



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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November 2019

135th Annual State Session in the books



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
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The Connecticut State Grange has just completed its 135th Annual Session at the Holiday Inn Norwich. The session ran from Oct. 17-19. We welcomed Dwight and Kathy Baldwin of Iowa as our National Representatives. Brother Baldwin serves as Master of the Iowa State Grange and Treasurer of the National Grange. Sharon and I enjoyed their fellowship for the three days they were in Connecticut. Thank you Brother and Sister Baldwin for being a part of the Connecticut State Grange Annual Session.

On Thursday evening, after opening the Grange, I gave my first Annual State Master's Address. It was hard to believe that one year has passed since I was installed as your Master. During this past year we have hosted the Northeast Leaders' Conference and the Northeast Youth Conference. The Leaders' Conference was well attended and had four excellent speakers both Friday night and Saturday. The Youth Conference attendance was lower than we expected but everyone seemed to have a good weekend. It was held at the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

The membership, once again this year, has declined. We have, as of the second quarter in 2019, 1745 members. This is down 134 from last year. Along with the decline, four Granges have turned in their Charters. Every time a Grange closes a percentage of



Back Row (l to r): Jeff Barnes (Exec. Comm.), Todd Gelineau (Secretary), Charles Dimmick (Chaplain), Jody Cameron (Treas./E.C. Ch.), Phil Prelli (E.C.), A. Ruel Miller (E.C.), Ted Powell (A.S.), Robert Sendewicz (former E.C.), Noel Miller (Overseer). Front Row (l to r): Jaimie Cameron (G.K.), Marge Bernhardt (Lect.), Eloise Osuch (LAS), George Russell (Master), Carol Hnath (Pomona), Michelle DeDominicis (Flora), Cynthia Finch (Ceres), Alma Graham (E.C.). Not pictured, new E.C. Don Lanoue. Photo by Robert Charbonneau

that membership does not join another Grange. So we lose in two ways; we lose the Grange plus the membership. Our Membership Director, Faith Quinlan, is working on some programs to help get our numbers back up where they should be. We did have several Granges that had a net gain this year but unfortunately we had many that did not. We have to try to build up our membership! This year make it your goal to have an increase in membership.


My complete Annual Address can be found on the CT State Grange website (www.CTStateGrange.org). Congratulations to the Honor Granges for 2019! Gold: Ekonk Community #89. Silver: Cheshire #23. Bronze: Beacon Valley #103, Taghannuck #100 and Bethlehem #121. Pomona: Mountain Laurel #15 and Nutmeg #16. Congratulations to our Honor Granges and Pomonas.

On Saturday afternoon the officers of the Connecticut State Grange

conferred the Sixth Degree in full form. I would like to congratulate our five new members and wish them well.

Sharon and I will be attending the 153rd National Convention which will be held in Minneapolis, MN. We will be leaving for Minnesota on Sunday, Nov. 3 and return on Sun., Nov. 10. They are having a tour of the Kelley Farm on Monday the fourth. Sharon and I will be going on the tour. I've always heard about the Kelley Farm and this will be my first opportunity to visit the farm.

I would like to thank all the CT State Grange members who made our annual session a success! Without all your hard work, it would not have been possible!



THE CONNECTICUT GRANGER
60
YEARS
1960-2020

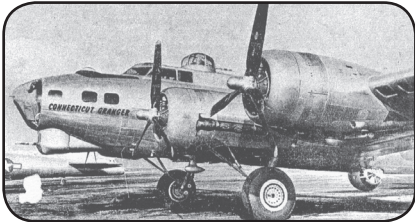
Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due Nov. 15



The Court of Flora

the Connecticut Granger
Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

President/Editor Todd A. Gelineau
Vice President Terri Fassio
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
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Saturday Memorial Service



The 6th Degree March-In



The Zingerz perform during the Celebration Banquet on Sat. evening.

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Past Voting Delegates to National receive gifts from the Russells



Dwight & Kathy Baldwin of Iowa



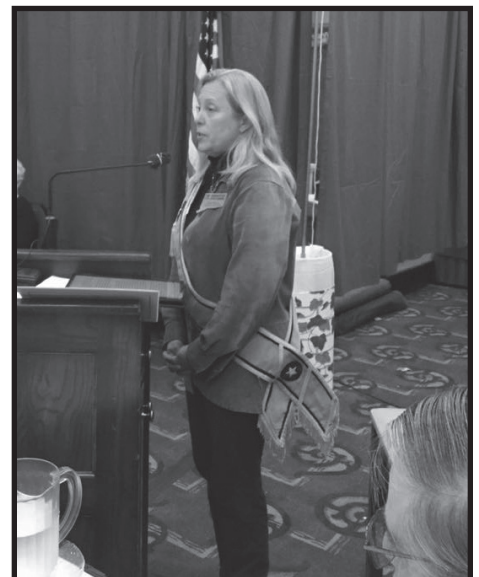
Jody & Jodi Ann Cameron w/Hank



George Ward honored by Legislative Committee as Honorary Member



Ruel Miller installed on the Executive Committee. L to r: Maureen Prelli, Ruel, Jane Miller and Installing Officer Phil Prelli.



The Annual Meeting of the CT State Grange Foundation conducted by President Susan Masino

Resolutions Adopted at the 135th Annual Session

The following are the resolutions adopted at the 135th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange.

4) ELIMINATION OF STYROFOAM/ POLYSTYRENE

WHEREAS Styrofoam is the DOW Chemical trade name for expanded polystyrene plastic manufactured in the United States since 1947, and

WHEREAS expanded polystyrene is used in a wide array of products like building insulation, crafting materials, floral arrangements and food packaging, and

WHEREAS nearly 2.5 million drinking cups made from expanded polystyrene are used in the United States each year, and

WHEREAS nearly 30% of all landfill space is consumed by polystyrene, and

WHEREAS polystyrene recycling is extremely limited because it can only be re-purposed into itself or a very similar material, and

WHEREAS it is believed that it can take up to 500 years for polystyrene to break down, but only if exposed to sunlight, and

WHEREAS the cost of biodegradable replacements for polystyrene based products continue to be very expensive due, in part, to the widespread availability of inexpensive polystyrene products, and

WHEREAS Connecticut recently enacted laws limiting the use of plastic shopping bags, and

WHEREAS the use of polystyrene is just as environmentally irresponsible as the use of plastic bags, and

WHEREAS the elimination of single-serve food containers containing expanded polystyrene would be a great step towards improving our environment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange urge the Connecticut General Assembly to pass legislation eliminating the use of single-serve expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) food and beverage service packaging in this state.

