



April is...

Grange Month

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Connecticut Granger



Vol. 55, No. 7

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

April 2015

There is work for all!



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

The snow and cold have finally gone, the tiny spears are shooting up from the ground. And as the trees begin to blossom, their tiny banners and pennants flutter in the breeze. We begin the task of preparing the soil as well as our mind for the planting of the seed for harvest.

At the last State Grange Session a resolution for a Heritage Day was passed. The Heritage Day is for Granges to open their halls to the community to explain the Grange and to get new members. As April is Grange month it is time to celebrate the Grange and our members with award recognition and citizen awards. Degree Days can be used to explain the lessons of the four degrees to prospective members and to those that have been welcomed but need to witness the conferral of the degrees.

Inspection season has begun and I hope that every Grange welcomes their Deputy and or Designated official to the hall and have all the materials present for the inspecting officer. Our goal is to view the strong points as well as the weak points and try to work with those Granges that are in need of assistance. We in the State Grange cannot give help unless it is requested by the Community Grange. So I ask you that if the State Grange can help your Grange please call.

March 18th we participated in Ag Day at the State Capitol. I wish to thank Chris and Gordon and those others who helped that day

to meet the legislators at the Capitol. This year we did not hand out cookies as in the past because of a requirement for a license from the health department. We were able to get the word out about the Grange and the good things our members are doing in their communities.

The National Grange is still seeking financial support from its Subordinate Grange members, by either donating to the Trademark Litigation Fund, National Youth Travel Fund, Kelley Farm Trust Fund, and the National Grange Foundation. Letters have been sent to most Granges seeking donations to the National Grange. If individuals donate to these funds then the dues may not be increased, as more money from outside sources will protect you from a National Grange

increase. The National Grange is looking for ways to increase revenue, by corporate sponsorship, increased services, hotel, rental car, prescription drug, hearing aids, and others that are available on the National Grange website. Check it out.

We are making plans for the upcoming events so please watch for news and items coming from our Committees and this office.

As spring approaches, let us remember the lessons of the first degree. "Additional Laborers and Maids are needed for work in field and household, and we accept you as willing workers for the tasks to which you will be assigned. For in our Fraternity there is work for all, and the idler has no place among Patrons of Husbandry."

Diversity threatened

by Bob Salsberg

BOSTON - From picturesque coastal estuaries of Cape Cod to the soaring White Mountains, much of New England's rich native flora is fighting for survival against increasing odds, according to what conservationists call the most comprehensive accounting ever made of the region's plant life.

The report, to be released today (3/26) by the New England Wild Flower Society, studied more than 3,500 known plant species and determined that 22 percent are considered rare, in decline, endangered or possibly extinct. Many plants also range over a much smaller geographical area than they once did.

Another statistic that researchers found alarming: More than 30 percent of current plant species are not native to the region. Non-native or invasive species often compete with and crowd out existing plants.

The report's authors cite numerous risk factors, including familiar ones such as climate change, land development, forest clearing and pesticides. But among the lesser-known threats to plant life are dams that alter floodplains; commercial harvesting for pharmaceutical use; and salt marsh dieback, a complex process of erosion that already has affected

Continued on page 2



Governor pays a visit

The Governor visited with Connecticut Grangers at Ag Day at the State Capitol on March 25. From left, CSG Legislative Director Alma Graham, Governor Dannel Malloy, CSG Ag Committee member Chris Bourque and State Master Miller.

Small Town Issues

Russell Gray, State Legislative Comm.

Governor Dannel Malloy's proposed 2015 budget leaves towns in just the same position as last year. But, the budget that he has proposed leaves a great deficit and that money has to come from somewhere. It will be the task of our State



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Legislature to find ways to save money and at the same time, reduce spending, to bring the budget closer to being balanced. The question is what will be affected? Will it be education? Will it be town aid highway money or something else that could/would affect small towns?

Every town budget in Connecticut is hurting due to Mother Nature's "gift" of snow, sleet, ice, freezing rain. Not only salt, sand, additional manpower hours, but roofs that had to be cleared, potholes that have cropped up everywhere and what about all that water when the snow melts! Water can create devastation and not only on roadways but in buildings as well. Some municipalities had roofs collapse, either on homes, barns or other businesses in their towns.

In Sterling, State Highway Route 49 was due to be resurfaced this year, but now that had gone on the back burner. Riddled with potholes, Route 49, like numerous

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Next Issue...



Articles and Photos for the next issue are due on Apr. 5.



A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



Diversity threatened



In this Aug. 17, 2011 photo provided by Elizabeth Farnsworth, rare clubmoss grows in the challenging Alpine environment on Mount Mansfield near Stowe, Vt. A comprehensive report being released Thursday, March 26, 2015, by the New England Wild Flower Society shows that much of New England's rich native flora is fighting for survival against increasing odds. Conservationists studied more than 3,500 known plant species and determined that about 22 percent are considered rare, in decline, endangered or possibly extinct. Many plants also range over a much smaller geographical area than they once did. (AP Photo/Elizabeth Farnsworth)

Continued from page one...

more than 80 percent of Cape Cod marshes, the report said.

Imperiled plants carry a variety of exotic or obscure names: Goldenseal and American Ginseng, gathered for culinary or medicinal purposes in New England's northern hardwood forests; Jessup's milk-vetch, a federally endangered species found in three places along the Connecticut River and nowhere else; sandplain gerardia, birds-foot violet and wild goat's-rue, all native to drier grasslands; and saltpond pennywort, one of many rare plants that reside in marshy coastal habitats.

The decline of these and other species have enormous ramifications to wildlife and humans, the report warns, because of the obvious if underappreciated role plants play in complex ecosystems.

"You actually have to save the plants because that is the base of the food chain," said Debbi Edelstein, the society's executive director. "And that's what all of those critters that you are thinking you want to save, whose habitat you want to save, are depending on."

The nonprofit organization, based in Framingham, MA, said it compiled the information

through observations made by hundreds of volunteers and professional botanists throughout New England and data culled from voluminous historical surveys, some as far back as the botanical journals of famous naturalists such as Henry David Thoreau.

Douglas Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware who was not involved with the study, said the estimate that 31 percent of New England plants are non-native appears consistent with other parts of the country.

He said humans are often guilty of displacing native plant communities through development while adorning their gardens with plants imported from overseas.

"We have come to see plants simply as decorations and we just want to have pretty landscapes, but in doing that we have forgotten all the ecological roles that they play," Tallamy said.

The report recommends additional research and documentation of New England flora, improved public awareness of invasive species, and stronger conservation laws and land management measures where needed.

"It's not all gloom and doom," said Elizabeth

Farnsworth, the organization's senior research ecologist. The overall diversity of New England plant life still compares favorably with many other regions in the U.S., she said, and many plants continue to flourish in part because of successful ongoing conservation initiatives.

Robbins cinquefoil, a small plant related to the rose and once so rare that 95 percent could be found within a 1-acre site on New Hampshire's Mount Washington, fell victim over the years to poachers and hikers who trampled it underfoot. Placed on the federal endangered list in 1996, the plant had a resurgence after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the White Mountain National Forest and the Appalachian Mountain Club worked to divert a popular hiking trail and create a barrier to shield the plant. Today, more than 14,000 inhabit the site, the report said.

Individuals can help, Farnsworth said, simply by planting a native shrub on their property or teaching their children to appreciate native plant life.

"We can begin to reverse these declines," she said.

In Connecticut:

Researchers say Connecticut is home to approximately 2,850 species of plants, about 62 percent native.

The three-bird's orchid is native to hardwood forests, with habitats including the Talcott Mountain State Forest and Canaan Mountain Natural Area Preserve. Listed as endangered by the state, the plant is said to be at risk from development and forest clearing, deer browsing and invasive plants. Among wildlife the plant supports are nesting birds, large mammals

such as bear, moose and deer, and the blue-spotted salamander.

Another state endangered plant is Parker's pipewort, native to river and stream habitats and threatened by dams, agricultural clearing

and pollution. The plant helps support river otters, rare wood turtles and some dragonfly species.

Reprinted from the Waterbury Republican-American (Associated Press story)

Small Town Issues

Continued from page one...

other state highways that pass through towns and villages, desperately need upgrading. Where is the money going to come from?

