

SUMMER 2011 | Volume 11, No. 2

# WOODSTOCK

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## *Summer Spectacular*

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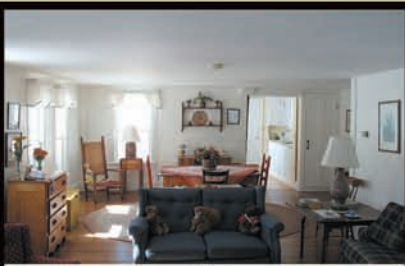
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### WOODSTOCK

On the edge of the village, this seldom found property on 7.67+- beautiful acres consists of antique main residence, separate artist's studio, detached garage with apartment suitable for caretaker, guests of income. Walk to village center. **\$1,650,000.**



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Pleasingly simple cape updated and remodeled to preserve its antique character and charm. On 56+- acres of land sited to look over its fields and spring-fed pond. In the heart of horse country and 3 miles to GMHA in So. Woodstock. **\$679,000.**



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### WOODSTOCK

Contemporary cape on 9.1+- acres with beautiful westerly views over the valley. Dramatic great room with fireplace, gourmet kitchen, family room, comfortable family quarters, 3 car attached garage with apartment, guest house and much more. Spectacular. **\$1,695,000.**



### WOODSTOCK VILLAGE

Recently remodeled Victorian era home on .3+- acres offers spacious rooms, high ceilings, and abundant character and charm. Private second level deck and enclosed front porch for enjoyment in all seasons. An easy walk into the village. **\$469,000.**




### HARTLAND

An extremely unusual parcel of 86+- acres of open and wooded land located on the edge of Hartland Village with opportunity for development of several home sites with proper permits, or for a single substantial residential property. Running stream on the property and easily accessible to the Upper Valley as well as points north and south via Interstate 91. **\$575,000.**




### WOODSTOCK

Originally a creamery barn for the local dairy, grandfathered office status allows this barn conversion on .21 acres to be used as an office with proper permits, or it could be reconfigured into an imaginative residence. Village edge location and affordable. **\$175,000.**



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### SOUTH WOODSTOCK

Constructed with antique timbers and clean contemporary surfaces, this eclectic home on .71+- acres is presently designed for use as two apartments with connecting elevator. Walk to post office and general store. Minutes to Green Mt. Horse Assn. **\$519,000.**



### READING

Meticulously constructed oak post and beam cape on 10.3+- acres with abundant built-ins and a high level of interior finish. Set back from the road with swimming pond and private lawns. Included is a 5-stall barn with fenced pasture and run-in shelter. Horse lovers take note! **\$447,000.**



### SOUTH WOODSTOCK LAND

40+- acres of lightly wooded land with change in elevation from 1400 ft. to 1700 ft. and local views possible with clearing. Situated beside a major trail used by GMHA and easily accessible along a quiet gravel town maintained road. **\$139,000.**



### POMFRET

A spacious home on 12.09+- acres sited to capture dramatic southerly views overlooking Suicide Six Ski Area. Easy walk to Teago Store, and an easy drive to Woodstock Village as well as to Silver Lake in Barnard. Wonderful home for all seasons. **\$447,000.**



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**Woodstock** • 1810 Colonial and carriage barn has antique elegance befitting its age. The thoroughly renovated property offers private guest quarters, an artist studio, and lovely "River Room" overlooking the lawns and Mt. Tom. \$2,750,000



**Woodstock** • Custom mountain home with all the best amenities: gourmet kitchen, cathedral ceilings, central vac, propane fireplace and open floor plan blend the main living spaces. Private, on 2+ acres within a half mile of the village. \$795,000



**South Woodstock** • Charming 4 BR antique Cape on 1.24 acres bordering the Kedron Brook, with waterfalls. Located in an historic village, it's a short walk to the country store, inn, post office and events at GMHA. \$339,000



**Woodstock** • Elegant individual style home on 8 private acres with spectacular views, landscaping and waterfall. Meticulously renovated reflecting the highest quality of finishes, featuring gourmet kitchen and new master suite. \$1,850,000

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*BY MEG BRAZILL*







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Above, **Flip Flops** in new **Watercolor**. Right, **Beach Towels** in new **English Meadow**, **Watercolor** & **Vera la Vera**

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Woodstock boasts many beautiful flower gardens. Photo by Lynn Bohannon.

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# Summer Splendor



Photo by Ian Ray Mond

After a long, dreary winter and an extremely soggy spring, it's wonderful to welcome a bright, sunny season filled with color. Members of the Woodstock Garden Club are passionate about their gardens, and we're lucky enough to be invited to four homes to experience the beauty and find inspiration for our own backyards (page 28). Sara Widness is our guide, and Lynn Bohannon's top-notch photography captures these spectacular areas. Our beautiful cover photo is just one example of Lynn's breathtaking work.

Take in more wonders of the outdoors by discovering the Faulkner Trail. Writer Jen Parsons has studied its history and reveals the story on page 65 of how Mari- anne Faulkner came to Woodstock and set aside the trail and park in memory of

her husband. A new marker is set to be dedicated later this summer, and more information about that is available from the Woodstock Historical Society. Many thanks to the good people there for their help in uncovering some interesting old photos of Mrs. Faulkner and her home.

While you're out and about this summer, stop in at the Trap Door Bakehouse & Café in Quechee for a delicious lunch or a freshly baked pastry and coffee enjoyed out on the spacious patio. Chef Theo's menu of treats made from local ingredients is sure to please (page 43). In this issue we're also visiting the Blue Horse Inn, which has been given new life by owners Keri Cole and Anna Haas Kolchinsky (page 54). If you're not able to spend the weekend, at least stop in for one of their evenings of live classical music. You may also want to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Killington Wine Festival over the weekend of July 22-24, where you can sample wines from around the world while you learn about them (page 20).

Wherever your travels take you this summer, it's always good to get back home, where *Woodstock Magazine* will continue to bring you the interesting people and places in the area. Enjoy!

*Deborah Thompson*

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Executive Editor  
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## Our Contributors



Lynn Bohannon

Lynn Bohannon is a photographer with a studio in Woodstock, where she loves to photograph and create. Her specialties are people and products, but her current passion is flowers. Among her favorite things to do are kayaking, cross-country skiing, and being the number-one groupie for her daughter's band.



Carol Carter

Carol Carter, a retired news reporter, writes from her home in Claremont, New Hampshire. For 36 years, she was a photojournalist with *The Union Leader* and *New Hampshire Sunday News*. Her column, "From God, With Love," appeared biweekly for 18 years. She enjoys gardening, writing, and exploring roads less traveled.

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Jen Parsons

Jen Parsons graduated from the University of Vermont's Master of Science Program in Historic Preservation in December 2010. Her article on the Faulkner Trail is a result of a research internship she conducted over the previous summer for the Woodstock Trails Partnership to complete her coursework. This summer, she is looking forward to restoring a 1965 Scotty Gaucho "canned ham" camper as a hands-on preservation project.



Audrey Richardson

Audrey Richardson lives in Woodstock with her husband and two young daughters. Formerly, Audrey was a high school English teacher, but she took time off to raise her children. Currently she is a freelance writer and also runs an SAT tutoring business.





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# Around & About

BY CASSIE HORNER

## History in Bloom

*Photos courtesy  
of Woodstock  
Historical Society*

The Woodstock Historical Society is helping celebrate the town's 250th anniversary with History in Bloom, a walking tour on Saturday, June 25, from 11am to 3pm, of some of the village's beautiful gardens and an exhibit of floral arrangements complementing some of the Dana House Museum's dress and art collections. This event is perfect for a summer's day in June and gives people a chance to see five private gardens as well as the gardens at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park and the Woodstock Historical Society.

History in Bloom is dedicated to the memory of Betty Emmons, a longtime supporter of the Woodstock Historical Society. Her ancestors were



*Above: A view of the former gardens behind the Woodstock Historical Society on Elm Street.*

*Below: The Woodstock Historical Society's gardens today.*







members of the Dana family, whose home became the society's headquarters. The evening of Friday, June 24, from 6pm to 8pm, a reception will be held at the Dana House Museum on Elm Street. There will be wine and hors d'oeuvres, and Emmons's wedding gown will be on display for the evening. Jack Anderson, director of the Woodstock Historical Society, will speak about this woman who was an important part of the Woodstock and Pomfret communities for many years. The \$50 fee includes a ticket for the garden tour and exhibits on Saturday.

One of the private homes on the garden tour Saturday, June 25, is known as the Kidder-Lightbourn House. This historic home was once the site of extensive gardens on the spacious grounds extending to the Kedron Brook. The current owners are following landscape plans from 1931 to recreate some of the garden designs.

In the Dana House Museum, floral arrangements designed and created by Upper Valley florists will be displayed. Some of the pieces to be displayed include an Empire gown from the 1820s and a painting of Vermont's Morgan horse "Figure." There will also be an exhibit of dresses representing the 19th and 20th centuries.

Tickets for the garden tour and exhibits on Saturday are \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the event. For tickets and more information, call (802) 457-1822 or visit the Woodstock Historical Society's website at [www.woodstockhistorical.org](http://www.woodstockhistorical.org).



*Above right: Clara Sipprell photo of Ellen Kidder, previous owner of the Kidder-Lightbourn House on Elm Street, which will be on the tour.*

*Right: Kidder-Lightbourn House garden blueprints from 1931. The present owners are adapting these plans to design their garden.*







*Above: Linnea Thompson at the loom known as Miss Mary's, which is used at GMPA. The group restored it to working order last spring.*

*Inset: Balls of yarn.*

## Fiber Arts Showcase

*Photos by Hunter Melville*

Spinning, knitting, quilting, weaving—these are just a few of the arts that generations of people in New England depended on to make everything from rugs to clothing. The Green Mountain Perkins Academy in South Woodstock is shining the spotlight on these four traditional skills and many more with its Fiber Arts Showcase on Saturday, June 25, from 2pm to 5pm.

The event, free to the public (dona-



*Mary Fullerton McCuaig at the spinning wheel, which is a Saxony wool or flax wheel.*






*Another view of Miss Mary's loom.*

tions are welcome), brings together the historic artifacts in the academy and the people who perpetuate these arts today. Seven demonstrations will take place: the four mentioned previously, plus making bobbin lace, braided rugs, and hooked rugs.

Two of the demonstrators on hand will be fiber artists Pamela Thompson Darrow and Lois Wood Robbins, both graduates of Woodstock Union High School, who live, respectively, in Massachusetts and Michigan. Both of them have sheep and will be bringing antique spinning wheels to showcase that art.

In addition to the fiber arts demonstrations, Deb Donahue, trail manager of nearby Green Mountain Horse Association, will bring sheep and a working dog, and Phyllis Wood of South

Woodstock will be playing one of the old pianos in the museum. Mary Fullerton McCuaig, president of the Green Mountain Perkins Academy, is a relative of Miss Mary Fullerton, a graduate of the school in 1890. On display for the day courtesy of Polly Fullerton will be a rug made by Miss Mary on a loom owned by the museum.

The Fiber Arts Showcase kicks off the Green Mountain Perkins Academy's summer season. The academy will be open July and August, from 2pm to 5pm, and by appointment. They are also hosting a performance by the Newmont Military Band on Saturday, August 6 at 3:30pm. For more information about these events, visit [www.greenmountainperkinsacademy.org](http://www.greenmountainperkinsacademy.org). 



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## Bookstock

“We’re the literary festival of the Upper Valley,” says Peter Rousmaniere, chair of Bookstock. In its third year, the event takes place Friday, July 29, through Sunday, July 31, in Woodstock. This three-day event where books are king is the biggest ever, with over 20 featured authors of local and national acclaim. There will be readings, talks, interactive programs, workshops, live music performances, new and gently used books for sale, children’s activities, and other cultural events.

The village green is the hub of activities that take place at a variety of venues. “We’ve collaborated with more cultural and nonprofit organizations,” says Rousmaniere. “We have a very strong array of speakers for young kids and for adults interested in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.”

The keynote speaker on Saturday, July 30, at 10am at the Woodstock Town Hall will be Thomas Powers, author of *The Killing of Crazy Horse*, which was praised by the *New York Times*. He is the author of many other books and won a Pulitzer Prize in national reporting in 1971. In the poetry realm, nationally renowned poet Sharon Olds will take the stage. Other poets participating include David Budbill, Cleopatra Mathis, and Wesley McNair. In the mystery genre, Vermont’s own Archer Mayor will be on hand to showcase his beloved detective, Joe Gunther, star of his books. Vermont author, agent, and editor Sally Brady will read from her new memoir.

All of the events are free. For details and a schedule of events, visit [www.bookstockvt.org](http://www.bookstockvt.org). 📖



*Archer Mayor, well-known Vermont mystery writer.*



*Keynote speaker Thomas Powers. Photo by Amanda Gellatly.*








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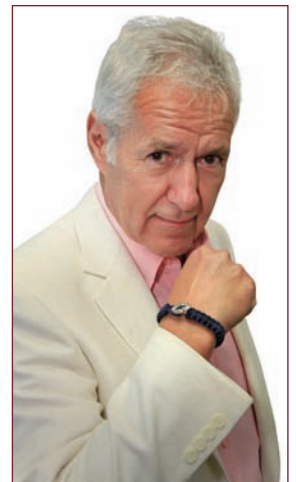
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"We are very pleased to partner with Elliott Newman in support of this unifying cause," says Niels Christiansen, CEO of Lovelinks America, the Massachusetts company behind the national campaign. "From Soldier to Soldier is neither pro- nor antiwar. It is pro our young men and women who put their lives on the line for our country and make horrific sacrifices. It is about the survival, friendship, and commitment symbolized by these bracelets."

