



Experience delights of Christmas from a simpler era at Christmas at Canterbury

Saturday December 5 & 12: Special holiday event features an old-time magic show, live music, storytelling, crafts, cookie decorating, tree lighting and more!

CANTERBURY, NH: Christmas at Canterbury will be held on Saturday, December 5 and 12, 2015 from 3:00-8:00pm at Canterbury Shaker Village. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$8 for children age 6-17; children under 5 free. Member admission is half price.

Christmas at Canterbury is a chance to experience the delights of Christmas from a simpler era. Held inside the historic Shaker buildings, participants can watch an old-time 19th Century magic show, make Christmas cards for loved ones, decorate gingerbread cookies, meet costumed characters, create ornaments for your Christmas tree, admire a toy train display, listen to fiddlers or enjoy hot cider and singing Christmas carols as the Village Christmas tree is lit. This classic holiday event will also include musical performances by The Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki Trio from 5:00pm-7:00pm on December 5 and Shindy with Randy Miller and Roger Kahle from 6:00pm-7:30pm on December 12.

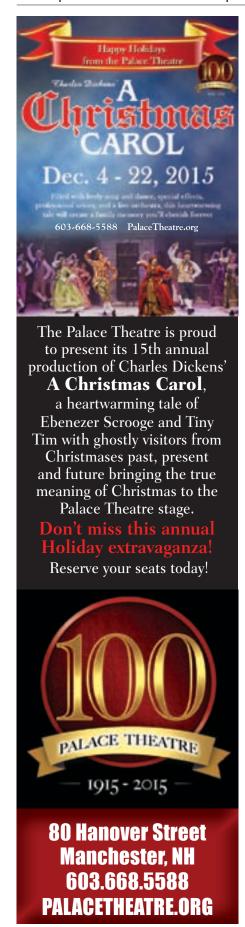
Christmas at Canterbury is sponsored by Merrimack County Savings Bank, Lincoln Financial Group, Nathan Wechsler & Company and The Rowley Agency. "Christmas at Canterbury is our chance to



share the delights of the holiday from a simpler time" noted Funi Burdick, Executive Director. "We love it when we hear that Christmas at Canterbury is part of a family's Christmas traditions because it means we are helping people reconnect with the meaning of the holiday."

The Shaker Gift Shop, which features a wide selection of simple gifts of artisan beauty and quality, will be open for Holiday shopping during Christmas at Canterbury. For more information, to become a member or to purchase tickets in advance, visit www.shakers.org.





33rd Annual Christmas Guitar Concert set for Dec. 18

New Hampshire's own GRAMMY® Award-winning guitarist Ed Gerhard will present his popular Annual Christmas Guitar Concert in its 33rd year on Friday, December 18 and Saturday, December 19 at the

Unitarian Universalist
Church, 292 State Street,
Portsmouth, NH. Showtime
is 7:30pm. Doors open
6pm. Tickets are \$28 in
advance and \$32 at the
door. AVAILABLE AT: Celtic
Crossing, Portsmouth;
Exeter Music, Exeter; Ear
Craft Music, Dover or by
calling (603) 664-7200 or
on the web at edgerhard.

Join us for this very special evening with one of the country's finest acoustic guitarists. Gerhard will perform soulful arrangements of well-loved carols, as well as his own concert favorites. Fans of guitar music and Christmas alike will want to be a part of this memorable show.

"These Christmas Concerts are more special to

me every year. The music, the audience.... the whole experience is profound for me. Sharing this experience with everyone is what being a musician is all about." -Ed Gerhard celebrates a successful year touring worldwide in support of his new Ed Gerhard Signature Model Guitar built and presented to him by Breedlove Guitars in Bend, OR. Ed is honored to have a second signature model built for him by Breedlove Guitars.

His first model was released in 1997 and quickly became one of Breedlove's best selling guitars. His critically acclaimed holiday recordings, "Christmas" and "On A Cold Winter's Night," continue to garner raves. Boston Globe calls "Christmas," "... the best holiday recording of the year... rivetingly lovely...

this is a gem." His music is featured in the Ken Burns' documentary "Mark Twain" and "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." Gerhard was awarded a GRAMMY® Award for his inclusion on the CD "Henry



Mancini; Pink Guitar" a collection of Henry Mancini compositions. Gerhard arranged and performed Moon River. Gerhard's CD "Luna" was Chosen by Acoustic Guitar Magazine's 20th Anniversary List of 240 Essential Albums. "This soulful album of original compositions rich in melody, chordal complexity and stylistic variety proves why Gerhard is considered to have the most exquisite acoustic guitar tone on the planet." - Acoustic Guitar Magazine

In the season of giving we are doing a food drive at the concert. Bring a non-perishable food item to benefit Seacoast Family Food Pantry and receive a \$1-off coupon for any CD at the CD tables. One donation per CD please.





