

OCA Journal

July 2023 | Volume 13 | Issue 3
Publication of the Ohio Cemetery Association

President's Message

Happy Summer everyone! I hope that your year has been going well. The last few months for the OCA have been very active. In April, members of the OCA and the Catholic Cemeteries of Ohio joined together in Coshocton OH for the first ever "Think Tank" collaborative meeting between the two organizations. Paul O'Brien, Kirk Roberts, Jimmie Blevins, Rich Finn, Marilyn Brandt, Sean O'Regan and myself were happy to represent the OCA at the meeting. We discussed future planning, leadership, and natural burial among other topics. The OCA and CCO are excited to make this "Think Tank" an annual event. If you would like to attend the "Think Tank", please reach out to me at scottw@ccadayton.org.



Looking forward to the rest of the summer, I am very excited about our upcoming annual convention in Dayton, OH. We have two cemetery tours this year. I would like to thank Mark Davis at Dayton Memorial Park for hosting our annual "Field Day." I know that the staff of DMP is hard at work organizing vendors and outdoor competitions for the event. The OCA Conference also features a tour of the "St. Kateri Preserve for Natural Burial" and "Garden of Peace" at my cemetery, Calvary Cemetery on the final day of our conference.

Another special item at this year's conference is a trip to see the Dayton Dragons (Cincinnati Reds High A affiliate) on the party deck. The Dragons are a family friendly atmosphere, and, they boast the longest sell out streak in all of professional sports (1,477 consecutive games as of the end of June). This game on the party deck is all inclusive, dinner and drinks included. We are doing this in lieu of our traditional Casino Night and the game ticket/ dinner is provided by the OCA. Sign up is on the registration forms.

Thank you again for all that you do to make the Ohio Cemetery Association successful and see you all in Dayton in a few weeks for our annual conference!

Scott Wright, M.Div., CCCE
Community Outreach Director
Calvary Cemetery
OCA President

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Cemetery Spotlight – Dayton Memorial Park

Founded as a nonprofit association in 1923, Dayton Memorial Park Cemetery and Mausoleum was created to be a special sanctuary where families could memorialize their loved ones. It was to be a reverent place, one that would honor those who have passed, set in a park-like atmosphere that would celebrate the living beauty of nature. The first burial took place in 1923 and now nearly 400 interments occur each year. Today, the founders' vision, fulfilled by their successor's diligence, has created a peaceful retreat that families enjoy visiting.



From the stone bridge at the street entrance to the Abbey Mausoleum in the back of the property, this 217-acre facility has several architecturally and historically significant structures. Two years after the first burial, a stone caretaker's residence of the Cotswold Architectural Style was constructed; it now houses the cemetery offices. A veteran's memorial area was added in 1927, now known as Soldiers Circle, this area is anchored by a limestone bell tower surrounded by veteran's graves. By the early 1930's the Abbey Mausoleum was built. This impressive example of limestone construction is a two story 140 ft. by 55-foot structure that is lined with marble and contains 1450 crypts and numerous niches. By 2007, Whispering Pines, a second mausoleum was added to the cemetery providing a more contemporary option for entombment.

This year, 2023 is our one hundredth anniversary, to commemorate this milestone, we are planning a fall opening of a new section called, Centennial Lake, located just north of the Abbey Mausoleum. When completed, it will feature a paved walking path, several columbarium sites, full body sites with flat and above ground markers, and numerous cremain interment sites adjacent to a one half acre pond.



Dayton Memorial Park is a full-service facility which includes an infant section, veteran's sections, niches for cremains, crypts for entombment and traditional full body burials. In essence, "A Beautiful Place to Celebrate Life!"

Mark A Davis, General Manager

Dayton Memorial Park Will Be Hosting The OCA Annual Field Day On Tuesday August 1, 2023.



