



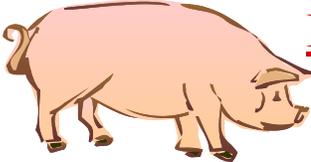
MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XX NO. 4

USPS 345-580

JULY-AUGUST, 2014



LAST CHANCE TO GET TICKETS!!!!



MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE BEEF/PORK FREEZER MEAT RAFFLE

FIRST PLACE: HALF COW (BEEF)
SECOND PLACE: WHOLE HOG (PORK)

TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00

DRAWING: JULY 4TH, 2014
HOME GRANGE #129, MARSHALL, MI 1:00 P.M.
Need not be present to win

IF 2000 TICKETS ARE NOT SOLD, RAFFLE
REVERTS TO A 50/50 DRAWING

CONTACT MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE FOR TICKETS 989-288-4546 or
msgrange1873@yahoo.com License # R26189
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE

2014 Michigan State Grange Annual Session

October 15-18, 2014

Lawton Center

www.lawtoncommunitycenter.com

646 N. Nursery St., Lawton MI 49065

Session will move for Saturday October 18th to the

St. Paul United Methodist Church

63855 Michigan 40, Lawton, MI 49065

Rooms have been blocked at:

Travelodge, 111 Ampey Road, Paw Paw

Rooms are \$55.00 per night + tax

269-657-1111 Be sure to tell them you are with the Michigan State Grange

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www.michiganstategrange.org



Michigan Grange News

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- July 4 Independence Day!**
- July 18-20 Youth/Junior Camp
North Star Township
Hall, North Star, MI**
- August 4 Michigan State Grange
Executive Comm. Mtg.**
- August 15 Michigan Grange News
Articles Due**



Whole page	\$150.00
1/2 page	\$90.00
1/4 page / business card	\$50.00
\$40.00	

The above rates include advertising

Prices effective June, 1997. Payable in advance, check should be made to Michigan State Grange. Please include camera-ready copy. Copy to be received no later than the 15th of the month preceding date of insertion. Advertisements for alcohol or tobacco will not be accepted. Michigan State Grange reserves the right to refuse copy. Discounts available on multiple insertions.

10 issues per year June/July & Oct./Nov. are combined.
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Tel: 989-288-4546
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Chaplain

Summers Wonders

Kathryn Strouse, Chaplain P.O. Box 84, North Star, MI 48862
Tel: 989-875-2894 E-mail: katjoy98@yahoo.com

It is now June and the weather has taken a turn towards summer. Too much too fast. It does not seem possible that we have lost another Grange. I keep praying for the families of these members as I know how hard it is to lose a family member. However God is with them and all us during this time. We must not forget that. **God is our harbor and our strength, a very present help in trouble. He will never leave us.**

There have been times this past week that I have been wondering where God really was. Then I step out in my yard in the early morning and watch a beautiful sunrise and hear the birds singing their morning song. Or I will set in a neighbor's yard in the evening and listen to children playing, bees humming and a gentle wind and I know right where God is. He has never left me even when he is making his world more beautiful than the day before. He is painting the sky for me so that I can see his mighty works. He is letting me know that God is in those children that are running around yelling. He is even in that darn bug that keeps trying to bite me or flying around my head. God is still there for me in my time of hurt, worry, sadness, joy and praise.

This past Sunday at Bible study we talked about praises that we had. I remember the frustration of losing a father not knowing that God had something down the road for my family. He brought someone to love my mother, myself and my brother and sister. I remembered the evening that my mom and dad were married, 41 years ago, and how I cried because he was replacing my father. However the next day God gave me a wonderful sunrise and an even more beautiful sunset telling me that all was going to be alright. I now can say that I have 2 fathers in heaven, my earthly father and my heavenly father, and a wonderful man who is now my father here on earth. Believe me; he has not had an easy time raising me.

I pray that as you read this a peace will settle over your heart and that you will know that God is with you at all times. May you enjoy the sunrises, sunsets, flowers, bugs and birds that God sends your way. Peace.

IN MEMORY OF

SISTER DORIS ELY

Sept. 26, 1920-May 26, 2014



Sister Doris Ely, wife of Past Exec. Committee Member John Ely, of Waldron passed away on May 26th. Doris was 93 years old.

