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Explore Central Vermont

New England VP
Ed Coats

Publisher/Executive Editor
Steven Pappas

General Sales Manager
Tim Duguay

Creative Services Manager
Keri Franzoni

Customer Service Manager
Melody Hudson

Sales
Krystal Marshall
Kristi Wolfrom

Creative Services
Tiahna Gillam
Fran Grabowski

On the cover
Apple Blossoms
PHOTO BY LORNA CARTY

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TAKE A DRIVE

around Vt. this spring

When you think of scenic drives, you think about Vermont in autumn. But spring foliage – the various shades of green and browns that emerge with warmer weather – have their own uniqueness that is worth a look.



We asked Martha Ribolini, the branch manager of AAA Northern New England, to offer up some popular spring time drives around the state. Here are her three suggestions:

Option 1

Springtime in Vermont can be nice on Route 2 from Montpelier to Route 14 in East Montpelier. Stop at Bragg Farm Sugarhouse for a sweet treat. Continue up to Hardwick. At Route 15, go west to Morrisville, passing by Fisher Covered Bridge on the way to Morrisville. In Morrisville, head south on Route 100 to Stowe, where you can check out antique shops, the Alchemist brewery, and more. Nearby is Ben & Jerry's and Cold Hollow in Waterbury, where there are plenty of local dining options. The route is approximately 58 miles and takes around 1.5 hours of drive time.

Option 2

If you want more of a mountain route, here is an option for you. From Burlington, take Route 7 south to Vergennes. You will see the Shelburne Museum, Vermont Teddy Bear Co. and Vermont Flannel Company along way. Continue on 22A south in Addison you can take 17 east over Lincoln Gap back to Waitsfield. There are lots of pull-offs with views of lake and mountains. If you like covered bridges, you have Warren and some in Waitsfield. With the drive back, take 100B to Route 2 and stop into a visit in Montpelier. This drive is approximately 73 miles and 2 hours of driving time.

(If you're interested in horses, you can detour on 23 South off Route 17, which brings you to UVM Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge. They are open to the public May to October. From there, head into Middlebury.)

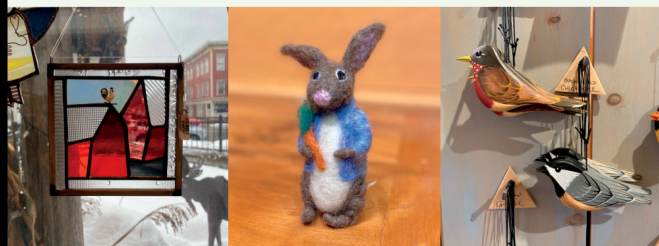
Option 3

Tour through southern Vermont, from Bennington to Manchester Center on Route 7 or 7A. It is a scenic route that, once you start to circle back, be sure to consider Route 9 from Bennington to Brattleboro – a truly scenic Vermont adventure.

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SKI AREAS

offer spring activities

By Peter Cobb

If you are under the impression that Vermont's ski areas shut down in spring, after the last trail is closed, to rest from a hectic winter and regroup for a busy summer, think again.

"Many Vermont ski areas plan activities and events for all seasons, and spring is no different. Even though it's hard for serious powder chasers to stow

their snow gear for the warmer months, the longer days and warmer temperatures mean visitors can look forward to activities like disc and traditional golf, mountain biking, scenic lift rides, hiking, and outdoor concerts," said Bryan Rivard, director of communications for the Vermont Ski Areas Association/Ski Vermont.

According to Rivard, springtime in the mountains can mean everything

from skiing in a T-shirt, to early season mountain bike trail rides, to concerts, golfing, spa activities and more.

"The variety of activities and the adaptability of Vermont's ski areas means there's an opportunity to experience a wide range of activities before the summer is in full swing," Rivard said.

Saskadena Six, which is run by the Woodstock Inn & Resort, offers an Orvis-endorsed fly fishing program at the Woodstock facility and at nearby rivers and ponds. Orvis is known internationally for its fly fishing gear and teaching sessions.

The program provides instruction from setting up the rod, to fly selection, fishing knots, and how to safely release your catch. The program is geared for both beginners and expert anglers.

Stowe Mountain is presenting Arlo Guthrie's "What's Left of Me" tour at the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center Saturday, May 27. Guthrie, joined by Bob Santelli, will talk about his life as a touring artist, his memories of his famous father Woody Guthrie and tell tales from the road. The show also includes rarely-seen video footage along with an audience Q&A and snippets of his past performances.

Killington Mountain, which has one of the longest ski seasons in the country, will hold a "May Day Slalom" on May 1.



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR FILE PHOTOS

Skimmers take to the slopes (and the water) at Sugarbush and Mad River Glen in recent years.

Participants will compete against their friends for bragging rights or simply to test their skills. This competition is free with a valid Killington season pass or lift ticket.

The Pump House at Jay Peak, Vermont's only indoor water park, operates all 12 months. The park offers everything from family friendly Mill Pond Kids' Play and Big River, which winds lazily around the border of the entire park, to the Orange, Blue, & Green slides, to La Chute, a scream-your-face-off, 65-foot drop for the fearless. There is also a deep water activity pool, a climbing wall and basketball area.

Spring and summer activities at Sugarbush Resort include golf, scenic lift rides, disc golf, bungee trampoline, summer camps and downhill mountain biking. Mountain bikes and E-bike rentals are available.

The spring season at Smugglers' Notch runs from April 3 to June 8, and includes basketball and volleyball, several playgrounds scattered throughout the resort, the Ozone at the Fun Zone, which has family friendly indoor activities with ping pong, mini golf, a bouncy house and a giant kid-friendly slide, and Littles' Loft, a creative play space for young children.

Mountain biking is big in the Green Mountains. Most ski areas provide trails and lift services. Burke Mountain Resort plans to open its trails May 27. Bolton Valley trails open in the summer but season passes are available now. Mountain bike instruction is available at the resort.

Other ski areas with mountain biking trails include: Stratton, Killington. Okemo, Smugglers' Notch, Sugarbush, Stowe, Salsburgh and the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe.

Several ski areas also have world class golf courses. Most resorts open mid May, weather permitting. The Killington course is set to open, May 28 Check the various websites for their opening day.

Spring pond skating, where skiers of all levels try to ski across a small, shallow pond without falling into the icy cold water is a common spring event. Some skiers succeed, some don't. Watching skiers drop into the cold water is part of the fun.

The Okemo Spring Fling Snow Melt is scheduled for April 8th. Pond skating is from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be live music from the band Sly Richard, prizes, a luau theme, food trucks and more.

Check Vermont ski areas' websites for pond skating schedules and other details.



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Never too early to think about THE GARDEN

By **Henry Homeyer**

Longtime gardening columnist Henry Homeyer has shared his knowledge over the years. Every spring, he offers a cornucopia of advice about planning your garden. Here are some tips from a few of his previous columns:

Starting seeds

In order to be successful with your seed-starting efforts, you will need supplemental lights. If you try to save money and just start a few seedlings on a sunny windowsill, you will most likely be disappointed. Even under the best conditions, direct sun only reaches your seedlings about six hours a day, much less than they need.

Fluorescent lights are the least expensive solution to the need for supplemental light. My fixtures are 4-feet long and use two T-8 tubes each. The fixtures are available at hardware and big box stores, and cost from \$16 to \$40 each, depending where you buy them.

T-8 tubes use 32 watts of energy per hour, while older model T-12 tubes use 40 watts. This year I bought some LED bulbs that fit my 4-foot fluorescent fixtures but use only half the electricity. I'm switching over to LED for the sake of the environment, but as the tubes cost about \$8 each, I am spreading out my purchases over a few years. If you want to make the switch, make sure the package says they do not require any re-wiring of the fixtures (older models did require that). One nice thing about the LED lights are that they don't break if you bump them hard or drop them. Select lights that are 4000K or 5000K color spectrum, which are close to daylight color.

I use a biodynamic calendar called Stella Natura to help decide on planting dates. It uses the sun, moon and stars to determine the best time and day to plant four categories of plants: flowers, fruit, leaf and root. It also has "blackout" days when nothing should be done. I am not 100% convinced that this calendar really works, but have done some informal experiments planting seeds on their suggested days, and on blackout days, and it seemed to make a difference.

Read the seed packages carefully if you are new to starting indoors. Onion-family plants and peppers take a long time to develop, so most people start them in early March.



PHOTOS BY HENRY HOMEYER

A flat with 6-packs for starting seeds, and a plastic cover to contain moisture.



Add fertilizer and compost to hole, and stir in before planting.

Tools

Everyone I know is thinking about spring – despite the fact that we could still see snow and sub-zero temperatures before we see tulips. This might be a good time to take an inventory of your tools to see if you have everything you need, and buy the ones you need. This is also a good time to clean up, sharpen and oil the tools you have.

