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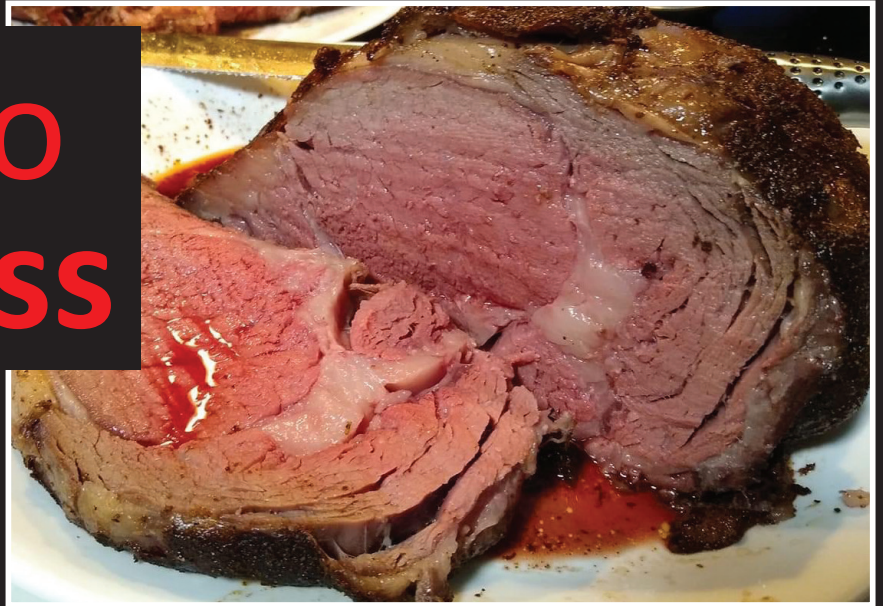
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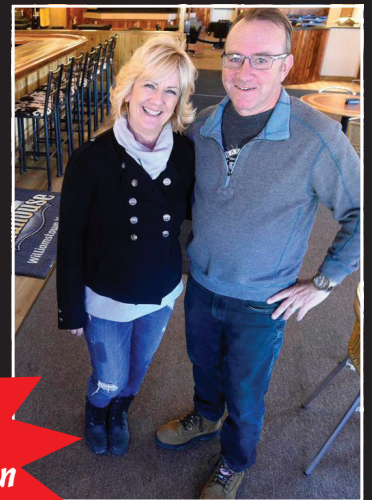
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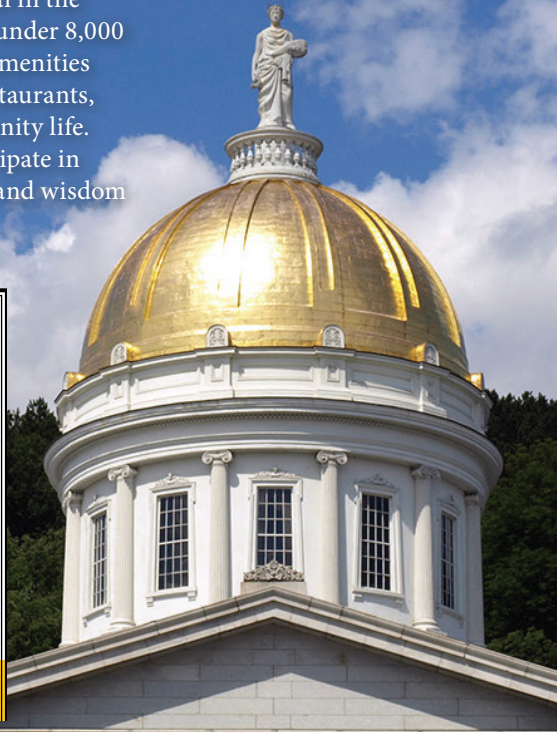
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WELCOME

I like the weekly ritual. The push mower and I go way back.

Skiers love winter. I get it. But there is something magnificent about a Vermont summer. As I type this, it is humid and hot, and the evenings have been warm and beautiful. The sunsets have been ... breathtaking. It's good weather for golf (although I don't) and baseball (which I love).

You don't have to go far for people who live in Vermont to tell you what they love about a Vermont summer. (Most of them won't say mowing the lawn, by the way.)

They love the access to pond and lakes for swimming, boating and fishing.

The mountains call to many Vermonters, who hike, camp and mountain bike every inch.

The food in a Vermont summer is amazing, whether it is from a farmers market or farm stand, or at a dining area in a downtown parklet or patio.

There are creemees (if you don't know you'd better figure it out

quick) and secret swimming holes (the diehard Vermonters will never give up such a secret, but there are plenty of others ...)

Gardens and flowers are everywhere, be it along roadsides or yards, along trails and in secluded corners just a throw from a crossroad. Vermont is a great place to get lost.

Sure, there are museums and galleries, but we have an amazing state park system. We have historic sites (top to bottom in our little state), as well as downtowns filled with amazing architecture – some of which will surprise and intrigue you.

We live here and love living here because there are so many places to explore. And in Explore Central Vermont, we hope you find some favorite places of your own.

Now, put the lawn mower away, and get out into the lush green of the Green Mountain State, and remember, the maple creemee has to top the to-do list.

Steven Pappas
Editor

Explore

Central Vermont

New England VP
Ed Coats

Publisher/Executive Editor
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A summertime scene captured by staff photographer Jeb Wallace-Brodeur

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TWO WHEELS TO FUN

Riding bikes with kids

By Sarah Galbraith

“**W**oohoo!” It’s the sound of a kid having a blast — a sound parents love to hear.

In this particular instance, my six-year-old daughter was zooming down a small hill on the Island Line Rail Trail on our way back to our car that was parked at Airport Park in Colchester. It was twilight, and our bikes were outfitted with bike lights to illuminate the path ahead of us. It was all so much fun for a little kid, and her parents too.

We had spent the afternoon pedaling on the exceptionally beautiful Colchester Causeway, a thin ribbon of multi-use trail that juts three miles out into the middle of Lake Champlain. The trail is flanked by lapping waves on both sides and, beyond that, the peaks of the Green Mountains and Adirondacks and the pinks and oranges of a setting sun.

We picked a good spot to stop and enjoyed a picnic of rustic bread, olive oil and garlic, fresh mozzarella, cherry tomatoes, and a crisp beer for the adults. We waved to passing boats and seagulls. Then, after the sun set, we donned our bike lights and zoomed back to the car.

We are a “biking family,” so these kinds of adventures come naturally to us. I have been riding my bike on trails since I was eight years old, when a friend’s dad took all of the neighborhood kids for a ride on a nearby trail network. I remember learning to navigate my little pink and white wheels over roots and

rocks and thinking it was all so fun. I kept pedaling trails all of my life and now I’m the one taking the kids for a ride.

My family takes lots of adventures like this one. We head down to the Blueberry Lake trails in Warren to mountain bike on the beginner-friendly network, then follow it up with yummy sandwiches from Warren Falls General Store and a swim in the Mad River. Or we cruise along the Barre Bike Path and stop for popsicles and herbal sodas at Old Soul Farm in South Barre. In central Vermont, we are lucky to have these locales and so many more, like the Stowe Bike Path, Cross Vermont Trail, Millstone Trails in Barre, and Pine Hill Park in Rutland, to keep the wheels turning and the fun flowing. (See a full list of ideas at the end of this story.)

But let’s be real for a moment: As any parent knows, biking with kids isn’t always fun and smiles and shrieks of “woohoo!” It can also be complaining, whining, and refusing to go any further. We’ve all been there, my own family included. It can be challenging to keep kids engaged and having fun.

With this in mind, I talked to an expert: Hayden Ellms, 20, has been teaching kids to mountain bike for 12 years, since he himself was a kid. His mom signed him up for summer camp at Wheels Around Waterbury, where he learned to mountain bike on the Perry Hill trails. The following summer, he was invited back as a junior counselor and has been working as an instructor, or “leader” as the program calls their staff,



ever since. He recently also joined the staff at Time to Ride, a kids mountain bike program in Montpelier.

“I just love riding bikes,” he says by phone from his home in Middlesex. “And I love riding bikes with kids.”

Ellms says a good ride with kids depends on matching their ability level, keeping it safe, and keeping a positive attitude. “That rubs off on them,” he says. When a kid is having a tough time, he says it’s a good idea to stop, rest, have a snack and water, and bring the pace or difficulty down. Focusing on small goals, like getting to the top of a hill so that you can have fun going back down, can help keep kids going. (See more of Ellms’s tips for riding with kids at the end of this story.)

Abbie Eldridge, of Montpelier, recently enrolled her son, Cedar, 7, in the Time to Ride program. Last summer she brought her kids to the pump track at Perry Hill, and Cedar seemed to really like it. When she asked her son, who doesn’t typically want to join sports programs, if he’d like to try the biking program, he actually said, “Maybe.”

After his first session, she said he couldn’t stop talking about going back. The following weekend, he even asked her to go mountain biking with him at the North Branch trails in Montpelier, where he’s been learning to ride with Time to Ride.