Monadnock Humane Society holds its 9th Annual Holiday Craft Fair

Monadnock Humane Society is holding its 9th annual craft fair - "Handcrafted for the Holidays" – in the MHS Guinane Training Center at 101 West Swanzey Road in Swanzey from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, December 5th, 2015.

The "Handcrafted for the Holidays" Craft Fair has been a favorite event in the Monadnock Region for nearly a decade, and promises something for everyone. More than 50 local crafters and gift vendors will present their wares and make for one-stop shopping for holiday gift giving. Offerings include handmade chocolates, soaps, jewelry, textiles, birdhouses, one-of-a-kind artwork, doggie clothing, toys and accessories, and much more!

Come prepared to shop for that special gift (and support local artists and craftspeople) and then enjoy a delicious hot lunch at Alice's Restaurant. Lunch includes a bowl of homemade vegetarian corn chowder or chili (with meat); bread, a yummy dessert and a drink all for only \$5. Satisfy your sweet tooth at the Holiday Bake Sale table with an assortment of goodies for immediate indulgence, or take something home to share with family and friends or bring to a holiday party. Enter to win one of over 50 items that have been donated to our Brown Bag Raffle!

Holiday Pet Photos will also be available. Humans can participate, or just your pet(s). Our



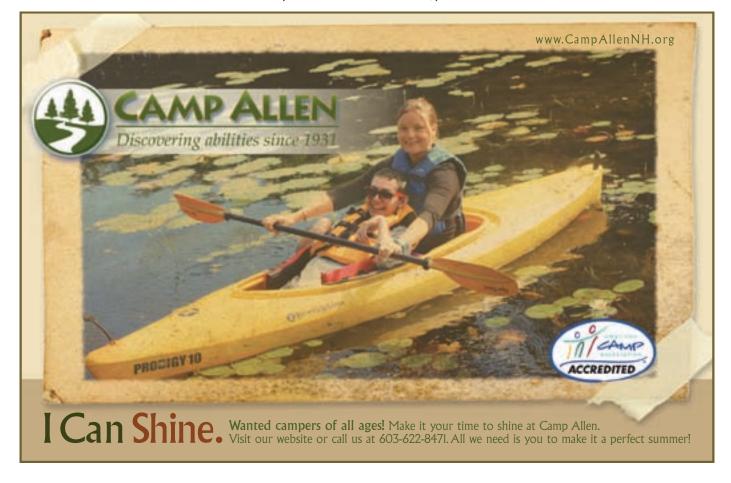
friendly photographers, sister team Heather and Jennifer Samperisi, will take a beautiful keepsake photo. A \$10 suggested donation includes a 4" x 6" glossy photo in a paper frame as well as access to an electronic downloadable version that you can use for your holiday cards or reprints, or imprint a gift item such as a coffee mug. (Please make sure dogs are leashed and cats, rabbits, and other small pets are secured in carriers).

Also – this year there will be two drawings - an "Early Bird" drawing for a Samsung Galaxy tablet, and an "Afternoon Bird" drawing for an MP3 Player. When you come between 10 and 11:30 am, you

will be entered to win the Galaxy Tablet. Come between 1:00 and 2:30 and you'll be entered to win the MP3 Player. Just download the entry forms on our website or facebook page. No purchase necessary, one entry/ticket per person per drawing, you do not have to be present to win, however you need to deliver the ticket(s) in person during those timeframes on Dec. 5th. All proceeds from the Handcrafted for the Holidays Craft Fair — including Holiday Pet Photos, Brown Bag Raffle, Hot Lunch at Alice's Restaurant and the Holiday Bake Sale - will directly support the animals at MHS.

"The Handcrafted for the Holidays Craft Fair is a really enjoyable shopping experience," said Rebeccah Colburn, MHS event volunteer.

"There is a true spirit of community, and you can tell everyone is happy to be there to help MHS and the work they do." Carol Laughner, Director of Marketing and Development for MHS said that "MHS is so fortunate to have all of this support and good will from the community. And, we're so glad that folks have an enjoyable time while they are here. It's a great way to kick off the holiday season!" Admission is free, and there's plenty of parking. Fun for the entire family – and while you're there you can check out our adoptable animals who are waiting for their forever families.



