

OCA JOURNAL

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yourocajournal@gmail.com

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OCA
OHIO
CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION

Going
professionals
moving
forward
together

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

— JACK LEE-HARRIS

Those of us of the Ohio Cemetery Association know that Mother's Day and Memorial Day are the most important times of the year for our cemeteries and for the families of those buried within our borders. This is the time when families visit our cemeteries to honor and remember their relatives from the past, current, and ongoing into the future.

We exist for the memorialization and honoring of those family members. If it were not for us, they would not have a place to visit and reflect on their relatives' lives. We now hold the thousands of stories for each member of their family. We are truly honored to be the keepers of all those stories.

In this issue of our newsletter, we share what a cemetery does to prepare for this time of year. It describes all the care that we complete in the preparation. We've included two of our member cemetery schedules for this season. You will notice the Veteran groups, our governmental officials and others who assist in our care for families.

As we move into the summer season, we are constantly maintaining the cemetery for visitors. We continue to prep and install various markers and monuments. There is turf care—cutting and trimming. There is planting of shrubs and flowers to improve the atmosphere for the family. We encourage families to gather in our cemeteries to enjoy a picnic, to exercise, for weddings, car shows, visits to our reflective pools, picturesque bridges, and our many other outstanding features. Cemeteries offer more than burials. We have always been, and always strive to be, places for the living.

August 13-15 we are very excited to hold our 2nd Ohio

PLEASE SEE PRESIDENT ON PAGE 2

SAVE
THE
DATE

OCA Annual Convention
August 13-15, 2012, Dublin, Ohio

Fall Maintenance Seminars

October 2, 2012

Dover Burial Park, Dover, Ohio

October 4, 2012

Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum
Cincinnati, Ohio

OCA JOURNAL

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JACK LEE-HARRIS, PRESIDENT • WES & ELAINE RUSSELL, CO-EDITORS
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Cemetery Association Annual Convention in Columbus. We are pretty well prepped for the big event. This conference may surpass the great success of February's Winter Conference—"Before the Thaw." Check out the convention information in this issue, or go to ohiocemeteryassociation.com. We sincerely hope every member will attend and bring a guest from a prospective member cemetery.

As always, please feel free to contact any of your Board Members or member cemeteries. You can find contact information for your Board Members on the back page of this issue. We are here to offer guidance and assistance in operating your cemetery. If we do not have the answer, we can assist in finding an answer.

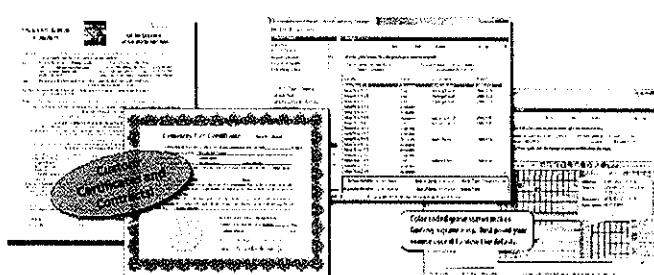
Happy Memorial Day, and have an excellent summer!



Jack Lee-Harris is President of the Ohio Cemetery Association and Administrator of Kingwood Memorial Park, Lewis Center, Ohio.


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Another year has come and gone, and so has the Ohio Township Association (OTA) Trade Show which was held at the Columbus Convention Center. There was a big turnout this year as there is every year, and the Ohio Cemetery Association was there to promote our organization.

The OCA had a booth along with seven other death care organizations and we all found that there is an interest from the townships to learn from us about how to better take care of their cemeteries.

The OCA is offering a free 2012 membership to all Ohio townships. I am proud to say that we have twenty new members from all around the great state of Ohio. The OCA Board members will be calling all new members and welcoming them to our great association. We will also invite them to attend this year's OCA events, starting with our Annual Convention and Field Day, August 13–15, at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio.

In early October we will be hosting two Maintenance Seminars, one in northern Ohio at Dover Burial Park in Dove, Ohio. The other will be held in the southern part of the state at Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum in Cincinnati. They will be held on different days so suppliers and members who wish to attend both will be able to do so.

As always, the OTA Trade Show was a good event to be involved with to promote our association. To all the OCA board members that helped at the booth to answer questions from the townships and also promoted membership in our association—THANK YOU!



Mark Funke is Turf Manager at Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

BILL HALLEY RECEIVES 2012 OUTSTANDING CEMETERIAN AWARD

At the 2012 Winter Conference, three deserving individuals were presented the OCA Outstanding Cemeterian Award. One was William R. "Bill" Halley. Bill has been a cemeterian almost his entire life. As a youth he worked with his father, Heber Halley, who for 40 years was the Clerk and Secretary of the Riverside Cemetery Association in Cleveland, Ohio. He learned the business from the outside in. He continued to work at the cemetery as he grew up and went to college at Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. Graduating with an Accounting Degree, Bill took a job at Republic Steel Corp. He labored there for ten years, but his love for Riverside Cemetery never waned. Then one day, his opportunity came.

