

2024 Heritage Tree Awards

The 2024 Heritage Tree Awards celebrate two trees that have graced their neighborhoods for decades.

The Pernetti Family

Malvern neighborhood

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)



When Andrew Pernetti, his wife and two children moved into their new home on Falmouth Road this past July, it was the massive and stately Pin Oak in the front yard that impressed them in equal measure with the character of the house.

The home had been an estate sale from a longtime owner. Following its history, Andrew Peretti learned that the original owner was a founder of the iconic Cleveland firm of Parker Hannafin. Confirming the age of the Oak by its growth markers, he concluded that this 104-foot-tall specimen with a base diameter of 55 inches and crown spread of 75 feet may well have been planted by the original owner himself.

As the newest steward of this magnificent green landmark, Mr. Perneti cannot imagine his home without its graceful shade and arching limbs. As his tenure on Falmouth Road grows along with his Pin Oak, his family's stewardship of this heritage tree will become part of the legacy the Pernetis will continue to conserve and preserve for future owners.

The Bussa Family

Onaway neighborhood

American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)



When Matthew Bussa and his family moved from Colorado to the state where his wife had grown up one-and-a-half years ago, they were looking for a change of scenery from the mountains to the Heights of Ohio. After renting in the area, they found the perfect house for them and their two children on Woodbury Road within walking distance of the neighborhood school in a wonderfully friendly neighborhood where everyone seemed to know each other and – the front yard had this amazing, huge Elm tree

When they met the previous owner, he shared the tree's history. It is one of the oldest American Elms in Shaker that has to date fortunately avoided the ravages of Dutch Elm disease. He explained his careful stewardship of the Elm as a legacy to future owners. Matt Bussa, originally a City dweller from New York, has adopted not only this magnificent Elm but also its ongoing care by a qualified arborist in hopes of preserving it for future Shaker generations.

“In a sense, it has become our third child. Our two boys love to play around it especially in the fall. We rake piles of the leaves and they jump and destroy them!” admits Bussa, no doubt with a smile.

This century-old graceful neighborhood sentinel reaches a height of 135 feet and has a trunk diameter at its base of 62 inches and a crown spread of approximately 100 feet.