

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Spring 2013

Memorial Day Weekend Features Hope Abbey

Happy 100th Birthday to Hope Abbey Mausoleum! Built in 1913, this exceptional structure—designed by Ellis Lawrence, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and one of the best examples of Egyptian Revival architecture in Oregon—is the focal point of the Masonic Cemetery. This Memorial Day weekend we will commemorate Hope Abbey's long life and its restoration by EMCA.

Visitors on Memorial Day weekend will get their first look at two projects that dramatically advance restoration efforts for Hope Abbey. The first project is the replacement of all the petals on the two large Egyptian urns at its entrance. Many original petals have long been missing or severely deteriorated. Through a lengthy process of design and careful fabrication, 32 new petals have been created by local artist Mark Andrew, working with board member Denny Hellesvig and board president John Bredesen.

The second project involves efforts to fund, fabricate, and install two "relights" to continue the glass window restoration begun by John Rose many years ago. The relights are the two large, now empty, ceiling spaces just off the mausoleum's central area. In layman's terms the relights will look like very large skylights that will spill golden light throughout the

building upon completion. One skylight has been funded and will be in place by Memorial Day.

Join us on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 pm in Hope Abbey. Mark Andrew will unveil the restored urns and talk about the complexities of achieving the correct color match between the new petals and the urns. John Rose will discuss the design, construction, and purpose of the new relight windows.

Another special event will be offered on Saturday when cemetery neighbors and ecologists Peg Boulay and Bruce Newhouse will lead "Birds and Blooms" nature walks through the cemetery. The guided walks will be offered at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Each will be limited to 15 participants, and you can sign up at

Hope Abbey Saturday morning.

Traditional displays and events will also occur during the weekend. Adrian Vaaler, neighbor and Vietnam veteran, will play taps at noon each day. Flags will fly over veterans' graves. Landscape and other cemetery projects will be displayed in Hope Abbey. "Find the Veterans," a history hunt for children and families, will take place throughout the weekend, with prizes awarded for those completing the hunt.

Following the playing of taps on Sunday, we invite all visitors to join us in Hope Abbey for refreshments. The cake will again be designed and prepared by Ana Sabastiani-Bankel, a student chef in South Eugene High School's "South Fork Pantry."

continued on page 8



Hope Abbey Mausoleum

Kay Holbo Receives Award

In February, Kay received the following notification from the Oregon Heritage Commission:

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award for your outstanding contribution to the preservation and restoration of Oregon's historic cemeteries.

The Heritage Excellence Awards recognize individuals, businesses and organizations for outstanding efforts

on behalf of Oregon heritage. They honor those people and organizations who have made the most of available resources and skills.

As Kay's nomination stated, "Kay Holbo merits the Excellence Award because of her creation and continuing leadership of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association, a



Kay Holbo

nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring and maintaining the Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum." Since Kay founded EMCA in 1994, she has played many roles—president, vice-president for fundraising, editor, spokesperson, mentor, and visionary.

Kay was presented with her award at the Commission's annual conference on May 9.

Ellis Lawrence, Hope Abbey Architect

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Hope Abbey, it is fitting that we also pay tribute to its architect, Ellis Lawrence, the most prominent Oregon architect of his time and designer of more than 500 buildings.

Born in 1879 in a Boston suburb, Lawrence's first ambition was to be a portrait painter. He said, "Architecture became to me something more than sticks and stone because of my love of faces. It never seemed as important as the people who were to live, work, or worship in the buildings I designed." Lawrence received his master's degree in architecture from MIT, the first school of architecture in the country. He first worked for architectural firms in New England and in Paris.

However, his career and major work took

place in Oregon. This was an accident. He came to Portland in March 1906 on his way to open an architectural office in San Francisco. The great San Francisco earthquake struck the following month. Lawrence liked Portland, decided to stay, and remained there for the rest of his life.

In 1913, Lawrence's architectural firm was asked by the Portland Mausoleum Company to prepare plans and specifications for both Hope Abbey and a second mausoleum in Salem. Later, the firm also received commissions to design mausoleums in Portland, Astoria, Pendleton, and Baker City. Hope Abbey is the sole mausoleum Lawrence designed in the Egyptian Revival style.

