

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Spring 2015

Memorial Day Weekend — Remembering the End of the Civil War

One hundred and fifty years ago, on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to the Union Army under the command of Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Lee's surrender signaled the end of the Civil War.

Benjamin Hawthorne, a private in the Virginia Volunteer Infantry and one of two Confederate soldiers buried in the Masonic Cemetery, was present at the surrender. Three days later, when the Confederate soldiers were paroled, Hawthorne walked 100 miles home and was soon out plowing his father's fields. Many years later he founded the Department of Psychology at the University of Oregon.

To commemorate the sesquicentennial of the war's ending, EMCA has planned some special events at Hope Abbey for Memorial Day weekend visitors. On Sunday afternoon, at 3:00 pm, William and Carla Coleman will present "Touched With Fire," music and vignettes that bring to light different aspects of the Civil War as expressed by those who experienced it. Based in

Woodburn, the Colemans are professional entertainers who have toured the United States with their various Civil War programs. They recently toured



Dr. Jack Maddex

Oregon libraries and historical societies under the auspices of the Oregon Council for the Humanities' "Chautauqua" series.

On Monday at 2:00 pm, Dr. Jack Maddex, UO history professor emeritus and expert on 19th century American history and the Civil War, will give a talk entitled "Oregon's Connection to the Civil War." His talk will be followed by a Q&A period.

Adrian Vaaler, neighbor and Vietnam veteran, will play taps at noon each day in the Public Square. On Sunday, taps will be followed by President Lincoln's second inaugural address, spoken by Steven Holgate, Portland actor and Lincoln presenter. Holgate's appearance is sponsored by the Lane County Historical Society.

A special dress from Carol Houde's vintage dress collection will adorn Hope Abbey. The 1860s ball gown is off-white silk taffeta with black lace, boned bodice, and a hoop skirt. Carol will be



Carla and Willam Coleman

present on Sunday and Monday to explain the history of the dress and how it was made.

Traditional displays and events will also occur during the weekend. The landscape display will highlight trees found in the cemetery, and copies of the new "Trees of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery" brochure will be available. Flags will fly over veterans' graves. "Find the Veterans," a history hunt for children and families, will be available throughout the weekend, with prizes awarded for

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Take Care of the Cemetery Work Party

Sunday, May 17th 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

EMCA will host its annual work party and Mitzvah Day on Sunday, May 17. Its main purpose will be to enhance the cemetery's landscape for Memorial Day weekend. The landscape projects will include removing invasive plants, mulching, spreading bark on a cemetery path, and making improvements outside of Hope Abbey.

The cemetery board and site staff will direct the work party. They look forward to working with volunteers from Temple Beth Israel, the Amazon neighborhood, and the larger community. Volunteers

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Music to Die For -2015

EMCA is happy to announce another series of free concerts in Hope Abbey this summer and fall. The concerts will take place on the last Sunday of each month, beginning in June. The following ensembles will perform:

June 28: Mike and Carleen McCornack. This talented husband and wife team appeared in Hope Abbey two years ago to great applause. They perform folk music, and many of their songs have been composed by Mike or Carleen.

July 26: Barbershop Music! The concert will be divided between two groups—a dozen men singing traditional barbershop music, followed by the award-winning quartet, Social Insecurity.

August 30: Karass. Karass,

whose members include Jim Dotson, Tom Erickson, David Bersch, and Sam Jones, is an acoustic folk band with emphasis on vocal harmonies. They're making a return appearance in Hope Abbey. Get ready for some good string pickin'!

September 27: Ensemble Primo Seicento plays music of the early Baroque on period instruments. They focus on Italian music of the first half of the 17th century. Members include Doug Sears, cornetto; Kate Rogers, violin; Bodie Pfost, sacbut; and Margret Gries, organ.

October 25: Alder Street Winds is a classically-oriented woodwind group, which may morph into the Alder Street



Mike and Carleen McCornack 2014

Quintet if an oboist can be found. At two different times they have played to a SRO house in Hope Abbey. They play chamber music with a light touch.

All concerts begin at 2:00 pm and are free and open to the public. We invite you to join us for some delightful music making. Huge thanks to John Bredesen, EMCA board member and impresario, for arranging the programs.

What Do Board Members Do All Day?

Rich Maris

Rich Maris joined the EMCA board last fall as liaison between the cemetery and Eugene

Masonic Lodge #11. He took the place of Don Micken, who passed away in October. After being a member and past worshipful master of McKenzie River Lodge #195 for 30 years, Rich joined Eugene Lodge #11 and serves as Lodge secretary.

