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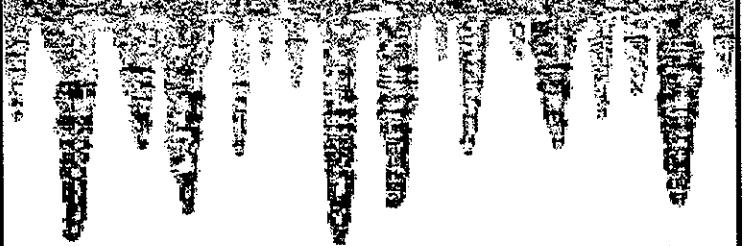
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"To shorten winter, borrow some money due in spring."

—W.J. Vogel



Or instead...plan to attend the Ohio Cemetery Association's "Before The Thaw" Winter Conference in Dublin, Ohio, February 23–25, 2012. This conference is chock-full of fresh and remarkably thought-provoking information that will inspire, challenge and motivate.

The General Conference on Friday, February 24, focuses on "operational functions," and the Sales Spectacular on February 25 zeroes in on the "sales side" of cemeteries. Because both are so critical to a highly effective, not to mention profitable, cemetery organization, we are offering you the opportunity to attend both—in fact, we encourage it! But, you can certainly attend one or the other. Either way, begin planning now to shorten your winter by attending "Before The Thaw!"

See center insert for more information

SAVE THE DATE

Winter Conference, Sales Spectacular
& Awards Banquet
February 23–25, 2012
Dublin, Ohio

2012 Annual Convention
August 6–8, 2012
Columbus, Ohio

Fall Maintenance Seminar
Date & Place TBA

EVENTS CREATE A WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE

— MARK FUNKE

Historic Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum welcomes over 18,000 visitors to the cemetery each year to attend tours and special events. We have designed these events with the goal of having something that will appeal to a wide range of interests throughout the entire year. Our events begin in the middle of January with an outdoor Arboretum Event and end in December with our Annual Holiday Remembrance. Our December event is for our families who have lost a loved one throughout the year.

Over the past few years, we have made an effort to highlight the spectacular grounds of the cemetery's arboretum by creating an "Arboretum Series" of events throughout the year. These include our January "Winter Tree ID" walking tour and others

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BMSO OFFERS WC DISCOUNTS — BOB CARR

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— John Santisi
President
Phoenix Supermarkets, Inc.

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— Kathleen Davis
Human Resources Manager
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— Honorable Lyle Williams
Executive Director, NASPAC
Member of Congress 1979–85

If you have not applied for the group-rating program, now is the time. BWC has announced that the maximum discount for the next policy period is 53%. The Ohio Cemetery Association encourages all members to apply for a **FREE** evaluation of your company's eligibility to participate. Apply now! Don't miss this opportunity to save money on your workers' comp premiums. Many of our members are already participating and saving thousands of dollars.

For a **FREE, NO OBLIGATION** evaluation of your company's eligibility to participate in this cost savings program, go to ohiocemeteryassociation.com. Click on **Breaking News**, and then the **AC-3 form** link. Print, complete and fax the form to BMSO, Inc. at 330.856.6662. The savings can be significant and the service is excellent!

For questions regarding the group-rating program and discount availability, please contact Steve McConnell, Group Rating Manager, at 330.856.9213.

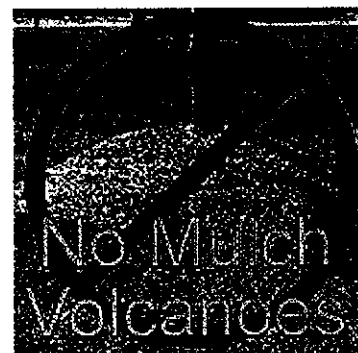


HOW MUCH MULCH?

— WAYNE JEWEL

Not too long ago, my daughter and I were on our way to the mall and she pointed out how a lot of the trees had mulch piled about 12-18" up the trunk in a cone shape. She said it looks like "ground pimples." The Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service has a name for this type of mulching, too. They call it "mulch volcanoes."

I suppose to some people, this might look cool, but research has shown that this type of mulching will eventually put the tree in a state of decline. When trees are mulched in this fashion, a nesting site is



created for rodents that burrow into the mulch until they reach the base of the tree. There they can feed on the tree bark without having to step out into the cold.

Mulch is rotting wood and bark. When good wood is kept in constant contact with rotting wood, the good wood will eventually start to decay. As new mulch is continually added and old mulch not removed, the plant becomes buried deeper. The old mulch becomes so rotted that it becomes part of the soil. Trees will eventually start sending their feeder roots up into these upper layers because if they don't, they will eventually drown in their own "plant gases."