The bracelets are braided by soldiers using parachute cord. They are known as survival bracelets because they can be unraveled and the cord can be used for many purposes in a pinch. They are also exchanged among the soldiers as friendship bracelets. Often a uniform button is sewn on and used as the clasp. The designer version has a sterling silver clasp shaped like a uniform button and is extremely tightly braided. Sterling silver and gold-plated sterling silver heart clasps with and without a small diamond are also available. The button clasp symbolizes the uniform. The clasped bracelet symbolizes the bond among the soldiers that can never be broken. To some, each knot in the bracelet symbolizes a fallen hero.

For more information, visit [www.fromsoldiertosoldier.org](http://www.fromsoldiertosoldier.org). Pick up a bracelet at Elliott Newman Estate and Fine Jewelry, 12b Central Street, Woodstock, Vermont. (802) 457-2344, [www.elliottnewman.com](http://www.elliottnewman.com). 











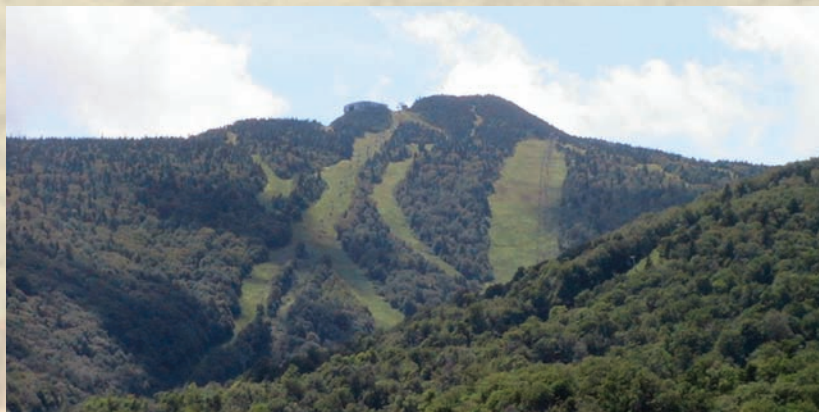
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*Here's*  
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*L*ast July I drove up to Killington with my friend, Joni Cole. It was one of those summer days when you know you live in a piece of paradise, and you're willing to let a few people in on a secret. Killington Mountain is known affectionately in ski circles as "The Beast of the East" for its vertical challenge. The secret? Come summertime, the beast becomes a beauty. That afternoon, we were driving up the mountain for the Killington Wine Festival, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. »







With a brilliant sky overhead, the view just kept getting better as we drove up the mountain. Our first stop was at the K-1 Base Lodge, where we could see the merrymaking in full swing under the tent. At the entrance, Joni and I each picked up a wine glass, a wine guidebook, and a keepsake burgundy-red cloth bag to carry them in. The guidebook offered plenty of room for taking notes on all the wines, plus information about where to obtain them. Later, our notes would help us retrace our steps to see if our favorite wines still held the same interest the first taste had promised.

### **From Popping the Cork to On the Green**

The weekend kicks off on Friday evening with an Estate Wine Tasting at Killington Grand Hotel, followed by the Pop the Cork Wine Party with live entertainment. On Saturday afternoon, the Grand Wine





Tasting is launched at the K-1 Base Lodge and moves up the mountain via a gondola ride to the Peak. On Sunday, there's a Bubbly Brunch at a restaurant on Killington Road and Wine & Nine, an afternoon of golf at the Green Mountain National Golf Course. Throughout the weekend, area restaurants and inns including Birch Ridge Inn, the Vermont Inn, and Red Clover Inn offer special food and wine pairings so the party can continue over dinner and dessert.

### Perfect Pairs

Back under the big white tent at the K-1 Base Lodge, food purveyors and restaurants catered to our stomachs. It's a delicate balance—not letting the food take over the wine or vice versa. Cabot Creamery's ched-



dar brought just the right amount of bite to accompany the wines. On the Rocs (Killington) and Hawk Inn and Mountain Resort (Plymouth) provided inspired treats from their restaurant menus, rousing us to make dinner reservations. And then there were the chocolates from That's Different Chocolates. Their scrumptious chocolate bark, spicy chocolates, and fresh strawberries dipped in chocolate paired perfectly with different wines.

### Aging Like a Fine Wine

The Killington Chamber of Commerce has been presenting The Killington Wine Festival every year for the past decade. Bill Vines, the Chamber board member responsible for the festival, said the idea arose when the board began talking about summer events in Killington. "We were interested in creating an event that would pair food and wine, and provide a nice weekend in the mountains for adults."

"People think of Killington as covered in snow," Vines said. "They're amazed at how nice the surroundings are in summer—and how relaxing it is to just be on the mountain." The wine festival gives people a wonderful excuse to come up here in the summer—not that they need one. This year, more than 40 wineries and distributors will present over 400 wines. Last year, more than 500 people tasted wines from around the world. I intended to





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### Festival Events

#### FRIDAY

##### *Estate Wine Tasting*

An exclusive event sampling estate and reserve wine selections from the world's leading wine makers at the Killington Grand Hotel.

##### *Pop the Cork Wine Party*

Meet vintners and wine representatives behind some of the wines being sampled over the weekend. Enjoy live entertainment, an extensive wine bar, and light hors d'oeuvres.

#### SATURDAY

##### *Grand Tasting at 4,241'*

Sample 400 wines with Killington Peak as a backdrop.

Start your sampling adventure at the K-1 Gondola base under a festive tent. Ride the K-1 Gondola to the top of Killington for scenic views of the Green Mountains.

#### SUNDAY

##### *Bubbly Brunch*

Enjoy a world-class brunch at Wally's Restaurant on Killington Road while sampling sparkling wines from across the globe.

##### *Wine and Nine*

Close out the Killington Wine Festival weekend with a special golf outing at the Green Mountain National Golf Course in Killington, voted Vermont's #1 public course by *Golf Digest*. Enjoy specially selected "golf friendly" wines, 9 holes of golf with friends (scramble format, cart included), a light dinner, and awards based upon your prowess on the links.

#### ALL WEEKEND

*Other Tasting Events:* Enjoy a welcome party complete with live music, great giveaways, a wine tasting dinner, and more!

### Winners of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Killington Wine Festival

*Best White:* Danese Pinot Grigio presented by Pazzione Wine Imports

*Best Red:* Francis Ford Coppola Diamond Collection Claret

*Honorable Mention:* Pine Ridge Napa Cabernet  
2007 Falesco Ferentano.





sample as many as reasonable, but even committing to just a sip, it became clear I'd only sample some of these wines. Instead, I opted for a second taste of those that appealed to me most.

### From Argentina to California to Killington Peak

We started off sampling white wines, and then moved to the reds, switching between the varietals and the blends. I wanted to explore different regions from Argentina to New Zealand, and to dive into domestic American wines, which made a strong showing from up and down the California coast to Washington State. And I wanted to save a taste for the fragrant varieties of sake and the sweet, wooded flavors of cider that added both local and international dimensions to the festival. We made notes as we went, and then headed out into the bright sunshine for the K-1 Gondola ride to the 4,241-foot summit—about an eight-minute ride to the top. The view was spectacular, and when we arrived, the tasting continued at the Killington Peak Restaurant with its awe-inspiring vistas.

At the Peak, I was drawn right away to the bottles from the Francis Ford Coppola Winery. The director of such movies as *Apocalypse Now*, *The Cotton Club*, and *The Godfather*, Coppola has brought his outsized vision to wine. After spending decades as



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a vintner in Napa, California, he opened his own winery in Sonoma County in 2010. These days his reputation as a vintner is perhaps as great as his legendary filmmaking, at least in California.

I held out my glass for the Coppola Winery's Moscato, described as "a bright, juicy rosé enlivened by flavors of apricots, lime zest, and cloves." My palate is not quite that discerning, but it was good, very good. I'm normally drawn to the deeper reds, but this was a rosé I could take home and love. Joni had just tasted the Sofi a Blanc de Blancs, a light sparkling wine. There are several wines in the Sofi a family, named after Coppola's daughter. From my first taste, I was smitten. The Coppola Winery describes the Blanc de Blancs as one of their most popular, a favorite for parties and weddings. I gave it a big thumbs up.

We also tasted the Rosé and the Riesling from the Sofi a Collection. The Rosé lived up to its description as easy sipping on a lazy afternoon; I could imagine the Riesling paired with Asian or spicy foods.

Joni and I made notes in our tasting guides and moved on to the food provid-



ed courtesy of the Killington Chamber of Commerce. Black River Produce, known for a commitment to local and fresh produce, and Westminster Cracker, whose

rich, flavorful history dates back to 1828, put out a delicious spread. Maple Brook Farm's handmade mountain mozzarella was a standout! This is the real deal.







Joni headed to the Vermont Wine Merchants table, and I made a beeline for the sake, where a full sampling of Gekkeikan Sakes was available. Founded in 1637, Gekkeikan is one of the oldest family-operated businesses in the world. I chose two chilled sakes: the Traditional and the Black & Gold. Both were striking and delicious. I tried to hail Joni from across the room, but she clearly had her mind on the Chardonnays and Sauvignon Blancs. When she waved back, I pointed to the outside door. We refilled our glasses and made a trip out to the balcony. On our way out, we stopped to vote for our favorite wines and entered a drawing to win a pair of tickets to the next Killington Wine Festival Grand Tasting.

Outside, our heads were in the clouds—literally. At this altitude, it felt like we could touch the sky. The fresh air felt good as we took in the 360-degree view of the Green Mountains. We raised our glasses and toasted the day, the mountains, the wines, and our good fortune at just being here to enjoy it all. ☺

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BY SARA WIDNESS  
PHOTOS BY LYNN BOHANNON

Blooms overtake a  
lichen-covered fence,  
and a birdbath welcomes  
wildlife.

# Woodstock Gardens

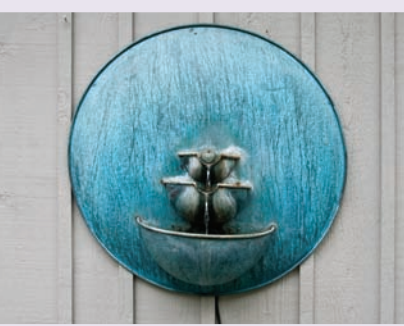
*Let us start a garden, you and I.  
Let us turn the soil of acquaintanceship  
And in this fertile ground plant kindly thoughts . . .*

—Johnny Gruelle

**G**ardens of Earthly delights abound in and around Woodstock, thanks in great part to the devotion that members of the Woodstock Garden Club lavish on their lands. The diversity and creativity of summer's botanical flourishes are captured in four private gardens. These gardens feature an alpine rockery, a bog that in June is saturated with Japanese primroses, a trellis-embellished perennial fantasy, and a telescopic view protected by a knee-high wall. They also evoke the contemplation and passion of the gardeners themselves. »







*A garden can be a feast of color, shape, texture, light, and shade.*

These beautiful gardens make it easy to forget the challenges of gardening here in Vermont, which is mostly in zone 4 on a scale of 1 (coldest) to 11—this is not a proverbial garden belt.

### **A Rockery**

When ledge was blasted out to build the home of Patsy Highberg and her husband Paul, rocks were shoved downhill. They were pushed back up when Barnard stonemason John Barnes created their rock garden. A member of the North American Rock Garden Society, Highberg, who's always eager to add new plants, hiked Colorado's higher elevations looking for alpine specimens in 2010. Kate Reeves, a professional gardener, worked with her to nudge visions from the land for nearly three decades. The result is a collection of miniature alpine landscapes and a rock garden the



*While blossoms perform in some displays, in others a nuanced portfolio of shrubbery and trees becomes a garden room of its own.*





Society will visit in mid June. "I try to grow some of the alpine plants here. In the Rockies they grow in snow in winter and where it's dry and windy," says Highberg. "These plants are meant to survive in that kind of an environment." She notes that dwarf conifers contrast with ferns that often attach themselves to the alkaline rocks common to this area. She mixes hostas with wild grasses and adds perennials for their sculptural qualities.

"The way the garden looks all year long is very important," she says. "In the winter, sometimes you see just the shape of a plant. Once I noticed a tree that had been badly damaged by ice, but it had a glorious covering of ice with just a little bit of snow and red berries with evergreen underneath."

Says Reeves, "Patsy and I grew together in this garden process. We started out not knowing a whole lot. She was more of an information source; I was more for design of the garden. Little by little, we would redo each section of garden and made it more little niches and more about her collection. I think she has 5,000 plants in her garden; it's an incredible collection."

### Out of a Bog

Some years ago, Fiona McElwain and her husband Bob moved to a new location in Woodstock because its nearly 10 acres expanded their gardening opportunities. In the woods, there is an evolving bog garden where, after Japanese primroses cease their fireworks, yellow spikes of ligularia and soft astilbes resonate.

