



The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

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May 2022

10 Pages

From the President's Desk

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that everyone had a good Easter with plenty of food and family.

April was Grange month, so I hope you and your members had the chance to participate. Kudos to Dartmouth Grange for opening their hall to the public for their fundraising breakfasts on the 23rd and 30th of April.

We had an excellent time at the Bowling Tournament put on by the Youth Committee this past month. We had a broad range of participants with teams from several Subordinate and Pomona Granges as well as some Juniors. We are already looking forward to next year and hope for an even bigger turnout. Thank you to the Youth for putting so much effort into this event and making it enjoyable for all. It has been missed these past few years.

The Extravaganza planning is well underway to be held at UMass Amherst. A date has been decided so keep an eye out for it. It has been a great opportunity to work together with an institution which we sponsor.

With Spring finally upon us, I hope everyone's gardens are going well. If you don't have the time or space for your own garden but still want farm fresh food, perhaps consider supporting a

local CSA farm. This can be done either individually or as a Grange and is a great way to support local agriculture.

Fraternally,
Glenn Gibson

The State Grange Needs Your Help!

With the approach of the 150th Anniversary, the Executive Committee decided to look to the future of the Massachusetts State Grange. The Executive Committee recognizes the need to keep the Grange moving forward and the upcoming anniversary is the perfect time to make changes. This includes working on Grange identity, relevancy and increasing membership.

A consultant has been hired to guide the Executive Committee through this multi-year process. This has been an eye opening experience

See **SURVEY** Page 5

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Membership Recognition

Welcome to our New Members

Karin Bourne	South Middleboro #337
Abigail Lepper	Dudley #163
Joanna Lepper	Dudley #163
Lanette Lepper	Dudley #163
Stephen Lepper	Dudley #163
Susan Barrows	Upton #125
Denise Banister	Williamsburg #225
Shari Petrucci	Community of Feeding Hills #382
Bernard J. Simmons II	Dartmouth #162
Jayne Kackley	Charlton #92
Rosemary Howard	Charlton #92
Nina Veley	Boxborough #131
H. Arden Veley	Boxborough #131

25 years

George Larabee	North Orange #86
Linda Larabee	North Orange #86
William A. McKenna	Holden #78

50 years

Frank Sloan, Jr.	Holden #78
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75 years

Barbara Wrin	Holden #78
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In Memoriam

Marcia Clark	Pittsfield #14
Linda Smith	Hinsdale #19
Mary Jane Methé	West Stockbridge #246
Carolyn Cole	Easton #196
Norma Kellogg	Williamsburg #225
Paul Connors	Rowley #204
Merle Phipps	Rowley #204
Mary Ouelette	Rowley #204



Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 1 — Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song Contests, Boylston Town House, 599 Main St. Check in at 12:30 p.m., contest starts at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. — Worcester Central Pomona joint open meeting with Central Community Grange, Boylston Town House, 599 Main St. Wildlife Program presented by Dianne Benson Davis, author of “Eagle One: Raising Bald Eagles - A Wildlife Memoir”.

Thursday, May 5, 6 p.m. — Sterling Grange Cardmaking, Grange Hall, 14 Maple St.

Thursday, May 19, 6 p.m. — Sterling Grange Veterans Night, Grange Hall, 14 Maple St.

Friday, May 20 — Memorial Service, South Middleborough Grange.

Monday, May 23, 7 p.m. — Holden Grange Memorial Service, Community Citizen Award & Membership Recognition, Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St.

Friday, June 17 — Speaker on Bees, South Middleborough Grange.

Monday, June 20, 7 p.m. — Easton Grange “Mystery at the Old Grange Hall”, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 143 Lincoln St., North Easton. The program is an original short play about a Grange mystery presented in the form of an old time Radio Show and will be recorded by the local Easton Television Station, ECAT.

Please submit event information to:
stategrangenews@massgrange.org

Submissions will appear in this section as well as on the Massachusetts State Grange website’s calendar.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange Inc.

