

The official publication of the NC State Grange

November / December 2017

# GRANGE NEWS



2017 - 2018  
FARM OF THE YEAR



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## Events

2018

March 16-18      Family Conference, Asheville

April                Grange Month

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NC State Grange President

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For approximately two years now, we have been engaged in an effort to enhance the image of our organization through re-branding. As part of this effort, we have added new innovations such as a new website, better communications, and other strategies. The next step is to improve our image through better public relations. At the last Board meeting, the group approved North Carolina State Grange's entry into a new relationship with the Stewart Group, an agency based in Raleigh. Contracts have been signed for a six month agreement. If everyone is happy

at the end of six months, the partnership could be extended for a year.

This decision did not happen quickly. Beginning last fall, a committee of members met with staff at the Stewart Group, expressing our PR needs, helping the staff become better acquainted with North Carolina State Grange, and working toward developing a strategy. The result is a plan that we are excited about. Dee Stewart, President of the company, is quite experienced in working with PR endeavors as well as running political campaigns. He has a great reputation in North Carolina.

Even before we signed a contract, Dee invited Laurie and I to participate in two news conferences, one in Raleigh and the other in Charlotte, where we spoke on farm labor needs. Laurie participated in the Raleigh news conference which led to her being included in a segment that ran on WRAL TV. I participated in the Charlotte news conference, and it was interesting that a news article was written by a Hispanic reporter along with a picture of

North Carolina Representative John Fraley and myself. Even though I could not read the article, I was informed by a credible source that it was good! We are pleased that Dee involved us in these two news conferences.

We have long recognized the need to do a better job of getting our organization better publicized. This new effort with the Stewart Group should help us to accomplish this within an affordable framework. In addition to Dee, we are working with two other staff members within the firm that are quite capable. We look forward to enhancing our image through public relations and we hope that as the year progresses our members will see the benefits of this work.

On the cover: Jay and Jarmon Sullivan on their farmhouse porch

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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.*



# DUTCH APPLE PIE

LEIGH PAYNE | TROUTMAN GRANGE  
HONORABLE MENTION APPLE PIE

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## CRUST

1 3/4 CUPS ALL PURPOSE FLOUR  
1/2 TEASPOON SALT  
1/2 CUP VEGETABLE OIL  
2 TABLESPOONS WATER  
MIX WITH FORK AND ROLL INTO BALL  
PAT DOUGH OUT IN PIE PLATE

## FILLING

5 1/2 CUPS PEELED APPLES  
1 TABLESPOON LEMON JUICE  
1/2 CUP SUGAR  
1/4 CUP BROWN SUGAR ,PACKED  
3 TABLESPOONS FLOUR  
1/2 TABLESPOON CINNAMON  
1/4 TEASPOON NUTMEG

## TOPPING

3/4 CUP FLOUR  
1/4 SUGAR  
1/4 CUP BROWN SUGAR  
1/3 CUP BUTTER OR MARGARINE

PREHEAT OVEN TO 375 DEGREES. MIX DOUGH INTO A BALL AND THEN PAT INTO A PIE PLATE. COMBINE ALL FILLING INGREDIENTS AND BAKE 375 DEGREES FOR 50 MINUTES.

## BLUEBERRY LEMON POUND CAKE

LINDA ALBRIGHT  
PATTERSON GRANGE  
1ST PLACE BERRY CAKE

1/3 CUP BUTTER  
2 CUPS SUGAR  
3 LARGE EGGS  
4 OZ. CREAM CHEESE, (SOFTENED)  
1 LARGE EGG WHITE  
1/2 TEASPOON SALT  
3 CUPS ALL PURPOSE FLOUR, DIVIDED  
1 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER  
1/2 TEASPOON BAKING SODA  
1 TABLESPOON GRATED LEMON PEEL  
2 TEASPOONS VANILLA  
1 CUP (8 OZ.) LEMON YOGURT  
2 CUPS FRESH OR FROZEN BLUEBERRIES  
(UNSWEETENED)

GLAZE  
1 1/4 CUPS CONFECTIONERS' SUGAR  
2 TEASPOONS LEMON JUICE

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES, THEN GREASE AND FLOUR A 10-IN. FLUTED TUBE PAN. IN A LARGE BOWL CREAM THE BUTTER, CREAM CHEESE AND SUGAR UNTIL BLENDED. ADD EGGS AND EGG WHITE, ONE AT A TIME, BEATING WELL AFTER EACH ADDITION. BEAT IN LEMON PEEL AND VANILLA.

TOSS BLUEBERRIES WITH 2 TABLESPOONS FLOUR. IN ANOTHER BOWL, MIX THE REMAINING FLOUR WITH BAKING POWDERS, BAKING SODA AND SALT; ADD TO CREAMED MIXTURE ALTERNATELY WITH YOGURT, BEATING AFTER EACH ADDITION JUST UNTIL COMBINED. FOLD IN BLUEBERRIES MIXTURE.

TRANSFER BATTER TO PREPARED PAN. BAKE 55-60 MINUTES OR UNTIL A TOOTHPICK INSERTED IN THE CENTER COMES OUT CLEAN. COOL IN PAN 10 MINUTES BEFORE REMOVING TO WIRE RACK; COOL COMPLETELY. IN A SMALL BOWL, MIX CONFECTIONERS' SUGAR AND LEMON JUICE UNTIL SMOOTH. DRIZZLE OVER CAKE.