6) RE: DIGITAL COUPONS

WHEREAS many businesses are issuing digital coupons, and

WHEREAS many people, especially senior citizens, are not literate in technology, nor have access to the required technology in order to use digital coupons.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED all digital coupons issued by any business should be automatically connected to the customer courtesy card, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee urge our State Legislators to consider creating a bill to address this situation.

9) RE: PAYMENT FOR DELEGATES

WHEREAS Delegates to State Session are no longer reimbursed for mileage to the Session, and

WHEREAS Delegates are no longer given a stipend for attending each day's attendance, and

WHEREAS Delegates do not have an incentive to stay beyond the opening roll call of Granges, and

WHEREAS by the final day of the Session, barely more than a quorum is left to vote on resolutions to be accepted or rejected, and

WHEREAS some of the last resolutions could directly affect or change State Grange policy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange provide \$50 to the delegates for mileage traveled and sessions attended, and payment of this amount not be given until the end of the final day of the State Session, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that failure to attend the full session negates the payment, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED this policy become effective at the 2020 Session of the Connecticut State Grange.

16) RE: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

WHEREAS school buses transport millions of children to and from school each day of the week, and

WHEREAS transportation officials estimate that motorists illegally pass stopped school buses tens of thousands of times each day, and

WHEREAS parents should be confident that their children are being transported to school safely, and

WHEREAS installing cameras on the stop arms of school buses to catch motorists who put students at risk of accidents would act as another tool in enforcing the law against passing a stopped bus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee initiate a bill to our State Senators and/or Representatives to have cameras installed on all school buses in a position to identify the vehicle violating the law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution be forwarded to the next session of the National Grange together with a recommendation for favorable

action on a national scale to encourage other states to enact similar legislation.

20) SALE OF GRANGE PROPERTY

WHEREAS the By-Laws of the National Grange Sec. 4.11.1(G) limits the amount a Grange may retain after the sale of property to \$1,000 with the remainder to be kept in trust by the State Grange, and

WHEREAS this section has not been updated in several years and value of property has risen dramatically over those years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the first sentence of Sec. 4.11.1(G) be changed to read: "When a sale of real property is concluded, the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall account for the net proceeds of the sale received at the time of settlement and shall remit all but the sum of \$1,000 \$10,000 of such net proceeds or the net proceeds whichever is less to the State Grange having jurisdiction to be held in trust for the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange.

21) RE: BLACK BEAR INCIDENTS

WHEREAS there is an increase in the number of Black Bear in the State of Connecticut especially in Litchfield and Northern Hartford Counties, and

WHEREAS there are no natural enemies to control the bear population, and

WHEREAS there is currently no hunting season for bears in Connecticut and this has aided in the bears having no fear of humans, and

WHEREAS over the last few years there have been numerous accounts of bears entering houses and garages looking for food.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange urge the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to study and implement procedures to control the black bear population and its interaction with people, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one of the alternatives to be suggested to the Legislature be a pilot bear hunting season in Litchfield County.

24) RE: ADDRESSING NUISANCE WILDLIFE

WHEREAS reports of nuisance wildlife have increased and reflect either an increased population, more calls about the nuisance, or some combination of these factors, and

WHEREAS wildlife are attracted to available food, and having food sources available creates and perpetuates the

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nuisance, and

WHEREAS there are no clear penalties for attracting nuisance wildlife, and

WHEREAS nuisance problems are dramatically lower in neighboring states with much higher wildlife populations coupled with public education about and penalties for attracting nuisance wildlife.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State establish a plan to educate the public comprehensively on factors that create nuisance wildlife, the behavior and role of keystone native wildlife species in CT, including the critical place of these species in the ecological integrity of the landscape, and on the proven ways to prevent nuisance wildlife, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a warning followed by a fine is levied by state and municipal authorities to any entity that is attracting nuisance wildlife.

28) RE: SUPPORT FOR FAMILY FARMS

WHEREAS the Grange was founded on principles designed to support small and rural communities, and

WHEREAS local family farms are essential long-term partners in the health and resilience of our local communities, and

WHEREAS a diet high in fresh, non-processed food reduces numerous chronic health conditions and associated health care costs, and

WHEREAS family farms are a variety of sizes, and need flexibility and autonomy, and

WHEREAS family farms deserve special support as well as full access to programs that support farmers and their infrastructure during economic or environmental disasters, and

WHEREAS all farms should receive incentives for practicing environmentally responsible and regenerative farming.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange endorses full support for local farms, no matter how small, with policies and principles such as the following:

ECONOMIC SUPPORT: Equal access to open fair markets and credit and capital.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP: Full and equitable access to any programs designed to help farmers, including disaster relief, and new incentives that serve the public good with practices shown to reduce the use of chemicals, protect clean water, and improve soil.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Local food products that are sold largely "unprocessed" (i.e. fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, etc.) and qualify for SNAP incentives at local farmer's markets

(i.e. \$2 local produce for \$1) should qualify for the same incentives at the supermarket year-round.

29) RE: ACCEPTANCE OF THE MASTER ADDRESS

WHEREAS the Master of the Connecticut State Grange has shown his dedication to the Grange and has given us some direction for the future in his Maters Address.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegate body of the 2019 session commend him for his efforts and leadership.

30) RE: CONNECTICUT GRANGER

WHEREAS many non-Grangers visit the Connecticut State Grange website seeking information, and

WHEREAS there is much information regarding the various departments and contests on the website, and

WHEREAS there is no separate space dedicated to access an online version of the Connecticut Granger on the website.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we agree with the concept of having the Connecticut Granger on the website and congratulate the Public Relations Committee for their work of putting not only the current Connecticut Granger on the web but also past editions.

