



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2014

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HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope this finds all in good health. The weather, we can't do anything about, but please take care of yourselves and stay healthy.

It seems to be harder and harder to find good programs but they are out there if you look. I was at Hemlock Grange recently and they had a fantastic program on Honeybees. It was a speaker with a power-point presentation. Normally I don't like speakers, but this was the exception. It was fast-moving and contained a lot of good information. For more information you can contact the speaker, Mark H. Creighton, an Apiculturist. Phone (860) 308-0603 or email MCreig9716@aol.com. His theme is "Healthy Bees are Happy Bees!" He comes with brochures to pass out and honey to sell. Hemlock gave him \$25. This is sure reasonable.

I have also received a communication from The National Grange regarding its Patriot's Program – Grange Legislative Initiatives and the WWII Memorial CD. These are free for the asking. You can contact Samantha Johnson at sjohnson@nationalgrange.org or call 888-447-2643 ext. 109.

Want extra people to help fill your chairs or your hall. Why not have an old-fashioned neighbors night? I'm sure a lot of you can remember when we had to limit the number of invitations you sent out or there wouldn't be enough room for everyone. Unfortunately this is no longer true. So, get out your State Directory and see how many Granges you can find to invite. There are Granges that go out visiting on a regular basis. But remember, if you want them to come to see you, you need to visit their Grange. And, if you get an invitation – answer it whether or not you can go. Most Granges do special refreshments for visitors. You wouldn't want them to run out.

Good luck in all your endeavors this year. See you around the State.

SHARED NUMBERS...

HONEYBEES – THINGS I LEARNED AT HEMLOCK (See above)

1. The average person uses about 1.3 pounds of honey in a year.
2. An average honeybee makes 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.
3. The honeybee has five eyes and four wings.
4. Honey never goes bad.
5. It is estimated that there are about 211,000 beekeepers in the U.S.
6. The honeybee is the only insect to produce food that is consumed by people.
7. The flowers the honey visits determine the color of the honey they produce.
8. Honeybees can fly up to 15 miles per hour.

GRANGE RITUAL AND THE GARDEN with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

Looking ahead, Grange Month is April – why not start planning for it now.

This was written for the "A Number" Contest last year.

It would make a great addition to a ritual program.

Lecturer to Master: Do you remember when Granges conferred the four degrees, memorized the ritual and did it with expression, like telling a beautiful story?

Master: I do, but I know that most folks who joined in the past few years have not seen the four degrees; probably not any one of the degrees! How sad is that!

New Member: What are degrees anyway?

Lecturer: The first degree is a long degree. The lesson is faith and one of the symbols is seed. You cannot have a garden without first having seeds. The ritual of the Grange is like a garden, planted, cared for and harvested. It was written in 1867 by highly educated men, most of whom were "Masons".

Master: That's right. The implements of the degree were used by farmers who planted fields, not small gardens: The Ax, the plow, the harrow and the spade. Ceres gave each candidate kernels of corn seed to plant as part of the first degree.

Lecturer: The lesson of the second degree is hope. The "plant" is one symbol. In this degree, the Master plants the corn seed and compares the change from a seed to a plant with life and death. Again, Grange ritual uses gardening as an important life lesson.

New Member: Wow, I'm impressed! Gardening really is a life lesson! Those men who wrote Grange ritual sure knew a lot about gardening and how it was like life!

Master: Wait just a minute, were only half way through the first four degrees! The third degree emblem is the sickle and the ripened grain is just one of five symbols! The first Degree, springtime, The garden was prepared. The second degree, summer, The garden was planted and cultivated. In the third degree, the garden was harvested! The candidates, "Harvesters and gleaners" are told to "reap for the mind as well as the body". Six men and women performed a "Harvest March" with sheafs of wheat and sickles. This was very impressive.

New Member: I sure would like to see that someday. The grange ritual really brings "Gardening" to life in a special way!

Master: It sure does! The 4th Degree is the longest of the first four. At the end of this degree everyone joins in a celebration feast – A bountiful Harvest. This degree represents winter, when we gather together as families, friends and neighbors and enjoy together the good things. Grange degree work also contains a lot of biblical references since the seven founders were also men of faith.

Lecturer: Don't forget that circle around the altar in the fourth degree. The members pledge "friendship, enduring through life, to shield you from harm". A good Granger places faith in God, nurtures hope, dispenses charity and is noted for fidelity.

Master: I am so proud to be a Grange member! I think every Grange member should be exposed to the ritual so much more than they are. We have wonderful lessons to teach about how to plant, tend and harvest the garden of life! I think we should have someone pick a quote from the degrees and read a different one at every Grange meeting! In fact I am going to suggest just that.

