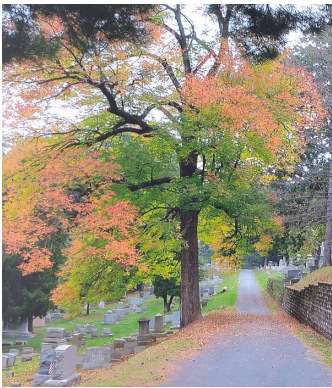


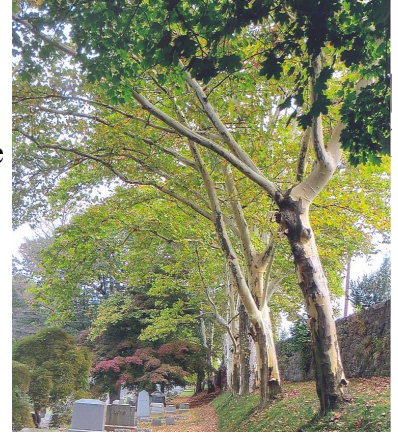
# September

## “Catalytic”

The month of September is a colorful, catalytic month that initiates the beginning of a spectacular fall season. Depending on the heat or early coolness or hurricanes or drought, the trees may or may not be starting to change color from their numerous verdant shades to yellows, ambers, rusts, garnets, merlots, reds, and oranges. Usually only a few trees start to change like the white ash, mature sugar maples, staghorn sumac, and sassafras. The white ash and sassafras turn yellow, and by the end of September, most of the leaves are off the trees. The staghorn sumac becomes brilliant red and when their leaves drop, their red lollipop flowers remain sticking out like a sore thumb. Large orange splashes of color appear on the sugar maples. The fine white flowers of the late blooming mock orange shrub, have turned a violet brown. The London planetrees, after shedding major parts



of their outer bark, are entertaining the passersbys on Market Street with long greenish yellow limbs and leaves. The tall slender tuliptree and the tall slender ginkgos are showing yellow stripping among their green leaves. And the leaves of the ‘red sunset’ red maple, particularly the newer plantings along Chapel Avenue, are changing to red.

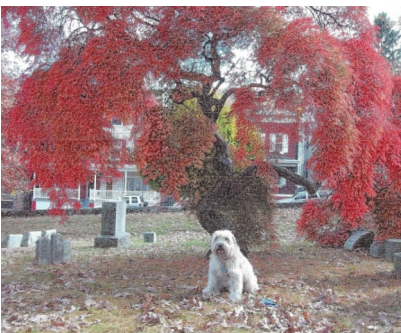


Cones are dropping on the ground from the pine family of trees. Like the samaras and the acorns, the pine cones are different on each specie. The larch and a lonely eastern hemlock have very small fat cones of 1” in length; the 1 white spruce has a medium fat cones up to 2” in length; the Norway spruce and eastern white pine have long narrow cones of 5-1½ to 6 inches; while the 1 Douglas fir has a pale brown cone of 3”. Quite frankly, when one gets to know the trees and the flowers and fruit each bears, there is a lot of action happening.



Acorns from the beech\oak family of trees are appearing and dropping from the trees. Acorns, like samaras and cones, can vary in size and length of the nut and caps\cups depending on their species. The swamp white oaks’ acorn (by the pond) have a fringed cap; the pin oak acorns are small with shallow caps and take two years to grow; the white oaks (east of the chapel) are longer with shallow caps; while the 2 chestnut oaks’ acorns are long with deep caps. The black walnut trees offer a fat meat once their thick outer shell is broken open. It

is a fall festival of nuts and acorns for the squirrels which allows them plenty of food to store for the long cold winter months.



The children have returned to school, but with warm weather and the fun and excitement of being with their friends again, many do not notice the changing colors of nature. However, the many visitors in the form of walkers with their dogs and parents and grandparents with small children, seem to take the time to notice and admire the changing sights.

The laborers are still busy mowing the grass, and it is with apprehension that they face the next two months knowing that they will be filled with

mountains of fallen leaves to vacuum and rake. But for the rest of us, September is a month to be valued for the warm weather and as a warm up introduction or prelude of what promises to be a spectacular show of nature.

