GRANGE NEWS

YOUTH TEAM
AMBASSADORS
SELECTED

grange pirates

NAGS HEAD







Swine Farms Under Attack

Only one state in the nation produces more swine than North Carolina, with almost 9 million hogs being grown. Swine production is an important economic force in the state, creating thousands of jobs. For those of us who have the opportunity to work with agriculture in some fashion, we know that our swine producers are responsible and caring in their management

practices. In addition, they operate with compliance under a multitude of environmental regulations.

Swine farms in the state are under attack by environmental groups that appear to be attempting to run these farms out of business. The environmental groups search for violations in various ways. They have been seen hovering over farms in helicopters in an attempt to record videos, or park on roadsides trying to get evidence. The good news is that most of our producers operate within the environmental laws of this state and do a good job. The bad news is that environmental groups have sued even if no violations exist. We know of a farm in eastern North Carolina that was purchased. Prior to the purchase ,there had been some problems, but they were corrected by the new owner. He was sued anyway and forced into bankruptcy because of legal fees. The environmental groups are well-funded, and the farmers have limited means to pay for legal representation.

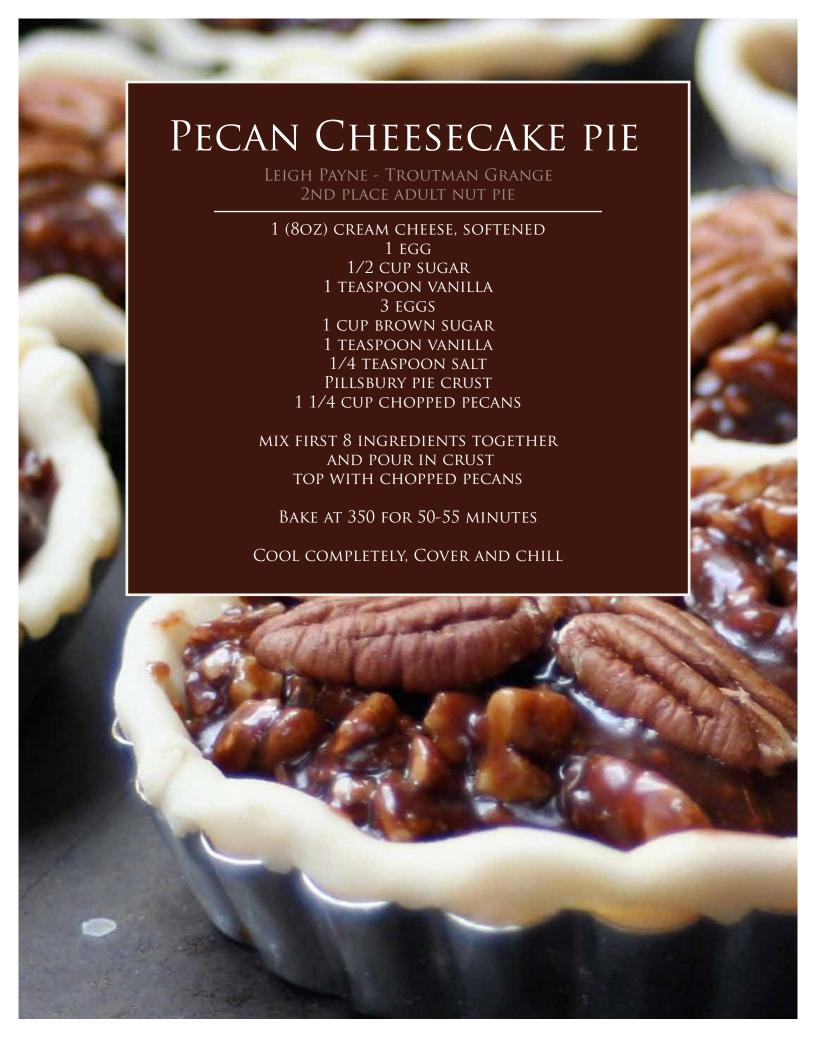
You can ride the interstates of North Carolina and see billboards that are critical of hog farms. In an effort to counteract these harmful billboards, the NC Pork Council has posted billboards and sponsored TV advertisements showing farms as responsible family operations. I applaud the Pork Council for these ads.

I also applaud the efforts of North Carolina Farm Families, a new organization that has emerged to counteract the harmful messages coming from environmental groups. Since 1929, the North Carolina State Grange has advocated for agriculture, and we strongly support our friends who are engaged in the business of producing swine. It is an industry that is important to all of us.

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The Grange is a grassroots, community service, family organization with a special interest in agriculture and designed to help meet the needs of people, young and old, through a cooperative effort with government and other organizations that also seek the greatest good for the greatest number.



BLUEBERRY LEMON BUNDT CAKE

KATIE CAUTHEN St. John's Grange 2nd place adult berry cake

2 1/4 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
2 1/4 TSP BAKING POWDER
1/2 TSP SALT
4 EGGS
2 CUPS SUGAR
1 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT
2 TBS LEMON ZEST
2 TBS + 2 TSP LEMON JUICE
1 1/4 CUPS WHOLE MILK 10 TABLESPOONS UNSALTED
BUTTER, CUBED
1 CUP BLUEBERRIES, TOSSED IN FLOUR

Lemon Glaze: 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar 3-5 tbs lemon juice

LEMON SUGAR TOPPING: 1 TBS LEMON ZEST 1 TBS GRANULATED SUGAR

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a bundt pan very well and set aside.