## SWEET POTATO LAYER CAKE

SUSAN ALBRIGHT  
TROUTMAN GRANGE  
1ST PLACE SWEET POTATO CAKE

1 1/2 CUPS CANOLA OIL  
2 CUPS SUGAR  
4 EGGS, SEPARATED  
1 1/2 CUPS FINELY SHREDDED UNCOOKED SWEET POTATO (ABOUT 1 MEDIUM)  
1/4 CUP HOT WATER  
1 TEASPOON VANILLA EXTRACT  
2 1/2 CUPS CAKE FLOUR  
3 TEASPOONS BAKING POWDER  
1 TEASPOON GROUND CINNAMON  
1 TEASPOON GROUND NUTMEG  
1/4 TEASPOON SALT  
1 CUP CHOPPED PECANS

FROSTING:  
1 1/3 CUPS SUGAR  
2 CANS (5 OUNCES EACH) EVAPORATED MILK  
4 EGG YOLKS, LIGHTLY BEATEN  
1/2 CUP BUTTER, CUBED  
2 2/3 CUPS SWEETENED SHREDDED COCONUT  
1 CUP CHOPPED PECANS  
2 TEASPOONS VANILLA EXTRACT

IN A LARGE BOWL, BEAT OIL AND SUGAR. ADD EGG YOLKS, ONE AT A TIME, BEATING WELL AFTER EACH ADDITION. BEAT IN THE SWEET POTATO, WATER AND VANILLA.

IN A SMALL BOWL, BEAT EGG WHITES UNTIL STIFF; FOLD INTO THE SWEET POTATO MIXTURE. COMBINE THE FLOUR, BAKING POWDER, CINNAMON, NUTMEG AND SALT; ADD TO POTATO MIXTURE AND MIX WELL. STIR IN PECANS. POUR INTO THREE GREASED AND LIGHTLY FLOURED 9-IN. ROUND BAKING PANS.

BAKE AT 350 DEGREES FOR 22-27 MINUTES OR UNTIL A TOOTHPICK INSERTED NEAR THE CENTER COMES OUT CLEAN. COOL FOR 10 MINUTES BEFORE REMOVING TO WIRE RACKS.

FOR FROSTING, IN A SMALL HEAVY SAUCEPAN OVER MEDIUM HEAT, WHISK THE SUGAR, MILK AND EGG YOLKS UNTIL SMOOTH. ADD BUTTER; COOK, WHISKING CONSTANTLY, UNTIL MIXTURE IS THICKENED AND COATS THE BACK OF A METAL SPOON, ABOUT 10-12 MINUTES. REMOVE FROM THE HEAT; STIR IN THE COCONUT, PECANS AND VANILLA. TRANSFER TO A SMALL BOWL; COOL FOR 10 MINUTES.

PLACE ONE CAKE LAYER ON A SERVING PLATE; SPREAD WITH A THIRD OF THE FROSTING. REPEAT LAYERS. YIELD: 10-12 SERVINGS.



# 2017 - 2018 FARM OF THE YEAR

WRITTEN BY LAURIE BARNHART, PHOTOS BY JESSICA HORTON

The North Carolina State Grange Farm of the Year award is one that is taken very seriously during the awards ceremony at our annual state convention. This particular award is to recognize and honor before the public and the Grange membership, farming families for their commitment to agriculture, their local Granges and their communities. Any Grange has the opportunity to nominate a farming family that is a member of their Grange. The reports that are judged by non-Grangers consist of the details of the farming operation, the family members that are involved in the day to day activities of the farm, new innovations adopted during that particular year, management practices for environmental protection, conservation practices incorporated into the farming operation and any awards or recognition that the



family members have received. 2017's proud recipients were Jay and Jarman Sullivan, of J. Sullivan & Son Farm located in Faison, North Carolina in Sampson County. The Sullivans are members of Westbrook Grange. For Jay, a fourth generation farmer, farming is not just a profession, it is a way of life just as it is for his son Jarman.

J. Sullivan & Son Farm's legacy stretches back to Jay's great, great grandfather. Jay's first memories of farming are of his father, G.J. (George Jarman Sullivan, Jr.) working in tandem with his father. G.J. is 94 and still lives on the farm property. It was natural for Jay to bring his son Jarman along beside him when he was born. Jay's wife, Kim, who also plays a role in the farm told us there were many times when she packed a diaper bag so that Jay could take Jarman on the tractor with him. If not, there would be many days he would not see his son due to his rigorous schedule. Like most successful farmers, the nature of what they do is the very essence of who they are. It is not just a profession - it is a reason for being.

J. Sullivan & Son Farm consists of approximately 330 acres of corn, 300 acres of soybeans, 125 acres of wheat and 45 acres of tobacco. Their hog nursery roughly grows around 24,000 hogs and 8,000 "top hogs" annually. Jay's primary role is handling the harvesting on the farm and Jarman is primarily responsible for the planting and spraying of the crops. Together they jointly take soil samples, make farming decisions and look after the hog farms. Kim and her daughter-in-law, Nancy, also play a role in the family farm. Kim does the record keeping and also helps with her two grandsons, Will and Thomas. Nancy not only teaches school but, also assists with technology such as the yield mapping software. J. Sullivan and Son Farm has one full time employee, and they use seasonal labor when needed. When I asked Jay what his biggest challenge was, he answered (not to my surprise) "labor. There is never enough". Jay utilizes the H-2A guest worker program. The North Carolina State Grange has consistently lobbied for change to this federal program. Labor shortage problems are something we hear consistently about from our North Carolina farmers. Jay also said that rising health care costs was the second biggest challenge. Again, something we hear so often from our self-employed farmers.

