



July 2017 | Volume 7 | Issue 3
 Publication of the Ohio Cemetery Association

President's Message

Dear Members:

So this year is just flying by! I hope everyone's Memorial Day was a success. We are already in July and the program committee has been very busy with the OCA Annual Convention.



We have an action-packed, educational and social agenda for you at our Convention, July 31-August 2 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Cleveland suburb Mayfield Village.

July 31 is fun on the golf links at the rolling and beautiful StoneWater Golf Club, followed by reception, hors d'ouervres, golf awards and games.

The next day, August 1, we'll kick off the agenda with keynote speaker Dennis Roche, the former long-time CEO of the Greater Cleveland Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the creator of the popular Positively Cleveland Campaign. He's very funny, astute and will share some stories that will help us all – about branding, selling, operations, customer care, and more. Our second speaker Don Winsett, is the Vice President of National Business Development with The Davey Tree Expert Company, and will be speaking on Trade Associations "The need, the benefits, the forward thinking for a better tomorrow". Following will be our business meeting, discussing the current activities of the Board and current legislative activity: House Bill 168 – cemetery grants, and total return investing. Your participation will be valuable.

The afternoon of August 1 will feature lunch and trolley tours of the historic and storied Lake View Cemetery. During the Lake View visit we'll have the opportunity to meet with suppliers and watch equipment demonstrations.

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The masthead image provided by Woodland Cemetery - Dayton.

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Upcoming Events

Annual Convention	July 31, August 1-2, 2017
July 31 - Golf	Stonewater Golf Course
August 1 - Field Day	Lake View Cemetery
Fall Maintenance Seminar North	October 5, 2017 Perry Township
Fall Maintenance Seminar South	October 10, 2017 Greenwood Cemetery Hamilton

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A festive Hawaiian Luau and dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn will follow. For the Luau – make sure to wear your Hawaiian shirts or grass skirts.

August 2 will include a full day of education with a variety of speakers in breakout sessions, including those on administration, township, sales/customer relations, and property/operations. We added the additional programming this year to provide multiple speakers on each subject. There is definitely something for everyone.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Convention. This is a don't miss program!!

Marilyn Brandt
President

Upcoming Events

Annual Convention

July 31, August 1, 2, 2017

Location: Hilton Garden Inn
Mayfield Village, Ohio

Golf Outing	Monday, July 31	Stonewater Golf Course Highland Heights
Field Day	Tuesday, August 1	Lake View Cemetery

Fall Maintenance Seminars

October 5 & 10, 2017

North	Thursday, October 5	Perry Township Perry
South	Tuesday, October 10	Greenwood Cemetery Hamilton

Visit www.ohiocemeteryassociation.com/Upcoming-Events for more information.

Download PDF forms:

- Agenda
- Field Day Agenda
- Cemetery Registration
- Supplier Registration
- Supplier Registration – Field Day Only
- Sponsorship Opportunities

ANNUAL CONVENTION/FIELD DAY & TRADE SHOW
JULY 31, AUGUST 1-2 2017
 Hilton Garden Inn - Mayfield Village, OH 44143



AGENDA

MONDAY JULY 31

- 9:00 Golf Outing – Stonewater Golf Club
- 2:00 Supplier Set up
- 4:00 OCA Board Meeting
- 6:00-7:00 Social Hour with Suppliers
- 7:00-8:00 Hors d'oeuvres
- 8:00 Golf Awards – Games

TUESDAY AUGUST 1

- 7:00-8:30 Registration and Breakfast with Suppliers
- 8:30-9:00 Welcome and Announcements; Supplier Introductions
- 9:00-9:45 Keynote Speaker – Dennis Roche, Former President of Greater Cleveland’s Convention and Visitor’s Bureau
- 9:45-10:30 Keynote Speaker - Don Winsett, VP of National Business Development, Davey Tree
“The need, the benefits, the forward thinking for a better tomorrow”
- 10:30-11:00 Break with Suppliers
- 11:00-11:45 Business Meeting & Legislative Update with Tim Long, OCA Legal Counsel
- 11:45 Leave for Field Day

LAKE VIEW CEMETERY

For GPS directions use:
 2601 Mayfield Rd.
 Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

- 12:15 Welcome/Supplier Introductions/Lunch
- 1:00-4:00 Visit with Suppliers/ Equipment Demonstrations/Service & Product Displays
- 1:00-2:30 Trolley Cemetery Tour #1 – Including Garfield Memorial and Wade Chapel
- 2:30-4:00 Trolley Cemetery Tour #2 – Including Garfield Memorial and Wade Chapel
- 4:00 Return to Hilton Garden Inn for Rest and Relaxation
- 6:00-6:45 Social Hour with Suppliers – Hawaiian Luau (dress for the occasion!)
- 6:45-7:45 Dinner with Suppliers
- President’s Address
- 8:00-10:00 Entertainment - **BONK COMEDY GAME SHOW**

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 2

- 7:00-8:30 Registration and Breakfast with Suppliers
- 8:30-8:45 Announcements
- 8:45-9:30 Breakout Session
 - Administration
 - “Branding Your Cemetery”*
 Kathy Goss, Lake View Cemetery
 - Township
 - “Effective Ways to Increase Revenue”*
 Elaine Russell and Tom Kayati, Walnut Grove Cemetery