LIGHTLY WHISK FLOUR, BAKING POWDER AND SALT IN A SMALL BOWL AND SET ASIDE. BEAT EGGS ON LOW UNTIL THEY ARE THICKENED AND VERY PALE YELLOW IN COLOR. TURN MIXER ON LOW AND SLOWLY ADD SUGAR TO RUNNING MIXER AND BEAT ON MEDIUM-HIGH SPEED UNTIL LIGHT AND FLUFFY. STIR IN VANILLA, LEMON JUICE AND LEMON ZEST. SLOWLY POUR IN DRY INGREDIENTS ON LOW SPEED UNTIL COMBINED.

IN A SMALL SAUCEPAN, HEAT MILK UNTIL VERY HOT AND BUTTER IS JUST MELTED. DO NOT BOIL AND WHISK THE MIXTURE TO HELP THE BUTTER ALONG. POUR INTO BATTER AND MIX UNTIL SMOOTH. BATTER WILL BE VERY THIN. GENTLY FOLD IN FLOURED BLUEBERRIES.

Pour into prepared baking pan and bake for 27-35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out with a few moist crumbs. Once done, remove cake from oven and allow to cool for 5 minutes in pan. Invert the cake and allow cake to finish cooling on wire rack until warm to the touch.

WHILE CAKE IS COOLING, PREPARE LEMON SUGAR AND GLAZE. FOR THE LEMON SUGAR, THOROUGHLY MIX THE LEMON ZEST AND SUGAR TOGETHER AND LET IT SIT FOR 5 MINUTES.

FOR THE GLAZE, WHISK POWDERED SUGAR AND LEMON JUICE, USING MORE OR LESS LEMON JUICE AS NEEDED TO GET DESIRED CONSISTENCY. ONCE CAKE IS COOLED DOWN SLIGHTLY, DRIZZLE GLAZE OVER WARM CAKE. SPRINKLE LEMON SUGAR ON TOP.

DARK CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY COOKIES

Sharon Ritchie St. John's Grange 1st place adult Berry Cookie

1/ 1/4 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
1/2 TSP BAKING SODA
1/4 TSP. SEA SALT
1/4 CUP DUTCH PROCESSED COCOA, PLUS 2
TBSPS.
1/2 CUP UNSALTED BUTTER, AT ROOM TEMPERATURE
1/2 CUP GRANULATED SUGAR
1/2 CUP LIGHT BROWN SUGAR
1 LARGE EGG
1 TSP.VANILLA EXTRACT
1/2 CUP CHOCOLATE CHIPS
1/2 CUP FROZEN RASPBERRIES
SEA SALT, FOR SPRINKLING ON COOKIES, IF

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, sea salt, and cocoa. Set aside.

WITH MIXER, CREAM BUTTER AND SUGARS TO-GETHER UNTIL SMOOTH. ADD IN THE EGG AND VANILLA AND MIX UNTIL COMBINED.

GRADUALLY ADD FLOUR MIXTURE AND BEAT UNTIL JUST COMBINED. GENTLY STIR IN THE CHOCOLATE CHIPS AND FROZEN RASPBERRIES. TRY NOT TO SMASH THE RASPBERRIES. SCOOP THE DOUGH INTO ROUNDED TABLESPOONS AND PLACE ON PREPARED BAKING SHEET, ABOUT 2 INCHES APART, SPRINKLE EACH COOKIE WITH SEA SALT, IF DESIRED.

BAKE COOKIES 10-13 MINUTES, OR UNTIL COOKIES ARE SET, BUT STILL SOFT IN THE CENTER. DON'T OVER-BAKE. REMOVE FROM OVEN AND LET SIT ON BAKING SHEET FOR 3 MINUTES.

MOVE TO A COOLING RACK AND COOL COMPLETELY.



Eyepatches, jolly roger flags, swords and parrots are not normally what you find during a professional organization's conference. However, this rang true during the 2016 NC State Grange's Family Conference in Nags Head, North Carolina.

Grangers gathered from as far as Hendersonville, North Carolina to attend this year's Family Conference to learn, socialize and explore the Outer Banks. Members arrived on Friday evening for a meet and greet with snacks gathered from multiple Granges by Joyce Clodfelter, Community Service & Family Living Director. The evening continued with a visit from "Blackbeard" (actor Ben Cherry) who gave an entertaining reinactment of the life of Blackbeard, complete with lively props! Following Blackbeard, Jennie Gentry, NC State Grange Youth and Young Adult Director, hosted Family Feud, giving funny answers that included many members in the room!



Saturday morning Grangers gathered for breakfast at the hotel and some even went for a walk on the beach before workshops began at 9AM.

Adults regrouped in the meeting space for a variety of workshops prepared by multiple guests. They began with a presentation by attorney, Andrew Branan from Hillsborough, NC who special-

izes in estate planning for those dealing with acreage and farmland. He presented on how to navagate the waters of tax implications when land and property are passed on. Many Grangers had questions for Andrew. He gracioiusly answered many of them, and even stayed after to answer specific questions about specific issues.

Following Andrew, and tying in with our pirate theme, Joe Hoyt a maritime specialist spoke about his work on the USS Monitor. He talked about his many dives

off the North Carolina coast, the "Graveyard of the Atlantic." He also talked about the extensive battles that happened during WWII off our coast, with the sinking of battle ships and u-boats while blocking the trade routes up the gulf-stream from the Caribbean and South America.

