



# The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

Vol. 62, No. 5

May 2021

9 Pages

## From the President's Desk

What a wonderful time of year. The weather is getting warmer and the flowers and trees are starting to bloom. This is the time to start planting your seeds for your gardens. I've been enjoying watching my daughter getting her garden ready and her enthusiasm in the anticipation of all that she is planting. This is also a perfect time for planting the seeds for opening your Grange and cultivating the idea of getting back to "normal".

I am glad to hear, with more people getting vaccinated, that people are feeling more comfortable and starting to do things that they used to while still taking precautionary measures. With that being said, some Granges have started to hold "in-person" meetings, some outside and some inside. When holding meetings inside, we need to keep in mind some "common sense" guidelines as well as keep the comfort of your Grange members in mind. We've included in this issue of the State Grange News, "Guidelines for Grange in MA for Conducting Physical Meetings". These guidelines were sent out to all the Granges last July. It's been slightly updated. Please look them over and contact your Deputy or myself if you have any questions.

The next monthly meeting of the State Committee Directors, State Deputies and State Officers will be held May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

The next State Grange monthly program will be held April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. The Agriculture and Environment Committee is in charge and will be having the State Commissioner of Agriculture as the guest speaker. It should be a very interesting and interactive evening.

## 150th Anniversary

We are just about 18 months away from the start of our events in recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mass State Grange. The celebration will begin at the 150<sup>th</sup> Session of the Massachusetts State Grange in Plymouth in October of 2022 and we plan to wrap up our anniversary year with a celebration in December of 2023. More details will be shared about these activities as things get closer. Has your Grange thought about how you would like to celebrate in your Grange? It is never too early to start brainstorming some ideas.

In preparation, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee is working on two fundraisers to support these celebrations. The first is the cutting board fundraiser. There are three different cutting board options and we have added a new item, Massachusetts Coasters that together form a map of Massachusetts. Please see the information and order form included with this issue or check out the State Grange website at [massgrange.org/150th](http://massgrange.org/150th)

See **150th** Page 3

### Inside this issue

Upcoming Events.....	Page 2
From the Agriculture and the Environment Committee.....	Page 3
From the Veterans Committee .....	Page 4
From the Trustees of the Educational Aid Fund .....	Page 4
Hello from the Youth Committee .....	Page 5
Lecturer's Corner.....	Page 6
Granges Meeting Virtually.....	Page 6

## Central Community Grange Presents Awards

At Central Community Grange's April meeting two new members, Brother Arthur Goulet and Sister Mary Goulet who were obligated via a Zoom meeting on March 16, 2021, received their 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Pins, Initiates and Welcome to the Grange brochures from Worthy State President, Glenn Gibson. It was nice to be able to meet them face to face for the first time.

In addition Membership Recognition awards were presented by State President, Glenn Gibson who thanked the recipients for their years of service to the Grange. Sister Elsie Stone received her 25 Year Silver Certificate. She joined Worcester Grange #22 in 1995. Also 50 Year Golden Sheaf Certificates from National Grange were presented to Brother Douglas Hall and Sister Patricia A. Gibson. Brother Doug joined Westborough Grange #116 on March 19, 1971 and he was presented with his Grandfather, Arthur W. Nichols 50 Year Pin. Brother Doug's grandfather joined Westborough Grange in 1913. Sister Patti joined East Bridgewater Grange #284 on May 8, 1971 and remained a member until September 1977 when she became a member of the former Worcester Grange #22.

Worthy State President got choked up upon reading his letters to these members for the dedication to our organization.

### **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](mailto:stategrangenews@massgrange.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, May 1** — State Grange Extravaganza, Guiding Star Grange #1, 401 Chapman Street, Greenfield. Due to COVID restrictions, you must sign up to perform in any of the Extravaganza contests by April 15. For contest information and rules, please refer to the March State Grange News or visit [massgrange.org](http://massgrange.org).

**Sunday, May 2, 7 p.m.** — Grange Youth Mixer (GYM) Zoom Meeting. RSVP to [youth@massgrange.org](mailto:youth@massgrange.org) for the Zoom link information.

**Sunday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.** — State Committee Directors, State Deputies and State Officers Zoom Meeting.

**Sunday, May 16, 9:00 p.m.** — National Grange Junior Jibber-Jabber Zoom Meeting. Zoom Meeting ID: 833 7712 0738 Passcode: 969128.

