

The Legacy

East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

February, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 5

2008—A Year of Change and Challenge

What newly elected President Bracy Lewis did not know when he accepted his new role in April 2008 was that this would be one of the most challenging years for the Foundation.

In May the Cities of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights notified us that they would no longer be able to continue to assist the Foundation with grounds maintenance. Both did agree to help us get through the Spring clean up so that we were ready for Memorial Day; the City of Cleveland assisted with picking up the leaves we raked and piled by the side of the drive and Cleveland Heights mowed the grounds.

Grounds maintenance equipment was needed and we needed a place to store the equipment. A shed was donated by one of the Trustee's and the equipment necessary to maintain the grounds was purchased with Foundation monies. And then the rains began and it rained and the grass grew and then it rained some more and the grass grew even more. But despite it all we kept up.

We were feeling so good about what we were accomplishing that we began tearing out the brick walkway and patio area behind the chapel to relay it.

No one told Bracy that 2008 would be the year a hurricane would hit Cleveland.

But Hurricane Ike did come to town and struck the cemetery a forceful blow. Trees were down all over the grounds and we were closed for a week due to safety concerns. Fortunately there was minimal damage to the headstones and no damage to the chapel.

We buckled down again to get the grounds back in shape and in October and November we even planted the garden in the lot next to the chapel just outside the cemetery gates along East 118th.

This was a year that was filled with such great strides forward despite the fact they did not come easy, but we all sit back now and appreciate all the assistance we received from you our loyal supporters and from the many volunteers that will be highlighted in this issue of *The Legacy*.

Thank you one and all!



Cemetery grounds blanketed in leaves—Fall 2008

Memorial Day—2008

We have a tradition at East Cleveland Township Cemetery that began in 2004 of placing flags on the graves of each of our 433 Veteran graves. When we began in 2004 the group consisted of two Trustees and a Boy Scout Troup. It took us nearly all day that first year to get the graves all marked but we accomplished our goal.

That same Boy Scout Troup continues to come out each year to assist and we have been joined by many other people as well. There are generally between 25 and 35 people placing flags on the Veteran's graves and it only takes us a couple hours now.

After placing the flags, we spend time remembering our Veterans, what they did for us and celebrating their lives. Each year we follow the placement of the flags on the Veteran graves with a cookout hosted by the Foundation.

If you would like to join us this year, we will again be placing flags on the Veteran graves followed by a cookout on Saturday, May 23rd starting at 10 AM.

We look forward to seeing you then.



Grounds Maintenance—A New Challenge

The first of June Trustees Wayne Rhine and then Nancy West (Nancy got married in August and is now Nancy Adams) and their respective spouses began the search for the grounds maintenance equipment needed to take over mowing and trimming the cemetery grounds. A riding mower was purchased along with a cart that attaches to the back of the riding mower.

We purchased another push mower as the two used mowers that had been previously donated were on their last wheels.



Riding mower being unloaded and getting its first of many fill-ups.



We purchased trimmers that added to our compliment of leaf blowers. And the donated shed got a coat of stain.

Then we began the challenge of learning how to mow and trim the cemetery grounds most effectively.

We pruned all the bushes in the cemetery and even began pruning the trees with what we fondly call our chain saw on a stick.

Foundation President Bracy Lewis wanted to make certain the mower worked properly.