Lawrence's connection with the University of Oregon began in the following year. President



Ellis Lawrence

Prince Lucian Campbell selected Lawrence to be campus planner, then founder and dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, and finally university architect. Lawrence held these roles until his death in 1946. He was architect of 25 campus buildings, including the Museum of Art, Knight Library, McArthur Court, the Music Building, Hendricks Hall, and Chapman Hall. His A&AA program was the second complete academic program in architecture to be established west of the Mississippi River, and it soon rose to national prominence. It was a genuine experiment because of its integration with UO building construction and its inclusion of fine arts.

**Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association —
541-684-0949**

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www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

President's Corner — Hope Abbey Restoration

Three years ago, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. 2013 is another special year. It marks the 100th anniversary of the groundbreaking for our beautiful Hope Abbey Mausoleum. Designed by Ellis Lawrence, it was constructed for a mere \$40,000 (about \$930,000 in 2013 dollars). The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association (EMCA) has invested close to \$250,000 in its restoration over the last 17 years. Two more restoration milestones will be celebrated during Memorial Day weekend.

I want to extend my personal thanks to the generous donors who made these most recent projects possible. Alex McBirney, Mason and past EMCA board member, funded the new petals on Hope Abbey's entrance urns. The gift for the first relicht window that will be in place by Memorial Day comes from the Barbara Butler bequest and Barbara's extended family, Alex and Bob Brokaw.

I'd like to summarize what our quarter-of-a-million dollar investment in Hope Abbey has accomplished. When EMCA took over the cemetery, Hope Abbey's floor was covered in mud as a result of water leaks, both from the roof and from poor drainage. Clearly the first step was to make the exterior weather worthy, and this meant a new roof,

flashing, restoration of the two copper-clad doors, two exterior coats of paint, and perimeter drainage. The concrete front porch was crumbling, so a new one, with integral wheelchair ramps, was designed and built. Because Hope Abbey is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which controls what can be done to a listed building, some clever design was necessary to get the ramps approved.

Every window in Hope Abbey had been smashed by vandals, and the Masons had simply bricked them up. With a vandal-resistant plastic called Lexan, we removed the bricks and installed aluminum frames glazed with this material. We then began a campaign to install stained glass replicas, designed and fabricated by glass artist John Rose. Most were subscribed in memory or in honor of someone. There are still a handful yet to be completed. If you would be interested in funding one, contact Mary Ellen Rodgers, cemetery administrator. Our goal is to complete the windows during Hope Abbey's anniversary year.

EMCA also installed electrical service in the building and rebuilt and reinstalled the original lighting fixtures. Next up was the restoration of the original 1913 bathroom. Originally containing a toilet, a mop sink, and little else, we've brought it up to ADA standards so that it is now

wheelchair accessible. A suitable sink was installed complete with hot water. The lavatory is now open to the public when the mausoleum is open.

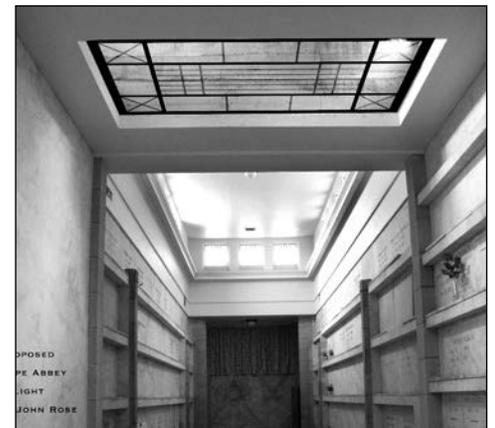
Flaking lead paint was also removed from the ceiling, and marble was repaired and cleaned. All in all, a lot of work, but Hope Abbey is again the place of solemn beauty it was originally intended to be. I'm very proud of the EMCA Board of Directors and how well we've managed to work together to reach these goals.

Finally, I'd like to invite you to attend our summer "Music to Die For" concert series. We began this music program last year in Hope Abbey, taking advantage of the mausoleum's wonderful acoustics because of its hard, reflective marble surfaces. All concerts were standing-room-only events. The 2013 series will begin on June 30 and continue on the last Sunday of each month through September. All concerts start at 2:00 pm and are free and open to the public. More information will be available through our e-newsletters, cemetery signage, and local media.

