



The Granite State Granger

Volume 52

Number 2

2022

June



149th New Hampshire State Grange Session
October 28th ~ 30th 2022
Holiday Inn ~ Concord Downtown
172 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
603- 224-9534

Rates

Thursday, October 27th ~ \$119.00
plus 8.5% room tax

Friday, October 28th ~ \$119.00
plus 8.5% room tax

Saturday, October 29th ~ \$119.00
plus 8.5% room tax

The above prices are for two adults. Additional adults will be charged \$10.00 per person per night.

When making your reservation be sure to inform the staff that you are with the New Hampshire State Grange.

These prices will not be offered after September 27th.

Check-in time is 3:00 pm and checkout is 11:00 am.

Richard Patten Bench Dedication

The bench dedication for Richard Patten will be held on Tuesday, June 21, at Keach Park on Concord Heights. The dedication will be at 6:30 p.m. It will be followed by a Nevers Band Concert starting at 7. Concord Grange will provide refreshments.

Your Input Is Needed

Plans are currently underway for the 149th Annual New Hampshire State Grange Session. State Session will be held from October 28 - 30, 2022, at the Holiday Inn in Concord, NH. The session will officially open on Friday morning instead of Thursday evening.

Please note that the session will be held one week later than previously reported. Our normal time was not available due to more events being scheduled with facilities now that Covid restrictions are being relaxed.

As you may be aware, we will be kicking off the 150th Celebration of the New Hampshire State Grange and some activities related to this are being planned. More information will be announced as events are firmed up. Election of officers is also on the schedule.

You are being asked to participate in the planning process with your suggestions. Session is for everyone, not just for the delegates.

What would you like to see at State Session?

What would make you want to attend?

What could we do to make session better?

Please send your thoughts to the State Secretary by June 30th!

Grange Family Weekend July 29th - 31st

Davidson's Countryside Campground
100 Schofield Rd. Bristol, NH 03222
603-744-2403

<http://www.davidsonscamp.com/>

Please call to book your sites as soon as possible. Please join us for a great weekend of Fun, Relaxation and Friendship.

Questions? Contact Shawn Scanzani

Telephone: 603-318-5143

e-mail: Scanfrani@gmail.com

Important Announcement for Grange Youth

Those who are looking to compete in any of the National Grange Youth Contests (sign-a-song, public speaking, etc.) should contact Samantha Wilkins (samantha@national-grange.org) ASAP to register for the Eastern Regional Conference which is being held June 17-19 in Virginia. Contestants may compete virtually. You do not have to attend the conference in person.

The Muffin Man

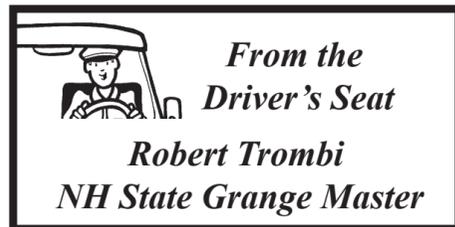
What happens when you invite the editor of the local paper to judge your Grange's Baking Contest? Find out on pages 4 and 5.



Weirs Times editor Brendan Smith holds the winning entry from the Blueberry Muffin Contest he helped judge at Wicwas Lake Grange #292 Open House recently in Meredith. Photo by Kimberly J B Smith

Deadline

The next issue of the Granite State Granger will be mailed in September 2022. Please send items for the paper to Hannah West on or before August 8, 2022.



policy issues in an educational manner.
501(c)(5): Labor, agricultural or horticultural organizations: promoting, exhibiting, testing, guarding the purity, negotiating a decent price, operating educational shows, promoting agriculture. Not negotiating as an agent to help members sell their crops.

501(c)(8): Must have a fraternal purpose, substantial program of fraternal activities, operate under the lodge system or for the exclusive benefit of the members. Benefits may be provided by local, state or national Granges, or a 3rd party. Must provide for life, sickness, accidents & other benefits: mostly insurances. A group that has adopted the same or very similar calling, with common ties. Political activity is not a fraternal activity. Ritual, ceremony and regalia are evidence of fraternal purposes.

501(c)(10): Same as 501(c)(8), except they cannot offer insurance benefits. It must devote its net earnings exclusively to religious, charitable, scientific, literary, educational, and fraternal purposes. It must be organized in the United States.

