
The New Englander

NOVEMBER 2024

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

President
Gregory Howard
Riverbend Cemetery
Westerly, R.I.

Honoring the Past

Serving the Present

Preparing for the Future

www.newenglandcemetery.org

Editor: Raymond C. Scholl
4 Winesap Dr.
Oxford, CT. 06478
203-903-6270
Rcscholl627@gmail.com

Secretary
Dan Krueger
Beaverdale Memorial Park
New Haven, CT.

Treasurer
Joseph Swift
Highland Memorial Park
Johnston, RI

Vice-President
David Raposa, Jr.
Fall River Catholic
Cemeteries
Fall River, Ma.

President's Message *Gregory Howard*



Hello, NECA membership,

It is hard to believe that we are already into November, but here we are. I know this is obviously a busy time of year for all of us, as we work towards cleaning up our cemeteries and getting prepared for the long, cold winter ahead of us here in New England. However, as fall sets in, and the holiday season quickly approaches, it is also a truly

beautiful and exciting time of year as well.

One of my favorite parts about this time of year is always attending NECA's Annual Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar, will be held at the Publick House in Sturbridge, MA. This event is coming up in just a few short weeks on December 2-4, and we have put together what we think is an excellent program that focuses on the present and future of cemetery management, and should offer some great information to all cemeterians. I would encourage anyone who is able to attend. This event offers the truly unique opportunity for you to connect with other cemeterians that face the same challenges you face, to discuss these challenges and practical solutions in a meaningful way, and ultimately, be more prepared to do your job. The deadline to register and secure your rooms is less than 2 weeks away, so please complete and return your registration form, and call to reserve your room today! Please contact Dan Krueger (necal902@gmail.com) or myself (greg@riverbendcemetery.org) with any questions you might have. Thank you!



**New England Cemetery Association
2024 Frederick R. Laffond
Cemetery Management Seminar
December 2 – December 4**



The Publick House

**277 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
508-347-3313**

Featured Speakers: ***Barbara Kemmis from CANA***
 Marc Lamb from PlotBox
 Tom Daly from Cemetery Helpful Solutions
 Stephen Chiavaroli from GZA GeoEnvironmental
 Robert Baker from Matthews Cemetery Products
 Todd Mannix from Cooperative Funeral Fund
 Matthew Largess from Largess Forestry

***Call the hotel to reserve your room today.
We hope to see everyone there for an amazing event!***

CALLING ALL ACTIVE NECA MEMBERS!!!

Have you ever considered serving on the Board of Directors of
The New England Cemetery Association?

If so, now is your chance to let us know if you are interested in
getting involved in the future!

Please contact Nominations Chair

Immediate Past President: David Boyle

DBoyle@townofchelmsford.us

NECA Membership Benefits

Professional Recognition—Shared Knowledge—Answers to Questions

Broader Access to Resources

Industry Links to Vendors & Cemeterians

Added Value to your Board of Trustees & Cemetery Associations

Opens Doors to National & International Cemetery Associations

Know a New England Cemeterian who isn't a NECA member?

*Have them get in touch with Mary Anne Hawthorne NECA Membership
Chair—send her an email at mhawthorne@cedarhillcemetery.org*

PLEASE NOTE: Based on feedback from our members, the NECA Board of Directors made a change to member benefits. A member who is unable to attend either the Laffond Seminar or Summer Conference may send another individual from the cemetery in their place, without incurring the non-member fees.

State Associations News



New Hampshire Cemetery Association

NH Cemetery Association (NHCA) <https://www.nhcemetery.org/>

New Hampshire Cemetery Association (NHCA) News. October 2024

The Association held its annual fall meeting on October 8th at The Derryfield in Manchester, NH . 57 members and 20 guests & sponsors heard presentations by Ashley Miller, NH State Archives, and Julie Thibault, NH Funeral Directors Association president. There was also a panel for Q &A hosted by different types of NH cemeteries.

Outgoing NHCA directors,

Doug Beach & Joyce Keegal, were thanked for their many years of service.

Three new NHCA directors were elected: Lauren Hargrave (Boscawen), Kevin Woods (Raymond), and Pat Delisle (Amherst).

NHCA's membership is currently at 177, a record high in the NHCA's 51 year history.

NH legislation update:

NH House Bill1324 - Title: relative to green burials and authorizing the natural organic reduction of human remains.

Interim Study Report: Not Recommended for Future Legislation (Vote 11-0)

<https://www.nhcemetery.org/>
nhcemetery@gmail.com

OTHER NEWS

October 30, Bermuda

Craig S. Neal

Regional Vice-President, New England/Metro NY

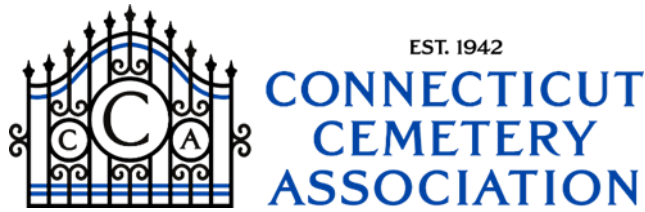
The Wilbert Group.

