



The Granite State Granger

Volume 42

Number 1

2012

March

Spring Fling 2012 Grange Month Kickoff Event April 14, 2012

Belmont Middle School

A diverse array of topics has been arranged for your enjoyment, and the Youth and Junior Department is hosting separate activities all day just for the kids! Once available, the schedule will be posted on the State Grange website. Registrations are recommended and are most helpful if received no later than April 6th.

A suggested donation of \$10 per person, which includes lunch, is being asked to help defray the expenses of the day and is payable on the day of the event. **Do not send payment with your registrations, please.** Families are encouraged to set their own donation amount. If at the last minute you realize that you can attend, please come even if you are not registered. We will make every effort to accommodate your attendance at this event. With one exception, all workshops are open to the public, so if there is a topic you think is of interest to someone you know, please invite them!

Please check the official mailing to your Grange, or go to www.nhgrange.org for the finalized list and schedule! Please take note of the workshops that were confirmed at the time of this GSG deadline. Topics will include Living Wills, Code Book Reading, Grant Writing, Couponing, Container Gardening, Living On Practically Nothing, The Northern Pass Project, A Dublin Quilt, NH Grange Foundation, and Creative Memories Scrapbooking.

The only workshop scheduled for the 11:00 a.m. time slot is being produced by the Legislative Department as a continuation of last year's "Grangers in Public Office" forum. Several members of last year's illustrious panel will take questions from the audience. Is there a bill in the NH

house or Senate that concerns you? Bring your questions!. This will be a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about our local and state governments and some of the Grange people who are serving in them.

Registration starts at 8:45 and the first workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. The final workshop ends at 3:00 p.m. Please make plans to join your fellow Grangers from around the state for this unique, fun, and educational day of membership enhancement. And don't forget to bring your friends, too!

Grange Gathering Day

April 21 is Grange Gathering Day, a nationwide celebration of Grange with events on the same day in all Grange States. NH Grangers will gather at the State Grange Building in Hooksett for the State Lecturer's Penny Sale and Variety Show, followed by a pot luck supper.

Come to the State Grange Building at 1 p.m. to buy your Penny Sale tickets and distribute them on the items you hope to win. There will be a table of Grange items as well as the usual knick-knacks and other "useful things." Yes, the State Lecturer would welcome donations for the sale. The proceeds will benefit the State Lecturer's Talent Fund.

The Variety Show will begin at about 2:15 p.m. Participants should pre-register with State Lecturer Hannah West by April 7. This is the Variety Show which has taken place in June in previous years. The plan is that an April date will draw greater participation of performers and audience members, as there will be fewer scheduling conflicts.

After the Variety Show, Penny Sale numbers will be drawn while the judges deliberate. Variety Show winners will be announced, and tables will be set for a pot luck supper. Sherrill Bokousky will organize the supper.

State Grange Booth Wins Battles Award

At the Farm & Forest Expo on February 3 and 4 the New Hampshire State Grange Booth was awarded first place in the Educational Division. This prize is named in honor of Joseph Battles, a long-time supporter of the Farm & Forest Expo. It brings a big blue ribbon, fame and glory, and a free booth at next year's Farm & Forest Expo.

The booths are judged by how well they illustrate the theme of the year both in words and in visuals. This year's theme was "Opening Doors to the Future." The Grange booth featured a cabinet with six doors that opened to reveal membership applications, a dictionary, pencils printed with the State Grange website address, and other artifacts and giveaways. There was even a mirror to reveal the faces of "future Grangers."

Many thanks to Anne and Marty Boisvert and the Membership Committee for planning and constructing the booth. Thanks also to Dot Haskins, Marion T. Jones, Allissa Estes, Fran Everard, Norman Brandt, Beth and Arthur Merrill, Bob Haefner, Lois Enman, Tara Sad, Hannah and Mary West, and Gloria Davis for staffing the booth to answer questions and pass out Farmo stickers. This annual event is a wonderful membership outreach, as it brings the Grange to the attention of folks who appreciate rural values.



**Outside My Window
on Keene Road
James Tetreault
NH State Grange Master**

We have certainly had a mild winter this year. Has this helped your Grange? When looking at the Fall Deputy Report, we should see very few missed meetings this year due to weather. Are you taking the opportunity to have fun this winter? I am very excited that Cheshire County Pomona will have its 2nd annual Uno night at its February meeting. Now anyone that knows me knows that I am horrible at cards, but colors and numbers I can handle. We found last year that we had fun. When was the last time your Grange had fun?

Pomona Secretaries, are you reaching out to your Subordinate Secretaries? Part of the goal in my Master's Address last year was to improve communications. When you get communications from Sister West are you passing them on? Members who have E-mail, are you bringing this information to your meeting to share with the other members of your Grange? Pomona Masters, have you reached out to struggling Subordinate Granges in your Pomona? What is your plan for helping them to succeed? If you have not selected the Grange or Granges you are going to work with, get your Grange Growth Team together to set this as a priority. We are trying to grow the Grange in New Hampshire this coming year. Last year we had 17 Granges with net gains in membership. Let's see if we can make that 20 Granges for this year.

Our Area meetings were very successful this year. A big thank you goes out to the members of Centennial Grange, Golden Rod Grange, and Riverside Grange for being our hosts this year. Attendance was down this year, but two of the three weekends we had snowy weather. Next year look for a revamped program. Someone asked me, "Why are you doing area meetings again?" My response was, "It's an opportunity to bring the State Grange closer to our Grange members."

At the end of February, Sister Beth Merrill and I will be traveling to Atlanta, Georgia, for the State Masters Conference. This will be an opportunity to share leadership issues with other State Masters and enhance our leadership skills. I am also looking forward to some travel time, Gone with the Wind is my favorite movie, so I am really going to enjoy seeing some of the tourist attractions in Atlanta.

If the State Grange can do anything to assist you or your Grange, please feel free to contact me or any member of the State Grange family.

**State Lecturer
Hannah West**

The next few months will be busy ones for the State Lecturer and, I hope, for many of you. Grange events are only successful if the average Granger supports them.

March 11 is the State Grange Bowling Day at Lakeside Lanes in Manchester. Bowling begins at 12 noon. Hope to see you there. If you do not bowl, come and be a cheering squad for those who will be bowling that day.

April 21 will be Gathering Day at the State Grange Building in Hooksett. The State Lecturer's Variety Show will begin at 2:30 p.m. This is the show that is usually held in June. I am hoping that an earlier date will avoid conflicts in scheduling. There will also be a Penny Sale starting at 1 p.m. to benefit the State Lecturer's Talent Fund. The day will end with a Pot Luck Supper in charge of Sherrill Bokousky.

