

PUG Times



The newsletter of the Pittsfield Union Grange

Volume 19, Number 1

April 2019

President's Message

This month I really have no topic. To be sure,, there are snowdrops in my backyard, and I can see other bulbs pushing their way through the soil. The days are longer. The city of Ann Arbor begins curbside compost collection on Monday, and I have to get outside and work on cutting up the winter's fallen branches. This winter felt endless, and of course we could easily have another real winter storm, but this is the season of hope. We had fun helping at Family Math and Science at Pittsfield School, and we will have fun soon serving popcorn at Rural Education Days and trying to teach kids something about grains as they rush by.

Horace, Odes 1.4

Harsh winter melts, with welcome change to
spring and south wind.
They drag the dry ships back down to the sea.
The flock no longer wants the barn; the farmer
leaves his fire.
The meadows are no longer white with frost.
Now Venus leads her dancers underneath the
moon;
Now lovely Nymphs and Graces too, together
With one foot, then the other, shake the ground.
Vulcan,
Heavy god, inspects the workshops of the
Cyclopes.
Now we should anoint our heads and wear green
myrtle crowns,

Or flowers, since the earth has let them grow.
Now in the shady groves make offerings to
Faunus,
A lamb, if he wants that, or else a kid.
Pale death knocks on the poor man's hut with
the same foot
And on kings' towers. Lucky Sestius,
The shortness of our life forbids long hopes.
Now, soon, Night will catch you, shades of death,
The dreary house of Hades. When you go there
You won't pull straws for who's in charge of wine,
You won't admire tender Lycidas. The young
men
Are crazy for him. Soon girls will be, too.

**Dues for 2019 were due in January.
Please send them to Richard, if you
haven't already.**

Upcoming Events

Wed, April 10 - Grange Meeting

Thomas Perna will explain our AED and talk a bit about CPR (not a CPR training). Potluck at 6:30; program at 7:15. All welcome. Free.

Tue - Thu, April 16 -18 - Rural Education Days

Our annual three days of popping popcorn and telling third graders about grains grown in Michigan. Contact Richard if you can help.

Saturday, April 20 - Contra Dance

Megan Wilson calls to music by Golden Griffon Stringtet. 7:30 pm. \$10/\$7 Grange members/\$5 students

Sunday, April 21 - Family Dance

Traditional dances suitable for children with adults. Drake Meadow calls to music by Paul Winder and Betsy Beckerman. 2:00 - 4:00 pm. \$12/family, Grange members free.

Wed, May 8 - Grange Meeting

Threshold Singers of Ann Arbor talk about their mission and work, with examples. Potluck at 6:30; program at 7:15. All welcome. Free.

Sat, May 18 - Contra Dance

Martha Vander Kolk calls to band TBA. 7:30 pm. \$10/\$7 Grange members/\$5 students

Sun, May 19 - Family Dance

Traditional dances suitable for children with adults. Drake Meadow calls to music by Donna Baird and friend. 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Last dance of the season. \$12/family, Grange members free.

Wed, June 12 - Grange Meeting

Program TBA. Potluck at 6:30; program at 7:15.

Sat, June 15 - Contra Dance

Peter Baker calls to Hotline Strings. 7:30 pm. \$10/\$7 Grange members/\$5 students

Fiddling in Michigan's Thumb

At the meeting on March 13, Dave Langdon talked about fiddle tunes and traditional fiddlers in Michigan's Huron County. His main contact was Carl Byarsky, who was 96 when Dave met him some years ago. Carl had an extraordinary collection of tapes of local fiddlers which he made from the 1950's to the 1970's. These recordings are the only ones that were made of most of these musicians. In addition, he had tapes of musicians in other places, which they used to trade tunes across the miles.

The Thumb area had various ethnic groups, including Polish; the Poles have a dance called the oberek, which is played in a very fast 3/4 time. It is a "spinning" couples dance. Dave

played recordings of a couple of them. As it happened, Cynthia was a guest at the meeting, and she could describe how the dance went. Polish dance music was played by Poles and non-POles alike.

Players at that time in the Thumb did not make up their own tunes. They learned tunes from each other, and when taped they only occasionally mentioned the name of the tune. Once radio became widespread, Canadian tunes came across lake Huron on the airwaves. House parties seem to have died out, and the sessions of this century concentrate on country music.

A few of the recordings have been digitized by Paul Gifford and are available for listening through the University of Michigan - Flint digital archives website. Dave is hoping to make more of them available via a prospective website of the Michigan Folklore Society.

A Fijian Wedding

Last October, Bronwen Gates traveled to Fiji for her son Edward's wedding, and told us about it at the January meeting. Her son's mother-in-law, Manu, is a native Fijian, who married a man from Wales and has spent most of her adult life in Canada. A wedding, however, is a good time to return to one's roots. North American family and friends made the trek to the south seas to participate. Many of Manu's relatives came from other parts of Fiji.

The wedding was held on a small resort island a short distance from the main island. Travel over was by a small boat whose seaworthiness was questionable; Bronwen insisted on a more stable ride back.

Edward and his bride, Talica, wore traditional bark cloth clothes, made by members of Manu's lineage. Other guests wore cotton clothes with similar designs, including the traditional style sulu for the men. The bride and groom stood on woven masa mats, part of Manu's father's family tradition. The mats are bright and colorful and highly decorated.

The night before, Manu visited the chief of the village that owned the island. She presented a whale tooth to the chief, so that Edward and Talica now have the right to enter onto lands under the supervision of the chief. After several rounds of kava - one must drink the entire cup each time - she collected the pig for the wedding feast.

