



Illinois Granger

In Essentials... Unity

In Non-Essentials... Liberty

In All Things... Charity

March 2023

Vol 3 No 3

Spotlight on Grangers



Charles Treser

Turkey Hill Grange #1370

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

As I write this on the 24th of February the weather has been nice and warm and WINDY— usually above normal by a few degrees, but today it is below normal and COLD and still windy. The northern areas of IL have snow and ice. It is strange that the ground is not frozen here in St Clair County – still. And this has been good, Don was able to get some field tile installed to help with drainage.

Don and I were greatly saddened by the death of Brother Don Mehrtens. We were unable to attend the Grange service, but we were proud that many Grangers throughout the county were there to celebrate Don's Grange life. Thanks to all those who assisted with the service. Condolences to Charlotte and family.

You are all invited to attend the St Clair County Degree Day on March 12 at Turkey Hill Grange, 1375 IL-15, Belleville, IL, noon potluck, degrees start at 1 and plan to be completed by 4. Learn the lessons of the first four degrees of the Grange. It gives you an understanding and different perspective of the ritual of the Grange. Please come and learn about the ritual of the Grange.

Don and I attended a recent Progressive Grange meeting. After the meeting we noticed fire at a nearby farmstead. Members called 911 and the fire department was on the way as we traveled home. We were at Pomona last night, but could not see any damage because it was too dark.

I attended the virtual National Grange President's Conference February 17 – 18. The work-

25 year Grange member

Seventh degree Granger

Current President Turkey Hill Grange

Past President 2 separate 4 year terms Turkey Hill Grange

Past Vice President Turkey Hill Grange

Emerald Mound Grange affiliate member 13 years

Emerald Mound Grange Secretary

Leader of many fundraising activities with THG and EMG

Pomona #21 St Clair County member 20 years

Pomona #21 Past President

Pomona #21 Executive committee member 11 years

Illinois State Grange Membership Director 7 years

ISG GRANGER OF THE YEAR 2016 (EMG nominee)

ISG Deputy St Clair County 5 years

ISG representative on CFAR executive board 3 years

Retired USAF, 33 years Chief Master Sergeant

Sophia married Charles 53 years ago

They have 6 adult children, 13 grandchildren and 8 Greats

They have lived in Belleville, Illinois for the past 38 years.

Charles' hobby is operating a food and beverage concession with his Grandchildren.

Continued from page 1 Lynette

shops were great and informative. It was a long day in front of the computer, but worth the time. Presenters included: Betsy Huber, President of National Grange; Amanda Rios, Membership Director; Samantha Wilkins Youth and Junior Director; Phil Vonada, Communications Director; Stephanie Wilkins, Information Technology; Loretta Washington, Sales, Benefits, National Session Coordinator. Christine Hamp led a 'memory' event on Friday night. I am still thinking of a Leadership Conference for IL, but I am now thinking it will need to be in May or June. I'll let you all know when the agenda has been set with a place, date, and time.

I hope all those eligible have or will be applying for the IL State Grange Scholarship, there is only a little time to complete the application and return to Robin Kindberg. The IL State Grange Executive Committee will review the applications at the March 23rd virtual Executive Committee meeting. Good luck to all the applicants.

Plan to attend the youth Spring Fling on March 18th at Boone County Community Grange Hall. I am sure that Karie and Marisa have an article with information in this IL Granger publication.

Remember, Grange Revival is July 18-23 – check out the <http://grangerevival.com/> website for more information. Several Grangers from Illinois are planning on going and you can too.

The next National Grange Session will be November 14-18, 2023 at the Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls Sheraton at the Falls, 300 Third Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303. You are all welcome to attend. Watch for the information on the nationalgrange.org website.

Blessings to you all. Blessings to all the Granges.



Illinois State Grange Secretary Report

Not a lot to report this month just a few reminders:

1. 1st Quarter ends March 30th – Quarterly reports are due to me before April 15th
2. All Scholarship applications and supporting documentations are due to ILSG Secretary by 9:00PM on March 15th. Winners will be announced after March 23rd.
3. Still need several Grange membership lists get them as soon as possible
4. Still need Grange By-Laws from several Granges – if you need help with this, let me know, I have a format that you can use - Contact me.

