

The official publication of the NC State Grange

March/April 2015

GRANGE NEWS



**Grangers
Celebrate Ag Day
&
Visit Nags Head for
Family Conference**

April

Grange Month!

1 New Scholarship

Applications Due

3 Grange Office Closed

May

16 Young Adult Outing

Durham, NC

25 Grange Office Closed

June

21-26 Youth Caravan

26-28 Eastern Regional

Conference

Tennessee

July

3 Grange Office Closed

5-11 Grange Camp

Eastern 4-H Center

17 Resolutions Due

September

7 Grange Office Closed

17-20 State Convention

University Hilton,

Charlotte, NC

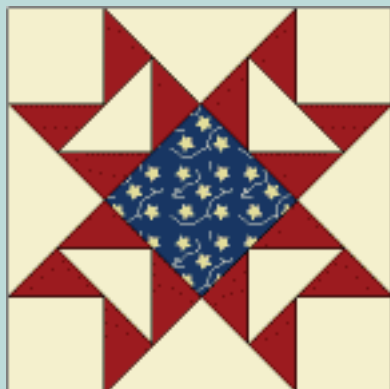
November

10-14 National Convention

Lincoln, Nebraska

GRANGERS VISIT THE ROANOKE ISLAND AQUARIUM!

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QUILT BLOCK CONTEST INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE!

Contact Joyce Clodfelter, NC
State Grange Family Living
Director for information on
entering.

jclodfelter43@gmail.com

The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is a program promoted by the National Grange Lecturer to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the National Grange in 2016. The idea behind the contest is to create a vehicle for our members to share their creative talents. SO LET'S START QUILTING!

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SAVE THE DATE!

Young Adult Event

Register on ncgrange.com

State Officers

President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Program Director	Camille Barfield
Steward	Charles Klupenger
Assistant Steward	Valentin DeLeon
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	Josh Barfield
Treasurer	Sidney Albright
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Greeter	Martha Suther
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Frances Suther
Flora	Carolyn Jernigan

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Chairman	Robert Cayton
Vice Chairman	David Allen
	Vinnie Duncan
	Carlton Barefoot
	Bobby Crawford
	Charles Forrister
President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Y. Hudson
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Treasurer	Sidney Albright
Emeritus	Hubert Hege

Department Heads

Family Living Activities	Joyce Clodfelter
Insurance Programs	Mark Davis
Membership Director	Jessica Horton
Legislative Director	Laurie Payne
Youth Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Jessica Horton
Publications Director	Jessica Horton



I would like to extend my congratulations to NC Grange Mutual Insurance Company for eighty years of service to the state. Chartered in September of 1934 as the Grange Mutual Insurance Fire Association of North Carolina, this company has successfully protected homes, farms, grange halls, churches, and small businesses. Visionary leaders associated with the State Grange saw the need for this company because fire insurance rates were expensive. They moved forward by taking the necessary steps which led to the development of this new insurance company. NC Grange Mutual has survived the test of time through difficult and challenging storms. With sound

decisions made by management and the board, the company remains a healthy entity serving the needs of NC citizens. NC Grange Mutual has served in a responsible and reputable manner for eighty years. By maintaining a capable staff, a strong agency force, prudent financial management, as well as fairness to customers, the company has provided quality service and has helped many families through disasters. For many years they have operated under the theme "Together We Can". The philosophy behind this theme has enabled the company to be a significant provider in our state. Best wishes for an additional eighty years of service to North Carolina.

LEGAL WORKFORCE ACT BRINGS CONCERNS

The Legal Workforce Act (HR 1147) is being considered in the US House of Representatives, and has been passed by the Judiciary Committee. This legislation mandates that US employers use the E-Verify system to ensure that those being hired are in the country legally. If enacted, farm employers would have 36 months to comply. On the one hand, it seems reasonable to expect those hired from foreign countries to be in the USA legally. On the other hand, if Congress fails to enact reforms that would ensure an affordable and adequate supply of farm labor, the Legal Workforce Act will be harmful to agriculture. Without these reforms, farmers will lose a significant amount of labor that they have been dependent upon if E-Verify requirements go into effect.

For years the NC State Grange, along with many other agricultural organizations have advocated for reforms to the agricultural guest worker program. The current H2A program provides legal guest workers, but it is cumbersome and expensive. To date, Congress has not been willing to improve the H2A program nor create a new and better way for farmers to obtain more affordable foreign labor. The NC State Grange will oppose the E-Verify requirement for farmers until Congress enacts new legislation to fix the current labor problems that producers face. If Congress passes the Legal Workforce Act without enacting foreign labor reforms, agriculture will take a huge economic hit when E-Verify goes into effect.