Jessica Horton spoke briefly about the changes to the 2016 Program Guide. Many of the changes deal with the baking contests. Be sure to check our website (www.ncgrange.com) and review the guide! Joyce Clodfelter, Family Living and Community Service Director spoke about our project at State Convention in 2016. It is called the Pajama Program and more information can be found on page 10. She encouraged us to shop now for items since winter pajamas are needed and they are on sale at many locations with cold weather ending shortly.

Following the workshops, members broke for lunch and siteseeing on their own. Some lounged on patios in the balmy weather, while others, like the Barfields, Elizabeth Williams and Joanne Caldwell explored the area lighthouses. The youth enjoyed time together on the beach playing games, like bocce ball!



At six that evening, everyone made the short trip down the sand to Jennette's Pier (pictured on the cover) for an evening of pirate fun. Most everyone dressed up, even sweet Lucille Rice from Summerfield Grange came wearing an eye patch and peg leg! (pictured below) We had entertainment during the evening as well, our youth provided funny skits and led the group in pirate themed songs. We had several talent entries and they performed for the group as well. Jimmy Martin, LaRue Tart and Shirley Edwards won the Best

of Show for their gospel trio, which will take them to National Convention in Washington, DC this November. Our 4-H judges also selected costume contest winners, with Tom and Bonnie Ellis winning first place for their outfits with a neuse and shackles! Other winners included Jason Lovejoy from Capitol Grange and Judy Brogden from Westbrook Grange. All winners took home intricate ship kites from Haptic Lab.

Sunday morning Grangers met one last time for a wonderful worship service by NC State Grange Chaplain, Josh Barfield and annoucements by NC State Grange President, Jimmy Gentry.

The staff has received numerous compliments about the weekend, and we hope we can plan another one, just as fun for 2017!



eft to Right: Gentry Family, Linda Hutson & Lucille Rice, Philip and



1st Row: Ryleigh Hartsell, Corey Williford, Cape Fear Grangers, 2nd Row: Youth lead skits, Martha Suther, Barfield Family, 3rd Row: Jeff & Laurie Barnhart, Gospel trio, August Howerton, 4th Row: Costume contest winners.

FROM JOYCE!

Joyce Clodfelter, Community Service & Family Living Director

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Community Service Project during Family Conference March 11-13. The Beach Food Bank was most appreciative of the generous donation of food to their Pantry. We gave them 1160 items which weighed 947 lbs. Grantham, Troutman and Westbrook Granges all had a bountiful table of goods. Only 42 items separated the three top Granges. Troutman came out on top with 287 items.

I explained one area of concern during Family Conference, as to how some of the items are counted. If you have a pack of four cans of soup, then each can is an item. If it is something like toothbrushes or packaged noodles (six to pack), then this is one item, as the pantry does not break up a package of this kind. Hopefully, this will help you see more clearly how this process works.

Our 2016 Community Service Project for State Convention is the Pajama Program which collects pj's and books for children, ages infant to 18 years old. This program is for children in need, many of whom are waiting to be adopted. This could be the first new pair of pj's these children have ever had and probably the first book they can call their own.

Each Grange should start now, as winter clothing is on sale. This is a completely new type of Community Service project for us and I hope we will make an all out effort to make this successful. Looking forward to September and being able to see what our Granges have collected for these children. You may check out their website at www.pajamaprogram.org. Local chapters are in Charlotte and Raleigh, NC.

A thank you to all the ladies who donated cakes, cookies and brownies for the Meet and Greet at Family Conference in Nags Head. Everything was wonderful and we had many compliments on it. I could not have done this without your support.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Laurie Barnhart, NC State Grange Legislative Director

On April 22th, Capitol Grange along with 200 other volunteers will dispense free over the counter medications for Wake County residents who are uninsured or who cannot otherwise afford them. NC MedAssist is a nonprofit pharmacy program that provides access to lifesaving prescription medications, patient support, advocacy and related services to poor, vulnerable and uninsured North Carolina residents. Their vision is to seek to ensure that "no eligible person in North Carolina has to choose between purchasing food or their needed medication; improving the patient's health and lowering uncompensated health care costs for all stakeholders. www.medassist.org/our-mission-vision

Capitol Grangers are excited about this wonderful opportunity to be of service to this organization that has done such incredible work in North Carolina since 1997. Thanks to a grant The NC State Grange received from PhRMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America) we were able to turn that money around to sponsor a reception the night before the event to recognize the steering committee, volunteers and other officials who have supported this effort and given so much of their time to this cause. Capitol Grange is happy and excited to be a part of this very worthwhile endeavor.

"Joining Forces to Bring Veterans & Careers Together"

Grangers,

On June 24th, the NC State Grange will join forces with businesses across North Carolina to bring veterans and careers together. We feel that the largest industry in North Carolina-Agriculture and Agribusiness--should unquestionably be aligned with the second largest industry in the state--our military. With the support of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and NC4ME (NC for Military Employment), the NC De-

partment of Agriculture and the College of Ag & Life Sciences at NCSU, the NC State Grange will host a career day that will give Veterans the opportunity to seek out employment with businesses that they may otherwise not have the opportunity to interact.

This event will be held at the Embassy Suites in Fayetteville from 10 AM to 3 PM on June 24th. If you or your Grange wishes to participate in anyway to make this event successful,

please contact Laurie Barnhart by email at llbarnhart@ncgrange.com or cell at 919-539-5821. Cape Fear Grange has been gracious enough to offer their assistance-Thank you Cape Fear Grange! If you know of businesses that would be interested in hiring our Veterans, please advise us of the company name and contact. Thank you and we will keep you informed as our plans for this exciting event unfold.