"[Fellow garden club member] Janet Wilson brought me a bucketful of tiny Japanese primrose seedlings. We started in one area. Ten years later we have thousands of them," says McElwain, who grew up surrounded by exotic flora and fauna in New Delhi, Kenya, and Singapore. "I grew up with pretty gardens, but I don't think you're ever interested in a garden unless it's your own. I would get furious



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*Mavis Shaw gave up tennis to tend to her garden that today evokes the English cottage garden.*

when my parents asked me to deadhead the snapdragons. Then we moved to Vermont, bought our own house, and you couldn't stop me. Gardening became a passion that is never difficult, just challenging."

She spends hours in winter with a yellow pad planning what she will do in the spring. In addition to the bog display, she has created a small prairie with grasses, a shade garden, an old-fashioned perennial bed, and a neoclassic arrangement of shrubs.

### **A Little English**

Twenty years ago when Mavis Shaw and her husband Ad moved to the area, gardening was foreign to her. She gave up tennis for gardening, which is now an essential part of her life. "In the early spring I am always so eager to get into my garden and start cleaning it up after



*Gardening can be creating art with a wheelbarrow or protecting a view across a stone wall with an understated treatment.*





the long winter. I love to feel the earth in my fingers. I love to plant a seed or a small seedling, nurture it, and watch it grow and eventually bloom. It is a joy to go to the garden each morning with my husband and a cup of coffee to see what has happened overnight. It is so rewarding. It brings me peace and great happiness."

The rewards, though, were not easily earned. "When I first started, I didn't know a lot about perennials or annuals. I put in things that took me several more years to get out until I realized where or if I wanted them," she says, observing that the art of the perennial garden is to nurture continuous color, shades, heights, and textures from spring through first frost and sometimes even beyond. "It's an ongoing learning experience. I learn by doing. My garden is colorful, but I think the distant hills, the terrain of the land, and the backdrop make it interesting; I try to incorporate those in the garden," says Shaw.

The effect of statuesque delphinium, assisted by stakes and rising sometimes seven feet, is controlled by gently pulling the eye up and down through other short and medium height plantings. Gentle is perhaps the operative word for Shaw's palette. She prefers working with shades of blue and orange but never red.

"My garden is like a little English garden; it's planned but it looks helter-skelter. It's not formal, but it all flows together and is colorful. That's the charm of it."

### Framing View

Margarete Pierce enhanced a yard around her house by adding fluidity through plantings; however, these had to create a flowing texture and color without drawing attention away from a several-mile view. Stone walls and pathways with rocks from her own land were constructed. Shrubs, trees, mosses, ferns, and hostas achieve a play of

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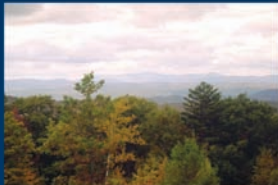
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*A gardener is always mindful of the details, here exemplified by an explosive combination of color.*

light, shade, and texture. Although she enjoys colorful perennials, these too are sited to lead the eye to the vista. "I like big stones. I like to preserve the openness and the view. I am very careful of where I plant bushes and trees so as not to obscure the view that I have," says Pierce.

As with most avid gardeners, she yields to the desire to change this year what she accomplished last. "I will always change the garden and add to it," Pierce says. "The happiness I see is in the ever-changing creation that occurs. Gardening is something like art. You paint a picture with oil and you always change it." Her advice for new gardeners is "don't be afraid; be tough," adding that even when she accidentally steps on a plant, it's sure to spring back to life. 🌱

**Calling All  
Gardeners!**

To learn more about the Woodstock Garden Club, gardening programs and events in the area, gardening tips and resources, and how to become a member, visit the Woodstock Garden Club's website, [www.woodstockgardenclub.org](http://www.woodstockgardenclub.org).





*A customer admires a candlestick.*



Suspended above a rushing brook and nestled in the village of Woodstock is a hidden treasure, a secret garden—a shop that, upon entering, transports one to serenity. Primrose Garden is a sanctuary in an otherwise bustling town. The scents of lavender, raspberry, and hints of strawberry draw visitors into a shop with lush silk greenery, narrow delicate paths, and nearly limitless tokens for home and garden. Owner Anne Nestler created this mini oasis more than 22 years ago, modeling it after an English cutting garden, and since then it has remained one of Woodstock's most timeless shops.

### **So Much to See**

Nestler is a quiet woman, and the items in her shop reflect her serene disposition. Her customers invest in a part of this persona as they search for decorative items. What they find are pieces

# Primrose Garden

**WOODSTOCK'S OWN  
SECRET GARDEN**

BY AUDREY RICHARDSON  
PHOTOS BY JACK ROWELL





***A few of the wide selection of life balls, one of the store's most popular items.***

that are not only unique but also add natural beauty and ambience. "I hear over and over again what a difference my accessories make in a person's home. These seem to be classic things that people really enjoy and are happy with years later," says Nestler.

Visitors can find hand-blown glass globes and ornaments, silk flowers, silver trivets, pillows with timeless sayings, and so much more. Nestler's style is both classic and unusual, and her inventory is plentiful, from framed inspirations to hand-blown glass "life balls" that are specially made to reflect each upcoming season. Everything is so purposefully displayed that patrons can spend an entire day browsing in Primrose Garden and not find everything she has to offer, such as a tiny bird nesting overhead.

Nestler maximizes her limited space in creative and effective ways. She even utilizes her back porch, which is suspended over an outlet of the Ot-

tauquechee River. The building itself is uniquely historical, having once served as Woodstock's firehouse. From the original open cupola, where wet fire hoses once dried in the sun, to the nearly entire suspension of the building over the

river, the structure itself has a timeless charm. "It is not a big shop," says Nestler. Put any other boutique's wares in this small space, however, and it would feel crowded and overwhelming. Nestler's approach creates a whimsical for-



***There's truly something for everyone at Primrose Garden.***



est museum that inspires shoppers.

“It is unique, and she has such a great eye,” says Toni Palmisano, a restaurant owner from Montpelier, Vermont. Palmisano has been a customer of Primrose Garden for more than 15 years. “I sort of stumbled into her shop, and now I feel like I am visiting a friend,” she says. Although Palmisano claims to be a fan of nearly everything in the shop (especially the large hand-blown glass balls), she is particularly touched by Nestler’s non-intrusive approach. “She is so calm and helpful, never pushy,” explains Palmisano. The hour that it takes to get to one of her favorite stores is nothing, she adds, as she often brings friends with her to check it out.

“When I bring friends, it is like a field trip. I make them walk through twice so they can see more,” Palmisano says. She appreciates the very thing Nestler aims to create—the feeling of home and tranquility.

### Setting the Mood

Nestler’s deliberate use of whimsy is articulated right down to the music in the shop—the melodious tones of pianist Danny Wright, whom she plays exclusively. “I heard him at Berkeley years ago and I just fell in love with his music,” says Nestler. Since adopting Wright’s music as the soundtrack



*An armillary sphere is nestled among other treasures.*



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Primrose Garden offers a variety of beautiful prints.

for her shop, Nestler has cultivated a personal relationship with the artist maintained by a mutual respect.

In large part, Nestler's success can be credited to the balanced atmosphere she creates as well as the personal touch. "I think it is my sheer determination to keep going, and that I offer a personal service. It's also the

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A lantern hangs above hand-sculpted candles made in Vermont.





idea that someone can buy a really unique and special gift without paying a lot," she says about the staying power of Primrose Garden. Between the soft piano music, the aromas, and the lush greenery, Nestler feels she connects with her customers by giving them a place to escape. She also offers complimentary gift-wrapping and can ship purchases just about anywhere.

With one of the busiest seasons upon her, Nestler is prepared for the influx of visitors from afar and return visits from dedicated customers like Palmisano. "In the summer and fall it's like a mini UN in here, and it's really fun to hear all the different languages," says Nestler. When asked about plans to expand her store, Nestler says she'll keep the Primrose Garden as it is, and she'll continue doing what she has loved for over two decades—offering unique and affordable items that add beauty to her customers' homes. 

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*Decorating Jester's Hats sugar cookies.*

Theodora Damaskos loves a challenge. Aware that single-handedly opening a café in Quechee would require an enormous amount of work, she did it anyway. In June 2010, after contributing a lot of her own “sweat equity” to renovating the property at the intersection of Route 4 and Waterman Hill Road, Damaskos opened the Trap Door Bakehouse & Café. It’s a light and airy place with exposed wood beams and a brick hearth, butcher-block tables, a comfortable lounge, and patio seating. »



*Entrance to the café is up the walkway.*

# Trap Door Bakehouse & Café

AROUND THE  
WORLD IN QUECHEE

BY LAURA HARRIS-HIRSCH

PHOTOS BY ALEXYS WILBUR

*Below: View from behind the sweets case with meringues and fresh croissants which are baked daily.*



*Meze plate with dolmades (grape leaves stuffed with rice, spices, and onions) along with bourekia (filo stuffed with aromatic meat filling).*





### Delicious and Dazzling Choices

As you turn off of Waterman Hill Road in Quechee into the parking lot of the Trap Door Bakehouse & Café, you are treated to a wonderful view of the Ottauquechee River and the Vermont hills beyond. When you enter the café itself, you see a delightful display: croissants of all kinds, some plain, some chocolate hazelnut or almond, and even “escargot”—croissant dough shaped like a snail—a spiral filled with almond cream and dotted with raisins and cinnamon. In another glass case, there are iced sugar cookies, slices of rich cake, perhaps keki made with semolina flour and almonds and soaked in honey-orange syrup, or Ella, a layer cake named for Damaskos’s grandniece.

If you’re looking for a meal, you might select a breakfast burrito, or a quesadilla or panini. These pressed sandwiches, served on Damaskos’s own version of ciabatta, an olive oil-based bread, feature locally grown ingredients and her special sauces, all prepared in the café kitchen. Damaskos rotates the panini selection, usually three kinds each week, with a vegetarian option that’s always available. This summer the café will also

serve cold sandwiches made with freshly baked baguette.

During the past year, Damaskos has put in 80 hours a week planning, preparing, baking, and serving pastries, sandwiches, and other culinary delights. She smiles as she discusses ingredients with customers looking at the large variety of

*Left: Detail of Jester’s Hats. Above: Fiona and Chef Theo decorate the hats.*

baked goods, homemade Greek yogurt with strawberries and sunflower seeds, cinnamon-topped rice pudding, spanakopita, and organic coffees. Damaskos



*View from the entrance.*



did a lot of research on coffee suppliers, looking for a local roaster of organic coffees. She finally settled on Kahwa Coffee Roasters of Vermont in Swanton, which roasts its products in small batches. The Trap Door Bakehouse & Café is the only venue in this area that sells Kahwa coffee, both by the cup and in small bags.

On this day, shortly after Greek Independence Day, the café features many Greek specialties including cookies frosted in colors and intricate designs reminiscent of ancient Greek pottery. "You made a mistake in decorating these cookies," jokes a customer. "You've made them look too good to eat!"

Comments like this from customers renew Damaskos's commitment and enthusiasm. "It's amazing what comes out of customers' mouths," she says. "When they say, 'We feel like



Box of assorted handmade confections.

we're back in France or Italy,' or 'We haven't had food like this since we were in Europe,' or 'This is exactly what we need in Quechee,' it's wonderful to have confirmation that what we are doing is well received." »



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*Theo folds croissant dough multiple times to create a flaky end product.*

**Getting Started**

“It’s ironic,” Damaskos comments, that she started this demanding business after retiring from the Cambridge, Massachusetts, school district. She had worked there as Family Liaison while she raised her family. “I knew for a very long time that I had to do a business, which is why I dabbled along the way in catering and a small kids’ handmade clothing business in Cambridge.” Having spent a fair amount of time over the years in the Upper Valley, she decided that the Route 4 east-west corridor would be a good location for a business venture.

Damaskos had been cooking all her

life and had “a good handle” on the savory side, but she wanted to fine-tune her pastry-making skills. That’s why she studied for a year with award-winning Master Pastry Chef Delphin Gomes at The Cambridge School of Culinary Arts. Damaskos says that Gomes, who trained in France, established the pastry-making program at the school and is “a remarkable man.” She uses some of the recipes he created. From Gomes, Damaskos learned not only culinary skills but also that she was capable of running a successful high-quality bakery.

Damaskos is “quite impressed” with the number of customers the Trap Door

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*Two customers stop in to enjoy lunch. The café provides free Wi-Fi.*



*Multigenerational cookbooks are the basis of Theo's passion for cooking.*



Bakehouse & Café has attracted during its first year. Tourists traveling the busy Route 4 corridor stop in, as do many local residents. “I feel like I have a core of local customers,” she says. Her customers are people who appreciate the quality and freshness of the ingredients she uses and the creativity of her finished products.

### Seasonal Goodies

Damaskos enjoys introducing seasonal desserts like the Buches de Noel she pre-

sented during the Christmas season. The rolled cakes, with a coffee buttercream center and frosted in chocolate buttercream, featured meringue snow children, holly leaves, and berries. “Everything that went into them was absolutely charming to make—each cake had its own personality, and each snowman was different, different expressions on faces, different hats, scarves, and berries.”

