



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 52, No. 4

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

JANUARY 2012

Do you tweet, blog or Facebook?



Jody A. Cameron
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

It was my intention to quote parts of our Obligations many of us took at the altar of our Grange. For ha ha's I went on line to look up the obligation of the Fourth Degree, and to my, I guess not so surprise, not only found the obligation, but the entire Degree work, for all 5 Degrees. So, my focus immediately changed.

WOW, the internet, what an amazing, wondrous and dangerous tool.

We as an organization benefit greatly from the internet through the many avenues we can take to get our message out to the public. Our State Grange Public Relations

Department has put together numerous tools to help your Grange use all aspects of the media to promote your Grange and its activities. Has your Grange reviewed the material sent to you by them? Does your Grange have a Facebook page? How about your own website? Do you tweet or blog? What, too technical for you? That's OK, for now. This is where every Grange needs to be headed with public relations programs. After all the internet is where the majority of today's population gets their news and information. For now though, we each must take on the task of promoting our Grange in everything we do. Do you have a Grange pin, Grange shirt, sweatshirt or coat? Do you tell people you belong to the Grange? When you volunteer do you do it in the name of your Grange? When you hold public events, do you inform the public not only about the Grange, but do you also tell them what your Grange

does for the community and its citizens? The answer here REALLY needs to be yes.

Our Granges image and story is dictated us. We control what is written on the internet or reported to the media. We must always maintain a positive image in our communities. We need to change how the question is asked "What is the Grange?" from "what is that building?" to, "How can I learn more about you organization?"

Do not hesitate to call on the State Grange Public Relations Team for assistance that is what they and all State Grange Committees are there for, you the members and individual Granges; to advance your organization the unimaginable heights.

The internet, what an amazing, wondrous and dangerous tool, let's use the knowledge of the State Grange and your members to make sure it is always an amazing, wondrous tool.

The Grange then and now



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Wow! It's 2012. It doesn't seem possible. Let's make this year a special one for our Granges.

Along this line let's take a look at our winning Essay from last year...

"The Grange Then and Now"

by Robert Buck

In the past, you went to Grange because it was where the social life in town occurred: dinner, dances, and entertaining programs galore. There was no problem finding people to do Grange work.

Nowadays, with all the competition, we must find a way to be relevant. Use of technology will keep us modern. Networking with other groups will help us

serve our communities. No one else offers what we do: a little tradition, friendship, service—much of the old with a new twist.

