



Wildwood Cemetery News

Dear Members of the Wildwood Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the change of season. Wildwood is beautiful at all times of year but the dramatic colors of the autumn foliage are particularly arresting.

It was another busy summer at Wildwood. The Conlon Memorial Garden, now in its third year, has filled out beautifully and its floral bounty has attracted large numbers of pollinators, just as we hoped it would! The 'younger' front entrance garden is coming into its own and is the perfect setting for our first public art installation: Matt Mitchel's sculpture "Touch," which was placed there this August. If you haven't yet come to see and touch it, I hope you will soon.

Though the gardens will soon be settling in for their winter slumber, the woods, trails, and birds of Wildwood still beckon. Taking a walk in our beautiful grounds can bring great pleasure at any time of year.

Big thanks to Rebecca and Silas for all they do. And many thanks to all of you in our Wildwood community for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Nordstrom
President, Board of Trustees

Fall Public Programming

Last year's public programming was so much fun, and so well attended, we planned a full calendar of events for this fall including our now annual **Bagpipe Stroll** for fall solstice, a **Death Cafe**, a UMass lecture on **Frederick Law Olmsted** by Ethan Carr, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, a talk about **Ray Stannard Baker's Secret Identity** given by Nick Grabbe, and a UMass talk **The Man Who Loved Trees, the Life and Legacy of Frank A. Waugh** by Annaliese Bischoff, Professor Emerita of Landscape Architecture.

Still to come:

Tuesday, December 4, 7 PM Taelore Marsh, from the Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive - **Memory Work: Giving Agency to the Silent**

Sunday December 21 - 4 PM Winter Solstice **Candle Light Stroll or Sit** with Hot Chocolate and Cookies

Check out wildwood-cemetery.com for all event details and updates

News you've been waiting for...
The Maintenance Center is finished and we've started using it!

General Manager Report

This year has been very busy with several major projects and many lot sales and burials. Grounds Superintendent, Silas Ball and I juggle many different responsibilities and it takes effort to track our progress, but I find summarizing our work very gratifying even though the to-do list keeps growing.

General Manager, My time is split between working with families and funeral homes to plan burials, selling lots to people who are preplanning, uploading monument records to our database, designing programming, seeking grants, fundraising for projects and in addition to all of this, laying out and mapping new lots. This summer I laid out almost 1000 lots in the far Eastern section of the cemetery. It was very strenuous work, but also very satisfying knowing Wildwood will have graves to offer people for many years to come.

Many thanks to all the lot owners and friends who gave generously last year and this spring. And a special thanks to the Lorber, Morse Wilson and Conlon families for their gifts which funded this year's garden and preservation work and thanks to the Ratner and Lorber families for their restricted gifts which made this summer's sculpture installation possible.

Grounds Superintendent Besides the normal mowing, leaf raking and burial duties, Silas Ball and his assistant Paul Boucher continue to work on road drainage and tree care. This spring, summer and fall they planted and then watered the new bushes and trees.

Thanks to Silas's skills, a lot of time is spent on equipment maintenance and repair and he continues to be instrumental in helping with the Maintenance Center site work. If you see Silas or Paul out working, stop and say hello and let them know how much you appreciate the care they are taking with the groundskeeping.

Public Art at Wildwood Cemetery We installed our first public sculpture at the front entrance. **Touch** by Matt Mitchell is meant to be enjoyed by all. Please come and enjoy the sculpture. We're hoping over time to have more public pieces for our visitors' enjoyment. The photo on the front is of the artist's reception for **Touch**.

Thank you to Sugarloaf Gardens and Dan Ziomek. Dan helped us plan the newly cleared business drive and the last phase of the Front Entrance Garden.

Brick and Mortar work on the Dickinson Farmhouse. Our Town of Amherst Community Preservation grant almost completely funded our brick and mortar project. The work took longer than anyone expected, but we all know patience is necessary for big projects. In the spring we will work on upgrading our landscaping and our window hardware. We are very grateful to the Town for its support.

Upcoming major projects include: completing the arboretum application, installing road signs and paving our entrance ways.

*Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Fricke,
General Manager*

Looking to honor your friends and loved ones?

New opportunity! Join the Wildwood Garden Work Crew - donate one hour or a season of hours! No experience necessary. Contact the office to find out more.

Memorial Library - We continue to accept books, music and artwork for our library shelves.

Or check out our website to see the different ways you can donate in honor of a loved one or friend.