Doris belonged to Lime Creek Grange, Lenawee County Pomona, Michigan State and National Granges. She also belonged to the Farm Bureau, MMPH, and Borderline Square Dance club. She was a member of the Fayette United Methodist Church, where she had taught Sunday School for 28 years. She enjoyed crocheting and flowers, and deeply loved her family.

Doris is survived by her two sons, Ronald (Cretta) Ely of Waldron, and Keith (Kathy) Ely of Knoxville, TN, a sister Jane (Darrell) Knisely of Fayette; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild and many, many Grange friends across the state.

She was preceded in death by her husband John in November, 2006, four sisters, two brothers, and a great-granddaughter.

A funeral service for Doris was held on Friday, May 30, 2014 at the Eagle Funeral Home—Barrett Chapel in Fayette. Burial followed in the Pleasant View Union Cemetery in Fayette.

Cards of sympathy can be mailed to Ron and Cretta at 16903 W. Mulberry Road, Waldron, MI 49288. Memorial donations were directed to the Fayette United Methodist Church in Doris's memory or a charity of the donor's choice.

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Christopher D. Johnston, Master 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6648 (C) E-mail msgprez19@yahoo.com

Summer

Welcome to summer, after the winter we have recently experienced I was beginning to wonder if we would ever see the light of summer. Now we have experienced days that I believe are too darn hot!

With the amount of rain and snowmelt we have had this Spring some farmers were questioning if they would be able to get into their fields and get the crops in. Now as we drive down the country roads and look at the food of the future growing in the fields we realize that farmers have started their job of feeding the population once again. We are ever so thankful that farmers take the time and have the passion of planting crops, harvesting crops and selling them, just to fix all their equipment during the winter and prepare to do it again the following Spring. After all with out the studious labors of their passion most people would end up not being able to eat.

THANK YOU to all our Farmers.

Resolutions

As we respect the rights of farmers to do their job, we MUST also do our part to protect their rights to do their jobs. The way we do this is through our legislative activities. When you see something happening that you don't believe is right all you have to do is write a resolution. When it passes at your Subordinate Grange it will be sent to the State Grange Convention for further action. Being a state issue the State Grange Legislative Director will work with legislators to correct the problem. That works the same if it is a Federal issue; your resolution will go on to National and will then go onto the National Grange Legislative Directors desk to be worked on with the Federal Legislators to correct the problem there. When writing a resolution it does not have to be about agriculture. Our resolutions can be ranging from things that need to be changed within our order to educational matters to health matters and onto anywhere in between.

Resolutions that are passed at the State Grange level become a part of our legislative policy for the ensuing year. This book is a listing of the issues we are looking to address throughout the next year. Over the last few years we have been running short on resolutions, I cannot

believe there are no issues that we need to address and that everything going on in society today is just hunkey dorey. All through life there is always room for improvement. Resolutions are due to the Michigan State Grange Secretary, 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429 by October 1st.

In Conclusion

I hope that everybody has a safe and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to seeing you all at the convention in October at the Lawton Community Center, Lawton, Michigan.

Until the next time.....



YOUTH/YOUNG Camp

Jeff & Nancy Swainston, 2589 144th Ave., Dorr, MI 49323
Tel: 616-813-8746 E-mail jeff@jnsphoto.biz

Youth Camp

It's almost camp time once again for all the Youth/Young Adults and Juniors. It will be held July 18-20 at North Star Township Hall near Ithaca. If you are interested in going for all or any part of the weekend, please contact me at jeff@jnsphoto.biz or Connie Johnston at ccream27@yahoo.com for more information. We would like to get an approximate count before hand so please let us know as soon as you know your schedule. And remember, friends are welcome so grab a friend and come to camp.

See you there!!!!

Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315
 Tel: 616-877-0169 E-mail: plswainston@hotmail.com

2014 MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF GRADUATION

On Thursday, June 5, 2014, Peggy Johnston, Sharon Popler, Phil and I attended the Michigan School for the Deaf Graduation where I presented the Valedictorian, Margaret (Meg) Peters with the \$500.00 scholarship from the Michigan State Grange Deaf Awareness Fund.



Meg's comment in their yearbook was "Time really flew by fast. I can't believe that I'm a senior. I'm ready to graduate but not ready to leave Michigan School for the Deaf. Michigan School for the deaf is my second home. If I ever need a place to come back to, that's Michigan School for the Deaf."

