



a quarter's worth

PROGRAMS GROW THE GRANGE

Greetings Lecturers and Patrons!

I am excited to be writing my first article for *A Quarter's Worth* as your National Lecturer! I have been impressed by the quality of the articles and the wealth of information that so many State Lecturer's and others have submitted to this publication in the past.

First, I must thank Chris Hamp, our immediate past Lecturer, for her creativity and enthusiasm that she brought to this position. She has left a legacy of community building, inspiration, and fun that I will continue with your help.

I also thank Amanda Brozana Rios and Phil Vonada for their encouragement and support as I move into this new role. And of course, I thank all the Delegates that voted for me at our National Convention. I appreciate the vote of confidence and I will work as hard as I can to provide programs, contests and activities that will continue to inspire growth and learning for a lifetime.

The success of our Granges relies on all of us helping one another by sharing ideas and suggestions for

cont'd on page 2

From the Garden to Your Plate

Ann Olson Bercher
National Grange Lecturer

On February 2nd, Groundhog Day, Punxsutawny Phil predicted six more weeks of winter.

Well, in about six weeks, we will celebrate the Spring Solstice, so he's sort of right. We all know winter has its own quirks and we need to be prepared for anything. Meanwhile, it's a great time to sit down and think about some gardening! If you have never gardened before and you want to start, this is the perfect time!

If you have never had a garden before, or wonder if you could grow things in pots, now is the time to start thinking about it and making some serious plans.

Where to start? ***Start right here!***

1. **What do you like to eat? Can you grow it here?** There are a couple of resources easily available to you. First, are the USDA hardiness maps. And easy one to use is from the National Gardening Association. <https://garden.org/nga/zipzone/>



This map gives you a growing season range from the last frost date in the spring to the first frost date in the fall and a lot of additional information.

Another great resource are the websites for various seed companies such

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Plant a Seed!



Good Day! magazine from the National Grange is such a valuable resource, I recommend everyone subscribe to it. A great way to introduce it to new members is to provide it if free for them for one year. Remember, it is also available online!

Visit issuu.com/grangegoodday to subscribe.

PROGRAMS GROW THE GRANGE *cont'd... from page 1*

programs and other activities.

A way I hope to collect more of these ideas is through the Lecturer's Programming Playbook. Here we can collect not only ideas, but ways to implement them or change them to make them work more effectively for our individual Granges. I will also be rolling out new programs that will align with the national theme, "Raised Right Here."

It's a new year! We have all had to overcome so much due to the pandemic, but we have also shown how we can persevere. I am excited to see what this new year brings!



MVP

(Most Valuable Patron)

Dave Roberts, State Lecturer, Connecticut who shared his State Grange "Roundup" idea. Be sure to read his article and contact him for more information. What a great way to share experiences and ideas!

GATHERING OF GRANGERS

Connecticut State Grange Lecturer's "Roundup"

BY DAVE ROBERTS

Lecturer, Connecticut State Grange

Following the death of Connecticut's long time State Lecturer Marge Bernhardt and the temporary appointment of State Lecturer Jodi Ann Cameron, I was elected to complete Marge's term.

Wanting to honor the legacy of Marge who believed in the integral role of the Lecturer position to the future of Grange, I decided to host a virtual "roundup" (a gathering of like-minded individuals) so that we could successfully complete projects that had been started.

Our "roundup" was scheduled via Zoom on a Saturday night in mid-January and I invited our State President (George Russell) and State Vice President (Rob Buck) to join us to show that our State leaders are committed to supporting our subordinate and Pomona Grange Lecturers however they can.

Altogether, 27 Granges participated in our "roundup" which lasted for about 90 minutes. I even called and talked at length with our

National Grange President (Betsy Huber) about what we are up to in Connecticut. As I told President Huber, what other national organization do you belong to where you can pick up the phone and talk with your National President.

Wow, aren't we lucky to belong to Grange!

