

10 THINGS NOT TO MISS

BY ETHAN GILSDORF
 GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Winter's a memory, and spring is finally in full swing. From whales and moose to kites and canoes, this month is the time to get outside and play.

1. Salem
2. Warren, R.I.
3. Open Studio Weekend
4. Shaker villages
5. Whale watching
6. Moose Mainea
7. Kite flying
8. Swan Boats and Duck Tours
9. Canoeing and kayaking
10. Skyline viewing

6 MOOSE ON THE LOOSE
 Every year for a dozen years running in Greenville, Maine, the town considered the gateway to the north woods and Moosehead Lake, something called Moose Mainea is unleashed. "It's the yearly celebration of the creature," says Laura Brown, of the Moose-

head Lake Region Chamber of Commerce. As it turns out, she says, early spring is the best time to sight moose in this area some 75 miles northwest of Bangor.

Whether the monthlong celebration (May 19-June 16) will soothe or scare moose is another question. But the fest features a variety of activities for all ages: The 13th annual Moose River Canoe and Kayak Race; a townwide yard sale; children's fishing derby; craft fair; children's fun day; Moose Mainea coloring, photo, and "I Spied a Moose" contests; and a Moose Tales presentation with a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife biologist. Better go now, before the black flies hit.

Moose Mainea, Moosehead Lake Region Chamber of Commerce, Greenville, Maine, 207-695-2702, 888-876-2778, mooseheadlake.org.

7 GO FLY A KITE

April showers bring May flowers — and the winds that carry kites.

In Rhode Island, Brenton Point State Park is the loftiest kite-flying destination. Count on the park for reliably gusty winds and spectacular ocean views. (It also hosts the Newport International Kite Festival, this year July 14-15.)

In Connecticut, the Hammonasset Kite Festival (May 19-20) is perfect for families to learn the hobby and see giant kites in the shapes of geckos and manta rays invading the skies.

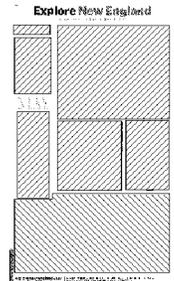
In Maine, prime places to fly include Bug Light Park, South Portland; Fort Williams Park, Cape Elizabeth; Pine Point Beach, Scarborough; and Old Orchard Beach. May 12 is Go Fly a Kite Day at Fort Knox State Historic Site, sponsored by Portland's Nor'easters Kite Flying Club.

Brenton Point State Park, Ocean Drive, Newport, R.I., riparks.com/brenton.htm. Hammonasset Kite Festival, Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, Conn., members.cox.net/kiter/hkcf/hamm.html. Friends of Fort Knox, Bucksport, Maine, 207-469-6553, fortknex.maineGuide.com.

renovated half boat, half trucks that once conquered the Normandy beaches. The vehicles these days are commanded by conductors with silly names like Karaoke Cowgirl, Colonel Duct Tape, and Paul From Revere. Their comedy routines accompany the tour from the Prudential Center, Beacon Hill, Bunker Hill, the USS Constitution, the Old North Church, Faneuil Hall, and points in between. And be warned, on that dive into the Charles you might get a little wet.

In the Public Garden Lagoon float the only boats of their kind anywhere. Ever since Robert Paget launched the pedal-driven catamarans in 1877, people of all ages have delighted in this long-lived Boston tradition.

Boston Duck Tours, departing from the Museum of Science and Prudential Center, 617-267-3825, bostonducktours.com. Swan Boats of Boston, Boston Public Garden, 617-522-1966, swanboats.com.





JOANNE RATHE/GLOBE STAFF

WITCH STREET? Chestnut Street in Salem has been called one of the most beautiful streets in America. No wonder: America's first millionaires lived here. No matter your idea of loveliness, it's hard not to be impressed by a street that showcases pristine houses as if in a museum of architecture (and is indeed a National Historic Landmark). From Georgian Colonial to Federal, Greek Revival to Late Victorian, nearly every style is on display, and several homes are open for tours.

Of course, many come to check out The Witch House, which dates to 1642, making it one of the oldest dwellings in the country. Tours combine insights into 17th-century home life and architecture with a look at the infamous witch trials of 1692. The House of the Seven Gables was the muse for Nathaniel Hawthorne, who lived at the Nathaniel Hawthorne House (now next door).

Salemweb.com. The Witch House, 310 Essex St., 978-744-8815, salemweb.com/witchhouse/. The House of the Seven Gables, 115 Derby St., 978-744-0991, 7gables.org.

9 PADDLE TO THE CALM
"In this region all the old highways are the waterways," says guide Tim Smith of Jack Mountain Bushcraft & Guide Service. "[These] are traditional travel routes by native people."

