



*This 125-year-old American Elm is the recipient of the 2021 Heritage Tree Award.*

## 2021 Heritage Tree Award

The recipients of the 2021 Heritage Tree Award are Joan and Doug Bewley of Belvoir Oval. For the past 23 years, the Bewleys have been stewards of a 125-year-old majestic American Elm that shades their back yard.

“Our Elm was a major selling point when we purchased this property then,” said Joan Bewley. Hiring specialists to care and maintain the health of this asset that borders the Canterbury Golf Course and the Doan Brook was never a question for the Bewleys who believe that owning a tree of value is similar to maintaining the investment in your home. It is a property asset. Last summer when the pandemic focused so many people on their homes, the Bewleys added up-lighting to their Elm. Now time spent in their backyard spotlights this peaceful giant.

One of the interesting questions about this huge living monolith with a 60-foot crown that stands 80-feet tall and measures 164 inches in circumference is how has it survived so long? The Bewleys think that because their Elm has been isolated from other members of its species prone to infection by Dutch Elm disease, it may have escaped the blight. Secondly, because it is located in the floodplain of the Doan Brook, its roots absorb stormwater and have historically had a water source even in times of drought.

The Tree Advisory Board applauds the Bewleys for their dedicated stewardship and ongoing efforts to preserve this 125-year-old magnificent specimen of *Ulmus americana* for future generations.