John A. Bredesen, President



Hope Abbey ceiling before window installation



Artist's drawing of new relicht window

Mystery of the Missing Monument

Last summer cemetery administrator Mary Ellen Rodgers received an unexpected email. It was from Sarah DeMerritt, photographer and Lake Oswego history buff, who had discovered some old grave markers lying on the grounds of an historic farm.



Karen Offen and recovered monument

Only one stone, buried under blackberry bushes next to a barn, was intact, and on it was inscribed the name of Samantha McAlister. After doing some research Sarah learned that Samantha was buried in the Eugene Masonic Cemetery, and that

is when she contacted Mary Ellen.

Samantha McAlister died in Eugene in 1896 (see story about her life on the next page). We know that a monument was erected on her grave because it was included in a gravestone inventory conducted by the Masons in 1910. However, a 1994 inventory, conducted shortly after EMCA took over the cemetery from the Masons, revealed no marker on the McAlister plot. Because cemetery records during the mid-20th century were incomplete or nonexistent, when the monument disappeared is unknown.

The discovery of Samantha's monument led to a flurry of activity. EMCA contacted Karen Offen, Samantha's great-granddaughter and a senior research fellow at Stanford University, and Karen was thrilled. She had visited the cemetery ten years ago to find Samantha's grave, and she also serves as the McAlister clan genealogist. Karen contacted Sarah to get the name of the farm's owner, and from him she obtained permission to remove Samantha's monument. A few days later Karen flew to Portland and, with help from a cousin and friends, loaded the monument and its detached base into a vehicle and drove it down to Eugene. EMCA board members were waiting for her at the cemetery and unloaded the stones into the garden shed. Some weeks later Jeff Hiltz, professional monument installer, re-installed them on the McAlister plot.

We may never know when, how, or why the monument was removed from the Masonic Cemetery and ended up in Lake Oswego. The monument is a marble obelisk and



Sarah DeMerritt and monument on McAlister plot

weighs almost 500 pounds, so clearly its removal was not a spur of the moment college prank. Sarah discovered that the late Herbert Kruse, past owner of the farm, collected tombstones, particularly tombstones with errors in their inscriptions. But Samantha's tombstone has no errors, and this doesn't answer the question as to how Kruse acquired it. We're just happy to have it back and in its proper place.

A gathering of the McAlister clan took place last month in Hope Abbey to celebrate the monument's recovery.



Jeff Hiltz installing monument

Consider your place in history

Burial Space for Sale

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery offers a variety of options for memorials, ashes, and earthen burials. Your purchase would provide a beautiful and meaningful space for your family to visit for generations to come. *For more information, phone Mary Ellen Rodgers at 684-0949.*

Samantha Almira Cornell McAlister (1839–1896)

The Cornell family's journey to the Pacific Northwest began as did so many European-American pioneers who settled the Oregon Territory in the 1850s. William Cornell took the arduous overland route in 1852, filed a donation land claim on property northwest of Portland, and sent for his family. In 1854, Emily Cornell with her six young children took the circuitous route—from their Ohio home to the east coast and then by ship to Panama. Emily and her 15-year-old daughter Samantha shepherded the five younger children through the overland crossing, a strenuous 50-mile hike or mule ride. The family then traveled by ship up the Pacific coast to Portland, where they were met by William.

Samantha was a well educated woman and a pioneer in elementary school education in Oregon. In 1857, she was the only member of the first graduating class of the Portland Academy and Female Seminary. For the next eight years she taught school in the Portland area and at Willamette University in Salem. She delivered a paper to the Oregon State Teachers Institute in 1864, protesting the practice of school children under the age of 12 being forced to sit still in classes for six hours a day. She wrote: *We maintain this sadly interferes with the true development of both mind and body. It is physically injurious, because it requires the continuance of one position of the body far too long for the health and growth of the frame and muscles of the child. . . . It is contrary to the universal instincts of the young, either of humanity or animal creation,*

to remain quiet for any length of time.