First, a list of the basic tools all gardeners need:

Garden fork. This is a straight-handled tool with 4 flat tines that can be used to loosen the soil for planting, or to dig out things like a clump of daylilies. These come with either fiberglass or wood handles, and I always choose wood. Both handles can splinter over time, but an oiled and well-maintained wood handle will out-last fiberglass. I have some wood-handled tools still in great shape after over 50 years of regular use.

Pointed shovel. I like the short D-handle shovel better than those with a long straight handle, but that is for you to decide. The short handle model is lighter weight, and has a nice grip. A pointed shovel digs into the soil more easily than a straight-blade spade.

Garden rake. This is the rake that has short tines space an inch or so apart. It is good for smoothing the soil or forming raised beds.

Lawn rake. There are a dozen different styles, and all will do the job. The old-fashioned bamboo rake is nice, but the tines do break after a while. Plastic rakes are light-weight, but also break after a few years. I prefer those with metal tines.

Drain spade. This is a shovel that has a blade that is long and narrow (16 inches long, 5 inches wide). Great for transplanting, it can get all the way under a plant to help you pop it out of the ground.

Hand tool for weeding. There are plenty, but I like the CobraHead Weeder best. It is a hand tool shaped like a curved finger, and can loosen roots from below while you give a gentle tug from above. I use it to loosen the soil for planting, too. Available at garden centers or www.CobraHead.com.

Tools require some maintenance, and this is the time to sharpen, clean and oil them if you didn't do it last fall. Fiberglass handles generally require no maintenance, though I suppose you could take off any rough spots with steel wool or sandpaper.

Wood-handled tools should never be left outdoors, but most of us forget occasionally; strong sun or rain will damage them and give them a rough surface. If the handle is very rough, use a piece of sandpaper and lightly sand the handle, tip to stern. Wipe it well with a rag before applying oil. For less damaged handles, rub with fine steel wool. Don't sand a handle that has a urethane finish unless you intend to take it all off – but you can use steel wool on it.

Next apply a coat of boiled linseed oil. I like to heat the oil until hot before applying, as this is a fairly thick oil, and heating it will help it to penetrate the wood. I use a paint brush or a rag to apply the oil.

Let the oil sink into the wood, which might take overnight or just a few minutes, depending on the grain and how dry the wood is. Never try to oil a wet handle. Apply a second coat and let dry. Then rub it down with a fine steel wool, labeled 000 or 0000. This will take off any bits that are raised up by oiling and burnish the wood.

If you have a well-used shovel, it is probably dull. It is easy to sharpen it, but you will need a good 8- to 12-inch file, either a rough or medium file, often called a mill bastard. Be sure to get one with a handle, as some only come with a short pointy part and require you to add a handle.

Soil testing

This is a good time to beat the rush and get your soil tested so that you can improve your soil before you begin planting.

Most New England states have soil testing labs available to gardeners. Finding one is as simple as searching for “Soil testing lab near me” in your browser. Your first choice should probably be one run by the state university Extension Service. Most offer a variety of options as to what is tested, and their websites will explain your options, what each cost, and how to collect a sample. Most tests require one or two cups of air-dried soil free of roots and rocks.

Most state labs are very busy in spring, and a 14- to 21-day wait is typical. If you are in a rush to get your soil test results, you might try Logan Labs, a commercial lab in Ohio. They can usually e-mail

test results in a few days and also have a soil scientist available to talk to you (for a fee) to make recommendations.

Unless you live where there are natural limestone or marble deposits – parts of Vermont, for example – your soil is probably acidic. Why? Coal fired power plants send sulfur into the air, and it reacts with water to form sulfuric acid that is dropped by the rain. Most plants do best with a soil pH between 6.0 and 6.8. A pH of 7.0 is neutral, and above that is alkaline. Soils rich in organic matter and microorganisms tend to buffer the soil pH, making it less acidic.

Soils are composed of three things, basically: ground up rock is about 45%, air is about 50% and organic matter about 5%. The particle size of the rock component is what determines soil texture: big particles are in sand, medium particles in silt, and very fine particles make up clay. A good soil has particles of all three sizes, but is mostly silt.

If your soil has a pH of 6.0 or less, you should add some garden lime or wood ashes to “sweeten it”. If you get a soil test, it should tell you how many pounds of lime to add as expressed in pounds per 100 square feet – a 10-foot by 10-foot area. I weighed a quart of garden lime in a yogurt container and it weighs a little over 3 pounds. Wood ashes are about equivalent in what they do. But this isn't rocket science – you don't have to be precise.

Lime is ground limestone, and is sold in bags at the garden center. It comes as powdered lime or pelletized lime, which is less messy. If you buy powdered lime, wear a mask when spreading it so you don't inhale it.

All fertilizers add nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K). The amount of each is expressed as a number that is the percentage of the active ingredient by weight. A 10-10-10 fertilizer has 10 % of each, and 70% filler. The minerals in chemical fertilizers are in the form of salts, and using too much can damage roots. The salts in chemical fertilizer are water soluble and can be dissolved and washed away in heavy rains.

If you add compost to your garden and work it in, it will become more biologically active – full of beneficial microorganisms. It will drain much better, but hold moisture better, too.



Sharpen the inside edge of your shovel.

HISTORY



Flynn early years.



Flynn today.



Latchis Theatre.

VERMONT'S HISTORIC THEATERS *are still going strong*

By Janelle Faignant

From decay to decadence, heydays to disarray, and back to booming, the historic theaters in Vermont have seen a lot of changes throughout the time they've stood here.

They offer experiences you can only get from live theater, served up under a dome of deluxe tapestry, velour drapes and ornate detail. Today, these theaters, some of which began centuries ago, are a combination of rich history and state-of-the-art technology.

The largest and most well-known are dotted throughout the state, but the smaller and lesser-known historic theaters in between are just as important to their communities.

A marquis of the 1930s Art Deco style, the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington hosts a plethora of live performance from dance to music to comedy, including “popera” group Il Divo, “The Simon and Garfunkel Story” and “The Book of Mormon.” The state’s largest venue of its kind, it’s also a cultural and educational center and offers classes and camps.

In postwar years, the culture was changing fast and by the 1970s, the Flynn and many similar theaters were struggling. Many were converted or destroyed but thanks to its community the Flynn rallied. In 1972, it was bought by the Merrill Theater Corporation, a longtime Vermont

company that operates the Roxy and Ethan Allen cinemas in Burlington. Next, the Lyric Theatre Company was founded and its debut production of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” was performed at the Flynn in 1974. Restoration began in 1981 and in 2000, it incorporated two performance venues — the original theater and a smaller space that allowed more programming called Flynn Space, which today collectively draw 200,000 people annually.

The original Barre Opera House in Barre was built in 1886 and burned down just 12 years later. A new opera house was built and opened in 1889 on the same site, and is the one currently standing today. It once served as a soapbox for U.S. presidents, as well as a performance space, hosting Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan, and John Philip Sousa and his band. In the 1930s, it began to struggle, competing with opening movie theaters in town and, in 1944, it closed and didn't open again for almost 40 years.

Thanks to community concern and support, in the mid-1970s, repairs began, and it reopened in 1982 despite some still broken windows and a lack of proper heating. Since then, it has continued to work towards restoration, including a new heating system, stage lights and other amenities gradually added. With over 23,000 visitors annually, you can see the Vermont Philharmonic, the Green

Mountain Youth Symphony, Moving Light Dance, the Miss Vermont Pageant and many others here.

The Latchis Theatre and Latchis Hotel in Brattleboro are part of the historic Latchis Memorial Building, built in 1938 and listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Its website refers to its mission as “creating community through culture.” Today, movies are shown on four screens, including the town’s only large screen and shows are exclusively “first-run, art and independent films, 52 weeks per year.”

A little over a decade after it opened, a fire broke out in the projection booth. But in the 1950s and '60s it was back in full swing with the Trapp Family Singers among its live performances. In 2011 when Hurricane Irene flooded downtown Brattleboro and the Latchis fell under 6 feet of water, the building closed but by 2018 restoration had been completed.

The Paramount Theatre in Rutland is another theater saved and restored by its community. The only Historic Landmark Theatre between Burlington and Pittsfield, Massachusetts, it's the area's only year-round professional arts presenting organization, bringing in popular music acts, local and Broadway theater productions, comedy, family entertainment, a wide variety of film, and live-in-HD presentations from the Metropolitan Opera and the National Theatre of Great Britain.

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Built in 1912-13 in the Colonial Revival style by George T. Chaffee, early performances included Tom Thumb, Will Rogers, and Harry Houdini when it was called The Playhouse Theatre of Rutland, Vermont. When the silent film era gave way to talkies, The Playhouse embraced it and was renamed The Paramount in 1931. Imagine seeing "Gone with the Wind" for the very first time when it premiered at a theater like the Paramount. In the 1970s, The Movies, as the theater was then known, saw the decline of the film industry, closed its doors in 1975, and sat abandoned for almost a decade.

