



The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

Vol. 63, No. 12

December 2022

13 Pages

From the President's Desk

I had promised in my last article to highlight more events from the 150th State Session last month. I'd like to start by thanking Janet Segur for putting together a wonderful pre-session tour of Plymouth. The tour included a short bus ride to the "Forefathers Monument" and a "Pilgrim Rock/Waterfront Tour" complete with narrators dressed up in colonial attire.

Our National Grange Representative was Sean O'Neil who is the Legislative Assistant. He was a pleasure to have and very willing to be involved with our Youth members and he also took the 5th and 6th Degrees.

We had some wonderful speakers as well as a workshop presented by the Communications Committee. The 150th MA State Grange Session Proceedings were presented to Scott and Ann Davis and the ROSE Award was presented to Susan Rotellini. Congratulations to all.



Pictures from State Session were posted on the MA State Grange Facebook and Instagram pages. I hope the Delegates from State Session have passed on the information contained in their delegate packet to the appropriate Grange members.

See **PRESIDENT** Page 2



Inside this issue

Upcoming Events.....	Page 2
From the Agriculture and the Environment Committee.....	Page 3
Historian's Corner.....	Page 3
Lecturer's Corner.....	Page 4
Resolutions.....	Page 6-9
150th Anniversary Fundraiser....	Page 10-12
Outdoor Almanac	Page 13

PRESIDENT *From Page 1*

Kathy and I just got back from National Grange Session which was held in Sparks, Nevada (pronounced “Ne-Va-da” with short “a” not “Nev-ah-da”). This year’s theme is: Grange: Making a Difference”. Granges make a difference every day, in different ways, in each of their communities. The big news is that, after 67 years, the National Grange is showing a net gain of 3.1% or 1,509 members. The Family Membership



plan played a large part in the growth of the Grange. As per Amanda Brozana Rios, the National Grange Membership Director, “long periods of isolation and alone time in the last few years gave people the time to reflect on their lives and where

they fit in their communities. Most importantly, people had time to reflect on their family values and discovered they were lacking and wanting more of this in their lives and the community Grange was the one organization that embodied the entire package.” There were about 59 delegates present who acted upon 80+ resolutions from across the country. A couple of noteworthy topics were brought up towards the end of Session. One was a Resolution to have National Grange create a committee to look at Cannabis and how it should be treated as an agricultural product and how the Grange should respond to how it stands on this topic. Another topic is that the Assembly of Demeter slightly changed the sign of the 6th Degree. I will pass on this information to our 6th Degree members.

We also have some awards from National Grange for our own Grange members which will be presented at our State Grange Family Meeting on December 11th.

Lastly, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy Holidays, Glenn

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m. — Sterling Grange, Christmas Around the World, Grange Hall, 14 Maple St.

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m. — State Family Meeting, Boylston Town House, 599 Main St.

[Please submit event information to: stategrangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:stategrangenews@massgrange.org)

Quilts of Valor Presented

On Monday, November 14, 2022, Central Community Grange collaborated with the Boylston Senior Citizens to present Quilts of Valor to honor three of Boylston’s veterans, Warren Leach, David Wheeler and Charlie Floria.



Assisting with the presentation were Theresa Perreault, of the Quilts of Valor Foundation and Janet Segur, Director of the Massachusetts State Grange Veterans Committee. Each recipient received a unique and beautifully made quilt. The Quilts of Valor are meant to “cover service members and veterans touched by war with healing quilts.” The exquisite quilts are made and donated by local quilt guilds, quilt shops and other groups.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange Inc.

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From the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Hello Everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As we enter the holiday season, many of you, myself included, decorate Christmas trees in our homes. If you buy a live tree, whether its fresh cut or from a stand, there are things you should look for past the basic “make a fresh cut on your tree”.

According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, when picking out a tree, there are a few things you should look for. If there are a lot of needles on the ground by the trees it would be best to go somewhere else. If you pull your hand towards you while holding the branch and the needles fall off, look for a new tree. Most importantly, buy from a reputable source or cut your own at a tree farm. We learned this lesson the hard way as we went through three trees one year. Caring for the three tree is much simpler. Once you make that fresh cut on pre-cut trees, make sure to always keep the tree watered. A healthy tree can drink as much as a gallon of water in 24 hours. That’s all there is to caring for the tree once you have it in the house. Just keep it watered and it will last the season. Then the only thing you will have to worry about is that squirrel hiding amongst the branches.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!