Watch your mail for details about State Session – September 8-10, 2023 at the Northfield Inn in Springfield, IL.

Any questions, feel free to contact me.

Robin Kindberg

Publicity Chairman



Elliott Theodore Jones

Elliott was born February 1, 2023, 7 lbs 11 oz

Parents are Phillip and Tracey Jones members of Prairie Grange and Enterprise Grange. Big sister Charlotte was 3 on January 23. Proud grandparents are Jimmy and Ruth Blasingame. (He is already up to 9 lbs)

Spring Fling Schedule 2023

Friday March 17th, 2023

6 pm Game and Movie night

Saturday March 18th, 2023

8 am Breakfast for those staying over

9 am Intro to Spring Fling and what is going to happen.

10 am Pollinator/Garden Design workshop

11 am Obstacle course

12 pm Lunch

1pm Leave for Julie's Diamond Art Shop

3:30 pm Social Media and Grange

4:30 Arts and Crafts

6 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song and Lip Sync Contest

Sunday March 19th, 2023

9 am Breakfast

10 am Service projects – make 6 bag sets

Illinois State Grange Youth

Karie Blasingame and Marisa O'Dell Co-Directors

We are excited to be able to share the schedule for Spring Fling on March 18th at the Boone County Community Grange Hall. We are going to open the hall all weekend for different events that all Grangers can attend. Friday night, March 17th, around 6:00 PM, we will be hosting a movie and game night with snacks, hot dogs and popcorn. On Sunday morning, we will be hosting a service project building 6 bag sets at the Grange Hall beginning at 10:00 AM. We hope to see everybody, age 5 and up, but especially those between 14 and 21.

It would be great if you could follow the Illinois State Grange Facebook group and RSVP on the Spring Fling Event if you're going to attend. For those out of towners, the Grange Hall will be open for you to stay. The entire cost for the weekend for everything involved is \$20. That includes an \$8.00 diamond art from Julie's Diamond Arts Shop.

Grange Revival is coming up. That's why we're making bag sets for our service project. We'll share them with those attending Grange Revival and with our state Grange

We are looking for Granges to sponsor the meals at Spring Fling or to sponsor an art project. Please contact Karie or Marisa for cost details. We might not be able to give you an exact amount until the weekend of Spring Fling because of not knowing how many people will be there in attendance. We are also excited that the Lip sync

contest, a new project, will be happening at Spring Fling. Do not be surprised if you see us go live on Facebook, so if you're unable to attend, you should still be able to see a really fun event, but we hope you're in person watching it live.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Beverly Smith

2023 is well under way. Here in Florida we are experiencing record breaking temperatures. We are having several 87 to 90 degree sunny days! Yes, and no rain for several days also. (Of course I had to share!) It seems Northern Illinois might be getting some ice, but quite mild for snow this season.

I wanted to share some more Grange memorabilia from Russ Stauffer. Of course, we all know of the Grange postage stamp issued April 17, 1967. Lee Pava, art director of a New York City advertising agency was the designer of the Grange postage stamp. We now have the original program pamphlet of the ceremony celebrating the first day of issue. National Grange Master Herschel D. Newsom welcomed all and introduced the special guests. The United States Marine Band played several musical selections. The United States Department of Agriculture (Orville L. Freeman) and the Deputy Postmaster General (Frederick C. Belen represented the government. A very nice quote from Hubert H. Humphrey, U.S. Vice President was included in the program pamphlet. There were also pre-stamped envelopes with the Grange stamp and postmark. When I added the items to my scrapbook, I discovered there are four different ones.

The next two items I was not aware of. A "Gold Grange Centennial 1867-1967 Coin"- Its marking reads "For Patrons Security". From Farmers and Traders Life Insurance Company, Syracuse, N.Y. Also a 125th Anniversary limited edition National Grange (1867-1992) gold bell. There were only 500 produced. They were presented at the 125th National Grange Convention held on November 11-17, 1991 in Burlington, Vermont.