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

Sharon Ritchie, St. John's Grange

Brown Angel Iced Sweet Potato Cookies

- 1 3/4 Cups flour
- 1 Egg
- 1 Tsp nutmeg
- 1 Tbls molasses
- 1 1/2 Tsp baking powder
- 1/2 Tsp butter flavored extract
- 1 1/2 Tsp soda
- 1 1/2 Cups sweet potato
- 1/2 Tsp salt
- 2 Tsp grated orange zest
- 1 Stick butter, room temp
- 1/2 Cup chopped pecans
- 3/4 Cup sugar

Preheat oven 400 degrees

In mixing bowl, mix together the flour, nutmeg, baking powder, soda and salt. Set aside. Using mixer, mix butter and sugar. Add the egg, molasses, extract, sweet potato and zest, then add flour mixture and stir in pecans. Drop spoonfuls of dough onto parchment lined cookie sheet. Bake 12 to 15 min or until golden brown
Yields approx 30 cookies

1st Place, Adult Sweet Potato Cookie

Louise Williams, Grantham Grange

Christmas Almond Cookies

- 1 1/2 Cups room temperature butter
- 3/4 Cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 Tsp salt
- 1/2 Cup slivered almonds
- 3 Tsp vanilla
- 3 Cups flour
- 1 Cup powdered sugar to roll cookies in after baking

Combine the softened butter, 3/4 cup powdered sugar and vanilla at high speed with a mixer. In a separate bowl combine flour and salt. Slowly add the seasoned flour to the butter until well incorporated. Fold in the slivered almonds. Gently roll the dough into one inch balls. Place the balls on a lightly greased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart.

Bake in a 300 degree oven for about 30 min.

Cookies should be crisp but not golden. Roll warm cookies in the powdered sugar.

3rd Place, Adult Nut Cookie

June Hairr, Westbrook Grange

Super Apple Pie

- 4 Cups peeled, sliced apples
- 1 Cup sugar
- 1 Tsp cinnamon
- 1 1/2 Tbls flour
- 9 Inch pie crust

Pre-heat oven to 425 degrees. Mix apples with sugar, cinnamon and flour. Pour into unbaked pie shell and dot with butter.

Topping

- 1/2 Cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 Cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 Cup brown sugar
- 2/3 Cup all-purpose flour

Add pecans to the top of the pie, then using a fork combine other ingredients and spread on top of pie. Cover with foil and bake 20 minutes. Remove foil and bake until done.

4th Place, Adult Apple Pie

Pearl Warren, Westbrook Grange

Chocolate Pecan Pie

- 4 Cups sugar
- 1/2 Cup cocoa
- 12 oz can evaporated milk
- 5 Eggs
- 1 Stick of melted butter
- 1 Tsp vanilla
- 2 Cups chopped pecans
- 3 Unbaked pie shells

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix in order listed and pour in 3 unbaked pie shells. Bake 45 minutes.

2nd Place, Adult Nut Pie

PRICE RECEIVES THE ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

From Grantham Grange

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine was recently awarded to Noble J.B. Price by NC Representative John Bell on behalf of the Great State of North Carolina and Governor Pat McCrory.

The award is one of the most prestigious in the state. It is presented to men and women who have contributed many years of unprecedented service to their community, organizations and or careers.

Price joins a list of notable recipients that include race car drivers Dale Earnhardt, Junior Johnson, and Richard Petty; country singers Randy Travis and Auther L. "Doc" Watson, and Rev. Billy Graham just to name a few.

Price was nominated for the award by NC Representative John Bell. "I am very proud to present this award to such a caring and giving man that has served his community with great dignity for many years. Governor McCrory was impressed with is long record of service and fully endorsed J.B. for this honor." said Bell. Many of the organizations that Price has been involved in serves physically and mentally handicapped and burned children. Having lived with a physical disability and being a burn victim himself, he can truly relate to these children. Some of the organizations that Price is involved with include: Civitans, Golden K Kiwanis and Military Affairs for Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. He and his wife are members of Grantham Grange # 968. He is a Thirty-Second Degree Master Mason and is a member of Mill Creek Masonic Lodge # 125 Newton Grove. He is a member of the York and Scottish Rites and is a Sudan Road Runner. He has made approximately forty trips to drive children to a Shrine Hospital. He is a member of Wilson County Monster Trucks and enjoys performing in parades and other events which raises money to help the children. Price serves on the Board of Directors for Salvation Army, and has served with the Board of Directors for Wayne County Crime Stoppers, Wayne County Public Schools Partners in Education and Wayne County Mental Health. Noble Price has helped with Wayne County Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity.

Price was honored at the annual Grantham Volunteer Fire Department's award banquet where he was recognized with serving the department with twenty years of service.

Left to Right: Wayne Co. Sheriff, Larry Pierce, Gwyn Price, J.B. Price, NC Rep. John Bell and Wayne Co. Comm. Joe Gurley



Happy 80th Birthday Grange Mutual Insurance Company

By Deb Welch, NC State Grange Secretary

The North Carolina State Grange is proud to help the NC Grange Mutual Insurance Company celebrate its 80 years of successfully serving the needs of families in our state.

The State Grange adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a Mutual Insurance Company at its annual meeting in Lumberton, NC and the charter for the company was signed August 15, 1934. By the end of 1935, 35 Grange agents had been appointed to help meet the needs of the membership.

