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Vision for the Future,  
*cover story*

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Tour Additions  
and Changes

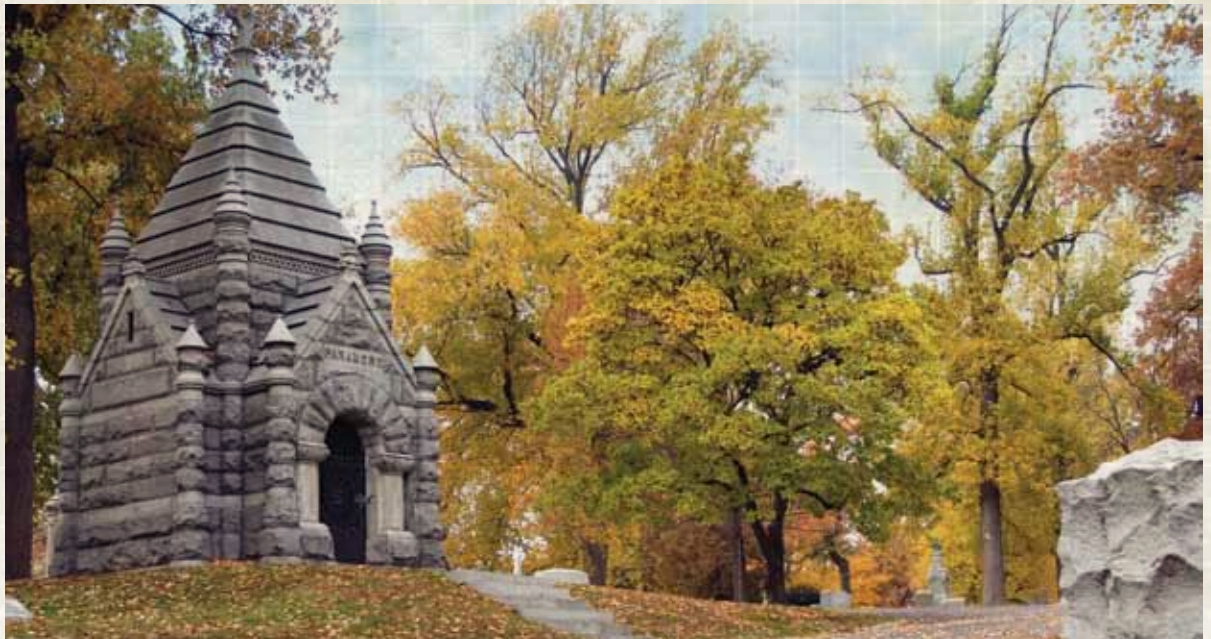
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## Vision for the Future: A 100 Year Landscape Plan

by: Nancy Ylvisaker, *President*, BELLEFONTAINE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

BELLEFONTAINE WAS FOUNDED in 1849 by city leaders responding to downtown development that had left urban cemeteries hemmed in, or abandoned by westward moving congregations. These leaders sought a permanent resting ground, in a wooded retreat overlooking the river that was the lifeblood of St. Louis. To ensure that its beauty would match that of their beloved city, the founders traveled to New York to find an accomplished engineer and landscape architect to design the cemetery.

By the turn of the century Bellefontaine was one of St. Louis' most visited sites, with a rail line and expanded avenues bringing thousands to this sanctuary and precursor to Forest Park. Its 14 miles of winding avenues were lined with beautiful monuments and tombs of the rich and famous, the infamous and ordinary citizens. The 314 acres of grounds included wooded groves, grass paths and streams and ponds, as well as gatehouses, stables and cottages for gardeners. Reflecting 100 years of dedication to the landscape, Bellefontaine by the mid-1950s had greenhouses, dozens of gardens and more species of trees than the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Fast forward to today. Unlike other large, historic cemeteries which are almost full, Bellefontaine has the good fortune to have over 100 acres of undeveloped land,

much of it around its lakes and in beautiful interior valleys. To ensure that development in the next century will preserve the original landscape vision while providing a new, transformative one for remaining land, in 2010 Bellefontaine's trustees sought the help of Herb Schaal, one of the country's pre-eminent landscape

architects. Trustees wanted a "100 Year Plan"—a blueprint for decision-making for succeeding generations. Such Master Plans are common among the nation's best parks, arboretums and botanical gardens.

Planning began with inventory and analysis of the cemetery's assets—its topography of valleys, bluffs and hills; and its historic

buildings, paths and roadways. Mr. Schaal worked with Bellefontaine trustees to assess design ideas that would maximize the unique character and beauty of these physical resources. In some cases this is leading to entirely new visions, and in others a return to the past, such as restoring miles of paths and trails through the grounds.