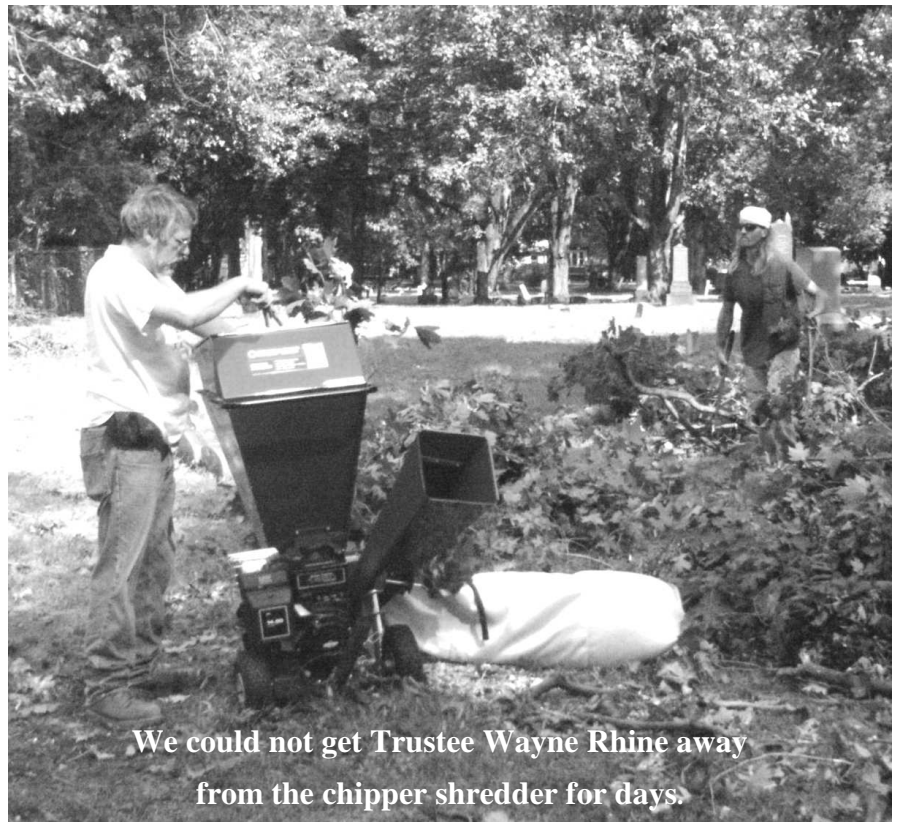


MTD Products, Inc.—Donation to Cemetery

MTD Products, Inc., the manufacturer of Cub Cadet, Troy-Bilt and many other name brand grounds and lawn maintenance equipment donated to the cemetery a chipper shredder.

This wonderful piece of machinery was quickly put to good use in shredding all the branches we either pruned or picked up from the cemetery grounds. The mulch it created was spread around the cemetery along the fence line to help control the weeds.

*Thanks so much to
MTD Products, Inc.!*



We could not get Trustee Wayne Rhine away from the chipper shredder for days.

Tree Stumps Removed

Those who have visited the cemetery over the past couple years may remember the large tree that fell over two years ago. With the assistance with several of the Court Community Service people the stump of that tree was dug out. The picture to the right is what was left of the tree stump. That stump has been removed and the ground now leveled.



We also rented a stump grinder to remove a number of other tree stumps throughout the cemetery, along with the large tree stump that was at the top of the

stairs behind the chapel area. David Adams, Wayne Rhine and Jeff Rhine worked very hard all day to get the numerous stumps throughout the cemetery ground out.



Chapel Patio and Walkway Renovation

Bracy Lewis has often said that Dave Adams, the new spouse of Trustee Nancy (West) Adams did not know that he was marrying into the cemetery. However, Dave and Nancy's first date was at the cemetery. So when Dave told Trustee Wayne Rhine and Nancy that he wanted to relay the chapel's patio, they both eagerly

said "Go for it".

Go for it, Dave has done with assistance from Steve Adams and Jeff Rhine. It took a lot of work to remove the old bricks, dig down to build up a proper foundation for the bricks to be relayed, and the removal of the stump at the top of the stairs. But the hard

work and planning is paying off. The pictures below document the work that has occurred to date and will be completed this Spring.

Please see the enclosed brochure on how you can remember your family and/or loved ones by purchasing an engraved block that can be set in the patio area of the chapel.



Hurricane Ike Strikes a Blow at the Cemetery

On Sunday, September 14th we had a very productive day working at the cemetery. We had spent the day pruning trees and picking up twigs and other small branches; then grinding up the branches with the chipper shredder donated by MTD Products, Inc. We left the cemetery and all of us felt very proud of the way the grounds were looking as there was not a branch or twig on the ground.

On Monday, September 15th we received a call from University Circle Police stating that a tree was down and blocking the entrance to the cemetery.

When we got to the cemetery we realized it was not just one tree down but six or seven. Wayne Rhine scaled the fence to determine the extent of the damage and took photographs to document what had occurred.

