

# Green Mountain Granger

**AUGUST 2022**



## 150<sup>th</sup> Vermont State Grange Celebration

On July 4, 1872, the Vermont State Grange was officially formed. On July 9<sup>th</sup> at Vermont State Grange Center, we celebrated 150 years. The day was a gorgeous summer day, not too humid and temperatures in the seventies. The sun was hot, but under the big tent was a gentle breeze that kept the attendees comfortable. The Vermont Fiddlers Orchestra started playing after a delicious lunch. People gathered under the tent in front of the Winter Building and listened to the music and/or viewed the Historical Exhibits on the stage in the Butler building. This was prepared by Errol Briggs and Lester Gibbs, Vermont State Historians.

At 2 pm State Master Joseph Goodrich started the program. VSG Chaplain Jenny Nelson gave the Invocation. We were pleased to have in attendance the following distinguished guests: Molly Gray, Vermont Lieutenant Governor; Anson Tebbetts, VT Secretary of Agriculture; and Betsy Huber, National Grange Master. All congratulated Vermont State Grange for its years of service to rural Vermont. Secretary Tebbetts also brought the Governor's Proclamation to present to us (see it on the web). The past State Masters, Lester B. Gibbs, Phyllis Mason, Errol C. Briggs, and Brenda Rousselle had brief remarks about the Grange when they were the Master. Out-of-state Grange guests were the Cameron's from Connecticut and Logan's from Rhode Island.

At 5:30 pm we enjoyed a delicious Turkey Dinner with all the fixings. Errol Briggs and Lester Gibbs explained items in the Historical

Exhibit. This was followed by the State Officers cutting and passing out the Celebration Cake to all the guests.

The Executive Committee would like to thank all involved with making this event so special, but especially the Grange Center Board for being responsible for the delicious meals and managing the reservations for overnight lodging and Family Camp Chairs, Debby Perry and Mark Belisle for sharing the Family Camp Weekend with the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration. And thank you all for helping with various tasks that needed doing and all who attended the Celebration.

## Upcoming Grange Events:

- **August 21** - New Horizon Pomona #33 will be hosting the 5th Degree for State Grange in Bomoseen on Aug 21st. The day will start at 4 pm with the 5th Degree, 6 pm Turkey Dinner, with the 6th Degree beginning at 7pm. Please be sure to call Kathleen Paglia at 802-672-1067 to put in your count so they know how many people plan on for the dinner.
- **August 27** - Chicken Pie Supper at Grange Center \$12.00 per person. Serving begins at 5:00 PM.
- **September 8-10** - Fall Festival - More information will be available on the Vermont Grange website when available.
- **October 14-16** - Vermont State Grange 151<sup>st</sup> State Session in Montpelier.

## Chaplain's Message – Jenny Nelson, Chaplain

Take a deep breath! Summer is flying by. So much to do – lawns, gardens, family picnics, birthdays,

Grange meetings...phew! Take a breath, close your eyes, thank God for your busy life. If you can see, hear, walk.... if you can visit with your family and friends - Yes, be thankful.

I must tell myself that time and again: Pray! Be still and know that God is there, listening, watching, knowing our every move, our every need. Wow!

We read Luke 11: 9-10 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you: For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Each day brings us a new start- a time to do something special- show kindness, share food, a ride, a joke, a smile, even an invitation to a Grange meeting or program. Our communities look to the Grange for leadership, a place of fellowship, and a helping hand. In faith and hope and charity, we can offer ourselves, our skills, and our generosity to others.

Finally, in these days of divisiveness and strife, remember this quote," Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give."

## Lecturer - Alice Daley, VT State Lecturer

What a great weekend celebrating Family Camp and our VT State Grange 150th Celebration.

A lot of people turned in entries for the Lecturers contest. Judges are working now. What a beautiful number of entries.

The new program book is out! If you don't have one yet, contact your Master. All books were sent out a couple of weeks ago.

Enjoy your new year. As always, contact me if you have questions or want me to attend one of your meetings.

## News from the Executive Committee – Brenda Rousselle, Secretary

The Executive Committee met on June 12 and July 6, 2022. The Ex. Com. received an update from the Grange Center on the water system.