Heber informed Bill that he was ready to retire. Bill said that he would like to take over for his father. Heber thought that Bill was crazy—who would want to leave a good job in the steel industry to work at the cemetery? Bill knew that he would like nothing more than to come to work at Riverside and so he interviewed with the Board of Trustees for the position. The Board was duly impressed, and offered Bill the position, which he quickly accepted.

When Heber said he was retiring, that is exactly what he did. He left the cemetery and let Bill fend for himself. Bill had a lot of on-the-job training, working closely with then-Cemetery Superintendent Bob Andrews. Bob, at Riverside for 60 years, retired, and Bill combined the jobs of Clerk and Superintendent into the position of General Manager. Bill continued in that capacity until his full-time retirement in 2010 after almost 40 years of professional service, in addition to his childhood years working alongside his father.

Bill still helps at Riverside when the funeral schedule is heavy, and fills in when others are on vacation. He remains on the Board of Trustees as Secretary—Treasurer and is the internal auditor for the Association, assuring that everything is running as it should by reviewing the finances and accounting on a

monthly basis. In addition to these duties, he also helps with annual tours and other events at the cemetery. Bill knows the stories of many of the "residents" of Riverside and is a wealth of knowledge concerning the history of the west side of Cleveland.

Bill's crowning achievement surrounds the historic Chapel at Riverside Cemetery. This structure was the first permanent building, erected at Riverside in 1876. In 1953 the Chapel was closed, having fallen into disrepair, the Association without the funds to make the necessary improvements. It remained closed for decades until a strange thing happened. June 22, 1988, marked the funeral of former Superintendent (and Bill's mentor) Bob Andrews. On that day, a short time following Bob's burial, part of the Chapel fell off. It was as if Bob was sending Bill a message, and Bill knew what he must do.

Not wanting to see the Chapel razed, Bill undertook the massive task of raising the funds to restore the old building. Over the next few years, Bill formed the Riverside Cemetery Foundation, to allow people to make tax-deductible donations to the cemetery. He also secured grants from various individuals and corporations for the project. The Chapel, fully restored, is used for weddings, funeral services, memorial services and the Easter sunrise service.

When Bill retired, the new General Manager and Board of Trustees named the Chapel in honor of Bill Halley and all that he had done for its restoration, as well as for his lifetime of dedicated service to the Riverside Cemetery Association. It will forever be known as the William R. Halley Chapel.

Bill was a long time member of the Ohio Association of Cemetery Superintendents & Officials. He continues to serve as Secretary of the Greater Cleveland Cemetery Association which he has been doing for many years. Bill was also the Chapter Advisor for the Fairview Chapter Order of DeMolay for numerous years helping to mold the characters of many young men including the present General Manager of Riverside Cemetery—Mark Bollinger. Bill also enjoys singing at his church and spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

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SMITTY RECEIVES 2012 OUTSTANDING CEMETERIAN AWARD

At the 2012 Winter Conference, three deserving individuals were presented the OCA Outstanding Cemeterian Award. One was Thomas Lloyd "Smitty" Smith, Executive Vice President of Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum.

Smith joined the organization in 1972 as Assistant Horticulturist and later served as Horticulturist, Vice President of Operations, and Senior Vice President. In 2003 he was elected to his present position as Executive Vice President.

Smith holds a 1970 master's degree in Forest Science from Yale University. He is a native Cincinnati, attended Walnut Hills High School and in 1968 earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Botany from the University of Cincinnati.

Since 1973, Smith has taught horticulture courses at the University of Cincinnati College of Evening and Continuing Education, Northern Kentucky University, and Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.

He is listed in "Who's Who in Frontier Science and Technology" with specialties in plant growth and urban forest resource management.

Active in professional organizations in the Greater Cincinnati community, Smith holds memberships and office in many groups. He is a member of the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association, the Ohio Cemetery Association, and also served on the Green Industry Exposition Board of Directors. He has volunteered for more than 20 years as an advisor to the Ohio State Cooperative Extension Service. He has served as President of the national Professional Grounds Management Society. Currently, he is a member of the Greater Cincinnati Professional Grounds Management Society, the Ohio Forestry Association, and the Ohio Nursery Landscape Association. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Urban Forestry Department of the City of Cincinnati and is a past board member of the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati. He has also been active in the Cincinnati Youth

Collaborative and the Mentoring Program. Since 2007 Smith has served as a Board member for the Hamilton County Park Board.

In 1997, Smith achieved approval from the Ohio Board of Regents for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture for the College of Evening and Continuing Education at the University of Cincinnati. In 1999, he was awarded the Professional Grounds Management Society's highest honor, Gold Medal Award. In 2005, he co-authored *Gardening in Ohio Month-By-Month: What to do Each Month to Have a Beautiful Garden All Year*. In 2009, Smith received The Garden Club of America Zone Horticulture Commendation Award.