Turkey Hill Grange

The Turkey Hill Grange held their regular meeting on February 10, 2023. President Charles Treser opened the meeting in full form. The Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and approved. Building and Grounds Chairman, Ron Bersett reported that the new windows have been installed and the upper cabinets have been replaced in the kitchen. Charles Treser announced several Ag groups have held dinner meetings in the hall as well as rental dinners. He thanked all who helped with the dinners. The Grange will hold their annual Trivia Night on February 18, 2023. There will be a silent auction as well as drinks provided by the Grange. Plans are underway for the annual Chicken Dinner to be held on Sunday April 16, 2023. The times for the dinner have been changed! Serving will be from 10:30 AM until 1:30 PM. All dining will be indoors with no carryouts available from the trailer.

This year the Flea Markets and Yard Sale will start on March 25-26. Vendors and food service will be on the lower level and yard sale items on the upper level. The other dates are planned for April 22-23 and June 24-25. Turkey Hill has welcomed several new members lately. Lecturer Tami Hughes presented the program on Valentines Day Origins and Customs. The meeting was closed and refreshments were served. Our next meeting will be on March 10 at the hall.



Turkey Hill Grange Quilters have one meeting a month as well as two designated sewing days from 9AM-4PM each month that are open to members and the public. We

work on Quilts of Valor as well as our own projects. Two new quilters have joined our group and we have others who just need more space for their own projects each month. At THG, one of the quilters made a St. Louis Blues Hockey quilt, which will be given away at the Ham & Peach Dinner on August 13, 2023. See any member for tickets.



Turkey Hill Grange Quilters held a presentation night for Quilts of Valor on Veterans Day. Seven quilts were awarded to the veterans. Photo left to right: Charles Dai-ber-quilt made by Mary Beth Lee; Norman Krause-quilt made by Chris Bersett; Bill Hutcherson-quilt made by Edith Robinson; David Philip-quilt made by Judy Brindley; Bob Dintelmann-quilt made by Nikki Wilcox; Ron Dormer-quilt made by Chris Bersett; Jim Coe-quilt made by his wife Marilyn Coe. One veteran, Don Steinkamp was unable to come to the presentation but was awarded his quilt at Union United Methodist church during the service on Sunday morning by Judy Brindley.



Submitted by Mary Beth Lee
marylee2840@gmail.com or 618-973-8840 Photos by
David Philip

UNION GRANGE HISTORY COTINUTED

In 1959, a kitchen band was started with Muriel Youngberg on the piano, Dorothy Rydholm on the “drums” and Pauline Eggert as the leader, just to name a few. They were very popular and won recognition throughout northern Illinois and were in great demand playing all around the county for over 20 years. Square dancing was also enjoyed by members, family and friends regularly for many years. Bowling and horseshoes were popular for a time as well, as evidenced by our trophy case.

Joint meetings with other Granges in the county saw us exchanging programs and passing traveling gavels, as well as an aeroplane called “Spirit of Good Will.” We had special celebrations of our 40th, 50th, 60th, 70th, 75th, 85th, 95th, 100th and 125th anniversaries of our Grange. P.A. Peterson, who was a charter member, was present at the 50th anniversary. At the 60th anniversary, 93 year old charter member George Davis, was unable to attend, but a picture was sent to the Grange to be passed around.

In September 1920, the meeting night was changed from Thursday nights to Friday nights. For several years it changed back and forth and finally we met on the first and third Friday nights, September through May. The first Fourth of July picnic was held in 1875, inviting the Bon Bon Club to join us. Since that date very few Fourth of July picnics have been missed. These picnics were well attended with over 100 in attendance. We had games for all ages and ice cream afterwards.

The Juvenile Grange was organized on February 20, 1948 and celebrated 50 years at our 125th celebration in 1998. Ethel Linden was the first Juvenile Matron. Starting in 1958 they were able to hold formal meetings in the basement while the subordinate meeting was taking place upstairs. Every May a graduation ceremony was held where they joined the subordinate Grange. Overnight campouts were enjoyed, crafts were made for state contests and a variety of outings took place. They raised money by selling vanilla, calendars, napkins and greeting cards. They collected/saved canceled stamps, eye glasses, hearing aid batteries, pop can tabs and soup labels.