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9:30-10:45	<p>Breakout Session</p> <p>Administration</p> <p><i>“Growing Your Endowment” – Panel Discussion</i> Michael S. Galland, Key Bank (Moderator) Kevin Kane and Michael Lynch, Optimized Transitions Danielle Paskowski, Kathy Goss, Lake View Cemetery Sean O’Regan,, Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum - Dayton</p> <p>Township</p> <p><i>“Maintenance Practices, Rules and Operational Procedures”</i> Pat Ebright, Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Union Township & Laura Monick, Section Chief, Ohio-Dept. of Commerce, Div. of Real Estate and Professional Licensing Presentation followed by Roundtable Discussion</p>
10:45-11:15	<p>Break with Suppliers</p>
11:15-12:00	<p>Breakout Session</p> <p>Administration</p> <p><i>“Preventing Cemetery Fraud”</i> Kelly Neer, External Auditor, Ohio Dept. of Commerce, Div. of Real Estate and Professional Licensing</p> <p>Township</p> <p><i>“Headstone, Monument and Mausoleum Restoration”</i> Mike Johns, John’s - Carabelli Monuments</p>
12:00-1:00	<p>Lunch with Suppliers</p>
1:00-1:45	<p>Breakout Session</p> <p>Sales/Customer Relations</p> <p><i>“Sales Policies and Procedures”</i> Scott Baran, Lake View Cemetery</p> <p>Property/Operations</p> <p><i>“Cremation Ideas for Small Areas”</i> Raymond Leach, Salem Stones</p>
1:45-2:30	<p>Breakout Session</p> <p>Sales/Customer Relations</p> <p>Kirk Roberts, American Cemetery Services</p> <p><i>“Hiring and Retaining a Sales Force”</i></p> <p>Property/Operations</p> <p><i>“Religious Burial Practices”</i> Rev. Francis P. Miller II</p>
2:30-3:15	<p>Breakout Session</p> <p>Sales/Customer Relations</p> <p><i>“The Value of Helping, Connecting and Adapting to sell to the Baby Boomer Generation”</i> Matt Dugas, Sales Manager, PlotBox</p> <p>Property/Operations –</p> <p><i>“Crisis Communications: Fail to plan now and you can plan to fail”</i> Thomas Fladung, Hennes Communications</p>
3:15-3:30	<p>Announcements and Conclusion</p>

6/29/17

2017 Memorial Day & Flag Day

Ferncliff Dedicates Weekend To Fallen Soldiers And All Who Have Died

Ferncliff Cemetery, Arboretum and Crematory paid tribute to deceased military and all who have died. Ceremonies and activities brought together families, community members, military and religious dignitaries as well as government officials.



During Sunday's fifth annual Floating Lantern Ceremony, families inscribed personal messages to their deceased loved ones on candle lanterns, and when night fell they released them onto the pond on the grounds of Ferncliff. Inspirational words were shared by Mandy Sanders, Associate Pastor of New Hope Church in Springfield, and participants had time to remember and reflect. Although families and friends were acknowledging loved ones no longer with them, the atmosphere was one of celebration. Refreshments were served and raffle prizes

awarded including a TV and a girl's and a boy's bicycle.

A parade marked Memorial Day, followed by Clark County's Veterans' Honor Service at the War Memorial on the grounds of Ferncliff. The cemetery is the final resting place of more than 5,000 military, dating back to 1863, and has been a longstanding advocate of veterans and host of the honor service. Chaplin Jim Stewart, Jon Stewart of the Clark County Veterans Council and Springfield mayor Warren Copeland addressed the crowd. H. Eugene (Doak) Walker, Detachment 963 of the Marine Corps League, posted and retired the Colors.

"Ferncliff is honored to pay tribute to fallen military service men and women who sacrificed so much for our country," remarked Stan Spitler, Ferncliff Superintendent.

The Superintendent also provided an update on Ferncliff's House of Reflections, scheduled to open later this summer. The building, formerly the Superintendent's House, circa 1890, is being converted to accommodate 368 glass-fronted indoor niches where family and friends of loved ones can privately reflect in comfortable, updated, tranquil surroundings.

Article submitted by: Kanet Advertising

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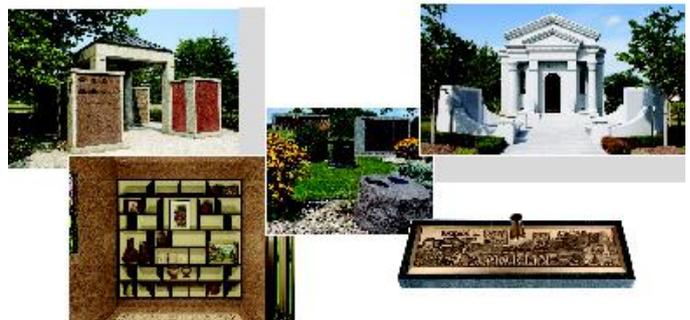


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Another Success At David's Cemetery!

Friday, June 9th, 2017 was our 5th Annual Flag Day Celebration. It was a glorious day with an abundance of sunshine and a refreshing breeze!

We were host to approximately 500 guests for free hot dogs, chips, cookies, drinks and a concert. Everyone was fed and then entertained by WPAFB's Band of Flight ensemble Wright Brass. The children in attendance enjoy the crafts, coloring activities and of course the temporary patriotic tattoos.



In addition to some beautiful music, the most memorable part of the evening always occurs when Wright Brass plays for and recognizes all of the veterans in the audience. All veterans are asked to rise and their perspective anthems are performed. It is truly a moving moment to witness and is always an honor for us to pay tribute to our veterans!

