



NEWSLETTER

The Changing of the Leaves...

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of Bucks Beautiful, "Happy Fall!" With the heat and humidity finally behind us, we welcome the transition to the crisp days of Autumn, with the vibrant changing colors of the leaves.

At Bucks Beautiful, we're transitioning as well.

We have a full Fall schedule of activities and events "on deck" and in process. The season kicks off with our annual planting of daffodil bulbs—a tradition that commenced in 2010. With the installation of an additional 80,000 bulbs at select locations, we will have a total of 1,700,000 daffodils blooming across Bucks County in the Spring of 2023. An incredible accomplishment! Suggestions for additional locations are always welcomed.

Next we will focus on our reforestation project.

We will be planting 20 new trees in areas of the County hard hit by storms and various tree diseases. This will add to the 1619 trees already in bloom through our efforts. We're already seeing the impact of these trees as they take root and beautify Bucks' landscapes!

Thank you to our charter members who have already renewed their memberships into 2023; your support is invaluable as we deliver on our beautification mission.

As we continue our membership drive, we welcome your input to help attract new subscribers. A full list of ever-expanding member benefits and opportunities, as well as registration details, can be found on www.bucksbeautiful.org. Please spread the word and pass this link along to family and friends!

Ongoing throughout the year, we will continue to expand our educational programs in collaboration with Delaware Valley University, and the newly launched "Bucks Beautiful Bits" YouTube channel—a wealth of information, insights, tips, etc. Please check it out.

From all of us here at Bucks Beautiful, we wish you—our members, our sponsors, supporters and friends--a happy, healthy and safe Fall season!

Sincerely,

Gary Mathern

President, Board of Directors

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Jennifer



We're thrilled to welcome Jennifer Finelli as our new Community Engagement Manager. She will be the point person for our growing Membership program, as well as provide valued support for our events.

Jennifer has resided in Buckingham for 15 years with her husband and three children. She comes to Bucks Beautiful with a background in employee benefits and technical writing, and is currently pursuing her Master Gardener certification through Penn State. She is passionate about gardening, sustainability and organization. Jennifer was an active volunteer with her children's Home and School Association for 10 years- chairing the school's holiday secret shop, as well as coaching for the Irun4life Program. She currently volunteers with her daughter's Girl Scout Troop as cookie manager, and is training for her next marathon.

Save the Date

11-11-22 4-7 pm

*Exclusive Member
Wine & Cheese Reception*

Hosted by Bucks Country Gardens

Special Shopping Discount for Members Only

Meet Jen, along with our staff and board, at our first Members Reception!

Members will receive an email invitation (check your Spam folders).

**Not a Member yet?
Enroll today at
bucksbeautiful.org.**



Leading the Way in Sustainable Reforestation of Bucks County



Trees are often called the “Lungs of the Earth” because they take in pollutants and return oxygen to the atmosphere. With the alarming changes in our climate, trees are more vital than ever. An important feature of a community are tree lined streets. The canopy moderates temperature, help to retain moisture and provides shade. Our RePlant Bucks initiative is leading the way in sustainable reforestation of our community. Bryce Sanders posed the following questions to our Executive Director, Denise Sezack and RePlant Bucks Chair, Peter Fernandez, to highlight the operation.

How was RePlant Bucks conceived? The 2018 ash tree blight was the driving force behind this tree planting program. Invasive insects such as Lantern Flies, Emerald Ash Borers and Gypsy Moths have destroyed our trees, along with types of wilt diseases, fungus and disturbance species such as vines and non-native plants. Deer also nibble away, causing unsightly "browse lines." Coupled with extreme storm damage on the aging tree canopy, thousands of hazardous dead trees have had to be removed, forever changing the panoramic landscape of Bucks County. Since its inception, RePlant Bucks has planted over 1,619 trees in 23 locations across the county. After a pandemic pause, we are back on course to continue our goal to plant 10,000 trees.

How does the program work? As part of our Community Grant program, RePlant Bucks encourages non-profit organizations, schools, garden clubs and local municipalities to host community garden or tree plantings in Bucks County. The goal is to beautify the County with plantings typically located by roadsides, parks, streets or town squares. The grant award is a 50/50 cash match up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year. Grant funds may be used for plant purchases including trees and related materials (in-kind services or labor do not qualify). We strongly promote the use of native plant materials whenever possible.

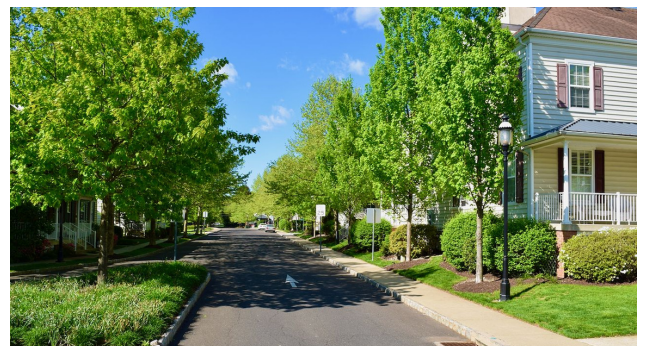
Communities opt into the program, raise matching funds and commit to maintaining the trees. Trees are planted with the help of volunteers, municipalities, nurseries and landscapers. We coordinate planting of site-specific varieties, oversee proper planting and require a maintenance plan to be developed before turning them over to the community.