Smith means the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, a 740-mile water route from Old Forge, N.Y., across Vermont, Quebec, and New Hampshire, and ending in Fort Kent, Maine.

For shorter trips, Smith recommends the section from Umbagog Lake down the Androscoggin River in New Hampshire (two-three days). Or, take a lazy loop in Vermont's Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, excellent for birding (half day).

By the sea, a key kayak spot is King Cove in Stonington, Conn. King Cove Marina rents boats and even teaches you how to fish one of the nearby salt ponds from the comfort of your kayak.

Northern Forest Canoe Trail, northernforestcanoetrail.org. Jack Mountain Bushcraft & Guide Service, Wolfeboro Falls, N.H., 603-569-6150, jackmtn.com. King Cove Marina, 926 Stonington Road,

US Route 1, Stonington, Conn., 860-599-4730, kingcoveoutfitters.com.

10 TAKE IN THE VIEW
Some great views of Boston Harbor and the skyline are from unexpected places.

If you want a grand view on a stroll, head to Deer Island. Yes, it's home to the city's wastewater treatment plant, but also to 60 acres of parkland, a 2.6-mile perimeter pathway, and two more miles of trails for walking, running, and picnicking.

For the opposite view, go to the Pru's Top of the Hub on a late afternoon where you can watch as the city is transformed by nightfall. The Skywalk Observatory has a 360-degree panorama, and the restaurant and lounge make fine settings for a drink, dinner, and the slowly sinking sun.

Boston Harbor Islands, 617-223-8666, bostonislands.org. Top of the Hub, Prudential Center, 617-536-1775, topofthehub.net.

Ethan Gilsdorf can be reached at ethan@ethangilsdorf.com.



BILL GREENE/GLOBE STAFF/FILE; FRED ATHEARN (RIGHT)

WOWED BY WARREN Warren, R.I., a former whaling port and cotton mill center, has “rejuvenated itself,” says Betty Pleacher, executive director of the East Bay Tourism Council. “We have a new art section, old mills [have been] renovated, and we have shops you don’t see anywhere.” That includes restaurants like Three Rivers for a waterfront breakfast or lunch.

Catch a play at the 2nd Story Theatre (“Bus Stop” starts Saturday). The 14½-mile East Bay Bike Path along Narragansett Bay runs right through Warren on its way from East Providence to Bristol. But this town of 11,000 is best known for its coffee cabinets (known elsewhere as milkshakes or frappes). It’s said Delekta Pharmacy serves the best — and in other flavors, too.

Come back this summer for the Warren Quahog Festival (July 21-22) and celebrate with a bowl of chowder or a plate of stuffed quahogs, plus arts, crafts, and live music.

Warren, R.I.; townofwarren-ri.gov. 2nd Story Theatre, 401-247-4200, 2ndstorytheatre.com, Three Rivers, 267 Water St., 401-289-2067. Delekta Pharmacy, 496 Main St., 401-245-6767.

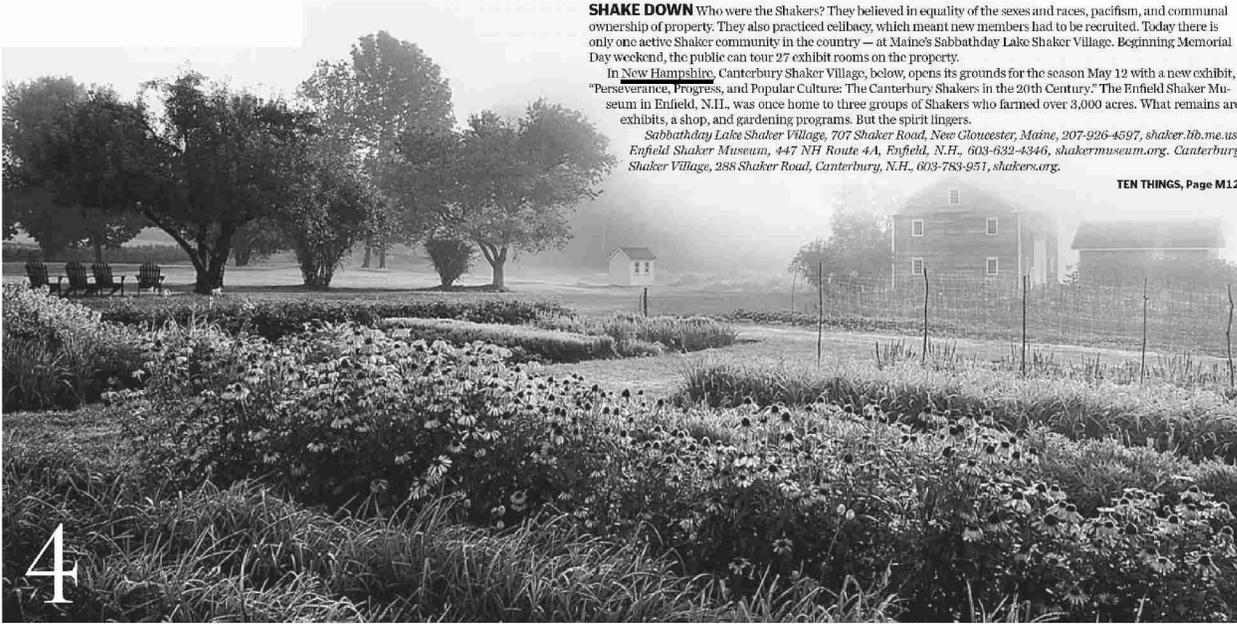
ART IN THE OPEN With more than 300 artists and artisans in over 260 locations across Vermont, it could be hard to know where or how to dive into the state’s 15th annual Open Studio Weekend (May 26-27).

