

The spirit of volunteerism is very strong at the Pittsford Cemetery and is a vital component in helping to maintain our unique natural, historic and civic heritage. Last year alone our neighbors, students, grave owners and fellow Pittsford residents logged over 1400 hours volunteering in various capacities. Some are drawn by the older and more historically significant Main Cemetery, cleaning and righting stones, painting fences and gated plots, pruning and raking. Others help to prepare for Memorial Day ceremonies by placing flags at veterans' graves scattered throughout the solemn landscape shaded by dozens of mature sugar maples.



Some of the maple trees in the Main Cemetery have been tapped by a local hobbyist (see "Photos" tab for his picture) and produce a variety of golden delicate, amber rich and a little dark syrup. A sample of the amber rich syrup was entered in a competition in Phelps County, Wisc. and won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the tasting category. The Cemetery Board is pleased that these trees, which are "living" in the cemetery, can ultimately "give back" to the community that works so diligently to preserve them.

Another group of volunteers is drawn to the more secluded Pittsford East Cemetery; which incorporates nearly 20 acres, including a large adjoining meadow and thickly wooded area that is home to deer, hawk, fox, turkey and a variety of flora.

In 2016, two dozen Boy Scouts, along with their parents, leaders and neighbors rallied around an Eagle Scout candidate as he planned, supervised and executed the construction of a pathway through the woods and meadow.

Neighbors come out to lend a hand, offer equipment and tools, donate food and water, or otherwise support the "regular" volunteers; consisting of community service students from nearby schools, confirmands of local congregations, Boy Scouts, Big Brother and Big Sister participants, National Honor Society inductees, and college students. Some work in groups on larger projects, other individuals quietly do their part, planting flowers, removing vines from overgrown plots or just cleaning up litter.



If you would like to join us, the Pittsford Cemetery Association openly welcomes you to our community within a community. For more information, or if you have ideas to share, a project to suggest, or some spare time to spend with us, please contact the Secretary/Treasurer at the Cemetery Office, (585) 385-5900, Monday – Friday from 10 am until 4 pm.