Over the years, it flooded and caught fire and was unused until its restoration in 2000 through extensive historic research to repair the ornamental plaster, stenciled ceiling and gold leaf to plaster surfaces.

With over 165 events a year, the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury opened in 1884 with elaborate window frames, moldings and two grand fireplaces. Today it hosts art exhibits, movie screenings, and productions by resident companies including the Middlebury Community Players, Opera Company of Middlebury, and Middlebury Actors Workshop.

"Theatrical history is highlighted by triumphant returns to the stage by legendary performers," its website says. "It is less frequent, however, for the stage itself to make a triumphant return. The restoration and reopening of Middlebury's Town Hall Theater is one of those rare, even miraculous, occasions," and it traces its history all the way back to 1883.

Many of these theaters are well-known landmarks in their towns, and the Bellows Falls Opera House in Bellows Falls is no different. Built in 1926, it's home to a six-story clock tower. In 2004, it underwent a multimillion dollar restoration project and now hosts movies and live performances.

The Savoy Theatre in Montpelier opened in 1905, with "the best in independent and foreign films." In 2009, it got an upgraded projection and sound systems.

Originally named the Strand Theatre, The Playhouse Movie Theatre in Randolph is one of the oldest movie theaters in the state, opening in 1919. Its name changed to Playhouse in 1943, but this theater has changed very little in almost 100 years.

Now under the administrative umbrella of Pentangle Arts, Woodstock Town Hall Theatre in Woodstock is an historic neoclassical concert hall, once an opera



Paramount Theatre today.



Paramount Theatre early days.

house, built in 1900. 20,000 people pass through its doors annually and call its current neoclassical proscenium design a gem in the heart of the small town.

The Vergennes Opera House in Vergennes built in 1897 by, and for its community, it once hosted many famous people including President Taft and Tiny Tim. The Stowe Theatre Guild in Stowe began as the Stowe Playhouse in 1957, and has been performing on the second floor of Stowe's historic town hall building for over 25 years. And The Old Church Theater in Bradford has been operating out of the historically significant "Old Church" building since 1984. It's the oldest public building in town, dating back to 1794 and operating as a theater starting in 1921 as the Colonial Theatre. During that time, it showed silent films with a live music score. It traded hands over the years and found many uses by the community, including as Old Church Theater beginning in the early 1980s, which remains committed to presenting quality work and encouraging community participation for over 35 years.

These historic buildings not only offer architectural and cultural value, but a recent article in American City and County identified the positive impact of the performing arts on the quality and economic life of American cities. Small towns like the ones in Vermont are no different.

Left, a list of larger music venues, including the historic theaters, from around Vermont.

Explore

Central Vermont

Summer Photography Contest



Have a great summer scenic photograph?

If so, we may publish it in our next edition of Explore Magazine and maybe even use it on the cover. Specifically, we are interested in photo submissions that depict the spectacular outdoor scenery of Vermont. Each entrant is invited to submit up to six of their favorite summer outdoor scenic photos, each labeled with the photographer's name and a short description. Photographs may include flora, fauna, landscapes, close-ups or panoramic views. People and/or animals can be included in the photo but should not be the subject of the shot.

We are looking for high resolution photo submissions of 300 dpi or higher in .jpeg format. The more vibrant the colors, the better. Judging will be done by our editors taking into consideration exposure, focal point, color and contrast as well as subject matter.

**The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2023.
Winner(s) will be announced in our next edition.**

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FINDING VT'S VISUAL ARTS

JON OLENDER FILE PHOTO

Rutland artist Jason Bemis explains the science of color and how it affects his own work and explains how seeing certain colors evokes emotion within our brains during an evening Artist Talk at the Chaffee Art Center in Rutland City.

You don't have to go far in Vermont to find galleries and museums showcasing both famed and new artists. While some of these venues are small and intimate, they provide a wonderful glimpse into the works of so many artists. Of course, the larger venues have multiple exhibits, and are worthy of a longer visit. Enjoy your exploration of Vermont galleries and museums:

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- Espresso Bueno, 248 N. Main St., 802-479-0896, espressobueno.com
- Morse Block Deli, 260 N. Main St., 802-479-7069, www.studioplacearts.com
- Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St., Barre; 802-479-7069, www.studioplacearts.com

Bennington

- Bennington Museum, 802-447-1571, www.benningtonmuseum.org

Brandon

- Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St., 802-247-4956, www.brandonartistsguild.org

Brattleboro

- Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Union Station, Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142, 802-257-0124, www.brattleboromuseum.org
- Mitchell-Giddings, 183 Main St., 802-251-8290, www.mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com
- Vermont Center for Photography, 49 Flat St., 802-251-6051, www.vcphoto.org

Burlington

- BCA Center, 135 Church St., 802-865-7551, www.burlingtoncityarts.com
- UVM Fleming Museum, 61 Colchester Ave., 802-656-0750, www.flemingmuseum.org

Jeffersonville

- Bryan Memorial Gallery 180 Main St., 802-644-5100, www.bryangallery.org

Johnson

- Vermont Studio Center, 80 Pearl St., 802-635-2727, www.vermontstudiocenter.org

Manchester

- Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Drive, 802-362-1405, www.svac.org

Middlebury

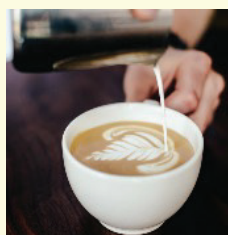
- Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, 1 Mill St., 802-458-0098, edgewatergallery.co
- Edgewater Gallery on the Green, 6 Merchants Rowe, 802-989-7419, edgewatergallery.co
- Middlebury College Museum of Art, South Street (Route 30), 802-443-5007, museum.middlebury.edu
- Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St., 802-388-1436, townhalltheater.org

Montpelier

- Susan Calza Gallery, 38 Main St., 802-224-6827, www.susancalza.com
- The Front Gallery, 6 Barre St., 802-552-0877, www.thefrontvt.com



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PROVIDED PHOTO

Abstracts on exhibit recent at the Fleming Museum in Burlington.

- Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 35 Main St., 802-223-3338, www.kellogghubbard.org
- Vermont Arts Council, 136 State St., 802-828-3293, www.vermontartscouncil.org
- Vermont History Museum, 109 State St., 802-828-2291, vermonthistory.org
- Vermont Supreme Court, 111 State St., 802-828-0749, curator.vermont.gov
- T.W. Wood Gallery, 46 Barre St., 802-262-6035, www.twwoodgallery.org

Putney

- NXT Gallery, 15 Kimball Hill, 802-387-0102, nextstagearts.org

Rutland

- Castleton U. Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row, 802-282-2396, www.castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries/
- Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., 802-775-0356, www.chaffeeartcenter.org

St. Johnsbury

- Catamount Arts, 39 Eastern Ave., 802-748-2600, www.catamountarts.org

Springfield

- The Vault, 68 Main St., 802-885-7111, www.galleryvault.org

Stowe

- Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Drive, 802-760-4634, www.sprucepeakarts.org

Tunbridge

- Tunbridge Public Library, 289 Route 110, 802-889-9404.

Waterbury

- Axel's Frame Shop & Gallery, 5 Stowe St., 802-244-7801, www.facebook.com/AxelsFrameShopGallery

Exhibit streaming

Vermont Arts Online: www.vermontartsonline.org

JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR FILE PHOTO

Artist Kate Arslambakova, of Brookfield, works in her studio at Studio Place Arts in Barre. Arslambakova is this year's recipient of SPA's annual Studio Residency Program.



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BLASTS FROM THE PAST

around the state



FILE PHOTO BY CAMERON PAQUETTE

In 2018, a newly unveiled historical marker honoring Lemuel Haynes stands in the foreground as Mary Reczek, of the West Rutland Historical Society, speaks to a crowd of people at Pleasant Street Cemetery in West Rutland. To learn more about the state's historical markers, go to accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/roadside-markers

There is so much to see when it comes to the state's historic sites. Some of them are not open until after Memorial Day, but the few listed below are worth a visit any time of the year (you just might not be able to get inside to see exhibits. But you'll just have to come back. Details are at historicsites.vermont.gov

According to the state's website, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's State-Owned Historic Sites Program encourages the discovery and appreciation of our rich heritage through the stewardship and interpretation of historic sites that evoke an authentic sense of time and place. One way that the state-owned historic sites fulfill this mission is through an active exhibition program. Most of the sites have permanent exhibitions that interpret their unique history, as well as

regularly changing displays that focus on specialized subjects.

If you are into stopping and reading the historic markers that can be found along the edge of Vermont roadways, or in public spaces, go the state Division for Historic Preservation website for an interactive website at <https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/roadside-markers>

Bennington Battle Monument: The tallest man-made building in the state of Vermont commemorates the Battle of Bennington, a pivotal victory for American forces on the New England front of the American Revolution. On August 16, 1777, Vermont's Green Mountain Boys, the New Hampshire Militia, and volunteers from Massachusetts, defeated British troops charged with capturing provisions stored at the Bennington military supply depot — the site where the monument stands today.