Jay and Jarman have both played active roles, not only on their farm, but in their communities and in North Carolina agriculture. Jay has served as past president of the Corn Growers Association of North Carolina. In 1997, he received the TDM Farm Stewardship award. He also was a participant in the 2000 NCSU Agriculture Leadership Program. Jarman graduated from NCSU in 2003 with a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy. He returned home to the family farm after graduating to become the fifth generation farmer at J. Sullivan & Son Farm, doing what he had planned since he was five years old. With Jarman's determination and work ethic along with his father's leadership and knowledge, J. Sullivan & Son Farm has become increasingly diversified and innovative while simultaneously being good stewards of their land. They incorporate many conservation practices into their farming operation. They use waste and soil samples to evaluate waste nutrient values as well as soil levels to determine application rates of waste to avoid over or under applications. By utilizing cup-style drinking waterers in their hog houses, they decrease water waste by up to 25%. This conserves water as well as reduces the amount of water flowing into the hog lagoons. In addition, this practice conserves time as well as fuel by reducing the frequency of pumping waste on spray fields. In crop farming, every year the Sullivans utilize zone soil sampling on all acres. They use soil maps as well as yield maps to determine these sampling zones and the yield potential in these particular areas. This allows management of plant population and prevents over fertilization. Some of the farm acreage also incorporates terraces to reduce erosion on hillsides. Soil water sensors are used on irrigated fields to measure soil moisture. Conservation tillage practices are used on the Sullivans' grain crop. Corn is strip tilled and nitrogen is applied in multiple passes to help protect against leaching on sandy soils. Soybeans utilize no-till and are planted into a cover crop if they are full season. Double crop soybeans are planted into wheat straw after wheat harvest. The wheat crop is no-tilled into corn residue. These conservation tillage systems help to build organic matter, improve water infiltration and reduce labor and fuel usage. The Sullivans manage their forest timber for profit, but they also value and respect the wildlife habitat that exists within their forestland.

Refuge planting was a new method of farm technique that I had not heard of. I found while researching information about the Sullivans' farm that there is a requirement for farmers to plant a refuge area if they plant crops that have the Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) gene. For J. Sullivan & Son Farm that crop is corn. Most of us know that insects are a major cause of crop damage and yield loss. Often to compensate for the insect damage, farmers have to make multiple applications of chemical pesticides. To prevent this, an insect-resistant trait in transgenic plants was developed by Monsanto to protect yield loss

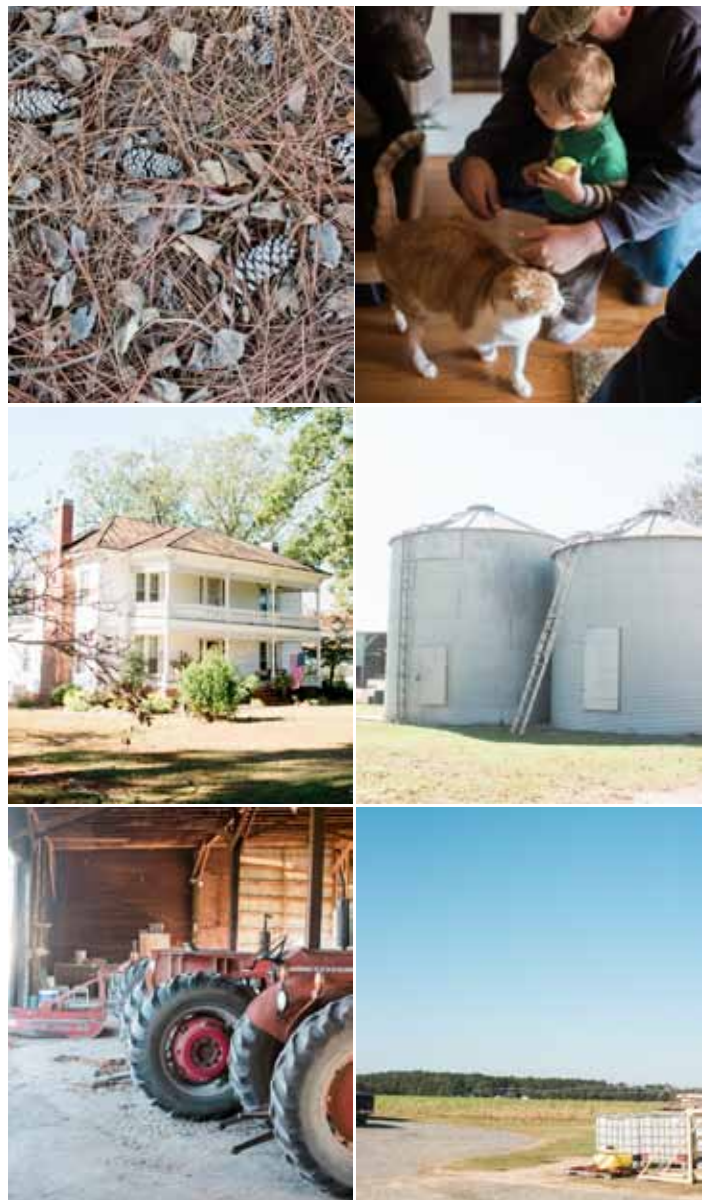


and dramatically reduce the amount of pesticide use. This gene produces a protein that is toxic to many forms of insect larvae. For many years, Bt proteins have been used effectively and safely in the form of topical sprays in conventional as well as organic farming. This allows crop protection while at the same time significantly decreasing and many times eliminating, the need for pesticides. Along with this new development came a requirement by Monsanto for farmers using this Bt trait to plant 20% of their farming acreage in conventional corn seed to protect the technology, prevent resistance and protect the corn that growers rely on. To recognize and honor these growers' stewardship efforts and the powerful impact that it can have on their communities, Monsanto created the Southern Land Legacy program. For each county with enrolled growers, Monsanto will also make a donation of up to \$2,000 to a local non-profit community organization. Jay Sullivan received this recognition and honor. When Jay was recognized he acknowledged that planting a refuge was not an option. He had signed the technology agreement, but that was not what motivated him. It was something much bigger and much more important. He was quoted by Monsanto as saying, "I live on the land. I better be the best steward of it. I'm raising my children here. It's exactly what I need to do".

