



a quarter's worth

Notes from the National Lecturer

This is the spring that just doesn't want to come too soon. The weather for most of us across the country has been disappointing to say the least, but there is still reason to be hopeful.

Grange Month has been fantastic! We are getting back together in our Grange Halls and other meeting spaces, bringing back familiar and favorite activities and developing new ones. It's a great time to be in Grange!

I want to clear up a few things that have come to my attention: **The Wonky Star** quilt block is not an exact pattern. It allows for creativity and errors! It isn't meant to be perfect.

Somehow, the instructions from Scissortail Quilting Company, got misprinted. The size of the block that you send me should measure 12 ½ (twelve and one-half) inches.

And while I think there are three different

cont'd on page 2

Time for Spring Planting!

By Ann Olson Bercher
National Grange Lecturer

Spring has been taking its time to arrive in Minnesota, and as I have been watching the national weather reports and maps, Minnesota isn't alone. I know I'm not behind in getting my garden up and running, but my seed packets are getting a little worn out from all the rattling of the seeds when I shake them in anticipation.

Now is the time to make the lists of plants we want to grow and gather the seeds and purchase the seedlings. One of the easiest gardens for a beginner is a square foot garden, if you have some open space

around your yard. Another easy method is to create a container garden. Both of the methods have similarities and are great for first time gardeners.

Here is a great site to introduce you to Square foot gardening: <https://simplysmartgardening.com/square-foot-garden-spacing/>

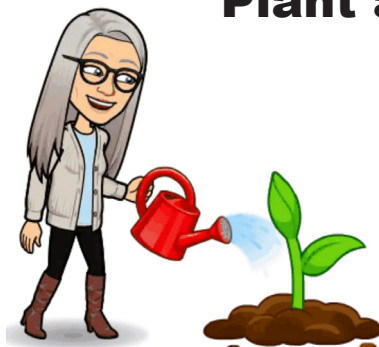


I enjoy having a few plants in pots on my deck where I can readily harvest fresh salad greens, herbs and tomatoes to use for meals. Even a small space can grow a surprising amount of produce in containers!

There are several choices for containers. Terra Cotta containers are beautiful, but they can get heavy when filled with plants and soil, and they are breakable. They

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Plant a Seed!



Remind your members to get registered for one of the summer regional conferences. These are open to all members and they always have some great program ideas, crafts, food, and wonderful fellowship time. Thank you to all our Grange members that are helping to organize them.

NATIONAL NOTES *cont'd... from page 1*

addresses for me out there in Grange land, please send your completed block to me at 777 Excelsior Blvd. #310, Excelsior, MN 55331.

I attended the National Fly-In last month and there are great educational opportunities for our Granges to get involved. See Sean O'Neil's article later in this newsletter for more information.

I have also gleaned some ideas from other lecturer's columns from the state's newsletters and included them here also. I would still appreciate articles with photographs of your programs for the next Quarter's Worth. Those are due August 1st!

I am still looking for a few more people to join the Lecturer's Advisory Board. This isn't so much a work group, but, like it says, advisory, and I can really use some advice! I would like to have a virtual meeting later this month as I am finalizing the Lecturer's Program for next year. You don't need to be a State Lecturer to help. All voices and ideas are valuable to me.



PROGRAM IDEA

Minnesota Writing Contest

By Patricia Cutting

Lecturer/Program Director, State Grange of Minnesota

I have a suggestion in getting your members to write a Cinquain poem. Make it a part of one of your Lecturer's programs at one of your regular meetings. Don't give anyone a hint ahead of time of what your program is going to be. Just pass out paper and pencils and have them write their name at the top and then explain that everyone is going to write a poem about the Grange and that you are going to give them instructions in writing a Cinquain poem.

Cinquain (sing-kane) Poem - start your poem with "Grange"

Cinquain Poems are only 5 lines long

Line 1: 1 noun (Grange)

Line 2: 2 adjectives (2 words that describe the Grange)

Line 3: 3 words that express action (3 verbs ending with "-ing")

Line 4: 4 words that express feeling about the Grange or a description of the Grange

Line 5: 1 word that gives the title a different name (synonym)

Here are two examples of Cinquain poems:

Basketball

Dogs

fun, exciting

Furry, friendly

running, bouncing, scoring

Barking, fetching, playing

Playing basketball is awesome!!!

