



A VERY SPECIAL PARK

Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Spring 2026

Setting the Pace...

Compiled by Matt Wolf from the writing of Greg & June Siple

Charlie Huston Pace had a day-job as an investment banker at Huntington National Bank for over 30 years, but it was his year-long volunteer job that defined him.

The bicycle Tour of the Scioto River Valley (TOSRV), was started as a father/son outing in 1962, by Charlie & Greg Siple. But had it not been for one man – Charlie Pace – TOSRV would probably have faded into obscurity. According to Greg Siple, (Charlie) was “the glue that held TOSRV together”.

Originally on Mother’s Day weekend riders left Columbus on Saturday morning, rode 105 miles to Portsmouth, Ohio, spent the night, and returned on Sunday. It was a 10-hour ride each day, so riders would eat and refresh every few hours at designated food stops. The tour continues with some variation in timing and route today.

Charlie Pace became tour director in 1967 when it had 200 riders. What happened in the following decades was nothing short of staggering. TOSRV grew exponentially under Pace’s leadership. By 1989, over 6,600 riders from across the U.S. flocked to Ohio to ride “The Mighty TOSRV”!

Charlie’s organizational skills, warmth, and enthusiasm drew over 400 volunteers to complete a dizzying array of tasks. The myriad of tasks included stuffing envelopes, mailings, patches, food stops, first-aid stations, trucks to transport sleeping bags, the emergency radio network, coordination with officials and business, sponsors, and thousands of other details. This was the “Charlie Pace phenomenon”, as some called it. Charlie’s devotion to this year-round volunteer job WAS the glue that made TOSRV an enduring tradition.

Charlie directed TOSRV for 44 years and was never paid except in friendships and satisfaction. Ridership grew under his directorship to become the largest bicycle tour weekend in the nation. Other events modeled after TOSRV popped up across the country. One in New York City had 20,000 participants. Charlie finally retired after the 50th anniversary ride in 2012.

Charlie Huston Pace died in 2021 at the age of 90. He is interred in the Huston Family Mausoleum at Green Lawn Cemetery. Ride on Charlie!



photo: Greg Siple

Ride on Charlie!

<https://outdoor-pursuits.org/tosrv/>

<i>What's Inside</i>	<i>Page</i>
Feature Article	1
President’s Message	2
Found in the Cemetery.....	2
2025 Donor Acknowledgements	3
Upcoming Events	5

President's Message Hooray and Thank You!



*Kelly Casto, President
Green Lawn Cemetery Association*

Our 2025 Annual Campaign achieved a new plateau thanks to your generosity, which will allow us to accomplish an additional project this year!

Part of the chapel restoration included removing the 1960 drop ceiling in the entry hall and creating a scaled replica of the 1902 barreled ceiling. This creates space for 2 new murals, which we had budgeted to have painted. Now we will have funds for Franklin Art Glass to do these murals in glass tile, the same as the existing Tiffany murals. Both options would be beautiful, but the tile option is more original to the building and more durable.

As this major restoration wraps up, please plan to join us on July 11th and see the amazing results! (details on the Events page)

2026 will be another busy year as we plan additional restoration, beautification, and landscaping projects while the cemetery itself will be completing a new garden mausoleum. And of course we are looking forward to a full year of tours and events to share this amazing place and its history with all of you!

Found in the Cemetery.....



Left: After the recent cold snap we found a dead Ohio endangered Little Brown Bat under some of the bat habitat we installed 3 years ago. Shown is the artificial bark habitat on an old pine trunk and a close up of the distinctive long, hairy toes of the Little Brown Bat.

Right: Over 30 birdwatchers attended our annual "Woodcock Cotillion" or "Timberdoodle Dance", watching and listening at dusk for the "peent" call and swirling song of the American woodcock during mating season. At least 6 individuals were heard around our prairie and one bird made a brief appearance. Their unusual mating flight is known as the "Sky Dance". Shown: an American woodcock courtesy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Green Lawn 2025 Annual Campaign Donors

We gratefully acknowledge donors to the 2025 Annual Campaign. We appreciate each of you for your partnership in maintaining the architectural treasures and natural environment at Green Lawn. Thank you for your investment in this Very Special Park!