All NH Granges are a 501(c)(8). If you have any questions, contact State Treasurer, Dan Bascom. The Grange Foundation which holds funds for Granges is a 501(c)(3) and can accept tax deductible donations. Any questions on the foundation, contact Andrew Savage. To stay a 501(c)8, you must follow the ritual – order of business, etc, have a Bible and flag in your meeting space, even if by zoom, and follow the by-laws.

There are two positions within our State Grange that need filling. First, I am looking for someone to be the Legislative Director and the other is to be the Grange Historian. These are both very important positions and if anyone is interested or

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER
 This is a free* publication to keep Grange members informed of past and up-coming events.
 *(However, donations are accepted.)
 This paper is printed quarterly.
 Postmaster or anyone else:
 Please send all related correspondence to
 Hannah West
 3 Depot Road
 Chichester, NH 03258

It's hard to believe that summer is just around the corner! If your Grange takes a break from regular meetings in the summer, how about getting together with other Granges in your area for a picnic or cookout? Or maybe meet up at a local ball game? Try to keep some continuity to ensure your members know what is going on. Many towns will be holding Old Home Days. What can your Grange do to get your name out there in your community? Can you participate in the parade? Serve a meal? Set up a membership table? Whatever you do, be sure you have some take home literature for those you speak with. Presenting an enticing image of the organization and its members is crucial. There are many ways you can take part in your community events.

State Overseer, Tricia Taylor and I attended the National Grange Presidents Conference in February. The workshops we participated in were: Fundraising: More than Selling; Is Your Data in Shape or Need a Workout?; IRS Rules; Visual Storytelling for News; Grange Youth Fair Program; Prepare, Perform, Prevail; Grange Legacy: Service & Advocacy; Where is the Accountability?; and Biting the Bad Apple: Dealing with Problematic Members. A lot of information was given, and important messages were shared.

The National President, Betsey Huber, spoke on the sale of the National Grange Building in Washington, DC. They are dealing with a realtor and have had some interest so far. They are also looking for a new place, but much smaller, so the cost should be about 10 to 15% of the sale price of the current building.

Some important information about nonprofit categories vs. charitable funds was given, and is as follows:

501(c)(3): organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes. Can't lobby or influence legislation or legislators. Can conduct education meetings: meet the candidates or considering public

knows of someone who would be a good fit, please get in touch with me.

When the State Secretary sent out a recent mailing, he requested that members send in answers to the questions:

What you would like to see at State Session?

What would make you want to attend session?

What could we do to make this event better?

Answering these questions would be most helpful to planning our convention in October. We will also be looking for a pianist for the session as Lester Gibbs will be attending Vermont's 150th Session that same weekend.

In closing, I wanted to let everyone know that I will not be running for a second term as State Master. I am still recovering from my stroke and having difficulties with my memory and reading. Although they have both improved, I am not 100% and may never be. It was not a decision I wanted to have to make, but felt it was best for me and for the organization. Thank you all for your support.

Harmony Grange #99



Virginia Blackmer, Master of Harmony Grange #99, presents a \$440. donation to Franklin Animal Shelter Manager Krista Hebert and Animal Shelter Board Member Scott Burns. Funds raised were in honor of past Master Judi Abbott who died unexpectedly while recovering from a hip operation. Long time friend and fellow Granger Priscilla Bodwell created tea trays for sale at Sanbornton Public Library, Grange meetings, and Old Home Day to honor Judi's dog fostering legacy hundreds of dogs over many years). Judi will be greatly missed. Thank you to all for making this commemorative project to honor Judi so successful.



The Membership Committee has had a busy few months, with our Zoom membership event during every Wednesday in February. There were a lot of great discussions in those meetings. A big Thank you goes out to Amanda Brozana, National Grange Membership Leadership Director for leading our meeting.

We were also pleased to have had the opportunity to present a workshop at the Grange month event hosted by State Lecturer Matt Clark at the State Grange Building. We talked about Grange building and stepping out of your comfort zone and trying new things. What was something new that your Grange has tried this year? If you would like to share them with us, please email us the following email address:

nhsgrangemembership@gmail.com

Let's not forget about promotions. Does your town have an event that you can set up a booth at to promote your Grange? Let's not forget the Fairs. This is a two-part opportunity. The first is to promote your Grange. The second is the financial piece - earning some prize money for your Grange's treasury.

