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# The New Englander *OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

## *NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION*

**President**  
**Dale Fiore**  
Evergreen Cemetery  
New Haven, CT

*Honoring the Past      Serving the Present      Preparing for the Future*

[www.newenglandcemetery.org](http://www.newenglandcemetery.org)

Editor: Dan R. Krueger  
Beaverdale Memorial Park  
90 Pine Rock Ave. New Haven, CT 06515  
203.387.6601 fax 203.397.1517  
drk@beaverdale.net

Secretary  
Raymond Scholl  
Milford Cemetery Association  
Milford, CT

First Vice-President  
Anthony Hollingshead  
Swan Point Cemetery  
Providence, RI

Treasurer  
Barbara Brooks  
Riverside Cemetery  
Charlestown, RI

Second Vice-President  
John Di Pietro  
Knollwood Memorial Park  
Canton, MA

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



#### **Welcome fellow Cemeterians and Industry Suppliers!**

It is my pleasure to address you during this wonderful fall season. As President of the New England Cemetery Association for 2008-2009 I would like to challenge each of you to make contact with another cemetery or industry vendor and tell them about the benefits of membership in the New England Cemetery Association. Encourage them to attend a meeting or purchase ad space in the Membership Directory and Resource Guide, which includes membership with the purchase of an advertisement.

At the Board meeting in September great progress was made in the area of fine tuning the association's budget and finances with the assistance of Chairperson Joe Swift. Dan Krueger continues to do a fine job of gathering information and producing the "New Englander". Check out the official website for the association at [www.newenglandcemetery.org](http://www.newenglandcemetery.org). Brian Killea of MA has volunteered much time with the redevelopment of our website and may be able to assist with your cemetery site. Committees need your input and help. If you would like to get involved, please feel free to contact me at 203-624-5505 or [djfiore@evergreencem.org](mailto:djfiore@evergreencem.org).

I do plan on attending your next state cemetery association meeting. I will attempt to visit all the New England states supporting you on the state level and encouraging your membership to become more actively involved with both associations. Hopefully by now you have received the notice for the annual cemetery management conference December 2, 3, 4, and 2008 at the University of New Hampshire. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Anthony Hollingshead and Director Kevin Cody have been developing a wonderful and educational program for you. This is one seminar that should not be missed.

Future meetings are the Mid Winter gathering that will be held at the Mystic Marriott in Mystic, CT. I have begun to put together an agenda for the meeting as well as time for an opportunity for great networking with friends. The 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference will be held June 29- July 2, 2009 at the Radisson in Nashua, New Hampshire. A surprise celebrity guest speaker will be in attendance. Remember to use your Membership Directory and Resource Guide when selecting a product or service from the list of Supplier members that have supported our association by purchasing ad space or have traveled to many of the NECA meetings.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!**

Respectfully, Dale. J. Fiore CCE



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## 39TH ANNUAL FREDERICK R. LAFFOND CEMETERY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

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“Steal with your eyes and your ears” This sage advise was shared with me by an employer when I was a teenager. He was encouraging me to always watch and listen for better ways to accomplish my goals. He firmly felt that somewhere, someone had a better idea or a better method that would help me improve myself.

Well, the New England Cemetery Association offers you an opportunity to freely “steal with your eyes and your ears”. The 39th Annual Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar is our industry’s premiere event. Each year almost 100 cemetery

professionals gather at the University of New Hampshire for a sharing of knowledge and ideas. This year’s gathering will begin on Tuesday, December 2nd and conclude on Thursday, December 4th.

Chairman, Anthony Hollingshead and his co-chair, Kevin Cody have assembled a significant group of presenters who are more than willing to share their expertise with you. They will help you de-code the secret language known as insurance. They will guide you through the maze of OSHA requirements related to blood borne pathogens. They will inspire you to hold a public event at your cemetery. They will open your eyes to a changing world influenced more and more by people’s concern with sustaining our planet by seeking more environmentally friendly options for burial. They will help you learn how to deal with a disgruntled employee. They will share tips on how to maintain the precious historical art and records within our cemeteries. These presenters will even show you how to be more efficient by continual planning throughout the entire year.

A special group of presenters will be from the industries that supply us with the products and services that are unique to our industry. They will share with us their new products and ideas for the ever-evolving society we serve. There is also a period for organized open discussion where you can ask questions and share your ideas.

One of the primary opportunities for learning is during the many social periods during the three day event. You will always hear participants discussing the issues just presented during breaks in the programming. If you do not learn something with your eyes and ears during the social hours on Tuesday and Wednesday evening then you must be asleep. Be brave and choose a seat during dinner with some people from outside of your comfort zone. They will learn from you as you learn from them.