“It was so cool to see that confidence and ownership,” she says of riding with him. “It’s exciting to see him try something new and have it stick. Especially for kids that haven’t gotten into team sports.”

Eldridge likes that biking is a “no pressure” activity for her family. On their ride, her own son would simply hop off and walk his bike when he needed to, for example. And this is an important point: For kids, it’s really just about going outside and having fun on a bike. It doesn’t need to be any more complicated than that.

Sarah Galbraith lives in Plainfield. She is a freelance writer who contributes regularly to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.





Tips for Biking with Kids

For parents who want to try riding bikes with their kids, Ellms has some tried-and-true tips. First, focus on bike safety. Teach your kids to control their speed, practice smooth braking, look ahead to avoid obstacles and other people, and be careful around any road crossings. If something is beyond the skill level of your child, teach them to get off their bike and walk, when needed.

Ellms says two important safety points are:

Teach trail etiquette. Make sure your kids know how to share the trail with other users. In particular, when you stop riding, pull off to the side of the trail and make sure bikes and gear are kept off of the trail. If you hear another rider approaching from behind, move over to let them go by.

Know your kid's skill level. Be sure to take a moment to assess your child's skill and don't take them on trails they're not yet ready for. Know what they are capable of and plan rides that are within their ability level.

From there, the focus for parents is to keep everyone having a good time. Ellms has some suggestions for that, too:

Focus on progression. Whether it is skills or fitness, kids need the space, time, and patience to work up to riding their bike. Again, plan trips that are well within your child's ability and then work from there to gain skills and confidence on the bike together.

Set small goals. Climbing in particular can be difficult for children, and they might get frustrated or whine about it. Focusing on small goals, like getting to the top or getting to a fun part, can help keep them going.

Be ready to adapt. For any number of reasons, kids can lose it on the trail. In this case, bring the difficulty and pace down, think about those small goals, or take a break. Snacks and water can go a long way to turning a frown upside-down.

Keep a positive attitude. A parent's best tool on the trail or bike path is an upbeat and fun-focused attitude. Your positive attitude will rub off on your kids and will keep everyone having a good time.

Where to Go

With that in mind, here are some excellent places to ride bikes with your kids. Whether you're looking for mountain bike trails, bike paths, or skills courses, Vermont has so much to offer for two-wheeled fun. Here are a few ideas for places to take your next family ride:

Millstone Trails, Barre <http://www.millstonetrails.org/>

Cross Vermont Trail, Groton State Forest <https://www.crossvermont.org/>

Blueberry Lake, Warren <https://www.madriverriders.org/trails.html>

Barre Bike Path, Barre Town http://www.barretown.org/departments/recreation/bike_path.php

Kingdom Trails + Skills Park, East Burke <https://www.kingdomtrails.org/>

Stowe Recreation Path, Stowe <https://www.stowerec.org/parks-facilities/rec-paths/stowe-recreation-path/>

North Branch Nature Center Trails + Pump Track, Montpelier <https://bikemamba.org/trails/>

Pine Hill Park, Rutland <https://pinehillpark.org/>

Island Line Trail, Colchester https://www.localmotion.org/island_line_trail_map

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HIKING AND BACKPACKING WITH KIDS



By Sarah Galbraith

Since becoming a parent almost seven years ago, my life has been filled with some incredibly cute moments. But as an outdoor-loving mama, some of my favorite, top-of-the-list, cutest memories of my daughter are from hiking. I love watching her bound down the trail with a “pack pack” full of stuffed animals bouncing along on her back while she points out cool rocks and birds, or stops to explore streams or look at the wildflowers.

Last summer, when I told my daughter we were going hiking at Stowe Pinnacle — to visit the “mountain doggies” that hang out at the summit — she packed five stuffed animals, a toy compass, and her great-grandfather’s binoculars. Later that same summer, we embarked on a more serious hike, this time up Mt. Mansfield on the Long Trail. This time, we packed warm layers, water and snacks, a stuffy or two, and extra socks and underwear (her idea, and not a bad one).

We headed out later than we had hoped, after we spent

PROVIDED PHOTOS

Andrew Pollak-Bruce, of Burlington, and his children Lily, 8, and Ben, 5, go backpacking together every summer. He’s been taking each of them since they were 3 years old. Lily says it’s super fun to be in the wilderness. Her younger brother, Ben likes that he gets to see the woods and nature when he goes backpacking.

Tips for Hiking and Backpacking with Kids

Any parent who has hiked or backpacked with their kids has learned a few tricks, most likely the hard way. But, it's a chance to be creative with your hike and your parenting, and there are a few things to keep in mind for a good time:

Be prepared to carry a bit more. Kids can't carry all of their own gear yet, so parents should be prepared to carry gear for their kids, and it will likely be more weight than you're used to. Pollak-Bruce uses a winter backpacking pack, which he calls his "daddy pack," so that he has more room. Still, kids can — and should — carry a few small things, like a stuffed animal, a light snack, or a water bottle.

Know your gear. Be sure you know how to use things like your backpack, tent, water pump, and stove before heading out with your kids. Do a shakedown trip ahead of time, on your own or with friends, if needed.

Have a plan. They're going to have a meltdown. It's going to happen. But having a plan for while you're out there can help. Pollak-Bruce, for example, makes a game out of hiking when he needs to lift little spirits where he is Captain Hook chasing Tinkerbell and Peter Pan. It gets everyone through the tough times and back to having fun.

Food is a motivator. A special trail-side treat, yummy dinner, or ice cream on the way home are all great rewards and can keep kids feeling positive and motivated.

Make it fun. This is all about having fun with your family in nature. Keep it easy-going by keeping the mileage short and the scenery interesting. Use your time to be present with your kids, play games, and get creative.

Be prepared to turn back. It's okay to not make your goal. Just like my family did on Mt. Mansfield, you can change your plans in the mountains. You can even use it as a learning opportunity. This is never a failure, but rather a chance to teach and learn that, sometimes, plans change, and that's okay.

Have kids help with planning. Show them the map. Ask them to help make a list of what you'll need to pack. Have them plan or pick items out for your menu. This keeps them engaged.

Celebrate. Don't forget to celebrate your accomplishments, whether with a special snack at the summit or a favorite treat or meal on the way home. These positive rewards will keep your kids going back to the mountains for years to come.

the morning making jam from some fresh berries we had just picked. At around noon, we stepped on to the trail, and it wasn't long before the whining started. But a beautiful, clear, rushing stream with shiny rocks brought the morale back up again, and we were back on our way. There continued to be moments of protest, but we got through them by talking about the cool things we were going to see up ahead. When the trail got steep and scrambly, it stayed entertaining enough that the whining stopped for the rest of the trip.

We found ourselves at Taft Lodge around five o'clock, and my daughter's tummy was rumbling. We had stopped for snacks and water a few times along the way, but she was ready for the dinner we had packed. Her dad and I also made note that, at only a couple of miles into our hike, we were moving at a much slower pace than we had expected.

Like all jaunts into the mountains, we had decided to roll with the day as it unfolded and see what was possible. Over bites of dinner, we talked with our daughter about the types of decisions we make in the mountains, like whether or not to push for a destination, and the information we use to make them, like pace and how many hours of daylight we have left.

For example, should we head for the summit, knowing that, at our pace, we will be heading back down by headlamp in the dark? (Note: her dad and I are very experienced hikers, having hiked thousands of miles together all over the country, otherwise we wouldn't consider this option.) Or, do we scrap our plans for the summit, enjoy our dinner and the scenery at the lodge, and head back down during daylight? We decided on the latter option.

After dinner, we headed back down the trail, talking and telling jokes and scrambling down the rocky sections we had come up. When we got to the Barnes Camp Loop, at the end of our hike, we stretched out on the boardwalk over a wetland area just in time to take in twilight in the mountains. We sat down to watch the sky change colors. We ate more snacks and reflected with our daughter on our decision to come down in the daylight; we were all glad we had made that choice. Then, her dad and I cracked a cold, locally-crafted beer and shared a toast to living — and parenting — in the mountains.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Andrew Pollak-Bruce says he's a better parent when he's backpacking, because he can be more present, patient, and encouraging.



PROVIDED PHOTO

For the Pollak-Bruce family, seeing the view from the summit makes the whole trip worth it.

Adding an Overnight

While hiking with your kids is fun, backpacking can be even better, since everyone gets to spend a night or two in the woods together.

"I love taking kids to the woods," says Andrew Pollak-Bruce, of Burlington, who has been backpacking with both of his kids since they each were three years old.

"It's honestly easier for me to watch the kids while we're in the national forest," he says. Parents often think everything is going to be magnified in the woods, including all the parenting challenges you would experience at home. But in reality, says Pollak-Bruce,

parenting is actually easier in the woods.

"That's when I'm the best parent. I'm more patient, more encouraging, more present," he says. "It puts me in an environment to play, or teach them things like building a fire or cooking."

