

IN New Hampshire

MARCH 2012

Your Guide to What's Happening in the Granite State

It's Maple Sugaring Time...



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IN New Hampshire

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in the Granite State.

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Music

Scottish Music at Nashua Library

Alan Reid, one of the original members of Scotland's famed Battlefield Band in 1969, will perform in concert with Rob van Sante at the Nashua Public Library on Sunday, March 18, at 2 p.m.

Reid, who plays piano and accordion, joined Scotland's Battlefield Band in 1969. His skilled musicianship and stellar songwriting abilities helped catapult the group to preeminence in the Scottish traditional music scene. Early in 2011, Alan launched a new career with the release of "Recollections: Songs of Scotland's Martyrs, Rogues and Worthies."

Reid continues to sing and write about the history and future of Scotland as part of a duo with Rob van Sante. Born in the Netherlands, van Sante is a guitarist of tremendous skill and subtlety. He toured throughout Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East for many years before becoming sound engineer and a "fifth member" of the Battlefield Band.

The duo's performance will feature Reid's compositions, Battlefield Band favorites, and van Sante's own songs. Their music is as intelligent as it is beautiful, both



ancient and as fresh as the morning headlines.

The concert, which is free and open to the public, is part of the library's celebration of Celtic Heritage Month. Arrive early to browse the Friends of the Library's annual book sale, which runs from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday,

March 18 (and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 17). For more information call Carol at (603) 589-4610.

The library is located at 2 Court Street. For directions and information on parking go to www.nashualibrary.org/directions.htm.

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Maple Syrup

New Hampshire Maple Experience Returns to The Rocks

Program features Sugar-on-Snow, Facebook photo contest, and maple cooking demos

BETHLEHEM, N.H. - The New Hampshire Maple Experience returns to The Rocks Estate this spring, showcasing the sweet tradition of sugar making with hands-on learning and tasty treats.

Owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, The Rocks partners each year with area inns and other businesses to celebrate maple sugaring season. The Maple Tour includes an interactive step-by-step demonstration of crafting maple syrup, complete with a visit to the onsite sugar house. New to the program this year is the option to enjoy sugar-on-snow, where syrup is heated and drizzled over snow to create a toffee-like concoction that's sure to satisfy your sweet tooth.

"With the Maple Experience, we strive to provide a fun, educational program for visitors of all ages, while collaborating with other area businesses to showcase the beauty and creativity of our area," said Nigel Manley, longtime Rocks Estate manager. "We keep the Maple Experience fresh by adding new features each season."

A horse-drawn wagon ride through the historic 1,400-acre estate, and a syrup tasting – complete with the requisite sour pickle – make the Maple Tour a delight of the senses. In honor of the traditional pairing of sweet syrup and sour pickle – and the requisite "sour pickle face" – this year The Rocks will hold a Facebook competition featuring photos of Maple Experience visitors enjoying the delicious sweet-and-sour combination.

Also new this season is the "Taste of New Hampshire Maple," featuring a variety of local chefs who will give cooking demonstrations at The Rocks during the Maple Experience. Each chef will prepare a recipe that incorporates maple syrup. Onlookers will be invited to sample the finished product, and each recipe will be printed and available for visitors to take home.

The New Hampshire Maple Experience is scheduled for March 17, 24, 25, and 31, April 1 and 7, with tours taking place throughout the day. Reservations are highly recommended, but walk-ins are welcome on a space available basis.

During the tour, visitors will learn how to identify the sugar maple trees that produce the sweet sap for making syrup, discover the history of maple sugaring, and see part of the process demonstrated by fourth-generation sugar maker Brad Presby.

The Maple Experience also includes a visit to the interactive maple museum and education center featuring maple sugaring artifacts from the extensive collection of legendary Sugar Hill sugar maker Charlie Stewart. The museum and sugar house are in one of the many historic Rocks Estate buildings restored for modern use.

The Rocks staff will be serving up piping hot pancakes for hungry visitors, as well as selling mixes from the famous Polly's Pancake Parlor in Sugar Hill. Maple Experience visitors will receive coupons to Polly's, which will open early this year, on March 17. Polly's will be open weekends through May 12, when it begins daily operation through the fall.

Kingdom Kettle Korn will be popping and selling its delicious maple kettle corn at The Rocks during Maple Tours. Local businesses Lahout's and Chutters help sponsor the Maple Experience.

For those looking to turn the Maple Experience into a weekend-long North Country stay, The Rocks is again partnering with local inns to offer weekend vacation packages.



Maple Syrup

Visit www.therocks.org/vacations.php to find participating lodging establishments.

For more information, please visit www.therocks.org. For reservations and other inquiries e-mail info@therocks.org or call 603-444-6228.

The Rocks is the North Country Conservation and Education Center of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (www.forestssociety.org). The Forest Society is non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its natural resources.

Maple Sugaring by the Numbers

Maple sugaring is a centuries-old craft that legend has started when an Indian struck his hatchet into a tree thus starting the sap to flow from the wound. His wife collected the sap, not realizing its sugar content, and presented her husband with a sweet treat for dinner. Once the European explorers and settlers learned the craft of maple sugaring, it became an industry of its own, now offering

hi tech solutions for what began as a very laborious process.