And to top off each evening you must visit the hospitality suite. There is always some light refreshments, easy conversations and hearty laughter to be enjoyed by all. There may even be a “friendly” card game or two.

If you have not received your registration packet please contact Ray Scholl at 203-874-8998 or Anthony Hollingshead at 401-272-1314 immediately. If you have not yet registered please do so as the deadline for registration is quickly approaching.



*Photos: Top—classroom during the 38th seminar last year. Right—social hour before the closing banquet.*

**Remember, this event is probably the most cost beneficial purchase your cemetery will make this year!**

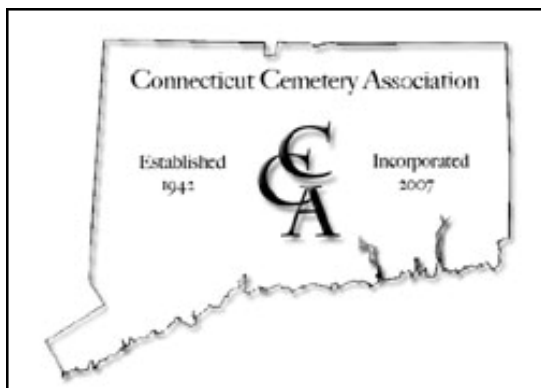
## STATE NEWS

### **C**onnecticut: by Dan Krueger

President, Ray Scholl recently unveiled the new official logo for the Connecticut Cemetery Association. Ray and the board of directors felt that the old logo was dated and too generic...it did not represent the organization very well.

Seeking a design that would quickly illustrate the purpose of the organization the board enlisted design guidance from Tyler Scholl, Ray's son. Tyler's design visually explains who the association represents as well as the durability and professionalism of the organization. The straight-forward but dignified appearance is readily recognizable and easy to remember.

Tyler is a freshman at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia majoring in Industrial Design .



The association held it's annual meeting at the Tradition at Wallingford this past Thursday. Martin Johnson of the Monument Conservation Collaborative spoke on historic monument maintenance and repair. He has been engaged by the Center Street Cemetery in Wallingford on several occasions for repair of vandalized monuments and tablets, most recently this fall when the 325 year old cemetery was again hit by vandals as reported in the August/September issue of the New Englander. His program was informative, educational and well received.

During the Annual Meeting the following individuals were elected to serve the association as officers: Raymond Scholl, Milford Cemetery Association, Milford President; Craig Neal, Catholic Cemetery Association, North Haven, Vice President and Martha Smart, Pine Grove Cemetery, Ansonia, Secretary/Treasurer. Elected to serve as Directors for 3 years were Jeffrey Pelletier, Evergreen Cemetery, Watertown and Kevin Gherkins, Mount Saint Peter Cemetery, Derby. Continuing to serve as Directors are Craig Fleming, Bronson Hawley, Matthew Knowlton and Susan Wightman along with Ken Hedman as Immediate Past President.

### **N**ew Hampshire: by Jeff Snow

The New Hampshire Cemetery Association will hold its Annual Business Meeting on October 22 at The Derryfield in Manchester. In addition to the business meeting, Jean Howard from Rainbow's End Cemetery in Orrington, ME will make a presentation on "A Green Cemetery." Following her talk we will hear a presentation from Doug Grenier of G2+1 landscape architecture regarding site development in our cemeteries. A hot buffet will be served. All are welcome. For more info go to <http://www.nhcemetery.org>.

### **R**hode Island: by George Boardman

Well, we just held our Annual Meeting. The location was on the Warren River at the Wharf Tavern in Warren. And I mean on the river, sitting into the river. The food was outstanding and the wine was provided by Mark Donovan of Watertown Engineering. We want to thank Mark, that was a nice touch.

We had our business meeting that ended with the election of officers and directors. Polly Stiles of Riverside Cemetery was elected President with Mike Sager of Lakeside Cemetery being elected to serve as Vice President. Elected to the Secretary/Treasurer position was Steve Douglas from Pawtuxet Memorial Park. Serving as directors will be Enzly Ramsay, North Burial Grounds; Joe Swift, Highland Memorial Park and Joe Cavallaro, Swan Point Cemetery. George Boardman, Moshassuck Cemetery will serve as Past President.

Our next meeting will be held at the TK Club in Pawtucket on December 10th. This will be a dinner meeting and include our annual toy collection. For additional information please contact George at 401-723-1087.