He took his daughter, Lily, who is now 8, on her first backpacking trip to Hurricane Mountain in the Adirondacks of New York, and they have done one backpacking trip per year since then. And now they include Lily's little brother, Ben, who is 5.

Hurricane Mountain is a great place to go with kids, because there are several trails to get to the campsite and one in particular is just a one-mile hike. At the campsite, there is a lean-to and several tent sites that are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Plus, there are two streams that come together nearby for drinking water or playing.

Pollak-Bruce and his kids set up camp and essentially make a basecamp, from where they hike another two miles to the summit. The hike includes some rock scrambles to keep the kids interested and, at the top, there is a fire tower with an incredible view.

"They feel like they've climbed Everest after getting up there." And then, when they see the view, it's all worth it.

"It's just fun!" exclaims Ben. Adds Lily, "It's super fun to be in the wilderness and breathe in the fresh air."

It's full of meaning for Pollak-Bruce too. "The first time my daughter saw that view, I still remember her rapturous face," he says. "That's what it was about for me. It's still one of the most powerful experiences in the outdoors for me to watch her see that view for the first time."

Sarah Galbraith lives in Plainfield. She is a freelance writer who contributes regularly to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.

BIKEPACKING WITH KIDS

By Sarah Galbraith

“What are we gonna do this weekend?” In Greg Maino's house, which he shares in Burlington with his wife and their two sons, Anik, 5, and Esko, 3, it's a question that, more often than not, leads to a family bike ride. Sometimes, that bike ride includes an overnight camping trip.

Called bikepacking, this type of outing blends backpacking and cycling and it is quickly gaining popularity among bikers. It's quickly becoming popular for the Maino family, too.

From his house, Maino can reach North Beach Campground in just four miles, a distance that even Anik, who just learned to pedal his own bike, can handle.

"We can go on a Friday after school and be back by breakfast on Saturday morning if we need to be," says Maino.

But his favorite family trip is a 20-mile jaunt north to Grand Isle State Park for a weekend of camping and fun. Using a bike trailer and gear bags that fit on to the frame of his bike to carry gear, Maino loads the family up and they set off down the bike path. Together they pedal along the waterfront, taking in views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks, and then into neighborhoods and more rural settings.

From there, the trail juts out into the lake as it travels along the causeway, also known as the Island Line Rail Trail. A bike ferry, operated by Local Motion at certain designated hours, takes riders across a short gap in the trail that is a pass-through for boats. And then, after the excitement of the ferry, the family is back on their way pedaling toward the state park.

One of the best features of this ride, says Maino, is that it is broken up into smaller chunks with lots of points of interest. This helps keep the kids entertained. Snacks, playgrounds, and playing in streams along the way keep the day fun for everyone.

The kids agree: "Camping is better when we bike!" says Anik. Esko chimes in to add, "I like riding way out," while waving his hands emphatically.

Maino likes that bikepacking gives his family a way to go further, together. He's looking forward to future trips on the Mississquoi Valley Rail Trail in St. Albans and the Parc Linéaire Le P'tit Train du Nord, a multi-use rail trail in Quebec.

Says Maino, "We want the kids to enjoy these kinds of things, but we don't want it to be a slog." For the Maino family, these fun family outings are just the ticket.

Check out this GPS map of Greg Maino's route: <https://tinyurl.com/w7zh4jh5>

Sarah Galbraith lives in Plainfield. She is a freelance writer who contributes regularly to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.



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CAMPING WITH KIDS

By Sarah Galbraith

“My earliest vivid childhood memories are of being a four-year-old, camping with my family,” says Rebecca Roy. “I can remember the smell of a canvas wall tent,” she reminisces.

She loves camping so much that she went on to make a career out of it. Now, she manages interpretive programs with Vermont State Parks. And, she camps with her own 9-year-old daughter, too.

“Spending time outdoors is good for everyone’s health,” she explains. “It’s good for your physical, mental, and spiritual health. It improves your quality of life,” she adds.

Lucky for us, Vermont is home to 55 state parks. Each one, says Roy, has its own unique qualities that are worth exploring. Plus, where there is camping, the focus is on families with

young children. This means there are amenities like clean restrooms, water spigots throughout the park, coin-op showers, and other conveniences.

“This all makes the camping experience a little easier than, say, a remote backpacking experience,” says Roy. While some parks are almost country club-like in their offerings, others offer quiet solitude for families who want to connect with nature and each other.

In addition to the infrastructure, 17 of the parks have interpretive programs. That means professionals are on-hand at these parks to offer nature-based programs for kids and families. This is great, explains Roy, for parents who aren’t sure how to fill their family’s time while camping, or for families who are looking for some structured activities to round out their experience. (For a list of parks with interpretive programs, see the resources at the end of this story.)

Vermont State Parks also offers

a few programs to help families get outside. Outdoor Family Weekend, held in September, for example, is an opportunity for families who are new to camping to go together, with guidance from experts. The event is held at a different park every year and registration opens up in June. The weekend even includes clinics like edible plant walks, paddling, fishing, and hunting.

Venture Vermont is an outdoor challenge for kids and families that gets everyone outside and having fun, and participants can earn a prize. The challenge includes a checklist of activities that families can keep track of, from jumping off a dock into water to learning to identify plants to quietly journaling in nature. Each activity earns a certain number of points; 250 points will earn a gold medallion to use for free entry into Vermont State Parks for the rest of the year and all of the following year.

Words in the Woods, a collaboration

with Vermont Arts Council, is also offering virtual and in-person programming to support outdoor exploration. It's designed to invite state park visitors to enjoy the natural beauty while also listening to or reading literature in the woods.

When it comes to camping, Roy says, "Kids just inherently love it." At least, that's been her experience as a child herself and now with her own child.

When it comes to camping, Roy has a few tips: Bring bug spray and sunscreen, she says. And be prepared. Then, leave time and space to simply have fun together, outdoors.

She says, "You end up packing a lot, that's kind of how camping goes. But once you get there, it's just so nice to be in nature."

Resources for Camping with Kids

The Vermont State Parks website is full of resources to help kids and families go camping, including packing lists, programs, and how-to videos.

Here are some good ones to check out:

Camping how-to videos: <https://vtstateparks.com/family-fun.html#campingHowTos>

First time camping checklists and itineraries: <https://vtstateparks.com/family-fun.html#additionalResources>

Interpreter Programming: <https://vtstateparks.com/events-programs.html>

on these fun upcoming events:

Outdoor Family Weekend: <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/outdoorfamily>

Venture Vermont: <https://vtstateparks.com/venture-vermont.html>

Words in the Woods: <https://www.vermonthumanities.org/programs/public-programs/words-in-the-woods/>

Upcoming Events

Vermont State Parks offers several events designed to get families outside together. Check out these websites for more details

Sarah Galbraith lives in Plainfield. She is a freelance writer who contributes regularly to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.





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Getting ready to GOLF AROUND VERMONT

JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR / FILE PHOTO

Spaulding High School graduate Jay Zanleoni competes during the 2018 Vermont Amateur Championship at the Country Club of Vermont in Waterbury.

Explorer Staff Report

If you are a golfer and you are vacationing in Vermont, you're in luck.

Vermont has courses spread across the state. Each course and resort has its own unique design and aesthetic, offering golfers a chance to choose from many varieties while providing breathtaking views of the Green Mountains and nearby communities.

The Vermont Golf Association is the authoritative body for golf in the state of Vermont representing more than 8,600 amateur golfers and 62 golf clubs in the state. (There are a dozen private clubs, as well.)

According to its website, www.vtga.org, it was organized in 1902 with seven charter members: Dorset Field Club, Ekwanok Country Club, Montpelier Country Club, Waubanakee Country Club of Burlington, Old Pine Country Club of St. Johnsbury, Mt. Anthony Country Club of Bennington, and the Rutland

Country Club. The Barre Country Club became a member in 1903.

Golfweek (and other sporting magazines) regularly rave about Vermont's course.

Here is an example from two years ago: "Vermont isn't exactly stacked with golf courses, with fewer than 100 courses in the whole state. Florida has more than 1,200, by way of comparison.

But that doesn't mean the golf scene in the Green Mountain State -- better known for snow skiing -- isn't worth a closer look."

Golfweek ranks courses by compiling the average ratings -- on a points basis of 1 to 10 -- of its more than 750 raters to create several industry-leading lists of courses, including the popular Best Courses You Can Play list for courses that allow non-member tee times. These generally are defined as courses accessible to resort guests or regular daily-fee players.

Two years ago, Jay Peak is No. 1 on that public-access list for Vermont. Designed by Graham Cooke and

opened in 2006, the course is based at a resort that is a popular four-season destination not far from the Canadian border.

According to the ranking, farther south in the state is the Mountain Course at Spruce Peak, formerly known as Stowe Mountain Club. Designed by Bob Cupp, it is No. 2 on the Best Courses You Can Play list. Rutland Country Club, Okemo Valley and the Golf Club at Equinox round out the top five for public access in Vermont.