31) RE: CT'S "INVISIBLE" RESIDENTS

WHEREAS a recent report by the State of Maine Department of Motor Vehicles states there are more than 1,457 Connecticut residents with vehicles registered in Maine, and

WHEREAS these scofflaws cause millions of dollars in lost property tax revenue to Connecticut's municipalities and, in turn, increased tax burden on the rest of the State's residents, and

WHEREAS towns like Manchester and Colchester invested a great amount of time and money tracking down, valuing and listing vehicles owned by these "invisible" residents one by one, and

WHEREAS communication between the Connecticut DMV and their counterparts in other states is severely lacking, and

WHEREAS improved communication and shared information between the six New England states and New York along would go a long way towards improving this situation along with enforcement of the rarely enforced \$1,000 fine for failure to register vehicles in the State of Connecticut within 60 days.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange encourage stricter enforcement of the \$1,000 fine for failure to register vehicles in the State of Connecticut

within 60 days of taking residence, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange encourage the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles to work with other States to improve communication and information sharing between the states to improve compliance with state motor vehicle laws.

32) REMOVAL OF PUBLIC MONUMENTS MEMORIALIZING NOTABLE PEOPLE FROM PUBLIC SPACES

WHEREAS there has been much controversy over the removal of monuments memorializing notable people for actions taken by said persons which are interpreted as offensive by a segment of the population, and

WHEREAS many of these notable people have made significant contributions to the American culture in their respective fields, and

WHEREAS in many cases the overall good of their contributions to American culture should be considered to outweigh an otherwise isolated incident of negative publicity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange at all levels from Subordinate to National stand in support of American citizens that have made overall positive contributions to the culture of the United States of America in their lifetimes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Grange support maintenance of these monuments in their public spaces, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to National Grange for their consideration.

33) PRIORITIZE EFFICIENCY AND DISTRIBUTED ENERGY

WHEREAS we lose energy when it is transmitted on the grid, and

WHEREAS energy efficiency programs help people across the state, and on-site and community-based energy projects make our homes and communities more resilient, and

WHEREAS large grid-based renewable energy projects risk taking up natural areas, including forests that provide negative emissions, and

WHEREAS intact forest ecosystems have the most carbon, the fewest invasive species, and are the least expensive and most powerful tool we have to mitigate flooding, cool our local environment, improve public health and protect biodiversity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge the State of Connecticut to maximize incentives for energy efficiency, on-

...continued next page

site energy, and appropriately sited community-based projects, and **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that natural eco-system services provided by forest and wetlands be maximized.

34) RE: CABLE TELEVISION

WHEREAS the cost of cable television increased drastically in the past few years, and

WHEREAS when a problem occurs and a call for assistance is made to the cable provider, and

WHEREAS this call is usually directed to a person from a foreign country, and

WHEREAS most times it is very difficult to understand the instructions from this technician.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cable Television Advisory Council and Public Utilities Regulatory Authority be urged to insist that telephone service support be responded to by a person who is able to speak and communicate clearly with the caller.

35) VIRTUAL GRANGES

WHEREAS the younger generations are not joining the Grange, and

WHEREAS the younger generations are busy with personal activities such as school, work or other organizations, and

WHEREAS we are in the 21st century and live in the age of technology, and

WHEREAS they have access to a phone or computer,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange Membership Committee work alongside the Youth Committee and Public Relations Committee to develop a plan to be presented at the 2020 Session of the Connecticut State Grange to form a virtual Grange in Connecticut so the younger generations will be able to join the Grange and encourage them to have their voice be heard for the Good of the Order.

36) PROTECTION OF WATER AND LAND

WHEREAS a beautiful natural environment and ample clean water are priceless assets to the State, and

WHEREAS core forest contains the full range of forest-based diversity, including some species that cannot migrate and need protection from disruption, and

WHEREAS old growth forests are the most rare habitat, and

WHEREAS headwaters and wetlands are easily disrupted and essential to protect, and wetlands are carbon-dense, difficult to restore and have high biodiversity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the Connecticut State Grange urge the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to ensure that the core forest, old growth forest, headwaters, wetlands and vernal pools on land owned by the State are protected from unnecessary disturbance to ensure that these public assets best serve the long term public good of clean water, carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, and protection of full native biodiversity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any proposed disturbance of such land must be brought before a public hearing.

37) RE: CONNECTICUT TO BAN DECLAWING (ONYCHECTOMY) OF CATS

WHEREAS the method of declawing of cats by onychectomy (feline digital amputation), partial or complete phalangectomy (removal of toes), or tendonectomy (removal of tendons) is an extreme measure found to be painful and cruel treatment of animals, and

WHEREAS according to Dr. Nicholas Dodman (Tufts School of Veterinary

Medicine) "declawing fits the dictionary definition of mutilation," and

WHEREAS on June 4, 2019 the State of New York passed legislation banning onychectomy, as have some US cities and many European countries, and

WHEREAS alternatives to declawing exist, such as trimming their nails, nail caps and providing appropriate surfaces to scratch (sisal or cardboard scratching boxes, catnip),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge the General Assembly to pass legislation putting an end to this barbaric and inhumane practice of performing onychectomy (feline digital amputation), partial or complete phalangectomy (removal of toes), or tendonectomy (removal of tendons) on a cat except when medically necessary. Failure to comply to be punishable by sizable fines, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that cosmetic or esthetic reasons and convenience do not qualify as medically necessary.

Summary of Action on All Resolutions

1) Banning of Round-Up Products	Rejected
2) Connecticut's "Invisible" Residents	Rejected
3) Overhaul of Connecticut DMV	Rejected
4) Elimination of Styrofoam/Polystyrene	Adopted
5) Gun-Free Grange Meeting & Event Venues	Rejected
6) Digital Coupons	Adopted
7) Opposing Tolls in Connecticut	Rejected
8) Felons Shall Not Be Eligible for State Office in Connecticut	Rejected
9) Payment for Delegates.	Adopted
10) Connecticut Granger.	Rejected
11) Language.	Rejected
12) Cable Television	Rejected
13) Cleanliness of Tables in Fast Food Restaurants	Rejected
14) Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act	Rejected
15) Support Tolls on Connecticut Highways	Rejected
16) School Bus Safety	Adopted
17) Connecticut to Ban Declawing (Onychectomy)	Rejected
18) Repealing Public Act 19-24- An Act Streamlining Liquor Cont. Act.	Rejected
19) Manufacturers of Firearms	Rejected
20) Sale of Grange Property	Adopted
21) Black Bear Incidents	Adopted
22) Removal of Public Monuments Memorializing Notable People	Rejected
23) Local Resources Supporting Farmers and Local Businesses	Rejected
24) Addressing Nuisance Wildlife	Rejected
25) Prioritize Efficiency and Distributed Energy	Rejected
26) Protection of Water and Land	Rejected
27) Plastic Bags in Stores	Removed by Source Delegates
28) Support for Family Farms	Adopted
29) Master's Address	Adopted
30) Protection of Water and Land	Adopted
31) Connecticut's "Invisible" Residents	Adopted
32) Removal of Public Monuments Memorializing Notable People	Adopted
33) Prioritize Efficiency and Distributed Energy	Adopted
34) Cable Television	Adopted
35) Virtual Granges.	Adopted
36) Protection of Water and Land	Adopted
37) Connecticut to Ban Declawing (Onychectomy)	Adopted