The first policy was sold on February 15, 1935 to W. Kerr Scott, former Master of the State Grange and prominent dairy farmer in Alamance County. Mr. Scott went on to serve as Governor and later US Senator. The second policy was written for Dr. Clarence Poe, also a former State Grange Master and then editor of the *Progressive Farmer* magazine. The first claim was paid to Alamance County Grange farmer and Ag teacher Sam Cooper.

Harry Caldwell was sent from Ohio to this state in 1929 by National Grange Master Lewis Tabor to help reestablish North Carolina Grange units. The state proved to be fertile soil for Grange chapters and within months of arriving in North Carolina 50 new Grange units had been formed with membership in excess of 1,250. The original plan of Master Tabor was for Caldwell to spend time here then move him elsewhere but at the request of the new Grange leaders in our state, those plans changed.

The Grange moved quickly to charter the Grange Mutual Fire Insurance Association of North Carolina. With limited assets but the support of Grange leaders, an initial \$5,000 loan was secured from the Bank of Kernersville, quite a step of faith for the Grange and the bank as this was all taking place in the midst of what we all know as the Great Depression.

The company began by providing only fire insurance coverage but with the blessing of the state the company expanded to provide wind coverage in 1947. From the beginning the company served only Grange families and in 1976 it again expanded and began offering coverage to other than just members of the Grange in our state.

The growth of the company was slow and by the end of the 1935 the total revenue was only \$4,732 and only a few hundred policies written. By the end of its first decade, the company had experienced steady but again controlled growth by serving over 850 families with annual revenue in excess of \$10,000. Growth has continued to be steady and solid through the decades and by 2014, the company had 24,171 policy holders and gross revenue in excess of \$20 million.

Dr. Stuart Noblin's history *The Grange in North Carolina 1929-1954* and the later up-date, *Hold High the Torch* in 1990 by Bill Humphries included highlights of Grange accomplishments. They both pointed out that the Grange is an organization designed to serve people, and that Grange members recognized that they can accomplish things through organization and unity of purpose that cannot be done alone! This is still true for the Grange and NC Grange Mutual Insurance.

"Grange leaders saw the need and began the good work to create a mutual insurance company to serve the underserved", stated President Robert Caldwell said in discussing the 80th anniversary of the company. "Seeing the needs and addressing the needs is the Grange way and has served the insurance company as well." Caldwell continued, "we may be small but we are strong and nimble so we can adjust to changing times."



NC GRANGE MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY - *Together we can!*

In Memoriam

*You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my
God, lights up my darkness.*

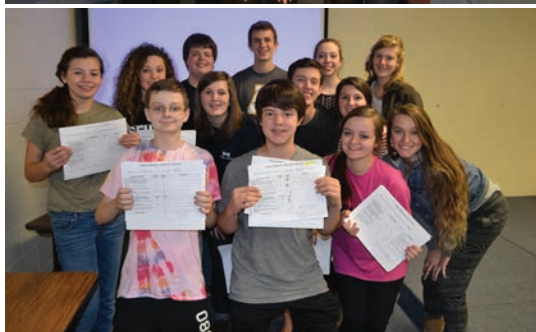
*Psalms 18:28 * 50 Year Member*

*Mrs. Mary S. Ward
Mrs. Elizabeth Massey*
Mr. Ralph Shytle
Mrs. Chris Nutter
Mrs. Alma Trynis*
Mrs. Amelia Shepherd
Ms. Delphine Walsh*

*Randolph Eastern Grange
Brogden Grange
Associate Member
Schley Grange
Schley Grange
Ferguson Grange
Ferguson Grange*

AN AMAZING WEEKEND WITH GRANGE YOUTH

By: Jennie Gentry, NC State Grange Youth Director



Winter Youth Conference was held February 13-15 at Camp Caraway in Asheboro, NC, starting off another great year for our youth program. Youth participated in the retreat to fellowship, learn, build leadership skills, see old friends and make new ones. Three new youth joined the Grange at the conference, expressing their excitement to get more involved in the youth program.

Saturday was a busy day full of a variety of activities. Youth shaped their leadership skills through team building activities and engaged in games led by State FFA Officer,

Harrison Jenkins. They learned about many Grange programs they can be involved in such as our state fitness and health program, Grangers on the Go. Youth were also presented with the National Grange Achievement Awards and National Grange Leadership Awards they had earned in the past year. Darby Madewell, Busy Fork Grange, was honored for receiving the most Achievement Awards in 2014.

The State Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song Contests were held on Saturday afternoon. Winning first place in the Public Speaking Contest for the youth prepared speech category was Darby Madewell. In single Sign-a-Song, Baylor Howerton won first place in the Junior category while Emma Fritts won first place for youth. Our group Sign-a-Song winners were Darby Madewell and Emily Harrison. All of these winners will compete at the Regional Youth Conference in June for a chance to perform at the National Convention this year.

Fourteen youth competed in our annual impromptu speech contest, which brought great entertainment for conference attendees. Winning first place was Kayla Colglazier of Southern Wake Grange. Second place went to Emily Harrison; third place went to Tyler Leonard, and placing fourth was Nick Jones. All speakers did an incredible job.