Widening some highways, expanding rail service and upgrading bridges. He has also proposed a "lockbox", whereby funds could only be spent on transportation needs and infrastructure.

He also has proposed a freeze for all except critical state job positions. Unfortunately, small towns, especially in Eastern Connecticut, tend to be forgotten while major cities and towns with businesses and industry are better served. Do not hesitate to write your legislators about issues that concern your town. While help may not be forthcoming, at least they are kept abreast of issues of their constituents.

Grange Month 2015

Brothers and Sisters,

April 2015 is going to be a great month to celebrate the Grange. I hope that each member isn't getting excited about how we can share our great organization with people in our community. You might hold an open house or a reception for your community; invite friends and acquaintances to a breakfast, tea or dinner. Perhaps your Grange will carry out a special project or recognize outstanding achievement to commemorate Grange month.

Our organization is nearing 150 years of sharing American Values while never forgetting our Hometown Roots. This year would be a wonderful opportunity to begin looking forward to this historic milestone by reflecting on the ways our Order has been a positive impact in your community.

Across our nation, Grange hands are joined for education, social connection, business that benefits our members, legislative advocacy, and service to others. We believe each must learn and grow as individuals, become connected with others through the Grange in order to provide a true grassroots voice to aid our legislators and serve others through cooperation and caring.

Let's set the challenge that every Grange will take in some new members this month. Not only will they benefit through their membership, but they will then become a contributing part of our organization.

The National Grange, your State Grange, and your fellow members stand ready to assist you in making this year's Grange month, one to celebrate and remember.

Please join me in welcoming new members as we move forward into a bright future filled with achievements that benefit both individuals and the community as a whole.

Fraternally Yours

Edward L. Luttrell, Master

New Members

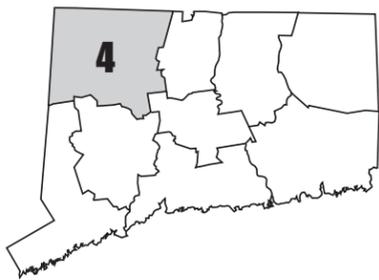


Gena Greer
Michael Greer
Pamela Lillis

Cannon Grange #152
Cannon Grange #152
Cannon Grange #152



Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Cawasa No. 34
- Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- Taghannuck No. 100
- ✓ Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- Riverton No. 169

MISSION STATEMENT

Mountain County Pomona No. 4 has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

May 11: Fifth Degree, Winchester Grange, Supper at 6:00 P.M.

It hasn't been a weather-friendly year for Mountain County Pomona as storms and threatened bad weather have interfered with each of our meetings. We feel confident that the May meeting will be safe... but who knows! Join us on Monday, May 11 when we have our spring conferral of the Fifth Degree preceded by a paid supper prepared by the members of Winchester Grange. If your Grange has candidates for the Degree, please let Pomona Master George Russell or Secretary Shirley Lemieux know as soon as you can. We would love to have a large class of candidates.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Apr. 14: 1st & 2nd Degrees

Apr. 17: Super Prize Party, Doors Open at 6:00 P.M.

Apr. 28: 3rd & 4th Degrees

This report is being written on the evening of our annual Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale. The hall was packed with vendors eager to sell their wares. Unfortunately at 8 A.M. the snow started flying and didn't stop until this evening. We had a good number of customers, just not the normal attendance we can usually expect. Chalk it up to the lingering effects of the worst winter

in recent memory.

The day before, March 27, Sue Addison, Todd Gelineau and Sara Bement (from Winchester Grange) and Phil and Maureen Prelli (from Riverton Grange) visited Mary Hinsdale School in Winsted to present Dictionaries as part of the Words for Thirds Program. Over 75 students in three third grade classes received the deluxe version of the dictionary and the kids were extremely appreciative. We thank Phil and Maureen for coordinating the program for us and we look forward to participating again next year.

With the exception of July, Winchester Grange has at least one event scheduled each month from now until the beginning of November. We love doing these events even though we have to hold these events to keep the Grange running and moving forward.

Our next event will be our Spring Super Prize Party to be held on Friday, Apr. 17. What's a Super Prize Party? It's a super-sized teacup auction with the chance to win "Super" prizes as well. For one dollar you receive a card that contains 27 chances to win a prize! Stretch your dollar and have a great time at Winchester Grange. Doors open at 6:00 and the drawing of prizes begins at 7:00 P.M.

Our members have been

working hard to bring in new members this spring with at least 3 on the list for the first and second degrees on Apr. 14. There may be one or two others joining us as well. We're so looking forward to a possible net gain this year! The third and fourth degrees will be conferred

on Apr. 28 preceded by a potluck Harvest Supper beginning at 6 P.M. We'd love to have you come and visit with us and have a great meal.

LITCHFIELD GRANGE #107

Corr: Todd Gelineau, Mentor
Litchfield Grange

continues to work on organizing and getting "the ball rolling" with their new Grange. Issues with mold remediation have necessitated moving their meetings temporarily a few doors up the street to the Litchfield Community Center while work is done on the hall.

Words for Thirds in Winsted



Susan Addison, Secretary of Winchester Grange #74 and Phil Prelli, Leg. Comm. member of Riverton Grange #169 present dictionaries to third grade students at Mary Hinsdale School in Winsted. The presentation was a joint project of Riverton and Winchester Granges.



PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. **Thank You!**

(USPS 563-220)

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News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

or

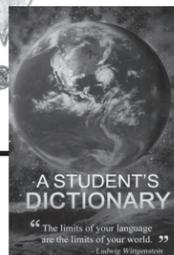
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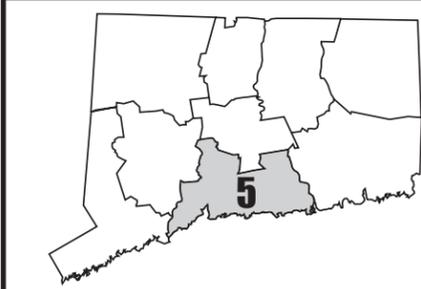
President/Editor Todd Gelineau
Vice President
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell



One of the many thank you notes received from the students and a picture of the cover of the expanded dictionaries the students received.



New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35

MISSION STATEMENT

New Haven County Pomona through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Apr. 7: Is it Spring yet?

May 5: Moms and Memories

We are looking forward to April and seeing grass again.

This has been quite a winter. It's been a long time since we had snow cover for a whole month. If we can thaw our fingers and toes we will be able to get back on schedule again.

Have we ever changed to daylight time with so much snow on the ground? Think spring!

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Apr. 9: "FFA in Our Town" refreshments Jim and Lisa.

Apr. 11: Tag and Bake Sale from 8am to Noon

Apr. 23: "Let's hear it from an Eagle Scout"

May 9: Pancake Breakfast from 7:30am to 11am

Wayne Plunске a long time and a Golden sheaf member had died on February 28th. Wayne owned the very successful Plunске's Garage on North Colony Road and his distinctive red and chrome wreckers were always very clean and polished. They were always ready to go, very much like fire trucks, to the rescue of motorists and truckers alike.

Feb 12 – Originally scheduled for "Trivia Night" was cancelled because of the snowy weather.

Feb 26 – "Winter Tales of Ct" Members reminisced of passed winters in Wallingford when they were kids. Janet Haller remembers sled riding on what is now route 68 from her house down to the intersection of routes 68 and 150 which is about ¼ mile away. Back then there were hardly any cars traveling on that road. It seems hard to believe today because that road is

very busy at all hours of the day. Anne, Jane and I talked about when we used to slide down hills in the wintertime. Anne Cella remembers the metal saucers that two kids could climb in and slide down a hill. They would turn and spin and you couldn't control them very well but that was the fun of them! Jane Maxwell remembers riding down toboggans with her friends down snowy hills. I remember one year in the late 1960's when we had a good deal of snow (I always thought it was 3ft!) with a thick layer of ice over it that allowed you to walk on it without falling through. It made for a terrific sledding. We had a field in back of our house that all the neighbor kids used to go to sled. It didn't have a steep hill but it did have a lot of land so that you could go for a long sled ride. You would go to the top of the hill and run as fast you could and drop down onto your sled and ride it as fast as you could. Then when you finally approached the edge of the field you had to stop. The typical way to stop was to steer the sled around so that the sled was sliding sideways and it kick a storm of ice and snow until you finally stopped. Sometimes it didn't always work; if you waited too long you would end up in the woods. Oh, those were some wonderful times. I hope that this brings back some memories of your own...