In 1866, Samantha married the Reverend Edward Alden McAlister, an itinerant Universalist minister and a practitioner of homeopathic medicine. Samantha and Edward had eight children. One died at birth, and one drowned at the age of 10.

Over a 17-year period, the McAlisters established churches in at least seven different communities in California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. In 1886, their missionary wanderings ceased when Edward organized the first Universalist Church in Eugene. Great-granddaughter Karen Offen mused, *I can see Samantha putting her foot down, saying 'no more moving! These children need to have a proper education.'* Many of the children attended the University of Oregon and went on to successful careers.

Gil Osgood, member and historian of the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Eugene, states that the Universalists were one of the first

denominations to ordain women. Samantha was listed in the national Universalist Register as a licensed preacher in the 1870s. She may have been the first female minister in the Northwest. The historic record does not indicate whether she actually preached. Congregations paid their ministers little or nothing, so they had to work at other professions to support themselves. Gil surmised: *Samantha was likely the driving force in the Universalist Church in Eugene. . . . Edward probably concentrated more on his practice as a physician and less on the church.* Gil also noted that advertisements for church services stopped after Samantha died of stomach cancer, indicating that the church may not have functioned after she died.

Samantha's obituary reads: *She was a noble woman and one who has accomplished much good in this life for her fellow men. She was greatly respected and loved by all who knew her.*

*Mary Ellen Rodgers
Cemetery Administrator*



The Samantha and Edward McAlister family, circa 1890

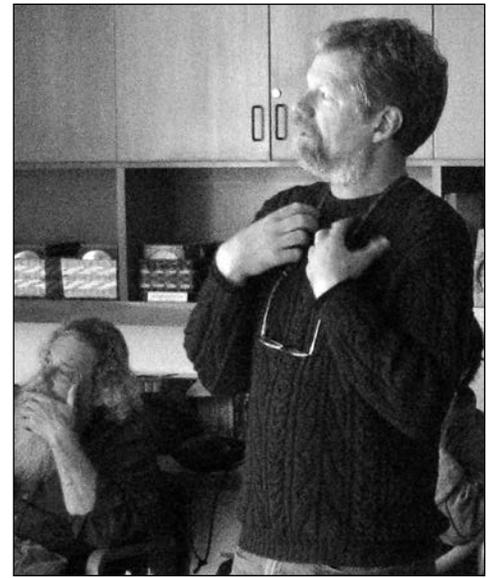
Hidden Native Habitats

Many mid-19th century cemeteries across Europe and North America, such as the Eugene Masonic Cemetery, were created in open countryside. These cemeteries are now valued by biologists, botanists, and conservationists as places possessing hidden native habitats, i.e., small vestiges of the landscape that once was. They are havens for wildlife and native plant species. Researchers utilize these environments to collect plant seeds and to study wildlife. Professor David Bellamy, of the British cemetery conservation group *Caring for God's Little Acres*, described these fragments of the natural past as "islands of hope."

During the EMCA's February board meeting botanist Bruce Newhouse of Salix Associates gave a PowerPoint presentation on the plant inventory he completed last year. An Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries grant provided Bruce the opportunity to formally

document the cemetery's native and non-native plant species. The board learned that Bruce, as an interested cemetery neighbor, had also been informally cataloging and photographing the cemetery's wildlife and fungi for the last 25 years.

Bruce reported that the cemetery is home to 140 native plant species. He characterized the cemetery's oak savanna and wetland prairie, which hosts the field of Common Camas, as having "unique ecological value." Less than seven percent of the original oak savanna and less than one percent of what were once one million acres of prairie lands exist in the Willamette Valley today. The oak savannah provides habitat to a variety of wildlife, including the Western Gray Squirrel, listed as a "sensitive species" with its numbers being watched. The camas field possesses other wetland plants, including Wholeleaf Saxifrage, Large Leaved Lupin, Showy Milkweed, Narrowleaf Wyethia, and the less common



Bruce Newhouse talking to EMCA Board

Tolmie's Cat's Ear. This rich plant diversity sustains important butterfly and insect populations. They in turn pollinate the plants and are a food source for local and migratory birds.