Every year the J. Sullivan & Son Farm works with seed companies, cooperative extension, NC State University, as well as perform test trials of their own to evaluate new products and different farming methods. In the early to mid-2000's, J Sullivan & Son Farm cooperated with Dr. Dan Israel from NCSU to study the effects of nitrogen available in swine lagoon sludge on corn and wheat. This research helped to give the Sullivans as well as other farmers the information regarding the nutrient availability of lagoon sludge so farmers can environmentally and economically choose the correct rate and timing of application. The Sullivans have also worked with Dr. Jim Dunphy of NCSU in studying the effects of fungicide and insecticide application on soybean yield and the effect plant population has on yield. Again, in 2015 they worked with Dr. Dunphy on a maximum yield plot which evaluated different inputs such as variety, fertilizer, fungicide, seed treatments and row spacing to determine their effects on yield. Each year since 2011, the Sullivans have worked with Dr. Ron Heiniger, of NCSU on a trial to evaluate yield as it relates to variety, fertilization rate, type and placement, plant population, and seed treatments. Starting in 2013, they worked in a three-year collaboration with NCSU through a grant from the Environmental Defense Fund to evaluate nitrogen rates in their winter wheat crop. A low rate, a farmer rate, and a high rate were used to determine the optimal rate of fertilization. Each year, J. Sullivan & Son Farm participates in corn variety trials through Monsanto as well as trials for their own use to evaluate how the newest hybrids perform on their farm compared to those that have been proven performers. Starting in 2016, J. Sullivan & Son Farms began hosting the location for the North Carolina Official Variety Test for soybeans. Different varieties of soybeans are planted in a full season and a double crop situation. The yield results are gathered and combined with

other locations throughout the state and published each year to aid farmers in selecting the right varieties to plant on their farm. It is incredible to learn and see how J. Sullivan and Son Farms takes advantage of all the wonderful research and technology that NCSU has to offer! We are so fortunate to have this land grant university in our state!

Sitting and visiting that day with Jay, Kim, Jarman and little Thomas in the house that Jay and Kim live in, which was the original farmhouse, I thought "What an incredible family!" There are so few farming families left that stay intact. How refreshing to see four generations living, working and supporting such an incredible way of life. J. Sullivan & Son Farms most definitely fits the bill for the NC State Grange 2017 Farm of the Year!







In the installation ceremony for the office of Chaplain it says, “May your service as Chaplain be filled with joy”. The Bible is the textbook to which all look for wisdom and instruction. I urge you to teach humility to all and love for one another. You have the privilege of leading your Grange in prayer that God’s wisdom will guide us. You should encourage your fellow members to keep in their thoughts and prayers those who cannot be present at meetings. Be an example to others and do good things everywhere you go. After a while, the good you do will return to help you. Remember the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31,32) and encourage members to have faith.

As we encourage people to have faith, we must ask the question, “Faith in what or whom?” The Bible that we always have on the altar at the state Grange meetings clearly states faith in God and his son Jesus. How do we gain that faith? We do so by prayer and devotion to God, trusting God to direct our lives through his spirit.

As we enter this new year of 2018, we need to pray for God to intervene in our nation, pray for wisdom for the leaders of our country, our state, our counties and cities. Pray for our Grange leaders, national, state and local.

I would encourage each Grange Chaplain to open their meetings with prayer that God would bless our nation, state, and local leaders with His wisdom and grace, that we would listen to Him for direction in how we treat our fellow man and apply the golden rule in all our actions and that our Grange will be a blessing to all. As John Wesley said:

“Do all the good you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.”



### Are you familiar with Etsy.com?

Etsy is an online marketplace for individuals and businesses to come together and sell their items. This can be something made by an artisan, a curated collection of items, vintage goods, etc. In an effort to promote our members and what they offer, we have opened an Etsy “Team”. Our members can join the team and easily find other members who have items for sale. Want to get started? Great! Register for a free account on Etsy.com. Once you have your personal account set up, search for the NCGrangeMarketplace and request to join! You can also find the NCGrangeMarketplace Team through our website at ncgrange.com.

On a related note to the Etsy store, we will be offering classified space here in Grange News for you to list items for sale. If you are interested in listing something, please contact Jessica Horton at [jlhorton@ncgrange.com](mailto:jlhorton@ncgrange.com) for more details. You will need to provide a written short description and high quality photos.



As we look ahead to 2018, interest has been expressed to take a bus trip to Vermont this November for our National Grange Convention. Board Member, Vinnie Duncan, is taking names of those who may be interested in attending. Please contact her directly at [vinniek54@gmail.com](mailto:vinniek54@gmail.com) to let her know you are interested.

# BUSHY FORK GRANGE HOSTS DINNER



The Bushy Fork Grange held their annual Memorial Day dinner to recognize the contributions of military veterans from the community and to remember the fallen soldiers who did not have the opportunity to return home. The event was well received, with about 100 people in attendance.

The meal was provided by the Grange members and veterans were invited to bring a guest and a smile. Junior Grangers opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and a blessing of the meal. The Youth assisted in the evening by serving drinks to everyone, helping those who needed an extra hand, and bussing tables after the meal. Following dinner everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship.