We began the "roundup" by offering a prize to one lucky Lecturer who had RSVPed for the event. 21 individuals (out of the 27 attendees) had RSVPed. We used an electronic wheel that was spun and Higganum Grange Lecturer Helen Luk, the mother of a 2-, 4-, and 6-year old, was the lucky winner of a jar of wildflower honey from the Stonewall Apiary in Hanover, Connecticut.

All attendees then provided



self-introductions, talked about their successes and challenges, and shared what they hoped to gain from attending the roundup. State-wide programs were discussed and plans were made for the remainder of this Grange year.

At the end of the program, two more prizes (maple syrup from two Connecticut farms) were awarded via the wheel to two attendees (Vernon Grange Lecturer Nancy Strong and Cawasa Grange Lecturer Linea Erickson).

After the event, attendees provided
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as Johnny's Selected Seeds (<https://www.johnnyseeds.com/>) and FedCo. (<https://www.fedcoseeds.com/>).

A third resource is the information that you can receive at a garden center, greenhouse or nursery. Most plants include tags with growing information, but there are usually very knowledgeable staff that with help you along. There are usually tags in the pots with planting information and you can always ask a staff person.

2. Where are you going to plant it? Plants have space requirements. They also have sun and water requirements. Some plants will grow in pots on a patio just fine. Some like to climb up, some like to spread out. Your space may determine even limit what you can plant. That information can also be found from the previous mentioned websites and garden centers.

Once you know how much space is required for the plants you would like to grow, you can examine your own available space in your yard, community garden space, or on your patio or balcony. You will also need to examine how many hours of sunlight does the location have each day. And finally, how close is the nearest source of water?

3. How many different plants

are you going to grow, and how many plants of each are you going to grow? You can answer these questions by asking yourself the next series of questions. What are you going to do with the food? Is it for fresh eating? Are you going to give some away to family or friends? Are you going to sell some? Are you going to preserve it for later or winter use?

At this point you might also want to consider if you want to plant everything from seed, everything from transplants or some of each. If you have a short growing season, purchasing transplants is a great way to get started, unless you are prepared to start your seeds indoors. There are also short-season plants that can be directly seeded (planted) in the soil and you will have great results. Again, check the growing instructions for each type of plant (variety) or transplant label for.

4. What can I do between now and when I can start planting the garden? You might want to start a Garden Journal. You can draw up a map of the garden space. Even if you are growing your plants in pots on your patio, a map and journal is still a useful tool, especially if you are new to gardening, but it is also a great resource to look back on for seasoned

gardeners when they want to challenge themselves to try something new each year.

- *You might want to consider getting your soil tested.* Check with your University Extension service.
- If you are going to be container gardening, *purchase the containers and the soil.* Purchase soil specifically for growing plants in containers.
- *Get your tools ready.* For garden plots, you will need a spade, hoe, garden rake and a hand trowel. For container gardens you will need a hand trowel and possibly a hand rake. You may also need a garden hose, watering can and garden shears, scissors or a pocketknife.
- *Order seeds.* If you plan on growing plants from seeds (either starting them indoors or directly planting in the ground), I recommend that you order them now. There has been a huge increase in the number of new gardeners!
- *Take a class!* Look to Community Ed and your garden centers for opportunities.

Minimum 4 Hours of Sun	Minimum 6 Hours of Sun	Minimum 8 Hours of Sun
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leafy Crops • Chard • Lettuce • Spinach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Root Crops • Beets • Carrots • Onions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruiting Crops • Broccoli • Eggplants • Peppers • Tomatoes

Impart Grange lessons at every meeting with the Heirloom Program

BY AMANDA BROZANARIOS

National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director

The Grange's many lessons are found in our cornerstone documents – our Declaration of Purposes, the Opening and Closing of our meetings and our Degree work, especially in the First Four.

However, they are easily overshadowed by the business of the Grange and hampered when spoken by short attention spans and language that is beautiful but uncommon. New members often wait years to see or hear all of these words of wisdom. More seasoned members may recall the words but have not taken the time to think about them and apply them to daily life in some time.

