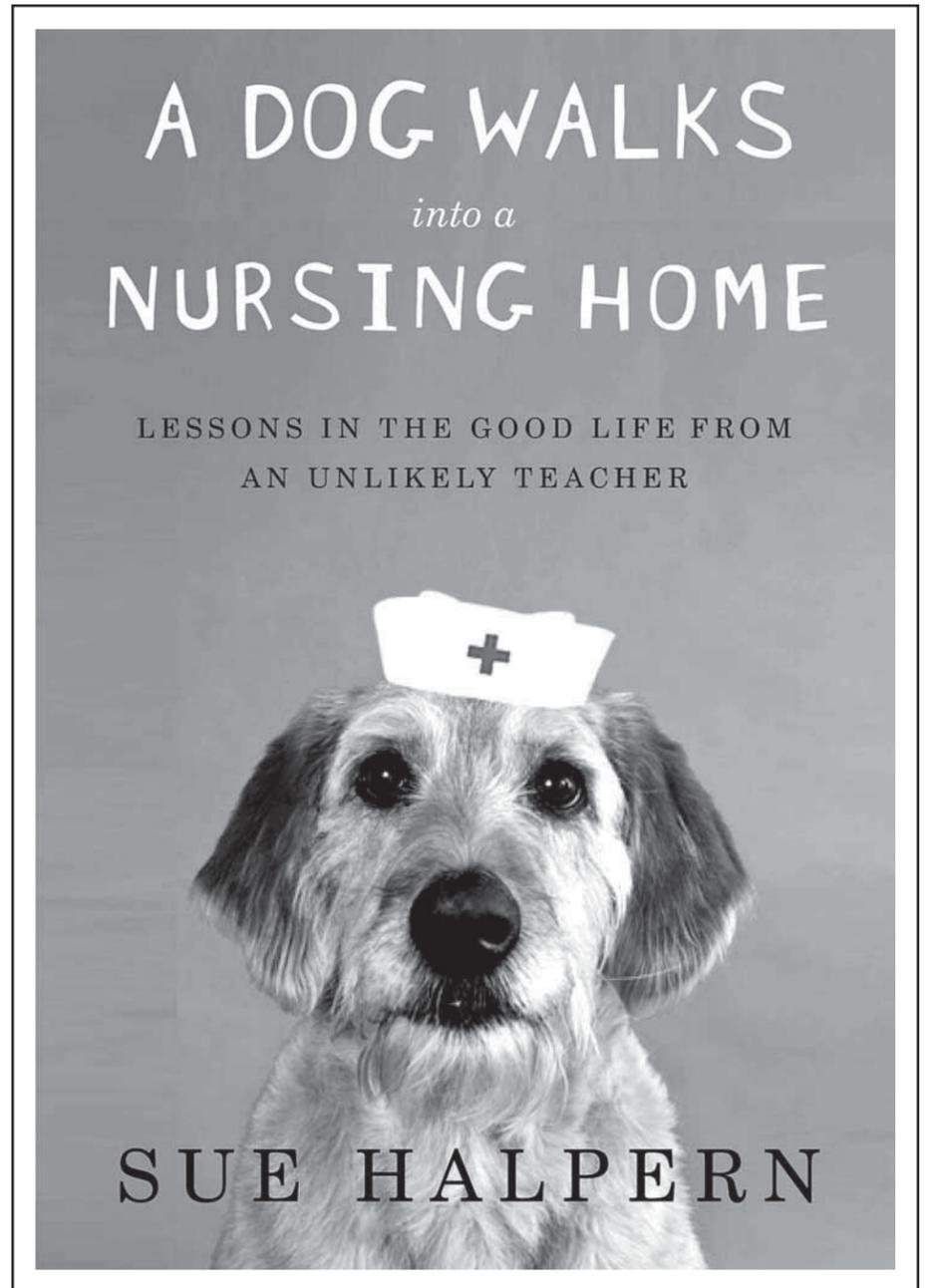
As with some humans, Sue sees a resilience in Pransky which grows stronger with time and experience, as she rises to the occasion and figures out what she has to offer.

Sue told us some of the residents written up in the book are still alive, and some have been reading her book. The book has prompted another therapy dog and trainer to come there with a possible third team on the way.

One may wonder how Pransky could maintain so much self-control week after week.

Well, there was just one time when a 'dog had to be a dog.' A minister had brought a live lamb to help set the scene for an Easter sermon. Pransky couldn't help herself and gave chase, much to the delight and amusement of the residents lined up in wheelchairs. The event made their day, neither man nor beasts were injured and all ended well, albeit a difficult time for the minister and Sue.

Other than this lamb-herding event, Pransky is able to keep her cool. Consider



how well she behaved when a frail, deaf and elderly Dottie seated in her wheelchair was given the leash and 'took' Pransky for a walk outdoors.

A concerned Sue gave voice commands and told Pransky in no uncertain terms: no chasing pigeons, squirrels or other dogs. This became a weekly adventure that made Dottie so happy, and was admired by the other residents. It lasted for a year before she became too ill and frail to do it anymore.