Elections for State Youth Officers were also held Saturday afternoon. Emily Harrison of Westbrook Grange was elected the 2015 State Grange Youth President, and Brodi Olds of Summerfield Grange was elected the State Youth Vice President. A full list of officers can be found in this edition of Grange News.

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

The 2015 Youth Ambassadors are Brodi Olds, Summerfield Grange, and Emily Harrison, Westbrook Grange. The youth selected to serve on the 2015 State Youth Team are Micalah Bright, Troutman Grange; Riley Furr, St. John's Grange; Marie Jones, Southern Wake Grange; Darby Madewell, Bushy Fork Grange; and Landon Woolard, Beaufort County Grange. Each leader accepted their new position with either tears of joy or smiles of excitement, knowing they had made an amazing accomplishment.

Along with the introduction of the new team, Saturday evening's festivities included dancing, games, and our state Grange Jeopardy Contest with youth competing to test their Grange knowledge. Six youth competed in the final round with Bud Harrison winning first place and Tyler Leonard coming in second. These two, our youngest youth at the conference, have recently moved up into the Youth Program. The evening ended in special vespers led by outgoing team members Missy Mueller and Justin Leonard. Youth departed Sunday morning after a devotion and special friendship circle, sharing hugs and expressing their eagerness to see each other again at Grange Camp. Our youth all had a wonderful weekend together, and much appreciation is given to the adult chaperones that helped make the weekend possible.

When looking back on the weekend, the one thing that stands out is the special bonds that forms among our youth. In two special weekend activities, youth were able to see how much they are loved, and how important their friendship is to one another. A common word used by youth to describe their bond in Grange is "family," which is evident at every youth event we hold. Our organization is proud of what a unique program we have for such a wonderful group of young people.

Top: New Youth Team, Second: Contest Winners Third: Hannah Bright and Marie Jones win game prizes, Bottom: Team Activity

2015

NC STATE GRANGE YOUTH OFFICERS

President:

Emily Harrison, Westbrook Grange

Vice President:

Brodi Olds, Summerfield Grange

Program Director:

Darby Madewell, Bushy Fork Grange

Chaplain:

Evan Hill, Southern Wake Grange

Steward:

Josh Phillips, Arcadia Grange

Assistant Steward:

Landon Woolard, Beaufort County Grange

Lady Assistant Steward:

Marie Jones, Southern Wake Grange

Secretary:

Micalah Bright, Troutman Grange

Treasurer:

Anna Bennett, Southern Wake Grange

Gatekeeper:

Bud Harrison, Westbrook Grange

Ceres:

August Howerton, Bushy Fork Grange

Pomona:

Hannah Bright, Troutman Grange

Flora:

Margie Griffin, Troutman Grange

Executive Committee:

Mabel Griffin, Troutman Grange

Megan King, Southern Wake Grange

Lillie Griffin, Troutman Grange

Ashton Parker, Troutman Grange

Thomas Wallace, Southern Wake Grange



Beaufort County Grange

By: Debra Rose Cayton

Each year the Beaufort County Grange honors a Minister of the Year. This year the choice for Minister of the Year is the Rev. Linwood Adams. Rev. Adams is a native of Beaufort County. He graduated from John A. Wilkinson High School in 1965 and Roanoke Bible College in 1969. He took over the family logging business upon his father's death and operated that until 2012, for 43 years. During that time, he also held ministries at Scranton Christian Church, Eunice Chapel Church of Christ, and West Belhaven Church of Christ. Presently, he is minister of New Hope Church of Christ in Pantego, NC, a position he has held since it was founded in 2007.

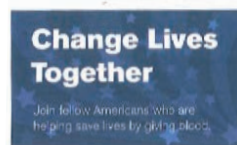
Linwood is married to the former Stella Marie Woolard. They have two children, Jason and Jessica, and five grandchildren.

Linwood states that he is very thankful that God has allowed him to serve Him all these years; especially the last two years in the full-time ministry, giving him opportunities to do even more than he was prior able to do.

The Beaufort County Grange is proud to honor Rev. Linwood Adams as its Minister of the Year. During the award program, held on January 15, 2015, there were approximately 55 family members, friends and Grange members present to celebrate with Rev. Adams.



Right: Rev. Linwood Adams, Left: Marty Alligood



Holy Trinity Lutheran American Red Cross

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Troutman Grange

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Troutman Grange

Going to be in
Troutman, NC
on April 20?
Stop by & give
blood!





MAKE THE GRANGE A STAR IN YOUR COMMUNITY

FAMILY CONFERENCE 2015

STORY & PHOTOS BY JESSICA HORTON

Spring-time, sea-glass ocean waves, salty air and kind-hearted people all came together, for the 2015 Family Conference that commenced on the Outer Banks town of Nags Head, North Carolina.

