

Old City Cemetery

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter
2012

401 Taylor Street, Lynchburg, Virginia 24501 ~ 434-847-1465 ~ www.gravegarden.org



Notes from the Gravegarden



"Our Earth is degenerate in these later days; there are signs that the world is speedily coming to an end; bribery and corruption are common; children no longer obey their parents; every man wants to write a book and the end of the world is evidently approaching." ~ Ancient tablet

It's the end of the world. Well, at least according to the Maya, it will be on December 21, 2012. Now, I'm not one who believes every apocalyptic cry, especially since there have been so many: from the Assyrian quote above—funny how it seems so relevant almost 5,000 years later—to Halley's Comet, planets aligning, Y2K, the Large Hadron Collider, and poor Harold Camping, I really hadn't thought about the end of days. But that was until this past Christmas, when our Executive Director Bruce Christian snapped the photo on the right, and sent it to me in an email, with the tag, "Christmas Flower."

Yes, everyone, that is a daffodil in full bloom near the entrance of the Cemetery grounds on December 25th, 2011. For those who don't know much about daffodils, they are spring-



blooming flowers. Sometimes they have been known to bloom as early as February, but not December. But come to find out, it's happening everywhere. I did a Google search for "daffodils blooming in December" and it's occurring in Chicago, Milwaukee, Ireland, England, and other colder climates than Virginia. And it isn't just daffodils: people are reporting other spring plants that are on an annual cycle starting to show now

as well, such as cherry trees and forsythia. Which isn't just bad for how pretty it will look this April, but is not good for one important thing that needs these flowers in spring—the bees.

One item that will be in bloom this spring here on the grounds is the roses. We have over 270 antique roses on the grounds, all loved by bees and humans alike. Our oldest variety, *Rosa Mundi*, has survived several end of the world scares (it dates to before 1581) and gives me hope that if something that fragile can make it for so long,

then we will, too.

So enjoy what is left of winter and look forward to spring. And don't think about those Maya anymore. ~ *Dawn Fields Wise*

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From the Director

By Bruce Christian, Executive Director

I was thinking over the past few weeks of how Old City Cemetery operates solely due to contributions. That led me to realize that contributions come in all kinds of forms. Of course, there are the monetary ones which are all the lifeblood to us as an organization. But there are also the contributions from our over 100 volunteers without whom we could not continue doing all we do. As most of you know we also operate through the generosity (contribution) of the City of Lynchburg which contracts with Southern Memorial Association to manage, preserve, and interpret the Cemetery.

Each year we send out over 800 appeal letters to supporters and friends of OCC. While we feel our appeal letter is the best one any organization sends, we also acknowledge our recipients receive many requests for a contribution. So to continue to receive donations both large and small in amount, we recognize each gift is a validation of the good things which are going on here. Without these funds we could not buy plants, create museums, be a venue for visitors, tours, weddings, and events, and provide the programming and functions we do. For every monetary contribution, we are very, very grateful.



Ted Delaney/SMA

The historic Chapel on the Cemetery grounds was funded solely by private donations. It is now the site of many weddings, memorial services, concerts, and other Cemetery programs.

At our annual volunteer reception, Dawn always gives an accounting of how many volunteer hours were contributed by our group of researchers, graveardeners, tombstone repair people, goatherders, office assistants, board members, event helpers, and on and on. It is interesting to realize the total hours equate to basically two full-time positions. In other words we get two extra sets of hands (and backs) for free! For every minute of volunteer contribution, we are very, very grateful.

Under our contract the City of Lynchburg provides funds for most of the salaries/benefits of our three regular full time employees—Ted, Dawn, and Kathy. The City also provides the personnel which handle the maintenance for these 26 acres—no easy task. (Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see an article by our Historic Grounds Supervisor, Laurie Jamerson.) We feel very fortunate to have such a great working partnership with the City. For the generous City of Lynchburg support contribution, we are very, very grateful.

While this time of year seems to be quieter, we are busy completing plans for all we will be doing in 2012. We are planning a different but very exciting program for our 5th Annual Garden Symposium. As well we will be holding a year long photography contest. Details on both events are elsewhere in this issue. Please visit our website www.gravegarden.org to see a full calendar of events.