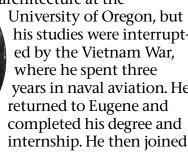
As a special research project Rich also identified those Lodge members buried in the Masonic Cemetery. He discovered that 141 members are buried there and determined the location of their burial lots. By working with the Landscape Advisory Committee, site manager Wendi Propst, and possibly with youth groups from the Lodge, he hopes to ensure that their tombstones are visible and accessible.

Born in California and raised in

Utah, Rich moved to Eugene in 1961 when his father's job was

> transferred here. Rich studied architecture at the

University of Oregon, but his studies were interrupted by the Vietnam War, where he spent three years in naval aviation. He returned to Eugene and completed his degree and internship. He then joined



Amundson Associates, where he worked in land use planning and project programming and administration, primarily on commercial projects. He also engaged in public school projects, such as the remodel of Straub Hall, the conversion of Hayward Field grandstands, and various architectural projects in South Central Alaska Athabascan native villages. He retired last year.

After enjoying the wonderful skiing opportunities in the mountains surrounding Salt Lake City, the 20-year-old Rich was at first

dubious about the Maris family's move to Oregon. He was assured that Eugene wasn't that far from mountains and snow, and he soon began to indulge his skiing passion in the Cascades. He joined the Willamette Pass Ski Patrol, and for 30 years he has served as an instructor to volunteer and paid staff and as a trainer in rescue toboggan use and outdoor emergency care. Rich clearly brings the same commitment to his EMCA activities as he has in his service to the Masons and to skiing.

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association — 541-684-0949

Board of Directors

John Bredesen Alex Brokaw Dale Forrest Denny Hellesvig Kay Holbo Reisa Maddex Rich Maris Crystal Persi Jenny Peterson

Karen Seidel Roz Slovic Wendi S. Propst, Site Manager Steve Kuchera, Groundskeeper Sally Dietrich, Cemetery Administrator

www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

President's Column – The Lotus

Have you noticed EMCA's new logo yet? If not, take another look at the masthead on the front page of this newsletter. What a beauty! We owe many thanks for this sleek new graphic to a collaboration between Christine Beneda, of Beneda Design, and EMCA's own artistically-gifted administrator, Sally Dietrich.

If you also notice a certain stylistic echo between it and the lotus flower design (shown here), so beautifully incorporated into John Rose's leaded-glass replica windows in Hope Abbey, you might be on the right track.

Hope Abbey is one of six funerary buildings in the state of Oregon designed for the Portland Mausoleum Company by Ellis F. Lawrence, founder of the UO School of Architecture and designer of the Schnitzer Art

Museum, McArthur Court, and numerous other notable campus buildings. The other mausoleums are in Salem, Portland, Astoria, Pendleton and Baker City. Hope Abbey, however, is the only one designed in the Egyptian Revival style, and, with a little bit of research, one discovers that the lotus flower is often found as a recurring theme in the art and architecture of ancient Egypt.

The lotus, related to the lily plant, closes up at night and reopens each day, so in that way it became a symbol to the Egyptians of death and rebirth or the natural cycle of life. Hence the association with funerary architecture. Often seen, too, is the graphic representation of both papyrus stalks and lotus flowers together in one plant, symbolizing both Lower & Upper Egypt,



respectively. Take a look next time you visit Hope Abbey, and you'll in fact see that very combination represented in both the giant urns out front and the tall stone basrelief panels that flank each side of its massive bronze doors.

From ancient Egypt to the sleek, stylized designs of the 21st century, there could be no better symbol than the lotus to represent our mausoleum and cemetery grounds, which have been "reborn," through years of hard work on the part of many, to become the exceptional treasures we have today.

Jenny Peterson, President

Administrator's Corner — Mysterious Flags

Have you been walking around the cemetery lately, wondering what gives with all the colored flags popping up? Well, we are not installing sprinklers or housing developments. We're using landscape flags to denote certain features that need to be visible to us.

I'm sure you've also wondered, as you wander trails that head off in a diagonal direction, going up or down the hill or around a tree... how do we ever figure out where to bury someone?

When I am researching which lots are currently available for purchase, I start by consulting our written records. However, at some point, I have to go out and verify, using measuring tape, where the plots actually are. "Plots" are 20 by 20-foot square, separated by 8-foot streets and 8-foot alleys. Within each plot are 10 "lots." The ceme-

tery is laid out in a very consistent grid, but it's easy to visually lose track of it when trying to figure out where people are buried.

