
IVY HILL CEMETERY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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

www.ihchps.org

P.O.Box 320065, Alexandria, Virginia 22320

info@ihchps.org

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012

Good News for Ivy Hill's Trees

Supporters Have an Enormous Impact.



FROM THE SOCIETY PRESIDENT

BY LUCY GODDIN

There are too many times in life when we grit our teeth and think, 'Could have, should have, would have ... didn't!' So when a community comes together, plans how to avoid a potential catastrophe – and it works – we should take the opportunity to appreciate it and thank everyone involved. This year the condition of the trees at Ivy Hill gives us this chance.

A little recent history: The winter and summer of 2010 were tough seasons for everyone. The winter weather brought fantastical amounts of snow to our region, prompting

references like 'Snowmegeddon.' The summer season brought its own woes with unprecedented rain and wind storms. Ivy Hill's trees took a beating, but we realized it could have been worse.

The storms served to refocus our attention to the canopy of trees that is possibly the largest in Alexandria. With the Cemetery endorsing this area as a top priority, the Society and its supporters funded tree care that would help prevent future problems.

Quality Tree Care, Inc. assessed the needs of all the trees and provided Ivy Hill with a winter discount to

Board of Directors

Lucy Burke Goddin, President
Ann Webb, Treasurer
Laurie Blackburn, Esq., CFP,
Secretary
Tom Bowling, President, IHC
Arthur H. Bryant, Jr.
Dana Lawhorne
Laurence O'Reilly
Gant Redmon, Esq.

Executive Director
Tara Knox

In this Issue

From the Society President:
Ivy Hill's Trees *p1*
Feature Profile: *p2*
John Leadbeater
Upcoming Events *p3*
Featured Fauna: *p3*
Prey Mantis

remove any dying trees and perform preventive trimming to keep the remaining trees healthy.

In late June an aggressive derecho barreled through our area, causing massive damage elsewhere. However, thanks to the extensive prevention program funded by the Society donors and implemented by the Cemetery, Ivy Hill's trees sustained relatively little damage.

Thank you, everyone who contributed to this successful effort!

Do you recall the ditty ‘Good, better, best: Never let it rest, Until your good is better and your better is its best’? Some of us had teachers, scout masters or parents who insisted that this philosophy would start us on a successful life course. Perhaps they were thinking about the Leadbeaters as an example. Their business lives demonstrated that, when presented with a good thing, the proper thing to do is improve it.

John Leadbeater was born in May 19, 1808 and died on February 12, 1860. He trained as an apothecary and a dentist. After he married into the Stabler family, he was brought into the local apothecary shop owned by his brother-in-law William Stabler. When William died in 1852, Leadbeater bought the shop from Stabler’s widow and changed its name to John Leadbeater Apothecary. John would later bring his son, Edward Stabler Leadbeater (b.1836 -- d.1899), into the business. The apothecary shop already had a history of serving such famous clients as George Washington and Robert E. Lee. But both Leadbeater father and son continued to build an already thriving business of herbal potions and patent medicines into an area phenomenon.

At the height of the business, Leadbeater Apothecary supplied 500 area pharmacies, had 12 salesmen and 11 buildings. By the time of the Civil War the shop was doing a brisk business. Union

soldiers were purchasing Hot Drops like hot cakes! The drops were cough expectorants made with paprika and alcohol which sold for a penny a piece. The store’s records show that after the Battle of Manassas, as much as a \$1,000 worth were sold in one day!

The shop was a thriving concern until the early 20th century when competition came from larger pharmaceutical companies and synthetic drugs. The Depression was to be the undoing of the business just before the death of Edward’s son, Edward S. Stabler, Jr. in 1933. Shortly thereafter, a Baltimore merchant bought the archives and contents of the shop at auction and, when the American Pharmaceutical Association purchased the building as a museum (also in 1933), he donated the contents for display.

In 2006 the building was given to the City of Alexandria and restored by the Landmark Society with funding from the city, the National Park Service, and other interested groups and individuals. Today the Apothecary Shop is a highlight of any Old Town tour. It provides a chance to see a business still in its Colonial era location and features a look at both the retail store and manufacturing space upstairs.

John and Edward Leadbeater made a strong business into the best it could be, one that would last beyond their lifetimes.
Sources: alexandriava.gov/Apothecary & dc.about.com.