Mount Independence: Mount Independence State Historic Site is one of the nation's most significant Revolutionary War sites, offering six miles of trails along the archaeological remains of the fortification. Jointly owned and managed by the State of Vermont's Division for Historic Preservation and the Fort Ticonderoga Association, Mount Independence documents the critical efforts to defend northern New York, New England, and the cause of American liberty.

Chimney Point: The Chimney Point State Historic Site was established in 1991 as a museum on property purchased by the State of Vermont in 1966 from Mary Barnes. Located on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain at the foot of the Lake Champlain Bridge, Chimney Point explores the history of the area's three earliest cultures—the Native American,



FILE PHOTO

Reenactors at the Battle of Hubbardton in 2021.



JOSH KUCKENS FILE PHOTO

The Barre Firehouse Weather Vane is seen on display at the Vermont History Center in Barre. The hammered copper piece, created in 1903, depicts a "flying team" of horses pulling a hook and ladder wagon.

French Colonial, and early American by showcasing the artifacts each left behind. Enjoy the sweeping porch of the circa 1785 tavern with beautiful views of the lake, seasonal and permanent exhibits, programs for school groups, and a variety of interactive events including the annual Northeast Open Atlatl Championship. The grounds of Chimney Point include a picnic area near the lake, a dock for lake access, and outdoor interpretive signs along a path connected by the sidewalks across the Lake Champlain Bridge to paths at Crown Point, New York.

Sen. Justin Morrill: The Senator Justin S. Morrill State Historic Site was the home of Justin Smith Morrill, the longest-serving member of Congress in the first 160 years of its history. During his tenure in Congress, Morrill advocated for higher education and reinforced a knowledge-based democracy. The Senator was recognized for sponsoring landmark legislation that helped establish public universities (Land Grant Acts) and for framing of the Fourteenth Amendment that granted equal protection and rights to freed slaves. Morrill was essentially self-taught, amassing an impressive personal library and studying architecture on his own. He was responsible for the design of his family home in Strafford, Vermont.

President Calvin Coolidge: The President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth Notch preserves the birthplace and childhood home of Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States. Brought to the world's attention on Aug. 3, 1923, when Calvin

Coolidge took the presidential oath of office in the parlor of his family home, the historic village appears much as it was during Coolidge's lifetime. The homes of the Coolidge family, their relatives, and friends edge the small village green, joined by the 1840 church, 1890 school house and cheese factory, pre-1835 store with post office and dance hall, and historic agricultural structures and barns. The bucolic image is completed by the 1924 Summer White House office and the tourists' cabins constructed in 1927 for the first of many visitors making the pilgrimage to explore the rural environs that shaped Coolidge's life and those of his ancestors who first settled here in the 1780s. A Museum & Education Center, added in 1972 and enlarged in 2010, houses the exhibits and archives recounting Calvin Coolidge's private and public lives. Visitors to the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site will also enjoy two museum stores, walking trails, and sheltered picnic area. A journey to the Notch ends at the steep hillside cemetery where Calvin Coolidge rests amongst seven generations of his family.

President Chester Arthur: The President Chester A. Arthur State Historic Site was the first historic site owned by the State of Vermont. With great fanfare, the granite monument marking what was believed to have been the site of Chester A. Arthur's birth was dedicated in 1903 on land granted to the State of Vermont by Peter Bent Brigham Northrop. Fifty years later, in 1953, the state oversaw reconstruction of the birthplace using

old photographs of the house as a guide. Research has ultimately proven this site was not the location of Arthur's birth and the true location of his birth is passionately debated. The discrepancy may possibly have been created by Chester Arthur himself, who reduced the date of his birth by one year. Indeed, the house depicted in the photographs and reconstructed in 1953 was the second Vermont home of the future president. In 1970, the North Fairfield Baptist Church was donated to the State of Vermont, through the efforts of Consuelo Northrop Bailey, by the Vermont Baptist State Convention. The present old brick church was constructed c. 1840, replacing the building where Reverend William Arthur preached. Father of President Chester A. Arthur, William Arthur was an ordained Baptist minister and North Fairfield's 46-member congregation was his first posting.

Hubbardton Battlefield: The battle of Hubbardton, fought in the green hills of Hubbardton in the early morning of July 7, 1777, was the only Revolutionary War battle fought entirely in what would become Vermont soil. It is one of the most successful rear-guard actions in American history. It was here that British Lieutenant General John Burgoyne's seasoned and well-trained Regulars met the resistance and bravery of Americans in battle for the first time. Lasting between three to five hours, the battle involved approximately 1,200 American soldiers from Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and 850 British and 180 German troops.

Exhibits at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier.



Old Constitution House: The Old Constitution House is the birthplace of Vermont. On July 8, 1777, the first Constitution of the “Free and Independent State of Vermont” was adopted here in what was then Elijah West’s tavern. The noteworthy constitution was the first in America to prohibit adult slavery and the first to establish universal suffrage for men without the requirements of property ownership or specific income for voting rights. The Vermont Constitution was also the first to establish a system of public schools. The West tavern was constructed pre-1777 and originally stood on Main Street in the center of Windsor village.

Eureka Schoolhouse: Eureka Schoolhouse stands as the oldest one-room schoolhouse in Vermont, and one of the few surviving 18th-century public buildings in the state. Reconstructed in its current location in 1968, Eureka Schoolhouse was built about 1790 to serve Springfield’s first village settlement. Tradition holds that this building was erected because of the efforts of four families to have a local school. It was constructed by William Bettergneau, an early inhabitant of Springfield supporting himself as a beaver trapper.

Ethan Allen monument: A flamboyant frontiersman, daring military leader, land speculator, philosopher, prisoner of war and one of the founders of the State of Vermont, Ethan Allen dominates early Vermont history. This monument marks the burial site of General Ethan Allen. The monument was constructed in two phases, interrupted by the Civil

War. Resting on an eight-foot granite base with marble tablets, the 35-foot tall Doric column was constructed in 1858 (believed to have been granite salvaged from the 1838 Vermont State House that had recently burned). In 1873, an eight-foot tall Carrara marble statue of Ethan Allen was placed on top to depict a youthful Allen in a strident pose demanding the surrender of Fort Ticonderoga. The statue was designed by the Boston sculptor Peter Stephenson. The cast iron musket and cannon fence dates from 1872. The Ethan Allen Monument is located at the Greenmount Cemetery, Colchester Avenue, Burlington.

Kents Corner: Located at the center of the unspoiled 19th-century crossroads hamlet of Kents Corner in Calais, the Kent Tavern is an outstanding architectural landmark displaying a Georgian plan with Greek Revival-style elements. It was constructed between 1833 and 1837 by Abdiel Kent as a hotel and tavern servicing travelers along the stage road between Canada and Montpelier. This notable building, rising two-and-a-half stories in height on a granite foundation, is timber framed with double-layered brick walls laid in a common bond. It was erected on the south elevation to the circa 1830 building that served as Abdiel Kent’s home.

Theron Boyd: The Theron Boyd Homestead, overlooking the Ottauquechee River just west of Quechee, stands much as it did in the late 1700s. The centerpiece of the farm complex is the well-preserved two-story house with a Georgian plan and transitional Federal-style detailing. Built in 1786

for William Burtch, the house is one of the most outstanding examples of late-18th-century architecture in the State of Vermont. The Theron Boyd House is used for conservation studies and is not open to the public. Please respect the surrounding farmland.

Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center: The Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment. VAHC, with the primary center located in Barre, serves as the central warehouse for artifacts and archives of Vermont’s past. The center is open to the public to explore our 13,000 years of history through exhibits, workshops, and lectures. The collection is currently based on more than 750 known archaeological sites, with reports and artifacts available to qualified researchers. The VAHC shares space with the Vermont History Center & Leahy Library in the historic Spaulding Graded School, making it a wonderful destination for anyone interested in the people, stories and materials of Vermont’s heritage. Founded in 2006, VAHC is funded through legislation created in 2009 and through a partnership with VTrans. A secondary center is located at the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell. This western center holds the artifact collection and archival sources from the archaeological investigations conducted by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Vermont Agency of Transportation at Mount Independence and Chimney Point State Historic Site in Addison. The western center is not yet open to the public for research.