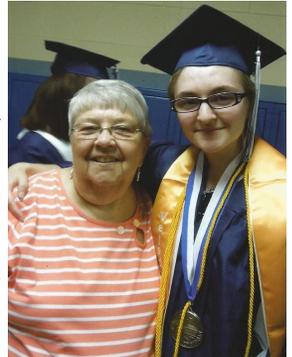
Meg came to the school in 7th Grade, so she has been there for 5 years. Some of Meg's activities while at the school were President of the Senior Class, played as a Lady Tartan on the Girls Varsity Basketball team, was on the Varsity Track team, participated in Field Day, attended Prom and many other activities.

Meg took 2 years at GASC (Genesee Area Skill Center) in Forensic Science. She states "I am really interested in this course because I love to solve problems by using my critical thinking. I also love to help people; it is a great experience for my life."

Meg's future plans are to go to NTID (National Technical Institute for the Deaf) in Rochester, NY for Forensic Science.

The day of Graduation, Meg received the \$500.00 scholarship from the Michigan State Grange, a \$250.00 award from the Michigan School for the Deaf Alumni Association, \$200.00 from the Dr. Brian McCartney award, the Genesee Area Skills Center certificate and the Earl Jones award for Valedictorian and received a gold medal.

We wish her well!



The Salutatorian was Kaitlin Wears. Kaitlin was one of our student's in the Adopt-a-Child program at Christmas time.

Kaitlin attended Michigan School for the Deaf for 8 years. She was involved in many activities at the school. She was Senior Class Secretary and Senior Editor of the yearbook to name just two.

Her future plans are to go to Mott Community College for two years to take all her basics, then transfer to Gallaudet University to become a teacher.

At Graduation, Kaitlin received many scholarships and awards also.

We wish Meg and Kaitlin much success in their future goals.

*****Deaf Awareness Appeal Letters*****

By now all your Granges should have received the Deaf Awareness Fund Appeal Letter. Please consider contributing to this fund. Thanks to the Granges that have already contributed to the fund. The \$500.00 scholarship to a graduating senior at the Michigan School for the Deaf who plans to pursue further education is one of the "projects" we have been involved in for many years. The contributions allow us to do more. Hopefully, we can help the Alexander Graham Bell's Annual Camp Program which we have done before.

With your help we will be able to provide these programs and maybe more. Individual contributions are also accepted and appreciated. Thanks for your consideration!

Hi Everyone,

July, already! Where has the Grange year gone to? In a little over two months (Sept. 10) to be exact, yearly reports will be do. The national quilting contest items are also due that day. Judging will be on Sept. 11th., mail your items to me as soon as you want to, I've already received one quilt block. Remember to use the basket design sent from national, using spring and pastel colors. The block is 12 1/2 inches by 12 1/2 inches unfinished. For more information contact your FA Chairman, they have the pattern and rules.

Earlier this year I mentioned to our Worthy Master that I had decided to step down at the end of this Grange year. After a few weeks went by I told him I'd stay on for another two years. I feel I have let all of you down this year, I don't want to leave this position on a sour note, so must do better going forward. No workshop, only one bulletin so far, even my trips to Granges are down. I have visited two Granges since the last newsletter. Attended Appreciation Night at Mosherville, surprised Doris Buehrer by presenting her with an angel certificate and pin. She has made 50 + toys for 20 years. WELL DONE, DORIS. Recently I visited Fredonia Grange, wanted to ask them if I could sell raffle tickets again at their county fair. Was given a date and place to set up.