Work is continuing to see that the well is working properly. An update was given on selling Maple Valley #318's Hall. A request from Bartonsville #481 asking for information on possibly received some assistance with the cost of fuel during the winter. Milton Grange #522 is working on closing down their hall and preparing it for sale. The Executive Committee is working with Moss Glen #554 and Randolph Community Grange #229.

The Vermont State Grange 150th Celebration was discussed and fine-tuning of arrangements. A discussion was also held on adjusting the mileage allowance for the Committees. A motion was made a seconded to adjust the mileage allowance from \$0.30 to \$0.40 per mile during the months of July, August and September only.

**The 6th Degree will be exemplified on Sunday, August 21 beginning at 7:00 pm at Bomoseen Grange. The 5th Degree will be exemplified at Bomoseen beginning at 4:00 pm. Bomoseen Grange will hold a dinner between the two degrees.**

Brother Joe announced that Sister Jessica Falker had agreed to accept the position of Youth Director for the Vermont State Grange.

The July 6th meeting of the Executive Committee dealt almost exclusively with the 150th Celebration and Family Camp.

### **Vermont Grange Center - Eunice Crowell Chairperson**

First, I would like to thank everyone who helped, in any way at all, in kitchen and dining room during the combined Family Camp and 150th Anniversary Celebration. We had a large turnout. The Winter Building was full and there was only one half of a cabin that was not in use. There were two RVs on the grounds and Nurse's Cabin was full. Wouldn't it be nice to have everything full for Fall Festival?

Hopefully, this fall or spring we will have a new well. I am asking all Granges to help raise extra money to help pay for this. Repairs to chimney in the Butler Building need to happen as well as some repair

work in the Winter Building. Your Pomona Center Board representative can fill you in on all that needs to be done at Center.  
**Upcoming event: August 27, 2022 a Chicken Pie Supper at Center \$12.00 per person. Serving begins at 5:00 PM.**

### **Family Camp - Co Chairmans Mark Belisle and Debby Perry**

Hi All, It was a great seeing everyone in July at Family Camp and at the 150th Anniversary Celebration. Both were a huge success with a great turnout. The Meals were excellent! Thank you to all who worked in the kitchen. We did lose 2 frying pans in our frying pan toss. If anyone has an Iron frying pan that you don't want any more please help us out. Next issue I will post the winners. Debby Perry

### **Ag and Environment, Jenny Nelson, Director**

*What is the Century Farm Award?*  
Several years ago, our Home Acres Farm in Ryegate was awarded the Century Farm Award. We were pleased and considered it special. This year, as in the past, all of our Granges are encouraged to find farm families who have been living on the same plot of land, farming it for a continuous 100 years, and honor them at VT State Grange's annual meeting. Please help us identify a farm family and keep the award continuing into the future. As a short history lesson, I found this on the Internet. "Since 1953, the Vermont State Grange and the Vermont Farm Bureau have jointly sponsored the Vermont Century Farms Program. In doing so, the two organizations have continued a project begun in 1951 under the leadership of Dr. Arthur Wallace Peach, who was the director of the Vermont Historical Society. The intent of the program has been to give recognition to farm people of this state who have maintained the home farm in the same family for 100 years or more. Vermont State Grange and Vermont Farm Bureau have shared the expenses of the

program and each organization, in alternate years (odd-numbered years are Farm Bureau; even-numbered years are Grange,) provides time during its fall Annual Meeting for the awarding of plaques and the reading of citations. (In order to award the best applications, the Farm Bureau and Grange judges may hold the option to award a limited number of farms per year.) To qualify for recognition, a farm must have been owned continuously for a century or more by the same family, must have been occupied at all times by a direct descendant of the original settler, must be engaged in the production of agricultural products and several generations of the family must have been active in community and/or state affairs."

### **Community Service - Ruth Hovey-Sicely, Director**

I hope you are all tolerating these repeated days of unsufferable heat temperatures! We've certainly had an official heat wave! Can you believe we're at the beginning of a new Grange year! We've decided to continue with the programs of fund raising for Ronald McDonald House in the north and David's House in the south. With Covid 19 for the past 2 years, no one has been able to do any fund raisers. This year let's raise some money for these groups. After your fund raiser, gather the money together and make the check payable to the Vermont State Grange, put either Ronald McDonald or David's House on the memo line and mail to: Ruth Hovey-Sicely, Director, Community Service, 270 Eagle Ledge Road, Worcester, VT 05682.