Some change, but much the same—we need to operate differently to stay relevant!

~~~

Think about these words

Continued on page 2

## Cannon Grange honored by EPA



(l-r) Janet Bowen from US EPA, Don Offinger, President of Cannon Grange and Daniel Esty, Commissioner CT DEEP

Terri Fassio, CSG Public Relations Co-Director

Cannon Grange of Wilton, Connecticut has been nationally recognized as a "2011 WasteWise Partner of the Year" award-winner by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for outstanding achievements in recycling and resource management.

The EPA initiated the WasteWise program in 1995 as a voluntary nationwide partnership program that helps businesses reduce their environmental impact and find cost savings through self-chosen, innovative waste reduction and recycling activities.

Cannon Grange joined the WasteWise effort in April, 2009 in the non-profit category, pledging to find ways to reduce its solid waste. Cannon Grange President Don Offinger explains why the Grange decided to participate in the program. "Nearly all wastes that we generated from our meetings and special events went into the garbage; admittedly doing a rather poor job of 'blue-box' recycling."

According to Offinger, "The EPA WasteWise program requires each of the partners, upon joining, to conduct a baseline audit of any recycling efforts and of course what goes into the trash. This was done, and the baseline results showed that we had some significant opportunities to direct materials towards recycling and change some of our habits and behaviors. The results that followed showed that we really didn't generate that much trash after all! The idea was pitched at one of our business meetings, and we voted to "go for it" and to start tracking our results."

Offinger accepted the national award at a recent ceremony held at the Connecticut DEEP Headquarters

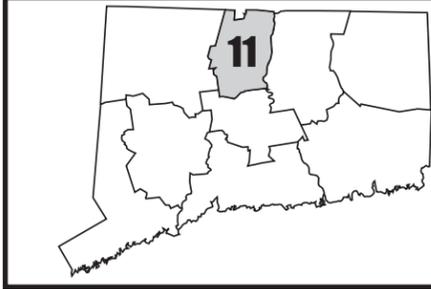
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Deadline for the FEBRUARY 2012 issue of the Connecticut Granger: JANUARY 5.

# Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



- ✓ Granby No. 5
- Tunxis No. 13
- Cawasa No. 34
- Simsbury No. 197
- Cherry Brook No. 210

## GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Janet Bumstead

The usual group met on the 4th Saturday of the month for an evening of "setback." It's always an enjoyable evening and everyone is welcome to attend. A square dance series was held the 4th Friday of each month thru October. It will resume again in January. Several Grange members did volunteer work at the Granby Blood Drive. They registered donors and served drinks and snacks. On 11/11/11 a combination Veterans/Thanksgiving potluck dinner was

attended by 32 members, family, and friends. It was delicious dinner and a lovely ceremony remembering our vets. Several members attended the Conn. Assoc. of Fairs annual dinner in Terryville, CT. Grange member Carol Innes placed 3rd in the apple pie baking contest. December will feature a Christmas potluck dinner and annual party for members, family, and friends. Food galore, tree decorating, singing Christmas Carols, and a friendly sociable time. The January will feature planning for the Leap Year ahead.

# State Lecturer

Continued from page one...

and let's formulate a plan of action for our Granges.

I have had some questions about the "A Number" Contest for this year. This should be any number about something that happened in your hall, or meeting place, that is memorable or something that you can visualize happening in the future. It has nothing to do with the card company. Skits, recitations, tableaux, musical numbers and anything else you can think of that is appropriate for a Grange program qualifies. You are just marking a moment in time in your hall. Good luck.

Winter can be long and dreary especially for shut-ins and those in convalescent homes. Now would be a good time to start on your Auld Acquaintance project if you haven't already done so. How about some favors to brighten up their tables/trays. Have some talent? Most homes would love a short show for their residents. If there is only one or two of you, why not sit and visit or write letters for those who are unable to do so. Remember, this should be done in the name of your Grange. We do so much good in our communities, we need to start taking credit for our good works.

See you around the State... Let's hope the weather cooperates a little better this winter.

# Cannon Grange honored by EPA

Continued from page one...

in Hartford as part of the DEEP's GreenCircle Awards Ceremony. The EPA award was presented to Cannon Grange by Janet Bowen, New England WasteWise Coordinator from the EPA's Region 1 Office located in Boston, MA.

To date, there are over 1700 partner organizations participating in the WasteWise program in the United States.

Connecticut's Cannon Grange is the only Grange organization listed as a WasteWise partner, and one of only three New England organizations recognized in 2011. WasteWise incorporates the 3-Rs in the national program: reduce, re-use and recycle.

WasteWise participants are required to report on quantities of materials that have been recycled and re-used, materials that have prevented waste, and that have been purchased containing recycled content.

Upon becoming a WasteWise partner in 2009, Cannon Grange conducted a baseline garbage audit, identifying where opportunities and behavioral changes could be made to direct materials into recycling or reuse programs. At the start of 2009, all wastes were disposed as garbage. However, by the end of 2009 so many materials were consistently directed into recycling, and quantities tracked, that the annual diversion rate rose to 72%. By the end of 2010, the diversion rate increased to 77%.

Recycling is now part of the fabric at Cannon Grange, where typical materials from activities (e.g. dinners, meeting night refreshments, rentals, special events and the annual Agricultural Fair) are separated,

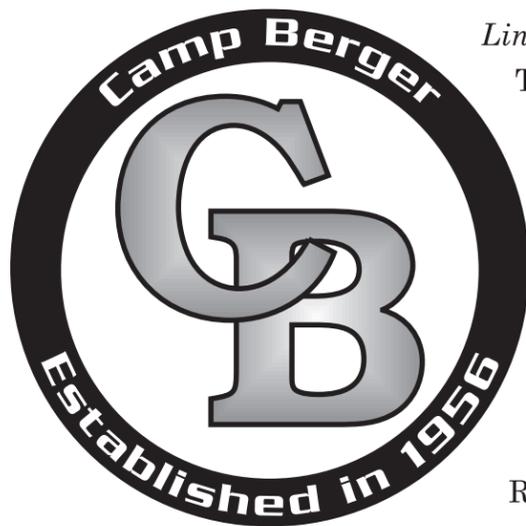


weighed, tracked, and recycled. These materials are the typical "blue-box" wastes such as glass, metal and plastic bottles and cans, and cardboard pizza, shipping and packaging boxes. In addition, Cannon Grange purchases materials with recycled content: paper goods for the restrooms, (35% post consumer content), all copy & printer paper and business envelopes (100% recycled content).

The annual Fair Book is printed on 100% recycled content paper, as are advertising posters. The wooden signs used by the Grange are recycled from previous projects and are re-painted each year. Cannon Grange stopped purchasing polystyrene cups, paper plates, bowls, and plastic cutlery, instead using china and silverware.

Looking ahead, Offinger is confident that Cannon Grange will continue to find additional opportunities to improve it's environmental footprint. "We are beginning to explore a very visible program at our annual Agricultural Fair with the use of biodegradable foodservice ware so that we can divert all food-related wastes from that large event into a composting program. We think we can make an impact by partnering with our members, our suppliers, and the attendees and visitors at our Fair. It will be exciting to plan and to watch unfold. I think we can make it happen!"

Cannon Grange No. 152 has been active in the local Wilton community since its founding in 1899. They meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00 PM, in its historic Grange Hall located at 25 Cannon Road, Wilton. For more information on Cannon Grange, please visit [www.CannonGrange.org](http://www.CannonGrange.org).



Linda Coad, Camp Berger Trustees

The CB Trustees will begin holding regular monthly meetings again in January. At that time the brochures should be made available. Please talk up the camp to as many people as possible. We have a wonderful property that so many people do not know exists. The programs for the kids are outstanding, and they have fun! We just need to get the word out. Remember it's your camp too.

**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!**

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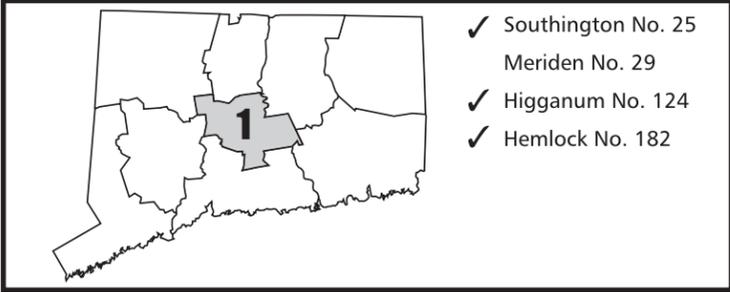
*Holiday Greetings!*

**Special Blessings in  
the New Year**  
from  
*Russell & Sue  
Gray*

**Happy New Year  
from**  
*Marion  
R. Emmons*

Our apologies as these greetings were omitted from the last issue.

## Central Pomona No. 1



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

### HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara R. Smith

Higganum Grange #124 held a potluck supper and then we went caroling to members' homes that are shut-ins. They were very appreciated. Our January meeting will consist of "reolutions." We wish everyone a very Happy

New Year!

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 13: Empty Pockets

Jan. 27: Omit (Unless first meeting of the month is canceled).

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

# Gentle reminders



**Joan Perry**  
Membership Director  
membership@ctstategrange.org

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I think that we have to work very hard to retain these new members that Granges are bringing into our organization. Not only do we have to listen to their ideas, we have to make sure that we do not become over critical of them. Some times we have to remember

that they many times learn by example. If they hold an office, such as an Assistant Steward, because they are the most mobile in a meeting, don't criticize their movements during a meeting. One thing, you are wrong to speak out during a meeting without being recognized and it embarrasses the person besides. Many new members, and some old members who may be new to the office, would rather not come than be critized all the time. Watch your tone of voice and your attitude when you speak. Don't make it a big issue. Accept the new ideas and let them try them but, remember to help them as much as you can. It's much nicer to be friends than to make your new members, and some old members, not want to be part of our organization. Think before you speak. We have a unique organization in that it spans many ages and we CAN work together, but we have to work at it. "Til next month, hope to see you around.

# Social Connection



**Joanne Cipriano**  
Social Connection Director  
social@ctstategrange.org

As we start the new year the Social Connection has 3 new activities planned for the year 2012 program. One that is already in progress is planning our State-wide tag sale to be held on Saturday - April 28th. The proceeds from this sale will be donated to the American Liver Foundation.

Excelsior Pomona has already voted to participate and will hold their sale at the Bethlehem Memorial Hall. This is the same hall that Bethlehem Grange meets in. Letters have been sent to each Pomona and we hope that each one will participate. Our committee looks forward to your reply.

We are still waiting to confirm dates and locations for our other two activities.

# Southington Grange is reinvigorated

by Kimberly Primicerio,  
Meriden Record-Journal