Having worked in a public school district that “celebrates everyone’s holi-

## ON THE MENU

- **Ham & Cheese Croissant** Hand-carved ham and Swiss cheese
- **Frittata** Vegetables with three cheeses, eggs, and cream
- **Frittata** Caramelized onions with chèvre and ham
- **Mac & Cheese** Penne with cheddar and cream
- **Bovina Pie** Ground beef seasoned with a hint of heat and vegetables, topped w/potato pumpkin mash and Christine Crumb (oats and cheddar cheese)
- **Spanakopita** Flaky filo with spinach and feta cheese
- **Pita Nafliou** Flaky filo dough filled with feta, Parmesan, and semolina
- **Bourekia** Flaky filo dough filled with aromatic beef
- **Pastitsio** Layers of egg noodles and aromatic meat sauce topped with béchamel
- **Quesadilla** Filled with assorted vegetables and cheese
- **Burrito** Filled with chicken, beef, or pork, with cheese and pinto beans
- **Breakfast Burrito** Eggs with or w/o ham, assorted vegetables, cheese, and salsa on a flour tortilla
- **Greek Style Eggs** Eggs with or w/o ham, spinach, and feta served on a croissant
- **Panini** (usually three varieties every week with one vegetarian option):
  - **The Sanguiche** Genoa salami, tomato, provolone, and red onion
  - **The Rory** Panko-cruste chicken, fresh tomato sauce, and provolone
  - **The Ben & Ollie** Zucchini, mushrooms, fresh mozzarella, fresh tomato sauce, Asiago, and provolone
- **The Lemire** Pulled pork in special sauce with Swiss cheese
- **The Guthrie** Panko-cruste eggplant with fresh tomato sauce and provolone
- **The Hemond** Trap Door corned beef, lemon mustard chutney, and provolone
- **The San Quechee** Ham, maple mustard, and apple slices
- **The Surrell** Tuna, cheddar, and tomato
- **The Mitalofa** Slices of meatloaf (beef), fresh tomato sauce, and provolone
- **The Parmelee** Pesto chicken and bacon with Swiss cheese
- **Croissants** made daily: Plain, chocolate, hazelnut chocolate, and almond
- **Escargots** Croissant dough spiraled with raisins, almond cream, and cinnamon
- **Homemade Yogurt** Thick and delicious

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Theo and Stella relax in the Wi-Fi lounge to look at cookbooks.

days,” Damaskos has fun inventing special treats for all kinds of holidays. The café featured meringue ghosts for Halloween, Valentine’s Day sugar cookies, ornately decorated shamrock cookies for St. Patrick’s Day, and traditional Greek fare including pastitsio, moussaka, dol-

made, and two kinds of traditional butter cookies made to celebrate Greek Independence Day.

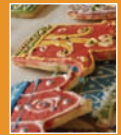
She’s been thinking about special foods for the Fourth of July as well as a Balloon Festival menu during Quechee Hot Air Balloon and Craft Festival in June. “The balloons go right over the café as they go floating down to the river and back,” says Damaskos. “We’ll prepare a picnic, and people will be able to bring blankets and picnic as they enjoy the spectacle and fliers shouting ‘Hello’ as they float by.”

Damaskos’s plans for the future include adding even more challenges to her workweek. She’s looking forward to providing call-ahead/pickup ready-to-eat dinners, which will appeal to people traveling up to a second home in the area. She’ll do special-order cakes or dinner parties, a main course for 16, hors d’oeuvres, soup—whatever customers want—and she is readying a formal dining room for private parties. Theodora Damaskos still enjoys a challenge. 



Ample outdoor seating overlooks the Ottauquechee River.

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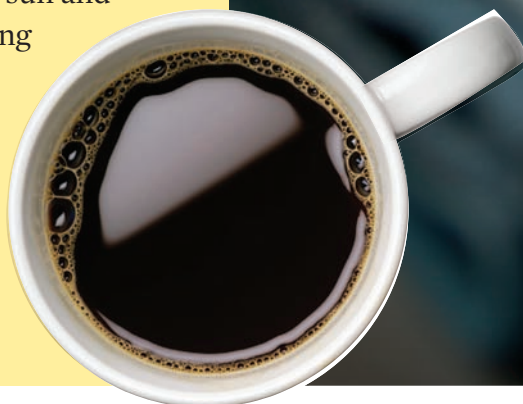




BY SUSAN NYE

**I**t's summertime, and the livin' is easy.

At least it is during the week or two that you kiss the rat race goodbye and relax in the Vermont sunshine. It's wonderful to unwind and take it slow. With no alarm to blast you out of a sound sleep, taking it slow may include an extra hour or two of shut-eye. Or maybe you prefer to get up with the sun and spend a long, lazy morning on the porch with the newspaper and an extra cup of coffee. If you're lucky, maybe—just maybe—someone will cook you up a big country breakfast. »



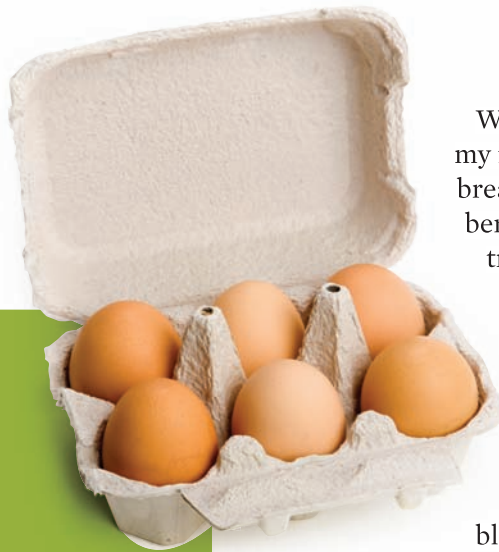
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**Sweet and Spicy Bacon**  
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When I was a kid, my favorite summer breakfast was blueberry pie. A long tradition in my

family is that the first one up gets dibs on any leftover pie. My grandmother baked a lot of blueberry pies in the summer and there

always seemed to be an extra piece left over. First thing in the morning, my sister and I would race over to Nana's to fight over that last slice—or maybe it wasn't first thing. More often than not, my grandfather beat us to it. To let us down easy, Pop would dash

out for doughnut holes. They were a consolation prize of sorts. Nana would add cinnamon sugar to the bag of still warm doughnut pieces and give it a good shake. They were heavenly.

When we weren't racing for pie or munching doughnuts, my dad liked to make us blueberry pancakes on lazy summer mornings. Bursting with ripe blueberries and drenched in Vermont maple syrup, pancakes are the quintessential summer breakfast. Or perhaps you'd prefer an omelet? Whip up some fresh-from-the-farm eggs and add one of Vermont's famous cheeses and a few other goodies. Whether you opt for pancakes or eggs, don't forget to add a few strips of country bacon or sausage links. After all, you are on vacation.

Enjoy and bon appétit! 🍷

## Blueberry Pancakes

A favorite of kids large and small from the bakers at King Arthur Flour.

Makes 1 dozen 5-inch pancakes

- Oil or nonstick spray
- 2 large eggs
- 1-¼ cups milk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract, optional
- 3 Tbsp melted butter or vegetable oil
- 1-½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ tsp salt
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- ¾ cup blueberries, fresh or frozen

**1.** Heat a griddle to 350°. If you don't have a griddle, heat a large frying pan over medium-low to medium heat. Grease the griddle. When it's hot enough, a drop of water will skitter across the surface, evaporating immediately.

**2.** Beat the eggs, milk, and vanilla until light and foamy, about 3 minutes at high speed with a stand or hand mixer. Stir in the melted butter or oil.

**3.** Add the flour, salt, baking powder, and sugar, stirring just to combine—a few lumps are okay. Set the batter aside to rest for a couple of minutes; it will thicken a bit as it stands.

**4.** Drop quarter cupfuls of batter onto the prepared griddle; an ice cream scoop works well here. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon of berries on top of each pancake.

**5.** Cook the cakes until they're golden brown on the bottom, about 2 minutes. Flip them over, and cook until the other side is golden, 2 to 2-½ minutes.

**6.** Serve the pancakes immediately, or transfer them to a platter, cover, and keep warm in a 200° oven. Enjoy with butter and maple syrup.







## Goat Cheese, Sun-Dried Tomato, and Spinach Omelet

If you are not in the mood for pancakes, try an omelet. A step up from the ordinary, an omelet is a quick and delicious start to any day.

Serves 2

- 1 Tbsp butter
- 4-5 large eggs
- 1 Tbsp milk
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1-2 oz fresh baby spinach leaves
- 1-2 oz goat cheese, cut into small pieces
- 1 Tbsp Sun-Dried Tomato Pesto (recipe follows)

1. Heat a 10- or 12-inch nonstick omelet pan over medium heat. Add the butter and melt.
2. While the butter is melting, break the eggs into a large bowl, add the milk, and whisk until light and frothy. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Add the spinach to the hot pan and give it a shake. As soon as the spinach starts to wilt, add the egg mixture. Gently shake the pan while slowly stirring the eggs with a heat-proof spatula or wooden spoon to distribute them. Lift the cooked egg gently so that the uncooked, liquid egg slips beneath it. After 1 or 2 minutes, the egg should be cooked through but still fairly moist.
4. Scatter the goat cheese and tomato pesto on one half of the omelet. Carefully fold the omelet in half with your spatula. Let cook about 30 seconds more; cut into wedges and serve.

## Sun-Dried Tomato Pesto

Makes about ½ cup

- ½ cup oil-packed, diced, sun-dried tomatoes, drained
- 1-2 cloves garlic
- 1 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh basil
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

In the bowl of a small food processor, combine all the ingredients and process until smooth.

*(Not just for omelets, this pesto is great at cocktail time. Spread a little on flatbread and top with brie or goat cheese.)*



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### Sweet and Spicy Bacon

Third generation butcher Mike Satzow continues the family tradition at North Country Smokehouse. For lazy summer mornings, he suggests you dress up your bacon with a little sugar and spice.

### Praline Bacon

Serves 4 to 6

- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup ground almonds, pecans, or walnuts
- 2 tsp dry mustard
- 1 tsp salt
- 12 slices North Country Peppered Bacon

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. Combine the brown sugar, ground nuts, mustard, and salt in a wide, shallow dish. Dip and press both sides of each slice of bacon into the sugar mixture. Lay the bacon strips on a large rimmed baking sheet. Sprinkle additional sugar mixture over the bacon.
3. Roast until the fat begins to render. Rotate the pan front to back and continue roasting until the bacon is crisp and brown. Remove from the oven and cool slightly. Serve immediately.

### Spicy Honey-Glazed Bacon

Serves 6

- 1 lb North Country Applewood Bacon
- 2 Tbsp honey
- ¼ tsp ground coriander
- ⅛ tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 Tbsp sesame seeds

1. Preheat oven to 375°.
2. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Place the bacon slices in a single layer.
3. In a small skillet, combine the honey, coriander, and cayenne, and cook over high heat until melted, about 1 minute.
4. Brush the spiced honey on one side of the bacon and bake for 10 minutes. Sprinkle lightly with sesame seeds and bake until sizzling and browned, 5 to 10 minutes longer. Transfer the bacon to paper towels, glazed side up, to drain and cool slightly. Serve immediately.



## Where to Stock Up?

Spend a morning or afternoon at a farmers' market for fresh-from-the-farm fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk, baked goods, maple syrup, and more.

### Woodstock Market on the Green

- Wednesdays 3pm to 6pm, June 8 through October 5

### Norwich Farmers' Market

- Route 5 South, 1 mile south of Norwich village
- Saturdays from 10am to 1pm
- May 7 through October 29

### Claremont (NH) Farmers' Market

- Broad Street Park
- Thursdays from 4pm to 7pm
- June 2 through October 6

### Mount Tom Farmers' Market

- Route 12 North, 1 mile north of Woodstock village
- Saturdays from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- May through October



## Melon Smoothies

Serves 4 to 6

- 3 cups cold honeydew melon, seeded and roughly chopped
- Juice of 2 limes
- 1-2 Tbsp honey or to taste
- 1 Tbsp roughly chopped fresh mint
- 3 cups cold seedless watermelon, roughly chopped

**Do ahead:** Spread about 2 cups of the honeydew melon chunks on a silicone mat on a rimmed baking pan and set in the freezer until frozen, at least 4 hours. When the fruit is frozen solid, transfer to a resealable plastic bag and keep frozen until ready to use.

Put the lime juice, honey, and mint in a blender and process to combine. Add the cold honeydew and watermelon and process until smooth. Add the frozen honeydew and process until smooth and frosty. Serve immediately.



**Susan Nye** writes, cooks, and lives in New Hampshire. You can find more of her stories and recipes on her blog at [www.susannye.wordpress.com](http://www.susannye.wordpress.com).