Dale J Fiore

General Manager, Evergreen Cemetery and Crematory, New Haven, CT.

Visited Bermuda to observe above ground burial practices, play some golf and enjoy time on the pink sandy beaches of Horseshoe bay.





Connecticut Cemetery Association Holds Annual Meeting Welcomes New Leadership and Highlights Insurance Best Practices

On October 15th, the Connecticut Cemetery Association (CCA) hosted its annual meeting at Casa Mia Restaurant in Berlin, Connecticut. The event brought together over 80 CCA members and suppliers who enjoyed a breakfast buffet before diving into the business of the day.

The meeting began with a review of the CCA's accomplishments over the past year and culminated in the election of new officers for the 2024-2025 term. Members approved the following slate of officers:

- **William Raffone**, President – Catholic Cemetery Association, Archdiocese of Hartford, CT
- **Pamela Brown**, Vice President – Hillside Cemetery, Wilton, CT
- **Anthony Puglisi**, Treasurer – Evergreen Cemetery, New Haven, CT
- **Jacob Jennings**, Secretary – Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven, CT

Following the election, Brennan Regan of The Regan Agency led an engaging and informative program on the importance of insurance best practices for cemeteries. His insights on risk management, policy updates, and coverage needs were especially timely, as many attendees realized the necessity of re-evaluating their insurance policies to better protect their grounds and services. The presentation left a lasting impact, with many members sharing how valuable they found the information and discussing ways to implement Regan's advice.



Hillside Cemetery Achieves Prestigious Arboretum Status from ArbNet

Wilton, CT- Hillside Cemetery is proud to announce that it has achieved Level I Arboretum Accreditation from ArbNet, the global initiative that fosters the establishment and development of tree-focused gardens and arboreta. This recognition highlights Hillside Cemetery's dedication to cultivating a diverse and sustainable urban forest that enhances the natural beauty and ecological value of the community.

ArbNet is the only international program dedicated to supporting the work of arboreta. Hillside Cemetery's accreditation underscores its commitment to maintaining high standards of excellence in tree care, conservation, and education. The accreditation process evaluates an arboretum's policies, practices, and demonstrated efforts to advance the institution's mission.

"Achieving Arboretum status is a significant milestone for Hillside Cemetery," said Pam Brown, Executive Administrator of Hillside Cemetery. **"This recognition from ArbNet validates our efforts to create a serene, green space that not only serves as a final resting place but also as a living museum of trees and plants for the community to enjoy and learn from."**

Hillside Cemetery's journey to achieving Arboretum status was greatly supported by the expertise of NECA supplier member Davey Tree, with guidance from arborists Doak Marasco and Carter Peck. Their invaluable advice throughout the application process ensured Hillside met the rigorous standards required by ArbNet. Davey Tree also provided essential care by pruning, trimming, and conducting preventative maintenance on several trees, promoting their long-term health and enhancing the overall landscape. This partnership played a crucial role in bringing the Hillside Cemetery Arboretum vision to life for the enjoyment and education of the community.

The Hillside Cemetery Arboretum is home to over 27 species of trees, including rare and endangered varieties. Over 165 trees have been catalogued, 60 of which will be labeled with their common name and botanical name. The cemetery plans to provide educational signage, guided tours, and community events focused on tree care, environmental conservation, and the importance of biodiversity.

"We are thrilled to join the ranks of accredited arboreta around the world," said Brown **"Our team has worked hard to enhance the landscape with a variety of trees that are both beautiful and beneficial to the local ecosystem. This designation is a testament to our dedication to environmental stewardship and public education."**

As part of its ongoing commitment to excellence, Hillside Cemetery will continue to expand its tree collection and educational programs. Future plans include partnerships with local volunteer groups, environmental organizations, and horticultural societies to promote the benefits of urban forestry and inspire future generations to value and protect the natural world.

For more information about Hillside Cemetery and its arboretum, please **visit www.hillsidecemeterywilton.org** or contact **Pam Brown at cemetery@wiltoncongregational.org**.

About Hillside Cemetery: Hillside Cemetery, established in 1818, is a non-sectarian cemetery located in Wilton, CT. Spanning over 26 acres, it is dedicated to providing a peaceful and respectful final resting place for all while promoting environmental sustainability through its diverse tree collection and educational initiatives.

About ArbNet: ArbNet is an international initiative to support the work of arboreta in their tree-focused missions. Through ArbNet, arboreta of all sizes and types are able to share information, collaborate on projects, and enhance their collective impact in advancing the planting, studying, and conservation of trees.

SAVE THE DATE



2025 N.E.C.A. ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

JUNE 16-18

LOCATION: PROVIDENCE MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

SPEAKERS ALREADY SCHEDULED TO ATTEND:

JEFF MCMANUS (KEYNOTE)

DIRECTOR OF LANDSCAPE SERVICES

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

ASHLYNN RICKORD WERNER

REGIONAL CSM LEAD

PLOTBOX

HAYDEN BURRUS

PRINCIPAL/ACTUARY

HB ACTUARIAL

