

## Sapling of a “Heritage Oak Tree” Planted in Pavilion Circle



*March 30, 2022*

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has provided Cape May Point with the gift of a prized seedling from the famed Salem Oak. The original Salem Oak stood for over 500 years on land that was part of the forest that covered Salem County, NJ when Quaker John Fenwick, founder of Salem, first arrived in 1675. According to legend, Fenwick and Lenni Lenape Native Americans signed a peace treaty under the branches of the Salem Oak.



For more than 500 years, the iconic Salem Oak grew in the historic city of Salem, NJ until it unexpectedly crashed to the ground on June 6, 2019. The Salem Oak had been a celebrated tree due to both its size (more than 100 feet tall with a circumference of 22 feet) and historical significance. Fortunately, just months before the tree fell, foresters from the DEP had collected acorns from the base of the tree. Those acorns have been nurtured into saplings and were offered to each of the State’s 564 municipalities.

*May 21, 2022*

*May 10, 2023*

Our sapling has been planted in the Cape May Point Pavilion Circle; a place where it may be enjoyed by Pointers and visitors alike as it grows into a majestic white oak. A dedication ceremony will be held in the future, and all residents will be invited to attend!



*June 16, 2023*