

# 10 THINGS NOT TO MISS

BY ETHAN GILSDORF  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

## JAZZY DAYS

**I** Newport was the first outdoor jazz festival in the United States when it began in 1954. Today, the annual three-day event attracts upwards of 10,000 concertgoers each day.

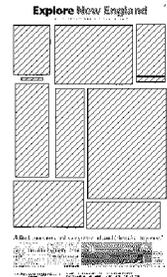
“The audience has a chance to experience artists that they know, and probably artists they don’t know,” said Daniel Melnick, artistic director and a senior producer.

Music runs 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on three stages simultaneously. “It’s a general admission situation so [the audience] can stake out a spot. They have their real estate for the day.”

Newport may have strayed some from its jazz purist roots — this year, B.B. King, Al Green, and Zap Mama headline alongside old faves like Dianne Reeves, Branford Marsalis, and Dave Brubeck. It’s also blossomed beyond music to include food booths and craft vendors at the seaside site of Fort Adams State Park. “The location is excellent and there’s a lot to do,” said Melnick.

*JVC Jazz Festival-Newport, International Tennis Hall of Fame & Fort Adams*

*State Park, Newport, R.I., 401-847-3700, festivalproductions.net. Aug. 10-12. Adults \$15-\$100, children free-\$12.*





JOE GIBLIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

## GORGEOUS GORGE

**2** "It's a good place for a vacation," said Fran Mannarino, a guide at the Quechee Gorge Visitors Center. Mannarino reeled off a list of activities easily explored from a Quechee/Woodstock, Vt., base: the Billings Farm & Museum and the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

What some call "The Prettiest Small Town in America," Woodstock is home to shops, inns, dining, and a farmers' market Wednesday through Sept. 19, from 3 to 6 p.m. As for Quechee Gorge, a trail from the visitors center leads through ferns and hemlocks into the 165-foot-deep rift. "There are huge rocks you can walk out on at the bottom and a swimming hole down there," said Mannarino. Or swim the Ottauquechee River upstream in the hamlet of Quechee.

On hot summer days, locals dive off rocks below the falls from the old mill (now a Simon Pearce store, glass-blowing studio, and restaurant) in full view of the restaurant's terrace. "It's only 60 feet," he said, before leaping off the covered bridge and into the glassy-green depths.