SOUTHINGTON - New membership at the Southington Grange has sparked new ideas and energy.

The Southington Grange #25 has been in existence for 126 years. Granges were established after the Civil War to help farmers and lobby on behalf of agriculture. When farming started to decline the group started concentrating more on its civic duties and the community during the 1960s.

But with new members and a willingness to bring back old traditions and pair them up with 21st century ideas, the Grange is ready to revitalize its organization.

Patty Boissonneault, a Southington resident and professional chef, joined the organization in September. Ten other members also signed up this year. Boissonneault is interested in sharing knowledge about locally grown food. It's not only healthy but it benefits local farmers and farmers markets.

Many of the Grange's 65 members no longer live in the state or are in poor health, Boissonneault said. The organization still follows rituals and traditions and its presence in the community is small.

"We're trying to infuse the Grange with more contemporary knowledge of farming," she said.

Southington resident Dennis Putala has been with the grange for the past 10 years. Putala enjoys plants, animals and gardens and when a friend asked him to join a decade ago he couldn't pass it up. Two months ago he became president of the organization. Enough people came to Putala and told him the organization

needed to get back on track. Members know him and believed he could lead, he said.

With the help of new members, four in their late 20s or 30s, Putala feels the grange is moving in the right direction. Plus having a society focused on eating fresh local foods and a first lady, Michelle Obama, who works in her own garden also helps, he said.

"At our last meeting we were brainstorming ideas for the grange and things to work on," he said.

Members are working on sprucing up the grange building at 200 Knowles Ave. Fresh paint will soon cover the walls of the facility.

"Members are very willing to help. They get excited," Boissonneault said. "Even if they don't have ideas, we need a pair of hands and energy."

More events are in the works. "Have Your Pet's Picture Taken with Santa" is scheduled for Dec. 11. Boissonneault said children can do crafts and Christmas trees will be for sale. When the spring comes the grange will bring back its plant and vegetable sales, Putala said.

Despite the new members, there are still not enough people to get everything done. "It's a hard thing to do," she said. "It'll take years, but I like it to be elevated to the status of UNICO."

Boissonneault said if the group can raise awareness, increase membership and encourage people to farm, garden and eat locally then they're doing their job.

Putala would also like to see the grange become handicapped accessible and a place where more people come for birthday parties, showers and other functions.

# Veterinarian offers tips to Grangers

by Patty Boissoneault,  
The Southington Citizen

Dr. Rodger Foster, a Plainville resident who practices veterinarian medicine at Southington Veterinary Associates, spoke in early December at the Southington Grange No. 25 about safety precautions for pet owners during the holidays.

He advised that the surprise of pets as gifts is not always a good idea. He suggested helping someone go pick out a pet, only if they decide they want one as a gift. This will ensure the recipient is willing to care for it.

Foster touched on what pets might inadvertently eat this holiday season. Pet owners should beware of forbidden foods (chocolate, table scraps), foreign bodies (tinsel) and plants (lilies).

"Cats do not have as many gastrointestinal issues as dogs," Foster said. "Their stomachs are not as sensitive as dogs."

Chocolate can have a toxic effect on dogs. Two chocolate bars can land a large Labrador retriever in the hospital with tremors and diarrhea due to a caffeine-

like chemical in the chocolate. Foster advised always keeping garbage cans and bags sealed, as spoiled food, or even high fat can cause pancreatitis in dogs. "Never give pork products to a dog," Foster said. Occasional lean beef or chicken is OK, he said.

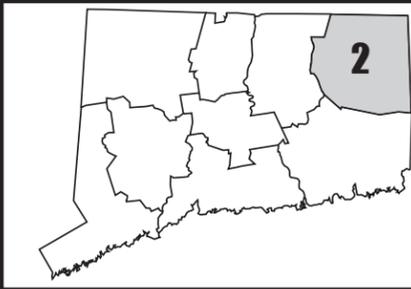
Cats have more issues with ingesting foreign bodies. Cats love to play with bits of tinsel from the Christmas tree. Once they swallow it, the tinsel can perforate their bowel.

Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous to animals, but lilies are "exceedingly toxic" according to Foster. Cats are more prone to eat them and can suffer kidney failure from just a small sprig.

With a houseful of holiday family and friends, pets may become stressed from all the commotion, Foster said. He suggested giving a mild veterinary sedative, rather than an anti-anxiety drug, which could take two to three weeks to take effect.

With these tips, animals and their owners can relax and enjoy the fun of this holiday season, he told the Grange crowd.

## Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- ✓ Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

### SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Jan. 18: Welcome 2012

We had a very successful Thanksgiving Pie Sale and will make pies for Christmas as well.

We had a float in the Putnam Holiday Dazzle Light Parade.

Several events were canceled due to bad weather.

We continue to meet on the Third Wednesday and also are working on getting the well completed.

### WOLF DEN GRANGE #62

Corr: Elsie M. Johnson

Jan. 11: "New Loves" at Eureka Grange Hall, 7:30 P.M.

I hope everyone has their snowplows and shovels and blowers up and ready for what Mother Nature will throw at us. Well, State Session is past and a busy year is before us. CWA has all kinds of needlework and contests to work on. Town elections over. Some new and some old.

Schools of Instruction are coming up. Dictionaries are being given out to school third graders. Our last Lecturer's program was a video of the Carter Farm Halloween display- over a thousand carved pumpkins in snow... a first snow in 35 years of their display. Tabs are still coming in for the Shriners, labels too. Be careful with using wood stoves.

Stay well and warm.

### EKONK GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Jan. 2: "Auld Lang Syne" meeting 7:30 pm

Jan. 27: "Viva Las Vegas"! annual family game night & auction 6:30pm

Feb. 6: "Love Story" meeting 7:30 pm

Happy New Year to all! Our energetic Youth Chairman, Katie Molodich was unable to attend our December meeting; she had surgery on both feet:

she did send a report with her mother, Betsy, that she can't wait for March when the 2012 Drill Team will begin rehearsals! It was at this meeting that State Overseer, Jeff Barnes and his wife, Debbie, State Grange Pomona, were our guests and presented our Grange with a lovely certificate from the National Grange for placing 3rd in the nation for Community Service and a check for \$200.00 to add to our treasury!

Russell Gray delivered boxes at Christmas time to elderly Sterling folks: much appreciated!

Our annual Holiday Bazaar was a great success with a hall full of vendors, great food in the kitchen and naturally, Santa, to thrill the children!

Mark your calendars for March 17th: Corn Beef & Cabbage Supper; March 23-30 & April 6th Chowder n' Clam cakes. All begin at 5 pm.

We will vote at the Jan. meeting concerning winter breakfasts.

The 10th annual Sterling Community Calendars are in the hands of Sterling families and Robert P. Jordan, 75 year Granger and Past Sterling First Selectman, is in the center of the collage this year!

We are taking orders for our homemade apple pies and apple crisps and sold several as of this writing. \$10.00 each. Orders taken by Sue Gray.

We are so proud of the accomplishments and talents of our Junior Grangers: a great group of terrific future leaders!

Scholarships (from Ekonk) were presented to: J. Allen Cameron, Sarah Cousens, Katie Hermonot, Colin Sebastian and Shelley St. Jean at the Christmas program. These outstanding Ekonk youth are all College students with excellent grades and

a little help seemed the right thing to do (donor anonymous-in the name of Ekonk Community Grange-so no money was taken from our treasury).

Spring will also find us visiting our good friends in Richmond, Rhode Island, taking them a program with the theme, "When I was President" and focusing on the 1920's!

Visit us on the hill anytime!

### ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Jan. 10: Youth Program

Jan. 24: Omit

We are donating 135 dictionaries to the third graders in 3 schools in Mansfield. They are Goodwin, Southeast and Vinton schools.

Alma Graham is still making pillowcases for "Limos for Kids". She would appreciate donations of material.

We are also making : Squares of Care" for children's blankets. The squares are 8"x 8" and are knitted or crocheted

We had a very successful Tag and Bake sale on Nov. 19th..

Our penny collection will be going to the Soup Kitchen in Willimantic

We are starting to work on our contests for the year.

We are meeting downstairs for the winter, That will save on our fuel bill. .

We hope everyone had a nice Holiday. Happy New Year.

# Wolf Den makes donation



John Carter (Left), Master of Wolf Den Grange No. 61 presents a donation on behalf of the members of the Grange to the Chief of the Pomfret Fire Department, Harley Hill.



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

### Proper Use of the Registered Trademark Symbol on the Grange Logo

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

We've all seen the Registered Trademark symbol on our favorite brands. It is the Circled "R" (®). The symbol is used to notate that the logo is a trademark that has been registered with a national trademark office.

The Grange Logo (the 7 sided emblem) is now required to have the Registered Trademark symbol used in all places the Logo is used.

We are in the process of updating all of our print materials, our websites, social media and more - basically everywhere the Grange Logo appears - so that it has the proper mark.

A disc will be mailed to all Officers, Committees, and Granges in Connecticut in January 2012 with the proper Grange Logos for use on all of their materials.

National Grange has informed us that the change must happen as soon as possible. We will be working with all of Connecticut's Granges, Officers and Committees to ensure that all instances of Logo usage are in compliance.

If you would like a file of the proper logo e-mailed to you prior to receiving the disc, please send your request via e-mail to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org) or to [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org).

We thank all of you in advance for your patience and cooperation as we undertake this monumental task.

### CORRECT



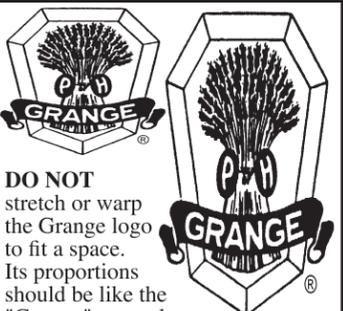
CORRECT  
Use of  
Registered  
Symbol

### INCORRECT



DO NOT  
USE the  
Trademark  
Symbol

### INCORRECT



DO NOT  
stretch or warp  
the Grange logo  
to fit a space.  
Its proportions  
should be like the  
"Correct" example.

