

The official publication of the NC Grange

July / August 2021

GRANGE NEWS

Grange Camp 2021



contents

3	A Note From Jimmy NC State Grange President
4	Grange Camp
6	Awards & Officers
8	Junior Camp
9	Hudson Elected to Foundation Board
10	New Grange Plants Pumpkins
11	Ferguson Grange, New Members
12	Gotcha Covered
13	New Soil & Water Foundation Director
14	Capitol News
11	Community Service

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Vice President	Ned Hudson
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Chaplain	VACANT
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Secretary	Deborah Welch
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Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Frances Suther
Flora	Janice Wilcox

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Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Sharon Underwood
Publications Director	Jessica Horton

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 9-12	State Convention, Charlotte, North Carolina
November 9-13	National Convention, Wichita, Kansas

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.

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A NOTE FROM JIMMY: GRANGE CAMP

I am writing this article on the Wednesday following Grange Camp, and much of what took place last week is still fresh on my mind. I want to share with you some things that I observed. I saw campers being kind to each other through a number of random acts. When a junior accidentally spilled something at the meal table, I saw the rest of the kids at the table pitch in and help clean up the spill which helped to alleviate embarrassment. I saw one of the most polite juniors I have ever encountered come to camp for the first time who did not know any of the other kids his age. Not only did he make new friends, he flourished! I witnessed a junior who was reluctant to go kayaking making the decision to go, and then rejoicing in the decision she made. One of the youth injured her ankle on Monday night. Even though the injury prevented her from participating in some of the activities, she did not want to leave camp and return home. We contacted her Agriculture Teacher who made arrangements for a wheel chair, and this camper remained for the rest of the week. Surrounding her were other campers who gave her support and pushed her wheel chair around camp for her. The support given to this injured camper was amazing. Another fulfilling sight to see are the adult Grange Counselors and the way that they interact with the campers, and in turn how the campers depend upon them. Many of the counselors were at one time participants in the youth program.

Grange Camp is filled with activities through the week with little down time. A time for rest is provided for approximately 30 minutes after lunch each day. Beyond that, the kids are busy. They get tired, but they are having so much fun they do not mind. I saw relationships established and leadership skills

enhanced, amid a lot of group activities where campers work as a team and support each other. It is an amazing week!

It is always gratifying for me to see the kids grow through the week, gaining new experiences and learning new skills, while also learning leadership and teamwork. When it is time to leave on Saturday morning, there are kids crying! They cry because they know they will miss the experiences and the people they have come to know. Many of them say they want to come back next year.

This year marked the 75th year of Grange Camp, which has been a mainstay within the youth program. I still remember Camp Tom Browne and how important those weeks were to my development. Seeing the love, kindness and support the campers show to each other is incredible. NC Grange provides a substantial amount of financial support to make camp more affordable, and it is some of the best money we spend!

One more thing needs to be said. There is a couple in my community who believe strongly in youth development. Each year before camp they contact me to see if any campers need help with paying their camp fee. This year they sponsored six campers for a total of \$1800.00. I am so thankful for their generosity.

MOVE TO YOUR OWN GROOVE

grange camp 2021

by : Jennie Gentry

The State Grange's Youth Program began in December of 1939, and the first ever Grange Camp was held the following summer. It was a small, short camp retreat, but it started a summer tradition that has since remained the favorite event of the year for our Grange youth. The 1940s was not the easiest of decades, and there were several summers that camp did not occur. This was due to transportation issues from World War II, and of course, several years of the polio epidemic. Missing camp in 2020 due to Covid-19 seemed like history repeating itself. However, our youth were determined to reunite in 2021, and they did, with much enthusiasm and love for their Grange friends. The best part of this is that this reunion became our 75th year of Grange Camp!

To celebrate in style, this year's Grange Camp theme was "Move to Your Own Groove," a 1970s theme. It was created to teach campers to be confident in being themselves. Held again this year at the Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia, NC, campers enjoyed an amazing week of camp that started Sunday, July 4, beside the beautiful, calm Albemarle Sound. We celebrated the 4th of July holiday watching fireworks that burst in the beautiful night sky over the water. It was a fun start to an amazing, memorable week.

Throughout the week, campers enjoyed a variety of daily activities such as kayaking, group games, ropes courses, giant swing, gaga ball, crabbing, wall climbing, swimming, archery, team building, leadership, and more.