# keeper's

*A Country Café*



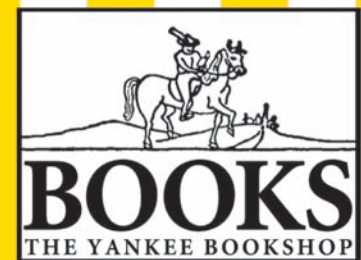
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# The Blue Horse Inn

A ROMANTIC,  
HISTORIC  
RETREAT

BY MEG BRAZILL  
PHOTOS BY TOM McNEILL

**T**he Blue Horse Inn was born somewhere between serendipity and one very bold move. Friends Keri Cole and Anna Haas Kolchinsky and their husbands had envisioned buying a vacation home for the two couples to share. They pictured a quiet country retreat, away from their professional lives in Baltimore and Boston. After nearly two years of looking, their realtor suggested something quite different: an inn in the heart of Woodstock. It had none of the characteristics they'd been seeking, and it would be a business venture—hardly a vacation getaway! »









*Top: The Inn's grand piano.*

*Above: Fresh espresso is available all day.*

It was impossible, however, to deny its appeal. Within weeks Cole and Kolchinsky (who were 30 and 31 at the time) became the new owners of the stunning 2.2-acre property at 3 Church Street in Woodstock. Their real estate agent called it the best deal in town, but it took the new owners' combined hard work, optimism, and a bit of blind faith to turn it into The Blue Horse Inn.

Initially, Keri was still working as chair of the religious studies department at St. Paul's School for Girls in Maryland; Anna was completing her doctorate in modern European history at Boston College. Clearly, their backgrounds hadn't prepared them for the hospitality industry, but careful planning and abundant enthusiasm worked in their favor.

### **Romanticism and Rumors Meet Fact**

It's long been rumored that Lafayette slept there, and that it was a stop on the Underground Railroad. "But we did the math," Anna says, and they determined it's unlikely that Lafayette's head ever met a pillow there. And during the inn's

***Guests enjoy the heated pool from May to October.***

extensive renovations, no archaeological evidence surfaced to suggest it was ever part of the Underground Railroad. "All we found was a beer can from the forties," laughs Keri. Even so, the house has a rich history. "It's one of the cool things about living in a house like this," Keri says. "It has more history than any one person will ever have."

The Blue Horse Inn is a two-and-a-half story brick Georgian-style house, with its gable facing the street. An elliptical fanlight sits above the front door, which is framed by a portico supported on fluted columns. Joel Eaton built the main house in 1831; the portico, the back of the house, and the east wing were probably added in the 1860s. "We've been told the house was used as a recovery home for Civil War veterans," Anna reports. Crossing the inn's threshold and seeing the tall windows, high ceilings, and curving staircase makes it easy to imagine soldiers returning from the Civil War finding respite here.





### Across the Centuries

Fast-forward to the late 20th century, when Eleanor Paine successfully petitioned the town to rezone her residence as an inn in 1991. Under Paine's ownership, it was known simply as "Three Church Street." After Ms. Paine's death, Nicole and Jack Maiden purchased the inn and rechristened it "The Lauren."

The Maidens' careful updates retained the splendid aesthetics of the inn's classic architecture while creating a modern look and feel. They also undertook difficult projects, like installing a sprinkler system throughout and adding eight new bathrooms. "The plumbing system is a feat," Keri says, appreciating the hard work that came before them.

Anna and Keri renamed it "The Blue Horse Inn," inspired by the blue horse series of the German expressionist painter Franz Marc. Anna also rides

*Guests can enjoy the fireplace in the front parlor.*

dressage and discovered Woodstock through her involvement with the Green Mountain Horse Association, so the horse appellation seemed right.

### Whatever It Takes

Despite the renovations just a few years earlier, Keri and Anna had their work cut out for them. They had planned to accommodate the inn's first guests in June 2010, not long after their August 2009 purchase. Keri moved to Woodstock full-time in February 2010, and Anna arrived a few months later in May. Work on the inn began in earnest. The schedule would be gut-wrenching.

"Both of our husbands kept their day jobs, but they turned into good handymen," Anna says. Ben Ford and Peter Kolchinsky commuted to their jobs in Hartford and Boston, rolling up their sleeves on weekends and whenever they could get away to help meet the deadlines.

With help from Seth Callander of

Modern American Design, they added a large first-floor suite and a smaller queen room, which also required gutting and renovating two bathrooms. Perhaps the biggest but most necessary project was the installation of an internal fire-rated stairwell. Seth also worked on the addition of owners' quarters for each couple, tucked neatly into the corners and top floor of the building.

While carpenters, plumbers, and craftsmen went to work, the women applied themselves to the marketing and business plans. They searched for furnishings and scoured the region for just the right pieces to accessorize the inn. By her own description, Keri is not well suited to this part of the job. "I loathe shopping," she says. Although they acquired many of the furnishings from the previous owners, two new guest rooms and their own living areas required more. "We also brought in a piano," Anna says, "and the table behind the sofa, and rugs, and artwork." »







*Above (clockwise from top left): Fresh, local breakfast is prepared daily. Deluxe Room 6. Keri chats with a guest over breakfast.*

*Left: Chess, one of the many games available for guests.*

## If You Go

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- Bicycles and snowshoes

They kept the commercial kitchen intact and obtained an alcohol and a restaurant license so they could host special events and serve breakfast to guests. They use fresh ingredients from local purveyors including Cloudland Farm, On the Edge Farm, Thymeless Herbs, Vermont Butter and Cheese Creamery, and others to create delicious breakfasts like cornmeal waffles topped with Vermont goat cheese and maple syrup, or caramelized leek and onion quiche served with home-fried potatoes.

The Blue Horse Inn now has 10 rooms, including three suites, and a few of them are pet friendly. Common areas include a library, sitting and dining rooms, and a spacious back porch overlooking the grounds. All of the rooms are equipped with high-speed wireless Internet and flat-screen TVs.

## The Great Outdoors

With the interior nearing completion, Keri and Anna turned their attention to the outside. Behind the inn, a lawn sprawls down to an outdoor pool and beyond that to the Ottauquechee River. “The pool had been leaking for decades,” Keri says. “It had been painted black and was nonfunctional.” They retained the original flagstones and repainted the gunite white. The grounds are beautiful no matter how you look at them—surveying them from the lawn or from the rear rooms and balcony, or best of all, from the heated outdoor pool that overlooks the Ottauquechee.

The inn boasts a professionally maintained clay tennis court. Private and semiprivate lessons are available for guests by advance request. An outdoor stone fire pit makes for a perfect evening of roasting marshmallows, storytelling, or just enjoying a Vermont evening.

## It Seems Like Only Yesterday

“We have a lot of repeat guests,” Anna says. “We have two weddings scheduled and we have reservations through foli-



age season.” In fact, the first wedding at the Blue Horse Inn will be for Eleanor Paine’s granddaughter, who recalls spending time there when she was growing up.

Keri says they’ve been very pleased with their occupancy rate and “bookings are up for our second summer.” Judging by Internet travel sites and comments on the inn’s blog, their guests love the inn—and its hosts.

The two couples have also been busy making contacts and friends in the local community, hosting events for the Chamber of Commerce, Pentangle Council on the Arts, and housing various artists. “We want to do a wine tasting every few months,” Anna says. Recently they’ve been presenting pianist Diana Tetzlaff, “and we’re hoping to start a chamber music series,” she adds.

All four have fallen in love with Wood-

stock. “I’m a Woodstock proselytizer,” Keri says. “I think people should be here!” They’re grateful for the support from the community, including other inn owners who offered invaluable advice. “And we couldn’t do it without Darla Rodrigues, our full-time housekeeper, and Deana Rocco, a one-woman jack of all trades.”

A year later, it’s getting easier to enjoy the fruits of their labors. They are making friends in the area and from around the world, right from their own backyard. Anna may just find time for dressage again and Keri is taking piano lessons. And as for their own friendship? It’s still going strong. 🐾

**The Blue Horse Inn**


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**Deluxe Room 5.**

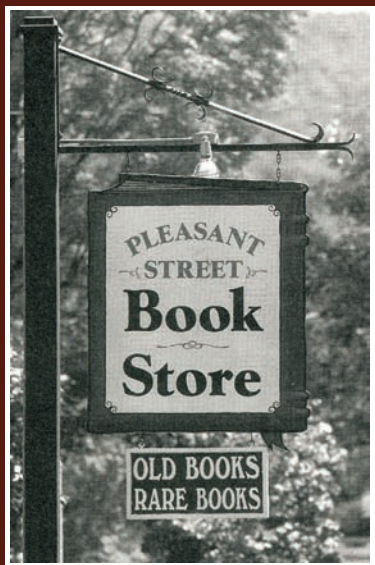




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# Quilts Galore

25 YEARS OF ARTISTRY & EXCELLENCE

BY CAROL CARTER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

They kept families warm in drafty Vermont farmhouses, traveled across prairies in covered wagons, and became coveted keepsakes passed from generation to generation. Today, traditional patchwork quilts and their designs have birthed a burgeoning hobby for nimble fingers and creative minds.

Twenty-first century quilts aren't the typical scraps of worn-out shirts and leftover fabrics sewn together by rural homemakers. With bright fabrics and creative designs, this tradition has evolved into an art form. And here in Woodstock, the Billings Farm & Museum showcases some of these exquisite quilts at the Annual Quilt Exhibition. The grand opening of the 25th Anniversary Exhibition on July 30 will

*Above: Quilt demonstrations, programs, and activities occur daily during the Quilt Exhibition. Jo-Anne Ecker, volunteer at Billings Farm & Museum, teaches the program Quilts and the Underground Railroad.*

*Right: Lois Kiniholm, volunteer, demonstrates the techniques of quilting to visitors at the Quilt Exhibition. Photos by Jon Gilbert Fox.*

feature quilts from several previous exhibits along with new ones created exclusively by Windsor County residents within the past two years. The show of museum-quality pieces runs through September 25. Curator's Choice and Jurors' Choice Awards presented at the Quilters' Reception before the opening promise visitors a glimpse of the award-winning quilts.

## Works of Art

What began as an exhibit of 22 quilts in conjunction with the Vermont State Craft Center in Windsor has grown into an annual display of more than 50 quilts, including colorful wall hangings, traditional patchwork, whimsical designs, and quilts to cover even a king-sized bed. "Quilts were thought of for beds for a very long time, but now they're more accepted









Visitors in the quilt hall. Photo by Jon Gilbert Fox.

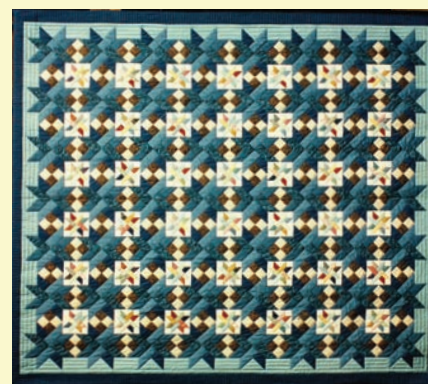
as artwork. I began making traditional quilts 15 years ago, but now my quilts are mostly for the wall,” says Susan Damone Balch of Reading. Balch has entered a dozen quilts at Billings’ shows, including a piece in the first Quilt Exhibition

a quarter of a century ago. She has won numerous awards and now teaches quilting classes.

Notes Susan Plump, public relations coordinator, “Much of the work is composed of patterns handed down from earlier generations and executed fully by hand. Although some quilters adapt the traditional craft to more modern expressions and materials, all quilts require skill, patience, and imagination.” Museum Curator Bob Benz agrees. “From a museum perspective, the tradition of hand-pieced and hand-quilted is very important to the quilt tradition. It has become the standard from which the craft is viewed. In addition, we should not ignore the influence of changing times and technology,” he says. The invention of sewing machines that make even and equal stitches and power looms that produce brightly colored, inexpensive cloth brought significant changes to quilt making, Benz points out.

### Tradition & Technology

And later, some quilters took their handcrafted quilt tops to professional longarm quilting-machine operators, who place the layers to be quilted on a machine without the need for pinning or basting. A professional sewing machine mounted on a platform rides along tracks, allowing the machine to move across the layers, thus completing the



Deborah King of Woodstock created a quilt named Deborah's Stars.

### Visit Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum’s 25th Annual Quilt Exhibition has its grand opening weekend July 30 and 31 and includes quilting programs, activities for all ages, and the opportunity to meet Windsor County’s talented quilters, who will discuss their quilts on display. The exhibition is open daily from 10am to 5pm through September 25.

Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 140-year tradition of agricultural excellence and a museum of Vermont’s rural past. Historical exhibits, the 1890 Farm house, and interactive programs explore Vermont’s heritage of farming and rural life. Since opening to the public in 1983, the Farm & Museum has served more than 1 million visitors and 100,000 of the region’s schoolchildren. Open daily May 1 through October 31 from 10am to 5pm, and weekends November through February, 10am to 3:30pm. The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on Vermont Route 12. For information call (802) 457-2355 or visit [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).







**Donna Miles, Woodstock quilter, has entered 25 quilts in the Quilt Exhibition over the years; she is standing next to her award-winning quilt *Off the Beaten Path* from the 2010 show.**

quilting without a hand stitch, according to Colleen O’Neill, a former longarm professional.

Benz recognizes the value of both tradition and new technology in this art. “Our society today continues to be influenced by innovations developed in a computer world. Women’s changing work patterns, employment outside the home, and the time constraints so often seen are reflected in their use of leisure time and, for the quilters, the finished works they produce. Many prefer the aspect of designing and creating a quilt top without spending hours and hours hand quilting,” says Benz.

