

2017 Heritage Tree Awards

Janet and Bernie Greenberg , 3632 Stoer Rd.

When Janet and Bernie Greenberg of 3632 Stoer Road moved into their home almost 50 years ago, there was a young American elm tree in the back yard.

“It was sort of skinny and little but it had a branch growing out to the side and the kids would put their little baby brother in a basket with a rope around the branch and swing him,” recalls Janet Greenberg.

Today, a 2017 winner of the Heritage Tree Award for its unusual size, form, and age, this giant American Elm measures over 82 inches in circumference and has a 150-foot crown spread with a height of more than 100 feet.



For years, the Greenbergs have contracted with Davey Tree to spray and prune the Elm to protect it against Dutch Elm Disease and the vicissitudes of harsh Cleveland winters. “Our house is not air-conditioned,” admits Janet Greenberg, “but we always figured that the money spent on this tree was money saved on utilities because of the shade and protection it gives all year round.”

Courtney DiMenna, 4180 Hadleigh Rd.

Courtney DiMenna was a second recipient of the 2017 Heritage Tree Award for the notable American Elm on the front yard of her property at 4180 Hadleigh Road. Also nominated for its unusual size, form and age, this gargantuan tree measures 175 inches in circumference and has a 90-foot crown spread with a height of 80 feet.



Diana Vargo, 3695 Reidham Rd.

When longtime Shaker residents **Diana Vargo** and her husband bought their home at 3695 Reidham Road fifty years ago, the Japanese Tree Lilac on the front yard of their property was at least 10-15 years old. Today this winner of the 2017 Heritage Tree Award is more than 60 years old, a centenarian for its species.

“Although the tree is brittle today, in the past all the neighborhood kids would come to our house and have fun climbing it,” says Mrs. Vargo.

To keep “her little old lady” in good shape and to preserve its health, the Vargos have Davey Tree care for it, pruning out dead wood and spreading a 4-foot mulch circle out from its trunk to decrease stress caused by summer drought conditions. This Japanese Tree Lilac is an annual bloomer covered in June with beautiful white blossoms whose seeds attract birds and other wildlife.

