

Heritage Happenings

Newsletter of Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

Fall Issue ~ Vol. XVII No. 2

October 2020

carol jean smetana, editor

Mission Statement:

Promote the historical significance, enhance the beauty, and preserve the artistic heritage of Bohemian National Cemetery

Vision:

Create an appreciation of BNC in local, national, and international audiences



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What's New with Friends of BNC

"Thank you so much for this online meeting! I live on the west coast and would never be able to attend a membership meeting, but with this virtual offering, I can take part!" This was one of the comments we received at our first online membership meeting. So although many of our members missed the chance to meet in person, plus the socialization and

great treats afterwards, every change has its positive reaction.

Rachel Berlinski, staff member of the Oak Park/River Forest Museum, did a great job explaining Bohemian immigrant Joseph Dedouch, who invented a process of printing on porcelain. The usually oval "Dedos," as they were called, were attached to

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Wednesday volunteer lumberjacks (left to right): Jim Miller, Bill Serviss, Carl Bradeer, Chuck Betzold, and Bob Weniger

Live from BNC

How rewarding to hear recent BNC visitors commenting on how good the cemetery grounds look! Certainly there is always room to improve maintaining a 100+ acre complex of roads, tombstones, trees, lawn, flowering planters, etc. Yet, the positive comments reflect the work of BNCA's management and staff, of Gethsemane Garden Center and

Dugo Landscaping Co., and of numerous dedicated volunteers who donate hundreds of hours every Wednesday, as well as the support from Friends of BNC to help fund repairs and buy needed tools and supplies.

Volunteers continue to make headway on removing dead trees and fallen branches. Once again

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Heritage Happenings

Heritage Happenings is published quarterly by Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Manuscripts, articles, photographs, and advertisements for Heritage Happenings may be submitted to carol jean smetana, 167 County Road A4A, Sapello, NM 87745-5026 or emailed to her at editor@friendsofbnc.org.

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Officers of Friends of BNC

- President: Marge Sladek Stueckemann
- Vice-President: Juli Nelson
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- Directors:
 - Chuck Betzold
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- Webmaster: carol jean smetana

from the editor's laptop



Our featured article this quarter takes a different look at Bohemian National Cemetery. We are fortunate to count Liz Vogel among our active volunteers—she brings a unique set of skills and experience to our organization. We hope to have more articles from Liz's perspective in upcoming issues.

If you weren't able to attend our August virtual presentation about the J.A. Dedouch Company, it is available on our website for you to view. In this issue you'll find a related article about a Dedo one of our readers shared with me. I'm planning a more extensive follow-up article about ceramic memorial photos, including one found at BNC that possibly dates to 1891 and a Dedo of a famous Chicagoan. I'll include photos of some of the styles we've found and examples of the various identifiers on the photos. If you have any you'd like to share, or if you have any questions about ceramic memorial photos, please contact me: editor@friendsofbnc.org or 167 County Road A4A, Sapello, NM 87745.

I hope those of you who live in the Chicagoland area saw the article in the Chicago Tribune about the cemetery. For those of you who live farther afield, our website includes a link (too cumbersome to write out here) to the online version of "Flashback: Touring the Bohemian National Cemetery grounds with 'Cemetery Lady' Helen Sclair."

Na shledanou
carol jean smetana

Upcoming Events at Bohemian National Cemetery

Cemetery grounds are open
7:30 am to 4:00 pm
seven days a week.

Cemetery office is open
8:30 am to 3:00 pm
Monday through Friday.
By appointment only on Saturday and Sunday.
Masks required; only two people at counter at a time.



Clues from a Dedo by carol jean smetana



After reading the article on Joseph Dedouch in our last issue, Friends member Diane Minarik sent me the photo of a Dedo at right and wrote:



3x4" ceramic Dedo

"For many years, at my parents' house, a lovely framed tile was buried in a drawer. It wasn't until I was an adult that I realized that this tile of my late paternal grandmother Emma Kozousek Minarik, who died in 1940, had been placed in her niche in the columbarium at

BNC. When her husband died seven years later, it appeared that the family decided not to go the route of purchasing another one. They instead placed in the niche an informal snapshot of the two of them together."

The back of the Dedo ceramic confirms that it was manufactured by the J.A. Dedouch Company in October 1940; the slightly blurred logo appears to have been applied to the back with a rubber stamp.