Many people have the misconception that tree roots go down into the ground. The anchor roots do go down. Feeder roots, however, which need to be able to breathe in soil oxygen and expel plant gases actually go out horizontally to as much as five times the width of the tree crown. These roots are usually found in the top 12 to 18 inches of soil. Have you ever tried to put soil over maple roots stretching out across the ground?

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EVENTS FROM PAGE 1

such as "Bee Healthy," "Maple Syrup Tapping," "Ten Steps to Terrific Turf" and "Champion Tree Walking Tour." The Arboretum Series always includes our incredibly popular "Prune Like a Pro" seminar held each March and our "Autumn Color Explosion" walking tour in October, both led by members of our Horticulture Department. Guests who attend these tours and seminars always come with notebooks and plenty of questions and leave with plenty of innovative ideas shared by our professional staff.

Spring Grove special events are designed to appeal to our guests of all ages and all levels of interest. Our rich, 165-year history lends itself to tours with an expansive variety of topics that include "Civil War Connections," "Cincinnati Beer Barons," "Poetry in the Grove," "Angels in the Grove," "History and Heritage," an indoor "Owl Prowl" held in the Norman Chapel, an outdoor summer concert, an early morning Bird Walk, a "Dog Day," a moonlight walking tour and many more. We have over 25 certified tours that can be given by our dedicated volunteer docents. To further facilitate these tours, in 2007 the Spring Grove Heritage Foundation purchased a tram that can carry 25 tour participants throughout the 400+ acres of the cemetery. We also host several 5K events throughout the year to share our facilities with community organizations.

Each year Spring Grove hosts two *Signature Events* which, combined, bring over 4,000 visitors to the cemetery. Our Annual Lantern Lighting Ceremony is held the second Saturday in September. This is an afternoon filled with musical entertainment, craft tables and hot-off-the-grill concessions. Families decorate lanterns in memory of a loved one. At dusk, candle-illuminated wooden lanterns with decorated shades are set afloat upon Willow Water Lake while bagpipers play in the distance. The Car Show "Cruise In" on the second Sunday in October is held at Spring Grove's funeral Gwen Mooney Funeral Home. The show has grown to be one of the most popular and largest car shows in the tri-state area. The afternoon is filled with music provided by a live band, door prize drawings and a split-the-pot raffle to benefit Breast Cancer research. One of the most popular entries is always the collection of vintage hearses on display. The event ends with many of the vehicles processing on a guided tour through the cemetery behind the Spring Grove hearse!

All of these events serve to make Spring Grove a place for the living, a place for the community and a natural place for all to choose when their need is greatest.

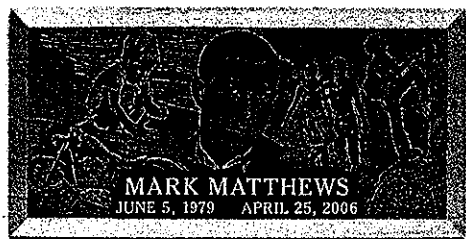
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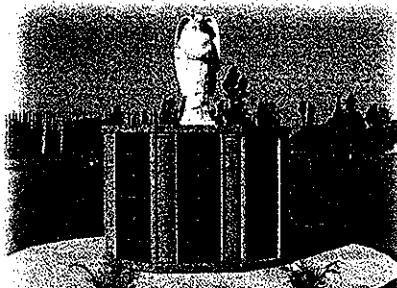
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FEATURE CEMETERY: WOODLAND CEMETERY

— DAVE FITZSIMMONS

On November 22, 2012, the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service approved Woodland's Nomination by the Ohio Historical Society to be designated as a "Historic District" on the National Register of Historic Places.

This honor is important to both Woodland and the region. It enhances Dayton's reputation and adds another reason for locals and tourists to visit the National Aviation Heritage Area and the Aviation Trail.



The borders of the "Historic District" are the 105-acre Victorian sections of the cemetery within its 1912 borders. It includes 25 "contributing" structures to the historic significance of the District. These include the 1847 *Receiving Vault*, the *Johnny Morehouse Monument*, the *Dunbar Gravesite* and the *Soldier Section*, donated in 1870 to the Grand Army of the Republic in 1870. The Soldier Section contains 600 Civil War era marble headstones.

Due in large part to the contributions of landscape architect Adolph Strauch, Woodland Cemetery became one of America's premier properties in the 1870s, and its 105 *Victorian Acres* remain much as they appeared in 1912.

This is an important moment in Woodland's history. Our Historic Administration Building, entry Gate and Tiffany Chapel were added to the National Register in 1979, but this attests to the historic significance of the entire Victorian District. Woodland enhanced its standing as a community asset on November 22. This is very significant for Dayton pride and Dayton tourism.

