

OUR MISSION

Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation is committed to preserving, protecting and promoting in perpetuity the art, culture, history and natural beauty of Hartford's nationally-recognized Cedar Hill Cemetery. As advocates of one of America's most distinguished rural cemeteries, Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation serves to provide an unexpected experience to all who visit. Through continuous restoration and preservation of Cedar Hill's grounds, and through fundraising efforts, the Foundation actively ensures that the stories of history, nature and culture at Cedar Hill Cemetery are, and remain to be, alive and well.



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Jacob Weidenmann & Cedar Hill Cemetery

You are cordially invited to **Jacob Weidenmann & Cedar Hill Cemetery** on Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm. The program will feature historical actor Jason Scappaticci as Jacob Weidenmann, the landscape architect who designed Cedar Hill. Weidenmann, as portrayed by



Jason Scappaticci
(Photo by Jeffrey Dutton)

Jason, will share details of his life and the early history of Cedar Hill.

Hired in August 1865, Weidenmann oversaw the vast improvements needed to prepare Cedar Hill's grounds. This included preparing maps and plans;

draining the grounds; laying out sections; building avenues; planting trees and shrubs; and constructing the receiving

tomb. An average gang of 82 laborers and 14 horse carts and ox teams were employed every day up to November 1866 to complete the work.

Cedar Hill began offering lots to the public on July 16, 1866. A July 24th article in the *Hartford Courant* noted "All the lots, with but few exceptions, on the eastern slope of Sections 1 and 2 – some fifty or sixty in number – are secured, but in Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, may be found some very desirable lots, fully equal, in the opinion of many, to either of the first two sections."

Following Jason's presentation, Foundation Director Beverly Lucas will lead guests on an abbreviated tour of the memorial grounds. This new tour will focus on early monuments that enhanced the cemetery's landscape as designed by Weidenmann. From the Beach, Colt and Brownell monuments that grace the hill of Section 2 to other memorial stones erected in the 1860s, the tour will showcase Cedar Hill's early years.



Brownell Monument
(Photo by Jeffrey Dutton)

Jason Scappaticci has performed numerous times at Cedar Hill. A popular actor in our Lantern Tour, Jason has depicted Allen Ormsbee, a hiker who perished on Mt. Washington and Charles K. Hamilton, a celebrated barnstormer. Jason developed his portrayal of Jacob

Weidenmann as part of Cedar Hill's 150th celebration.

Admission to **Jacob Weidenmann & Cedar Hill Cemetery** is \$10 & \$8 for Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation members.

Contact Beverly Lucas at (860) 956-3311 or blucas@cedarhillcemetery.org for more information or to register for the event.

CONNECTIONS

Discover Jacob Weidenmann's Hartford

Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation is pleased to present **Discover Jacob Weidenmann's Hartford**, a series of programs highlighting the landscape architect's significant contribution to the city of Hartford. The four-part series, a collaboration with Bushnell Park Foundation, includes a panel discussion and guided tour experiences of several Weidenmann landscapes.



Bushnell Park, Hartford

Jacob Weidenmann was one of the leading landscape architects of the 19th century. After emigrating to the U. S., he quickly gained a reputation for excellent design and brilliant solutions to complex engineering and architectural challenges. An innovator in the field, Weidenmann designed Hartford's Bushnell Park and Cedar Hill Cemetery.

On **April 23**, panelists Don Poland, John Alexopolous and moderator Frank Hagaman will provide historical context for Weidenmann's capitol city projects. The discussion will reflect upon influences, such as Hartford's rapid growth and industrialization, which shaped the desire to "landscape" the city.

Weidenmann's work in Hartford began in 1860 when he accepted the position of Park Superintendent with the purpose of laying out what would become Bushnell

Park. On **May 7**, Don Poland will lead a tour of Bushnell Park focused on its historic development as well as highlighting important architectural features. Following the tour, participants are invited to visit the Butler-McCook Garden and enjoy a reception in this Weidenmann-designed oasis.

On **May 16**, John Kehoe will lead a tour of the Institute of Living's renowned tree collection, which has been described as "within a relatively small space, perhaps the greatest concentration of historic trees in Connecticut." Although Frederick Law Olmsted designed the grounds of the Institute of Living in 1861, Weidenmann executed the project.

The series concludes on **May 21** at Cedar Hill. Actor Jason Scappaticci as Jacob Weidenmann will engage participants with his portrayal of the landscape architect. Foundation Director Beverly Lucas will also lead a tour which focuses on the early history of the cemetery.