NOTABLE GRANGERS

Brodi Olds

"You were named the 2016 National Ambassador at last year's National Convention in Nebraska. How did you feel when your name was called?"

Brodi: "It was an incredible feeling! Being up on stage was one of the best moments I've ever experienced in the Grange. Seeing all of my friends from NC cheering me on was unforgettable."

"What are some things you have done so far this year in your new role?"

Brodi: "We pretty much hit the ground running in January, working with Charlene [National Grange Youth Director]. National Grange has already given us some great opportunities like getting on a White House Press Conference Call to listen in, and attending National Ag Day in Washington, DC (which I unfortunately missed due to school.) I recently traveled to Pennsylvania and spent the weekend on Charlene's farm with our youth committee to plan youth activities for regionals and nationals. We are working on new, creative ways to bring in more youth to the Grange. We want to diversify the program and make it even more exciting and meaningful for youth.

What other responsibilities will you have this year?

Brodi: "Shannon [National Female Youth Ambassador, from New York] and I have a lot of work to do as Ambassadors. We assist Charlene with National Youth TeamSpeak meetings, social media, and planning activities for national events such as National Convention. We will spend a lot of time working on plans for the convention, which includes facilitating workshops, leading games, getting youth involved, and assisting wherever we are needed. On top of this, we will help emcee the Evening of Excellence at this year's convention."

Is there anything else you would like to add about being Ambassador?

Brodi: "Yes. I just want to thank the NC State Grange for all they have done for me throughout my life growing up in the Grange. I thank you for all of the opportunities and the support you have given me. When I was a Junior Granger, I never thought I would one day become National Grange Youth Ambassador. It is a complete honor. I also want to thank our youth for being such awesome friends to me and always accepting me for who I am. And I thank Jennie Gentry [State Youth Director] for always encouraging me, being there for me, and for believing in me. I am a better man, and my life has forever been impacted because of you all."



Reprinted from Karen Hyler, Rockingham County Schools

Rockingham County Schools is proud to announce that Kathryn Davis, Rockingham County Schools' Physical Therapist, has received a 2016 Distinguished Service Award from the Exceptional Children's Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). The award is given by the Exceptional Children's Division to individuals who make outstanding contributions to children in the field of special education and to those who have distinguished themselves as leaders in the state and/or nation through their careers of exemplary service. All awardees are nominated for this honor.

According to the Distinguished Service Award Nomination Letter, the nominees must be distinguished with a prominent reputation and must have made significant contributions to the education of exceptional children in one or more of the following areas:

- development/implementation of innovative teaching strategies and methods and/or promising programs/strategies at the administrative level;
- provision of dynamic leadership; provision of evaluation services;
- fostering productive parent involvement;
- facilitation of school to work partnerships;
- advancement of educational research, promotion/protection of beneficial legislation;
- · outstanding public advocacy.

An excerpt of Ms. Davis' nomination letter stated, "Her demeanor and enthusiastic personality are contagious. She will arrange her hours to meet her students' needs. However, she doesn't stop when her work at the schools is done. After hours, Kathryn opens up her farm to provide, free of charge, horseback riding lessons to any and all of the special needs children and adults in Rockingham County. No family has ever had to pay one penny for this service. She coordinates volunteers (including her husband) to help ensure the safety of her riders, as well as, having activities for them to do while waiting to ride. The number of special needs children and adults participating in the rides has grown so much she has expanded to three riding times. While on horseback, they work on not only motor skills and balance, but communication, literacy and math. Students trapped in bodies that do not work, enjoy the freedom and pure joy of being on horseback. The smiles of the children are the only payment Kathryn will accept."

Ms. Davis was recognized during the Exceptional Children's March Institute being held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on March 8, 2016.

Congratulations, Mrs. Davis, and thank you for all you do for the students of Rockingham County!



The NC State Grange would like to offer their condolences to the families of former state Sen. Earline Parmon as well as the family of Rep. Ralph Johnson. Sen. Parmon was a Democrat representing District 42 - Forsyth County. She died March 14th after a short illness. Sen Parmon was known for her commitment to working with the needy and the neglected. Rep. Johnson passed away March 16 after suffering a stroke in February. He represented District 58—Guilford County.

As most of you know the NC State Grange was supporting the Connect NC 2016 Bond Referendum and it passed overwhelmingly by almost 2 to 1. We were pleased. The monies that will be allocated for the \$2 Billion Bond are for all projects that are supported by our NC State Grange Policy. These projects include \$85 Million for the Plant Sciences Building at NCSU and \$94 Million for veterinarian, food, drug, pest and fuel labs for the NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Bond money will also go towards the UNC System, Water/Sewer and Local Parks, Public Safety, and State Parks and Zoos.

The March 15th Primary had some very interested outcomes. I attended a Post-Election Luncheon/Briefing on March 16th given by the NC FreeEnterprise Foundation which is a nonpartisan political "think tank". Stewart, the executive director, always adds some very interesting remarks, some of which I will share with you. (Joe will actually be speaking at our 2016 Annual Meeting in September in regards to the upcoming General Election in November.) Joe felt like this primary was fueled by fear, anxiety and anger of which had never been seen. He believes this is the last election of the political parties as we have known it. The NC voter turnout was higher than it was four years ago, even

though our primary date was moved up, mainly due to the national attention given to "Super Tuesday".