Matt, Kathy, Jessica, Sam, Ann, Peter, & Warren

Happy Holidays!

Mission Statement:

The Massachusetts State Grange brings people together to build stronger communities by encouraging agriculture and environmental sustainability, community service and fostering future leaders.

Historian’s Corner

As we prepare to celebrate our 150th Anniversary in December of 2023, each month we will share interesting information from the history of our State Grange.

In honor of last month’s National Grange Convention, this month let’s look at the history of National Grange conventions in Massachusetts. The National Grange Annual Convention was held here six times throughout the history of our State Grange. The first time was in 1885 in Boston, in the infancy of the Grange. This year saw a Seventh Degree class of only 19 members. In 1895, the National convention was held in Worcester, with a Seventh Degree class of 1,318. As Grange membership began to grow more rapidly in the early part of the twentieth century, Boston again hosted National Grange in 1920. That year, 12 special sessions of the Massachusetts State Grange were held throughout the state to confer the Sixth Degree so that more Patrons could take the Seventh Degree at National. That year, 9,838 Patrons took the Seventh Degree.

One of the largest Seventh Degree classes ever was in 1941 in Worcester. Again, 12 special sessions were held to confer the Sixth Degree before National Grange arrived. Seventh Degree classes – and yes, there were multiple conferrals – totaled 12,999 that year.

National was also held in Worcester in 1961, a year that saw four special sessions across the state for Sixth Degree conferrals. That year, 8,228 Patrons took the Seventh Degree. The most recent National Session in Massachusetts was held in Springfield in 1997. 533 Patrons took the Seventh Degree that year.

Have you taken the Seventh Degree yet? If not, National will be in the Northeast Region again next year! Your next chance to see the Seventh Degree will be in November 2023 in Niagara Falls, New York.

Amber Vaill

Lecturer's Corner

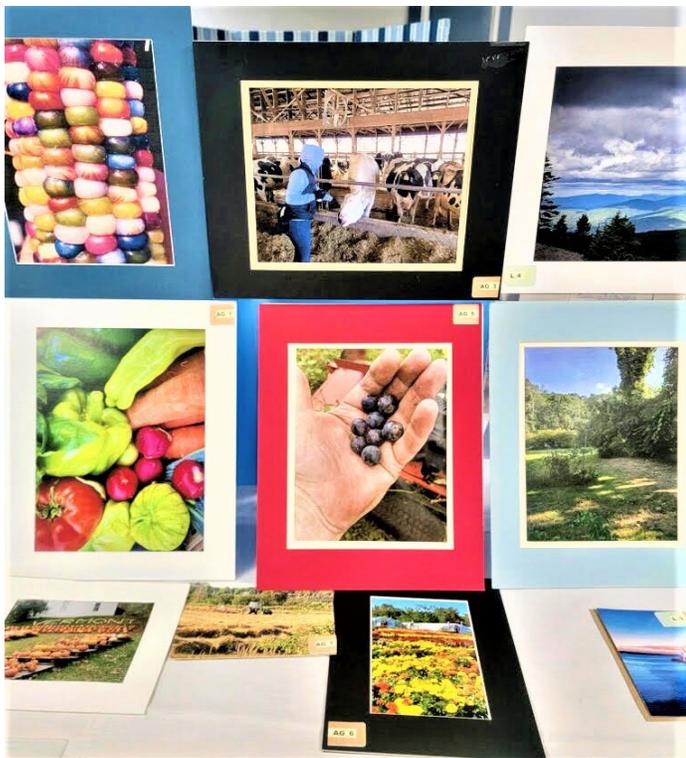
With over 220 Entries into the Lecturer's Contests this year, we had a wonderful display of your winnings at the 150th MA State Annual Session. Congratulations to the Granges who entered & won our "Outstanding Grange Event" Contests!

Veteran Award: 1st place: Holden Grange #78, 2nd place: Sterling #53, 3rd place: Upton #125, & 4th place: Whately #414; & Honorable Mention: North Orange #86.