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May 28	60th Mekkelsen RV Memorial Day Classic - Late Model 125	Post Time 1:30pm
June 9	Myers Container Triple Crown Series #1 - New England Supermodified Series	Post Time 7:00pm
June 15	Casella Waste Systems Night - New England Antique Racers (NEAR)	Post Time 7:00pm
June 22	Community College of Vermont Night - Marvin Johnson Memorial	Post Time 7:00pm
June 29	M&T Bank presents Myers Container Triple Crown Series #2 - Scout Night & Kid's Rides!	Post Time 7:00pm
July 2	Preston's KIA Independence Day Spectacular - Northstar Fireworks Display	Post Time 7:00pm
July 6	Times Argus Midseason Championships - Double Points, Extra Distance	Post Time 7:00pm
July 13	44th Vermont Governor's Cup presented by the Vermont Liquor & Lottery	Post Time 6:30pm
July 20	Superstar Racing Experience and All-Star Late Model Showdown	Post Time 7:00pm
July 27	WDEV Radio / Calkin Portable Toilets - World Famous Port-a-Potty Grand Prix!	Post Time 7:00pm
August 3	Cody Chevrolet/Cadillac Night - Myers Triple Crown Series #3 (100 laps)	Post Time 7:00pm
August 6	39th Bolduc Metal Recycling Enduro 200 + Street Stock Special (SS Triple Crown #1)	Post Time 6:00pm
August 10	5th Annual Road Warrior Challenge presented by Nolato GW, Inc + SS Triple Crown #2	Post Time 7:00pm
August 12	Super Saturday feat. Street Stock Triple Crown Championship and 350 SMAC Tour!	Post Time 7:00pm
August 17	Vermont Tire & Service Night - Double purse courtesy of FloRacing - Kid's Poster Contest	Post Time 7:00pm
August 24	Jet Service Envelope/Accura Printing Night - Run-What-U-Brung	Post Time 7:00pm
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SMALL SPACES, BIG TASTE

How to grow delicious tomatoes without a full-size garden

A tomato fresh from the garden tastes like an entirely different vegetable from the mushy, tasteless variety found in supermarkets. Growing organic tomatoes provides the added benefit of knowing your food is healthy and free of toxic chemicals.

Urban gardeners might think they can't grow these large plants because of limited space, but tomatoes come in so many different varieties, one is sure to fit your needs.

The most important factors in growing organic tomatoes in containers include selection, proper planting techniques and adequate ongoing maintenance through the growing season. Follow the steps below to create an abundance of fresh, organic tomatoes in your urban garden this summer.

1. Choose plants appropriate for container gardening.

Tomatoes come in two general categories: determinate and indeterminate. Indeterminate varieties continue increasing in height indefinitely. Though they produce large amounts of fruit, these big plants prove difficult to stake and maintain in containers. Determinate varieties form terminal flower clusters, causing the plant to stop growing at a particular height. These work well for container gardening.

Many other choices regarding selection depend on personal preference. For example, heirloom seeds produce tomatoes with seeds that can be saved and used the next growing season while also maintaining the genetic diversity of plants. Many online seed companies offer organic heirloom seeds. Other good options include

dwarf or container tomatoes, specially designed to produce smaller tomatoes in pots or hanging baskets. These hybridized tomatoes weight 6 ounces or less when fully grown, maturing in about 45 to 70 days, depending on the variety.

2. Use the right container and soil.

Use a container 8 to 16 inches deep for planting, with the best size dependent on the expected size of your organic tomato plants at maturity. Plastic containers cost less and retain moisture better than clay pots, but this decision is purely individual. Just water frequently to ensure adequate moisture for plants in clay pots. Never plant tomatoes in containers with poor drainage. If pots do not have drainage holes, drill several in the bottom before filling it with a planting medium.

Fill the pot within one inch of the top with a nutrient-dense, organic soil medium. Those with peat or compost provide an ideal environment. Set the tomato plant in so that when the pot is filled, the soil covers the roots as well as the stem up to the point of the first leaves. Press the soil down gently around the plant and water thoroughly. Place the container in a sunny location with at least 4 hours of direct sunlight daily, though up to 8 hours per day is ideal.

3. Maintain proper conditions throughout the growing season.

Correct watering is one of the most important factors in healthy tomato plant growth. Too much water causes the roots to rot, while too little water stresses the plant and produces a smaller, low-quality harvest. Plants grown in containers dry out quickly, so water daily for best results. Extremely hot or windy conditions may necessitate even more frequent watering.

Mulch to improve overall health. Mulch increases



nutrient availability and moisture retention while reducing the risk of disease and insect problems. Apply an inch or so of bark mulch or weed-free straw in the top of the container and maintain it at this depth throughout the growing season.

Support growing tomato plants with cages or stakes, unless you are growing tomatoes in hanging baskets. Support prevents stem breakage and keeps heavy fruit off the ground. Add netting around the plants to discourage birds, squirrels and other wildlife from sampling your organic fruit.

4. Protect your organic tomatoes from diseases and insects.

Tomatoes succumb to a wide variety of disease and pests in the home garden. This often proves problematic when growing organic tomatoes. There are several ways to control these problems without resorting to the use of toxic chemicals however.

Check your organic tomatoes every day for signs of damage. Inspect both leaves and fruit for common symptoms such as holes, browning or wilting. This ensures

prompt treatment of any problem.

Practice good care techniques to reduce risk. This includes keeping plants watered and fertilized, as stressed plants develop problems more easily. Apply an organic fertilizer at least once a month. Avoid watering foliage, concentrating water on the soil instead. Keep plants far enough apart that they do not touch; this keeps them from transmitting diseases between one another. One tablespoon of powdered milk sprinkled around the base of each plant and then watered in to the soil reduces the risk of fungal disease as well.

Final Thoughts

Growing organic tomatoes in containers provides the best of both worlds, giving you the great taste of



organic produce, even with limited gardening space. Organic gardening takes some extra effort, especially when dealing with plants that have a myriad of potential disease and insect issues such as tomatoes, but it is well worth the effort when you bite into that totally natural and completely delicious homegrown fruit.

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Montpelier
802-371-9388

Big Jay Coffee Roasters

bigjayroasting.com
Montgomery
802-309-8806

Brio Coffee Works

266 Pine Street, Suite 116,
Burlington
802-772-0070
www.briocoffeeworks.com

Brown and Jenkins

www.brownjenkins.com
Cambridge
802-644-8300

Depalo Coffee

2149 US Route 4, Mendon
802-772-4840
www.depalocoffee.com

Flying Crow Coffee

Saxtons River
802-885-8217
flyingcrowcoffee.com

Good Luck Coffee Roasters

17 Main St., Essex Junction
802-857-5474
www.goodluckcr.com

KS Coffee

6163 Main St. Waitsfield
(802) 595-0889
https://ks.coffee

Kestrel Coffee

530 Community Drive,
South Burlington
802-391-0081
www.kestrelcoffees.com

Ungrounded Coffee

8814 VT-30, South Londonderry
802-459-1552
ungroundedcoffee.com

Vermont Coffee Company

Middlebury
800-826-1752
vermontcoffeecompany.com

Vivid Coffee

150 Cherry St., Burlington
802-383-1088
vividcoffee.com

BREWING UP A VT. COFFEE ADVENTURE

JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR FILE PHOTO

Paul Dayton, owner of Big Gear Coffee, empties a batch of just-roasted Peruvian and Honduran beans at his roastery in Montpelier.

JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR FILE PHOTO

Karen Sauter, owner of KS Coffee, checks the roast on a batch of coffee beans at her roastery in Fayston. Sauter has worked in the coffee industry for years and started her own roasting business in 2017. Sauter specializes in single-origin beans, and selects her beans based on quality, as well as environmental, gender and labor practice considerations. All of her packaging is entirely compostable. Her products can be purchased online via her website or at the Mad River Taste Place and the Three Mountain Cafe in Waitsfield.

JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR FILE PHOTO

Spencer Kovarie, lead roaster at 802 Coffee, checks beans at the coffee roaster's location in Barre. 802 Coffee began with a small roasting operation at Capitol Grounds in Montpelier in 1998.

VERMONT EVAPORATOR COMPANY

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MAPLE

By Peter Cobb

What do you do if you have several maple trees in your yard and you want to boil a few gallons of maple syrup but you have no idea where to get the equipment needed? Check out the Vermont Evaporator Company in Montpelier. VEC sells everything a hobbyist needs from taps, to buckets, to evaporators, to starter kits.

"We started the company in 2015 because we had maple trees on our property (Gould Hill in Montpelier) and we wanted to boil the sap and make maple syrup but we couldn't find anyone who sold what we needed at a reasonable price," said Kate Whelley McCabe, co-owner of VEC with her husband, Justin McCabe.

"After two years of experimenting — using a Thanksgiving turkey broiling pan on the propane grill, and countless other ideas, we decided to purchase a backyard sap evaporator. Justin looked everywhere for a backyard sap evaporator that didn't cost a fortune, didn't need to operate in a sap house, and could be moved around when not in use, but ultimately came up empty. So, he invented one," Kate said.



The flagship of their operation is the Sapling Evaporator. Designed by Justin, the unit can handle sap generated from up to 50 taps or more depending on the amount of sap produced. The evaporator burns wood in an enclosed barrel chamber, boiling the sap in a stainless steel pan until it becomes maple syrup.