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Nov. 3: Historical Society featuring Glastonbury Grange at the Masonic Hall, South Glastonbury. By reservation only. \$25.00 per person. Reservations through the Historical Society. 4:00 P.M. Arrival Time 5:00 P.M. Buffet Dinner followed by a powerpoint program by Dr. Brian Chieffer. Display by Glastonbury Grange of older Grange pictures and material.

Nov. 7: Regular meeting, 7:30 P.M. Program: Thanksgiving Traditions with Doris Monaco and Priscilla Schmartz refreshment committee.

Nov. 16: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.

Dec. 5: Brief Meeting, 6:00 P.M. followed the annual Christmas party at the hall.

Dec. 21: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane & Paul Miller

Nov. 20: Happy Thanksgiving Program.

At our first meeting we voted to receive 3 new members. We performed the welcome ceremony for Amy Monahan. She is very active in the community as she served on the town recreation committee. She has made some informative displays to promote the Grange. At our October meeting we voted in another new member. We served dinner to the Windham County Farm Bureau annual meeting. We have made some great strides in getting the hall sorted out. We are looking forward to some winter

events to be held at our hall. We hope to encourage new members at events we sponsor.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Nov. 1: Gathering, Ref. Paula

Nov. 15: Craft Night

Dec. 6: Holly Jolly Christmas, Yankee Gift Swap

Our October meeting was full of scary stuff; scary things to hear, scary things to touch. Even Patty the Pomona Platypus visited us dressed in a scary ghost costume, in line with the theme of the evening. Patty left us to go to Coventry Grange, but we trust that she will be back for another visit at Vernon Grange.

Our first craft night of this year was productive; we were able to complete New Year's favors for 3 local extended care facilities. At our pre-meeting dinner (6:15 P.M.), we will have a baked potato bar. All will bring something to share as topping for baked potatoes. We would love to have you join us, please let us know if you are coming so we can have a hot potato for you! We are also collecting bags of potatoes to help Hockanum Valley Community Council provide 500 holiday meals to those in need in the greater vernon area.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Nov. 8: "... and the Flowers"

Nov. 22: "... and the Trees"

It was a fairly quiet September, which was much appreciated after a very busy summer. As no officers changed we had no need for installation and Sue launched her programs for the year. So far we have learned a great deal about the birds and the bees- no, no, not that. We learned that both the wild birds and bees have been declining too rapidly due to climate change and other environmental factors. Sue's programs are very interesting and informative. Come and join us as we go on to the flowers and the trees in November.

At this reading we will have enjoyed our Halloween party and distributed dictionaries to all the

third graders in town. We know we have been doing this for quite a few years, because our Gatekeeper, a sophomore in college, told us that he remembers with pride receiving his dictionary. And if this wonderful fall weather will just continue until the end of December, next time we will tell you all about optimistic October.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Sue Gray

Our Grange successfully served breakfast and lunch again this year to hungry hordes at the annual Celebrate Ag at the Woodstock Fairgrounds. A huge sigh of relief from the hardworking crew when the last person served was full, we cleaned up and traveled the 25 miles back to our Grange to unload began.

Many thanks again to Jodi Ann Cameron and crew for their dedication to the Ekonk booth at the Brooklyn Fair which adds money to our coffers as well as our presence at a major CT Fair. Jaimie Cameron also set up a second prize exhibit for our Grange in the Better Living Building.

We held our annual Meet the Candidates Night as well as sending two resolutions to State Grange for their action.

Seventeen Juniors carved pumpkins at one meeting and

Continued next page...



Patty the Pomona Platypus came as a ghost to a recent meeting of Vernon Grange #52.

visited an apple farm in RI, bringing bags of apples back for each family. They all extend best wishes to President, Brianna Gervais, in her experiences at National Grange as she vies for National Junior Grange Ambassador! Both Junior and Subordinate Granges donated to help Brianna and her mother, Junior Leader, Rebecca Gervais, make the trip to Minnesota with National Grange not able to provide funding. The Connecticut State Grange has paid for Rebecca and Brianna's airfare to National.

Our booth at Sterling Family Day proved awesome with the Ekonk Community Grange cloth bags designed by our Chaplain, Andrea Truppa-Gagas that were gifted to folks attending, as well as bushels of apples we gave away individually.

We donated to J. Allen and Shelley Cameron to help with their expenses representing National Grange and Connecticut at the annual FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. They will man the Grange booth throughout the convention.

Our Grange donated \$500 to the all-volunteer Celebrate Ag Committee, of which Ekonk's Link

Cooper is a member.

Brenda Craig is certainly learning fast what it means to be President of a busy Grange.

We enjoyed an outstanding program by Megan McGory Gleason on the MANY cemeteries in Sterling, many of which many of

our members never knew existed.

Special hello to Russell Gray as he recuperates from his last hospital stay and surgery. His granddaughter, Lillian Sharpe, continues back and forth to Boston all too often in her continuing fight with leukemia.

A year in the Legislative Dept.



Alma Graham
Legislative Director

Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The Legislative Committee continues along its journey with past members, Gordon Gibson, Charles Dimmick and myself. We welcomed two new members: Noel Miller of Coventry Grange and Susan Masino of Simsbury Grange to the team.

The committee met in December to review the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Policy Handbook and add any new resolutions pertaining to state and national issues to it. Copies of this guide were distributed to all Connecticut General Assembly members as well as the Governor and Lt. Governor.