Did you know?

The earliest documented information on maple trees was written by French explorer Jacques Cartier in 1540. Other explorers as early as 1606 noted the observance of "distillation" of maple sap by the Micmac Indians.

Primitive spiles, the spouts tapped into the tree, were created in the 1790's as they proved to be beneficial to the health of the tree opposed to slashing the bark, where a patent for a metal spile was granted to Eli Mosher in 1860.

A patent for an evaporator pan was granted in 1850 to D.M. Cook of Ohio.

It requires 45 gallons of raw sap to produce 1 gallon of finished maple syrup.

Raw sap is about 2% sucrose, or sugar, and 98% water.

The process of reverse osmosis increases the concentration of sugar by removing approximately 75% of the water before boiling, which allows shorter boiling times and conserves fuel.

The sap must be boiled to around 7 degrees above the boiling point of water (212 degrees F at sea level) to become syrup. The syrup is now approximately 65% sugar content.

New Hampshire recommends syrup to be at a 66.9% sugar content, or density on the Brix scale, the measure-

ment used by sugar makers to verify density.

Maple candies and confections are made at temperatures between 232-280 degrees F and about 90% sugar.

The sugaring season lasts approximately 6 weeks, from late February to early April.

Maple syrup production was up 43 percent nationwide in 2011 over the previous year.

New Hampshire maple producers had a record breaking season in 2011 with a reported production of 125,000 gallons of syrup.

The New Hampshire maple industry contributes about \$5 million dollars to the state's economy annually.

Maple syrup is only made in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada, with Quebec Province producing 90% of the Canadian syrup and 80% of the world's supply.

If you want to know more about maple sugaring, visit a sugar house. On March 24-25th, the maple producers of New Hampshire will be hosting the 17th annual NH Maple Weekend. Over 85 sugar houses will be open state-wide for you to witness the process of turning sap into syrup. Free samples of fresh syrup will be offered as well as maple candies and confections, coffee and doughnuts in many locations. Some will be offering petting farms, tours and breakfast. Go to www.nhmapleproducers.com for a complete list of participants with their hours and offerings, or call 603-225-3757 for more information.

The New Hampshire Maple Experience

is a hands-on learning adventure. Visitors not only see how syrup is made, but also learn about the history, basic tree identification techniques, and the economic importance of natural maple products. Visitors help tap our maple trees so that they can enjoy and understand this rural aspect of New England.

March 17, 24, 25, 31 and April 1 & 7

- Chef Demo's
- Sugar-On-Snow
- Demonstrating techniques used by Native Americans & early settlers and the modern day sugar maker.
- Continual Tours & Horse Drawn Rides throughout each day. Enjoy Maple Syrup and Donuts!
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- Visit the Maple Museum that houses artifacts from 200-300 years ago.
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Reservations advised, program space limited. Contact The Rocks or info@therocks.org. Motor coach tours, school groups & private tours welcome!



The Rocks Estate

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www.therocks.org



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Maple Syrup

Annual Tree Tapping Ceremony slated

The New Hampshire Maple Producers Association will be hosting Governor and Dr Lynch at the annual Tree Tapping ceremony on March 8, 2012 at 1pm. The event is a ceremonial beginning to the maple season in New Hampshire and will be held this year at Fadden's Sugar House in North Woodstock. This will be the eighth time that Governor Lynch will be tapping a maple tree for

the ceremony. The public is encouraged to join in the celebration.

Fadden's Sugar House is operated by Jim Fadden, Jr. and his family. Jim is a sixth generation sugar maker. His family has been sugaring the same 120 acres of trees since Thomas Jefferson was president. The sugar house is located in downtown North Woodstock neighboring Fadden's General Store and Peg's Restaurant, all operated by the Fadden family.

The ceremony is a celebration of maple industry in New Hampshire and its importance to the state. Maple sugaring contributes \$5 million dollars to the state's economy annually. The sugaring season typically runs from late February to early April. Last year, New Hamp-

shire had a record breaking season with 125,000 gallons of syrup produced being reported.

Concerns about the mild winter weather have been raised, but the potential of the season will not be determined until it is over. The lack of snow around the base of the trees can result in the ground warming quickly on warm days which can signal the trees to encourage leaf development.

Once leaves grow, the trees will no longer offer sap for collection. The key for optimal sap run is a constant cycle of cold nights and warm days. Nights below freezing followed by warm days in the upper 30's to low 40's provide the best results.



