

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Fall 2011

Birds Appreciate Cemetery Landscape



Western Screech Owl

Once an uncared-for space avoided by neighbors, the Masonic Cemetery now attracts a variety of people including daily walkers, naturalists, history buffs, and visiting school groups. In August we learned that the cemetery's landscape has become attractive to yet another population. Biologist and former cemetery neighbor Dan Gleason led a walk in the cemetery and talked about the many birds that can be seen on the site. Later he created *Birds of Eugene Masonic Cemetery*, a list identifying nearly seventy different bird species that are permanent or seasonal residents of the cemetery. (This list is available on the cemetery's website. www.eugene-masoniccemetery.org)

The presence of these different bird species indicates that the cemetery's landscape is ecologically diverse. The Cooper's Hawk, a permanent resident and top predator

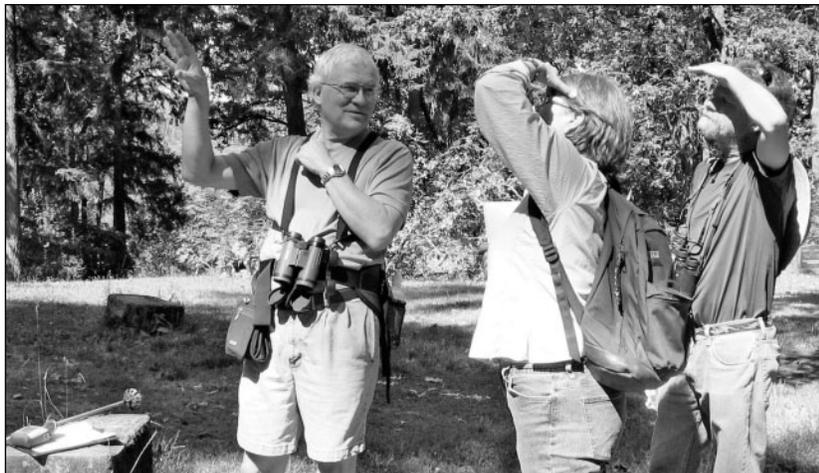
(meaning it is at the top of its food chain), also indicates the landscape is approaching ecological balance. Simply put, there are enough different plant and insect species living in the landscape to support enough small birds, mammals, and reptiles to provide ample prey for the hawks and other raptors that frequent the cemetery. They include a resident owl species, the Western Screech-Owl.

The landscape also provides a variety of nesting habitat. New cavities are excavated annually by the Downy Woodpecker in Douglas-firs and other trees. Birds, such as the permanent residents Red-breasted Nuthatch and Bewick's Wren, later build their nests in the abandoned holes. Another woodpecker, the Northern Flicker, typically excavates a cavity in decayed wood like that

found in fir snags, such as the one located in the cemetery's northeast corner. Bushtits, on the other hand, utilize the cemetery's mixed fir and woodland forest's shrubby understory to build their hanging oblong nests on supporting twigs or branches. The latest nesting bird in North America, the American Goldfinch, also builds its nest in the twigs of woody shrubbery during mid to late July. And in the cemetery's meadows the Dark-eyed Junco builds ground nests obscured by tall grasses during late spring and early summer.

When visiting the cemetery, look and listen for these and other birds that depend on the cemetery's landscape for food and shelter. Protect them and their habitat by following the cemetery's visitor policies. Please stay on the cemetery's designated paths and keep any accompanying dogs on a short leash.

*Barbara Cowan
EMCA Board Member
and Landscape Chair*



*Dan, Barbara,
and Bruce
Newhouse bird
watch in the
cemetery*

Music to Die For

On the last Sunday of July, the Alder Street Woodwind Quintet presented a free concert at Hope Abbey to an overflow crowd. Their program included a march, dances, polkas,

blues, and ended with “The Teddy Bears’ Picnic” to a standing ovation. Musicians included Pamela Ferree (flute), Kitty Steetle (oboe), Dan Cathey (clarinet), Marian Sparks (horn), and Charles Wright (bassoon).