SPECIAL GIFTS

Arshot Investment Corp., 1.5 acres of vacant land adjacent to our northeast fenceline

GRANDFATHER OAK—\$20,000 and above

John J. & Pauline Gerlach Foundation

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F.W. Schumacher Trust / Lesley Blanchard
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Jay & Diane Vorys
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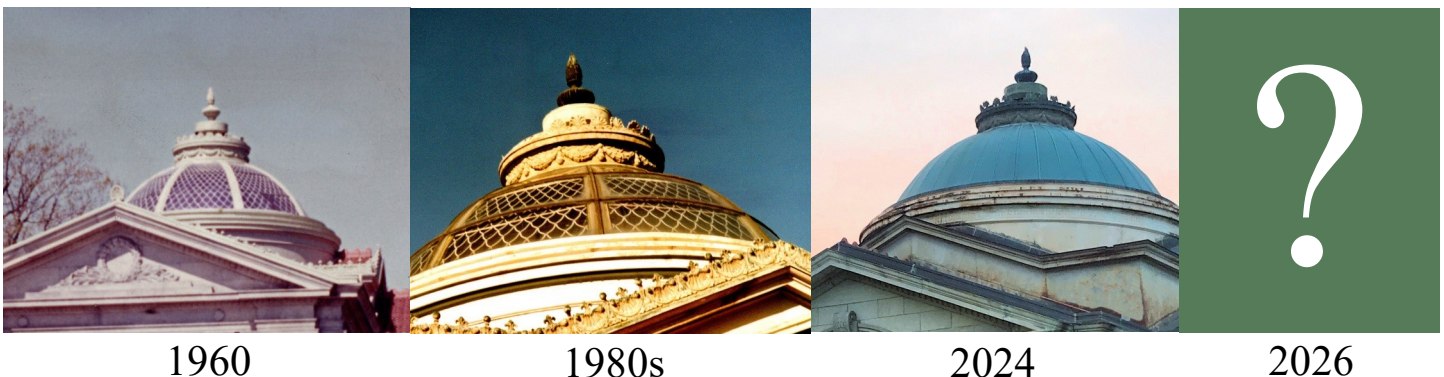
Anonymous Donations Totaling: \$1,796.16

GRANTS:

Little Garden Club of Columbus
State of Ohio

2025 PARTNERS:

Club Diversity
Columbus Audubon
Columbus Ghost Tours - Bucky Cutright
Columbus Outdoor Pursuits
Columbus Rotary
Green Columbus
Schmidt's Fudge House / Tim Dick
Ohio History Connection
Latino Arts for the Humanities
Lawhon and Associates
Memorial Properties of Ohio
Prime Tours
Sons of Union Veterans
Stonewall Columbus Trailblazers
The Columbus Foundation
VFW of Ohio
WOSU



1960

1980s

2024

2026

Upcoming Green Lawn Events

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 10:00am-12:00pm, Green Lawn Cemetery Litter Cleanup. Help keep Green Lawn clean, green, and dignified. Volunteers are needed to help pick up litter, especially along the boundaries and approach to Ohio's second largest cemetery. Held in proud partnership with **Earth Day Columbus 2026**.

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 2:00pm-4:00pm, Landscapes, Landmarks, & Legacies Walking Tour. Join us for a guided walking tour of the cemetery as we uncover some of the best kept secrets 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 rejuvenation of spring. \$25/person.

Register at: www.greenlawncemetery.org Proceeds directly fund restoration projects in the cemetery.

Sunday, May 10, 2026, 9:00am-3:00pm, Mother's Day at Green Lawn. For Mother's Day, Green Lawn Cemetery wishes to pay tribute to all Mothers and the contribution of Mothers to our community. Pick up a complimentary carnation in honor of Mothers who are missed, remembered, and loved on this special day. Carnations symbolize the purity, strength and endurance of a Mother's love.

Saturday, May 23, 2026, 10:45am-12:00pm, Pvt Duvall Memorialization Ceremony. Join us for placement of Pvt. John Duvall's headstone, marking the completion of the project to mark 170 previously unmarked Union veterans. The ceremony will be performed by Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War with music by the 73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment Band. Light lunch refreshments will follow. This is a free event and no RSVP is required. Follow the red arrow signs to **Section 53** inside Green Lawn Cemetery.

Monday, May 25, 2026, 9:00am-3:00pm, Memorial Day Service & Open House. Join us for Memorial Day at Green Lawn Cemetery. Our friendly staff will hand out complimentary flags to decorate the graves of loved ones who have served. At 11:00am The American Legion will host a Commemoration Service & Wreath Laying in Section 104. All are welcome to attend. Following the ceremony enjoy a free cookout in front of the Huntington Chapel, compliments of Green Lawn Cemetery.

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 11:00am-1:00pm, Huntington Chapel Open House. Celebrate our 177th anniversary and be among the first to see the completed first phase of restoration in Huntington Chapel. Free cookout, weather permitting.

More Events and Updates

Website: <https://www.greenlawncemetery.org/events/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenLawnCemeteryColumbus>

Chapel vestibule trim - Before



After





A VERY SPECIAL PARK

1000 Greenlawn Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43223

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CEMETERY GATES

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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