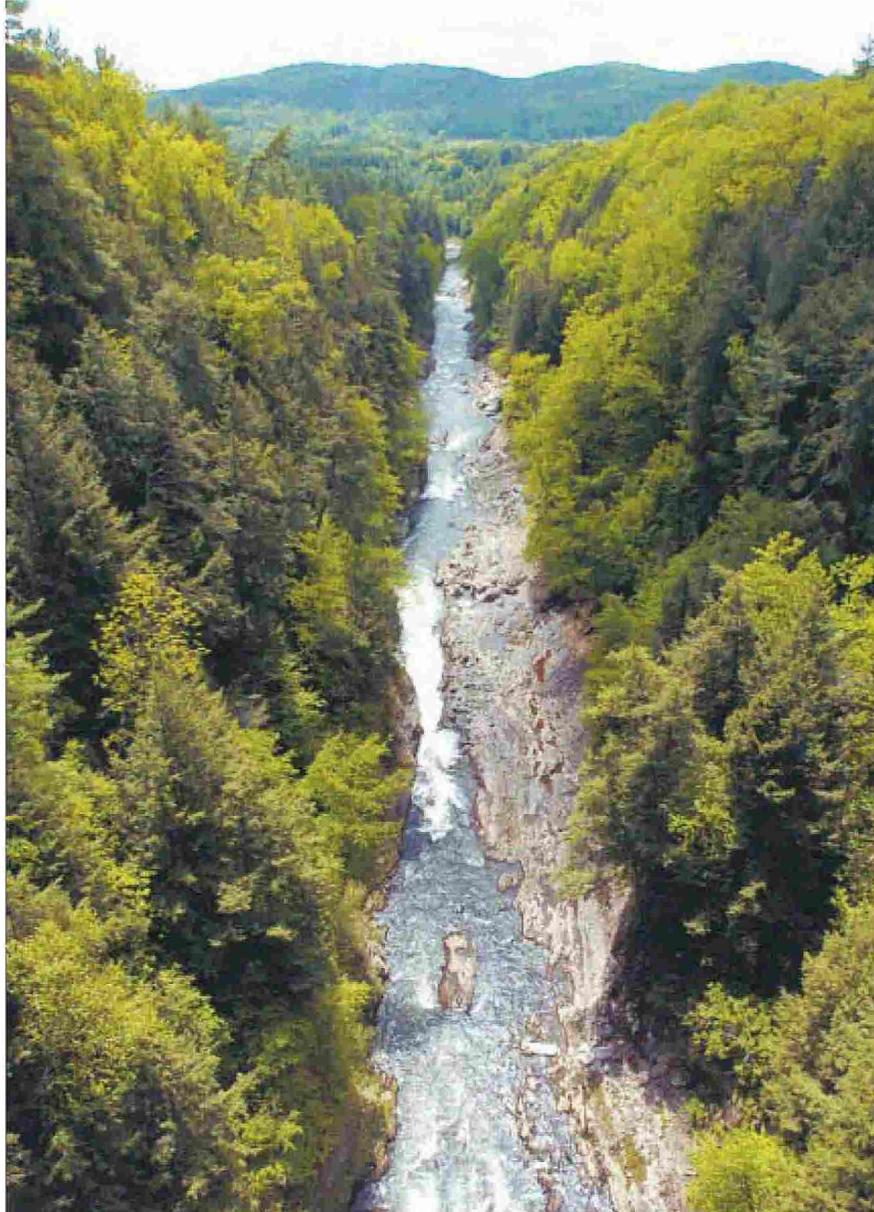
*Quechee State Park, Route 4, Quechee, Vt., 802-295-2990, vtstateparks.com/html/quechee.cfm.*

*Woodstock Area Chamber of Commerce, 888-496-6378, woodstockvt.com. Sidewalk Sale Days Aug. 17-19.*

*Billings Farm & Museum, Route 12 & River Road, Woodstock, Vt., 802-457-2355, billingsfarm.org, \$10, over 62 \$9, students 13-17 \$8, 5-12 \$6, 3-4 \$3.*

*Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park (adjacent to Billings Farm), 802-457-3368, nps.gov/mabi, adults \$8, seniors \$4, children under 15 free.*

*Simon Pearce, The Mill at Quechee, 802-295-2711 (-1470, restaurant), simonpearce.com.*



EVAN RICHMAN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

### TARANTELLA TIME

**3** “The festival has been celebrated for 400 years in Italy,” said Jason Aluia, an organizer of St. Anthony’s Feast, the North End’s celebration of song, dance, and food. When Italian immigrants came to Boston, Aluia said, they brought with them this tribute to the patron saint of Padua, holding it the same weekend as back home.

Tarantella-dancing crowds through the narrow streets, as do strolling singers and marching bands. Guest chefs demonstrate how to prepare favorite dishes. New this year: Pizza Regina’s Peroni beer garden. Sunday’s 10-hour procession of the St. Anthony relic is a highlight. “We march him through practically every street of the North End. . . . Some people have kissed the statue every year for 80 years.” Aluia quotes the director of Padua’s basilica on a North End visit: “In Italy they revere things. In America you treat [St. Anthony] as if he’s still alive.”

*88th annual St. Anthony’s Feast, stanthonysfeast.com. Aug. 24-26, free.*

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## REAL RAPTORS

**8** DDT spraying in the 1950s and '60s did not agree with bald eagles. "The [egg]shells were so thin that they would just crumble," said Maury Mills, wildlife biologist with Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, near Calais, Maine. But in recent decades, bald eagles have made a comeback. Maine alone supports 300-plus pairs. Eagles summer at Vermont's Chittenden Reservoir in Rutland County and Lake Arrowhead in Milton. But Moosehorn, along Cobscook Bay, has one of the Northeast's densest eagle populations. "We've had up to six nesting pairs some years," Mills said, recommending binoculars since the birds are a quarter-mile away. Want a closer look? Take Saco Bound outfitters' one-day guided flatwater kayak trip into New Hampshire's Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge. For diehard eagle watchers only.