Grangers from as far west as Murphy coasted interstate 40 and Highway 64 for a weekend of learning, fellowship and relaxation. Grangers arrived for the conference which began on Friday evening with a variety of Grangers answering tough questions about the organization, what they would like to see it in the future, what they would change, and why they joined. Wonderful conversation was sparked, and new ideas were thrown around the room of nearly 200 attendees, much of which centered on how to get the Grange name out to a broader audience. Following the discussion, NC State Grange Program Director, Camille Barfield led the entire group in an activity where Grangers had to work as a team, think fast and sing loud. *Laughter ensued!*

Saturday morning the group reunited after an ocean-side breakfast for several workshops. The first was hosted by Allison Guenther of Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina. Mrs. Guenther spoke about their organization, how it operates and the ways the local Granges can get involved with them. She spoke about the Pinwheel Project in detail, and mentioned it would be a wonderful partnership with Granges to raise awareness of child abuse prevention. The pinwheels signify a child's spirit and remind us of a child-like carefree time. She encouraged Grangers to plant pinwheel gardens in April to show support for Child Abuse Prevention Month, which also happens to be Grange Month. More about the project, how to obtain pinwheels and ideas can be found at www.preventchildabusenc.org. The Grangers in attendance even took a photo for the #PassThePinwheel social media campaign.

Following Mrs. Guenther's presentation, Steve Hanson, Treasurer for the Beach Food Pantry spoke about their Food Bank and how they operate and serve Dare County. The Beach Food Pantry serves as part of the Food Bank of the Albemarle, from where 80% of the food they provide comes. The remaining 20% comes from food drives, or the six local Food Lion stores and the Nags Head Fresh Market and Walmart. In 2013, the Beach Food Pantry served over 5,000 individuals in Dare County. The North Carolina State Grange collected items for the Beach Food Pantry and were able to send them with Mr. Hanson following his presentation. Over 900 items were collected from Grangers across the state, weighing in at 1,078 pounds of food! A cash prize of \$100 was awarded to Troutman Grange for bringing the most items. If you or your Grange did not have a chance to donate, we encourage you to visit www.beachfoodpantry.org where you can donate online. The North Carolina State Grange also hosted an online and in-person calendar contest in which the 12 winners were chosen by monetary votes. Votes totalled \$926.50 and the North Carolina State Grange has sent the donation to the Beach Food Pantry to aid their efforts in Dare County.

After a short recess, Jimmy Gentry, NC State Grange President gave a short presentation on current Grange issues. He spoke about Granges needing to be insured, and bonded in the event of any accidents during Grange related functions. For more information on this, please contact the NC State Grange office.

Lastly, a panel of four agriculture teachers joined us to answer questions about their programs and offer insight of how the Grange could work with them and their students. Amanda Watkins from Northside High School, Cole Watkins from Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology & Agriscience, Larry Kovacs from Southside High School, and Ryan Edwards from Washington High School joined us for the weekend. All four teachers are graduates from Mount Olive University and teach at four schools in Beaufort County. NC State Grange Board Chairman, Robert Cayton invited them all to become members of Beaufort County Grange, to which they accepted! The North Carolina State Grange is glad to have each of you, and look

forward to working with more Agriculture Educators in the future.

Grangers broke for lunch and an afternoon of sightseeing around the Outer Banks on their own. The Young Adults in attendance ventured to Poor Richard's Sandwich Shop in Manteo for a bite to eat before visiting The Mother Vine. The Mother Vine is believed to be the oldest Scuppernong vine found by Sir Walter Raleigh's explorers, Philip Amadas and Arthur Barlowe in the late 1500's. In 1957, Jack and Estelle Wilson purchased the property to construct their new home because of the spectacular water views it boasted. They cared for the vine and become local celebrities because of their property. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson,

both natives of Manteo, welcomed the group to their home to view the vine and trellis in their yard, as well as inform us of the history. Read more about the vine at www.themothervine.com.

Other Grangers made visits to Bodie Island Lighthouse, Jockey's Ridge State Park and Kitty Hawk to see the Wright Brother's Memorial. Saturday afternoon was filled with much adventure for everyone!

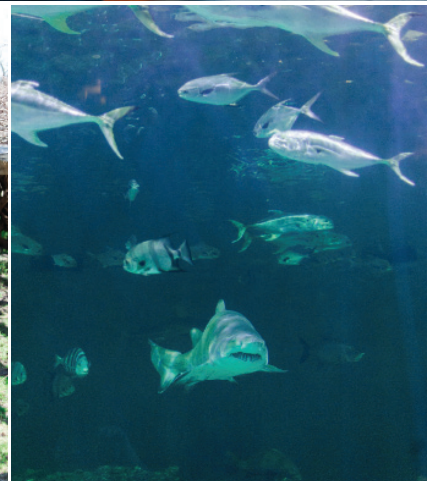
Saturday evening Grangers regrouped and met at the North Carolina Aquarium of Roanoke Island. Members were met with h'ordeuvres and entertainment by the aquarium volunteers prior to dinner. Attendees roamed the facility, viewing turtles, sea lions, sharks and many fish. A large floor to ceiling shark tank was the focal point of the meal, giving "dining

with the fish" a new meaning. Following dinner, the Annual State Grange Talent Show commenced with three acts, and Junior Granger, Mikayla Jones winning the grand prize. She will represent North Carolina at the Evening of Excellence at the National Grange Convention in Nebraska this November.