GLENN P. GIBSON, Editor-in-Chief

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Janet E. Horne, Allen N. Manley, Jr., Corey W. Spence,
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Advertising from Grange affiliates, news items and photos solicited. Advertising rate: \$5 per column inch.

From the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Hello Everyone!

With the weather starting to warm, it is that special time of year again when you have the chance to start work in the gardens. Whether you have a flower garden or a vegetable garden, now is a great time to clean it up and get it ready for planting. Or if you're like me, you have both. By the end of the month, the plants and seeds will go in the ground and you'll be able to reap the harvest as the year goes along.

But what else is the committee up to? In April, I had the distinct honor to attend the State FFA banquet. It is always an amazing time.

There is even more going on in May. At the beginning of the month, the Sustainathon held its event online. Big thanks to Scott Davis for representing the Grange at their judging. On May 12th, the Envirothon will be held at the Quabbin Reservoir. Many Grange folks who have attended in the past are very excited to attend this activity for the first time in two years. It is so wonderful that we are able to meet with our partners once again.

There are so many opportunities we have available, we just have to be willing to take that extra step and capitalize on those opportunities. If you have any questions about our partnerships, please feel free to ask any members of the Agriculture and the Environment Committee. Happy growing everybody and we will see you soon!

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

Follow Massachusetts State Grange Online!

Keep current with events and information between issues of The State Grange News:

Website: www.massgrange.org

Facebook: [Massachusetts State Grange](#)

Instagram: [massgrange](#)

From the Veterans Committee

Specials days including Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day led to May's official designation as Military



Appreciation Month in 1999. Seeing flags placed on graves at this time of the year, the words of writer Francis A. Walker help us to reflect, "We come, not to mourn our dead soldiers, but to praise them."

When someone asks for the names of the military branches, the five that have been around for decades readily come to mind. The sixth U. S. service military branch was established December 20, 2019 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. The United States Space Force (USSF) is tasked with protecting the U.S. in space and supporting others who share a common interest. To join this group, one must be a U.S. citizen with an undergraduate or postgraduate degree.

The Space Force flag is celebrating its second anniversary on the 15th of this month. President Trump announced it as the official flag during a ceremony in the Oval Office in 2020 upon the request of Chief of Space Operations General John Raymond and the Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force Roger Towberman.

The Space Force seal is centered on the flag's black field. The Delta wing symbol implies change and innovation and its dark and light shades of gray represent the day and night work of the USSF. The dark blue globe and the orbit symbolize the defense and protection from potential threats in space. Stars complete the seal with the guiding North Star at the top. The three prominent stars in the clusters stand for the branch's three main tasks to organize, train, and equip.

Latin for "Always Above", "Semper Supra" is the motto of the USSF, and those who serve are referred to as 'Guardians'. Thank you to the members of this newest branch of the service as you join all other service men and women in the mission of protecting our country.

Lecturer's Corner

May is National Foster Care Month, so it's a good month to include a Grange Program about DCF. Because supporting your local DCF Branch or helping Local Food Banks is one of the suggested MA State Lecturer Programs this year, I'm looking forward to your Lecturer reports describing what you did.

May is also National Photography Month. Encourage your Grange members to enter any of the six Photography Contest categories: A) Agricultural, B) Animals, C) Flowers; D) Landscape, E) Patriotic, & F) People. For contest information & entry forms go to: <https://www.massgrange.org/lecturer-s-corner> and click to open the link: Contest Entry Forms.

World Bee Day is on May 20th and the Theme for 2022 is "Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees." An Agricultural Education Program could be about "Planting Flowers that bloom through all 3 seasons and having water available for the bees during the hotter months." You can find a Fun Bee Quiz in my Lecturer's Corner Program Ideas: May 2022.