Joany and two of her friends from the Ancient Order of Hibernians will be doing a St. Patrick's Day program at our next meeting on March 12th.

Marcia Cutrole reported that she has 9 vendors signed up already for our Tag and Bake Sale on April 11. It will be from 8 am to Noon.

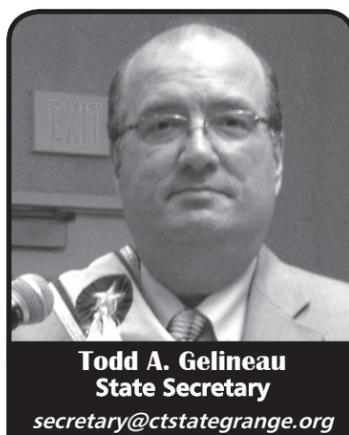
Cheshire Grange #23



Our Monday Night Group has started on our Christmas Wreaths for shut-ins this coming Christmas. There are 180 plastic sandwich bags tied around this coat hanger. Several more are in various stages and we have a lot more hangers for volunteers to use. Then all we will have to do is decorate them. Merry Christmas, it's snowing out again. Thought it was the first day of Spring.



March 18th was our annual competitive night. The title of the programs was "Way Out West" The men lite a campfire in the middle of our hall and sang to the judges. The women moved about the country side singing and finding partners to dance. **THE WOMEN WON!**



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

In the coming weeks I will be moving from Torrington to Sharon, CT. Many correspondents to the Connecticut Granger and other members sending reports/information for the State Grange have been using my home address. Please send all correspondence to me at the Central Office, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033. I personally check this mail several times a week. Also, Sharon is outside of my current cable company's service area, so my personal email will also be changing. PLEASE,

State Secretary

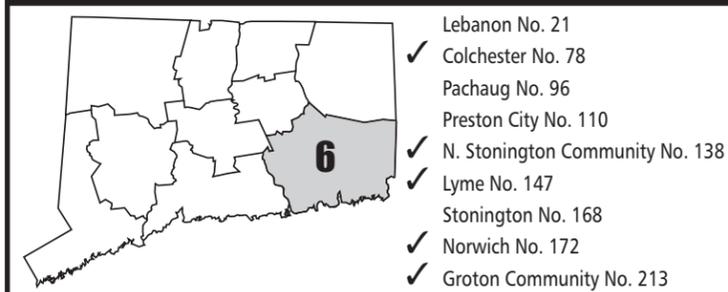
PLEASE, PLEASE use my Grange email for all correspondence. In addition to being certain that I receive it, I have the ability to track email better through the Grange service than through my cable account.

After speaking with Jessie Cope at the National Headquarters I have learned there was a misunderstanding in how the shipping charges are handled with the membership recognition certificates. When ordering a single Golden Sheaf the charge will be \$10 plus \$3.50 shipping. When ordering more than one Golden Sheaf on the same order form, the charge will still be a flat \$3.50 regardless of the number ordered. Please make note of this change as it is difficult to make refunds as these checks need to be payable to the National Grange.

The State Treasurer and I continue working on plans to expand the Grange Store in Connecticut. We would love to hear from you! Please tell us what items you would like to see us offer to the members of Connecticut. The possibilities are endless and we want to be sure to offer things that are of interest to our members. We hope you will purchase all of your supplies and jewelry through the Central Office. Your purchases will be a very important part of our "Non-Dues Related" income.

We also have in stock, gold lapel pins that have the Grange emblem and the National Headquarters on them. We have cut the price to \$5.00 each (orig. \$10) with half going to the State Grange and half going to National Grange. Order by email or by calling the office at (860) 633-7550.

New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21
 ✓ Colchester No. 78
 Pachaug No. 96
 Preston City No. 110
 ✓ N. Stonington Community No. 138
 ✓ Lyme No. 147
 Stonington No. 168
 ✓ Norwich No. 172
 ✓ Groton Community No. 213

MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Apr. 19: Degree Day and School of Instruction, N. Stonington #138

May 9: Fifth Degree, N. Stonington #138

On April 19 at 1:00 we will hold a Degree Day combined with a regional School of Instruction at North Stonington Grange Hall. Rehearsal for the Degree Day is April 12 at 1:00. Following the School of Instruction and the conferral of the first four Degrees we will celebrate with a potluck dinner. Please encourage all your members who have not witnessed the Degrees to come to this meeting and experience the Grange as it used to be.

The Degrees of the Grange are beautiful

Their lessons are meaningful, too.

So come to Degree Day in April

And experience them anew.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

As always, we extend a grateful welcome to our guests, Ted Beebe, State Membership, and Lois Evankow, Flora of East Central, and Lecturer for Lyme Grange. Ted always provides interesting and helpful information for us, and Lois's lecturers programs are greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

Congratulations to Chris Bourque on his appointment to State Agricultural Committee Chair. Chris has extensive knowledge of agriculture and will be a great asset to the Committee.

We were pleased to hear from Chris that Colchester is still being considered for the farm to table food hub for the eastern Ct area. Also an exciting proposal has been presented to our school district to have an agriculture education curriculum in grades K through 12. A farm garden has also been proposed and will be reviewed soon.

We continue with our community service activities, with cooking at Harrington Court, providing

contributions to local food banks, and Bingo at Apple Rehabilitation. We are currently gathering food items for Easter Baskets for our Veterans Project in Jewett City. This is in conjunction with The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and community donations. We hope to have a complete Easter dinner basket for every Veteran in residence at the facility and have them delivered before the Easter Holiday.

One of our talented members, Eva O'Connell submitted a beautifully made quilt square block for the National Grange quilt that will be greatly appreciated. Also, just a reminder to all you crafty members out there, items are needed to be submitted in May.

Please don't forget to let all the travelers you know to contact Cathy Russi, our CWA representative about a fabulous trip to the Panama Canal, Costa Rica and Aruba for March 2016.

We would like to extend our condolences to the family of long time Colchester Grange member Joann Riddell. Joann was a contributing member of our Grange, holding several offices, and she will be greatly missed.

The weather reporters are telling us Spring is out there somewhere, so let's hope it appears soon!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Apr. 10: Stunned

Apr. 24: Remarkable

We held only one meeting in February due to the extreme weather we have been experiencing. There doesn't seem to be any way to keep ahead of these incessant snowstorms. At our Feb. 27 meeting we learned how much we have forgotten about our degree work. Four teams competed in ritual games and had lots of fun. We switched officers for the evening and Ellie Banker did a fine job as a first-time Master.

Our first meeting in April is in the charge of the

Ag. And Cons. Committee. This is always an enjoyable program. At our second meeting we will honor our Community Citizen and present seals and certificates to longtime members. And if I can just find my mailbox under the four feet of snow at the top of my driveway, next time I'll tell you all about marvelous March.

LYME GRANGE #147

Apr. 9: Look what the March winds blew in! Neighbor's Night

Apr. 11: We host East Central Pomona at Good Will Grange Hall- Supper and 5th Degree

May 7: We'll try - 1st & 2nd Degrees. Inspirational memorial service

May 16: 5th Annual Plant & Food Sale. ALL HELP

By the time you read this I hope most of their snow will be gone.

I'm sure the ice fishermen have enjoyed the winter. As you drive by lakes and ponds you see these brave people trying their luck at winter fishing. It's also been great for people who like to ski. They must be thrilled. However the rest of us have to tolerate the white stuff as there is nothing we can do about it.

We finally had our Feb. meeting the 4th cold Thursday night, yes it took four Thursdays to find a night. Twelve brave souls came out.

As for our March meeting, who knows?

Mother Nature sent us a good supply once again for our meeting night. We draped our charter in loving memory of Genevive Powaleny a 70 year member and Lillian Misheloff.