Sunday morning brought worship from Board Chairmen, Rev. Robert Cayton delivering a message about moving forward and not looking back, which was very inspiring. Grangers departed the event with many positive comments from the weekend, and everyone is looking forward to re-connecting this September at our Annual State Convention in Charlotte.



Top: (left) Grangers enjoy fruit at the aquarium, (right) The Mother Vine Second: Young Adults visit Kitty Hawk and The Mother Vine Third: Grangers at The Mother Vine, Raymond Hayes answers tough questions on the panel, Grangers learn about sealife at the aquarium Bottom: Mikayla Jones sings, David and Crystal Allen at The Mother Vine, Aquarium sharks



KUDOS FOR AG AWARENESS DAY!

By: Laurie Payne, NC State Grange Legislative Director

From The American Dairy Goat Association to the Plant Sciences Initiative, not to mention the Watermelon Association, The Poultry Federation and of course....The NC State Grange as well as many others donned the hallowed halls of the North Carolina General Assembly during Agriculture Awareness Day on Wednesday, March 18th. "Come Grow With Us" banners, which was the Ag Awareness Day logo, were seen everywhere as visitors walked through the exhibits gathering information and asking questions.

This day was actually National Ag Day, however last fall Commissioner Troxler, determined to bring North Carolina Agriculture to the General Assembly, declared March 18th "Agriculture Awareness Day" in North Carolina, and so...the planning began. Governor McCrory was extremely enthusiastic about the idea and readily opened up the Governor's mansion for a reception for all the commodity leaders as well as Agriculture leaders and advocates such as the NC State Grange and the Farm Bureau. It was an amazing day! 46 commodities and agriculture associations participated by reserving exhibit space in the quad areas of the General Assembly building. This gave everyone the opportunity to wander through the quad areas of the General Assembly and talk to farmers, agriculture education leaders and agribusiness

leaders. Approximately 1600 farmers came from all over North Carolina to show their support. A rally was held at the Capitol just before noon. Governor McCrory was flanked by North Carolina leaders including our own NC State Grange President-Jimmy Gentry, Farm Bureau President-Larry Wooten, Dean Richard Linton of CALS at NCSU, Dean Bill Randle of A&T University, Tim Moore-Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro Tem of the NC Senate-Phil Berger, Appropriations Chairman and farmer-Sen. Brent Jackson, Agriculture Chairmen-Sen. Andrew Brock, and Rep. Jimmy Dixon and Health & Human Services Chairman and farmer-Rep. William Brisson.

"We have the best state because we have the best of everything, and the best of everything is in this audience right now. People who make things, produce things, build things and grow things. We are taking advantage of the natural resources we have. We have the best entrepreneurs right here, the people who understand the

markets, hard work, strong work values and business ethics. These are the people of the Ag community. The Ag community is leading the Carolina Comeback and I want to thank you," broadcasted Gov. McCrory to a crowd of around 800 people. "We are listening to you. We trust you and you are telling us that you care about the future of our state and our country and the food supply for generations to come. You are our future of our quality of life and our survival. Agriculture is leading the way, it is the number one most important industry in North Carolina." After the rally, students from Mt. Olive University lined up to serve the crowd a bag lunch as well as barbeque sandwiches.

Later in the afternoon Gov. McCrory hosted many of the commodity leaders at the mansion for a wonderful feast of appetizers provided by the Pork Council, Jeff and Linda Turner and Dell and Wendy Murphy. It was a day to celebrate what agriculture means to the state of North Carolina. Another reception was held that evening at the Science Museum hosted by the Agribusiness Council. Many of the House and Senate members were present. This was another excellent opportunity for commodity leaders to speak to their representatives about concerns they had but also to thank them for their service.

NC Grange consultant Tom Ellis was there all day to support the Grange. He shared his thoughts, "From my viewpoint, this was the greatest success of the day. For years we have had conferences where everyone sat in the same room, ate lunch with their friends and left. Yesterday the multitude of agricultural interests actually spoke with each other.....this degree of interaction may have never

happened to this extent ever before. The crowd was governed by thousands of individuals making personal decisions. Still it has been a long time since that many farmers have come to Raleigh on a single mission. As with all events, it will grow based on the success of yesterday."

Commissioner Troxler is determined to grow the \$78 billion dollar agriculture industry in North Carolina to \$100 billion and sooner rather than later. With the leaders that we have in North Carolina and the agricultural education opportunities that continue to grow, we are all hopeful that this goal will become a reality.

A great big thank you to all of our Grangers that came out and supported agriculture on March 18th. Your support meant so much to the NC Grange staff members as well as all of our commodities that participated.





Top: Grange display, Middle: Over 1,500 gather on the Capitol lawn, Allison Guenther, David Fowler & Wayne Stack pose at the *Got to Be NC* shopping cart, Bobby & Linda Crawford with Mark Davis, Bottom: Gov. Pat McCrory addresses the crowd, with Jimmy Gentry, NC Grange President to the far left

The 2015-16 Long Session of the North Carolina General Assembly is 3 weeks behind schedule mainly due to winter storms that all of us in North Carolina have suffered through. With the onset of spring however the General Assembly sessions and committee meetings seem to be back on schedule.