SUBMITTED BY CHARLES HOWERTON



## TROUTMAN & FERGUSON STAY BUSY

SUBMITTED BY SHARON UNDERWOOD,  
MARGARET MARTINE & GAY SHAVER



Troutman Grange received the Proclamation of Troutman Grange Day on December 4, 2017 by the Town of Troutman. This was in honor of the 150th birthday of the Grange. Pictured are; Joyce Clodfelter, Leigh Payne, Kirsten Cash, Reagan Warlick, Gay Shaver and Jimmy Gentry.

### Ferguson Grange Helps Celebrate Veteran's Day



Ferguson Grange members participated in a Veteran's Day event at the Whippoorwill Academy and Village last November. Veterans receiving recognition included:

- Duane Frost (Navy), awarded for having served in the military the longest.
- Tom McCutcheon, given the Oldest Veteran Award, who served in WWII from 1946-1948.
- Matthew Lance Wade, given the Youngest Veteran Award.

Poetry referring to service in the military was read. The Smokehouse Gallery featured photographs of the veterans as well as artwork related to veterans. Flags for the various branches of military service were displayed. Boy Scout Troop 301 assisted the Ferguson Grange in handing out green light bulbs for guests to use on their front porches to show support of our troops.

Ferguson Grange provided coffee, hot chocolate and refreshments for the event as well as red, white and blue decorations.

### Ferguson Honors Postmaster

Ferguson Grange honored their beloved postmaster, Kathy Dillard, on December 2, 2017. A handmade bench was placed at the front of the post office to honor Kathy for her hard work and dedication to the people of their community.

The event included music, refreshments, and speeches honoring Kathy, expressing that she is a blessing to everyone. A celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the National Grange was also included.

The bench was made by Brian McCann, Pam McCarrick and Paul VanSweden, and was funded with prize money awarded from a 2017 State Grange Contest.





# The Youth Team...A Tradition of Leadership

BY: Jennie Gentry, NC Grange Youth Director

Leadership is a very important part of the Grange's youth program. Building leaders also means building confidence in our young people, and watching youth grow into these skills is extremely rewarding. One of our programs focusing on leadership is that of our State Youth Leadership Team. Each year, a new team is formed, comprised of six team members and two ambassadors. Team members are selected through an application and interview process, conducted by a committee of adults, most of whom have served on the team in their past. The new team is announced annually at our Winter Youth Conference.

Throughout the year, this team experiences an extensive leadership training. They put that training into action by promoting the Grange on their Caravan trip, and by leading activities at our annual Grange Camp. They attend all of our state events and engage in leading activities, emceeding events, creating videos, promoting our program, developing themes, and mentoring Juniors. They work extremely hard to make each year of the Grange a success for our youth. Although being in this role is demanding, it is also fun, rewarding and full of personal growth.

The Grange's Youth Program in North Carolina started in 1940 with the election of our first slate of youth officers. Osborne W. Scott was our first Grange Youth President, brother of NC Governor Bob Scott, and son of US Senator, NC Governor and past State Grange President William Kerr Scott. Eighteen years later, in 1958, the concept of the Youth Team started by Mrs. Hubert Jernigan, the Youth Director during the time. The team consisted of five youth: Carlyle Humphrey, Francis Ann Lewis, Carolyn Settle, Virgil Settle and Barbara Thompson. This group was chosen to participate in a new travel opportunity, Youth Caravan, a team trip developed to promote the Grange, visit and give presentations to Granges, and engage in leadership activities. Throughout the years, some of the activities have changed and some of the activities have changed, but today the team continues to have the same purpose. Even our own State Grange President Jimmy Gentry served four years on this prestigious team as a youth.

Anyone who has served on this team, who has experienced this special leadership training program, can attest to the fun they had, the skills they learned, the bonds they formed, and the confidence they gained. Having grown up in our youth program years ago, I can testify that being in the youth program and serving on the team as a teenager made a huge difference in my own life. I have often looked back at pictures of the teams I served on with fond memories. I also enjoy moments where I find pictures of my own parents who served on the team as youth. Now, as Youth Director, it is fun to share this leadership tradition with today's youth and watch as they discover their own potential and become great leaders.

While it is fun to reminisce about my time as a youth and the impact that serving on this team had on me, I believe that the experience of being on this team can best be described by one of today's team members, Katie Leonard. Katie is currently serving her second year on the team as one of our State Youth Ambassadors.

Katie states, "Being on the Youth Leadership Team has given me so much. It has given me countless opportunities to grow as a leader and as a Granger. I have made lifelong friendships with my teammates, and they have been there for me through everything. The team goes beyond Grange. You have support through every aspect of your life from people who are there to cheer you on and pick you up. I know that I made a life-changing decision by applying for the Youth Team. Getting to plan camp and activities for the NC Grange Youth and Juniors has given me the opportunity to give back to the organization that has given so much to me. Though my time on the Youth Team and my time in the Youth Program is coming to an end, I will never forget all the memories I made while on this team and while being involved in the Grange's Youth Program. It has changed my life for the better."

At February's Winter Youth Conference, we will select our 60th Youth Team. But first, we will honor our 2017 team members for the amazing work they have done this year. Marcus Avendano, Hannah Bright, Kirsten Cash, Margie Griffin, Amber Long, Zac Mazag, Katie Leonard, and Landon Woolard have been an incredible team that has brought laughter, creativity and new activities to our program. They represented the Grange at the NC FFA Convention, came up with one of our best camp themes we have had, and positively impacted our program in so many ways. The Grange is very proud of and thankful for their hard work this year.

It is very common to hear youth who are involved in the Grange to express the positive impact the organization has made on their lives. Whether a young person is on the team or not, all gain wonderful experiences and skills from our program. We are looking forward to the new year, to watching new leaders grow, and to seeing the wonderful ways our youth will be impacted.



