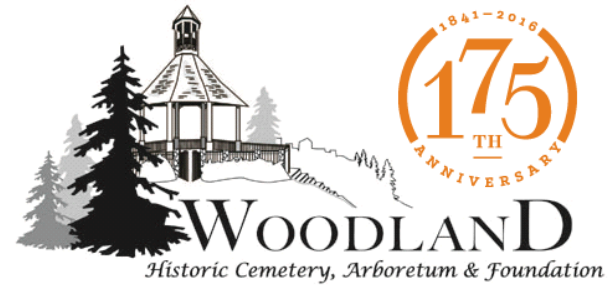


# Woodland Wire

August 2016 Volume 4, Issue 3



## Woodland Events Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum 2016 Projects

### Discover Woodland Days Sunday, October 2

Two hour Historical Tours depart at 12:00, 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. Join us as volunteers portray the residents of Woodland in this unique tour. Free and open to the public. For more information, please call Debra Mescher at 937-228-3221.

### Upcoming Fall Tours

#### Fall Migration Bird Tour

9:00 a.m.  
September 17

#### Woodland Historic Tour

10:00 a.m.  
August 17 and 20, September 14 and 17, October 12 and 15

#### Let's Talk Trees

2:00 p.m.  
August 17, September 14, October 12

#### History, Mystery, Mayhem & Murder

10:00 a.m.  
August 20 and September 17

5:30 p.m.  
August 17 and September 21

6:30 p.m. Lantern Tours  
October 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26 and 27

Reservations are required for all tours. Please call 937-228-3221. Meet at the Fountain in front of the Administration Office. Your early arrival will ensure that the tour will depart on time. All tours are given weather permitting. Please wear comfortable walking shoes.

For more information about tours and programs, visit our website at [woodlandcemetery.org/tours-and-events](http://woodlandcemetery.org/tours-and-events)



### Fountain Cremation Garden

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum is pleased to announce the restoration of a recently rediscovered fountain that had been filled in and planted over during the past 50 years. This restored fountain is the center piece of an in-ground cremation scattering garden called *Fountain Garden*. Families will have the option of placing the cremated remains of a loved one in the earth of a working garden and have a beautiful spot to visit and reflect upon their family members and those that have passed before us. To speak to a Family Service Representative about this location, call 937-222-1431.

This issue of *Woodland Wire* highlights many of the service projects worked by individuals and community groups in 2016. We hope that the next time you visit Woodland that you will make note to visit the areas where these volunteers have spent countless hours to make Woodland still beautiful and timeless.

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Woodland is seeking volunteers to lead their History, Mystery, Mayhem and Murder tours this fall season. This tour includes inventors, bank robbers, counterfeiters, murderers and more. If you like history and enjoy walking through the cemetery call us now for immediate training. Not interested in leading a tour, we have other positions as well: historical research and helping to plan out new tours, assisting with special events, public speaking engagements, researching family histories, sewing costumes for special events, researching and tagging trees and plants in the arboretum, office work, etc.

For more information on these or any of our volunteer activities, please contact Debra Mescher at 937-228-3221 or [debra@woodlandcemetery.org](mailto:debra@woodlandcemetery.org).

## Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum 2016 Projects

### Summer Work, Earn and Learn Program

Woodland offered select high school students the opportunity to work up to 16 hours per week for 8 to 10 weeks this summer in an earn and learn program. The first of its kind at Woodland, the students worked on various garden and landscaping projects in the cemetery under the guidance of Emily Burrill, a groundskeeper at Woodland. These eight girls worked together on Thursday's and Saturday's in a team effort to establish a new landscaped garden in Section 200 of the cemetery, a highly visible area that can be seen from Stewart Street. The girls drew the plans for the garden, dug out and prepared the ground for planting, and even learned how to operate a backhoe and front end loader. Additionally, the girls also worked on the restoration and preservation of several historic monuments. The students were given the Women of Woodland tour showcasing the famous, talented and inspirational women of Dayton and beyond. By August, the girls wrapped up their work and provided a group tour of their completed projects and history of Woodland to their parents and invited guests.



Back: Kayla, Gwen, Jenna, Kaylee  
Front: Danielle, Katherine, Meg, Courtney

Asked if there had been any challenges that came with this first time program, Emily Burrill said, "Though many of the girls had little or no experience in landscaping or garden maintenance, it has been fun and they are a great bunch of girls. If they only remember a few things, it's been worth it. Hopefully they have learned some skills to keep with them for life."

"As for me, it's also been a learning experience. I liked the opportunity to show the girls what it's like to work here like I did when I was their age for my father at his cemetery back in Maine. I was never surprised by what they could do. I knew that if they put in a little hard work and effort they could see the results for themselves," stated Emily.

And when asked how the summer work program benefitted Woodland, she said, "It's always a benefit to us any time we can get extra hands on deck. Being able to accomplish so many projects has been great."

And what did the girls think of the program? "This was a really great work experience that not only teaches hard work but team building as well," said Jenna Hoschouer, a Junior at Northmont High School. Kayla Dawson, a Junior at Centerville High School said, "I had fun with all of the girls, working together, and learning how to weed at lightening speed; I really enjoyed working here and learning more about flowers, plants and trees."