The unit, which weighs 90 pounds, is portable and can be used and stored in a different place. No sugar house required. It also can work in an indoor facility.

"Our evaporator was engineered to be faster, easier, cleaner, and safer than other popular, do-it-yourself methods," Kate said. "After seven years in business, the Sapling Evaporator is still the only professionally manufactured open-air evaporator on the market. It's also the only multi-functional and portable open-

air evaporator on the market."

The evaporator also can be used as a backyard barbecue.

"After sugaring season is over, the pan pops off to reveal the perfect fire box for a grill, smoker, or wood-fired bread and pizza oven," Kate said.

For the hobbyist or part-timer who needs a slightly bigger operation, especially for anyone who runs a side hustle maple business, VEC sells the Mini-Sportsman Evaporator that can handle sap from 100 taps. The Mini-Sportsman is manufactured by the Leader Evaporator Company of Swanton.

The biggest surprise when starting the business, Kate said, was the fact that maple syrup hobbyists and part-time maple syrup producers are not limited just to the Northeast or to northern states.

"We've sold in forty states and throughout Canada," Kate said. The farther south, the greater the challenge.

"Maryland this year had a two-day season. If you didn't get your taps in early, you were out of luck," Kate said.

Both Kate and Justin are lawyers although Kate now works full-time at their Montpelier warehouse and factory. Justin, a graduate of Vermont

Law School, is legal counsel for OnLogic, a global industrial computer manufacturer based in South Burlington.

Kate graduated from George Washington University Law School in D.C., and has worked in the Vermont Attorney General's Office and was a clerk for the Vermont Supreme Court.

"After graduating from college and starting our careers, we found ourselves daydreaming about a permanent move back to New England to be near my parents. Our goal was to start a family in a place where we could watch our children explore nature and develop curiosity outside, just like we did," Kate said.

Kate originally from Moultonborough, New Hampshire; Justin is from South Dakota.

All VEC sales are handled online. When they started the company, they said they exhibited at several fairs, but have ended that practice and now limit their public relations to social media.

Currently, there are three employees: Paul Eley, who builds the Sapling Evaporators; Justin's sister Nikki Whelley, who handles the website and other social media; and Kate, who runs the business end of the business.

The company also has started a side operation, providing "powder coating" for metal pieces for artists. (Powder coating is a dry finishing process created by an electric charge that causes a dry powder to fuse to the surface of the metal.)

"The Vermont Evaporator Company brings families and friends together, outside amongst nature's sweetest offerings: the maples. We want to inspire amateur and small-scale maple



PHOTOS BY PETER COBB

Top, Paul Eley building an evaporator. Middle, several barrels waiting to be made into evaporators. Bottom, owners Kate Whelley McCabe and Justin McCabe.

syrup production by giving families and friends, schools, small farms, and other tree-to-table outfits, access to the tools and information they need to make syrup right in their own backyards," Kate said.

For more information, check VEC website at: vermontevaporator.com

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By Paul Heller

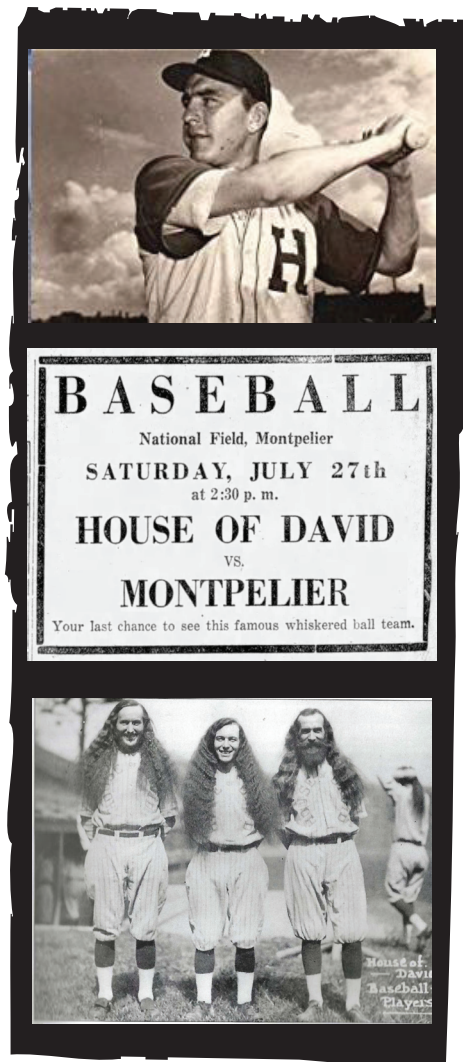
They looked like no other team ever in the history of the sport. The group of players collectively called "The House of David" were a barnstorming baseball club unique in the history of the national pastime. They were sponsored by an unusual religious sect that forbade shaving or cutting of hair; despite their traditional flannel uniforms, the players had a biblical appearance.

Their origin was in a religious colony in Benton Harbor, Michigan, founded in 1903 by Benjamin and Betty Purnell. As with many religious communities, the idea started with a vision. Benjamin Purnell had a dream in which a white dove landed on his shoulder and proclaimed him the sixth son of the House of David, and charged him with uniting the lost tribes of Israel. The members were abstemious with regard to alcohol, tobacco, and sex; but Purnell had two other passions, merchandising and baseball.

Other unusual rules abounded in the religious community. All property was held in common and new members had to contribute their holdings to the community. Interestingly, they also espoused vegetarianism. But given the wide range of commercial enterprises supported by the group their standard of living was better than most, especially during the dark days of the Great Depression.

Proselytizing in imaginative ways, the House of David developed ways to financially sustain their ministry. They invented the canning of jams and jellies, and were the first to institute cold-storage for their home-grown products. In 1908, they introduced an amusement park, zoo, and a restaurant devoted to vegetarian cuisine. An adjacent hotel welcomed visitors along with a concert hall.

For outreach, they introduced baseball teams that traveled the country exhibiting their skills wherever a town had a lineup and a ballfield. In that era, town teams were the norm, rather than the exception, and the Davids found opponents in ball fields throughout Vermont. It has been estimated that they played at least 100 games in the Green Mountain State.



The bearded ballplayers were the baseball equivalent of the Harlem Globetrotters. Their superior ability allowed them to engage in humorous hijinks that entertained their admission-paying audiences.

Francis Scully gave an example in 1977 for the Rutland Herald: "Many of the local clubs they faced were no match for the 'whiskered wizards,' and this allowed the Davids to indulge in comedy antics. 'Double steals,' noted Scully, 'were their specialty, and they didn't hesitate to try for three now and then. Sometimes three men wound up on the same base. As the crowd roared with laughter, two of the malefactors scampered back to an empty sack, usually not the one they were on in the beginning. It was baseball at its craziest, but also at its best.'"

They even had an equivalent of the Harlem

team's ball dexterity circle, playing an elaborate game of pepper during pre-game warm-up, with behind the back throws and juggling stunts. Joel Hawkins House of David Baseball Team notes: "The House of David is credited with inventing the 'Pepper Game' and raised its level to the point where it was often billed as an attraction that was as entertaining as the game itself."

Scully described the routine: "Five players stood almost fifteen feet from a batter, stretching out in a line about twenty feet long. The ball was thrown at the hitter who promptly bunted it to one of the members of the line. Fielding it, he brought it back through his legs, around his back and then shot it from nowhere to another player. For a while the ball was moving up and down the line in the most amazing and bewildering manner. As the tempo increased, sometimes two baseballs were in the air at once. Near the end of the show, even bats and gloves were being tossed around."

The first House of David team was formed in 1915 and had a moderately successful season playing games in and around Benton Harbor on Lake Michigan. But by 1921 they were officially barnstormers traveling around the country with generators and portable lights to facilitate night games.

They often invited celebrities to tour with the team. Some who appeared with one of the touring troupes in Vermont were Grover Cleveland Alexander, Babe Didrickson Zaharais, and Satchel Paige. The famous player might be called upon to play an inning or two and fans were thrilled at the opportunity to see them in action.

The Davids almost always won – they were the equal to a minor league team – but one night in Montpelier a local lineup comprised of all-stars from the Barre Industrial League took down the bearded marvels 9-2. This would almost be like the Washington Generals beating the Harlem Globetrotters.

Scully recalls that on game day, "the whiskered youths arrived in town early and fraternized with local citizens who followed them from place to place. By early afternoon the ballpark was jammed to the last seat, with many in attendance who had never seen a game before."

Scully asserts that, at their best, the Davids

were the equal of any AAA team which makes it noteworthy that one of the few times they ever lost was to a team comprised of players from the Barre Industrial League in a game at the Montpelier Recreation Field in July 1947. A reporter for the Barre Daily Times waxed poetic with his lead paragraph describing the game:

“It was quite a show last night at the Montpelier Recreation Field where everyone had a good time even if they are still scratching their heads, wondering what happened. The clever House of David boys gave out with the usual comical stuff and the game was like a fantasy with former Twin City pitcher, Tony Kvedar, backed up by unneeded support of his league mates in the Barre Industrial League going to work on the House of David as Delilah did on Samson and bearded them 9-2.”