Below I have listed the bills that the NC State Grange is tracking thus far. Jimmy Gentry, Jeff Barnhart and I monitor the bills that are introduced and if they pertain to our policy we add them to a tracking system. Using this method, we can track them through the legislative process along with any changes made to them and if necessary lobby for or against them. Hopefully you will find this interesting and helpful. As always, if you have any questions please email me or call me at any time.

SB 94-EDUCATION SIMPLIFICATION AMENDMENT

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO SIMPLIFY THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR A SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO REPLACE THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF A SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND A STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

HB 46-SENIOR TAX DEDUCTION FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES

AN ACT TO ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES.

HB 76-DISAPPROVE MEC OIL & GAS RULES

AN ACT TO DISAPPROVE A RULE ADOPTED BY THE MINING AND ENERGY COMMISSION PROVIDING FOR MANAGEMENT OF OIL OR GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

HB 41-REVENUE LAWS TECHNICAL CHANGES

AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL AND CLARIFYING CHANGES TO VARIOUS REVENUE LAWS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE REVENUE LAWS STUDY COMMITTEE.

SB 19-REVENUE LAWS TECHNICAL CHANGES

AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL AND CLARIFYING CHANGES TO VARIOUS REVENUE LAWS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE REVENUE LAWS STUDY COMMITTEE.

HB 67-PHASE OUT CERTAIN HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFERS

AN ACT TO PHASE OUT THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE HIGHWAY FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND.

SB 106-MODIFY FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND MATCH

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT FUNDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF MILITARY BUFFERS APPROPRIATED TO THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND FOR THE 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR ARE NONREVERTING.

HB 3-EMIENT DOMAIN

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT CONDEMNATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY EXCEPT FOR A PUBLIC USE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF JUST COMPENSATION WITH RIGHT OF TRIAL BY JURY IN ALL CONDEMNATION CASES, AND TO MAKE SIMILAR STATUTORY CHANGES.

This bill has passed the House and hopefully will be passed in the Senate with no problems. This bill is one that I believe we all support strongly.

HB 74-STUDY MPO/RPO OVERSIGHT

AN ACT TO STUDY THE OVERSIGHT OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS AND RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.

HB 51-JUSTICE FOR RURAL CITIZENS ACT

AN ACT TO REMOVE THE INJUSTICE OF EXTRATERRITORIAL PLANNING JURISDICTION BY DECLARING THAT NO CITY IN THE STATE MAY HAVE OR EXERCISE PLANNING JURISDICTION OUTSIDE ITS CORPORATE LIMITS.

HB 69-SALES TAX EXEMPTION AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

AN ACT TO EXEMPT ADMISSION CHARGES TO AGRICULTURAL FAIRS FROM THE SALES TAX IMPOSED ON AN ADMISSION CHARGE TO AN ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITY.

HB 97, 98, 101-2015 APPROPRIATIONS

AN ACT TO MAKE BASE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTIONS, AND AGENCIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SB 155-REDUCE PUV (PLANNED USE VALUE) ENTRY TIME FOR FARMLAND

AN ACT TO FACILITATE FARMLAND ENTRY INTO THE PRESENT-USE VALUE PROGRAM.

HB 148-INSURANCE AND SAFETY INSPECTION/MOPEDS

AN ACT TO REQUIRE OWNERS OF MOPEDS TO HAVE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT A POLICY OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, TO PROVIDE THAT MOPEDS ARE SUBJECT TO SAFETY INSPECTIONS, AND TO MAKE CLARIFYING CHANGES RELATED TO THE LAW REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF MOPEDS.

SB-225 THE BIRDS & THE BEES ACT

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT ORDINANCES RELATED TO BEE HIVES AND TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO STUDY STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING POLLINATORS.

HB 227- BROADEN SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR FARMERS

AN ACT TO LOWER THE INCOME REQUIREMENT FOR QUALIFYING FARMERS FOR PURPOSES OF THE SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR FARMERS.

Governor McCrory's recommended budget for 2015-16 was released March 5th. This session the House of Representatives will work on the budget first, and then Senate will then take up the budget making their changes and recommendations. Following this process, the two houses will come together, argue their differences and hopefully reach a compromise without too much controversy.

Jimmy Gentry and I along with Barden Culbreth who works for McCloud & Associates (a lobbying firm that we have worked with on Federal legislation in the past) and also a Capitol Grange member, visited with Congressman Richard Hudson while he was in his district in early March. We had a productive visit with him; and we were able to expound on our position and concerns with the 340B program. The 340B Drug Pricing Program requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible health care organizations/covered entities at significantly reduced prices. Affordability and availability of health care and medication is of utmost importance to our members therefore we support the 340B program. This program does call for transparency from those that qualify to insure that the intentions of the program are not being abused in any way. We are advocating for more transparency going forward to make sure that this program can be sustained.

