



THE ARCHWAY

Newsletter of the Friends of Brandywine Springs

Vol. 28 No. 3 Angela Evans & Mary Lou Lawlor, Editors Spring/Summer 2021

Carousel Footer Found by Mark Lawlor



Angela Evans, Mark Lawlor, and Lulu Calbazana stand near the footer to the Dentzel Carousel. The Caterpillar ride footers are behind them. Photo by Mary Lou Lawlor

After more than a year of searching, our dig team has finally found one of the historic 1891 concrete footers of our Dentzel Carousel. The footer was about 20-25 feet southeast of what we had calculated from old photos. The discovery of the “Lost Movies of Brandywine Springs” videos informed us a few years ago that the carousel could not have been in the same spot as the 1923 Caterpillar Ride. (See FOBS newsletter, Spring, 2019, page 2). The “Baby Day” video showed that it had to be more to the south, farther from the hillside. **Mike Ciosek** helped us set up a search grid over the target area, and we started looking in May 2019. The units were probed with metal probes because we knew we were looking for concrete footers that would be about 12” x 12” with level tops. We did note where we found gravel “sidewalks”, knowing that may help the search, as they would not have had gravel under the ride.

After 12 dig dates and 38 units probed between May, 2019 and Nov., 2020, (including a Nov. 7, 2020 dig with **Girl Scout Troops 873 and 1247** of Middletown, Delaware), the footer was discovered on Nov. 21, 2020 by guest digger and **Girl Scout Leader, Lulu Calbazana**. The footer was right at ground surface and slightly visible the whole time. We had been stepping on it for months. It looked exactly as we expected, at 11” x 11”.

All Dentzel carousels have no footer under the center pole, but four footers about 6 or 8 feet north, south, east, and west of the center pole. We did not know which footer this was, so the next dig was spent looking all around that footer on the correct predicted pattern. We did not find any of the other three footers intact, but 16 feet north of the footer, we found two “golf ball size” pieces of concrete, about one foot down below surface, indicating that another footer could have been there. From that evidence, along with other old photos and videos, and known locations of other nearby things (like Ladies Pavilion), we can calculate that the footer we found is the ‘south side’ footer, which places the center of the Merry-Go-Round 8 feet north of the footer found. The other footers may have been removed as ‘trip hazards’ when the ride was removed in 1922, since the park was open till 1923.

Many thanks to all of our dig team members, **Ed Lipka, Mark Lawlor, Lonzy Seymour, Mike Ciosek, Steve Renzi, Diane Timchak, Lulu and Gabriella Calbazana**, 10 girl scouts, and especially **Angela Evans**, who never missed a dig, and probed 20,000 holes.



Carousel Footer
Photo by Angela Evans

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Mark your Calendars! Plan to attend the FOBS annual Picnic on Saturday October 16, 2021 in the Rudy Williams pavilion.

Carousel Footer Found.....Continued from page 1

For historians of the future, the footer we found is 65', 7" southeast of the center of the center of the Caterpillar Ride, it is 97', 0" northeast of the manhole cover (towards Powerhouse direction), and 72', 1" southwest of the Ladies Pavilion's most northwest corner.



We will now continue to look for the footers of the building that covered the ride, and decide how to mark this great piece of Delaware history. Mark and Mary Lou Lawlor recently measured two different Dentzel Carousels and found that the size of the

revolving wooden platform floor was 48 1/2 feet diameter at Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia, and the floor measurement was 47 feet at Watkins Regional Park, in Largo, Maryland. So we will somehow mark a 48 foot circle down in our woods.

In Memoriam
Catherine "Kate" Amans Wardell
June 10, 2021

Our sincere condolences to her family

Back to

Nature

Have you noticed how many beautiful birds have been at Brandywine Springs Park? Some sightings include:

the Tufted

Titmouse, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, White Breasted Nut Hatch, Kingfisher and a Greater Yellowlegs...

Larger Birds include:

the Pileated Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Osprey, a Red-shouldered Hawk and a Bald Eagle!

Also the Canada Geese have been spotted raising their young.



Welcome New Members

Brenda & Klaus Abele

Lulu Calbazana

Raymond Harrington

Jonathan Hunt

Bill Taylor

Centennial Celebrations at Brandywine Springs Park

by Don Richard

The Concept : A celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the closing of the Brandywine Springs Park. 1923 - 2023

We should not let this anniversary slip by. I thought it would be good to make a day or weekend where the "Park" would reopen! This could be as easy or complex as we want to make it. Perhaps it could even be an annual or semi-annual event. Some ideas are as follows:

Promoting the event, add signage that fits the era, 1923. Have people (perhaps FOBS crew) dress in period clothing. Someone could be Mr. Crook, another could be Kid Finney.

The possibilities are many. Add or invite anything that fits the time period, old cars, the steam popcorn machine from Auburn Heights, etc. Maybe a trackless trolley could be hired to safely run a loop of some sort. Add tents etc. along the location of the board walk for vendors etc. How great would it be to have a hotdog stand at the location of the hot dog stand? Offer history tours of the Park. Work with Wilmington and Western to run a shuttle train from Greenbank to Brandywine Springs. They could even offer through tickets for the entire line, all trains stopping at Brandywine Springs. Maybe use the doodlebug as a local shuttle.

Thinking a bit bigger...somehow recreate the archway with scaffolding, etc. Boat rentals? (might be county insurance issue) Invite a theater group to do a period show. Again, anything to give the flavor of 1923, or maybe 1924 as if the Park never closed.



