



THE ARCHWAY

Newsletter of the Friends of Brandywine Springs
Vol.33 No.1 Mary Lou Lawlor & Angela Evans, Editors Spring 2026

Walking Trail Improvement Project Has Started!

On May 2, 2026, orange marker flags were noted to be in place along the proposed trail pathways. Ground breaking construction started on May 4th by the Gessler Construction Company. The pathway starts on the lawn adjacent to the parking lot, continues across the lawn and down the hill along route 41 and connects to the lake loop trail. The pathway plan features a bridge over the spillway dam in Lake Washington to create a loop path around the lake. This path connects to the boardwalk path with a trail from the pool hall bridge to the boardwalk crossing bridge. We are very excited to see our grant money in action for this handicap accessible trail! Below are before and after pictures of the down hill lake sections of the trail.

See page 2 for other images of the construction. All photos were taken by Mark Lawlor.



Marker flags are in place along the lake trail and route 41.



Final layers and grading completed along the same section. Straw and grass seed will fill in the lawn up to the trail edges.

Meetings are now held at Greenbank Mill

June 14	September 20
July 12	October 11
August 9	November 8
	December 6

We had a group of 38 students from the 5th grade class of the Anna P. Mote Elementary School visit the park for their science class on May 18th. Mark and Ed led the group through the park for a history tour.



Eight foot wide path created, bulldozing 8 inches deep.



A close-up of the 6" tall plastic geo-grid, before being filled with gravel.



Geo-grid placed to be filled with stones as foundation for the path.



Showing the three levels of pathways stone dust as the final top layer.



Smoothing the edges.



Back to Nature...

20 plus turtles sunning in Lake Washington.

Photo by Mark Lawlor

FOBS made an appearance at 2 public events so far this year!

Our group is planning to meet the public to promote our group's efforts to preserve the park history. Engaging the public is fundamental to our growth and ability to generate support. It is a rewarding experience to hear park visitors share their connection to the park, such as the couple that got engaged at the Adirondack chairs on the Red Clay Creek or the family man with wife and kids that earned his Eagle Scout rank with his park project years ago.



On April 26th Robert Cottrill, Mark Lawlor and Mary Lou Lawlor hosted our booth at the Annual Sheep Shearing Day at Greenbank Mill.



Auburn Heights Train Day May 3rd. Mark and Mary Lou Lawlor host the FOBS history display. Ed Lipka served as traffic control and parking assistant.

FOBS work crew replaced three photo sign roofs on Saturday May 2, 2026. The work crew consisted of 4 FOBS members: Ed Lipka, Mark Lawlor, Pete Seely, and Jeff Swift. Assisting were Jeff Swift's son Gabe Swift, and his friend Ryan Black.



Brand new roof top for the photo sign: Looking south lake view scene with the forty carriages. Mark Lawlor, Pete Seely, Ed Lipka



Ed Lipka, Pete Seely, Gabe Swift and Ryan Black working on the "Looking up the Boardwalk" photo sign.

In Memoriam of Bonnie Kachmar

We are sad to announce the passing of our member Bonnie Kachmar, on April 16, 2026. Bonnie is the granddaughter of Senator Frederick Klair whose Senate bill made Brandywine Springs the first State Park in Delaware. A commemorative bronze plaque is at the base of a Beech tree on the parking lot island. We were honored to have Bonnie and her family attend our annual park tour on September 20, 2025 for a rededication of the Frederick Klair plaque and to witness Bonnie's determination to complete the guided walking history park tour. Thank you to Bonnie's family for suggesting contributions to FOBS in her memory. Our condolences to her family.

This & That... Thank you to the Cedars Methodist Church for 30 plus years of providing a home for our meetings within the community... Thank you to Greenbank Mill for welcoming us to our new home within the community....Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help with the replacement of the roofs of the signs... Thank you to Mark Lawlor for taking photos of the construction in the park...Thank you to the volunteers who helped host the Public event booths...Welcome Robert Cottrill to the board of directors...Thank you to David Doody for accepting another term on the board...Thank you to Ed Lipka for meeting monthly in the park with Park Division Manager, Kendall Sommers to plan and coordinate FOBS park projects.... Thank you to Sean Moore, Park Maintenance Supervisor for assisting with coordination with FOBS park projects....Thank you to Ed Lipka, Robert Cottrill, Mark Lawlor and John Bare who came out on a chilly day in March for the annual Red Clay Valley Clean up Day...

Questions, comments, suggestions, contact Mary Lou Lawlor at mllawlor@verizon.net or call 302-994-8929.

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Membership Renewal Form Enclosed

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