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# The New Englander

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

## ***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 NECA Cemeterians,

It is an honor to be installed as President of the New England Cemetery Association for the 2019 -2020 year. I look forward to working with the Board of Directors to make my term as President a successful one.

I would like to take a moment to thank our Immediate Past President Jim Holman for a terrific 117<sup>th</sup> NECA Annual Meeting & Conference, held at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT. A truly beautiful location with informative speakers along with an amazing tour of the Rock of Ages facility in Barre and Past President Patrick Healy's cemetery,

Green Mount in Montpelier.

Among some of the goals I have for this year, is to increase NECA's visibility throughout the six New England states, be it a Suppliers Day in Massachusetts or Annual Meeting in Maine. I look forward to representing NECA, and getting to know the individual state association directors, cemeterians and vendors.

I would also like to see our cemetery membership base increase along with attendance at our events. This year the Frederick R Laffond Management Seminar will be returning to the Publick House in Sturbridge, MA December 9 – 12. I am pleased to announce that next year's 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference will be at Mill Falls at the Lake/Church Landing in Meredith, NH, along Lake Winnepesaukee, June 22- 25, 2020

Please continue checking our website, [www.newenglandcemetery.org](http://www.newenglandcemetery.org) for updates on speakers and lodging information for both events in the months to come.

David J. Boyle



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## 117TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

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The 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the New England Cemetery Association was held at the Trapp Family Lodge, in Stowe, Vermont from June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>. President James Holman and the Board of Directors hosted a wonderful, informative and inspiring program for the benefit of the membership.



*(Above the clouds at the Trapp Family Lodge)*

Monday, the 24<sup>th</sup>, brought the annual Nick Pahoulis Golf Tournament as well as the Shotgun Shoot (see page 4). This was also a time for the early arrivals to network and enjoy the beautiful Vermont countryside.

On Tuesday Jim presented an insightful program focused on adapting your cemetery to meet future demands. The first presentation was given by Ricardo Austrich, ASLA from BSC Group (pictured below) along with Iris Lin, RLA and Vesna Maneva, RLA, both from Halverson Design. The focus of their talk was on their experience working for Mount Auburn Cemetery in utilizing and beautifying areas that in the past were thought to be unusable. They illustrated that with cremation most of these areas could become an asset to the cemetery.



Raymond Leach of Cold Spring Granite followed with a presentation titled “Trends in Granite Outside New England”. Utilizing his many years of experience in the memorial industry, he focused on trends that he sees throughout his travels and how we can best be prepared to accept the wishes of the families we serve.

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## NECA ANNUAL SHOTGUN SHOOT

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Over the past few years Gene Kinnel from McCleskey Mausoleums has organized and led an afternoon of sporting clays during the annual conference. This has always included novices along with some more experienced marksmen. The 117th Annual Meeting and Conference was no exception. Gene took a group of 5 attendees out to the Underhill Rod and Gun Club in Westford, VT.

One loyal participant has been Ray Scholl (pictured to the right with Gene). Having watched Ray shoot, he is a natural with a shotgun so beware!

Second Vice President Kelly Perry's daughter shot for the first time (left photo). She so enjoyed the experience due to Gene's careful instructions that she emailed her dad to ask for a shotgun for her birthday. I can attest that she was a much better shot than her mother, sorry Kelly.

Below is the entire group flanked by the boys from Rose Hill Memorial Park, Jim on the left and Tomas on the right.



