

# Friends of Oakbourne News

While we have not planted any memorial trees since last fall, Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) has been busy maintaining Oakbourne Park's arboretum and gardens. Some of the activities FoO performs throughout the year are:

## Mansion Clock Garden

Weeding, trimming shrubs, and when necessary, replacing unhealthy plants.

## Water Tower Garden

Pruning the large Oakleaf Hydrangeas located on both sides of the main entrance door to the Water Tower, maintaining trees and shrubs, and weeding. In addition, FoO recently planted some new perennials and annuals in the Water Tower's rear entrance garden.

## Arboretum

Maintaining and pruning the trees that FoO has planted over the past 15 - 20 years.

FoO has planted over 200 trees and shrubs over the years, and we've learned that protecting everything from deer browse is essential for successful plantings. Oakbourne suffers from extremely high deer pressure! Spraying flowers and shrubs with deer repellent helps, but is not always successful, especially during lean times in the winter and early spring. Fencing around trees is necessary until the trees get to be fairly sizable (usually 5 - 10 years after planting). FoO examines and repairs all fencing at least once a year.

We also prune trees that are not too large for us to handle and replace trees that die or are toppled by wind. For example, one of the beautiful weeping cherry trees along S. Concord Road that FoO planted 15 years ago in an Earth Day project with Westtown Thornbury Elementary School died this spring. The Township removed the tree and FoO will be replacing it soon with another weeping cherry. Also, in past years we have removed invasive species like garlic mustard and Norway maples, from wooded areas of the Park.

If you've visited the Park recently you may be wondering where the kiosk containing FoO's map and list of dedicated trees is. The kiosk was situated adjacent to the main parking lot in the Park and was ripped from its foundation during a fierce March windstorm. We hope to have a replacement kiosk with an improved map later this year.

As a reminder, FoO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are self-funded and work closely with Mark Gross, Township Director of Public Works, in all of the work we do in the Park and Arboretum. Over the years, our members and friends have contributed thousands of hours of volunteer time to improving Oakbourne Park. Our members love the Park and being outdoors enjoying nature while having fun fulfilling our mission of park improvement.



### If you are so inclined, why not join our group?

Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 20 at 7 PM at the Oakbourne Mansion, or email our new president, **Rick Brown** at [rickytherake@yahoo.com](mailto:rickytherake@yahoo.com).