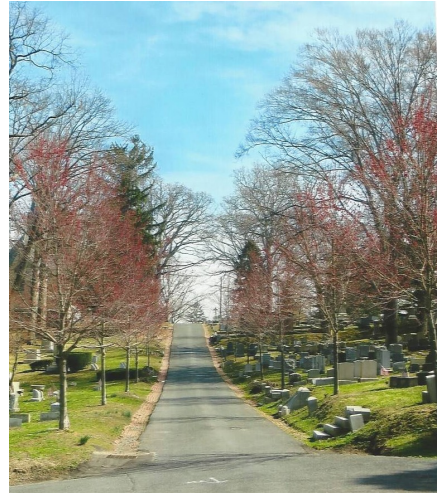


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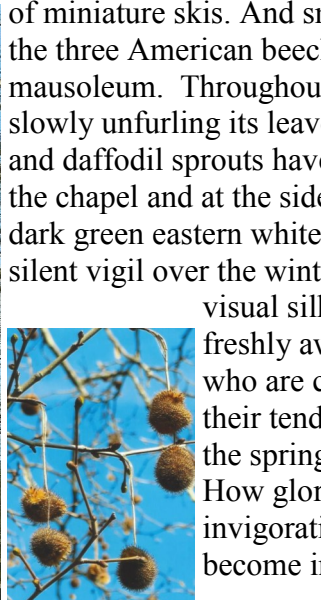
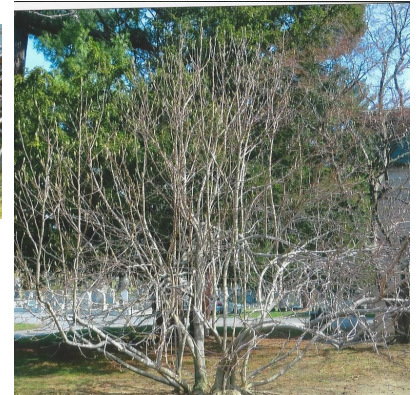
“The Awakening”

If there is a relatively warm winter, spring appears to come early. A sure sign of its anticipated arrival is the sound of the geese honking high overhead, and the first sightings of the robins with their bright red breasts. With the arrival of spring and March also comes the arrival of both rain and snow, sometimes changing from one to other within minutes. Rain is much preferred to shoveling snow; however if too much rain occurs while the ground is frozen, trees with shallow roots or growing on a hillside may topple over. If the winter was mild, the amount of debris from broken tree branches and tree damage may be light. March is so unpredictable that often there is snow of some sort on the ground for the entire month. If there is not too much snow, one of the laborers may be called back to work during the month. If called back early, they may spend the month picking up broken limbs and branches, and picking up wind blown paper, trash, and litter.



March and/or April is inspection time not only for the equipment, but for any damage to the trees, to the buildings, and to the memorial markers. While we do have occasional damage to the memorial markers from vandalism, other damage can be caused from the ground being too wet and the marker shifting or leaning, or even from a large limb falling off and hitting the marker or knocking it over. Frank Snyder, DCNR, and Joe Orłowsky, Shade Tree Commission, have walked the property and prepared a tree planting outline for Arbor Day, celebrated on the last Friday in April. They also will walk the property to look for dead trees. Each year ten new trees are planted at a sponsorship cost of \$400 per tree. This sponsorship money is used toward the purchase of the new trees and to cover the \$3000-\$4000 costs in cutting and removing 3-5 dead trees.

March is a busy month for our sleepy trees as they quietly and slowly awaken. The ‘red sunset’ maples along Mt. Laurel Ave. wake up first with tiny red leaf buds. In the corner by the gatehouse, the Magnolia blossoms that will grow into pretty pink and white flowers have appeared as long fuzzy buds. The London planetrees along the Market St. wall, while still bare of budding leaves, have small fuzzy, soft brown seedling balls hanging from their branches. The tuliptree inside and to the right of the main entrance has seedlings on its twigs that look like a pair



of miniature skis. And small tri-fold buds can be seen on the three American beech trees down from the Atkins mausoleum. Throughout the property, each tree is shaking its skeletal limbs, and ever so slowly unfurling its leaves which will quadruple its size by the middle of May. The tulip and daffodil sprouts have begun appearing in the flower beds of the columbarium outside the chapel and at the side of the Baber plot on the south side of the chapel. The stately dark green eastern white pines, Norway spruce, and white spruce that have stood their silent vigil over the winter months, yield their visual silhouettes to their

freshly awakened neighbors who are cautiously unfurling their tender shoots to suck up the spring sun and the rain. How gloriously refreshing and invigorating these trees have become in the month of March.

