

June “Explosive”

June is a fast moving, high action, high growth month. The frequent rains of March and April have stopped with only occasional short showers now. The trees that awakened with such energy and vigor in the spring, are spending the month of June in high grown mode. It is this month that they will expand to their full massive volume. The many birds nests that could be easily seen over the winter and into the early spring are completely hidden now among the foliage. And the grass keeps growing, growing, and growing. The laborers can not keep up with the mowing and weed whacking. Maybe if we are lucky, Career Link, with its state funded program, will provide us with 2-3 high school students who help us with the weed whacking around the trees and between memorial markers.

The two red tailed hawks that daily frequent the property, take turns sitting on the cross atop the steeple. Sometimes the hawk may be sitting stationary on a tree limb or on top of the tall pedestal



memorial markers, and unless they take flight or call to each other, they go unnoticed. At Sunday summer church services, they can be heard calling to each other. The schools ended the first week of June, so there are no longer children walking across the property. However, the number of dog walkers have substantially increased. In fact, quite a few of the dog walkers are walking 2-3 dogs at a time. For the most part, the walkers with 2-3 dogs have small manageable dogs that appear well behaved and quite eager to meet and greet you, and perhaps even pose for a picture. If the dogs are walked during the day when the laborers are working, the laborers get to know them by name. It's a good thing we don't have biscuits or doggie treats for them, or they would never want to go home.



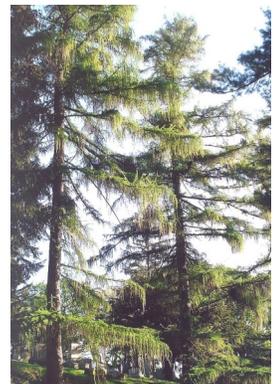
Kurt K., a board member, has filled the two large urns at the 16th gate entrance with an assortment of flowers. These colorful bouquets welcome the visitors with an enticement of nature's beauty that can be found throughout the property. The assortment changes from year to year and one eagerly awaits to see what will be planted this year.



The trees are fantastic with full volume and dark color. The red in the maples, has deepened, and so has the light greens and yellowish greens of the deciduous trees. The cryptomeria, with brownish pom-pom shaped needles in the winter months, now has blossomed into dark green needles. Pointed berries of bluish green have appeared on some of the arborvitae particularly for those down the hill from the chapel between Trinity Avenue and Mt. Laurel Avenue. Many of the maple trees have or are developing their samaras and winged fruits. Some of the samaras look alike at first glance, but upon close examination they are quite different. While they all are V-shaped, the spread on the “V” varies by specie and so does the width and length of the wings. For instance, the sugar maple has a narrow radius while the Norway maple has a very wide radius.



One special specie, that very few visitors notice, is the Japanese Larch. This tree is one of the few evergreens that lose its needles in the winter months. However, in the summer, the long drooping limbs develop spurs of needles. They look like long strands of tinsel hanging from the tree and almost touching the ground. Cones of brown appear among the green needles to better accent the tinsel. A small cluster of these trees can be found on Trinity Avenue to the east of the entrance by the 13th Street small gate. Because they are hidden by the tall stately eastern white pine, they are often missed. If the tree is near the end of its life, as two of them are, the needles are sparse with many visible cones, and the tree look barren or dead.



At this time of year, the leaves and fruit of the trees are exploding with growth. There is so very much to see and enjoy on the property. Come and visit for a while and walk through nature's fashion show.