Cannon Mountain Ski Resort improvements announced

Franconia, NH - Cannon Mountain has made extensive improvements and enhancements for the 2015-2016 winter season. In making the announcement, John DeVivo, Cannon Mountain's general manager, explained that the changes include snowmaking at Mittersill for the first time since that terrain officially became part of Cannon Mountain in 2009. Other improvements include the creation of the new 19-acre Taft Training slope at Mittersill, a new Prinoth Bison winch cat for Cannon's grooming fleet, and a total of 133 new energy-efficient tower, ground, and fan guns. Additionally, Cannon will officially name and designate 14 official trails and glades at Mittersill. All of the improvements at Mittersill are part of the three-year Mittersill Improvement Project. The Project is being funded primarily through the efforts of Franconia Ski Club and will be gifted to Cannon Mountain.

"Franconia Ski Club is one of our oldest and most trusted partners," said DeVivo. "While the focus of the Mittersill Improvement Project has been to create world-class ski racing and training terrain, it will also have great benefits for all of our quests. By partnering with the ski club, we've opened up new terrain and made significant improvements like snowmaking, which will allow all of our guests more access to Mittersill, more often, with better snow conditions."

Snowmaking at Mittersill

This fall, snowmaking pipe and hydrants were installed on Baron's Run, Way Back, Sky Line, Ridge Run and a new connector trail (to be named later).

The recently widened Baron's Run, one of the most popular routes at Mittersill, will now have a total of 55 high-output, energy-efficient tower guns. This will enable the Mittersill Double Chair to operate more frequently. In the past, the opening of Mittersill and operation of the double chair were completely reliant on natural snow. New snowmaking on the Sky Line and Ridge Run trails will give skiers and riders two snowmaking routes from the top of the double chair. All trails with new snowmaking will now be groomed on a more frequent basis.

Race Training at Mittersill

With the creation of the new Taft Training Slope at Mittersill, the installation of snowmaking and a new T-bar lift planned for the 2016-2017 winter season, a world-class training facility will be available for the Franconia Ski Club and other race organizations. It is important to note that when the slope is not in use for racing, it will be open to

the public. Taft Training Slope will not be used for training or racing during the 2015-2016.

Baron's Run has been widened and improved to accommodate giant slalom and super giant slalom training and racing. However, its use for training will be limited; it is expected to remain open to the public 100 percent of the time during the 2015-2016 season, although some shared training may take place. During the 2016-2017 season, training and racing on Baron's Run will continue to be limited and will only occur on a select number of dates.

"We're excited for the ski season to begin," concluded DeVivo. "These improvements will add a whole new dimension to the Cannon and Mittersill experience."

Cannon Mountain, located in Franconia Notch State Park, Franconia, NH is owned and operated by the State of New Hampshire, Division of Parks and Recreation. The ski area has 73 trails plus Mittersill Backcountry Area and 10 lifts, including the Mittersill Double Chair. SKI Magazine has again ranked Cannon one of the 20 best ski resorts in the East. For more information call 603-823-8800, email: info@cannonmt.com or log onto www.cannonmt.com or www.facebook.com/ CannonMountain.





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Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum's Winter Celebration

Native American Storytellers and more family fun at Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum's Winter Celebration

Join us for a day full of family activities as we celebrate the beginning of winter. Winter is the traditional time for Native Americans to tell stories and we are pleased to have Native storytellers who will share their stories with us. The day's events also include Native flute performances, a talk on Native plant use, a beadwork craft, games, traditional Native foods and a sale at the museum store. During the beadwork craft everyone will learn Peyote stitch and will make something to take home.

Winter Celebration is held in the museum Saturday December 5, 10am-3pm at 18 Highlawn Road in Warner. Visitors can stroll through the arboretum, walk the trails in the Medicine Woods, play in the tipi and tour the museum itself, in addition to all the festival activities. Admission is FREE for members and \$5 for non-members. Non-members who choose to become members that day will receive free admission.

Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum was founded in 1990 by Charles "Bud" and Nancy Thompson as an educational and cultural center to connect visitors with Native American culture, past and present, and

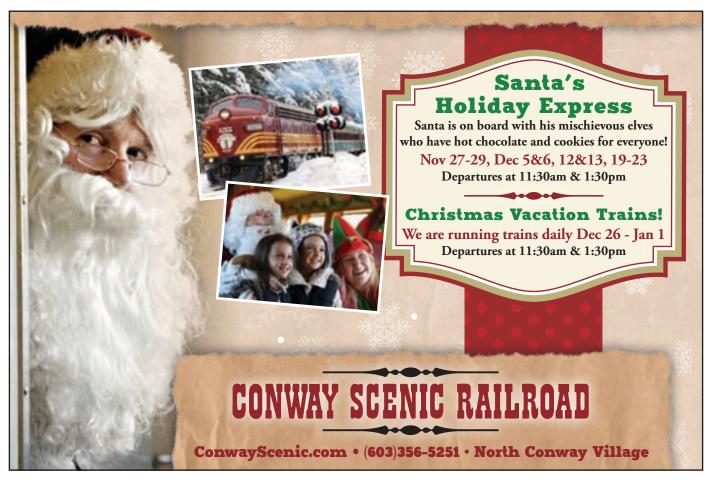


to encourage respect for our environment. The Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum seeks to challenge all of us to improve the quality of our lives and our world. The museum is open daily May 1 - 0ctober 31.

