



# Monumental Issues

## Work Continues on Union Cemetery

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### Special points of interest:

- Chicora's staff is trained in the use of Jahn, U.S. Heritage, and Edison products.
- We have specialized training in masonry analysis and testing.
- We have certificate level training in horticulture, landscape, and landscape maintenance.
- We are members of American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, the US/ ICOMOS – Brick, Masonry & Ceramics Committee, the Association of Preservation Technology, the Preservation Trades Network, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Association of Gravestone Studies.

The second phase of conservation work on the Union, South Carolina Presbyterian Cemetery has continued this summer with the treatment of about half of the 65 monuments.

The work is being funded by the cemetery's caregiver, Mr. Louis Jordan, who has been maintaining the property for the past 50 years.

Last year Chicora worked on over 40 monuments. Examples of the work range from simple resetting to extensive repair of stones badly damaged by iron jacking. One box tomb was rebuilt last year and this season we will be repairing three marble box tombs that are on the

verge of collapse.

One of the more beautiful monuments, illustrated in this issue's masthead, was a combined obelisk and cradle grave covered with a cross. The cradle had fallen into disrepair and was collapsed. The cross was broken. Over nearly a week, the items were carefully mended and reset. Afterwards the monument was cleaned and the cradle replanted. The result is a stunningly beautiful monument.

With the completion of this season's treatments, the Union cemetery will be restored to its previous glory. Although continued maintenance will be

necessary, Union County should be proud of this exceptionally beautiful and well cared for cemetery.



**The monument before treatment**

## Southerland Attends NCPTT Workshop

At Chicora we believe that continuing education is critical and that you are never "finished" learning.

Recently Nicole Southerland, who has been with Chicora for six years, got a refresher in a broad range of current conservation treatments at the

NCPTT workshop on advanced cemetery conservation techniques in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

The workshop provided updates on a broad range of treatments, including stucco application and whitewashing.





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### Assessment of Greenville's Historic Cemetery Completed



**View of Springwood Cemetery showing its urban setting**

Although used for burial perhaps as early as 1812, what would become the historic core of Greenville's Springwood Cemetery wasn't acquired by the City until 1829. Since that time the small burial ground has grown into a 28 acre cemetery managed by the City.

Chicora was retained by the Friends of Springwood Cemetery in early 2006 to create a preservation assessment and

prepare treatment proposals for those monuments in need of conservation assistance. This work was conducted by Chicora over several weeks and the resulting 460 page document was delivered to the Friends and the City of Greenville as a result of the project.

The document includes a synthesis of the cemetery's history, a review of its extant master plan, evaluations of landscape maintenance issues and needs,

and discussions of topics as varied as lighting and lot amenities. Nearly 400 stones were identified as requiring conservation treatment.

Critical issues, such as monuments that pose significant liability to the City, were identified as having costs of \$99,500 — pointing out that deferred maintenance results in serious long-term consequences.

### Landscape Maintenance is a Critical Conservation Issue

Too often cemetery caregivers focus on the monuments, not realizing that what happens to the landscape around those stones is every bit as critical to the well-being of the cemetery.

That's why Chicora conservator Debi Hacker is also trained in horticulture and landscape maintenance. She explains that often the problems seen can be

traced back to the wrong plant, place in the wrong location, and being cared for inappropriately.

This results in trees endangering fences, grass maintenance that damages markers, and shrubbery that envelopes entire plots.

Add to this insufficient staff,

low-bid landscape maintenance, and lack of training and you have the recipe for disaster.

Debi has begun offering a one-day workshop in practical cemetery maintenance — a great opportunity for caregivers and volunteers to learn how to prevent problems before they occur!

*The problem is the wrong plant, placed in the wrong location, and cared for inappropriately.*



**Military cemeteries provide special challenges for preservation**

### Chicora Conducting an Assessment of the Portsmouth Naval Cemetery

Chicora was retained by the architectural firm of Sadler & Whitehead of Richmond, Virginia to conduct an assessment of the Portsmouth Naval Cemetery.

Although just over an acre the cemetery contains over 800 graves, dating from the early

nineteenth century through the last decades of the twentieth century.

While many military cemeteries are under the jurisdiction of the Veterans Administration and a few are controlled by the National Park Service, many more are on active military

bases and maintained by the Department of Defense. They present special challenges and issues to preservation. Often one of the most critical issues is helping local facilities maintenance departments understand the care necessary for historic cemeteries.