Article submitted by: Terri L. Schimer, Davids Cemetery



“Commemorate & Celebrate” Memorial Day Events at The Arlington Memorial Gardens in Cincinnati



An estimated 10,000 visitors experienced the real meaning of Memorial Day from May 24-31 at The Arlington Memorial Gardens during “Commemorate & Celebrate,” a week-long series of free events and ceremonies hosted by Arlington and headlined by the impressive “Field of Memories” exhibit consisting of 800 3' x 5' American Flags. According to Dan Applegate, Arlington's President and CEO, “These patriotic events are a rare opportunity to reach out and catch the attention of the public, while highlighting and honoring the sacrifice of those men and women who have died serving and defending our country.”

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The primary attraction, the Field of Memories was accompanied by the stirring, traveling exhibit, the Eyes of Freedom, life-sized memorial paintings of the 23 Marines of Ohio-based Lima Company who were killed in Iraq between

On Friday night, May 26th, over 1,000 spectators attended as Arlington hosted an evening of “Commemorate & Celebrate” that began at 7:30 with Team Fastrax, a six-man team of parachutists who jumped from an altitude of 6,500 feet and

landed in the Field of Memories. Four of the six members of the team had giant American Flags attached to their boots making for a marvelous moment of patriotism. Team Fastrax was followed by a 90 minute concert by Forever Diamond, a Neil Diamond Tribute band and one of Cincinnati’s favorite local acts. The evening concluded with a stunning fireworks display.

On Sunday, May 28, Arlington sponsored and hosted the Lunch With A Veteran event that drew over 250 people. This picnic lunch, that began humbly in 2012 with a mere 40 people in attendance, has blossomed into an event of growing popularity as over 250 veterans and non-veterans alike attended the lunch and the annual Flag Raising Ceremony.



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The “Field of Memories” and “Commemorate & Celebrate” festivities received extensive taped and live broadcast and print media coverage, beginning several weeks prior to the event, and continuing until its conclusion on May 31. In addition to the thousands of on-site visitors, Arlington received more than 17,000 views to their website and Facebook page during the weeklong celebration.

Article submitted by: Dan Applegate



Announcing The New Links Library

If you missed the March Spring Conference, you can now watch all of the speakers at your convenience in the comfort of your office.

Go to www.ohiocemeteryassociation.com and click on "Links Library". "Links Library" for the Spring Conference can also be seen under "Past Events".

Like what you see, please join us at one of our upcoming events in person.

Marilyn M. Brandt
OCA President





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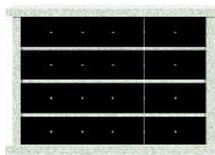
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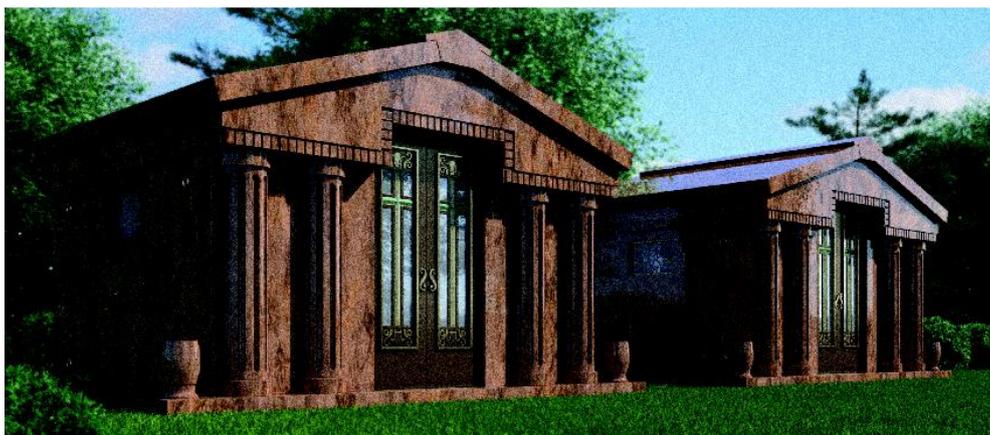
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Action vs. Self-Delusion

Knowledge fueled by emotion equals action. Action is the ingredient that ensures results. Only action can cause reaction. Further, only positive action can cause positive reaction.

Action. The whole world loves to watch those who make things happen, and it rewards them for causing waves of productive enterprise.

I stress this because today I see many people who are really sold on affirmations. And yet there is a famous saying that “Faith without action serves no useful purpose.” How true!

I have nothing against affirmations as a tool to create action. Repeated to reinforce a disciplined plan, affirmations can help create wonderful results.

But there is also a very thin line between faith and folly. You see, affirmations without action can be the beginnings of self-delusion. And for your well-being there is little worse than self-delusion.

The man who dreams of wealth and yet walks daily toward certain financial disaster and the woman who wishes for happiness and yet thinks thoughts and commits acts that lead her toward certain despair are both victims of the false hope which affirmations without action can manufacture. Why? Because words soothe and, like a narcotic, they lull us into a state of complacency. Remember this: To Make Progress You Must Actually Get Started!

The key is to take a step today. Whatever the project, start today. Start clearing out a drawer of your newly organized desk... today. Start setting your first goal... today. Start listening to motivational programs... today. Start a sensible weight-reduction plan... today. Start calling on one tough customer a day... today. Start putting money in your new “investment for fortune” account... today. Write a long-overdue letter... today. Anyone can! Even an uninspired person can start reading inspiring books.