Hope everyone had a safe winter, no broken bones, etc. See ya at Neighbor's Night in Lyme on Apr. 9.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Susan Kenney

Norwich Grange welcomed a new member, John. The Norwich Grange played a name game so everyone could learn each other's name. Dick Tarryk showed us the new favor we are donating to the Sheltering Arms Rest Home. We elected Jolene to represent us on the Fair Committee.

GROTON GRANGE #213

Corr: Susan Kenney

The Groton Grange is doing a fundraiser! The fundraiser is called Snacking in the USA! There a multitude of snacks to choose from, everything from gummy bears to nuts. See one of the Groton

Grangers to pick your our worthy cause! favorite snack and help out

Get out and visit!



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

It's April. Time for the Easter Bunny to come and for all our spring flowers to burst into the wonderful colors of spring. Hopefully by now you can see them under all the snow that accumulated over the winter. I think we all felt a little cooped up this winter. Let's shake off the lingering effects of winter by visiting a couple of different Granges each month. You

can make a difference. If you have a good number that is worth sharing, bring it along and ask the Lecturer is she needs another number for her program.

Plan ahead. Be positive. Lecturers have an important role in making our Grange a success.

Has your Grange chosen a Community Citizen yet? Pick one, plan a good program and invite the community in to celebrate with him or her. What better way is there to get people to see what the Grange does?

April is Grange Month. A lot of Community Citizen Awards are given out in April. Why not get a proclamation from your local Mayor or Selectman recognizing the Grange for all it has done to help the community? Brag about yourselves. Invite a reporter in or send information to the papers. Most importantly, when you have done all this, be sure and have a quality Lecturer's Program. You can do it, but if you need help, please don't hesitate to call on me. My job is to help you in any way possible.

Family Activities

Corr: Mary L Raymond

Greetings from your CWA Family

Winter has kept us inside staying warm, the upside of all this snow it has given us time to prepare our projects and get them ready for judging on the 13th of June which will be here before we know it.



Irene Percoski
CWA Family Activ. Director

cwa@ctstategrange.org

Cheshire Grange has had to postpone their March 4th meeting because of weather, they have rescheduled a speaker for "My Sisters" Place" to Wed May 20th who will enlighten us on the many things they make available to our communities. You will not be disappointed Cheshire always treats us to a great time.

Not many of us have ever been homeless, without a job and no food, this is what "My Sister's Place" provides along with other services to help Women get back on their feet and achieve independence that we take for granted.

This is one of our State Projects which we are hoping every Grange will support with a monetary donation these donations can be sent to our State Grange Secretary.

Kulisch Thanks

I would like to thank all who sent me emails, cards and called following my horrible fall on the 27th of January. I was released from all doctors on the 15th of March and have begun to return to Grange meetings. It is good to be back out with my friends.

Barbara C. Kulisch

Notes for Joanne

Cards and well wishes for Joanne Cipriano would be appreciated. She is currently (as of this printing) in a convalescent home recovering from a fall down a flight of stairs. We know she can't wait to get back home. In the meantime, her sister will receive any and all mail at her home address: 393 Piedmont St., Waterbury, CT 06706.

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- Oxford No. 194

MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

April will be a busy month for the members of Beacon Valley Grange.

On Saturday April 25th we will host a Degree Day being put on by the members of Excelsior Pomona. The day begins at 2 o'clock with the opening Ceremony followed by the conferral of the First and Second Degrees. We will then pause for some refreshments and then confer the Third and Fourth Degrees. We welcome candidates from all Granges. If you would like to volunteer to assist contact Pomona Master Cindy Legg. If you have not seen the degrees in a while come and enjoy the

afternoon.

On Saturday April 18, we will have an Open Mic program. This begins at 2 o'clock. Contact Ron Fischer if you would like to be on the program. If you have no musical talent like me just come and enjoy the music. Admission is free.

Our next regular Grange meeting is April 11th. The program is titled "Mr. Ed." Scott and Mary Lou Raymond will be in charge of refreshments.

A reminder to all our members – On Saturday May 2nd we will be having a tag sale. We need your help. If you have something to donate, give us a call. If you are a buyer come and check the bargains. Please pass the word to your relatives,

neighbors and friends.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Apr. 11: Flea Market, 9-1 P.M. For table space call Linda at 203-264-8151

Items for our table are needed and welcome.

Apr. 27: Community Service Award

Our community service award will be presented to Joseph Shapnis for his work with the history of Bethlehem. Refreshments – All Officers.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Charles Perry

The annual Bridgewater Easter Egg Hunt will be held once again. The event will take place at the Bridgewater Recreation Area at 10 A.M. on Saturday, April 4, 2015. It is located at the corner of Hut Hill Road and Sarah Sanford Road E. It is open to all children from the Bridgewater and Roxbury area. There will be three age categories for children up to ten years old. This event is sponsored by the Bridgewater Grange and the Town of Bridgewater.

This event may depend on the weather. If winter does not leave us soon and the ground has snow or is very muddy it may be canceled.

We will continue having our monthly meetings at 2 PM on the second Sunday of March at Saint Marks Church in Bridgewater CT.

We have managed to have all meetings as scheduled despite the rough winter weather. Let us hope we see spring soon!!

The status of our Grange Hall remains in limbo as the town is still studying the plans and applying for grants. There may have to be a vote by the citizens of Bridgewater before anything will be done. All we know

is that the Grange Hall is unusable for any public functions including our meetings. We will probably continue meeting in the hall at Saint Marks Church which is right next door.

Our master Nancy Mascio is working on an agreement to use the church more after March.

Our new members Riva Martin and Graham Baldwin (The Connecticut Grangers of the Year) have been on vacation in Europe for much of the winter. We sure hope it was warmer for them then in Connecticut. They will be back to run the Sullivan Farm.

Bridgewater Grange Secretary, Dean Perry March 2, 2015

So. CT Past Masters

On April 11th we will be meeting at Southington Grange. On the agenda is Installation of Officers. Don't know the new officers yet as the Election of Officers will take place at the March meeting which comes after the deadline for the April news. As with all our meetings we start off with a delicious potluck supper at 6:30 followed by a short meeting after the dishes are done, a fun program and a country store. Come and see what we are all about.

Hi! Ho! Come to the Fair



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

Have you noted the date Saturday May 16th on your calendar? That's the date of our Fun Fair being held at the Prospect Senior Center. I know we all miss the fun we had at the Connecticut Agricultural Fair so let's get together and reminisce. The Fair will open at 6 o'clock but the refreshment stand will be open from 5:30 to 8:30 P.M. I

guarantee you will enjoy the food. We will have games of chance, a raffle, an auction, favors and entertainment. All this for the low price of \$10.00. As most fairs have a parking fee our is free.

If you have not been to the Prospect Senior Center, it is very assessable for the handicapped and there is plenty of parking.

We have four categories that you can enter: Department A – Animals – a stuffed animal or an animal of any material. Dept. B – Baking make your favorite cupcakes. Dept. C Handicraft – anything you made and Dept. P – Photo a picture of your pet or a any picture you wish to enter.

Tickets and premium books are in each Pomona or you can call me (Joanne) at 203-754-5863 or Barbara at 203-757-0271.

Come and enjoyable evening with your brothers and sisters.

Remaining Degree Days

Excelsior Pomona will be holding a degree day on April 18 at 2 PM at Beacon Valley Grange #103 1354 New Haven Rd. Naugatuck CT Please contact the secretary, Joanne Cipriano with a count if you are going.

New London County Pomona will have a Degree Day on April 19 at North Stonington Grange Hall beginning at 1:00 P.M. They will confer all four degrees and then have a potluck supper. Let them know if you have any questions.

The Social Connection Committee of the
Connecticut State Grange presents



Hi! Ho!
Come to the
Fun Fair!

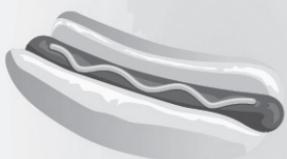
Saturday, May 16, 2015

Prospect Senior Center

6 Center Street (Routes 68 & 69)
Prospect, Connecticut

Price: \$10.00

Entertainment, Games of Chance,
Auction, Raffle, Favors,
Exhibits to Enter and more!