Smitty begins each day by leaping out of bed and quickly consuming two bananas. Then, a thin layer of Spring Grove honey carefully spread on lightly toasted wheat bread prepares him for the exciting opportunities of the day. He is convinced that this lifestyle has helped to create his passion for sharing information on various topics including gardening, extraordinary plants, landscape design, and business-related subjects.

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TOM KAYATI RECEIVES 2012 OUTSTANDING CEMETERIAN AWARD

At the 2012 Winter Conference, three deserving individuals were presented the OCA Outstanding Cemeterian Award. One was Tom Kayati. Tom's career at Walnut Grove Cemetery in Worthington, Ohio started when he was a young man mowing the cemetery's grass for one summer. In 1979 he returned to work at Walnut Grove Cemetery and Sharon Township Road Department. He made \$2.35 an hour.

The Superintendent at the time was Harold Chandler, who became like a second father to Tom. He took Tom under his wing and taught him how to manage the cemetery with integrity and honor. Tom assumed the Cemetery and Township Superintendent role in August of 1992 and continues in that position to this date.

During his tenure, Tom oversaw the revamping of all cemetery records, served six years on the Ohio Dispute Resolution Commission and seven years on the Ohio Association of Cemetery Superintendents and Officials Board. He has been instrumental in the expansion of Flint Cemetery overseeing, with a hands-on approach, planning and construction of the cemetery's Veterans, Children's and Meditation Garden installations.

Tom's willingness to help others is always evident. Tom constantly strives to serve the families of the Worthington and Sharon Township communities with compassion and honor. He is also known statewide as the "go to" person for questions about governmental cemeteries.

While he has not yet set a date for his retirement, he enjoys off-road Jeep excursions in his spare time and he and his wife, Joanne, hope to move to a location that does not involve "moving" snow!



MEMORIAL DAY: LOTS TO DO, LOTS GETS DONE

— LINDA BURKEY

From the first fifty-degree day, the push is on to get ready for Memorial Day at a cemetery! At Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, we have 360 acres and tens of thousands of markers and monuments, so our spring mantra is "mow and trim, mow and trim". A lesser mantra is "set markers and monuments"! Of course, there is always a lot of winter decoration clean up, usually lots of tree limbs that need to be removed from the sections and possibly some hazard tree work that needs taken care of before visitors begin planting and decorating.

There are also the multiple Memorial Day ceremonies and events to coordinate. We must order flags, prepare and print flyers and engage volunteers if necessary. And all the weekend staff needs to be scheduled to help the thousands of visitors to Green Lawn.

However, when all of the work is finished, it is wonderful to see the Cemetery at its gorgeous best and very satisfying to see people remembering their loved ones.

Two military-related programs are on the schedule at Green Lawn for Memorial Day weekend. Both are free and open to the public.

On Friday, May 25, members of William Dennison Camp No.1 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will place flags on graves of Civil War soldiers. The following day at 11 am, SUVCW members in period dress, will gather at Circle M where Civil War soldiers are buried, to hear General Logan's order for a day of decoration. They will then march in formation to Section 28 where the Ex-Soldiers and Sailors Monument is located to continue their program.

On Monday, Memorial Day, American Legion Post No.1 will hold its program at 11 am on Section 104 where World War II veterans are buried. Flags for this ceremony will be placed on graves by Boy Scouts.



Linda Burkey is General Manager of Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio.

The Foxnews.com article of March 5th catches my eye. The headline blares "Burial blunders common in poorly regulated cemetery industry, advocates say." The article zeroes in on the "horror stories" that are "all too common" and points to "a lack of federal oversight, a 'patch-work quilt' of regulation among states and no standardized record-keeping as key hurdles to reforming the industry." The article goes on to describe how reformers have lined up in support of proposed federal legislation called the Bereaved Consumer's Bill of Rights Act of 2011, also known as HR 900.

I have been aware of this proposed legislation since it was first introduced in 2009, via alarming reports coming from the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association. ICCFA has remained vigilant in actively opposing the bill and by most accounts, has succeeded in keeping a lid on it. While it could gain momentum, it seemed unlikely, and there appeared to be no immediate cause for alarm. But when stories with headlines like that of Foxnews.com begin popping up, the game can change quickly. That's why I decided the time had come to learn more about the Bereaved Consumer's Bill of Rights Act.

It would be easy to write an article summarily dismissing the bill out of hand, based merely on the fact that it calls for federal regulation—something most of us reflexively reject. But that exercise would be intellectually lazy and, frankly, myopic. Rather than closing our eyes, clicking our heels three times and hoping HR 900 goes away, we need to know just how and why we are where we are. We certainly need to reflect on substance rather than mere insider propaganda. After all, the vast majority of people on the outside (i.e. consumers) couldn't care less about us defending our turf.

So I decide to take a different approach. I pick up the phone and make the call. I introduce myself and we exchange some quick pleasantries. Then I dive into the conversation, because I figure I may only have a short window to explain that I'm calling not as an adversary, but as a fact-finder. All I want is a better understanding of the issue.