In his recommendations Bruce advised that the cemetery be viewed "not only as a repository of history of Eugene residents, but also as an 'ark' of native vegetation and wildlife." He asked the cemetery board to limit the number of conifers "to increase the release of Oaks and Madrones" and "to use headstones and plot markers as surrogate habitats for rock-associated native plants." He further recommended "'supercharging' the cemetery's sunny areas and forest understories with abundant showy native wildflowers," which once stretched as far as the eye could see.

The Board extends a big thank you to Bruce for his excellent work and ongoing support. Visit the cemetery's website to find his lists of the cemetery's plants, fauna, and fungi.

*Barbara Cowan
EMCA Landscape Committee Chair*

Work Parties

Wendi Bondeson, assistant site manager, has been leading monthly work parties this year. Early work parties concentrated on clearing debris from last winter's storm damage in the northeastern section of the cemetery. That work, which will slow the spread of invasive weeds and rejuvenate a wide variety of native plants, has been completed. In March, volunteers removed shining geranium from the cemetery's forested edges. Work parties are now focused on caring for new plantings

in the cemetery.

Work parties are held on the third Friday of each month from 10:00 am until noon. The next work party will be on May 17 when the focus will be on landscape projects to prepare the cemetery for Memorial Day weekend. The following one will be on June 21. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Please come and help maintain the cemetery's beautiful natural landscape. Tools will be provided.

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between October 1, 2012 and April 1, 2013. We thank you all.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

Anonymous
Bob and Alex Brokaw
Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan
Victoria DeRose
Eugene Masonic Lodge No. 11
Kay and Paul Holbo
Hundredth Monkey Foundation
Deborah Larson
Jim and Ann Luckey
Crystal Persi
Hugh and Sue Prichard
Karen Seidel

Charles and Leslie Wright
Preserver (\$250-\$499)
Fran Ross and John Bredesen
Sandra and Steve Burrowes
Dale and Linda Forrest
Erik and Ann Muller

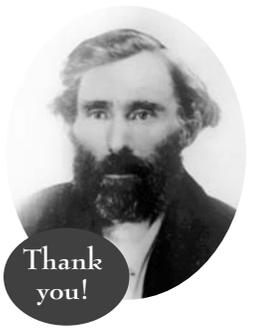
Sponsor (\$100-\$249)
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Cameron McCarthy
Landscape Architecture and Planning
Jerry and Diane Diethelm

Melanie Konradi and Daniel Gavin
Ken Guzowski
Hallis
Eileen and Phil Hanna
Mary Globus and Gary Harris
Allan Kluber
Sara Leiman
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Harold and Joyce Owen
Gary Rayer
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Joanne Taylor
Temple Beth Israel
Shirley Wiley
Tom and Carol Williams
Dorothea Yellott

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Judith Draiss
Ron Smith and Mary Jane Dunphy
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David and Rebecca Force
Jeanette Goldstein
Dennis and Lynne Hellesvig

Diane and David Howard
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David and Catherine Johnson
Violet Johnson
Bruce and Doreen Kilen
Geraldine Leiman
Melinda Grier and Jerry Lidz
Howard Newman and Mary Beth Llorens
Eugene and Sandra Luks
Gerald and Margot McDonnell
Lucile and Dean McKenzie
Mary McKrola
Kimberlysue Morton
Joan Bayliss and Irwin Noparstak
Theodore and Laramie Palmer
Nicolas and Kari Porter
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Adrian and Carolyn Vaaler and Miriam Schafler
Bill and Jeanette Sherwood
Bob and Pat Siegmund
Paul and Roslyn Slovic
Douglas Spencer
Nathaniel Teich
Esther Jacobson Tepfer and Gary Tepfer
Barbara West
Mary Ellen West



Thank you!

