



News from Nature

By Chad Steele, Park Manager, Bluebird Farm Park

### **Old and New Trees at Bluebird Farm Park**

What do totem poles have to do with the parks?? Well, there have been a couple of large trees that needed to be removed due to disease and safety issues around the Bluebird Farm Park. The resulting stump of the maple near the restaurant was left in hopes of an imaginative carver turning it into a work of art! The other stump is behind the museum, on the edge of the woods and visually right in the center of the arbor (when standing in the lawn of the garden). Any chainsaw carver who is up for a challenge and would like to volunteer his service is encouraged to contact us at 330-627-7980.

As unfortunate as it was to remove the maple behind the restaurant, but around 4 years ago we knew it would eventually have to go. When you stand next to the giant tree's trunk, look closely and notice that there are two young maple trees planted 4 yrs ago to replace the old tree. Once they were settled in and growing it was time for the old tree to go. Now that they are not overshadowed they will really take off growing. See the robin's nest in the one next to the restaurant deck? Also down in the yard below the restaurant parking lot look for a little maple growing that has wire surrounding it. That seedling is also an offspring of the old tree. So although the old tree is gone it really isn't.

Speaking of seedlings, many people remember the "100 yr old oak" down by the arched bridge over the stream. The giant tree lost its battle with the elements several years ago when a swollen and fast moving Indian Fork Creek undercut the bank and caused the giant tree to topple over.

Well, when walking the scenic trail that winds around the toppled giant, look just behind you and slightly uphill into the woods. There are several 20+ yr old white oaks that are growing straight and tall. These are the future 100 yr old oaks. I remember Joyce being so excited about this when I told her of those offspring of her beloved old oak. In the restaurant parking lot is piece of the trunk of the old oak. Try counting the growth rings. (Hint: use a toothpick to help you keep from going cross-eyed from counting.)

There are several maples competing with the young oaks and to give the youngsters some help, the maples will be girdled to slow them down and give the much slower growing oaks a better chance in life.

As you walk through the park you will see wire surrounding young trees. This is an attempt to keep the deer and rabbits from chewing them and to try to reduce the amount of repellant I spray. (Last year alone it was around 108 gallons of repellant spray.) Luckily eggs, milk and lemon balm mint are not that costly and make a great homemade repellant. For a copy of my repellant recipe see me at the Bluebird. I'll be happy to help!

Park Manager, Chad Steele