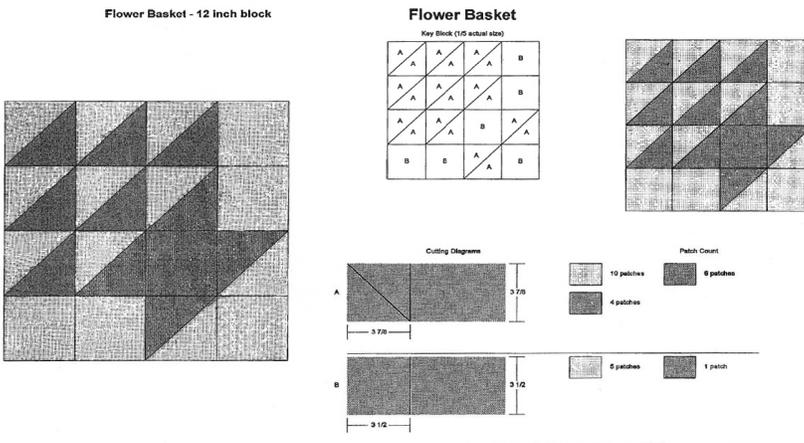


Speaking of county fairs I'm waiting to be invited to yours. No fair, how about a dinner, bingo, jamboree, whatever you have going on over the next three months. The Christmas Star quilt raffle will run from July 1 to Oct. 5. The drawing will be at Burns Grange at our first fall chicken dinner. Let's see if we can do as well as last years raffle, it will take help from all of us to accomplish that. Remember this money goes to Region 4 for this year's convention expenses. Not your region, remember there are two more quilt raffles coming up. A colored picture (flyer) and tickets will be sent to Granges as soon as possi-

ble, the quilt has been given to the quilter.

I hope all of you have a safe, fun, and healthy summer.
Judy

Don't forget to make your quilt block for this years contest.
*****Due to Judy no later than September 10th!!!!*****



Michigan State Grange Executive Committee
Grange Items Available

In keeping with our fiduciary responsibilities, the Executive Committee must scale back to a smaller storage unit. At present, there are a number of items in storage that would be better off someplace where they could be truly wanted and enjoyed. One of these potential places is at local historical museums, where Grange history and impact could be preserved. Some items have already been given to Michigan State University Museum and Archives, as well as the State of Michigan Museum, and Bentley Library, associated with University of Michigan.

We are asking you to go to your local museums and ask them if they would like any of the artifacts listed below. Then, contact Jackie Bishop by e-mail at Jacqueline_bishop@hotmail.com or by phone message at 269-365-0401. We will make arrangements to get these items to you so that you may personally present them to your local history museums.

Items available:

Songbooks – several different ones, some quite old

Grange Seals – there might be one from your county, which could be determined

Regalia – not likely to be whole set, because some not in good condition

Possibly also MSG Proceedings and other miscellaneous items

OOPS! ! OOPS!! OOPS!! I’m very sorry about this error, but the “Talent Show is “ON.” Both Peggy and I thought it was listed in the Program Book, but it isn’t. The Talent Show will still be on Wednesday night. Sign up will be during registration of entries with the Lecturer. Again I’m sorry about the mix-up.



WHY ARE THERE COINS ON HEADSTONES IN THE CEMETERY?

Burns Grange for the last 4-5 years have been putting Flags on the graves of our Veterans in a local cemetery, which is next to where Judy Bowers lives. This year when I was putting out a flag on one stone, I noticed a penny, dime and a quarter. I hadn’t seen this before. I started telling Peggy Johnston what I had seen and she said she had seen it on the computer and each coin had a meaning. So when we finished I went home and got on the computer and found this article. So here is the information that I found.

MEANING

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier’s family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect. Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited. A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him/her in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed. According to tradition, the money left at graves in National cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.



HISTORY

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced to as far back as the Roman empire. The custom has its roots in the ancient Greco-Roman belief that anyone who died would need money to pay Charon, the ferryman who would transport them across the River Styx to the underworld.

VIETNAM

In the U.S., this practice became common during the Vietnam war, due to the political divide in the country over the war; leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier’s family, which could devolve into a uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war. Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a “down payment” to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

THE BLACK DONNELLYS

There is an alternate interpretation of why coins are left on headstones, although it relates specifically to The notorious-Canadian Donnelly family, who were known as the Black Donnelly’s due to their involvement in the brutal massacre of a rival family. Coins are often left on the headstone at the Donnelly family grave. According to the Official Donnelly Home Page, this is due to a legend that the Donnelly’s will grant the wish of anyone who leaves a coin on the tombstone. The site also posits an alternative view, based on a superstition that anyone who owes money to someone who died will be haunted by that person’s ghost. The only way to stop the haunting is to place the money on the deceased’s tombstone before midnight.



Pray for the safety of our Service Men and Women

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640
 Tel: 989-631-0079 E-mail: tennisbums@charter.net
 Helen Mudd 1757 Stewart Road, Midland, MI 48640
 Tel: 989-631-3708

Welcome to summer! Believe it or not another Grange year is almost over. Hopefully you have found 1 or 2 projects to use for the community service program. They do not have to be huge projects. Anything that helps your community counts. We just want the Grange name to get out in your community so people know you exist. You will be surprised at how many people and organizations will recognize your Grange after a while!