"IF I COULD CAPTURE SPRING" with Thanks to Sherry Harriman, Maine State Lecturer

If I could capture a sunny day, From the lovely month of May,
I'd chase the cobwebs from my room, And say goodbye to winter's Gloom.
If I could color winter red, A rose bouquet would be her bed
I'd change the snow to emerald green, With yellow daffodils between.
If I could feel sweet springtime's kiss, Upon my cheek, it would be bliss.
But I must wait on winter's wing, For only God can bring the spring.

RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL GRANGE

*I found this in some papers given me after Margaret Warner died.
It is old, but it's as appropriate now as it was years ago.*

This is a recipe new and strange;
It's "How to make a successful Grange."
If you want a product fine and rare
Measure and sift with greatest care.
Use only the best if you wish success;
Perfection is never reached with less.
First take some members who like to work,
Who do their duty and never shirk;
Who put their hearts in the things they do,
And first of all comes the Grange, it's true.
Of faith you will need a large amount
If you want a grange that will really count.
Of tolerance add a good full cup;
Another of charity, heaped way up.

Sociability plays an important part,
Throw in a big lump at the very start.
Then a measure of youth to make it rise,
Some age to keep it balanced and wise.
Leave out all jealousy, doubt and spite,
If you want the things to turn out right.
A well-balanced program is just the trick
To bind the mixture and make it stick.
Then next just add a noble project
With common welfare as its object.
Sprinkle a little nonsense, too,
Over serious things you do.
Pour in a pan that is not too small –
The very best is a nice Grange Hall.
Bake with energy turned up high,
You'll find this fine, if you really try.

BIRD QUIZ with Thanks to Senexet

1. I do not need a hairbrush....Bald Eagle
2. I am rich....Goldfinch
3. I play on a baseball team....Blue Jay, Oriole, or Cardinal
4. I am sad....Morning Dove
5. I lift heavy objects....Crane
6. I am wise....Owl
7. I have whiskers....Catbird
8. I am named after an island....Canary
9. I am a jogger....Road Runner
10. I wear a tuxedo....Penguin
11. I am a copycat....Mocking Bird
12. I work with nails....Hammerhead
13. I score outs in baseball games....Flycatcher
14. I am the royalty of the fishers....Kingfisher
15. I use a tree for my drum....Woodpecker

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams...Eleanor Roosevelt

Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed.
....Abraham Lincoln

The main point in the game of life is to have fun. We are afraid to have fun because somehow that makes life too easy....Sammy Davis, Jr.

There isn't a person anywhere who isn't capable of doing more than he thinks he can....Henry Ford

We owe our children a better future. We owe our country a better future. And for all those who dream of that future tonight, I say – Let us begin the work together. Let us unite in common effort to chart a new course for America....Barack Obama

A man doesn't plant a tree for himself. He plants it for posterity. Let us continue to plant, and our children shall reap the harvest....Robert F. Kennedy

Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars and change the world....Harriet Tubman

PARKING SPOT with Thanks to Enfield Grange

Narrator: Ole and Lena were sitting down to their usual morning cup of coffee listening to the weather report on the radio.

Radio Announcer: "There will be 3 to 5 inches of snow today, and a snow emergency has been declared. You must park your cars on the odd numbered side of the street."

Ole: "Jeez, okay, I'll go move the car". (Ole leaves room)

Narrator: The next day they were sitting down with their morning cups of coffee listening to the weather forecast.

Radio Announcer: "There will be 2 to 4 inches of snow today, and a snow emergency has been declared. You must park your cars on the even numbered side of the streets."

Ole: "Jeez, okay, I'll move it again." (Ole leaves room)

Narrator: Two days later, again they're sitting down with their cups of coffee and listening to the radio.

Radio Announcer: "There will be 6 to 8 inches of snow today, and a snow emergency has been declared. You must park your cars on the.."

Narrator: Just then the power went out and Ole didn't get the rest of the instructions. He turns to Lena.

Ole: "Jeez, what am I going to do now, Lena?"

Lena: "Aw, Ole, just leave the car in the darn garage today."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN TRIVIA with thanks to Old Lyme Grange

1. Where was Abraham Lincoln born? Ans. In a Log cabin in Kentucky (Feb. 12, 1809)
2. Who did Abraham Lincoln Marry? Ans. Mary Todd (Nov. 4, 1842)
3. Abraham Lincoln was the first U.S. President from what party? Ans. Republican Party
4. What U.S. Paper currency features a portrait of Abraham Lincoln? Ans. \$5.00 bill.
5. What play was Abraham Lincoln watching when he was assassinated? Ans. Our American Cousin
6. What legislation, signed by Lincoln in 1862, made millions of acres of government land available to any male over 21 who could pay a small processing fee? Ans. The Homestead Act.
7. Who was Abraham Lincoln's Vice President during the first term of his presidency? Ans. Hannibal Hamlin
8. Who was his VP during his second term? Ans. Andrew Johnson.