Save the Date: Saturday, July 30, 2022 for our Annual Extravaganza & Talent Show. It will be held at Furcolo Hall, UMASS / College of Education, at 813 N Pleasant St, Amherst, MA 01003. The Lecturer's Talent Contest will include four Categories: 1] Vocal, 2] Instrumental, 3] Variety Act, and 4] Vocal / Instrumental Combo. There are 4 Age Divisions: Adults: 22 yrs & up, Youth: 14-21 years, Juniors: 5-9 yrs. & Juniors: 10-14 years. The Entry Forms and full details about the Talent Contest will be in the June State Grange News.

Fraternally, Kristin Paulson, Lecturer

Mission Statement: "The Massachusetts State Grange creates opportunities for leadership and community improvement through its commitment to expand agricultural education in order to raise the quality of life for all."

From the Junior Committee

The Ct. Valley Junior President, Lillian Giguere, held a Planning Meeting to re-start their Jr. Grange Meetings. Asst. Leader, Erin Krueger & Director, Ken Paulson along with four Juniors, two Honorary Members attended the Meeting. Jr. Leader Karlena Henry joined the meeting virtually. It was decided to hold their monthly meetings every third Saturday, with the first one at Shelburne Grange on May 21 at 2 pm.

Upcoming Junior State-Wide Events

1] MA State Junior Grange Craft Day on June 25th (10am to 2pm) at Upton Grange Hall – 26 School St. Upton, MA 01568. Lunch will be served.

See **JUNIORS** Page 5

5th Degree Conferral

Hello Grangers! On May 14th, Heritage Pomona and Minuteman Pomona will be conferring the 5th degree at Laurel Grange Hall in West Newbury at 2pm. If you haven't received the fifth degree, or just haven't seen it in a while, come on over. We would love to have some candidates and some visitors in the hall. If you are interested or plan to come, please contact either Matt Johnson at mattjohnsong@verizon.net or Corey Spence at magrangepv@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

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.

SURVEY *From Page 1*

and one that is absolutely necessary to the success of the planning project and ultimately the MSG. We've discussed the good things about the MSG and those items that need improvement or deletion.

To that end a comprehensive audit/survey of the entire MSG will be undertaken. We will be doing an evaluation of all aspects of the MSG - operating procedures, Granges, programs and etc. A questionnaire will be going out to members and Granges in the coming weeks for feedback of what the MSG does well, what needs improvement and areas where opportunities exist. Your feedback is very important and we hope you will take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire and return the same in a timely manner. We ask that all replies be constructive in nature and we welcome your ideas and suggestions.

The Executive Committee appreciates your participation in this upcoming project as we plan for the future of the MSG.

Kathy Peterson, Chair
George Thomas, Vice Chair
Janet Horne, Secretary/Auditor
Sam Manley, Member
Glenn Gibson, President
Corey Spence, Vice President
Randy Vaill, Treasurer
Deborah Goodrich, Secretary

JUNIORS *From Page 4*

2] MA State Junior Meeting on Saturday, August 13 (10am to 2pm) at Guiding Star Grange 401 Chapman St. Greenfield, MA 01301. Lunch will be served.

3] The MA Junior Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contests will be held individually by any Junior in our State by entering the Eastern Regional Contest on June 17th to 19th at National Grange Headquarters in Washington, DC. The Junior can attend in person or enter the competition virtually. Contact me at Junior.Grango@yahoo.com if you want to enter.

4] We will have the Junior Talent & Baking

Contest at the MA State Extravaganza, July 30, 2022 at Furcolo Hall, UMASS / College of Education, at 813 N Pleasant St, Amherst, MA 01003. All Juniors should arrive at 10am with their Bake Contest Entries of 7 Chocolate Chip Cookies. At 10:15, we will go on a tour of the UMASS Pollinator Gardens, followed by Fun Activities and Lunch. The Juniors will be first to Compete in the Talent Competition at 2:00.

From the Membership Committee

April is Grange Month and we salute all junior, community and Pomona granges during the month of April. We are pleased to announce that we been bestowed with our own email address which is membership@massgrange.com. Feel free to use this address to submit inquiries to the membership committee, submit contest entries or request additional new member kits.