Central to all design is respect for the land as well as awareness of the public's changing tastes in memorialization. Because more people are choosing cremation, the plans incorporate cremation gardens surrounding Bellefontaine's lakes and stream. The public's desire to preserve green *[continued on back]*

*“Place, then, and preserve  
the city of Death beside that  
of Life, as its sorrowful but  
blessed remembrance.”*

—DEDICATION OF THE BELLEFONTAINE  
CEMETERY ADDRESS OF  
PROFESSOR POST, MAY 15, 1850

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- There is still space available for purchase at Bellefontaine.
- The white-line tour route is 4 miles long.
- We have 115 Civil War Officers buried here.
- There are 10 Medal of Honor Recipients in the cemetery.
- The Bagnell obelisk has only 3 sides with each brother on a different side, but there were 4 brothers who were buried at Bellefontaine.
- Mark Twain's sister, Pamela Ann Clemens Moffett, rests with us.
- Betty Grable's brother Jackie is on the grounds.
- Nine Governors are interred at Bellefontaine.
- We have 28 lots owned by organizations—do you have a connection?
- Bellefontaine has 5 horse hitching posts.
- Less than 10% of Missouri cemeteries are endowed. Bellefontaine has a strong endowment.
- In our early years we had an orchard and hay fields. We now have a single peach tree.
- Whether you choose cremation or casket burial, we have a space that is perfect for you.

**150th Anniversary of the Civil War and Notables Tour Additions Lead to New Routes, Maps and Booklets**

AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS of respectable use, over this past summer the cemetery updated both its Civil War and notables tours. New road striping, marker numbering, booklets and maps will guide visitors to the final resting places of some of America's best-known people, from William Clark to Adolphus Busch.

The new notable tour is 2 miles long and is easily followed via the solid white line. The extended Notable Tour is indicated by the dashed line and when followed makes for an entire tour totalling 4 miles. To accommodate the added notables, all number markers have been changed on both tours. The Civil War tour markers were moved to the actual gravesites rather than the edge of the road, but are visible from the road.

Civil War Tour Booklets can be purchased in the cemetery office for a suggested donation of \$3 and the notables tour booklet for \$5. All proceeds benefit the preservation and restoration of Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Docent-led tours for 6 or more people can be scheduled with the cemetery office by calling: 314-381-0750 and asking for Jean Steck.

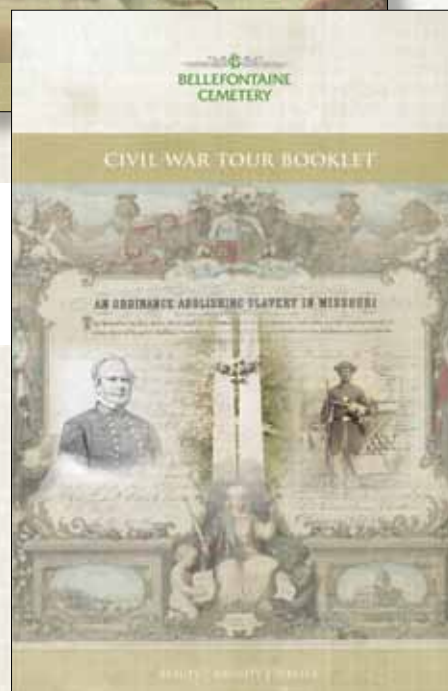
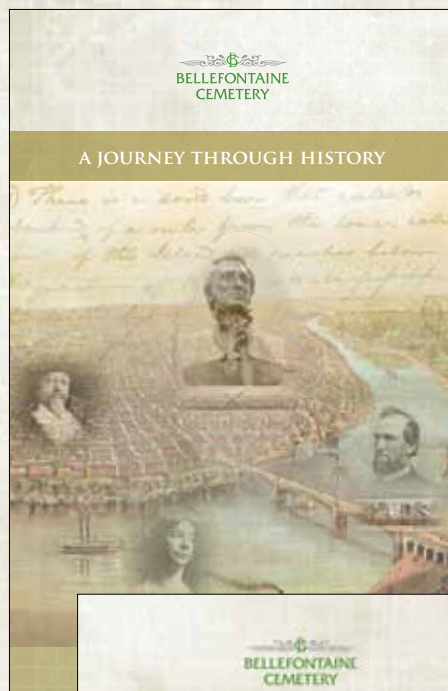
In addition to the new booklets, souvenir lapel pins are available for \$7 [see below]. Whether you wear the pin or give it as a gift, you can now proclaim to the world how much you dig Bellefontaine.

BOTH NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BELLEFONTAINE CEMETERY OFFICE OR BY INQUIRY. FREE DOCENT-LEAD TOURS FOR 6 OR MORE.

**Notable Passages**

**INTERMENTS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES OF NOTE**

- DOUGLAS BLANKE MCCARTHY (1933-2011) Architect, builder, art collector and patron. He went blind in his early 30s, but that didn't stop him from founding Contemporary Art Museum and collecting great art.
- CHRISTIAN B. PEPPER (1910-2011) Art collector and scholar who co-founded what is Missouri's largest law firm. He was also a long term board member of the St Louis Art Museum.
- SALLY KEYS HERMANN (1927-2011) Volunteer who set up Barnes-Jewish Hospital's cancer information center, which became a model worldwide.



The new Bellefontaine lapel pin, shown actual size of 2 inches.