You really can't do better than Vermont for scenery and golf.

According to the state's own website, www.vermontvacation.com/things-to-do/recreation/golfing, it is a "New Golfer's Paradise."

"Because of its natural beauty and rolling hills, Vermont is a course designer's dream. The State is home to some of the most scenic golf courses in the country. With its tranquil surroundings, Vermont is the ideal location for a relaxing and freeing game of golf. It isn't hard to



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR / FILE PHOTO

Trevor Clayton, of East Montpelier, chips onto the eighth green at the Capital City Country Club in Montpelier. The course, formerly the Montpelier Elks Country Club, opened earlier this year under the management of new owner Lynn Ribolini.

enjoy a few rounds in such a calm and peaceful atmosphere. The perfect golfing conditions are nearly synonymous with Vermont's natural aura," the website boasts.

In fact, the state acknowledges that Vermont has been a destination for golfers.

"(G)olf is a burgeoning activity in this region and is home to some golf resorts that are becoming well known nationwide. For instance, the Basin Harbor Club has an 18-hole championship course, making it a popular Vermont golf resort, and Lake Morey Resort has been home of the Vermont Open for over 50 years," it notes.

Vermont's most popular golf cities and towns are Barre, Stowe, Essex Junction, Manchester, Killington, Morrisville, Wilmington, Chester, Burlington, Brattleboro, Bennington and Brandon.

The VTGA website has a comprehensive listing of all its member courses, and the state website also includes some helpful info for planning your golfing trip in Vermont.



PHOTO BY JON OLENDER

Richard Cormier, of Clarendon Springs, practices his swing in anticipation of an upcoming golf outing at the Airport Driving Range in Clarendon.



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No better time to enjoy VERMONT'S STATE PARKS

By **PETER COBB**

Looking for an outdoor adventure? Vermont State Parks may be the perfect choice. The 55 parks scattered throughout the state offer camping, biking, fishing, hiking, boating (kayaks, canoes, rowboats and paddle boats are available at most parks), nature walks, music, beach time and more.

“Vermont state parks are terrific spots for adventure and fun as well as community building, trying new things, and simply relaxing. We are constantly working to improve connectivity in

parks so folks can work remotely from their campsite if they choose to. Our staff are friendly and facilities very well maintained. Vermont parks have many terrific options for hosting events including reunions, weddings, and company picnics,” said Nate McKeen State Parks director.

The parks offer a variety of a nature programs from delving into the abandoned slate mining village hidden in the center of Bomoseen State Park, to discovering the secrets of carnivorous plants in Stillwater State Park in Groton.

“We have many nature programs at

the parks including music, storytelling, guided hikes and paddles, and encounters with live raptors, bird walks, and our new ‘words in the woods’ program,” McKeen said.

Visitors can hike through an old growth forest at Gifford Woods or through a peat bog at Lake Carmi. Loons are a common sight and their distinctive call is heard at most water-based parks. Lucky visitors see moose, deer, hawks and eagles. Mt. Philo State Park is a great place to observe the annual fall hawk migration and Burton Island is a great place to watch Least Terns dive for supper.

PHOTOS BY PETER COBB

Top, panoramic view from Mt. Philo. Bottom, spotting an eagle on Waterbury Reservoir State Park.



There is a wide variety of habitat and wildlife in the parks, from the sandy dunes of Alburgh Dunes State Park to the alpine zone on Mount Mansfield. Visitors can explore woodlands and meadows, lakes and mountain streams, marshes, mountaintops, islands and cliffs.

Mt. Ascutney State Park is one of New England's premier hang gliding spots. New Discovery State Park allows campers to bring their horses. Some visitors pan for gold in the rivers and streams others are geocachers (high-tech treasure hunters).

Several parks have nature centers with experts on site. The guides undergo intensive training focused on developing thematic and entertaining programs that help foster curiosity and provide details about the unique features at each parks.

Over 1 million people visit the parks each year during the operating season and many more people visit and recreate during the off season to snowshoe, cross-country ski, birdwatch, snowmobile and hike.

There are 55 developed state parks and 18 designated properties. Thirty-nine parks have campsites, 28 have beaches and nine have cottages.

The hours of operation for day use are generally from 10:00 am to sunset. Camping check-in is prior to 9 pm.

Day use fees are \$4 for adults and \$2 for kids. For camping there is a base rate of \$19 per night for most campsites and \$28 per night for most lean-tos. Cabins are \$51 to \$53 per night. Reservations are recommended. Season passes are available. All parks follow the current COVID-19 rules.

PHOTO BY PETER COBB

Top, boater cruises Waterbury Reservoir State Park. Bottom, boats on the shore at Seyon Lodge at Noyes Pond.

There are also special programs offered throughout the summer months.

"We have many nature programs at the parks and also a calendar of other events including music, storytelling, guided hikes and paddles, and encounters with live raptors, bird walks, and our new 'words in the woods' program," McKeen said. The full list is available on the State Parks' website.

For more information including a list of events, current COVID-19 requirements, and services go to www.vtstateparks.com that would help.

Did you know? The Vermont Department for Children and Families and Vermont Parks Forever work in partnership to provide free park passes to foster families in Vermont.

Peter Cobb is a freelance writer who lives in Barre. He is a regular contributor to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.



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USER'S GUIDE

to architecture in Vermont

Compiled by Explorer Staff

Cruising through Vermont, you will inevitably be struck by the rolling hills, the distinctive mountain peaks, and the vast open fields that make up our state's working landscape. But as you pass through each town, you could be encountering a valuable history lesson.

For more than 400 years, there have been settlements across New England. The region hosts some of the oldest buildings in the nation, including homes, and represents a collection of architectural styles more varied than in any other part of the country.

We encourage you to pay attention to the styles of homes you see in town villages versus what you might see just a mile outside of town. And if you look carefully, like studying the rings of trees, you can start to unravel a community's history by the style of home that appears (perhaps in clusters) and then the next phase, and the next ...

And once you get that way of thinking down, you will start to see additions and modifications that were made, and you start to better understand trends of the day.

While birders carry Peterson's around with them, if you enjoy architecture, you should probably invest in "A Field Guide to American Houses" by Virginia Savage McAlester. It truly is a wonderful guide for ID'ing (and understanding) our spaces.

Vermont is unique, too, in that its Capital City is so compact, and livable. It has scores of styles (and modifications) and boasts some of the most unique architectural examples in all of New England. There are

majestic homes along Main Street, but there are unusually designed homes high on the city's hills – some of them outrageously steep. You could spend all day in Montpelier looking at architecture.

What follows is a very basic guide to some of the more popular styles you likely will encounter.

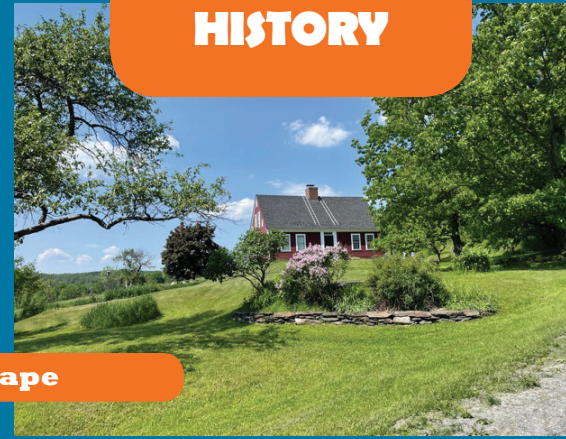
Colonial

According to McAlester, Colonial houses were made to look like the homes colonists moved from in Europe, but also were easy to build (no architect needed) and pragmatic in layout. They are often side-gabled (roof ends at the sides of the house), flat-faced, wooden structures, covered with narrow clapboards (although most of the earliest ones had shingles; not so much here in Vermont). They often did not have shutters, stoops, porches, window trim, or door decoration, or eaves. In other words, very plain in appearance. In some instances a jutting overhang of the second story gave it a "garrison" style. Old and heavy, they seem to grow straight out of the ground.

The original form of Colonial houses was a simple one-room, two-story box. In time, many of the houses were built out backward to make room for growing families and storage goods, sometimes referred to as a "saltbox" shape (again, not a style you see often in Vermont.)

There are many examples of the classic Cape Cod house: wood frame, 1-1/2 stories high with a pitched roof, little or no space between windows and roof gutter, and no overhang on the gables. It is easy to place because of the central door, and two windows symmetrically on each side. The three-

HISTORY



Cape



Federal



Victorian



Georgian



Second Empire



Italianate



Victorian

quarters Cape has two windows on one side of the door and only one on the other side; the half Cape has only two windows and a door to their side.

Georgian

Georgian houses are much bigger: both taller with moderately pitched roofs, as well as deeper in size because they go two rooms deep. As McAlester notes, “What chiefly distinguishes Georgians from Colonials is their civility. As the colonists prospered, their houses became better mannered.”