I have spoken to the Director of the Good Samaritan Haven in Barre. This is a Homeless Shelter where the clients have to leave during the day. It hosts both male and females overnight. They have just renovated a motel into a housing unit on the Barre/Montpelier Road, for people to transition out of homelessness. They pass out items constantly to the folks passing through their doors. Let's collect some socks and toiletry items for men and women and bring them

to State Session in October. It won't be hard to add one extra item whenever you go shopping. Remember there's always the Dollar Tree Store where everything is now \$1.25!

Remember to check on your neighbors to see how they're doing, especially in this heat. In the new Program Book, we're focusing on Mental Health – ours and paying attention to others.

\*\*\*Buy socks and toiletry items: toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant (men & women), tampons, liners/pads, band aids, Neosporin, etc. and bring to State Session.

### **Family Activities - Linda Sanderson, Director**

I hope all of you that like this HOT weather are enjoying it. The cooking contest was held at Family Camp and the results are:

- 1st Alice Daley  
Blue Spruce Grange #574
- 2nd Brenda Rousselle  
Blue Spruce Grange #574
- 3rd Sallie May  
Evening Star Grange #154
- 4th Deborah Ploof  
Blue Spruce Grange #574
- 5th Nancy Perkins  
Blue Mountain Grange #263
- 6th Jenny Dimick  
Bomoseen Valley Grange #273

CONGRATULATIONS ALL!! and Thanks for entering the cooking contest.

The Northeast Needlework & Vermont contests are being judged at the time of this writing. I hope to get the entries back by August 1st so Grangers can enter at their local Field Days & Fairs.

I will not be taking Family Activities director (if asked) this fall. It's been a pleasure to be State Director this last 2 years, but it's time for someone else to step up to the plate. I am too busy with the Northeast Connection and being Co-coordinator for the Region. Just a reminder that tee shirts (cardinal red) are for sale from Brenda Rousselle.

Please keep up your good work in your communities. If you have not received the packet I sent to your Grange Secretary, please ask for

it. There is a lot of information in it, a copy of the Family Activities section of this year's program book (22-23), Family Activity Notes, and Family Activities Directors Duties. Stay Happy & Healthy this coming year.

### **Health - Alice Daley, Director**

We had a great weekend celebrating Family Camp and the 150th VT State Celebration.

Have you gotten your new program book yet? They were mailed to all Masters, a couple of weeks ago. I hope everyone has stayed safe and cool during this prolonged heat wave. As I write this, it is 7:30 PM and it is still 90 F. Continue to drink water and stay in the shade.

As always contact me if you have any questions or want me to visit your grange.

### **Information - Lois Allen, Director**

By the time you read this, the scrapbooks will have been judged and hope all are worthy of stickers or stars. I have checked with Debbie Ploof on what Granges sent in updated information or pictures to the Vermont State Grange website and I took my chart of Granges that sent information for the calendar so I could be sure I got that correct. We will be doing the calendar admissions count again this year. If there is a new Information Chair after State Grange election of officers, I will pass that chart on to the new person, although I suspect that they would not take over the 'calendar' part.

Hope all are staying safe this hot summer. I personally have had enough heat to last the rest of my life. I don't get along with snakes, bugs, sweat and humidity. 'See' you next issue.

### **Junior Grange - Martha Bissell, Director**

Welcome to a new year of contests. The following are the projects for the Junior contests.

#### **2022-2023 PROJECTS**

- Rock Painting - Find a nice rock to paint or color. Size of rock no larger than 3" x 3" x 3".

- Duct Tape project - Create a project using duct tape. Size not to exceed 6" X 6" X 6".
- Buttons--Create something interesting or useful using buttons. Decorate with any medium. 4" X 4" X4"
- Big E Project 2023 - To Be Determined later. Watch the GMG for announcements.
- Passport/Badges – Refer to Vermont State Junior Grange Program Book or the National website at <https://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/junior-grange-passport/> or Good Day Magazine
- National Junior Projects – Refer to the National Grange website at <https://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/> or check Vermont State Junior Grange Program Book. Deadlines vary for National contests.
- Photo/Writing Contests – Refer to the National Grange website or check Vermont State Junior Grange Program Book

See additional information in the separate Vermont State Junior Grange Program Book to be published when 2023 contests are announced by National in November of 2022.