## East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

### EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

*Corr: Noel Miller*

No meeting till March  
Happy New Years, Our meetings have grown with our friends from North Central Pomona #13 joining us. Our Pomona School of Instruction will be March 3 so says Deputy West Don Lanoue. so lets show him a full house like the last time. Plans for a new Quackers challenge is being worked should be announced at the March Meeting. Noel's fire department is building and new firehouse and Noel has gotten the elevator from the old station for free so plans are being madeto get a elevator in Goodwill grange hall, keep fingers cross.

Work on CWA project and Write resolutions during your winter rest see you in March

### GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

*Corr: Kathryn Ruff*

**Jan. 5:** New Year -New You, 7:30 p.m., Ref: Doris & Bob Nordstrom and F. Patrick Milne

**Jan. 14:** Monte-Carlo Whist Card Party; 7:00 p.m.

**Feb. 2:** Valentine Memories 7:30 p.m.; Ref: Mario & Jean Accornero, Jeannine Carini

The grange committees are beginning to announce the 2012 programs and projects. CWA Chairman, Jean Accornero is encouraging members to start working on a entry in the Needlework Contests. The subordinate judging for the Baking Contest will be at our April 5th meeting. Contact Jean for the recipe and give it a try.

Mario has been reminding members to keep a record of their volunteer hours and turn them in to him.

The Membership

Committee is still looking for a name or two from each of our members as a prospective member. We must all remember we were asked to join. Very few of us asked the grange to join. We need to increase our membership and only WE can JOINTLY do this. When we have 10 or more names I (Kay) will extend them an invitation to an Open House, and hopefully we can secure at least 6 new members.

Our fall season just seemed to fly by for me. Here I am writing the article for the January Granger. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are enjoying the New Year.

### MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

*Corr: Diane Small*

**IMPORTANT NEWS FOR EVERYONE!!**

Beginning immediately we will be meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. This became necessary because the church needed the space on Wednesdays. The start time for the new night is still 7:30 PM. If there should be any questions, please call either our Master of Secretary.

First on the agenda, Belated Happy Holidays to Everyone!!!!!!! As with many folks in the state, the Halloween snowstorm created a week or more of issues. My area was without power for more than a week, it sure was cold in the house. As good New Englanders, we are survivors.

Our meetings for January will Tues the 3rd and the 17th. Snowflakes are on the agenda for the 3rd. Somehow that seems appropriate. The 17th it appears is youth. I'd like to think that we are all

still youthful at heart.

Remember when being a kid was what is was all about. Feb 7th, Tues is Cabin Fever-CWA and Feb 21st is Presidents. Watch the February dates closely.

It is never too early to remind folks, when you are sitting warm and snugly in your favorite chair this winter and you are doing your crafts, make an extra or two for the Big E. It can't be expressed enough how the fairgoers look for the homemade goodies. If you have any questions about what might be needed, ask your CWA chairperson.

Wishing everyone a Great New Year.....Give someone a call, stop by for a cup of coffee, or just go out for lunch.

### TOLLAND GRANGE #51

*Corr: J. Jordan*

**Jan. 3:** The Grand Canyon

Tolland Grange will be visiting the Grand Canyon at its meeting this month. The group will meet at St. Matthews at the end of the Green in Tolland. Join us for the discussion. Hopefully we are all surviving the winter!!

### COVENTRY GRANGE #75

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**Jan. 5:** Winter

Happy New Years to all.

The last storms really did a lot of damage Coventry Grange had and tree lean into the back of the hall and had and large maple fall and missed the bathrooms by two feet. Noel cut the one off the roof and the rest is being taken for firewood. School of instruction is January 29th at Hillstown Grange at 2:00 pm hope all can attend. Hope you all had great holidays and the winter weather isn't a repeat of last year.

### HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

*Corr: Rita J. Schaefer*

**Jan. 12:** Weather Permitting

**Jan. 26:** Music in the Air

**Feb. 9:** Music in the Air

**Feb. 23:** Hearts & Flowers, Guest Speaker

Well, another year is here... 2012. I do hope it will be a better year. We don't need any more storms like we've had at the end of this year.

I guess the farmers don't know what to do this coming spring.

Our Grange is still being active. They have had their dinner but had to cancel their November Craft Fair. Plans are underway for a tag sale in the coming months.

We've lost another member, Sister Ruth

Hunter passed away this week. She was a long time Grange member.

I hope all had a happy holiday and look forward to a better year.

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**Jan. 14:** Photo Contest

Happy New Year to all. Let's make this the year we grow. Ask a friend to join.

This month come and show off your photos. Did you take some at Christmas? Or perhaps you have some of a parade or Grange event. Bring them all. There are five categories in the Lecturer's contest. America the beautiful, Animals, Grangers in Action, Family celebrations and Historic places or events. Bring them all.

When you think of items for the food shelf, think healthy. Rice, non-sweetened cereals, whole wheat pasta, and don't forget baby food. Nutrition is important.

Recipes for the cook book are coming in but we still need more. Bring them to Grange or email them to Dawn or Irene.

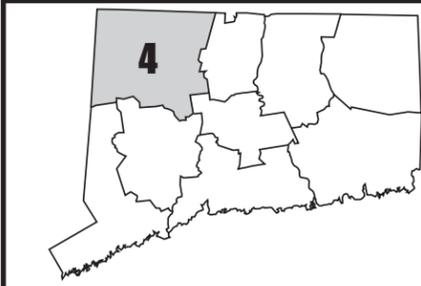
Reminder if a meeting is canceled because of weather, it will be held the following week.

# Good neighbors



Hillstown Grange invited their neighbors without power to a "Power Outage Supper" on Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011. Pictured and Frank Forrest and Helene Forrest.

## Mountain County Pomona No. 4



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

### MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

**Feb. 13:** "New Loves" at Eureka Grange Hall, 7:30 P.M.

Mountain County Pomona takes the month of January off and will meet again on Monday, February 13 for a program on "New Loves." The meeting will be held at Eureka Grange Hall in the Nepaug section of New Hartford beginning at 7:30 P.M.

Fortunately the weather was mild and the Pomona Christmas meeting went on as scheduled at Winchester Grange on Dec. 12. A gift exchange was held and a collection was taken for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

It was also announced that Winchester Grange is interested in re-activating its Junior Grange in the new year. As it would be the only Jr. Grange in Mountain County, it is their hope that it can be a Grange that includes children from as many surrounding Granges as possible, not Winchester kids. If you know of any children interested in joining a new Jr. Grange, please contact Winchester Master Todd Gelineau at 860-626-0326.

### WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

The Whigville Grange had a successful "Christmas in Whigville" on Dec. 3. This year hand-dipped chocolates and live music were added. We have corrected our water and furnace problems (at least for now). All of this was accomplished by the hard work and unbelievable generosity of Grangers! If you need to know what Christmas is really about, just look at your fellow Grangers. The giving for them is all year long.

We will have a potluck supper on Dec. 14 at

6pm, you are all invited. When I saw our hall filled with people having fun, enjoying the food, music and, shopping, I thought about the history of such good times that are the Grange, yesterday, today and tomorrow. I can't let this just be old memories, and I hope you can't either. May you all be Blessed this Christmas with a joy and peace that will last all year! ..Your Brothers and Sisters of Whigville Grange

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

**Jan. 10:** "A New Year," 6:00 Potluck Supper

**Jan. 24:** "A Cold Snap," Ref. Todd Gelineau

A truly warm welcome awaits all who visit Winchester Grange! In early November we learned that our boiler (original to this building in 1952) was leaking and needed immediate replacement. Unfortunately we did not have the money to replace it and no one could know that November would be one of the warmest in recent memory. Thanks to the State Grange, a loan was secured and a new boiler is installed and once again keeping the hall warm. Hopefully the new equipment will result in some savings in fuel efficiency, but the new loan will require a lot more fundraising to keep up with our expenses. You can look forward to many announcements regarding fundraising events during the new year!

Winchester is also looking to reactivate the Junior Grange (also mentioned above in the Pomona news). We hope to include as many children from Granges throughout the Pomona as possible and make it more of a Pomona-wide Jr. Grange. Please let us know if you know of any children who can benefit from Jr. Grange

membership.

We were thrilled in November to learn that two of our own baking winners won honors at the annual meeting of the Association of Connecticut Fairs. Our adult winner, Henry Borovy of Torrington placed first in the state and our Junior winner, Domenic Lascari of New Hartford placed second. Congratulations to both of them!

As this issue was going to press, we learned of the passing of Mario (Nonni) Fassio, husband of our Lecturer Ramona and father of Terri Fassio, member of Winchester and State P.R. Co-Director. While not a member of the Grange, he always supported our activities and donated many of his paintings for fundraisers throughout the years both at Winchester and the New England Grange Building at the Big E. Our condolences go to Sisters Ramona and Terri on their loss.

### TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

At our December 8th meeting Taghannuck Grange #100 made up 15 plates of assorted cookies. Ten plates went to Ella's Food Pantry and the other 5 went to some of our members who cannot any longer get out of the house. We do this each year with each member bringing in 4 dozen of the same cookie. This allows us to not only fill the plates to give away but the members also bring home a plate of assorted cookies. I have attached a picture of Margaret Hopkins and Linda Kinney, 2 of our members helping to fill the plates.

### RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore

**Jan. 6:** Meeting, 7:30, Short Program, Ref. Sue Belle-Isle & Raine Pedersen

**Jan. 20:** 6:30 Potluck Supper- Past Masters; Program 104th Anniversary of Riverton Grange- Past Lecturers

As a result of the lack of electrical power in Riverton because of the October 29th sixteen-inch snowfall, our first meeting in November