WHERE ARE YOU

What State are you in if you are at the following places?

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| 1. Acadia National Park – Maine | 11. Nantucket – Massachusetts |
| 2. The First State – Delaware | 12. Fisherman's Wharf – California |
| 3. The USS Arizona – Hawaii | 13. Mystic Seaport – Connecticut |
| 4. Big Bend National Park – Texas | 14. Rock City – Tennessee |
| 5. Aspen – Colorado | 15. Baseball Hall of Fame – New York |
| 6. Disneyland – California | 16. The Home of Coors Beer – Colorado |
| 7. The Badlands – So. Dakota | 17. The Great Salt Lake – Utah |
| 8. The birthplace of Eisenhower – Kansas | 18. Carlsbad Caverns – New Mexico |
| 9. The Ozark Mountains – Missouri | 19. Branson – Missouri |
| 10. Camp David – Maryland | 20. The International Peace Gardens – No. Dakota |

DUMB JOKES THAT MAKE GREAT FILL-INS with Thanks to North Haven Grange

Why did the Spider move its home from the window?

Ans. It wanted to change websites.

What do rodents write on?

Ans. A Mouse Pad.

How do fleas travel?

Ans. They itch hike.

What does a spider order for lunch?

Ans. A hamburger with flies.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY

1. About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged in the United States each year.
2. In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.
3. Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are the biggest holidays for giving flowers.
4. California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America.
5. 73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.
6. Men buy most of the millions of boxes of candy and bouquets of flowers given on Valentine's Day.
7. In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week thus the saying about wearing your heart on your sleeve.
8. Verona, Italy, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.
9. Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800s.
10. In Medieval times, girls ate unusual foods on St Valentine's Day to make them dream of their future husband.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Week was created in the United States in 1926 when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association of Negro Life and History announced that the second full week in February would be "Negro History Week." The goal was to promote the teaching of the history of American blacks in the nation's public schools.

Churches played a significant role in the distribution of literature for Negro History Week. Gradually Negro History week became accepted with clubs being formed and an increase in interest among teachers, and interest from progressive whites. Negro History Week grew in popularity throughout the following decades, with mayors across the United States endorsing it as a holiday and changing the name to Black History Week.

In 1969 Students at Kent State University proposed the expansion of Black History Week to Black History Month. The first celebration of the Black History Month took place at Kent State one year later, in February 1970.

In 1976 as part of the United States Bicentennial, the informal expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was officially recognized by the U.S. government. President Gerald Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.

VALENTINE'S DAY SUPERSTITIONS

1. If an apple is cut in half, the number of seeds found inside the fruit will indicate the number of children that individual will have.
2. To be awoken by a kiss on Valentine's Day is considered lucky.
3. On Valentine's Day, the first guy's name you read in the paper or hear on the TV or radio will be the name of the man you will marry.
4. If you see a squirrel on Valentine's Day, you will marry a cheapskate who will hoard all your money.
5. If you see a goldfinch on Valentine's Day, you will marry a millionaire.
6. If you see a robin on Valentine's Day, you will marry a crime fighter.
7. If you see a flock of doves on Valentine's Day, you will have a happy, peaceful marriage.
8. If you find a glove on the road on Valentine's Day, your future beloved will have the other missing glove.

ALL ABOUT APPLES with thanks to Ekonk Grange

1. "An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away!" This is a famous expression used for generations. Last year, nearly 60 million tons of apples were grown worldwide. Believe it or not, China leads the world in the growing of apples. The United States ranks second, followed by turkey, France and Italy.
2. Apples contain natural antioxidants that are proven to help prevent various forms of cancer! Generations of children have given apples to their teachers – special gifts – healthy gifts! Americans enjoy candy apples, apple strudel, apple dumplings, apple turnovers, apple pies, apple crisp, apple jelly, apple sauce apple cake ... the list goes on and on. In the early days of this country, apples were dried and saved for use throughout the winter months.
3. In 1774, a son was born to Nathaniel and Elizabeth Chapman of Leominster, Massachusetts. They named him John. John was a missionary for the Church of the New Jerusalem. He was also an accomplished nurseryman, specializing in the planting and cultivation of apple trees.
4. John Chapman built fences around land in which he would plant an orchard of apple trees. He bartered with farmers for food, cash or used clothing in exchange for the apple orchard. He and his sister moved from Massachusetts to New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. As they travelled, John's eloquent speeches on believing in the Lord with all of your heart and soul and his uncanny ability to thrill children with his stories made him into a sort of "Folk Hero". He became a legend in his own time.
5. the trees John Chapman Planted were 'rambo'. Rambo apples were grown in England in the 1500's and brought to the United States in the late 1700's. the trees are strong and produce a good-sized, sweet apple with pale yellow skin streaked red by the sun. They are excellent keeping apples and used for pies as well as cider.
6. John died at age 71 from pneumonia. Leominster, MA, his birthplace, has Johnny Appleseed Elementary School named in his honor. His grave in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is a national historic landmark.
7. This humble man left a legacy across many states and apple trees for future generations to enjoy the luscious fruit produced.
8. While John Chapman is remembered for the apple trees that he planted across several states, many are not aware that he also planted numerous herbs in the woods near farms. These herbs saved the lives of many Americans.