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## THE NICK

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NECA /Nick Pahoulis Memorial Classic Golf Tournament Recap by Craig Neal, Norwalk Vault Company

The Annual NECA/Nick Pahoulis Memorial Classic Golf Tournament was held at The Montague Golf Club in Randolph, Vermont. Much appreciation goes out to each of the cemeterians and suppliers who participated on the 1913 course during a picture-perfect June afternoon. Congratulations to the winning team: Kevin Cody, David Boyle and Terri Ford, who shot an impressive -11; and to the second place team: Kirk Smith, Bruce Delle Chiaie, Julie Delle Chiaie, and Craig Neal, who shot -6. In the individual awards, Donna Hemmann won the closest-to-the-pin and Julie Delle Chiaie took home the longest drive for the ladies. For the gentlemen, Terri Ford snagged both closest-to-the pin and longest drive. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Nick Pahoulis Award was given to Rob Baker, who managed to play with a set of rusty irons and persimmon woods from circa 1972 (Rob's clubs had been stolen out of his car a while ago, and he picked up these clubs on Craigslist. Hopefully Santa brings you a new set this

year Rob!). A special note of gratitude to Bruce & Julie Delle Chiaie & Bill Wilson of Watertown Engineering for supplying the golf balls and bottled water for each of the players; and to Rob Baker of Matthews International for supplying the individual awards. Join us next year for another fun-filled tourney.



*(With coaching from Julie Delle Chiaie, Craig Neal puts, while Bruce shows no faith)*

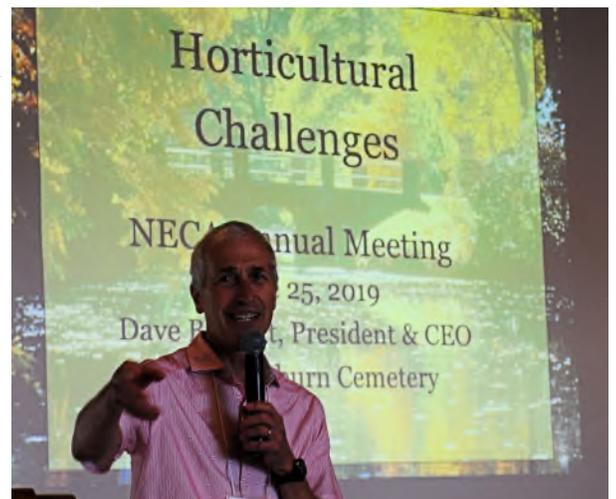
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## CONFERENCE CONTINUED

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Presenting next was Kirk Smith sharing his experiences in developing and promoting the Memorial Path within the 200 year old churchyard cemetery of The Village Church in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Prior to 2007 there had been no interments in the cemetery for over 100 years when a 10 foot wide path through the cemetery was identified. This area was developed to accommodate shared burial spaces for cremated remains with memorials engraved on shared monuments.

Completing the day was our friend from Mount Auburn, David Barnett. Dave shared with us how Mount Auburn has met many of the challenges created by the maintenance and management of a well established cemetery. He illustrated how they utilized plant species to eliminate mowing of grass on difficult terrain. Not only did these changes improve the appearance of the cemetery, but they also created opportunities for the memorializing of cremated remains.



*(David Barnett)*

*(See page 6 for more on the Conference)*

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## ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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The following individuals were elected to serve the association during the 2019 / 2020 year.

**President:** David Boyle - *Town of Chelmsford Cemetery Dept., Chelmsford MA*

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Mary Anne Hawthorne - *Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford CT*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Kelly Perry – *Swan Point Cemetery, Providence RI*

**Treasurer:** Joseph Swift – *Highland Memorial Park, Johnston RI*

**Secretary:** Dan Krueger – *Beaverdale Memorial Park, New Haven CT*

**Director:** Raymond Scholl – *Milford Cemetery Association, Milford, CT*

**Past President Director:** Patrick Healy, *Green Mount Cemetery, Montpelier, VT*

**Continuing to serve as Immediate Past President:**

James Holman – *Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge MA*

**Continuing to serve as Director:**

Tracy Taylor – *Oak Grove Cemetery, Springfield, MA*

Todd Frederick – *First Parish Cemetery, York, ME*

**Continuing to serve as Past President Director:**

Robbin Kelley – *Town of Harwich, Harwich, MA*

Please offer your congratulations and support. It is only through your participation that they will be successful in guiding the Association over the coming year.