Community granges received membership kits to be distributed to their new members who may have joined our organization over the past 18 months. Distribute what kits you have to those new members and then contact us at membership@massgrange.com to obtain additional kits. The packets will continue for disbursements to new members who join from this point forward. Lastly, any feedback to fine tune this membership kit is welcomed and comments can be emailed to our address.

Just a reminder about our statewide contests as follows:

GRANGE HALL PHOTO CONTEST (2022 and 2023) The Membership Committee would like to showcase all of our beautiful Grange halls across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Photo contest entries will be featured in a photo calendar created by the Membership Committee. Grange hall photos must be original and taken by the person submitting the entry. The photo should feature the exterior of the Grange hall only. The photo contest is open to Grange members and non-members. The photos will

See **MEMBERSHIP** Page 8

Educational Fund establishes new award for 2022

This year the Educational Aid Fund is introducing a new bonus award that our scholarship applicants may choose to apply for in addition to their First or Subsequent Scholarship. Thanks to the generous donation from West Boxford Grange, the Massachusetts State Grange Educational Aid Fund has established the Harry Lucas Community Service Excellence Award. Students may apply for the Lucas Award this year along with their First or Subsequent Scholarship. This new award is in addition to the special awards previously given.

When applying for their First and/or Subsequent Scholarships, student patrons may opt to also apply for three special awards. The William Eaton Scholarship, for students pursuing study in agriculture or environmental fields, is a larger scholarship award than the typical First or Subsequent Scholarships. Students may apply for the Eaton Scholarship by indicating their desire to be considered for this Scholarship on their First or Subsequent Scholarship form – no additional form is needed. The Thomas F. Severance Award for Outstanding Grange Service is a bonus award for students who have gone above and beyond in their service to the Grange. The Harry Lucas Community Service Excellence Award is a bonus award for students who have an extensive record of participation in non-Grange related service to their local community. The Severance Award and Lucas Award each require an additional application form and details about the service performed.

All application forms are available on the State Grange website or may be obtained by contacting the Secretary of the Fund, Nancy M. Blackmer, at 978-544-2183 or nblackmer@mass.rr.com. Any questions should also be directed to the Fund Secretary. Full-time scholarships are awarded annually; all application forms and materials must be postmarked by June 25.



The next issue of A Quarter's Worth should be available in the next few weeks!

Are you looking to stay connected, receive ideas for Grange programming, and learn what's happening with the National Grange Lecturer's department?

Sign up here to receive the next issue:

<https://form.jotform.com/220314368209047>

**South Middleboro Grange Spring Fair
Saturday May 21st
9am-4pm**



**570 Wareham St
South Middleboro MA 02346**

From the Home & Community Service Committee

It's been a while & I'm sure you are all wondering what is happening with this committee.

As in the past, donations to the Hearing Fund are always welcome. If you have purchased a hearing aid or aids in the past year you may apply for a \$200 reimbursement from the fund. If you have purchased an aid before and received money you must wait 5 years to re-apply. Please go to the State Grange web site for information and a copy of the application.

Supporting Foster Care through McDonald gift cards and those from Walmart, Target, etc. we hope, remains on your list for community service. To donate items such as diapers, personal care (soap, shampoo, etc.) please check with your local Foster Care office to see what they can use or have room to store.

With the help of the Veteran's committee our health project is the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, Inc. Founded on the Cape with their office in Bourne, this organization now helps veterans, active duty military & their families across the State. Thus far, over 5 million meals & 23.5 million pounds of food have been donated to members of the military and their families in need. Winter coats and sleeping bags have been donated in conjunction with the New England Patriots Foundation. To find out more go to the web site at mmsfi.org.

I hope that those of you who are planning to enter the needlework contest in Aug. have received a copy of the Northeast Needlework Contest Rules. They have changed the eligible sizes to be able to go the Big E for some of items. They are - Class A - Afghan – min. 45" x 74", max 52" x 84", Class H - Latch Hook – width a min. 18" & max. 24", max length 45", Class I - Quilted Wall hanging – no bigger than 20" x 20". 1st place winners at the State level need to be these sizes in order to go to the Big E. They have also added pants as part of Class D – 3 piece Baby Set.