One day Sue and Pransky happened into room where they were not expected, but that chance meeting seemed to point up what a wonderful gift they were giving, even by coincidence, to so many in distress. Sometimes, remarkably, the gift was to them, too.

The gift goes both ways

Such was the case with Caroline, a woman of indeterminate age whose long, wispy hair—more brown than gray—was done up in a French braid. She was disappearing "gram by gram, yet she hung on, as if to demonstrate the body was unnecessary to life itself."

Sue was concerned that Pransky by accident might injure such a frail being so she sat extra close to her and only then could hear what Caroline said. And what a surprise—Caroline had a wry sense of humor and was a keen observer of the world around her. And even more impressive she had an other worldly ability to see through the essence of things.

One of County's long-time residents was Clyde who grew tomatoes in the yard behind the facility, and being a lady's man, gave beautiful ripe ones to some of the lady residents who probably were secretly pleased but embarrassed by this show of courtship. "Never mind that he wore Coke-bottle glasses, and had trouble seeing and walking, never mind that his frame had shrunk and this spine had curves...Clyde was a dreamer—to

him the nursing home might as well have been the county jail, and he was convinced that through his cunning and good looks he would escape, and half the time he could convince you it was true."

Chapter headings for her book—Restraint, Prudence, Faith, Fortitude, Hope, Love and Charity—carry similar messages and reflect the author's ability to intertwine philosophical ideas about death and dying.

If your dog is gentle and well-behaved, you, too, might consider volunteering in a nursing home. A chapter is devoted to the training needed—it's not easy—trainer and dog also still have to pass a no-nonsense test.

A Dog Walks into a Nursing Home is a must for anyone bound for such a place, or by those planning to place a family member there. If you are lucky the home will be like County described in this book where there will be loving and dedicated care. Find one that has regular visits from a dog like Pransky—that's the best therapy, yet!

Sue Halpern is the author of five previous books. A former Rhodes Scholar and Guggenheim Fellow, she and her husband, environmentalist and writer Bill McKibben, are scholars in residence at Middlebury College. She, Bill, and daughter Sophia share their home with Pransky.

A Dog Walks Into A Nursing Home—Lessons in The Good Life from an Unlikely Teacher by Sue Halpern is available at your bookseller for \$29.95 (paper \$12.99) or can be ordered from riverheadbooks.com.