"Woodland was very fortunate to have such an outstanding team of high school students join us for this special summer program," said Sean O'Regan, President and CEO of Woodland. "The results of these talented students are beneficial to Woodland, our visitors and the families we serve. These young girls were eager to learn with a strong work ethic, a credit to their proud parents who now have skilled landscaping hands to work at home."



In conjunction with the landscaping project, Bob Berner, a Senior at Centerville High School worked on a restoration project in the Civil War section of the cemetery. He cleaned 328 markers including the cannons that were erected by the "Old Guard Post" No. 23 G. A. R., Dayton, Ohio in 1901.

# Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum 2016 Projects

## Earth Day Clean-Up

In recognition of Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum's 175<sup>th</sup> year, National Volunteer Month and Earth Day, Woodland held a Spring Clean-up Day on April 23, 2016. Groups from University of Dayton and Wright State University as well as individuals gave three hours of their time to "spruce" up the cemetery grounds. Working with Woodland's staff, these volunteers raked, picked up debris, weeded, and planted gardens. Most notably, several groups worked to clean the hillside along Wyoming Street.

Woodland thanks everyone who came out on the beautiful spring day. The volunteer's time, effort and commitment were greatly appreciated.



Woodland Cemetery is proud to partner with the following organizations: The Aviation Trail; The National Aviation Heritage Area; Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park and ThinkTV.



## Eagle Scout Project

Charles Chapski, a member of Boy Scout Troop 61 in Springfield, Ohio and graduate of Clark-Shawnee High School is working towards his Eagle Scout rank, a rank only about 5% of Boy Scouts achieve. To obtain the coveted rank, a Boy Scout must complete an extensive service project that he plans, organizes, leads, and manages. It should illustrate his leadership skills and have impact on the community in a positive way.

Charles chose his Eagle Scout project of clearing invasive plants and brush at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum after speaking with the property manager, Rufus Slade. The invasive plants presented an immediate problem and Charles believed clearing them would make the historic cemetery look nicer and pay respect to those buried there.

Charles developed a plan, organized and lead a group of volunteers to clean about 200 yards of area along the fence line on Stewart Street. Charles and his volunteers learned to work hard and keep motivated and paid special attention to safety hazards, such as the heat and the terrain. The team also learned a lot about the history of the cemetery and appreciated the opportunity to serve to the community.



The Stewart Street hillside now cleared of invasive plants and brush.

"This project enhances the beauty of the area while improving site lines both visually and functionally," said Sean O'Regan. "We thank not only this young man for his service but all groups and individuals for their assistance and look forward to their participation in years to come."

Charles is thankful for his volunteer helpers: Derek Akers, Ashley Chapski, Chuck Chapski, Paula Chapski, Phillip Kuhn, Maddisun Peters, Project Coach DG Adams, and troop adults who provided guidance. Enrolled at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, Charles plans to major in nuclear engineering.

# Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum 2016 Projects

## Paleodemography and Mortuary Customs Project

Dr. Amy Hubbard, Assistant Professor of Biological Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Wright State University approached Woodland in the fall of 2014 about a project for students enrolled in a course on Bioarchaeology. While bioarchaeology is the study of past life ways from humans skeletal materials, Amy wanted her students to undertake a project that would be “hands on” without requiring skeletal materials. Together, we decided on a project that would bring students to the cemetery and get them “in the field.” The students will take a complete inventory of headstones that will include transcriptions, photographs and rubbings if necessary. Data will be recorded and become a permanent recording of each headstone in the cemetery. The students will begin work in the historical sections of the cemetery concentrating on the time period between 1800 and 1900. They will then move on to other areas and hopefully record the over 108,000 gravesites at Woodland with a written and photographic record. This will be an on-going project for the students in this particular class that will span a good part of the next couple of years. Here, Amy breaks down the specifics of the project and the data that the students will be collecting.



“There are many ways we can collect information to better understand what people’s lives were like in the past. Paleodemographers investigate demographic information from past populations. In historic settings, this includes the use of census records, cemetery information, and other written and/or visible information about individuals during particular time periods. Additionally, among burial samples we can investigate how people bury and/or commemorate their dead.

Among other things, students will be looking at imagery placed on headstones, (e.g., an hourglass with wings symbolizes how “time flies”), materials used (e.g., granite is expensive while a pile of stones costs very little), and sometimes special symbols or markings (e.g., free mason, veteran) that can indicate status, occupation, or other information.

For this project, these student teams will reconstruct a demographic and “cultural” profile of Dayton’s populations during a particular time period, using information collected on headstones at Woodland Cemetery.”

“Woodland is looking forward to receiving the information collected by these Wright State students and adding the valuable work they will be doing to the archives and historic records housed by Woodland Cemetery,” commented Sean O’Regan, “this collaboration is just one of many that we hope to see take place between Woodland and the educational community.”

The project has expanded in the past year to include a mapping component run by Amy’s colleague and historical archaeologist, Dr. Lance Greene, and a professional archaeologist in the community, Chad Snoko of GeoPro Consultants in Dayton. Chad will use a drone flown over the cemetery this Fall to aerially map the cemetery’s landscape and allow for the individual headstones to be mapped onto a larger 3D image that can be used to track erosion patterns as well as location of individual stones.



*Beautiful, Timeless and Still Available...*