As always, I cannot close without saying thank you. Simply taking the time to read this newsletter is an indication of your support of the Cemetery and for that we are very, very grateful.

Horticultural Highlights

By Laurie Jamerson
Historic Grounds Supervisor

I always thought it would be fun to have a contest to guess the date of horticulture and nature's "firsts" and "lasts" in the cemetery, from the types of migrating birds spotted, to when we first see honey bees collecting pollen, to which butterflies lackadaisically flutter by, and of course to flowers! Flowering shrubs, flowering trees, flower bulbs; annuals and perennials throughout the four seasons, and of course our famous flowering roses that titivate the brick wall and grounds. In winters past, I have shared a picture of *Pink Summer Snow* blooming in December and noted honey bees in January covering the pickle green blooms of hellebores. As the winter solstice neared and the days grew shorter, darkness greeted both the morning and evening gate keepers again in December, pushing sunrise and sunset closer together. Being the morning gate-keeper, I welcomed the corner street light's muted amber glow, softly breaking through the darkness and barely illuminating headstones past the brick gatehouse and wall. Each crisp morning the slender blades of daffodil bulbs near the child's car seemed to whisper, "spring will soon be here," as I pushed the gates open. In the gray darkness, the flower buds still tightly wrapped in their green coats, taunted my eyes seeking a glimpse of yellow. This fully opened daffodil graced the grounds near the Cemetery entrance, while a fresh wreath lay nearby on the Perry grave on Christmas morning. What a cool contrast of key symbols for winter and spring!



Laurie Jamerson



Various daffodils in bloom in the Cemetery

The antique bulb collection in the Shrub Garden has behaved so far, and as of this writing, nothing is in bloom. On the other hand, several family plots in the 1st and 2nd acres are also showing off their daffodils which you can still enjoy, along with some early lavender and white crocus and snow drops.

Speaking of daffodils in 2011, several groups planted over 3000 daffodils in the Confederate Section, which included donations of labor and bulbs by Louise Dodgion and the United Way Day of Caring volunteers from the Bank of the James and City of Lynchburg Key Leaders. The goal is to have a visual impact in spring with yellow blooms gracing the rows of headstones for all the soldiers. This idea was taken from the glorious view of red-ribboned wreaths on these graves after the Wreaths Across America ceremony, like the one pictured above.

I hope you get a chance to spot some daffodils before they are all gone, and make a point to visit throughout the spring season. We have lots and lots to see!

Four Seasons of the Gravegarden Photography Contest

Whenever I am on the Cemetery grounds, regardless of the weather or season, I usually can spot one or two people taking pictures throughout the day. And on a beautiful warm day with the roses at their peak, the lotus at the pond in bloom for their one moment of glory, or the sugar maples in the Confederate Section looking particularly orange, I can spy a good dozen photographers toting cameras around in various parts of the gravegarden.

Which is why our Historic Grounds Supervisor, Laurie Jamerson, came up with the spectacular idea of having a photography contest at the Cemetery. We have decided to call it “Four Seasons of the Gravegarden,” and entries will consist of four (4) photographs that represent a season: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn. A complete list of entry rules is on the following page and if you, or someone you know, would like an entry form, please email me at dawn@gravegarden.org or call the Cemetery Center at 434-847-1465.

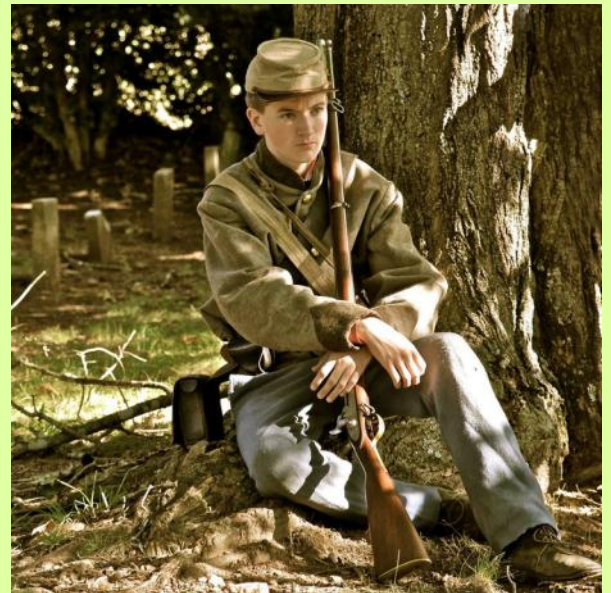
Hope to see you all here taking lots of pictures in 2012! In the meantime, here is a sampling of some great photos our visitors have taken here in the past.