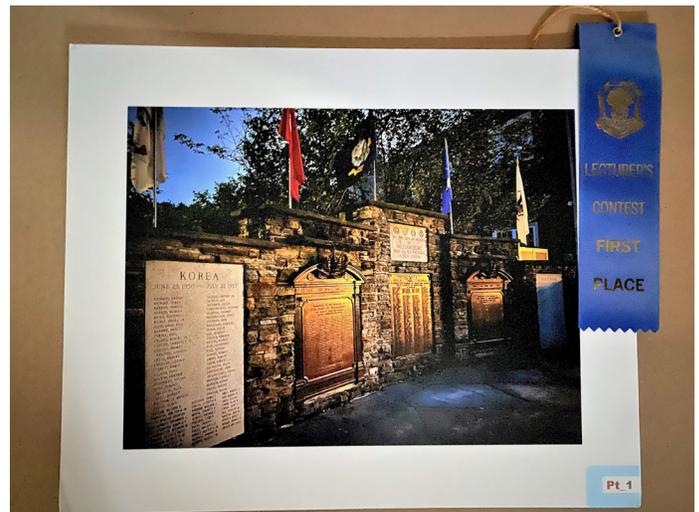
Grange Fair/Festival Award: 1st place: Williamsburg #225; 2nd place: Dartmouth #162; 3rd place: Upton #125; & 4th place: Ware #164; & Honorable Mention: Dudley #163.

Public Service Award: 1st place: Sunrise Pomona #9, & 2nd place: Upton #125.

Visitation Awards - Lrg. Grange: 1st place: Williamstown #366; 2nd place: Dunstable #31; & 3rd place: Holden #78. **Small Grange:** 1st place: Chesterfield #83 & 2nd place: Beverly #306.



"Peoples Choice" Photo was chosen from all Entries by a vote of Grangers.



Best of Show Patriotic Photo was by Daria D'Arienzo from Williamsburg #225.

Congratulations to the Creative Writing Contest Winners: **Adult Essay- "Life in a Pandemic":** 1st place: Nancy Lescarbeau of Williamstown #366; 2nd place: LaDonna Olanyk of Whately #414; 3rd place: Ruth Leahey of Whately #414; 4th place: Corey Spence of Ponkapoag #231; & Honorable Mention: Maureen Doyle of Dudley #163. **Adult Poem - "Ups and Downs":** 1st place: Nancy Lescarbeau of Williamstown #366; 2nd place: Ruth Leahey of Whately #414; 3rd place: Tonya Luce of Upton #125; 4th place: Ruth Leahey of Whately #414; & Honorable Mention: Samantha Lescarbeau of Williamstown #366. **Junior Essay: (5-9)** 1st Place: Jack Krueger of Connecticut Valley Jr. #140; **Jrs (10-14):** 1st: EL Krueger of Ct. Valley Jr. #140 & 2nd: Anabelle Krueger of Ct. Valley Jr. #140.

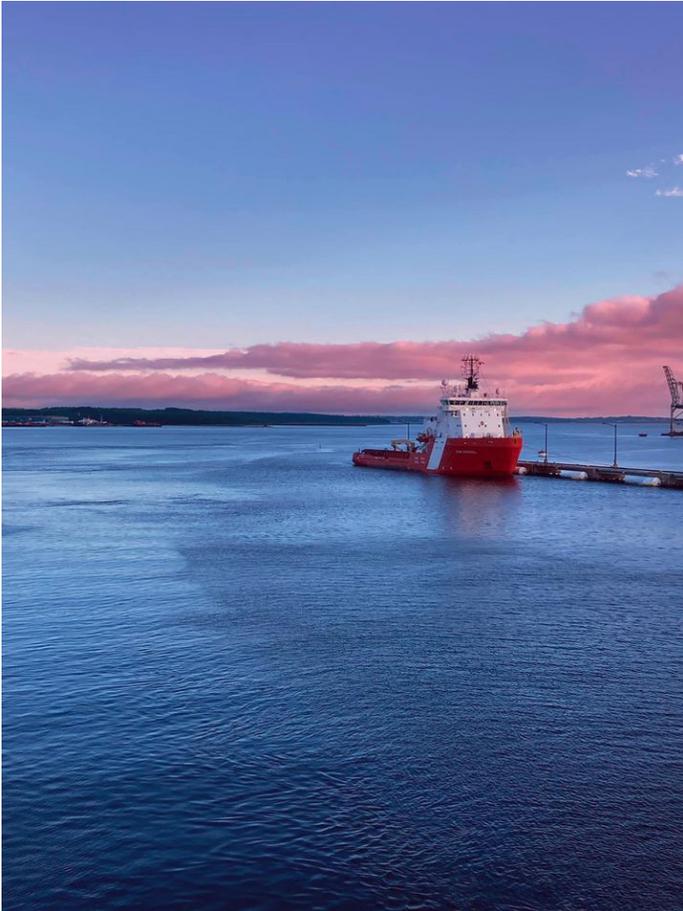
Create-a-Program: 1st place: Lisa Hadley of Easton #196 & 2nd place: Nancy Lescarbeau of Williamstown #366.