Dayton Memorial Park

August Convention Info



Annual Convention/Trade Show
Hilton Garden Inn - Miamisburg
Field Day At Dayton Memorial Park

July 31, August 1, 2

Agenda and registration forms can be found on the OCA website

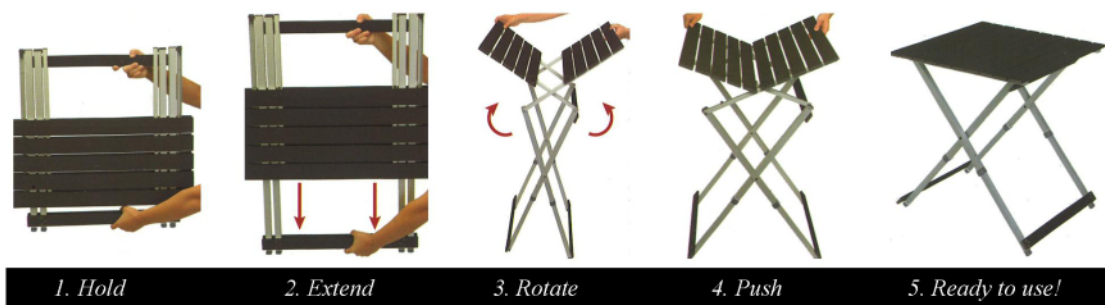
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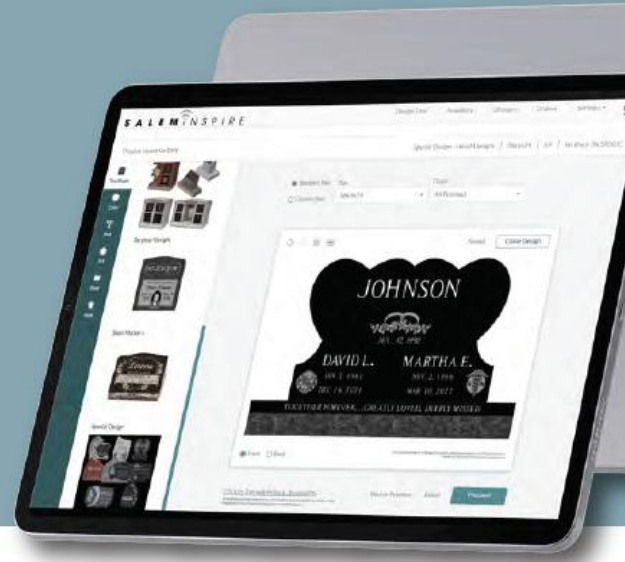


Jason and Jackie Bonomo each have 16 years experience in the cemetery industry. While they started on the Family Service side of the business, they have knowledge and experience on the grounds, and currently handle operations. They've been married since 2011, have an 11 year old son, and live outside of Youngstown, OH.



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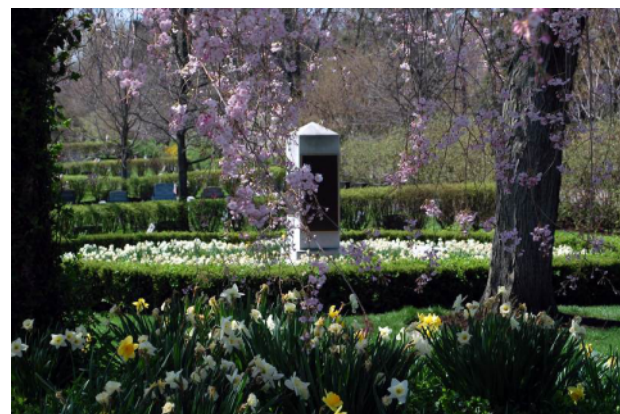
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What Is It About Plants?



I had a conversation with a person who will be traveling the region and eventually the world trying to answer the question why plants create an obsession. The person in point is chasing the Franklin Tree, *Franklinia alatamaha* that captured American lore going back to its colonial period when North America was a new world. John Bartram collected seed from this tree he found growing along the banks of the Altamaha River in Southeastern Georgia for his Philadelphia nursery in 1773. Bartram named the tree for his friend Benjamin Franklin but the tree became extinct in the wild by 1803. Consequently, all surviving specimens of this tree come from Bartram's collected seed.

A great lore developed for this tree with more recent restoration plantings in its original habitat that failed. Reportedly, institutions trying to cultivate this tree have great difficulty getting it to thrive but the challenge continues. American Public Garden Association completed a botanical survey from participating institutions about 15-years ago attempting to trace the lineage of the Franklin Tree to Bartram's original collected seed. Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum has killed specimens through the years with little success but our effort continues to find the ideal site with the right moisture, soil texture and light exposure to see a Franklin Tree thrive. I am inspired by one healthy vigorous specimen in the Display Garden during my tenure with The Holden Arboretum east of Cleveland. It's not difficult to force a Franklin Tree into flowering which at a young age and small size is a sign of stress. This multiple leader specimen, however, was well established when I first saw it in 1988 about 15' tall and began flowering each August with sporadic ivory white thickly textured 2"- 3" wide flowers that didn't stop until autumn chills dampened it. The seed capsules persist for several years adding a bit more ornamentation.