Due to safety concerns the cemetery was closed for a little over a week. Ardmore Tree Service who has done extensive pro bono work in the cemetery came to our rescue and brought down the balance of the trees so that it was once again safe to enter the cemetery. Not sure what we would do without great organizations like Ardmore Tree Service.

**Special thanks goes to
Mark and his crew!**



Monuments Reach for the Sky Again—Thanks Dave !!!

Dave Onderdonk and his wife came to visit the cemetery this past summer looking for family. What Dave did not know when he made his initial visit to the cemetery was that the cemetery would grab hold of his heart and call him back.

Dave did come back with his son Dan and his tractor. Dave and Wayne Rhine have been working together raising the fallen monuments back to their up-right position.

Some of the monuments weigh so much, one estimated at over 1,500 lbs. that a group of volunteers and Court Community Service workers would need to stand on the back of the tractor to allow it to be lifted high enough to get it back on its base.

We were excited about all the monuments we were able to raise because of Dave's generosity but the one that had all of us extremely excited, but Wayne Rhine most of all, was the raising of the McIlrath ball back on the top of the monument. It was Dan Onderdunk that came up with the plan on how to make it happen.



Dan Onderdunk provides guidance in the picture below on how to get the ball back on top of the McIlrath monument.



Northeast Ohio GeoCachers Come to Rake Leaves

It was early summer at the cemetery, Wayne Rhine and Nancy Adams were out cleaning up the grounds of the cemetery when a car pulled in and stopped. The two men that got out looked like they were trying to find a family member and needed some assistance. So in true ECTC fashion Nancy and Wayne went to offer assistance. What they found was that the cemetery has been a site where a cache has been hidden for several years. Wayne had heard of the GeoCaching and Nancy was intrigued and wanted to hear more.

What started out as an educational experience for Nancy and an opportunity for Wayne to hear about the cache in the cemetery turned into



a volunteer event like none other at the cemetery. The Northeast Ohio GeoCachers coordinated a *Cache In Trash Out* event that included a leaf raking event and pot luck lunch. There were at least 30 geocachers that arrived at the cemetery about 10 AM on Sunday, November 9 and they worked harder than we could ever imagined possible. You can see additional pictures on their website at:

<http://www.geocaching.com/cito/gallery.aspx>. It was absolutely amazing what was accomplished in a few short hours. **Thank you Everyone!!!**

Special thanks to Maggie and Michael for coordinating the event. We look forward to seeing you again in the Spring!



Garden Project Will Be Completed in Spring 2009

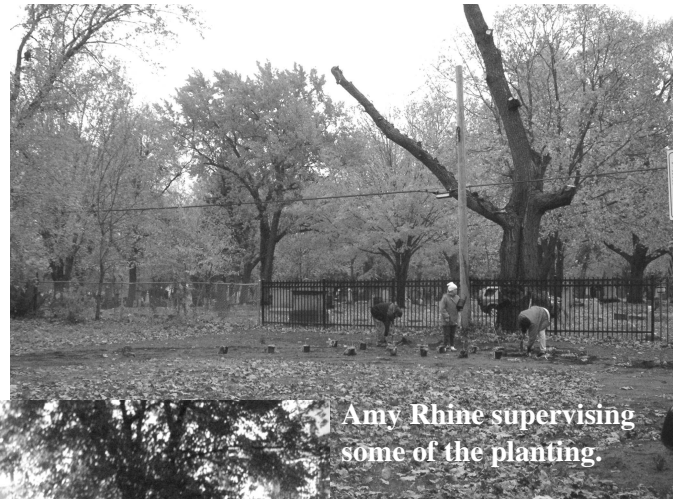
The garden project that was started on the vacant lot as you enter the cemetery got a kick start this year and was almost completed before the snow flew. Jim McKnight of McKnight Associates LTD donated their services to create a garden that met the Foundation's request to modify and down scale the original plan to allow for it to be easily managed.

Nancy Adams took the lead and we leveled the ground, spread another 35 yards of top soil, planted 70 hostas, 25 spireas, 300 daffodil bulbs, 350 vinca minor (periwinkle), boxwood bushes line the driveway by the main gates, 25 Yews are surrounding the Sycamore and along the property line, a Spruce tree was planted to name a few and in the Spring we will plant two Flowering Dogwood trees, a Pin Oak along with 5 Lilac bushes. Once the final planting occurs we will spread mulch to complete the transformation.