Friends when you need

Sport

Pets



Q3 DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions for A Quarter's Worth, Second Quarter edition is August 1. Send ideas, tips, shout outs and other content options to National Lecturer Ann Bercher at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or contact her by phone at (612) 501-1231

MVP

(Most Valuable Patron)

Roger Bostwick and the Executive Committee of Kansas organized a quilt block making day. I'm looking forward to receiving the blocks that you all made!

“Making Do” with What You’ve Got

BY FAYERENE SMITH
Lecturer, Texas State Grange

An auto windshield reflective sunshade has multiple uses. The shade I have is a silver “crinkled looking” rectangle with an elastic loop at both ends to secure when not in use on the front windshield. One use I’ve found is by fully opening and laying it down flat in the rear of my car to set plants on that I buy.

This keeps the car carpet dry and clean. Another use is to fold the shield over poster boards and secure at each end with the elastic loops. This protects the poster boards in transit to your meeting and keeps them out of sight! It’s also cheaper than the leather or fabric type in stores. What uses have you found?

Connect your Grange to the Legislative Process

By Sean O’Neil
National Grange Legislative Assistant

One of the many unique features of the Grange is that, along with a focus on community, the Grange also has an important advocacy mission.

From the local to the State and National Grange, advocacy has been a core component of the Grange mission since its founding. With that in mind, what follows are two ideas for local Grange meetings with an advocacy focus:

1. Many Grangers are not familiar with the details of the Grange policy and advocacy process. One potential meeting idea could be to spend a meeting going through the steps by which the Grange creates and advocates for policies at the local, state, and national level. This includes talking about the state and national legislative teams and how individual grangers can work with them. To get Grangers directly involved, to finish the meeting members could spend time

writing resolutions or reviewing State Grange and National Grange policies.

2. Another topic many Grangers may not be familiar with is how they can directly advocate on behalf of themselves and their local Granges and communities. Spending a meeting informing members about who their local, state, and national representatives are and how they can best interact with them could help local Grangers get involved in advocacy. Grangers could take some time to write letters/emails to send to these officials, actively practicing advocacy to benefit their hometowns.

If your local Grange has any questions or concerns about how you can most effectively carry out either of these meeting plans, don’t hesitate to reach out to your National Grange legislative team!

Sean can be reached at soneil@nationalgrange.org.



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SPRING PLANTING *cont'd... from page 1*

also tend to get hot in the sun and plants may require more frequent watering. Ceramic Glazed pots are similar to Terra Cotta, but the glaze makes them able to retain moisture better. These pots tend to be more expensive. Plastic pots are going to be the least expensive option. They can be used year after year, and they are the easiest to move around.

You will also need to determine what size container you will need. Some ideal sizes for herbs and vegetables are:

5-gallon pot: garlic, peppers, tomatoes

2-3-gallon pot: beets, spinach, kale

12-inch-deep pots: Arugula, Beans, radishes, onions, most herbs

The next consideration is the soil you put in your pot. Do not use soil out of any garden space. It will compact too much in the pot and water won't drain properly. You may also be introducing weed seed and disease. Instead, use a high-quality potting soil from your garden center. Most greenhouses will make their own potting soil or will have a

premium supplier that you can buy from. You will also need to feed your plants. Frequent watering sometimes filters out nutrients that your plants need. You can mix in a slow-release fertilizer with your potting soil, then fertilize every week or two with a liquid fertilizer.

Keep in mind that plants do not have the same sun, water or nutrient requirements. Pay attention to the information found on seed packages, seedling tags, or information you can find on the internet. Be sure that the plants you place together in containers all have the same sun, water and nutrient requirements.