For those of you who have not heard, our Bake Off in conjunction with the Extravaganza will be July 30th at UMass Amherst. Information on the event will be coming soon. The categories for this year's contests will be Adults – a Pumpkin based dessert and/or 10 pieces of Homemade Candy. The Junior category is Turkey cookies. They can be decorated or shaped as a turkey. In case you are wondering, these categories are hold overs from last year's contest that was not held and were to celebrate Plymouth's 400th Anniversary.

I also want to remind you that Home & Community Service reports are due Sept. 15th. This year, there is the usual report and also a short form. You may use which ever report fits your Grange best. Both forms can be found on the State web-site. Remember, if you have any questions on anything, please contact your Grange committee chairperson or a member of the State Grange Committee.

Everyone, enjoy your Spring & Summer and we will see many of you in July.

Sue LaFleur
Co-Chairman H&CS

Happy Mother's Day!

Tips for submitting news & photos

1. The best way to submit your news items is to send us a document that is typed in a word processing program and attached to an email.
2. The best way to submit photos is to attach high resolution images individually and type the captions in the body of an email or attach a document that contains the captions.
3. Send your submissions to:

stategrangenews@massgrange.org

— **MEMBERSHIP** *From Page 5* —

be judged in two age groups: under 18 years old and Adult. Photos must be taken between August 31st and September 1st, of the current year. **Submit photo releases as required.

PROMOTIONAL FLIER CONTEST (2022 and 2023) Create and submit a promotional flier for an existing Subordinate/Community Grange. This could be submitted by an individual or group and does not need to be for your own Grange. It could include text, photos, artwork, etc., and must include current information and a contact. Consider size and format for best presentation. It will be judged on its ability to attract the attention of nonmembers and to entice them to want to know more about, and be a part of, that Grange. Submit five (5) physical copies by August 31. **Submit photo releases as required.

GRANGE LOGO CONTEST (2022 and 2023) This is a new contest. The Membership Committee is conducting a logo contest for each program year. The logo will be featured on a number of promotional items. The logo should include a catchy phrase accompanied by artwork. This contest is open to all Grange members. Note that this logo is not intended to replace any existing Grange logos.

PLACEMAT CONTEST (2022 and 2023) This is a new contest. The Membership Committee is conducting a placemat design contest for each program year. Design a placemat on an 8 ½ X 11 sheet of paper. The design can include, but is not limited to, the use of the seven-sided Grange symbol, narrative, photos, artwork or anything else the artist deems suitable. The design should be legible and it could be customized to showcase your Community Grange or designed for use by any Community Grange. The contest is open to all Grange members. The winner will receive a limited quantity of paper placemats printed with their winning entry. It is the desire of the Membership Committee that these placemat designs could be used by any Community or Regional Grange who might be

interested in producing placemats for use at a Grange function such as a public supper.

PROMOTIONAL EVENT CONTEST (2022 and 2023) Plan and hold a promotional event for a Subordinate/Community Grange. This could be submitted by an individual or group and does not need to be for your own Grange. This could take many forms, so be creative. The report should include any planning, advertising, set up, execution and follow-up. Judging will consider the amount of non-member contact and any resulting new members. You must inform the MA State Grange Membership Director with enough notice 32 of the date and place prior to the event to allow our representative to attend. Submit a final report in physical form by September 15th. ** Submit photo releases as required

STORY OR INTERVIEW CONTEST (2022 and 2023) Submit a story or interview that was published or aired about a Subordinate/Community Grange. This could be submitted by an individual or group and does not need to be about your own Grange. You must have been instrumental in some way in the publication or airing of the story or interview. A newspaper article or magazine story can fall into this category. A radio or television interview would also fall into this category. Perhaps a story or interview or feature on an on-line website would qualify. Judging will consider the content, the format, the size of the readership or listening audience and other considerations that promote the Grange at any level. ** Submit a copy of the publication, or a digital recording on a flash drive of the program or interview, along with when and where it was aired. ** Submit photo releases as required.