Susan Hall of Hartland admits she favors the old-fashioned method of quilt-

ing. A transplant from southern California, Hall embraced quilting as a winter hobby and was soon hooked. “I took classes and now spend hours and hours quilting. I do all my quilts by hand,” says Hall, who believes that hand quilting “brings the quilt to life.” But quilters without time to spare seize the option of expressing their creativity without the hands-on finish. Chelsea Smith, 17, employed a professional longarm quilter for her prize-winning Weather-vane quilt, honored as a Jurors’ Choice favorite at last summer’s show. Chelsea learned quilting while living with her 95-year-old great-grandmother, Thelma H. Smiley, and her grandmother, Linda H. Farnsworth, both of Windsor. The patchwork quilt has “a farmhouse feel,” Chelsea told jurors, and represents her life—past, present, and future. She adds that the quilt, her first, was the start of a great journey, and she plans to make more in the future.

### Sharing History

Smiley and Farnsworth entered their first quilt 10 years ago. Smiley embroidered squares featuring family names and pictures for their Mystery Quilt—a project of the Heart of the Land Quilters’ Guild. The mystery category allows quilters their choice of fabric to create quilts of preselected colors, backgrounds, and accents. Participating quilters follow the same directions, but



**Visitors viewing the 2010 Quilt Exhibition. Photo by Jon Gilbert Fox.**




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spotlight



**Quilting bee.**

every quilt turns out different, Farnsworth explains. Ironically, the Guild member preparing the instructions for the Smiley-Farnsworth quilt had been Smiley's student in 4-H many years ago.

History is also evident in the home of Deborah King, whose apartment in Woodstock radiates with bed coverings and wall hangings created over the past 65 years. "A friend started me off in 1945, and I did my first quilt while recovering from an appendectomy," King recalls. As a previous student in jewelry design at the Rhode Island School of Design, she has an artist's eye for designing unusual quilts—creations that have earned numerous awards and become treasured gifts for family, friends, and charity auctions. King has entered 15 quilts in the Billings Exhibition, many of them included in her quilt "diary" that features meticulous descriptions of each self-designed quilt.

Awards earned at the Billings Exhibition are special, quilters agree. "Billings is unique. They let quilters share their stories and explain what goes into making each quilt," says Susan Hall. "Most quilt shows are weekend events, but Billings displays for eight weeks. That lets a lot of people see your quilt in a classy museum setting. Billings treats quilts like a museum displaying works of art," Hall concludes. 🍷

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# The Historic Faulkner Park & Trail

A GIFT OF LOVE BY JEN PARSONS



*The Faulkner House, modern era. Courtesy of Woodstock Historical Society.*

Marianne Faulkner lived on Mountain Avenue in Woodstock until her death in 1958, and her legacy lives on in her many charitable contributions—the Community Recreation Center and The Homestead are most prominent. However, another legacy remains: a 1.6-mile trail that creeps from the edge of Mountain Avenue beside Mrs. Faulkner's former home, up the hillside to the south peak of Mount Tom in a series of gently graded switchbacks. Since its completion in 1937, this has been a popular recreation trail, both for itself and as an access point to adjacent trails in Billings Park. This moderate trail is notable not only as a Woodstock landmark but also as a memorial from Mrs. Faulkner to her beloved husband, Edward Daniels (E.D.), after his death in 1926.

Marianne Faulkner was born Marianne Gaillard in 1859 in

Mobile, Alabama. Though hailing from Etna, New Hampshire, her mother had married a plantation owner and moved to his estate in Alabama. Marianne's father's wealth had been invested in Confederate currency, and after the Civil War, his slaves were freed and his finances ruined. These strains contributed to his early death at age 31. Mother and daughter returned to New Hampshire, and later, on a transatlantic crossing with her mother, Marianne met Edward Daniels (E.D.) Faulkner, whom she married in 1885.

## A Special Partnership

Marianne Faulkner's wealth derived from her marriage to E.D., who was a principal in the prominent fabric-importing wholesaler Johnson & Faulkner of New York City. Though E.D.'s father ran the company as a horsehair upholstery business, E.D. was exposed to the fine fabrics of Europe at The Centennial

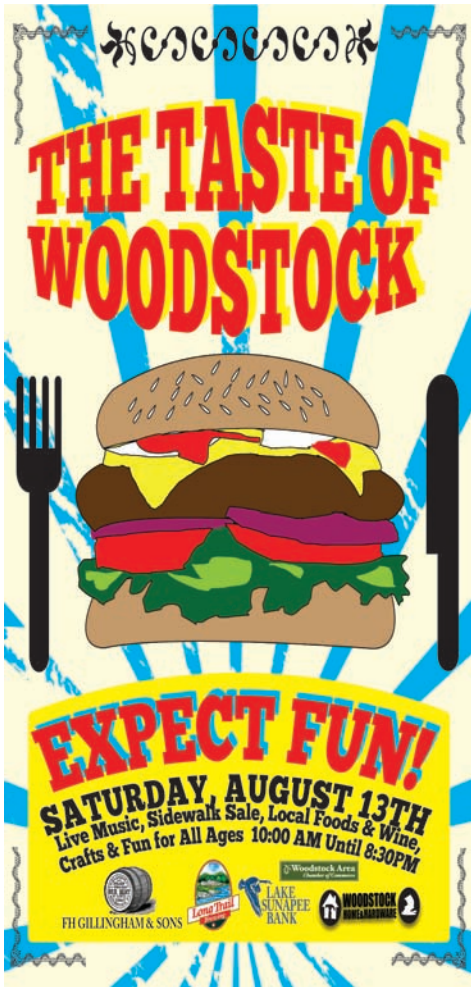


*Top: Viewing area from the trail.*

*Inset: Marianne Faulkner. Courtesy of Woodstock Historical Society.*



NATURE



*Gentle switchbacks along the trail.*

As decreed in Mrs. Faulkner's will: "This park is given in memory of Edward Daniels Faulkner; said park shall be used for rest and quiet and not for other noisy activities."

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International Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, the first official World's Fair in the U.S. While abroad, he purchased silk "stuffs" from French manufacturers and became a successful supplier to various interior designers.

E.D. and Marianne formed a true partnership in their marriage; she accompanied him on all of his trips abroad. Their travels often led them to Baden-Baden, a famous spa city in Germany. Here E.D. reportedly eased the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis in the city's many healing baths, as well as enjoying its popular scenic walks and hikes.

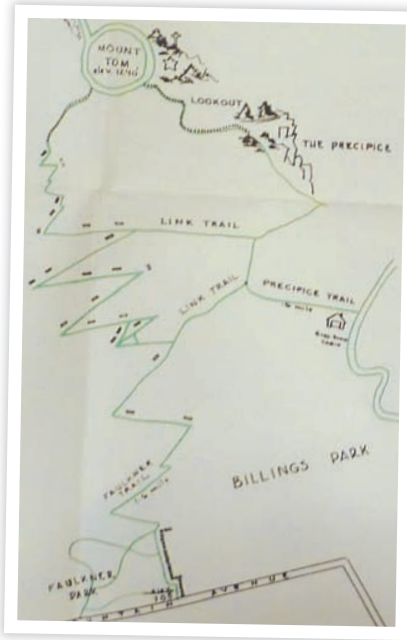
Neither Marianne nor her husband was born in Vermont. Rather, they found Vermont, chose Woodstock for their home, and spent their leisure time here when not in New York City. In 1898, E.D. dispatched Marianne to Woodstock to



*Woodward Mansion, circa 1880. Marianne chose this house, built before the Civil War, to be her and E.D.'s home. Courtesy of Woodstock Historical Society.*

purchase a home that would serve as a retreat from the activity of New York and his business interests. She came alone





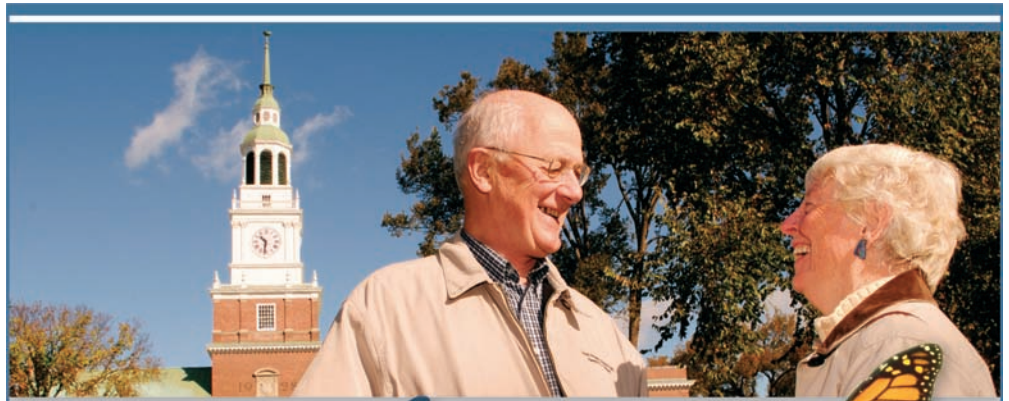
1962 parks map.

and selected the home built before the Civil War by Solomon Woodward on Mountain Avenue. The couple divided their time each year between Woodstock and New York City, as well as their travels abroad.

Those who knew them noted that E.D. and Marianne's marriage was an unusually happy one, and their close relationship in both personal and business affairs blessed her life. The death of E.D. in 1926 left Marianne a wealthy woman, but toward the end of her life, she often complained of the extreme loneliness she felt since he had passed away. »



The Homestead in Woodstock was a gift of Marianne Faulkner, whose portrait hangs inside. Photo by Lynn Bohannon.



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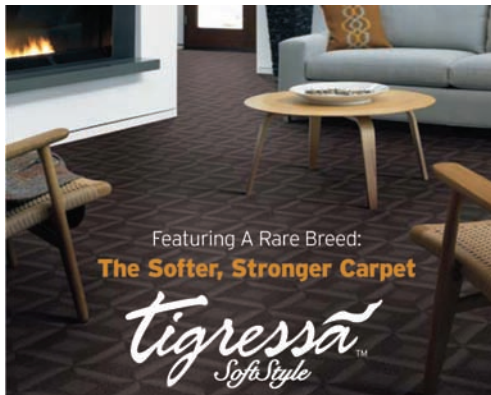
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Stone arch bridge.

**A Trail to Honor E.D.**

In 1934 construction commenced on a trail leading from property adjacent to Mrs. Faulkner's Mountain Avenue home to the top of Mount Tom. Pollock & Halborson of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, designed the trail, and local Ed Lord supervised the crew that built it. A.B. Lane Construction of Barre, a skilled masonry firm, completed the construction. Local reports indicate that the project may have been created as a make-work project during the



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*Marianne Faulkner and Mildred Bradley, August 1951.*



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depression. While no hard evidence of this has been found, because of Mrs. Faulkner's generosity and love of Woodstock, it is plausible.

Baden-Baden inspired the trail to honor E.D. The Roman city, located in southern Germany near the Black Forest and known for its healing sodium chloride-rich waters, features "cardiac" trails with gentle grades that lead to the many baths throughout the city. Just as Mount Tom rises in Woodstock, Mount Merkur rises between Baden-Baden and Gernsbach, and is Baden-Baden's highest peak, with walking trails to its summit.

The *Vermont Standard* reported the completion of the free Faulkner Trail in 1937, describing it as open to hikers, walkers, and just plain sightseers. A sign asks that users keep the path in order, "that Nature's handiwork may pass undisturbed. . . ." Zigzag trails at no pitch greater than 5 percent lead hikers to a vantage point just below the top of the south peak, where a rustic log bench offers respite.

### Billings Park

The creation of Billings Park by donation of the French estate necessitated the establishment of a Parks Commission by 1956. Julia McDill was named



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## NATURE



Marker reads "This park is given in memory of Edward Daniels Faulkner."

one of the first commissioners, and under her watch, links were made between the Faulkner Trail and the Precipice Trail, as well as to the carriage road at the top of the south peak. These connections explain the trail's shift in character from its distinguishing gentle grade to the rugged climb at the peak.

By 1962, McDill set her sights on converting the meadow on Mountain Avenue next to Mrs. Faulkner's home into a free public park, as Marianne had decreed in her will: "This park is given in memory of Edward Daniels Faulkner; said park shall be used for rest and quiet and not for other noisy activities." The park's current marker simply states the dedication to E.D. and forgoes mentioning "noisy activities." Mary Jane Cole designed the park as a peaceful place to sit on a bench and enjoy Woodstock's beautiful surroundings.

Though Mrs. Faulkner lived long past her husband's death and the trail's creation, it is wonderful to imagine that each day, perhaps early in the morning, she would climb the gentle slopes up the serene hillside and remember her beloved husband and the time they spent together walking similar trails in Baden-Baden.

Today the Faulkner Trust maintains Faulkner Park and Trail for the benefit of residents and tourists alike. Historic trail restoration efforts are under way by The Woodstock Trails Partnership to ensure that Mrs. Faulkner's legacy endures, so that her gift may continue to be enjoyed. 🐾

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## A Life Set to Music

### CAROL LANGSTAFF'S EXPRESSIVE DANCE

BY NAN BOURNE

PHOTOS BY CHRIS CRAIG

Carol Langstaff and her husband, Jim Rooney, live in a 200-year-old clapboard farmhouse on a hill in Sharon, Vermont, surrounded by cow pastures and luminous views of layered hills. Their living room is old-fashioned, cozy, and orderly.