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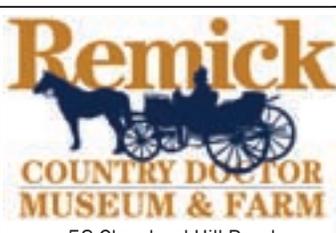
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Maple Sugaring Event 2012
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- Maple Baked Goods
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- Main Museum:**
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 - Sugar House: Evaporator demonstration, syrup sampling, sugar-on-snow
 - Sugar Bush: Demonstrations and information on maple trees and tapping
 - Binsack Field: Maple Sugar Encampment
Horse-drawn wagon rides from 11-3pm

Special thanks to our sponsors:






Maple Syrup

Maple, a Sweet and Special Treat

The flavor of pure maple is one that is savored. It is uniquely sweet and warm, and evokes feelings of enjoyment. What would breakfast be without the beautiful golden amber colored syrup poured over your pancakes or waffles? But why stop there? How about over ice cream, fruit salad or baked into muffins, scones, and breads. It is wonderful as a glaze for ham, salmon or pork chops. Stir into baked beans, sweeten winter squash or broil on top of a grapefruit. Kids love it stirred into milk, and a spoonful of maple makes the medicine go down.

Maple has been recently shown to have many health benefits. Unlike corn syrup, white sugar and other sweeteners, maple does not lose its nutrition during production. Maple syrup has as much calcium as whole milk, with no fat and only 2/3 the calories of



corn syrup. It also contains niacin, folic acid, potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, thiamin, copper, vitamins B2, B5 and B6, and zinc and manganese, two well recognized antioxidants. Zinc helps to prevent damage from cholesterol and manganese is a required part of enzymes that help cells to produce energy. Research has shown that maple syrup could substantially slow the cell growth of several types of cancers and help to reduce the risk of diabetes. A phytohormone contained in maple syrup stimulates insulin release and increases sensitivity of fat cells to insulin. This hormone, known as abscisic acid, is recognized as a potent weapon against metabolic syndrome and diabetes.

Maple can be incorporated into recipes easily to replace any other sweetener. Dry maple sugar can be

substituted 1:1 for white or brown sugar and will add a nice maple flavor and sweetness. Maple syrup can be substituted as well. Instead of 1 cup of granulated sugar in recipes, use ¾ cup of maple syrup. In baking, reduce the liquid by 2-4 tablespoons per 1 cup maple syrup used, add 1/4 tsp baking soda and reduce the oven temperature by 25 degrees.

**Try this recipe today:
Delicious Maple Bars**

- ½ cup pure maple sugar
 - ½ cup pure maple syrup
 - ¾ cup flour
 - 1 cup chopped nuts or coconut
 - ½ cup shortening
 - 1 egg
 - ½ tsp baking powder
 - 1 cup rolled oats
 - ¼ tsp salt
 - 1 tsp vanilla
- Mix all ingredients thoroughly. Spread in greased 8" square pan. Bake 30-35 minutes at 350 degrees. Cut into squares while warm.

If you would like to make maple your sweetener of choice, go to www.nhmapleproducers.com to find more recipes and how to get a cookbook of tried and true recipes from NH sugar makers. Maple products can be easily stored for long term. Try some this season, and discover the many ways to enjoy it.

Robyn Pearl, Publicist for the NHMPA



**The Grant Family
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The Enfield Shaker Museum

March 24th 5pm
Sugaring-Off Dinner

Followed by a lecture on the Northern Railroad
by historian Ken Cushing

Join us for a Maple-themed dinner, provided by caterer Mary Adams. The dinner includes wine, hor d'oeuvres, prime-rib au jus, sides, and dessert. Dinner to be followed by a lecture on the history of the Northern Railroad from Ken Cushing – head of the Grafton Historical Society. Tickets are \$45/members \$50/non-members.



Overnight specials are \$110 per person or \$160 per couple: includes dinner, lecture and one night's stay.

447 NH Route 4A, Enfield, NH 03748
603-632-4346
info@shakermuseum.org



Maple Syrup

The Maple Syrup Story

Native Americans were the first to discover the fact that sap from maple trees could be processed into maple syrup and sugar. While there are no authenticated accounts of how this process was discovered, there are several interesting legends.

One popular legend is that a Native American chief hurled his tomahawk at a tree which happened to be a maple, and the sap began to flow. The clear liquid that dripped from the wound collected in a container on the ground below. His wife, believing the liquid was water, used it to cook venison.

Both the meat and the sweet liquid that remained were found to be delicious. Retracing what had happened, they discovered the sweet sap from the maple tree made the difference. The process was repeated and the rest is now history.

Maple syrup is made in the Northeastern United States and Southeastern Canada, and the maple season usually lasts 4-6 weeks. The days and length of the sap runs depend entirely on the weather.

During those weeks, the New Hampshire maple industry produces close to 90,000 gallons of maple syrup.

Maple sugaring time in New Hampshire occurs from

mid-February to mid-April.

As the frozen sap in the maple tree thaws, it begins to move and build up pressure within the tree.

When the internal pressure reaches a certain point, sap will flow from any fresh wound in the tree. Freezing nights and warm sunny days create the pressure needed for a good sap harvest.

In late February, New Hampshire maple producers tap their sugar maples by drilling a small hole in the trunk and inserting a spout. A bucket or plastic tubing is fastened to the spout and the crystal clear sap drips from the tree.