For that reason, the National Grange has released the Heirloom Program, and encouraged every Grange to take just a few quick moments at one meeting each month to introduce a key lesson and reflect upon it – thereby passing on part of our heritage and making meaningful to daily life in the 21st century words mostly written more than a century-and-a-half ago.

The program is designed to introduce these lessons through short readings – similar to a liturgy at a church service.

These bite-sized pieces help connect members to the most essential ideals of Grange without overwhelming.

The schedule of readings allows members to experi-

ence reflection on the lesson together and potentially share with one another, across Granges, ideas of how these can be applied today.

Additional materials, such as social media posts, ads, posters and more will be released with each lesson, allowing Granges to share with not just their members but with their community the central concepts taught in Grange.

A few sample activities are also available – ciphers and coloring pages that lead members to discover the lesson or interact with it – and more will be released as the program move forward.

This is not limited to a Lecturer's program – in fact, Granges are highly encouraged to have different officers or members present the monthly lesson and lead the short reflection or activity related to the lesson during the “conferral of degrees” portion of the meeting (unless, of course, you are conferring degrees at that meeting).

Over the course of five years, 60 total lessons will be introduced. While it does not take the place of providing new members with a Declaration of Purposes or conferring degrees, it certainly will allow new members a taste of what they would see or hear when interacting with these Grange texts and events and make them less foreign.

This program officially kicks off in March, as the season of Spring is upon us. The “Year A” readings (March 2022 through February 2023) are available online and all the resources related to them will be available by the beginning of March. The entire program, including a full description and further details can be found at bit.ly/grangeheirloom. Each month, a preview of the following month's lesson will be provided in the Patron's Chain, including a printable letter-sized poster. Starting on the first of the month, you'll find the related image of the lesson on our Facebook Page and our website.

We encourage you to share the image and start the conversation with your friends – both members of the Grange and those who have not yet joined – and see how these lessons resonate with others.



Raspberry Fondue Dip

BY FAYERENE SMITH

Lecturer, Texas State Grange

Valentine's Day will soon be here. Does your Grange celebrate the occasion with a meal or snacks? Think outside the box of traditional chocolate, cherries and strawberries. Add a little spice to your life!

Raspberry Fondue Dip is a game changer.

- 1 (10 ounce) pkg. frozen sweetened raspberries
- 1 cup apple butter
- 1 tablespoon red-hot candies
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- Assorted fresh fruit slices

1. Place raspberries in a bowl; set aside to thaw. Strain raspberries, reserving 1 tablespoon juice; discard seeds.

2. In a small saucepan, combine strained berries, apple butter, and red-hots; cook over medium heat until candies are dissolved; stirring occasionally. In a small bowl, combine cornstarch and reserved juice until smooth; stir into berry mixture. Bring to a boil; cook and stir over medium heat for 1-2 minutes or until thickened.

3. Transfer to a serving dish, fondue pot, or 1-1/2 qt. slow cooker. Serve warm or cold with fruit.

CONNECTICUT LECTURER'S ROUNDUP *cont'd... from page 2*

ed feedback. Some of the attendee feedback included:

- I was very impressed with so many aspects of the "roundup"
 - Extensive planning and preparation, with clear agenda shared beforehand; you even contacted the National Master!
 - Very welcoming and enthusiastic throughout.
 - Very clever name game with prizes, fun!
 - Really connected with each participant
 - Invited each to introduce self, speak, that led to people feel included and valuable; then you were responsive to comments/questions/ideas
 - Acknowledged people, often offering promise of your personal follow up
 - Clearly offering support, with helpful suggestions and ideas from your own experiences. Helpful reminders that we are not alone in efforts.
 - Overall perfect time management for a very full agenda
 - Nice wrap up and review of needs/plans for the future
 - Really excellent overall, including management of the ZOOM!
- This first "roundup" was so successful that plans are already in the works to schedule more. **Lecturers RULE!**

Not too early to start!



