



A VERY SPECIAL PARK

Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Summer 2026

OSU Biology Course Uses Green Lawn Cemetery as an Open Classroom

Article by Matt Wolf

Green Lawn Cemetery is an evolving institution and space. Not only does it continue to fulfill its original and necessary function as a dignified place to bury our dead, but it also has other roles.

Among them are as a serene civic space for honest conversation, reflection, and connection. We are also an arboretum with remnant native mixed oak canopy and are part of an Ohio Audubon Important Bird Area.

Given this rich natural environment, unique inside a major city, it shouldn't be surprising that Green Lawn is also a place for learning.

Dr. Tamaki Yuri is an Ohio State University professor who sees the value of taking students outside the classroom to gain outdoor hands-on experience. For the past eight years, Dr. Yuri has taught the Biodiversity of Ohio - Birds (Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Diversity 2220), a class that focuses on the biology of birds with emphasis on their natural histories and field identification of local species.

Before binoculars became readily available in the mid-1900s, birds were shot and identified in-hand. While the study of prepared skins in the lab remains an important aspect of ornithology, identifying living birds in the field is now a critical skill, and being able to match them to their songs, habits, and habitat allows a far deeper understanding.

The first outdoor lab visits Blendon Woods Metro Park where, Dr. Yuri explains, students have their first formal experience identifying birds in a natural environment. The second lab is at Green Lawn Cemetery where students grow their skills and gain more in-depth experience identifying resident Ohio birds and birds migrating through Ohio.

Green Lawn is recognized both as a place important



Ornithology Students Near the Pond

for some declining species to nest in summer and as an important pit stop for migrating birds to rest and refuel on their journey.

During an early morning in mid-February with patches of snow still on the ground, nearly twenty college students streamed into Green Lawn

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President's Message

Huntington Chapel Update



*Randy Rogers, Executive Director
Green Lawn Cemetery Association*

I am borrowing Kelly's space this issue to update everyone on the restoration of Huntington Chapel, originally planned for completion prior to this newsletter going to print.

There has been some difficulty in fitting the new protective outer glass dome to its frame and the manufacturer is making a new set for a better fit.

In the meantime, we still have painters painting, two new ceramic murals are in the works, and additional spaces for cremated remains (which can be purchased in advance now) will be installed in June. Once complete, we will schedule an open house event!

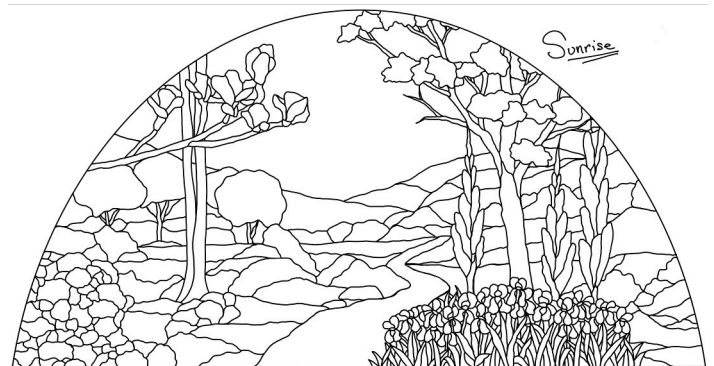
I am also excited to share that we have received an additional grant from the State of Ohio for the next phase of restoration, which will focus on floors, doors, and windows. Our thanks to the many state representatives and senators who visited Green Lawn and supported this funding!

On another subject, I can also report that Jeff Smith's history of Green Lawn is in the editing process with the publisher and should be out in 2027, and our new garden mausoleum (Prairie View Building #6) is on schedule to be dedicated this fall (and ~ 20% of the spaces have been pre-sold!).

These major projects, along with restoring the 1940 entrance (the traffic circle), made necessary by the loss of several trees and damage to the stone wall last year, are keeping us busy as usual, but are making a dramatic change in the condition and appearance of Green Lawn that will be both durable and welcome!



A new granite arch brands and formalizes the entrance to The Walk of Memories and the Prairie View Garden Mausoleums. Its décor includes sunflowers, purple coneflowers, and Sullivant's milkweed, all of which grow in the adjacent prairie. This area offers both a wide variety of cremation and spreading options as well as traditional above ground burials, and is absolutely unique in central Ohio. (in the background note the progress on the new mausoleum building!)



This is the rough sketch for one of the new murals ("Sunrise" and "Sunset") being designed and manufactured at Franklin Art Glass for the entry hall of Huntington Chapel. Bringing back a version of the original barreled ceiling created new spaces at either end of the hallway, and donations to Friends of Green Lawn have allowed us to commission these beautiful mosaics that will fit in with the original Tiffany décor.

News from Memorial Properties

Operating Green Lawn since 2019!

Take One Minute and Help Green Lawn Cemetery!



We believe we have improved both the grounds and the service at Green Lawn over the last seven years. Do you agree? If so, please take a minute to scan this QR code and leave us a 5-star Google review. We are working hard to improve our rating to 4 stars or higher, and your review will help!