Through the years, members consisted of neighbors, friends and relatives. Many of our members farmed the ground on which five shopping centers were constructed, including: Colonial Village, Alpine Village, Southgate, 11th Street Plaza and the Cherry Vale Mall. In

and around the area where Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve is currently located on South Mulford is where many of our earlier members lived.

A large trophy case was built by Laverne Lund and his father-in-law Nils Hawkinson in memory of Bill Pell Sr. A flag staff with the eagle mounted on it was donated by Maynard & Erma Johnson in memory of Melba Johnson. The lighted Grange emblem was donated by Howard & DeLoris Hendershot and was made by Larry Hendershot. The painting of our hall was painted by Oscar Johnson. The mural drawing was done by the Juniors for our centennial. So, you can see, we had many talented and giving members over the years.



Flora Grange News

Flora Grange members met on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:30 for their annual dues paying potluck with 35 members in attendance. A delicious potluck was enjoyed, and the meeting followed with the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call of officers and the approval of the January minutes. We also approved the membership of a new member, Sidney Berry, into our Grange this evening.

Reports were given on committees. Community Service: Lindakay Ebel stated she did not receive many hours from people working at the fair in August and clean-up in September. It was stated that if you get paid working the gate, etc. you cannot count the hours for community service. She again talked about those donating hours for the Moose, American Legion, etc. can be counted toward community service. Lindakay also thanked members for bringing items tonight for the Baby Bank that Pomona Grange is collecting which she will take to the March 1st meeting. Dan Burow reported under agriculture that some farmers are already thinking of farming for this spring. Todd Hegge gave a report on the fair convention, stating most of the entertainment has been booked for the 2023 fair, also our vocal singer Junior winner from the Boone County Fair, Autumn Braxton, received 3rd place in the Junior talent; our senior talent did not place at the convention.

Farmland Protection, Jack Ratcliffe stated their annual meeting will be held on March 8th at 7 pm, looking for another board member, all are invited to attend. Marion Thornberry, Legislative reported a few bills have been passed, however it is being challenged. Membership, Lindakay Ebel welcomed new member Sidney Berry and said that National Headquarters has reported several new Granges in other states. Youth reported they need more youth at their meetings, last month only two showed up and they are starting to work on design for T-shirts.

Deb Silvers, Family Activities had sheets to hand out showing what you can make to show and get judged this year. Emalee Colver, Quilting, stated both quilter's groups will be meeting this weekend at the hall. Building & Grounds, Jack Ratcliffe reported a new window was installed this week at the hall, also a new light and they changed some light bulbs. There is a lot of maintenance if anyone would like to come and help with some of it.

Kathy Spears, Junior Leader reported the Junior's collected items for the Boone County Animal Shelter for cats and dogs and took them to the shelter. They enjoyed seeing all the animals. Laurel Ratcliffe read all the thank you notes. Treasurer, Lindakay Ebel, had a written financial report for all in attendance, which was approved.

Old business included the re-ordering of Flora Grange T-shirts and Marion Thornberry gave shirts to those who ordered and paid for them. New business included our roast beef dinner which will be Sunday, April 2nd. The price will be \$14.00. Lindakay Ebel asked if the bake sale this year could be a fundraiser for the Com-

munity Service project 'Tails'. Motion was made and carried.

A motion was made to give 4 roast beef tickets to the Belvidere North annual FFA Auction on March 24 again this year. Laurel Ratcliffe read a resolution she is writing for the convention about farmland in Illinois. \$178.00 was collected in 'G' bills. Birthdays included Dan Burow and Pat Due. Lindakay Ebel, Publicity

Grange In Action Program

The Grange In Action program is designed to encourage all Granges to be active in their communities and complete events or projects, no matter how small. Any Grange that does not complete the application for Distinguished Grange can participate in this program. Granges who wish to be recognized at the 2023 National Convention as a "Grange In Action" should complete the following requirements:

- Submit a 1-page letter size with color pictures and brief caption of at least 3 various events/activities and no more than 6 pictures of the event/activities/meeting that the Grange either sponsored or assisted with from Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023 – anything over 1 page will be disqualified.
- The Grange Name, number and state must be on the front of the page.
- On a separate page please include the name, address, phone and/or cell number, and email address of who submitted the Grange In Action.
- Granges that qualify for the 2023 Distinguished Grange award are not eligible for this recognition.
- If one of your events/activities/meetings is on Mental Health, you will qualify as a "*Golden Grange in Action*"
- Deadline to submit the 1 page to National Grange is postmark or electronic by midnight on September 1, 2023.
- Mail to National Grange, Attn. Loretta Washington – 1616H Street, NW, 11th Washington, DC 20006.
- Email to Loretta Washington @ lwashington@nationalgrange.org please put in the subject line for the email: Grange In Action 2023 report.

PRAIRIE GRANGE REPORT

Members of Prairie Grange met on Monday, February 20, 2023 for their monthly meeting at 7:00PM.

Secretary minutes for the past 3 months were approved as presented.

Committee reports were given:

Hopefully everyone is busy working on projects for State Session. There are several projects in several departments you can enter this year.

Spring Fling is March 18th at 9:00 AM at the Community Grange Hall in Belvidere, IL – Cost is \$20 per person. There will be many workshops, crafts, games, Sign-a-Song contest, Speeches and other contests to take part in as well as doing a community service project, so come join us.

March 31st will be dinner and a movie night at the Grange Hall sponsored by the Prairie Juniors, so join us for a fun evening. Be sure to RSVP to Sara Ellwanger.

We are still collecting items for the Baby Bank such as lotions, shampoo, diapers, baby clothes (newborn thru 4T), wipes, etc. Bring your items to the Boone County Pomona meeting March 1st.

March 31st will also be Junior Grange Day Camp at the Grange Hall beginning at 8:30AM so come help the Juniors. Anyone can participate, you are all Juniors at heart.

Prairie Grange members are getting ready for our Annual Consignment Auction on Saturday, April 8, 2023. Help is needed for set-up, kitchen and working the auction itself. So if you want to help contact Lyle Lee or Jennifer Tobin-Tinch.

Prairie Grange voted to give the students from Prairie Grange who applied for the ILSG Scholarship extra money if they work the auction so come out and help.

Prairie Grangers want to wish Rebbeca and Sammantha Meyers, members of the Rock Valley College Bowling team, well wishes as they travel to Buffalo, New York for the National Bowling competition March 4th & 5th. Good Luck Girls!

Prairie Grange meeting was closed in full form at 7:40 PM.

Robin Kindberg Publicity Chairman

NIFTY NEEDLES

Prairie Grange hosts Nifty Needles on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 5 pm to 8 pm. We meet in the basement of the Administration Building at the Fairgrounds. Anyone is invited to join us. The lighting is fantastic and a lot of the girls like to work on their dia-

mond art projects there. It's also great for needlework. You can bring whatever you are working on or join us in some of our group projects. Right now, we have been making adult bibs for the contest at State Session. We had 13 present last Tuesday.



If you would like to join us bring a snack to share and a beverage for yourself. We have a great time!
(Unfortunately this room is not handicap accessible.)



Legislative Report

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

While congress is assigning committees and establishing agendas, I thought I would ask for your support in stopping animal cruelty in Mexican Rodeos that are popping up all over the place. Below is an article I found where a bill was introduced in 2011, but unfortunately failed.

A controversial bill that would have banned two traditional Mexican rodeo events in Colorado is effectively dead after failing Monday to get out of committee in the state House of Representatives, the bill's sponsor said.

The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources postponed indefinitely House Bill 1039, which was sponsored by Denver Democrat Beth McCann and would have made the practices of "steer-tailing" and "horse-tripping" criminal acts of cruelty to animals.

Steer-tailing involves a mounted cowboy grasping the tail of a steer and bringing the animal to the ground. Horse-tripping is a roping event in which the competitor lassos the animal's legs and brings the horse down.

Had the bill become law, Colorado would have joined several states, and numerous counties and cities, with bans or restrictions on horse-tripping, but only the second to ban cattle-tailing. Nebraska enacted a similar statewide ban in 2008.