It is then collected and transported to the sugar house where it is boiled down in an evaporator over a blazing hot fire. As the steam rises from the evaporator pans, the sap becomes more concentrated until it finally reaches the proper density to be classified as syrup. It is then drawn from the evaporator, filtered, graded and bottled. It takes approximately forty gallons of sap to make one gallon of pure maple syrup.

New Hampshire Maple Weekend March 24 & 25

Over 60 sugar houses across the state will participate in this open house weekend. Visit a sugar house near you and learn how maple syrup is made and the modern methods used to carry on this ancient tradition. Enjoy



free samples, horse-drawn rides, sugar on snow, pancake breakfasts and more! Fun for the whole family.

Check at www.nhmapleproducers.com for a list of participating Sugar Houses. For all of your NH Maple information please contact:

NHMPA

Robyn Pearl; Publicist

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Theatre

The YoYo Show at Pontine Theatre

Saturday, March 3, at 2pm, Pontine Theatre presents John & Rebecca Higby in The YoYo Show. As seen on David Letterman, they have performed in over 20 countries. In October 2011, John set a new Guinness World Record in Beijing, China. Over 20 million viewers on Chinese television watched as he lit 14 matches with a yoyo in 60 seconds. The 45-minute show will be followed by a workshop for all ages. Tickets are \$8 for the performance and \$12 for the workshop (which includes the price of a special YoYo Show yoyo). Purchase tickets online: www.pontine.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the door (cash & checks only) based on availability. For information contact Pontine: info@pontine.org / 603-436-6660.

Mud Time Theatre at Pontine, March 9-11

March 9-11, Pontine Theatre presents Vermont's Mud Time Theater in two original one-act plays, The Nine Questions and Mildred Taken Crazy. Both two-person plays are based on Vermont history.

Performances are scheduled for Friday 9 March at



8pm, Saturday 10 March at 4pm and at 8pm, and Sunday 11 March at 2pm. Tickets are \$24 and may be purchased online at Pontine's website: www.pontine.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the door (cash and checks

only) based on availability. Pontine's West End Studio Theatre is located at 959 Islington Street, Portsmouth NH. For information contact Pontine: info@pontine.org / 603-436-6660.



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Events

Water Country's new Dr. Von Dark's Tunnel of Terror

Water Country will unveil new in the 2012 season one of our biggest and best attractions yet . . . DR. VON DARK'S TUNNEL OF TERROR! This amazing new water "dark" ride is the first of its kind in New England and is one of only seven in the entire country. DR. VON DARK'S TUNNEL OF TERROR will offer thrill seekers and brave hearts the water ride of a lifetime . . . in complete and total darkness!

You're not afraid of the dark . . . ARE YOU? This exciting new "dark" ride begins at the laboratory of the sinister Dr. Von Dark. Riders board a special "whirly tube," facing one another in directions that spin the tube while it slides. The tube plunges into total darkness and down a breath-taking 40-foot drop.

Riders accelerate at lightning speed through a pitch-dark tunnel, when the tube drops and is propelled back and forth up the steep, banked sides while spinning the whole time. With a watery blast, they enter the upper hemisphere of the fully enclosed Tornado Funnel and are catapulted through back-to-back "vertical" banks, spinning two complete 360's while being held by the tornado's powerful centrifugal force...all while in total blackness! Riders are then jettisoned down the mouth of the funnel,

towards a special effects water curtain completely covering the only escape route.

There's no other choice than to meet your fate at the ride's thrilling climax. If you missed the video announcement, a preview of this new ride can still be seen on Facebook (www.facebook.com/WaterCountry), Twitter (@WaterCountry) or on our YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/WaterCountryOfficial>) *For people 13 years of age or older, only. Water Country is conveniently located in Portsmouth, NH and is New England's Largest Water Park and gallons of fun for the whole family! Park opens its 2012 season on June 9th at 10:30am.

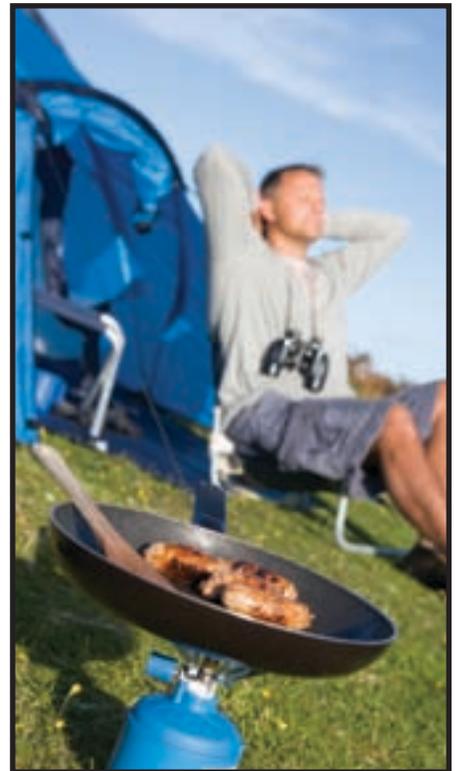
N.H.'s Largest Camping and RV Show March 9-11

The 40th annual New Hampshire Camping and RV Show will run Friday, March 9 through Sunday, March 11 at the Hampshire Dome, 50 Emerson Road, Milford.