I can email you a complete list of the winning entries if you want, because there are just too many to list them all here. I'm very grateful to every person who took time to enter the State Lecturer's Contests. I am looking forward to receiving your entries during the next year. To get you started here's the **"2023 CREATIVE**

See **LECTURER** Page 5

LECTURER *From Page 4*

WRITING CONTEST info: Adult & Youth- Poem Topic: “The Joys in my Life”, & Essay Topic: “I’m a Granger because_” Contest info is in MA State Program Book or at: <https://www.massgrange.org/grange-info-documents>.



“Peoples Choice” Photo was a water Landscape by Christopher Szkutak.



Lisa Hadley of Easton Grange sang during Lecturer’s Night Program.

Along with Honorary members Janet Segur & Susan Rotellini, our past State Lecturers, here are the 2022 to 2023 members of my Lecturer’s Coordinating Committee: Northeast: Rebecca Ingram (978) 319-9720 / ringram0922@comcast.net; Southeast: Patty Thomas (714) 828-0669 / pbockothomas@gmail.com; Central: Meryll Havens (508) 234-9220 / meryllhavens@yahoo.com; Western: Ruth Ellen Henry (413) 773-7466 / ruthieh@comcast.net & Dusti Dufresne (413) 297-5700 / DustiDgrange@gmail.com. Please call or email us for any help with your Lecturers programs. Save the Date: March 26, 2023 for the State Grange Extravaganza being held at Boylston Town House ~ 599 Main St, Boylston, MA – 1:00 p.m.

Fraternally, Kristin Paulson, lecturer@massgrange.org (508) 272-0769.

**Contact the
Communications Committee**

To submit news items, photographs and events for use on the Massachusetts State Grange social media pages, website and The State Grange News, please e-mail:

stategrangenews@massgrange.org

The deadline to submit content for publication in The State Grange News is the 20th of each month. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to the committee via the above email.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 150th ANNUAL SESSION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE

1. COMMITTEE LIMITS

WHEREAS, there are over 1200 members of the Massachusetts State Grange; and

WHEREAS, there are many hard-working and talented individuals across the state; and

WHEREAS, there are some members who hold multiple offices and committee positions thereby limiting the opportunities for other deserving members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that no member shall be elected or appointed to more than two State positions unless otherwise specified in the Digest of Laws, Constitution and By-Laws of the Massachusetts State Grange, or the Massachusetts State Grange Policy Book; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution, upon passage, go into effect at the conclusion of the 2022 Massachusetts State Grange session; and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon passage, this resolution be made part of the Massachusetts State Grange Policy Book.

Submitted by Heritage Pomona #2

COMMITTEE: AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FINAL ACTION: **REJECTED**

2. RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO STATE GRANGE

WHEREAS, the Ritual of the Fifth Degree refers to Pomona members as “the legislators of our Order”; and

WHEREAS, resolutions being submitted to the State Grange for action at session should be properly considered by members with varying viewpoints; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that ARTICLE XI, RESOLUTIONS be added to the Constitution of the Massachusetts State Grange, to read; 11.1 “Any resolution that is approved by a Subordinate Grange, must then be sent to the Secretary of the Pomona Grange whose jurisdiction the Subordinate Grange resides for review and action. If the resolution passes, the resolution would then be sent to the Secretary of the State Grange to be reviewed by the Executive Committee as outlined in ARTICLE X, Section 10.1. All deadlines put forth by the State Grange must still be followed. No resolution submitted solely by a Subordinate Grange shall be acted upon at State Grange Session unless previous approval by the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts State Grange has been received in writing.”