They also performed a service project making cards for nursing home residents. The week of camp included group challenges as part of the traditional “Battle By the Bay” competition. Groups competed in a variety of activities with one group emerging as the week’s champions. This year’s youth winner was the group Faith, led by counselors Dewayne Craft and Missy Mueller, and Youth Team members Lillie Roquet and Matthew Settle. The Orange Group led by counselors Lisa Anderson, Jessica Horton and Charles Howerton, and Junior Team member Ryleigh Hartsell, were named the Junior champions.

After daily activities, campers joined each evening for camp’s traditional events. Sunday night brought fun get-acquainted games led by the Youth Team. Monday night held our famous Great Grange Challenge where campers raced in a round robin of team building water activities on the sports field. On Tuesday night, campers enjoyed the annual Talent Show and “the 1970s” costume night. Wednesday night held our traditional Skit Night when each group performs a skit, giving everyone many laughs.

Thursday night, campers demonstrated their leadership skills at Model Grange Night. State Youth Officers performed their duties by opening and closing the Grange meeting in ritual form. Our State Youth President, Cole Settle of Little Mountain Grange, led the youth officers in the Grange opening with Jacob Roquet and Asheton Medlin leading the drill as the Assistant and Lady Assistant Steward. The Junior Officers also performed the Junior Opening and Closing of the Grange led by State Junior President, Cade Howerton of Bushy Fork Grange. The Junior Officer Drill was led by Nick Cameron and Gigi Stone, who served as the Junior Assistants. All officers truly stood out, demonstrating phenomenal leadership skills.





YOUTH AWARDS

Grange Camp King:
Cole Settle

Grange Camp Queen:
Lillee Roquet

Best All Around:
Asheton Medlin
Jacob Roquet

Best Role Model:
Autumn Whitaker
Brady Marley

Grange Spirit Award:
Caroline Barber
Brandon Medlin

Miss Congeniality:
Abby Gentry
Mr. Congeniality:
Alex Gentry

Best Personality:
Baylor Howerton
Carson Lackey

Unsung Hero:
Makenna Seymour
Nathan Ramirez

Most Outstanding Leader:
Olivia Barber
Matthew Settle

Most Unforgettable:
Olivia Gentry
Clayton Cameron

Most Fun to Be Around:
Liz Cartwright
Carter Settle

Best 1st Year Camper:
Samantha Hunnings
Eli Lambert

President's Best Camper Award:
Cole Settle
Asheton Medlin

Grange Leadership Award:
Autumn Whitaker
Jacob Roquet

Counselors Award:
Baylor Howerton
Brady Marley

Youth Director's Award:
Liz Cartwright
Karly Denning

JUNIOR AWARDS

Grange Camp Price:
Cade Howerton

Grange Camp Princess:
Ryleigh Hartsell

Counselors Award:
Brayden Eudy
Laci Liles

Grange Leadership Award:
Nick Cameron
Lucy Anderson

Hunt Best Camper Award:
Cade Howerton
Ryleigh Hartsell

OFFICERS

President:
Youth: Cole Settle
Junior: Cade Howerton

Vice President:
Youth: Lillee Roquet
Junior: Ryleigh Hartsell

Program Director:
Youth: Maria Rapp
Junior: Emry Starnes

Steward:
Youth: Matthew Settle
Junior: Cole Sandy

Assistant Steward:
Youth: Jacob Roquet
Junior: Nick Cameron

Lady Assistant Steward:
Youth: Asheton Medlin
Junior: GiGi Stone

Chaplain:
Youth: Liz Cartwright
Junior: Brayden Eudy

Treasurer:
Youth: Bradon Medlin
Junior: Levi Liles

Secretary:
Youth: Olivia Barber
Junior: Makenzie Vann

Gatekeeper:
Youth: Carson Lackey
Junior: Lucy Anderson

Ceres:
Youth: Olivia Gentry
Junior: Reagan Hartsell

Pomona:
Youth: Autumn Whitaker
Junior: Laci Liles

Flora:
Youth: Karly Denning
Junior: Gentry Wilson

Executive Committee:
Youth: Alex Gentry
Youth: Abby Gentry
Youth: Baylor Howerton
Youth: Brady Marley
Youth: Carter Settle
Junior: Jack Spratling
Junior: Sarah Anderson
Junior: Chloe Laws
Junior: Aiden Kibbey
Junior: Wiley Wilson



As part of the Thursday evening activities, campers sang Happy Birthday to Grange Camp before enjoying delicious cupcakes to commemorate our 75th year of camp. They also celebrated in traditional camp style by square dancing. It is amazing to be part of a camp that has continued to impact the lives of youth since 1940.

