

# Woodland Wire



## Garden Talk with Mark Webber

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### Dogwoods of Woodland Cemetery

When spring finally arrives in an about 30 days I always begin to think of Woodland Cemetery! Woodland is always in full color and display as the weather warms. I am always taken back by the incredible display of *Cornus florida* or commonly known as the Flowering Dogwoods found throughout. The wide range of colors and plant shapes always reminds me as a plant person truly how remarkable this group of plants are and reminds of the story of the Dogwood as it was told to me by Grandmother.



### Story of the Dogwood

The name dogwood is less inspirational than the legend that the dogwood once grew as a tall, straight tree and was used for timber. But when the wood was used to make the cross of Calvary, Jesus was so moved that he promised the tree would never again grow large enough to be employed for such a purpose. It is also said that the bracts [blossoms] of the dogwood are set in the shape of a cross and bear nail marks of the Crucifixion, and the red leaves in autumn have been associated with Jesus blood on Calvary. The dogwood also served in the field of medicine at one time. Dogwood bark was one of many barks used as a fever medicine before quinine came into general use. Of more importance is the role the dogwood once played in the textile industry and in sports. The wood from dogwood was used to make shuttles for weaving machines because of its very heavy, fine-grained and very hard properties, and because with wear it becomes extremely smooth and resistant to abrasion. The same qualities made it useful for golf clubs, jewelers' benches and as wedges for splitting logs. Among the early spring-flowering trees the dogwood is regarded by most plant lovers as unrivaled in beauty. It grows 15 to 25 feet (may reach 30 to 40 feet in wooded areas) in height and is generally wider than tall. This deciduous ornamental tree offers landscape interest for all seasons, beginning with its floral display in mid-April that last 2 to 4 weeks followed by deep, green foliage held on layered branches in the summer. With fall comes a brilliant show of scarlet to reddish purple foliage and bright red fruit (drupes) borne in small clusters. The fruit often lasts into December or until it is devoured by birds. The interesting bark texture and branches help create an excellent winter silhouette.

Dogwoods make excellent understory trees in a semi-shaded area and can be used in foundation plantings. They are often used as a backdrop for rhododendrons, azaleas, or other spring-flowering shrubs. Dogwoods are excellent for specimen or accent plantings around the terrace or patio.

So the next time you visit Woodland, don't just drive through, look and enjoy Dayton Ohio's Great Plant Museum!

*Mark Webber is a Board Certified Master Arborist & trusted resource to Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum*



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*Historic Woodland Chapel*

### Employee Spotlight:

Woodland would like to welcome the newest member of our staff, **Angelina Hoschouer**. Angie joined our team in January, filling the newly created role, Manager of Development for the Woodland Foundation.

Angie has a history of managing and coordinating multiple projects and programs for Goodwill Easter Seals and the YWCA of Dayton. With a background in researching and coordinating fundraising projects, we look forward to Angelina taking charge of our fund raising initiatives to promote, restore and preserve the wonders of Woodland.

### Woodland Notes:

**Woodland now has a 10 passenger bus available for touring. This bus is also handicap accessible. For more information contact Debra Mescher at 228-3221**



"History is the lengthened shadows of the great people who played such important roles in the success of this region. I was privileged to serve the families of those great people." Quote from Jim Sandegren

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## John Van Cleve, Woodland's Founder

John VanCleve, born in 1801, was the first male child born in Dayton. He was a self-educated man whose interests included map making, engineering, the law, music and politics.

VanCleve's propensity for learning was never more apparent than at the age of ten when he began studying Latin. This early beginning led the young man to a position at Ohio University, teaching Greek and Latin even before he graduated. VanCleve, was truly a gifted intellect and easily grasped the higher degrees of mathematics. He enjoyed painting, engraving, and spent much of his time playing at the piano and violin. He became President of the Geological Specimens and also became a devout botanist.

In 1840 John was appointed to find appropriate land for the new cemetery. Augusta George agreed to sell 40 acres of his farm for \$60.00 per acre. Van Cleve persuaded 24 men to subscribe, each paying \$100.00. On February 18, 1841, the subscribers met and formed the Woodland Cemetery Association.

John surveyed the area and being one of the foremost botanists in the country created a landscaping design. In 1843 the Trustees enclosed the grounds, laid out carriageways and subdivided the property into burial lots.

John died in 1858 and was buried in the family plot near the top of Lookout Hill.



## Memories of Woodland with Jim Sandegren

### What's a Fen ?

Along the north edge of Woodland Cemetery is a place where water flows freely out of the ground throughout the year. Wet spots such as this can sometimes be a problem, but not in this case. Birds and small mammals look upon this as a welcome source of fresh drinking and bathing water. This somewhat unusual phenomenon is known as a fen, the name given to such a place where fresh water emerges from the ground and forms a pond.

Some ten to twenty thousand years ago the last ice sheet of the late Pleistocene Epoch receded, leaving behind the rich moraine deposits on which our present day cities and farms reside. As the last ice age glaciers, known as the Wisconsin Drift, melted, the melt water collected in ponds and lakes on the upper surfaces of the remaining ice sheet until the water found a pathway either off an edge or down an opening. The veins which conducted the flowing water remain, and are evident as wet spots or streams flowing out of hillsides. Sometimes these flowing streams accumulate and provide a consistent source of fresh water. Early settlers built springhouses over these water sources and chilled their dairy products in the cold water.

A pond had formed from the fen at Woodland and was known to the local residents until it was filled in sometime in the early 1900's. Water continued to issue from the spring and caused the wet spot that caught my attention. After identifying this feature as a fen, I decided to dig a shallow pond to hold the water at a depth that would permit some aquatic plants to grow there. My intent was that this new water attraction would add a new dimension to the natural environment of the Woodland Arboretum, and provide some interesting photo opportunities to area naturalists and ornithologists.

*Jim Sandegren was the Arboretum Director at Woodland from 1988 to 2003.*



## Windows of Woodland



Evangeline

*"This is the forest primeval.  
The murmuring pines and the  
hemlocks, bearded with moss,  
and in garments green, indistinct in  
the twilight"*

These are the opening lines of *Evangeline* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. *Evangeline* wandered from Acadia to New Orleans in search of her lover Gabriel. She wore the colorful peasant costume of her native Normandie as she passed beneath the ancient trees.

*"Under the sycamore tree were  
hives  
Farther down, on the slope of the  
hill, was the well with its moss-  
grown bucket, fastened with iron...  
Shielding the house from storm on  
the north, were the barns and the  
farmyard.  
There stood the broad-wheeled  
wains and the antique ploughs and  
the harrows: There were the folds  
for the sheep and there in his  
feathered seraglio, strutted the  
lordly turkey..."*

The stained glass windows are located in the Woodland Mausoleum visiting hours 9-5 daily.

## Upcoming Tours & Events

All Tours Require Advance Reservations Call 937-228-3221

Woodland Historic Tours  
Mausoleum Tour  
Famous Women of Woodland  
Woodland Upper Loop Tour  
Discover Woodland Days

Woodland Bird Walk  
Photo Contest  
Sports Legends Tour  
Woodland Wool Walk  
History, Mystery, Mayhem & Murder

For monthly dates & times of scheduled tours, please visit our website at [www.woodlandcemetery.org](http://www.woodlandcemetery.org) or contact the administration office at 937-228-3221