Submitted by Heritage Pomona #2

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

FINAL ACTION: **REJECTED**

3. STATE GRANGE JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Grange Journal of Proceedings is the official record of the actions taken by the Delegate Body regarding constitution and bylaw changes of the Massachusetts State Grange as well as recommendations and policy positions; and

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts State Grange Journal of Proceedings is an important tool for the Pomona, Subordinate and Junior Granges of Massachusetts in knowing of and adhering to the laws governing these, Grange; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange provide annually to each Pomona, Subordinate and Junior Grange under its jurisdiction one printed copy, at no charge, of the annual Massachusetts State Grange Journal of Proceedings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that additional copies of the Massachusetts State Grange Journal of Proceedings, either printed or by electronic media, be made available to Granges or individual members at such reasonable cost and ordering deadline as shall be determined by the Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee.

Submitted by Minuteman Pomona #16

COMMITTEE: GOOD OF THE ORDER
FINAL ACTION: **REJECTED**

4. CONFERRAL OF THE SIXTH DEGREE

WHEREAS, one of the foremost concerns of the Officers of the Massachusetts State Grange should be to have the business of the annual State Grange Session conducted in as efficient manner as possible; and

WHEREAS, the amount of time allotted to the election and installation of Officers in alternate full election years is significant in the schedule of the State Grange session in those years; and;

WHEREAS, the cost of conferring the Sixth Degree is significant in the overall expense of the annual session; and

WHEREAS, those members seeking advancement to the Sixth Degree has been relatively low in relation to the time and cost of conferring the Sixth Degree; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange adopt a policy of conferring the Sixth Degree in alternate years, not coinciding with those years requiring full election and installation of Officers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange adopt a policy of having the Fifth Degree exemplified in full form in those years that the Sixth Degree is to be conferred.

Submitted by Minuteman Pomona #16

COMMITTEE: INSURANCE, LEGISLATION, AND TAXATION
FINAL ACTION: **REJECTED**

5. SESSION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WHEREAS, alternate methods of the Massachusetts State Grange Session Committee meeting may reduce meeting burdens and encourage participation by delegates; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange President develop a trial plan for one or more Session Committee to meet prior to the Annual Session of the Massachusetts State Grange; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, upon approval by the Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee, this trial plan may be enacted for the 2023 Massachusetts State Grange Annual Session; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the committee must meet at State Session to vote the final committee report.

Submitted by Heritage Pomona #2

COMMITTEE: GOOD OF THE ORDER
FINAL ACTION: **ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

6. SIXTH DEGREE CONFERRAL AT SPECIAL SESSION

WHEREAS, the conferral of the Sixth Degree is an important but burdensome responsibility of the Massachusetts State Grange; and

WHEREAS, in the past, the Massachusetts State Grange has conferred the Sixth Degree in Special Session when the National Grange Session is held in local states, as will occur in New York in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the ritual of the Order, particularly that of the Fifth Degree, encourages experimentation and sharing of the results of experiments; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange not confer the Fifth nor Sixth Degree at the 2023 Annual State Grange Session; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange confer the Sixth Degree in one or more Special Sessions during 2023, prior to the Annual National Grange Session; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange ensure sufficient conferral of the Fifth Degree within its jurisdiction during 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee solicit and share feedback on not conferring the Fifth and Sixth Degrees at the 2023 Annual State Session and conferring the Sixth Degree at 2023 Special Session(s).

Submitted by Heritage Pomona #2

COMMITTEE: INSURANCE, LEGISLATION, AND TAXATION
FINAL ACTION: **REJECTED**

7. REPORTS TO THE STATE GRANGE AND 990-N FILING

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee Report and Secretary Report are currently submitted quarterly to the Massachusetts State Grange requiring officers to set aside time to complete reports and audit the Grange's books every three months; and

WHEREAS, every Massachusetts Grange is required to file a 990-N electronic postcard with the IRS each year; and

WHEREAS, monitoring and tracking the reports and filings for every Massachusetts Grange takes significant time by State Grange officers; and

WHEREAS, many Granges have trouble keeping up with all the reports and some Granges have technical difficulties filing the 990-N or have fallen victim to scams relative to filing the 990-N; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee develop a plan to reduce the frequency of required reports filed with the Massachusetts State Grange; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee revise the required reports to allow the State Grange to file the 990-N for each Massachusetts Grange; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the revised reports and procedures be presented at the 2023 State Grange Session for implementation during the following Grange year.