“Played under lights, the game entertained 2,346 fans who jammed the bleachers to watch the antics of the bearded gentlemen and to wonder at Tony Kvedar who struck out 20 men during the course of the game.”

Tony Kvedar was a Barre stonecutter with an interesting story. He was born and raised in Athol, Massachusetts, (his parents were Lithuanian immigrants) and was a stellar athlete in high school excelling in almost every sport. After graduation, Kvedar was recruited by the Cleveland Indians and entered their “farm team” organization in 1928. He was a lanky southpaw who could also hit and he spent about five years on various minor-league teams. His life was recounted in a memoir by his son, also named Tony, who grew up in Barre.

By 1942 he was newly married and conscripted into the army. He soon was stationed at Fort Devens, about an hour from his hometown. Eventually his unit made their way overseas and on June 6, 1944, Kvedar found himself, a combat medic, invading the beaches of Normandy. Kvedar survived weeks of combat horror until the liberation of Paris in late August.

With a return to civilian life Kvedar realized that his best baseball years had been lost to the war, and he joined a friend in a granite business in his hometown of Athol. When they determined that one of them should go to Barre to learn stone cutting from the best in the business, Tony Kvedar elected to move to the Granite City.

This was the heyday of baseball in Barre, with teams sponsored by the Mutuo Soccorso, the VFW, the Elks, the American Legion, and other organizations, playing on a field near the Barre Auditorium. Barre resident Jim Paterson remembers searching for lost balls in the tall grass in foul territory and redeeming them for ten cents apiece.

While many local players were fine athletes, Tony Kvedar brought professional polish to the local ballfields. Roger Lissor, a retired Barre postal carrier, played first base for the VFW. He recalled the left hander’s blazing fastball with awe. “We had never seen anything like it before in our league.”

Apparently, the bearded barnstormers never had, either. As the All-Stars beat the House of David, 9-2. Kvedar struck out 20.

He became a stonecutter for Anderson-Friberg and stayed in Barre for 60 years.

The House of David’s popularity as a barnstorming baseball team waned with the demise of town baseball and the waxing of televised sports. Legal troubles and strife within the religious community exacerbated these problems and little remains of the once vibrant religious commune.

Paul Heller is a writer and historian from Barre.

Savor Summer in Montpelier



MAYFEST events all month long
All Species Day (April 30); Green Up Day, opening day of the farmers market and Onion River Outdoors Bike Swap (May 6); and more!

MONTPELIER PRIDE FEST June 3
at Statehouse (events the week before & after)

**INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION** July 3

DO GOOD FEST July 15

**BROWN BAG SUMMER CONCERT
SERIES** Thursdays in July & Aug
sponsored by Hunger Mountain Coop

PARKAPALOOZA
Thursday evenings, July–August

ART WALK June 2 & August 4
supported by Northfield Savings Bank

**TASTE OF MONTPELIER
FOOD FESTIVAL** September 9
presented by Hunger Mountain Coop

downtown
Montpelier
vermont

montpelieralive.com

VT. BIKE PATHS

offer proper spring walks



While hiking trails still need to dry out, and many of them need to be maintained after winter storms took down trees, there are still good options for walking and biking around Vermont.

According to alltrails.com, there are several longer options for springtime riding around the state:

Colchester Causeway Trail:

Experience this 10.9-mile out-and-back trail near Colchester. Generally considered an easy route, it takes an average of three hours or so to complete. This is a very popular area for road biking, running and walking, so you'll likely encounter other people while exploring. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.

Stowe Recreation Path: Explore this 10.4-mile out-and-back trail near



Stowe. Generally considered an easy route, it takes an average of about three hours to complete. This is a popular trail for birding, cross-country skiing, and hiking, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.

JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR FILE PHOTO

Cyclists ride over a bridge on the Stowe Recreation Path. The path is an internationally recognized greenway that crosses the West Branch of the Little River 10 times along its 5.5 mile length.

ROBERT LAYMAN FILE PHOTO

Dave Coppock, bikes on the Creek Path in Meadow Street Park in Rutland.

Burlington Waterfront Park to Island Trail: Check out this 10.7-mile out-and-back trail near Burlington. Generally considered an easy route, it takes an average of three hours complete. This is a popular trail for road biking, running, and walking, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.

Burlington Waterfront Park (Perkins Pier Park): Enjoy this 2.4-mile out-and-back trail near Burlington, Vermont. Generally considered an easy route, it takes an average of 43 minutes to complete. This is a popular trail for birding, road biking, and running, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.

Mount Philo Access Road: Discover this 2.7-mile loop trail near Charlotte. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 90 minutes to complete. This is a very popular area for cross-country skiing, hiking and road biking, so you'll likely encounter other people while exploring. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.

Pine Hill Park/Rutland Creek Path: Pine Hill Park offers 17 miles of single-track trail spread over 325 acres of terrain offering some of the very best mountain biking, trail running, hiking, walking, snowshoeing, and geocaching in the central Vermont region. (Sorry, no motorized vehicles on any of our trails). PHP also connects to the Rutland Creek Path, a paved multi-use trail that runs along East and Otter creeks to downtown Rutland.



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BEER



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR FILE PHOTO

Restaurant manager Travis Maney pours a draft beer at the former Cornerstone Burger Co. in Northfield.



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR FILE PHOTOS

Mike Czok started out as a home brewer. Over time, he grew his hobby into Bent Hill Brewery in Braintree.

BREWING UP A STORM

On the road to responsibly find Vt.'s finest brews? You've heard a lot about Vermont beers? Yeah, we have a few. And depending on what you like — IPAs, stouts, reds, browns, and the like — Vermont craft brewers have something for you. Finding a favorite might take some time. But searching for a favorite beer could take you to every corner of the state. In fact, the Vermont Brewers Association has created a "beer trail," if you will, that will help you along in your search. It includes suggested routes and destinations, and even a downloadable map and merchandise for the Vermont beer lover. Check it out at www.vermontbrewers.com/create-your-own-trail

Enjoy your journey. Drink responsibly. And do not drink and drive.

Here is a list of some of the most popular craft breweries around Vermont:

1st Republic Brewing

39 River Rd #6, Essex Junction
802-857-5318
www.1stpublicbrewingco.com

14th Star Brewing

133 North Main Street, Suite 7, St Albans
802-528-5988
www.14thstarbrewing.com

The Alchemist

100 Cottage Club Rd, Stowe
802-253-6708
alchemistbeer.com

Beer Naked Brewery

7678 VT-9 #5, Marlboro
802-464-7702
www.beernakedbrewery.com

Bent Hill Brewery

1972 Bent Hill Rd, Braintree
802-565-5103
www.benthillbrewery.com

Brewster River Pub & Brewery

www.brewsterriverpubnbrewery.com

Brocklebank Craft Brewing

357 Dickerman Hill Rd, Tunbridge
802-685-4838
www.brocklebankvt.com

Dirt Church Brewing Co.

dirtchurchvt.com

Drop-In Brewery

dropinbrewing.com

Farm Road Brewing

www.farmroadbrewing.com

Fiddlehead Brewing Company

6305 Shelburne Road, Shelburne
802-399-2994

fiddleheadbrewing.com

Foam Brewers

112 Lake St, Burlington

802-399-2511

www.foambrewers.com

Foley Brothers Brewery

79 Stone Mill Dam Rd, Brandon
802-465-8413

foleybrothersbrewing.com

Four Quarters Brewing

70 Main Street, Winooski
802-862-0775

www.4qbc.com

Frost Beer Works

171 Commerce St, Hinesburg
949-945-4064

www.frostbeerworks.com

Good Measure

17 East St, Northfield
802-485-4300

www.goodmeasurebrewing.com

Goodwater Brewery

740 Marshall Ave, Williston
802-829-6901

www.goodwaterbreweryvt.com

Green Empire Brewing

478 Hegeman Ave, Colchester
www.gebrew.com

Harpoon Brewery & Taproom

336 Ruth Carney Drive, Windsor
802-674-5491

www.harpoonbrewery.com/

windsor-brewery

Hermit Thrush Brewery

29 High Street, Suite 101C, Brattleboro

802-257-2337

www.hermitthrushbrewery.com

Hillstead Farm Brewery

403 Hill Rd, Greensboro Bend
802-533-7450

hillfarmstead.com

Hired Hand Brewing Co.