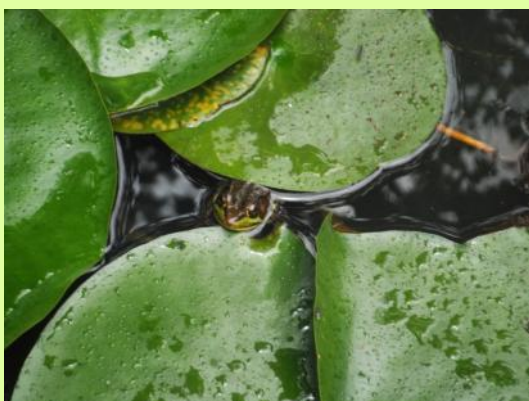
Willow Tree Photography



Ginger Hillsman



LuAnn Hunt



Greg Knopp



Krissy Novak



Chad Valentine

**2012 “FOUR SEASONS OF THE GRAVEGARDEN” PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
ENTRY RULES**

1. All photographs must have been taken between January 1st, 2012 and December 31st, 2012.
2. All photographs must have been taken on the Old City Cemetery grounds, located at 401 Taylor Street, Lynchburg, VA 24501.
3. All entries for the **2012 “Four Seasons of the Gravegarden” Photography Contest** must be received no later than Monday, January 7th, 2013. All entries must be delivered either in person or by mail to the Old City Cemetery Center, located at 401 Taylor Street, Lynchburg, VA 24501. Office hours are 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday (open Sundays ONLY in April, May, September, and October.) Entries will not be accepted during any other times. Cemetery staff will not be responsible for lost or damaged entries that are mailed. Late entries will not be accepted unless in the event of inclement weather. If there is inclement weather, a new entry deadline will be posted on the website at www.gravegarden.org.
4. All entries must consist of a total of no more or no less than four (4) photographs.
5. Each photograph must represent a season: (i.e. one photograph for Spring, one photograph for Summer, one photograph for Autumn and one photograph for Winter.) The photograph(s) may represent the assigned season in any way the photographer wishes to interpret each.
6. All photographs must be mounted together on the same board to best represent the photographer’s interpretation of the “Four Seasons of the Gravegarden.” Each photograph may be any size and do not have to be of equal size. The total size of the submission (board and photographs) must be no larger than 36” x 36”. Matting is optional. No entry shall be framed.
7. A minimal amount of digital altering is allowed. No photograph can include a fabrication of an item that was not in the original photograph. A digital copy of each photograph must accompany each entry.
8. All entries must have an official **2012 “Four Seasons of the Gravegarden” Photography Contest** entry form affixed to the back only of the board. No characteristics to the identity of the photographer shall be on any photograph or on the front of the entry. An official entry form may be obtained by contacting the Cemetery Center office in person at 401 Taylor Street, Lynchburg, VA 24501, online at www.gravegarden.org, or by email at dawn@gravegarden.org.
9. An entry fee of \$25 must accompany each submission. A photographer may enter as many times as he/she wishes. If mailing, please enclose payment (checks only, payable to **Old City Cemetery**) with this form. We will accept cash only in person and if you would like to pay by credit card, you may do so in person or by calling the Cemetery Office, 434-847-1465. No entries will be accepted without payment.
10. Entries will be judged on the following: 33% composition, 33% quality of each photo, and 33% creativity regarding four seasons theme.
11. Photographers of the winning submissions will give the Southern Memorial Association the right to reproduce the photographs on the Cemetery’s website and in a calendar.
12. There will be two main categories, Professional and Amateur. A “Professional” is deemed as anyone who has been paid for his/her services as a photographer, has sold any of his/her work, or has otherwise received payment in the field of photography. Previous contest/show winnings are not considered payment and solely do not consider one a professional.
13. The following prizes will be awarded*:

Best in Show - \$500

Viewer’s Choice - \$100

Each category, Professional and Amateur:

1st place - \$200

2nd place - \$100

3rd place - \$50

**Judges reserve the right not to award all prizes.*

14. For more information or questions regarding the rules and contest, please contact Dawn Fields Wise, 434-847-1465 or dawn@gravegarden.org.