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

May 5 will be Vermont/New Hampshire Afternoon held at Middle Branch Grange in East Bethel, Vermont this year. New Hampshire will present the program at 3:30 p.m., and Vermont will serve a Chicken Pie Supper at 5 p.m. I am hoping for a good attendance this year, because the timing should allow everyone to travel during daylight hours. Reservations are needed for supper by April 27th. Details are on page 7 of this paper.

There are only two Lecturer's Reports due this year, but the first one is due on May 31st. Will I be pleasantly surprised by the number of reports I receive? I certainly hope so. It is OK to put "Not Yet" beside an item on the report. You will be sending in another report in October, so you still have time to put your best foot forward.

In case you haven't received the word, the Northeast Lecturers' Conference will be held in New Hampshire this year at Rivier College in Nashua. The date is July 30 to August 2. It is a bit earlier this year because the college is available then. The theme of the conference is "Beyond the Stars." The New Hampshire program, "Constellations," will be Monday evening with a rehearsal on Monday afternoon.

Please send me your donations for the Talent Fund. So far this year I have not received any, and they are very much needed for the fund to be rich enough to send a talent winner to National Grange in Boise, Idaho, in November.

If you will be presenting a Community Citizen Award or a Public Service Award and wish to have that person considered for a state award as well, please send the name and details to Richard Patten. Dick has volunteered to be the "Go to Person" for State Grange awards this year, and I am delighted to hand over that responsibility to him. Your Pomona Public Citizen Award may be given to a Grange member, but only non-Grangers are eligible for State awards. The purpose of the State Grange Awards program is to reach out to members of the community and publicize the Grange name.

**If there is no wind, row.
Latin Proverb**

**Grange Services
Lois Enman, Director**

This is the winter/spring article, but I am hoping that if I catch our seniors in high school right now that are checking out your school's list of scholarships you will check out the State Grange Scholarship information. If you are in college at this time and will be returning to college for another year, please look into completing the required information. Scholarships are given to applicants based on completion of requested personal and financial information plus several letters of recommendation. There are a few changes on the two forms that you can download off the State Grange web site at: www.nhgrange.org. You can also ask a committee member for the forms.

At the leaders/deputy meeting the first of December I shared with the secretaries that were present forms for members to use to contact American Income Life Insurance (AIF). This information form can be copied and mailed or go to their web site at: www.aiflife.com. This program offers coverage for an Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) benefit that is provided to members at no cost. There are also several discount program offers that the company can provide.

Our committee is pleased to have worked with the Membership Committee to have a printed brochure that members can have to understand the State and National programs that are offered to members of our local Granges. With this brochure your Grange can have a tool to offer to a new member. It contains a bit of history, information on several benefits that are for Grange members, and an application form. This brochure will be available off the State Web site for printing so local Granges can have what they need as they need it.

The annual appeals letter for the Educational Loan Fund (ELF) will be sent to all Subordinate and Pomona Granges, and I hope your Grange will make an ex-

tra effort to have a bake sale or a silver march to send a donation. These invested funds help to provide the money for the State Grange Scholarships we provide to members going on to advance their education.

If you need more information on any of these programs mentioned in this article please contact me or any committee member. We will be glade to help in any way we can. Your Grange Master or Secretary has information on all the State Committees.

May Spring come early and your travels be safe and please introduce yourself to me if you see me at an event.

**State Grange Historian
Richard Patten**

I wasn't sure what or who to write about in this issue of the GSG, but with the passing of Past State Master B. Franklin Hayes, I decided it would be appropriate to mention him. I first met Frank in the spring of 1969 at Catamount Grange in Pittsfield. Catamount Grange was celebrating Youth Night, so my uncle and I decided to visit them. Frank and his wife Ginny were there along with their sons and several members of Eastern NH Pomona. They seemed like a very friendly couple. Ginny was busy collecting the pink sashes, saying she had enough for a state session. Of course, she was laughing as she was collecting.

Frank was instrumental in starting the Grange Family Weekend along with the annual Grange Bowling Tournament. He began as a Deputy in the State Grange and then become State Gatekeeper. I met him while he was serving as State Assistant Steward, and he continued to Steward, Overseer, and Master. He served on the State Executive Committee and, while

Support the ELF!
Please send your Educational Loan Fund donations to:
Rodney Huntoon
8 Pine Acres Rd., Suite 808
Concord, NH 03301



he was Master, he was elected as National Grange Secretary. It was then that he decided to resign as Master. However, a resolution was submitted to change the year the State Grange elected their officers from the even years to the odd years. This would enable the delegates from the NH State Grange to study the officers for a year so they would know how to elect the following year.

Frank always reminded me of a father figure. Frank would say many times that he gave us our start in the Pink Sash Family. I can remember talking to Frank many times during a Saturday night when I was working. He filled the role of a surrogate dad many times. I could always talk to him about dad/son concerns. Frank was someone who would take time to talk to you.

Many of us have our own memories of Frank, as we say, "Well done, Good and Faithful Servant." Frank, I am sure, is with many of our Grange friends in the Great Grange above.

HISTORY QUIZ

I was looking through the 1972 Journal of Proceedings. The 99th annual session was held in Claremont at Stevens High School. I remember that year well because I was the State Grange Prince having been honored at the 98th session in Concord. Being State Prince was very educational, and I learned so much about myself and areas I needed to grow in. I was very shy and didn't speak a lot. In 1972 I was involved somewhat in the Concord community as a member of the Concord Jaycees.

How many State Officers from that year are still alive? Do you know who they were? Please let me know and I will try to have a prize of some sort. I need the full name and the office they held. It was amazing to me how many of those Grangers have left us for the Great Grange above. The Standing Committees that year included Youth, Home Economics, Membership, Taxation, Agriculture, Safety & Ecology, Education, Educational Loan Fund, Trustees for the NH State Grange Trust, Contact Committee, and Publicity. Do you remember who the Directors (Chairmen) were?

Hime Grown Politics
Across New Hampshire Firmland
to Copncord and Washington
Bob Haefner
Legislative and Agriculture Dept.

Now that the New Hampshire first in the nation primary is over, the media has gone on to the other early states and the phone calls and mailings have stopped, I hope life has gotten back to normal for all of you. It is an experience that we really should be proud of. The bigger states and the later states never get to experience retail politics at its best.