*Vermont Bald Eagle Restoration Initiative, [cvps.com/eagles/eaglesinvot.shtml](http://cvps.com/eagles/eaglesinvot.shtml).*

*FirstLight Power Resources/MassWildlife/US Fish & Wildlife Service EagleCam, [firstlightpower.com/eagles/default.asp](http://firstlightpower.com/eagles/default.asp).*

*Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Baring, Maine, 207-454-7161, [fws.gov/northeast/moosehorn/bald\\_eagles.htm](http://fws.gov/northeast/moosehorn/bald_eagles.htm).*

*Saco Bound outfitters, 2561 East Main St., Route 302, Center Conway, N.H., 603-447-2177, [sacobound.com/northern/paddling.php](http://sacobound.com/northern/paddling.php), \$49 a person.*

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ESSDRAS M SUAREZ/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

## SANDY SHORES

**4** A midsummer beach day requires certain necessities: chair, hat, sunblock, towel, beverage, book, and something to play with, a Frisbee, soccer ball, football. A prime stretch for such an outing is Crane Beach in Ipswich, where five miles of trails meander through the white sand dunes of this former estate run by the Trustees of Reservations. Another popular beach is Ogunquit, Maine, with its 3½ miles of powdery sand. Away from the town's bustle of B&Bs and boutiques is the Marginal Way, a mile-long paved footpath through bay-berry bushes and sea roses and along the cliffs.

*Crane Beach, Ipswich, 978-356-4351 (-4354), craneestate.org, \$15-\$22 per car (high season).*

*Marginal Way, Ogunquit, Maine, ogunquit.org. Aug. 23: Sidewalk Art Show and Sale.*

## LOBSTAH LOVE

**5** No summer is complete without it. At two longtime Maine festivals, lobster lovers can get cracking. "You just show up and hop in line to get a lobster," said Pete Drinkwater, past president of the Winter Harbor Lobster Festival on Mount Desert Island. Attendees devour between 800 and 1,000 lobsters. The day begins with a pancake breakfast, road race, and craft fair, and ends with a parade.

Meanwhile, in Frenchboro, a town comprising 12 islands, Long Island is the site of one of Maine's few year-round island fishing villages. At its annual fest, expect all the fixings and homemade pies — all served on a grassy lawn with harbor views.

*43rd Winter Harbor Lobster Festival, acadia-schoodic.org/lobsterfestival.html. Aug. 11. Lobster dinner about \$20.*

*45th Annual Frenchboro Lobster Festival, 207-334-2974, islandportpress.com/frenchboro.html. Aug. 11. Ferry from Bass Harbor \$5. Lobster dinner \$20.*

## FAIR WEATHER

**6** Giant vegetable contests, smash-up derbies, square dances, and chainsaw artists: August marks the beginning of country fair season. Among the most traditional is "The Oldest Fair in the United States," the Hardwick Community Fair, dating to 1762. "It has the feeling of an Old World community fair," said Fay Butler, the fair's president. Events include a blacksmith exhibition, hay rides, and a frog jumping contest. "You can show up and buy Aunt Mabel's prize-winning cake," Butler said. Other old-time agricultural fairs include New Hampshire's Hopkinton State Fair, with a try-it-yourself milking parlor and a national tractor-pulling competition, and Vermont's Orleans County Fair, with 4x4 truck pulling and country music. Rhode Island's largest authentic county fair is in Washington County, which has it all — even a three-legged race.