Panel - Weidenmann's Hartford

April 23, 5:30pm reception, 6:00pm lecture
Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street
Admission: Free

Bushnell Park Tour & Butler-McCook Garden Reception

May 7, 6:00 pm; Meet at the Memorial Arch
Admission: \$20; Members \$16

Institute of Living - Tree Walk

May 16, 10:00 am; 200 Retreat Avenue
Admission: \$10; Members \$8

Cedar Hill Presentation & Tour

May 21, 6:00 pm
Admission: \$10; Members \$8

Discount - 3 Tours: \$35; Members \$28 plus
a free copy of Rudy J. Favretti, *Jacob Weidenmann Pioneer Landscape Architect*

Upcoming Tours & Events

Feathered Friends Walk

Saturday, May 9, 6:30 am

Tree Buffs Tour

Saturday, June 6, 10:00 am

Butterfly Hunt

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 am

What a Way to Go!

Saturday, June 27, 10:00 am

Notable Physicians of Cedar Hill

Saturday, July 11, 10:00 am

When Johnny Comes Marching Home

Saturday, July 18, 10:00 am

Music Among the Memorials

Friday, July 24, 6:00 pm (Rain Date: July 25)

Mark Twain's Companions & Cohorts

Saturday, July 25, 10:00 am

Dreams & Spirit Communications

Wednesday, August 5, 6:00 pm

Sunset Tour

Thursday, August 13, 6:30 pm

Governors of Connecticut

Saturday, August 15, 10:00 am

Movie Night: Pat and Mike

Friday, August 21, 7:30 pm (Rain Date: August 22)

Hartford Landmarks & Legacies

Saturday, August 29, 10:00 am

Mark Twain's Minister

(Steve Courtney lecture)

Thursday, September 3, 5:30 pm

Mystery Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, September 12, 10:00 am

Swimming Against the Tide in Pin Curls and Crinoline (Susan Campbell lecture)

Thursday, September 17, 5:30 pm

Cedar Hill's Exceptional Women

Saturday, September 26, 10:00 am

The Artists of Cedar Hill

Saturday, October 3, 10:00 am

Hallowed History Lantern Tour

Friday, October 30, 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Save the Date - *Sunset Among the Cedars*

Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation will be hosting the third annual ***Sunset Among the Cedars*** on the grounds of the historic cemetery. A Dinner & Lantern Release, the event will be held on **Friday, June 12** from 6:30 to 10:00 pm.



Greg Zacchio, Holly Alexander, Tony Disorbo & Anne Disorbo enjoy the evening in 2014 (Photo by Alan Grant)

Sunset Among the Cedars is a unique opportunity to experience the nocturnal beauty of Cedar Hill while supporting the Foundation's preservation efforts. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the cemetery serves as a sanctuary for art, history and nature.

At *Sunset Among the Cedars*, guests will enjoy a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres and open bar followed by dinner and dessert overlooking the picturesque Inwood Pond. The evening will feature a silent auction, musical entertainment by the *Street Vipers* and sunset lantern release.

With a donation at the event, guests will be entered into a prize drawing and receive a complementary lantern to release. In Chinese culture, wish lanterns were first used as signaling balloons. Now popular at carnivals and festivals, it is considered good luck to launch a lantern.

Proceeds from *Sunset Among the Cedars* support our vision of ensuring the history and beauty of Cedar Hill are protected for generation after generation.

Individual Ticket at \$150 per person
Early Bird (May 15) at \$125 per person
Young Professional (35 & under) at \$100 per person
Table of Eight at \$900



Lantern Release, 2014 - Board Members Tom Foley & Peter Arborio & Executive Superintendent Bill Griswold prepare to release a lantern. (Photo by Alan Grant)

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities or to reserve tickets, contact Foundation Director Beverly Lucas at (860) 956-3311 or blucas@cedarhillcemetery.org.

Successful 2014 Tours & Events Season

Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation concluded another successful **Tours & Events** season with 2,248 people participating in various activities. In 2014, the Foundation offered 18 public programs and 16 private tours for school and community groups.

A highlight of the year was *Beyond the Gates: Cedar Hill Cemetery Celebrates 150 Years*. An estimated 350 people attended the free event which took place on the grounds of Cedar Hill. *Beyond the Gates* programming illuminated Cedar Hill's rich 19th-century history which shaped the cemetery's park-like memorial grounds and is notably reflected in our landscape and monuments. Costumed dramatizations and musical performances engaged audiences throughout the day.

Cedar Hill was pleased to collaborate with Connecticut Landmarks to present *Victorian Sundays* at the Isham-Terry House. The program featured *The Proper Patient of 1900* and *Dearly Departed: The*



Steve Courtney leads the Mark Twain's Companions & Cohorts tour.

Art of Victorian Mourning. New thematic tours included *From Home Fires to Camp Fires*, *Monuments of James Batterson*, *Streets of Hartford 2* and *What a Way to Go*.

