

# IVY HILL CEMETERY



## HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Dedicated to the preservation of monuments, promotion of history, and protection of flora and fauna of Ivy Hill Cemetery

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[www.ihchps.org](http://www.ihchps.org)

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**NEWSLETTER**

by Lucy Burke Goddin

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### **Web site contributions**

Thanks to those of you who have sent pictures and obituaries of loved ones and relatives. We have added them to the web site and you should be able to look them up easily. We have all the tombstones photographed at this point and are now trying to tackle the daunting task of attaching them to the files on the web site. Hopefully we will have that accomplished in the next few months. We are moving right along with having all the information from Beneath the Oaks of Ivy Hill put into the Cemetery data base for safe keeping.

### **Partnership with City Natural Resources Manager**

After getting several bids on surveying our trees, we have partnered up with the City of Alexandria's Natural Resources

department to survey all the significant trees on the property. By using the city instead of a private company, we saved at least \$14,000 and are getting advice not motivated by profit. We are working with Rod Simmons, Natural Resources Manager for the City of Alexandria, Greg Zell, Arlington County Natural Resource Manager, and John Parrish who is a botanical consultant. By using this team, we will be working from the same page as the City in developing and caring for Alexandria's precious green space.

We are expecting a full report from this wonderful team any day now including the species of our significant trees, their health and age, and what care is recommended at this time. From this report we can plan our next steps. In the mean time, we have been notified that one of our trees is a state co-champion! So we are now in the Virginia Tech Virginia Big Tree Database:

*"Comments: The Ivy Hill Cemetery was founded in 1856, with burials dating back to the early 1800's when it was a family cemetery. The Foundation has done a nice job of preserving several hundred mature hardwood trees that represent the*



*historical forest. This large Carpinus is growing in Section 51, just off the roadway. Maps and photos available at [www.ivyhill.org](http://www.ivyhill.org) (scored by Greg Zell, CBH taken at 1' above ground) Virginia state Co-champion."*

### **We need you**

Ivy Hill, like most cemeteries, does not have a line item in its budget for tree care, only for tree disasters. The Society needs to implement an Adopt-A-Tree program which will provide preventive care to our beautiful trees, and new plantings where necessary. This is where we really need help. We are calling on all you tree lovers out there to step forward and help us plan this program thoroughly and professionally. Thanks to modern technology, you do not need to live locally to participate in this venture

Our hopes for this program are planning how to handle funds raised for this purpose and all the details on assuring the best care for the trees. We would like to put the older trees up for adoption to ensure the care they need for a long and healthy life. There will be opportunities to have native small trees planted in designated areas, as well. In return for adopting a tree, one can dedicate it in the memory of a loved one; have a web page about that tree, along with photo, and a web memorial about the honored person. This is going to be a truly unique program. If you have ideas or experience, and are interested in offering your input, please contact us at [info@IHCHPS.org](mailto:info@IHCHPS.org) or by mail: 636 Timber Branch Parkway, Alexandria, Virginia 22302

### **Going Green**

Ivy Hill is going green. Along with our plans for tree care, we have been researching the best way to care for the grounds at Ivy Hill. In an attempt at a more holistic approach to plant care, we are going to grind the autumn leaves up finely and feed the flora in a much more healthy and natural way. Leaves are a healthy, slow feeding method of naturally caring for the beautiful plantings we have here at Ivy Hill. We will no longer have nitrogen spread over the grounds, which isn't the best treatment for our mature trees. This will give Ivy Hill a slightly different look, so we will have to retrain our eyes as to what is beautiful.

### **Working with local schools**

The Historical Preservation Society is teaming up with the Alexandria City Public Schools to brainstorm ways we can provide the elementary children with hands-on experiences to enhance their studies in the areas of math and science. We will be meeting with the curriculum planner and several of the principals next week. By collecting and sprouting acorns from our existing trees, the children can learn sorting, classifying, and measuring skills. They can plant the trees they start, and watch them grow for years to come.

We are also participating in Episcopal High School's May Internship Program by having a member of the senior class come and work with us for the month of May. This student will experience data input, research, landscaping, and perhaps a little grave