Get some momentum going on your new commitment for the good life. See how many activities you can pile on your new commitment to the better life. Go all out! Break away from the downward pull of gravity. Start your thrusters going. Prove to yourself that the waiting is over and the hoping is past—that faith and action have now taken charge.

It's a new day, a new beginning for your new life. With discipline you will be amazed at how much progress you'll be able to make. What have you got to lose except the guilt and fear of the past?

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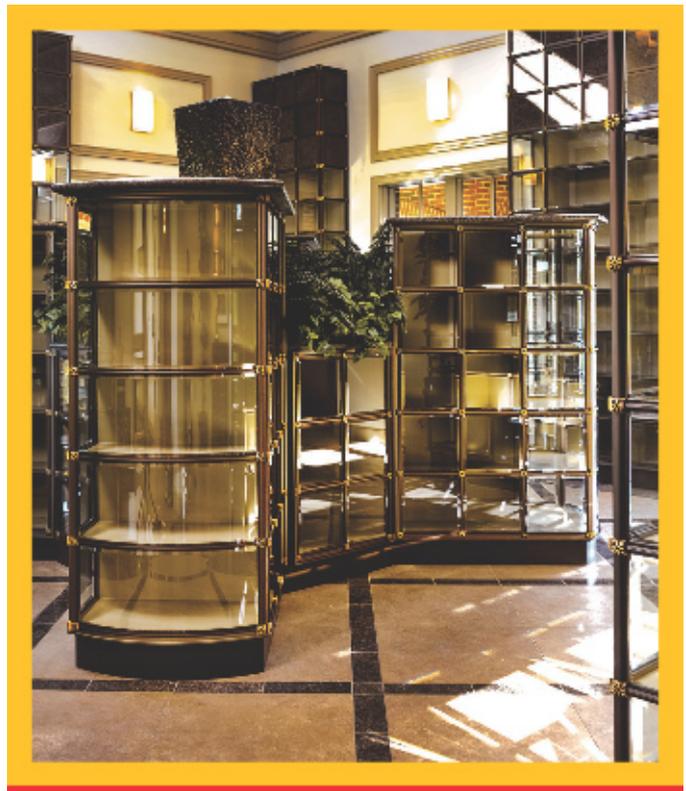
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Now, I offer you this challenge: See how many things you can start and continue in this, the first day of your new beginning.

It is a Challenge to Succeed by Jim Rohn (excerpted from The Challenge to Succeed audio series)

It is a challenge to succeed. If it were not, I'm sure more people would be successful, but for every person who is enjoying the fruit from the tree of success, many more are examining the roots. They are trying to figure it all out. They are mystified and perplexed by what seems to be some strange, complex and elusive secret that must be found if ever success is to be enjoyed. While most people spend most of their lives struggling to earn a living, a much smaller number seem to have everything going their way. Instead of just earning a living, the smaller group is busily engaged in designing and enjoying a fortune. Everything just seems to work out for them. While the much larger group sits in awe at how life can be so unfair, complicated and unjust.



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"I am a nice person," the man says to himself. "How come this other guy is happy and prosperous, and I'm always struggling?" He asks himself, "I am a good husband, a good father and a good worker. How come nothing seems to work out for me? Life just isn't fair. I'm even smarter and willing to work harder than some of these other people who just seem to have everything going their way," he says as he slumps into the sofa to watch another evening of television.

But, you see, you've got to be more than a good person and a good worker. You've got to become a good planner, and a good dreamer. You've got to see the future finished in advance. You've got to put in the long hours and put up with the setbacks and the disappointments. You've got to learn to enjoy the process of disciplines and of putting yourself through the paces of doing the uncomfortable until it becomes comfortable.

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This is a representation of a billboard Kanet Advertising recently designed and placed.

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You've got to be prepared and willing to attack the challenges if you want the success because challenges are part of success.

Now that may sound like a full menu of activities, but let me assure you that the process of going from average to fortune isn't really all that difficult. Thinking about it is the difficult part. Anticipating all the effort and the changes and the disciplines is far worse in the mind than in reality. I can promise you that the challenges you'll meet on the road to success are far less difficult to deal with than the struggles and the disappointments that come from being average. Confronting and overcoming challenges is an exhilarating experience. It does something to feed the soul and the mind. It makes you more than you were before. It strengthens the mental muscles and enables you to become better prepared for the next challenge.

I'd like for you to discover some strong feelings about your life and about what you want to do with that life. You probably have much of the knowledge and a lot of the experience and perhaps most of the skills that it takes to become successful. What you may be lacking in are the strong feelings about what you want and what you want to do. You may be one of those who have become so involved in the process of earning a living that you've forgotten about the choices and the chances you have for designing your own life.

Let these strong feelings help you take a second look at your life and where you're headed. After all, you've only got one life, at least on this planet. So why not make it an adventure in achievement? Why not discover what all you can do and what all you can have? Why not discover how many others you can help and in the process how that can help you?

Why not now take the Challenge to Succeed!

Article by: Jim Rohn

Submitted by: Kirk Roberts, OCA Board Member

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Cemetery Spotlight

Sugar Grove Cemetery

The Sugar Grove Cemetery is a 50-acre cemetery nestled within the city limits of Wilmington, Ohio. Opened in August 1858, this 159-year-old cemetery is rich with history and heritage.