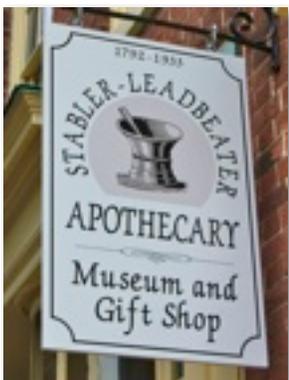


Apothecary Shop on South Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria

STABLER-LEADBEATER

VISIT IHCHPS.ORG

The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and Shop is located at 105-107 South Fairfax Street in Alexandria, Virginia. It was founded by Edward Stabler in 1792 and expanded into the 107 location in 1796 and into 105 in 1829. Stabler put his son William in charge starting in 1806, to accommodate more of his own travel to Quaker church meetings in the region. William brought his brothers and brother-in-law, John Leadbeater, into the family business. This was fortunate because Leadbeater was in a position to buy and continue the Apothecary Shop as a family business when William died childless. Although Edward’s and William’s deaths predate the establishment of Ivy Hill as a community cemetery, many later Stabler family members are here.



PRAYING MANTIS

Anyone who thinks it is illegal in some states to kill a Praying Mantis, please raise your hands. I was sure I was taught this tidbit somewhere along the line, but it is merely garden legend. The Praying Mantis or the larger group of 2000 varieties of Mantids are not protected and not endangered. What may have happened is that these popular insects did a good job winning over proponents to promote and protect them. The mantis is an asset to Ivy Hill and outdoor areas, a natural predator of all sorts of undesirable pests -- even a small snake could fall victim to a hungry mantis!

The European Praying Mantis was introduced to the United States to devour pests of food crops. They have thrived and continued here with no known negative ecological impact. (How many of us can claim that?) The mantis was even named the State Insect of Connecticut in 1977.

The Praying Mantis is a carnivorous insect with a 12-month life span in the wild. It ranges from one half to six inches in length. The mother mantis lays hundreds of eggs in a small case and nymphs hatch, already looking like miniatures of their parents. And, contrary to another myth, mating does not necessarily end with the female eating the male; but this may happen when the female is stressed or feels endangered by the environment.

Sources: theprayingmantis.org & serendip.brynmawr.edu/exchange/node/1801 & animals.nationalgeographic.com

MANTIS RELIGIOSA



A Pray Mantis cooling off in Ivy Hill's sprinkler this summer

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, September 23

Picnic

The Friendship Veterans Fire Association Picnic will take place at the Grove of the Virginia Theological Seminary. This is a family picnic with Firefighters, Emergency Medical Service and other personnel of the Alexandria Fire Department. It is an opportunity to meet these outstanding men and women who do so much to keep our community safe. Help us show support for these first responders while enjoying great food, music, games, and fellowship.

Friday, October 12

Thank You Breakfast

The Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society will hold a Thank You Breakfast for its supporters starting at 9:00 a.m. For more information, please contact tara@ihchps.org.

Friday, October 12

Firefighters Memorial Ceremony

Ivy Hill Cemetery, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association and the Alexandria Fire Department will hold the Annual Memorial Service and Wreath Laying honoring the commitment of the men and women of the Alexandria Fire Services who work to protect the Alexandria Community. The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. All are invited.

November 7 (Rain date -- November 8)

Pruning Workshop at Ivy Hill

The Yankee Clipper will again offer a hands-on pruning skills workshop at Ivy Hill Cemetery, focusing on proper tools and techniques that will let you approach your garden with confidence. The workshop will include instruction and plenty of practice time with Yankee Clippers' skilled pruners, and will conclude with a Q&A session. Please contact yankeeclip@aol.com for more information and to sign up.

Praying Mantis

An attitude determines a name

The front legs of the Praying Mantis are bent in an attitude suggestive of kneeling or hands folded in prayer, hence its name.

However, this carnivorous insect also conjures up thoughts of preying in many observers which is why we often see the mistaken 'prey' spelling. The mantis is an excellent hunter, equipped the ability to turn its head 180 degrees in order to use its five eyes (two compound eyes and three simple) to watch its surroundings for a potential meal.

Unlike the fellow pictured here, enjoying a dance on an Ivy Hill sprinkler, the mantis at hunt is usually



well camouflaged on green or brown foliage. From its hidden vantage point, the mantis waits for

unsuspecting food to wander by and then ambushes its prey.

In addition to having a panoramic view to enhance its hunting, the mantis has sharp spikes on its legs to trap and hold its victim. It is quick and agile as well.

It can grab another insect so fast, it is hard to see with the naked eye.

Despite this dauntingly dangerous demeanor, the praying mantis is welcome in most gardens. Its ability to combat flies, mosquitos, moths and other pests, coupled with its vivid

Contributors



Thank you to Scott Saltsgaver for the Ivy Hill praying

mantis photos in this issue.

VOLUNTEERS



Special thanks to the Society Volunteers who prepare the mailed

version of the newsletter.

To nominate someone for a profile article, please email tara@ibcbps.org.

color, appealing antics and, for some, its E.T.-like good looks overcome its less palatable aspects.

Source:<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com>.

non-profit org
US Postage Paid
Alexandria VA
Permit 6281

Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society
P.O. Box 320065
Alexandria, VA 22320
Return Service Requested