The words on the back beneath the oval appear to read, "U.S. MADE IN EVERY RESPECT"

This Dedo was also signed on the front. At the very bottom, so small as to be almost indistinguishable, are the words "Dedou-Pergl." I have seen Dedos variously signed on the front, "Dedouch," "Dedou" or "Dedo." But who or what is "Pergl?" Fortunately, Diane's

family has the likely source for this Dedo—an 8x10" tinted photograph of Emma, a portrait identical to the Dedo.



8x10" tinted photograph

It is signed at the bottom, "Pergl." There was a Jaro Pergl living in the Chicago area at the time, born in 1899 in Slany, Bohemia. On his 1928 naturalization

paper, Jaro lists his occupation as photographer. In the 1930 census Jaro's occupation is an "Agent" for a "Picture Manufacturer" (Dedouch?). It seems most likely that Jaro Pergl created the original portrait photo of Emma.

This appears to be an instance of the original artist, Pergl, being credited along with Dedouch on the ceramic memorial photo.

What's New with Friends of BNC

(continued from first page)
monuments so people could see how the person at rest looked in life. There are a great number of these pictures on gravestones at Bohemian National Cemetery. Her title, "Lasting Images: History of the J.A. Dedouch Company," was a super summary of what we learned.

If you have any ideas of a good topic for a meeting or know of a potential speaker, please let us know. It might have to be a virtual presentation, but we surely want to keep presenting the story of BNC! Email your suggestions to info@friendsofbnc.org or call

me at 847-362-9036.

Thank you to all the members who mailed in their ballots for the board election. We had a unanimous vote for the slate, and the board was honored by those who also added kind notes of thanks for what we are accomplishing. Our current directors, officers and committee chairs are listed on page two. We can always use more help. Please let me know if you are interested!

With the COVID-19 crisis, we still are not able to host in-person tours and events. However the cemetery is open every day for you to drive, walk, bike, rollerblade or just

sit on the gatehouse porch and enjoy the colorful trees.

I will appreciate your thoughts and prayers for my recovery from knee replacement surgery, which I had on October 20. I have thought about having this done for six years since I had my other knee replaced following a bad fall.

Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays! We won't have another issue until January, so I want to wish everyone a great end of the year!

Marge Sladek Stueckemann
President

Migration Along the Mississippi Flyway

by Liz Vogel

Since 1877, Bohemian National Cemetery has been a destination for a multitude of visitors paying their



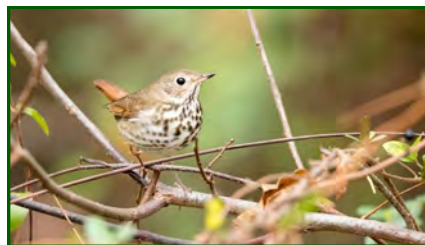
respects to loved ones interred there. The cemetery's 100+ acres of trees, flowers and vegetation are also a welcome habitat for countless other visitors with whom we are, perhaps, less familiar.

As you may know, mid-August through mid-November is peak fall migration season in Illinois and other states along what's called the Mississippi Flyway, when more than 200 bird species will pass overhead or stop for feeding and shelter along their journey. These birds fly mainly at night, often riding a cold front south to their wintering grounds in Central and South America. In the spring the pattern reverses: this river flows north on warm air currents to

summer breeding grounds in the northern US and Canada.

This phenomenon is something that we all share—a giant river of species flowing overhead—and if we are lucky, we can witness some of these birds (and insects) moving through the area as they stop for shelter or food.

Bohemian National Cemetery, with its tall canopy of trees within a green corridor along the Chicago River is a good stop-over spot for many bird species. Downy Woodpeckers may be seen foraging large and small branches as well as stout structured plants to access the insect larvae within their stems. We may see woodpeckers and nuthatches in greater numbers in some areas as they feed on the larvae of the Emerald Ash Borer, a beetle originally from Asia that has already destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in the two decades since it first appeared in North America. The small striped Brown Creeper, a woodland songbird, forages large live trees with deeply furrowed bark, working its way up around the tree and using its



Hermit Thrush, by N. Lewis, Shenandoah National Park, November 2, 2015, Creative Commons

long curved beak to search cracks and holes for insects. Among ground foraging birds, the Northern Flicker may be spotted as it forages dead leaves for ants and beetles, sometimes plunging its beak into the soil to collect highly nutritious ant larvae underground.