At our annual Friday evening Awards Ceremony, trophies were presented to each Junior Camper for superlatives chosen by their group counselors. Cade Howerton and Ryleigh Hartsell were crowned the Junior Camp Prince and Princess. Counselors also selected special awards that will be presented at September's State Convention. The Junior Counselors Award was given to Brayden Eudy and Laci Liles. The Junior Grange Leadership Award was given to Nick Cameron and Lucy Anderson. The highest honor, the Hunt Best All Around Camper Award, was presented to Cade Howerton (Bushy Fork Grange) and Ryleigh Hartsell (St. John's Grange).

Youth Awards were also presented, starting with superlatives, which were selected by their peers. Cole Settle (Little Mountain Grange) and Lillie Roquet (Cape Fear Grange) were crowned this year's Grange Camp King and Queen. (The full list of youth superlatives is included with this article.) Counselors also selected special youth awards that will be presented at the State Convention in September. The Counselors Award was given to Brady Marley and Baylor Howerton. The Grange Leadership Award was awarded to Jacob Roquet and Autumn Whitaker. The highest honor, the President's Best Camper Award, was presented to Cole Settle (Little Mountain Grange) and Asheton Medlin (Bushy Fork Grange). All campers did a wonderful job throughout the week! The Awards Ceremony was followed by dancing and a sentimental candlelight ceremony that was led by our Youth Team. It was a very special night to end our incredible week together.

The week could not have been made possible without the excellent leadership and creativity of our 2021 State Youth Leadership Team, who helped plan the camp activities and theme. Made up of Olivia Barber, Asheton Medlin, Maria Rapp, Jacob Roquet, Lillie Roquet, Cole Settle, Matthew Settle and Autumn Whitaker, the team truly stood out as outstanding, charismatic leaders who made a strong, lasting impact on our campers. Our incredible Grange Counselors are also attributed for the week's success. We thank them for their hard work and for volunteering their time to help make a difference. Without their nurturing, loving hearts, camp would not be the amazing camp that it is. Special thanks are also given to all our local Granges and individuals who helped sponsor and pay for campers to attend this special week.

Grange Camp is such a unique, life-changing experience for campers whose lives are positively impacted in so many special ways. Campers develop very close friendships, with many referring to those friends as their "second family." It is a place where kids come out of their shells, build relationships, work together and accept each other. Most importantly, it is a place where campers can completely be themselves, in their own groove.



JUNIOR CAMP

by: Emily Hartsell

What an amazing week we had at Grange Camp! I think it is safe to say that everyone had a wonderful time, but we all came home exhausted from all the fun we had!

A total of 26 juniors attended camp this year. We were only allowed up to 75% capacity due to Covid-19, so we were excited to have as many campers as we did. Two junior groups battled it out all week to see who would win Battle By the Bay. They competed in challenges such as wall climbing, skits, crabbing, the Great Grange Challenge and a Kahoot competition. It was a class race, but in the end, the Orange Group took bragging rights, which was led by Grange counselors Lisa Anderson, Jessica Horton and Charles Howerton.

We had two amazing juniors on the Junior Leadership Team this year. These leaders were Cade Howerton of Bushy Fork Grange in Roxboro and Ryleigh Hartsell of St. John's Grange in Mt. Pleasant. Not only did they help lead their groups, but they also led songs and blessings during mealtimes. This was a big responsibility because the youth and juniors were split into two different dining rooms this year for Covid precautions. It was up to these two leaders to keep mealtimes fun, and they did an outstanding job! Junior campers stayed busy all week with 9-square, gaga ball, kayaking, archery, swimming at the pool, and even tie-dying beach towels to take home. We even celebrated July 4th by the waterfront watching fireworks that a local neighbor sets off each year. We know this year of camp was very different due to the Covid safety

measures, but the campers really were just happy to be back together!

On Friday night at camp, each junior camper received a superlative award. The following juniors also received special awards that will be presented at the State Grange Convention at a special awards luncheon. Selected by the Junior counselors, the Counselor's Award went to Brayden Eudy and Laci Liles; and the Grange Leadership Award was given to Nick Cameron and Lucy Anderson. The highest award a junior can receive is the Hunt Best Camper Award, which was given to Cade Howerton and Ryleigh Hartsell. Cade Howerton and Ryleigh Hartsell were also crowned the 2021 Junior Camp Prince and Princess. We hope that each junior can attend State Convention this September in Charlotte at the University Hilton. Registration is now live at ncgrange.com/events.

