



The New York State Grange



Newsletter

April, 2011

State Master

Oliver Orton
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045
607-756-7553
Oliver@nysgrange.org

The New York State Grange delegates passed a resolution at the October 2010 session, asking the DEC to hold up on hydro-fracking until all studies were in regarding the potential water pollution that hydro-fracking may cause to good agricultural land. This same resolution was then sent to National where delegates voted adversely stating it was a local issue only involving NY and PA. This article by James M. Odatto takes the viewpoint that if and when the DEC is authorized to strongly regulate hydro-fracking, it can do nothing but benefit the economy of NYS and PA.

**Following is the article
from the
Albany Times Union
Scientist says**

the spin is on

James M. Odatto

State government's top scien-

tist on the underground features of New York has never weighed in on the contentious matter of drilling in the great Marcellus shale layers stretching beneath a big part of upstate. Until now.

"The worst spin on the worst incidents are treated as if it's going to be the norm here," said Taury Smith, the state geologist, a self-described liberal Democrat more concerned with global warming than extraction of natural gas from one of the largest sources available in the United States. "This could really help us fight climate change; this is a huge gift, this shale."

He said he has been examining the science of hydrofracturing the shale for three years and has found no cases in which the process has led to groundwater contamination, although several portrayals by anti-fracking groups and featured in the press have raised concerns about underground pools being harmed because of drilling.

"Those are exaggerated problems; each incident wasn't the result of hydro-fracking.

There were incidents of

groundwater contamination near frack sites, but they were unrelated," Smith said. He said the industry should be strictly monitored by the Department of Environmental Conservation, and should be encouraged to move the nation away from coal-fired power and to the more environmentally friendly natural gas.

"I'm for a strong regulation by DEC. They have no vested interest. The environmental groups have a vested interest. The companies have a huge profit at stake, so I wouldn't trust them either," Smith, who works for the State Museum said. "If there's one group you can trust it's the DEC."

Former DEC Commissioner Alexander "Pete" Grannis, who now is the first deputy comptroller, said he agrees with Smith that the dangers of fracking are overblown. He thinks the DEC is on course to set solid regulations. Smith said the issue has been a major money-maker for some environmental organizations who have used it to raise funds for their treasuries. Allowing fracking, he added, would be a huge boost

for New York job creation and for income and business tax revenues. A potential "severance tax" like those in other states that are assessed on the industry for extracting the gas could be another boon to the state, he said.

Smith said the average drilling complex used 8.4 million gallons per day of water in the Susquehanna River basin, compared to 20 million per day for golf courses.

Reach Odato at 454-5083 or jodato@timesunion.com.

Leadership/ Membership

Al and Vinni Kirmss
518-756-5721

From Rusty Hunt's Leadership Tip of The Month

Lead with Passion

What does "passion" mean to you? John J. Murphy calls passion "the fire within."

Good leaders will have that fire. We will be able to see that fire in the way they work and play in the Grange. Their fires are fed by positive energy created by success, and that success is a product of their passion, sparking fires in others.

To lead with passion, a good leader must be able to courageously cast off fear, doubt, and limiting beliefs. This will allow the leader to give people a sense of hope, optimism, and accomplishment. Think about the great leaders

you know or have read about. It's true; they have given people hope for the future, inspired optimism, and showed measurable accomplishments.

So, as the leaders of the Grange, how are we to lead with passion? First, we must believe in the Grange and that others can benefit from the Grange. Second, we must have the desire to work with others and want them to see how great the Grange can be. Last, we must want them to see us as a good example. Leading with Passion is like bringing light in a world of uncertainty and inspiring others to do the same.

I see many Grangers out there that love the Grange and spend countless hours working for the Grange. They never miss a meeting and are first to sign up to help with the next program or project. But they never share that feeling of satisfaction they get with others. They seem to keep the feeling all to themselves. We need to share the feelings we have for the Grange with others and invite them to experience those feelings too. We need to let others see and hear the fire that burns within us so that it might initiate a spark of passion within them!