Enthusiastic audiences attended our annual nature programs which include bird, tree and butterfly walks. *Stacy Phillips & Paul Howard* entertained guests at *Music Among the Memorials* and the *7th Annual Mystery Scavenger Hunt* delighted all who participated. And a sold-out crowd again enjoyed the *Haunted History*

Lantern Tour in October.

The Foundation would like to thank our dedicated volunteers for all that they do to bring our programs to life.

Thank you also to our generous funders who enabled Cedar Hill to present its 2014 Tours & Events:

Connecticut Humanities
Ensworth Charitable Foundation
Greater Hartford Arts Council
George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation
Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Trust Fund

The Foundation looks forward to presenting an exciting array of activities in 2015. A brief program listing can be found on page 1 of this newsletter. Our calendar brochure will be published in March -- pick one up at the cemetery. Or visit cedarhillfoundation.org for up-to-date program information.

Foundation Creates Monument Fund

Cedar Hill is one of America's most distinguished rural cemeteries where art, culture, history and nature live in harmonious celebration of the past and where the broad community is invited to become engaged in its preservation efforts.



*Veteran City Guard Eagle
(photo by Jeffrey Dutton)*

To address basic preservation concerns, Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation established a **Monument Fund** to support the care and maintenance of memorials located within the cemetery's historic sections. Created to underwrite small preservation projects, the Monument Fund will support much needed cleaning and minor restoration.

The Foundation's first goal is to raise funds to clean and restore ornamental bronze elements on historic monuments, including several Civil War memorials. Conservator Francis Miller recently examined select monuments at Cedar Hill and prepared condition assessments and treatment proposals. Of those in need of

conservation, the Foundation has identified seven monuments to be the first to be restored with the funds raised.

The monuments -- of Joseph Hawley, Griffin Stedman, Henry A. Perkins, Henry Ward Camp, James Laurie, Thomas H. Seymour and the Veteran City Guard -- each feature bronze elements from medallions to three dimensional sculptures. In most cases the bronze is soiled with evidence of green or black corrosion. Treatment includes washing the bronze, adding artist pigments as needed to even color, and applying a protective coating to inhibit future deterioration.

The Foundation has raised just over **\$5,000** towards the estimated \$7,800 - \$9,875 needed to preserve these seven monuments. To complement the conservation of the bronze elements, the granite monuments will be cleaned by Cemetery staff as an in-kind donation. This work will address soiled areas and biological growth.

Cedar Hill Cemetery boasts monuments made of brownstone, marble, granite, bronze and zinc. Each material requires its own special treatment. We look forward to addressing preservation concerns beyond our collection of small bronze elements in the near future. This includes projects range from stabilizing the zinc monument of Samuel Coit, to cleaning large bronze statues, and completing the final two phases of the Colt Memorial restoration.

It is the Foundation's hope that the new Monument Fund will thrive as our Tree Fund has. The Tree Fund, created to support the care and planting of trees at Cedar Hill, has helped to offset the cost of planting over 75 trees in the past several years.



*Portrait Medallion,
James Laurie Monument
(photo by Jeffrey Dutton)*

To support the **Monument Fund**, you may send contributions to:

Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation
453 Fairfield Avenue
Hartford, CT 06114

Donations may be designated for the Monument Fund or for the specific Colt Memorial Restoration Fund. The Colt Fund, which financed the stabilization of the monument base, will support Phases 2 and 3 of the restoration which includes column repair/stabilization and bronze conservation.

In Memoriam

Cedar Hill Cemetery & Foundation is saddened to report the recent death of **Wendell Stephenson**, a valued member of our Board of Directors. A graduate of



Wendell Stephenson, center, with fellow Board members at Cedar Hill's gate dedication.

Trinity College, Wendell served as Executive Director of the National Kidney Foundation of Connecticut and worked as a real estate associate with Wallace Real Estate Company and Century 21 Clemens and Sons.

Active in the community, Wendell served as president of the Trinity Club of Hartford, Chairman of the West Hartford Library Board, Chairman of the West Hartford Town Planning and Zoning Commission, and Board member of the Noah Webster Foundation and the Hartford Conservatory of Music.

Board Chair Todd Mather noted "Wendell

was a faithful Board member for many years and he will be sorely missed. His memory and perspective on many different topics made Wendell a wonderful contributor to meetings on the Board and also during casual conversations. Wendell had many different interests in life and that is why we are so grateful for his time, effort, and dedication he set aside for Cedar Hill. We will miss Wendell's presence not only as a Director but as a friend."

Cedar Hill staff and crew echo the Board's sentiments. Wendell will be missed by all who knew him.