A HISTORY OF SUGAR GROVE CEMETERY

The Sugar Grove Cemetery Association was formed in 1857 by a group of civic-minded citizens who saw the pressing need to develop a centralized location for burying the dead – a place that essentially would eliminate the nearly 100 small, often neglected burial sites scattered throughout Clinton County in churchyards, backyards, barnyards, hillsides, cornfields and woody coves.



The Association bought 23 acres on the west side of Wilmington and hired nurseryman Leo Weltz, a 33-year-old Prussian-born landscape gardener, to lay out a cemetery on the pretty piece of land. Mr. Weltz had an impressive education and resume. After studying horticulture and landscaping at the University of Heidelberg, he worked at the Imperial Botanical Garden of the court of King Wilhelm in Berlin. The highlight of his European career was serving as the head gardener to the Czar of Russia, Nicholas I. In 1851, Leo moved to the United States and eventually made his way to southwestern Ohio. In 1855, he started his own nursery business, designing gardens for notable estates such as the home of Governor Salmon P. Chase. He

started his work at Wilmington's cemetery on March 5, 1858, and just a few months later the rugged, big-hearted German with an encyclopedic knowledge of horticulture unveiled Sugar Grove, with its hundreds of varieties of trees and plants, gracefully winding drives, and wide grassy spaces. Those who entered the peaceful, lush, welcoming grounds felt the full effect of Mr. Weltz's philosophy of landscape design: *There is no melancholy in nature.*



Sugar Grove Cemetery was dedicated on August 28, 1858, and in the years since has become a community unto itself. The cemetery has expanded from its original 23 acres to nearly 50 acres. There are more than 15,000 interments. Special areas have been formally designated for Civil War Soldiers, children, indigents, and pets. Mausoleums have been built. A monument to the veterans of all wars has been erected. Sugar Grove resonates with the varied stories of its residents, and with the vision of a remarkable man

who transplanted the aesthetics of European royal gardens to Wilmington, Ohio.

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SECTIONS AND ARCHITECTURE

The Children's Cemetery, was established in 1937, on the eastern most edge of Sugar Grove, with the last burial in 2004. In every season, cheery decorations, flowers and toys adorn many of the 290 little headstones, some topped with lambs or angels.

To the north, on land adjoining the former Pennsylvania Railroad, are the graves of some who traveled from far away and made Clinton County their home. Along one ridge are several thick, boxy tombstones with Irish surnames and Celtic symbols. Some of these bear the names of their home counties in Ireland; a few are carved with scripture, one with poetry.

West of these are graves of people who came from places unknown and died in Clinton County, nameless. The Charity Section, originally known as Potter's Field, was established in the 1860's to give a final resting place to transients. Many were veterans who had wandered into Clinton County after wars and died with no identification. Though some of these headstones have names, others are marked only with a number; a corresponding date of burial is kept in the cemetery records.

The smallest section of Sugar Grove is the Pet Cemetery, which was established in 1973. It now has more than 144 beloved pets laid to rest.

One of the most distinctive structures at Sugar Grove is the old mortuary in the center of the cemetery. This holding vault was built in 1912 and was used to provide a temporary, safe receptacle for bodies until which time they could be buried, especially in the winter months, and replaced the original structure built when the cemetery first opened. The finished vault, constructed by Charley Martindale, is 16 ft. wide, 20 ft. deep, and 7.5 feet high. The mortuary



was built using Todd's Fork stone, with the facing stones coming from the McDermott quarry in Portsmouth, Ohio. The ornate gates were provided by the Stewart Ironworks Company of Cincinnati, Ohio/Erlanger, Kentucky. Stewart Ironworks, a leader in ironwork at the turn of the century, also created all of the benches and site

amenities for Central Park in New York as well as jail cells for notable prisons such as Alcatraz, Sing-Sing, and Leavenworth.

THE RESIDENTS AT SUGAR GROVE CEMETERY

The earliest burials in Sugar Grove were in the interior sections west of the cemetery entrance. The first interment was that of 10-year-old Catharine Kline, who died of tuberculosis and was buried on July 4, 1858. Isaiah Morris, a prominent businessman in the county, was the second person buried, on July 20, 1858. The third burial, on September 27, 1858, was that of an infant surnamed Thurston.

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Also, in these areas are a number of veterans' graves, reflecting the significant military history that is present in Sugar Grove. The tallest monument in the cemetery – said to be modeled after the Washington Monument – belongs to General James W. Denver, who served in the army both in the Civil War and Mexican War. After the Mexican War, he went to California, was elected to the California State Senate, and later to the U.S. Congress. In 1857, President James Buchanan named him Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Later in 1857, Denver was named Governor of the Kansas Territory. Soon after the start of the Civil War, President Lincoln commissioned Denver as a brigadier general of the volunteer army. In the years following the war, Denver practiced law in Washington D.C. and Wilmington. The city of Denver, Colorado, is named after him.



In contrast to General Denver, is the story of the soldier who passed through Wilmington on a train in 1867, apparently making his way home after the Civil War. He became sick and died before he could give anyone his name and address, and was buried in Sugar Grove. His grave was unmarked until 1890, when the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) started to provide headstones for Civil War veterans' graves. His says simply: "Unknown Soldier."

Close to the Unknown Soldier is Soldier's Point, the triangular section of some 60 graves that was set aside to honor Civil War veterans who had no other means for burial. In 1927 the GAR erected a Civil War Monument at the point, featuring a statue of a keen-eyed Union soldier in a rumpled greatcoat, clasping a rifle, with a bayonet at his side and a cartridge box strapped to his chest. The monument is flanked on two sides by army cannons made in 1861.



