

# Our Legacy with the Cemetery View

Vermont Lutheran Church

Spring 2024

## Scattering Forest Plans Detailed

By Jon Urness



The Vermont Cemetery Association is putting together policies and details for the anticipated Vermont Memorial Forest which will, in effect, be an area for scattering cremation ashes. There is certainly a growing interest in this method of burial evidenced by 70% of recent burials at Vermont being cremation burials in the last few years. At the same time, there is a demand for minimalist, low impact burial. The Vermont Memorial Forest will be our effort to meet that demand.

The area for the Memorial Forest will be the approximately one-acre woodlot immediately north of the western section of the current cemetery. In other words, the area to the left of the road leading to the turnaround at the top of the hill. Pictured here is a mock up of the red granite stone marker that we have ordered to list the names of those scattered in the Memorial Forest. It will be approximately six feet wide by four feet tall and will accommodate 27 names on each side for a total capacity of 54 names and birth/death dates.

Fees and policies are still being finalized but an initial draft includes the following:

*Cremation ashes can be scattered on the surface of a defined area north of the east-west cemetery drive, west of the north-south cemetery drive and bordered on the west by the hiking trail. (A brochure and map will be provided along with these*

policies)

*-The cost per scattering will be the normal Vermont Cemetery Maintenance Fee (currently \$1000) plus the cost of inscribing name, birth date and death date.*

*-No other marking, decoration or information on the deceased is allowed. If further, more formal memorialization is wanted, the Scattering Forest should not be considered. Instead, reservation or purchase of a conventional cemetery lot should be considered. Remember, a large part of the purpose of this scattering area is to provide a minimal impact visually and on space used.*

*-Prepay of the Cemetery Maintenance Fee is allowed.*

*-Scattering can occur at the convenience of the survivors without supervision of a cemetery official. However, notice of the scattering and payment of the Cemetery Maintenance fee must be arranged before hand.*

*-As a subsidiary of the Vermont Lutheran Church, The Vermont Lutheran Cemetery is not a municipal or public cemetery. Those wanting to be interred here must demonstrate some connection to Vermont Lutheran Church.*

This is a very new and untested venture for Vermont so expect these policies to be further developed or changed. We hope to have the area ready for use and the marker installed by later this summer. The advantage to this method, beyond a lower environmental impact is cost compared to a convention burial. There is no need for a casket or vault, no need for a cemetery marker and no cost associated with opening and closing the grave.

For more information contact any member of the Vermont Cemetery Association board including Karsten Haugen, Jon Urness, Jim Herrling, Gary Olsen, Greg Herrling or Dave Haugen.

An area for scattering cremains known as the Vermont Memorial Forest will be established in the woods just north of the current cemetery. It will be left in a natural state with low growing grass with a natural forest-like setting.





# Betty Rosenbaum Memorial Garden

## Awakens to Spring

By Jon Urness



Heading in to its first full season, the Betty Underwood Rosenbaum Memorial Garden, seems to have weathered this crazy winter quite well. Time will tell more, but hopefully some early season manual weed control and the application of a fresh layer of mulch will send this beautiful space in to all its glory this summer.

An email distribution list of enthusiasts affectionately known as “The Garden Geeks” has been established and will be notified about chores that need to be done related to the garden. Weeding and mulching will likely be the first order of business. If you’d like to be a Garden Geek just send an email to Jon Urness at [jcurness@outlook.com](mailto:jcurness@outlook.com). As the saying goes, many hands make light work and that’s what we’re expecting this summer. As nice as the garden looked going in to fall, Stuart Petsel says, “You haven’t seen anything yet!”

# Vermont Veteran's Memorial To Be Updated This Summer

*By Jon Urness*

The Veterans Memorial area of the Vermont Cemetery honors area veterans who served almost fifty years ago and earlier. Bud Erickson has partnered with the Cemetery Association and has decided it is high time for veterans who served since that time be honored.



The last update to the Memorial goes back some thirteen years and left off with Viet Nam era veterans included on the large, white marble markers. The group struggled a bit as to how to honor those serving since then, as the era covers such a long span of time and a variety of conflicts. In the end, it was decided to dedicate another white marble marker to soldiers serving in an era described as, "Gulf War and Beyond."