Warblers, despite their small size (weighing less than an ounce), have the ability to travel thousands of miles. Some that you may see include the Orange-crowned, Black-and-white, Tennessee, and Yellow-rumped. These birds feed on insects as they hop along small branches or while flitting through the air to gather swarming insects. Other likely visitors to the cemetery are thrushes and sparrows which like the warbler, can be seen collecting along branches or lunging to catch prey in the air.

To support these birds on this incredible trek, we can make some adjustments



Beetle holes and deep crevices in the bark of this dead cemetery tree can provide food for hungry birds.



within our landscapes. We can plant a diverse array of small to large shrubs such as *Aronia* (Chokeberry), *Ceanothus* (New Jersey Tea), *Sambucus* (Elder or Elderberry), and *Viburnum* that become larval host plants in the spring and produce fruits in the fall, increasing potential food sources. We can cut dead trees to a safe height and leave them standing as snags for nesting and feeding. Native forbs and grasses, such as *Echinacea* and *Rudbeckia* (Coneflowers and Black-eyed Susans), *Monarda*

(Bee Balm), *Schizachyrium* and *Andropogon* (Big and Little Bluestems), and *Sporobolus* (Prairie Dropseed), can be introduced to provide seed and quick fuel for the long journey.

If you are interested in tracking migration events and to determine the best time for observing some of these behaviors, check out Cornell Lab of Ornithology BirdCast at <https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/live-migration-maps/>.

Grab your binoculars and make a trip to the cemetery

to witness this awesome phenomenon and log your sightings on eBird at <https://ebird.org/home>. Not sure what you have seen? There is a world of information available on AllAboutBirds at <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>.

Information on other plants and animals is a click away on iNaturalist at <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. If you are interested in connecting with others, check out Chicago Audubon Society at <https://www.chicagoaudubon.org/>.

Introducing Liz Vogel



Liz Vogel joined our Wednesday Volunteers at Bohemian National Cemetery early this summer, applying her

unique experience and skills to the landscape.

In 2017, after spending many years working as a graphic designer and gardener, Liz earned a Masters in Landscape Architecture from University of Illinois. Employed by the Chicago Park District, she helped to organize and transfer their archives and assisted with park amenities planning. As a landscape designer with Hey and Associates, Inc., Liz worked on restoration projects, landscape plan reviews and inspections for a number of municipalities; managed native gardens for DuPage County Municipal Campus; and helped to develop

plans to transform a 100-acre golf course in Highland Park into natural areas, including passive recreation and education landscapes. Today, through her company fructifero, Liz is a landscape consultant and garden educator, helping to plan and install community gardens in Chicago.

Liz has a Professional Gardener Certification from Chicago Botanic Garden, an Openlands TreeKeepers Certification, and a Chicago Wilderness Burn Certification. In addition to BNC, Liz volunteers for a number of organizations, including Lake County Forest Preserve Native Seed Nursery and Chicago Park District.

Liz's work is motivated by her desire to impact the environment in beneficial ways. At BNC she focuses mostly on pruning and watering. She has started to compile a list of recommended native plant species that can provide valuable shelter and foraging during bird migration

seasons and that will be a beautiful addition to the cemetery while supporting our bees and butterflies. Liz hopes to bring in more volunteers for the First Czechoslovak Garden Club to help keep the cemetery plants flowering and looking good.



Liz Vogel trims the ivy at the Bohemian National Cemetery.

Donations

(August 2020 through 15 October 2020)

Leadership (\$10,000 and above)

Wayne Wolf

Benefactors (\$1000—\$9999)

Dorothy Batka

Angeline F. Bultas

Kenneth Dvorsky for road repair project

Charles Michalek Family for road repair project

Patrons (\$500—\$999)

CSA Lodge DuPage Pioneers #409
in memory of Jerome Gaydusek

Lori-Jo Fergle in honor of James J. Fergle, Jr.

Paul Pirok

Brad Suster and Hector Hernandez

Sponsors (\$100—\$499)

Dale and Linda Burton

Marilyn Cerny in memory of
husband Elmer and son Alan

Dawn Clewett

CSA Fraternal Life

CSA Lodge Anton Cermak #99

Lori-Jo Fergle in honor of the Fergle
Family

Carol Hajic

Ramona J. Hlinsky-Blake and Mary
Reiter

Phillip & Mary Kasik

Edward Kletecka

Judith Lovaas

Paul V. Machalek

Mary Ann Moad

Laddie and Janice (Polacek) Polz in
honor of parents Otto and
Blanche Polacek

Florence Kotal Rooney

Andrew Sikorovsky

Vavra/Brunner Charitable Fund

Joseph F. Vosicky Jr.