Other state contests can be found on the Community Service, Fall Festival, Family Activities and Lecturers pages in the program book. I would encourage anyone and everyone to enter at least one item in any or each of these programs/contests.

Even though we did not hold Junior camp this summer there are already ideas for having a camp next year. Stay tuned here in the Green Mountain Granger for updates. If there are any questions, let me know.

Martha Bissell, Director, 213 Maple Lane, West Danville, VT 05873  
mbisswal@hotmail.com  
802-563-2429

### **Youth - Jessica Falker, Youth Director**

What an honor it is to be appointed the Vermont State Grange Youth

Director! For anyone who doesn't know me already, my name is Jessica Falker. If you spell or pronounce it incorrectly, don't worry about it. I'm a member of Marble Valley Grange #567, a native Vermonter, and a 4th generation Granger. My husband Jason and I just celebrated our 25th Anniversary and we have 2 children, both Grange Youth members. I am the Treasurer of our Subordinate Grange as well as the Legislative Committee Chair & Information Committee Chair, and the Grange Department Superintendent at the Vermont State Fair. When I'm not doing something Grange-related, I work from home in the health care industry, mostly arguing with insurance companies who don't want to pay for things that people need to live. I'm really looking forward to growing the Grange Youth membership in our state and creating new and exciting opportunities for our youth members. To do that however, I need to know who they are! Please, please PLEASE send me a list of your youth members aged 14-35. Their contact info would be great, but even just a list of names would be helpful. You don't need to be the Secretary or Youth Committee Chair to send me the list. I'd rather get 3 lists from one Grange than no list at all! My email is JJEM1999@yahoo.com, call or text 802-417-7020, snail mail 72 Alfred Buck Ln, Pittsford, VT 05763. Also feel free to contact me anytime regarding the Youth Department. I am already working on some preliminary ideas for a Grange Youth Camp next summer! To keep up to date with the Vermont State Grange Youth, follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/vtstategrangeyouth](http://www.facebook.com/vtstategrangeyouth)

### **Pomona Happenings**

**Heart of Vermont Pomona** - At the June meeting, we met at Moss Glen Grange in Granville, VT. It was a long ride, but a beautiful one none the less. The Charter was draped in loving memory of Master Hiram Allen. It was decided that due to the

fact that the next meeting would be election of officers, we would dispense with electing a new Master at this time and wait until the next meeting in August. Chaplain Errol Briggs presented the memorial program. It has been a tough year for Heart of Vermont Pomona as we have lost 6 members. David Wakefield, Sandra Batchelder, Mildred Batchelder, Rick Wright, Hiram Allen and former Vermont State Grange Secretary Beverly Wright. After the program, Brother Briggs presented to the two widows present yellow roses. Our next meeting will be August 6th at Tunbridge Grange at 10AM. Potluck lunch and election of officers. Reporter, Lois Allen, Lecturer

**New Horizon Pomona #33** will be hosting the 5th Degree for State Grange in Bomoseen on Aug 21st. The day will start at 4 pm with the 5th Degree, 6 pm Turkey Dinner, with the 6th Degree beginning at 7pm. Please be sure to call Kathleen Paglia at 802-672-1067 to put in your count so they know how many people plan on for the dinner. Martha Kirchner, Master

### **Community Granges Reports**

**Beacon Light** is working on the various fairs and Fall Festival. In September and October, we will be thinking about our fall and Christmas projects. Darcelene Lewis-Wedge, Master

**Blue Spruce** is getting ready for the Champlain Valley Fair. We will be asking visitors to place squares on our quilt template. We made over 300 comfort pillows last year. There will also be a quilt raffle with proceeds going to the Ronald McDonald House.