I want to emphasize how important it is for every Grange to send in a community service report. Even completing only the form that is mailed to you helps. The National Grange wants 25% of the Subordinate Granges in Michigan to submit a report, so each and every one of you counts in my report to them!

Just a reminder that the due date for your community service book or form is Wednesday, September 10. You can include projects from August 31, 2013 thru August 31, 2014. Please send your report to Tricia at the above address. If you have any questions or need special delivery arrangements, please contact Tricia at the above phone number or email.

Wishing you a wonderful & safe summer!
Tricia & Helen

A Time to Grow!!!!

Today is the morning for startin'.
 today when the dawnin' turns bright.
 Today when the legions of sunshine,
 Banish the captains of night.
 And though we can't see the ending,
 Or how the harvest will lay
 The yield of a thousand tomorrows,
 Starts with our plantin' today.

Today is a fine day for plantin'.
 When the soil and the weather is good.
 The lands are paced off and ready,
 And the weight of our seed understood.
 There's a thrill to be had in the plantin',
 And whether it's knowledge or seed,
 The Good Lord will handle the increase,
 'In fair bounty or wisdom or deed.

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

Mosherville Grange #1351 holds Appreciation Dinner, Program and Awards



Grange member, Linda Harbaugh presenting Myrna Rowe with Community Citizen Award

Judy Bowers, MSG Family Activities Director presenting Doris Buehrer with Toy Angel Award



Chris Johnston, Master of the Michigan State Grange emceed the program for the Mosherville Appreciation Program. Sen. Bruce Caswell, who is also a member of Mosherville Grange spoke to the group telling that he has enjoyed his time in the Senate but he is not seeking reelection this fall. Harmonica Duo, Dave Burns and Ed Binion entertained the group with several songs done on various harmonicas. A wonderful meal was prepared and enjoyed by all including homemade ice cream!

Then, after plantin' comes growin',
 Like the blade to the ear to the corn.
 Like the death of a beautiful flower,
 For the sake of the fruit to be born.
 For the Lord doesn't work without changes,
 And some I don't understand,
 But today is a grand time for growin'.
 And the feeling of growin' is grand.

*Author — Guy Allwardt, past member
 Home Grange #129, Calhoun County*

It was suggested by Athol Hazen, Jr., Fredonia Grange to have this included in the Michigan Grange News.

Summer Camp!!

Mid-Michigan is the place to be July 18-20th for all Juniors (and Youth)!! Gratiot Grange #1898 will be hosting the Junior and Youth/Young Adult Summer Camp this year at the North Star Township Hall. I'm working out the plans now, but aiming for a trip to Uncle John's Cider Mill, having Department Directors come to do workshops and having a lot of fun and games. We will have another movie night and there is a nice park where we will be hitting the beach for some swimming. A lot of fun packed in a weekend! Remember to bring your friends! They don't have to be Grange members to attend.

The North Star Township Hall address is: 2840 E. Buchanan Rd., Ithaca.

Other items to bring: sleeping bag, pillow, clothes, swim suit, towel, toiletries, sun screen, bug spray.

Summer Fun and Safety

The weather is finally nice, so it is time for fun and sun! But don't forget safety! Always use the sun screen and be sure to drink plenty of fluids. Fun doesn't involve trips to the doctor! Keep hydrated. Also, this seems to be the year of the mosquitoes! Keep the bug spray handy as well!

Invite your Juniors for a day of wet outdoor fun! Have them come dressed to get wet! Set up a number of fun stations, such as water balloon toss, water relays, set up a "Kid Wash" out of pvc pipes. Lots of ideas on Pinterest!

Also check out Pinterest if you are in need of ideas rainy day indoor fun!!

WELCOME TO THE GRANGE

- David and Tanya Nason Torch Lake Grange #1840
- Charles McCann Fredonia Grange #1713
- Eugenie Rogstad Fredonia Grange #1713
- Terry Montgomery Fredonia Grange #1713
- William Preston Community Grange #1675
- Neil & Kathy Wilgenhof Summit City Grange #672
- Richard Wooters Summit City Grange #672

CONGRATULATIONS!

"A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

"There is no friend as loyal as a book."
Ernest Hemingway

"Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all."
Nelson Mandella

In Memory Of...