*Hardwick Community Fair, Hardwick, hardwickfair.com. Aug. 17-18. Free.*

*Hopkinton State Fair, Hopkinton State Fair Grounds, Contoocook, N.H., 603-746-4191, hsfair.org, Aug. 30-Sept. 3. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, children 6-12 \$5.*

*Orleans County Fair, Barton, Vt., orleanscountyfair.org. Aug 15-19, \$5.*

*Washington County Fair, Richmond, R.I., 401-539-7042, washingtoncountyfair-ri.com. Aug. 15-19. \$9, 10 and under free.*



MICHELE MCDONALD/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

## BIKE SUPERHIGHWAY

**7** Built on an old railroad bed, the 11-mile Minuteman Bikeway connects Alewife “T” Station in Cambridge with Depot Park in Bedford, passing through Lexington and Arlington. Jim Baker, salesperson at Somerville’s Ace Wheelworks (near the trail’s extension though Davis Square), has some suggestions for first-time trail riders: “Make sure that they have proper air pressure in their tires and have the saddle adjusted to the proper height so they don’t have knee problems.” The paved trail attracts not only bikers but walkers, joggers, and in-line skaters. So make room, and stay right except to pass. Hence, Baker’s final words of advice: “Be respectful of other people on the trail. Not everyone who uses it is on a bike.”

*Minuteman Bikeway, [minutemanbikeway.org](http://minutemanbikeway.org).*

*Ace Wheelworks, 145 Elm St., Somerville, 617-776-2100, [wheelworks.com](http://wheelworks.com).*



MARK WILSON/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

## SUMMER CAMP

**9** Camping options run the gamut, from family car-camping to overnight back-country far from RV-land. A rugged option is to hike the White Mountains and stay in one of the Appalachian Mountain Club's huts. "Most [hikers] do from one to three nights but we get folks who hike through all eight huts," said huts manager Mike Kautz. At the 45 tent and trailer sites and two shelters on Rhode Island's Bowditch Reservoir, campers can swim, boat, fish, mountain bike, and hike in the 3,489-acre George Washington Management Area. "You can drive to [your] site," said Paul Wright, principal forest ranger. But he said it's "pretty much a primitive campground: No water at the sites, no electrical hook-up or flush toilets." For island life, try Vermont's Burton Island, a 253-acre Lake Champlain isle just off St. Albans Point. Ferry service brings campers to the 17 tent sites and 26 lean-to sites. Or, 15 boat moorings let you try boat-camping. The island is auto-free.

*Appalachian Mountain Club, reservations for huts: 603-466-2727, trail information and weather: 603-466-2721, outdoors.org, huts \$58-\$87.*

*George Washington Memorial Camping Area, Putnam Pike, Gloucester, R.I., 401-568-2013, riparks.com/georgewashcamp.htm. Campsites \$14-\$20, shelter \$35.*

*Burton Island State Park, St. Albans Bay, Vt., 802-524-6353, vtstateparks.com/htm/burton.cfm. Campsites \$16-\$18, lean-to \$23-\$25.*

## RAPID TRANSIT

**10** Riding wild river waters is one way to cool off. In New Hampshire, the Androscoggin River from Errol to Milan has runnable Class II rapids for canoes and kayaks — powerful eddies, surfing waves, small holes — all summer long (thanks to regular dam releases).

In Maine, white water can be found on the Upper Kennebec, the West Branch of the Penobscot, and Lower Dead River. Neophytes shouldn't go solo: Book with an outfitter like Zoar Outdoor on the Deerfield River. Zoar runs guided trips though a Class III and IV stretch called the Dryway.

"If you're looking for high adventure, the Dryway is it," said Kevin McMillan, Zoar's director of rafting programs. Bring a change of clothes — getting wet is all but guaranteed.

*Northern Waters Kayak School, Errol, N.H., 603-482-3817, beoutside.com/kayak.html. Two-day beginning canoe or kayak course \$190.*

*Raft Maine, 800-723-8633, raftmaine.com. Zoar Outdoor, Charlemont, 800-532-7483, zoaroutdoor.com. Day trip adult \$80-\$101.*

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APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

# AUGUST

1.

Newport jazz

2.

Quechee Gorge

3.

St. Anthony's Feast

4.

Crane Beach

5.

Lobster festivals

6.

Agricultural fairs

7.

Minuteman Bikeway

8.

Eagle-watching

9.

Camping

10.

White-water rafting