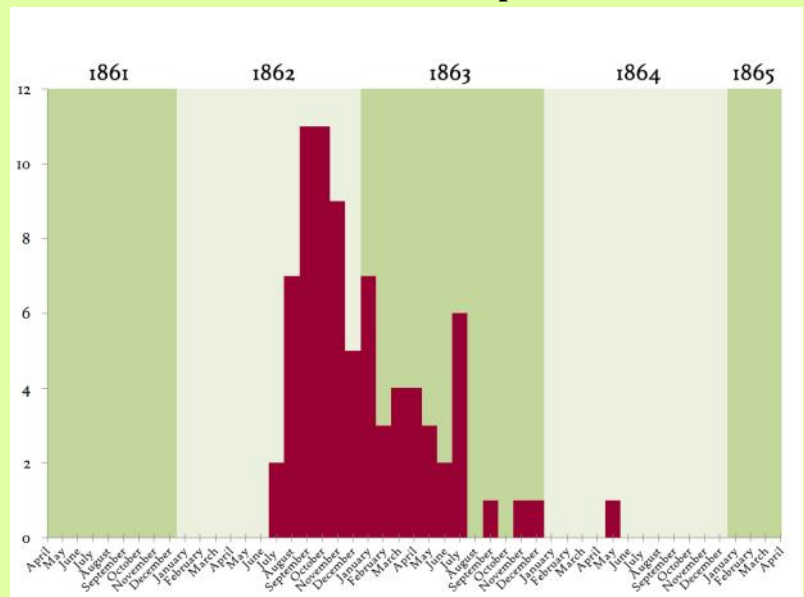
Curator's Corner

By Ted Delaney, Assistant Director

When an old tobacco factory in downtown Lynchburg was demolished in early February after collapsing beyond repair, it was mourned as a death by many residents. They grieved the loss of one of the City's last few buildings directly connected to the Civil War. The structure was built around 1845 and, during the Civil War, was commissioned by the Confederacy for use as a military hospital. Known as "Miller's Factory" or "Miller's Hospital," the building housed hundreds of sick and dying soldiers throughout the war, as well as a small army of doctors, nurses, and slaves.

For us at the Old City Cemetery, the loss of Miller's Hospital had deeper resonance. Local undertaker George A. Diuguid recorded 78 soldiers' deaths at Miller's, most between the fall of 1862 and spring of 1863. Sixty-seven of them were buried in the Confederate Section of Old City Cemetery, where they have rested for 150 years. For those 67 men, it was perhaps more bittersweet than sad to see the place where they spent their last days and hours vanish from sight and be reduced to a pile of dust and debris.

Deaths at Miller's Hospital, 1861–1865





A wall of the 612 Dunbar Drive structure (left) collapsed on January 30th, 2012. This Civil War-era tobacco warehouse was one of many in Lynchburg that found itself pressed into service as a hospital during the war, according to local historians. Only two survived, this building and the current Morris Construction building on 12th Street, which has been refurbished and played host to some historical re-enactments. "You hate to lose something like this," said Doug Harvey, director of the Lynchburg Museum System. "It's a definite loss." Building officials did determine the building needed to be torn down, which was completed on February 8th, 2012.