The Worthy State Master and I have taken a position and will be taking that position to the State Executive Committee to approve a resolution that the NH State Grange is opposed to eliminating dog licenses in our state. There has been a bill in the legislature to do just that. With every license, \$2 goes to the state spay and neuter fund and that has been a success and a model for the rest of the nation. It ensures that licensed dogs have had their rabies shots and allows for a census of dogs in each city and town in NH. It is a small source of revenue for the towns. It is also helpful in locating the owners of stray or lost dogs.

Although not a Grange event, I did go the annual meeting in Washington of the State Agriculture and Rural Leaders (SARL) in January. There were about 100 of us there from across the county. Most of us are either House or Senate Agriculture Chairs. We share what is happening in our states, work on common issues between states and gave our input to the 2012 Farm Bill. The Meeting produced 10 resolutions that all 50 states could agree on. Of the 10 resolutions, two came out of New Hampshire and a total of 4 from New England. Much of the policy decisions that we, in SARL make, fits very well with NH State Grange policy.

State Meat Inspection has been a priority of mine as an advocate for agriculture, the chair of the House Committee on Environment and Agriculture and as your State Legislative and Agriculture Department. We have passed a law authorizing State Meat inspection and are

very proud of the law and all of its detail. Unfortunately the USDA has said they will not support it. Their objection to it is that we are not hiring inspectors, but using contractors. They also interpret the 2008 farm bill differently than the intent of Congress. To that point, I have a meeting scheduled with the Staff Agriculture experts from all four members of our Congressional Delegation. We are going to provide them with rules and laws that either need to be fixed to allow us to provide our farms with state meat inspection or talk to the USDA about their interpretations not being in sync with the congressional intent. SARL also produced a Resolution in support of NH State meat inspection.

I need your support for NH Agriculture. I am sending a letter to each subordinate Grange and asking all of those Granges to write a letter to all of their State Representatives and State Senators to support buy local, NH Agriculture, the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture Markets and Food, and the UNH Cooperative Extension. A letter from every Grange will send almost every Representative a letter stating the Grange position for support of Ag. The letter to the subordinates will detail what the Reps need to hear. So many Representatives do not realize that there is any agriculture left in NH.

I was not able to make the Northeast Leaders Conference this year, as it was the weekend that I was in Washington with SARL. I did get to the area meetings in Barrington and Dalton, but missed the Keene meeting, as I was taking my Grandson Matt to Logan airport for his return flight to Montana. I have delivered all of the Legislative and Agriculture awards for the year. All but one of those was delivered in the rain.

I spent a fair amount of time at this year's Farm and Forest Expo. I was there on Friday afternoon and evening as the Chair of the House Agriculture Committee and in between worked the State Grange booth with Tara Sad and then back on Saturday to work the Grange booth again with Lois Enman. It was a well attended Farm and Forest and our booth won 1st place in the

educational category. A big thanks goes to Anne and Marty Boisvert for that.

The last time I wrote this column, we were worried about the Senate submitting a bill to consolidate the Dept. of Agriculture with other larger departments. I am happy to report that that bill was never submitted. I think we all made enough noise to stop it before it even was submitted. We still have a bill that will move the Weights and Measures Division out of Agriculture and put it in the Department of Safety. Please write or call your Reps and Senator and ask them kill it. Weights and Measures belong in Agriculture. Just think of all of the scales that weigh your food.

Calendar of Events

March 4 - Youth Drill Team - Hooksett

March 11 - Bowling, Lakeside Lanes, Manchester, 12 noon

March 24-25 - NH Maple Weekend - Visit a Sugar House near you

March 31 - Youth Glow Bowling Keene

April 14 - Spring Fling, Belmont Middle School

April 21 - Grange Gathering Day - Hooksett 1 p.m.

April 28 - Youth Glow Bowling Spare Time in Manchester

May 5- VT/NH Afternoon - 3:30 p.m. East Bethel, VT

May 12 - Degree Day - Wattannick Hall in Hudson

May 19 - Plant Sale - Hooksett

May 26 - Youth Mini Golf

June 8-10 - June Youth Rally

June 24 - NE Go-to-Church Sunday

July 1 - Scholarship Applications due

July 13 - 15 - Northeast Youth Conf. Connecticut hotst

July 19-22 - Stratham Fair

July 21- Youth Beach Day

July 30 - Aug. 2 - NE Lecturers Conf. Rivier College, Nashua, NH

Aug. 1 - Needlework entries and Big E items due to F&C Committee

Aug. 1-5 - Cheshire Fair

Aug. 11 - Youth Awards Night and Chili Cook-off

Aug. 11-13 - Belknap County Fair

Aug. 17- 19 - Cornish Fair

Aug. 29 - Sept, 3 - Lancaster Fair

Aug. 30 - Sept. 3 - Hopkinton Fair

Sept. 1 - Youth Harvest Hoom Stomp

General Deputy Arthur Merrill

Another year of Grange work has begun, and the Deputy force will soon start their visits. This year we will again show the Granges some of the secret work. Last year it was the Sign of Caution and the Sign of Distress. This year the Patrons' General Sign and the Patrons' Grip will be given by the Deputy at Instruction, and the Grange will exemplify them at the Inspection meeting.

A few issues are of concern to me after reviewing the fall Deputy reports.

Dues

If your Grange is taking in less than \$29.00 per member, the amount paid to State Grange, that means you are always taking money out of funds that could be used in your community for projects and membership building.

Meetings

The NH State Grange BYLAWS (Article XIV, Section 6, Division 2) state that a Subordinate Grange must hold at least one meeting a month. This means 12 months a year, not 10 or 8. Any Grange that does not meet every month is in violation of the BYLAWS.

Meeting Form

If your Grange always meets at a table, not in form, **this is not a Grange meeting**. You might as well be the "Village Improvement Society". A Grange meeting has a structure, setting up of the hall, a ritual and an order of business that should always be used.

BYLAWS

Many Granges do not have an up to date set of bylaws of their own Grange. Every Grange should find a copy and update them as needed. If you do not have a copy, find a template on the State Grange website (www.NH-Grange.org). After you have completed the updates and your members have approved them, please send a copy of them to me or give them to your Deputy.

The State Grange and many Pomonas have team of members who

have been trained to assist you in growing your Grange. Contact your Pomona Grange Master, Visioning Deputy Robert Trombi, or me to help you to set up a meeting to get started to grow your Grange. We have been trained, we want to help, you only have to ask.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or your Grange's Deputy.

Community Service Thoughts Richard Patten

If you are looking for ideas for your Grange to do, how about making St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards for shut ins or members of the military who are still in Afghanistan, Iraq, or in other parts of the world. They would enjoy receiving mail from home. The residents in the area nursing home facilities enjoy hearing from anyone who cares to take the time to remember them.

