

# The New Englander

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## NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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

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

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

This week I am looking ahead to this year's Summer Conference in Stowe, Vermont and thinking about June in the Green Mountains. It looks like we're in for some snow again tonight to cover up all this drab ground until mid-March. One thing about snow is it makes our grounds look clean and uniform, and there is something beautiful about that consistent white blanket. Most people value consistency, and we offer that to those who do. We have just had to remove a century old beech tree that has graced our front entrance and that I have looked out on from my office window for over two decades. We all witness the disappointment when a lot owner returns to find a tree is no longer a constant in their lives – a victim of a winter storm or disease. This may be a harsh reminder of a recent loss in their own family. When we can offer ourselves as a constant it can be reassuring to others. Let's make sure we make it a point to greet our

families and others when we can – they will appreciate our familiar presence.

So again, I remind you that our Summer Conference will be running from Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup> (or Monday June 24<sup>th</sup> in nearby Randolph for golfers) through Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup>. Stowe is constantly changing, and the Trapp Family Lodge has not been left without. The Lodge offers everything from a pool, spa and a brand new Bierhall restaurant, to the surroundings of the beautiful Green Mountains. There are shops a plenty in greater Stowe, as well as trails for hiking and biking. If you arrive early on Monday, a sunset cruise on Lake Champlain is within an hour's drive. If you plan for an extra stay beyond the Conference, Montreal is within three hours with an exchange rate largely in your favor. A program for the conference will follow later this month with a schedule of times and guest speakers. On Wednesday the 26th we will be visiting Patrick Healy's Green Mount Cemetery in Montpelier and Rock of Ages in Barre. Be on the lookout for our 2019 Membership Directory and Resource Guide later this spring, then begin calling on the Allied Vendors of our Association listed there to help us.



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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA is in the process of filling two exciting and challenging positions, **Vice President of Horticulture & Landscape** and **Facilities Maintenance Specialist**. Details and information on applying are available at the Mount Auburn website, <https://mountauburn.org/category/jobs/>.

**Vice President of Horticulture & Landscape.** The Vice President of Horticulture & Landscape (VPHL) is responsible for visionary and inspirational leadership and effective management of the Horticulture Department, with three direct reports (Superintendent of Grounds, Horticultural Curator, and Wildlife Conservation & Sustainability Manager) and a total departmental staff of 17 full-time and 34 seasonal (including internships) positions and a departmental budget currently at \$2.2 million.

The VPHL is responsible for the design and implementation of landscape improvements that achieve long-term strategic objectives such as increasing plant diversity, enhancing the sustainability and wildlife habitat value of the landscape, and preserving the historic character of this 175-acre “National Historic Landmark” and Level III accredited arboretum, which has over 5,000 trees and more than 20,000 plants overall, representing 115 different botanical families and comprising more than 2,000 different taxa.

**Facilities Maintenance Specialist.** The Facilities Maintenance Specialist is responsible for routine maintenance of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in all Cemetery structures. Must have general knowledge of plumbing, heating, cooling, and electrical systems as well as basic building repair, carpentry and painting skills. Works with Vice President of Preservation and Facilities in coordinating contracted work on all Cemetery structures.

For more details on both positions and to apply please refer to the Mount Auburn website as illustrated above. Click on About and then Jobs.

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## STATE NEWS

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### **Connecticut:** —submitted by Jeff Pelletier

The Connecticut Cemetery Association has completed its’ schedule for 2019 as follows:

- Suppliers Expo—Thursday, March 14 at The Aqua Turf in Southington
- June meeting—Thursday, June 13, a “Field Trip” to Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill and a tour of ElmCap Industries (a Wilbert Vault Dealer) in West Hartford
- Annual Meeting—Thursday, October 10 at the Baci Grill in Cromwell

As always, we cordially invite all of our associates from throughout New England to attend these informative meetings.

### **New Hampshire:** —submitted by Mike Horne

On October 10th the Association held their Fall meeting at The Derryfield in Manchester, NH. Seventy attendees heard a presentation by the NH Municipal Association which will be conducting future annual cemetery trustee training. The training had been provided by Terry Knowles, NH Department of Justice, Corporate Trusts for many years but Terry recently retired.