Gordon Gibson acted as our communicator on behalf of the Connecticut State Grange at the Connecticut Legislative Session. Gordon worked in conjunction with Working Lands Alliance and other agricultural organizations following bills pertaining to Grange interests. He did testify on one bill this year in support of Proposed Bill No. 208, An Act Exempting From The Personal Income Tax Proceeds From The Sale Of Agricultural Land Development Rights To The State. This bill proposed exempting from income tax the proceeds that farmers received when they sold their development rights to the state. We recommend that this also be modified to exempt income tax from the sale of development rights to municipalities and nonprofit organizations such as Connecticut

Farmland Trust, Inc.

In March I joined George Russell, J Allen Cameron and Alexa Miller in manning the Grange Booth at the Connecticut Agricultural Day at the Capitol. We were pleased when past Agricultural Commissioners Phil Prelli and Steven Reviczky stopped by to say hello.,

Gordon Gibson attended the Working Land Alliance annual meeting this year. Gordon is also a member of the Board of Directors for that organization. The Grange is a partner of this organization.

I would like to recognize one of our past Legislative Committee members. George Ward had been a member of the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee for over 32 years. He started as a member of this committee when Bud Beecher was State Master. He has been a faithful and insightful member of this committee and we all enjoyed working with him. I would like to formally thank him for his years of service. We would also like to recognize George for his years of service by appointing him as an Honorary Member of the State Grange Legislative Committee.

Southern Conn. Past Masters

There will be no meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters Association in November. The next meeting will be December 14- read about it in the next issue of the Connecticut Granger.



Brianna Gervais, President of Ekonk Comm. Jr. Grange #101 and mom Rebecca at a recent meeting. Brianna will represent Connecticut as Youth Ambassador at the upcoming National Convention in Minnesota.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Mountain Laurel Pomona doesn't meet again until December but we were very happy to learn that we were the Honor Pomona Grange of the Year as announced at State Session. For achieving this honor, our Master, Peter Keefe was given the additional honor of closing the State Grange in the Fourth Degree following the conferral of the Sixth Degree on Saturday afternoon of State Session. Congratulations to our Pomona and to Peter.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Nov. 12: Daylight Savings, Ref. Potluck at 6 P.M.

Nov. 26: Thanks, Ref. Sara Bement & Mimi Grustas

Dec. 10: Christmas Program (\$5 grab bag), Ref. All Members

Dec. 24: Meeting Omitted - Merry Christmas to all!

The weather is quickly turning again towards winter and the Grange hall is just about buttoned up with a new coat of siding on the Post Office end of the building. The contractor taken the extra step to triple nail the siding onto the building to prevent a repeat of the damaged caused by the howling Winchester winds last winter.

Our Oct. 22 meeting was our Annual Music Night and it was another amazing evening of beautiful music coordinated and, in many cases, performed by our Pianist Mary Lou Keefe. The Cherry Brook Chimes performed with a host of guest performances. Winchester Grange has always been spoiled with the plethora of musical members in our ranks. All of the music was amazing but if you

missed the performance of "Whiter Shade of Pale" performed on piano and organ, you missed A LOT!

Our Lecturer, Ramona Fassio, has been sick for several weeks so we have relied on many members to pitch in to ensure our events go on without a hitch. This was the case with Winchester Center Day when several members were unable to be there and others stepped up and helped to bring in a great profit on the day.

As of this writing, our annual Super Prize Party is one week away. This is another event spearheaded by Ramona and several members have come forward to help make it happen. Again, thank you all for your dedication to Winchester Grange!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghhannuck Grange had a very busy October.

Bill, Diane, Brent, Mike and Debbie became Pomona members by taking the Fifth Degree on Oct. 5th at a special degree day held by Dutchess County Pomona in New York.

The following day we set up a Taghhannuck booth at Freund's Open Farm Day and eight people gave us emails to learn more about the Grange plus many more learned "What is the Grange?"

At our regular meeting on Oct. 10 we had a lively discussion about



Hello Grange friends!

Since our last column, we finished up our time at the Big E. I got to see the awesome butter sculptures - a lot of work and talent went into creating those.

Then came time for the 135th Annual State Grange Session. It was so nice seeing all of my Grange friends and catching up, and also meeting our guests, Dwight and Kathy Baldwin, from Iowa. Congratulations to all the award winners and scholarship recipients, and also to our new members of the 6th Degree!

To catch up on all my latest ad-

the seven resolutions assigned to our Agriculture/Conservation and Environment Committee for State Session so as to get a consensus for adopting or rejecting the resolutions. Our Master, Secretary and Treasurer will be going to State Session as of this writing.

We have only one meeting in November on the 14th at 7:30 P.M. The program is Let's Be Thankful.

If anyone reading this is on Facebook it would be appreciated if you would like and follow us so you can see what is going on in a timely manner in case you might like to attend an event. To find us just put "Taghhannuck Grange No. 100" in the search box.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Dec. 14: Cranberries -Dawn

Jan. 11: Potatoes

We have said our goodbye to this year's Farmer's Market. This is our main source of raising funds for our Grange and we look forward to year seven. Members are already creating new items for our booth. The planning committee has decided on a new community service project for next year and members are excited to get started.

December means Christmas is coming and we here in Enfield wish everyone a very wonderful Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

ventures, just follow the link to my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button once you are on the page to see our updates in your FB timeline. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>





NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

December 1st finds us meeting at Beacon Valley Grange at 2:00. Lecturer Lois Evankow's program is entitled "Yuletide Magic". Those who would like to participate should bring a \$5 grab bag gift. Refreshments will be provided by the members of Beacon Valley Grange.

We will also have a Country Store.

We will not be meeting again until March so come and visit with your fellow Grangers.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Where has the year gone? It seems like we just took the decorations off the Christmas tree and here we are decorating it again. Our dining room was not full for our Kielbasa dinner nor was the hall full for our bazaar but we did make money and most of us enjoyed working together.

November schedule: Friday the 8th is our regular meeting. Program "We Salute the Military" in charge of Tom Honyotski. One of our newer members Gary Frankel will provide the refreshments. Can't wait to see what he comes up with. Saturday, November 16 is Open Mic, Friday Nov. 22 we will be exercising our decorating skills. Going into December on the 1st we will be hosting the meeting of Nutmeg Pomona No. 16 at 2 P.M. Will you be there?