The state's largest camping and RV event features 50 campgrounds and a huge array of camping equipment and RV's. With 90 exhibitors, door prizes, clowns and face painting for the kids, there's something to enjoy for the whole camping family.

Adult admission is \$9; kids under 12 free. Senior special admission \$6 on Friday. Show hours are 1-8 Friday; 10-8 Saturday; 10-5 Sunday.

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For more information: NHLovesCampers.com.



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Sugaring-Off Dinner and Lecture

Join us on March 24th for a seated Maple-themed dinner, provided by caterer Mary Adams. The dinner begins with a few passed hors d'ouvres, mesculi blend garden salad with maple balsamic dressing, Portuguese rolls with maple butter, prime-rib au jus with a horseradish sauce, Shaker green beans, mashed Yukon gold potatoes, and hummingbird cake for dessert. Acoustic guitarist Dwight Phetteplace will provide music during cocktails and dinner. Dinner to be followed by a lecture from Ken Cushing - head of the Grafton Historical Society - about the history of the Northern Railroad. Dinner begins at 5p.m. with lecture starting at 7 p.m.



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Events

Stone Walls of New England

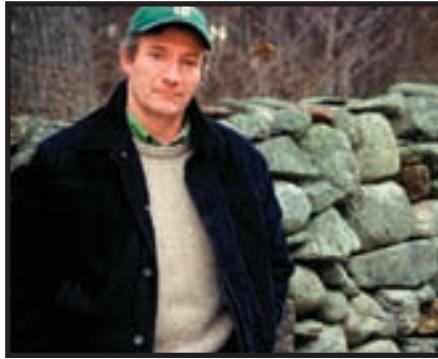
Kevin Gardner's program, "Stone Walls of New England," at the Nashua Public Library has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 15, at 7 p.m.

For more than thirty years Gardner has been a stone wall builder in a family business widely known for traditional New England stonework, particularly for historic restoration of antique structures. He is the author of "The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls," which will be available for purchase and signing at the program.

The program was originally scheduled for Thursday, January 26, but had to be postponed due to illness. For more information call Carol at (603) 589-4610 or visit www.nashualibrary.org.

Art Trailworks program

Art Trailworks, an environmental art program, for children in grades 2 – 5 will be presented by environmental art teacher, Cynthia Robinson. The program will be held on March 3, from 1:30 – 2:30 PM in the Community Room, Hopkinton Town Library, Contoocook. This program is sponsored by The Little Nature Museum. Who lives nearby? What do they need to survive? How do these animals and insects live next door to each other? Come use natural



materials like bark, pine cones and sticks to create a sculpture which can also be a home for a local animal or insect. We'll work together to construct an indoor Nature Trail linking our animal homes . . . our own museum for a day! Then you'll take your Trailwork Artwork home to enjoy and share. Cynthia C. Robinson is an experienced art teacher; she is currently teaching art at the Madison Elementary School, Madison, NH.

She is an art instructor at A Plus After School Program; program director of the Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council, Plymouth, NH; and an educational program development consultant for the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord. She is an artist-in-residence and substitute teacher in Moultonborough Central School. She has a MFA in Visual Art from Vermont College and a BS in Studio Art from Skidmore College.

Preregistration is required; call 746-6121. This

program is free but is limited to 15 children in grades 2 – 5. For weather related cancellation information, call 746-6121. For directions to the library: www.hopkinton-townlibrary.org. Museum information: www.littlenature-museum.org. Event Fee: free; donations appreciated.

20th Annual Sno-Deo

Thousands of snowmobile enthusiasts will converge on Coleman State Park in Stewartstown on March 2 starting at 9 a.m. to enjoy two days of fun and food at the Swift Diamond Riders SnoDeo, sponsored by the Swift Diamond Riders.

Those attending will be able to check out next year's line of snowmobiles by taking demo rides; visit the Antique Snowmobile Museum and warming hut that supplies food, heat and sells clothing. Also included are a Two-track Radar Run (\$5/run or \$10/3runs), and a Hummer Expo. Website: www.northcountrychamber.org.

Fundraiser Dance for Tropical Storm Irene Relief

Dancing and Desserts to raise money for Tropical Storm Irene disaster relief. Regional favorites The Flames will fill the room with classic rock and a request-filled set list. Located at Bistro Nouveau in Eastman, Grantham NH. Business-casual attire 3-3-12 at 7p.m. 603-863-8000. Event Fee: \$15 advance until 2/24, \$20 at the door. Call 603.863.5129 for more info.

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Events

Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 7, Snow Detectives, 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.

Manchester: The Amoskeag Fishways presents a pre school program about snow. What secrets can we find in the snow? What stories does snow tell? Children will put on detective caps, get out hand lenses, and search for clues to reveal which animals are out and about in winter. Cost: \$5 per family.

March 9, The Hunters and the Hunted, 7-8 pm

Manchester: The Amoskeag Fishways presents a family program about predator and prey animals. We'll investigate the adaptations animals use to find food and stay safe. Cost: \$5 per family.