Alder Street Woodwind Quintet

This was the inaugural concert in what we hope will be a series of summer concerts next year. A number of local musicians have already volunteered to perform. Check the spring newsletter for details (or send us your email address for advance notice) and join us for music making in the Abbey with its very resonant acoustics.

Remember that the Masonic Cemetery

- Is open and Hope Abbey is staffed the last Sunday of every month (except December) from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Hope Abbey is also open by appointment (contact Mary Ellen Rodgers at 541-684-0949).
- Has a website—eugenemasoniccemetery.org—that contains lots of information about the cemetery.
- Uses PayPal for on-line donations—see our website.
- Is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is not subsidized by the city of Eugene.
- Is eligible for the Oregon Cultural Trust match.
- Has burial space for sale (contact Mary Ellen Rodgers).

What do Board Members do all day?

Roz Slovic and her family have been Eugene residents since 1964. Roz recently retired from the faculty of the UO’s College of Education where she worked with families having children with disabilities. She continues to give training sessions and recently returned from presenting a workshop to special education administrators and teachers in Jamaica.



Roz Slovic

Roz has been an EMCA board member for almost two years. Her interest in the cemetery began when her son Dan died in 1999 and was buried in the cemetery. Dan had loved the feeling of “wilderness” that the cemetery offered. Roz said that she “wants to keep the cemetery the wonderful place it is.”

Roz is a “24/7” volunteer. Her

principal commitment is to Women’s Opportunity Worldwide, a nonprofit organization formed last year to function as an umbrella agency for the 70 to 80 organizations in the Eugene-Springfield area that work to benefit women and children, locally and globally. Roz is also a board member of the Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife and has been to Kenya several times.

Guatemala and Honduras have been other travel destinations for Roz. In those countries she worked with Stove Team International to facilitate the development of local factories to produce safe and efficient stoves. When she is home in Eugene, Roz is an active member of Temple Beth Israel.

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association — 541-684-0949

Board of Directors

Alice Adams	Donald Micken
Libby Bottero	Jenny Peterson
John Bredesen	Lynette Saul
Barbara Cowan	Karen Seidel
Denise Fearn	Roz Slovic
Dale Forrest	Charles R.B. Wright
Denny Hellesvig	David Lynch,
Mike Helm	<i>Site Manager</i>
Kay Holbo	Mary Ellen Rodgers,
Jim Luckey	<i>Cemetery Administrator</i>

www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between April 1, 2011 and October 1, 2011. We thank you all.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

Harold Busby and Lindsay Clegg Pierce
Kay and Paul Holbo
Jim and Ann Luckey
Charles and Leslie Wright

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Fran Ross and John Bredeesen
Hugh and Sue Prichard

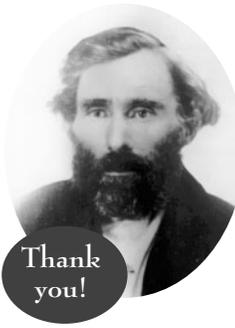
Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Norman Andersen
Robert and Merle Bottge
Bonnie Brunken
Marvin and Joan Cypress
Dennis and Lynne Hellesvig
Jon LaBranch

Ronald Lovinger
Nancy J. Raymond
Tomoko Sekiguchi
Tom and Carol Williams

Supporter (\$50-\$99)

Sandra and Fred Austin
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Judith Horstmann and Howard Bonnett
Bonnie Gale and Alan Cohn
John and Cheri Courtnage
Gerald Currens
Judith Drais
Nancie Peacocke Fadeley
David and Ann Cahill Fidanque
Randy McGowan and Rachel Foster
Thelma Greenfield
Martin Lewis and Anne Marie Hayes
Heritage Research Associates, Inc.
Lane County Historical Society
Eugene and Sandra Luks



Gerald and Margot McDonnell
Nancy Moody
Gil and Martha Osgood
Alice Parman
Shirlee Dillard Perkins
Linda Rifkin

Friend (up to \$49)

Stanton and Joan Cook
Kirsten Diechmann
Elizabeth Farrell
Wayne and Susan Jewett
John and Darlene Lashbrook
Lucile and Dean McKenzie
Donna Payne
Earlene and Scottie Scallion
Marilyn Walker



Petal Progress

Hope Abbey's entrance is graced with two huge Egyptian-style lotus blossom urns. Around their tops are a series of decorative petals, 16 on each urn. Each petal is 12 inches tall and weighs 10 pounds. One hundred years of acid rain and exposure have taken their toll, and the petals have begun to fall off.