The voice on the other end of the line belongs to Josh Slocum, Executive Director of the Funeral Consumer's Alliance, and a chief proponent of the bill. The proposed legislation has been influenced by other events, but its sponsor, Representative Bobby Rush (D-III), has been most directly influenced by the scandalous activities at Chicago's Burr Oak Cemetery in 2009. In this case, workers allegedly exhumed at least 300 graves, reinterred the bodies in a mass grave and then resold the grave spaces.

Although I've called Slocum to get his take on the bill, I've read through HR 900 and there is nothing oblique about its language. It is direct and unambiguous. Its goal: "To direct the Federal Trade Commission to establish rules to prohibit unfair or deceptive acts or practices related to the provision of funeral goods or funeral services." In Section 2, there is a list of nine Congressional "findings" detailing the rationale. They can be boiled down to this: New minimum Federal standards are "warranted" because "shocking" consumer abuses have occurred in cemeteries that "weak" and "inconsistent" state laws have failed to prevent. Since funeral homes are regulated by the Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule, so cemeteries should, likewise, be regulated.

The Bereaved Consumer's Bill of Rights Act of 2011 is a reincarnation of legislation that was originally introduced in the 2009 111th Congress as HR 3655. It died in committee when Congress adjourned. However, out of the ashes of that failure it rose again in the 112th Congress, as HR 900. Representative Rush was again its sponsor. Like all things in Washington, HR 900 is driven by politics, which is often a game of opportunity. In 2009, Rahm Emanuel, then White House Chief of Staff, now the Mayor of Chicago, said "You don't ever want a crisis to go to waste; it's an opportunity to do important things that you would otherwise avoid."

The high-profile scandal at Burr Oak Cemetery provided just the crisis cemetery regulation advocates were looking for. And an opening big enough, perhaps, to drive their bus full of proposals through. During my conversation with Slocum, he candidly confirmed as much when he flatly stated that "headline-grabbing, sexy stories" presented opportunities and that's "just how it works in politics."

PLEASE SEE OVERKILL ON NEXT PAGE

But knowing how things work is only one part of the equation. An equally important part is knowing and understanding policy nuts and bolts. Slocum comes across as well versed in these. A former journalist, he is articulate, witty and affable. He has been with the Funeral Consumers Alliance, an organization in existence since 1963, for the past ten years. He initially was a member of the Alliance staff. For the past several years he has been its Executive Director. As such, there is a word to describe him: passionate. He is busy, and on the road frequently, but on a day in his office between trips, he was open to discussing why he thinks the proposed legislation is needed. Even after I disclosed that I am an entrenched member of the cemetery industry.

The effects of emotional intensity have been on full display since the story of the scandal at Burr Oak broke in 2009. When I point out that I think it's unfair to judge the behavior of the entire industry based on this high profile case or others like it, Slocum agrees. And, when I ask just how federal regulation would have prevented the obvious Burr Oak criminality, he admits that it would not have.

Slocum adds, "I want to be clear; most of my arguments for regulating cemeteries have more to do with the hundreds of under-the-radar complaints we receive on a regular basis." He claims to have a box of between 200 and 300 newspaper articles that he has kept since 2008, detailing examples of cemetery "bait and switch" and outright "fraud." He asks if I have read his proponent's testimony to Congress on behalf of the bill. When I admit that I haven't, he offers to email a copy. But, he says, the key is the "scandalous lack of accountability" for cemeteries.

The Funeral Consumers Alliance is an equal opportunity agitator, having frequently bumped heads with funeral directors. It played a major role in helping to bring regulation to funeral homes in 1984, when the FTC adopted the Funeral Rule. While Slocum is relatively new to the scene, he realizes that his advocacy rubs some people the wrong way and now has his share of critics from both major players of the death care industry: funeral directors and cemetery operators. As a result, he says, it's not unusual for him to be the target of vituperative remarks. These include being called a "communist,"

"leftist" or "atheist" which, he dryly notes, has nothing at all to do with his advocacy but certainly demonstrates how it elicits red-hot emotions. Even so, he points out that on occasion in the past, he has worked side by side with the ICCFA on some issues. However, he says he finds himself squarely opposed to their position on HR 900.

Obviously, I am familiar with some of the arguments articulated by Bob Fells, ICCFA's Executive Director, that discredit HR 900. Generally, he has stated it is "a solution looking for a problem." Specifically, Fells claims that the bill would impose punitive fines for what he calls "relatively minor offenses." He says such fines could literally bankrupt cemeteries. But the most withering aspect of HR 900 is that it would almost assuredly open a floodgate of regulation activity by creating a statute section in the federal code that could be amended endlessly by the 535 members of Congress. When I ask Slocum about this, he says that Fells "knows better" and that he is using "specious" arguments to stir ICCFA's members. "Really," he continues, "How threatening is a mandate for a general price list and general disclosures explaining consumer options?"