**Wednesday, May 24, 7 p.m.** — State Grange Zoom Meeting. If you need assistance with how to attend, contact [stategrangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:stategrangenews@massgrange.org) or a member of the Communications Committee.

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

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

---

**Looking for the dates and programs for all the Grange meetings this month?**

Check out the State Grange Calendar! Your one stop location for all the events and meetings happening this month! <http://massgrange.org/calendar-of-events.html>

### **MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS**

Massachusetts State Grange Inc.

GLENN P. GIBSON, Editor-in-Chief

#### **Board of Management**

Kathleen M. Peterson, Chairman

Allen N. Manley, Jr., Vice Chairman

Janet E. Horne, George E. Thomas III, Corey W. Spence,

Randall L. Vaill, Jr., and Deborah K. Goodrich

Advertising from Grange affiliates, news items and photos solicited. Advertising rate: \$5 per column inch.

## ***From the Agriculture and Environment Committee***

As the weather starts to warm, Grangers will be buying their hanging pots of flowers. If you are hanging them on the porch, don't hang them way up near the ceiling. Use a chain to lower them to hang at eye level. This will make it easier to water and see the whole container. As the plant grows, hang it higher on the chain. By the time the plant grows large enough to be hung above your head, you should know how much water it takes. When purchasing a pot for your plants, buy the biggest pot you can as it is easier to keep watered. Each time you water, use a fertilizer at half strength in the water. Water slowly until the water comes out the bottom. These plants are in a "soil-less" mixture. When it dries out completely it will become almost impossible to wet. There are two ways to rehydrate the soil. One way is to take the pot down and if you have a bucket large enough to soak the whole plant, put it in, and let it soak up the water by itself. DON'T push it right under as it will become impossible to wet. The other way is to water slowly from the top, a little at a time. Add a little dish soap to the water for both methods. This will allow the mix soak it up easier.

However, if your porch faces west, do not hang your plants from the ceiling. When the sun sets, the porch will get extremely hot and "cook" your plants. This is fine with tomatoes, but not daisies.

### ***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](mailto: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.

## ***Attention Juniors and Leaders! It's Planting Time!***

The seeds for the Agriculture and Environment Committee's Junior Grange Buttercup Squash contest have been mailed, along with the directions for planting. It is suggested that these seeds be planted after the danger of frost. Do not second guess mother nature: the snow many people received on April 16<sup>th</sup> is why! The growing time on these seeds is 105 days from seed to squash.

There should be enough seeds for each junior member to plant 3 seeds. If leaders need more, or you have Granges that have +1 junior members, please email Ann at [aprest12@gmail.com](mailto:aprest12@gmail.com).

We are looking for a quality "the most perfect" buttercup squash, not the largest. Keep a diary on your growing plants. Take pictures if you want.

The buttercup squash will be on display at State Session in the fall. More details about getting them to the session for judging will be coming in later editions for State Grange News.

Prize money will be awarded for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes. All details are listed in the State Grange Committee Handbook.

Happy growing!

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

---

## ***150th From Page 1***

---

The second fundraiser is the annual raffle at State Session. Many of you are familiar with this raffle and the many prizes won. As in recent years, Martha and Steve Emerson will be coordinating the raffle. Thank you to all those who have generously supported the raffle with agriculture or home-made items for prizes and for those who have sold tickets. Please give Martha and Steve a call (413-634-2158) to get tickets and/or to let them know you will be bringing a prize to State Session in October.

Thank you for your support of both fundraisers.

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

## ***From the Veterans Committee***

The Veterans Committee invites you to join the monthly State Grange Zoom meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. You will hear firsthand from four veterans, one representing each region of the state, members and non-members alike. 'Meet the Veterans' Night will highlight their service to our country and what they are doing today.

On May 30, 1868, a congressman from Ohio and a former Union General, James Garfield, spoke at the first Decoration Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery: "We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country, they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue." Following his speech 5,000 people decorated the graves of 20,000 Civil War soldiers.

Decoration Day was named appropriately as graves were decorated with flowers and flags. That tradition continues today. After World War I, it became an occasion to honor those who died in all of America's wars and people began to recognize May 30<sup>th</sup> as Memorial Day. The name and date didn't officially change until 1971 when Congress declared it a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday of May.

## ***From the Trustees of the Educational Aid Fund***

The Trustees of the Educational Aid Fund would like to remind members wishing to apply for scholarships for the upcoming year that the applications and supporting documents must be postmarked by June 25, 2021.

