



# THE ARCHWAY

*Newsletter of the Friends of Brandywine Springs*

*Vol. 31 No. 2 Mary Lou Lawlor & Angela Evans, Editors Summer 2024*

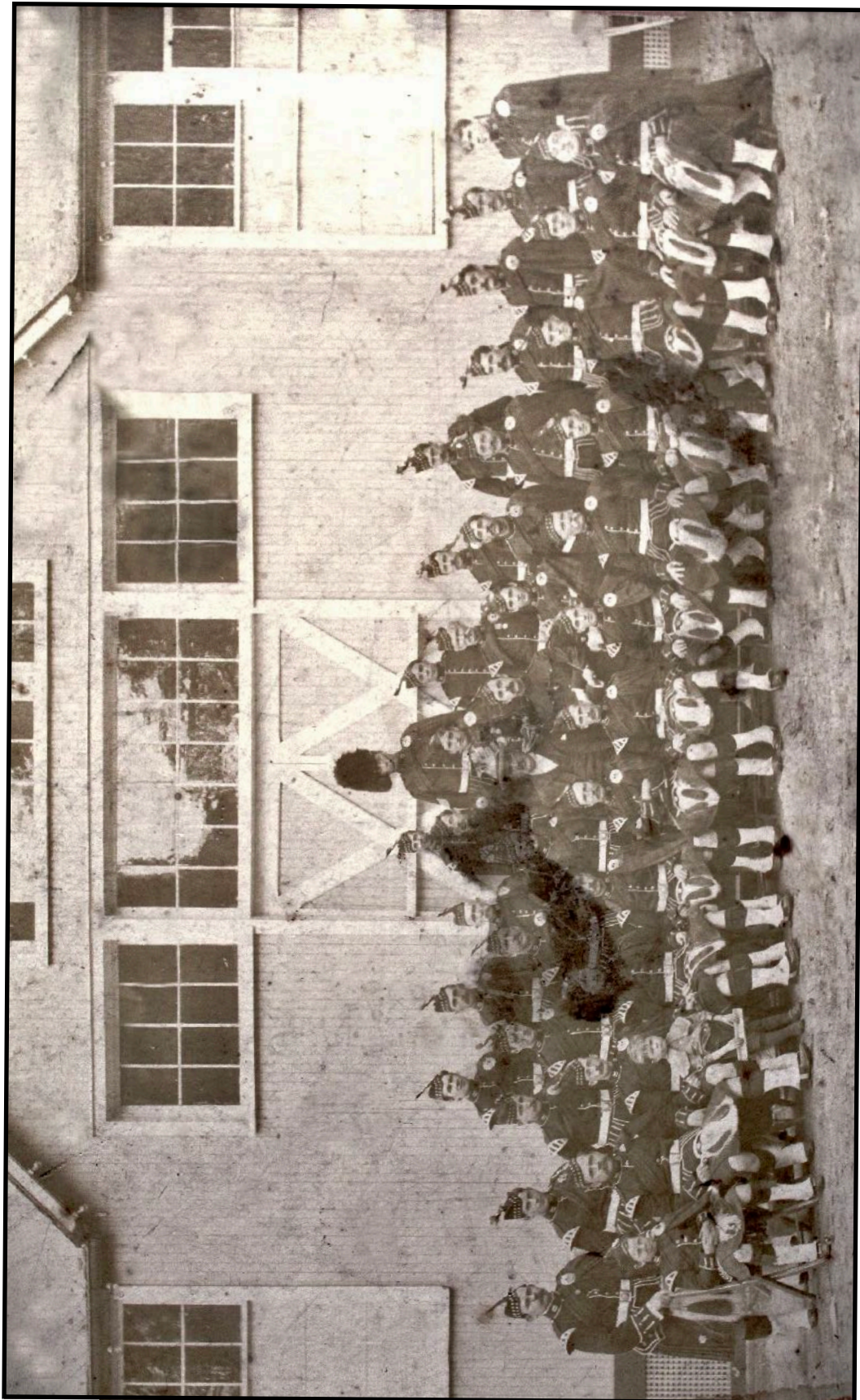
## **Beautiful Burning Bush - Destroying Our County by Mark Lawlor**

It seems that no one is paying much attention to the spread of Burning Bush (or winged euonymus) in our area. Yes, it is a lovely bright red in late fall, but it is massively aggressive and invasive. A well known invasive plant such as bamboo is a small problem compared to this. Bamboo spreads by root, moving about a foot or two per year and staying in that one exact zone. However, once burning bush reaches about 8 feet tall, it spreads out like an umbrella and steals most all light and water from any good ferns and plants on the forest floor. But the worst part is that each mature plant produces hundreds of seeds which are carried and fertilized by birds eating and spreading them. This is fine when you control the weeds in your own garden, but in the unwatched woods of your neighbors and public lands, it has the opportunity to completely take over the woods. If only one neighbor says to leave it alone because it's beautiful in the late fall, then all of the woods in the county are in terrible danger of being overwhelmed by the burning bush. Once a few years go by, the floor of the forest has no variety of plants at all, and all birds and wildlife will suffer.

What can you do to help? Call your local legislators and make the plant illegal to sell at all nurseries and plant stores in your state. Call your local horticulture groups to get them involved. When you see it in yards, tell the landowner that it is terribly invasive. Research how to identify and eradicate it. Pull small plants out by the roots, knock off all the dirt, and hang it on a branch to dry and die. Larger plants may need chemical weed killer. Do not just cut them down and leave the stumps, because just like wild rose, it will come right back. See the photos included showing the close-up photos of how to identify this plant. Like climate change, gypsy moths and spotted lantern fly, we are already late in stopping this problem, but we can try.