Overall, we had a wonderful 75th year of Grange Camp! It was wonderful being back at the Eastern 4H Center with our awesome campers. We miss everyone and are already looking forward to another great year of camp in 2022.





Hudson Elected to Foundation Board

by : Jimmy Gentry

As part of a recent re-structuring of the NC Grange Foundation, Melanie Hudson from St. John's Grange has been added to the Board of Directors. For years, the board of the Grange Foundation has been a subset of the NC Grange Board. Recently, the bylaws of the Foundation were changed to allow others who are not current members of the NC Grange Board to serve. Melanie grew up in St. John's Grange and has served for years as the pianist at State Grange Convention.

The NC Grange Foundation is a 501c-3 charitable organization and was formed 22 years ago. The purposes of the Foundation are as follows:

- To promote educational programs with an emphasis on agriculture.
- To support the development of rural community improvement.
- To promote research in agriculture and economics.
- To foster education, leadership, and self-reliance among youth.

- To encourage exchange of information with friends of agriculture from other countries.
- To facilitate charitable activities for the benefit of the poor, handicapped, or underprivileged.

Currently the Foundation supports the scholarship program and can approve other efforts upon approval of the Board of Directors. Sometimes individuals contribute to the Foundation to assist youth in going to camp. At times others have contributed for disaster relief as well as memorials. Donors are able to take tax deductions for contributions to the Foundation.

The current Board of Directors of the Foundation are: Jimmy Gentry, Deb Welch, Ned Hudson, Julia Stack, and Melanie Hudson. Julia Stack is the Treasurer and handles the financial needs for the Foundation.

To support the scholarship program, the State Grange Board made the decision to place \$50,000.00 into the Foundation, and scholarships are now paid from the Foundation.

Support is also needed from our members. As you consider contributions that you make, please keep the Foundation in mind.



URBAN PUMPKINS by : Jessica Horton

NEW GRANGE PLANTS PUMPKINS

This summer, a new Grange has emerged from the suburban town of Huntersville, North Carolina, proving that you do not need to live on hundreds of rural acreage to be part of an agriculture community.

After I visited a flower farm located in Kernersville, North Carolina (a suburb of Winston Salem), the wheels started turning about creating a flower farm in Huntersville. This idea grew and morphed into a community giving garden. After speaking with several friends I attend church with, we decided we should pursue the garden idea on a former 0.6 acre garden plot the church owns... and word spread fast. Other church and community members jumped on board to form the newly established VilleWorth Grange.

While we had our eyes set on starting seeds late this winter for spring planting, a church member asked if we would be interested in planting pumpkins for this fall. The group said yes, and two days later, that church member had the field plowed and ready for us. On June 29, before our new Grange charter application was even filed, 97 hills were planted. Four quick season varieties were seeded, Connecticut Field, Sugar Pie, Jack Be Little and Porcelain Doll. Within days, the seedlings had sprung to life in the heat of the summer.

We are learning the rewards and hardships of farming on a smaller scale. There is joy and excitement when seeing giant green leaves and healthy stems. The heartache comes from seeing a few spots with no germination, pulling hundreds of feet of hose to keep them watered, and battling all the weeds and yellow jackets.

With no other pumpkin patches or vendors in the downtown core of Huntersville, the group hopes this will be a welcome

addition to the town for years to come. This will also serve as a great fundraiser for the group to purchase garden supplies for the spring, and a portion of the proceeds will be given to the church for the use of the land.

We hope to have many pounds of produce to give to those in need next year and offer workshops for those wanting to learn more about gardening.



Follow along with VilleWorth Grange

villeworthgrange.com

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FERGUSON GRANGE

by : Sharon Underwood

Ferguson Grange was one of the stops for the 2021 Youth Team Caravan. It was a wonderful meeting held at Whippoorwill Academy and Village. Special guests from the State Grange office included Jimmy Gentry, Jennie Gentry and Katie Greene, plus eight outstanding Grange youth from all over the state. We had a successful business meeting, a great devotional, refreshments and bamboo pickles! We even had some picking and grinning with musical entertainment on the fiddle, guitar and mandolin.