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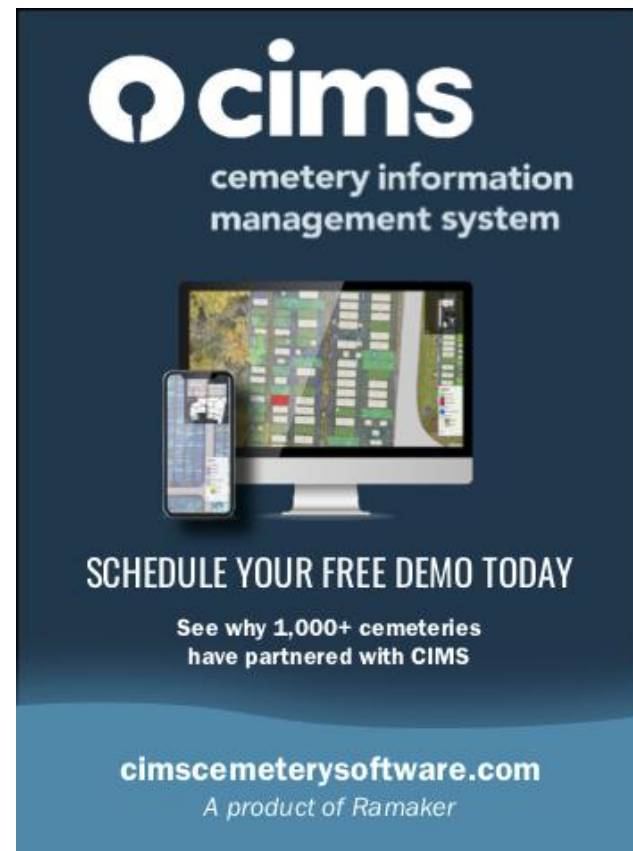
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Plants continued from page 11.

Science never had a chance to discover if the Franklin Tree was host to any insect which would have also gone extinct when the original population died. Ecological considerations are paramount reasons to perpetuate a species but our attraction or some say addiction goes much deeper with people and plants. I find ethnobotanical connections with plants most fascinating; the Herb Society of Greater Cincinnati has their demonstration garden just inside the main cemetery entrance at Spring Grove where plants for medicinal, industrial and culinary use are cultivated. Plants used by other cultures create deeper infatuations. The Yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*, sacred to the Cherokee Black Tea Clan is used for ceremony. The countries of Lebanon and Canada feature prominent plants on their national flag. Think of all the plants that become part of institutional and private collections. Orchid, Topiaries, Bonsai, a myriad of genus collections such as rose, lilac, etc. And what about the plants that can't be grown, such as Rhododendron and other Ericaceous plants in alkaline Southwest Ohio? Short of pillaging plants from the wild, everyone needs a plant obsession. Have at it!



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Update From Sedgwick



Heat safety

In Ohio, we are lucky enough to see the beauty of the four seasons. Snowfall in the winter, blossoms and flowers in the spring, warmth in the summer and changing of the leaves in the fall. But from time to time these seasons can be extreme and we must be prepared to protect ourselves and our employees from these extreme changes. With summer having begun, it is imperative to share with employees the steps to prepare for heat conditions.

One of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) National Emphasis Programs (NEP) is Indoor and Outdoor Heat Hazards. This NEP is a temporary program in which OSHA focuses their resources on those high-hazard industries where heat can be an issue. The NEP encourages employers to protect workers from heat hazards by providing employee access to water, rest, shade, adequate training, and implementing acclimatization procedures for new or returning employees. It contains both enforcement and outreach/compliance assistance components.