Submitted by Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee

COMMITTEE: BUDGET, BUILDINGS, AND PROPERTIES
FINAL ACTION: **ADOPTED**

8. COST OF ATTENDING STATE SESSION

WHEREAS, the cost of attending State Grange Session continues to increase, and

WHEREAS, this may make it harder for members to afford attending session or Granges to monetarily support their delegates, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the State President appoint a three-person committee to investigate the cost of attending session, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this committee present a report of its findings and recommendations at the 2023 State Session, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this committee be allowed to make recommendations and suggestions during the 2022-2023 Grange year preceding session to the Executive Committee for any items that may require immediate action.

Submitted By, Budget, Buildings & Properties Session Committee

COMMITTEE: GOOD OF THE ORDER
FINAL ACTION: **ADOPTED**

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE

150th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

We would like to remind everyone of the 150th Anniversary cutting boards and coasters fundraiser. These items make great gifts for Christmas and we suggest that you place your order very early in December so that we can get them to you before Christmas. We also want to remind you that if you are gifting to people from other states, some of these items are available for other states (please email or call to determine availability).

We have four items to offer:

- **Destination Massachusetts Serving & Cutting Board** – This board is cut in the shape of Massachusetts and is etched with major roads, landmarks and cities/towns in Massachusetts. The board has a hole drilled in the top so that it can be hung as part of your home décor when not in use. The board is ideal as a serving board and will inspire conversations at gatherings. When you need your cutting board for heavy duty chopping in your kitchen, just flip the board over and use the non-etched side of the board for those heavy duty jobs, this will keep the nice display side looking its best for your décor or serving needs. - \$40
- **Massachusetts Shaped Serving & Cutting Board** – This board serves all the same purposes as the Destination Massachusetts Board however it does not have any etching. - \$30
- **Massachusetts Coaster Puzzle set of 4 coasters and case** – These square coasters when put together have the shape of Massachusetts etched onto them with landmarks, cities/towns, the state shield and nickname. These coasters also come with a storage case for when they are not in use. - \$25
- **Massachusetts Two Tone Serving & Cutting Board** – This board serves all the same purposes as the Destination Massachusetts Board and has the shape of Massachusetts etched into the board with landmarks and cities/towns in Massachusetts. This board is square shaped instead of cut in the shape of Massachusetts. - \$25

Please see the following pages for pictures, product information and an order form.

We would appreciate your assistance with selling these items. These Massachusetts-themed items do not have any Grange logos or emblems on them, so they are perfect for selling or gifting to both Grange members and non-members. To show our appreciation for assisting us with selling these items any member who sells 7 items will receive a free ticket to the State Grange sponsored Anniversary event in 2023. If you are ambitious and sell another 7 you will receive a second free ticket which you can use for the other State Grange sponsored event or to bring a friend to one of the events with you. For every 7 items sold you will receive a free ticket – no limit. Please be sure to put your name on the “Grange member who sold to you” line of the order form.

If you have any questions about the fundraiser please contact Randy or Amber Vaill. They are coordinating this fundraiser for the committee.

Fraternally,

The 150th Anniversary Committee:

Mary Jordan, Glenn Gibson, Corey Spence, Chris Szkutak, George Thomas, Randy & Amber Vaill, Nancy Blackmer, Steve & Martha Emerson

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE

150th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

**Destination Massachusetts
Serving & Cutting Board**

16¾ by 9¼ by 5/8

\$40



**Massachusetts Coaster Puzzle
set of 4 coasters and case**

4 by 4 each

\$25



**Massachusetts Shaped
Serving & Cutting Board**

16¾ by 9¼ by 5/8

\$30



**Massachusetts Two Tone
Serving & Cutting Board**

11 by 8¾ x ½

\$25



100% Bamboo products

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE

150th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

Product Information from the Manufacturer:

Bamboo is better. Not only can it grow three or four feet in a single day, but bamboo is stronger than maple, has more compressive strength than concrete and the same strength-to-weight ratio as steel.

Bamboo is Better for the Planet: Replenished from an intricate network of roots, a stalk of bamboo grows to its maximum height of around 80 feet within just two months. After this, it begins to thicken; the walls of each hollow stalk growing harder and denser as its soft internodes convert into fibrous cellulose. Although there are over a thousand species of bamboo, only Moso is perfect for manufacturing into our beautiful, durable kitchen products. When it is ready for harvest, organically grown Moso bamboo is cut and carried out of the forest on foot by family farmers. This gentle harvesting method sustains the grove's delicate root system for future growth.