But thanks to a map and a guide (available online or at Vermont’s welcome centers) organized by county and genre — pottery, wood, fiber, metal, glass, printmaking, etc. — some 7,000 annual visitors happily wander without worry. By following yellow way-finding signs to studio doors, art lovers also get to chat directly with artisans about their passions and techniques. And perhaps buy some art along the way.

“This is not just a sales event,” says Martha Fitch, executive director of the Vermont Crafts Council. “The creative process is mysterious. Part of the Open Studio [Weekend] is to demystify.”

Open Studio Weekend, 802-223-3380, vermontercrafts.com. Sites open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.





SHAKE DOWN Who were the Shakers? They believed in equality of the sexes and races, pacifism, and communal ownership of property. They also practiced celibacy, which meant new members had to be recruited. Today there is only one active Shaker community in the country — at Maine's Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the public can tour 27 exhibit rooms on the property.

In New Hampshire, Canterbury Shaker Village, below, opens its grounds for the season May 12 with a new exhibit, "Perseverance, Progress, and Popular Culture: The Canterbury Shakers in the 20th Century." The Enfield Shaker Museum in Enfield, N.H., was once home to three groups of Shakers who farmed over 3,000 acres. What remains are exhibits, a shop, and gardening programs. But the spirit lingers.

Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, 707 Shaker Road, New Gloucester, Maine, 207-926-4597, shaker.lib.me.us. Enfield Shaker Museum, 447 NH Route 4A, Enfield, N.H., 603-632-4346, shakermuseum.org. Canterbury Shaker Village, 288 Shaker Road, Canterbury, N.H., 603-783-951, shakers.org.

TEN THINGS, Page M12

4

DAVE HENDERSON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE/FILE

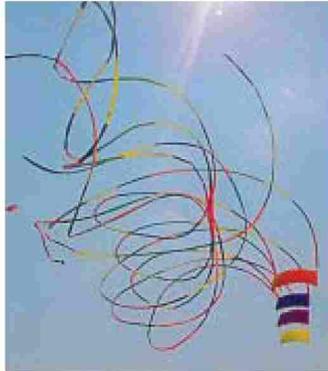
► TEN THINGS
 Continued from Page M10

5 WHALE OF A TIME
 Whale-watching season has begun in Stellwagen Bank, a marine sanctuary that runs from Gloucester to Cape Cod, and boats bring visitors as close to the great mammals as they can.

Tourist-wise, spring is quiet, and it's a good time to see humpbacks and minke, says Jay Frontiero, captain and naturalist aboard 7 Seas Whale Watch's vessel Privateer IV. Spring is ideal to catch some of the winter residents still hanging around: harbor porpoises, white sided dolphins, and North Atlantic right whales.

7 Seas Whale Watch, 7 Seas Wharf, Route 127, Gloucester, 888-283-1776, 7seas-whalewatch.com. Cape Ann Whale Watch, 415 Main St., Gloucester; 800-877-5110; caww.com. Atlantic Whale Watch, Rye Harbor, Rye, N.H., 800-942-5364, atlanticwhalewatch.com.





C.J. GUNTHER/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

8 DUCKS AND SWANS

A sure sign of spring is the arrival of waterfowl in Boston. No, not Robert McCloskey's "Make Way for Ducklings." We're talking the enormous Swan Boats that paddle the Public Garden and those amphibious Duck Tours vehicles plying the city streets.

Jump on board one of the authentic,