Georgian houses are best identified by the orderly plan of their windows and doors. The window placement on the front facade is absolutely regular. The windows march across the second story, usually at even-spaced intervals and almost always in odd numbers of three, five, or seven across. The lower-story windows appear directly below the uppers with the doorway in the center, making the facade exactly symmetrical. The windows themselves are double-hung, typically with nine to 12 panes per sash. Decoration is restrained and focuses on the doorway.

Federal

These are often stately looking homes, yet simple in design. Federal homes look similar to Georgian houses but Federal houses can usually be distinguished by their freer, more elaborate detailing. McAlester says for quick identification, look at the arrangement of glass below the crown of the front doorway: if there is a row of small rectangular windows, the house is almost certainly Georgian; if there’s an elliptical or semicircular fanlight, it’s probably Federal. All in all, Federal homes seem more “glassy” with larger doorways and more uses of glass around them. According to some descriptions, to draw attention to this generous glasswork, Federalist builders sometimes crowned their windows with lintels or recessed them in arches. They also dropped the top-story windows down from the eaves, where they had crowded against the roof in Georgian houses, thus freeing space for more decorative cornices. “Dignified, imposing, sophisticated, and sure, Federal houses have an

air of self-satisfaction well suited to a people who had but recently won their freedom and intended to make the most of it,” one traveler wrote of the style.

Greek Revival

And how does this style happen? There are examples of it in many communities. (There are several in aforementioned Montpelier, but there are fine examples in Woodstock, Manchester and Burlington.) Bluntly put, this style looks like the Athenian Parthenon, complete with the columns and the like. According to McAlester, “Americans’ enthusiasm for things democratic spawned a radical backward turn in architecture, all the way back to the public buildings of the original democracy of ancient Greece.” The resulting Greek Revival houses are the easiest of all New England house styles to identify because they look so utterly out of place.

As one description noted: “By 1850 New England’s admiration for the bold, clean lines of classical architecture had waned, but one common feature of Greek Revival houses, especially the high-style ones, endured: the transformation of the old side-gabled house into a front-gabled house. By rotating the house 90 degrees, Greek Revival builders faced the peak of the roof on the street, where the cornice detailing could be shown to better advantage. Later builders, caught up in the craze for Victorian houses, made extravagant use of this simple change of house plan.”

Victorian

These are everywhere in Vermont. Whether it is “gingerbread houses” or houses with patterned roofs or mansard-upstairs, many homes that have persisted across Vermont are representative of this era in architecture.

“Victorian” is not one style but several. It is often described as eclectic, meaning that the houses can look like just about anything, McAlester notes. But what it means in this case is that Victorian houses look almost nothing like any of the houses that came before.

There are common elements: Very steep, many-gabled roofs, irregular floor plans, and an asymmetrical arrangement of windows and doors give Victorian houses their characteristically excited look. Patterned roofs and multi-textured walls show off the builders' experimentation with curves, arches, hexagons, and other complex shapes. Porches appear everywhere, along with the profusion of fanciful detailing familiarly known as "gingerbread."

Second Empire houses (of which there are several fine examples in Montpelier) are queenly. The diagnostic feature is the mansard roof carried like a crown on decorative brackets. With their projecting central pavilions, very tall windows, and iron roof cresting, these are the most stately of the Victorians. Queen Anne houses often look pointy because in this type that the roofs are steepest and building most asymmetrical; corner bays and towers accentuate this effect. Spindework porches, patterned shingling, and stained glass make this

the archetypal gingerbread house.

Vermont has lots of good examples of Shingle houses, with their smooth walls, multi-eaved roofline, and intersecting gables. They are less decorated with fancy detail on the exterior.

Witch windows

As an aside, as you travel by some older homes in Vermont, you might notice an upstairs window set on a diagonal. These are unique to Vermont, and are sometimes referred to as "witch windows," because folklore would suggest a witch on a broomstick can't fly through a crooked window opening. More likely, it has a more practical use: getting light and/or ventilation into the upstairs.

There are so many other styles to explore: Italianate, Queen Anne, Stick, Ecclectic and, more modern styles. But those will have to wait for another edition of Explorer. Get out there and take in the local history ... in architecture.



Second Empire

Explore

Central Vermont



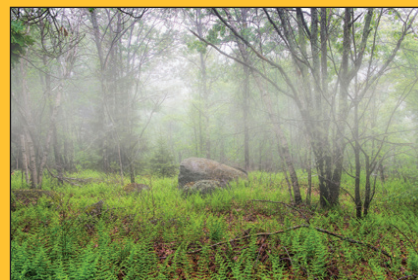
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Cone Flower, Manchester Center, VT



SUE WETMORE

Pine warbler.



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Misty Morning, Mt. Tabor, VT



MATTHEW LERMAN

Lerman 7c Forest Stream, Early Summer, Near Raven Rock Road in Arlington, VT



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Beaver Pond Summer, Mt. Tabor, VT

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Think snow at the
**VERMONT
 SKI AND
 SNOWBOARD
 MUSEUM**

By Peter Cobb

Vermonters of a certain age may remember the headline: 'We Love You Jimmy But Oh You

Kidd.' Jimmy was Jimmy Heuga, the bronze medalist at the 1964 Winter Olympics. Kidd referred to Vermonter Billy (William Winston) Kidd the who won the first alpine silver medal by an American man. It was a magical moment for the US, Vermont, Stowe and Burlington.

Fast forward 12 years. Vermonter Bill (William Conrad) Koch wins the silver medal in the 30 km event at the 1976 Winter Olympics, becoming the first American to win an Olympic medal in cross-country skiing, and the only one until 2018. In 1982 he was crowned the cross-country skiing overall World Cup champion. Koch's Olympic win was so improbable the American television networks didn't even cover the event.

These memories and thousands more – Barbara Cochran's gold medal in slalom at the 1972 Winter Olympics; Rutland native Andrea Mead Lawrence's two gold medals in 1952; and the story of the famed 10th Mountain Division, a light infantry division of the U.S. Army -- are retold at the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum in Stowe.



“Skiing and snowboarding is such an important part of Vermont’s history and heritage. Our mission is to continue to collect, preserve, and celebrate the rich history of skiing and riding in this great little state. The museum provides a home for the tangible items, a walk down memory lane, an understanding of the progression of the sport, an appreciation of where we are now and where we came from, and a place to celebrate the athletes, pioneers, and contributors along the way,” said Abby Blackburn, museum director.

There are approximately 8,000 individual items preserved by the Museum everything from vintage ski equipment to personal histories. The museum highlights Vermont’s important role in the history of the sport.

“Vermont has played an important role in the development of winter sports. For a small state, Vermont can claim many firsts -- the first winter carnival in the US was held at Vermont Academy in 1909, the first US National Skiing Championships consisting of cross-country and jumping were held in Brattleboro in 1924 and the first ski lift in the US was a rope tow on Gilbert’s Hill in Woodstock,” Blackburn said.

Other Vermont firsts include: the National Ski Patrol and 10th Mountain Division trace their beginnings to Vermont; the first US National Snowboarding Championship was held at Suicide Six in 1982; and Burke Mountain Academy was the first winter sports academy in the United States in 1970.

