Early this spring the Friends had needed maintenance work done on the Lilac Garden. The bushes were professionally pruned. We hope that you will have a chance to enjoy the lilacs when they bloom this May. The Lilac Garden is located southwest of the Barnard Monument in the center of the Park.

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Last November the Friends did maintenance work on the plantings around the Lawler Library. The area was weeded and mulched. In the spring we will be replacing several bushes in front of the library. We will be planting three more Memorial Trees this spring with donations which were made last fall.

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Please don’t forget to enjoy our daffodil display in the Dell during late March and April.

Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 28, 6 PM

Please save the date for our Annual Meeting, which this year will be held at the Buttonwood Senior Center (the Warming House) at 6 PM on May 28, 2020.

Information about our program will be mailed out with the Membership Mailing in early May.
**North Trails Project**

A combined CPA and Friends-funded engineering study currently underway by RDLA, Inc. of Boston, developers of our North Woods Master Plan, will be completed early this spring. This will provide the necessary specifications and drawings required for actual construction of the Buttonwood Brook trail, the first phase of the project. Before any actual work can commence, an ambitious fund-raising effort will be undertaken.

The goal of the Buttonwood Park North Woods Master Plan is to restore the ecological balance of the North Woods; activate the North Woods in ways that promote good uses within the park; provide unique recreational opportunities that differ in character from the rest of the park; provide educational opportunities, and to improve park safety.

*Richard Leary*

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**The Barnard Monument**

In 1914, George D. Barnard, a man who was born in New Bedford in 1846 donated a monument to the City of New Bedford. Mr. Barnard, who as a young adult settled in St. Louis, became a very wealthy and famous businessman and entrepreneur. He never forgot his New Bedford roots. In 1911 he received a letter from the principal and the children at the Fifth Street grammar school in New Bedford, which he had attended, asking for a donation to help decorate the school. He generously responded to that request, and also at that time decided that he would donate a monument to his beloved City.

(continued on page 4)
Fagus sylvatica Asplenifolia is a medium sized tree, pyramidal when young and developing a broad spreading crown with maturity, often becoming as wide as it is tall. It is a stunning specimen and the perfect choice for a park or feature tree. Our specimen is located at the eastern end of the Arboretum, west of the main ball field.

As indicated by the common name, the long, narrow foliage is deeply cut, soft and fernlike. Throughout the summer, it is a dark glossy green turning a sumptuous golden yellow in autumn. Though the flowers are insignificant, this beech also produces the typical nut that you would see with a common beech. It also retains the silky smooth grey bark and exquisite form, attractive of this species. This tree will grow in most well drained soil conditions except very heavy clay. Under planting is not recommended as it develops a shallow root system.
Beginning in July a crew from Ecological Laboratories began applying an anti-algae treatment to the pond. The bacterial treatment metabolizes nitrogen, which should reduce the algae and plants and produce cleaner, clearer water. Treatment of the pond started in late July, while usually treatment begins in the spring.

Even though the applications started late, the first samplings from SMAST seem to show a positive results. No fish kills were observed and only one algae bloom was observed, which quickly dissipated. Two additional applications were made in the fall of 2019 and more applications will be made starting in the spring of 2020. The muck layer on the bottom of the pond is expected to decrease with additional applications. While it is still early to measure success, no negative impacts to the pond from the microbial applications are evident.

The purpose of the monument was not only to memorialize the grandeur of the whaling era, but also to look forward to New Bedford’s emerging industrial age and its future. It depicts the origin of New Bedford’s greatness, which is its location, and bond to the sea. It displays the courageous faces of the men and women who built the most unique and dynamic port the world has ever seen. It rises towards the sky, 20 feet high, commemorating the creative energy of a people who went from dominance in whaling to prominence in worldwide manufacturing. The sculptor was George Julian Zolnay, who was commissioned by Mr. Barnard to make a monument be erected in one of the City parks. Next time that you are in the Park, please take the opportunity to view the monument and notice all the wonderful details.

We can use volunteers for weeding, tree watering, and general clean up. If you are interested, please visit our website listed at the left and select “CONTACT”. Leave your information there and hit the green “SEND” button.