Setting aside personal biases is tricky and maybe even impossible. After 31 years in cemetery management, I have been indoctrinated to believe that federal regulation for cemeteries is unnecessary—even though I am far from a free-for-all free-market zealot. Yet Slocum has persuasively raised some legitimate questions and I am left wondering if perhaps there is some factual basis for supporting the Bereaved Consumer's Bill of Rights Act.

However, as promised, Slocum has emailed me his Congressional testimony. As I spend time reviewing it, some of my doubts return. While he has certainly shed light on some troubling events and other areas of concern, I find an equal number of disturbing "soft spots" in many of his arguments. These soft spots give rise to this fundamental question: Even assuming there are problems in the cemetery industry, is responding with the Bereaved Consumer's Bill of Rights Act overkill?

In Part 2: I'll have other "interested parties" weigh in and then provide comments, critiques and conclusions.



Dan Applegate is President of Arlington Memorial Gardens, Cincinnati, Ohio.

THE THRILL OF VICTORY



The Ohio Cemetery Association
Annual Convention 2012

OCA OLYMPICS — The Thrill of Victory Celebrating "Unity, Leadership & Achievement: Past and Present" August 13–15, 2012

Monday, August 13, 2012

9:00-1:00 PM. Golf Outing-Safari Golf Club
9:00 AM. Coffee/Donuts (arrive at Club House no later than 9:00)
9:30 AM. First Tee
12:30-1:00 PM. Box lunch at turn—19th hole
2:00 PM. Board Meeting
3:00 PM. Registration & Supplier set up
5:30 PM. Social Hour/Reception/
Golf Awards
7:00 PM. Buffet Dinner with Suppliers

Tuesday, continued

6:00-7:00 PM. Social Hour/Reception
7:00-8:30 PM. Past Presidents' Buffet Dinner
Past Presidents of The Ohio Association of Cemetery Superintendents & Officials, Ohio Association of Cemeteries & Funeral Homes, Mid America Cemetery Supply Association will be the guests of the Ohio Cemetery Association.
8:30 PM. Let the Games Begin
"The Thrill of Victory"

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

7:00-8:30 AM. Buffet Breakfast
8:30-9:00 AM. Introductions/Announcements
President Jack Lee-Harris
Bob Moses, Program Chair
9:00-10:00 AM. Keynote Presentation
10:00-10:30 AM. Break with Suppliers
10:30-11:30 AM. Emerging New Ideas for Ohio Cemeteries
Dick Finan, Ted Hornyak, Dave Shanteau
11:30 AM. Depart for Field Day
12:00-4:00 PM. Field Day
Forest Lawn Memorial Park
Host: Greg Villwock

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

7:30-8:30 AM. Buffet Breakfast
8:30-9:30 AM. "Trees & Shrubs for Your Cemetery"
Miles T. Penn
Lexington Cemetery
9:30-10:30 AM. General Panel Discussion
TBD
10:30-11:00 AM. Break with Suppliers
11:00-12:00 AM. Presentation TBD
12:00-1:00 PM. Lunch with Suppliers
1:00-2:30 PM. Association Meeting
Jack Lee-Harris
Bob Carr, Benefits Mgt.

OHIO CEMETERY ASSOCIATION CURRENT MEMBERS

IF YOU THINK YOU ARE A MEMBER AND YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THIS LIST, FOR SPELLING OR OTHER CORRECTIONS—PLEASE CONTACT JAN BURROWES

