

Friends of Oakbourne News

by Tom Bare, President, Friends of Oakbourne

Winter has arrived and the Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) can take a well-deserved break for a couple of months. Dry weather conditions during late Summer and early Fall were demanding of our resources and many hours were spent watering recently planted trees to keep them viable during the dry weather. Watering was made easier during the last month or two by the use of a township provided "mini-truck" equipped with a large tank for the water. Considering that we were watering up to a half dozen trees one to two times a week with 10-15 gallons of water per tree, use of the mini-truck was a big improvement and time saver over using many 5 gallon containers hauled to the trees in our SUVs! The trees that were being watered should be in good shape for the Winter since significant rainfall has now arrived along with the cold weather.

Also, a Scarlet Oak tree (*Quercus coccinea*) dedicated by the Rick Brown Family to the memory of Charlie and Hilda Brown, was planted during late October as part of FoO's tree dedication program. This tree was planted in the "new" oak tree grove adjacent to the walking trail near the all-purpose field; this "new" oak grove was started nine years ago by FoO with the idea to replace the mature old oaks in the nearby "old" oak grove as they inevitably decline and die of old age in the coming years. The planting of the scarlet oak in this "new" oak grove area brings the total to 5 oak trees (all of different varieties).



Bench near Oakbourne's pond dedicated to Maximus M. Marcantonio.

A park bench dedicated by Joel and Christy Marcantonio to the memory of Maximus M. Marcantonio was installed through the Friends of Oakbourne tree/park bench memorial program on the south side of the pond in Oakbourne Park this Fall. Sitting on this bench provides a wonderful view overlooking the pond and the surrounding woods which were especially spectacular during the Fall color season. The bench is conveniently located for those walking the trail that leads past the pond, and should provide a nice resting place for walkers and runners needing a break.



Scarlet Oak dedicated to Charlie & Hilda Brown.



Thanks to Friends of Oakbourne members Jim Cokonis and Walt Pavelchek for manning the FoO information table during the Westtown Community Days event at Oakbourne Park. Interested persons attending the event could learn more about FoO and pick up informational handouts on our activities.

Jim Cokonis (L) and Walt Pavelchek (R) at the Friends of Oakbourne display table during the Westtown Community Day event at Oakbourne Park.

This winter FoO will be making plans to add some shrubs and perennials to the low maintenance garden we started at the Oakbourne water tower. We also will be making some preliminary plans to revamp the clock garden situated in front of the Oakbourne mansion so that it will be a low maintenance "four season" garden that will have colorful and interesting plants throughout the year. Interested persons with garden design and horticultural experience are welcome to join with us in developing these plans.



Oakbourne water tower garden.

Interested in improving your beautiful township park?

Please join us at the Friends of Oakbourne's upcoming meetings on April 20 and July 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Oakbourne Mansion. If you are interested in donating a park bench or tree to be planted in Oakbourne Park to honor a special person or loved one or to commemorate an important occasion, contact Tom Bare (tmbare@hotmail.com or 610-399-1572).