Example of Disturbance Species



Lantern Flies



Healthy Tree-Lined Street

Who qualifies? Through the grant program, public and community properties qualify. Examples are public schools, museums, parks, township open spaces, township buildings and nonprofit organization sites. Non-profit organization and conservation properties are also allowable locations. Private residences do not qualify.


Does this cost the community money? Yes, because the recipient needs to have “skin in the game.” There is a cost involved with purchasing and planting the trees. The township or organization raises half the money and Bucks Beautiful provides a grant to cover the rest, subject to upper thresholds. In practice, a park or historical site might be an ideal place to plant trees. The organization is responsible to raise its share of the money. This can be covered by private donations or through additional grants arranged by the town or organization for this purpose.

What are the responsibilities of the recipient? Bucks Beautiful provides the trees, staking and deer proofing for all trees planted. Properly planting trees is a precise process. Once installed, the township or organization is responsible for maintenance. This includes watering, weeding, mulching, pruning and general care. Bucks Beautiful periodically visits the sites and monitors growth success rates. We also provide initial instruction and are available for consultation concerning the care of the trees.


What is the cost of planting the trees? The answer is dependent on the site and the types of trees best suited to the location. Please inquire for more details.

What types of trees are planted? The trees are intended to be deer resistant, site specific and native to the area whenever possible. They range from mass plantings of bare root saplings to individual large specimens with root balls wrapped in burlap. The reforestation will consist of native species such as oaks, tulips, sycamores, hickories, chestnuts and red maples.

How can our community or nonprofit organization get trees planted? It all starts with an e-mail or phone call. See below! Tree planting is a legacy item to be enjoyed by future generations. It also helps in attracting tourists to bucolic Bucks County!



With community support our goal is to plant 10,000 trees. Towering trees offer natural beauty, pleasant shade and protection, but also are a vital resource to solve pressing environmental issues. Planting a tree today benefits generations to come.



If interested in planting trees in your town, please contact us at info@bucksbeautiful.org or 215.340.3639 to request a grant application.

For info. or to sponsor a tree visit bucksbeautiful.org/replant-bucks.



Business Member Spotlight

by Laurie To

Malmark
BELL CRAFTSMEN

I had the pleasure of meeting with Lora Mohr, President, and Vice Presidents Derek Mohr and Kathy Ebling Shaw at Malmark Bells Inc. in Plumsteadville. Kathy also serves as conductor of the Westminster Concert Bell Choir and teaches handbell training at Rider University's Westminster Choir College. Malmark is a third-generation family business, which has always been headquartered in Bucks County, and the largest handbell manufacturer in the world. Having performed in my church bell choir for five years, it was a treat to receive a tour of their operations

Handbell ringing became popular in America in the early 1950's, when a Presbyterian church group from New York City performed on a televised broadcast of The Garry Moore Show. Following that appearance, churches throughout the country wanted handbell choirs. At that time, folks were importing bells from England, but manufacturers found it difficult to keep pace with the demand. Not to mention it was expensive to ship the bells from Europe. As a result, in 1963 Schulmerich Carillons decided to begin manufacturing handbells in the U.S. Lora's father Jake Malta served as their Vice President and Chief Engineer, where he designed the first handbell production model for the firm. When ownership of the company changed hands in 1972, he resigned to form Malmark.

Mr. Malta was very innovative in both the design and production of handbells. From the beginning he instituted recycling bronze in the manufacturing process (which is now commonplace). As most of Malmark's customers are non-profits, churches, schools and community organizations, he was dedicated to superior product at the most affordable cost. In 1982, the Choirchime Instruments were created to meet the demand for low-priced, high-quality handchimes for use in elementary music education classes and performance. They are an ideal instrument for training youth to become bell-ringers and future members of handbell choirs. The Choirchimes® are also widely utilized in music therapy, as well as performed with handbells to add variety to the music.

Ten years later, Malmark developed a new concept in handbell design and performance by using aluminum for the castings of its bass bells. This not only reduced the weight to about half of the bronze, but it also provided a strong fundamental tone. Therefore, it became practical and musically desirable to expand the range of bass bells.



Lora Mohr, President with her son Derek, Vice President.



Wedding



Decor



Jewelry



Choirchimes®

Today, Malmark continues to be a leader in the design, crafting, and tuning of fine English handbells. Whether you are a ringer or not, Malmark has something for everyone. The LoraBell Lifestyle Collection of gifts includes bell bronze jewelry and small keepsake bells which can be personalized for special occasions such as weddings, devotionals, newborns and holidays.