Through a generous gift from retired board member Alex McBirney, work has started to replace all 32 petals. Local sculptor Mark Andrew has created a heavy duty rubber mold using two fallen petals as the source from which to develop the mold. The above photo shows EMCA treasurer Denny Hellesvig holding a test casting.

Mark is now working to determine the exact mixture of cement, aggregate, and coloring necessary to match as closely as possible the color and texture of the urns. The replacement petals will be cast one at a time over the winter. If all goes well, they will be installed next spring.



Lane Metro Youth Corps member working in cemetery in May

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between April 1, 2011 and October 1, 2011 the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following. We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions.

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Kathleen Doty in memory of Robert and Margaret Leonetti
Deborah Larson in memory of Charles F. Larson

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Norman and Patricia Bishop in memory of James and Jimmy Bishop
Rene Hammarback-Speer in memory of Noel Wicks
Donald and Sarah Klinghammer in memory of Daniel Klinghammer
Geraldine Leiman in memory of John and Nancy Addison
Nancy McFadden in memory of Scott McFadden
Helmut Plant in memory of Carol Hamrick Plant

Hope Pressman in memory of Willis B. Hughes
Paul and Roslyn Slovic in memory of Dan Slovic
Carol and Samuel Williams in memory of the Luckeys and the Leasures

Supporter (\$50-\$99)

Julie V.B. Daniel in memory of Maisie Daniel
Daniel and Kathryn Kremer in memory of William and Sally Wood
Rebecca Weedon Lacy in memory of Bob, Jonnie and Sam Lacy
Judy Wood Lyons in memory of William and Sally Wood
Ruth Nelson in memory of Helen Mutch Clark
Rex and Shirley Stevens in memory of Ken Metzler
Betty Williamson in memory of Douglas A. Williamson

Maggie Yokum in memory of Sarah Elina

Friend (up to \$49)

Joan Herbranson Agerter in memory of Howard F. Herbranson
Shirley and Julius Bolles in memory of the Addison family
Jerry and Vikki Chrostek in memory of Buddy and Guy
Sherry Kirkpatrick in memory of Joan Wise
Mary Kudo in memory of the Bristow family
Gay Morgan in memory of Frieda Prichard
Jennifer Peterson in memory of Kent Peterson
Rosalie Calef Willett in memory of Mahlon Hall Harlow

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*Newsletter by Karen Seidel
and Beneda Design*

Worm Bin Inauguration

On an October Sunday afternoon, 75 neighbors and friends gathered on 25th Avenue at the Masonic Cemetery to celebrate the completion of a multi-family worm composting bin. The project is an excellent example of sustainability and community cooperation.

The celebration featured remarks from EMCA president John Bredesen, city councilor Betty Taylor, Cindy Clarke from Eugene's Neighborhood Services Division, Ann Donahue from the OSU Extension Service, two slug queens, and Amazon Neighborhood representatives. They pointed out how the benefits of the worm bin range from reducing global warming to building neighborhood relationships.

Nancy Moody, Worm Bin Poet Laureate, read "Vermiculture," the poem she had composed for the occasion. It began: "Under brim of forest cap/ cool in the darkness of this black bin/ Worms red and lush as cabernet/ carry on their quiet labor/ beneath a sheet of scattered leaf."

Neighbor Sherry Wellborn, who led the worm bin project, demonstrated how the process works. The flow-

through composter produces fine garden soil from the kitchen wastes of neighbor households. It is intended to serve as a model for other neighborhood worm bins.

The project was sponsored by the Amazon Neighbors Sustainability Committee and the Masonic Cemetery and was funded in part by a city of Eugene Neighborhood Matching Grant.



Worm Bin Inauguration with slug queens in foreground