One of the loveliest sections of the cemetery is called the Grove, the shady incline directly behind the main office. It is here that two small, unpretentious headstones sit side by side, marking the graves of Leo and Anna Weltz. Leo died on December 31, 1890, of kidney failure. In his obituary, the Wilmington Journal noted that "from his

arrival in Wilmington until the day of his death," Leo Weltz took more interest in Sugar Grove than anything else.

"It is fitting," the memorial continued, "that he should rest among the trees he had planted and among the slopes and drives he so tastefully planned, for combined as a whole they compose a monument to his skill, his knowledge, and his life, more enduring and more honorable than any granite or marble that could be erected to his memory."

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A TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

For over 150 years, the Sugar Grove Cemetery Association dedicated itself to the care and upkeep of this beautiful cemetery. Under their careful stewardship, the cemetery was a showcase in the City of Wilmington. In recent years, however, the association began to struggle within an increasingly difficult financial landscape. In 2015, the Sugar Grove Cemetery Association made the arduous decision to dissolve, and on April 2, 2015, the City of Wilmington assumed ownership of the cemetery. Sugar Grove is now operated and maintained under the supervision of the Director of Public Service, Brian Shidaker.

Upon acquisition of the cemetery, the City began tackling the deferred maintenance issues that naturally occurred when funding was limited. The first spring was dedicated to cleanup. Many fallen trees were removed from the property. The roof of the cemetery office was repaired and the building was painted. The gates were repaired and repainted. Restoration work was done on the pillars and bronze plaques. The cannons were cleaned, repaired and restored.



In 2016, the first full year of City management, new challenges presented themselves. Because the cemetery is now City-owned, the bridges within the cemetery were subject to state inspection. Through this program, three bridges were identified as needing repair and maintenance. Two of the smaller bridges were closed in the spring of 2016. One bridge was repaired and reopened just a few months later. The Champion Bridge Company manufactured the third bridge in 1900. Since its construction over a century ago, the beautiful truss bridge had received little to no repair. In 2017, the City applied for and was awarded substantial funding through the ODOT Municipal Bridge program to rehabilitate or replace the truss bridge. This major project is scheduled within the next two years.

In 2016, the city contracted American Grave Groomers (AGG), a local restoration company, to assist in an array of projects, with an emphasis on veterans' memorial restoration. Ron Nocella,

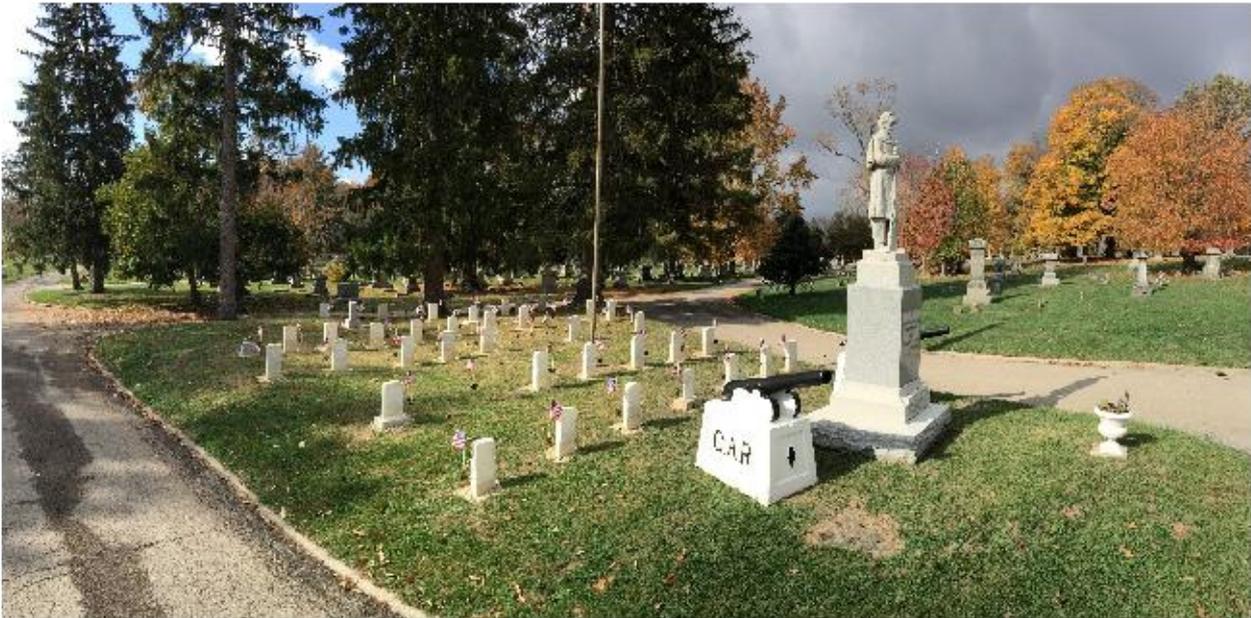


and black luster.

owner, meticulously repaired, restored and reset the 60-plus grave markers at soldiers point. The badly damaged hat and face of the Union Soldier statue were restored as well. Restoration efforts also included the Veteran's Memorial. This memorial was given a facelift to restore its legibility. American Grave Groomers also restored all nineteen-section markers in the cemetery to their original gold