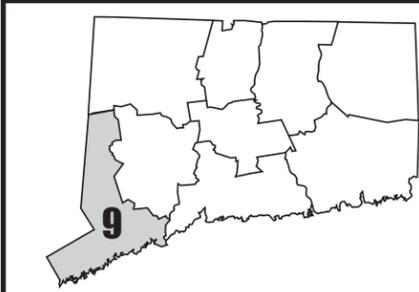
Catered Fair Supper
including the
best hot dogs - guaranteed!

Food Stand Open from 5:30 to 8:30 PM



TICKETS: Available from the Social Connection Committee and in each Pomona.
More Info: social@ctstategrange.org

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- Redding No. 15
- ✓ Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairfield County Pomona is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: Dennis Rich

April 10: Grange Month; Refreshments at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30

Our plans continue to be underway for our 125th Anniversary Celebration; which probably will be held on a Sunday this late summer or fall. The event will probably be in three sections: 1. History of the Granges as Harmony Grange consists of Far Mill River, Trumbull and some members from Housatonic, association of the Granges with the surrounding towns and its history with the Connecticut State Grange, 2. Entertainment and 3. Food. The celebration will be an open meeting and neighbors will be invited. We will try to make the celebration of interest so that several persons now interested in the Grange and some neighbors will join the Grange.

At our February meeting, the membership voted to obtain estimates on a much needed/long overdue redecorating of the lower level of the Grange, including the dining hall, the kitchen, the stairways and the bathrooms. Also, we were glad to have long time Harmony Grange member and Monroe Historian, Edward Coffey, attend our meeting and give us invaluable insight and suggestions on a variety of topics relating to the history of our Grange and Monroe. Of special interest is the fact that Ed's wife Marsha ancestor was the first Master of Harmony Grange.

At our March meeting, a member of the Connecticut State Grange Membership Committee (postponed from February) is tentatively scheduled to discuss potential ways to increase our membership and also to let us know if we are eligible to possibly receive any grants to offset the high cost of making Harmony Grange hall handicap accessible.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Apr. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19: Penny Lane Players "Macbeth" Performance, for times, see below

Apr. 18: Junior Gardening Program, 10 A.M. – 12 Noon

Apr. 20: "Earth Day Arbor Day – Plant a Tree" Meeting, 7 P.M.

Apr. 25: "Flea Market for Hoarders" 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

February continued to be active on the Junior Grange front. The future Junior group produced cupcakes and heart-shaped candies on Valentine's Day. The cupcakes were sold and given out to Winter Farmer's Market attendees. At our regular meeting, we voted to approve having a Junior Grange. We are very close to having the minimum number! For the latest information, contact Cindy Wakeman at (203) 243-1887 or email: greenfieldhill133@gmail.com.

April promises to be active! On the second and third weekends, the Penny Lane Players will present Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7 P.M. (10th, 11th, 17th & 18th) and Sunday matinees at 2 P.M. (12th & 19th). Midday on the 18th, from 10 A.M. to 12 Noon, the Juniors will be involved with starting a gardening project. Our regular meeting will focus on planting of trees and respect for nature and the environment. On Saturday the 25th, we will have a Flea Market for Hoarders, which will run from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Tables for vendors/sellers will be \$15, call Steve at (203) 367-4373 for details. Have a great Grange month!

All of our Grange friends are welcome at our meetings and activities!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Apr. 14: Grange Green Program 7:30, Baking

Contest

May 12: Camp Berger/ Open House, 7:30 P.M.

May 29, 30 & 31: 5th Annual Community-Wide Tag Sale, Hours 10 to 4

You might say that we Grangers eat rather well. We do! In the past few months we have downed fish soup (caught off Montauk), minestrone soup, chili, pizza, cakes, pies, marshmallows, and no end of potato chips. Our Barn Dance and dinner had over 100 in attendance, and we "netted" about \$200 after expenses. It was suggested that our next fundraiser might be a "Farm to Fork" event. As we have already pointed out, we Grangers eat well.

At this writing the St. Patrick's Day Celebration is about to happen and the Baking Contest will take place next month. Remember, the contest is open to Grange members, children and grandchildren of members. The recipe can be obtained from any member of the CWA, along with directions for entering.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

April 16: Everything you need to know about Composting

May 7: Cardiac Health with guest speaker (re-scheduled event)

May 21: TBA

June 4: Healthy Living and Healthy Eating with Nutrition Guidelines

Aug. 30: 83rd Agricultural Fair

We draped our charter in memory of Joyce Carvutto, GS who passed away in early January. Many thanks to Bil Mikulewicz who gave a wonderful and informative presentation on raising backyard chickens. Bil's talk attracted a crowd of 38 persons, which is the largest gathering we have had for any meeting night program in recent years. There will be several families in the area beginning their journey with backyard chickens this spring as a result of Bil's talk. A very interesting program on beekeeping was presented to a small but attentive audience; where attendees learned about the equipment used in apiculture, and the agricultural benefits that bees provide.

Our rescheduled program on Cardiac Health will take place on May 7th with guest speaker Nancy Capelle, a cardiac arrest survivor. This is a program of great interest to young

and old.

As a result of our Cheesemaking and Backyard Chicken programs, we are delighted to warmly welcome three new members to our Grange: Gena and Michael Greer, and Pamela Lillis.

Our program series theme this year is Healthy Living, and we are presenting informative seminars to aid Grangers and friends to make healthy choices in the foods we eat, how to

ensure our own personal health and well-being, how to provide for others, and ways to relax.

Ideas are starting percolate regarding our 83rd Agricultural Fair set for August 30th. Please circle the date on your calendar to come visit our fair; it is one of the nicest little fairs to be seen!

Please note our meeting schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- *won't you join us?*



Did you know?

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

The CT State Grange, and in particular the Public Relations Committee, offers a number of digital resources to Connecticut Granges and their members.

Here's just a few:

- Did You Know... that past issues of the Connecticut Granger are available in digital form online? Issues are made available for download as PDF files on the CT Granger section of the CT State Grange Website (<http://www.ctstategrange.org/grangerdownloads.asp>) a couple of weeks after the current issue has been mailed. This service has been offered since 2008, and now includes older archival issues as well, dating back to the very first issue of the CT Granger!

- Did You Know... that past Master's Addresses are available on the CT State Grange website? Complete versions of past Master's Address are available dating back to 1998 by following this link <http://www.ctstategrange.org/MastersAddress.asp>, and then selecting the year from the dropdown box.

- Did You Know... that Resolutions and their results as acted upon at the CT State Grange Annual Session are available online, dating back to 2003? Follow this link <http://www.ctstategrange.org/Resolutions.asp>, and then select the year from the dropdown menu.

- Did You Know... that the CT State Grange website has a list of all the Past State Masters/Presidents, with photos of all but three, dating back to Harvey Goddard, the first Master of the CT State Grange in 1875? Visit <http://www.ctstategrange.org/paststatemasters.asp#> to view the list - and each photo is clickable to a larger image too!

- Did You Know... that all of the Lecturer's Department newsletters dating back to 2009 are available for download as PDF files on the Lecturer's section of the CT State Grange Website (<http://www.ctstategrange.org/LecturersTips.asp>)? This newsletter is a great resource for Granges in planning programs for the meetings.

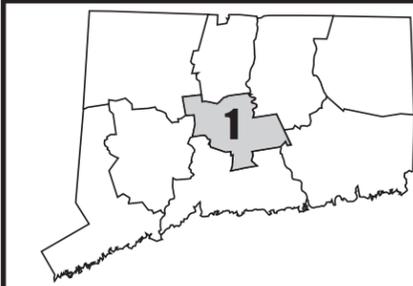
- Did You Know... that there are over 500 forms, flyers, promotional materials, booklets, resources and more available as digital downloads from the Downloads page on the CT State Grange Website? From the latest Executive Committee Form to Blue Books, Journals of Proceedings and Legislative Handbooks, to promotional posters and much, much more are all available for download. Visit this link - <http://www.ctstategrange.org/downloads.asp> - then select a category from the drop down menu to view all of the different sections of downloads available.

- Did You Know... that the Public Relations Committee offers custom graphic design and printing services to all Connecticut Granges in black/white and color at low costs and quick turn-around times? Custom Brochures, Flyers, Posters, Banners and Signs and much more are available! Contact Terri or Bob for the details!