The applications and guidelines can be found on the Mass. State Grange website at [www.mass-grange.org/educational-aid](http://www.mass-grange.org/educational-aid). The Trustees will meet in July to determine the amount of the scholarships, review the applications, and award the scholarships.

First time applicants must complete the application and provide additional materials, including proof of enrollment for the next academic year; transcript from high school or evidence of completion of high school equivalency; recommendation letter from a member of the Grange; a personal letter stating future educational and career goals as well as contributions to the local Grange; and a letter of recommendation from a non-Grange member who knows you well. During this pandemic, we realize getting some of this information may be more challenging, so we urge applicants to start the process early. If you have some of the documents but are waiting for others, please send what you have with a note as to what you are waiting for. Incomplete applications will be considered and may be awarded a scholarship pending receipt of the missing documents.

Subsequent applicants must complete the application and also include a current, complete college transcript. The transcript must include your name and the college name along with the grades.

Both first time and subsequent applications require the signatures of the Master and Secretary along with the Grange seal. Because Granges are not meeting at this time and these signatures may be difficult to obtain, the Trustees have decided that the applications, for this year only, will be accepted with the signature of either the Master or the Secretary, or a brief, signed note from one of these officers verifying that the applicant is a member in good standing of that Grange.

Students wishing to apply for the Thomas F. Severance Award for Outstanding Grange Service must complete the application and include a list of Grange activities, offices, and committee positions held, along with the dates of service.

All information should be mailed to Educational Aid Fund, Nancy M. Blackmer, Secretary, 77 Burrill Ave., Orange, MA 01364-1815. Please remember these must be postmarked by June 25, 2021. You will be notified by email if any items are missing, so be sure that you have completed the application clearly.

## ***Hello from the Youth & Young Adult Committee***

Happy Spring everyone!

The next Grange Youth Mixer (GYM) will be May 2nd and will be hosted by our Mr. & Mrs. Granger Pam & David Gale and Past State Lecturer, Janet Segur who will be presenting us with rebus puzzles and folk tale quizzes and possibly a few trivia questions. So mark your calendar for an evening of fun and excitement! A very special thank you to our State Grange Outstanding Young Adult who was host of our last GYM meeting held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. As a graduate of the Massachusetts College Art, Amanda enlightened us with her career of making puppet of all sizes and her accomplishments across the country with her wonderful puppets! A fabulous presentation!

Our GYM events are held on the first Sunday of each month via Zoom where there is an activity at the end of each mixer so our youth can meet and network with other youth & young adults share stories and other interesting dialogue stories and just catching up. Our goal is to get our youth & young adults together at least once a month, and who knows where it will go from there.

As the year progresses with the seasons changing into warmer weather, the youth committee is thinking of activities and events for the outdoors once state guidelines are lifted for more opportunities to be out and about. Stay tuned for more details in future issues. If you have any ideas of activities that can be possibly sponsored by the State Grange Youth & Young Adult Committee, please let us know.

As you begin to plan your summer activities, we encourage our youth and young adult members to save the dates of July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for the virtual Northeast Grange Youth Conference. It will be held virtually and lots of great speakers and activities are planned. The conference will begin Friday evening with Saturday's program being just a 1/2 day. Please stay tune for

more information in the June issue of the State Grange News.

Not that we're pushing the summer season aside, but once the end of August comes it will be time to observe deadlines for various State as well as National Contests. We encourage our youth and young adults to review the youth and young adult programs in both the State as well as the Nation Grange handbooks. There is truly an activity/ contest for every age! There are several contests that any one could nominate someone for. We're confident that if you take a minute....you can reflect on Grange members that have made a difference in your Grange (on all levels) or in a members life. Why not recognize them! We encourage anyone interested in applying for National Ambassador, Young Patron or Young Couple that you review the guidelines not only on the National level, but also review the State contest for Ambassador, Young Patron and Young Couple as being a State representative is usually a prerequisite to these specific National Contests.

If any of our youth are doing something for their community, please contact Pete Pompper, National Community Service Director [communityservice@nationalgrange.org](mailto:communityservice@nationalgrange.org) where can you post your activity on the National Grange Community Service and Activities Facebook page.

Enjoy the Springtime...and hope to see you all out and about soon!