**New Book on Bellefontaine in the Works**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP – THE WINNER WHO SUBMITS THE BEST PHOTO OR DOCUMENT WINS AN IPAD**

DO YOU HAVE OLD PHOTOS of Bellefontaine landscapes, buildings, or your family tomb? Letters, local maps, or documents referring to the cemetery? This fall, Lindenwood history professor and *Confluence Magazine* editor Dr. Jeffery Smith began writing a book on Bellefontaine, to be published in 2014. The book will weave the cemetery's history into the broader themes of St. Louis history, including expansion of the city, social mores and landscape and architectural evolution. The book will be a companion to the 2008 book "Movers and Shakers, Scalawags and Suffragettes: Tales from Bellefontaine Cemetery," written by Bellefontaine trustee Carol Shepley. That book contained the stories of famous cemetery "citizens" and won an Independent Publisher IPPY Award for best regional non-fiction.

While the cemetery has substantial archives on its families, we have few images or documents on the extensive landscaping on family lots, changes in vistas in the cemetery and along the river, funeral corteges, cemetery workers and buildings. If you are willing to share your images and documents with us, please contact Jean Steck at JSTECK@BELLEFONTAINECEMETERY.ORG or call, 314-381-0750.



Left: Dr. Jeffery Smith  
An example of a vintage postcard featuring some of Bellefontaine's pictorial history. Do you have an iconic image we are missing in your personal effects?



**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS:**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
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| Jane Bryan            |  |
| Clorine McCann        |  |
| Thomas Monroe         |  |
| Tim Flagg             |  |



**PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION DONATIONS**

Bellefontaine Cemetery Association, established in 1849 by citizens of the St. Louis region, is a non-sectarian, nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing high quality interment and memorialization choices to families in a setting of great beauty.

We receive no public funding. For over 150 years, St. Louisans have made gifts to Bellefontaine; it is through your generous, tax-deductible support that we can continue to preserve and protect this extraordinary, historic cemetery.

**DONATIONS MAY BE MAILED TO:**

Bellefontaine Cemetery  
4947 West Florissant Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63115

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
[WE DO NOT SHARE OUR LIST]

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF  
[CIRCLE ONE] \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

METHOD OF PAYMENT  
 CHECK [PAYABLE TO BELLEFONTAINE CEMETERY]  
 CREDIT CARD [CIRCLE ONE] VISA MC DISCOVER  
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## What is a Green Burial?

THERE ARE MANY SHADES OF GREEN. For some, it means a burial in an undisturbed landscape with no coffin or marker—sometimes even no artificial joints allowed. But going mostly green isn't hard. Many people think that state regulations require embalming, concrete vaults and caskets. In fact, that is rarely the case, though a cemetery may impose such requirements, often for greater ease of maintenance and perceived customer safety, as interments without vaults or caskets are more likely to subside. Bellefontaine does not require any of these. An old-fashioned pine box or shroud is acceptable. Our new Master Plan is also looking for ways to incorporate more natural landscapes with less memorialization for those preferring "truer green".

## Find Your Niche

### A DIFFICULT DECISION: TWO YEARS TO CHANGE YOUR MIND

RESPONDING TO THE 35% of St. Louisans who prefer cremation, Bellefontaine now has two lovely, new columbariums. But while many now prefer cremation, choices about placement of a loved one's cremated remains are difficult to make: whether to scatter in a favorite place, or place remains in a grave or columbarium niche. As a result, almost half of all families leave urns on the mantle, at the funeral home, or in the closet. Long-term, there is risk that remains may be forgotten or lost. Because we know it is a difficult decision, Bellefontaine offers customers who purchase a niche two years to change their mind and receive a refund.



*Left: Inside the Hotchkiss Chapel Columbarium.*

*Far right: The Lakeside Columbarium.*



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BELLEFONTAINE  
CEMETERY

1849 **162** 2011

BEAUTY · DIGNITY · SERVICE

4947 W. Florissant Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63115

THE NEXT 100 YEARS

*100 Year Plan, continued...*

space will be reflected in botanical-garden style landscapes, with subtle memorialization such as bronze plaques on garden walls. Sheltered, private valleys will become intimate retreats, and native prairie restored for wanderers and wildlife. Natural stone obelisks, or perhaps simply trees, may be dedicated as memorials along contemplative walkways. Always offered, of course, will be traditional memorials in beautiful new landscapes.

Other plan aspects dovetail with Bellefontaine's role as an educator and guardian of history. In the future, we envision a Visitor's Center by our lakes, which will provide archives for family histories, and meeting rooms to host customers, lectures and tours. Lawns and terraces will provide outdoor gathering spots and lead to gardens and paths around the stream and lakes.

As a historic cemetery, Bellefontaine is a place of solace, reflection and spiritual renewal. It is also a community resource: it holds the tangible history of the citizens of our city and state, is a quality arboretum, and represents an important reserve of land along the Mississippi River. The ultimate goal of the Master Plan to honor and enhance these resources for future generations.



*The Columbarium and upcoming Lakeside gardens are among the Master Plan features that will continue to enhance the lush beauty of the cemetery.*

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