



# THE ARCHWAY

*Newsletter of the Friends of Brandywine Springs*  
Vol. 29 No. 1. Mary Lou Lawlor & Angela Evans, Editors. Spring 2022

## The Lake Washington Dam has been Repaired!

We are grateful to New Castle County!! Eastern Highway Specialists Inc. (EHS) was hired by the County to repair the Dam. Work began February 28th and was completed on March 14th, 2022!! Thank you!



Photo 1 The dam had several leaks before work began.

Photo by **Angela Evans**



Photo by Mark Lawlor

Photo 2 Creating the forms on the Dam. The two north buttresses became one large buttress.



Photo 3 Concrete in the bucket about to be poured into the forms.

Photo by **Mark Lawlor**



Photo 4 The finished concrete form on the dam.

Photo by **Mark Lawlor**

WWRR & FOBS are teaming up for a Doodle bug ride with a historic tour of the park! Details on page 3...

# Red Clay Valley Clean Up Day!



Photo by Angela Evans

Thank you to our volunteers who came out and participated in the annual clean up on March 26th!!  
In this photo...**John Cronin, Mark Lawlor, and Ed Lipka.**

**Welcome New Member**  
**Glenn Shealy**

## Trail Team

The trail team has been busy in the park!

**Klaus Abele** helped **Mark Lawlor** with clearing dead wood off the floor of the lake. **Klaus** also helped **Mark** with burning bush removal on the hillsides.

**Don Richard** assisted **Mark** with tree branch clearing.

Thank you for volunteering in the Park!

## Train Tree



**Mark Lawlor** stands next to the Train Tree in the park.



Close up of the engraved Entrance Archway on the Train Tree. Archway Carving and Photo by **Mark Lawlor**

In March of 2021 there was a storm that downed several large trees in the park. One tree in particular was a poplar tree blocking a new trail that leads to the Kiamensi Spring area of the creek. The only way to follow the trail was to climb over the tree. So one day **Mark** decided to cut a path through the tree to make access easier...then he had an idea! This tree could be made into a train for kids to sit on and use their imagination to be a train rider! Well that idea has become a great project to work on! It is about the same size as the miniature train engine of the amusement park ride which was a Cagney steam engine. The artists **Mark Lawlor, Don Richards, Tom Gears** and Spice Mill resident **Forest Collier** have put a lot of detail into their work of creating this transformation of tree to train!! Thank you guys! It's looking Great!

## 2022 Meeting Dates

held at the Cedars Methodist Church  
Maple & Harrison Avenues  
7:00 pm

April 10th, May 1st, June 12th, July 10th,  
August 14th, Sept. 11th, Oct. 9th, Nov. 13th, Dec. 4th

## Archaeology Sign Ups

We are looking for volunteers who can commit to meeting for digs once a month. We need at least 5 people to participate per dig. If you would like to join us please contact Mark Lawlor 302-994-8929 or email [MLLawlor@verizon.net](mailto:MLLawlor@verizon.net)



In Memoriam  
Carlene D'Onofrio  
March 9, 2022



Our sincere condolences to her family

## Back to Nature...



The turtles of Lake Washington sunning on the branches from fallen trees in the lake.

Photo by Angela Evans

## *From the Presidents Desk...*

*Dear Members & Friends*

*We have officially begun our 2022 Season of the Friends of Brandywine Springs with our March 13th meeting. We are excited as we have many items on our agenda beginning this year and continuing for the next few years. We are grateful for **Senator Spiros Mantzavinos** and his Bond Bill Grant monies that will allow us to see some improvements in the park. Phase one will hopefully allow us to have a trail around Lake Washington as well as the bridge across the recently repaired dam. All of the details are being worked out between New Castle County, the State Bond Bill Committee and our officers. I want to offer a Special "Thank you" to **Diane Franklin**, our Treasurer, who has invested countless hours working with Fulton Bank, the Bond Bill Committee and the many other folks she has reached out to during this process. More details will be shared as they become available. Stay tuned...*

*We are also planning an event that will mark the 100th anniversary of the closing of Brandywine Springs Amusement Park. **Don Richard** is heading up a committee as the initial ideas, concepts and details are being formulated.*

*We have joined efforts with our neighbors at the Wilmington & Western Railroad and will host a shared event on Saturday, May 21st - **The Brandywine Springs Historic Express**. The Doodlebug will depart Greenbank Station at 10:00 AM and make a stop at Brandywine Springs. **Mark Lawlor** and myself will be leading the group for a "historic tour" through the park. The participants will get an up-close and personal experience about the rich history of this once-popular resort that attracted patrons from many areas from 1886 to 1923. Following the tour, we will board the Doodlebug and head westward for a ride on the historic WWRR. Reservations are required. Please call (302) 998-1930 or visit the WWRR website at [wwrr.com](http://wwrr.com).*

**Ed Lipka**, FOBS President



**This & That...**

**Mark Lawlor** has repaired and reinstalled the bench that was smashed by the fallen trees in the March 2021 storm...The visitor Center will be opening April 23rd, 2022...**Mary Lou** and **Mark Lawlor** are starting seeds indoors for pollinator plants for an island on the lake...An Eagle has been spotted soaring over the Red Clay Creek!...We are in search of your stories, memories, and ideas for the newsletter!...Also we are looking for topics of interest for our talks after the business part of our meetings....Please contact **Mary Lou Lawlor** [MLLawlor@verizon.net](mailto:MLLawlor@verizon.net) or **Angela Evans** [angy.e8811@comcast.net](mailto:angy.e8811@comcast.net) We look forward to hearing from you!



Mark mulches forsythias at the lake.  
Photo by **Mary Lou Lawlor**

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Vice President: Mark Lawlor  
Secretary: Mary Lou Lawlor  
Secretarial Assistant: Angela Evans  
Treasurer: Diane Franklin

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