Ted & Barb Wachholz & Family in
honor of Chuck Michalek

WFL Lodge Pilgrim #330

Lisa Zahlmann

Donors (\$25—\$99)

Christine LaRocco

Sokol Chicagoland

Grace Varina

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weniger in
memory of Rudy and Marie
Betzold

Thank You (\$1—\$24)

Veronica Frost

**Thank you all for your
generosity.
Your donations help
preserve and restore
Bohemian National
Cemetery.**

Děkuji Vám!

Rachel Berlinski of the Oak Park River Forest Museum for her excellent presentation on Joseph Dedouch;

Marla Curran for her tech support for our first zoom membership meeting on August 23rd;

Chuck Michalek for retrieving and counting the ballots for our first mail-in election;

Pat Nelson for helping get out the newsletter;

Joe Topinka and the **Judy Baar Topinka Foundation** for allowing us to use their zoom account for our August meeting;

Liz Vogel for her expert help with the plantings at BNC.



Columbarium Restoration Project Update

Thanks to continuing donations made by Friends of BNC members and other individuals interested in preserving BNC's crematorium/columbarium building, an important phase of the 2020 roof work was completed this summer. As outlined in the previous issue of *Heritage Happenings*, Marion Restoration completed masonry work on several parapet and brick support walls.

Shortly, Knickerbocker Roofing Company will install a new flat roof located directly above the main columbarium foyer. It is

interesting to note that the current curved interior ceiling above the entrance hallway was installed sometime after the original construction, resulting in a lower ceiling height, perhaps to save on heating costs.

In addition to the installation of this new roof section, Knickerbocker will make repairs to clay tiles on the curved dome roof over Ceremony Hall. Repairs will also be made to the small flat roof at the rear (south) portion of the building.

Knickerbocker employees assessing materials needed for current roof project



Live from BNC

(continued from first page)

CSA has helped to keep the volunteers looking stylish by donating a new set of blue CSA Fraternal Life t-shirts inscribed with "Volunteering: it's what we do". Our thanks to CSA's Helen Gaydusek for facilitating the t-shirt donation. Helen is also Friends of BNC secretary. New volunteers who have

helped out this summer include Dylan Allen and Ron Guichard.

Potholes throughout the cemetery continue to occur, and several volunteers have purchased asphalt patch to try to repair smaller potholes. Fortunately, a combination of grants from the Czech Republic and Friends of BNC, combined with private

individuals' earmarked donations will fund repairs to some road sections with large potholes. The repairs will be made this fall by Power Paving Co.

Chuck Michalek
Friends of BNC Volunteer
Wednesday Volunteer

Welcome to Our New Members!

Jason Cadek ... Omaha NE
Robert Carter ... Westchester IL
Dawn Clewett ... Naperville IL
Kristin Fayer ... Chicago IL

Donna Fulks ... Los Angeles CA
Ginny Lesak Jakoubek ... Granger IN
Donald Jerousek ... Elkhorn WI
James LaForest ... Chicago IL

Roger Liska ... Naperville IL
Jessi McKenna ... Warren MI
Anna Ramirez ... Bolingbrook IL
Barbara Rogus ... Lincolnshire IL
Jennifer Vejvoda ... Madison WI

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Heritage Happenings

we're on the web
www.friendsofbnc.org



Winter Meeting



Our Friends winter meeting will be **Sunday, February 28, 2021**, in the early afternoon. We hope to be able to have our traditional in-person gathering, including a Czech meal, but of course it will depend on the status of the pandemic. We'll make the decision sometime in January. If we can't meet in person, we will meet via zoom. Details will be made available on our website, on our Facebook page, and in the next issue of *Heritage Happenings*.

Looking for Volunteers

Are you active on Facebook or Instagram or Twitter? Can you help with fundraising or write a thank you letter? Would you like to develop content for our website? Can you keep track of inventory and sales? Could you help plan our biannual programs?

Our volunteer board members are spread too thin, trying to wear too many hats. By contributing just a few hours a month, you can help Friends of BNC continue to be a vibrant organization fulfilling its mission.

You do not have to live in the Chicago area or be an expert to volunteer. Please contact Marge at 847-362-9036 or email us at info@friendsofbnc.org.

Let's talk about how you can help!

We
Need
Your
Help!