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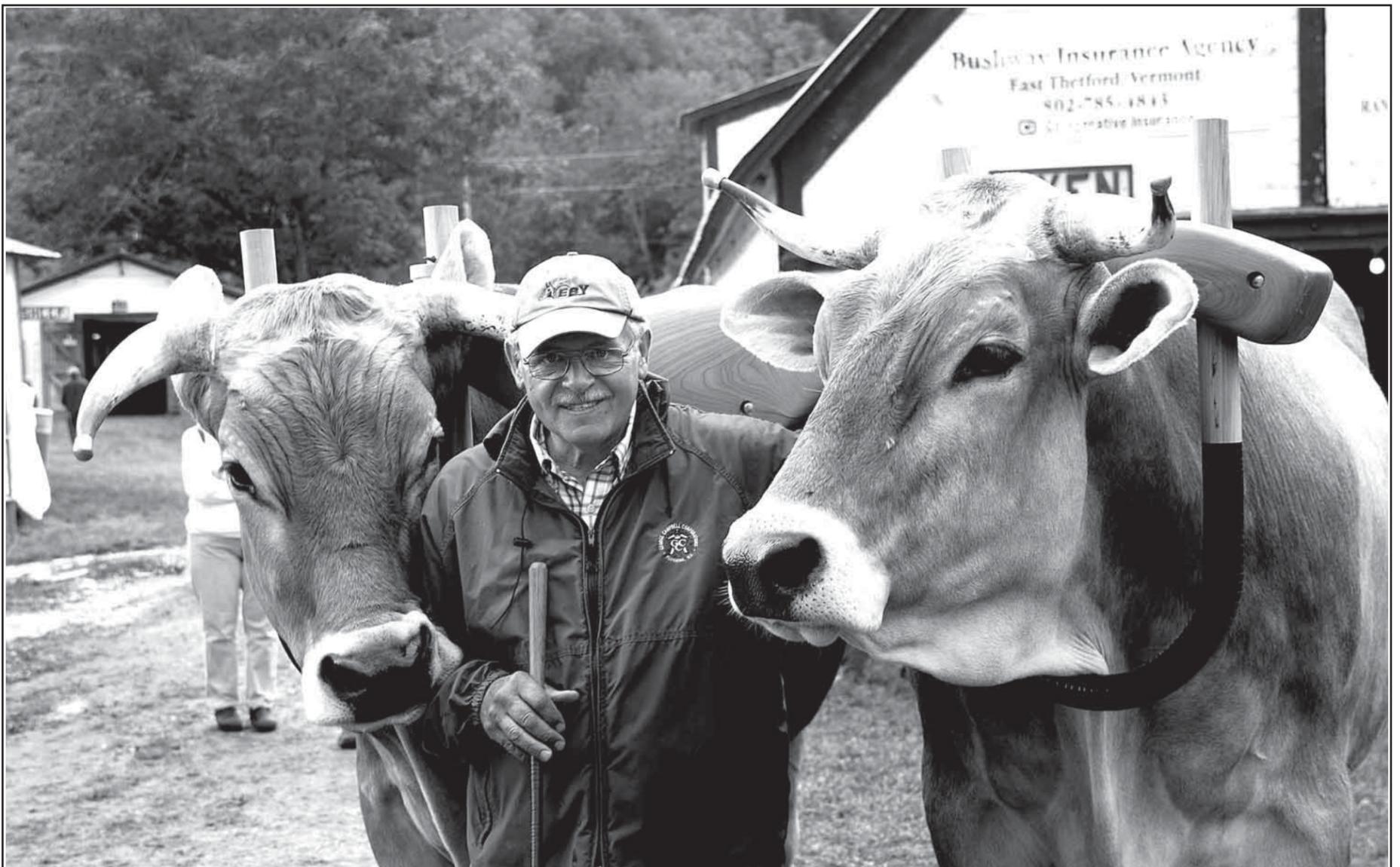
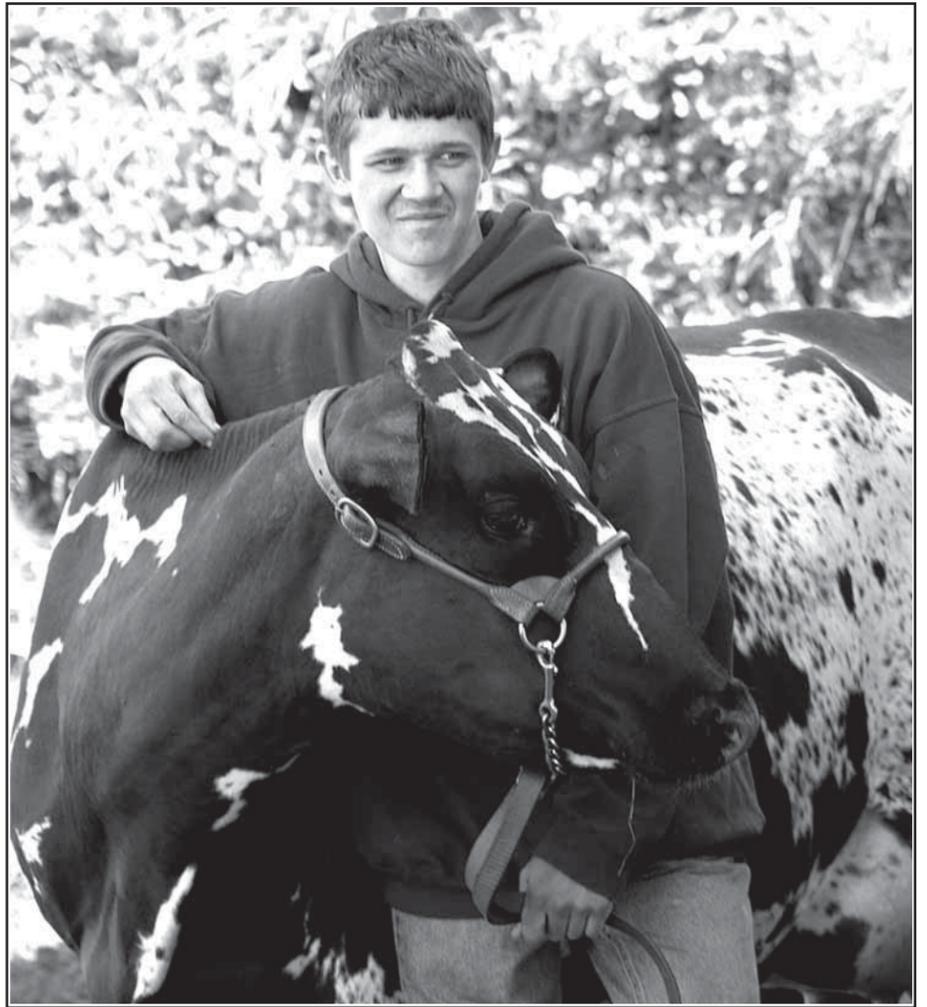
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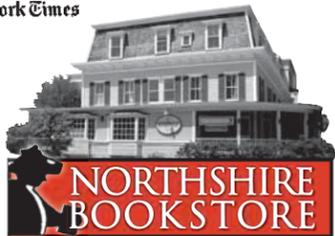


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A young exhibitor with her Holstein calf at Tunbridge Fair. photo by Nancy Cassidy

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Country Woman

Have you picked up a quince to smell it
And thought of grape jam on cellar shelves,
Of honey, brown eggs in water glass,
Of the braided bulbs of garlic and onion
Hung from the rafter?

There is sage and bay in the autumn wind,
There are apples that have not dropped from the bough,
Red withering brown in the smoke and the haze.
The cows are slow to pull at the frost-grey grass;
There was ice on the pond last night.

The city is miles away.
The quince in your hand
Is warm as a grandmother's cheek.

—BEREN VAN SLYKE

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