

### **In Memory of Daisy**

My graceful gray cat, Daisy, was with me for 18 years. We had a sweet, steadfast relationship and her resilience made me believe she'd always be there. Yet, when her death came, it presented me with an unexpected life passage of my own.

During the past year I began a relationship with Bluestem and its founders. I walked the trails and talked with Heidi and Jeff about ways in which I might support their efforts to create a conservation cemetery and to promote the idea of green burial in North Carolina. But it was Daisy who finally connected me to this very special site. After her death, I walked the fields and woods again, marveling at the fall colors, the abundant wildflowers, and the serenity of this sacred space. I chose my plot, reassured that she would be lovingly tucked into a corner of it, beneath a redbud tree.

With the help of Heidi and Jeff, (and my vet who had placed her in an eco-friendly cat-sized pouch!), Daisy was buried under a stand of trees overlooking rolling grasslands, with a marker bearing her name. She is the first cat to be interred at Bluestem. As much as I miss her, her death has given new meaning to my commitment to this land and to the mission of the Bluestem Community.

*Ina Stern*

*November 15, 2022*