Leaves take on a distinctive red color in autumn. The unique feature of burning bush is the brownish, corky "wings" that run up and down each stem, giving rise to the shrub's other common name : winged euonymus. (Euonymus Alatus)  
[brandywine.org](http://brandywine.org) conservancy



This "new to us" photo shows the 'Kitties' Highlander Band in front of the Exhibit Hall near the Entrance Archway in June, 1902. This band from the Toronto area toured much of the U.S. that year, including playing at Madison Square Gardens in New York, and the Wilmington Grand Opera House. At the top back center of the photo is "Giant Drum Major" Donald McCormack, who was 7 feet tall. Mark's book mentions this band on page 48, and the same building can be seen on page 11. Thanks to Tom Gears and Ray Harrington for finding this on eBay. Mark purchased the original photo, which has the exact correct dates written on the back - June 22-27, 1902. The small photo on page 3 is the ad from the Evening Journal of June 17, 1902.

Presidents Message...

Summer Greetings to all!

I hope this Newsletter finds you in good health, while enjoying the Summer, even though it will probably go down as one of the hottest summers in recent history.

I would like to bring you up to date on the Brandywine Springs Park Trail Improvement and Bridge Project. The final step in the approval process was addressed at a Historic Review Board meeting on Tuesday, July 2nd. We are now waiting for the official go-ahead from the Park Project Supervisor, Mike Clendaniel. The next step will be to set up an appointment to donate the first phase of the Grant Money from Senator Spiro's Mantzavinos and the State Bond Bill Committee. Both parties, FOBS and NCC Parks Department will sign an agreement stating the details of Phase One of the Trail Improvement Project.

The next steps would be to gather data and project timeline information from the Parks Department Project Team. The information will then be shared with the FOBS Leadership and membership so that communications would be on-going as the actual construction work begins and moves forward.

Sincerely,

Ed Lipka,  
FOBS President

**The Wilmington & Western Railroad Brandywine Springs Historic Express Park tour is September 21st! Mark and Ed will lead the tour group.**

**BRANDYWINE SPRINGS PARK. GRAND SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT.**  
**FIVE DAYS.** Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.  
 June 22d to 26th—at 3 and 8.30 p. m.  
**The Only Appearance of**  
**THE KILTIES,** Canada's World-Famous Band. The Gordon Highlanders.  
 40 musicians, 8 soloists, 36 vocal choir, 4 British Military Buglers, 6 Highland Dancers, 2 Bagpipes, Giant Drum Major, Boy Dancer, etc., appearing in full Highland costume.  
 Has created a furore in 200 American cities, breaking all records at Madison Square Garden, New York, the New Coliseum, Chicago, and in all the other larger cities.  
**PARK AUDITORIUM, Comfortably Seated. Adults, 25c; Children, 10c.**  
**PRICES IN OTHER CITIES 50c to \$1.50.**

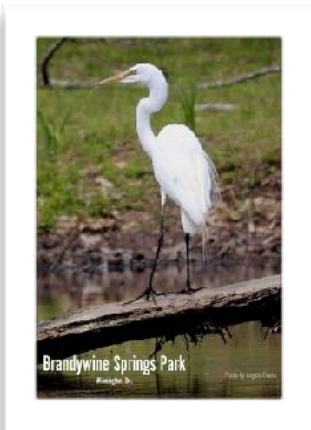
Pretty Shellpot Park. JUNE 19, 1902

**FRIENDS OF BRANDYWINE SPRINGS  
 2024 MEETING DATES**

September 8    October 13  
 November 10    December 1

**Meetings are held at  
 The Cedars Methodist Church  
 Maple & Harrison Avenues  
 7:00 pm.**

**Welcome New Member  
 Pete Seely**



**Back to Nature...**  
 An Egret resting on a fallen branch,  
 Lake Washington,  
 Brandywine Springs Park  
 Photo by Angela Evans

**This & That....** “The second Council Oak” of the three white oaks on the crest of the hill trail, near the former red pavilion site, fell downhill in July. We think this tree was about 350 years old... FOBS is getting a new display ready for the recently renovated Faulkland Station Museum and Visitor Center.... Greenbank Mill and the Philips Farm has made recent property improvements. Go check out the restored 1850’s barn and the open views of this historic property. Events and tours are offered. See [greenbankmill.com](http://greenbankmill.com) for information... Brandywine Springs Park guided Park History Tours may be arranged by contacting Mark Lawlor 302-994-8929 or email [mllawlor@verizon.net](mailto:mllawlor@verizon.net) ....Recent guided history tours - In May: Delaware Recreation and Parks Society, - In June: Keith Jackson, Pencader Heritage Area Association President, and Member of the Historic Review Board.

Questions, comments or suggestions please contact Mary Lou Lawlor, 302-994-8929 or [mllawlor@verizon.net](mailto:mllawlor@verizon.net)

### **“A Day in the Park” 2024**

September 21st. From 10-3. We are partnering with other Red Clay Valley attractions as part of “Red Clay Day” FOBS will conduct hourly guided tours, share park history photos, and show the Edison movie films from the park. Please contact Mary Lou or Mark if you can help us host this event.  
[mllawlor@verizon.net](mailto:mllawlor@verizon.net) or 302-994-8929.

### **Friends of Brandywine Springs P.O. Box 5323, Wilmington, De. 19808**

President: Ed Lipka  
Vice President: Mark Lawlor  
Secretary: Mary Lou Lawlor  
Treasurer: Angela Evans

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