- Did You Know... that photography and videography services are available from the Public Relations Committee for awards nights, special meetings, programs and events at your Grange? All we ask is that you give us plenty of advance notice to ensure we can fulfill your needs.

These are just a few of the many resources available - and the list is continually growing! Contact any member of the committee, or e-mail us at information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org for more information.

Central Pomona No. 1



- Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 10: Easter Art

Apr. 24: April Showers Music

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: M. Harrison

Hello Grangers,

As I write this message it is snowing AGAIN, I'm sure that I'm not alone when I say I've had it with Winter. Hal Borlan is known for his quote: "No Winter lasts forever; No Spring skips its turn", I do want to believe Mr. Borlan.

I am looking at my gardening newsletter & seed catalogs for signs that Spring will arrive. It is difficult to believe that our local Daffodil Fest will be next month.

I would like to remind our fellow Grangers that the Meriden Grange is having a Teddy Bear Drive to benefit S.A.F.E. We are collecting new or gently used teddies and other stuffed animals for an organization who gives the animals to first responders for children at risk. Please no batteries, rips, stains, or smells. We will be celebrating our Anniversary this month & would like to have the bears by March 27th.

As March returns so do our suppers, please check our Facebook page for dates & menu. As always our dinner is all you care to eat, so come hungry. Please include our Grange member Daine Clark in your thoughts & prayers as she has some medical concerns at this time.

Is your Grange hall busy?

Is Your Grange Hall busy?

What do people think as they drive by your Grange hall day after day and week after week? What do they see? We are sharing a provocative article from the Oregon State Grange Bulletin by Sister Pat Heard, Community Service Involvement Director for the Oregon State Grange.

Pat put into words one of the things all Granges need to understand. We have to make our meeting places and Grange Halls inviting in order to attract new members. So, with her permission, I'm sharing this message.

Nothing Ever Happens...

In that old building over there I have been driving by for years and rarely do I see a car. It's got a sign out front that says Grange and a number. Somebody mows the lawn, somebody paints it. But other than that the parking lot is empty day after day. It's a little creepy, it almost looks abandoned. It's not for sale, there's no sign. Saw a few cars there sometime last summer but other than that the parking lot is empty nearly all of the time.

Is this what you want people thinking about your Grange? Is it always empty except for on meeting nights?

It has long been one of those aphorisms that you can always tell if a restaurant is good because of the number of cars in the parking lot. People look at an empty parking lot and think "nothing ever happens there"; so if people are looking for a place to hold a community event they

think "people don't know where this is or maybe it's unpleasant inside, or it must be pretty small or even that it is not available at all."

Work to change that perception. Start by hosting events that won't cost much. Host a candidate forum. Serve coffee and drinks and put out a donation can. Host a Boy Scout or Girl Scout Troop. Host a 4-H club. Ask the fire department or the Marines to use your Grange as a collection point for a toy or school supply drive. Host swap meets, put on a play, or a music night to raise money for charity. Just make yourself visible.

Advertise, advertise, advertise. If your Grange has a reader board, use it. Put up flyers all over town, the café, the store, the school churches and the library. Most members can find at least two places to post it. Send it to your non-Grange friends on Facebook. Pass it out at community events you are already hosting. And if you have access to radio, TV and newspapers you can usually get it onto the community event pages for free. Make sure your number and Grange name are highly visible both on the sign out front and on any advertising you do.

But you say, we have tried all these things and nobody comes. Well keep trying. Remember that empty parking lot? The more things people see going on, the more people will think that the things going on are worthwhile, and exciting... and that includes joining the Grange.

Experiment Station Annual Mtg.

NEW HAVEN, CT - Andreadis, director of new board members. The annual meeting of CAES, will introduce new Attendees will have the opportunity to join ESA and to sign up for tours of The Experiment Station's New Haven facility.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, like The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station or Experiment Station Associates on Facebook or go to www.ct.gov/caes.

There will be a brief meeting of ESA to elect

CFT plans Spring Hoedown!

Send winter packing at our Spring Hoedown! Please join us for an evening of food, fun, drinks and dancing. Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Road, Farmington, Connecticut, Saturday, April 18 from 5-9 P.M.

Space is limited and we encourage you to place your ticket order early. General ticket price: \$75 per person. Please ask about sponsorship opportunities. Online ticket sales at: www.ctfarmland.org.

For more information, please contact April Moon at 860-247-0202, ext. 223.

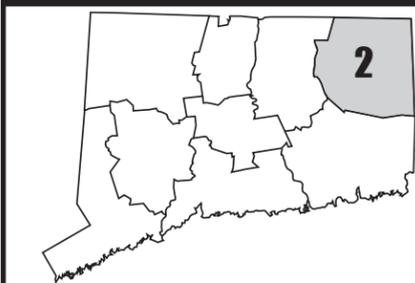
Connecticut Farmland Trust is the state's only private, non-profit 501(c)(3) statewide agricultural land trust dedicated to conserving Connecticut's working lands. We protect farmland by acquiring agricultural conservation easements, and provide technical expertise to assist land trusts, municipalities, and state agencies in protecting agricultural land.

We Miss You!



Reporting to the Connecticut Granger is easy! Just write a short description of what's happened during the last month at your Grange and/or a listing of what's coming up on your Grange's calendar in the coming month. Email your report to: Granger@CTStateGrange.org. Snail mail your report to: CT Granger, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033. It's easy, it's fun and WE MISS YOU!

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- ✓ Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

MISSION STATEMENT

Quinebaug Pomona supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: *Elsie Johnson*
Apr. 8: CWA Program – Ref. All
Apr. 22: Potluck, 6 P.M.
May 13: Remember Mom – Memorial – Deaf, Ref. All

Hey some better weather – and sunshine!! Good weather for tapping trees for maple syrup. Birds are happier too, they sure have been working their feeders. As for the snow! It sure is not one that everyone will forget. The roads, now that is another problem. Garages will have plenty of repair work. With all the seed catalogs that have come in- how will gardens be this year? Although I've started a few tomato seeds. There's always hope.

Wood piles are gone- snow piles still there! I've made and eaten a lot of soup this winter. We draped the charter for Beatrice Buell last night.

Our meeting nite time is at 7 P.M. Happy birthday to all!

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: *Sue Gray*
Mon., Apr. 6: Richmond brings a fun program
Fri., Apr. 17: Ekonk takes program "What's Cookin'" to Richmond
Sat., Apr. 18: Square Dance 7:30 -Joe LoPresti caller
Sat., Apr. 25: Roast Pork Supper 5pm- Benefit Sterling Family Day
Sat., May 16: Roast Beef Supper 5pm

Carly Sebastian has done an exemplary job as Chaplain protem while Paulette Craig has been soaking up Florida's sunshine. By this reading, all second graders at Sterling Community School will have their very own book (from our Grange) in celebration of Dr. Seuss week! We catered a roast beef luncheon for V-Town AG--farmers are hearty eaters! The Committee of Link Cooper, David Griffiths and Jody Cameron will again head up the 2015 Plainfield

Relay for Life Grange food booth, providing all food for the walkers raising money for Cancer. This will be May 30th and 31st. We voted to allow the Killingly High School Alumni have breakfasts at our Grange hall to raise money for their Scholarship programs. We continue taking boxes of non-perishables to Sterling families in need. Special thanks to G.S. Granger, Chuck Thurlow, for his outstanding generosity and to Russell Gray, who delivers the boxes in the name of the Grange. Visit us anytime!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: *Glenna Bruno*
Apr. 4: 125th Anniversary (to be celebrated on Sunday, Apr. 19th)
Apr. 20: TBA- probably detail of the 125th Anniv. Party
May 4: Memorial Tribute Regular meeting – our St. Pauly Clothes Collection is doing well and we receive a goodly check from them. Not a lot of effort for the returns. A successful spaghetti supper was held on Sat., Feb. 28 and a good crowd for the bluegrass concert later that evening. Upcoming breakfast on Sat., Mar. 7th. These seem to be popular now that people know about them.

Apr. 19th- will be our 125th anniversary party and our regular meeting on Apr. 20. This is when all of the details of the party will be discussed. Our inspection will be in April as well.

We will have a tag sale on May 9- or white elephant sale—whatever people call them. Donations for sale will be accepted on the 5th, 6th, or 7th at the Grange Hall and some members of the Grange will be there to help.