Friend (up to \$49)

Janet Anderson and Evelyn Anderton
Dwight and Barbara Beattie
Elizabeth Churchill
Stanton and Joan Cook
Linda Dawson
Betsy Halpern
J. Richard and Theda Heinzkill
Dorlon Himber
Kess and Barbara Hottle
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Karen Locke
Carlyn McCormack
Jennifer Peterson
Marie Ragland
Linda Rifkin
Thelma Soderquist and Larry Robidoux
Charles and Virgene Roffe
Donna Rose

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between October 1, 2012 and April 1, 2013 the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following. We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

A-J and Roslyn Gaines
Foundation in memory of Carolyn Spector

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Kathleen Doty in memory of Robert and Margaret Leonetti
Lois Johnson in memory of Irving Johnson
Lynette Saul in memory of Jim Saul

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Alice Adams in honor of the Board
Beth Bridges in memory of Carol L. Calkins
David and Ann Cahill Fidanque in memory of Ruth Fidanque
Lisa and John Manotti in memory of Harold and Judith Loson
Chan Beals and Kate Nicholls in memory of Barbara and Roger Nicholls
Rene Speer in memory of Noel Wicks
Joni Zimmerman and Susan Whitney in memory of Dorothy

Barclay Zimmerman
Dan and Maureen Williams in memory of Patrick Williams
Carol and Samuel Williams in memory of the Luckey and Leasure families
Warren Wong in memory of Carol L. Calkins

Supporter (\$50-\$99)

Phyllis Hawk in memory of N. Ray Hawk
Tamara L. and Mike Lutz in memory of Carl and Dolly Plant
Christopher and Laura Ramey in memory of Kalvin the Dog
Ginny and Roger Reich in memory of Robert D. Clark, Opal R. Clark and Laurie Guttormsen
Richard Romm in memory of Robert Gault
Shirley Scott in memory of Lyle Scott
Nadyne Neet and Charles R. Simmons in memory of the Neet/Nelson family
Cornelia Taggart in memory of Bob and Jonnie Lacy
Louise Wicks in memory of Noel Wicks
Maggie Yokum in memory of

Sarah Elina

Friend (up to \$49)

Joan Herbranson Agerter in memory of Howard F. Herbranson
Maria Biagi in memory of Kurt Gerson
Shirley Bolles in memory of the Addison family
Vikki Chrostek in memory of Buddy and Guy Chrostek
Ruth Clark Conley in memory of Robert Carlton Clark
Thomas and Janet Heinonen in honor of Doug, Ethan and Lois Newman
Maurice and Mary Landman in memory of Marshall Landman
Bill and Marcia McChesney in memory of Tom McChesney
Gay Morgan in memory of Frieda Prichard
B J Novitski in memory of Esther and Edward Novitski
Margaret Prentice in memory of William J. Prentice
Kathy and Bob Welsh in memory of the Hamptons

Recent In-kind Contributions

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

Mark Andrew Sculpture Studio
Doak Creek Nursery
Dot Dotson's Photo Finishing
Eugene True Value Hardware
Fisher & Co. Landscape Maintenance
Jeff Hilts Marker Setting
Lane Forest Products
Lovinger Robertson Landscape Architects
Rainscapes
John Rose
Salix Associates

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

What's Inside:

Memorial Day	1
Kay Holbo	2
Ellis Lawrence	2
President's Column	3
Missing Monument	4
Samantha McAlister	5
Native Habitats	6

*Newsletter by Karen Seidel
and Beneda Design*

Memorial Day, from page 1

Mary Ellen Rodgers, cemetery administrator, will again coordinate the weekend events. Both cemetery gates will be open on Memorial Day weekend from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please be respectful if a funeral or memorial service is in progress during your visit.

All Memorial Day weekend events are free and open to the public.

May 25–27: 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 and project exhibits; genealogy information available.
- **Taps will be played** at noon every day in the Public Square.
- **Saturday, 11:00 am and 1:00 pm:** Birds and Blooms guided walks led by Peg Boulay and Bruce Newhouse.
- **Saturday, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm:** Worm bin demonstration at the northeast corner of the cemetery.

- **Refreshments** will be served on Sunday afternoon.
- **Sunday, 1:00 pm:** Unveiling of new Egyptian urn petals; discussion of petal project and the new relight windows by Mark Andrew and John Rose.

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

Sacred Harp Singers will present its 11th annual performance of folk hymn singing in the “shape note tradition. All are welcome to participate in or listen to this joyful music making in Hope Abbey.



The Porch Band plays at Hope Abbey on August 25