Ferguson Grange also held their annual July dinner at the Brushy Mountain Smokehouse and Creamery in North Wilkesboro. RP Minton, Vice President, coordinated the event with 31 in attendance including 24 members and 7 guests. We honored our local, recently retired school principal, Beth Hubbard, for her hard work and positive relationship with our Grange. It was a great evening of fellowship, laughter and good food!



Make plans to be
in Kansas with
us for National
Convention!



TO OUR NEWEST GRANGE MEMBERS!

Andrea Swanick - VilleWorth Grange
Stephen Swanick - VilleWorth Grange
Laurie Nappier - VilleWorth Grange
Brian Nappier - VilleWorth Grange
Rachel Hoppe - VilleWorth Grange
James Hoppe - VilleWorth Grange
Perry Smith - VilleWorth Grange
Chris Brown - VilleWorth Grange
Rita Mashburn - VilleWorth Grange
David Mashburn - VilleWorth Grange
Ashley Adams - VilleWorth Grange
Kelly Ferris - VilleWorth Grange
Corey Ferris - VilleWorth Grange
Casey Ferris - VilleWorth Grange
Candice Klein - VilleWorth Grange
Anita Lanier - Brogden Grange
Kabin Brown - Corriher Grange
Carrie Brown - Corriher Grange
Pat Barger - Ferguson Grange
Denise Lowery - Grantham Grange
Emma Gore (Jr.) - Grantham Grange
Bill Joyner - Grantham Grange
Angie Joyner - Grantham Grange
Tommy Grantham - Grantham Grange
Annie Grantham - Grantham Grange
Wesley Thornton - Grantham Grange
Madison Thornton (Jr.) - Grantham Grange
Janell Correll - St. John's Grange
John Harrison - St. John's Grange
Meredith Harrison - St. John's Grange
Marianne Harrison - St. John's Grange
Emma Harrison - St. John's Grange

SOMETIMES JUST A “PATCH” WILL NOT DO!

Since this issue of Grange News includes Grange Camp, I will share the story of my camp adventure this year. I normally try to visit camp on Monday afternoon to observe and take some drone pictures of the afternoon activities and of the Great Grange Challenge, a competition which occurs Monday evening after dinner. I usually stay to take more pictures on Tuesday before heading out to visit agents in the eastern part of the state.

Due to scheduling changes this year, I was only available to visit Grange Camp on Thursday and Friday. With a tropical storm projected to be over North Carolina on Thursday, I continued to watch the forecast and radar to see if there was any possibility of flying the drone this year. The storm moved on quickly and it appeared that flights were possible on Friday, and I could visit some agents on Thursday afternoon, skirting south of the weather. While driving through periods of heavy rain, all went well, and I stopped in Rocky Mount on Thursday night.

Friday morning I arrived at camp and performed several drone flights for general camp pictures. I then proceeded to snap a few activity pictures and pitched in to help clear out one of the activity rooms. The high school aged youth were in the gym playing 9 Square, which is a modification of volleyball and 4 Square, and I was able to get an indoor drone flight completed. After the campers had lunch, there were water activities to photograph from the air out over the bay. Upon review of the drone work and sending pictures out to various individuals, it was time to head back to Williamston to meet with a potential new agent. After that, I would travel westward bound to Reidsville with an expected arrival time of 8:00 p.m.

Now the “adventure” begins, turning a routine day into a non-routine event. I was about half way around I-540 when a low tire pressure alert went off indicating the right rear tire had an issue. The alert initially indicated 25 PSI in the tire. It dropped to 24 within the minute; then 23, and I was looking for the nearest exit ramp. Thankfully, there was an exit about a mile ahead with a gas station, a safe place to put on the spare tire and continue on home. By the time I got to the station, the pressure had dropped to 20, and I parked and readied myself for the hot task of changing the tire.

I moved items from the trunk to the back seat to access the spare tire, only to be reminded that since the car is a diesel vehicle, the area normally used for the donut tire enclosed the Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) tank. There was no spare tire at all. “Now what,” I asked myself. I pulled out my phone and started looking for the phone numbers of various roadside assistance providers. The first company I called said they were at least 4 hours behind. The second had all their trucks out with no estimate of when they could come, and the third closed fifteen minutes earlier at 7:00 p.m.