Our next meeting will be on August 12 where we will be celebrating some of our members years in the Grange. All are welcome to attend. 4 PM at Congregational Church on Main St (Rt 15), Essex. Alice Daley, Master

### **Caledonia Grange #9**

- 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Party of Caledonia Grange #9! Grangers and the public are invited to a party to celebrate our 150 years. Caledonia Grange #9 was founded in March 1872, the same year as (but a few months earlier than!) the Vermont State Grange. Light entertainment and historical notes will be followed by light summer refreshments. All are very welcome. The Grange Hall is located at 88 E Church St, East Hardwick. This will be in September. Watch the Monthly calendar (emailed and on website) for date. For more info, call Rachel Kane 472-5512.

**Lake View Grange** - Hi All, Hope everyone is staying cool. Since last time I wrote, Lake View has been doing their breakfasts on the second Saturday of each month. Three of our members along with one from Upper Valley attended a brief portion of Family Camp, and two members attended the entirety. Since our breakfast falls on the same day of the month as Family Camp, it is impossible for more participation. We voted to once again have a booth at Champlain Valley Fair this year and our day to "mind the store" was August 26th. We voted to do all the annual donations, they were sent to the proper authorities, and the annual scrapbook was submitted at Family Camp.

Several members had an information booth on the front lawn of the Grange Hall during the annual West Barnet Mile Long Yard Sale. Hopefully we will get new members from this event. We have been fortunate to get 4 new members thanks to the hard work of our Membership Chairman. We lost 2 members, but gained 4, so now we have a net gain of 2 members for the year. YAY! Lois Allen

**Marble Valley Grange** welcomed a new member last month, and it's another youth member! Four of our members attended Family Camp and the Vermont State Grange 150th Anniversary celebration. Casey won

the frying pan throwing contest and we did joke with him that's how you become State Master. By the time this edition of GMG comes out we will have completed our Basket Raffle Fundraiser and Home-Grown & Home-Made Exhibit at the Brandon carnival and will have shifted our focus to the Vermont State Fair in August. Happy Harvest to all of our Brothers and Sisters!  
Jessica Falker

**Taconic Grange** - On May 28, 2022 a Quilt of Valor was presented to a local Veteran. The Quilt was made by Sister Connie Krawczyk Member of Taconic Grange #491, Friendship Pomona #31 and quilted by Andre` Emmell (Quilt of Valor long arm quilter. The quilt was presented to SSG Patrick Kelly, born May 19, 1965, in Bennington, VT. He served in the Army from 1985-2021, for 33+ years. He retired in June of 2021. In 2008 he was deployed to Afghanistan with the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade for "Operation Enduring Freedom."

During SSG Kelly's deployment, he worked with command on several missions. In 2014, SSG Kelly was offered a job working at "Joint Force Headquarters" in Latham, NY, where he worked as an operation controller. In his retirement, Mr. Kelly works for the Hoosick Falls Central School as a bus driver, enjoys time with his family and is active in the American Legion Hoosick Falls Post #40. This was presented to Mr. Kelly at the Post #40 meeting.



**Tunbridge Grange #384** - On Saturday, May 14th, Grange members participated at the VT State Grange helping to rake and beautify the grounds.

On Friday, June 3rd, a craft event was held at the Tunbridge Grange Hall when Marie Danforth taught a packed room how to make beautiful flowers using coffee filters. Each person took home a bouquet of six flowers. There was a lot of laughter and everyone had a wonderful time. More craft events are planned for the near future.

We had several members attend Family Camp. We will be hosting Bingo at South Royalton Old Home Days. Three new members joined the Grange and two members volunteered at the Sharon Rest Area coffee break on behalf of the VT State Grange Center. Another craft event will take place when Linda Lazaroff and her sister, Carolyn Boothroyd, teach making sunflowers and cattails from coffee filters. We will be hosting our own coffee breaks at the Sharon Rest Area as a means to earn money for our building repairs and more fundraising events are being discussed. Linda Lazaroff

### **Gold Coin Project**

It's time to wind down this project. A great big THANK YOU to those holders of the gold coins that have completed a project and turned in the fruits of their labors. If you are still working on your projects—as I am—keep in mind that the proceeds are to be turned in at State Session in October. Hopefully, this will complete the project that has been on-going since before COVID!! Please note, if you have been unable to complete a project, please bring your gold coin to State Session to return to Brother Errol.