Doris Ely
Lime Creek Grange #712

Marge Wagner
Summit City Grange #672

Rita Orłowski
Barnard Grange #689

Gary Hallock
Burns Grange #160

Mary Carson
Burns Grange #160

Well Done Good and Faithful Servants

Roland Winter 15150 A Drive North Marshall, MI 49068
 Tel: 269-781-2500 E-mail rbwin129@comcast.net

As we try to discuss each issue of the Michigan Grange News, the Michigan State Grange Foundation is dedicated to improvement in the world around us, but most specifically to the improvement of Grangers throughout our state. Grange has always stood for our core principles of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity, but it is, above all else, a fraternity. In that spirit, we often look for ways to not only improve our communities, but also to support the broader Grange community of which we are a part. The Foundation is a perfect resource to do so, as our mission is geared toward the growth of our members. Each of us, and our subordinate Granges, can contribute to that goal. We have many regular donors, for whom we are infinitely grateful, that contribute to the Foundation. Some donate in memory of someone that has passed, while others give to specific programs and departments that receive support from the Foundation. We actually see quite a bit of variety in the motivations and approaches associated with donation contributions. Whether wanting to memorialize a loved one or valued member, or working to support the programs that serve all Grangers, the one consistent theme we see is a sense of charity. This principle is central to all that we do as Grange members, and it is particularly evident in the contributions made to the Foundation.

Some of you might wonder what happens to such donations. There are actually a number of ways that we might handle that money, when it comes in, but each is oriented to meet the express desires of the individual donor. General donations, for which no program or fund is particularly designated, are split, such that half the amount is designated for our Endowment Fund and the other half goes into our unallocated funds, used to support the mission of the Foundation. The Endowment is used as an engine for growth, invested in its totality, and held as an untouchable principle from which we can grow the value of the Foundation, through our investments. This builds additional interest income for our educational programs, including the Student Loan Program. We will often also see donations made to specific programs or funds, allowing for designation of the total donation amount toward efforts like those in the Deaf Awareness program, the Lecturer's department, or the Loan Program. We are fully dedicated to respecting the wishes and

desires of our donors in these regards, so long as the donation is intended for uses within the legal incorporation of the Foundation. This means that donations must be made toward charitable activities in support of education or healthcare. We've found these to be broad categories, well aligned with the interests and desires of much of our membership, however.

If you would like to contribute to the growth of the Michigan State Grange Foundation, and support its goal of the increased development of the members within our state, you can do so by using the Donation Form that appears on the Foundation page of the Michigan State Grange website. These donations are tax-deductible and represent a great way to build growth within our organization and in the communities in which we live and work.

Eric Bishop, Vice Chairman

PHILOSOPHY ON ADVANCING AGE

When people's cars get old and worn,
 And they being to toddle.
 They go somewhere and trade them in
 And get the latest model.

Now I have very often thought
 Since time has left me feeble,
 How nice 'twould be to find a firm
 That deals in worn out people.

How nice 'twould be, when feet give out
 Or we have damaged livers
 If we could go and buy new parts
 Just as we do for flivers.

And when my frame is bent with age
 And gets to looking shoddy
 How nice 'twould be to trade it in
 And get a brand new body.



Kevin Young, Director 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120
Tel: 269-684-3870 E-mail: Kevin60822@sbcglobal.net

Jeff Swainston, Director 2589 144th Ave., Dorr, MI 49323
Tel: 616-813-8746 jeff@jnsphoto.biz

Knee high by the 4th of July! Yes it is!! Well at least around my area there is field corn that is that high, actually knee high before the 4th of July. For those farmers that were lucky to get their crops in at the right time, with the recent rains and heat we are having during the middle of June, their crops are right on schedule. Strawberries are at their peak right now and will soon be over. Then we have to wait a little while for blueberries, cherries, and other summer fruits that were hurt by the very cold and brutal winter that we had only a few short months ago. In my area they are saying peaches will be hard to find because the very cold winter damaged the trees. That is not a good thing so IF there are any local peaches out there...be ready to pay a big price for them.

Anyone out there that has planted a garden is probably seeing the same progress that I am with our garden. We (my parents, roommate and I) planted zucchini and butternut squash, 3 types of regular tomatoes, 3 different colors of bell peppers, sweet banana peppers and sweet potatoes. We just received some nice Italian variety tomatoes from a neighbor today so we have to find a place to put 12 more plants! These were started from seed from Italy and if I remember right, their meat contains very little seeds. If everything produces well, we for sure will be sharing produce at harvest time.