Below are the winning percentages of the US President and Senate races and the NC Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Council of State Race outcomes.

US President:

Donald Trump—R—40% Hillary Clinton—D—55%

US Senate:

Richard Burr—R—62.4% Deborah Ross—D—61.4%

NC Governor:

Pat McCrory—R—81.1% Roy Cooper—D—68.8% Lon Cecil—L—100%

NC Lieutenant Governor:
Dan Forest—R—100%
Linda Coleman—D—51.1%
JJ Summerell—L—100%

Council of State
Secretary of State:
Michael LaPaglia—R—61.6%
Elaine Marshall—D—100%

State Auditor:

Chuck Stuber—R—100% Beth Wood—D—100%

Treasurer:

Dale Folwell—R—100% Dan Blue III—D—58.4%

Superintendent:

Mark Johnson—R—53.4% June Atkinson—D—79.9%

Attorney General:

Buck Newton—R—54.9% Josh Stein—D—53.5%

Commissioner of Agriculture: Steve Troxler—R—68.8% Walter Smith—D—100% Commissioner of Labor Cherie Berry—R—100% Charles Meeker—D—56.6:

Commissioner of Insurance Mike Causey—R—41.2% Wayne Goodwin—D—100%

The NC General Assembly will begin the Legislative Short Session on April 25th. The assumption is it will be a rather short session due to the General Election which will be November 8th. All of our House and Senate members are up for reelection, and many of our members will have opposition which of course means they will need to be campaigning.

Commissioner Troxler will be holding a "Barnyard Group" meeting on April 6th to discuss any legislative issues that we will need to focus on. The Barnyard Group is made up of agriculture commodities, agribusinesses and organizations like the NC State Grange that advocate and support the largest industry in our State--Agriculture.

Please mark your calendars to vote June 7th in the Congressional Primary. This primary was postponed after three Federal Judges declared the NC Congressional Maps unconstitutional and ordered maps to be redrawn within a two-week period.

Please send me an email Ilbarnhart@ ncgrange.com or call me at 919-539-5821. I am happy to help you answer any questions you may have about your district in the upcoming election in November.

50+YEAR MEMBERS CELEBRATED

Vinnie Duncan, Corriher Program Director & NC State Grange Board of Directors member

Corriher Grange #627 met on March 6 to honor 11 members with 50+ years' membership. David Allen, President, welcomed members and guests. A catered meal and homemade desserts by Grange members was enjoyed by all. Adele Goodman provided flowers for the honorees and table.

I presented, presented a brief history of the Corriher Grange Community and Corriher Grange, organized in September 1929. Corriher School was erected about 1916 and served as the community school until the end of 1935. In 1937, the building was acquired by Corriher Grange and expanded in 1938 as the meeting hall for its members.

Honored members included: Kenneth Corriher and Phillip Sloop - 78 years; Hoke Karriker -70 years; Paul Campbell- 69 years; Ruth Corriher-65 years; Carolyn McLaughlin-64 years; Lenora and Clement Bost-53 years; Jo and Henry Starnes-53 years; Jerry Karriker-51 years. In addition to presenting the honorees with the appropriate longevity pin, they received a Certificate of Appreciation for their long and faithful service to Corriher Grange and the community.

Corriher Grange's oldest member, Phillip Sloop, is 99. Mr. Sloop has served as Chaplain for 39 years. Carolyn McLaughlin was also honored for her service as Program Director for 53 years. Kenneth Corriher told the group how he met his wife, Ruth, at a Youth Grange function held at Corriher Grange when Ruth attended as a youth Granger from St. John's Grange in Cabarrus County.

I gave a brief bio of the honorees and history of Corriher Grange. Several of the longer serving members told of events occurring





Hoke Karriker, Phillip Sloop & Paul Campbell, not pictured: Ruth & Kenneth Corriher

around the Grange Hall over the past many years. They recalled the Grange's successful efforts for rural electric service and having to dig post holes and install the posts, telephone service coming to the community, the paving of Corriher Grange Road in the late 1940s, and installation of the water well and pump. Restrooms became part of the Grange Hall in the early 70's and wood heaters were not replaced by a heating system until 1999. Other events were recalled with much appreciation from younger

The second of th

A NEW YEAR WILL BRING A NEW TEAM

We are excited to announce that we are organizing a State Junior Team, a new leadership program for Junior Grangers who plan to attend Grange Camp this summer. Open to Juniors in middle school who will soon be moving up to the Youth Program, this opportunity will allow a team of students to gain leadership skills as they continue growing in the Grange.

Six Juniors will be selected to serve on

this new team by a committee, through an application process. The students selected will have a special role in helping lead several activities during Grange Camp. To further enhance this amazing experience, a member of the current State Youth Team will mentor them each.

This program is something that we have been thinking about for a long while. After seeing the incredible leadership potential in our growing number of Juniors who have been attending Grange Camp the past few years, it became obvious that this leadership team was something we truly wanted to put in place.

Both Emily Hartsell, State Grange Junior Director, and Jennie Gentry, State

Grange Youth Director, expressed how much their lives were impacted when they served in similar leadership roles at Grange Camp as Juniors. "Helping Juniors gain confidence in themselves through leadership is one of the goals for our program. The Junior program did the same thing for me growing up, and I am excited to offer this opportunity to today's Junior Grangers," commented Emily Hartsell.

Juniors in middle school interested in applying for this team can get an application by contacting Emily Hartsell or by visiting the Grange website. Applications are due to her by April 30 and can be found on our website.

