



# Greenwood Hills

CEMETERY

Portland, Oregon

Estab. 1882

Spring 2022

9002 SW Boones Ferry Road • Portland, OR 97219

Open 8:00am to Sunset

## Part II: A Guided Walking Tour of Greenwood Hills

We left off last year in the middle of the cemetery. Let us continue up the hill and learn more about our great trees and shrubs.

Taking a right past a broad leaf maple, you will find yourself at a fork. To the left, you will see a small pond that is always brimming with activity (birds, frogs, newts, ducks, and snakes). In the “Y” of the road is a rhododendron. This “rhody,” when flowering, is full of pink flowers. Honey made from the rhododendron can be hallucinogenic. “Mad Honey” is sought after in Nepal to relieve ailments and increase sexual performance.

Across from the rhododendron there is a cylindrical, dense tree with a slight blue tint. This is one of two blue spruces in the cemetery. They are usually conical which is the shape of the other blue spruce (see if you can find it). The Navajo used the blue spruce as a medicinal plant and gave twigs to bring good fortune.

You will come to a row of large trees on your right. The one closest to the road is a silver maple. It grows quickly, provides a shady canopy, and it has sweeter sap than any other maple but produces too little sap for syrup. The two other trees are sycamore trees. During the Battle of Brandywine, George Washington sheltered his troops behind sycamore trees and held off the British from taking Philadelphia. Since then, the sycamore is a symbol of hope and protection.

The wooded area on the left is home to a cherry tree, small leaf maples, and Douglas firs, among others. One of particular interest, the horse chestnut, should not be confused with the American chestnut. The horse chestnut is toxic and not edible. In World War I, the British government held a campaign asking everyone to collect horse chestnuts (“conkers”). They provided starch for the production of cordite for the war.

Heading back toward the pond, on the right is a wooded area and deep ravine. This is home to a resident pack of coyotes. The woods are made up of willows, mulberry, hawthorn, poplar, and birch, just to name a few.


Past the pond, you will stay right and pass several Holly trees on your left. Holly are known for their bright red berries and prickly leaves. The Druids viewed holly as a symbol of fertility and eternal life, hanging the plant to bring good luck and protection. The Romans would decorate halls with holly boughs. Traditions changed to reflect Christian beliefs and legend states the blood of Christ stained the berries red forever, and that the pointy leaves symbolize the crown of thorns.

As you admire the trees written about in this article, also take some time to read some inscriptions on the headstones. Contemplate that each represents a life that once was. There are some interesting stories that have come to light over the years about several of the deceased.

**Correction:** In part one of this story in the Fall 2021 newsletter, the tree originally identified as a Redwood is actually a Giant Sequoia.



Did you know  
Greenwood Hills  
Cemetery has its own  
Facebook page?

Search for us by name, then  the page to share stories, news, photos, and connect with the community of people who care about this unique place.

We've made it even easier to donate to Greenwood Hills by accepting 

Click the “Donate” link on our website or Facebook page to set up a one-time or recurring donation to help ensure the preservation of this wonderful property.

### Need a grave marker?

Ordering through us helps with the maintenance costs of Greenwood Hills Cemetery.

### We Offer These Services

Our Archivist provides quick and courteous records search, gravesite location, and grave marker location services. Interments in GHC are available to those who hold deeds to family plots with available space. River View is our preferred provider of grave marker and interment services. If we are unavailable, call River View directly at: 503-246-4251.

Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining the grounds of Greenwood Hills Cemetery in a manner that respects the dead, honors the living, and preserves a valuable connection with our rich pioneer history.

Through responsible stewardship of resources, we strive to maintain a safe and beautiful open space where people can come to remember the past and enjoy the natural world which we hold in sacred trust for the future.

Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Assoc. • PO Box 80701 Portland, Oregon 97280 • chair@greenwoodhillscemetery.com  
www.greenwoodhillscemetery.org • Archivist/Chair: 503-781-1698 • Facebook: Greenwood Hills Cemetery

## ***In Memoriam: Ken Mead (1944 - 2021)***

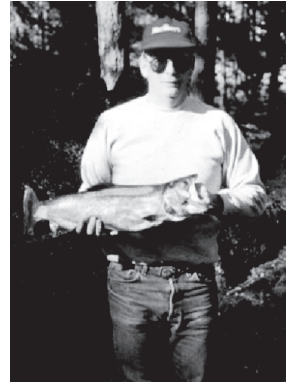
Greenwood Hills lost a beloved member of our community in November.

Ken Mead was Treasurer of the Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Association for the last 10 years, and husband of 47 years to the Chairman of the Board, Hattie Mead. If you spend time in the cemetery, you have surely seen him walking with Hattie and their Shetland Sheepdogs, or dutifully collecting the garbage bags, raking leaves, sawing and stacking fallen branches, and innumerable other labors of love to keep this property functional and beautiful for us to all enjoy.

The Board is planning to install a memorial bench this year in honor of Ken and Hattie's legacy.

*If you'd like to make a special monetary contribution to this effort, there are two options:*

- A check may be made out to GHGMA with "Memorial Bench" in the memo line, and mailed to PO Box 80701 | Portland, OR 97280
- A donation may be made via our PayPal with "Memorial Bench" in the "+Add a Note" section



### **Cleanup Day 2022: Come Volunteer!**

Mark your calendars for this year's Cleanup Day! Volunteers, family, friends, dog-walkers, and neighbors are welcome and encouraged to participate.

WHEN: Saturday, May 21st

WHERE: 9002 SW Boones Ferry Road

TIME: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

WHAT TO BRING: Pruning shears, loppers, brooms, gas string trimmers, rakes, tarps, gloves, a sack lunch or snacks and a chair

### **Upcoming Holiday & Board Events**

#### **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

Saturday - Monday

May 28, 29, 30

10-4 pm



#### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Wednesday, June 15th

7 pm

Bring a chair and join us at the entrance to GHC

## **Contributions are Appreciated!**

Greenwood Hills Cemetery relies on charitable gifts to maintain the cemetery and make necessary improvements.

Please consider increasing your donation or including GHGMA in your charitable giving plans if you have not done so.



**I want to help maintain and restore Greenwood Hills Cemetery!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



Add my name to the volunteer list.



Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

GHGMA Tax ID #94-3052123

***Thank you! We truly appreciate your support.***

**Reply to:  
GHC Maintenance Association  
PO Box 80701  
Portland, OR 97280**