had to be canceled. Except for the power outage, thankfully there were no major problems at our hall.

On November 18 we enjoyed our annual Thanksgiving dinner in charge of Tillie & Bill Jackson and Shirley & Rujo Moore. We were pleased to serve thirty-nine Grangers and friends who partook of the planned meal and

stayed for the program on the Mayflower. A regular meeting of the Grange was held after the program. We wish to thank Tillie, who roasted the turkey, and to all those who came to the dinner as well as those who furnished the side dishes.

To everyone: May your new year be happy and healthy!

## State Secretary



**Edith Schoell**  
State Secretary  
secretary@ctstategrange.org

Grange has changed meeting nights to the first and third Tuesday.

Since the weather has been so unpredictable, you should check to be certain a Grange is meeting on the scheduled date. If a Grange is meeting only once a month an alternate date should be arranged. I hope you plan to visit other Granges. You may be asked to help out or you may be surprised by an outstanding program, and, of course, refreshments are served.

The supply of Orders on Treasurer has been received. Secretaries check your needs and let me know if you are out.

Please make a note of the following changes: Kathryn Ruff address change: 55 Blossom Drive, P.O. Box 192, Pomfret Center, CT 06259. She is secretary of Glastonbury Grange and Deputy of East Central Pomona.

Cawasa Grange now meets on the first Friday of each month. Manchester

## Taghannuck #100



Members of Taghannuck Grange made up Christmas Cookie plates for shut-ins and the local food pantry.

## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

**Jan. 4:** Legislative Program

**Jan. 18:** Charles' Garden Hints

This is Cheshire's second year participating in the Words For Thirds National Grange project. We have presented dictionaries to the four elementary schools in town and we have been very well received. This is a most worthwhile program giving good visibility to the Grange. We hope other Granges in the State might be looking into doing this.

We all enjoyed our Thanksgiving dinner at our open meeting on November. Our thanks to Marge Bernhardt and her committee for putting the dinner together.

It has been a busy Christmas holiday for all of us and we hope it was for all of you.

We are looking forward to moving our Grange into the new year. Happy New Year to everyone from Cheshire Grange.

### WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

**Jan. 13:** "A New Year, A New Decade", Ref. Dan

Happy New Year to everyone! Our program on Nov. 10 "Thanksgiving Day in Canada" was presented by Lisa and Jim Lamoureux. Did you know Thanksgiving in Canada became a national holiday in 1957; is on the 2nd Monday of October (our Columbus Day) and important part is a double-header football game and not hockey? These were some of the things we learned about our northern neighbors. We welcomed back Jane AuClair to our fold again. We had our meeting downstairs in the hall for it makes it easier for some people when they don't have to use the stairs. It is also easier to heat in the winter time since gas heat

for the hall is expensive. I had felt that it went well while still preserving the ritual form of the meeting but still have to iron out some of the wrinkles. There was some positive feedback in comments that people could hear and see what was going on during the meeting.

### NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tollette

**Jan. 3:** Winters Remembered-- Youth Night

**Feb. 7:** Can Spring be far away?

Our December meeting doesn't come before the Granger deadline so I don't have much new.

Members helped with the Thanksgiving baskets and will do so again for Christmas.

We plan to present, before Christmas, an 80 year certificate to Cynthia Barnes. She is now the oldest and longest time member of our Grange. Congratulations to Cynthia. Several members are on the sick list. We wish them well and hope 2012 will be kinder to all.

Enjoy this balmy weather and Happy Holidays too.

See you next year.

### OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barb Kulisch

**Jan. 13:** Lecturer Assigns a Topic...

**Jan. 27:** Snow Date for Jan. 13th.

Happy New Year to all our Granges from the officers and members of Old Lyme Grange #162.

We held a Country Store in November and our profit of \$25 was sent to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries. We will hope to hold another Bag-It in March!

A potluck supper was held before our Dec. 9 meeting. The Christmas is... program, was enjoyed by all present! Each member brought in a Grab

Bag gift that was exchanged during the program.

In December, we once again filled another "Wish List" request, at the Waterford Country School. The boys there are so grateful when they see the

"Stitham Van" roll in, they really realize that someone out there does care about them.

It is the time of year when we should be working on our needlework projects for April's judging! At our

January meeting, Barbara Clark Kulisch will be receiving her Golden Sheaf Certificate... let's hope that we do not have snow at the Jan. 13 meeting. Congratulations, Barb!

## Wallingford honored with ornament

by Melissa Clicker,

*Merdien Record-Journal*

WALLINGFORD - Past meets present as the Historic Preservation Trust keeps its annual ornament tradition alive for residents.

For each of the past 20 years, the image of a historic building has been imprinted on a glass holiday ornament, offering a glimpse into the town's long history. The choice this year, Grange Hall, highlights the town's agricultural past.

Sales of the ornaments fund the restoration and upkeep of two of the Preservation Trust's buildings: the Johnson Mansion, on South Main Street, and Royce House, on North Main Street.

"We want people to appreciate the history we have and go about preserving it. Wallingford has a rich heritage that exists in hundreds of buildings across town," said Jerry Farrell Jr., the trust's president.

Grange Hall, built in 1933 and located at 586 Center St., originally was a meeting house for Wallingford farmers twice a month. The hall served as a social outlet for the farmers to discuss concerns and to exchange ideas about livestock and crops. It also offered a way for farmers and their families to come together and socialize.

Seventy-eight years after it was built, Grange Hall is used for the same purpose. Agriculture in Wallingford, however, is not as it once was. According to John LeTourneau, a Grange member, the farmer's membership dwindles more each year. Residential neighborhoods have replaced farmlands.

Grange membership is now open to anyone, and smaller scale farming like gardening or planting is discussed at meetings still held twice a month. "The building is something to see," said LeTourneau. "Everything in the building is very old-fashioned. It is like time has stopped."

"You get the feeling of what it was and what things were like back in the day," he said.

The building remains a well-preserved time capsule. According to LeTourneau, behind the stage curtains in the main hall advertisements from businesses 50 years ago, many no longer in business, are still present.

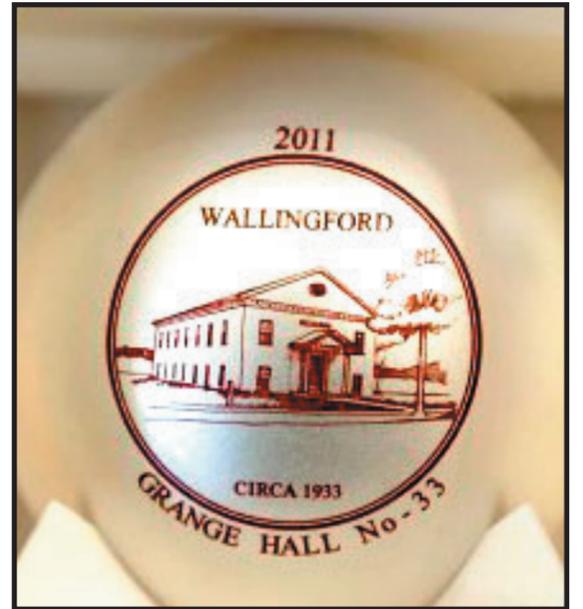
The painted-glass holiday ornaments are being sold for \$8 at the Wallingford Lamp and Shade, on 124 Center St., which is owned by LeTourneau.

The ornament design was done by architect Steve Lazarus, of Lazarus and Sergeant Architects. The Preservation Trust usually orders 500 to be sold, but this year half that number were ordered, partly because of the continuing depressed economy, LeTourneau said.

Many residents are loyal collectors, as a piece of tradition they keep every year. Some former residents call to order ornaments to be sent to their homes out of state.

"To bring attention to Wallingford past gives residents the feel of what things were like back then," said LeTourneau.

Historic buildings featured on the ornament have included the old Wallingford Library, the James Dana House, and the very popular Yankee Silversmith, which sold out immediately because of its sentimental value to many residents, LeTourneau said.



## New London County Pomona No. 6



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

### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Feb. 11:** Movie Night- "Leap Year" Norwich Grange

Hope to see a big crowd at our annual Movie Night at Norwich Grange on Saturday, Feb. 11. The food is always superb, there is popcorn and candy for the movie, and we get to visit with friends we don't get to see often enough. Please remember to bring your own dishes and silverware.

The movie, "Leap Year" is a romantic comedy (2010) starring Amy Adams and Matthew Goode. "Anna Brady plans to travel to Dublin, Ireland to propose to her boyfriend on February 29, leap day, because, according to Irish tradition, a man who receives a marriage proposal on leap day has to accept it. But then bad weather threatens and..." Sounds like a good one.

It's time for Pomona's potluck and a flick

Let's hope that the weather is fine.

So cook up your specialty, pack up your gear,

And let's have a wonderful time.

### COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

*Corr: Joan Toomey*

January brings cold wind and more snow. Time to get pruning tools ready by cleaning, sharpening and oiling them. Start to plan spring vegetable and flower gardens. Check your seed catalogs. Make sure birds have water and food. Years ago this was the time to slip a wooden or porcelain egg into each nesting box in the henhouse. I still have a dozen glass eggs in an old egg box from Opa's farm where I was born.

Last fall Diane Leith took two blue ribbons at Pomona and the State for her beautiful needlework. 21 Grangers enjoyed a trip

to Hershey, PA and "Miracle of Christmas" at the Millennium Theater. The food and accommodations were wonderful thanks to Cathy Russi. Any money from her planned trips goes towards scholarships. Kudos to both our Grange members.

### N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

*Corr: Nancy Weissmuller*

**Jan. 13:** "I'd like to visit... Scotland"

**Jan. 23:** "I'd like to visit... a hand bell concert"

The dogsled team didn't make it to our meeting in November due to last minute circumstances beyond their control; but they will be here at a later date. Watch this column for specifics. Instead Sue gave us some timely tips on identity theft and fraud.

We made the holiday a little happier for seven families in town. Baskets that included a turkey, fresh potatoes and acorn and butternut squash, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, muffin mix, pumpkin pie fixings, oatmeal and hot cocoa were delivered just in time for Thanksgiving.

Five members and one non-member (Thanks, Marcia) worked diligently for a few days and gave the downstairs hall and the foyer a fresh coat of paint. thanks to all who helped.