Let's take a few moments and touch on State Grange. If you have any ideas on how to change up our convention and make the time we have together in annual session more meaningful or more appealing for you to attend, please send these ideas to the membership email address given above, so we can share your ideas with the State Grange President and Secretary for planning this year's convention.

A Hearty Welcome to Our New Members
 Joining Blazing Star Grange #71
 Ezra King
 (Junior Grange Graduate)
 Joining Rockingham Grange #183
 John Clark
 Jodie Harvey



I had hoped to hold a New Hampshire State Junior Grange Fun Day on June 18 but found this date will not work. Perhaps you could visit the site I had chosen on your own.

Benson's Park is where the old Benson's animal park was with the 9/11 monument memorial. The address is 19 Kimball Hill Road, Hudson, NH. Check out the website and pictures. There are lots of things that for families to do. There is bird watching, park benches, picnic tables, a playground, and public restrooms. They have trails through the woods where you can check out tree types, birds, etc. It is suggested that you wear a mask and that public places are not sanitized so use of the area is of your own risk. This will not cost anything but the gas to drive and your lunch. I looked this up on the computer. You may be able to find other places to enjoy the fresh air that can be shared with Grangers.

I was excited to have nine Juniors at the Bowling in March and glad the State Lecturer was able to have us together. Thank you, Matt, for the great job. Winners were: Ages 4-9 1st Jared Clark; Ages 10-11 1st Jacob Scanzani; Ages 12-13 1st Seth Clark. Seth was the top Junior this year. A planting packet was given to all along with a certificate and charts of when to plant seeds inside or outside. I planted Marigold seeds the week before bowling to bring and show but forgot it. This week they have actually flowered in the pot.

Check out the Family Weekend that needs reservations for camping by trailer or tent. I will plan on attending Saturday with some crafts available. Watch for more on this.

I know we all have other events and can't always attend every one, but I hope to see you somewhere in my travels. Remember I am willing to visit your Grange when you send me an invitation. Tell me what we can do for your Juniors.



Junior Grange Bowlers

In Memoriam

Janet Moulton	Blazing Star
David Faist	Centennial
Ralph Russell	Centennial
Arlene Weeks	Chichester
Catherine Eastman	Gilman
Myra Driscoll	Gilman
Linnia Riley	Harmony
Gorden Gowen	Walpole
Joanne Berry	Wingold
Thomas Lessard	Wingold

News from Granges

Walpole

Walpole Community Grange #125 was honored this year by the town of Walpole, NH! The Town dedicated its annual town report to Walpole Community Grange. Walpole Community Grange has been serving the Town of Walpole and neighboring communities with programs supporting local agriculture, community service, educational scholarships, and civic/legislative participation in NH and VT since 1885.

Watatic

Deputy Norman Brandt recently presented Watatic Grange's Sherrill Bokousky with her 30 Year Seal. Camilie Twiss turns 80 on How big will this little one be when the September GSG comes out? June 10. Her birthday will be celebrated with several Grange brothers and sisters in attendance. She joined Watatic Grange in January 1957 and is a past master. She will be receiving her 65 Year Seal this year.

[The following article is printed with permission from The Weirs Times. Accompanying photos by Kimberly J B Smith are courtesy of The Weirs Times.]

Experiencing a Taste of New England at the Local Grange

by Brendan Smith, Weirs Times Editor

The first thing that I needed to figure out was what to wear.

The flannel or the denim shirt?

I needed to present myself properly. After all, even after living here in Central New Hampshire for over thirty years, I still had some of that angst bubbling inside, still afraid of making that fatal error that would mark me as a... Flatlander.

You see, I was asked to be a judge for the blueberry muffin tasting contest at the Wicwas Lake Grange #292 in Meredith at their annual open house. This was something I had never been asked to do before, to taste anything at any event, a classic Northern New England tradition of chowders, bean hole beans and, of course, blueberry muffins.

I had now fully arrived.

Of course, the focus of the Open House was not the blueberry muffins, though they were a key part of the whole; the focus was on the Grange itself, celebrating its unique history.