You might think about sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for boys and girls in your community, if there isn't one already scheduled. You could even have an Easter Egg Hunt at the retirement facilities. Don't forget magazines, calendars, greeting card scrap books to bring to the various retirement homes. The same for schools, pre-schools, and adult day care centers. You might organize volunteers to go in and assist reading stories or help them with their mail or card writing.

April is Grange Month, and it is never too early to start planning whether it is an Open House meeting, display at a public facility, or going out talking about the Grange to people who aren't members. If you need help in doing an awards night, please let me know and I will be happy to help you set it up. If you are going to honor or individuals in your community, please send the names to me on the appropriate forms. I will be sending them out soon. Please put your best effort forward if you are planning an open house type meeting.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the area meetings. I enjoyed meeting Grangers in Dalton. The weather was not the greatest, but we heard some great community service ideas.

Fundraising Sherrill Bokousky

Hello to all. I wish to say thank you to all the folks who helped and worked with me to complete several fundraising efforts last year. We were able to fill some of our needs but we still need to continue fundraising to meet our goals.

Our first fundraising project for 2012 is the 1/20 club. This is a weekly drawing for a \$25.00 prize, and this will continue for 20 weeks. Four additional cash prizes will be made on the final week. The first drawing will be held at February Winter Rally, and results will be posted weekly on the NH State Grange web site. I encourage Granges to participate as they were among the weekly winners last year.

A new project this year is to have a public breakfast and plant sale at the State Grange Building on May 19th. The time will be 6am-2pm. I will be getting plans ready for breakfast soon and needing volunteers to help me with that. I am also asking for any donations of plants for that day. Do you have any plants that you might be thinking of thinning out or wanting to share some plants you have started from seeds? Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Additional fundraising plans are to create displays to enter some of the fairs around the state during the months of July-October and Blueberry Pie day at the Big E in September. Any help with these would be welcome. If you are able to help with a fair display or to set up or take down at a fair in your area that would be a great help to our fundraising efforts. Blueberry Pie day will be another way to help. Take this opportunity to visit the Eastern States Exposition and help your State Grange raise money as well. We can use at least fourteen people to work in shifts at this event. Thank you again for all your support as we continue to raise funds.

**Advice is least heeded when
most needed.**
--American Proverb

Daniel Webster Grange
Annual Penny Sale and Chicken BBQ,
Webster Town Hall
May 26 BBQ-4:30 TO 6:00 PM
PENNY SALE 6:45 pm Tickets go on
sale at 3:00 pm
Penny Sale is large, Something for
everyone
Flower & Vegetable Plants for Sale.
Come & Join in the Fun

Items Needed
Rochester Grange #86 and Jim
Jacobs are collecting items for our troops
overseas. They are looking for letters or
cards from members, tooth paste, tooth
brushes, wipes, taffy (any kind), Twiz-
zlers (strawberry), jam, pop tarts, trail
mix, jerky by the bag or sticks, coffee,
tea, cocoa, socks (knee high), breakfast
to go, Q-tips, foot powder, Girl Scout
cookies, nerf balls, gum, sanitizer, toilet
paper, slinkys, yo-yos, Frisbees, chap-
stick, mouth wash, pop corn. Money for
postage is always appreciated too,
Please help by sending items to
Jim Jacobs
518 Portland Street
Rochester, NH 03867.

**A Hearty Grange Welcome to
the Following New Members**

David Jordon	Arlington
Devin Jordon	Arlington
Russell Weeks	Blow-Me-Down
Selena Weeks	Blow-Me-Down
Robert Correlus	Concord
Michael Lussier	Hudson
Michael Pare	Joe English
Cara Towers	West Thornton
Errol Towers	West Thornton
Glen Badger	Wicwas Lake
Kristy Badger	Wicwas Lake
Jim Barker	Wicwas Lake
Peter Fallon	Wicwas Lake
Bill Finer	Wicwas Lake
Pam Finer	Wicwas Lake
Helen Gouin	Wicwas Lake
Leander Huckins	Wicwas Lake
David LaFond	Wicwas Lake
Janet LaFond	Wicwas Lake
Jeanette LaGarde	Wicwas Lake
Stephen Mouse	Wicwas Lake
Stephanie Mouse	Wicwas Lake
Cheryl Ramsay	Wicwas Lake

Support the Granite State Granger
with your donation.

Pine Grove Grange
The members of Pine Grove
Grange had a busy holiday season. Our
annual Grange Family Thanksgiving Din-
ner took on added meaning this year when
we took a moment to give thanks for the
dedication of our members. Past Master
and Executive Committee Member Phyl-
lis Lang received our inaugural Grange
Service Award in recognition of her years
of commitment to the Grange. Somehow,
everyone managed to keep the award a
secret until just before dinner, when Phyl-
lis' family was escorted into the room for
the presentation.

Early December found us at the
Grafton County Nursing Home, where we
held a Christmas Party for Grange mem-
bers who reside at the home plus friends of
Grangers. Grange Pianist Denys Draper
led the group in singing carols, after which
the residents were treated to cookies and
ice cream. Later in the month, we had
a second party at the Grange Hall where
we exchanged homemade gifts. A few
days later, the Grange, in partnership with
other local groups, invited Santa Claus to
bring gifts to all of the Town children at
the school's annual holiday concert.

In January, Pine Grove Grange in-
vited the public to an open house to meet
the new Bath Police Chief, Bret Beausoleil.
Following a social "meet and greet"
session, Chief Beausoleil led a short dis-
cussion of ways that town residents can
avoid being the victims of crime. We will
be hosting another public event in Febru-
ary, when Bath resident Deb Robie will
present a program on "Agriculture in the
Classroom", and we are busy planning
our annual Easter Party for town children
and an Open House and Community Ser-
vice Award presentation during Grange
Month.



Grange Bulletin Board

Rochester Grange #86 will host a
Wildlife Stewards Program offered by
the NH Fish & Wildlife Department.

**Black Bear Happenings
in New Hampshire**
Saturday March 17, 2012
Rochester Grange Hall,
21 Charles Street
Refreshments at 6:30 and
program at 7:30.
Please RSVP -
Lois Enman @ lljen@myfairpoint.net
Judy Bailey@moxie220@hotmail.com



Members of Aurora Grange in
Pittsburg, Stratford Grange, and Mo-
hawk Grange got together on Saturday,
December 10th, at Mohawk Grange Hall
in East Colebrook to have a great "feast"
and visit time. Everyone brought dona-
tions to the local food pantry and excel-
lent snack food to enjoy as we visited and
sang some carols under Lynda Gaudette's
leadership. Four folks did a little skit, and
Mohawk Grange Master Michelle Hyde
did some good renderings, too.