After going through the list of companies, the last ditch effort was to employ an “air in a can” emergency patch that tire dealers generally hate to clean up after it is used. I truly doubted that the convenience / wine store had these, but I went to look. Sure enough, they had them, and I purchased two cans, just in case. I deployed the first can into the now completely flat tire. I could hear the contents going in, but I did not see the results I was hoping for, so the second can went in as well with some progress. The second can did breathe a little life back into the limp tire, but it was still not where I wanted it to be. I decided not to move from

this safe spot to make sure the second can of patch would continue to hold before continuing my journey.

After about 30 minutes of waiting, the tire started going back down, and I kept thinking that I had a nail in the tire and needed someone to plug the hole. The one company that said they were at least 3 hours behind did tell me to call back if I had not found any other help, so I called them. The lady said she would put me on the list and asked where I wanted my car towed to. I stated that I did not want a tow, but a plug for the tire. She responded that they did not do that nor did she know of anyone that offered that roadside service any more.

At that point, I returned to my phone to search for tire dealers near my location, only to see that they had all closed for the day. Knowing the area somewhat, I thought of a chain dealer that I have used in the past for tire purchases. I looked it up, and sure enough, it is about 6 miles away. More importantly, there was a hotel close by as well. I checked the hotel from the car to make sure they had a room available and booked it. Thankfully, the tedious 6-mile route did not involve any major roads where speed was a necessity as I watched the tire pressure drop from 5 PSI to completely gone before pulling into the hotel parking lot.

Once in the hotel and after the phone calls home to let my family know I was safely in for the night, a quick review of the tire store hours indicated that I needed to be there by 7:30 a.m. the next morning as they were not taking appointments for Saturday morning, but they were accepting walk-in traffic. I was there about 30 minutes before the store opened and was the fifth in line for service. What I thought was going to be a quick patch turned into the installation of a completely new set of tires. What I could not see was the

internal disintegration of the tires. When we serviced the car two weeks earlier, we also inspected all the tires with no problems noted. The mechanic even commented they still had good life in them. After all was said and done, it was concluded that because the tires were the original ones that came on the vehicle, and because of the heat and humidity of Florida where the original owner lived, the rubber just broke down and the tire separated.

This event is very much like our individual lives when it comes to insurance matters. Sometimes what we perceive as needing a patch may not be the solution at all. Therefore, let one of our NC Grange Agents help you and your family with a comprehensive review of your insurance program. If a tire dealer had inspected my tires before the flat, I could have had a new set installed on my time schedule and probably saved some money as well. Instead, a quick inspection by the mechanic and myself of the tires lead to a night stranded in Raleigh looking for a patch and not home in time to enjoy a barbeque supper with my family.



NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED AT FOUNDATION FOR SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

By Deborah Johnson, NCFSWC Secretary



The NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation (NCFSWC) Board of Directors is pleased to announce Amanda Egdorf-Sand of Randleman as its executive director. Egdorf-Sand, administrative officer and program manager for NCFSWC since April of 2020, replaces Michelle Lovejoy who left in May to join the Environmental Defense Fund.

NCFSWC President Jimmy Gentry made the following comments: "Michelle Lovejoy served the Foundation well for the past ten years and helped us to become involved in many new conservation and environmental efforts. Among her latest initiatives was engaging the Foundation in agricultural resiliency which included a project to help agricultural producers better prepare for disasters and recover from those storms. During her time with us, Michelle earned a great deal of respect for her expertise and the exceptional job that she did.

Our new executive director Amanda Egdorf-Sand is very impressive in her knowledge of conservation and has previous experiences that will be valuable to her in this new role. The Board of Directors is quite excited to have her leading the Foundation as we continue to do our part in conserving soil and water and enhancing the environment."

Egdorf-Sand earned a bachelor's degree in environment and natural resources with a concentration in water and land management from the University of Minnesota. In addition to her work with NCFSWC for more than a year, Egdorf-Sand has been working with the nonprofit Abundance NC.

She spent three years with the Chatham (NC) Soil & Water Conservation District as a soil conservation specialist and also worked at Piedmont Biofuels.

The Minnesota native and her husband Joseph have two sons. They are the co-owners of Joseph Sand Pottery, a unique wood-fired ceramics business in Randolph County. Egdorf-Sand is currently transitioning into the full-time executive director role.

Chartered as a corporation in 1999, the Foundation is a public non-profit tax-exempt organization and its mission is to promote, protect and improve North Carolina soil and water resources for the enhancement of economic growth and stewardship of the natural environment. NCFSWC has raised over \$15,000,000 and leveraged over \$16,000,000 to implement projects addressing priority natural resource issues and building conservation capacity. For more information, visit ncsoilwater.org.



