

Bluestem

COMMUNITY · CONSERVATION · CEMETERY



{{First Name}},

Newly-sprouted trout lilies and emerging buds on tree limbs are signaling the start of spring at Bluestem. New beech leaves are finally pushing out their dried counterparts as the deciduous trees start to clothe themselves once more. Even we are shedding layers. Coming out of winter's pause, we are mindful of the growth that has continued below the surface these many months of stillness. Nature works slow and steady. We do our best to let its constancy ground us. In the midst of the many uncertainties within and around us, we can be sure that we are not alone—in our rest, in our renewal, and in our everyday.

Welcome.



Snow in the Meadow. Photo by Don Bryson.

SLOWING DOWN

Whether you are grieving a recent loss or feeling lost under the weight of the world, Bluestem can be a place of refuge. Come wander the trails, take a moment in the quiet sanctuaries, or listen to the calming sounds of the creek. Bring a friend and share a picnic under the Black Walnut trees. Lay a blanket by the pond and [stare up at the sky](#). Spending time in nature helps stabilize us when we need it most. Just as important is connecting with loved ones and our surrounding communities. [Join other naturalists](#) in digging into the earth, nourishing new plant life, or removing annoying invasives. Find a supportive group of friends at the weekly meetings of [Growing Through Grief](#). Let us know if we can connect you with any grief resources in the area, or if you yourself, have services to offer Bluestem friends and families.

Listen to Remember



Nature enthusiasts learning about trees in the Sanctuary.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Bluestem is powered by deeply dedicated land stewards, burial crew-ers, program organizers, fundraisers, tour guides, ambassadors and others who share their hearts and time all year long. A special shout out to friends [Geoffrey Neal and Margot Lester](#) who organized a Winter Tree ID hike last month. [Reach out to us](#) if you have an educational program or citizen science gathering you'd like to pitch, and watch for more community offerings on our [Events page](#).

On Friday, March 14, help us celebrate our volunteers' winter work with a bonfire and potluck! We're ushering in the start of spring with a community gathering and peaceful walk in the light of the full moon. Our volunteer workday begins at 3:00 pm. The bonfire and potluck begins at 5:00 pm. And the guided walk begins at 8:00 pm, with all returning to the barn around 9:00 pm. Please join us for any part of the day!

Sign up for the Bonfire & Moonlit Stroll

FOR BLUESTEM FAMILIES

A special invite to all families and friends of beloved Bluestem residents to join us **Tuesday, April 22nd between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.** for our first Earth Day planting event. Together, we'll plant new native species in designated areas all around the property, in honor of loved ones buried here. Feel welcome to stay and picnic, birdwatch, hike, or linger while the sun sets.

Celebrate Earth Day with Bluestem



Burial crew trainees practice at a mock burial.

HANDS-ON BURIAL

In reclaiming the sacred practice of burial, Bluestem invites families and friends into participating in every step of the process, from preparing a meaningful, personal burial service to helping close a loved one's grave. Whether choosing a large gathering in one of Bluestem's natural sanctuaries or holding an intimate graveside service, we can help connect you with sample services, life celebrants, musicians, local flower farms, [and other providers](#). [Read more about Bluestem burials here](#).

Supporting families at this critical time would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteer burial crews. At every burial they stand at the ready with parking instructions, a golf cart ride, shoveling muscle graveside, or simply, an attentive, quiet presence. **Interested in joining a burial crew? Consider attending one of our next Burial Crew Trainings on Friday, April 4th or Saturday, April 5th.**

Sign up for a Burial Crew Training



Planting new species in the grasslands with a seed drill.

SPRING CONSERVATION

If you are a frequent visitor to Bluestem you know it to be an active, living landscape. [New gravesites appear almost weekly](#), respectfully welcomed and integrated into our conservation work. Aggressive small trees are thinned out in woodland areas, fallen cedars are removed and await their next life as a sign-post or bridge, grassland areas are cleared and new species planted, blue tinted posts mark our water quality buffers beside the creek and pond.

All of this work is made possible by the individuals who give of their time and care, those who choose natural burial at Bluestem, [and the generous donations from friends and families](#). Prioritizing the care of the land and our care for each other, Bluestem sustains itself as a *living, healing landscape for humans and for wildlife*. Special thanks to the [New Hope Bird Alliance \(NHBA\)](#), for a wildlife restoration grant that will enable Bluestem to attract even more bird-life to the property!

Join a Friday Workday

A very special thank you for gifts made in honor of individuals buried at Bluestem, [gifts made to the Bluestem Community Fund](#), and gifts towards our [Wing of the Barn campaign](#). Look for an update on these important community initiatives in our summer newsletter.

If you or a family member is in need of Immediate Burial, please complete [our online form](#) and a staff member will contact you directly.

For individuals seeking a burial reservation for the future, we recommend visiting Bluestem on your own, any day dawn to dusk, and [getting in touch](#) when you are ready to make a commitment.

Until next time, find us out in Bluestem's woods or fields listening to the Eastern Phoebe's call --

Your Bluestem Stewards,
Heidi, Jeff, Katie and Lionel

Curious about Burial at Bluestem?

Bluestem is a community supported nonprofit dedicated to nourishing ecological stewardship, community service, and spiritual practice in shared fellowship. Donations are tax deductible EIN: 86-2188559. We are grateful for the creative minds and muscle of these important community members:
Carol, Laura, Tom, Karen, James, Jenny, Jackie, Dave, Al, Lynn, Andy R., Lionel, Betty, Mel, Noah, Ken, Kristin, Don, Angie, Ben, Michaela, Renee, Courtney, Anne A., 2 Dorothy Gs, Katie M., RJ, D, Lara, Caleb, Landon, Allen, Jennifer, Franzi, Seletha, Kathleen, Carl, Beth, Shenae, Ms. Carnetta, Stan, Meredith, Heather, Rebecca, Annie, Claire, Grace B., Walter, Lee P., Lee W., 2 Ann Rs, Erica, Emily, Brenna, Cheko, Dorothy B., Hannah, Caitie, Andy H. Emily-Kate, Liz, JC, Hannah, Liz, Sarah, Leo, John, Carolyn, Sunshine, Hunter, Veronica, Sara, Hank, Ann W., Geri, Tom, Aimee, Kelly, Bill, Dana, Katherine, Kari, Robin, Xaris, Ina, David, Marcia, Michele, Catherine, Ed, Steven, Jon, KR, Kendall, Mary, Kallyn, Rachel W., Rachel C. and Stacey, Nora, Melissa, Laura, Maisie, Edith, Jordan, Jo, Marie, Lydia, Margot, Steve, Kara, Betsy, Dan, Stan, Elliott, John, Cameron, Melinda, Sean, Danielle, Laura, Rebekah, Martin, Cameron, David, Cris, André, Holly, Rich, Sharon, Gaby, Loren, Linda, Jeff P., Margaret, Kim, Aurora, David, Cynthia and Grace H.

Donate to Support Bluestem



Check in at the barn for trail maps or self guided meditations.

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
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Bluestem

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