In the coming summer activities, the Grange will be participating in the Tomato Festival usually held in Davis Park in Danielson. Look for ads in the local paper. The Grangers enjoyed this

activity as it was a lot of fun. You might get to meet a favorite politician.

If all this snow starts to melt at once make sure you have your life jacket ready. Join us for our 125th anniversary celebration on Sunday, April 19th from

2-4 P.M. Entertainment, refreshments, fellowship. It's a party. Let's celebrate!!

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: *Gloria John*
Apr. 14: Agriculture
Apr. 28: Inspection

We will be meeting twice a month in April. We hope by then we will be snow free. Come join us at our Ham and Bean Supper on May 16th. We serve all kinds of pies.



Hello Grange Friends!

I ended the month of February at the National Grange Masters' Conference held in Illinois. It was nice to see all of my Grange Herd friends... and it snowed while we were there. A fun mini-vacation with lots of good information shared.

I visited Southington Grange on March 9th. They are a great group of people! I love meeting new Grange friends.

On March 21st, East Central Pomona hosted a Degree Day. Despite the snow, there was a good turnout and they did a fine job on the Degrees. We even signed a get well soon card for Kay Ruff. I hope she will be back to Grange meetings soon! We enjoyed a fabulous Harvest Dinner too! I encourage everyone to experience the Degrees whenever they can - they are beautiful!

If you have minute, check out my Facebook page to see all my latest travels, and while there, please take a minute to click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Be sure to say Hello if you see me around the State!



Meriden Grange #29



Maryanne Harrison brought in some Teddy Bears to share at the March 13 meeting of Meriden Grange No. 29.

did u know?



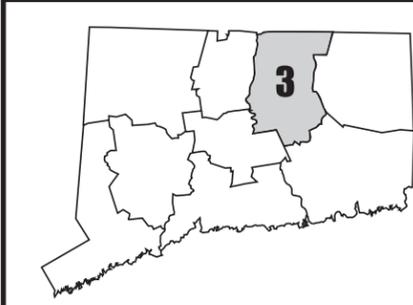
AG FACT:

Hawaii is the only U.S. state to grow coffee beans. The Kona region of the Big Island is home to 650-700 coffee farms alone and produces 3 million pounds of coffee each year. (Source: goodhousekeeping.com).

Learn more facts like these by friending the State Grange on Facebook and following us on Twitter.

New Ag Facts are posted each and every day!

East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- Granby No. 5
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151
- Simsbury No. 197

MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

Apr. 11: Fifth Degree, 5:00 Meeting, 6:00 Potluck, 7:00 Degree; Host members from Noriwich, Lyme, Simsbury

This will be our inspection so all attend and have a great time. We did a Degree Day on March 21 with success. All had a good time and we thank all that helped out and came. All the snow is gone and we are cleaning up the grounds that the snow plow disturbed. See you there.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

Apr. 11: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party – 7 P.M.

May 2: Semi-Annual Food & Tag Sale – 9 A.M. to 12 P.M.

May 7: Meeting, 7:30 P.M. Skit & Memorial Service (Inspection)

May 9: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.

As I am writing this article it is February 22 and we just had snow and then rain overnight and that STUFF is heavy to move. I have been out there for one hour and must go out again in maybe 2 hours and do some more. I hope by April 2 all these snow piles in my yard will be just a memory. But I doubt it.

Our April 2 meeting is entitled Eggs and Bunnies. That tells me Easter is almost here. The CWA Baking Contest will be judged that evening. I hope a few members have been trying the recipe. I have tried it twice. (I am not sure that I will be entering the contest as I will still be recovering from a total knee replacement, surgery is March 11th). It will also be the Lecturer's Skit Contest Night. I hope the Grommecks will be back from Florida and Taffy from Vermont. Otherwise someone else will have to jump in to cover the

refreshments. April 11th and May 9th we have card parties scheduled. I hope we have an exceptional turnout as we had to cancel the February one. WE NEED the INCOME.

Our May 7 meeting is Skit and Memorial Service. Traditionally the Graces prepare the Memorial Program. It is also our inspection evening. We will be inspected by Deputy Cindy Charbonneau from Meriden Grange. Welcome Cindy.

May 2nd is our Semi-Annual Food and Tag Sale from 9 to 12. This is a very "Special and Important" fundraiser for us. We need everyone's support for this event in one way or another. If you cannot bake something for the sale a cash donation is always welcome. I thank everyone for their past support. It has been greatly appreciated. Hopefully you can make a meeting. We would enjoy seeing you.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Apr. 3: Chicks and Hens – CWA Bake-Off

Vernon had a great time visiting with our neighbors at Manchester Grange last month. We did a Hobo Night and wandered our way over with sacks on our backs and a program in hand. They will be coming to Vernon to do our program in June. Our April meeting will be just before Easter and on Chickens and Home.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Apr. 16: "April Fools" – Ref. Ted Beebe

We survived another winter that is in the record books. Our old building withstood the 4 feet of snow on the roof and the large snow banks on the front and side lawns (as high as the windows). Our plans are

to cut down some trees and to take back the backyard to open up the outside and repair the inside of the hall to make it more appealing and pleasant for our friends and other groups.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

We have been busy with our monthly pancake breakfasts the first Saturday of each month thru May. It has been a great opportunity to share a nice meal and cup of coffee with our neighbors and fellow grangers. Also, opening our grange hall up to the community with our monthly open houses discussing seed catalogs, new varieties of flowers and veggies, making countertop greenhouses and dreaming of when the snow will melt and our gardens can be tended to. Our snowbirds should be flying home soon. And we invite all to our western night with the Yankee Blue Grass Jammers! Happy Spring!

On Saturday, April 4th, the Hillstown Grange will be holding a Pancake Breakfast from 8:30am to 11am. Take a break from the winter blahs and come relax and enjoy pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$5; children under 12 just \$3.

Our free seed collection will be available to who ever wants to try garden or plant something different this year. While supplies last so come early.

For more information call Frank at 860-690-2845 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Apr. 11: Know Your Ritual – Ref. Denise and Charlene

May 9: Inspection – Honoring Mom, bring a photo-baking & needlework contests – Ref. Judy & Elaine

Our February meeting managed to get squeezed in between snowstorms and we saw photos of baby Sawyer Percoski. Congratulations to Jim and Amanda. We signed many Valentines to be distributed to an area Nursing Home and discussed how to write a resolution. This month will bring a ritual challenge.



Epicurious has a wonderful recipe for Easter Bread. This whimsical bread is traditionally served at Italian and Greek Easter celebrations, though many Eastern European countries also claim it as their own. You can also dye the eggs for a more festive look.

Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup whole milk
- 5 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 1-3/4 teaspoons active dry yeast (from one 1/4-ounce envelope)
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 2-3/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, cut into 1" pieces, room temperature, plus 1/2 tablespoon, melted

Also:

- 6-7 large eggs
- Food coloring (optional)
- All-purpose flour (for dusting)

Directions:

Heat milk in a small saucepan over medium heat or in a microwave until an instant-read thermometer registers 110°F-115°F. Transfer milk to a 2-cup measuring cup; stir in 1 tablespoon sugar. Sprinkle yeast over milk and whisk to blend. Let sit until yeast is foamy, about 5 minutes. Add eggs; whisk until smooth.

Combine remaining 4 tablespoons sugar, flour, and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook. Add milk mixture. With mixer running, add 1/2 cup room-temperature butter, 1 piece at a time, blending well between additions. Mix on medium speed for 1 minute. Knead on medium-high speed until dough is soft and silky, about 5 minutes.

Brush a medium bowl with some melted butter; place dough in bowl. Brush top of dough with remaining melted butter; cover with plastic wrap.

DO AHEAD: Can be made 1 day ahead. Cover with plastic; chill.

Let dough rise in a warm, draft-free area until doubled in size, 1-1 1/2 hours (or 2-2 1/2 hours if dough has been refrigerated).

Place 5 or 6 eggs in a medium pot. Pour in cold water to cover by 1" and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Remove from heat, cover pot, and let stand for 10 minutes. Transfer eggs to a medium bowl of ice water; let cool completely.

