

PUG Times



The newsletter of the Pittsfield Union Grange

Volume 10, Number 4

October 2011

Message from the President

Apple Day was a great success! (Read more about it in another article.) During the day, a number of people asked me if this event was only once a year. I'm not sure whether they were wishing for a whole weekend, or another day in October, or just forgot that apples are seasonal. I am sure that it indicated a desire to attend more of our events.

I have thought for a while that it would be great to have an annual spring event. However, I'm not sure the relatively few Grange members who put on Apple Day have either the inspiration or the energy to pull off another event. (We were very thankful for the assistance of several friends of the Grange at Apple Day.)

One of the things I really like about the Grange is that it offers the opportunity for someone with a good idea to obtain organizational support to do it. So here's an open-ended question for some of our more silent members – is there something you have been wishing to organize? A this? Or a that? I am purposely not being at all specific. Think about it; let us all know if anything springs to mind.

If it seems that every PUG times issue contains a message from me urging greater involvement – you are right. I am sounding like a broken record because this is an important issue for PUG's future. But it's not only that. Grange members are interesting and fun people with
(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Wed, Oct 12 – Grange Meeting

Joan Hellmann shows slides and talks about her recent trip to Tahiti and the Marquesas. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15, business meeting follows.

Sat, Oct 15 – PUG Contra Dance

Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to live music 8:00-11:00 pm. \$10/\$7 for Grangers.

Sun, Oct 16 – Family Dance

John Freeman and Dave Smith call dances suitable for children with parents or grandparents to live music by David West and Donna Baird. 2:00-4:00 pm \$12/family (\$10 Grange families)

Sun, Nov 6 – Preserving Traditions

Most homes have some place to store some or all winter vegetables, even if they don't have a "root cellar." Learn how to store potatoes, onions, squash, cabbage, and other "cold-storage" vegetables without refrigeration or canning. Learn what to store, where to store it, and tips and tricks for better shelf life. 2:00. \$5 (Grange members free)

Wed, Nov 9 – Grange Meeting

Dave and Marty Wilson show slides and talk about their recent trip to the Galapagos. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15, business meeting follows

(President's message continued from page 1)
whom I enjoy spending time. (I do understand that interesting and fun people have many demands on their time.)

So here's the really easy way to get just a little bit more involved: come to the holiday party on Friday, December 9. Eat, sing, and be merry with Grangers and friends of the Grange. More information in the events calendar.

(Upcoming Events continued from page 1)

Sat, Nov 19 - PUG Contra Dance

Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to live music by the Pittsfield Open Band. 8:00-11:00 pm. \$10/\$7 for Grangers.

Sun, Nov 20 - Family Dance

Marlin Whitaker and Dave Smith call dances suitable for children with parents or grandparents to live music by David West and Donna Baird. 2:00-4:00 pm. \$12/family (\$10 Grange families)

Sun, Dec 11 - Preserving Traditions

Holiday cookie baking - learn some new recipes, share your favorites, and bake cookies in good company. Each person will take home several varieties of cookies - you'll be contacted about what to bring. We'll go 'til we're done...usually between 4 and 5. 2:00. \$5 (Grange members free)

Fri, Dec 9 - Holiday Party

Join Grangers and friends for an evening of food, carols, and fun.. Plans are still being made, but we expect to hear recorder music, sing, and hold our traditional grab bag of \$5-10 gifts. Potluck starts at 6:00.

Sat, Dec 17 - PUG Contra Dance

Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to live music 8:00-11:00 pm. \$10/\$7 for Grangers

Sun, Jan 8 - Preserving Traditions

Start the year with some healthy food. Topic TBA. 2:00. \$5 (Grange members free)

Wed, Jan 11 - Grange Meeting

Program TBA. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15, business meeting follows

Sun, Jan 15 - Family Dance

Dances suitable for children with parents or grandparents. Callers TBA; live music by David and Donna. 2:00-4:00 pm. \$12/family (\$10 Grange families)

Sat, Jan 21 - PUG Contra Dance

Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to live music 8:00-11:00 pm. \$10/\$7 for Grangers

Tall Grass Prairies

Richard Raymond reports on the September program.

At the September 13 Grange meeting Ron Gamble talked about a trip he made with Faye Stoner, a long-time Grange friend, through tall grass prairies of Kansas and Oklahoma. These prairies have a thin layer of soil over eroded Permian-age limestone making the land difficult to farm. As a result the area was mostly left to ranching, so the prairie was preserved. The so-called Flint Hills extend south of Manhattan, Kansas into Northern Oklahoma, covering about 11,000 square miles, an area equal to that of Michigan south of Pontiac.

One of the areas visited was the Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve, in Chase County Kansas, managed by the National Park Service, though much of the land is in private hands. The Parks Service only own a very small fraction of the land (180 acres out of 11,000). They also visited numerous state properties.

After a heroic trip by Dave Wilson to get a power cord for his computer, Ron showed many photos from the trip, some of landscape, but many of the plants and wildlife of the prairie. He also showed some of the books they used to identify the flora and fauna they saw.

Centennial Farm Celebration

PUG facilitated Bill Lutz's application for Centennial Farm status, which he received in spring. On Sunday, August 14, he held an open house at the farm to celebrate. The barn housed a display about his family and their history with the farm. Various outbuildings were open and several young friends showed off some of the resident animals. Later in the afternoon, Bill got his tractor and drove a wagonload of people down to his orchard, about a mile down the road.