We also want to know if we can do better! Please call our office and ask to speak to our General Manager, Andrea White, if you have a concern.



Make Green Lawn a 5-Star Success!!



Right: Every 5 years the Jeffrey family holds a reunion in Columbus and tour the cemetery where their family is spread among six family lots from the pond to the chapel and back to section 37. The family visits in two groups, pictured here is a group led by Friends of Green Lawn president Anne Jeffrey Wright. Also pictured is former Friends president Lynn Jeffrey.



Right: State Representative Crystal Lett toured the cemetery on June 22nd, she was one of several Ohio representatives and senators who supported funding for the restoration of Huntington chapel.



OSU Biology Course..... (continued)

Cemetery armed with binoculars and notepads. After a short orientation by Dr. Yuri and graduate student instructors, students split into smaller groups. As one group of students softly approaches the feeders around the pond, Dr. Yuri says, “Listen, look up there, near the top of the taller tree. What markings do you see?” Red markings on the wing are the clue that gives the students a positive identification - a Red-winged Blackbird. Students must identify multiple species on their list to demonstrate skill identifying birds in their natural habitat.

Dr. Yuri’s students identified 30 different bird species over three February mornings this year (approximately 224 species have been recorded at Green Lawn over the years).

Because Green Lawn is managed as not only a burial grounds, but also an arboretum and wildlife area, generations of OSU students will continue to watch, listen, and learn in our “very special park”.



Professor Tamaki Yuri leading her students in search of their next feathered identification challenge.



Left: The second of our three planned bronze deer has been installed near the gazebo. This young female is titled “Waiting for Her Beau”, the boyfriend in question being the young male deer with binoculars installed in the ravine in 2024. The final deer is due to be installed in 2028, after which the full story of this project will undoubtedly grace these pages!

Below: 40 volunteers removed 61 bags of trash from the streets and sidewalks around the cemetery for Earth Day.



Upcoming Green Lawn Events

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 10:00am-6:00pm, Tierra y Vida. A free festival inspired by the wisdom of the Mayan calendar. Tierra y Vida encourages self-reflection within the greater universe, nurtures spiritual growth, and promotes mindful actions for true freedom. Enjoy music, art, meditation, yoga, acupuncture, sound healing, Reiki, permaculture, and nourishing food. Centered around the Gazebo on the main cemetery road. Brought to you by *Latino Arts for Humanity*.

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 9:00am-11:00am, Green Lawn Birthday Bike Tour. Celebrate our opening in 1849 with a bike tour of the cemetery (and feel free to stay for the Tierra y Vida event afterwards!). Meet in front of the office at 9:00 for a leisurely bike tour through the cemetery and get a sneak peek at the soon-to-be-completed restoration of the Huntington Chapel. \$35 per person, register at: <https://app.dvforms.net/api/dv/8l5rzzr>

Saturday, July 25, 2026, 9:30am-11:30am, Marker Cleaning Workshop. Learn how to properly clean headstones and common mistakes to avoid. We will host this event on Island 11 (follow the white line road towards section G and look for the tent) and clean the markers on the historic Kelton family lot. PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT KELTON HOUSE TO HELP THEM REBUILD! \$40 per person, register at: <https://app.dvforms.net/api/dv/x7ze81>

Sunday, July 26, 2026, 2:00pm-4:00pm, Landscapes, Landmarks, & Legacies Walking Tour. Join us for a guided walking tour of the cemetery as we share some of the stories of Green Lawn. The walk starts and ends at the Gazebo. We'll then stroll deep into Green Lawn to visit unique monuments, hear fascinating history and enjoy the summer landscape. \$25/person. Register at: <https://app.dvforms.net/api/dv/38xz2x>

Friday, October 2, 2026, 6:00pm, Columbus Rotary 5K & 1-Mile Walk/Run with the Dead. You can be cool or a ghoul and experience Central Ohio's most spine-chilling run & walk through the historic grounds of Green Lawn Cemetery. Costume prizes, ghost tours and spooky fun for the whole family. Beer garden for adults. Proceeds benefit *Rotary Club of Columbus*. Register: <https://www.adventuresignup.com/Race/OH/Columbus/WalkingWithTheDead>

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 10:00am-6:00pm, El Dia de Los Muertos / Day of the Dead Festival. A free cultural festival to remember and celebrate loved ones that are no longer with us. Experience a real Dia de Los Muertos, the same way as they celebrate in Mexico! Ofrendas (Offerings), authentic Latino food, live music, activities for kids, art exhibition, arts & crafts vendors, Catrina contest, parade with Aztec dancers and more. Brought to you by *Latino Arts for Humanity*.

Latest Events and Updates

Website: <https://www.greenlawncemetery.org/events/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenLawnCemeteryColumbus>

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Open 7 Days/Week

Summer - Starts March 15th:

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Winter - Starts October 20th:

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM



OFFICE

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday

9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Sunday

By appointment



CHAPEL

visit office for access



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Green Lawn Heritage Newsletter

Matthew Wolf, *Community Outreach & Events*

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