See website for a complete listing of upcoming events: www.IndianMuseum.org











The Rocks Estate

4 Christmas Lane, Bethlehem, NH 03574 Please call 603-444-6228 www.therocks.org

Holiday magic returns to The Rocks Estate this season

Farm opens for shopping November 2, for Christmas trees November 21



The Rocks Marketplace and the Gift Shop open for early shoppers Nov. 3 and will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily through Christmas Eve. Christmas tree shoppers may select a tree from the farm's retail lot or wander the fields to Cut-Your-Own Christmas tree beginning Nov. 22. The Rocks will be closed Thanksgiving Day, but otherwise open daily through Dec. 24.

"Each year we welcome new customers and visitors who return every Christmas, year after year, to find their tree at The Rocks," said Rocks Estate Manager Nigel Manley. "We love being part of the holiday traditions of so many families. It's impossible not to get swept up into the joy and magic of the season when you're here."

In addition to Christmas trees, The Rocks also offers an array of classic and whimsically decorated handmade wreaths, garland, ornaments, and Christmas tree accessories. The farm boasts two shops, brimming with unique gift items and holiday décor.

"There really is something for everyone in our shops, and we try to balance proven favorites and exciting new items when we stock the shelves each year" said shop manager Carleen Quinn. "We're proud to offer a high percentage of locally and regionally made items, including many from area crafters and artisans, as well as American-made goods from a bit further afield."

The Marketplace is filled with an array of U.S.A.-made and locally-crafted items, from home goods and holiday decorations to jewelry and hand-made soaps, including hundreds of new Christmas ornaments. Marketplace favorites include the selection of Ginger Cottages, handcrafted in Virginia and complete with display lights, as well as a line of wine and cocktail glasses etched with moose images, and designer bottles of maple syrup.

New this year are beautiful Advent calendars depicting classic New England scenes, whose artful appeal will extend beyond the holiday season. Offerings by local crafters and artisans extend from New Hampshire-themed chocolates and unique preserves to handmade soaps and pottery.

The Gift Shop shelves are filled with Rocks maple syrup, as well as ornaments, decorations, and tee-shirts. Both shops are open daily (closed Thanksgiving Day) beginning Nov. 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Rocks opens for the Christmas tree season Nov. 22. Weekend visitors will find a variety of festive activities, from horse-drawn wagon rides through the beautiful historic Estate to roasting marshmallows around the fire pit and visiting with The Rocks' own Green Father Christmas.

Wagon rides will be offered Nov. 21, Nov. 27-29, Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, and Dec. 19. Father Christmas will be at the farm visiting with shoppers and presenting fir tree seedlings to children Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Rocks will again be supporting the Trees For Troops program and its national campaign to deliver 17,000 farm-grown Christmas trees to members of the United States military and their families at home and abroad this holiday season.

Can't make a trip to The Rocks this season? Don't fret; the shopper-friendly Rocks Estate online store offers a variety of Christmas trees and holiday wreaths, along with ornaments, garland, and tree accessories, as well as The Rocks' own maple syrup. All items include free shipping, and customers may create a holiday wish list and ship to multiple addresses with one order. Mail order shopping is open through Dec. 15.

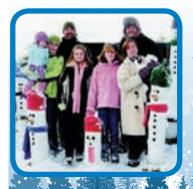
The Rocks Estate has been featured in media outlets from the Boston Globe and Martha Stewart's Living to WMUR's Chronicle, Good Morning America and Yankee Magazine.

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

The landmark 1,400-acre Rocks Estate includes numerous buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places and offers Agri- and Eco-tourism opportunities throughout the year. For more information please visit HYPERLINK "http://www.therocks.org" www. therocks.org For reservations and other inquiries e-mail HYPERLINK "mailto:info@therocks.org" info@therocks.org or call 603-444-6228.







What to expect at a choose & cut farm when picking your Christmas tree

Be aware of possible farm hazards

Most tree farms keep their fields very well groomed, but there are some things that are beyond the farmer's control. Be careful of tree stumps, an occasional blackberry vine, uneven ground and sharp saws.