When you create a Heat Emphasis Program include at least the following items:

- 1) **Work Practice/Administrative Controls** - Employers should reduce workplace heat stress by using engineering and administrative (work practice) controls. An engineering control could be a change to the design of the workplace that reduces exposure to heat. Administrative controls are changes to tasks or schedules to reduce heat stress.
- 2) **Training** - Develop a program to train workers before hot outdoor work begins and when to identify high heat situations. Tailor the training to worksite conditions whether it is indoor or outdoor work.
- 3) **Acclimatization** - Acclimatization is the result of beneficial physiological adaptations (e.g., increased sweating efficiency, etc.) that occur after gradual increased exposure to a hot environment. In basic terms, this is getting the body prepared to work in hot environments. Additional information on acclimatization can be found at [NIOSH Acclimatization Fact Sheet](#).
- 4) **Hydration** - Employers should provide the means for appropriate hydration of workers. This can include water or electrolytes. For more information on hydration go to [NIOSH Hydration Fact Sheet](#).
- 5) **Rest Breaks** - Employers should ensure and encourage workers to take appropriate rest breaks to cool down and hydrate. There is additional information on the NIOSH website link [NIOSH Work/Rest Schedules Fact Sheet](#).

Make sure you prepare yourself and your employees on heat safety. OSHA has the authority to ask you about a heat program if they are at your facility inspecting other safety items, so it would be wise to prepare, especially if you are in a high hazard industry. If you would like to see the entire heat emphasis program or check to see if you are a high hazard industry click on the following link

https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/CPL_03-00-024.pdf

For more information on heat safety go to:

<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/heat-nep-factsheet-en.pdf> or

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/recommendations.html#:~:text=Employers%20should%20provide%20a%20heat,steps%20to%20reduce%20the%20risk.>

Contact Sedgwick's Andy Sawan at 330.819.4728 or andrew.sawan@sedgwick.com with any questions.

Update From Sedgwick continued from page 17.



BWC updates requirements for Drug-Free Safety Program training

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) recently updated rule 4123-17-58 for their Drug Free Safety Program and Comparable program. The new rule became effective July 1, 2023. BWC emailed notifications to program participants in May regarding the following rule changes:

- Basic and Advanced Level participants must maintain all supporting documentation and be prepared to submit additional information upon request. Invoices and sign in sheets shall be included for *all* employees that have completed drug testing and training & educational requirements.
- Train-the-trainer materials need to be refreshed at least every five years. Employers are also asked to include the invoice or supporting documents with their supplemental information.
- Employers in the comparable program are now required to complete employee and supervisor refresher training annually. Previously, training was just required one time.
- Contractors must submit a DFSP testing and education plan for inclusion on the list of public improvement construction project contractors.
- For those employers that have worked on a state project during the program year, company records showing at least 5% random drug testing must be maintained or that they were included in a consortium while on the project.

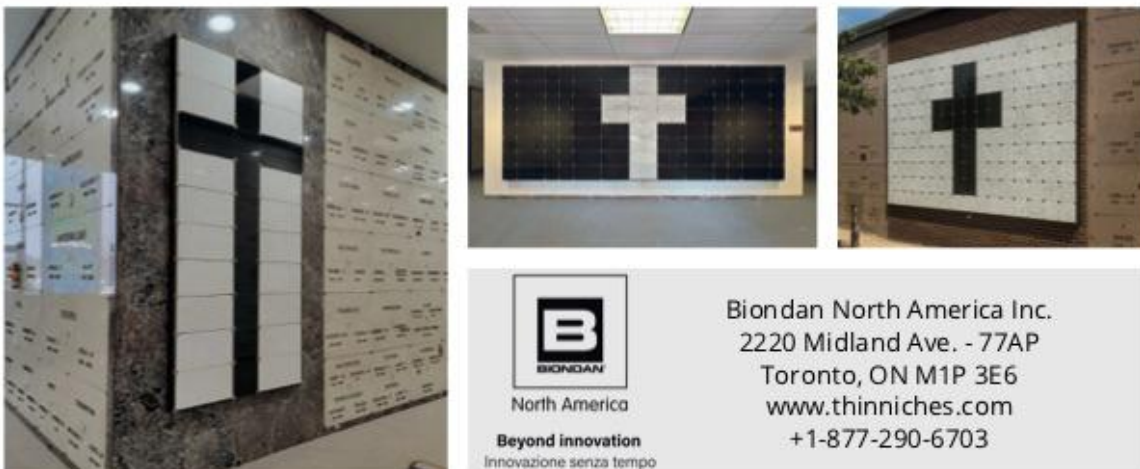
For additional information regarding these changes, please visit the BWC's Drug-Free Safety Program page here: <https://info.bwc.ohio.gov/for-employers/workers-compensation-coverage/rates-and-bonuses/drug-free-safety-program>

If you have any questions regarding premium installments or the true-up process, contact our Sedgwick program manager, David Deyo, at 614-376-5401.