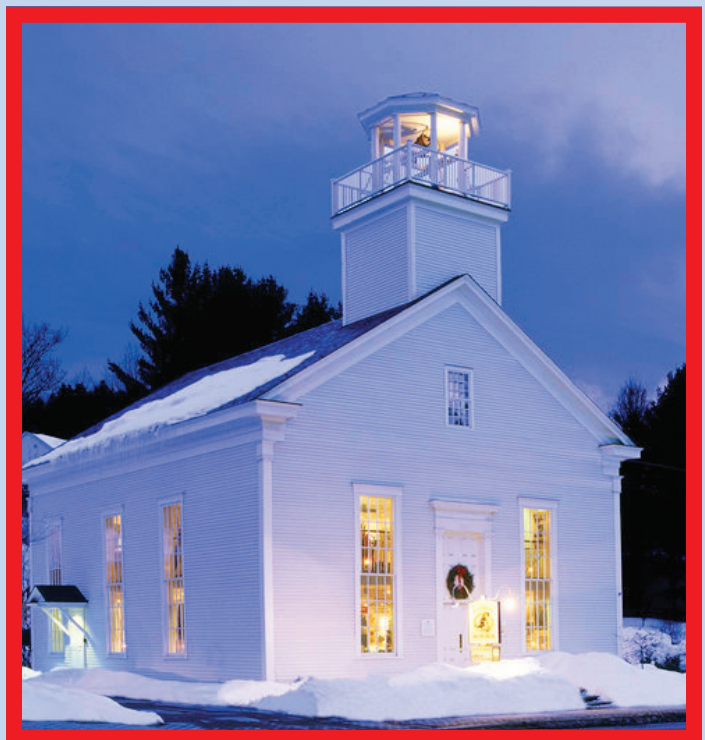
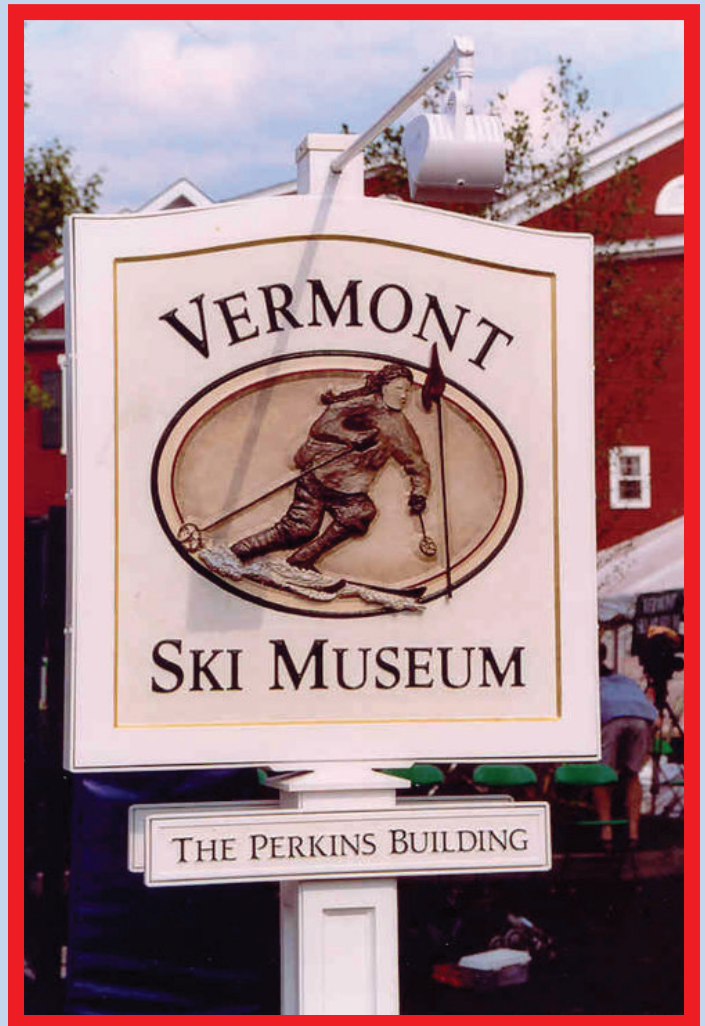
Each year the Museum presents the Vermont Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame which honors athletes, pioneers and special contributors of Vermont skiing and snowboarding who promoted and or contributed to the sport of skiing or riding in Vermont. Their accomplishments are recognized at an Induction Ceremony and their histories are documented in the museum’s collection as part of the permanent exhibits.

Three exhibits -- Green Mountains, White Gold: Origins of Vermont Skiing; Surfing Snow: Vermont Inspired Boards; and Two Contests: Competing in Biathlon -- feature photographs, objects, and film that examine how Vermonters used technology, geography, and invention to move skiing and riding forward. Innovations that happened here have had a large and lasting impact on the development of recreational and competitive snowboarding, downhill and Nordic skiing.

The museum focus is on the state’s role is alpine skiing, Vermont had the first rope tow in North America; Nordic skiing, Vermont has produced more than its share of Olympic nordic skiers and is home to some of the finest nordic ski trails and operations in the country; and Snowboarding, Burton, based in Burlington, is world’s biggest snowboard brand.

The museum is located at the intersection of routes 100 and 108 in Stowe and is open three days a week, Friday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information about special exhibits, admission fees and more, go to: <https://www.vtssm.org/hall-of-fame>

Peter Cobb is a freelance writer who lives in Barre. He is a regular contributor to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.





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TALL ORDER

The Bennington Battle Monument

By Peter Cobb

 On Aug. 16, 1777, in Walloomsac, New York, about 10 miles northwest of Bennington, a rebel force of 2,000 men led by Col. Seth Warner and the Green Mountain Boys, decisively defeated a detachment of General John Burgoyne's army. The Battle of Bennington is considered a turning point of the Revolutionary War not only because it reduced Burgoyne's army and supplies, which contributed to Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga, but also because it galvanized support for the independence movement, played a key role in bringing France into the war on the rebel side, and proved the Americans could defeat the British.

The Bennington Battle Monument honors the battle and the men who fought there. The monument is 306

feet tall and was completed and dedicated in 1891. It is constructed from blue-grey magnesian limestone. It is the tallest man-made structure in Vermont. At one time it was the tallest battle monument in the United States (Washington Monument is not a battle monument). From the observation floor you can see Massachusetts and the Berkshire Mountains, New York's Taconic range and Vermont's Taconic and Green Mountains.

The ground floor has exhibits that explain both the battle and the construction of the monument. There are also artifacts, a diorama that depicts the battle, and a display of the 130 years of Monument souvenirs.

An expert is on site to answer any questions about the battle.

Special events this year include a flag day celebration on June 14 when a historian will discuss the

significance of the different historic flags and the reading the Declaration of Independence followed by discussions on July 4. Aug. 14-16 is Bennington Battle Days, a town-wide celebration with reenactors on the monument grounds and a parade downtown. The events have been modified to fit with COVID protocols.

The monument is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday through Monday to start the season. Reservations are appreciated for motor coaches or any group over 10 people. All current COVID-19 protocols are emphasized. There are sanitizing stations at the entrance to all the buildings. Opening day is May 29. When COVID-19 recommendations are modified or lifted additional hours and days may be added to the schedule.

There is no admission fee to the ground floor. The elevator to the



observation floor will reopen when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. When the elevator is open, the fee will be \$5 for adults; \$1 for youth 6 to 15; and free for children under 6.

In addition to the monument, there are two statues on site, General John Stark and Seth Warner. Two other markers are on the grounds, one is dedicated to the 1,400 New Hampshire men involved in the battle, and the other remembers the first printing press and newspaper in Vermont and mentions the first journalist jailed for sedition.

There is a walking tour available that takes visitors through Old Bennington and a driving tour that leads visitors through three covered bridges and points out several historic markers that lead to the Bennington Battlefield.

For more information: <https://www.benningtonbattlemonument.com>

Peter Cobb is a freelance writer who lives in Barre. He is a regular contributor to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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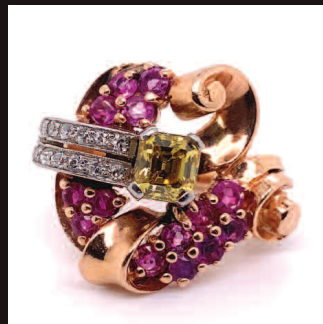
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WHO WAS CALVIN COOLIDGE?

Born in Plymouth, on July 4, 1872, Calvin Coolidge was the son of a village storekeeper. He was graduated from Amherst College with honors, and entered law and politics in Northampton, Massachusetts. Slowly, methodically, he went up the political ladder from councilman in Northampton to Governor of Massachusetts, as a Republican. En route he became thoroughly conservative.

As President, Coolidge demonstrated his determination to preserve the old moral and economic precepts amid the material prosperity which many Americans were enjoying. He refused to use Federal economic power to check the growing boom or to ameliorate the depressed condition of agriculture and certain industries. His first message to Congress in December 1923 called for isolation in foreign policy, and for tax cuts, economy, and limited aid to farmers.

He rapidly became popular. In 1924, as the beneficiary of what

was becoming known as "Coolidge prosperity," he polled more than 54 percent of the popular vote.

In his Inaugural he asserted that the country had achieved "a state of contentment seldom before seen," and pledged himself to maintain the status quo. In subsequent years he twice vetoed farm relief bills, and killed a plan to produce cheap Federal electric power on the Tennessee River.

The political genius of President Coolidge, Walter Lippmann pointed out in 1926, was his talent for effectively doing nothing: "This active inactivity suits the mood and certain of the needs of the country admirably. It suits all the business interests which want to be let alone.... And it suits all those who have become convinced that government in this country has become dangerously complicated and top-heavy...."

Coolidge was both the most negative and remote of Presidents, and the most accessible. He once explained to Bernard Baruch why he often sat silently through interviews: "Well, Baruch, many times I say only 'yes' or

'no' to people. Even that is too much. It winds them up for twenty minutes more."

But no President was kinder in permitting himself to be photographed in Indian war bonnets or cowboy dress, and in greeting a variety of delegations to the White House.

Both his dry Yankee wit and his frugality with words became legendary. His wife, Grace Goodhue Coolidge, recounted that a young woman sitting next to Coolidge at a dinner party confided to him she had bet she could get at least three words of conversation from him. Without looking at her he quietly retorted, "You lose." And in 1928, while vacationing in the Black Hills of South Dakota, he issued the most famous of his laconic statements, "I do not choose to run for President in 1928."

By the time the disaster of the Great Depression hit the country, Coolidge was in retirement. Before his death in January 1933, he confided to an old friend, "... I feel I no longer fit in with these times."