Our programs in January look super interesting. On the 13th Sue Latourette will speak of her recent trip to Scotland and treat us to a concert on her bagpipes. On the 23rd we will be visited by Mike Noonan and the North Stonington Congregational Church's wonderful Hand Bell Choir. These programs are not to be missed. Hope to see you there. We meet at 8 P.M. and there are no words to worry about. And if those daffodils who think it's March will just

relax a little, next time I'll tell you all about delightful December.

### LYME GRANGE #147

**Jan. 5:** Music Night

**Feb. 2:** Hobbies

**Mar. 1:** A Number & Talent

We held our third annual Roast Pork Supper with 27 in attendance. Awards were presented to four people, Amy Cooke- 55 year seal; Amy Winninger, 55 year seal; Jack Tittany, 65 year seal; Lois Evankow, 50 year certificate.

We will have our Music Night in January, who knows what weird instruments will show up! Remember to make things for the New England Grange Building at the Big E.

And by the way, who made those beautiful table decorations for the Celebration Banquet? Such a lot of work and done so perfect. Does anyone know who made them?

### STONINGTON GRANGE #168

*Corr: Jeff Barnes*

Our November program was "Issues Veterans Face", presented by our member Vern Bailey, US Navy veteran. We learned of the experience of returning to civilian life after years in the service and the changes that come with it, suddenly living on a fixed income and the ever-changing insurance provisions to name just a few.

We collected donations of canned food for the Thanksgiving food bank at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and also sent along a check to help provide turkeys for some of the needy in town.

We are putting together a Christmas package of wish items for a platoon of soldiers overseas and have sent "letters from home" to individual service members stationed in the Middle East. We have sent a donation to the local food bank for Christmas hams and supplies for the less fortunate. We also send a package of pj's off to the "Jammy Grammy".

We have found it necessary to move our December meeting to the third Thursday. Andy Perry will be in charge of the

program. His programs are always top-quality and real surprises. He is truly a man for all seasons. The title is "Waiting for St Nick" Sadly that night we will be draping our charter for Howard McSparren who passed away in November. Our thoughts and prayers for Rose. He will be greatly missed.

We are planning a Christmas season group outing of Stonington Grange members to the Lantern Light Tour at Mystic Seaport. This is a trip back to Christmas in the 1800s presented by players in authentic costume and character, with a different story each year.

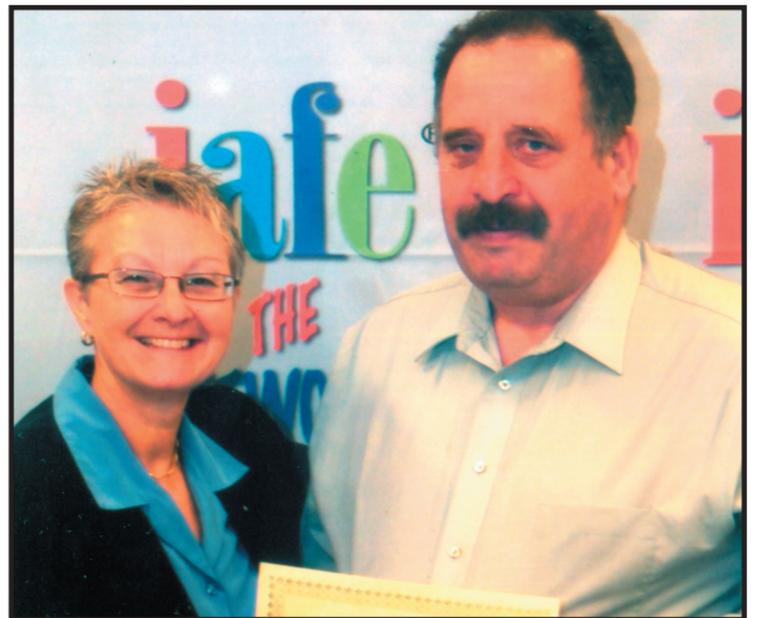
## Hamburg Fair honored by IAFE

At this year's International Association of Fairs & Expositions (IAFE) Convention in Las Vegas, NV, Hamburg Fair in Lyme, CT came home with 9 awards out of the 16 entered. Hamburg Fair was the only fair from Connecticut to receive awards. The fair falls in Division 1, which is attendance up to 100,000 with over 1,000 entries per category. The fair placed first in the Consumer Protection Program, second in Printed Material, second in Non-Fair Agricultural Event, third in Green Program, third in Competitive Exhibit Display, and fourth in the following categories: Agriculture Photo, Agriculture Photo Series, New or Unique Class of Competitive Exhibits and General Display Photo.

President Ted Powell stated that the reason the fair does so well is that it takes a team effort to work on putting the entries together and coming up with the ideas.

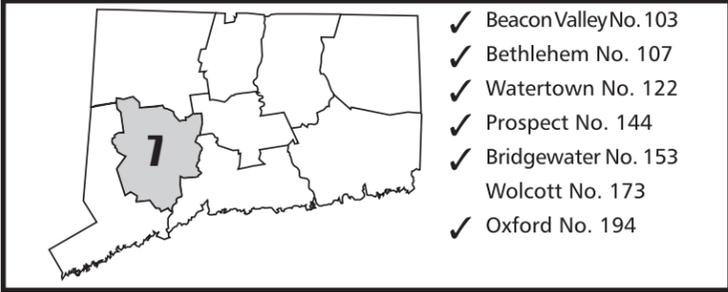


Mrs. Salley of John Deere presents Ted Powell III with the IAFE Agricultural Excellence Award at the annual meeting of the IAFE in Las Vegas.



Ted Powell is presented a certificate by Marla Calico, CFE (Certified Fair Executive) in recognition of receiving one of 20 scholarships for the Institute of Fair Management. He is the only person from New England to receive this award. Ted is president of the Hamburg Fair in Lyme and a member of Lyme Grange #147.

## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



### EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Mary Dubay

**Jan. 18:** Mystery Program

Happy New Year from Excelsior Pomona!

The first meeting of the New Year will be held at Oxford Grange on January 18, 2012. Meetings called to order at 7:30 P.M.

The program by Lecturer Jean is called "Mystery Program." Visiting Pomona members are always welcome.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

We welcome as members of Beacon Valley: Cindy, Amanda, Andrew and Ray Legg. Cindy and Ray have already been elected officers – Cindy is Lecturer and Ray is Steward.

Our January 13th program is "Frosty the Snowman" with refreshments in charge of Cindy and Ray Legg. We hope Frosty will be nowhere in sight.

We continue to host Bingo at the Paradigm Healthcare in Prospect once a month on a Sunday. We could always use some more volunteers.

### BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Linda Coad

**Jan. 22:** Sunday Meeting, 2 P.M., "CT Wildlife Update", Ref. Buzz & Linda

**Feb. 26:** Sunday Meeting, 2 P.M., "Look to the Sky," Ref. Cindy & Ernie, Country Store

Happy New Year! Now that Thanksgiving and Christmas have passed, we hope you can look back on that time as pleasant memories. We had a great turkey dinner with several FFA officers as guests that put on a great program.

As I write this we have not yet had our Annual Christmas Party and Canned Food Collection Night, but we expect a good turnout.

As we go into our Winter mode of Sunday meetings, we hope you will take a ride and join us.

### WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

**Jan. 6:** Record Snow Storm

**Jan. 20:** Your Favorite Recipe

Happy New Year!

May your year be filled with happiness, good health and good cheer. Our first meeting for the New Year is Record Snow Storm, I believe we already did that... our second meeting is Your Favorite Recipe. It is a good way to exchange recipes and to try something a little different for those who like to cook.

Seeing it is a new year the Ways and Means Committee will have to discuss our fundraisers for the year.

We will have our annual Winter Tag Sale in February, so members keep this in mind. We do well in winter, if it doesn't snow. Our CWA chairman Melinda reports at each meeting. Still collecting coupons and bottle caps.

All our other committees continue to do the work assigned to them and report at every meeting. Good work to all!

Come and join us when you can, our door is always open.

### PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

Prospect Grange held its annual Christmas Pot Luck Supper with guests Ray and Cindy Legg and Diane and Denise Barbieri. Santa was not able to make it this year due to a busy schedule and problems at the North Pole. He did send personal letters to the two prospective members Sherry Wilson age 8 and Ayden Wilson age 4 telling them he had left a gift under the Christmas Tree at the Senior Center for them.

They were delighted with this. Our new member Mary Lou Raymond made delicious pies for dessert.

We missed our vice president, Inez Bramhall as she is having some medical problems. A Christmas plant and several Christmas cards were delivered to her home. We hope all our grange friends had a great Christmas and that the new year brings much happiness and good health.

As the day of our raffle drawing was cancelled due to the storm and power outage, we had the drawing at our Christmas Party. The winners are as follows: First cookware to Florine Wheeler second clock radio Josephine Bianchini, third coffee basket Doris Welton two glasses and sparkling cider to Joe Calabro and seventh coffee cups to Bob Plank and the last one forever flower arrangement to Frances Maxwell. We wish to thank everyone who supported our raffle. Proceeds will be used to purchase dictionaries for our 10th year of giving the Gift of Words to the Third Graders at Algonquin Regional 16 School.

At our January 13, 2012 meeting will be enjoy a game night and February 9 will be our Valentine card exchange meeting. Our March meeting will be March 1 due to a scheduling problem instead of our usual date. The program will be our Irish night.

Visitors are always welcome to visit us at the Prospect Senior Center downstairs at 7:30 p.m.

### BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

We had a potluck dinner followed by an open meeting at the Grange hall on Wednesday, November 9. On Nov. 21 and 22 fruit baskets were put together and distributed by several members of our Grange.

On Friday, December 2 there was a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on the Bridgewater Green right across from the Grange Hall. We will serve hot chocolate and donuts to the public after the ceremony.

The Bridgewater Grange

Hall will be closed for the winter but we will continue to meet in members' homes. The Christmas meeting and party was held at Rosemary Woolwich's home. A gift grab bag exchange was also held. We will continue to have our regular meetings on the second Wednesday of the month during the winter.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

**Jan. 6:** CWA and Lecturer's Contests. (Snow date January 20.)

CWA Chair Loretta Rowland and Lecturer Jill Zitnay will lead the January meeting program with hopes of encouraging member participation in their endeavors. Loretta promises to furnish samples of "Sour Cream Banana Bars", this year's baking contest items, at refreshment time.

Looking back, we remember with pleasure

the fine Thanksgiving turkey supper of last fall, followed by enjoyment of some interesting board games led by our Lecturer. The Program at another meeting focused on Collectibles. John Haines brought some trophies won in tractor-pulling contests; Loretta Rowland showed some "Rooster and Roses" hand-painted china made during the forties; your correspondent brought a circa 1939 midget table radio; and Rob Buck passed around a finely hand-made antique cribbage board. Altogether these meeting programs have been very enjoyable!

We wish Lecturer Jill Zitnay a quick recovery from some difficulties following surgery. And, we extend thanks to good friends Ray and Cindy Legg for their helpful attendance at Oxford recently.

Happy New Year to all!

## DEPUTY TEAM

INSPECTIONS RITUAL CODE READING SUPPORT INSTRUCTION

Todd Gelineau, General Deputy

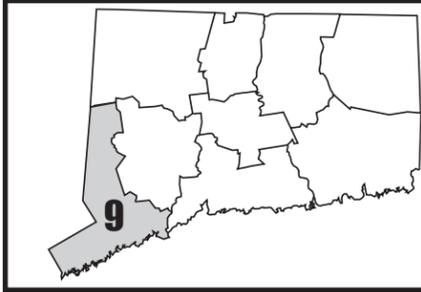
The mild late-fall and early winter weather has allowed nearly all Grange meetings and gatherings to go on as scheduled... of course, this could change at any time! We remind all Granges of the meeting requirements as outlined in the National Digest. All Community/Subordinate Granges are required to meet at least once a month. The Digest does not provide leeway on this issue. If you only meet once a month and that meeting is canceled, you are strongly encouraged to set a new date within that calendar month and notify your members of this meeting date. Many Granges that meet once a month have snow dates built into their meeting schedules. This may be a good way to handle this issue in your Grange. Granges that meet twice a month are less likely to have both meetings canceled, but it has been known to happen. (Remember, I'm from Winchester Grange!). Those Granges are also required to set another date during that calendar month.

