

[ out and about ]

## Orchards: It's hard to pick just one

**A**s a lifelong New Englander, I have walked the rows and rows of many orchards over the years and found a few favorites along the way. Each has offered its own unique reason for being among my top "picks" if you will – from the colorful delights of the reds and greens of apples to the bright orange of pumpkins to the deep blues and reds of blueberries and raspberries. One thing is for sure: New England is bursting with more than just orchards of apples these days and fun for the whole family is bound to be found.

Generally speaking, apple picking season runs from mid-September through mid-October when the first frost arrives, but most orchards are open year round when the

BY CHRISTINE  
**DEROSA**

picking of other fruits is ripe! The first orchard to consider is the magnificently large Brookdale Fruit Farm, located on Route 130 in Hollis, New Hampshire, not too far from the Massachusetts border. If you are in search of different types of apples for that apple pie, crisp or sauce, then Brookdale Fruit Farm is the right place to go.

With over 20 varieties of farm grown apples, guests are able to pick-their-own from the following types: McIntosh, Cortland, Granny Smith, Gala, Red Delicious, Yellow Delicious, Empire, and Romes. And, let's not forget that Brookdale Fruit Farm is known for not only its green and

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**