Woodland's application for "Historic District" status stressed the contribution that Adolph Strauch made to the

development of the new Rural Garden Cemetery Movement in the 1870s. Woodland received permission to "borrow" Mr. Strauch from Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, which was recognized as "the most beautiful of all cemeteries" in the 1870s.

Over the next several years, Strauch transformed Woodland's landscape lawn plan, combining views of nature with architecture, monuments, lakes, bridges and valleys using new and innovative "curvilinear" design patterns for roads and burial sections.



During this time period, Strauch also planned numerous parks in Cincinnati—Eden Park, Burnet Woods, and Lincoln Park—while expanding the rural cemetery design concepts to Hartford Cemetery in Connecticut, Forest Lawn in Buffalo, New York, Highland Cemetery in Covington, Kentucky and Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan. One need only drive or walk through any of these properties to appreciate the genius Adolph Strauch brought to both Woodland and to the new field of cemetery design architecture.



Woodland is open for both self-guided and guided tours throughout the year. Its most popular tour is the 2 hour "Historic" tour, but "Aviation Heroes," "Famous Women of Woodland," "Windows," "Upper Loop Historic," "Sports Legends" and Historic tours on Segway motorized vehicles are also available. A new driving tour, "The Private Mausoleums of Woodland," will be inaugurated this spring.

For historic or tour information, call Woodland Cemetery at 937.228.3221.

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Dave Fitzsimmons is President and CEO of Woodland Historic Cemetery, Arboretum & Foundation, Dayton, Ohio.

They just keep reappearing. When they don't, it is because the tree has begun to decline. Try changing the grade on an oak tree and you could lose the whole tree in as little as a year. Deep mulching up against the base of a tree is harmful.



The proper way to mulch is to have the

total mulch layer be about 2 inches thick including the old mulch—assuming that it hasn't been removed first. A regular garden rake makes a good gauge for mulch depth. The mulch should be applied so that it is about a fist away from the base of the tree trunk. It will wash in naturally towards the trunk anyway. The tree's root flare should be exposed with the mulch applied to accentuate it and not try to hide it. The mulch layer should be level and uniform around the tree like a flat donut. Mulching in this fashion keeps rodents from nesting around the tree, allows plant gases to escape as needed and helps to conserve rainfall instead of allowing it to run off and away from the tree.

There are many types of mulch available, in various textures from fine to chunky, and in colors from black to red and yellow. In the South, red color mulches are very popular because the native soils tend to be orange-red in color. Here in Ohio, where the soils tend to be chocolate brown when moist, brown or black is most popular.

The finer the mulch particles, the faster they will decompose. Also, particles such as peat moss which for years were used as a mulch will tend to crust over after they get wet and dry out. Water tends to run off instead of in to this type of surface. Peat moss is no longer considered a good mulch. It is better as a source

of organic matter to mix into the soil. Coarse size mulch such as bark nuggets will last a long time but are not really cost effective for covering large areas. The best mulch is actually a mix of fine- to medium-size shreds and chips, so that some will decompose quickly but other pieces will be around for awhile. This type of material makes for gradual decay of the mulch while allowing more water retention and less runoff. For many years at Sunset Memorial Park, we made our own mulch by running our debris through a wood chipper. We also allowed local tree companies to dump their tree chippings in the back of the park from which we would draw for mulching around the grounds. However, with our expansion and opening of new sections, we had to suspend this practice and now purchase our mulch from local suppliers.

It might be tempting to ask a local tree company to dump its fresh wood chips in your driveway so that you can use them around the yard. I strongly advise against this. Bark mulch should be allowed to heat up, break down and decay before it is ever used in the landscape. Raw, fresh wood chips and bark may contain disease and insects and when used before being composted can just add more problems to your landscape. In addition, when materials like this are used fresh, they will actually deprive your landscape plants of soil nitrogen because nitrogen is consumed in the decomposition process. Depending upon the weather conditions, it take from 6 months to a year for fresh-chipped landscape debris to be suitable for use around the grounds. If you decide to accept a load of fresh chips...it needs to be left alone. Add a bag or two of urea (46-0-0) to the pile to aid in decomposition. Until it is nice and brown, I would not use it, though. My preference is a mulch that comes close to matching the native soils, is not too coarse, nor too fine, has a nice uniform color and has been composted for awhile.