March 10, Predators of the Sky: Live Birds of Prey, Two Presentations: Noon-1:30 pm or 2-3:30 pm

Manchester: The Amoskeag Fishways presents a special event featuring live animals. Tom Ricardi and his spectacular birds of prey will be our guests. A beautiful bald eagle will be on hand for close-up viewing! Learn about the great work done by Tom's organization, the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility, which cares for injured birds and operates a successful captive breeding program. Cost: \$8 per person /\$20 per family.

March 28, Beavers, Otters and Mink, Oh My! 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.

Manchester: The Amoskeag Fishways presents a pre school program about otters, beavers and mink. How do beavers build their lodges? How fast can river otters swim? Children will learn all about these adorable mammals who spend lots of time in the river and discover the special "tools" they have that help them live there. Cost: \$5 per family.

March 30, Finding their Way, 7-8 pm

Manchester: The Amoskeag Fishways presents a family program about how migrating creatures find their way. Compare their navigation skills to yours through games and activities. Cost: \$5 per family.

March 24, Growing Up WILD Educator Workshop for Parents and Teachers of Young Children 9am - 1pm

Manchester: The Amoskeag Fishways presents a workshop for parents and teachers. The creators of Project WILD (a national wildlife education program) have developed a new early childhood education curriculum.

This workshop is an introduction to the Growing Up WILD units designed especially for young children, ages 3-7. Through direct exploration, play, and creative activities, teachers and parents will find new ways to get pre school aged children outdoors and excited about learning! Includes a copy of Growing Up Wild:

Exploring Nature with Young Children ages 3-7.



Cost: \$40. Pre-registration required.
Advance registration with payment required.
Call 626-3474 for more information. www.amoskeagfishways.org

ChocolateFest 2012

A deliciously fun festival on March 3 starting at 12 p.m. devoted to tasting Chocolate! Come taste the masterpieces of the region's finest chocolatiers showing off their chocolate makings skills. Taste the chocolate and be the judge! Event Fee: \$10 per person ages 5 and over. Colby - Sawyer College, Ware Campus Center, New London, NH. Phone: 603-526-6575. Website: www.lakesunapeenh.org.

Farm Feast Breakfast & Open House/Open Trails

Come out to the farm for an all-you-should-eat farm fresh breakfast on March 4 starting at 10 a.m. featuring our own organic eggs, sausage, potatoes, kale, maple syrup, and pancakes made with Vermont-milled flour! Join us at 1pm for a FREE tour of our gardens, grounds, animals, alternative construction, renewable energy projects, and permaculture homestead. Event Fee: Breakfast: \$5-15 sliding scale donation Tour: Free. 218 Streeter Woods Rd., Dorchester, NH. Phone: 603-786-2366, Website: www.dacres.org.

Mt Washington Summit Women's Day Trip

Mount Washington Observatory trips offer the exclusive opportunity to experience Mount Washington in winter without a technical mountaineering ascent. Travel to and from the summit is made possible by snow cat transportation, and our famous mountaintop weather station is open—just for you—as a cozy respite from the legendary alpine extremes. It's an experience you quite literally can't get anywhere else! Our DayTrips offer

Events

a guided snow tractor trip to the summit, a behind-the-scenes tour of our mountaintop weather station, free time to experience the mountain's famed weather and scenery, lunch with the crew and an afternoon return to the base. It's the ultimate Mount Washington experience! Trips are offered almost every week from December to April. Visit <http://www.mountwashington.org/education/daytrips/> to learn more and register. Event Fee: Contact for details. 2779 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH. Phone: 603-356-2137, Website: MountWashington.org.

Muddy Paw Sled Dogs to summit Mt Washington

As a kickoff awareness event and fundraiser for the new Non Profit - New Hampshire Sled Dog Rescue, History and Education Center (NHSDRHEC) - three dog teams will attempt to summit Mount Washington via the auto road between March 7th -9th (the most appropriate date based on weather conditions will be chosen). Sponsors will be sought for canine athletes and mushers. In an exciting twist, two guest seats will be auctioned for the once in a lifetime opportunity to accompany the teams to the summit. A dog team has not attempted to summit Mount Washington since 1932 so this event is not to be missed! NHSDRHEC is dedicated to sled rescue, northern breed education and preservation of NH dogsledding history. For more information visit www.dogslednh.com or contact us at info@dogslednh.com or 1-603-545-4533. Event Fee: Free to spectators but sponsors are sought. Great Glen Trails & Mount Washington Auto Road, Pinkham Notch, Gorham, NH. Phone: 603-545-4533, Website: www.dogslednh.com.

Mount Sunapee annual Dummy Big Air Contest

Dummy skiers and snowboarders are launched off a huge ramp. Great spectator event. Prizes awarded for best-designed dummies, biggest air, and best crash. Awards and apres-ski party. March 11, registration time: 9:00am in Spruce Lodge Construction Rules please visit www.mountsunapee.com. Event Fee: \$20.00. 1398 Route 103, Newbury, NH. Phone: 603-763-3500, Website: www.mountsunapee.com.

