

OCA Journal

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Publication of the Ohio Cemetery Association

President's Message

Dear Members of the Ohio Cemetery Association,

Summer. Whether you love it (like I do) or hate it, we are firmly in it's unpredictable and sometimes uncomfortable embrace. This is, however, the time of year that I encourage each of you to take a moment amidst the busy season to appreciate the beauty of our cemeteries. Whether it's the meticulous upkeep of grounds, the compassionate guidance provided to families, or the innovative approaches to cemetery management, your contributions are truly invaluable



Paul O'Brien
President

As we welcome the warmth of another Ohio summer, I am filled with immense gratitude for each of you who contribute to our community. The Ohio Cemetery Association thrives because of your dedication and passion for preserving our heritage and honoring those who have gone before us.

To help you continue your mission, I would like to invite you all to the Ohio Cemetery Association's annual convention. This year's convention will be held August 5, 6, and 7. With everything from a golf outing, to amazing learning opportunities, and a field day, this year's event will be a must for cemeterians from across the state.

Let us continue to support one another, share our knowledge, and inspire future generations to uphold the highest standards in cemetery care.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Ohio Cemetery Association.

Regards,
Paul O'Brien, Oak Hill Cemetery
President, Ohio Cemetery Association

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Eshelle L. Bales

Owner, Funeral Home And Preble Memory Gardens Cemetery Manager. West Alexandria, Ohio . Her husband is Derek Bales.

Caring For Your Cemetery In The Heat Of The Summer

Like many of you, Lake View Cemetery has been battling the heat and the drought all summer long. As a level 2 arboretum covered with many different species of trees, shrubs and flowers, hydration is of paramount importance to the health and wellness of our plant life.

Kevin McNallie, Arboretum Director at Lake View, shared his thoughts on the struggles, priorities and best practices for plant life care during the heat of the summer.



“We have nearly 300 grave beds planted with annuals, along with numerous annual display beds and planters. In addition, we water newly planted trees and shrubs, beginning with the most recently planted and going back for 1-2 years where necessary; nearly 150 individual woody plants, mostly trees. Water sources are spread throughout the cemetery’s 285 acres. Most of our watering is done with water tanks placed in the beds of, or hauled by, gators. With a relatively small horticulture crew, we have spent much of our available hours watering this year. Of course, this leaves us with fewer available hours to work on other horticultural tasks. We obviously can’t provide water to all our woody and herbaceous plants so prioritizing is extremely important. Recently planted plants require additional water more than established plants – their roots are confined to the soil/media in which they were grown, whether grown in a container or ball and burlap.

Caring for Your Cemetery in the Summer continued from page 2.

Make sure staff understand the importance of proper watering techniques! Especially how much water to give each bed/plant. It's better to water infrequently and deeply than to water frequently and shallowly. If bed surfaces have become hard and impermeable, break up the bed a bit with a soil knife or other tool before watering so that applied water doesn't simply run off the bed. Train staff to look for water stressed plants, insect/disease issues, weeds, required dead-heading, etc. while watering. And report back on unresolved or important issues!

We use a rain gauge to determine how much natural rainfall we receive. Especially in the summer, storms are often localized and the local weather station may receive considerable rainfall while the cemetery may receive little or none. Make sure enough time is provided to water everything on your list, especially if you water at the end of the week. It's distressing to realize at 4pm on a Friday that you still have a considerable number of plants that require watering. That said, when possible, it's best to water earlier in the week. When we have a summer like this, make watering the highest horticultural priority!!"

It is important for cemeteries to recognize the change in our climate when we are considering what plant material we are installing, what equipment we are purchasing and how much staff we need to properly care for our grounds. Enjoy the rest of summer and happy watering!

Article submitted by: Andrew Bales,
Lake View Cemetery
OCA Board Member

A green rectangular banner with white text. The text reads "DEATHCARESEO.COM" in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, sans-serif font, is the tagline "Digital Marketing for Cemeteries and Funeral Homes".

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Cemetery Spotlight



**OCA ANNUAL CONVENTION
GOLF OUTING AT SHARON WOODS
FIELD DAY AT SPRING GROVE CEMETERY
AUGUST 5 – 6 – 7 2024**

**THIS ISSUE OF THE OCA JOURNAL CONTAINS ADS
HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF THE SUPPLIERS THAT WILL BE
EXHIBITING AT THE CONVENTION**

SEE YOU IN BLUE ASH

Annual Convention Agenda continued from page 5.

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Update From Sedgwick

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