On her website, McCann said the controversy surrounding steer-tailing at an August 2010 Jefferson County rodeo made her aware of the practice, and she cited concerns over injuries to the animals as the inspiration for the bill. The promoter of that rodeo voluntarily canceled the steer-tailing event in the face of pressure from animal-rights activists, and authorities found multiple injured animals on the promoter's property while investigating a complaint that the animals used in the rodeo did not receive proper veterinary care.

McCann said the bill can't be reintroduced this session, though she would consider another attempt in the future.

American Humane Association chief operating officer Dale Austin said he supports the eventual criminalization of steer-tailing and horse-tripping. "Inflicting that kind of pain on an animal for entertainment is cruel and barbaric," Austin said.

Defenders of traditional Mexican rodeos say such events are misunderstood or sensationalized by activists with larger agendas. Toby De La Torre, chief executive of California-based Charros Federation USA, said horse-tripping has been voluntarily banned among mainstream *charros* for more than 15 years, but fringe groups who do not embrace those standards give a bad name to the whole community.

I ask you, how can you misunderstand seeing cattle get their backs broken and other cruel acts to animals be misunderstood. I am asking all Granges to ban together and submit resolutions asking for the banning and possible outlawing of the practice of steer tailing in all counties in Illinois.

Thank you and God Bless

Marion L. Thornberry

Legislative Director

Illinois State Grange

MAY YOUR TROUBLES
BE LESS
and your
Blessings
be MORE
AND NOTHING BUT
HAPPINESS
come through your
door
IRISH BLESSING

Calendar of Grange Events

- 3/11 Bluff Grange Trees for Kids
- 3/12 St Clair County Degree Day Noon Potluck
Degree work starting at 1 pm
- 3/18 Emerald Mound Big Breakfast 8-11
- 3/18 Spring Fling Boone Co Comm Grangehall
- 3/24 NBHS FFA Auction (Sara Ellwanger, Advisor)
- 3/24-25 Turkey Hill Flea Market and Yard Sale 9 am-3pm
- 3/26 Bluff Drivethru Chicken n Dumpling Dinner 11-1
- 3/31 Prairie Junior Camp Day 8:30 ends with Dinner
5 pm and a Movie all invited
- 4/2 Flora Grange Roast Beef Dinner
- 4/8 Prairie Grange Consignment Auction
- 4/13 Boone County Youth Fairboard Open House for
new members, pizza, cookies, lemonade 7 PM
Grangehall
- 4/15 Quarterly report deadline**
- 4/16 Turkey Hill Chicken Dinner 10:30—1:30
- 4/22 Emerald Mound Open House and Community
Fair 10-4
- 4/22 Bluff Grange Earth Day Celebration
- 4/22-23 Turkey Hill Flea Market and Yard Sale 9 am-3pm
- TBA Bluff Grange 100th Anniversary
- TBA May/June Leadership Conference**
- 6/24-25 Turkey Hill Flea Market and Yard Sale 9 am-3pm
- 7/18-23 Grange Revival Curtis MI (UP)
- 8/1 Community Service Deadline**
- 8/8-13 Boone County Fair
- 8/13 Turkey Hill Ham and Peach Dinner
- 9/8-10 Illinois State Grange Session
2024**
- National Session Quad Cities 11/10-17**

Donations: Memorial Scholarship

Donations: Illinois Granger

NOTE: Please send me any important dates, members in nursing homes, rehabs, or senior living, obituaries, donations, births, weddings, any good news from your Grange so I can add them to the newsletter.

Ruth Blasingame 815-299-7884

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

8711 Deer Run Drive Belvidere, IL 61008

Note from the Editor: I have only received roster corrections for the Granger from 2 Granges so far.

Please work on that and send me your results ASAP.