### **M**assachusetts: by Bray Walsh

The Massachusetts Cemetery Association held its Annual Suppliers Exposition and Clambake on Wednesday, September 17th. Over 150 members, suppliers and guests attended this year enjoying the wonderful hospitality and terrific food provided by the VFW in Medway. As always, the highlight of the day was the participation of many of our supplier members

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 5th at the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in Boylston. The program will be presented by "The Gravestone Girls". This power point presentation will focus on the history of gravestones and cemeteries illustrating the symbolism and evolution of the carvings. Each attendee will receive a 5 (continued on page 7—see Massachusetts)

## ARE YOU CERTIFIABLE?

The fundamental purpose for which the New England Cemetery Association exists is to promote and inspire continued improvement of cemeteries. To this end the association has established the New England Certified Cemetery Professional (NECCP) program. This program is designed to encourage continuing education, uphold standards and ensure integrity and professionalism in our New England cemeteries.

To be qualified for consideration of this prestigious recognition you must be responsible for the day-to-day operation of a cemetery. It is also required that you be an active member of NECA with at least 7 years of cemetery experience. Participation in your state association is also required as well as attendance to at least one NECA Annual Conference and six Management Seminars.

To date 41 individuals have been recognized for their knowledge, dedication and commitment to our industry. The last two, Raymond Scholl and Dan Krueger, were awarded their certification during the 106th Annual Meeting this past June.

The Board of Directors urges all members who meet the qualifications, and there are many of you, to apply for this recognition. The certificates are awarded to successful applicants two times each year, the Annual Conference and at the Management Seminar. Please contact NECA Secretary, Raymond Scholl today for additional information and an application. The association should be presenting at least two certificates each and every year.

## NECA WEAR

Now you can proudly display your allegiance to this fine organization. The New England Cemetery Association has available for purchase several clothing items that display the organization's logo.

Izod golf shirts are available in black or white. These high quality embroidered short sleeve, collared shirts have the NECA logo on the chest along with "NECA Member" on the left sleeve. They will be available for purchase at the seminar in sizes ranging from small to extra large for \$40.00 each.

The official New England Cemetery Association Sweatshirt is also available. You may have seen them at the 2007 Management Seminar. These Jerzees brand hooded pullovers are in Texas Orange with the NECA Logo embroidered on the left chest. They are selling for \$25.00 each and are available in all sizes.

Should you care to purchase a sweatshirt please complete the order form below. All orders will be available for pick up at the 2008 Management seminar in December or at any other NECA meeting. There is no direct shipping available.



### NECA OFFICIAL HOODED SWEAT SHIRT ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery, Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size (they tend to run a little small) S M L XL XXL (please circle)

Payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail with payment to:

**NECA**  
**769 Ella Grasso Blvd.**  
**New Haven, CT 06515**

## MORE STATE NEWS

**Vermont:** by Joy Fagan

The best foliage in several years arrived very early and, even through the rain, has remained beautiful through Columbus Day Weekend. Mowing has been constant right up to now.

The Fall and Business Meeting of the Vermont Cemetery Association will be held on October 22, 2008 at the Elks' Lodge in Burlington. Danielle Leveler from Citi Smith Barney will present a most timely program on investing cemetery trust funds and another timely program will be presented by Bruce Delle Chiaie of Watertown Engineering concerning options for cremated remains in the cemetery and also introducing lawn crypts to Vermont cemeterians. Both are valued Supplier Members of the Vermont Cemetery Association.

There has been an ongoing question as to whether there should be a cemetery chair on the Vermont Board of Funeral Service. The Board is made up of five funeral director chairs and two public chairs. Consumer advocates of the industry have pushed for the addition of a cemetery chair, and their proposal sounded reasonable at first. I contacted the counsel for the Office of Professional Regulations to discuss the possibility. During our many discussions, he advised me against such a chair. Those who have urged me to try to get a cemetery chair on the Board explained that the Board and its director and counsel would not want the additional cemeterian chair because they were afraid a chair as it would tip the balance to become 5 funeral directors to 3 (the two public seats and the one cemetery seat) as opposed to the current 5 funeral directors to 2.

Deciding that this issue needed some research, I looked into what the state required of those who had chairs on the Board and I also attended a meeting of the Board. The meeting was extremely interesting during which I was brought into some of the discussions. As I learned more about the Board and its requirements for its professional chairs, I realized why the Office of Professional Regulation Counsel had recommended there not be a cemetery chair. This professional chair would have to abide by several requirements and laws for professionals serving on Boards in Vermont by which cemeteries certainly would not want to be governed...and in most cases could not be governed by. The State of Vermont is not anxious to regulate another profession. And we are certainly not anxious to be regulated by the state beyond our existing State Statutes.