1975 Youth Team with advisors in the back row: Bobbie McLaughlin, Jimmy Gentry & Anita Gentry



2017 Youth Team; front: Hannah Bright, Katie Leonard, Kirsten Cash, Margie Griffin, Amber Long, Back: Marcus Avendano, Landon Woolard, Zac Mazag

North Carolina legislators returned to Raleigh after the holidays on January 10th for the first special session of 2018. Several issues were on the agenda to be decided upon including addressing the unregulated chemical compound Gen-X, Speaker appointments, and Judicial and Congressional Redistricting.

Five new appointments by Speaker Tim Moore were announced during this special session as well as confirmation of Charlotte Michell and TanNola Brown-Bland to the Utilities Commission, and Franklin R. Allen to the Board of Agriculture.

Gen-X is a word that we have heard over and over during the last year. Gen-X (not to be confused with Generation-X) is a fairly new invention used in the manufacturing of Teflon. Because it is relatively new, there has been very little research on the affect it could have if it gets in our drinking water. Obviously this caused a tremendous concern for DEQ (Dept. of Environmental Quality) when Gen-X was found in the Cape Fear River, the water source for towns from Fayetteville to Wilmington. Other emerging contaminants similar to Gen-X have also been found in Jordan Lake which provides water for much of the Triangle area. HB 189-Short Term Response to Emerging Contaminants was introduced to the House Appropriations Committee during this special session. If passed, this bill will dedicate funding to the purchase of a high resolution spectrometer and a five-person staff dedicated to this issue in DEQ. The spectrometer will have the ability to identify these emerging contaminants. At this point, it is not known if the Senate will take up HB 189 during this special session. There also seems to be some controversy between the two chambers on this.

Sen. Brent Jackson (R-Sampson) was elected unanimously to serve as Secretary of SARL (State Agriculture and Rural Leaders). SARL is a group of international leaders from the United States and Canada that collectively meet to discuss and address the problems that are facing the agriculture industry and rural communities. Sen. Jackson is a successful melon grower in Audreyville and currently serves as

Appropriations Chair of the NC State Senate. Sen. Jackson was elected at the 2018 Summit held early in January in Kansas City, MO. In a press release, Sen. Jackson said, "Since first attending these SARL Summits, I immediately noticed how farmers and rural leaders from different areas run into the same problems that we do in North Carolina. It is great to discuss issues that we share and brainstorm to develop strategies to solve them". Congratulations Sen. Jackson! We are proud to have you representing the rural counties and farmers of the great state of North Carolina!

In reference to rural communities, Sen. David Curtis (R-Iredell) is chairing a new non-standing legislative committee. Access to Rural Health. The first meeting was held in early January. Many Grangers are from rural areas of North Carolina and the dire needs in regards to healthcare in many of our counties. The Grange has always had concerns and policy around healthcare. Some of the statistics presented in the committee meeting were quite staggering. Dr. Mark Homes from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health presented several facts. He stated that people in rural areas have poorer health on almost every measure. Rural areas have older, poorer and more isolated population; have a persistently higher mortality rate; have less healthcare infrastructure; and have few doctors and small hospitals. Half of rural hospitals lose money. Nationally, 120 rural hospitals have closed since 2005 for multi-factorial reasons such as declining population, economics, industry trends, technology, and policy changes with Medicaid, ACA and reimbursement regulations. In rural NC, five hospitals have closed since 2010.

The Judicial Redistricting as well as the Congressional Redistricting topic have been news for awhile in North Carolina. On Jan. 9th, Federal Judges ruled the Congressional maps unconstitutional and have set a date of Jan. 24th for the maps to be redrawn for the 3rd time to correct the issue of "partisan gerrymandering". Request for a stay by the legislature was denied by the three judge panel who issued the unconstitutional ruling. The legislature has appealed the

ruling to the US Supreme Court. In the case of the Judicial Redistricting, the House and Senate have not reached consensus between Rep. Justin Burr's (R-Stanly) redistricting plan and the Senate's proposal. The Legislature will more than likely not adjourn this special session for the remaining time left in January so that these redistricting maps can be redrawn to satisfy the court decisions.

### From the Hill

In Washington things are as unsettled and uncertain as ever. Decisions and media news are changing constantly. I think everyone breathed a sigh of relief that our Federal Government shutdown was short lived. The shutdown began at 12:01 AM on Sat., Jan. 20th but ended quickly on Monday evening, Jan. 22nd. The shutdown was primarily due to the disputes over two very complicated and controversial agenda items. For the Dems, DACA is a huge problem, and for the Repubs, they want money for building the wall. This may be an oversimplification, but both parties are holding the other hostage over these two very complicated and controversial agenda items. DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) was a program implemented while Obama was in office that allowed individuals who entered the country as minors and continued to remain here illegally, to receive a renewable two-year period of "deferred action" from being deported and to also be eligible for a work permit. As of 2017, there are approximately 800,000 individuals, referred to as "Dreamers" (after the DREAM Act Bill) enrolled in DACA. Trump rescinded this program last year. In early January, a bipartisan decision to handle DACA was decided on but then took a nasty turn during a closed door meeting in mid-January. President Trump did not approve of the plan that Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC) and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) had worked on together and had received bi-partisan support. This plan would decrease the number of immigrants entering the US legally each year by a small margin, and give President Trump budget resources to begin the construction of the wall. In exchange for this, the number of legal and unauthorized immigrants would



increase significantly for permanent status. Sens. Graham and Durbin are continuing to garner support from Congress for their proposal. Interestingly enough, our US Senator, Thom Tillis (R-NC) along with Sens. Orin Hatch (R-UT) and James Lankford (R-OK) have introduced their own plan in Congress referred to as the SUCCEED Act (Solution for Undocumented Children through Careers Employment Education and Defending our nation). As reported from Sen. Tillis' DC office, "The SUCCEED Act provides a fair but rigorous track for undocumented children to qualify for conditional permanent resident (CPR) status, requiring them to follow one or a combination of three specific pathways to earn and maintain their status once they become adults: being gainfully employed, pursuing postsecondary or vocational education, or serving in the U.S. military". This plan has received favorable reviews in Congress.