JIM EATON / VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

VISIT PLYMOUTH NOTCH HISTORIC DISTRICT

By Peter Cobb

One of the most famous pictures of President Calvin Coolidge shows him ready to milk a cow. The cow is staring at the camera and Coolidge, holding a milk bucket and stool, is staring at the cow. It is unlikely that Coolidge actually milked that cow since he had left his Vermont farm right after college. Regardless of whether he did or didn't milk the cow, the picture was posted to remind everyone that he was a country boy with small town, all-American values. True, but at same time

he was, like all Presidents, a complicated man. Before he was president he was a lawyer, governor of Massachusetts and Vice President.

Plymouth Notch is the birthplace and boyhood home of Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States. The village is virtually unchanged since the early 20th century. The homes of Coolidge's family and neighbors, the community church, cheese factory, one-room schoolhouse, and general store have been carefully preserved, and many of the buildings have their original furnishings. The President is buried in the town cemetery. The village,

a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been designated as the 'Plymouth Notch Historic District' and is owned and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

The President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site opened for the season May 29 and runs through Sunday, Oct. 17, Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 per adult; children under 15 are free. A family pass is available for \$25.

At the beginning of the season, the museum will operate similarly to last year with four of the buildings on the

tour including the Coolidge Museum & Education Center (orientation film and main exhibits), two Wilder Barns (containing one of the nation's best collections of late 19th century agricultural equipment) and Coolidge Homestead (Calvin's boyhood home and scene of the 1923 'Homestead Inaugural' when he took presidential oath of office administered by his father, John Calvin Coolidge Sr., who was a Vermont notary public and justice of the peace). Tours are limited to 10 people and are offered on the hour.

According to William Jenney, Regional Historic Site Administrator for the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the number of buildings available for touring may increase throughout the year depending on the COVID-19 rules changes.

The museum is planning several special events. The Plymouth Folk & Blues Festival, selected as a 'Top 10 Fall Event' by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled for Sept. 4-5. Parlor to the Polling Place: Stories and Songs from the Suffragists is set

Plymouth Notch is the birthplace and boyhood home of Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States. The village is virtually unchanged since the early 20th century.

Oct. 2. Every Wednesday Farmer Fred DePaul demonstrates a variety of historic farming activities such as sheep shearing, grain flailing and wagon rides.

The seasonal exhibit this year is: The Roaring Twenties: Fashions, Fads and All That Jazz.

All COVID-19 safety protocols will be enforced. Masks are required in the

For more information and a complete list of events go to: www.HistoricSites.Vermont.gov.

There are dozens of visit-worthy historic sites and history museums in Vermont from the Hubbardton battlefield, to President Chester A. Arthur's birthplace in Fairfield, to Sen. Justin S. Morrill's (the father of land grants) birthplace in Strafford. A complete list with site descriptions, directions, hours of operations, special events, the most current COVID 19 restrictions, and more is available on the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's webpage at: historicsites.vermont.gov.

Most of the sites have permanent exhibitions that interpret their unique history, as well as regularly changing displays that focus on specialized subjects. The State also has created a historic site YouTube channel. Go to YouTube and type: Vermont Historic Site in the search box.

Peter Cobb is a freelance writer who lives in Barre. He is a regular





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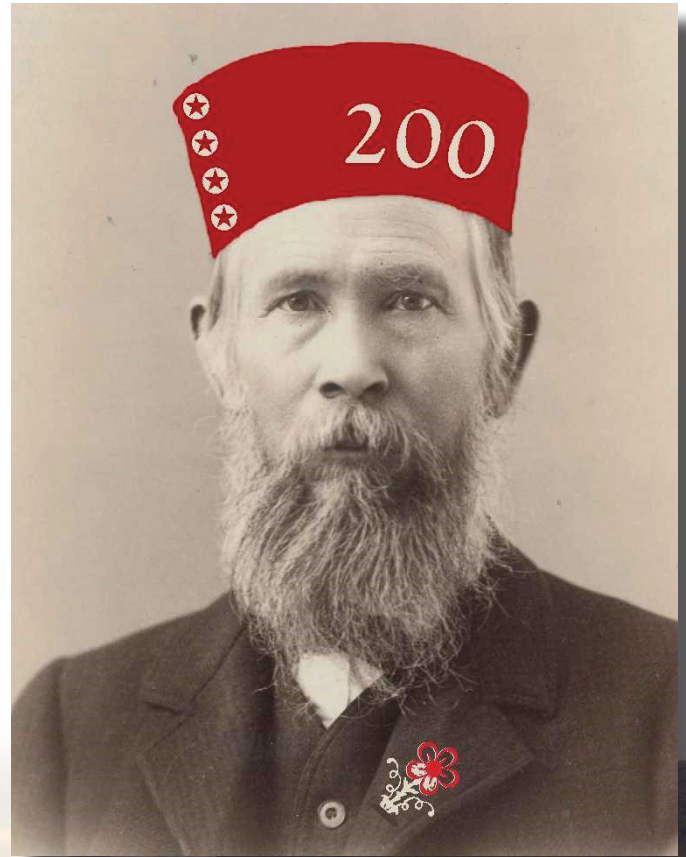
By Peter Cobb

The Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury, the oldest community-based museum in the country, has welcomed visitors and researchers since 1884. The museum continues its founding mission of offering art and history of Middlebury, Addison County, and the mid-Lake Champlain region. Located in the heart of Middlebury village, the periodic exhibits, programs, and events are held in the architecturally unique historic 1829 Greek-revival, Judd-Harris House, two more contemporary contiguous buildings (1972 Research Center and 1992 Fletcher Community History Center), and the 1888 Carriage Barn. There also is a flower and sculpture garden.

“Art lovers, genealogists and history buffs are always fascinated, excited, and enthused with what they find during their visits,” said Bill Brooks, Sheldon’s executive director.

The Sheldon offers engaging temporary art and history exhibits, programs, and events for all those seeking to gain a deeper appreciation of Vermont’s art and history.

The Stewart-Swift Research Center houses one of the state’s premier archival collections, documenting the history of Middlebury, Addison County, and greater Vermont, and serves the research needs of scholars, students, genealogists and the community.



Henry Sheldon celebrating Henry @ 200



PHOTO BY CALEB KENNA
Hancock, VT 2020.

There are three special exhibits this summer: Faces of Addison County: A Trent Campbell Retrospective, July 13 to Sept 11; Kate Pond From the Heart: A Sculptor's Process, July 13 to Sept. 11; and Sightlines: Picturing the Battell Wilderness - Paintings by Jill Madden and Photographs by Caleb Kenna, Oct. 5 to Dec. 31.

Award-winning local photographer, Trent has selected 24 of his favorite photographs from his 25-year career at the "Addison Independent" capturing the local citizens as they go about their daily lives.

Kate Pond, a native Vermonter and internationally regarded sculptor, brings to her exhibit three large outdoor sculptures, drawings, plans, and smaller maquettes (scale models of unfinished sculptures). She has been a mentor and teacher to many younger aspiring artists.

Pictures from the Battell Wilderness will include paintings by Jill Madden and photographs by Caleb Kenna, two distinguished Vermont artists who captured the recreational and environmental importance of the wilderness areas of the Green Mountains, originally donated by Joseph Battell, a contemporary of Henry Sheldon.

Admission is adults \$5; youth 6 to 18, \$3; under six get in free. Students with a current ID get in for \$4; seniors get in for \$4.50; and a family will pay just \$12.

Museum founder Henry Luther Sheldon was born 200 years ago, Aug. 15, 1821. This year the Sheldon Museum is celebrating:



PHOTO BY DAVID MAUGHAN

Trent Campbell Five and Eight, Kate Pond.

Henry at 200 with programs, events, exhibits and more.

The museum will open to the public July 13 and will follow the current COVID-19 rules. The public is urged to check the website at <https://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org> for updates, changes and hours of operations.

Peter Cobb is a freelance writer who lives in Barre. He is a regular contributor to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.



PHOTO BY TRENT CAMPBELL
Man Overboard, 2003.



2021 Remaining Schedule

2021 Highlighted Special Events

Date	Sponsor-Lineup-Special
6/5	Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank~ Midgets~4 Cyl Mad
6/12	Hoosier Tire East ~Kids Rides~ Midgets
6/18	Midgets at Albany Saratoga
6/19	JTB Towing and Recovery~ GSMS~SCoNE
6/26	Wells River Savings Bank~ 4/6 Cyl ENDURO Pellerin Auto Parts, Body, & Automotive 4TH OF JULY~Midgets~Fireworks \$15.00-Mod Mad
7/3	
7/10	Dennis Preston Builder MID Season (DP)~ David's House Benefit SCoNE
7/17	Twin State Ford~ Midgets~GSMS
7/24	Lucky's Trailer Sales Empire Super Sprints \$18.00
7/31	Sponsor TBD Midgets~ 4/6 Cyl ENDURO
8/7	Walker Motor Sales~ Midgets~John Poor Memorial Coupe Mad
8/13	Midgets at Albany Saratoga
8/14	Swenson Insurance TOPLESS Night~GSMS wingless
8/21	Sabil & Sons~ NEAR~Old Timers Night 54 years of racing Celebration SCoNE
8/28	Dead River Co~ Midgets ~ 4/6 Cyl ENDURO ~ GSMS-Lenny West Memorial
9/4	Valley Floors~ SCoNE
9/11	Sponsor TBD~ Midgets
9/18	99ROCK~GSMS General Auto Salvage 99ROCK NE Dirt Track Championships weekend 100 Lap Sportsman Mods 50 Lap Sportsman Coupes~Midgets
9/24-	Growlers & Non Winners Races Racing Friday & Saturday Night
9/25	4 Cylinders Friday~Midgets Saturday~ ENDURO Saturday POINTS NITE GA \$10. Fri. ONLY; \$15. Sat. ONLY; Both days \$20.
10/10	Dad's 4 By Tool & Supply 4th Annual Fun Day at the Ridge
10/30	2021 Annual Awards Banquet Fireside Inn W. Lebanon

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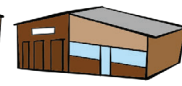
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Always a good time to visit
HILDENE

By Peter Cobb

If the walls at Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, could talk, anyone with an interest in American history would listen. Hildene was the home of Robert Lincoln, the only child of President Abraham Lincoln and his wife Mary Todd Lincoln to survive to adulthood.