A Wonderful Winter Weekend

Jennie Gentry, NC State Grange Youth & Young Adult Director

Winter Youth Conference was held February 12-14 at Camp Caraway in Asheboro, NC, starting off another great year for our youth program. Youth attended the retreat to fellowship, learn, build leadership skills, and spend time with friends.

Saturday was a busy day full of a variety of activities. Youth shaped their leadership skills through team building activities led by State FFA Officers. They also learned about the many state and national Grange programs they can get involved in, including the new National Parliamentary Procedure Contest. Youth were also presented with National Grange Leadership Awards and Achievement Awards they had earned in the past year. Darby Madewell was honored for receiving the most Achievement Awards in 2015.

Several state contests were held on Saturday afternoon. Winning first place in the youth Public Speaking Contest was August Howerton. First place for the Group Sign-a-Song Contest went to the largest group performance our state has ever seen. This group, a mix of youth and young adults, included Rylee Furr, Emily Hartsell, Baylor Howerton, Jennie Gentry, Marie Jones, Katie Leonard, Darby Madewell, Haley Neer, Ashley Pedersen, and Montana Wrigley. All of these speech and sign-a-song winners will compete at the Regional Youth Conference in June for a chance to perform at the National Convention this year.

Fifteen youth competed in our annual impromptu speech contest, which brought great entertainment for conference attendees. Winning first place was Darby Madewell. Second place went to Bennett Yeargan; and third place went to Kayla Colglazier. All speakers did an incredible job. Also as part of the afternoon con-

tests, Justin Leonard won first place in the Grange Jeopardy, with Missy Mueller placing second. Both will compete at Regionals for a chance to move forward to the final round at Nationals.

Elections for State Youth Officers were also held Saturday afternoon. Katie Leonard of Arcadia Grange was elected the 2016 State Grange Youth President, and Josh Phillips of Arcadia Grange was elected the State Youth Vice President. A full list of officers can be found in this edition of Grange News.

Throughout the entire day, Youth Team and Ambassador Applicants took part in inter-

views with the State Youth Committee. Five adults on the committee interviewed the applicants in order to select the leaders for the year, a tough decision with so many great youth participating. All applicants did an amazing job interviewing, and we were so proud of the leadership skills and confidence that they possess. In a special ceremony on Saturday evening, the new Youth Leadership Team was announced.

The 2016 Youth Ambassadors are Darby Madewell, Bushy Fork Grange, and Bennett Yeargan, Southern Wake Grange. The youth selected to serve on the 2016 State Youth Team are Rylee Furr, St. John's Grange; Lillie Griffin, Troutman Grange; Evan Hill, Southern Wake Grange; Katie Leonard, Arcadia Grange; Josh Phillips, Arcadia Grange; and Landon Woolard, Beaufort County Grange. Each leader accepted their new position with either tears of joy or smiles of excitement, ready to serve the Grange through this wonderful opportunity. Along with the introduction of the new team, Saturday evening's festivities included dancing, games, and special vespers led by Brodi Olds, 2016 National Youth Ambassador.

Youth departed Sunday morning after a worship service and special friendship circle, sharing hugs and expressing their eagerness to see each other again at Grange Camp. Our youth all had a wonderful weekend together, and much appreciation is given to the adult chaperones that helped make the weekend possible. Our organization is proud of what a unique program we have for such a wonderful group of young people.



President:

Katie Leonard, Arcadia Grange

Vice President:

Josh Phillips, Arcadia Grange

Program Director:

Darby Madewell, Bushy Fork Grange

Steward:

Nick Jones, Southern Wake Grange

Assistant Steward:

Landon Woolard, Beaufort County Grange

Lady Assistant Steward:

Hannah Bright, Troutman Grange

Chaplain:

Evan Hill, Southern Wake Grange

Treasurer:

Bennett Yeargan, Southern Wake Grange

Secretary:

Margie Griffin, Troutman Grange

Gatekeeper:

Zac Mazag, Troutman Grange

Ceres:

Lillie Griffin, Troutman Grange

Pomona:

Rylee Furr, St. John's Grange

Flora:

Anna Bennett, Southern Wake Grange

Executive Committee:

Lucas Carter, Southern Wake Grange Kirsten Cash, Troutman Grange Mabel Griffin, Troutman Grange Ashton Parker, Troutman Grange Emma Stack, Cape Fear Grange Thomas Wallace, Southern Wake Grange

Drill Team Leaders:

Marie Jones, Southern Wake Grange Tyler Leonard, Arcadia Grange















DARBY MADEWELL

GRANGE: BUSHY FORK AGE: 18 HOMETOWN: TIMBERLAKE NC GRADE: FRESHMAN AT NC STATE HOBBIES: THEATER, WRITING, POETRY WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO AS AMBASSADOR?

I LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING NC ON A NATIONAL LEVEL AND USING THE LEADERSHIP SKILLS THE GRANGE HAS TAUGHT ME TO INSPIRE AND MENTOR YOUNGER YOUTH AND JUNIORS.

HOW HAS GRANGE IMPACTED YOU? I OWE A LOT OF MY SELF-CONFIDENCE AND LEADER-SHIP DEVELOPMENT TO THE GRANGE. IT HELPED ME TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS AND STEP OUT OF MY SHYNESS, WHICH ALL STARTED AT GRANGE CAMP. IT ALSO TAUGHT ME HOW TO STOP LETTING MY FEARS PREVENT ME FROM DOING THE THINGS I LOVE.