Stay on top of watering, especially in the heat of the summer. You can tell when your plants need water if the soil is pulling away from the side of the pot or the plants are wilting. But you don't want to overwater and drown your plants either. Make sure there are draining holes in the bottom of your pots before planting so water can drain out. The easiest way to determine if your plants need water is to stick your index finger down into the soil

an inch deep. If the soil feels damp, you can wait to water. If it feels dry, water the plants. If you can't tell, wait one day and do the finger test again.

Even container pots can get weeds from wind and wildlife. Remove unwanted weeds from your pots as soon as they appear.

Sometimes, plants die. Plants in containers are also subject to disease and insect damage. If you see a plant that is just not making it, don't hesitate to remove it, clean out the pot and try again. I have found this to happen rarely, but I am always prepared.

Soon you will be having lush, growing plants. Some may require pruning or pinching back to encourage growth. Many herbs benefit from frequent harvesting. When you see signs of herbs blooming, pinch those flowers off and your herbs will continue to put energy into the leaves. The greatest joy comes from harvesting your first pepper, tomato, bunch of salad greens or sprigs of herbs. You can get much closer to the table than your own potted plants!

Plant a Salad Bowl

- Use an 8 – 10-inch-deep bowl with a hole in the bottom for drainage.
- Add a soil mix, commercial potting soil or a potting mix with peat moss.
- Plant seeds by following package directions. Some good choices are spinach, lettuce, kale, beets, swiss chard, mustard greens, arugula, cilantro, basil or any kind of salad mix. Place seeds on top of soil about 1 inch apart, then cover with ¼ inch of soil. Water thoroughly
- after planting. After planting, water as needed to prevent soil from drying out.
- Place pot in a sunny location. Seeds will germinate in 1 – 2 weeks, depending on the mix of seed you choose. When plants are 2 – 4 inches tall, you can begin to harvest using a scissors.
- While these might not make an entire salad, the greens will be a delightful addition to any summer salad, sandwich or entrée.



Connecticut State Grange to host State-Level Contests for Community Granges

By Dave Roberts

Lecturer, Connecticut State Grange

Connecticut State Grange Lecturers have decided to renew two previous contests to give Granges an opportunity to display their talents and have fun.

The first contest is a **Talent Contest**. Connecticut State Grange will host the State Grange run-offs. Here are the details for this contest:

- Each Subordinate/Community Grange may host their own Talent Contest and select one winner for the State Run-offs.

- There will be no Pomona-level judging. All entries will go directly from the Subordinate/Community Grange to the State Grange for judging.

- The Connecticut State Grange run-offs will be held at Hillstown Grange Hall (first floor) starting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, August 14.

- Performance time allowed for each entrant is six minutes (includes set-up and performance).

- No piano will be provided at the State run-offs, so if a Grange needs to bring an electric keyboard, please coordinate this with the State Grange Lecturer prior to the event.

- Any Grange wishing to compete in the Talent Contest at the State Run-offs MUST notify the State Grange Lecturer, Dave Roberts, at 858-775-9241 or dave@daveroberts.org no later than August 1, 2022.

- A panel of three judges will select the first, second and third

place Talent Contest winners. The decision of the judges is final. Appropriate prizes will be awarded and a Certificate will be presented to each Grange that participates.

- The first place winner of the Talent Contest will be invited to perform at the Friday, October 21st banquet at the Connecticut State Grange 2022 State Convention in Norwich. If the first place winner cannot perform for any reason, the second place winner and/or the third place winner may be invited to perform at State Convention.

The second contest is called the **"A Number"** contest. Connecticut State Grange will host the State Grange run-offs. Here are the details for this contest:

- Any number (skit) suitable for a Grange meeting is eligible.

- Time Limit: 6 minutes (includes set-up and performance).

- All entries will go directly from the Subordinate Grange to State for judging.

- The Connecticut State Grange run-offs will be held at Hillstown Grange Hall (first floor) on Sunday, August 14, immediately following the Talent Contest run-off which starts at 1:00 PM.

- A panel of three judges will select the first, second and third place winners. The decision of the judges is final.

- Numbers will be judged on presentation, quality, audience appeal, appropriateness of theme,

and originality.