2022 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

Sponsored by the National Lecturer

ADULT, JUNIOR AND MEN'S DIVISIONS
JUNE 30, 2022 DEADLINE

Visit nationalgrange.org
for all details and entry sheet

Wonky Star

Star may be in any color family (solid or print) on white or light gray background.
Final size - 12 1/2" unfinished.

PROGRAM IDEA

Socially-Distanced Photo Safari 2.0

BY SCOTT NICHOLSON

Lecturer, Montana State Grange

Yes, this is a repeat from last year mostly, it was successful here in Montana that we are planning to repeat it! Last year, we held ours in mid-April, which may have been a bit early due to a late spring.

Since we are all STILL struggling to find ways to adapt and find things to do in our current situation, and since most of us have a phone with a good camera or a stand-alone camera, let's try to do something that involves our cameras and safe distancing.

Why not have a socially-distanced "A day in the life" photo safari?

This is an activity that can get your members out and active in a safely distanced manor AND you all can get some of your National Grange Photo Contest entries for this year at the same time.

There are several different ways this can be done.

One way is to set a day, time and a location – like a wildlife refuge, nature trail, abandoned farm etc -- to meet at. Every 7 minutes you have to stop where ever you are, compose and take a photo and repeat for an agreed amount of time; say for an example, 1 hour. You also may want to keep the National Grange Virtual Photography Contest divisions in mind when selecting your location.

Another way to do this would be similar to the above description, only everyone chooses their own venue to photograph or do

it in smaller groups. These would all be done on the same day or within just a couple of days.

Once your photo shoot has taken place, have everyone choose their best 3 photos. Then have them sent to the Lecturer (or group leader) via text or email so that the photos can be put together for a PowerPoint, shared album or even in a Zoom meeting. *Note:* The sharing of the photos can be just as important as going out and taking them. Photos that fit the National contest should also be entered then as well. Remember the deadline for National Grange contest submissions is now JUNE 30th!

This is an activity that would require minimal planning and that could be done in conjunction with other granges, on a state level or even across state lines.

A few things to keep in mind are: your state and local Covid restrictions/rules, make sure that the venue you choose open to the public and that it is easily accessible.

Also, make sure that everyone is familiar with this year's National Grange Photo Contest Rules, Topics & Procedures if contest entries are part of the goal.

Most important of all RELAX, VISIT and ENJOY!



The banner features a logo on the left with a quill pen and the text "LECTURER NATIONAL GRANGE". To the right of the logo, the text reads "2022 VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST". Below this, it lists "4 Divisions" with two columns of categories: Agriculture, Trucks, Sky, and Water. A note states "Everyone can enter up to 3 photos!". The bottom section says "WINNERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN A 2023 PROMOTIONAL ITEM FROM THE LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT" and "Submit using the link bit.ly/22grangephoto". On the right side of the banner is a photograph of a man with a backpack taking a photo of a mountain landscape. A blue box at the bottom right of the banner contains the text "PLEASE NOTE NEW DEADLINE June 30, 2022".

A Native American “Rite of Passage”

FROM TOM SULIER

Harmony Grange #92, CT

Susan Carol Bolack Sulier, Tom’s wife, was Lecturer of Harmony Grange #92. She passed away in 2018, but Tom has been going through her “things” over the past several months. Included in them was the attached part of a Lecturer’s program that she had put together.

Tom felt that this story, coupled with this picture he took at his pond on Christmas Eve 2021, shows that it’s a comfort to know we are being watched over.