Mount Sunapee Racing Series Finale

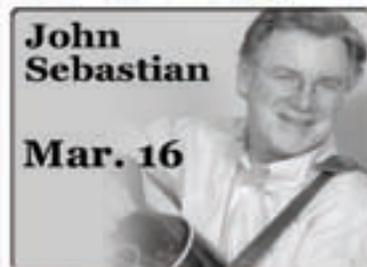
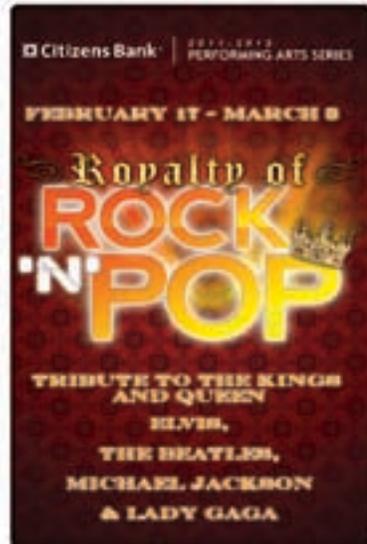
Winter Wild is a race up to the summit and back down. Total distance is 4.0 miles. Grab your skis, snowshoes, favorite running shoes or whatever and join the fun! Awards by footwear category and ages. Extensive raffle. March 3. For more info please go to www.winterwild.com or www.recreation@nl-nh.com. Event Fee: \$20.00 in advance; \$25.00 day of. 1398 Route 103, Newbury, NH Phone: 603-763-3500



Email: info@mtsunapee.com
 Website: www.mountsunapee.com

New Hampshire Old House & Barn Expo

This one-stop-shopping trade show on March 24 starting at 9 a.m. helps old house and barn owners and enthusiasts with appropriate and affordable solutions. You'll have a chance to meet face-to-face with knowledgeable suppliers of repair and restoration products and services, and gather valuable ideas from hourly live talks and demonstrations. Energy savings, window repair, and weatherization techniques will be featured. The Expo is back by popular demand with new vendors and educational sessions. The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, the show's sponsor, is dedicated to the preservation of historic buildings, communities, and landscapes through leadership, education, and advocacy. Event Fee: \$10 for adults; \$7 for students and seniors. Center of New Hampshire, Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH, NH. Phone: 603-224-2281, Website: www.nhpreservation.org.



Events



Amoskeag Quilters' Guild Biennial Show

"Amoskeag: Weaving & Piecing Our History" is the theme of the Amoskeag Quilters' Guild Biennial Quilt Show, which takes place on Sat. and Sun., Mar. 24-25.

The show features a wide array of quilts created by Guild members. After browsing among the quilts, feel free to shop the vendors and enjoy demonstrations of quilt-making techniques. You may be lucky enough to win a door prize or an item from the raffle table, which benefits the New England Quilt Museum. Another charity supported by this show

is Emily's Place, a local shelter for victims of domestic violence, which will receive all proceeds from a beautiful quilt to be raffled on Sun. at the show.

The show runs from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. both days at Manchester Memorial High School, 1 Crusader Way, Manchester, NH 03103. Multi-day admission is \$6. Refreshments will be sold by Memorial High School Booster Club. Parking is plentiful, and the venue is handicap accessible. Web site link: www.amoskeagquilt.org Amoskeag Quilters' Guild, P.O. Box 4116, Manchester, NH 03108-4116.

Now for a few free or almost free ideas

Every Sunday morning: Quick Tips at King Pine Join a pro from the King Pine Ski & Snowboard School for a complimentary 1-run Quick Tip (must purchase a lift ticket to participate). Available every non-holiday Sunday from 9-10AM. Look for the Quick Tip tent at the base of the Polar Bear Triple chair lift.

Every Friday night in Feb: Friday Night Lights at Settlers' Green: Free hot chocolate, bonfire and VIP cards. 4-8pm.

Wednesdays in February - March: Jerry's Free Ride Wednesdays at Red Parka Pub: Be in the Pub between 6pm-8pm and as Jerry gives away lift tickets to all of the best ski areas.

Saturdays in February: Audubon Snowshoe Tours at Purity Spring Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary: This guided tour departs from The Mill Indoor Pool & Fitness Center at Purity Spring Resort at 2pm every Saturday. Free for Purity Spring Guests and King Pine skiers with ticket. Complimentary with regular trail pass fee. Weather dependent.

For more information on planning your Mt Washington Valley vacation, visit www.mtwashingtonvalley.org or call 1-800-DO-SEE-NH (800-367-3364) to talk over plans with a vacation planning expert. To learn more about NH vacations, visit <http://www.visitnh.com/>.