#### School Days

I asked Carol—a vital, engaging woman with a dancer's energy—what had brought her to Vermont. (This question often elicits an adventure story.) “It was the Woodstock Country School,” she says simply. “My father was on a train somewhere, and he saw all these kids raving about a school they were returning to after a vacation. So he asked them about it, and they told him. It was this progressive, coed boarding school



*Top: Displaced people, dancing their cultural styles.*

*Above: Carol and her father John Langstaff.*

in Woodstock, Vermont. So he decided to send me there! Also,” she confesses, “so many of my family had gone to Putney for the music that I rebelled and wanted to go somewhere else!” »



## PERSONALITIES



### *Air.*

Carol's parents, John Langstaff and Diane Hamilton, were musicians who divorced when Carol was four. Her mother was a folk-music collector and a singer who played the harp and the dulcimer; her father was a concert singer, director, and a memorably colorful music teacher who for many years taught at Shady Hill School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "Their divorce somehow gave me a larger world—I was surrounded by music and dance. Music really became my home," says Carol. "I also had some terrific mentors, like Bill (William Sloane) Coffin and Pete Seeger. They taught me that if something isn't right, go and change it!"

Carol graduated from the Woodstock Country School after spending three years there. "I was never an academic student," she explains. "I learned best through stories. The Country School celebrated the individual and cultivated our special in-

terests—very unusual in schools now. I found I loved working with large groups of people through music, dance, and theater, and those departments were wonderful.

"One May Day," she recalls, "we put up a Maypole with streamers made from my

roommate's dead aunt's scarves. I had a record player in a high window playing folk dances, and as people came in to breakfast, we whirled them off to dance around the pole!" At her graduation in 1962 Carol created a Revels-like performance, "and I learned I could encourage



### *Procession of vessels.*





**Earth Mother.**

people to ‘jump off the cliff’ with me,” she says. “David Bailey, our headmaster, followed students, not rules. I left there full of confidence despite my academic weaknesses,” she adds thoughtfully.

### Revels Is Born

After high school, Carol studied music for a time at the Longy School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and then attended The Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City where she studied with Martha Graham. “She was an extraordinary teacher—quite a tyrant, but I’d have followed her out the door! She created huge, epic stories through music and dance—that was my vision too.”

Carol sang at Club 47 in Cambridge in the late ’60s (trying to pin Carol down to specific dates is like attempting to catch a bird in flight), and there she took on the job of directing Benjamin Britten’s medieval-style opera, *Noye’s Fludde*. “Joan Baez helped me with auditions and my dad sang in it. I’d just turned down the offer of a thrilling theater job at Hunter College for personal reasons, and I was on the rebound from that when my dad suggested we put on a masque here like one he’d done in New York. Really,”

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## PERSONALITIES



### *Water Journey.*

says Carol, “when you’re at your lowest, that’s when the most wonderful opportunities are born!

“I had a lot of Cambridge connections, and we put on our first Revels performance—folk dancing and singing, medieval music, and lots of community participation—at Sanders Theater at Harvard in 1971.” John Langstaff first sang his signature “Lord of the Dance” here, and his performance became an iconic part of subsequent Revels winter solstice celebrations. “I created a board, and it became Revels, Inc. It spread all over the country. I think it really filled an emotional need,” Carol says. “We have as much desire for color and celebration at the dark time of the year as primitive people did. Dad co-wrote and sang, and I directed and occasionally performed.

“But gradually,” she continues, “it began to lose its natural, indigenous quality and became formulaic. Audiences

### *Curtain call, reflected.*

wanted it to stay the same, but I was changing.” So after 20 years Carol decided to leave the Revels for work which could include themes of social activism. Her father remained longer with the national organization, which continues to this day.

Meanwhile in the ’70s, at age 22, she bought her Sharon house; shortly after

she met and married Peter Duveneck, a potter whose grandfather, Frank Duveneck, had been a well-known American Impressionist. “We moved in here—I’ve had this house for 45 years—and Peter built the barn and really improved the interior of the house. He’s an extraordinary artist; everything he makes is beautiful.” They had two children but ultimately di-





vorced. "I was more of a worker than a wife in those days," Carol admits ruefully. She started an art-centered preschool in Strafford for her children, which is still thriving today.

"Jim Rooney and I had met at Club 47 in the '60s where we both sang. We reconnected about 15 years ago. He was a Nashville musician by then, and he invited me down to New Orleans to see its music and ritual. At the end of the trip, I went 'Hmmm!'—and we started having ocean-side assignments. We got married after the kids were mostly grown."

### Programs Continue

Even before her position with the Revels ended, Carol had become interested in using local history in dance sequences. She noticed, for instance, that Lyme, New Hampshire, was home to several families descended from original settlers, plus a local historian. "I wanted to know, why did these early settlers come? And from where? So we created a Country Revels using local performers, props, and historically significant settings. We had a turkey drive with real turkeys!" Carol says.

"These were summer programs where I could begin to express my concern for social issues. For instance, we used a local copper mine tailing pit for a performance about the atomic bomb—a huge valley filled with orange sand. We had 'War' as a character, always wanting more. We had Robert J. Lurtsema from NPR announcing the dropping of the bomb."

In 1999 Carol founded the Flock Dance Troupe. It is based in her home and performances take place in her and Jim's cow pasture. "I named it Flock because I love watching how flights of birds and schools of fish move," Carol explains. "I've also studied bats, and I'm fascinated by how group intelligence works. I also love moving large groups of people around!"

Flock has created a number of productions. "For example, we have this show on rebalancing male and

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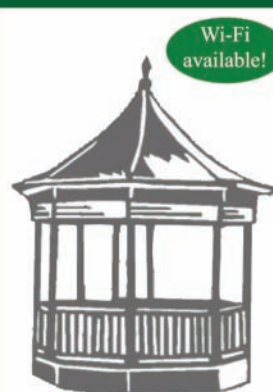


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female energy called *Regender*." Carol's current favorite is called *Joy*. Their newest, it celebrates life and death—and beyond. "One of its four sections tells an African-Brazilian story of how sailors, if they drown, are welcomed into the arms of Yemanje, the mother-lover. We create a tunnel of people who each embrace them." She adds, "This program was inspired by the death-with-dignity law wending its way through the legislature. This is how I combine my admiration for activists like Pete Seeger and Bill Coffin with my love of interpretive dance."

Carol uses all kinds of music, including classical, African, and Native American rhythms. She also makes much use of masks in her dances. "And I prefer solid-colored costumes. I have a whole trunk of blue clothes! I also love to recycle things; we have a mass of orange gloves. I found them washed up on beaches in Ireland, where Flock used to have its winter home. Fishermen lose them. In our shows, you see them representing greed."

"We have local performers," Carol continues, "some children, interns who pay, some professionals whom we pay. Some of our dancers have grown up with us and really know stagecraft. We allow a lot of leeway in how we interpret scenes—I like the dancers to improvise and work with their individual gifts. . . . Audiences, I find, can be very moved through visual imagery—we don't always need words." ☺

**Summer Shows**

*J*oy will preview at Kendal Retirement Community in Hanover this summer on July 16 and 17; these shows are free. Other performances will take place at Star Mountain in Sharon, Flock's home, July 22-24 at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors and students, children under 10 free.

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# Woodstock Welcome Center

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STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY FAIRLEE MacESLIN

Tucked away from the flow of pedestrian traffic on Central Street in the center of the village is the Welcome Center—one of the newest additions to Woodstock. The structure was built in 2006 after many discussions about whether to build it, where to put it, and how to run it. The result is the attractive building on Mechanic Street, owned by the town of Woodstock and staffed by the Chamber of Commerce. According to everyone who has had occasion to stop in for information or to take advantage of the public restrooms, it is the most welcome addition to the village in years. »

*The Welcome Center's entrance.*





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Visitors from California.

**What's Your Question?**

Every day, with the exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas, you will see the “Open” flag and be greeted by one of several staff members who can answer just about any question that is asked. And just when we think we’ve heard it all, someone throws us a curveball. We’ve all been asked where the famous rock festival was held, but a twist on that was whether we have a museum about the festival. We’re asked where to go to watch maple syrup being made (in October), and exactly what day the leaves will turn color. We’ve come to expect these questions because Vermont is, of course, known for its foliage and its maple syrup, and the town is eponymous with that rock concert that took place in Woodstock, New York.

However, it’s the unusual query that makes greeting our visitors fun and interesting. There’s the curious question, “What is the state animal?” which took a bit of thought to answer (it’s the Morgan horse) or the serious question, “Where are the Green Mountains?” And then there’s the occasional joking question, “Can I get a hug? You are the Welcome Center!”

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We've all been asked where the famous rock festival was held, but a twist on that was whether we have a museum about the festival.

Canada, Russia, Czech Republic, Scotland, New South Wales, Netherlands, New Zealand, and Germany, to name a few. Over the past five years, just about every country has been represented, as well as every state in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. The comments posted range from "quaint," "beautiful," and "spectacular" to "exquisite." One man from Florida wrote, "To finish my bucket list—50th state!" and from Massachusetts, "40 years coming here!"

We who live here take our village and our state for granted, so it's nice to be reminded how lucky we are by people who see what we have through new eyes. A young father came in with his family and asked where they could go to see the stars that evening, a place they could simply sit and enjoy the night sky with-



Local visitors stop to chat.

out streetlights. They were from the Midwest flatlands, and he wanted to be on top of a hill where the view of the night sky would be unobstructed. His young daughter stood by quietly, her eyes wide, as if envisioning her own star show. I pointed out a couple of back roads on his map, in the hills

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where the fields had been mowed, and suggested he check them out during the day. He left with his wife and child as happy as if they had won the lottery.

**Helping to Make Memories**

The most memorable encounter I've had was with a couple who stopped in and mentioned that they wanted to get married in Woodstock—that same day—and asked what they should do. They were only in town for the day but fell in love with the village and wanted to have their wedding here, possibly in front of the Episcopal Church with a minister, if they could convince one to do it. The bride-to-be had done her homework and knew that there was no waiting period, but didn't know how to make it happen that day.

I suggested that they start with the Town Clerk; I told them we had several Justices of the Peace who could perform the ceremony. This was 11:30 in the morning, and they were leaving town later in the afternoon. They left the Welcome Center for the Town Hall. They returned at 12:30 with a list of Justices of the Peace, most of whom they'd been unable to contact, but the woman was still determined to make it happen. I asked if they'd stop back and leave me a message as to what the outcome was. It seemed an impossible



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Great things do happen in small towns. I like to think that the Welcome Center helped them out with one of the most important events of their lives.

task. I knew it could be done, but I wasn't sure about making it happen in four hours. I hoped I was wrong.

The Welcome Center closed at 5 and they hadn't returned. I assumed that they had had no luck and had left town unmarried, as they had arrived. The next day, they stopped in briefly to leave me a message: they'd had a lovely wedding the day before, presided over by Justice of the Peace Kay Camp, down by the river. Congratulations to Michele and Gary Thiele of Glade Hill, Virginia! Great things do happen in small towns. I like to think that the Welcome Center helped them out with one of the most important events of their lives.

If you haven't had occasion yet to visit, please do. You will probably find an answer to any question you may



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have, as well as numerous brochures, maps, and information for not only Woodstock but also the rest of the state and surrounding areas. If you have a question we can't answer on the spot, we'll do our best to get it for you. Stop by and check us out. We'd love to see you! 🐾

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June 30

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July 7

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July 14

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July 21

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July 28

#### Bread and Bones

A Vermont-based acoustic trio performing original music with strong traditional roots, Bread and Bones features the imaginative harmonies and instrumental work of Richard Ruane, Beth Duquette, and Mitch Barron.

August 4

#### The Kind Buds

The Kind Buds entertain their audiences with a number of inspiring covers and incendiary originals. Bud & Budd deliver tight vocal harmonies with sweet, smooth, clean notes that complement and complete their polished sound.

August 11

#### The Alternate Routes

The Alternate Routes' name suits them well. They're a band that's never really fit in—in a good way. Since their genesis in 2004, cofounders Tim Warren (vocals, acoustic guitar) and Eric Donnelly (lead guitar) have taken their group through the dizzying heights and frustrating lows of the modern music industry and have learned some valuable lessons along the way.

August 18

#### Prydein

Prydein is a traditional Scottish-Irish-Celtic band with a serious rock edge. Often compared to AC/DC on Guinness and whiskey, Prydein gives a high-energy performance loved by young and old alike.

**Woodstock Chamber Music Series**  
Admission for all concerts by donation.

June 12

#### Gordon-Chang-Rider Trio

Unitarian Universalist Church, 4pm

August 21

#### Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival

Unitarian Universalist Church, 4pm

August 28

#### Annual Mozart Festival with Scott Woolweaver

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, 4pm





photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

## June

### Ongoing through the summer Skylark exhibition

An ongoing exhibition of the outdoor sculpture *Skylark* in fiberglass and steel by David Henderson.

*The Picture Gallery at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, NH*

### Through July 4 "BLeW"

Images and installation by Boston artist Deb Todd Wheeler.

*The Picture Gallery at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, NH*

12, 19 & 26

### Ice cream sundays

In celebration of Dairy Month, lend a hand making, then tasting, ice cream—a

### August 7

#### Antique Tractor Day

Tractors from the 1930s to the 1960s will be displayed by the folks who restored them. There will be a tractor parade at 1pm with a narration of historical and background information, plus tractor-drawn wagon rides and tractor activities for children. Purchase lunch from the Teago Volunteer Fire Department—all proceeds benefit the department.