A WAY YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY: I SERVE AS A SERVICE SITE LIAISON.

LANDON WOOLARD

GRANGE: BEAUFORT COUNTY **AGE:** 17 **HOMETOWN:** WASHINGTON NC

GRADE: 12TH HOBBIES: BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, THEATER

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ON YOUTH TEAM?

LEARNING MORE ABOUT MYSELF, GROWING AS A LEADER, AND HELPING YOUNGER GRANGERS BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES.

HOW HAS GRANGE IMPACTED YOU? ITHE GRANGE HAS STRONGLY IMPACTED MY LIFE IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, HELPING ME TO CONSISTANTLY BETTER MYSELF. IT HAS GIVEN ME CONFIDENCE, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, AND INCREDIBLE FRIENDSHIPS. I AM SO THANKFUL TO BE PART OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

A WAY YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY: I VOLUNTEER AT THE GEORGE WAHAB COMMUNITY THEATER.

KATIE LEONARD

GRANGE: ARCADIA

AGE: 18

HOMETOWN: ARCADIA NC

GRADE: FRESHMAN AT WESTERN CAROLINA

HOBBIES: HIKING, BIKING

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ON YOUTH TEAM? WORKING WITH 7

AMAZING PEOPLE TO GROW THE GRANGE AND SIMPLY HAVE AN AWESOME TIME SERVING.

HOW HAS GRANGE IMPACTED YOU? THE GRANGE HAS BEEN THE PLACE THAT I HAVE

MADE THE BEST FRIENDS IN THE WORLD. GRANGE HAS GIVEN ME THE TOOLS TO BE A

SUCCESSFUL LEADER AND HAS DEVELOPED ME INTO THE YOUNG WOMAN I AM TODAY.

A WAY YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY: I COLLECT FOOD FOR THE JACKSON COUN-

JOSH PHILLIPS

TY FOOD TABLE

GRANGE: ARCADIA **AGE:** 19 **HOMETOWN:** LEXINGTON NC

GRADE: FRESHMAN AT APPALACHIAN HOBBIES: MUSIC, READING, NETFLIX

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ON YOUTH TEAM?

IMPROVING MYSELF AS A LEADER, AND SPENDING TIME WITH MY GRANGE FAMILY.

HOW HAS GRANGE IMPACTED YOU? GRANGE HAS TAUGHT ME HOW TO SERVE MY COMMUNITY TO IMPACT OTHERS. IT HAS HELPED ME GROW AS A PERSON, TO COME OUT OF MY SHELL, AND HAS PUT AWESOME, POSITIVE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE.

A WAY YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY: I DO CAMPUS CLEANUPS AROUND MY UNI-VERSITY TO HELP PICK UP LITTER.

BENNETT YEARGAN

GRANGE: SOUTHERN WAKE AGE: 19 HOMETOWN: FUQUAY VARINA NC GRADE: SOPHOMORE AT EAST CAROLINA HOBBIES: ICE HOCKY, STUDYING

GERMAN, BEING INVOLVED IN MY FRATERNITY

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO AS AMBASSADOR? I LOOK FORWARD TO STRENGTHENING OUR MEMBERSHIP AND OUR PRESENCE ON A STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL, AND SEEING FRIENDS AT GRANGE EVENTS.

HOW HAS GRANGE IMPACTED YOU? GRANGE HAS TAUGHT ME TO BE PROUD OF WHO I AM AND TO ALWAYS STAND UP FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IN AND WHAT I BELIEVE IS RIGHT. THE GRANGE HAS MOLDED ME INTO BEING A STRONG-WILLED, EFFECTIVE AND CONFIDENT LEADER WHO IS ABLE TO LEAD AND MOTIVATE ANYONE I WORK WITH.

A WAY YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY: I SPENT A WEEK IN MUNICH, GERMANY, WORKING AT A FACILITY THAT HOUSES REFUGEES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. I WORKED WITH YOUNG MEN, TEACHING ENGLISH, AND SPORTS, AND HELPED THEM AS THE INTEGRATE INTO GERMAN SOCIETY.

RYLEE FURR

GRANGE: ST JOHN'S AGE: 18 HOMETOWN: MT PLEASANT NC

GRADE: 12TH HOBBIES: SOFTBALL, WATCHING NETFLIX, FRIENDS

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ON YOUTH TEAM?

CREATING A BOND WITH MY TEAM AND FELLOW GRANGERS, AND GETTING NEW YOUTH INVOLVED IN THE GRANGE.

HOW HAS GRANGE IMPACTED YOU? GRANGE HAS HELPED ME TO BECOME A BETTER LEADER, WHICH HAS GIVEN ME MUCH MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF. I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT MY STRENGTHS AND TALENTS BECAUSE OF THE GRANGE, AND I AM THANKFUL FOR THAT.

A WAY YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY: I TUTOR MY PEERS AND YOUNGER STU-DENTS WHO NEED HELP IN SCHOOL.

LILLIE GRIFFIN

GRANGE: TROUTMAN AGE: 15 HOMETOWN: TROUTMAN NC

GRADE: 10TH **HOBBIES**: SOCCER, HIKING, ART

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ON YOUTH TEAM?

GETTING CLOSER WITH EVERYONE ON YOUTH TEAM.

HOW HAS GRANGE IMPACTED YOU? GRANGE HAS ALLOWED ME TO GAIN MORE CONFIDENCE TO BECOME A BETTER LEADER. IT HAS ALSO GIVEN ME MANY FRIENDS THAT WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR ME.