FEBRUARY IS...

February is...American Heart Month, An Affair to Remember Month, Black History Month, Canned Food Month, Creative Romance Month, Great American Pie Month, National Cherry Month, National Children's Dental Health Month, National Grapefruit Month, and National Weddings Month. Any of these would make a good theme for a program.

Grapefruit month intrigues me. You could have people guess the weight of several grapefruit in a bag or how about balancing one on a wooden spoon. There are several varieties of grapefruit. See if people can identify them and then have a little reading on each variety. Anything goes. This could be both a learning experience and a lot of fun.

Here is a little of the information I found on grapefruit.

Grapefruit is a citrus fruit. People use the fruit, oil from the peel, and extracts from the seed as medicine. Grapefruit seed extract is processed from grapefruit seeds and pulp obtained as a byproduct from grapefruit juice production. Vegetable glycerin is added to the final product to reduce acidity and bitterness.

Grapefruit juice is used for high cholesterol, "hardening of the arteries" a skin disease called psoriasis, and for weight loss and obesity.

Grapefruit seed extract is taken by mouth for bacterial, viral, and fungal infections including yeast infections.

Grapefruit oil is applied to the skin for muscle fatigue, hair growth, toning the skin, and for acne and oily skin. It is also used for the common cold and flu.

Grapefruit seed extract is applied to the skin as a facial cleanser, first-aid treatment, and a remedy for mild skin irritations. It is also used as an ear or nasal rinse for preventing and treating infections; as a gargle for sore throats; and a dental rinse for preventing gingivitis and promoting healthy gums; and as a breath freshener.

Some people inhale grapefruit vapors to help the body retain water, for headache, stress, and depression. Grapefruit seed extract vapor has also been inhaled for the treatment of lung infections.

In food and beverages, grapefruit is consumed as a fruit, juice, and is used as a flavoring component.

In manufacturing, grapefruit oil and seed extract are used as a fragrance component in soaps and cosmetics; and as a household cleaner for fruits, vegetables, meats, kitchen surfaces, dishes, etc.

In agriculture, grapefruit seed extract is used to kill bacteria and fungus, fight mold growth, kill parasites in animal feeds, preserve food and disinfect water.

It's important to remember that drug interactions with grapefruit juice are well documented. The chemistry of the grapefruit varies by the species, the growing conditions, and the process used to extract the juice. Before adding grapefruit to your diet or your list of natural medicines, check with your healthcare provider if you take medications.

Grapefruit is a source of vitamin C, fiber, potassium, pectin, and other nutrients. Some components might have antioxidant effects that might help protect cells from damage or reduce cholesterol.

GIRL AT THE BEACH with Thanks to Senexet Grange

A couple lived near the ocean and used to walk the beach a lot. One summer they noticed a girl who was at the beach almost every day... She wasn't unusual, nor was the travel bag she carried, except for one thing; she would approach people who were sitting on the beach, glance around and then speak to them.

Generally, the people would respond negatively and she would wander off.. But occasionally someone would nod and there would be a quick exchange of money and something that she carried in her bag.

The couple assumed that she was selling drugs and debated calling the cops, but since they didn't know for sure, they decided to just continue watching her.

After a couple of weeks the wife said, 'Honey, have you ever noticed that she only goes up to people with boom boxes and other electronic devices?' He hadn't and said so.

Then she said, 'Tomorrow I want you to get a towel and our big radio and go lie out on the beach. Then we can find out what she's really doing.'

Well, the plan went off without a hitch and the wife was almost hopping up and down with anticipation when she saw the girl talk to her husband and then leave... The man then walked up the beach and met his wife at the road.

'Well, is she selling drugs?' she asked excitedly. 'No, she's not,' he said, enjoying this probably more than he should have.

'Well, what is it then? What does she do?' his wife fairly shrieked.

The man grinned and said, 'She's a battery salesperson.'

'Batteries?' cried the wife.

'Yes!' he replied. 'She Sells C Cells down by the Seashore!'

TALL TALES

There's the sad case of the Texan who was getting too big around the middle, so he decided to go on a diet. The first week he lost three inches around his waist. The second week he lost two more inches around his waist. And, the third week he lost his pants.