I hope everyone is planning to attend the State Grange Session that is being held in Lawton, Michigan. I am a member of the hosting region for this year's session and we are very excited with our main location. We are hoping to have some excitement when we all join together to Celebrate the Grange and its members. It is my hope, along with the rest of our host region that we have a really nice turnout for this session. It would be great that each Grange in Michigan send at least one delegate to attend. This is the time of year when we are working the budget for the coming year for the MSG and also set policy for what the Michigan State Grange believes in.

Look for more about the State Session and hotel and meal details to follow soon if not in this issue for sure the Sept/Oct issue or on the MSG website.

Michiganstategrange.org

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have officially published their proposed regulation to redefine and expand the scope of "navigable waters" under the Clean Water Act. This proposal changes the term "navigable waters" to essentially mean all "Waters of the United States". The general public has been given an extension on the initial 90-day comment period and may now make comments until October 20, 2014 to provide the agencies feedback, questions and concerns about the proposal.

The effect of the joint agencies' proposal is to expand jurisdiction and assert new regulatory authority over non-navigable waters, seasonal flows, wetlands, seeps, intermittent streams and wetlands, isolated ponds, isolated marshes, pot holes, playa lakes, flood plains, and additional "waters" with no direct connection to navigable waterways. These waters previous have not been regulated under the Clean Water Act. Farmers, land developers and governors worried about drought management are accusing the federal government of a new round of regulatory overreach. Intense debate has developed around land use, economic impact, state' rights and the abuse of presidential power.

EPA's draft scientific assessment that is used as a basis to justify the proposed rule, is still being reviewed by the agency. This assessment draft is not public and will not be finalized until the end of 2014 or early 2015. EPA says the regulation will not be finalized until after the peer reviewed scientific assessment is fully complete and it will take into account the public's comments. As a result, a number of lawmakers on Capitol Hill are calling on the Administration to withdraw the proposed rule to allow the public to digest the pending scientific assessment after it is released. Farm groups, commodity organizations and landowners are asking EPA to give the public at least six months to review the rule's impacts rather than the three months provided.

Further complicating agriculture's concern with EPA's proposal is an accompanying "interpretative rule" which claims to clarify exemptions for "normal farming and ranching" practices under the proposed regulation. After deeper analysis of the interpretative rule, agriculture is even more concerned with what may or may not be subject to the proposed regulation. Many of the list of 56 exempted practices are extremely common (fencing, grazing, brush management for example) and have never been considered outside the statutory exemption. The fear is that once defined in statute, these practices could become regulated under the Clean Water Act in the future. To qualify for future exemptions, practices must comply with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards; farmers who employ good practices without the need for NRCS compliance may not benefit from future exemptions. The proposal narrows the definition of normal farming operation to mean ongoing farming activity since the 1970's; newer farms, those that have ceased operation for a while then resumed, and farms that switched from one crop to another may find themselves disqualified for future exemptions.

Grange Position

"The Grange recognizes the importance of and protection of all watersheds...The National Grange opposes any mandate that

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ELECTION OF MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE OFFICERS

In accordance with the delegate action the following information is presented for the benefit of the Granges in Michigan.

Master	Chris Johnston
Overseer	Jeff Swainston
Lecturer	Sharon Popler
Steward	Ted Mudd
A'sst Steward	Ron Ely
L. A'sst Steward	Cretta Ely
(Ron and Cretta are not seeking re-election)	
Chaplain	Kathryn Strouse
Treasurer	Kevin Young
Secretary	Peggy Johnston
Gatekeeper	Walter Murphy
Ceres	Nancy Swainston
Pomona	Karen Strouse
Flora	Tricia Eidsmoe
Exec. Comm Member	Dale Moore

All nominations will take place at the State Grange Convention in October.

It is very important that every Subordinate and Pomona Grange has delegates to the convention and that the Granges instruct their delegates as to how they wish them to vote.

Grange Idol All-Stars Talent Show is Back!!!!!!

This program is on Wednesday night at the State Grange Convention at Lawton, MI.

RULES:

- ♦ Any type of talent within reason. Keep it clean!! Singing, instrument playing, skits, stories, comedy, etc. **Six minutes time limit for act.**
- ♦ Taped accompaniment can be used. Notify State Lecturer prior to the State session about any equipment needs.
- ♦ One entry per person or group. Groups may have non-members but must have at least one Grange member.