From the President's Desk...

Dear Friends (of Brandywine Springs)

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you all back as we all emerge from the Covid-19 epidemic into a path forward that will, slowly but surely, get us back to some sense of normalcy. The Friends of Brandywine Springs, much like many other non-profit organizations, had to adjust to the restrictions and not being able to do things that we had been doing for over 25 years.

*During the Covid pandemic, we were not able to meet monthly at the Cedars United Methodist Church, however, we were able to participate in a number of archaeological digs in the park during 2020, while practicing social distancing, of course. There was a change in leadership as **Mike & Sandi Ciosek** retired in their roles as President and Secretary respectively.*

*Before I go any further, I would like to take this opportunity to offer Congratulations and sincere appreciation to **Mike & Sandi** for the many, many, years of dedication, passion and selflessness they gave to FOBS. They were part of the initial group that founded and established the group we know and love today. Our organization has been recognized by the State of Delaware and New Castle County because of their labors of love! Our FOBS memberships now reach many parts of the globe.*

We have new leadership in place and our goal is to continue the mission that was established by our original founders. We continue to be a group of passionate historical researchers and preservationists. Our present active members still have the same level of passion and energy to dig, uncover and interpret our findings. We also like to share our results with those who share our interests and our desire to continue our living history mission within the park.

I invite you to join us on our journey as we uncover this rich history of what was once a popular Summer destination for Wilmington residents... Brandywine Springs Park!

Ed Lipka, FOBS President

A special Thank you to **Steve Franklin** for building a photo location sign for the Chalybeate Spring!



Mark Lawlor stands next to one of the ten giant root balls from fallen trees in the park. Photo by **Mary Lou Lawlor**

Landscaping...

The county has started to clear the fallen trees in the park from the March storm. **Mark Lawlor** has made two park benches that resemble Lincoln logs and placed them along the hillside. He has also made several replacement signs for the signs that were damaged in the storm.

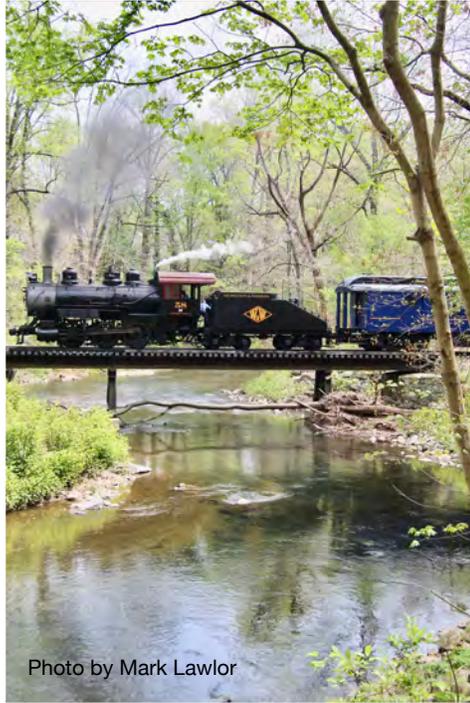


Photo by Mark Lawlor

Wilmington & Western Railroad

Trains are running on a full schedule!
#58 Crossing the trestle bridge at the park near the fire road "cave".

2021 Meeting Dates

held at the Cedars Methodist Church
Maple & Harrison Avenues
7:00 pm
July 11, August 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10
Nov. 14, December 5

Archaeological Dig Dates

Meet in Brandywine Springs Parking Lot
9am to 3pm
July 10, August 7, Sept. 11, Oct. 2
November 13
(Weather Permitting)
Bring gloves and a lunch if you plan on staying all day or come at your convenience.

2021 Membership Dues are over due!

If you haven't renewed your membership please fill out the enclosed form and send it in asap... thanks!

This & That... The Red Clay Valley Visitor Center & Museum was cleaned up on June 26th and is now ready to open July 4th weekend! Many thanks to **Sarah Dougherty, Ed Lipka, Angela Evans, Mark Lawlor** from FOBS, **Ken Brunt** and **Steve Kool** from WWRR for coming out to clean and sanitize from top to bottom. The last time it was open was December 2019!! The visitors center is run by volunteers. If you would like to help please contact **Mary Simons mhsimons21@comcast.net** or **Ed Lipka eal429@yahoo.com****Delaware State Senator Spiros Mantzavinos** (7th District) held his Town Hall meeting at the Rudy Williams Pavilion in the park and he attended our June monthly meeting at the Cedars Church, we look forward to working with him... **Sarah Dougherty** has updated the FOBS facebook page with dig dates for this year,, thank you **Sarah!** ...**Mark Lawlor** will prepare a report on the Carousel dig site to give to **Julie Ardis** so the website can be updated with the latest information...Thank you **Lulu Calbazana** and the **Girl Scouts in Troops 873 & 1247** from Middletown, De. for helping us with our November dig at the Carousel site! ...A Very Special thank you to **Sandi Ciosek** for her Secretary-in-training meeting with **Mary Lou Lawlor** and **Angela Evans**, without her guiding us, our job would have been much harder to accomplish...Questions, comments, or suggestions, contact **Mary Lou Lawlor mllawlor@verizon.net** or **Angela Evans angy.e8811@comcast.net**



Red Clay Valley Visitor Center & Museum

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Vice President : Mark Lawlor
Secretary : Mary Lou Lawlor
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