Grange was formed on December 4, 1867, in Washington, D.C., as a fraternal organization fostering mutual cooperation to further the economic fortunes and civic interests of rural, farming communities. Known as the National Grange of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, its membership topped 850,000 within a decade and, by the turn of the century, the movement had spawned numerous consumer cooperatives as well as contributed to the regulation of railroads and grain elevators and the introduction of the cooperative extension service, farm credit system and rural free mail delivery. New Hampshire's first was organized in Exeter in 1873. The Wicwas Lake Grange #292 was established in 1901. The Grange Hall in Meredith Center was built in 1925 and, after burning to the ground, was rebuilt a year later. In August of 2010, the Wicwas Lake Grange was in danger of



Honored at the Open House were Grangers of the year for 2021 Secretary Diane LaFavre (R) and Treasurer Monica Bennett

closing down due to a lack of memberships. A meeting was held and the local Community banded together and revitalized this historical organization. With a membership drive which led to repairs and renovations to the historic building, the Wicwas Grange is now the largest in the state with nearly 100 members.

I wasn't sure how to prepare for the contest. Should I, like Rocky Balboa, wake up early every morning, chug down a glassful of raw eggs and then run down to the local bakery and take on a dozen freshly baked blueberry muffins?

My wife, Kim, talked some sense into me, making me realize this was not an "eating" contest but a "tasting" one. There was to be no gluttony like the Fourth Of July hot dog eating debacle at Coney Island I grew up hearing about as a New York native. Here in New Hampshire it was to sample and appreciate the unique recipes, some maybe passed down through generations, of the simple, yet complex, blueberry muffin and render a just verdict.

After much contemplation, I decided on the denim shirt. I thought the flan-

nel might seem a bit ostentatious seeing my means of making a living didn't quite fit that mold. It had been years since I had a callus on either hand, and that was later identified as a wart. The denim seemed to be the correct choice, though even that was toeing the line some.

There was a nice crowd already assembled inside when we arrived. I must admit I didn't know much about Granges or their history, so I picked up a brochure to familiarize myself a bit in case.

According to "An Introduction To The Grange" brochure: Granges were the warehouse-buying clubs of the 19th century. Their influence grew into a non-partisan political lobby that worked to create laws known as Granger Laws that are still important in anti-trust litigations today. The Grange is credited for the Rural Free Delivery Program of the Postal Service. Grangers consider education important to the advancement of society and created local libraries to store and share books. Many of these early libraries have become the community public libraries of today.

After perusing the brochure, I took a walk around the Grange building. There was a good crowd there and many were busy checking out the displays from DD Forge, Meredith Center Maples and more, including the Grange's own displays about its history as well as the National Grange's Dictionary Project which has presented third grade students from across the nation with more than dictionaries, something I never knew about before.

The goal of the Dictionary program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn. Sponsors are encouraged to give dictionaries each year to children in the third grade.



Raising the flag at Wicwas Lake Grange Hall

There was also a table with a nice spread of appetizers as well as the blueberry muffins that I was there to judge. I thought it best to keep my distance from them for the moment. I didn't want an early tasting to cloud my judgement or, perhaps, a little gentle persuasion from one of the contestants if they saw me lingering by their creations.

Before the tasting was to begin, we first gathered outside the Grange to raise the American Flag and say the Pledge Of Allegiance, something that I am sorry to say, is not done as much as it should be nowadays. It is nice to see Granges and other institutions still performing this integral ceremony in reminding us of how fortunate we are to live in such a great country.

We need more of that.

The Grange is learning to adapt traditional values of the farm, family and community to the needs of an evolving modern society. This has created a social community service organization dedicated to a better quality on the values that made America great. Grange lessons are just as important today as ever. Rural families enjoy a purpose in life that teaches dignity, industriousness and constructive attitudes towards others. It is also interesting to note that as the overall age of Grange members is aging, the Wicwas Lake Grange has a significant number of members under the age of thirty-five.

Once the ceremony was complete, it was now time for the reason I was there.

Let the blueberry muffin tasting begin.

I was ushered into a back room with the two other judges (whose names I will keep secret in case of any blueberry backlash). The door was closed behind us, and we were then faced with five separate paper plates, upon each a blueberry muffin, each unique in appearance and, we were soon to find out, taste as well.

I could feel my heart start to beat a little faster. This was it. Over thirty-five years in the making and I was finally trusted with the daunting task of giving fair evaluation of honest-to-goodness, New England baked, Blueberry Muffins. My young self, a Flatlander only recently arrived to live here in Central New Hampshire in the mid-1980s, would have never thought it could be possible.