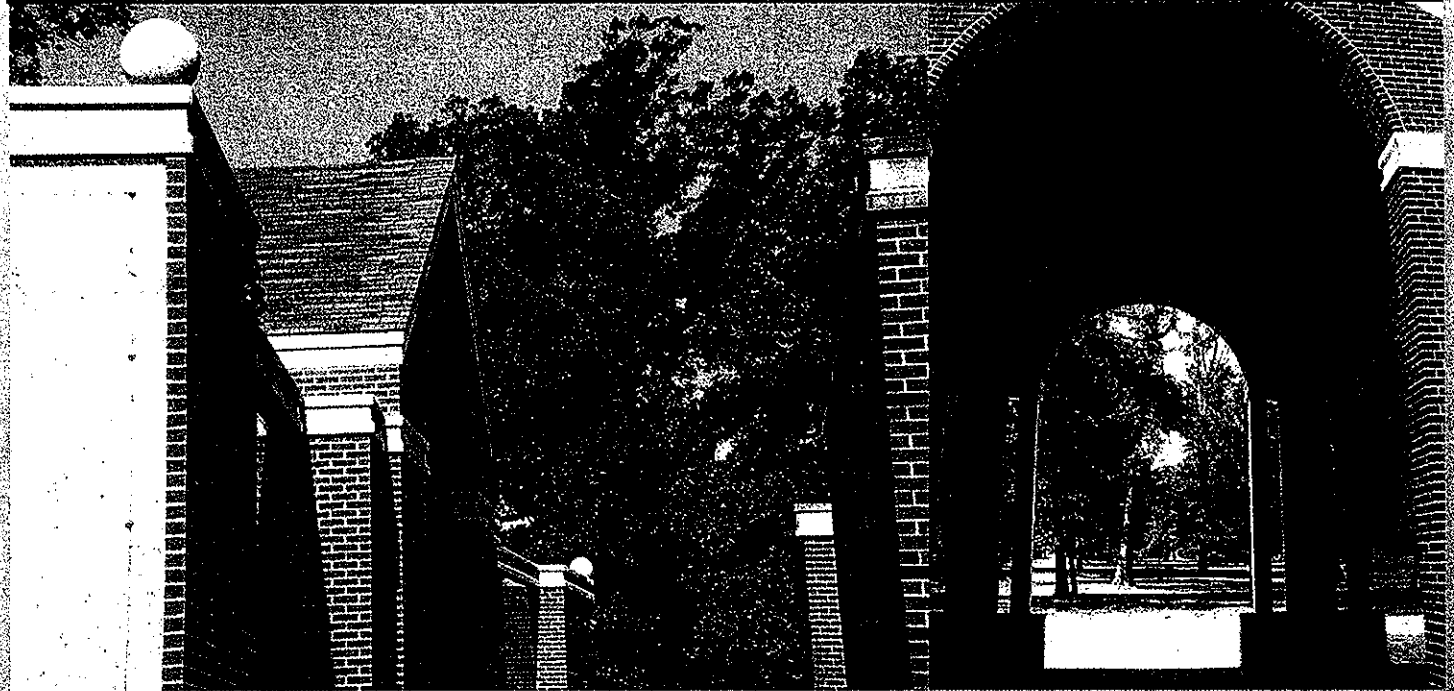
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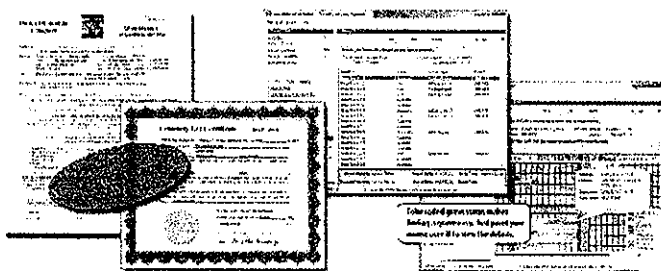
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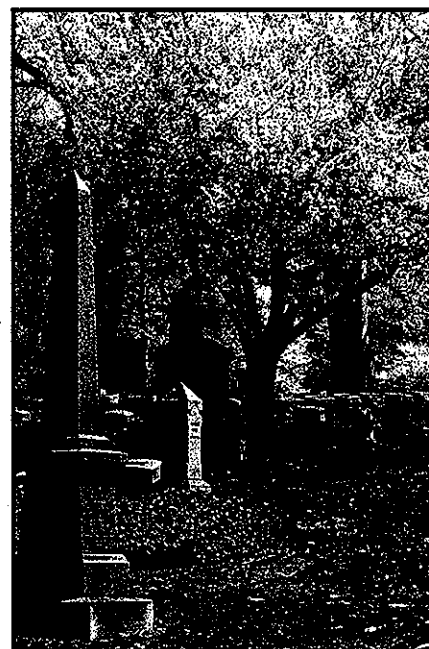
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