Attendance at meetings has been excellent. At the last two meetings we had 100% of the

officers in attendance. We hope this trend continues.

We wish all our fellow Grangers a Happy Thanksgiving and that you all have something special to be thankful for.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Richard Prescott

Higganum Grange met in regular form on September 20th. Reports on the Mystery Tour in July and the picnic in August were presented, with both events deemed to be a success.

The parking lot for the building has received a coat of sealer with lines painted to delineate no parking and handicap parking spaces. A lock box for keys to all building entrance doors has been placed so as to be available for emergency personnel, eg: fire department.

Internal "exit" lights have all been replaced. Our free library box for the community has been installed on the outside of the building and will be supplied by our Grange members as well as donations from towns' people.

Local and state dues will be due in October. Norman Manning will be our delegate to the State Grange session. Refreshments followed the meeting. We will be getting back to our regular scheduled meetings the first Friday of the month, now that fall is upon us.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

- Nov. 7:** Business Meeting
- Nov. 21:** Business Meeting
- Dec. 5:** Business Meeting
- Dec. 7:** Holiday Market (10 - 4)
- Dec. 19:** Holiday Gathering

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members who were attracted by our annual summer fair: Sue Pellowe, Serena and Wesley Sumner, and Garret Tirrell.

Tai Chi classes are again underway, and participants are enjoying their instruction from our very own Bil Mikulewicz. Check our website for dates and times of classes! Drop-ins are always welcome, with a nominal entry fee of \$5 per class.

We were able to donate and present over 60 pounds of collected canned goods to the Wilton Food Pantry following our fair date. The food was collected from fair goers at entry in lieu of cash admission.

Congratulations to Chase Hollingsworth on his graduation from Trinity College in Hartford. Chase is the son of BillieSue and Dale Hollingsworth.

We bid farewell to the Keliehor family as they moved to Oakville, Ontario; yet we are still connected as they continue their Grange Family membership with us!

On a recent Saturday, our own Doug Shepherd spent the day powerwashing the exterior of the Hall, and giving a renewed coat of white paint to the front doors. The building looks so inviting. We thank Doug with our appreciation.

Mark your calendars for our December 7th Holiday Market. Come for some holiday shopping, have some delicious bake.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

- Dec. 13:** Friday the 13th
- Dec. 27:** Omitted unless regular meeting is canceled
- Jan. 10:** Happy New Year's Day
- Jan. 24:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

- Nov. 6:** Business Meeting-Draft a new Grange mission statement
- Nov. 20:** Social Meeting-Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Supper, 7 PM
- Nov. 29:** GOMAD Potluck and Music Night, 7:00 PM

The new back door with electronic keypad has been installed after years of dealing with a progressively more broken door that offered no security. The handicapped ramp is in need of staining to preserve the wood.

Our Community Through Music/ One More Saturday Night program

Continued next page...

of September 21, featuring the Wool Hats, and the Matt Rae Trio was enormously successful. Donations from Haynes Materials, Banko's Music Store, and New Harvest Restaurant covered the cost of the two bands plus some extra. We had a 50/50 raffle, as well. Free will donations at the door plus the other revenue netted over \$800 for the Grange. We hope to create a new music series based on this project headed by Dan Golias, Dave Foster, and Rich Patchkofsky. Thanks guys for all the hard work, and it was a lot! We hope to gain a few new members for our Grange as a result or Raye's heartfelt and informative membership promotion talk at the event.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Our annual Agricultural Fair was held on September 14 and it was a great success. Prior to the fair date, the Boy Scouts Troop 90 and their parents helped us spread mulch on the trail for the pony rides. Also, on the day of the fair, the scouts helped to set up and break down the tables and chairs and such. Thank you to Troop 90.

Our Agricultural Fair was a great success, the best in five years and the weather was picture perfect.

Looking ahead: The installation of officers will take place at our October meeting.

On October 26, the Halloween Masquerade Dinner will be held. An italian buffet will be served. Reservations required. Call Jim. 203-259-8023. An old "scary" movie ro follow.

Attention quilters! On November 9 Greenfield Hill Grange will host a Quilt Talk Luncheon, featuring Karen Macdonald and her awe-inspiring quilts. Reservations required. Call Jim .

Our Holiday Boutique will be held on Saturday November 16 from 10-3. Vendors, crafters, and all sorts of holiday gifts will be

featured.

Giving Thanks for friends: Our traditional Thanksgiving dinner/meeting will be held on November

18.

The holiday season is fast approaching. Happy holidays to all and God Bless.

Brussels Sprouts with Pistachios and Lime



With the month of November comes the Thanksgiving holiday - a time for gathering with family and friends and enjoying a feast of great food. Bon Appetit has a recipe for Brussels Sprouts that will take your Thanksgiving Dinner up a notch!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lb. small brussels sprouts, trimmed
- 3 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 3 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 3 Tbsp. raw pistachios
- 2 Tbsp. date molasses or honey
- 1 tsp. honey
- Zest of ½ lime
- 2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
- ½ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- Lime wedges (for serving; optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Place a rack in lower third of oven; preheat to 450°. Toss brussels sprouts and oil in a large bowl to coat; season with salt and pepper. Roast brussels sprouts on a rimmed baking sheet 15 minutes, then shake baking sheet to loosen them. Continue to roast until deeply browned all over, 5–10 minutes longer. Reduce oven temperature to 350° and roast another 10 minutes. Shake baking sheet again, then roast brussels sprouts until the tip of a small knife easily slides through, 5–10 minutes longer (total cook

time will be 35–45 minutes).

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Once butter starts to foam, add pistachios and a pinch of salt and cook, stirring often, until nuts are golden brown and butter solids are browned, about 4 minutes. Remove from heat.

Using a slotted spoon, transfer nuts to paper towels; let cool. Coarsely chop.

Meanwhile, bring date molasses, honey, and lime juice to a simmer in same skillet over medium heat (this will happen quickly), swirling pan to emulsify. Add 1 Tbsp. water and swirl to emulsify, scraping up browned bits with a wooden spoon. Add brussels sprouts; toss to coat.

Transfer brussels sprouts to a platter. Toss nuts, lime zest, red pepper flakes, and a pinch of salt in a small bowl to combine; scatter over brussels sprouts. Serve with lime wedges if desired.