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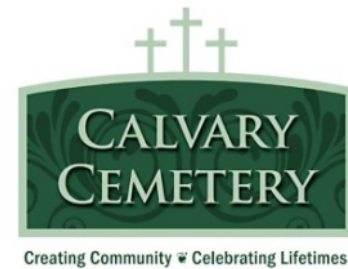


Cemetery Dedication

Calvary Cemetery - Dayton

Garden Of Peace: Calvary Cemetery Dedicates New Columbarium

Undertaking a new construction project at any cemetery is truly a labor of love. Where construction teams and engineers may see piles of building materials, ceterians understand that this construction site will one day be the final resting place of our family members and friends. This past May, Calvary Cemetery in Dayton OH dedicated its newest columbarium, the "Garden of Peace."



During the groundbreaking a few years ago, I can remember looking at the building site in amazement. How will there will be a building on this site? There isn't any electric, water, or internet services available. We are standing on a hillside next to a lake and the St. Kateri Nature Preserve for natural burials. Initial skepticism was met with determined resolve by Calvary Cemetery's Project Manager Joseph Bonsall, a local retired engineer. Over the course of a year, the ground was leveled, electric lines were run to the project site, and water was obtained from a cemetery well. Slowly, the walls of the columbarium began to rise on the construction site. Hampered by construction supply chain shortages due to the COVID 19 pandemic, this building began to take shape over the course of two years.

This most recent project of Calvary Cemetery is the capstone of nearly \$8,000,000 in capital improvements that have been undertaken by the cemetery over the last few years. When the team at Calvary began to meet with columbarium builders, the first element that was asked for was a modern columbarium building for cremation burial. Instead of a traditional mausoleum, that can sometimes be dark on the interior, Calvary asked the builders for as much natural light in the building interior as possible. Rick Meade, Calvary's Executive Director, stated that the new project needed to reflect the goal of ensuring the building maintained a lodge look, while



Cemetery Dedication continued from page 21.

having modern elegant features. The task of bringing this vision to life was entrusted to McCleskey Construction.

And what a vision did McCleskey bring to life. The Garden of Peace truly has a modern lodge feel: exposed wood beams and elegant marble walls beautifully accent the bronze of the glass fronted niches. According to Scott Odom from McCleskey, "The goal of the project was simple-- steward the eternal needs of the community; inspire hope; and celebrate the beauty of nature." As I sit in the sales office writing this article, visitors have said the following as they walk through the front doors: Breathtaking.... Absolutely Stunning.... Look at that view..... The newly constructed columbarium is also a first for the Catholic Cemetery industry. Whereas a typical cemetery building will contain both niches and crypts, Calvary chose to build a building dedicated entirely to cremation, reflecting the current market trends of Southwest Ohio. The newly constructed Garden of Peace, hosts about 1,200 niches for above ground cremation burial, the vast majority of which are glass fronted niches, supplied by Biondan North America. There are two breathtaking aspects to this building. The most striking feature of the Garden of Peace is the back wall. A nearly 30 foot glass wall which serves as an observatory into nature. From the back of the building, families are able to observe the nature preserve, lake, and woods in the background. Unique to this wall, are "see through" glass niches, where families can see through the niche to the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

The second feature of this building is the nearly life sized St. Francis statue. According to Stu Irwin of Biondan North America, "the Saint Francis statue created and cast by Biondan, is a perfect application of lost wax statuary to welcome families visiting the columbarium. The statue compliments the building with its warm facial features."

This summer, Calvary Cemetery will be a host for the OCA's annual Summer Convention. On the last day of the conference the Garden of Peace and St. Kateri Nature Preserve will be featured as an optional cemetery tour. We invite you to join us for that conference here in Dayton to see the stunning beauty of these two new features of Calvary Cemetery.

Article submitted by:

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