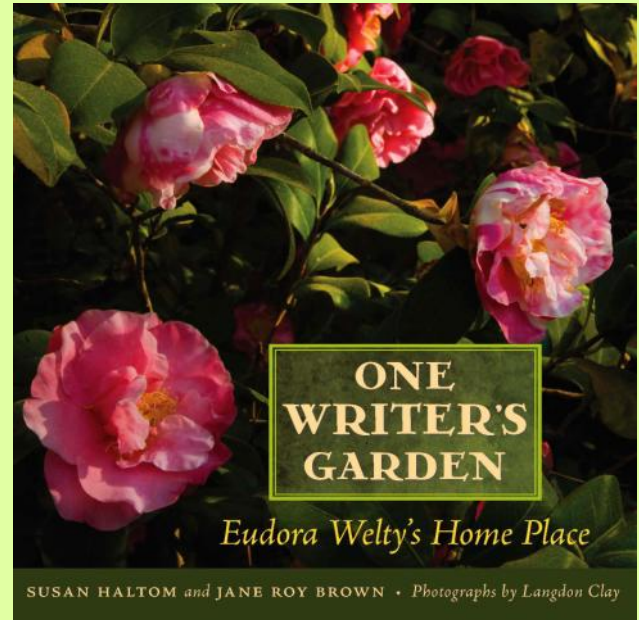
Crystal Morris, owner of the building (left) formerly known as "Knights," walks through the upstairs floor of the Morris Construction office on Twelfth Street in downtown Lynchburg. The building is a former Civil War hospital across the street from the collapsed building on Dunbar Drive.

5th Annual Garden Symposium

Fifth Annual
 “Ready, Set...Bloom!”
 A Garden Symposium
 Wednesday, March 21st, 2012
 3:00—6:00 P.M.

Wimberly Recital Hall
 Presser Hall
 Randolph College
 2500 Rivermont Avenue
 Lynchburg, VA 24503

\$35 includes cocktail reception



Eudora Welty with camellias in her garden

Eudora Welty's Mississippi garden ran riot with the camellias, roses, and daylilies that she tended as zealously as her prose. The novelist, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for *The Optimist's Daughter*, cultivated characters for her stories along with the flowers that she grew in her modest Jackson garden.

A fine new book, *One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Home Place*, by Susan Haltom and Jane Roy Brown, looks at Welty's enduring relationship with her garden, to which she turned as a respite from her travels and the pressures of making a living as a writer. The garden and house where Eudora Welty (1909-2001) lived and wrote is now a museum, and the garden has been restored to its heyday in the 1920s through the '40s. Welty's letters, published for the first time in this book, reveal witty and telling observations about not only gardening, but also fellow gardeners. She wrote to a friend, "The delphiniums I planted in my ignorance have all bloomed like everything and are getting ready to bloom for the second time and Mother says the ladies of the garden club come over each day to worship and grit their teeth."

On Wednesday, March 21st at 3:00 p.m., come hear Susan Haltom and Jane Roy Brown speak about Miss Welty's garden and their journey that led to the completion of *One Writer's Garden*.



Schedule:

3:00 – 3:15: Welcome and Introduction

3:15 – 3:55: Susan Haltom presents, “Eudora Welty and the Gift of Flowers”

Near the end of her life, Welty recounted her memories of the lost garden to Haltom, a local garden designer, who helped bring it back. When Welty died in 2001, a restoration of the garden was well underway—and with it, the untold story of the garden’s place in the writer’s artistic life. Woven throughout this fascinating story are passages from Welty’s unpublished writing as well as excerpts from her personal letters.



4:00 – 4:40: Jane Roy Brown presents, “A Grand Teacher: Women and Gardening and the Progressive Era”

The story of *One Writer’s Garden: Eudora Welty’s Home Place* unfolds during the rise of American home gardening in the 1920s, when women viewed it as a means of self-improvement. The lecture by co-author Jane Roy Brown sets the garden of writer Eudora Welty (1909-2001) in the context of garden-making in the early twentieth century, discussing the “new” suburban garden of the 1920s, Progressive-era woman’s clubs, and the rise of garden clubs.

4:45 – 6:00: Question and Answer, Cocktail Reception, Book Signing, and Plant Sale.



Susan Haltom is a garden designer and Preservation and Maintenance Coordinator of the Eudora Welty garden. She has published in *Mississippi Magazine*, *Old House Journal*, and *Magnolia*, the journal of the Southern Garden History Society.