A WAY YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY: I SERVE FOOD AT FIFTH STREET MINISTRIES, A LOCAL HOMELESS SHELTER.

EVAN HILL

GRANGE: SOUTHERN WAKE AGE: 18 HOMETOWN: TARBORO NC

GRADE: 12TH HOBBIES: SOFTBALL, SPORTING CLAYS & HUNTING

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD ON YOUTH TEAM? TO HOPEFULLY MAKE THE SAME IMPACT ON OTHER YOUTH THAT THE PREVIOUS TEAMS HAVE MADE ON ME.

HOW HAS GRANGE IMPACTED YOU? OF ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS I HAVE BEEN PART OF, GRANGE HAS STOOD OUT TO ME AS THE MOST OPENLY CHRISTIAN ONE, WHICH HAS NOT ONLY STRENGTHENED MY FAITH, BUT MY LIFE AS WELL. GRANGE HAS INTRODUCED ME TO SOME OF THE MOST WONDERFUL PEOPLE THAT I AM NOW ABLE TO CALL MY "EXTENDED FAMILY."

A WAY YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COMMUNITY: I CURRENTLY SERVE ON THE 4-H LIVE-STOCK BOARD OF ADVISORS.









IS THERE A PILL FOR THAT?

Here we are starting 2016 – a fresh New Year for all of us. I am sure that like 2015 and the years before, this year will also have its challenges, opportunities, and disappointments as well as its joys, excitement, and blessings. If you notice the way the previous sentence is structured, it starts with the less desirable parts of life and its bitterness – you may say the lemons of life. That structure is on purpose because many people choose to only see the glass as half full and turn sour on life itself. We have the option to add water and a little sweetener to the lemons making them into lemonade. I remember my Dad used to take those lemons in his big callused hands - put some pressure on them as he rolled them around on the counter top to help extract all the juice of the lemon before he would cut them open and squeeze them over a wide mouth glass gallon jar. Then he would add the water and sugar according to Grandma's recipe. Then at the family gatherings, his was always one of the first jars emptied.

Now what does this have to do with the insurance program for the NC State Grange? Well, typically, collecting on an insurance policy is the plan "B" when we would really rather have the results of our plan "A". The health insurance as well as the health provider industries are moving more toward "well care" than "sick care" to help us remain on our plan "A" as long as possible. What is the difference? "Well care" tends to focus on moving all of us in a more health conscious direction with better nutrition, exercise, weight control, as well as mental balance and stimulation. If these items are in check, it tends to ward off several of our most expensive chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiac, stroke, obesity, arthritis as well as improved mental health. While it is a given that genetics plays a vital role to the susceptibility in each of these examples, in many cases our own personal choices precipitate many of these chronic issues. Unlike previous generations before us, we eat more and move less. We tend to eat more processed and pre-cooked foods that our grandparents ever thought possible. Our work environment is totally different and our stress levels elevated. So how do we turn these lemons into something more enjoyable? First of all, you are seeing the beginning of health care providers and health insurers forming alliances for patient quality outcome(s) verses putting a bandage on the problem only to have it resurface down the road. It is a re-education process to get us thinking and taking responsibility for our own health welfare in our nutrition and physical movement. BCBSNC gave us a glimpse of this partnership two years ago with an experimental trial in the Durham area which expanded to the Carolina Health Care Network in the Charlotte area last year. For 2016, it is expanding again in the Raleigh marketing area with Wake Med. While these programs do lead to a limited network of providers, the goal is more of a wellness outcome basis with less chronic re-occurrences for individuals in the program. In many cases, this is a re-education and lifestyle change prior to an irreversible status of a preventable chronic diagnosis. This is truly health care reform at its pinnacle! This reminds me of JT, my father-in-law's job at Burlington Industries in Greensboro. He was in the maintenance department in charge of several heating and refrigeration units. A lot of these units had many years and hours on them and he had a regular schedule that he checked on each unit. Cleaning the dust and dirt out for good air flows, tinkering with

In Memoriam

Ms. Mable Stack Ms. Ruth Brown Union Grove Grange Union Grove Grange this or that to keep the temperature in the range it needed to be, etc. In general, he kept an eye on everything and making sure that things where in order. After his rounds, he would spend the rest of the day in the shop area, tinkering with whatever he wanted to do. The rest of the maintenance crew thought he had a pie job because he had very few major breakdowns. When he retired, everyone in the shop wanted his job. I remember him laughing a couple of months after he retired because the fellow who got his job came running to him one day asking him how he did it because every unit now seemed to be going down the tubes! JT just laughed again and asked him if he was doing the preventative checks – or just waiting until someone called down to report a problem with one of the units. Of course, they were waiting for the call.

So with our New Year's resolutions – will we strive to work on better health habits and hopefully help ourselves stay on our plan "A" or rely on the health insurance benefits of plan "B" and all that goes along with that? Back to the lemonade now – you see it does take effort and some work to turn those lemons into something desirable. Today, I can take the easy road and just open a packet of lemonade mix to put into some water – which is pretty good if I'm driving down the road, but it is no comparison to the lemonade my Dad use to make! Like the old saying, how much effort we put into things generally indicates what we will get out of it. Join me in trying to make 2016 a banner health improvement year and let us focus on the last half of the second sentence of this article – the joys, excitement and blessings this year will hold!



North Carolina State Grange 1734 Wilkesboro Hwy Statesville, NC 28625 (704) 878-0000 www.ncgrange.com

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