This matter was discussed at length among the  
*(continued: next column)*

members of the VCA Board of Directors. It was decided not to promote a cemetery chair on the Vermont Board of Funeral Service, however leaving open the possibility of, at some point, a cemeterian filling one of the public chairs which carry no requirements. For the time being, we will continue to attend the meetings of the Funeral Service Board as observers which gives us the ability to speak during the meeting and present and discuss our views. It also lets the funeral directors understand that we want to work with them, not against them as we serve the same clients. I believe it is very important that we, as cemeterians, attend and add to the meetings, but there is certainly no benefit to having a cemetery chair.

The cemetery being established by the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe (JCOGS) is progressing nicely. Conditions of the Sales and Purchase Agreement are being addressed, Rules and Regulations, including the religious policies, are in the last stages and a superintendent has been selected. In July our friend and NECA Supplier Member Dave Crispin from the BSC Group in Boston came to Vermont to look at the cemetery land and come up with a proposed plan that will be used by JCOGS.

Everyone was so impressed by Dave that the Vermont Cemetery Association has asked Dave to address our association at the Fall Meeting in 2009 and he has accepted. The plan for the meeting is for Dave to look at a fairly newly acquired parcel of land at Stowe Cemeteries, about the size of the JCOGS parcel, and comment on its suitability and use for a cemetery. After the site visit Dave will discuss plans for it and the best possible designs for the land which is contiguous with Stowe's Riverbank Cemetery.

As a member of VCA and NECA, I am delighted that Dave will be doing our fall meeting because  
*(continued: see Vermont on page 7)*



*Dave Crispin at the JCOGS proposed cemetery site.*

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## David Barnett Appointed

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Mount Auburn Cemetery is pleased to announce the appointment of David P. Barnett, Ph.D. as the new President and CEO effective immediately.

Dave, who had assumed the role in January as Mount Auburn's first Executive Vice President, was appointed by the Trustees as Acting President July 1st upon the retirement of former president Bill Clendaniel. Dave has been with Mount Auburn for over 15 years and has served in many critical capacities beginning with Director of Horticulture. In 1999 he became the Vice President of Operations and Horticulture and also served as acting president for three months while Bill Clendaniel was on sabbatical.

Dave is nationally known throughout the horticultural community. He is currently Past President of the American Gardens Association. He served as Chair of that organization's Host Committee for the 2003 Annual Conference held in Boston. He has also been on the Board of Directors of the International Society of Arboriculture, New England Chapter and is currently Second Vice President of the Horticultural Club of Boston. He has been active as a speaker on horticulture and ecological issues and led many tours of Mount Auburn.

Dave received his B.S. in Environmental Horticulture, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Connecticut and an M.S. in Environmental Horticulture and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California at Davis. Prior to joining Mount Auburn he served as Assistant Director of Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, NY. He and his wife Eileen, an elementary school art teacher, live in Boxborough. They have two grown children, Jake who graduated from Cornell in 2007 and Marie who graduated from Oberlin in 2008.

The preceding information was provided by James M. Story, Chair of the Mount Auburn Cemetery Trustees and Ann M. Roosevelt, Chair of the Trustee Search Committee in a letter dated September 15, 2008 to the Friends of Mount Auburn. They concluded their announcement with "We could not be more proud or more confident to have Dave lead this very special place into the future and know that Mount Auburn will be in superb hands going forward". NECA joins Mount Auburn in congratulating Dave on his appointment.

“Stopping at third base adds no more to the score than striking out.”

- E. Joseph Cossman

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## Fall/WINTER CALENDAR

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**October 22, 2008: NHCA**

Annual Business Meeting  
The Derryfield, Manchester, NH

**October 22, 2008: VCA**

Fall Meeting  
Burlington Elks Lodge, Burlington, VT

**November 5, 2008: MCA**

Fall Lunch Meeting  
Tower Hill Botanical Gardens, Boylston, MA

**December 2, 3 & 4, 2008: NECA**

39th Annual Frederick R. Laffond  
Cemetery Management Seminar  
University of NH, Durham, NH

**December 10, 2008: RICA**

Annual Toy Collection  
TK Club, Pawtucket, RI

**January 31, 2008—February 2, 2009: NECA**

Mid-Winter Meeting  
Mystic Hilton, Mystic, CT

*(Specifics for some of these events are noted in associated articles within this edition.)*

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## New IRS Requirements

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In the October 7th issue of the ICCFA Wireless newsletter it was reported that non-profit organizations that file Form 990 for 2008 should be aware of new disclosure requirements on the tax form. Specifically, a nonprofit organization will be required to answer questions relative to their policy on document retention and destruction, conflict of interest policies related to board members and on whistle blower protections for employees. Some of these requirements were initiated by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act to make publicly-traded corporations more accountable. The document retention and whistle blower policy requirements seem to apply to all businesses, whether organized as for-profit or nonprofit.