Concord Grange # 322 will hold their
annual Grange & Community Awards
Night on Monday, April 30 at Dame
School at 7 p.m. The Grange will hono-
r individuals in the Law Enforcement,
Firefighting, Education, Community
activities, Lifetime Achievement, and
more! The members will serve refresh-
ments following the presentations. This
event is open to the public.

**Change of Meeting Place
Grafton Star Grange #60**
Starting with Wednesday, March
14, 2012, all regular meetings of Grafton
Star Grange #60 are scheduled to take
place at Black Senior Center across from
the school on Lebanon Street, Hanover.
There is ample parking at the new site.
Meetings at the Black Senior Cen-
ter will continue to open at 7:00 p.m. on
every second Wednesday of each month.

Mohawk Grange
In early February Lynda Gaudette,
Ginger Jannenga, and "J-R" and Peggy
Haynes of Mohawk Grange #217 pre-
sented dictionaries to the 3rd graders at
Colebrook Elementary School as they
do every year. Before handing out the
dictionaries, Lynda read a little bit about
what Grange is and its history, and then
passed around a photo of the Mohawk
Grange Hall for all to see. The students
immediately started looking through the
dictionaries and oohing & aahing about
what they found in them!



Ginger Janenga distributes dictionaries.
Photo courtesy of The News and Sentinel,
Colebrook, N.H."

**Why does a woman work ten
years to change a man's habits
and then complain that he's not
the man she married?
~Barbra Streisand**

**New Hampshire/Vermont Afternoon
May 5th, 2012
Middle Branch Grange #463
78 Store Hill Road
East Bethel, Vermont 05032**

Sister Hannah West will present her
program starting at 3:30 p.m.
A Chicken Pie supper will be served at
5:00 p.m.
Reservation deadline April 27th, 2012
Questions about supper call:
Matt Angell, Master
802-342-7471
Any other questions call:
Linda Sanderson
802-893-7883
E-mail: dclsvs83@yahoo.com
Directions:

From I-89 North or South take Exit 3 to
route 107 east. Take a left onto route 14
north. Go 4 miles and take a left onto
Factory Hill road (it is just before a brick
church). Take a left onto Store Hill road
and the hall is on the right just across the
bridge.

Mail reservation to:
Matt Angell, Master
8693 VT Rt 14
South Royalton, VT 05068
Number attending _____ @\$9.00 per
person
Children 5 and under free
Make checks payable to: Middle Branch
Grange

**Come One, Come All
to
Grange Gathering Day
April 21, 2012
State Grange Building
10 Riverside Drive
Hooksett
1 p.m. Penny Sale
(benefit Talent Fund)
2:15 p.m. Variety Show
(Preregister with Hannah
West by April 7)
4:45 p.m. Pot Luck Supper**

In Memoriam

**B. Franklin Hayes GS, PM Rochester
Past Master NH State Grange
Past National Secretary**

Kenneth French	Arlington
David Hopper	Blackwater
Calvin Swain GS	Centennial
Barbara Blaisdell-Boisvert	Granite
Agnes Follensbee GS	Hampton Falls
Nicholas Cotsibas	Harmony
Arthur Pratte GS	Jeremiah Smith
Ervena Rainville GS	Mohawk
Elaine Cray GS	Prentice Hill
Marilyn Keating GS	Reunion
Ruby Langley	Riverhill
Joseph Bascom	Rochester
Angie Standley	Watatic
Dorothy Bradley GS, PM	West Thornton
Roberta deGozzaldi GS	Wingold

Blazing Star Grange
In the forefront of the picture be-
low is a pair of hand-sewn mittens made
by Phyllis Rockwell (left) of Newfound
Wool Works in Hebron. The lined mit-
tens, fashioned from recycled sweat-
ers, were the February door prize at the
Danbury Grange Market and won by
Don Koury of Lebanon. Phyllis finds old
sweaters, washes and sews them up like
regular fabric. Her felted boots are made
of locally grown wool, and the wool she
processes is sold to knitters, felters, and
spinners. Assisting Phyllis with the draw-
ing is Susan Cutting of Cutting Farms in
Springfield, NH. The Market is held on
the first Saturday of each month through
April.



Visit the State Grange website at
www.nhgrange.org

National Grange Is Coming to New Hampshire!
by Beth Merrill

For the first time since November 12-22, 1913, the National Grange will convene its annual session in Manchester, NH. This convention will be considerably shorter and is scheduled to be held at the Radisson Hotel from November 12-16, 2013.

Quite unlike conventions previous to 2007 when total responsibility (financial, man hours, volunteers, etc.) was borne by the host state, today's National Grange conventions are sponsored by regions on a regular five-year rotation. The Northeast Connection, comprised of Masters and Overseers of the six New England states and New York, is the governing body of the Northeast Region. The board has assigned this writer with the terrific task of serving as Host Region Coordinator. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or would like to volunteer in some capacity, the coordinator's contact info can be found at the end of this article.

Last year, the Northeast Connection board selected a logo and theme that we will use throughout the convention. The winning logo design, submitted by NH Grange member, Kathy Yardley features the seven-sided Grange emblem surrounding a maple tree and sap bucket scene. Accompanying the logo is Hannah West's winning theme suggestion, "How Sweet It Is." As you can guess, we will try to incorporate a variety of state and regionally-produced products that fit within this context throughout the convention. If you have a personal connection to any such producer, your convention coordinator would appreciate receiving the contact information.

Currently, we are in the process of fundraising in order to ensure that there are enough funds available to produce the very best convention possible. Some convention expenses are covered by the National Grange, while others are the responsibility of the host region. The more money that we earn ourselves, the less the region will have to collect in assessment fees for future conventions.

The first batch of logo merchandise was made available at State Grange

convention and a second batch made the rounds at Area Meetings. T-shirts with the convention logo are available in slate and brick colors (additional colors will be added later this year) and are \$14 or \$16 for XXL and XXXL. Crew neck sweat-shirts come in a sandstone color with a blue-green imprint of the convention logo and are \$20 each or \$22 for XXL and XXXL. A forest green, zip-front sweat-shirt with the convention logo on the back is available for \$28 each or \$30 for the extra sizes.

We also are offering nice quality polo shirts with the Grange emblem embroidered on the left chest for \$25 and \$27. The first batch of black polos has sold out, but currently there are wine-colored shirts available. The great thing about the polo shirts is that we can take orders for any color the company offers except navy or white - those you can get from National Grange. You can view available colors at shirtmasters.com by clicking on "apparel catalog", then "see all brands", then "Outer Banks", then Item #2100 (men's) or #2400 (women's). The next order will be placed sometime in mid-spring, so contact your convention coordinator by May 10th if you want to be included in this special offer! More logo merchandise will be added in the future so stay tuned!