I use dark green flags to locate corners of plots and bright green flags to indicate corners of lots. This saves me a bit of time so that I am not measuring the same plot every time I need to find it. Since these flags have to stay out for awhile, we find these colors blend into the landscape, but don't disappear completely. Occasionally a bright pink flag is used to indicate where signage or a grave marker is going to be placed. And just when you think you've spotted a plant with a lovely lavender flower, you will most likely have found a flag of the site manager's favorite color, which denotes a shrub she wants to keep track of.

One of my favorite colors is the

obnoxiously bright blue tape randomly tied around trees and shrubs. Okay, it's not really random. This is the system the landscape staff and I have devised to signal that a plant or feature needs some discussion. Since we are all in the cemetery at different times and we all seem to have spotty memories, this is our way of remembering to ask each other questions. It also helps that we're all eager to get that blue tape off as soon as we can.

Because we maintain the property not only as an operating cemetery, but also as a valuable native plant area, the landscape staff and I are working to make sure we're in communication about the different issues that need to be addressed. So far, the confetti of flags seems to be working.

Sally Dietrich, Cemetery Administrator

EMCA'S Financial Future

Financing a historic cemetery is not the simplest thing in the world. Eugene Masonic Cemetery is 156 years old. It was owned by the Eugene Masonic Lodge #11 until 1995 when the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association was formed to own and operate it in perpetuity. Forever is a long time.

EMCA was incorporated as a public benefit, non-profit, 501(c)(3) entity. This allows us to offer a tax deduction to anyone wishing to contribute to the support of the cemetery. Such contributions cover about half of our expenses. The earned income from the sale of burial lots, scatter rights, and other services supports the other half. There is where a future problem lies.

The original cemetery had well over 4,000 burial lots. Today, only about 200 lots are left for sale. As those are depleted, we will lose a significant part of our operating income. Although Hope Abbey crypts and niches are available for sale, they are not a popular option. So, in the future, in addition to selling scatter rights and memorials, we will need to depend on revenue from endowment funds. At the present time we are less than 25 percent of the way to having a sufficient endowment. We will need to add substantially to our endowment

Work Party, from page 1

will meet at Hope Abbey at 10:00 am. Please bring gloves and tools, such as shovels and pruning tools, for landscape work.

This is a wonderful opportunity to work with others to make lasting landscape improvements while preparing the cemetery for an important holiday. funds. At the same time we will still need to maintain the level of non-endowment contributions we currently receive.

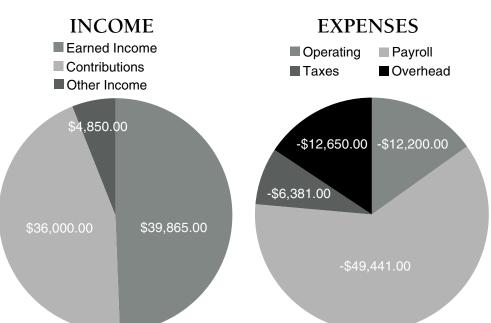
Our total income helps us to do much more than operate the cemetery. As we state in our mission statement, we also preserve, restore, and interpret this unique place as a cultural and historic resource for the community. Like a museum we have a permanent collection of cultural history. We research and interpret the lives of early and prominent figures of our community, and we make this information available to the public. In addition, we restore and preserve ten acres of publicly-used open space with its collection of 140 native plant species and its heritage landscape. It is our long term goal to make this place last as a special resource far into the future.

As part of this article you can see a graphic summary of our 2015 budgeted operating income and expenditures. The sources of income are simple: earned income, contributions, bank interest, a special contributed fund, and other minor income.

The expenses are also clear. Operating expenses include all site related costs of materials and contracted work. Payroll, our largest expense, supports three part-time employees. Two are responsible for the maintenance of the site, and the third, our administrator, maintains all our legal burial records, reports to the state, arranges interment services, and handles all sales. Our only taxes are employee related; otherwise, we are tax exempt. Overhead covers everything else: insurance, state fees, newsletter printing and internet costs, phones, accounting, utilities, and fundraising. We are quite proud that we only spend three percent of our income on fundraising.

We finished 2014 in the black and have no debt. We plan to be here for the future. We are an active cemetery and encourage you to "Consider Your Place in History" by supporting us with your ongoing contributions and considering us for your final arrangements when the time comes. Eugene Masonic Cemetery is truly a unique place worth supporting.

Denny Hellesvig, Treasurer



Experiment with Early Mowing

Historically we have not mowed the cemetery in the spring. Since 1996, we have followed the strategies outlined in our Landscape Management Plan. Over the years many of these strategies have proven successful, including the preservation of native species and wildlife habitat.