The three of us judges took our job seriously. We carefully cut and tasted each muffin, discussing each creation, taking into careful consideration the flavor and texture of each carefully crafted muffin. There was no time for levity, the fate of each one was in our hands (and mouths) and we knew only one would survive.

It wasn't an easy task. Each blueberry muffin had its own unique presentation. None of them would be turned down at any breakfast table. We discussed the merits of each one and then, a couple even needed an extra taste to make sure we weren't rushing to judgment.

Finally, we reached a consensus. We had chosen a winner. I had successfully completed my very first tasting contest. Though I know it would never be possible considering my heritage, I did feel closer to being a New Hampshire native than ever before.

Still, I realized what may be the hardest part was still to come...the announcing of the winner. Had we made the correct choice, what would the runners up think of us (me). Would I be considered worthy and be invited to judge chowders, chilis or pies in the future? All would hinge on this day.

I was surprised to hear that the winner would move on to the State Bake off at State Grange in late October. I never thought my decision could have such far reaching effects. Now my reputation was really on the line.



Blueberry muffin winner Dawn Durand with husband Steve, Master of Wicwas Lake Grange

Then the winner was announced. I held my breath for the audience reaction. I felt a bead of sweat on my forehead. Then there was applause, no protests, all seemed to be in agreement.

A wave of relief overcame me. We (I) had done good.

My mind drifted to future possibilities now that I had solidified my status as a capable taster. What might be next? A church fair? A chowder festival or maybe even the Big Kahuna...the Sandwich Fair.

Maybe I am aiming a little bit too high.

Hey, a Flatlander can dream...can't he?

All kidding aside, it was my pleasure to participate at the Grange's Open House. Granges are an important piece of New Hampshire history and the work they do is outstanding. Nothing but good comes from the work of your local grange. To find out more about the Wicwas Lake Grange #292 you can find them on Facebook. To find out more on the Dictionary Project visit dictionaryproject.org



GRANGE YOUTH NEWS

Rachel Scanzani

Another summer is here and it is time to be outside! What can you do to bring yourself and your Grange spirit to your community? How do you bring your Grange's enthusiasm and share it with your wider community? In the age of social media it is time to advertise all the wonderful things that you do. Developing an instagram or facebook page to share your events and activities is a great way to build your influence in your community. It's also a great way to earn a few more points in your Youth Report Book. Did you know that when you share what you have done in your Grange through pictures and your report book that you can inspire others? We all learn and grow from what we see and hear from others.

Summer is a great time to work on some of the new youth contests! Maybe you saw a fun wreath made with ribbons and watermelon decorations. Or perhaps, you saw some great pictures and advertisements for flowers going from seed to full bloom that you could make into a poster showing the theme of "Moving Forward." All contest entries are due to the Youth Director by October 1st so plan accordingly. We can't wait to see all of your creativity on display at the annual session in October.

Historically, the summer has also brought the excitement of Youth Conference. While the Northeast Youth Conference will not be held in its traditional form, it will be held in a new format. Plans are still being finalized, but pencil in the date of Saturday, July 16th. The ideas and plans are looking to be exciting for everyone of all ages, and we are hoping that it will help to invigorate and bring to life this long-standing tradition in the Northeast Region. This one-day conference will be held at the New England Grange Building at the BIG E. Registration and full details will be coming shortly.

Community

by Norman Brandt

For a long time I've been told Grange is a cornerstone of a community, but are we really? At one time and point we were the cornerstone. Think, if you wanted to go hear what was going on in your town, where would you go? If you wanted to see a play or put on a play, where would you go? If you wanted to go to a fair, who was putting on the fair? The Grange used to have so many people from the community that they literally became the go to, the what to do, or the cornerstone.

We started relying on this to be why we are a Grange and not how do we involve our community. As people aged, they never asked their kids to join. As members passed, Granges got smaller and couldn't do as much. As I have been watching Rockingham Grange re-find themselves, it reminds me of two other Granges, one that is gone and one that is still around.