CAPITOL NEWS

by : Laurie Barnhart

This 2021 Session in North Carolina and in DC has been plagued with disturbing news including the tragedy in Southside Florida, flooding in Europe, the Covid vaccine controversy, increasing partisan divide, abandoned children at US borders, more and more racial divide and the list goes on and on. We are so fortunate to live in this country that represents freedom and democracy. It is so easy to forget what we are so fortunate to have in America; however, the events currently occurring in Cuba certainly serve as a reminder of all we do have. As a Chinese friend told me, “No matter how bad things are here, America is still the best country in the world.”

In the North Carolina General Assembly, the Senate passed their version of the budget on June 25. The bill passed with enough votes from Democrats (32-17) to override a veto from Governor Cooper should he decide to exercise his veto power. The House is expected to release their version of the budget the first week of August. The full Appropriations Chairs in the House and the Senate will then work together and hopefully come to a compromise on any differences in the two versions.

The Grange was very glad to see that North Carolina A&T University received requested appropriations in the Senate budget for The College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, specifically for Agriculture Research and Cooperative Extension. The budget also included appropriations for the 4-H Program in Tyrrell County. The Grange actively lobbied and participated in discussions for both of these programs. We fully expect the House budget version to include these appropriations as well. Jeff Barnhart also was able to secure funding of five million dollars in the Senate budget for Healing Transitions, a long term treatment facility for men and women suffering from addiction. Jeff is doing this in conjunction with his pro bono work at McGuireWoods and the NC Grange. The NC Grange passed a resolution three years ago to assist in initiatives to improve affordable addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services for patients suffering from opioid addiction. These funds are earmarked for the Capitol Campaign at Healing Transitions, “Recovery Can’t Wait.” This funding will provide additional beds in both the men’s and women’s facilities as well as enlarge and renovate additional areas for much needed space. As most of us are aware, the opioid epidemic has affected many of us in one way or another. It is wonderful to have the NC Grange’s much needed support with this often misunderstood disease.

There are currently several extremely controversial bills in the North Carolina General Assembly. HB 951, Modernize Energy Generation, which was in closed door

negotiations for months between several legislators and stakeholders, i.e. Duke Energy and clean energy lobbyists, passed by a narrow margin at 12:01 a.m. on July 16. The dispute was largely between members of the Republican Caucus. There were several points of contention in the bill but the most troublesome was an amendment put forth by Rep. Larry Strickland (R- 8) to study significant changes to the state’s monopoly utility market. Rep. Strickland, a farmer from Johnston County, has been a tremendous advocate for clean energy efforts which his district has benefitted from economically through solar development. The amendment was ruled out of order by Speaker Moore. The bill passed and will now be taken up by the Senate.

Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger has introduced legislation that calls for a state constitutional amendment to ban affirmative action and will prevent public schools from “indoctrinating” students with the Critical Race Theory. The “white privilege” concept that is being taught in school has sparked this language. As predicted, this bill has created tremendous controversy and will for certain be debated for countless hours.

It is sure to be an interesting few months ahead at the North Carolina General Assembly. Once the budget has been agreed upon and passed by both chambers, there will be a rush for remaining bills to be passed before the Legislature adjourns and returns home to continue work in their respective districts. Please stay tuned for more news from Raleigh in our weekly newsletter, *Capitol Connect!*

On the Hill

As always, there is constantly news coming from DC. Some of the bigger happenings are highlighted below, courtesy of Burton Eller, Legislative Director for the National Grange.

President Biden’s push for a large infrastructure package has taken significant steps forward in recent weeks. Democrats are now pursuing a two-track plan with one small bipartisan bill to be passed through regular order (where 60 votes are required in the Senate) and one larger bill to be passed through the reconciliation process (where only 50 votes are required in the Senate).

The Growing Climate Solutions Act, a bipartisan bill which would direct USDA to create a voluntary carbon credit system in agriculture, has made significant progress. The bill was passed in the Senate in a bipartisan 92-8 vote and now awaits action in the House.