- No piano will be provided at the State run-offs, so if a Grange needs to bring an electric keyboard, please coordinate with the State Grange Lecturer.


- Any Grange wishing to compete in the "A Number" (skit) Contest at the State Run-offs MUST notify the State Grange Lecturer, Dave Roberts, at 858-775-9241 or dave@daveroberts.org no later than August 1, 2022.

- The first place winner of the "A Number" Contest may be invited to perform at Friday, October 21 banquet at the Connecticut State Grange 2022 State Convention in Norwich. If the first place winner cannot perform for any reason, the second place winner and/or the third place winner may be invited to perform.

Other State Grange Lecturers might like to try these contests or share contests that work in their states to give other Lecturers ideas to generate bonding among Granges and allow members to have fun. It is also a great way to get members to attend State Grange Convention who might not normally attend.

For information on either of these contests, please don't hesitate to contact Connecticut State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or call at 858-775-9241.

Deadlines approaching for two contests!



2022 PUBLICITY ITEM CONTEST


2 Divisions

- In-House
- Professional (Paid/In-Kind)

Granges can enter multiple publicity items!

WINNING ENTRIES MAY BE USED BY THE NATIONAL GRANGE AND DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER GRANGES

Submit using the link bit.ly/22grangePR



**PLEASE NOTE
NEW DEADLINE
June 30, 2022**



2022 VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

4 Divisions

- Agriculture
- Sky
- Trucks
- Water

Everyone can enter up to 3 photos!

WINNERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN A 2023 PROMOTIONAL ITEM FROM THE LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Submit using the link bit.ly/22grangephoto

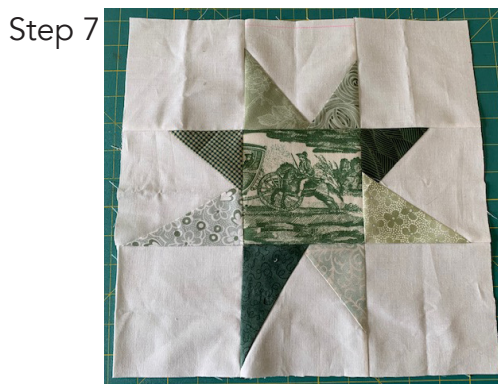


**PLEASE NOTE
NEW DEADLINE
June 30, 2022**

“Wonky Star” Quilt Block Tips



- The tips I have for making this block, is to draw a line 1/4" away from the outer edge of the 4 1/2" square block and then mark the center of the square on the opposite edge.
- To make the star points, just keep them beneath the quarter inch mark at the top, or point of the star, and cross over the center mark at the base of the point.
- All of the star points can be different lengths.



2022 National Grange Quilt Block Contest
Sponsored by the National Lecturer

"Wonky Star"

The Quilt Block Contest entries are due by June 30! More information can be found at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/national-grange-quilt-block-contest/>

Save the Date

Regional Leaders Conferences will be here soon!

Great Plains June 10-12
Manhattan, Kansas

Midwest June 24-26
Muscatine, Iowa

Eastern June 17-19
Mid-Atlantic & Southeastern
Washington, DC

Western August 5-7
Eugene, Oregon

For Grange members of all ages

Registration information for all conferences will be available on the National Grange website



Registration deadlines are quickly approaching for Regional Leaders Conferences!
Learn more at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/regional-youth-conferences/>



LECTURER'S PROGRAMMING PLAYBOOK

- Have you run a successful program at your Grange?
- Do you have an annual fundraiser or event?
- Are you looking for inspiration or ideas to make your Grange programming stronger?

Submit your one-page "playbook" with **simple** steps to success to:
Ann Bercher, Lecturer - lecturer@nationalgrange.org
with the subject line "Programming Playbook" as soon as you can!
Please include your contact information and pictures!

Our goal is to collect at least one "playbook" from each state, to compile a digital playbook for distribution at this year's National Session in Sparks, Nevada.

Programs can include events, fundraisers, education, speakers, games, partnerships, or totally out-of-the-box ideas.
We look forward to reviewing your submissions!