Allen Township Kevin Flanagan	City of Sandusky/ Oakland Cemetery Dan Hedberg	Greenlawn Cemetery— Wapakoneta Theresa Rutschilling	Montville Township Alexa Holbert
Arlington Memorial Gardens Dan Applegate	City of Sidney— Graceland Cemetery Luke Voisard	Greenwood Cemetery Association James K. Fitton	Mt. Calvary Cemetery Richard A. Pizzoferrato
Ashland Cemetery Association Matthew Hickman	City of Troy—Riverside Cemetery David Hastings	Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery Association Jill M. Junkin	New London Cemetery Association John M. Evans
Auburn Township Susan Plavcan	Clay Township Steven A. Woolf	Historic Woodlawn Cemetery Cheryl Hooten	Oak Grove Cemetery Ray Pettit
Bainbridge Township Greg Marous	CMS East Joseph G. McNemar	Jefferson Township Kathryn Weber	Oak Hill Cemetery William J. Host
Bath Township Cemeteries Karen Beres	Concord Township Cemetery Amy Dawson	Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati David D. Hoguet	Oakwood Cemetery Association— Bucyrus Michael D. Saam
Bearcreek/Hillgrove Cemetery Steve Eyler	Crown Hill Burial Park Bob Moses	Kingwood Memorial Park Jack Lee-Harris	Ohio Masonic Home John P. Evans
Beavercreek Twp Cemetery Tim Parks	David's Cemetery Stephen D. Hopkins	Knollcrest Cemetery Association, Inc. Larry Crates	Perry Township Cemeteries Nancy L. Steele
Blendon Central Cemetery John Giamarco	Dayton Memorial Park Glen Pottenger	Lake Park Cemetery Pat Gray	Pines Pet Cemetery, Inc. Shannon Wood
Catholic Cemeteries—Columbus Richard D. Finn	Dover Township Beverly Low	Lake View Cemetery Association Gerald D. Wantz	Poland Cemetery Association Chris Nord
Catholic Cemeteries—Toledo Robert Shenefield	Dover City Cemeteries Scott Harmon	Lakewood Cemetery Association Dean Keiser	Preble Memory Gardens C. Daniel Appenzeller
Centerville/ Washington Township Cemetery Tony Stephens	Enoch Township Kevin C. Walters	Lakewood Park Cemetery Association Tracy A. Leonard	Richland Township Betty Duche
Chardon Municipal Cemetery Steven J. Borawski	Fairfield Township Amy Schwanger	Mad River Township Kathy Estep	Riverside Cemetery—Cleveland Mark J. Bollinger
City of Aurora Cemeteries John E. Trew	Ferncliff Cemetery Stan Spitler	Madison Township Amy Schenck	Rose Hill Burial Park James P. Wright
City of Dublin Cemeteries Fred Hahn	Floral Hills Memory Gardens Shirley Terry	Manchester Township Wallace Bode	Sherwood Memorial Gardens— Wooster Jeff Roberts
City of Hudson Municipal Cemeteries Frank J. Comeriato, Jr.	Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens Gregory E. Villwock	Mansfield Memorial Park Robert M. Barnett	Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum Gary Freytag
City of Marysville— Oakdale Cemetery Lane Stillings	Freedom Township James Hammar	Marion Cemetery Association James R. Riedl	Spring Valley Township Cemetery John DeWine
City of Milford/ Greenlawn Cemetery Ed Hackmeister	Friends Cemetery Association Lee A. Robinson	Meadow Green Cemetery Kara C. Groff	Springfield Township—Vale Cemetery Bob Woods
City of Monroe Brian Perkins	Green Camp Township Tom Myers	Memorial Park Cemetery of Lima John Moor	St. Joseph Cemetery Association John Hoffman
City of Mt. Vernon/ Mound View Cemetery Deb Briscoe	Green Haven Memorial Gardens Jason Bonomo	Millcreek Township Bob Short	Sunset Memorial Park John D. Bokas
City of New Carlisle/ New Carlisle Cemetery Greg Slattery	Green Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum Linda J. Burkey	Monroe Township—Continental Larry Mansfield	Swan Creek Township Paul Wiland
City of Oberlin/ Westwood Cemetery Dennis D. Cuthbertson	Greenlawn Cemetery Association—Akron Thomas V. Houston	Monroe Township Ronald D. Thuma	Taylor Township Tina Marshall
	Greenlawn Cemetery Association—Tiffin Linda J. Ellinger		Tod Homestead Cemetery Kenneth E. Sommers

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Trenton Township
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Union Cemetery Association
Joe Glandon
Union Township Cemeteries
Tony Hughes
Union Township—
Mt. Moriah Cemetery
Patrick Ebright
Village of Chagrin Falls/
Evergreen Hill Cemetery
Rob Arnold
Village of North Baltimore
Cemeteries
April Dick
Walnut Grove
& Flint Union Cemeteries
Thomas A. Kayati
Walnut Hills Cemetery
Thomas W Bittner
Wayne Township
Jim Cooper
Woodland Cemetery
Rufus Slade
Woodlawn Cemetery
Rick Wagar
Wooster Cemetery Association
Kelvin Questel

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Catholic Cemeteries—Columbus
Mark Noble
Catholic Cemeteries—Columbus
Jim VanHorn
City of Hudson
Municipal Cemeteries
Randy Maag
David's Cemetery
Kevin McCoy
David's Cemetery
Frank Sensel
David's Cemetery
Eric A. Watne

David's Cemetery
Kay Wick
Ferncliff Cemetery
Scott Brown
Green Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum
Keith Nobis
Green Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum
Scott Hughes
Kingwood Memorial Park
Bobbie Aanderud
Lake Park Cemetery Association
Gladys Gray
Lake Park Cemetery Association
Evan Butler
Lake Park Cemetery Association
Lee Clegg
Lake Park Cemetery Association
Mark Luke
Lake Park Cemetery Association
Doug Lumsden
Lake Park Cemetery Association
Denny Thompson
Lake View Cemetery Association
Greg Brack
Lake View Cemetery Association
Marilyn Brandt
Lakewood Park
Cemetery Association
Dan Dugan
Spring Grove
Cemetery & Arboretum
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Some of our members have asked if the OCA is currently taking active positions on any of the hundreds of Bills currently pending before the Ohio legislature.

The OCA is actively engaged in dialogue regarding both Senate Bill 308 and House Bill 481.

Senate Bill 308 was introduced on March 6, 2012 by Senator Schaffer at the request of the OFDA.