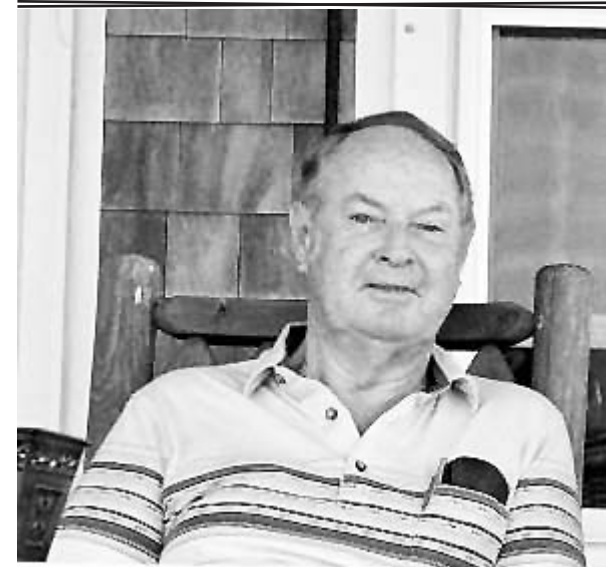
Another limited item for sale with proceeds going to the Northeast Connection is a hand-pressed suncatcher, made from recycled glass by Hancock Glassworks, available in two designs. One is amethyst, approximately 4"-5" in size and has a flower and butterfly scene with the words "Grange: Dispensing Charity". The other is slightly smaller, amber-colored and shows the Grange emblem. These are \$5 each while supplies last.

Another fundraiser that members have been supporting is "Grange Bucks". If you take a look at a dollar bill, you will see a letter on the left side of George's face that is inside a round border. Sometimes that letter is a "G", so we're calling those Grange bucks! We are happy to collect any Grange bucks that you may want to set aside for us!

This is your convention! The plans we make and carry out are a representation of all Grangers in the northeast re-

gion. Let us know what you think. If you have ideas for other fundraising items we could sell or sponsor, please contact your convention coordinator, Beth Merrill, at 107 West Street, Antrim, NH 03440, bmerrill@nhgrange.org, 603-547-7211.

The next issue will give an update on some of the convention committees, their plans, and whatever requests they may have for ideas and volunteers.



Past State Master Frank Hayes

B. Franklin Hayes, 86, of Zephyrhills, FL, passed away on January 28, 2012, at Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Home in Land 'O Lakes, FL. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; one sister, Lorraine Gilman, Rochester, NH; two sons, Richard Hayes, East Sandwich, MA; Michael Hayes, Riverview, FL; two daughters, Linda Upton, Dover, NH; Doreen Carr, Hampton, NH; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Frank served his country in the US Navy for four years during World War II. He graduated from Wentworth Institute in Boston and worked at General Electric for nearly 20 years in Somersworth, NH. Frank was a Grange member for over 70 years and a Past Master of the New Hampshire State Grange and Past Secretary of the National Grange.

Services will be held Saturday, March 17, 2012 at the First Church Congregational located at 63 South Main Street, Rochester, NH at 1pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Frank's memory to the Alzheimer's Treatment & Research Center; Ramsey Foundation; 640 Jackson St., St. Paul, MN 55101; or to the New Hampshire State Grange Youth Committee, C/O Allissa Estes, 165 Jamey Dr., Rochester, NH 03868.

**Organizing Deputy
Stephen Tracy**

Winter is the time for buying seeds and hoping for good weather for germination and growth.

Traveling to the area meetings I am hearing about some possibilities of Grange reorganizations. There are some strong feelings for the former Wantastiquet Grange in Hinsdale.

In January I was asked to go to the Lempster Historical Society meeting to see about a future meeting about the Grange. The Historical Society has saved the former Silver Mountain Grange Hall from destruction and refurbished it and now the time is ripe to refill it with a vibrant organization again. The interest expressed and the number of former members present makes me feel we will be successful there. Will keep you posted.

The same day and time as the Lempster meeting there was another Steve Taylor presentation in Sutton. I wanted to be there also, but I have not been able to afford to be cloned yet. I feel it is good for us if anyone hears of these presentations in your area to attend to represent the new growing Grange.

At the area meetings we had great discussions and interactions learning how to 'step out of our comfort zone' and talk to strangers about the Grange and invite them to join. We also spoke of giving a good Grange image in public. When we complain about Grange in the community that is not good PR. Advertising the good we do is better.

Making sure that public officials (i.e. librarians and town clerks) know when and where we meet and a contact person is good. Local stores and bulletin boards should have this info also. A Grange sign and info on the meeting place (if possible) is helpful.

I strongly encourage everyone to enter the Elevator Speech in the Youth Department. Lecturer's and Youth Chairs; how about a few practice runs at your upcoming meetings?

I am glad to hear of other Grangers working on Grange boosting with Open Houses and public meetings promoting the Grange. Keep up the good work and spread the "fever"! With all of us working on growth we can only succeed in growing.

As an aside I wish to acknowledge an extreme good deed that could have gone terribly wrong but didn't. As a Homeless Advocate and someone who lives in a tent I would like to publicly thank Dick Patten for talking to a panhandler in Concord and listening to his story. Dick risked personal safety and offered this person a home with strict parameters. This young man has been able to turn his life around because of Dick who gave this man his dignity back. Thank you sincerely, Dick, from someone who understands what you have done.

**Membership
Anne Boisvert**

The Grange booth at the Farm and Forest Expo at the Radisson in Manchester in early February, our major State Grange initiated membership outreach of the year, went quite well. Our booth won a prize, but more importantly we hope many members of the public learned more about the Grange. I would like to thank my committee for all of their help with the planning. I'd also like to welcome to Arthur Tedford of Arlington Grange who is new to the State Membership Committee.

The next membership event will be a degree day in Hudson (at the Watanick Grange Hall) on Saturday May 12 at 2PM with a supper afterward. More details on the supper will be forthcoming. Anyone who has been accepted for membership at your Grange but not yet initiated is invited to come and participate. Please also take the opportunity to bring any new members (or those who have never seen the degrees before. The degree teams are as follows: 1st degree - Deputies, 2nd degree - State Officers,

3rd degree - Youth. Let this be a public reminder to the degree team leaders who agreed to that list at Deputy School in December.