Though some things are uncertain in DC, we do know that we have a new tax reform package, passed in December, that will take affect in our paychecks in February 2018. Key elements include:

**Individual Tax Rates** have seven brackets with lower rates for most taxpayers (10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35%, 37%).

**Personal Standard Deduction** was doubled to \$12,000 for single and \$24,000 for married joint filers.

**"Pass-through" business income tax treatment for farms, self-employed workers and small businesses:** Deduction allowed for 20% of "pass-through" income, up from 15% deduction for most tax payers, which will likely lower farmers' effective tax rate.

**Estate or "Death" Taxes:** Exemption doubled from \$5.1 million to \$11.2 million for individuals and \$22.4 million for qualifying couples.

**Child Tax Credit** doubled to \$2,000 credit for each child.

Mortgage Interest Deduction threshold lowered from \$1,000,000 to \$750,000 for new mortgages.

**State and Local Tax Deduction** is capped at \$10,000.

**Corporate Tax Rate** was lowered to 21% from 35%.

**Cash Accounting** is preserved for agriculture and small business.

**Section 179 Expense:** deduction raised from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 indexed for inflation; allows a producer to expense rather than depreciate capital purchases of machinery, property (except structures) and software.

**Net Operating Losses (NOL)** allows two-year carryback for farms.

**Capital Gains** was unchanged (up to 23.8%).

Please stay tuned to Capitol News updates from the Grange, emailed regularly to our members. For more information on State and Federal issues, please contact Laurie Barnhart at [lbarnhart@ncgrange.com](mailto:lbarnhart@ncgrange.com).

## In Memoriam

Mr. Dean Craddock

Associate

Ms. Mary Sue Moore

Bushy Fork

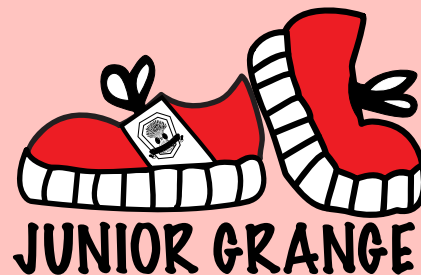
Mrs. Margaret Darnell

Little Mountain

Mt. Charles Sifford

Associate

*You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.  
Psalm 118:28 \* 50 Year Member*



It is the time of year to apply for the Junior Leadership Team.

- Are you currently in the 6th or 7th grade?
- Have you been to Grange Camp at least once?
- Do you want to be a leader?

If you answered YES to these, then you can apply for the Junior Leadership Team. The application can be found at [ncgrange.com](http://ncgrange.com) on the homepage. The deadline is April 28, so get your applications in!

In other Junior news, Family Conference is March 16-18. If you want to compete in the Talent Show, visit the Grange website to sign up. We will also hold our new Junior Public Speaking and Junior Sign-a-Song Contests, which is performing a song in sign language. These competitions will be held during the Talent Show at Family Conference. If you win one of these two contests at the conference, you will be able to compete at the Regional Conference in July.

There are a lot of new Junior activities added this year. You can find all of these activities, contests and programs in or new Junior Program Book, which will be available soon on our website under "Juniors." The National Grange has also started a new Pen Pal Program. If you are interested in signing up, please contact me.

Grange Camp dates have been set for July 8-14, so mark your calendars. I hope to see each of you at Family Conference and Grange Camp! I hope to see each and every one of you at both Family Conference and Grange Camp!

Emily Hartsell

State Junior Director

[junior@ncgrange.com](mailto:junior@ncgrange.com)



## SCHOLARSHIPS

NC Grange offers scholarships for its members. The college scholarship can be renewed for 4 years of undergraduate school and 2 years of graduate school. Applications for new and renewal scholarships are now available on our website.

We also offer a Primary Secondary Education Grant for elementary, middle and high school students who are Grange members.

All scholarship and grant applications are available at: [ncgrange.com/scholarship-program](http://ncgrange.com/scholarship-program).

## Life Goes On...

While reflecting on the subject of the “Gotcha Covered” article for this issue, the old saying “Life Goes On” kept coming to my mind. Pondering this statement, I marvel at its truthful description of life. Life does go on, regardless of our situation. Our everyday lives return to normal as we adjust to each of life’s events. Sometimes it is a radical change of direction or capacity, and at other times we are “parked by the side of the road,” and life as we know it leaves us behind.

With that in mind, I pose a personal question to each one of us: Am I prepared for life to go on? Keep in mind those preparations should include plans for changes in your life that not only include yourself but your other family members as well. Let me illustrate this point with an example from the farm life. With the recent extreme cold weather, the livestock on our farm required extra care. The Rolling Ridge Riding therapy horses required extra grain and blankets to assist them through the cold weather. The cattle also required extra hay to eat, and extra bedding material to keep the calves warmer. The barn required extra heat in addition to allowing the water to flow at a heavy trickle to keep the water lines flowing. We could have chosen to just stay inside the house where it was warm and not do that extra work, but that was a wrong response for the blessings that God has allowed us to enjoy. We are responsible for the welfare of those animals, regardless of the weather, our feelings, travel plans, or other obligations off the farm. We have to plan for their care in advance of their need, whether we care for them ourselves or arrange for someone else to fill our shoes. As a side note to the animal care, a large part of their care is dependent on how well we take care of ourselves so we have the physical ability to provide their care. If an accident or sickness sidelines us, we have to focus, not only on the healing process and the medical expenses, but on finding someone willing and able to assume the duties of animal care. I am sure that family, friends, and neighbors are glad to help in the short term, but they are only available for a very limited time because their lives go on as well. After that, we are going to need hired labor to assume those daily duties until we heal.