First is a Grange that used to be in South Hampton, NH. Back when Grange had the Action Grange program, the Grange just south of where I live went into an Action Grange. Their membership started to grow. As they grew, I heard of square dancing done in the school gym. I heard of them bringing in Giant Pumpkin Growers to talk about how to grow 500 lb pumpkins (huge back then). Even though they were not in my town I was hearing about their events and how they went. I went to some of the programs, but being born with no rhythm and possibly two left feet I never made it to any of the folk dances or square dances. So why am I talking about this Grange? After all they are no longer around. It is because of how they closed that I feel I need to discuss it. As they were growing and doing more and more activities they started forming two cliques, the new members and the "old" members. Each group had a vision and had they split into two Granges I would almost guarantee that there would be at least one Grange in South Hampton today.

Instead the "old" members started making comments referring to the new members as not "real Grange members",

and not really what Grange is about etc, It poisoned the water. Those new members that were adding growth and life started to feel abashed and hurt, and one after another they left. Within a few years the Grange was gone.

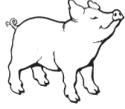
Now the other Grange in my mind is in Meredith. This Grange was working on becoming a foot note in Meredith history, when a few brave souls decided, "Let's save it instead." Did they go out and say, "You should join us because of everything we have done in the past?" I'm sure they did to start with, but what I think brought in the members was the message they had. "Our building needs to be saved." From there they started doing fundraisers that community members were enjoying and more people joined. The more members they had, the more they have done, Game nights, Non-Electronic Game Nights, Dances, just so much.

As much as I wish I had more time to be able to go to their meetings and events, I don't. But, as I understand, they are still alive and doing great. It is true that they are hard to find at State Grange events, but with everything they get out of their Grange do you blame them for not going to other events?

Now to bring us back to the Cornerstone. If I use these two Granges as an example of Cornerstones, what can I say about them? One of them was a stone made of people that formed cracks and allowed water in. As the water came in and the climate in the Grange got cold, it froze and pushed the two parts of the stone away from each other making the Community of Grange crumble and fall. The other Grange currently may have some cracks forming, but they are resisting letting the water in and freezing their Grange. This makes them not only a cornerstone of their Community but also a Community of the Grange.



Support the ELF!
Please send your
Educational Loan Fund
donations to:
Patrice Lawlor
PO Box 386
Pelham NH 03076



**Agriculture
Department**
**Norman Brandt and
Adam Terrell, Co-Directors**

Avian Influenza

The numbers are adding up. As I am typing, in the USA 37.47 million birds have been euthanized for Avian Influenza, including but not limited to Meat chickens, Meat turkeys, Egg laying chickens, Ducks and Geese. On April 4th Murray McMurray put out a Statement that one of their barns had tested positive for AI making them run into some production problems. A great website to follow for keeping track of this is <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpai-commercial-backyard-flocks>.

Luckily here in NH we have only had one farm test positive and 150 birds from that farm were put down. Even if you haven't been following it in real time online by reports, your pocketbooks are following it each time you go out and buy eggs, chicken, turkey, etc. The prices have been going up. Not just because of the shortages being made by disease but also by the cost of the feed and fuel.

Awards

If you received a packet from State Grange you should have the NH State Grange Agriculture Department program for 2022. In it we list awards we currently give out, and a Suggest an Award sheet. Not long ago I received an e-mail from Bob Haefner, that he had gotten from the Commissioner of Agriculture, about a farm in NH that the family had been trying to find out how to receive the Century Farm Award. Upon receiving this e-mail I contacted the farm's local Grange to get them working on a community based recognition. Once the date and information is locked in, we will be bringing a Century Farm Award to the Grange and presenting it.

The Century Farm Award is has been presented by the NH State Grange over the years, but unfortunately the list of recipients had disappeared. Dick Patten before his passing had written a list

for me and mailed it to me. I placed it in a safe place and, as time has always proved, the safest place must be the place you cannot locate the item. If you don't believe it, ask the pheasant in the bush, or the song bird in the evergreen. That is, if you can find them. Once I locate the list I am going to type it up and get it to the webmaster of the NH State Grange, as they say once it is on the internet it lives forever, no matter how much you want to get rid of it.

Blooms

My peaches, apples and pears are blooming beautifully. Did you take part in No Mow May? No Mow May is a movement to allow the weeds in your lawn to go through at least one bloom cycle. This allows the Pollinators to get their well-needed fresh feeding after the hard winter's rest. The belief is that by not mowing your lawn you allow Dandelions, Creeping Charlie, and many more weeds to grow and bloom - allowing bees to collect a quick nutritious spring meal, making them strong enough to do their work of pollinating our crops all summer long. It's kind of like paying it forward, giving them a little early on to allow them to give you a bunch later on.

