

# Friends of Oakbourne

*By Tom Bare, President, Friends of Oakbourne*

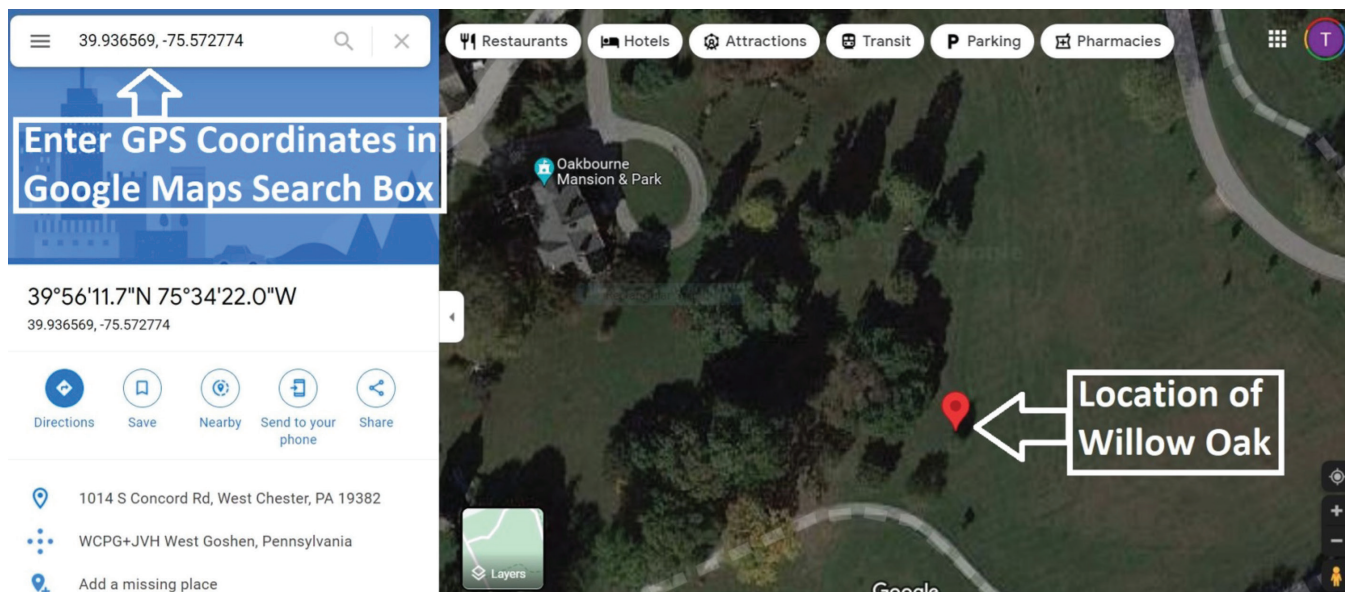
While the winter months are a slow time for outside activity for the Friends of Oakbourne (FoO), a memorial bench was installed (thanks to the Westtown Public Works crew) beneath the large magnolia tree adjacent to the Water Tower. Dedicated to Ted and Marion Creager by Mark and Elizabeth Creager, the bench is situated to give users a beautiful view of the open expanse of lawn stretching from the Water Tower to the Mansion, and of the arboretum trees surrounding this area.

As you may know, FoO has a kiosk adjacent to the paved parking area by the Mansion; the kiosk contains a map showing the location in the arboretum of all of the memorial trees and benches that have been planted and installed since we began this program in 2005. Accompanying the map is a key describing to whom the tree or bench was dedicated, the date of the planting or installation, the name of the tree, and the GPS coordinates of the trees and benches. The list of dedicated trees & benches is also available on the Friends of Oakbourne page on the Westtown Township website: (<https://www.westtownpa.org/friends-of-oakbourne/>)



Memorial bench for Ted & Marion Creager

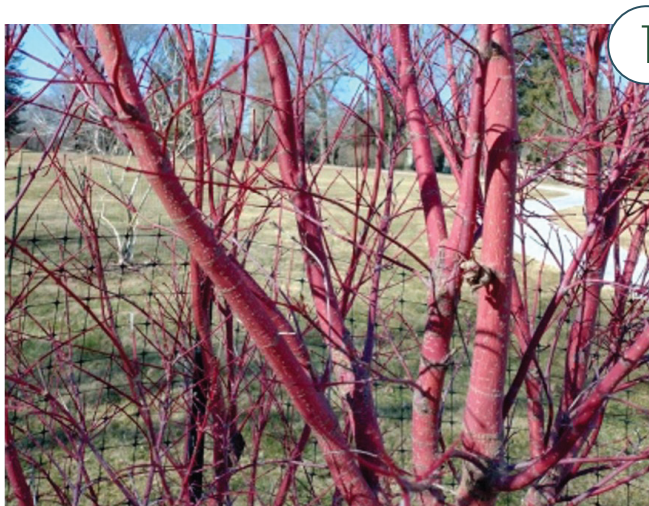
For those who are not familiar with using GPS coordinates to locate a memorial tree or bench, here's how you do it. Let's use the GPS coordinates of a memorial Willow Oak tree that was planted in 2015. The GPS coordinates for this tree are: 39.936569, -75.572774. On your cell phone or computer go to Google Maps and enter the GPS coordinates in the search field; make sure that the two coordinate numbers are separated by a comma (see Oakbourne Map picture, left side top). Click on the search button and the location of the tree will be indicated by a red teardrop on the map (see Oakbourne Map, right side bottom).



Oakbourne Map

In order to maintain our status as an Accredited Level 1 Arboretum with ArbNet (created and administered by The Morton Arboretum), FoO has to demonstrate every 5 years that the Oakbourne Arboretum continues to be maintained, improved, and updated. In addition to planting trees, installing benches and designing and planting new gardens, FoO is considering a project to identify, label, and locate (GPS coordinates) all trees in the arboretum. Our ultimate goal would be to have this information contained in a web-based database accessible to anyone interested in using this data, whether for general information or educational purposes. Needless to say, this would be a major project for our small all-volunteer organization, and we welcome all who might be interested in helping us.

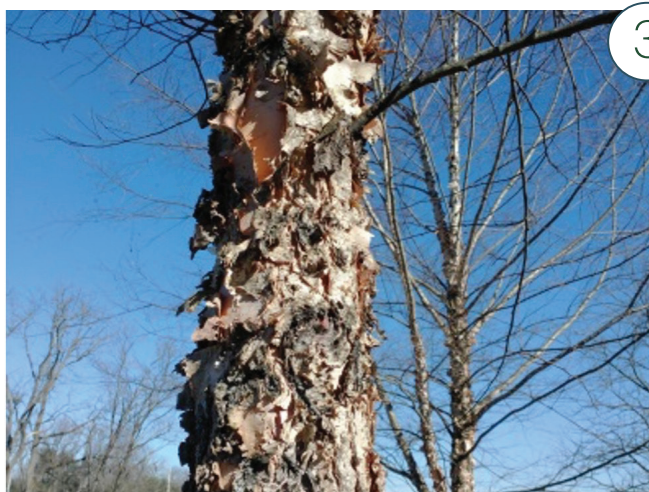
**Below are photos of interesting tree bark from our arboretum trees.**



1



2



3



4

**Can you match the tree's name to its bark?**

- a) River Birch
- b) Japanese Coral Maple
- c) Copper Beech
- d) Japanese Sawara

**FRIENDS OF OAKBOURNE**

Contact Tom Bare (tmbare@hotmail.com or 610-399-1572) if you are interested in donating a park bench or tree to be planted in Oakbourne Park and Arboretum to honor a special person or loved one or to commemorate an important occasion.