

July

“Dynamic”

Many people tend to group June and July together. Both, are warm summer months having long day-light hours. And both can be hot and muggy with evening thundershowers and lightening. Here at the Baber Cemetery, the two months may also superficially appear similar. After all, everything is green and everything is still growing, although not as quickly. But walk slowly along the paths or walk among the trees, and differences and changes can be found throughout the property. For instance, the fruit on the littleleaf linden trees begins appearing in July. The fruits bracts are paler than the leaf, and the green yellowish flower is now ripening into small round nuts. Across from the linden tree are the swamp white oaks. They are dark green in the center, but their tips are lighter green as they continue to grow and stretch outward. The late blooming Mock Orange, by the 16th Street entrance, has floral clusters, but they aren't open yet. At the 14th Street gate entrance, the tulip shaped buds are very evident on the Tuliptree. And depending on the heat and weather, the London planetrees inside the Market Street wall may have started to shed their outer bark. The ground is covered with camouflage strips of their bark.



The homestead hybrid elm are still growing with their branches reaching in all directions. The babies have to be pruned often to remove the lower branches; otherwise the main truck remains fragile and cannot support the heavy leaf laden branches. Then the branches will rip off during a heavy wind storm where the limbs connect to the trunk. Between the 2 homestead elm shown in the picture to the left, a flower garden, at the base of the hill leading down from the chapel, is in bloom with showy colors of purples and oranges. And down from the garden are 4 arborvitae and a baby dawn redwood.

Pine cones have been dropping on the ground from the pine family of trees. The squirrels will soon be busy trying to store as many as possible for the winter months. Like the samaras and the acorns, the pine cones are different on each specie. The larch and 1 eastern hemlock have very small fat cones of 1” in length, the 1 white spruce has medium fat cones up to 2” in length, the Norway spruce has long narrow cones of 6”, the eastern white pine has long narrow cones of 5-1½”, while the 1 Douglas fir has a pale brown cone of 3”.

The many Arborvitae are worth closely inspecting. On some, an immature blue-green seed cone has matured into a small bluish edged brown four pointed seed cone. Small berries with a dark green top and a light green bottom are appearing on the Japanese yew to the east of the 14th Street gate. These berries will soon turn red in another month or so. When one gets to know the trees and the flowers and fruit each bears, there is a lot of action happening



If the cemetery was fortunate enough to receive two helpers from the state supported Career Link summer program, the workers have finished up their six week program by the second week of July. This leaves the two full time employees with lots of grass to mow and with plenty of weed whacking around the narrow lanes and around many of the memorial markers. Summer church services at the Chapel of the Resurrection are still being held each Sunday morning. And the parishioners and visitors are still being serenaded by the calling of the two red hawks in the near-by trees. And, although infrequently, two deer have been seen on the property in the early morning hours.

The dog walkers, joggers, and parents\grandparents with small toddlers are walking the property in large numbers. As are a few bicyclist. No matter what time of day, the dynamic landscape is full of activity and action.