I am making one last plea at this time for a Subordinate, group of Subordinates, or Pomona to take on the Fourth Degree. You would be responsible for making sure the offices are filled, though not necessarily by your members. Please contact me if this would be possible for your Grange. If I haven't heard from anyone by April 1st, I will begin compiling my own team.

If you were at one of the area meetings you received a copy of the new benefits brochure that has been released by the Membership and Grange Services committees as a response to Former State Master Beth Merrill's request for such a brochure in her final Master's Address. It is now available on the State Grange website as well. It is not intended to replace any current application brochures you may be using, but instead to give a slightly different version for those who might be interested in the discounts and programs available by becoming a Grange member.

Hooksett Grange

Dorothy Robie, pictured above with Deputy Dot Haskins and Hooksett Grange Master Wendy Avann, received her 75 year Grange membership award on September 27, 2011. Mrs. Robie met her late husband Lloyd at a Grange meeting. Together they ran Robie's Store near the State Grange Building for many years.

Mrs. Robie, age 93, still attends Hooksett Grange meetings and keeps busy baking cookies for the groups to which she belongs. She tells the story of how her father, a member of both the Odd Fellows and the Grange, was one of the people responsible for putting up the building which the State Grange now owns.



**Family & Community
Department
Alice Tuck**

What a successful State Grange Session we had in Shelburne! I would like to thank the members of my committee who jumped right in and helped me perform the duties of this committee. A special thanks to Doris (Button) Mitton, Joan Garland, and Shelley Huntoon for all their hard work. Thanks to the generosity of Grangers and friends we raised \$540 with our quilt raffle, which will help us with the expenses for Glencliffe and Philbrick House. The winners of the two quilts were Frances Towne and Sharon Croucher, the spouse of our representative from National Grange.

The canned goods that were requested by Richard Patten for Community Service were donated to the shelter in Berlin along with the household items. When they came to pick up all the items that were donated for the shelter, they had to use two cars to carry away the "loot." There were especially appreciative of the pillows. Hopefully, there was enough to get them through the winter months. It is a transitional facility and they assist families as well as men and women.

The Granges donated over 400 pairs of mittens, and they were distributed to the members of this committee to distribute to local schools within their communities. Thank you to all the knitters for your many hours dedicated to this very worthwhile project. I also collected knit caps for the troops overseas.

Thank you also to everyone who contributed fudge and trail mix. It was a big hit, because there were only a couple packages of trail mix left. We collected another \$120 with that fundraiser.

I am looking forward to another successful year. I would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank Richard Patten for taking the Community Service portion of this committee. There are so many Granges out there that do wonderful community service projects, and I would like all these Granges to be acknowledged for all their great works.

The winners of the Needlework Contests are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Afghans | |
| 1st - Ann Leger | Winthrop |
| 2nd - Betty Anderson | Crown Point |
| 3rd - JoAnn Gandy | Watatic |
| Doilies | |
| 1st - Marie Hall | Gilman |
| 2nd - Gail Turcotte | Rochester |
| 3rd - Joan DeButts | Crown Point |
| Embroidery | |
| 1st - Barbara Wentworth | Henry Wilson |
| 2nd - Annette Lemieux | Rochester |
| 3rd - Gail Turcotte | Rochester |
| 3 Piece Baby Set | |
| 1st - Gail Turcotte | Rochester |
| 2nd - Jaon DeButts | Crown Point |
| Plastic Canvas | |
| 1st - Betsy Bean | Antrim |
| 2nd - Lucia Savage | Wingold |
| 3rd - Gail Turcotte | Rochester |
| Counted Cross Stitch | |
| 1st - Sandy Fogarty | Somersworth |
| 2nd - Gail Turcotte | Rochester |
| Adult Garment | |
| 1st - Gail Turcotte | Rochester |
| 2nd - Barbara Wentworth | Henry Wilson |
| 3rd - Marjorie Burnett | Wingold |
| Latch Hook | |
| 1st - Ann Leger | Winthrop |
| 2nd - Claire Gagnon | Hudson |
| Wall Hanging | |
| 1st - Dorinda Louise | Henry Wilson |
| 2nd - Rachel Scanzani | Hudson |
| Stuffed Toy | |
| 1st - Gail Turcotte | Rochester |
| Woodworking | |
| 1st - James Batchelder | Pembroke |
| 2nd - Rick Bailey | Hudson |
| Quilting | |
| 1st - Dorinda Louise | Henry Wilson |
| Miscellaneous | |
| 1st - Joann Gandy | Watatic |
| 2nd - Dorinda Louise | Henry Wilson |
| 3rd - Gladys Ray | Wingold |
| Baking Contest - Whoopie Pies | |
| 1st - Beth Merrill | Antrim |
| 2nd - Goldie French | Golden Rod |
| 3rd - Marjorie Anderson | Wingold |

Congratulations to all the winners. Gail Turcotte also received a third place ribbon from Eastern States for her 3 piece baby set.

I had to wait for Deputy School and the Leader's Conference in January to receive the information on Eastern States before I could assemble the Family & Community Packets. The Baking Contest this year will be pumpkin muffins.

I would like to thank the Granges that submitted reports for Family & Community, Considering there are 63 Granges in NH and I only received reports from a fourth of them, I am going to try something a little different this coming year. It will be discussed at my committee meeting at Deputy School.

Please be thinking about our Committee Project for next State Session. We will be collecting school supplies, and I hope to present supplies to the teacher that was selected this year at State Grange. I know Grangers will be as generous with this project as they have been with the women's shelters in the past several years.

Mohawk Grange Youth Night

Mohawk Grange #217 held their annual Youth Night on Feb. 20 and a good crowd of local youth and parents came. The kids took part in the meeting's ritual, played some fun games after the meeting, and then all enjoyed making their own sub sandwiches and enjoyed visiting with each other and Grange members. Approximately 26 kids and parents came from all over the area. Every one of the Grange officers was present as well.



Britni White photo/Colebrook Chronicle

Deadline
The next issue of the Granite State Granger will be mailed in June, 2012. Please send items for the paper to Hannah West on or before May 8, 2012. Report on events of March and April. Look ahead to events of July, August, and September.

**NH State Grange Youth
Allissa Estes
Andrea Goulet**

Up Coming Youth Events
Keep Your Eyes Open for mailings and Post on Facebook.