Fraternally, Mary Jordan and Theresa Kane,  
Co-Directors Massachusetts State Grange  
Youth & Young Adult Committee

***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."***

## Lecturer's Corner

On May 1st we held our 2021 Extravaganza at Guiding Star Grange with 28 different entries. Grange members, age 6 to 60+, entered the talent contest by singing, dancing, and playing instruments. Then the Sign-a-song contest was held followed by the Youth Department's Speech Competition. Our Judges were in the Grange Hall & tallied up the results. Awards and prizes will be given out at a future date. Thanks to all the people who made the day a success and a special thanks to the Communications Committee for recording the Competition via Zoom.

May is National Photography Month, so I hope you can enter any of the six Photography Contest categories: A) Agricultural, B) Animals, C) Flowers; D) Landscape, E) Patriotic, & F) People. See the many different contest & rules in the Grange Program Book under Member Resources tab at [www.massgrange.org](http://www.massgrange.org). And please check out my Lecturers Corner under the Grange Departments Tab for a monthly event calendar and program ideas.

May is also National Foster Care Month. See what's happening with the MA DCF program at: <https://www.facebook.com/FosterMA.DCF/>. I am looking forward to learning how your Grange is helping your local DCF Branch!

Please let me know in your Lecturers report, what your Grange is doing to stay connected with each other and your local community. Thank you to all the Lecturers who sent in their Quarterly Reports. I'm delighted to hear about your Zoom meetings and some outdoor meetings that are being held across the state.

Fraternally, Kristin Paulson, Lecturer



## Granges Meeting Virtually

**Central Community #22** — 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Deb Goodrich, [bdgood@charter.net](mailto:bdgood@charter.net).

**CTValley Pomona #19** — 4th Monday, 7 p.m., Roland Giguere, [rolandgig@gmail.com](mailto:rolandgig@gmail.com).

**Dartmouth #162** — 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Elizabeth Newton, [enewton1775@comcast.net](mailto:enewton1775@comcast.net).

**Easton #196** — 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Bill Ames, [wbames@aol.com](mailto:wbames@aol.com).

**Groton #7** — 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Lori Jeromin, [ljeromin@gmail.com](mailto:ljeromin@gmail.com).

**Guiding Star #1** — 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Ruth Ellen Henry, [ruthieh@comcast.net](mailto:ruthieh@comcast.net).

**Hanover #206** — 1st Wednesday, 8 p.m., John Lawson, [jalawsoniii@gmail.com](mailto:jalawsoniii@gmail.com).

**Holden #78** — 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., Janet Segur, [holdengrange78@gmail.com](mailto:holdengrange78@gmail.com).

**New Braintree #170** — 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., John Carter, [johncarter169@gmail.com](mailto:johncarter169@gmail.com).

**North Orange #86** — 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Niles Larson, [nilesm.larson@gmail.com](mailto:nilesm.larson@gmail.com).

**Ponkapoag of Canton #231** — 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Corey Spence, [corey.spence@ymail.com](mailto:corey.spence@ymail.com).

**Shelburne #68** — 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Roland Giguere, [rolandgig@gmail.com](mailto:rolandgig@gmail.com).

**Sterling #53** — 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., Janet Segur, [sterlinggrange53@gmail.com](mailto:sterlinggrange53@gmail.com).

**Ware #164** — 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., Randy Vaill, [vaill@comcast.net](mailto:vaill@comcast.net).

**Williamsburg #225** — 1st Saturday, 7 p.m., Candace Smith, [Candysmi50@gmail.com](mailto:Candysmi50@gmail.com).

# Happy Mother's Day!

**Follow MA State Grange Online!**

Website: [www.massgrange.org](http://www.massgrange.org)

Facebook: Massachusetts State Grange

Instagram: massgrange

## Guidelines for Granges in Massachusetts for Conducting Physical Meetings

We encourage Granges to meet virtually during the pandemic. If a Grange decides to hold a physical meeting then the following guidelines must be followed. In addition, all government regulations or rules must be followed, including gathering limits. The health and safety of all our members and guests should be the first concern whenever conducting meetings or activities.

### Masks:

- All participants should provide their own masks and wear them covering the mouth and nose during Grange functions.
- Granges should obtain a supply of extra masks for those who may forget to bring one. These should be disposable masks. If one of our talented members offers to make cloth masks for use by the Grange then provisions need to be made for those masks to be safely washed between every use.