In extreme situations where you're having difficulty securing a date (either because your meeting place is not available or for some other reason), please contact me or the State Master. Keeping the lines of communication open with the State Master is always the best course when following the guidelines of the Digest becomes difficult.

We also remind all Granges that Executive Reports should have been filed by December 31, 2011 with the General Deputy (me). It will only be considered filed if it has been received by the General Deputy and not by the State Secretary. Many Granges have already filed well in advance of the deadline and we thank them. However, there are still many Granges that we have not heard from. If you are having difficulty, please let me know. The Deputy team is more than happy to offer any and all assistance we can.

The only Granges excused from this deadline are those whose books close on December 31. Those Granges are permitted to submit their reports by March 31, 2012 to the General Deputy. All Granges are still required to provide a copy of this report on the night of inspection.

## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

### HARMONY GRANGE #92

*Corr: Susan Carol Sulier*  
Happy New Year fellow Grangers and welcome to 2012!

For Trumbull and Harmony Granges, 2011 was embroiled in turmoil and sadness, beginning with the consolidation of the 2 Granges, then the passings of our beloved members, Louise Malatesta (former Master of Trumbull Grange) and Nancy Standley. As a credit to us all, a stronger Harmony Grange has emerged; with a renewed sense of pride, vitality and vigor. We are ready, willing and eager to carry on, to achieve heightened goals, to stay unified and work together, not just as a fraternity, but as a family.

Finally some great news to report - Our Master, George Ward, has recovered nicely from his recent heart surgery. It is wonderful to have him back to health and back in the fold! On a side note - George asked me to convey his thanks to all his "brothers" and "sisters" for the many cards, well wishes and prayers sent to him during his hospitalization and period of recuperation. - In response - Dear George, no thanks are necessary; we deeply care about you (and Gloria) and appreciate everything you do!

On another positive note - Our beloved Mary Mazur was recently honored as a nominee for the prestigious "2011 AARP State Andrus Award for Community Service" at the Aqua Turf. Former Trumbull Granger/Overseer Pat Gerckens nominated her and yours truly assisted with the behind the scenes information gathering and paperwork. Mary, we are so proud of you and we love you!

December was a very busy month at Harmony.

Our "Christmas Fair" included a Grandma's Attic, Straw Game Table, Chinese Auction & a Turkey Basket Raffle and our "Christmas Party" consisting of a pot luck dinner, music, grab bags, a sing-a-long and tons of holiday spirit and good cheer. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in making these events the successes they were.

In 2012, let's all strive to create "harmony" within our fraternity and our lives.

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

*Corr: Dennis Rich*

**Jan. 16:** "Winter Wonderland", Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Our November meeting covered a number of issues including dues and improvements. We continued with our work sessions, replacement of glass, ropes, and weights for two of our hall's windows.

The month was also a sad time for us, as we lost two members Meredith Lacey and Sally Bradley. Meredith, who was active in CWA and as our Lady Assistant Steward, joined over 25 years ago on the same day as this correspondent. Sally, an accomplished artist and designer and the mother of our Overseer Beth Bradley, was one of our newest members, attending our meetings and joining Pomona.

We extend our most sincere condolences to the Lacy and Bradley families. We draped our Charter in memory of both of our Sisters. On December 4th, our hall was the scene of a remembrance and reception for those coming to honor the memory of Sister Sally.

In January, we will be looking forward to planning activities and prioritizing our projects. We are looking

forward to having our Fair in late August this year. All are welcome to our meetings and activities!

### NORFIELD GRANGE #146

*Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox*

**Jan. 10:** Keeping Warm for Winter, Astronomy Night

**Feb. 14:** Sweets, Treats, and Valentines

**Mar. 13:** Going Green, St. Patrick's Day (Reuse, Renew, Recycle)

At Norfield Grange, there's always something cooking on the front burner. This winter it's the Farmer's Market open every Saturday from 10-2. They feature Connecticut Grown produce, farm-raised beef, pork, eggs, fresh-baked goods, Maine seafood, goat's milk products- and much more! In the Crafter's Corner they offer such treasures as jewelry, pottery, antiques, raw wool and boxwood wreaths. Recently, Weston beekeeper Red Bee Carl Marina arrived for a book-signing and mini honey-tasting. A Christmas tree raffle and a lobster raffle are in the works. Come see and shop for yourself.

As a kick-off for the Farmer's Market, we enjoyed an early Thanksgiving dinner meeting attended by approximately 70 hungry Grangers and their guests. Sue Sulla rounded out the evening by presenting an intriguing Thanksgiving quiz, and showing us clothes much like those worn by the pilgrims. And we now have two more new members, Cheyenne Scarpelli and Kim Pitcher, who helped us out at the dinner.

Twenty-five Grangers showed up at the end of November, to help decorate the hall for the holidays. They were rewarded with finger food, appetizers and dessert. And there was good news: we actually turned a profit on this year's fair. This winter we will be designing, building and painting new fair games, along with brainstorming more money-making ideas for 2012.

It's going to be a good year.

## WLA Pathfinders

The Working Lands Alliance is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 Farmland Preservation Pathfinder Awards. The Pathfinder Awards are designed to recognize individuals and groups that have significantly advanced farmland preservation through leadership, advocacy, planning, and education.

An Outstanding Individual Award was awarded to Ray Wilcox, Chairman of The Town of Suffield's Open Space Committee, who has been a driving force for farmland preservation in the community of Suffield through his vision and leadership. Mr. Wilcox helped to establish the criteria set into place by the Town of Suffield in rating and ranking farmland protection. The Town has secured \$2.1 million in local funds since 1999, used to preserve approximately 1,000 acres of farmland during his tenure as a volunteer leader. Ray Wilcox's legacy for farmland preservation in the Suffield community will be felt for generations to come.

Another Outstanding Individual Award was extended to Andrew Rzeznikiewicz, a Pomfret resident and Sanctuary Manager for the Audubon Center at Pomfret. Mr. Rzeznikiewicz has logged countless hours to formalize and increase momentum of the Town's Land Preservation Program. He has directly been involved in preserving over 1,000 acres and has worked with the Town to expand its preservation efforts. Acre after protected acre, he has been a passionate and enthusiastic advocate for farmland protection and is currently actively farming heirloom wheat on a protected parcel in the Town.

The Education Leader Award recognized the AGvocate Outreach Program's Steering Committee for its work to promote farm friendly policies and regulations in Eastern Connecticut. The AGvocate Program has assisted 14 towns in adopting right-to-farm ordinances, establishing Agriculture Commissions, improving land use regulations, inventorying and promoting farms, and conducting educational programs to raise awareness about the benefits of agriculture to a town's quality of life, health, environment, and economy. AGvocate is a program of Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. and funded by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Farm Viability Grants. Its Steering Committee includes representatives from United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, the Last Green Valley, American Farmland Trust, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension, farm producers, and municipal officials.

The 2011 Pathfinder Award winners were recently honored at the Working Lands Alliance 11th Annual Meeting and Luncheon on November 16th, 2011. The event and these prestigious awards serve as milestones for the visionary leadership that continues to preserve farmland and promote family farms as a beloved part of our state's identity, economy, cultural heritage, and our cherished quality of life.

Please join us in congratulating the winners!

## In Memoriam

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Loretta Fedus    | Colchester #78       |
| Ruth Hunter      | Hillstown #87        |
| Lucy Hovey, G.S. | Litchfield #107      |
| Meredith Lacey   | Greenfield Hill #133 |
| Robert Gartside  | Stonington #168      |
| Howard McSparren | Stonington #168      |

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

# Connecticut's invasive plant species



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
[Legislative@ctstategrange.org](mailto:Legislative@ctstategrange.org)

by Charles Dimmick, State Legislative Committee

During the 2011 Grange State Session a resolution was introduced dealing with the fact that some operators of "big box" stores in Connecticut were selling plants which were on the "invasive plants" list, in violation of State Law. An invasive plant is a non-native species which aggressively moves into a native habitat and crowds out native plants. This changes the native habitat, especially by decreasing plant diversity and thus decreasing both the food that native animals depend on and also in some cases decreasing the available shelters for such animals. Invasive plants also cause problems for farmers and foresters, and aquatic invasive plants are a nuisance or even a threat both to commercial fisheries and to recreational boaters

and anglers. Scientists have identified more than 400 invasive plants in Connecticut. Some of these pose much greater risks than others.

The resolution was re-written in committee, and the final resolution that was passed resolved that we urge the Connecticut General Assembly to increase funding to DEEP (the new Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) specifically earmarked for enforcement of laws banning sale of invasive plant species, and that we urge significant monetary fines or penalties to be imposed on any business which is found to have such plants for sale, and that all businesses selling plants receive and be required to acknowledge receipt of a list of invasive plant species along with a copy of the state law forbidding the sale of such plants.