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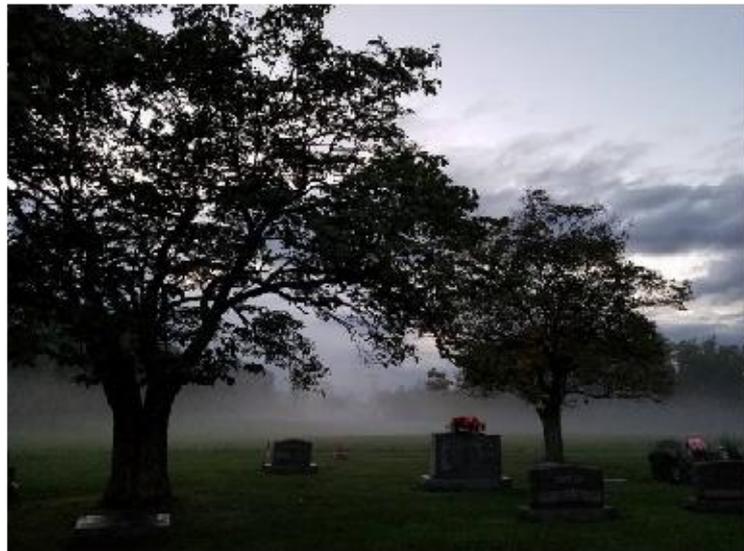


FUTURE PLANS

The City of Wilmington is passionate about the future of Sugar Grove Cemetery. As it was in the beginning, Wilmington has a wonderfully supportive group of civic-minded citizens who are dedicated to the preservation and history of this jewel within the City. This group, Friends of the Sugar Grove Cemetery, has a Facebook site dedicated to sharing information about the cemetery as well as offering educational information on cemetery preservation.

Sugar Grove Cemetery is keeping busy with many new projects. The City plans to create an additional channel to foster even more community involvement and develop an official restoration program based upon

best practices from the Cemetery Conservators for United Standards. A Memorial Tree Planting program is in the works to offer another option to honor and remember loved ones. Currently, cemetery records are maintained through a combination of the original handwritten plat books and records, supplemented with a Microsoft Access database. The City is pursuing cemetery-mapping software to streamline office operations and make burial records more accessible to the public. This will also support the ongoing



surveying for additional gravesites. Finally, the City is exploring options to make the cemetery more accommodating to the recent increase in cremation through either the erection of a columbarium and/or development of a scatter garden.

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There is much to look forward to at Sugar Grove Cemetery and the City of Wilmington is ready to rise to the challenge. With reverence and determination, the City will implement improvements to the beautiful grounds and services offered. The City is committed to honoring the residents and the rich history of Sugar Grove Cemetery.

To view the video of "Soldiers Point", click on the following link.

[Soldiers Point Sugar Grove Cemetery Movie](#)

Article submitted by: Andrea Tacoronte, City of Wilmington



Creating a Natural Burial Ground

by Rick Meade

In a continuing effort to provide meaningful interment options to the community, The Calvary Cemetery Association of Dayton, OH introduced plans to open a dedicated natural burial area on Earth Day, April 22, 2014. It took little time to agree that Saint Kateri, patron of the environment, would be the theme.

Calvary Cemetery's 200 acres of rolling hills and forest is located just on the southern boundary of Dayton, crossing into the cities of Kettering and Moraine. Established in 1872, the cemetery operates today at 650 burials per year on average, 33% of which are cremation services. With approximately 90 acres of wooded area fronted by a small prairie in reserve for future development, we knew that we could provide a desirable natural setting for this type of burial option. With its network of rivers, streams, lakes, state parks, including the wonderful Five Rivers Metro Parks system right here in Dayton, we were almost certain to appeal to the naturalist market segment.

Calvary Vice President, Adam Ravestein, and I were invited to visit The Preserve in Waterford, MI by our friends Mike Chilcote and Russ Burns at the excellent Mount Elliott Association of Detroit, MI.

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They were experiencing much success with a natural burial offering within the borders of their traditional cemetery.

After much research, consideration, and the decision to proceed, the Board of Trustees allocated seven acres for initial development of our natural burial ground. Adam Ravestein and Tom Rufuss of Scarff's Landscape in New Carlisle, OH were called upon to create a design concept for the area. The plan was to include a lake and walking trails extending from the native Ohio prairie into a portion of an existing woods that will serve as an enjoyable peaceful amenity to all of our visitors.



Shown is the larger-than-life-size statue of Saint Kateri that is now front and center in the Saint Kateri Preserve.

Also, University of Dayton Professor and world class botanist, Brother Don Geiger, advised us in the re-establishment of the Ohio prairie and identifying invasive plants that needed to be removed.

Marie Barbera, of Yorba Linda, CA who specializes in Native American artisan works was called upon to create a larger-than-life bronze statue of Saint Kateri as a lasting inspirational focal point to serve the area. Because of her vast knowledge of Native American tribes and her previous works, Marie was given complete freedom to create this image as she was inspired. We believe she captured the essence of Saint Kateri to create a truly one-of-a-kind tribute. A little more than a year after its dedication, the first phase of the design plan was complete.

A wonderful dedication service and celebration took place on that Earth Day. Special guest, Sister Kateri Mitchell, Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference in Alexandria, LA was here for the blessed event as special guest speaker. She served as the principle advocate for Saint Kateri's canonization and beatification. Also in attendance were Frank Barbera, husband of Marie Barbera, the Kateri Circle group from Columbus, OH, (one of the nation's many Kateri Circles), Dayton area funeral directors, along with about 100 community members.