Do Ahead: Brussels sprouts, glaze (without water), and pistachio mixture can all be made 3 hours ahead. Do not combine. Reheat glaze over medium heat until bubbling before adding water and brussels sprouts.

SOURCE: <https://www.bonappetit.com/recipe/brussels-sprouts-with-pistachios-and-lime>

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.



This month we know 2/3 of the people in our picture. In the center is National Grange Master Louis G. Tabor and on the right is CT State Grange Master Edgar L. Tucker. We want to know who the gentleman on the far left is? Let us know!



We heard from MaryLou Raymond regarding the October Window to the Past photo -- "My kids think it might be their grandmother May or she was also called Mabel Raymond. Her husband was Will GW Raymond, and he was Deputy under Robert K Mitchell. We think that this might have been taken at the New Canaan Grange. I didn't join Grange until much later, so I don't know if that's really who it is, but they were looking at a picture here on my wall and said that's Grandma." We also heard from Ed Duhamel on the October photo. The lady under the banner is then State Lecturer Gertrude Platt. The other woman is Mary Hengerveld, who was Lecturer of Quinebaug Pomona. No idea who the men are. He believes this was taken in the 1970s when it was held in Durham.



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.
Winchester Grange #74
membership@ctstategrange.org

It has been my pleasure to lead the Membership Committee this year. This year the Membership Committee has worked with Granges to grow and retain membership. We researched various programs and leaders in the membership growth field. Articles were written for the Connecticut Granger and some of us met with an Advisory Committee at the Big E to brainstorm the best program to launch for 2020.

Membership, with graphic designers, created a new Connecticut State Grange “Who Are We” video that was first presented at the Leaders’ Conference in March.

Thank you to our Worthy Master and the Executive Committee. Thanks to Sister Barbara Prindle for being not only a great teammate but setting a shining example as a membership leader of the Grange.

For the annual membership awards, they are broken into two categories: Net Gain and Largest Number of New Members.

For the Granges with Net Gains:

- #3- Granby Grange #5
- #2- Taghannuck Grange #100
- #1- Beacon Grange #118

For the Granges with the Largest Number of New Members:

- #3 (Tie)- Granby Grange #5
- #3 (Tie)- Taghannuck #100
- #2- Senexet Grange #40
- #1- Beacon Grange #100

Winners in the Largest Number of New Members category are receiving gift cards for Dunkin’ Donuts and Stop & Shop that can be used for refreshments at upcoming events and meetings.

Congratulations to all!



The “Leading, Learning - Making A Difference” program was introduced at State Session by Membership Director Faith Quinlan. The program is the result of an Advisory Committee meeting held at the New England Grange Building during the Big E. The program is intended to create opportunities for the community to take part in Grange programming and to hopefully want to learn more about the organization and eventually become members of the Grange.

How will we do this? Programs and events will be created that will feature topics that may include life skills, crafts, educational topics, and many others that will engage Grange members and the public. The expenses related to the programs will be covered by the Membership Dept. with fees charged to participants to hopefully cover those costs and generate revenue to perpetuate the program.

What’s the logo about? The owl is a powerful creature with a long history in the Grange. The owl represents the office of Gatekeeper who is ever “vigilant and watchful.” This program is an embodiment of that mission-- creating opportunities for membership growth.

This program will evolve and grow as it progresses. We hope every member will make contributions to the program as we go along and take it in surprising new directions.



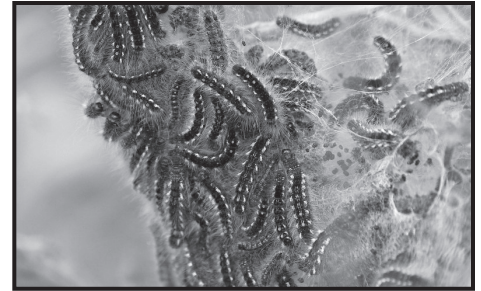
Welcome

to the newest members of the Sixth Degree

- John William Cody, Sr. Wolcott Grange #173
- Kimberly Dumouchel-Cody . . Wolcott Grange #173
- Debbie Hanlon Taghannuck Grange #100
- Brent Prindle Taghannuck Grange #100
- Margaret Zottola Bridgewater Grange #153

Having received the degree at the
135th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange

Brown tail moths found in New England



Irene Percoski, Ag. Committee

The brown-tail moth is an invasive species in the United States and Canada, having arrived in Somerville, MA circa 1890 and becoming widespread there and in neighboring Cambridge by 1897. Initial outbreaks were most evident in pear and apple trees. Doctors reported “poisonings” (skin rash) far worse than poison ivy rash. Within a few years it was seen as a serious, fast-spreading, horticultural and health problem. Through the early parts of the 20th century it was present in much of New England from eastern Connecticut to Maine, and northward into New Brunswick, Canada, but the 1906 introduction of the parasitic tachinid fly to counter Gypsy moths collaterally impacted brown-tail moths. By the late 20th century the habitat was reduced to the coast and islands of Maine, and also parts of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Cold and wet weather hinders re-expansion of the population outside its current territories, although starting in 2015 there has been a population spike and territory expansion in coastal Maine, from Portland to Bar Harbor. In addition to North America, there have been reports of this species appearing in China, Japan and New Guinea.

Cicely Blair wrote a paper about the rash caused by the brown-tail moth caterpillar in the British isles. It, and other descriptions, confirmed that loose hairs break off and, on contact with skin can cause very itchy rashes, and breathing difficulties similar to asthma if inhaled. Rashes can persist for weeks.

The same symptoms have been reported as far back as 1903. The reactions are due to a combination of mechanical and chemical stimuli, the barbed hairs in effect becoming lodged in and physically irritating the skin, and also functioning as microtubules to introduce irritating chemical compounds that have hydrolase, esterase and hemolytic activity. This rash reaction may be referred to as lepidopterism. The species should be handled using protective gloves at all stages of its life cycle. Shed hairs blow about, and can be brought indoors on clothing and shoes, so rashes can occur without the victim coming in direct contact with the caterpillars. The toxins in the hairs remain po-

tent for up to three years after being shed. Outdoor activities such as mowing a lawn or raking leaves in the fall can cause exposure.