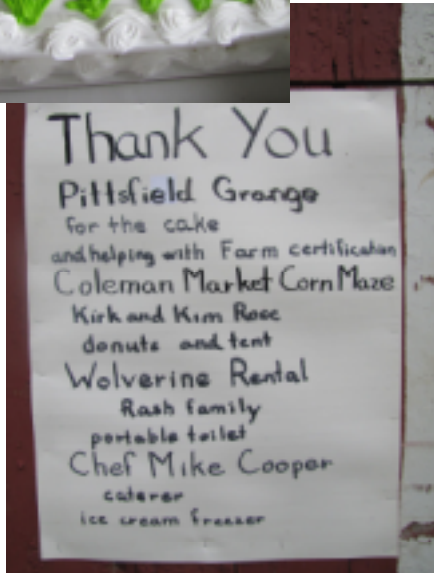
Refreshments reflected Bill's interests and friends. Neighbors down the road brought their apple doughnuts, friends brought baked treats, and PUG offered to buy the cake. Naturally for a dairy farm, ice cream and milk were also served.



Bill Lutz, and his sister Ruth Broesamle, standing next to the new Centennial Farm sign.



Visitors enjoyed reading about the history of Lutzview Farm.



All aboard for the orchard!

Apple Day

Another Pittsfield Grange Apple Day is in the records – and it was record-breaking. For the first time, Bill Lutz actually sold out of apples!

An added feature this year was an apple pie making demonstration by Amadeus Scott and Anna Michols, with predictably yummy results. The recipe can be found in the April 2010 PUG Times. Her Apple Museum was on display on the dance floor for the second year.

And, of course, there was the popular cider-making, the applesauce and apple butter, the bake sale, kids decorating paper apples, apple tasting – fresh, dried and in jams.



Using the hand grinder – lots of exercise



Amadeus rolling the pie crust as Anna watches



Using the electric grinder – the easy way



We were busy all day.



Bill Lutz and Richard Raymond standing by Bills' empty truck – only apple mash for the pigs is left.

Saline, Chelsea, and 4-H Fairs

The end of summer brings various exhibitions of the agricultural products and the products of the kitchens and handicrafts of the county. PUG has booths in the Merchants' Building at the Chelsea and Saline Community Fairs, and sponsors trophies at the Washtenaw County 4-H Fair.



Ethan Breuninger's steer won the Rate of Gain trophy.



Kennedy Aldrich's Best of Show drawing.

Dancing in the Streets

PUG donated money, chairs, tables, and sound equipment to become a co-sponsor of AACTMAD's Dancing in the Streets. This outdoor festival in downtown Ann Arbor has been a Labor Day weekend tradition for over 10 years.



If you look closely, you can see PUG named on the banner.

Grange Store

Pittsfield Grange has several items in stock. There still are one or two Preserving Traditions "Yes. We Can." aprons, and packs of canning labels. Other Preserving Traditions items – tote bags, mugs, magnets – are available through the web at www.cafepress.com/preservetrad. The second edition of the PUG Apple Cookbook, now coil-bound, is for sale at Grange events. Michigan quarter medallions, small and large, are also available, as are both the state and national cookbooks.

Price List for Items for Sale at Grange:

"YES. WE CAN." Apron	\$25
"YES. WE CAN." Canning Labels (12)	\$ 3
PUG Apple Cookbook	\$ 5
Michigan Quarter Large Medallion	\$10
Michigan Quarter Small Medallion	\$ 1
Sharing Our Best	\$15
What's Cooking at the Grange?	\$15



Grange contacts:

Joan Hellmann, President/PUG Times
734-769-1052, hellmann@umich.edu
Robin Warner, Vice President
734-426-0241, robin@ic.net
Helen Welford, Hall Rental
734-426-0241 welford@umich.edu
Richard Raymond, Treasurer/Membership
734-662-9290, rraymond@umich.edu
Peter Baker, Hall Maintenance
peterbaker.aka.walkingwolf@gmail.com
David Wilson, Program Chair
734-699-7623, djw1Is0n@sbcglobal.net

Grange Membership Benefits

Two of the benefits available to members:

The National Grange has recently chosen Enterprise for its transportation needs. Employees and members of the National Grange are eligible to receive various benefits:

To receive your special rates, you can do one of three things:

Book on the internet
Phone 1-800-261-7331
Contact your local branch

For internet reservations, simply log onto <http://www.enterprise.com/> and enter the National Grange corporate account number L16Y165. You will then be prompted to enter a three digit pin. The pin number THE. Make sure to always provide your Corporate account number to receive your discount.

Choice Hotels offers a 20% discount to Grange members (same as the current promotion to their Choice Privileges members). Must make a reservation at www.choicehotels.com or by phone 800-258-2847 with the Grange id number 00211660. You'll need a membership card when you check in.

Pick up a benefits brochure from the flyer rack.

And, of course, Pittsfield Grange offers discounts to Grange members on the dances it sponsors, and Grange members can attend Preserving Traditions workshops free.

Food Gatherers Barrel

As the holidays approach, please remember that there is a barrel in the Pittsfield Grange basement collecting food for those needier than ourselves. Bring non-perishables that still have time before their expiration date. Every few weeks we take the contents of the barrel over to Food Gatherers.