We also had the opportunity to express to Congressman Hudson our concern with HR 1147~The Legal Workforce Act. We have grave concerns for our farmers if this bill is enacted. Following is a press release that Jimmy Gentry wrote explaining the NC State Grange's position:

State Grange Opposes Agricultural Workforce Act: A bill being considered in the US House of Representatives known as the Legal Workforce Act (HR 1147) was

approved by the Judiciary Committee on March 3, 2015. This legislation would require employers in the United States to use the E-Verify system to determine if potential employees are in the country legally. If enacted, agricultural employers would have thirty six months to comply with the new law from the time the bill is passed.

The North Carolina State Grange opposes the Legal Workforce Act because no provisions are in place to ensure that farmers will be able to obtain the labor that they need to work on their farms. "The passage of HR 1147 alone without corresponding legislation to fix problems with the current guest

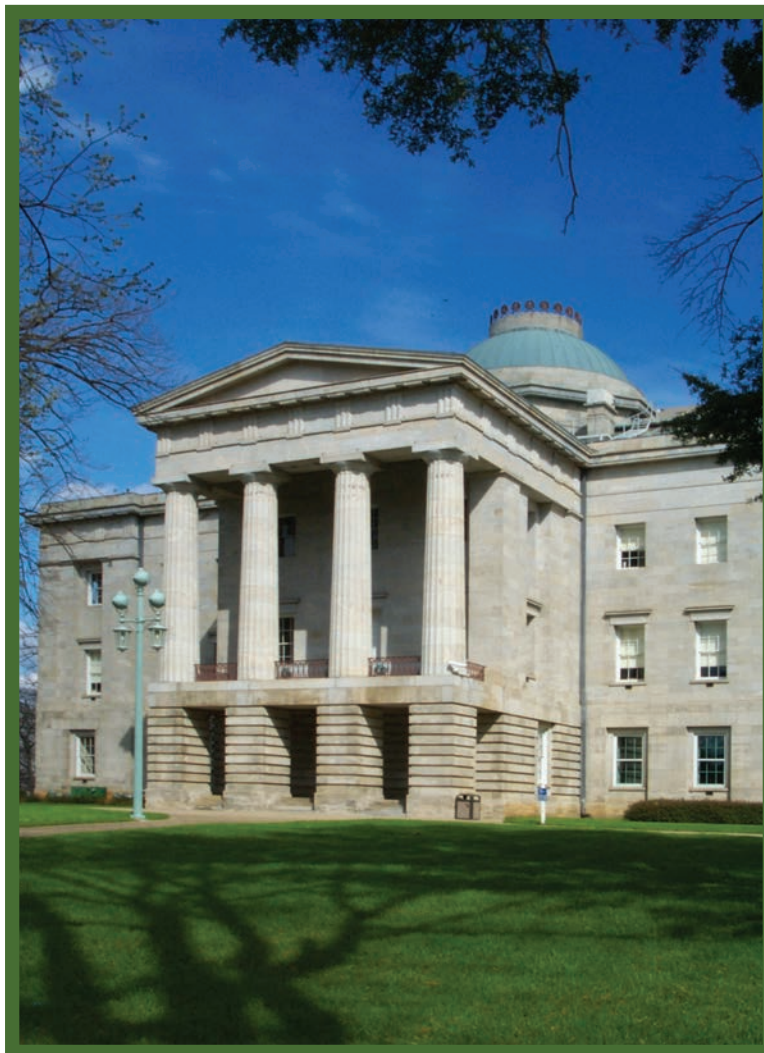
For years the State Grange and other agricultural groups have advocated for a reformed agricultural guest worker program that is streamlined and affordable for producers. Congress has not been willing to tackle immigration reform, nor deal with the guest worker program through separate legislation. Now farming is threatened by the Legal Workforce Act. "It is as if Congress has it in reverse" says Gentry. They really need to create an improved guest worker program first, and then deal with E Verify."

Because it is so difficult to recruit local labor, North Carolina farmers are very dependent upon foreign workers. In states such as Georgia and Alabama where E-Verify laws were applied to farms, heavy losses occurred because of the lack of labor. If Congress enacts HR 1147 without a fix to the guest worker program, the potential will exist for farms across the country to experience labor shortages resulting in huge economic losses.

Deadlines for bill filing has come and gone in the legislature. In the House, local bills had to be filed by Wednesday, April 1st, public bills and resolutions (no appropriations or finance bills) by April 8th and public bills (appropriations and finance) by April 15th. In the Senate, public bills and resolutions had to be filed by March 26th.

During the Family Conference at Nag's head, I had the opportunity to talk with several Grange members about concerns they had with bills that are currently in committee. I encourage all of our Grange members to be pro-

active in contacting your Representatives and Senators about bills you support or oppose. They are your elected officials and they are in Raleigh for you. Please let them hear your voice.



worker program will be a huge problem for producers", says Jimmy Gentry, President of the NC State Grange. "Without a remedy to labor issues, agricultural producers are not likely to be ready to comply with E Verify requirements in three years."

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Save the date!
MAY 16

The Young Adults had a great time exploring the OBX at Family Conference, join us to visit the Duke Farm and a Durham Bulls game!

Register at ncgrange.com under 'events'