Bamboo is Better for Animals: Moso bamboo is not part of the Panda's diet or habitat. And because it is durable and attractive, bamboo is also the best alternative to cutting tropical rainforests for their exotic hardwoods. Finally, the gentler cultivation methods (no artificial pesticides, no clear-cutting, and replanting) used to grow bamboo are less disruptive to the birds that naturally make their homes in bamboo groves.

Bamboo is Better for People: Our network of family-owned farms and specialized production facilities are all located near one another. The close proximity of where our bamboo is grown to where it is used helps build close relationships with lasting economic benefit for everyone involved. It also helps ensure our access to the highest quality raw bamboo.

Bamboo is Better for Your Kitchen: When not being used for serving, the board can be flipped over to provide an ideal large cutting board surface. Not only are our bamboo cutting boards more attractive, but they are gentler on your knives than plastic and easier to clean and maintain than hardwood.

ORDER FORM

ITEM	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Destination Massachusetts Serving & Cutting Board	___ X	\$40 =	_____
Massachusetts Shaped Serving & Cutting Board	___ X	\$30 =	_____
Massachusetts Coaster Puzzle set of 4 coasters and case	___ X	\$25 =	_____
Massachusetts Two Tone Serving & Cutting Board	___ X	\$25 =	_____

Make Checks Payable to Massachusetts State Grange

Grand Total = _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Grange Name or Grange Member who sold to you: _____

MAIL ORDER FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:

RANDY & AMBER VAILL, 1018 HILLSIDE DRIVE, PALMER MA 01069

413-284-1135 or VAILL@COMCAST.NET

* If you are interested in a state other than Massachusetts, contact Randy or Amber for availability. Not all states are available in all items. These items are not kept on hand so may take a little longer to be received.

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

1

Look for the white, waxy bloom on raspberry and blackberry canes that helps the plants retain water and protects them from dirt and bacteria. This same bloom is also found on a variety of fruits, including plums, grapes, blackberries, and apples.

3

The shape and size of White-tailed Deer scat reflect what they eat. This time of year, the scat has transitioned from larger, moist, clumped pellets from the grasses, fruit, and clover of spring and summer to small, dry, individual pellets from the twigs, nuts, and leaves of winter.

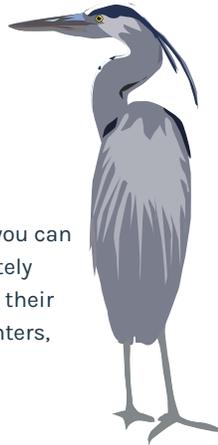
7

Full moon.



9

Most **Great Blue Herons** have migrated, but you can still find a few where the water is not completely frozen. They used to all be gone by January as their access to fish froze over, but with warmer winters, a few of them remain year-round.

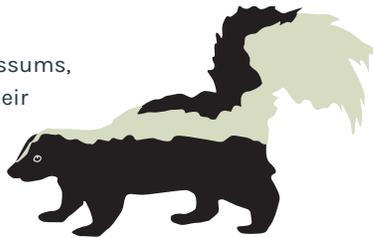


10

On cold nights at the beginning of winter, damp or wet areas of the ground can form ice needles.

11

Not true hibernators, **skunks**, opossums, and raccoons may emerge from their shelters every few weeks. Other mammals, including coyotes, foxes, bobcats, fishers, deer, squirrels, rabbits, and porcupines, remain active all winter.



13-14

It's the peak of the Geminid meteor shower, with as many as 120 shooting stars per hour visible in the dark sky from midnight to dawn.

16

You may see Painted and Snapping turtles moving slowly under the ice. While their systems slow down in winter, they still need oxygen, which is more available in the water than in the mud.

17

Black bears may still be out and about until nights are consistently below freezing. If you live in an area with bears, it's best to wait until the full winter cold to put out bird feeders.



18

Most **Asian lady beetles** are hibernating outside, often in clusters of hundreds or even thousands in tree crevices or under bark, but you may find a few overwintering in your home.



19

If food supplies are scarce up north, crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and redpolls may be around by this time.

21

Today is the winter solstice. It's the shortest day and longest night of the year, and the official start of winter. Even though daylight increases from now until June, our coldest weather is still to come.

25

Look for shiny, leathery, evergreen Christmas ferns in the snowy woods.

28

Keep an eye out for **Giant Silk Moth cocoons** on your winter walks. Cecropia caterpillars spin a gray-brown, spindle-shaped cocoon along the length of a small branch, while Polyphemus cocoons are rounder, less securely attached, and often covered with a leaf.