Jane Roy Brown is a landscape historian and an award-winning travel and garden writer who focuses on historic gardens and landscapes. She has published in *Horticulture*, *Preservation*, *Garden Design*, *Landscape Architecture*, and other publications. Brown serves as director of educational outreach at the Library of American Landscape History.

Questions or more information: dawn@gravegarden.org

Call for Volunteers!

Old City Cemetery Museums and Arboretum is currently recruiting new volunteers for its 2012 Visitors Season. No experience is required, but potential volunteers should have a love of history, historic preservation, or horticulture, and enjoy working with the public. For the 2012 Season, the Cemetery is in need of volunteers in the following areas:

- Giving guided tours of the five museums on the Cemetery grounds and the garden spaces, such as the Antique Rose Collection, the Earley Memorial Shrub Garden, the Lotus Pond and Butterfly Garden, etc.
- Cemetery Center Front Room docents: this volunteer will be stationed in the Mourning Museum and will greet drop-in visitors, answer phones, and assist with research inquiries
- Assisting with special events, such as Rose Festival and Candlelight Tours

To become a volunteer at Old City Cemetery, you must complete orientation and a training program to prepare you for your position (with the exception of special event volunteers). Orientation and training sessions begin in early March and there are dates and times to fit every schedule. You must attend one (1) orientation session and Training Session One and Two:

ATTEND ONE – Orientation Dates

March 2nd at 9:00—10:00 a.m.

March 6th at 1:00-2:00 p.m.

ATTEND ONE - Training Session #1 –

you must have already attended an orientation

March 14th at 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

March 16th at 9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

ATTEND ONE - Training Session # 2 -

you must have already attended Session #1

March 26th at 1:00—3:00 p.m.

March 30th at 9:30-11:30 a.m.

New Volunteers may also attend an accelerated training program on Saturday, March 24th

Orientation: 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Training Session One: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Training Session Two: 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



SMA Ted Delaney



Old City Cemetery is a Virginia Historic Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places and is the most visited historic site in Lynchburg with approximately 30,000 visitors each year. For more information about all of the rewarding volunteer opportunities available—and to receive a volunteer application—please contact Dawn Fields Wise (434) 847-1465 or dawn@gravegarden.org.

Upcoming Events

We have had many people already ask about several of our upcoming 2012 events, particularly the dates of our annual Antique Rose Festival. Here are some details of the great programs we have coming up, including the old tried-and-true crowd-pleasers and some new ones we think you'll love. If you need more information about any, or would like to help as a volunteer, email dawn@gravegarden.org or contact the Cemetery Center at 434-847-1465. Hope to see you there!



May 12th—

17th Annual Antique Rose Festival

We have already received a tentative list of the roses we expect to have and there are some new ones that will be a lovely addition to your collection. If you can make it, the pre-sale of the roses will begin on Sunday, May 6th and will continue on through Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13th. Also on Mother's Day, we will offer a free rose walk at 3:00 p.m.

May 27th—Confederate Memorial Day Service

The Southern Memorial Association will be the sponsor of this year's ceremony, which is an annual tradition since 1866. Period dress is encouraged. Event begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Confederate Section.



May 28th—Memorial Day Bird Walk and Count

Another wonderful annual tradition is this fun bird walk sponsored by the Lynchburg Bird Club. The group meets at the Gatehouse at 8:30 a.m. and tours the Cemetery grounds, documenting any bird species they see. The public is welcome and if you plan on coming, wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars.



June 1st—National Donut Day

This one seems like a made-up crazy holiday, but it actually began as a fundraiser for the Salvation Army in 1938. It's held annually on the first Friday of June, in honor of the female volunteers of World War I who served donuts to soldiers behind the front lines. The Cemetery will be joining in on the festivities between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. There will be free donuts and tours of the Station House Museum.



Laurie Jamerson

This foggy, early morning picture of the "Glanders" area of the Cemetery, was taken by Historic Grounds Supervisor Laurie Jamerson on February 6th, 2012 of the first "snowfall" of 2012. As of the publication of this newsletter, this winter season has been without any snow accumulation in the area.

**Old City Cemetery
401 Taylor Street
Lynchburg, VA 24501**