Robert Lincoln built Hildene as a summer home at the turn of the 20th century. He first visited Manchester as a young man in the summer of 1864 when he came to the Equinox Hotel to meet his mother and his brother Tad. Some 40 years later he returned to purchase 392 acres of land to build what he would call his ancestral home. Robert was president of the Pullman Company, which at the time was the largest manufacturing corporation in the country.

“A visit to Hildene is respite from the pace many are used to. Bring a great pair of walking or hiking shoes, and a cooler with



your lunch, there are plenty of snacks and drinks also available in the museum store, as you'll want the whole day to explore the 412 acres, 12 miles of walking trails including a 600-foot floating boardwalk across the wetlands in the dene, farm animals, including baby goats and sheep, cheesemaking facility, formal and working gardens, engaging exhibits, plenty of history to dive into, and outstanding views. It's worth taking an entire day to soak it all in," said Polly Raine, Hildene creative and marketing director.

The estate, with its Georgian revival mansion and 14 historic buildings, includes the home, formal garden and observatory; Welcome Center and The Museum Store in the historic carriage barn; 1903 Pullman car, Sunbeam; a solar powered goat dairy and cheese-making facility and the lower portion of the property, Dene Farm, was recently

incorporated into the guest experience.

The estate also functions as a campus for environmental and agricultural education for high school students and includes a teaching greenhouse, composting facility, animal barn, vegetable gardens, apple orchard, and floating wetland boardwalk. Nearby, the 1832 schoolhouse, still used for education programs, stands in contrast to the new facilities.

The restored 1903 Pullman railcar and its "Many Voices" exhibit is the southernmost stop on Vermont's African American Heritage Trail.

"The American Ideal" exhibit in Robert & Mary Lincoln's 1905 Georgina Revival home is tribute to Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural address.

For guests who like animals, the Hildene farming operation, both at the goat dairy and in the dene, is alive with

alpaca, sheep, goats and chickens.

For those who simply enjoy time outdoors, from the views at the Overlook, to the thriving ecosystems across our campus accessible by maintained trails, and volunteer, production and formal gardens, there is peace and beauty to take in in every direction.

Hildene operates Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Hours and days of operation will likely increase as the season progresses and COVID protocols change.

Admission is \$23 for adults; \$6 for youth six to 16; children five years and under and Hildene members get in free.

More information is available at: <https://hildene.org>

Peter Cobb is a freelance writer who lives in Barre. He is a regular contributor to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.



Explore Magazine

Fall Photography Contest



Have a great fall 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 by 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 August 13, 2021.
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GO BACK IN TIME AT MOUNT INDEPENDENCE AND CHIMNEY POINT

By Peter Cobb

For Revolutionary War history buffs or anyone looking for a fun afternoon, Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell and Chimney Point on Lake Champlain could be the perfect day trip.

Mount Independence is one of the best preserved Revolutionary War archaeological sites and includes

a museum and over six miles of walking and hiking trails. It was built by the Americans in 1776 and 1777 and is named after the Declaration of Independence. It was one of the largest defenses built by the Americans in the Revolution. The 1.6 mile trail closest to the building meets outdoor standards for handicapped accessibility and has a series of award winning interpretive signs. Along the trails there are vistas of Lake Champlain and Fort Ticonderoga.

The 12,000 troops stationed at Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga across the lake proved so impressive to British General Guy Carleton that his fleet abandoned an attempted invasion, retreating to Canada for the winter. The American soldiers strategically retreated in July 1777 as the German and British troops occupied the area. Over a period of four months, the British strengthened the defenses to withstand an American counterattack. Eventually the bulk of the British army, under General John Burgoyne, marched south and were defeated at Bennington on Aug. 16, 1777, and ultimately surrendered at Saratoga in October.

In fall 1776, the 12,000 soldiers at Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga make it one of the largest population centers in the United States after the cities of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

Chimney Point is a historic tavern building located in Addison County on the shores of Lake Champlain, at the foot of the Lake Champlain Bridge. The exhibits look at the history of the three earliest cultures in the region — the Native Americans, French Colonial, and early Americans, through the artifacts they left behind and interesting images and maps. The tavern room is one of the oldest in Vermont. Visitors can explore the outdoor interpretative signs that further tell the story of the site and the original Lake Champlain Bridge. The Lake Champlain Bridge has spacious sidewalks, so visitors can walk across the lake to New York State and also explore the grounds of the Crown Point, NY, State Historic Site.

Chimney Point was the site of a fort built by the French in 1731. The exhibit has

some artifacts from the fort that were found during the archaeology work for the 2011 Lake Champlain Bridge.

The highlight of the summer season at Mount Independence is the annual Soldiers Atop the Mount event on Labor Day weekend. Visitors are urged to call ahead at 802-948-2000 for the schedule, to be determined if it will be one or two days. Re-enactors from New England and New York gather to honor the Revolutionary War site and the soldiers who served here. A visitor favorite is the Baldwin Trail walkabout, with experts at a number of stations around the trail, to talk with visitors to bring the history out of the ground in the station locations.

The 26th annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship will be held at Chimney Point on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Competitors use their atlatls, similar to spears used by some indigenous peoples of North America from the time before the bow and arrow, to throw darts and test their skills in accuracy and distance. Visitors can watch and also learn from experts about ancient skills such as stone tool making.

Mount Independence State Historic Site is open through Oct. 10, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chimney Point State Historic Site is open July 2 through Oct. 10, Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission for both sites is \$5 adults, free for children under 15.

For more information and the latest COVID-19 guidelines go to <https://historicsites.vermont.gov>

Peter Cobb is a freelance writer who lives in Barre. He is a regular contributor to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.



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A revolutionary visit

HUBBARDTON BATTLEFIELD

By **PETER COBB**

The Hubbardton Battlefield in Rutland County is one of only a handful of the battlefields in the United States that is pretty much the same as it was on the day of the battle. A soldier from the July 7, 1777, battle would easily recognize the battlefield today. The Battlefield State Historic Site is the location of the only Revolutionary War battle that was fought entirely in what would become the state of Vermont.

The permanent exhibit at the museum tells the story of the battle and its significance in the Revolutionary War, placing it in the larger context of the Saratoga Campaign. There were 557 casualties that day, 367 Americans and 190 British. Despite the higher casualty total for the rebels, the battle was a tactical American victory because it delayed the British army's pursuit of the retreating American Northern Army, which allowed the future Americans to withdraw safely from the

pursuing British and gave them time to regroup, which led to later victories at the battles of Bennington and Saratoga.

The exhibit features period artifacts and objects recovered during past investigations of the battlefield (visitors are asked not to bring metal detectors to the site). The three-dimensional fiber optic map with accompanying narration and diorama offer a vivid account of the battle. The diorama was produced by Vermont artist Paul V. Winter.

In 2017, a display was created to showcase the possessions of Aaron Oliver, an African American soldier from New Hampshire, who was captured at the Battle of Hubbardton. The items on display include a priming horn, cartridge pouch, shaving mirror, and a small wooden object that is either a canteen of some kind or used for storing powder.

There is a grass trail that is maintained by regular mowing. Six interpretive signs with images and maps highlight the important points

and locations of the battle. The site has one of the nation's older Revolutionary War battle monuments (from 1859), and sweeping views of the Taconic Mountains. It's a lovely place for a walk and a picnic.

The trail is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers. Bicycles, horses, snowmobiles and ATVs are not allowed. Dogs are welcome on leashes.

The Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site is open from July 2 through Oct. 10, 2021, Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission for the museum and trails is \$3 adults, free for children under 15.

Due to COVID-19 concerns the annual battle weekend event in early July has been postponed until 2022.

For more information: <https://historicsites.vermont.gov/hubbardton-battlefield>

Peter Cobb is a freelance writer who lives in Barre. He is a regular contributor to The Times Argus and Rutland Herald.



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