



Splendid Specimens

By Michele Morgan Bolton

Armstrong-Kelley Park in Osterville isn't so much known for its giant trees as it is its 29 rare and unusual species. The Cape's largest privately owned park contains umbrella pines and large-leaf Magnolias, Japanese cedars, Stewartia, and a rare Franklina, an 18th-century bloomer cultivated in Georgia in the 1700s and named for Benjamin Franklin.

The Franklina flowers in late summer and is virtually unknown in the wild, says Larry Evans, the president of the Cape Cod Horticultural Society, which owns and operates the preserve. No one quite understands where it came from. "A lot of the trees here were brought in, but we have no idea where that one came from," says Evans.

Excerpted with permission from Cape Cod Life, April 2012.

Evans has spent his 67 years in Osterville and is dedicated to the park he says is unchanged from when he was a boy. And that's just fine with him. "It's probably the only eight and a half acres in all of Osterville that is still open space," he says. "[The park] is just how I remember it."

Excerpted from Cape Cod Life with permission, April 2012.