

THE ISLAND AGRARIAN

NEWS FROM SAN JUAN ISLAND GRANGE #966

**GROWERS, MAKERS, AND KEEPERS WORKING TOGETHER
FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Cut and Dried!

By Lois Moore

Dehydrators were humming quietly in the Grange kitchen, September 11-13. Grange members who availed themselves of the opportunity of bringing produce left with beautifully dried apples, pears, and plums.

Those with fruit not yet ripe enough for Dehydrator Days made arrangements to take dehydrators home later. Although we can schedule

Help Dry Apples for the Food Bank!
Grange dehydrators will be set up in the Grange kitchen on **October 8, 9, and 10.** Come help by putting in an easy 2-hour shift on any of these days. Many hands will make light work. All food donated to the Food Bank. **Text Nancy Best at (360) 317 5912 to sign up for a shift!**

another three days at the Grange, it may be that taking the units home works just as well for personal use and allows closer monitoring during drying.

Continued on next page



San Juan Island Food Bank director Rachel Radonski receives pears dried in the Grange kitchen from Granger Nancy Best. Nancy explains, "We dried about 90 or so pounds of pears in two sessions, thanks to Lois, Brooke, and Bruce Clark. And had fun doing it!"



San Juan Island Grange #966 is a grassroots, non-partisan advocacy group supporting a resilient community on San Juan Island.

The Grange serves San Juan Islanders with legislative programs and community activities, such as talent and craft contests, scholarships, and more. You don't have to be a farmer to belong, though many are. Our elected officers are volunteers, and our "work" is done through committees. The heart of our mission is fostering community well-being, and we enjoy gathering to celebrate this.

We are a 501(c)(8) organization, accepting donations towards our programs and to maintain Grange Hall, in downtown Friday Harbor.

Officers of San Juan Island Grange #966 may be found at sanjuangrango.org/officers.html

Our bylaws and resolutions may be found at sanjuangrango.org/structure.html

San Juan Island Grange #966
P.O. Box 2013
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
(360) 378 6632

admin@sanjuangrango.org

rentals@sanjuangrango.org

facebook.com/SJIGrango966

Cut and Dried! cont.

To benefit others, those who have used the dehydrators have logged drying times and other useful information in the notes that accompany each unit. All of the dehydrators have proven to do an equally good job of drying fruit.

As a reminder, we have five units in our loan program:

- Two 10-tray dehydrators for processing large batches
- One 9-tray dehydrator for large batches of smaller fruits and vegetables
- Two 6-tray dehydrators for smaller batches

So if you would like to preserve apples and late plums from your orchards or dry tomatoes and other produce from your garden, simply send an email to moore@stonehaven.com and let us know which dehydrator suits your needs.



Orin and Romy Atlas can't wait to try fruit dehydrated by their parents, Kate and Anthony, using Grange dehydrators

Letter from the President

Fall has arrived, and that means...ELECTION TIME!
Each November, our Grange elects its officers—all for one-year terms except for Executive Committee members who serve for three years. Here are the positions and their roles:

The President runs the meeting and appoints committee chairs with the help of the Vice President.

The Vice President runs the meeting in the absence of the President and works with the President to assemble committees.

Executive Committee members are in charge of Grange investments, contracts, and long-term planning and are authorized in emergency or need to act in the name of the Grange itself.

The Lecturer is in charge of educational, literary, and recreational programs and works with the State Grange on programs and contests.

The Steward, Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward set up the hall for meetings and have roles in the ritual opening and closing of the Grange.

The Chaplain opens and closes the meeting with a poem or prayer and is concerned with the well-being of our members.

The Treasurer keeps the accounts, pays the bills, and advises on the budget.

The Secretary takes minutes for meetings and the Executive Committee, handles correspondence, and files membership reports to the State Grange.

The Graces Flora, Ceres, and Pomona have roles in the ritual degree work of the Grange.

The Greeter announces visitors.

The Musician leads opening and closing songs at meetings.

The Chairperson of Family Living works with the State Grange on programs and contests, mostly dealing with the life of the home.

Please give thought to nominating good people to these posts, and do consider running for one yourself!

Roger Ellison, 2023 President

GROWERS' CIRCLE COFFEE HOUR

Grower's News

For planting in October:
arugula, corn salad, fava beans, mustard, garlic, container-grown fruit trees, and shrubs

Notices

Save Your Seeds...
And This Date!
February 25, 2024
Seedy Sunday Seed Exchange

As you get your garden ready for winter, consider saving seeds to share with your friends and neighbors.

It's time to dry your seeds, label them with variety and year, and put them somewhere cool, dark, and dry to rest for a few months. It's useful but not necessary to track down the variety and to note growth habits for yourself (and your neighbors) for next year. A good simple reference for saving seeds is found here:

<https://seedsavers.org/>

Mowing Peas?!

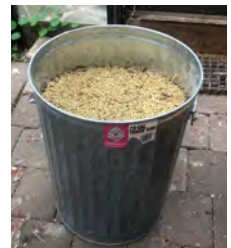
After a long, dry summer, Bruce Robinson's wife was surprised to see him wheeling the lawn mower across the short, brown lawn. Surely there was nothing to mow! He rolled the machine over to a tarped enclosure, started the electric mower, and slowly lowered it onto a bundle of dried field pea vines.



These vines had been grown at Goose Hollow Farm, where owner Court Bell had allowed Bruce to plant approximately 2000 sq. ft. of land with 10 pounds of field peas.

In mid-September, Bruce hand-harvested the peas, vines and all. He then took the bundles of peas and used a lawn mower to break up the vines, effectively extracting the dried peas from their pods. He then winnowed the mix of vines and peas with a box fan. This separated the lighter chaff (vines and pods) from the heavier peas.