Go to the farm prepared for a day in the country

Wear comfortable shoes and old clothes. Bring rain gear if the weather is threatening. The "cutter downers" and the "loader uppers" should also have gloves. DON'T FORGET THE CAMERA. It's best to leave the family dog at home (many farms will prohibit pets). But, if a pet is allowed and must come along; keep him on a leash at all times. Please don't let him "mark" other people's trees.

Equipment to bring

Saws are usually provided by the farm operator. Check ahead of time to double check if you need to bring any supplies.

Pricing

Some farms measure and price their trees individually, others sell them by the foot. Ask about the pricing policy before heading out in the field.

Tree size

Head out to the field and select the tree that fits your predetermined needs. Check the trunk to be sure that it is sufficiently straight. Keep in mind that pines will usually have, at least, some crook in their trunks.

Also check that the tree has a sufficiently long handle to accommodate your stand.

Needles

In the fall of the year ALL conifers drop or shed a certain portion of their oldest needles. This is a normal part of the life cycle of the tree and occurs because the tree is preparing itself for winter. Most farms provide shaking or blowing services so that you will depart with a perfectly clean tree.

Cutting your tree down

Cutting the tree is easiest as a two person project. The "cutter downer" usually lies on the ground. While the helper holds the bottom limbs up. While the cut

is being made, the helper should tug on the tree lightly to ensure that the saw kerf remains open and the saw does not bind. The tugging force should be applied to the side of the tree opposite the cut. In the case of the Leylands, the cut is best made by an attendant at the farm using a chain saw. A back cut should be made first with the final cut coming from the opposite side.

Transportation

Bring the tree to the processing area where it will be cleaned and netted. Netting makes transporting and handling the tree substantially easier.

Now you're ready to load up and head home to decorate your Real Christmas Tree.

Follow NCTA's tips for caring for a Real Christmas Tree, and keep in mind that the freshness of a tree you just cut is greater than that of one from a retail lot. Trees from a Choose-and-Cut farm won't absorb as much water initially as other trees because it has not had time to dry out, unless you don't put it into a water holding stand right away.



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The Twelve Days of Christmas Returns to the Capitol Center

Concord, NH- The Twelve Days of Christmas returns for its fourth annual performance at the Capitol Center for the Arts' main stage on December 11 at 7pm and December 12 at 2pm. Tickets for this family-friendly holiday performance are \$16.50 for adults and \$12.50 for students, seniors, and CCA members.

The production features more than one-hundred young performers from across New Hampshire and includes students of Eastern Ballet Institute, Concord Community Music School's Purple Finches Children's Chorus, members of the the Cabbageheads, Timbre Drums and aerial dance works by Ciel Rouge Moving Company.

"An arts collaboration of this nature is so rare and extremely enriching for these young performers to experience. It is great to have such a large number of artists from all over the region together under one roof during this magical time of year. It truly lifts your holiday spirit and makes you realize how important 'community' and 'family' is," said Brandi Nylen Reed, Artistic Director of Eastern Ballet Institute.

The holiday classic "The Twelve Days of Christmas" will feature prominently in the production, and will incorporate a varied mix of familiar holiday songs. White Birch Youth Ballet, Eastern Ballet Institute's affiliate pre-professional performing company will perform collaborative live music and dance works with members of the Cabbageheads as well.

Complementing the vivid choreography and costumes will be a spectacular eighteen-foot light up pear tree with a dancing partridge in her nest. The evening will close with a heart-warming sing-along led by students of Concord Community Music School's Purple Finches Children's Chorus.

Tickets for The Twelve Days of Christmas are available now by calling 603-225-1111, online at www.ccanh.com, and at the box office, located at 44 South Main Street, Concord, NH 03301, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

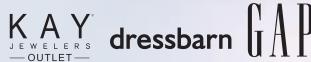


Celebrates sounds of the season at Holiday Pops Concert

Join us for festive beverages and desserts while listening to holiday classics such as Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire and Carol of the Bells, mixed with a Mozart string quartet and some swinging jazz.

This concert features the NH Youth Wind Ensemble, led by 2015 GRAMMY Music Educator, Jared Cassedy, the NH Youth Jazz Ensemble, led by Carl Benevides, as well as the Flute Choir and String Quartet. All proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Music School's Tuition Assistance program. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting our website at www. mcmusicschool.org. Saturday, December 5th, 2015, 7:00 pm at Manchester Community Music School, 2291 Elm St., Manchester, NH (603) 644-4548.





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