The Bill would add funeral directors to the existing list of individuals and entities contained in ORC Section 3904.13 to whom insurance companies may disclose information regarding an insured without violating privacy laws.

Such inclusion on the exempt list would allow funeral homes to verify the particulars regarding an insurance policy on the deceased, such as the policy amount, whether the policy is in force and whether it is subject to any prior pledges, in connection with an anticipated acceptance of assignment of such policy as a means of payment for funeral goods and services.

In doing so, however, SB 308 would mandate the disclosures from the insurance company, whereas disclosure to all the other parties listed in ORC 3904.13 is currently permissive. The insurance industry has stated opposition to the mandatory requirement.

Obviously, cemeteries which accept assignment of insurance policies would have precisely the same issues and need of verification of the particulars related to the policy at issue as funeral homes. As such, both the OCA and the Catholic Cemeteries of Ohio have requested that Senator Schaffer introduce an amendment to SB 308 to add cemeteries which are properly registered with the Department of Commerce, Division of Real Estate, in accordance with ORC Section 4767.03.

House Bill 481 was introduced by Representative Hackett on March 13, 2012 at the request of the OFDA.

The Bill addresses five topics solely related to the laws applicable to Ohio funeral directors and funeral homes.

HB 481 would:

- (1) create a procedure for funeral directors to place their license in inactive status;
- (2) create reciprocity for funeral directors in bordering states;
- (3) enable out-of-state funeral directors and embalmers to perform services in Ohio in response to a declared disaster or emergency;
- (4) allow the purchaser of a funeral home to operate for thirty days on the basis of its license application while it is being processed; and
- (5) remove the requirement that funeral homes be the guarantor of the identity of decedents and instead require funeral homes to complete only visual identification of remains.

Additionally, HB 481 also contains provisions which would directly impact Ohio cemeteries.

The Bill provides that alkaline hydrolysis would be an acceptable means of final disposition in Ohio. HB 481 contains provisions regarding the licensing and regulation of alkaline hydrolysis facilities by the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors and defines hydrolysis as "the technical process of using heat, water, potassium hydroxide or an alternate alkaline solution, and pressure, agitation, or both, to dissolve human tissue within a hydrolysis container and reduce human remains to bone fragments".

The OCA is currently involved in the legislative process to ensure that the Bill, as finally enacted, would provide that alleged violations and licensure issues regarding hydrolysis facilities be referred to the Crematory Review Board. The Crematory Review Board is currently comprised of three members of the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, three members of the Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Committee and one member experienced with the

PLEASE SEE THANKS ON PAGE 12

operation of a crematory facility and who is not affiliated with a cemetery or a funeral home.

Such Board conducts adjudicatory hearings regarding complaints and licensure issues related to crematories and crematory operators for all types of crematories, including those located at cemeteries, funeral homes and independent operators, and was created as a compromise to the obvious jurisdictional opposition of the involved industries at the time of enactment of the Crematory Act.

All of the rationale for having a Board comprised of all types of crematory operators conduct adjudicatory hearings regarding cremation matters equally extend to matters regarding alkaline hydrolysis as such facilities will naturally be located at cemeteries, funeral homes and facilities which are neither located at or affiliated with a cemetery or funeral home.



Tim Long is a private attorney with offices in Columbus, Ohio. He serves the OCA as a lobbyist.



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CROWN HILL IS BUSY THIS SPRING — BOB MOSES

Crown Hill Burial Park in Vienna, Ohio (between Cleveland and Youngstown) is well underway in its preparations for Spring and Memorial Day. We have already completed multiple mowings, not an easy task when you have 60 acres with upright memorials as well as flat markers in the cemetery.

We are busy filling in graves that settled during the winter and planting new grass and flowers. Several truckloads of gravel were required to fill potholes in our drive-ways. Picking up tree limbs and debris throughout the cemetery is, of course, a never-ending task.

As usual, families are clamoring to have their monuments and memorials set—all those that got stacked up during the winter months when we could not place them due to snow or wet grounds. Many needed footers poured and that job is dependent on warmer temperatures so the concrete can cure.

All this and we must also keep up on our burials. We have added a couple new members to our maintenance staff and purchased two new mowers plus some additional pieces of equipment. All in all we feel we are on top of our spring cleanup. Far better than last year when heavy snows lasted well into early April and it seemed like we never really got caught up all year. We have had over 300 hits on our web site and our families seem pleased. Come visit when you are in our area. We welcome any comments—please call 330-856-4695.

We are also seeking sales staff members. Should you know anyone in our area who might be sales oriented and looking for a good position, please send them our way.



Bob Moses is Vice President of the Ohio Cemetery Association. He is President and CEO of Crown Hill Burial Park, Vienna Ohio.

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Every two years the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation allows employers to select a different Managed Care Organization to assist the employer with controlling workers' compensation costs. There are no fees for this service, as BWC pays the fees to the MCO. This selection is, however, an important decision, as the wrong selection may be the difference between group rating discounts or penalty rating for employers.