Gardens

By now hopefully things are in your garden and are growing. As prices go up at local stores (cost of transporting) we can grow cheaper than the stores can truck in. We can all plant and grow a little for the community, and people do not need to feel hungry and cold all summer long. Granges can help in many ways, if you have Grange members that are well-experienced in gardening, put on some how to programs. Bring in an Extension educator to talk on pest management and control, etc. When production increases and members find they have a surplus, a preservation program can be justified. Make too much Jelly and Jam and as long as you use approved recipes food banks can take it in and pass it out. A local food bank near me had once said Meat is needed and some farmers will supply the animal and they would cover the butchering just to be sure to have it for the community. So much can be done.

Hope you are all doing well.

Lecturer's Log
State Lecturer
Matthew Clark



Talent Competition April 30, 2022



Aurora Farrell, Best of Show



Rebecca Boisvert



Gigi Farrell



**Family & Community
Department**

Kathy Yardley - Joyce Martin

Congratulations to Kerriann Nightingale, our chili – cooking champion. Thank you to all of you who participated in our day of activities on May 21st.. We hope you had a good time and learned something new.

Here is the next quarterly project for you and members of your Grange to try. It's the same as last quarter but this time, try it with SQUARES.

For the next few meetings have members bring paper squares in a variety of sizes and colors. Members should brainstorm to see what they can make from the various squares that are representative of the month. For example, using several squares of the same size you can make a flag for Memorial Day, Flag Day or Fourth of July. Use your imagination. Take pictures of your creations and send them to us so we can print them in a future edition of the GSG. You can certainly do this on your own at home as well. Using paper, felt, or other fabrics, cut out square shapes to make wreaths, wall hangings, table favors or centerpieces. Decorate your home or Grange hall with your creations, or give them to a nursing home, shelter or senior center to brighten their space.



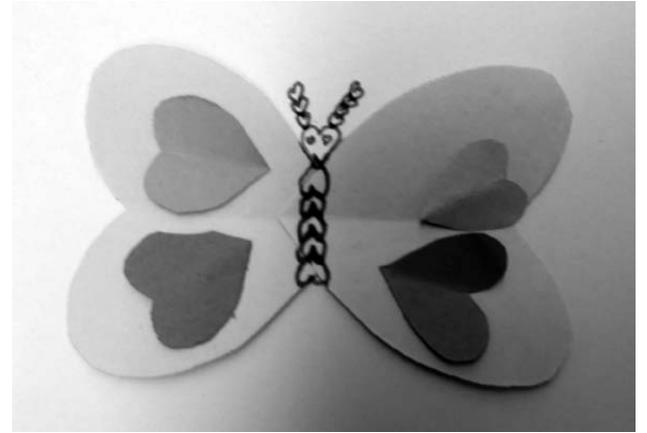
Chili cook-off winners L to R, 3rd Roberta Mason (Watatic), 2nd Brian Twiss (Watatic), 1st Kerriann Nightingale (Centennial)

You still have a few months to finish your needlework contest entries and items for the Grange Store at the Big E. Entries are due to us by August 1st, so we will have time to get them judged in time for the Big E.

There will be a cleanup and organizing day at the New England Grange Building at the Big E on Saturday, July 18th starting at 10:00am. We are hoping for a good turnout as many hands make light work! We will start by cleaning up the stage area. Then we will bring out the inventory and sort and mark everything. All folks are welcome, Grangers or non-Grangers. Carpooling will be available also. Please let us know if you can help.

**Support the Granite State Granger
with your donation.**

**Hearts from Claremont Grange
What could your Grange
do with squares?**



Calendar of Events

This calendar is a work in progress. Please check to be sure the events are happening before you make plans.

- June 21 - R. Patten Bench Dedication - Keach Park, Concord, NH 6:30 p.m.**
- July 18- Clean-Up Day - NE Grange Building, Big E 10 a.m.**
- July 29-31 - Grange Family Weekend Davidson Campground, Bristol**
- July 16 - Northeast Youth Rally - Big E West Springfield, MA**
- Oct. 28-30 - State Grange Convention- Holiday Inn, Concord**



How big will this little one be when the September GSG comes out?

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