*Above from the left Tracy Taylor, Director; Patrick Healy, Past President Director; Kelly Perry, 2nd Vice President; Robbin Kelley, Past President Director; Mary Anne Hawthorne, 1st Vice President; David Boyle, President; James Holman, Immediate Past President; Raymond Scholl, Director; and Dan Krueger, Secretary. Absent were Joseph Swift, Treasurer and Todd Frederick, Director.*

## CONFERENCE CONTINUED



That evening we all enjoyed a tour of the Trapp Family Brewery before partaking in a wonderful Austrian buffet. The Trapp family is one of only a few craft brewers brewing lagers as opposed to ales.

For the first time NECA sponsored an after hours informal social featuring cocktails and evening pastries as an alternative to the traditional hospitality suite. This was an opportunity for the participants to gather, visit with each other discussing the themes of the day and perhaps joining in on a friendly game of Jenga or adult size Pick-Up-Sticks.

*( photos upper left; entrance to the Bierhall, lower left and right; serious, intense competition. middle; the Austrian feast)*



On Wednesday morning we boarded a bus for a quick trip to Rock of Ages where we were treated to a private tour of the manufacturing facility as well as a panoramic view of their quarry. It was fascinating to experience how the massive blocks of granite are transformed into individual, meaningful works of art, from flush markers to monuments to private mausoleums.

Next we made our way to Green Mount Cemetery. Superintendent Patrick Healy led us on a tour of this very unique Montpelier cemetery. Patrick is challenged by the steep hillside dominated by ledge outcroppings. If you want to learn how to be creative, spend an afternoon with Patrick. He has met and conquered more challenges than most of .

*(continued on the next page)*



After the enjoyable, informative tours we gathered back in the conference room to visit with our loyal suppliers. Many offered brief discussions on what they are witnessing within our ever changing industry. If you want a pulse on the industry just spend a few minutes with a supplier. They are immediately affected by the changing landscape and have a keen interest in trying to influence the direction of these changes.

*(Photos top; Patrick Healy at Green Mount Cemetery, center left; saw at Rock of Ages, center right; Green Mount, bottom; Rock of Ages quarry)*

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## NECA SCHOLARSHIPS

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This year 6 scholarships were awarded to children or grandchildren of NECA members. They were as follows.

**Nicholas Piscitelli**, son of Paul Piscitelli a manager for the Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford, St. Mary Cemetery in New Britain, CT. Nicholas will be beginning his academic career at the University of Hartford this fall with a focus on accounting.

**Christopher Rossetti** will be studying mathematics and statistics as a freshman at Tufts University this fall. He is a grandson of Ronald Sill, manager of St. Michael's Cemetery in Derby, CT

Completing his studies next year at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, **Brandon Hooper** will become a civil engineer. He is the son of Lincoln Hooper, the Director of Public Works for the town of Harwich, MA.

**Colleen Pelletier** is the daughter of Jeffrey Pelletier. Jeffrey is the current President of the Connecticut Cemetery Association and the Superintendent of Evergreen Cemetery in Watertown, CT. Colleen will be beginning her quest to become an elementary school teacher at Naugatuck Valley Community College this fall.

**Timothy Cody** is the son of Kevin Cody, Past President of the New England Cemetery Association and Superintendent of Mount Calvary Cemetery in Manchester, NH. Timothy will be entering his senior year at Assumption College in Worcester, MA this fall matriculating towards his Bachelors in Psychology and Philosophy.

**Eric Perry** will be entering Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston MA this fall with a goal of becoming a mechanical engineer. He is the son of Kelly Perry, the newly elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of NECA and the Horticulturalist and Greenhouse Manager at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, RI

Two future engineers, a future teacher, a future accountant, a future mathematician and a future councilor. We should be proud to be an encouragement to these young, deserving students. Please join in congratulating them.



***THE BITTEREST TEARS SHED OVER GRAVES  
ARE FOR WORDS LEFT UNSAID  
AND FOR DEEDS LEFT UNDONE***

*Harriett Beecher Stowe*

*Photos left; attendees at the brewery tour,  
below; craftsman's station at Rock of Ages  
manufacturing plant.*