Vintage Snowmobile Race/Pittsburg

Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear when snowmobile racing was within reach of the average Joe. In 1973 new machine prices hovered around \$1000,



gasoline was \$.35 a gallon, and racing was fun for all! The Great North Woods Vintage Snowmobile Race on March 17 starting at 10 a.m. will allow you to return to the fun of the bygone era and re-live the fun many of us had there. A five race series, sponsored by three of the premiere clubs in the state will be held this winter and they are waiting for you to dust off that pre '73 single or twin fan cooled relic sleeping in the corner of your garage and join in the fun. This is one of a three race series, for more information: www.thegreatnorthwoodssnowmobilerace.com Off Beach Road at the Trailhead Farr Road Gravel Pit Pittsburg. Event Fee: Entrance Fee

\$5; Pre-registration \$30; Per Sled/\$40 day of race. Off Beach Road at Trailhead, Farr Road Gravel Pit, Pittsburg, NH. Phone: 800-698-8939. Website: www.northcountrychamber.org.

Concord-Merrimack County SPCA

Arnos Cleaners is hosting a "Shamrock Buck & Good Luck" Fundraiser to benefit the Concord-Merrimack County SPCA in March. Visit Arnos Cleaners located at 267 South Main Street, Concord. Patrons will have the opportunity to purchase a Shamrock Shape for \$1 and write the name of a loved one to show support of the homeless animals being cared for by the Shelter. Shamrocks will be placed on a display doghouse as a visual symbol of the shelter being filled with luck. Be sure to stop by during the month of March

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Events



and give them some luck! For more information please visit www.concordspca.org or call 603-753-9801.

Concord-Merrimack County SPCA PETCO Adoption Day March 10th 11am-1pm. Stop by Petco, located at 35 Fort Eddy Road in Concord. Concord-Merrimack County SPCA volunteers will be on site with adoptable animals. It is their hope to place the homeless animals on site with their forever families. You can also learn more about the SPCA and upcoming events. For more information call 603-753-9801.

PATS PEAK becomes PETS PEAK, Monday, March 12-Wednesday, March 14. A Fund-raiser for the Concord-Merrimack County SPCA. Purchase a Full-Day (8:30am-4pm) Lift Ticket online at patspeak.com for only \$30! Half (\$15) of your \$30 lift ticket will be donated to the Concord-Merrimack County SPCA. In addition, if you bring 3 pet items to the ticket window you get a \$10 PATS PEAK Cafe Card. What a great way to enjoy the outdoors skiing and benefit the homeless animals! For more information please visit our website at www.concordspca.org or call 603-753-9801

Join Concord-Merrimack County SPCA as they travel to Foxwoods Casino & Resort! Come Shop and Play for a Good Cause! Sunday, March 25th Departure Time: 7:30 am Return Time: 7:00 pm. One day trip includes: Round trip transportation on a luxury coach, chance on raffle prizes, \$10 lunch coupon and \$10 in Keno vouchers. Cost: \$50 per person. Part of the proceeds from this trip will benefit the homeless animals of the Concord-Merrimack County SPCA. Departure is at Concord Trailways~30 Stickney Ave, Concord, NH. To reserve your seat please call 603-753-9801. Space is limited so make sure you call soon to reserve your spot.

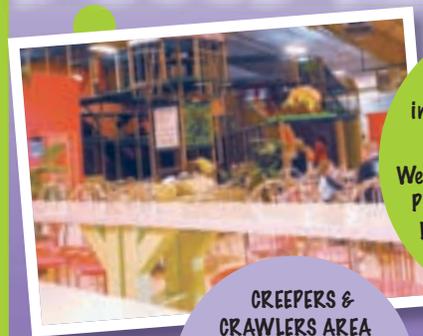
Concord-Merrimack County SPCA PetSmart Adoption Day Saturday, March 31st 11am to 1pm. Be sure to stop by PetSmart, located at 299 Loudon Road in Concord. Concord-Merrimack County SPCA volunteers will be on site adopting adoptable animals. It is their hope to place the homeless animals on site with their forever families. You can also learn more about the SPCA, upcoming events and other adoptable animals on this day. For more information call 603-753-9801.

Southern New Hampshire ski resort gets first High Speed Quad Lift

The installation of the lift, along with a terrain expansion is planned at Crotched Mountain, NH for the 2012-2013 season. This 3 million dollar capital investment will happen on the 10 year anniversary of the reconstruction of the resort. We are very excited about the prospect of adding a detachable lift at Crotched Mountain. This lift will provide quick access to the summit, ultimately providing more value and vertical to our guests. Along with the lift, the addition of 25 acres of skiable terrain will be a significant upgrade for the resort." said Jesse Boyd, VP of Operations for Peak Resorts. While replacing the current Summit fixed grip lift, the only high speed quad lift in Southern NH will provide an uphill capacity of 2400 persons per hour, and access to an additional 25 acres of terrain in less than 4 minutes of time on the lift. The additional terrain access is accomplished by the extension of the current summit lift profile to the top of the mountain, approaching 1000 feet of vertical drop. The additional 25 acres of terrain will encompass three extra slopes and two glade areas. The new terrain will have 100 percent fan snowmaking coverage as well as being lit for night skiing. Lift construction and trail development are scheduled to take place starting the spring of 2012 pending approval of permitting with NH State and local township regulations.



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