While these are always available online, a Pop-up Holiday Open House will be at held at Malmark November 11 - December 9, Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Malmark Bellcraftsmen
5712 Easton Road, Plumsteadville, PA
215-766-7200 | www.malmark.com

Bucks Beautiful members will receive a 10% discount! Members can also see this lovely collection at Malmark's featured table during our Member Reception on November 11th.





Forcing Bulbs - Timing their Spring Appearance

by Melissa Palmer



During Autumn, I can't help but plan how to beautify my gardens for Spring! I know I should savor the beautiful season with warm colors, but that's never the case. I end up clearing my summer flowers and vegetables to prepare for Spring bulbs.

Flowers can be convinced to bloom sooner or later by using a technique called Forcing. This is seen each year at the Philadelphia Flower Show, where there are flowers expertly forced to bloom outside of their normal time.

I absolutely LOVE forcing bulbs for Spring, which I use in the house, around the front entrance and for the early floral classes that I teach. At my farm I force bulbs every year in pots to get that jump on Spring. It works like a charm! All you need to be successful is a little knowledge and a few tricks.

There are two types of flowering bulbs that do not need chilling to bloom indoors: Amaryllis and Paper whites. This is because they are native to warmer climates where temps never drop below freezing. Once you purchase these bulbs, plant them immediately and they should start growing in 4-12 weeks.

Spring bulbs that need a little chill include Daffodils, Tulips and Hyacinths. My favorite are Lily of the Valley, however these are poisonous so keep them away from pets and children. We don't want anything to take a bite out of them!

Plant bulbs for forcing at the same time you would plant outdoors - anytime in October or November. Bulbs should be fresh and NOT dried out. Please do not use bulbs stored away from the previous year. They will either not bloom or will bloom poorly, therefore all the effort will result in disappointment.



Amaryllis



Forced bulbs are best installed in pots that are 6" wide and 6" deep, with drainage holes at the bottom. This size will hold 5 Tulips, 4 Hyacinths or 3 to 5 Daffodils. Place soil first, add your bulbs and then cover their tips about an inch under the soil surface. Water well to settle in the bulbs, and remember to label each pot.

Note that tulip bulbs should be placed with the flat side facing the outside of the pot. This will allow the leaves to grow around the pot's exterior and the blooms in the center.

Where to store them once planted? This is where it gets a little tricky. Our climate zone of 6B means that temps can drop below freezing, therefore they will need protection. It is key that you don't allow the soil to freeze. An unheated basement, attached garage, potting shed, ventilated crawl space or cold frame will work well. A spare refrigerator is ideal as long as there is no fruit inside. Fruit creates ethylene gas which can damage bulbs.

During the chilling period your pots should be barely moist. Keep them in complete darkness or the bulbs will start growing before they are fully chilled. The temperature should stay at 35 to 45 degrees F throughout the entire chilling stage, which stimulates a biochemical response informing the embryonic flower to begin sprouting. (See chilling times for a variety of bulbs below.)

Once the bulbs have been fully chilled, you can start to bring them inside or to a warmer location. To extend the use of these blooms you can bring in a few pots at a time. Place your pots in a cool place around 50-55°F with plenty of light. It could take up to 2 to 3 weeks to bloom so be patient. After your flowers fade you can place them out in the garden. (Note: tulip bulbs cannot be used again once they are forced.)

Now that you have the information, why not try a few pots and see how you do? Stay tuned for my Bucks Beautiful Bits video on Forcing Bulbs, where I will go into more detail.

Happy Fall!

Melissa

CROCUS	15 WEEKS
HYACINTHS	13-16 WEEKS
GRAPE HYACINTHS	12-15 WEEKS
DAFFODILS	16 WEEKS
TULIPS	14-20 WEEKS
SNOWDROPS	12-15 WEEKS
LILY OF THE VALLEY	14-15 WEEKS



HYACINTH



SNOWDROPS



CROCUS



LILY OF THE VALLEY

300+ Members
and counting!



Thank you for
helping us grow!

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Linda Antochy
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John Augustine
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*Mugs
are
back!*



Hand-thrown Stoneware - Made in the USA. Each represents one of our programs. Purchase one- or the whole set- via our online gift shop or at Bucks Country Gardens.



Coneflower
Necklace

sarahcornwell
J E W E L R Y

***10% of proceeds donated to
Bucks Beautiful***

Hand crafted in Sarah's
Doylestown Studio, which
was featured on June's
Kitchen & Garden Tour.

sarahcornwelljewelry.com



THANK YOU for your support of our Bulbs for Bucks Fundraiser!

Due to the overwhelming response, we are pleased to report that we have exhausted our supply.

Happy planting, and feel free to send us photos of our blooms this Spring!



Save the Date for our **SPRING FLING** Friday April 21, 2023
An evening of rustic elegance at the Inn at Barley Sheaf

Thank You to all of our Supporters

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