However, our policy of mowing only once in late summer has come into question recently. It has resulted in denser, taller grasses and the spread of invasive species, such as Queen Anne's lace, nipplewort, and sweet pea. We need to curb their spread by mowing large populations during their growing season in order to slow their setting of seed. This year we are exploring the idea of mowing twice yearly, once before Memorial Day and again in late summer. Before Memorial Day we will mow grass and other invasive species in areas where no colonies of sensitive native plants exist. Camas, rose checkermallow, and wholeleaf saxifrage are a few examples of desirable native species, which we will intentionally leave undisturbed so they may finish their annual blooming and seed

setting. These areas left untouched will also serve as wildlife habitat for our ground-nesting birds.

As a result we anticipate an increased ease of maintenance throughout the cemetery. Fewer invasive species mean less competition for light and nutrients for our more desirable native shrubs and perennials. Once they have set seed, we will begin our second mowing, typically occurring in August. At that time we will mow the entire cemetery with the exception of the understory of native shrubs and trees. We expect this mowing to be more efficient due to decreased vegetation.

Memorial Day weekend is a time when many people visit the graves of loved ones, search for pioneer or veterans' graves, or simply enjoy the ambiance of this unique cemetery. Mowing prior to Memorial Day will bring better accessibility to many more grave sites. It will create a more open landscape while maintaining the necessary balance for the natural environment reminiscent of our historical rural cemetery.

Steve Kuchera

Wendi S. Propst, Site Manager

Memorial Day, Noon, 2013 Eugene Masonic Cemetery

If we wish, we can ride the few held notes of Taps toward wherever belief might take us.

Artifice of trumpet, of breath, long notes float in moist air, rain pattering double-time within the beat.

Of breath—
we learn what
we own alive,
spending and
spending until
an end—trumpet
taking the player's
breath away,
up and away.

An elemental tune sends us from ourselves though we kneel by chosen stones where friends no longer breathe.

We go down to earth as Taps goes high, high beyond hearing, perhaps where faith might follow.

Raining still, knees soaked, we stand at last and see around us sudden green. From where does it come, dense and myriad?

Maple leaves shelving. Deep purple oso berries clustering in crescendo. Spirit moving slowly enough it can be seen.

Erik Muller, Poet, Amazon Neighbor, Cemetery Friend

Welcome, Steve

Steve Kuchera is the cemetery's new groundskeeper. He officially took the job last year when Wendi Propst

became site manager, following
David Lynch's
retirement.
However, as an employee of
Fisher & Co.
Landscape
Maintenance,
he had been
weed whacking
in the cemetery
for over a year.

He was therefore familiar with the site and with Wendi.

Steve has a degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, with an emphasis in bio-med science. He worked as a corporate trainer for Talecris Plasma Resources for six years. After taking time off to travel around the

United States. Steve

returned to
Eugene and
concluded he
needed an outdoor life. He
met Steve
Fisher and
found that
doing landscaping work suited
him just fine.

Steve is pas-

sionate about the cemetery. He calls it "his center of inner peace" and claims that he has never had a bad day there. And the EMCA board is delighted with our new site management team.

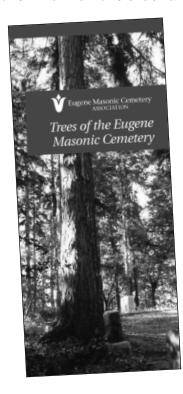
Hose Bib Project

Imagine you have a very large yard. Furthermore, imagine that in the yard you are interested in starting new plantings in widely spaced locations. Also imagine that you have to hand carry water to nourish these newcomers until the rains come and the plants set their roots. Or maybe, you take the "easy" way and run a hose from a central point.

New Brochure Available

EMCA has published a revised, in-color "Trees of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery" brochure, which visitors may obtain from the publications rack at the garden cottage. The brochure discusses the past, present, and future landscapes of the cemetery and highlights many of the trees that flourish there.

Thanks to the Landscape Advisory Committee, consultant Whitey Lueck, and Beneda Design for their work on the brochure.



Now, imagine that your yard measures roughly 1,000 feet by 500 feet and you only have two faucets in the middle. It tires the soul just thinking about carrying water all over the place. Even the hose method isn't much better, considering the labor to run the hose and put it back. Oh, and don't forget the yard is very hilly. Well, that's the situation in the Masonic Cemetery. We have had only two centrally located hose bibs, i.e., hose faucets.

This spring, using several fine gifts plus some money of our own, we are installing an extensive network of underground pipes and four additional hose bibs. Two will be in the north part of the cemetery, one near the main gate. The other two will be in the south end of the cemetery and on the southeast corner of Hope Abbey.