All the information about this moth can easily be found in any encyclopedia. The Maine State Grange felt that there was enough of a problem that they printed an article in their October newsletter warning their Grangers of the danger from this moth. The article gives some excellent advice on protecting yourself and your family when participating in outdoor activities. You can access the article and information at the following web site.

<http://mainestategrange.org/?p=84287>



Eye on Communications
GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

And the winners are...

Terri Fassio, Public Rel. Co-Director

The Public Relations committee offered three contests for 2019. Sadly, the Video Contest did not have any entries.

The winner of the Best Cooperative Partnership Contest was Taghhannuck Grange. Their entry detailed their partnership with the Sharon Historical Society and Author Carol Ascher, culminating in a presentation called “A Chance for Land and Fresh Air. Russian Jewish Immigrants in Sharon and Amenia 1907-1940”.

The Social Media Participation Contest was the third Public Relations Contest. Granges were

automatically entered into this contest by effectively and actively managing a proper Facebook and/or Twitter Page. The winners are as follows:

Facebook Winners: 1- Winchester Grange; 2- Cheshire Grange; 3rd: Ekonk Community Grange

Twitter Winners: 1- Winchester Grange; 2- Cannon Grange

Winning certificates will be mailed to each Grange. The Public Relations Committee will be meeting soon to develop our program for the year, which will include all new contests. We will be reporting on this soon.

Recognition of our dedicated Lecturers



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

I hope you all enjoyed State Session. My favorite part is visiting with people I haven't seen in the past year. We have a lot of dedicated Lecturers in our State. I always enjoy honoring them at our banquet. Here is a complete list of the awards handed out Friday night...

Complete Program

"It Happened in the USA"

- 1- Susan Pianka, No. Stonington
- 2- Beacon Valley Grange
- 3- Cheri Robinson, Vernon

Essay Contest "My Grange"

- 1- Lois Evankow, Lyme
- 2- Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley
- 3- Cheri Robinson, Vernon

Honor Lecturer Awards

- Barbara Kulisch, Cheshire
Cherie Robinson, Vernon
Lois Evankow, Lyme

Lecturer Appreciation Awards

- Barbara Kulisch, Cheshire
Linea Erickson, Cawasa
Helena Schwalm, Whigville
Cherie Robinson, Vernon
Marcia Garland-Miller, Coventry
Jaimie Cameron, Ekonk
Carol Knutson, Taghannuck
Robert Buck, Bethlehem
Susan Pianka, No. Stonington
Lois Evankow, Lyme
Enfield Grange
Lila Cleveland, Stonington
Raine Pederson, Riverton
Nancy Swanson, Hemlock
Robert Buck, Oxford

Should Auld Acquaintance

- Cheshire
Glastonbury

- Vernon
Coventry
No. Stonington
Prospect
Lyme

"A Word From Home"

- Cheshire
Glastonbury
Vernon
Coventry
Lyme

If your Grange is one of the ones listed, please thank the person responsible. If it is not listed, why not offer to help your Lecturer or head up one of the other project this year. Remember, you do not have to be a Lecturer to participate.

CT Past Deputies Association

The Past Deputies Association will meet at Cheshire Grange on Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 for our meeting and Christmas Party. The dinner will be in the charge of Joanne Cipriano and the program in the charge of Irene Percoski and Gordon Gibson. Noel Miller, President, will preside during the meeting.

If you would like to participate, we will have a \$5.00 grab bag. Country Store theme is "Red."

Those attending are asked to bring a Christmas dish to share. Dessert and beverages will be provided by the Committee.

Further plans will be made for our 50th anniversary and a report will be given on our recent raffle.

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Saturday, November 16, 2019

No Charge • All Welcome
Veterans • Family & Friends • Everyone

Riverton Grange Hall
Doors Open at 5:00, Dinner at 5:30

Bring a Dish, if you would like to Share or just come and join us.

RSVP by 11/11/19 to rainepederson@hotmail.com
860-309-3160

Be Joyful in the Lord



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

O BE joyful in the LORD, all ye lands: serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. (Psalm 100)

One of the best pieces of advice found both in the Bible and in various secular sources is to be joyful. In our Grange ritual we are told that “a merry heart doeth good like a medicine.” In the Book of Psalms we find not only the quote which starts this column but also: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! (Psalm 47). Paul, in the Letter to the Philippians, says: “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”

One of the more difficult things to learn is that it is important to be joyful even when things go wrong. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, quoted above, was written while Paul was in prison, awaiting his eventual death sentence. Paul goes on to say: “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

This sentiment of being joyful even in adversity is found in the words of the Old Testament prophet Habbakkuk: “Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.”

Consider that, even when everything seems to be going wrong, what good does it do you to be sad? I am not such an optimist that I expect everything to go right; rather I am more of a cheerful pessimist, in that I rather expect things to go wrong, and when they do not go wrong I am so cheerful that I rejoice, and when they do go wrong I can be cheerful that they are not worse, and can then also rejoice.

So, rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice.

thank you

Sincere appreciation to all Granges and Grangers who took the time to send cards, messages or telephone calls to Russell after his latest stay at hotel “Lawrence & Memorial.” This was our first experience with this hospital and it was exceptional! At this writing, he awaits surgery on opening day of State Session. Needless to say, he will not be in attendance. Blessings to our Grange family from Sue Gray and family.

Beech Leaf Disease found in Conn.

New Haven - Scientists from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) have identified Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) on American beeches (*Fagus grandifolia*) at three locations in Greenwich, New Canaan, and Stamford, CT. This disease, which can kill trees within seven years of detection, was first discovered in 2012 in Ohio, followed in subsequent years by detections in Pennsylvania, western New York, and Ontario, Canada. With surveys underway to assess the extent of the disease in CT, BLD appears currently to be limited to Greenwich, New Canaan and Stamford.

Symptomatic leaves collected from these sites tested positive for

the newly described nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae*, subspecies *mc-cannii*, which was confirmed in July of this year to be the casual agent of BLD. The nematode appears to cause disease on only *F. grandifolia* and *F. sylvatica* (European beech). Disease development, transmission, and control are the subjects of ongoing studies.

The symptoms of beech foliage, best observed from below looking up into the canopy, are characterized by dark striping between leaf veins. Members of the public are encouraged to report any findings to Robert Marra (Robert.Marra@ct.gov) or James LaMondia (James.LaMondia@ct.gov).