In 2003 the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut created a 9-member Invasive Plants Council, which meets six to eight times a year in the Connecticut Department of Agriculture offices. The minutes of their meetings may be found on the web

at: [www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/IPC](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/IPC).

The duties of the Council are as follows:

(1) Develop and conduct a program to educate the general public and merchants and consumers of aquatic and land-based plants as to the problems associated with invasive plants; (2) make recommendations to control and abate the spread of invasive plants; (3) make available information regarding invasive plants available to any person or group who requests such information; (4) annually publish and periodically update a list of plants considered to be invasive or potentially invasive; and (5) support those state agencies charged with protecting the environment in conducting research into the control of invasive plants, including, but not limited to, the development of new varieties of plant species that do not harm the environment and methods of eradicating and managing existing species of invasive plants.

Invasive plants vary in their environmental and economic threat. One that has recently invaded Connecticut, the mile-a-

minute vine (also called devil's tearthumb), a member of the smartweed family, can grow up to a half-foot a day, and rapidly killing or greatly weakening them by shading them out, stealing their nutrients, and choking them by tightly wrapping around their stems. The good news

is that it is an annual, and is killed by the first good frost; the bad news is that it makes lots and lots of seeds, so that the next year there are hundreds of plants where there was only one the year before. Up-to-date information about this invader can be found at: <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/mam/>

## Invasive Species List:

As provided by the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council. The following list only provides the common name. Scientific names and synonyms are also available on the website listed above. This list was last updated in October 2011.

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| American water lotus     | Japanese barberry          |
| Amur honeysuckle         | Japanese honeysuckle       |
| Amur maple               | Japanese hops              |
| Autumn olive             | Japanese knotweed          |
| Belle honeysuckle        | Japanese sedge             |
| Bittersweet nightshade   | Japanese stilt grass       |
| Black locust             | Jimsonweed                 |
| Black swallow-wort       | Kudzu                      |
| Border privet            | Leafy spurge               |
| Brazilian water-weed     | Mile-a-minute vine         |
| Bristled knotweed        | Moneywort                  |
| Brittle water-nymph      | Morrow's honeysuckle       |
| California privet        | Multiflora rose            |
| Canada bluegrass         | Narrowleaf bittercress     |
| Canada thistle           | Norway maple               |
| Coltsfoot                | Onerow yellowcress         |
| Common barberry          | Oriental bittersweet       |
| Common buckthorn         | Ornamental jewelweed       |
| Common kochia            | Pale swallow-wort          |
| Common reed              | Parrotfeather              |
| Common water-hyacinth    | Perennial pepperweed       |
| Crested late-summer mint | Pond water-starwort        |
| Crispy-leaved pondweed   | Porcelainberry             |
| Cup plant                | Princess tree              |
| Cypress spurge           | Purple loosestrife         |
| Dame's rocket            | Ragged robin               |
| Drooping brome-grass     | Reed canary grass          |
| Dwarf honeysuckle        | Reed mannagrass            |
| Eulalia                  | Rugosa rose                |
| Eurasian watermilfoil    | Russian olive              |
| European privet          | Scotch thistle             |
| European waterclover     | Sheep sorrel               |
| False indigo             | Slender snake cotton       |
| Fanwort                  | Spotted knapweed           |
| Fig buttercup            | Star-of-Bethlehem          |
| Flowering rush           | Sycamore maple             |
| Forget-me-not            | Tansy ragwort              |
| Garden heliotrope        | Tatarian honeysuckle       |
| Garden loosestrife       | Tree of heaven             |
| Garlic mustard           | Variable-leaf watermilfoil |
| Giant hogweed            | Water chestnut             |
| Giant knotweed           | Water lettuce              |
| Giant salvinia           | Watercress                 |
| Glossy buckthorn         | White poplar               |
| Goutweed                 | Wineberry                  |
| Ground ivy               | Winged euonymus            |
| Hairy jointgrass         | Yellow floating heart      |
| Hydrilla                 | Yellow iris                |

## Youth & Junior Grange



**Lisa Lamoureux**  
State Youth & Junior Director  
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[juniors@ctstategrange.org](mailto:juniors@ctstategrange.org)

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

Jan. 20: Oh No! It's 2012!

Feb. 18: Snow Daze

They have been meeting at the hall. They all enjoyed their Christmas party. Now they are looking to get started for their winter and spring meetings.

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Ekonk Juniors had a busy November!

We walked the day after Thanksgiving, for St. Jude's. We raised close to \$300.00! Some of us walked 5 miles! All 22 of us enjoyed the glorious morning and exercise.

Over 30 members and friends hiked to Pharisee Rock, where legend has it that the Indians used to use it for a look-out, and as a meeting place. Supposedly, a Medicine man would offer up his evening prayers of thanks from this place. It was about a 2 mile, total, hike. We saw trees cut by beavers, we listened to an expert on Indian lore, and had a enjoyable hike that ended back at the Grange, where many of us made dream catchers.

We had a bake sale table at the Subordinate's Bazaar. We also taught

any interested people how to make 3-D snowflakes. We made \$45:75!

We've been practicing Friday nights for our Christmas play, "A Place in the Christmas Choir". A musical about a hound dog finding her place in Santa's choir. All our hard work will, hopefully, pay off on December 9th.

We assisted the Subordinates in collecting food stuffs for two Thanksgiving baskets, for local seniors.

We are, with the Subordinate's, adopting a family for Christmas; and collecting food for more boxes.

We wish you all a fantastic holiday season and a enjoyable and healthy New Year!

# Board of Directors to provide minutes

*Phil Prelli for the C.S.G. Board of Directors*

One of the issues that we constantly hear from our Grangers is that communications need to be improved at all levels of our order. This was again brought up several times at this year's Annual State Session. We should continually look at ways to improve communications and better inform our members of the activities and decisions of your State Grange.

The Board of Directors discussed this at our meeting held Saturday October 22, 2011. It was decided to have copies of our approved minutes available to our members, starting with our November meeting. Certain confidential discussions held in executive session will not be printed on the public copies. The minutes will be available after they are approved at the next scheduled meeting; as an example, the November minutes will be available after the December meeting. This will also include any special meetings held. The State Secretary will provide copies to members either electronically or by mail when requested by a member. Obviously we would prefer that you request them electronically to keep down the cost of postage. Copies will also be available at State Session to review.

Again the principle reason for doing this is to improve communications between the Board and our members. We hope that this will help to inform all those interested in seeing the actions taken by your Board.

## Thank You!

Thank you for all of the well wishes, cards and prayers sent to me when I was in the hospital and then home getting better.

Many thanks, Cindy Finch

# Meriden food drive overflowing success

Meriden Grange put out a call for a canned goods collection at their recent Family Style Roast Pork Supper, and the community generously responded. As the public entered the doors of the Grange Hall, canned and dry goods were received in overflowing amounts. At least in one case, a family dropped off an entire bag of canned goods.

The Meriden Grange Family Style Roast Pork Supper was held on December 10th. The Roast Pork supper itself was also a success with regular and new participants enjoying family-style servings of Cindy's famous Cole Slaw, mashed potatoes, green beans, slow-cooked roast pork. For dessert ice cream was served with a Christmas cookie.

This was the first time Meriden Grange has hosted a supper in December, and organizers would like to thank everyone who so generously donated and enjoyed the meal.

For more information about Meriden Grange, visit <http://www.MeridenGrange.org>.

**Ed Marrotti from the Meriden Soup Kitchen (left) receiving the donated canned food from Meriden Grange President, Robert Charbonneau (right).**



# Norfield

Over sixty members and friends of Norfield Grange No. 146 gathered at the Grange for a bountiful potluck holiday feast, bonfire and carol sing in December. At left, members and guests enjoy the warmth of the fire while singing some of their favorite Christmas carols.



# WINDOW TO THE PAST

What we know is that this photo was from the Reorganization meeting of Montville Grange from June 25, 1964. This was Installation of their Officers. John LeVangie was the Deputy (and Installing Officer) at the time of the Re-Organization, and is in the photo standing at the Master's Station. Any help with names of others in the photo would be wonderful!

No Responses to the December Photo of Santa.

Responses to the November Photo:

We've had a couple of calls - one from Mary Medbery and one from Phyllis McCall - and both have said that the lady in the polka dot dress is Marion Hall, and that the man behind her is Past Master Sydney Hall, not Al Beckwith. The woman next to Marion Hall is indeed Gretchen Beckwith. Still no leads on the National Master's wife's name. #1- John Scott; #2- Mrs. Scott; #3- Marion Hall; #4- Sydney Hall; #5- Gretchen Beckwith; #6- Donald Peck; #7- Mary Mitchell; #8- Bob Mitchell; #9- Emma Keech; #10- Kingsley Beecher; #11- Betty Beecher; #12- Bill Pearl; #13- Mary Pearl; #14- Frank Prelli; #15- Peggy Prelli.

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 story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the 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](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).