After the ceremony there was a traditional feast - pig, fish, taro with coconut, local steamed greens. They enjoyed an evening of kava and dancing. There were some western traditions as well; a friend of Edward's brought a sound system and served as DJ.

Smart Gardening for Disease Prevention *(Ruth reports on the February program.)*

Irene Donne talked to us about how to garden in order to prevent disease. Because she worked on carrot leaf diseases for MA in plant pathology, carrots appeared several times in her examples.

First, she stressed that dead plant tissue can't be brought back, and we can't treat most problems. There are three factors in disease:

the agents: fungi, viruses, bacteria, nematodes
susceptible plant
environmental conditions

Pathogens survive on plant debris, seed, volunteer plants, related weeds. Sometimes they come from warmer climates. Some agents attack many kinds of plant, others are specialized. We can prevent some diseases by choosing less susceptible varieties (disease resistant cultivars); we can also avoid environmental conditions that spread pathogens or make plants vulnerable. Strong plants are more resistant to disease.

What techniques can you use to prevent diseases in your garden?

1. Remove debris, sanitize tools and containers (10% bleach solution, good for 30 minutes renew bleach, or use rubbing alcohol) to avoid spreading pathogens
2. Get disease-free transplants, not water seed treatment

3. Look at the roots when you buy a plant, if you can.

4. Reduce pathogen by adding mulch
5. Avoid sites with previous disease
6. Rotate with non-susceptible crops
7. Don't compost diseased plants

Maintain the right environment: a) wetness b) temperature c) windspeed

Make sure soil drains well. Water in the morning, water roots, not leaves. Use drip irrigation. Practice scouting, identification, pruning (disinfect tools between plants!), use fungicides, but check the label to make sure it's effective on this plant and pathogen

Enviroweather (www.enviroweather.msu.edu/) has information about conditions in particular areas.. If you have a problem you can't identify, you can send picture to msu; the diagnostic lab costs \$20 a plant (pestid.msu.edu)

Following are some resources from a handout Irene provided.

Smart Gardening Resources!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/home_gardening/tip_sheets/

Disinfecting Your Garden Tools (UF/IFAS Ext)

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/tools-and-equipment/disinfecting-tools.html>

How to Pasteurize Medium and Sterilize

Containers and Tools (Penn State Extension)

<https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-pasteurize-medium-and-sterilize-containers-and-tools>

Hot Water Treatment of Vegetable Seeds to

Eradicate Bacterial Plant Pathogens in Organic

Production Systems (OSU Extension)

<http://u.osu.edu/vegetablediseasefacts/files/2017/09/OSU-Organic-Seed-Treatment-uz19bs.pdf>

Start with Clean Tomato Seed and Transplants

(U. of Minnesota Extension)<http://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/2016/02/start-with-clean-tomato-seed-and.html>

Healthy Garden Transplants Pay Big Dividends

(has chart with disease codes) (MSU Extension)
[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/Healthy_Transplants_\(E3175\).pdf](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/Healthy_Transplants_(E3175).pdf)

Home Garden Fungicides (U. of WI – Extension)
<https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/home-garden-fungicides-0/>

MSU Plant and Pest Diagnostic Services
578 Wilson Rd., Room. 107,
East Lansing, MI 48824-6469
Phone: (517) 355-4536
Fax: (517) 432-0899
Email: pestid@msu.edu
Website: <https://pestid.msu.edu/>

Items to Borrow from Grange

For a while, we have had a policy that members may borrow things from the Grange hall, when they are not needed there. Various events have used this policy to borrow things such as coffee pots and chafers. We now wish to publicize this policy more widely, so more members can take advantage of it. Richard Raymond is the contact person; he will know when items are not available or know whom to ask. Following is a fairly complete list of the items we have.

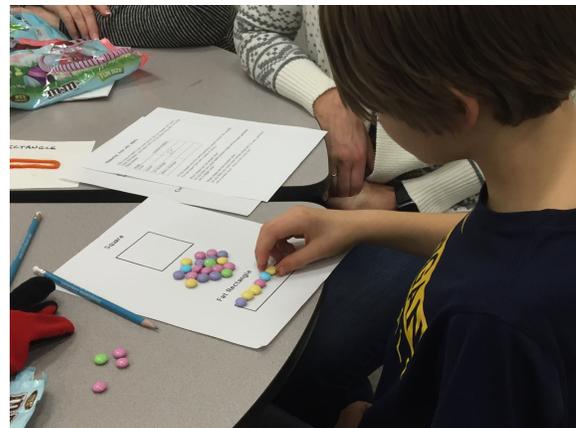
- folding chairs, tables
- coolers: drinks and chest types
- coffee and hot water pots
- chafers
- canopies
- sound equipment
- electric chain saws, sump pump, fans
- dehumidifier (small one)
- ladders (step and straight)
- lawn mower (gas and battery powered)
- weed whacker

In addition, Joan owns white place settings (large and small plates, mugs, flatware) for about 80 people, and Ruth owns a variety of black tablecloths, mostly round. These are also available to be borrowed.

Family Math and Science Night



Linda and her digital microscope are always fun.



Measuring area with M&M's - tasty, too.



Minimal surfaces with soap films

Ruth Scodel, President
734-761-6172, rscodel@umich.edu
Joan Hellmann, Vice President/PUG Times/Hall
Rental, 734-274-0773, hellmann@umich.edu
Richard Raymond, Treasurer/Membership/
734-662-9290, rreymond@umich.edu
Peter Baker, Hall Maintenance
p.j.baker@me.com