35 Green Street, Vergennes
802-870-7191

www.hiredhandbrewing.com

Hogback Mountain Brewing

372 Rockydale Rd, Bristol
802-643-2304

Idletyme Brewing

1859 Mountain Road, Stowe
802-253-4765

idletymbrewing.com

Jasper Murdock's Alehouse

325 Main Street, Norwich
802-649-1143

www.norwichinn.com

Kingdom Brewing

353 Coburn Hill Road, Newport

802-334-7096

kingdombrewingvt.com

Kraemer and Kin

230 Rt.129, Alburgh
802-796-3586

www.kraemerandkin.com

Lawson's Finest

155 Carroll Rd, Waitsfield
802-496-4677

www.lawsonsfineest.com

Long Trail

5520 US-4, Bridgewater
802-672-5011.

longtrail.com

Lost Nation Brewing

87 Creamery Rd, Morrisville
802-851-8041

Madison Brewing Co.

428 Main Street, Bennington
802-442-7397

www.madisonbrewingco.com



GORDON MILLER FILE PHOTO

A bartender at Prohibition Pig in Waterbury pours beer made on site at the popular downtown pub and brewery.

Mill River Brewing

10 Beaugard Drive, St. Albans
802-582-4182

www.millriverbrewing.com

Next Trick Brewing

2370 US Route 5, West Burke
802-467-3437

nexttrickbrewing.com/

Otter Creek Brewing

793 Exchange Street, Middlebury
802-388-0727

ottercreekbrewing.com

Outer Limits Brewery

60 Village Green, Proctorsville
802-287-6100

www.outerlimitsbrewing.com

Prohibition Pig

23 South Main Street, Waterbury
802-244-4120

www.prohibitionpig.com

Queen City Brewery

703B Pine Street, Burlington
802-540-0280

queencitybrewery.com

Red Barn Brewing

2211 U.S. Route 2, Danville
802-227-3031

www.redbarnbrewingvt.com

Red Clover Ale

43 Center St., Brandon
802-465-8412

redcloverale.com

River Roost

230 S Main St, Hartford
802-698-8715

www.riverroostbrewery.com

Rock Art Brewery

632 Laporte Rd, Morrisville
802-888-9400

rockartbrewery.com

Rutland Beer Works

41 Center St, Rutland
802-775-7063

www.rutlandbeerworks.com

Scotch Hill Brewing

71 Main St., Fair Haven
802-278-8078

scotchhillbrewing.com

Simple Roots Brewing

1127 North Avenue Suite 8,
Burlington

802-399-2658

simplerootsbrewing.com

Switchback

160 Flynn Ave, Burlington
802-651-4114

switchbackvt.com

Ten Bends Beer

590 E Main St, Hyde Park
802-521-7139

www.tenbendsbeer.com

Two Heroes Brewery

1 Ferry Road, South Hero
802-378-5187

www.twoheroesbrewery.com

Under Pass Beer Co.

228 Chelsea Street,
South Royalton

www.upperpassbeer.com

Vermont Beer Makers

100 River St, Springfield
802-885-6613

vermontbeermakers.com

Vermont Pub and Brewery

144 College St., Burlington
802- 865-0500

www.vermontbrewery.com

von Trapp Brewery

and Bierhall

1333 Luce Hill Rd, Stowe
802-253-5750

www.vontrappbrewing.com

Weird Window Brewing

82 Ethan Allen Dr Suite A,
South Burlington

802-489-5279

www.weirdwindowbrewing.com

Whetstone Beer Co.

36 Bridge St., Brattleboro
802-490-2354

www.whetstonebeer.com

Whirligig Brewing

397 Railroad St., Unit 2,
St Johnsbury

802-417-2468

whirligigbrewing.square.site

Zero Gravity Brewery

716 Pine St, Burlington
802-497-0054

www.zerogravitybeer.com



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 Pit Admission \$30 w/lic & \$35 w/o lic. Pit Gate Opens at 3PM - Grandstands Open at 5PM - 1st Green Flag at our famous 6:00pm(ish) start time
 WEEKLY DIVISIONS - DIRTcar Sportsman Modifieds & Sportsman Coupes, USAC DMA Midgets, Late Models, Dirt Stocks, & Ridge Runners (4 Cyl) plus once monthly Enduro, visiting GSMS & 360 Sprints
REGULAR FULL CARD INCLUDES DIRTcar Sportsman Modifieds, DIRTcar Sportsman Coupes, USAC DMA Midgets, Late Models, Dirt Stocks, Ridge Runners

MAY	
Saturday 6th	BRS official Car Show Bradford Fair Grounds Bradford VT. 10:00-1:00 - Practice all divisions 2:00-4:00 1st Green Flag 5PM on our 56th season Opening night REGULAR FULL CARD (DP) Adults/Teens/Seniors \$15 Presented by: NAPA of Bradford F.M.S. Auto parts LLC
Saturday 13th	VP Racing Fuels DIRTcar Sportsman Modifieds Eastern Series Race FULL CARD plus GSMS (Midgets OFF) Adults \$15 Teens/Seniors \$15 Presented by: Forwards Garage & Plumbing & Heating LLC's
Saturday 20th	REGULAR FULL CARD Presented by: Ron's Fix It Shop
FRIDAY 26th	USAC DMA Midgets at Albany Saratoga!
Saturday 27th	Remembrance of Lost Friends 4/6 ENDURO FULL CARD (Midgets & Late Models OFF) plus 360 Sprints Adults \$15 Teens/Seniors \$13 Presented by: 95.3 & 107.1 The Wolf
JUNE	
Saturday 3rd	Ridge Runner Madness REGULAR FULL CARD Presented by: Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank
Saturday 10th	Vermont Food Bank Benefit FULL CARD plus GSMS (Midgets OFF) Bring in 2 non perishables get \$2 off 1 GA ticket Presented by: Valley Floors
Saturday 17th	Kids Bike RACES REGULAR FULL CARD Presented by: JTB Towing and Recovery
Saturday 24th	4/6 Cylinder ENDURO FULL CARD plus 360 Sprints (Late Models OFF) Adults \$15 Teens/Seniors \$13 Presented by: Wells River Savings Bank

JULY	
Saturday 1st	4TH OF JULY Fireworks & Mod Madness REGULAR FULL CARD Adults/Teens/Seniors \$15 Presented by: Pellerin Auto Parts, Auto Body, & Automotive
Saturday 8th	MID Season Championships David's House FULL CARD (DP) plus GSMS (Midgets OFF) Presented by: Dennis Preston Builder
Saturday 15th	Dirt Stock Madness KIDS RIDES FULL CARD (Midgets OFF) Presented by: Kaiser International Protection LLC
Saturday 22nd	360 Sprint Cars Special REGULAR FULL CARD Adults/Teens/Seniors \$15 Presented by: Hoosier Tire East
Saturday 29th	VP Racing Fuels DIRTcar Sportsman Modifieds Eastern Series Race 4/6 Cylinder ENDURO FULL CARD (Midgets & Late Models OFF) Adults/Teens/Seniors \$15 Presented by: Montshire Farm
AUGUST	
Saturday 5th	John Poor Memorial Coupe Madness REGULAR FULL CARD plus GSMS Presented by: Walker Motor Sales Inc.
Saturday 12th	TOPLESS Night Bradford Bull Dogs Benefit REGULAR FULL CARD plus GSMS Presented by: Swenson Insurance Co.
Saturday 19th	Old Timers Night with NE Antique Racers- REGULAR FULL CARD Presented by: Sabil & Sons
Saturday 26th	4/6 Cylinder ENDURO FULL CARD plus 360 Sprints (Midgets & Late Models OFF) Adults \$15 Teens/Seniors \$13 Presented by: Dead River Co

SEPTEMBER	
Saturday 2nd	Midget & Late Model Madness REGULAR FULL CARD Presented by: Held for rain make up
Saturday 9th	FULL CARD plus GSMS (Midgets OFF) Presented by: Key Chevrolet
Saturday 16th	REGULAR FULL CARD (DP) Late Model FINAL Night twin 15's & Time Trials plus 360 Sprints Adults \$15 Teens/Seniors \$13 Presented by: Held for rain make up
Saturday 23rd	99ROCK NE Dirt Track Championships 4/6 Cyl ENDURO FULL CARD Sportsman Mods & Coupes, Midgets, Dirt Stocks, Ridge Runners Time Trials, 110 lap mods S/B 100 lap mods, 50 lap Coupes, "Growlers"-Mods & Coupes LCQ for growlers (non winner race) Adults/Teens/Seniors \$20 SPECIAL 5pm START TIME!! Presented by: General Auto Salvage
OCTOBER	
SUNDAY 8th	6th Annual FUNDAY-SUNDAY 4/6 Cylinder Enduro, Demolition Derby The Homewrecker & MORE 1:00pm start time Adults/Teens/Seniors \$15 Presented by: Dad's 4 By Tool & Supply
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 Kids 11 and under \$2.00

Racing starts at our famous 6:00pm(ish) Pit Gates open at 3:00 Grandstands at 4:00

We ask that you stay home if sick, be safe and be kind!