Deadline for pre-registration by 4 p.m. on Wednesday of the beginning of the State Session.

AWARDS:

Best Over-All, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded. Best Over-all will have the opportunity to attend the National Grange Convention (in Sandusky, Ohio) and perform at the "Evening of Excellence" show.

This contest was taken out of the program for last year and there were requests to have it back, so I expect to see many entries!

Waters on the US cont'd from page 10

suggests all watersheds are to meet the same water quality standards." (National Grange Conservation Committee Policy Statement, Legislative Policy and Priorities Booklet, 2013 Edition)

Action Alert:

Farmers, ranchers and landowners have the opportunity to infuse some common sense into the government's proposed redefinition and expansion of the definition of "navigable waters" to include all "waters of the United States." Be sure to file your comments **before October 20** and encourage your friends, neighbors, and fellow landowners to submit comments as well.

Make these points (as applicable) in your comments:

- ♦ Briefly describe your operation (where you are located, what you produce, stewardship practices, family history on the land, ext.).
- ♦ Private landowners are responsible managers of the water, land, air, animals, wildlife and other natural resources under the stewardship.
- ♦ Overregulation by the federal government to dictate land use practices stifles individual creativity, productivity, incentive and sense of stewardship.
- ♦ Significantly expanding the definition of "Waters of the United States" to include ditches, remove waters, seeps, and drainages that flow only when it rains could bring your land under EPA regulation.
- ♦ The term "water" as defined in the proposed regulation does not solely refer to water contained in aquatic systems, but also refers to whole watersheds that drain into the nearest "water" as defined by the new regulation.
- ♦ EPA's so-called exemptions will not protect producers and landowners from regulation under the proposed rule.
- ♦ Economic growth and activity in rural communities will be adversely affected.
- ♦ The interpretative rule narrows normal farming exemptions and ties practices to mandatory technical compliance with what used to be voluntary Natural Resources conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards.
- ♦ The EPA and Corps of Engineers have not adequately demonstrated the need to regulate all waters on all agricultural lands.
- ♦ The proposed regulation is an end run around congressional intent and rulings by the Supreme Court.
- ♦ Ask EPA to withdraw the proposed regulation in order to give the general public time to review EPA's own scientific assessment set to be released after the public comment period closes. EPA should also review farmer, rancher and landowner comments before issuing any further water proposals.

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

Grange #754 — Popcorn Booth at Grand Rapids Festival of Arts

It was a beautiful weekend (June 6-8, 2014) at the Festival of Arts in Grand Rapids.

It was the 8th year that we have manned a booth at the festival. We have the aroma of freshly popped popcorn, along with Caramel Corn and Cheddar Gold Cord. Beverages include Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, water and Powerade.

It is a lot of work but pitching in and sharing the work makes it easier. We have 13 adults and 2 Junior members plus 4 other Grangers from other Granges and 1 non-Granger that also helped us out. As a result of the other Grangers a donation is made to the Michigan State Grange for their services.

The profits help in purchasing dictionaries for the 3rd graders in the Kenowa Hill Public Elementary schools through the Words for Thirds Dictionary project. This will be our 4th year in doing this project.

We look forward to doing Festival again next year.



Michelle Abbott serving a customer



Arnette Welsh, Peggy Johnston, Phil Swainston, Brittany Welsh, Bob & Lois Nichols, Sharon Popler, & Nancy Swainston.
Pictures by Luanna Swainston



Jessica Swainston serving a customer



Jessica Swainston, Harry Brown, Brittany Welsh & Kait Betcher

Brian Welsh, Arnette Welsh, Nathan Welsh, Rodney Wagner, & Kristina Welsh



Tree riddles

1. What tree is nearest the sea?
2. What tree is in a bottle?
3. What is the most kissable tree?
4. Which is the most unhealthy tree?
5. Which tree has passed through fiery heat?
6. What tree makes one sad?
7. Which tree do we offer our friends when we meet?

Helpful Hints:

- ◆ Putting a small amount of 7-up in a flower vase will preserve them for much longer.
- ◆ Holding a banana peel over a bruise for 10-30 minutes will remove it's color.
- ◆ Drinking 16 oz. of water will increase your metabolism by up to 30% alone.



- Answers:**
1. Beach
 2. Cork
 3. Tulip
 4. Sycamore
 5. Ash
 6. Weeping Willow
 7. Palm