Thankfully in one respect, fewer soldiers are required to defend our country in this more modern age. The committee came up with 11 names for this new marker honoring those who served since the Viet Nam era. At the same time, new members have joined the church and there were a few names missed in the last update. Those will be included by field engraving the names of those soldiers on our existing markers. Funding for the approximately \$8000 project comes from the Cemetery Association and a gift from our last WWII veteran, Max Rosenbaum. Naturally, additional contributions for the costs incurred and future maintenance are appreciated.

Plans are under way for a dedication of the new monument and honoring of our veterans on Memorial Day this spring. The short program will be coordinated with the arrival of Black Earth Legion Post 313 and their honor guard performance. The event will be on Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day), beginning at 10:15am as Post 313 arrives from their five-stop Memorial Day honor guard rotation. It will include the recognition and reading of names of all veteran's being added to the monument. Bud Erickson will give a short speech titled "A Tribute to Volunteers", followed by the Legion 21-gun Rifle Salute and Taps. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

An important aspect of this dedication and program is to have as many honorees present as possible. Some are difficult to locate for notification so we're asking family and friends to reach out to the following and inform them of the program.

#### Gulf War and Beyond

**Jeff Aeschlimann, Todd Aeschlimann, Ryan Barsness, Ryan Cowan, Tim Erickson, Mathew Lickel, Bruce Ludolph, Jeff Ludolph, Sherrie Parrell (deceased), Stephanie Perez (deceased) and Craig Severson (deceased).**

In addition, the following will be added to the appropriate existing markers.

#### Korea

**Kenneth Johnson, Virgil Simley and Carroll Lodahl.**

#### Viet Nam

**Harold Miller, Norman Sveum, Allan Koch, Charles Nelson Jr, and David Simley**

#### World War II

**Marcus Ravnan and Lawrenz Knowles**

# Legacy Prairie & Woodland Update: April 2024

By Peter Antonie

The Legacy Fund Committee and other interested parties have continued their work to further develop the Legacy Prairie and Woodland and explore options to enhance what has already been accomplished.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Grants:** Last year we received a grant from the NRCS to fund hiring a forester to draw up a Forestry Management Plan for the Woodland areas. That plan was delivered to us with a detailed explanation of six “stands” to work on in the Woodland. Having the plan allowed us to seek and receive another grant to fund the work we will begin in the areas designated on the map, below, such as managing invasive species, cutting and spraying trees like Buckthorns, restoring



The Woodland area designated as “Stand 4” is a total of about 16 acres that runs east to west and contains evidence of remnant Oak-Savannah that can be restored. The Forestry Management Plan envisions dividing this Stand into 3 sections to work on over several years. Here is a picture of a portion of the Stand.



The NRCS grant also includes funding to do restoration work in the Wetland area on either side of Vermont Creek (Stand 5); managing invasive species, cutting some trees and providing better access to the creek for fishing.



**Wetland Boardwalk:** In addition to doing restoration work in the wetland, we plan to lay down a “floating” boardwalk that will allow hikers using the Prairie trail that borders the wetland to cross the wetland to the creek. The boardwalk segments, pictured below, will be laid down in an area so hikers don’t



**Blue Bird Houses:** Blue Bird houses were placed throughout the Prairie areas, last fall, by David Lucey and Gary Olsen, which will be monitored by Joanie Haugen.

**Please:** Come on out anytime to take a hike, have a quiet moment on the patio, use the play structure, or drive up the Cemetery extension road to take in the view.

**Questions:** If you have any questions about the projects described here or any development issues in the Prairie & Woodland, please contact any of the members of the Legacy Fund Committee: Greg Herrling, Jim Herrling, Larry Ziemer, Karsten Haugen, Gary Olsen, Wade Winchip, or Leonard Schaub.

---

## Vermont Lutheran Church

9886 Vermont Church Road  
Black Earth, WI 53515

---

## How Can I Contribute?

legacy

We try to keep this simple.

Gifts are the easiest approach and allow for immediate use of funds. Drop a check in the weekly offering plate if you're at Vermont. Otherwise, just send a check to Vermont Lutheran Church, 9886 Vermont Church Rd, Black Earth, WI 53515. Please designate it for the Legacy Fund (which includes the cemetery and property) or the Cemetery Fund (cemetery only). You will receive a receipt for tax purposes, be recognized and sincerely thanked.

---