### Meeting Place:

- Proper hand washing facilities must be available for all attendees. Attendees should be directed to wash their hands upon arriving at the hall.
- Hand sanitizer should be provided for use by all as needed.
- The hall should be set up so that all attendees sit six feet apart from one another unless they are from the same household. This includes officers who normally sit very close, such as the Graces, Executive Committee or Secretary and Treasurer.
- Things that are touched frequently should be cleaned regularly during activities (such as door knobs, light switches, hand rails, sink faucets, toilet handles)

### Conduct of meeting:

- Every effort should be made to limit contact between attendees and to limit movement around the floor.
- The password should not be taken and the flag should not be presented. Either of the Assistants should be allowed to approach the altar to open the Bible without carrying their stave.
- Materials should be placed in a central location and attendees encouraged to take their own.
- Communications should not be passed from person to person. Communications can be acted upon as they are read by the Secretary. Bills can be reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to and/or immediately after the meeting.
- A basket for the collection can be placed in a central location and members asked to place their donations in the basket. After the Secretary and Treasurer count collections they should wash their hand or use hand sanitizer.
- In the event of a paper ballot the ballot box should be placed in a central location and members asked to place their ballot in the basket without a formal march.

### Refreshments/Suppers:

- Refreshments can only take place if the food is individually wrapped or bring your own.
- Continue to refrain from sit-down suppers. Food could be provided if they are packaged separately or in "to-go" containers. Please abide by the rules and regulations of your local Health Department in serving food.



# Massachusetts State Grange

## EDUCATIONAL AID FUND – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy M. Blackmer, Secretary  
77 Burrill Avenue  
Orange, MA 01364-1815

Janet E. Segur, Chairperson	Rutland
Nancy M. Blackmer, Secretary	Orange
Amber L. Vaill, Treasurer	Palmer
Gordon E. Taylor, Trustee Emeritus	Shelburne
Glenn P. Gibson, Master	Worcester
Kristin Paulson, Lecturer	Upton

Dear Worthy Secretary,

This past year the Educational Aid Fund awarded 16 Scholarships in the amount of \$600.00 each, one William Eaton Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 each, and three Thomas Severance Award for Outstanding Grange Service for a total of \$11,275.00 awarded.

Applications for Full Time Scholarships including the William Eaton Memorial Scholarship, Part Time Scholarships, and Loans may be obtained from the Secretary of the Fund and are also available to be downloaded from the State Grange Website- [www.massgrange.org](http://www.massgrange.org).

The Board hopes that as in the past your Grange will continue to support the Educational Aid Fund. It is through your donations that we are able to continue to maintain the amount of monies available to be awarded. The Board also welcomes donations in memory of past Grange members.

This year up to four of the Thomas Severance Award for Outstanding Grange Service of \$225.00 each will be available. Student patrons can only receive this award once.

Through your donation, support, and promotion of the Educational Aid Fund, you are contributing to our ongoing commitment to our future.

Checks should be made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange and forwarded to the Secretary of the Fund, 77 Burrill Ave., Orange, MA 01364, *NOT TO THE STATE GRANGE SECRETARY*.

Fraternally,

*Nancy M. Blackmer*

Nancy M. Blackmer, Secretary

*This request has the approval of the State Master.*

# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

2

**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.



3

Oak catkins (male flowers) are open. Gray squirrels eat these flowers, whose numerous caterpillar species they harbor are important food sources for migrating birds.

4-5

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



6

Muskrats can be seen carrying cattails and other plants back to their dens to feed their young.

7

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 about now.



8

World Migratory Bird Day. A day to recognize the need for global conservation to ensure the continued survival of all our migratory bird species.

9

Tree Sparrows and Snow Bunting have gone north to breed but Chipping Sparrows are back and can be seen feeding along the edges of roads and yards.

14-15

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

15

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

16

During the height of the **spring warbler migration**, listen for the dawn chorus and watch the treetops and shrubbery at sunrise and sunset for these colorful little birds.



20

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 their eggs.

21

It's National Endangered Species Day. Did you know that Mass Audubon was instrumental in passing the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act?

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

**Super blood moon** and a total eclipse. This full moon will be close to the earth so it will seem larger than usual. As the moon enters the earth's shadow at the start of a lunar eclipse it becomes red. Because the eclipse is in the morning, a total eclipse will only be visible in the western part of the country.



28

Jack-in-the-pulpits are one of our most distinctive forest wildflowers. Look for the 1- to 2-foot-tall spathe (pulpit) that grows up and over the flower stalk (Jack).