Due to the Earth Day / environmental connection, all local network news affiliates, along with NPR radio, covered the event.

The Term "Green Burial" Is Not Used Here

At this time, you may notice that the term "Green Burial" has not been used. Even though the Green Burial Council, and others provided information and advice, our experience tells us that the reason most people select Natural Burial is to simply, gently, naturally return their remains to Mother Earth.

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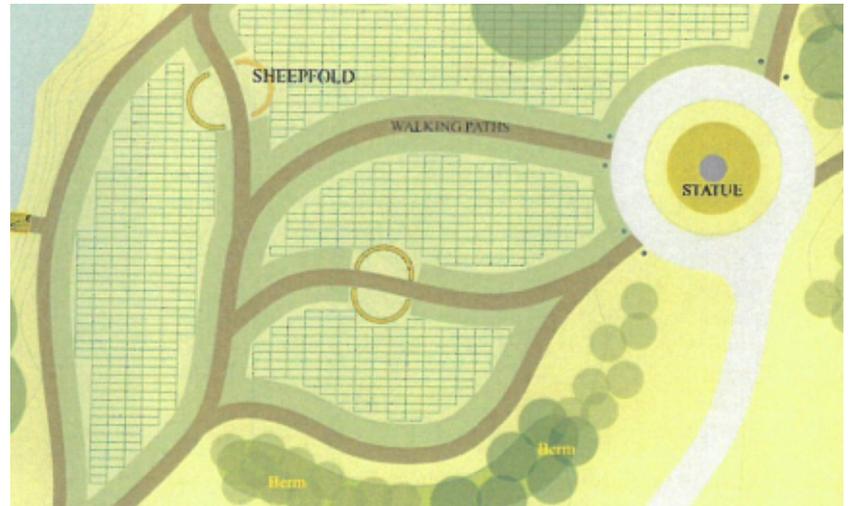
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It may sound like mincing words, however the term "Green" invokes thoughts of conservation, saving the environment, carbon footprint, etc. Of course natural burial provides green benefits; it is just safe to say these items alone are not the driving impetus to the selection of natural burial.

A graveside service is set up in a very raw condition with no tent or artificial grass mats. An uncovered dirt pile is placed next to the grave with two or three shovels where many families participate in tossing in the first soil, so me wishing to backfill the entire grave.

The best news of all for our community and The Calvary Cemetery Association is that we are now reaching a market segment that for the most part was being neglected.

A New Revenue Stream
Sales in The Saint Kateri Preserve make up 14% of our in ground burial options sold after only two years in existence. This is a new revenue stream. Our traditional options are selling stronger than ever. Pricing for graves in this area is the same as the rest of the cemetery. Graves along the shoreline of the two-acre lake sell at a higher premium than all other graves in the cemetery.



A lake and walking trails extending from the native Ohio prairie into a portion of an existing woods were part of the overall plan.

One of the most surprising statistics to date is that the cremation burial rate for the Kateri Preserve is 75%. We are learning that many folks who scatter in forest areas or lakes prefer the idea of returning to nature. Could it be we have given families a "natural" alternative option to scattering?

Knowing there is mixed reaction and results in various areas of the country, we believe one of the keys to the large interest received here to date is our easily accessible location is in the middle of an urban area.

In contrast, many Green/Natural cemeteries in the country are a long way from population centers.

Finally, educating the community has been easy because of the existing interest on this topic. We have hosted two sessions of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute through the University of Dayton, hosting 75 people per meeting on our property.

Our Community Outreach Manager has been in constant demand to speak to church and other nature groups. Educating the local funeral homes is key. They now have new opportunities to sell natural burial products, such as biodegradable shrouds, wicker or wood caskets and urns, etc.

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One of our stated organizational goals is to continue to provide meaningful burial and memorial options to the Catholic community we serve. Natural burial has proven to be one of those options.

Outpouring of Appreciation From the Families has Been Overwhelming

The Natural Burial funeral experience is as meaningful, if not more so, as the method of disposition itself. As we continue to learn with each family that we serve, the outpouring of appreciation has been tremendous from the families as well as the local priests who serve them. Just a few examples:

A master carpenter in southwest Ohio asked if he could build the casket for his dad, who was a former City of Dayton Police sergeant. He told the story of some large cedar logs he had sawn into planks and stored away for future use not knowing his father would pass away within the year. The planks were exactly enough to build the casket. He also used a router to engrave a replica of the Dayton police shield, along with other personalization.

On another occasion, an elderly lady stood in our office crying large tears of joy because this was the way she had hoped to be buried. She said, "I just have one question: Can I be buried with my rosary?"

Another gentleman lost his wife and had her cremated. His wife had always made artistic creations from gourds. The answer was yes when he asked if a large gourd could serve as the urn. Seeing the family carry their beloved mother and wife to the grave in one of her favorite orange gourds was overwhelming.

Submitted by Rick Meade

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Annual Convention

July 31, August 1-2, 2017

July 31 - Golf
Stonewater Golf Course

August 1 - Field Day
Lake View Cemetery

Fall Maintenance Seminar North

October 5, 2017
Perry Township

Fall Maintenance Seminar South

October 10, 2017
Greenwood Cemetery
Hamilton

See www.ohiocemeteryassociation.com/Upcoming-Events for updated information.



Ohio Cemetery Association

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www.ohiocemeteryassociation.com