As part of our job as State Membership/Leadership Directors we want to know how the Community Grange

Membership/Leadership committees are doing and what they are doing. Therefore, last year we designed a new report for our committee. It is in the 2010-2011 handbook that was sent out last spring. There are also Membership/Leadership contest in the handbook that we hope Granges will take part in. Each Membership/Leadership committee chairperson should have received the Membership/Leadership portion from their secretary. These are due to us by September 10, 2011. We hope that each Pomona Membership/Leadership Chairman and Master will encourage each Community Grange to participate. If you do not have a copy please let us know and we will send you one. This report is very important to us to know how we can help you improve our Grange. Our address is 1362 SR 143 Coeymans Hollow, NY 12046. Our e-mail is AVKirmss@aol.com.

Sports

Jerry Batsford 607-835-6127

Spring is here and we are ready for our Sports Department events. We are in the second year of Building a Better Community by sponsoring Special Olympics. We have added a cost to our entry fees to help. Also we are asking any Grange that can send us a donation to please do so. Send them to the State Secre-

tary and make sure you put a note saying for Special Olympics.

There is an incorrect phone number in the directory for the sports department. So I am including my phone numbers and e-mail address for everyone. Home phone is **607-835-6127** Cell is **607-745-2509** and e-mail is gabl1652@yahoo.com

I will be meeting on the 1st and 2nd of April to help plan our events for the next 2 years with all of the other Directors. When we have finalized the program as to what we are sponsoring, we will update everyone.

Dart ball will be on May 1st due to Easter being on April 24th.

I am mailing out the entry forms for the State Bowling which will be on June 5th. I will make your first choice for any team that sends in their application. If you need a form please email or call me. Please try and get the forms back as soon as possible by the cutoff date so I can get the team line ups to the bowling alley by a reasonable date

Golf will be on July 10th and more information will be coming from Carl Bullock. We will be going back to the same Golf course as last year. Next year we will be moving back to the western region.

Chaplain's Corner

Martha Woolley, 716-965-4292

Recently, I had the opportunity to tell about Grange to a group of ladies at WCA Home in Fredonia. A former Forestville resident and Granger is recuperating there and discovered that some of the folks would be able to enjoy informative presentations regarding "firsts" in Fredonia during this 200 year anniversary of Chautauqua-County. She invited me to be her first presenter, especially with Fredonia Grange #1 being just around the corner on Main St. This month she spoke about the first gas well being in Fredonia and has more subjects planned.

If you have a friend or relative residing in a location where people may not know them as active participants, you may want to make a paper introduction of them to be placed above their bed so those assisting them can become better acquainted with the person they were (or are inside). I wrote such a poem in behalf of my aunt so that during her 14-yr stay, others could have a glimpse of her former active, contributing life. Many found it encouraging.

Thoughts and prayers are with those whose loved ones have joined our heavenly Father for their eternal reward.

DeEtte Chamberlain, Stepmother of Past State Master Wendell Chamberlain, and Lorraine Kuhn, Past Jr. Deputy, Erie Co.

State Lecturer Sharon Croucher recently had surgery, and we ask God's blessing upon her for strength & courage.

As we observe signs of spring in the renewed growth of nature, may we be aware of the newness of life within us.

Jesus said, "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." John 15:4

Youth

Julia Masti
607-776-3625
mastifarm@aol.com

Don't forget - the Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song Contests will be held in conjunction with the State Lecturer/FAC Conference and Workshops at State Headquarters on Saturday, April 30th. If you are interested in entering any of these contests, you must notify the State Youth Director by April 15th. You can call or e-mail:
Home - (607) 776-3625;
Cell -(607) 661-0674
E-mail mastifarm@hotmail.com

Junior Grange Camp 2011

Dates:
June 26 thru July 1, 2011

Contact:
David or Traci Crane
PO Box 104, Avoca, NY 14809
Phone: 607-382-5050
E-Mail: dcrane3@yahoo.com

New York State Grange
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045

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State Lecturer

Sharon Croucher 315-462.3067

Family Activities

Brenda Noble 585-768-6632

You Are Invited!

Family Activities/Lecturers Conference Day

Saturday, April 30, 2011

New York State Grange Headquarters

9:00 AM—Coffee and Donuts

9:30 AM—Conference Begins

Lunch \$8.00

Call NYS Grange Headquarters with reservations by April 22

Art, Photo, Woodworking, and Needlework Displays

Program Information, Talent, Youth Public Speaking Contests

See You There!

Brenda, Sharon and Committee