A Native American boy’s father took him into the forest, blindfolded him and left him alone. The youth was required to sit on a stump the whole night and was forbidden to remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shone through it. In his culture, this “rite of passage” is a male’s transitional ritual into adulthood. Once he survives the night, he will be known throughout the tribe as a MAN. Naturally, the boy was terrified. He could hear all kinds of noises. He knew wild beasts could be all around him or some humans could also cause him harm. The howling wind blew the grass and earth and shook his stump, but he knew he must sit stoically, never removing the blindfold nor crying out for help, no matter what. Finally, after a horrific night of fear, the sun appeared and the young lad removed his blindfold. He then discovered his father was sitting on the stump next to him. His father had been at watch over him the entire night, protecting him from harm. The boy, now a man, is forbidden to tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own. My fellow Grangers, like the boy in this legend, we too, are never alone. How comforting it is to know that even when we don’t know it, our Heavenly Father is watching over us, protecting us from harm.

Communications Director “Happy to Help”

In January, the National Grange welcomed a new (but familiar) face to the team, as Philip Vonada (PA) joined the staff as Communications Director.

With a background in the arts, education and fundraising, Phil is happy to be a resource for State, Pomona and Community Grange Lecturers, Communications Directors and officers across the country.

His goal is to help provide Granges with the resources they need to succeed, from sending media alerts (*see page 10*) to soliciting sponsors or donors to making strong community connections for future success.

He can be reached by email at pvonada@nationalgrange.org, or call/text at (814) 404-7985.

Get in touch today!



PROGRAM IDEA

Indoor Track Meet

BY DIANA NORDQUEST

Lecturer, Ohio State Grange

These activities can be used as a Lecturer's program or they could be used as part of any program. Choose the ones that best fit your members. If it is used as a program, divide members into two teams. Keep score with two points for first place and 1 point for second place. Or develop your own scoring system. If you have an uneven number or someone who chooses not to participate, ask them to be judges or scorekeepers.

Discus Throw – Use paper plates. Contestants should use good form. Measure to the point where the discus first touches the floor.

Whistling Race – Each contestant must whistle a familiar tune after having eaten two saltine crackers. Begin to eat at signal. The one who whistles the tune through the first wins.

Sponge-put – Using correct shot-put form, have contestant throw a dry sponge, balloon or inflated paper bag. Measure from the starting line to point where the sponge first hit the floor.

Shot-put – Throw peanuts or other small object into a jug 4 feet away from the contestant. Allow 3 tries and score for winning team.

Sack Race – Each contestant receives a new paper sack. He must not open it until the signal is given. The winner is the one who first blows up the sack and breaks it with a loud noise.

Standing Broad Grin – Keep a continuous grin, winner holding for the longest time. Variation is to measure the length of grin in inches.


Hammer Throw – Blow up a paper bag, tie a string on the open end and throw for distance.

Vocal High Jump – Record the lowest and highest notes reached by individual contestant.

Mile Walk – Walk 100 feet with a rope tied loosely above the ankles.

Long Glum – The player can keep from smiling longest while the others try to make them laugh.

50-inch Dash – On one end of 50 inches of string, tie a marshmallow. The object is to gather the string and marshmallow into mouth without aid of hands.



Q2 DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions for A Quarter's Worth, Second Quarter edition is May 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



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!*

Riverton Grange Honors Veterans

BY DAVE ROBERTS

Lecturer, Connecticut State Grange

Since 1908, Riverton Grange #169 has been actively involved in their community. About four years ago, this Grange decided to honor veterans for their service to our nation. This Grange holds annual veterans recognition dinners, annual Flag retirement ceremonies, and monthly Veteran of the Month recognition ceremonies. Other Granges might be interested in undertaking some of these programs to honor their community's veterans and to attract current and new members back into their Grange Halls. Let me share what Riverton Grange is doing with veterans:

On Saturday, November 20, Riverton Grange #169 held their 4th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner at the Barkhamsted Senior Center. The capacity audience was treated to a complimentary spaghetti dinner and dessert prepared by volunteers from the Riverton Grange, Barkhamsted Senior Center, Barkhamsted Lions Club and Northwestern CT Cyber Lions Club. The meal was served by members of the Northwest CT Cyber Leos Club of Hartford and Litchfield Counties.