A federal judge has granted a temporary restraining order in a lawsuit filed by five white farmers challenging



the constitutionality of debt relief payments to minority farmers. Under the American Rescue Plan enacted in March, minority farmers who hold direct or guaranteed USDA loans are eligible to receive 120% of their indebtedness.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that governments cannot require private property owners to allow union organizers onto their property without just compensation. The case, *Cedar Point Nursery v. Hassid*, struck down a California regulation that

required agricultural employers to allow union organizers onto their property for up to 3 hours per day, 120 days per year. The Court ruled the regulation constituted a “taking” of property in violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution.

“Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you’re a thousand miles from a corn field.” ~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

COMMUNITY SERVICE by : Sharon Underwood

Happy Summer, Grangers! This is the last news magazine before September’s State Grange Convention, and I would like to thank each Grange who collected, made or bought items to support the state service project, Baby Bundles. Please bring all donations to the convention in Charlotte and drop them off at the registration table. The Baby Bundles Director, Paula Foust, will attend Friday to receive our gifts and to share more about their program. If your Grange has chosen to make a financial contribution, checks can be made out to Baby Bundles, and we will collect them before our presentation to the non-profit on Friday afternoon. If you have questions, please visit their website at babybundlesnc.org or email me at shaunderwood1@gmail.com. Again, thank you for your support of this worthy project!

The time is coming soon to choose our 2022 State Community Service Project, and I would genuinely love your suggestions. Please send any ideas to me for next year’s project by October 1 so that we can review those and select one.

Recently, I read an article called “Do Good: 10 Ways to Make a Difference,” written by Chante Owens with The Borgen Project. It connects perfectly with the Grange’s desire to help others and make a positive difference in our communities, so I wanted to share the article with you. I look forward to seeing you at the convention in September.

Do Good: 10 Ways to Make a Difference by Chante Owens

1. Smile! Being friendly to others is a great way to brighten someone else’s day. Whether it’s at the store, work, or simply walking along the street, a nice gesture like a smile could go a long way for someone having a bad day.
2. Do Some Volunteer Work. Volunteering is an amazing experience that gets us out of our daily routines and makes us turn our efforts outwards. Go out and help feed the homeless; volunteer at local events; even picking up trash in your city is a great way to give back to the community!
3. Sponsor a Child. There are tons of organizations looking for people to sponsor children in need in countries around the world. These organizations are literally only a click away and don’t take much time to sign up for. It is a small price to pay to make an incredible difference in a child’s life.

4. Invest and Listen. Society has become so drenched in the buzz of technology that real face-to-face interaction and relationship is growing scarce. Next time you throw out the standard, “Hi, how you doin,” make an effort to really invest in what is going in that person’s life. Ask questions that show you really care and want to listen.

5. Teach! Go out and teach a skill to someone who wants to learn. Whether it’s teaching someone how to drive, or helping a student with their homework, your lessons will make a huge impact on their lives.

6. Donate. If you’re anything like the typical American, you have a lot of stuff. When it comes time to get rid of something or buy something new, make a donation instead! There are many ways to make donations online and in your community.

7. Stop What You’re Doing and HELP. It’s easy to think that our priorities are the ones that matter the most. If you see a need, try to help with the resources available to you.

8. Team Up with Someone to Live Healthier. Oftentimes having a workout partner is the best kind of motivation out there. If someone you know keeps talking about how he/she wants to get in shape, join them! This will make a huge impact on their lives, and together, you’ll both be on your way to a healthier life.

9. Make a Care Package. Care packages are easy and affordable to make, and they can be used in so many different ways. They can be sent overseas or used locally! Next time you’re out and about and see a homeless person with a sign, offer them a care package. The packages are great to keep a supply of in your car, and they go a long way.

10. Have an Outward Gaze. We live in a pretty self-centered society. Many of us are taught at a young age to do what is going to make us most successful; this can lead us to do a lot of things that are only self-serving. It’s time for a change of perspective! Start thinking in ways that turn that self-centered gaze outward. See what it’s like to put others’ needs before yours. You won’t regret it.

Owens, Chante. “Do Good: 10 Ways to Make a Difference.” *The Borgen Project*, 11 October 2013, borgenproject.org/10-ways-to-make-a-difference-in-someones-life/.



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PERIODICAL
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Remember to continue collecting new and gently used baby items for Baby Bundles, our 2020 / 2021 State Community Service Project! Please bring all items to registration at State Convention.

- Children's Clothing sized newborn to 12 months: onesies, sleepers and outfits (outfit sets need to be pinned together)
- Blankets
- Board Books
- Developmental Toys, Rattles, Teethers
- Socks, Hats
- Bibs & Burp Clothes

