

Check trees for wind and ice damage from winter/spring storms before the spring leaves come out.

Some repairs may need to take place later in the year (after sap run in case of Maple damage) or when slower work time permits. August always seems like a good time to prune your Maple Trees.

Chuck Creech
Calumet Park Cemetery
219-769-8803

With all of our thawing and unthawing this winter a lot of snow mold will be found in turf.

Be sure to look for those gray and pink matted areas and rake them up. Fertilize these areas and continue morning irrigation practices.

Kevin M. Pothast
Greenlawn Memorial Park
260-432-3914



Spray paint or wrap handles of garden tools with bright fluorescent bands of color so you can find them easily in the garden or on the grounds.

Connie Warner
Maplewood Cemetery
765-642-3714

Several years ago we switched from using standard blades on our mowers to Gator Blades.

Since that time, we have been able to cut our leaf mulching time in half. If you are not currently using Gator Blades, give them a try. The time we have saved has been used to do other things to make the cemetery look its best.

Kert Hansen
St. John/St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
219-844-9475

Conducting an effective spring clean-up:

- Educate families throughout the year of your decoration policies. Post these policies strategically throughout the park. Provide access to written policies. We utilize information boxes to provide that access to all visitors.
- Be consistent. Follow through in what you say you are going to do.
- Place large, colorful banners at the entrances and exits to your facility reminding visitors and families of your upcoming Spring Clean-Up. (Recommended to be placed 4-6 weeks in advance.)
- Place an ad in the local paper a week before you conduct your clean-up.
- Provide families with a permit allowing an exception if they are honoring a special anniversary, birthday, etc. Permits are affixed to the decoration and dated for 7-10 days.

Albert Cooper, Superintendent
Kraft-Graceland Memorial Park
812-945-6181

VIEWPOINT

NEWSLETTER

April 2006

spring.

It's finally here.



Well, spring has arrived and as promised I have put together some very interesting spring clean-up submissions for this issue of the "ViewPoint."

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed and...(drumroll please) ... the winner of the \$25 gift certificate to Lowe's Home Improvement is... Chuck Creech of Calumet Park Cemetery.

Congratulations Chuck!

Regards,
Casey Miller
Executive Director

P.S. I have enclosed two copies of the "ViewPoint." Please share the other copy with your maintenance employees.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Ray Sabol
Tippecanoe Memory Gardens
West Lafayette
rsabol@tmgardens.com
765-463-2383

VICE PRESIDENT
John Dick
Maplewood Cemetery
Anderson

SECRETARY-TREASURER
John Gerlach
Calvary Cemetery
Portage
calvarycemetery@aol.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Casey Miller
Greenlawn Memorial Park
Klaehn Fahl & Melton
Funeral Homes
Fort Wayne
cmillergreenlawn@verizon.net
260-402-8555

BOARD MEMBERS

Fred Shirley
Brad Kraft
Tracy Johnson
Donna Campbell
Henry Drux
Paul Vogel



All cemeteries seem to occasionally have to deal with a grave that is so severely caved in that a standard setup is dangerous if not impossible.

This often means sealing the casket into the vault above ground. In order to seal the vault above ground we formerly used lowering device rollers set directly on the vault and straps to lower the casket into the vault. This was tough on the back and hard on the hands when sliding the straps through the hands in order to place the casket in the vault. There was always the possibility of pinching hands and fingers or banging the casket against the inside of the vault. It also didn't look aesthetically pleasing if the family insisted on watching the burial.

We resolved much of the difficulty of this procedure by welding L-brackets on the bottom of the four corner-posts of a lowering device. The device is then placed directly on the vault box and is held firmly in place by the brackets. The casket may then be lowered in the normal manner. The vault is then sealed and lowered into the grave as one unit.

We have yet to encounter any problems with this approach. It is far more safe than other methods we have used for bad



graves. It is also feasible with less people. The old roller/strap system required at least four people to get the casket into the vault and even then, it was often an adventure. This procedure is also much better visually if the family is present to watch the interment. Caved in and/or wet graves are always a challenge and have the potential for problems, but this system has helped us immensely to avoid problems with injuries, disasters with the casket or vault (or both), and the bereaved family members who are watching and evaluating our treatment of their loved one.

Gary Livenwood
Lindenwood
260-432-4542

I'm sure all of you have a method for handling complaints or job orders.

We at Maplewood Cemetery have developed a form that allows us to track each request for work performed outside our daily routines. Complaints and job requests can come from different avenues, customers, the office or even a grounds person seeing something that needs some special attention. The form is an 8 1/2 x 11" one page yellow form, named "Work Order Request."

Once the Work Order is issued to the maintenance department and the work has been completed, the form is returned to the office signed by one of the grounds crew. We have about 20 different categories that are tracked and reported on a monthly basis. This tool gives good, straight information and reveals potential problem trends that need specific attention. It also assures the customers that we care and we are doing something about their concerns. And, lastly, it tells our grounds crew that we care and we both can recognize our accomplishments.

John Dick
Maplewood Cemetery
765-642-3836

With 93 developed acres my spring suggestion is to do all mower and weedeater maintenance during the winter time.

That way you will have more time in the spring to devote on cleaning up your cemetery.

Ron Buchanial
Roselawn Cemetery
812-466-5221

We work with our local Department of Corrections office and receive labor assistance from individuals who need to earn community service hours.

Sharyn Harvey
Trustee, Lincoln Twp.
Roselawn Cemetery
219-345-4071

Before cutting your ornamental grasses off in late winter/early spring, tie a couple of strings around the entire plant.

Cut them off 4 - 6" above the ground and throw the entire tied bundle into the dump truck. This saves a lot of time raking and picking up individual pieces.

Mike Dooley
Crown Hill Cemetery
317-714-2648

As a cemeterian in Indiana, I would like to caution you that a predator could be killing your ash trees.

Your urgent action is requested and more information can be found by contacting:

Jodie Ellis
Exotic Insects Education
Department of Entomology
Purdue University
Phone: 765-494-0822
Fax: 765-494-0535
e-mail: ellisj@purdue.edu

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology
Toll Free Hotline: 866 - NO EXOTIC
Phone: 317-232-4120
Fax: 317- 232-2649
www.emeraldashborer.info

Jay Wiley
Anderson Memorial Park Cemetery
765-643-3211



Instead of placing floral tributes directly on a recently back-filled interment space, try using a three tier floral rack.

It's constructed of iron rebar and then spray painted forest green. Place the rack either at the head end or side of the burial so that the flowers can be seen as the family approaches their loved one.

Casey Miller
Greenlawn Memorial Park
260-432-3914



ICA MEMBER SERVICES UPDATE

Full steam ahead! When your Association Board of Directors met on March 7th, we selected a designer for our Indiana Cemetery Association website. We are extremely excited to include this valuable membership tool for the loyal members of this Association. The addition of this website will prove to be the most useful resource to members since the development of the ICA Resource Directory. All the information that is currently contained in our Resource Directory will now be available online as well. In addition to current access to Resource Directory information we will have all the state forms related to our industry at our finger tips.

Your Association Board Members will begin to preview and mold the look of the website in the weeks to come. PLEASE REVIEW YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION LISTED IN THE RESOURCE DIRECTORY, including tel/fax numbers, emails, websites, and addresses for correctness. If you may have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.
John R. Gerlach - jgerlach@verizon.net

A couple of features that will prove to be very useful include:

- Members message board to post and reply questions, concerns, etc.
- Vendor links for current services and products available.
- Weather links for grounds personnel.
- Timely dissemination of legislative information.
- Members cemetery information available to the public.