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Call 330-856-9213 to request your BWC evaluation form, to be returned before May 25th. There is no fee for this service.



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY FAST FACTS — W.A. RUSSELL

Arlington was the family home of Robert E. Lee. The government of the United States confiscated the home and grounds in 1861, during the American Civil War. The first burials took place in the gardens immediately adjacent to the house. Officials picked these areas because they thought the burials would destroy the home as a residence, thereby preventing any Lee family claim to the property.

In 1864, U.S. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton officially designated Arlington Mansion and two hundred surrounding acres as a United States military cemetery. Today, more than 300,000 people are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Cemetery Facts

Area: 612 Acres

Number of graves: Over 300,000 (military and family members)

Number of burials per year: approximately 6,900

Number of Presidents buried there: 2 (Kennedy and Taft)

Visitors per Year: Approximately 4 million

Hours Open: Arlington National Cemetery opens to the public at 8 am, 365 days a year.

Sources: washingtondc-go.com

www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/The-Battle-of-Arlington.html



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Most people picture the ideal lawn as being thick, lush, emerald green, WEED FREE, disease free and insect free. Often, a lawn may have various browned-out areas caused by anything from chinch bugs or sod webworms, grubs, dollar spot, summer patch, dog urine burn, or maybe even a gasoline spill from filling the mower—just to name a few possibilities.

Weeds, on the other hand, are the obvious. If it doesn't look like a blade of bluegrass, fine fescue or perennial rye and it is growing in my lawn, then it must be a weed. I have been asked many times over the years, "When is the best time to spray my lawn for weeds?"



Dandelion
healthygreenkitchen.com

Generally speaking, the best time for weed control in turf grass is any time that weeds are actively growing and the grass is not under stress. Specifically, this means in the spring and fall when temperatures are between 50 and 85 degrees. Then there is ample moisture in the soil and both weeds and turf grass are actively growing.

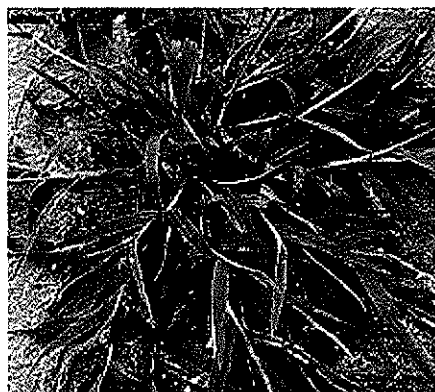
There are some important points to remember in weed control. First, not all weeds germinate at the same time. Some germinate in early spring, live all summer and die in the fall. These are called summer annuals. They are most effectively controlled in the spring when they first germinate.

Other weeds germinate in the late summer or fall, live through the winter and die off the following spring or early summer. These are called winter annuals. They are most effectively controlled in autumn when they are young.

Some weeds, such as the infamous dandelion, are

perennials. They pop up at various times of the year and once a plant becomes established, it continues to grow year after year, sending out seeds to proliferate and expand its territory. Perennial weeds are most effectively controlled in the fall, when they are sending all of their energy down into the roots for survival purposes. If you kill the root, you kill the perennial. Thus, it is important to know what the weed is and its life cycle to understand the best time to control it.

Not all weeds are controlled by the same herbicide. If it is not listed on the label, then the product is probably not intended for control of that weed. An exception to this rule are nonselective, total-kill herbicides such as *Roundup*. The only time to use this type of chemical in your lawn is if you want to kill off the entire lawn and reseed it about two weeks later.



Crabgrass
plantdiagnostics.umd.edu

Some weeds such as crabgrass are controlled with a preemergent herbicide. It goes down in the spring and forms a barrier to prevent seeds in the soil from germinating. Most other weeds are best controlled with a

selective post-emergent herbicide. In other words, they are killed after they have become growing plants.

Weed control is a science, an art and a craft. But never a guarantee, because there are too many variables that mother nature throws at us, such as rain, drought, temperature, etc., that we human beings cannot control.

In summary, here's the five steps to effective weed control in your turf. Know what weed you are trying to control. Know its life cycle—annual or perennial. Read the product label to see if it is intended to control that particular weed. Apply the product at the right time and at the rate specified on the label. Finally, hope for the best.

OCA
JOURNAL

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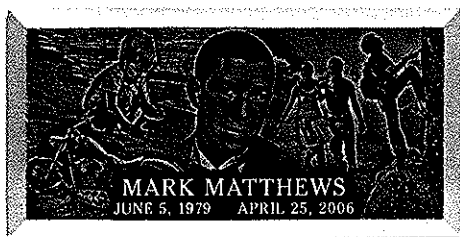
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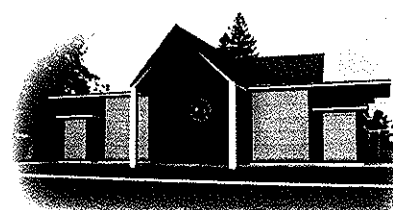
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