**THE FIRST AND HIGHEST OBJECT OF OUR ORDER
IS - TO DEVELOP A BETTER AND HIGHER
MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD.**

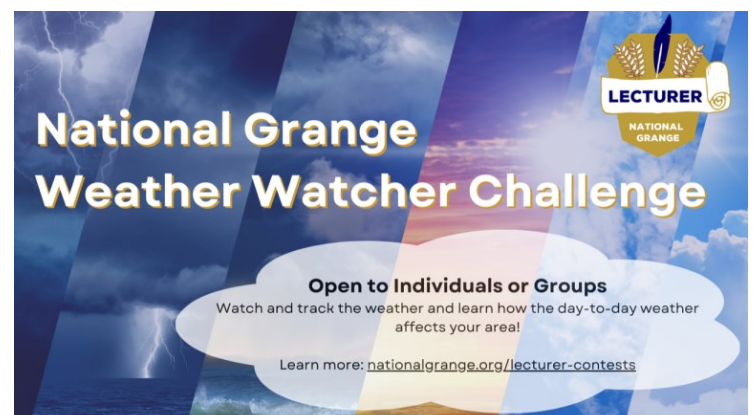
Bluff Grange News

Busy beavers at Bluff Grange. Market Days on the second Saturday has proven successful and the tables sell out early each month. We will have our drive thru Chicken and Dumpling Dinner on March 26 with pick up from 11 am to 1 p.m. Contact Charlotte Mehrstens for orders.

On March 11 we will have a Trees for Kids program and those attending will receive a free tree to plant. Saturday April 22, we will have an Earth day program for anyone.

Members were busy cleaning the hall and doing maintenance and repairs on a recent Saturday. We took in three new members and look forward to adding more new members in the future.

Members took part in the Grange Service for Don Mehrstens on the night of visitation.





Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

The sun rises on another day and we must carry on without our fellow Granger who has left us here on earth. My family's hearts are so broken at this time in our life. We thank each of you who stood in the long line at the visitation for Don, who sent cards, phone calls and prayers.

I shall return next month with a regular chaplain's corner, so until then, may our Lord Bless each of you with His love and Peace.

The sun will set on another day with a beautiful sunset showing He lives.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servants

Donald "Don" Mehrtens

1941-2023

Bluff Grange

Don Mehrtens
81, Millstadt, Ill.,
passed away on
Sunday, February 5,
2023, at his home,
surrounded by family
and friends. Don
was a farmer and
worked as a tool and
die inspector at
McDonnell-
Douglas. He was a
life-member of Zion
Evangelical Church



in Millstadt and a member of the "Z" Team. He was a Granger since May of 1975, served in various offices but usually Treasurer of Bluff Grange #1826; St. Clair County Pomona Grange #21; Illinois State Grange. He was Treasurer of St. Clair County Pomona at the time of his passing. Don served as Treasurer of ISG 2001 – 2011. He was also member of National Grange; St. Clair County Farm Bureau; and Millstadt Commercial Club where, with his creativeness, Don built many floats for the Millstadt Homecoming parade. Don served as

Millstadt Township supervisor and trustee.

Don enjoyed fishing, hunting, butchering, spending time with his family and especially playing with his great grandsons. He spent many Mondays and Wednesdays playing Kloepper and never missed a Christmas Day with his two sisters.

Don is survived by his loving wife of over 60 years, Charlotte J., nee Pulcher, Mehrtens, his daughter, Kim Elaine (Mike) Mueller, his grandchildren, Bradley (Abigail) Rolland, Lindsay Mueller, Abbie (Ronnie) Bates, and his great grandchildren, Carson Rolland and Lane Bates; his sisters, Shirley (the late Sam) Axe and Doris (Willis) Steiger; brother-in-law Sherman (Suzanne) Pulcher; and sisters-in-law Jane (Leroy) Washausen, Diane Pulcher and Rhonda Little. He is also survived by nieces, nephews, numerous cousins and many friends.

Grange service was held at Zion Evangelical Church in Millstadt. Interment was at Freivogel Cemetery in Millstadt.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be directed to his wife Charlotte, The Illinois State Grange Scholarship Fund or to Zion Evangelical Church in Millstadt.

MELVIN WAGNER—Progressive Grange

September 5, 1925 - December 27, 2022

Melvin was a 20 year member of the Progressive Grange. He served as the Lecturer for many years and was on the following committees: Community Service, Agriculture Committee, Legislative Committee and Yard Committee. In his earlier years he was also active in the St. Clair County Pomona and was often a delegate to the state sessions.



He enjoyed the Grange and was a great asset to Progressive and will be missed greatly.