Bruce ended up with 90 pounds of peas which will be part of his chickens' feed through the winter months!





Christian and Lea in 1988 [The Rise of New America: Life in Rural Washington State – Mother Earth News](#)

Living the Good Life

Congratulations to Christian and Lea Andrade, San Juan Island Grange Life Members! They joined our Grange in 2018, donated tools to our fledgling tool library, renewed their memberships every year, and then decided to go big. Christian and Lea bought a Life Membership in our Grange!

And what is a Life Membership, you ask? It is a way to pay a lump sum and forever avoid paying annual dues again. The lump sum is \$250 to \$450, depending on the age of the member. Without revealing ages,

let's just say the Andrades got a bargain, with many years of gardening, music, and fresh rural air ahead of them. And no more annual dues!

And congratulations to Kenneth Dougherty and Michael Sundstrom who are new **Golden Sheaf members** with at least 50 years of membership! They will also no longer have to pay annual dues.

Here's a refresher on our membership system: Farms, non-profits, businesses or individuals "with an interest in the advancement of agriculture and improvement of rural life" may join the Grange as **associate members** and receive all benefits of membership except for the right to vote or hold Grange office. An individual associate member (but not a business or other group) may request advancement to **regular membership** with the right to vote and hold office, which is done in a brief ceremony at a monthly meeting. Any regular member may buy a **life membership** or receive a life membership as a gift and so be exempt from annual dues. **Family memberships** are available to couples and their children under the age of 23, at twice the dues of an individual regular membership.

We have 226 members comprised of 85 Associate and 141 Regular, of which four are Golden, two Silver, and two Life members.



Cider Days Coming Up!

By John Latimer

The Grange will be hosting three cider pressing days for members who want to get their apples pressed. We'll be scheduling one-hour time slots so everyone doesn't show up together and slow the pressings. To reserve your time slot, please email John at

the address below and list your preferred day, hour slot, and approximate number of pounds of apples to press. If the time slot happens to be taken, we'll suggest an open slot that's close to it. Be sure to bring enough empty jugs for the fresh juice and a container for the pumice.

Location: San Juan Island Grange Hall

Day and time: Sunday, October 8, from 12-4pm.

Saturday, October 14, from 1-4pm.

Sunday, October 22, from 12-4pm

Reservations: JT_Latimer@yahoo.com



We recently ran a test run of the apple grinder and pressing equipment to prepare for the upcoming cider days. We're happy to announce that everything went wonderfully, and Claude and Shelley left with a lot of great fresh apple juice. A big thanks to Bruce, Harold, and John for ensuring things ran smoothly. We're all looking forward to helping you press your apples, so make sure to reserve your time slot!



Grangers at the Fair—A Talented Bunch

By Roger Ellison

The work of Grangers was very noticeable at the Fair this year, from the Ag Tent to the Wool Shed to the Main Hall contest entries. Here are some highlights from judged contests:

Alison Longley had nine entries in five departments, winning a Best in Class for her threshed and winnowed barley. Krispi Staude won seven blue ribbons in three departments, including one for her framed zentangle wall hanging. Elizabeth McCubbin won People's Choice and a Special Judges' Award for her sculpture that contained a thousand origami cranes! Scott Reynolds won Awards of Merit for his beeswax puck and capped honeycomb, in this his first year of honey production. Keith Chatham won a Best in Class for his horse-themed jewelry, inspired by his animals. Val White won five blue ribbons in Textiles including one for her hand spun and hand woven blanket of natural and plant dyed wool. Sarah Severn entered seven items winning five ribbons, including a blue ribbon for a rose. She is most proud of her Lady Macbeth Blackberry pie because it was sold to raise money for the PTA. Christy Desermeaux entered eight items, winning five ribbons, including two People's Choice Awards. Mosa won a red ribbon in Baking and two blue ribbons in Fine Arts. Lois Moore won four ribbons for her five vegetable entries. She is most proud of her tomatoes. And, finally, Delphina Liles is proud of the Young Adult Association of San Juan for winning the Outstanding Community Service Award. "It meant a lot to this group to be recognized for all of their hard work to make San Juan County a more inclusive, supportive place," she said.



A big thank you to the Grangers mentioned above, and all the others who participated, entered contests and made the Fair a success. I am most proud of my Grange for stepping up.

It's Time to Sign Up to Volunteer for the Friday Harbor Film Festival

You can be an integral part of this year's In-Theatre Festival running October 26 – 30 at the Palace Theatre, the San Juan Community Theatre, and at the SJI Grange. The committed help of many, many film-loving volunteers is vital to presenting the festival.

Your time and energy make all the difference! How much time jobs require varies from a few hours to a few days in October. Help is needed working in the FHFF Office, at the Gala, and at all film venues.

There are opportunities for those who love working with the public, those who prefer handling office and set-up tasks, and creative people who enjoy decorating. Do you like handling tech equipment? Projectionists who show the documentaries are needed and will receive training.

Your contribution will be recognized by several benefits:

- . Training, support, and appreciation
- . FHFF logo wear – t-shirt and hat
- . Volunteer hours earn film tickets for In-Theatre & On-Demand Festivals
- . Lead volunteers receive an All Access Passport providing entry to all films & events, including the Gala.
- . An invitation to the Volunteer Appreciation Bash

To view all the possibilities, dates and times needed, and to volunteer, go to the website, fhff.org/volunteer and click "VIEW OPPORTUNITIES" on an area of interest. Then choose the specific location you prefer and time-slot when you would like to volunteer.

Be part of the special group of friends and neighbors who devote time and energy to this event. Without the efforts of this extremely committed group of islanders the festival could not happen. Please join us!