Our NC Grange Agents have an assortment of tools to assist you in handling life events so life can go on for you or your family. Here is a sample of the products they offer:

**Health Insurance:** While the open enrollment period has expired for 2018 coverage, many life events will qualify for a special enrollment period where coverage can be obtained for both the under and the over 65 market. If you have a life-changing situation, give one of our agents a call and they can assist you in determining if your situation qualifies you and your family for a special enrollment period.

**Disability Insurance:** This coverage is essential in assisting you and your family with a life event that sidelines you from your normal duties and responsibilities. Many individuals have some disability/sick pay benefits afforded to them by their employer, however that amount is typically well below the normal take-home income. If you have employer coverage, it is well advised to contact your local agent to seek supplemental disability coverage to bring you back to the normal income your family needs. Disability income is an affordable way to make sure your life stays on course.

**Long Term Care:** This coverage is something we do not want to think about – someone else taking care of us. But it happens, so how are you going to handle it? Many say a family member will take care of them. Others will say they will just pay for it. Long Term Care is monetarily expensive, and emotionally expensive on both the person receiving care and the ones giving the care. Long Term Care is not just “nursing home” care, but in-home care as well. Typically, Long Term Care Insurance enables the insured to remain at home longer because of the professional services provided in a home setting. One example I use frequently to show the need for in-home care come in the question of a child bathing a parent. While we are willing to do it, normally both the child and parent are more comfortable with an aid performing this service.

**Life Insurance:** Needless to say, if you exit the picture of life, there is a void. As your stage in life changes, so does your need for life insurance. It is a good idea to review your current coverage at least every five years because your needs do change. These changes are easy to put on the back burner to take care of on another day. Be cautious with this approach, as you or your family may need the protection offered only to find that you are no longer insurable, or at an affordable rate.

As you can see, our NC State Grange agents have a wide array of tools to assist you and your family with your insurance needs. Give your local agent a call. They are delighted to review your current plan(s) as well as offer suggestions to improve your insurance portfolio if it needs an update.

## 2018 PROGRAM GUIDE

The 2018 Program Guide is now available at [ncgrange.com/events](http://ncgrange.com/events).

Because of the nature of this document, we are now calling it, The Contest Guide. Please note, there are MANY changes to this year’s contests. The Board of Directors made the decision to eliminate and change certain contests due to previous participation.





# Cape Fear Grange in Fayetteville, NC continues their hard work on Carvers Creek State Park.

By: Ken Plummer

During 2016, the Cape Fear Grange made the decision to support Carvers Creek State Park in Spring Lake, NC due to their focus on providing historical information and education on the importance of agriculture in our community. The Long Valley Farm portion of the park is comprised of 1,430 acres, and was donated to the state by The Nature Conservancy of North Carolina who had received the land and its buildings from the estate of James Stillman Rockefeller. In the 1700's the land was part of a large plantation known as, "Ardnave," and was a working farm from 1912 to 2004.

In April 2017, our Grange began supporting the park through the refurbishment of a pump house that was in desperate need of repair. While completing

this project, we noticed that the Grand Barn, which is the largest building in the farm section of the property, was also in need of substantial repair. A section of the tin roof was missing, and this had caused water damage to several structural beams in the barn. Jane Conolly, Park Superintendent, explained that she had requested funding for repair of the barn for several years, but the project had never been funded. Since the damage to the lake and dam on the property during Hurricane Matthew would require substantial funding to repair, the Grand Barn had become a less urgent priority for the park. We believed that the members of our Grange had the skills required to repair the barn and prevent further deterioration to this important structure.

The barn repair required several planning visits so that we could understand the scope of the project and work with the park staff to ensure the proper materials were available. As a building in a state park, we would be required to renovate the building in a historically accurate manner. This would include utilizing pine lumber and tin roof repurposed from demolished buildings on site. The park staff assisted the project by clearing the work area, preparing the required structural beams and lumber, and assembling the scaffolding that would be required during the repair.

We began the project by assembling and installing several temporary supports that would be used to support the structure while we removed and replaced important structural beams. This included the use of jacks to place the structural supports in place, and support the building load while the repairs were completed. We then proceeded to remove and replace the structural beams, along with the studs and roof supports that were damaged from the loss of the roof section. After completing the repairs to the structure, we were able to re-install the missing section of the roof.

Superintendent Conolly is very thankful for our work and said, "Managing a state park is a lot like running a farm. The list of work to be done is endless and must be prioritized. The work on the old pump house and the Great Barn completed by the Cape Fear Grange was a great success, and I am very thankful for their efforts." The members of the Cape Fear Grange enjoyed working as a team to complete the repair, and found it very gratifying to see the impact our efforts had on the historic building. We hope that maintaining the integrity of park structures helps visitors understand the use and importance of the buildings needed to efficiently operate the farm. We look forward to the opportunity to return and replace some of the siding that has been damaged as well.



Members of the Cape Fear Grange happy the repair is complete. From left: Ken Plummer, Alan Haywood, Mike Packer, Phil Black, David Fowler, and Wayne Stack. Not shown: Matthew Dansbury, Julia Stack, and Steve Runkle), Top: Grand Barn before repair, Bottom: A jack is used to install the temporary support structure so that structural beams can be replaced.



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