For more information, check the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). It is also suggested that you check with your accountant to be certain that you are in compliance with these new requirements.

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## State News Continued

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*(Massachusetts continued)*

page handout interpreting the symbolism in gravestone art which was compiled by the Association for Grave-stone Studies. For more information on The Gravestone Girls please go to [www.gravestonegirls.com](http://www.gravestonegirls.com).

We have also arranged for a very special meeting on April 7, 2009. We will be meeting at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library and Museum in Boston. The keynote speaker will be Mr. John C. Metzler, the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery. More information will be published in the New Englander as the date approaches.

For information relative to these two meetings or to register please go to our website at [www.macemetery.org](http://www.macemetery.org) or contact our Secretary, Brian Killelea at 508-791-0350.

Tom Daly, our Legislative and Community Affairs Chairman, has reported that Governor Patrick signed into law legislation relative to Unclaimed Cremated Remains. Chapter 114, Section 43 M was amended by inserting after the third sentence the following 3 sentences: *“- Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a funeral establishment in possession of the cremated remains of a human body which is not claimed by a next-of kin or duly authorized representative within 12 months after the date of cremation may have the remains interred or placed in a common grave, niche, or crypt in a cemetery, or scattered in an area of the cemetery designated for that purpose; provided, however, that if the deceased is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces the deceased shall be interred at a veterans’ cemetery. Each cemetery and funeral establishment shall maintain permanent records of such disposition. There shall be no liability for the funeral establishment, cemetery or crematory, or any employee or agent thereof that disposes of unclaimed cremated remains in accordance with this section”*.

Please note that this will not affect how you govern your cemetery. Your cemetery rules & regulations, fees and interment authorization will be maintained. It is suggested that all cemeteries should review their Cemetery Rules & Regulations as to procedures for the possibility of this request from a funeral establishment. This may include rights of burial, number of human burials per grave, resident requirements, memorialization and many other cemetery policies. The effective date for this new law is November 20, 2008.

*(Vermont: continued)*

as shown during his work with JOCGS Dave is more than willing to work with our small but expanding Vermont cemeteries as more and more people are moving to and/or having second homes in Vermont. Dave’s professionalism, knowledge and insight, his creative ideas and enthusiasm as well as his willingness to be accommodating makes him more than welcome in Vermont.

The VCA Board believes Dave’s presentations at our 2009 Fall Meeting will introduce him to many of our new members as well as re-introduce him (he presented a program here many years ago) to our other members, most of whom are in need of his services and will be pleased to know that Dave is happy to work in Vermont.

We are looking forward to the 39<sup>th</sup> NECA Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar and seeing all our friends there.

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## Presidential Visit

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The President of Albania, Dr. Bamir Topi, visited Forest Hills on September 28, 2008 as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Albanian Orthodox Church in America . One of the founders of the Church, Theophan



Noli, is buried at Forest Hills . During his visit, President Topi placed a wreath on the Noli gravesite. Pictured is George Milley, President of Forest Hills (left) and President Topi.

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## ARE YOU REGISTERED?

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### 39TH ANNUAL FREDERICK R. LAFFOND CEMETERY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

DECEMBER 2, 3 AND 4, 2008

New England Center for Continuing Education  
University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire

### “Preserving the Past, Preparing for the Future”

**T**ime is wasting and the deadline is almost here. If you have not registered for the 39th Annual Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar you must do so immediately. As was stated in the packet, rooms at the New England Center are limited and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Overflow rooms are available at the Holiday Inn just three quarters of a mile away and will be filled once the rooms allotted at the center are occupied.

Arrangements have been made to provide a shuttle service for those who are rooming at the Holiday Inn. We have been assured that this is a superb facility and those seeking a quieter night might actually prefer these accommodations. If you should prefer such a setting please indicate so on your registration form and let Anthony know by emailing him at [anthonyhswanpoint@verizon.net](mailto:anthonyhswanpoint@verizon.net).

NECA and the New England Center understands that this situation is not ideal but was unavoidable due to safety requirements and your cooperation will be very much appreciated. You can be assured that every effort will be made to accommodate every attendee's needs.