Planting native species and



Trenching for water line installation

nourishing them while young are important parts of EMCA's mission. Having more convenient sources of water for this job will allow our wonderful grounds crew to accomplish even more magic.

John A. Bredesen, Project Manager

Visit us on Facebook and Give to us on Amazon

EMCA has had a Facebook presence for over a year. We invite you to visit and "Like us on Facebook." Wendi Propst, our multitalented site manager, keeps our Facebook page up to date. While not quite the same as visiting the cemetery, you can see the latest flowers magically popping out of the ground. And at those times when caution is necessary, such as after a wind or snow storm when hanging branches pose a hazard, you can find out about those situations on our Facebook page.

If you shop at Amazon.com, you'll be interested to know that they have a program called

of one percent of the cost of any qualified purchase is donated to a non-profit designated by the purchaser, at no cost to you. EMCA is designated as a qualified recipient. On your first visit to Amazon Smile <smile.amazon.com>, you'll see instructions near the top of the page that will guide you through the designation process. Use the search bar to select Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association. The web page will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to the cemetery.

"Amazon Smile," where one-half

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between October 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015. We thank you all.

Monumental Giver (\$2,500+)

Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2,499)

Victoria DeRose
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Kay and Paul Holbo
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Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between October 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015 the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following. We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions.

Monumental Giver (\$2,500+)

The A-J Roslyn Gaines Foundation *in mem*ory of Carolyn Spector

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2,499)

David Fryefield and Linda Kordesch in memory of Erna and Karl Kordesch and Betty Jean Fryefield Karen Seidel in memory of Vi Johnson Carol and Samuel Williams in memory of the Luckeys and the Leasures

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Barbara and Harold
Butler and Olivia
Helen Brokaw
Kathleen Doty in
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and Margaret Leonetti
Fuki Hisama in memory of Toshi Hisama
Robert and Debbie
Laney in memory of
Marian Trummer
Dan and Maureen

Williams in memory of Patrick Williams

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

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Joan Rudd and Joe Felsenstein in memory of Jacob Felsenstein

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Donald and Sarah Klinghammer in memory of Daniel Klinghammer

Gregory Brokaw and Elaine Lawson in memory of Barbara Butler

Nancy McFadden in memory of Scott McFadden

Letty Morgan in memory of Isolde Kohl Hinds

Jennifer Peterson *in memory of Kent Peterson*

Dr. Tamara Stenshoel in memory of Noel

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Warren Wong in memory of Bella

Supporter (\$50-\$99)

Ann and Ray Adams in memory of Murray Adams

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Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan *in memory of Violet Johnson*

Mary Minor and Tony Diehl in memory of Kent Peterson and in honor of Jenny Peterson

Jane Dubeck *in memo*ry of Dickson -Murphy

Donate with



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ory of Isolde Kohl Hinds

Recent In-kind Contributions

We happily acknowledge the in-kind services and discounts afforded to us by the following.

ed to us by the following.

Bob Dougherty,
Veterans of Foreign
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The Clefs of Insanity
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Newsletter by Karen Seidel and Beneda Design

Memorial Day, from page 1

those completing the hunt. Visitors walking in the cemetery will notice many sparkling-white monuments that have been recently cleaned.

Last but not least, cake and cof-



1860s Ball Gown

fee will be served on Sunday and Monday afternoon. The cake will be designed and prepared by student chefs in South Eugene High's "South Fork Pantry."

Board member Alex Brokaw is coordinating the weekend events. Both cemetery gates will be open Memorial Day weekend from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. All events are free and open to the public.

May 23-25: Memorial Day Weekend

- 10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Cemetery gates and Hope Abbey open to the public.
- On Display: "Cemetery Scenes" slide show; "History in Hope Abbey" plaques; landscape exhibit, display of Civil War era artifacts; genealogy information available.
- NOON: Taps will be played at noon every day in the Public Square.

- Sunday, 12:05 pm: Lincoln's second inaugural address, with Steven Holgate.
- Sunday, 3:00 pm: "Touched With Fire," Civil War music and readings by Carla and William Coleman.
- Monday, 2:00 pm: "Oregon's Connection with the Civil War," lecture by Dr. Jack Maddex.
- **Refreshments** will be served on Sunday and Monday afternoon.
- Sunday and Monday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Carol Houde will be present to interpret her 1860s ball gown.

Thursday, May 28: 7:30 to 9:00 pm

• Sacred Harp Singers will present its 13th annual performance of folk hymn singing in the "shape note" tradition. They will include songs of the Civil War period. All are welcome to participate or listen to this joyful music making in Hope Abbey.