Please consider supporting these contests as we enter the warmer weather which is a harbinger of fair season! As always, continued good health to you and yours as we embark upon the springtime season.

Caroline LaCroix
Membership Committee

Understanding & Appreciating the Wildlife Around Us



Sponsored by Worcester Central Pomona
& Central Community Grange

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

7:30 p.m.

Boylston Town House

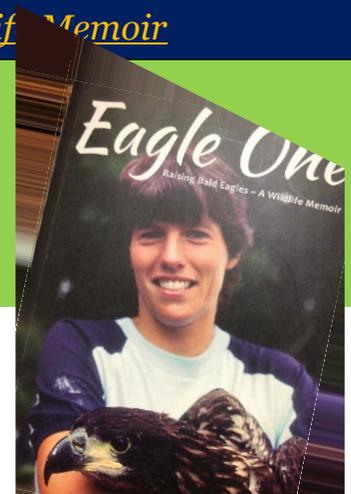
599 Main St. (next to the Fire Station)

Meet Dianne Benson Davis

Author of *Eagle One: Raising Bald Eagles – Wildlife Memoir*

Enjoy a narrated photo presentation of her wildlife experiences:

- Raising bald eagle chicks in the Quabbin Reservoir
- Working with native & exotic wildlife at
 - Tufts Veterinary School Wildlife Clinic
 - Worcester EcoTarium



All are welcome!

Join us for this free event!

*Funded by Boylston Cultural Council,
a local agency supported by the
Massachusetts Cultural Council*



*For more information,
508-886-2341
jsegur@ymail.com*

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

3

The distinctive orange-and-black plumage of **Baltimore Orioles**—named for the colors of the coat of arms of Lord Baltimore, the first Proprietor of the Province of Maryland—make these birds easy to spot now.



5

Height of the Eta Aquarids meteor shower. In the northern hemisphere, roughly 30 shooting stars per hour, most prominent after midnight, grace the dark sky.

7

Oak catkins (male flowers) are open. Gray Squirrels eat these flowers, which also support numerous caterpillar species that are important food sources for migrating birds.

13

Bird-a-thon, Mass Audubon's annual fundraiser and 24-hour birding competition, kicks off.

Mass Audubon
bird·a·thon
2022

14

World Migratory Bird Day, which highlights the need for global conservation to ensure the continued survival of all our migratory bird species.

15

Full moon and total lunar eclipse. When the moon is in Earth's shadow it will turn reddish—a full blood moon. The total eclipse will be from 11:30 pm to 12:50 am.



17

Height of the **spring warbler migration**. Listen to the dawn chorus and watch the treetops and shrubbery at sunrise and sunset for these beautiful little birds.



19

Look for the large, pink blooms of lady's slipper orchids along upland forest floors.

20

World Bee Day! Bumblebee queens have emerged and are looking for good nest sites. They fly in distinctive zigzag patterns close to the ground in scrubby areas and field edges.

23

Tiny, strikingly blue **Spring Azure** butterflies patrol their territories in late afternoon at woodland edges and in forest clearings.



24

Great Horned Owls are not cavity nesters but use old Red-tailed Hawk or Great Blue Heron nests, often at the top of snags. Look for the still-downy heads of Great Horned Owl fledglings sticking up over the edges of these large nests.

26

Keep an eye out for female Painted and Snapping turtles crossing roads as they climb uphill to soft, drier soil to dig nests and lay eggs.

27

Enjoy the beautiful white or occasionally pink blooms of our **native flowering dogwoods** along forest edges, or look for one of our most distinctive forest wildflowers, Jack-in-the-pulpit. Keep an eye out for the 1- to 2-foot-tall spathe (pulpit) that grows up and over the flower stalk (Jack).