March 4th Drill starts (Hooksett) if you would like to be on the drill team and you did not sign up at February youth rally, contact Allissa Estes 603-817-9840 uhaventseenthelastofme@hotmail.com or contact Andrea Goulette 603-377-6962 drealucas@gmail.com

March 31st Glow Bowling in Keene
April 28th Glow Bowling Manchester at Spare Time

May 26th Mini Golf
June 8th, 9th, & 10th June Youth Rally/ Youth Contests

July 13th, 14th, & 15th NEYC Conn.
July 21st Beach Day

August 11th Chili Cook-off/Youth Awards Night

September 1st Harvest Moon Stomp
Sept. 22nd Apple Picking/Fun Day

October 20th Pumpkin Fun Day/Rehearsal

October 26th, 27th, and 28th State Session Ashworth by the Sea

Nov. 10th Community Service Day
November 12-18 National Grange

December 15th Winter Fun Day
Dates may change, look for flyers.

Places TBA

Since National Grange in Oklahoma, we have been busy planning all of our upcoming events. We have been to deputy school, area meetings, and February Youth Rally.

We had a great turn out at February Youth Rally, a big thanks to everyone who attended. There were three great workshops, and two delicious meals, lots of fun and fellowship. The program was wonderful. We had two group sign-a-songs perform for us, and there were raffle baskets won by many. We hope to see you at our next event. Have a wonderful rest of the winter and we hope that the spring brings you bright and eventful times.

Photo Scavenger Hunt

The scavenger hunt pictures must be taken at the site of the clue. You, a member of your group, or your whole group must be pictured in the picture. The Photo Scavenger Hunt deadline is September 1, 2012.



- 1) Grab your sun block and build a castle here.
- 2) They can be an elementary, middle, or high.
- 3) Slide, swing, see-saw or just run around.
- 4) You're not going to find a rain one here.
- 5) This is a place where interest is very valuable.
- 6) Where people might gather to discuss local issues
- 7) Cinema should make you forget that you're sitting in a _____.
- 8) A place to make trade ins, lease, or own; many sales happen on presidential birthdays.
- 9) Here is the _____ and here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people.
- 10) The first one of these was Potomac #1, in Washington D.C., which is still alive today.
- 11) You may have been brought here by Ambulance or automobile to be nursed back to health.
- 12) A place where you often run into everybody when you are in a hurry to get milk or bread.
- 13) This building is home to people who run into buildings when everybody else is running out.
- 14) I may have a red shed-like thing on my land, and you can harvest and raise many things here.
- 15) You might run on this, you know it's not for exercise and an extra shot may keep you up past your bed time.
- 16) This can be a recreation center your child can go for after school care. "...it's fun to stay at the _-_-_-_-."
- 17) If you don't fight to keep me around you might not get your mail for days!
- 18) A place to do research by book or computer; you may get a card to take books away.
- 19) Go here to play for fun or in a tournament, I have two types of games (candle and 10 pin).
- 20) Get an up-do, a cut or just a shampoo here.



Fran Everard, Governor John Lynch, and Allissa Estes at Farm and Forest

Wicwas Lake Grange Happenings

In October, 2011, Wicwas Lake Grange held a free Children's Halloween party. Approximately 50 children arrived to get treats, play games, enter contests and have visits by Wilma and Fred Flintstone, Gumby, witches, cowboys, Little Red Riding Hood and the wolf, and other characters. The children had a blast!

In November, 2011, we had our 2nd annual Barn dance with caller Ralph Peacock officiating. Many guests did square dancing and line dancing, and the children and some adults had fun dancing to the "Chicken Dance". November also brought us new officers of the Grange. Master Steve Durand, Overseer Barry Ladd, Lecturer Bob Greemore, Steward Brian Phelps, Assistant Steward Dennis Boulanger, Lady Assistant Steward Kristin Schwarz, Chaplain Nick Schwarz, Treasurer Cookie Boulanger, Secretary Helga Paquin, Gatekeeper David LaFond, Ceres Kim Durand, Pomona Jayne Greemore, Flora Jeanne Lowry, Executive Committee Janet LaFond, Linda Phelps and Dawn Durand, and Pianist Molly Durand. We opened up the Grange Hall for construction crews on Childs Park for coffee, doughnuts, sandwiches, chips, drinks and a place to warm up. We also hosted an open forum for State and Local Representatives.

Fourteen new members were obligated into Wicwas Lake Grange in No-

vember. Glen and Kristy Badger, David and Janet LaFond, Stephen and Stephanie Mouse, Bill and Pam Finer, Jim Barker, Peter Fallon, Lee Huckins, Cheryl Ramsay, Helene Gouin and Jeanette LaGarde.

December was quite busy for Wicwas Lake Grange. On December 2, 2011, nineteen members received their 5th degrees. David and Janet LaFond, Nick and Kristin Schwarz, Dennis and Cookie Boulanger, Brian and Linda Phelps, Nick and Kim Durand, Bob and Jayne Greemore, Jim and Jeanne Lowry, Jonathan James, Barry Ladd, Peggy Tetreault, Tom Joslin and Helga Paquin. On December 17, Santa and his Elf "Sparkle" visited the residents of Goldenview Health Center and gave the men Christmas cards and the women carnations. There they met up with 95-year-old Ester Morrill, a member of Lower Intervale Grange, and the recipient of the "Golden Cane Award" in Plymouth NH. The residents were happy that Santa and Sparkle visited them and many hugs and "thank you's" were exchanged.

After a brief visit with the residents, Santa and Sparkle had to rush off to get ready for the annual Children's Christmas party at Wicwas Lake Grange where there was plenty of food, a seasonal photo contest judged by the local media, and Santa and Sparkle arriving by fire truck. The children were all excited to see Santa and Sparkle as they lined up to greet him and receive their gifts. Another surprise

was a special visit from NH State Master James Tetreault and General Deputy Arthur Merrill. They were pleased with the turnout and excited over the event. James Tetreault spoke of visiting the Wicwas Lake Grange in the near future. Non-perishable food items were collected for the Meredith Food Pantry. The seasonal photo contest for autumn was judged by the Laconia Citizen, Meredith News and the Laconia Daily Sun. Jan Joslin came in first place, 2nd place was a tie with Helga Paquin and Linda Phelps and in 3rd place was Jayne Greemore.

In addition, while the past few months have been busy at the Wicwas Lake Grange, the renovations project for the building has continued with the chimney and fireplace completed. A special thank you to Knute Ingemundsmen who donated his time and labor to restore the fireplace. A special "thank you" to CCI Construction for rebuilding the front porch and installing a new wheel chair accessible ramp. Another special "thank you" to Larry Trombetta and his crew for the time and labor on the porch roof, and to Middleton Lumber for donating materials for the project. Our future events include a Community Valentine's Dance on February 18 and the dictionary project coming up soon after, a visit from the NH Cooperative Extension for spring planting ideas, and the Winter Photo contest.

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER

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