*Info: (802) 457-2355, [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org)*

*Billings Farm & Museum*

different flavor each week. Learn the history and scientific facts about this dairy treat.

*Info: (802) 457-2355,*

*[www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org)*

*Billings Farm & Museum*

12-15

#### Landscape Painting in oils

Woodstock Country Walking Tours is pleased to announce the second annual Plein Air Painting Workshops taught by noted artists Carolyn Egeli and Mary Ekroos.

*Info: (802) 457-3046,*

*[suzanneooten@yahoo.com](mailto:suzanneooten@yahoo.com), [www.woodstockcountrywalkingtours.com](http://www.woodstockcountrywalkingtours.com)*

17-18

#### St. James Art Show and Sale

Join in on the First Annual Art Show and Sale at St. James Church in Woodstock. Noted local artists will have their work for sale. Proceeds of profits go to the Hand in Hand Dinners and the Woodstock Food Shelf. Gala party and sale will begin at 5:30pm June 17 and continue on June 18, 10am-5pm. ▶



25

**The Naked Table Comes to Ireland**

In its international debut, the Naked Table Project will be hosting an event at Fruitlawn Garden in Abbeyleix, County Laois, Ireland, just about an hour south of Dublin. The garden is owned by Arthur Shackleton, one of Ireland's premier garden designers, and his wife Carol Booth. Arthur is the brother of Charles Shackleton, the creator of the



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and to buy your tickets, go to  
[www.newenglandlivingshowhouse.com](http://www.newenglandlivingshowhouse.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLINGS FARM

July 4

**Old Vermont 4th**

A patriotic family celebration featuring the reading of the Declaration of Independence, historic debates, wagon rides, making 1890 fl ags, a spelling bee, the egg toss, and lots more.

Info: (802) 457-2355, [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org)  
Billings Farm & Museum

Naked Table Project and designer of the tables. Naked Table will assist with local accommodations and furniture shipping costs.

To learn more: <http://nakedtable.com/ireland>, (802) 672-5175, [nakedtable@shackletonthomas.com](mailto:nakedtable@shackletonthomas.com)

25

**Fiber Arts Fair**

Shearing sheep, carding wool, spinning yarn, weaving on historical looms, and all sorts of fiber crafts demonstrations will kick off the 2011 season at the Green Mountain Perkins Academy, perched on a hill six miles south of Woodstock on Route 106. Tour the picturesque academy, a 19th century coed school that produced a Vermont Governor, a New Hampshire Congressman, and an editor of the *New York Times*.

Info: [greenmountainperkinsacademy.org](http://greenmountainperkinsacademy.org)  
2-5pm

25

**History in Bloom**

This event will include a self-guided walking tour that features a number of beautiful gardens in the village, a guide booklet, and admission to

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July 11

**Vermont Fiddling:  
Old Time Rules shall Prevail**

Fiddler/historian Adam Boyce will demonstrate old-time fiddle music and discuss how fiddling has changed over the years.

Sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. Free!  
Info: (802) 457-1822,  
www.woodstockhistorical.org  
Woodstock History Center,  
7-8pm

a special exhibit in the Dana House Museum that pairs historic fashions, works of art, and floral displays. At the conclusion of the event, the floral arrangements in the exhibit will be raffled off. Interpretive staff will be at each garden to share information and answer questions. Tickets purchased in advance: \$25. Tickets purchased day of the event: \$30.

Info: (802) 457-1822,  
www.woodstockhistorical.org  
Woodstock History Center, 11am-3pm

26

**Ethan Allen: His Life and Times  
Author event**

Pulitzer Prize finalist Willard Sterne Randall will discuss and read from his recently released book *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times*. Following the presentation, books will be available for purchase and signing. This event is sponsored by the Yankee Bookshop.

Info: (802) 457-1822,  
www.woodstockhistorical.org  
Woodstock History Center, 2pm

**July**

5-August 23

**Time Travel Tuesdays**

Lend a hand with late 19th century chores and pastimes in the farmhouse. There's plenty of work and fun for every age!

Info: (802) 457-2355,  
www.billingsfarm.org  
Billings Farm & Museum

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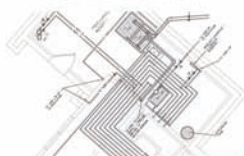


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6-September 28

**Wagon Ride Wednesdays**

Wagon rides featured every Wednesday.

Info: (802) 457-2355,

[www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org)

Billings Farm & Museum, 11am-2pm

9-August 28

**Light Installations: 2002-Present**

By 2010 Saint-Gaudens Fellow Mary Temple.

Artist's Talk: July 9, 4pm

The Picture Gallery at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, NH



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLINGS FARM

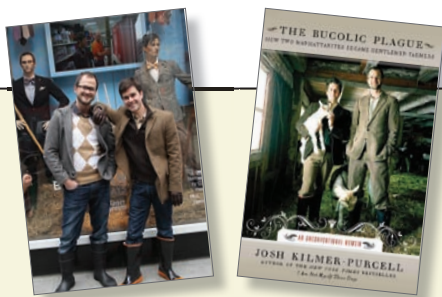
August 20

**Children's Chicken Day**

Have you heard that the closest relative of Tyrannosaurus Rex may be . . . the chicken? We'll have a variety of breeds on hand for our Children's Chicken Day for you to see their similarities and differences. Fun facts, programs, plus games and the egg toss.

Info: (802) 457-2355, [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org)

Billings Farm & Museum



**New England "Living" Show House Events**

June 11, 2011

The Yankee Bookshop and The Juniper Hill Inn are sponsoring two events with Josh Kilmer-Purcell, author of *The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers: An Unconventional Memoir*, and *The Fabulous Beekman Boys*, aired on Planet TV. *The Bucolic Plague* reading and signing at Juniper Hill Inn, Windsor, VT. 1:30-3pm.

*The Fabulous Beekman Boys* Fund-raiser Dinner with Josh Kilmer Purcell and Brent Ridge is \$100 and includes wine and a signed copy of *The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers: An Unconventional Memoir*. Dinner at Juniper Hill Inn, Windsor, VT. 6:30pm.

For information or to register for either event, go to [www.newenglandlivingshowhouse.com/calendar](http://www.newenglandlivingshowhouse.com/calendar).

15-October 14

**Foodways Fridays**

Discover how we use seasonal produce from our heirloom garden in historical recipes. Take home different recipes each week!

Info: (802) 457-2355,

[www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org)

Billings Farm & Museum

15

**Band Concert and Ice Cream Social**

Come enjoy locally made ice cream while you listen to the tunes of Dick Ellis and the South Royalton Town Band. Please bring a chair or blanket. Event will be held on the Woodstock History Center's back lawn.

Info: (802) 457-1822,

[www.woodstockhistorical.org](http://www.woodstockhistorical.org)

Woodstock History Center, 7-8pm

29-31

**Bookstock**

Our community-sponsored day celebrates the diverse ways that books and authors, especially those connected with Vermont and the Upper Valley, help us explore a wide range of human experience for all ages. Over 20 authors of national and local renown, including Archer Mayor and Sally Ryder Brady, will speak, read from their works, offer interactive programs,

and mingle with the participating public. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Thomas Powers will be the keynote speaker on Saturday, July 30. Take part in workshops, new and secondhand book sales, and diverse cultural events.

Info: [www.bookstockvt.org](http://www.bookstockvt.org)

30 & 31

**Quilt Exhibition Opening Weekend**

The grand opening of our 25th Annual Quilt Exhibition will feature quilting programs and informal workshops for beginning quilters, plus activities for all ages. Meet Windsor County's talented quilters as they discuss their most recent works.

Info: (802) 457-2355,

[www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org)

Billings Farm & Museum

**August**

6

**Newmont Military Band Concert**

Back by popular demand, this historical brass band plays museum-quality



instruments and music from before 1900 while dressed in period uniforms. Join us for "Heavy Metal" from the Gilded Age on the academy's lawn.  
 Info: [www.greenmountainperkinsacademy.org](http://www.greenmountainperkinsacademy.org)  
 Green Mountain Perkins Academy,  
 3:30-5pm

**13**  
**taste of Woodstock**

Join us for a day filled with food, demonstrations, music, street dances, sidewalk sales, and a taste of everything that makes the Woodstock community special.  
 Info: (802) 457-3555,  
[info@woodstockvt.com](mailto:info@woodstockvt.com)  
 10am-8:30pm

**15**  
**the Finest Hours: Mike Tougias**

Award-winning author Mike Tougias will lead a program entitled *The Finest Hours* about a daring rescue off Cape Cod led by the Coast Guard. Copies of his books including *The Finest Hours* will be available for purchase and signing. Members: free; nonmembers: \$5.  
 Info: (802) 457-1822,  
[www.woodstockhistorical.org](http://www.woodstockhistorical.org)  
 Woodstock History Center, 7-8pm



August 27  
**25th Anniversary gala**  
 Our culminating upscale gala celebrating a quarter of a century of David's House will be held at the Woodstock Inn.  
 Info and to reserve tickets:  
 (603) 643-2298, [www.davids-house.org/SilverCelebrations](http://www.davids-house.org/SilverCelebrations)



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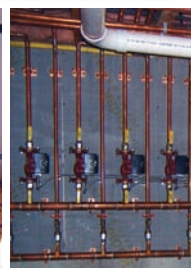


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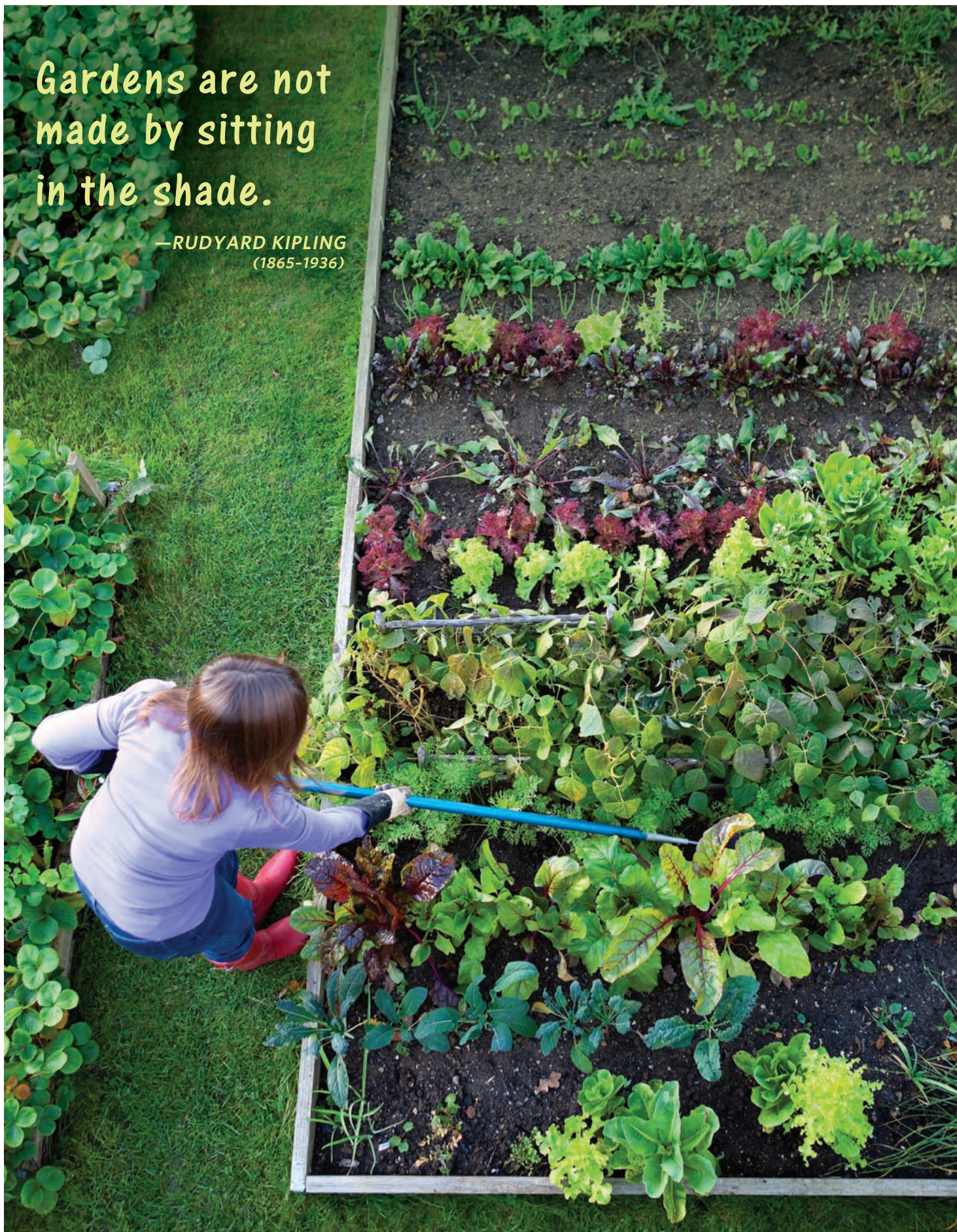
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—RUDYARD KIPLING  
(1865-1936)





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