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# 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](http://www.ihchps.org)  
[www.ivyhillcemetery.net](http://www.ivyhillcemetery.net)

2823 King Street  
Alexandria, Va 22302

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### NEWSLETTER

June 2019

**Taking tips from the Audubon Society**, Ivy Hill is doing its best to become more environmentally responsible. Balancing that goal with operating a cemetery is tricky. Read on to see how we are beginning this mission.

**Native plants are those that occur naturally in a region in which they evolved. They are the ecological basis upon which life depends, including birds and people. Without them and the insects that co-evolved with them, local birds cannot survive.** Ivy Hill is starting a program of removing its invasive plant species and adding more natives. We are turning our nature trail into an educational botanical trail through the help of our incredible scouts!!

Once established, native plants generally require little maintenance. As well, many native plants offer beautiful showy flowers, produce abundant colorful fruits and seeds, and brilliant seasonal changes. In addition to providing vital habitat for birds, many other species of wildlife benefit as well. The colorful array of butterflies and moths, including the iconic monarch, the swallowtails, tortoiseshells, and beautiful blues, are all dependent on very specific native plant species. Native plants provide nectar for pollinators including hummingbirds, native bees, butterflies, moths, and bats. They provide protective shelter for many mammals. The native nuts, seeds, and fruits produced by these plants offer essential foods for all forms of wildlife.

We want our cemetery to be attractive to humans and wildlife. Our goal is to use plants that require little watering and pruning, and provide food and shelter for all of our furry, feathered, or buggy friends. Our Scouts are also adding bird and bat houses!

**Lawns and the ubiquitous bark-mulched landscapes are notorious for requiring profuse amounts of artificial fertilizers and synthetic chemical pesticides and herbicides.** The traditional suburban lawn, on average, has 10x more chemical pesticides per acre than farmland. By choosing native plants for your landscaping, you are not only helping wildlife, but you are creating a healthier place for yourself, your family, and your community. Although we would like to be 100 percent environmentally friendly, our clients do expect green lawn areas. The grass that does grow must be a survivor due to our not having an irrigation system. And in areas where it is not happy, we are exploring other options.

**Landscaping with native plants can combat climate change.** In addition to the reduced noise and carbon pollution from lawn mower exhaust, many native plants, especially long-living trees like oaks and maples, are effective at storing the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. With the help of some of our Eagle Scouts, Ivy Hill is beginning a reforestation program to replace our aging canopy. The City of Alexandria has kindly donated trees and knowledge to assist us in this project.

**Because native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions, they require far less water, saving time, money, and perhaps the most valuable natural resource, water.** The less we spend on our water bill and plant maintenance, the more time our staff has to see to the operation of the cemetery, and the more money goes to the preservation of Ivy Hill. It is an important mission and we should all be doing our part.

To see the full Audubon article: [www.audubon.org/content/why-native-plants-matter](http://www.audubon.org/content/why-native-plants-matter)

# THE REMINISCENCES OF JOHN KEMPER

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As stated in previous newsletters, the staff here at Ivy Hill Cemetery, would love for the public to share stories and reminiscences of family and loved ones. This month, John Kemper, tells of his dad, mom and grandfather – The Kemper and Green Families and how they are related.

“Edward Hudson Kemper, is my grandfather. Edward was born in Alexandria in 1867 and died in 1932. He was the Comptroller of the Southern Railway. [He began his service in the Railway system in 1881 as a ticket assorter and messenger boy He moved up positions until 1918 when he became comptroller.] When the Rosemont section of Alexandria was established in 1908, Edward moved his family from Old Town to Rosemont. His home at 201 West Rosemont was one of the first in the new development and was designed by noted architect Milton Dana Morrill. Edward served as the Grand Master of Alexandria- Washington Lodge 22 [The Lodge dates to 1783 and the name was changed to include Washington in 1804] and his portrait hangs in the Past Master’s Hall at the Masonic Temple. Edward was also the fifth President of the Old Dominion Boat Club and served in that capacity from 1908 to 1910. [The Old Dominion Boat Club was organized in September of 1880.]

The Kemper connection to the Green Family of Alexandria is that my grandfather, Edward Hudson Kemper, married Fanny Lee Green. Fanny Lee Green was the daughter of John Green. John was one of three sons of James Green who operated the Green and Brother Furniture company. [He ran the business from 1857 to 1868 when the third James took over the Company. The factory closed in 1887] Additionally, James Green owned the Mansion House Hotel and his family lived in the Carlyle House. During the Civil War, the Federal Government took over the Mansion House Hotel and utilized it as a hospital. They also took over the Furniture business [at the corner of Prince and Fairfax] and used it as a federal prison.

My father, Richard H Kemper, Sr., married my mother Leona Chisolm Kemper in 1939 and lived in the Rosemont area of Alexandria. My brother, Richard H.

Kemper Jr and I grew up at 119 Commonwealth Ave. Edward, Fanny Lee and my parents are all buried at Ivy Hill Cemetery. Edward and Fanny Lee Kemper and most of the Green Family are buried in Section A of Ivy Hill right behind the Circle of Honor. My parents, Richard and Leona Kemper are buried in Section 3-1. My wife Deborah and I have recently purchased a bench in Cremation Garden Section 2 for our ashes. We love the location for the very peaceful setting and the Garden overlooks where my parents are buried.”



Edward H. Kemper



John Green



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



Flags for Memorial Day



Volunteers getting ready to place flags on tombstones



Eagle Scout Candidate, Declan McCue, tackles the first section of our Educational Botanical Trail project.



Scout Troop 1515



Eagle Scout Reforestation Project - Oak Trees

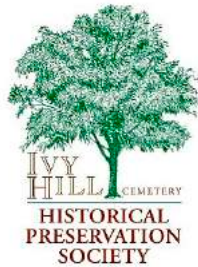
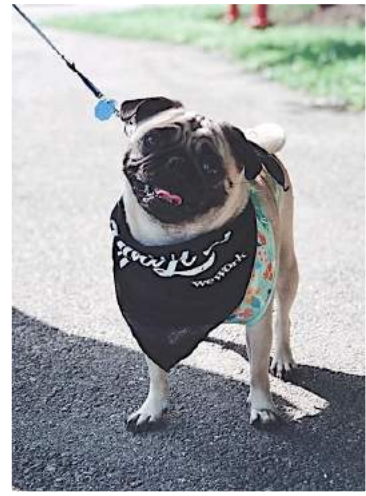


Growing Moss!! Moss Covering for problem areas

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!!  
[WWW.IVYHILLCEMETERY.NET](http://WWW.IVYHILLCEMETERY.NET)

# DOGS ON A LEASH

No matter how cute, please keep your dog on a physical leash when walking through the cemetery.



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FaceBook: Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society

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