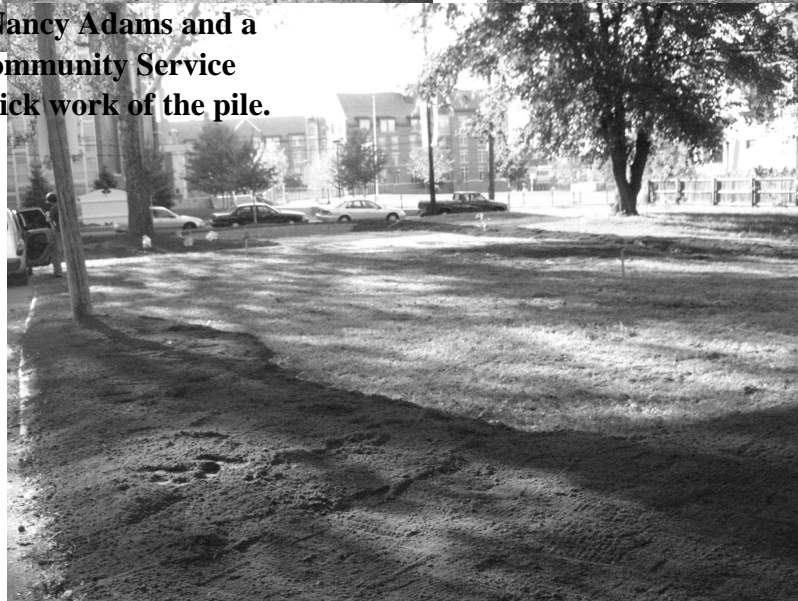
All of the costs of the garden have been funded by Neighborhood Connections, a small grant program through the Cleveland Foundation. Stop by in the Spring to see it bloom!



All the top soil was moved by hand to the flower beds. Nancy Adams and a group of Court Community Service workers' made quick work of the pile.



Amy Rhine supervising some of the planting.



East Cleveland Township Cemetery Gets a Sign

ECTCF decided that it was long past time to have a sign marking its entrance off East 118th. We are so proud of our sign. **Special thanks to F. Buddie Contracting, Ltd for assistance with the sign installation.**



2009 Calendar of Events

Memorial Day, Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 AM

ECTCF will host our 6th annual tradition of placing flags on the graves of the 434 veterans in the cemetery. The activity begins at 10:00 AM and takes only a couple hours to complete. We invite those assisting to join us for hamburgers and hot dogs after we complete the placement of the flags. This time is used to remember and honor our veterans. For those who have assisted in the past, we added one more veteran to the list this year. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 216-536-7432.

150th Anniversary Celebration—August 28th, 29th and 30th

Please mark your calendars in anticipation of the 150th anniversary celebration weekend at the cemetery. More information will follow as we finalize the calendar of events.



Your assistance would
be greatly appreciated !!

In these economic times we know everyone is struggling and the cemetery is no different. We hope that you will be able to continue to assist us with your financial support to help defray the costs of maintaining and continuing to renovate the cemetery grounds. No donation is too small and all is much appreciated. Thank you for your on-going support.



Trustees/Officers

Allen H. Ford
Chairman
Bracy E. Lewis
President
Nancy L. Adams
Vice President & Secretary
William L. Garrison
Vice President & Treasurer
Nancy Slocum Callahan
Trustee
William J. Culbertson
Trustee
Murray M. Davidson
Trustee
Roy G. Harley
Trustee
Kathleen M. Lambacher
Trustee
J. Wayne Rhine
Trustee

The mission of the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation is to own and maintain the East Cleveland Township Cemetery as a historic landmark, to restore, preserve and share the cemetery's pioneer Victorian heritage and to build a solid financial foundation for the cemetery's future.

It's vision is to own, renovate and maintain an abandoned historic pioneer cemetery and to relieve the previous public owners of their need to use public resources critically needed for the general welfare of its people. The East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation will strive to set an exemplary example of community leadership and responsibility to turn a community blight into a community light.

East Cleveland
Township Cemetery
Foundation

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We're On the Web!

www.ectcf.org