Among the many who shared recollections of their military service was Connecticut State Representative Mark W. Anderson, discussing how his military service helped shape his service as an elected official. American Legion

National Committeeman Joe Jackson shared his recollections of military service and how veterans were poorly treated when they returned home from Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s. Leo Mihika Joshi, an 8th grader, and Will Coursey from the Town of South Windsor Patriotic Commission shared information about how their community honors veterans. Veteran Barbara Hawley shared her recollections of what it was like to be a female in the military. Singer Lorraine Paul led the audience in patriotic tunes and all the military service songs. The event ended with a standing ovation for the veterans, which included veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

In addition to this annual dinner, chaired all four years by Riverton Grange Lecturer Raine Pedersen, with support from Riverton Grange President Dave Roberts, and Committee members Lorraine Paul and Jackie Martin, Riverton Grange began a new tradition on July 4, 2021,

honoring one veteran each month on the first Sunday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Barkhamsted Senior Center. To date, eight ceremonies have been held. An American flag is raised each month in honor of a local area veteran by Riverton American Legion Post #159 and retired the next month when another veteran is honored. The retired flag is fold by the Honor Guard and presented to the veteran or their family. National Grange provides a Certificate of Recognition for each veteran honored. The American Legion Honor Guard also plays Taps on the bugle and presents a 3 gun salute in honor of the veteran's service. For more information on how to start this type of program for your Grange, please contact Riverton Grange President Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241.



Anatomy of a Media Release

Letterhead

Contact the National Communications Dept. to have a letterhead made for your Grange for FREE!



NATIONAL GRANGE
OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

1616 H ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | PHONE (202) 628-3507 | FAX (202) 347-1091

American Values. Hometown Roots.

Contact

Who is the person who is most knowledgeable who can speak on behalf of your Grange's event? Include phone number and email address.

Contact: Philip J. Vonada
Communications Director
pvonada@nationalgrange.org | (814) 404-7985

Release Date

This tells journalists when they are able to publish.

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2022

Dateline

WHERE is this taking place? Town and State are helpful to distinguish it from other similarly-named towns.

Community Grange to hold 12th annual chili cookoff
Open to whole community, fundraiser for local EMS and fire companies

Headline

What is the major point of your release? Always **BOLD** in 14-point font, no end punctuation. Only proper nouns should be capitalized. Sub-heading can give more information.

Townville, PA - Community Grange #100 in Townville will be holding its 12th annual chili cookoff on on February 13 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Community Grange Hall at 1 South Street. Participant entry fee is \$10, and winners will be decided based on donations. Please register to compete by contacting Philip Vonada, Chairperson (pvonada@nationalgrange.org), by February 10. The event is open to the public, and baked goods will also be sold. All proceeds raised benefit the EMS and fire companies that serve Townsville. Winners receive a trophy and bragging rights.

Body

Answer the W's
What is the event?
Who is hosting?
Where and **When** is the event? **How much** does it cost? **Why** should the press care? Double-space this for easy legibility. Use a standard font like Times New Roman or Arial.

Dave Smith, President of Community Grange, says, "This event keeps getting bigger every year. Last year, we raised over \$2000 for our community first responders, and we hope to get even more participation this year."

Quote

If the press decides to run this as an article, a quick, digestible quote will help drive enthusiasm.

###

End Indicator

Three centered pound symbols will let every journalist know that this is the end of the body of your release.

Community Grange is Townsville's oldest community organization, serving the area since 1890. Founded in 1867, The National Grange, a nonpartisan, nonprofit fraternal organization, is the country's oldest agricultural and rural community service organization. With more than 1,500 local chapters, the Grange has evolved into a leading advocacy organization for rural America. For more information, visit www.nationalgrange.org.

Boilerplate

A brief statement that provides essential information about your Grange. It can include the towns served, your outreach focus, year of charter and connection to the National Grange. This should be standard on **EVERY** press release, media alert and fact sheet you give out. This gives reporters the ability to do more research on your Grange.

BY PHILIP J. VONADA, National Grange Communications Director