



October, 2022

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Last Sunday Open House



We'll be hosting two Last Sunday events this weekend on October 30. Both are opportunities to visit the inside of the beautifully restored 1914 Hope Abbey Mausoleum.

The doors open at 1 PM for the music concert, *Music To Die For*. The performance begins at 1:30, and is the last performance in the 2022 season. The concert will last about an hour. The featured musicians are a wild group with the name, *The Porch Band*. Please see the article below. Seating is limited, so come early to

enjoy this free concert.

We've been asked many times why we can't have more performances a year. There are two primary reasons.

1. One is that *Music To Die For* is essentially the work of one volunteer, and that person has other responsibilities too. There are a lot of "moving parts" behind the scenes to bring a performance into being.
2. Equally important is that there isn't a heating system in Hope Abbey. It would not be good to ask performers to make music with chattering teeth.

The Open House portion of the Last Sunday will be immediately after the concert, and the building will be open until 4 PM. Feel free to wander around and ask questions. There will be two knowledgeable people on hand to answer questions you might have about the historic building, as well as the cemetery itself. Masking is optional.

Please park on city streets, because there is no parking on the cemetery grounds.

Music To Die For The Porch Band



The Porch Band was formed in 2008 by friends Dan Bilderback, Scoop McGuire and Rich Spence.

Dan was the producer and played guitar with the NW bands Epiphany Road and Late For The Train. Rich has three CDs to his credit. Scoop played bass professionally in the Bay area, including stints with Roy Rogers & Delta Rhythm Kings

and Shana Morrison.

They were a house band for KLCC's Front Porch Revue for several years, and they have a monthly gig at Territorial Vineyards. This is a return visit for them at Hope Abbey.

This is the final concert for 2022. These musical performances will return next year on June 25, 2023.

Birds Appreciate Cemetery Landscape



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. We know 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. (See Western Screech Owl in photo.) 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. The bird list is available [here](#). There are also detailed listings of the cemetery plants, animals and fungi [here](#).

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.

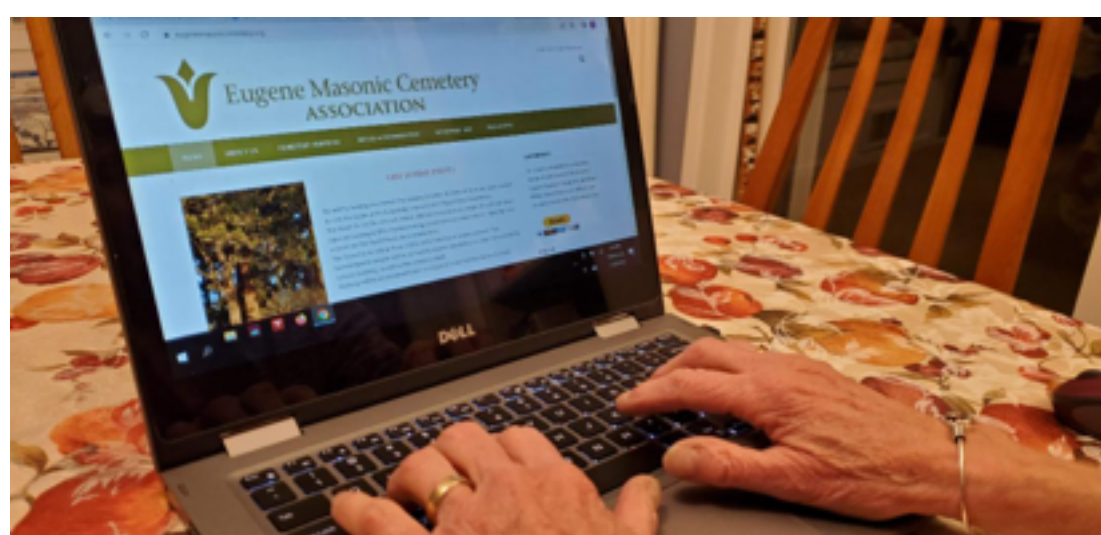
The landscape also provides a variety of nesting habitats. New cavities are excavated annually by the Downy Woodpecker in Douglas-firs and other trees. Birds, such as permanent residents Red-breasted Nuthatch and Bewick's Wren, build their nests in the abandoned holes. Another woodpecker, the Northern 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 American Goldfinch also builds its nest in the twigs of woody shrubbery during mid-to-late July. And in the cemetery's meadows, tall grasses during late spring and early summer obscure and camouflage the ground nests of the Dark-eyed Junco.

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.

By Barbara Cowan
(This is a reprint from the Fall, 2011 issue of the cemetery's *Monumental News*.)

Our Fascinating Website



The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association has had an active website for years, and it's a veritable treasure trove of information about the cemetery and the historic Hope Abbey Mausoleum.

Certain aspects of the cemetery grounds have been extensively studied and cataloged, as evidenced by the links for animals, trees and fungi in the article above, but what about those interred? To find a list that's updated regularly, click [here](#).

What does the cemetery typically do for Memorial Day to honor those who have passed, and especially veterans buried in the cemetery? Click [here](#) to find out.

How do you find information about services that are offered, and whom to contact? Find out [here](#).

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association is proud of the work we've done in the past quarter century, and to help share, we've created a lot of information, ranging from *Self Guided Walking Tours* to a book written called *Full of Life, The History and Character of Eugene's Masonic Cemetery*. We have printed copies for sale, but you can access it for free on the Publication page found [here](#).

Want to find out a bit about the volunteers that help make the cemetery the place it is? I bet you can find it [here](#). And for a little more depth, click [here](#).

The cemetery has a long history dating back to Valentine's Day, 1859. Hope Abbey is younger, dating to 1914, but has an involved existence as fascinating as the cemetery grounds. Our website has so much more information than I've shared above. I invite you to visit the website (EugeneMasonicCemetery.org) or click [here](#).

Go on and explore. I guarantee you'll find something fascinating.

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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Mission Statement

To restore, rehabilitate, maintain, interpret and operate the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum as a cultural and natural resource for the community.

The cemetery is operated for the public benefit,
but it is private property.
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION

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