The second part of the biannual members' meeting was a lively panel discussion on the public's awareness of cemeteries and working with funeral directors. The NHCA Board met on January 23rd to plan the 2019 Spring meeting which will be held on April 3rd at The Derryfield.

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## 49TH FREDERICK LAFFOND SEMINAR

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Just like Superman, David Boyle emerged from a phone booth this past December 3rd to deliver a lively, thought provocative program at the 49th Frederick Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar in Sturbridge, MA. Over 65 cemeterians and suppliers gathered at the Publick House Historic Inn and Country Lodge for the three day learning event.

Monday's afternoon program included representatives from MassCor at Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Corrections. MassCor offers many products that are produced by the inmates which are available to your cemetery.

Following MassCor, UMass graduate Michael Stachowicz talked about the challenges he encounters as the Turf Management Specialist of the National Park Service. Michael oversaw the reconstruction of the National Mall and has worked with various parks across the US to improve and protect their cultural landscapes.

Are the memorials within your cemetery a liability? Joe Swift believes that we need to recognize that these monuments and markers are an easement on your property. He emphasized the need to recognize this expense and to collect an appropriate fee to be deposited into an endowment fund to insure the proper maintenance of these memorials into perpetuity.

Tuesday began with David Ward offering creative ways to utilize odd spaces within your cemetery to meet the growing demand for the memorializing of cremated remains. One example he highlighted was the development of an area within Oaklawn Cemetery in Fairfield, CT. This included a uniquely designed columbaria involving a curved radius that created a challenge for Jeff Hardy, Hardy Doric/ KMI Columbaria. It is encouraging to see one of our members employing the services of our supplier member firms.



Have you considered alkaline hydrolysis as an alternative to cremation? Joseph Wilson, CEO of Bio-Response Solutions explained why perhaps you should. His informative presentation was eye-opening and created a lot of discussion.

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## 49TH FREDERICK LAFFOND SEMINAR (CONTINUED)

Geno Merendino, Chief Gardener for Merendino Cemetery Care again delighted us with an energetic, thought provocative discussion on how he motivates his employees. By encouraging them to become invested in the task at hand he finds that they are more responsive to customer service through innovation.

Another friend was on hand to encourage us to be more professional in our daily operations. Attorney Poul Lemasters provided examples where funeral homes and cemeteries found themselves in legal troubles, usually due to the lack of detail in their operations. While his presentation was part horror show it most certainly caused us to take note of all of the small, little things we must do to protect ourselves in today's litigious society.



As usual, the gathering of friends and associates in the evening, before and after dinner, was perhaps the most informative. Where else do you have an opportunity to discuss the daily issues involved in the running of a modern cemetery or a historical site. Of even more benefit is an opportunity to discuss an unusual, important issue with a peer who has perhaps

experienced the issue or can bring a fresh perspective to the problem.

So if you missed the 2018 seminar you must plan to attend the 2019 event. It will again be held at the Publick House in Sturbridge, December 9th through the 11th. Chair, Mary Anne Hawthorne is already at work scheduling exciting speakers who will again provide us with timely, informative programs that are certain to be useful in your daily management and preparations for your cemetery's future. This program is always worth its weight in gold and a true bargain.



# Trapp Family Lodge

A MOUNTAIN RESORT IN THE EUROPEAN TRADITION

BY THE FAMILY THAT INSPIRED "THE SOUND OF MUSIC"



## *Save the Date*

June 24-27<sup>th</sup> 2019

New England Cemetery Association  
117th Annual Meeting and Conference  
(Details to follow)

**FINDING LOVE IN THE CEMETERY** Where is the best place to go on a first date? Well, the returning champion on the April 24th showing of Jeopardy believes it is a cemetery. Following the first commercial break of the show Alex Trebek chatted with the contestants discussing something unusual or unique about each of the three. The returning champion happened to be from the greater Boston area and the unusual fact about her was her preference for first dates. She mentioned that the ideal location for a 1st date was Mount Auburn Cemetery. Such a location created an atmosphere where the beautiful surroundings with many names created an opportunity to have quiet conversation. Besides she said, if he happens to turn out to be weird he will simply fit into the unusual atmosphere. When Alex questioned how this method of getting to know someone worked out she replied that she and her current boyfriend had been dating for over two years after their first date at Mount Auburn.

So, congratulations Mount Auburn, you are now known nationally as a romantic site!

