

## Progress on Projects

The cemetery has seen much activity and progress on restoration and beautification projects this summer.



Couch Tree Service removing the damaged oak tree

Kees Trees, LLC and Couch Tree Service were awarded contracts for tree trimming and removal based on the survey conducted by ISA Certified Arborist, Stephen Dicke, owner of Shady Arbor, PLLC, in Clinton, MS. He was assisted by ISA Certified Arborist Chuck Grantham, Farm & Field Solutions, LLC, Ovett, MS. The association's objectives for the survey were to reduce the risk of tree failures which could harm individuals or monuments, improve tree health which can extend their lifespan, and lay the groundwork for an arboretum. The extensive report, presented to the association in early March, listed 248 trees, representing 27 distinct species. Each tree was measured, photographed, evaluated and ranked as good, fair, poor or dead. 78% of the trees received the "good" label, indicating healthy trees with no obvious condition problems, 42 trees were rated "fair". These trees had severe health issues and were declining rapidly. 11 trees were rated "poor", indicating severe problems and near death, requiring removal. Because the survey was done in the winter months, a few more trees joined this category after observation in the spring. Stephen has returned to further evaluate trees about which questions have arisen and has been very helpful in providing guidance for the treatment needed for particular trees.

Summer interns from Belinda Stewart Architects, PLLC have worked tirelessly in extreme heat to complete a survey of the monuments. Each grave marker has been photographed and evaluated and the resulting report will provide the framework for an extensive monument repair and restoration project, which we hope to begin in the fall. Ryan Cullop, a civil engineer with Smithers Engineering, has determined the GPS location of each monument and this information will be included in the report. GPS location will be a very helpful tool to identify monuments, particularly those located in the old section of the cemetery which was never platted or numbered.



Kees Trees clearing dead and broken limbs in a cedar tree

As with all progress, there have been some delays and problems to work out. The roads have been blocked at times and the extreme heat has been a factor. The various groups have worked to accommodate each other and it has been a pleasure to have them in the cemetery.

---

## Maintenance Problems Continue

In 2020, the Greenwood Cemetery Association and the City of Jackson signed a Memorandum of Understanding which provides guidelines for the activities of each entity in Greenwood Cemetery. Basically, the MOU states that “The City will continue to be responsible for and will continue to perform the maintenance, mowing and upkeep of the Cemetery that it has previously performed.” The City of Jackson budget problems have caused a severe reduction in staffing for the Parks and Recreation Department as is evidenced by the infrequent and sketchy mowing provided this summer. A particular problem has been the lack of qualified operators of Weedeaters which are essential for mowing around and between monuments and plants. Mowing is the very basis of cemetery upkeep. Overgrown grass quickly obliterates tablet graves, coping and bases of monuments, making them vulnerable to mower damage. As I write this, at the beginning of August, grass has gotten so high that six to eight inch high gravestones and surveyor flags marking the newly planted roses are no longer visible. Volunteers have filled some of the gaps, but the cemetery continues to appear unkempt. Lot owners are encouraged to provide maintenance for their family lots as we search for a more permanent solution to the problem.

---

## Profiles from the Past

### The Cabaniss Family

The recent service for Susan Cabaniss Culbertson in the Cabaniss family lot, led me to search for more information about the family. Dr. A. B. Cabaniss arrived in Jackson in the early 1840's. His son, also A.B. Cabaniss, married Susan Lindsey, the daughter of another early Jackson family. Their daughters, Lucy and Susan, established a floral business in 1884 which continued to be operated by the family for 100 years. It was first known as The Home of Flowers and later Misses Cabaniss Florists. Their nephew, Lindsey Cabaniss assumed leadership of the business in 1917 and renamed it Capital Floral Company. His son, William Lindsey Cabaniss, received a B.A. in horticulture from MS State and became manager of the retail store after World War II. He and his wife, Betty operated the business until 1983 and were the parents of the recently departed Susan and three other children. Generations of Jacksonians depended on the Cabaniss family for all their floral needs.

---

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the Greenwood Cemetery Association was held on Sunday, May 15 at the Summer House in the cemetery. It was good to be back at this location after two years of Zoom meetings. President Jim Rosenblatt opened the meeting and asked that attendees introduce themselves.

The president's report reviewed progress on projects in the past year including repair and painting of the Summer House, extensive work to correct drainage problems, and repairs to the sidewalk along Central Avenue. The repaving of Central Avenue failed to meet expectations and negotiations continue for remedial work on the project.

Jim also outlined major plans for the coming year as described in the accompanying story. Additional needs identified include addressing erosion concerns along the creek, repairing and replacing interior fences, updating and printing brochures and expanding the association's presence on social media.

Officers to serve for the 2022-23 year are Jim Rosenblatt, President, Robert Murphree Vice-President and Treasurer, Paulette French, Secretary and Cecile Wardlaw, Executive Director.

---

## Wirt Adams Yerger, Jr.

Greenwood Cemetery lost a valued friend and generous supporter with the death of Wirt Yerger on May 2, at the age of 92. A leader in the insurance industry, Wirt is most remembered for his generous and enthusiastic support of community programs and projects, including Greenwood Cemetery. Wirt and wife Mary established the Greenwood Cemetery Fund at the Community Foundation for MS, which will underwrite the work of Greenwood Cemetery Association in years to come. Donations to the fund and in memory of Wirt are much appreciated.

---



Interns from Belinda Stewart Architects enjoyed their work surveying the monuments. Left to right: Alexis Windham, Aidan Taylor, TJ Cook, Harmony Parker



The loss of this major limb necessitated the removal of the tree



Ryan Collup, an engineer with Smithers Engineers, collected GPS reading for all monuments.



This handsome monument honoring Gov. and Mrs. Winter was installed in late April by Brookhaven Monument Company. Greenwood Cemetery is the final resting place of eight Mississippi governors.



A contribution to Greenwood Cemetery Association is the perfect way to honor or memorialize a friend or family member. Use the donation form to let us know your intention. An acknowledgment will be sent to the person you indicate. Contributions in any amount are appreciated. A donation of \$25 qualifies you as a member of the association. Donations of \$50 or more are acknowledged by mail.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Is your gift in honor or memory of a person or event? If yes: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Send notification to: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donate with PayPal at [www.greenwoodcemeteryjackson.org](http://www.greenwoodcemeteryjackson.org). City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Greenwood Cemetery Association**

PO Box 55783  
Jackson, MS 39296-5783

**NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 670  
JACKSON MS**

**Two Options for Donations**

Contributions in any amount to **Greenwood Cemetery Association** are always gratefully received. Donations directly to the Association are used for supplies, social media, printing and mailing, and to fill the gaps in the City's maintenance. We depend on our faithful supporters to provide the necessary funds. To donate to the association, please use the enclosed envelope or PayPal on the website [www.greenwoodcemeteryjackson.org](http://www.greenwoodcemeteryjackson.org). Donations of \$50 or more are acknowledged by mail. Contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated.

An endowment fund for Greenwood Cemetery has been established at the **Community Foundation for Mississippi**. As the Endowment Fund grows, so will the income generated by it, thus insuring the future stability of the Association. **Donations to the Endowment Fund must be made directly to the Community Foundation for Mississippi at 119 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201.** Options for giving include cash gifts as well as stock and other non-cash gifts. For more information, contact Theresa Erickson, Vice President for Philanthropy at the Community Foundation, 601-974-6044 or [Theresa@formississippi.org](mailto:Theresa@formississippi.org).