If desired, color eggs according to food-coloring package directions. Transfer eggs to paper towels to dry.

DO AHEAD: Eggs can be dyed up to 1 week ahead. Cover and chill.

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Punch down dough. Divide into 3 equal pieces. With lightly floured hands, roll each piece on a lightly floured surface into a 16"-long rope with tapered ends. (If dough begins to bounce back, cover with a kitchen towel and let rest for 10 minutes to allow dough to relax.)

Arrange ropes side by side lengthwise on prepared sheet. Pinch top ends together. Braid dough. Pinch bottom ends together to secure (braided loaf will be about 12" long). Tuck dyed eggs between braids, spacing evenly. Loosely cover with plastic wrap or a kitchen towel. Let rise in a warm, draft-free area until puffed but not doubled in size, 45-50 minutes. Arrange a rack in middle of oven; preheat to 375°F. Whisk remaining egg with 2 teaspoons warm water in a small bowl. Avoiding dyed eggs, brush dough all over with egg wash. Bake until bread is golden and an instant-read thermometer inserted into center of loaf registers 190°F, 20-25 minutes. Let cool on a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

DO AHEAD: Can be made 8 hours ahead. Let cool completely and store airtight at room temperature.

Source: <http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/easter-bread-395055>

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.



On the March photo, we heard from Barbara Gagnon. She believes the woman pictured is Ruth Peck. We heard from Janet Haller as well, who thinks that the man presenting the award is Carlton Platt, and that it was a 50-year Golden Sheaf presentation. We also heard from Barbara Stewart, who thinks the couple pictured is King and Betty Beecher.

On the February photo, we heard from Janet Haller who believes the man seated in the center is Kermit Richardson. She thinks the photo may have been taken when National Grange was in Hartford in 1972.

Killingly Farm Market

Scenes from the monthly Killingly Grange Winter Farmer's Markets held at the Grange Hall in S. Killingly.



Granger Shout Out



State Sen. Mae Flexer (Ekonk Granger) is busy meeting constituents!



Chuck Thurlow (Ekonk): thanks for the BAGS on non-perishables donated for the needy!



From Cannon Grange, a shout-out to Bil Mikulewicz for a delightful presentation on raising backyard chickens: everything from egg to chicken.



Congratulations to Ekonk's Charles & Jai Izzarelli: newly adopted daughter Olivia(3) and baby, Grayson Hope, born Jan. 29th!

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Granger@CTStateGrange.org

They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

Proclamation – April 2015 as Grange Month

“Grange Hands are joined together for Success”

WHEREAS for 148 years, the Grange has sought to advance the interest of farmers, rural Americans and our nation's families through the simple, but powerful idea that “Community is the Foundation of Happiness” and

WHEREAS the service through educational efforts of the Grange and its members have aided innumerable people, both in and out of the Order, to reach their full potential as leaders, and

WHEREAS the service of non-partisan legislative advocacy of the Grange through the unified efforts of its membership have immeasurably benefited local communities and our nation as a whole, and

WHEREAS the Grange increases the influence of each of its members by giving them the opportunity to serve their community through programs that make a difference in the lives of children, youth, and our neighbors in need of assistance, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that April 2015 be proclaimed at National Grange Month so that all Grange members may proudly exemplify our principles of service and commitment to our families, homes, farms, communities and nation both today and in the future.



Junior Grange

Michelle DeDominicis, State Jr. Director

I hope the snow and cold weather hasn't kept too many Juniors inside and not enjoying the fun mother nature provides. Craft projects are a fun way to fill our snow days when school has been canceled or delayed. Soon enough we will be seeing the flowers burst from beneath the frozen grounds. And we hope our Juniors will be the most welcome growth in our Granges.

The Junior +1 Program

The +1 Program of the Junior Grange is the individual membership program for Junior Grange-age children within the Subordinate Grange. There have been many questions regarding how to implement this program. The biggest being how to obligate the children without a chartered Junior Grange already in place.

That question was answered during the 148th Annual Session of the National Grange held in Sandusky, Ohio. During the Friday morning session, the National Junior Grange Ambassadors led a presentation to show how a Subordinate Grange Master obligates an individual Junior Grange candidate. Patrick Lanstrum, 2014 National Junior Ambassador from Ohio was the Master. Alexis Kudsk, 2014 National Junior Grange Ambassador from Washington was the Lady Assistant Steward. They were helped by Michael Bethany, Florida, as Assistant Steward. Marching Candidates were Cassidy Renken and Kathryn Renken from Illinois.

Please see the new Junior Grange Leaders Guidebook which explains the full procedure and contains the new obligation ceremony for the National Junior Grange 1+ Program.



CAMP BERGER

**ADVENTURE - FUN
FRIENDSHIP - DISCOVERY**

Celebrating our 60th Year
Camp Berger is a
Co-Educational Overnight
Camp for Ages 8-16

Seven Weekly Sessions:

June 28-July 4, July 5-11

July 12-18, July 19-25

July 26-Aug 1, Aug 2-8, Aug 9-15

Camp Tuition \$400 Per Week

CIT Program for Ages 15-17

PROGRAMS:

Weekly Themes, Forest Golf
Archery, Frisbee Golf, Sailing
Canoeing, Arts & Crafts, Rocketry
Fishing, Orienteering, Geo Caching
Swimming, Volleyball, Basketball
Theatre, Rafting, Color Wars, Ping Pong
Yoga, Badminton, Ga-ga Ball, 4-Square
Hiking, Dodgeball, Rowing and More

**Located on Scenic Park Pond in
Winchester Center, Connecticut. Camp
Berger is large enough to ensure a fun filled
summer yet small enough, 120 campers per
session, to give individual attention. Please
feel free to call or email with any questions.**

Lyn & Chris Kimberly Directors

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CampBerger@gmail.com

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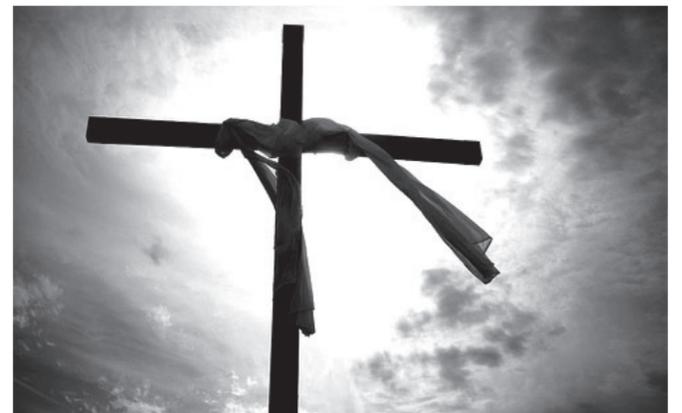


In Memoriam

Wayne Plunske	Wallingford #33
Beatrice Buell, G.S.	Wolf Den #61
Joanne Riddell	Colchester #78
Frederick Falk, G.S.	Beacon #118
Esther Hollister, G.S.	Bethlehem #121
Malinda M. Mable, G.S.	Bethlehem #121
Lillian Micheloff	Lyme #147
Genevive Powaleny, G.S.	Lyme #147
Joyce Cowham Carvutto, G.S.	Cannon #152

Please keep us notified of deceased members.
Use the email or the regular mailing address listed
in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

State Chaplain



Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain

There are over 30 million churches in the world. This Easter Sunday there will be an Easter sermon in most of them. Like snow flakes, chances are that no two of them will be exactly alike. Yet their essential message will be the same: Christ is risen from the dead. This one tenet is what separates Christianity from all of the other religious beliefs in the world. Why is this one Christian belief so important? Because it means that Christ has overcome death, not just for himself, but for all humanity.

To quote St. Paul: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive".

We affirm this also in the Grange ceremony for draping the charter. Ceres says: "...proving the trial of our Faith, in the certainty of the resurrection and the immortality of the soul. To those who look forward to a reunion in another and a brighter world, where there will never more be separation nor pain, the experience of death is shorn of its sting and life's eventide becomes more delightful than the morning..."

Those who know me well know that I don't usually go in for poetry. But a poem by John Donne expresses the significance of this better than anything I could compose on my own.

Holy Sonnets: Death, be not proud

By John Donne

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must
flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate
men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.