



NEWSLETTER

KITCHEN & GARDEN TOUR SUCCESS!

The 2024 Bucks Beautiful Kitchen and Garden Tour fundraiser did not disappoint. This highly anticipated event attracted over 800 members and guests!

This year, attendees were welcomed into featured kitchens and gardens of homes in Doylestown, Perkasie and Wycombe. Uniqueness and creativity were on display in both urban and rural settings—a wonderful example of what can be done regardless of property size and location.

At each property, Master Gardeners and designers were stationed to answer questions and describe the features and materials used to create the gardens, landscapes and welcoming kitchens. Many homeowners were available as well to greet attendees, and to speak to the inspiration and vision behind these amazing properties. Builders were on hand in some cases to discuss design and installation process and timelines.

Congratulations to the Bucks Beautiful staff who again did an incredible job in event planning and execution, always making it look seamless. They trained 40 volunteers who cheerfully greeted and directed visitors through the houses and gardens. It's a great way to introduce teens to the beautiful world of horticulture; our future Bucks Beautiful members! Planning is already in process for 2025; yes it takes over a year's worth of effort.

We are most grateful for the generous support of the community. Without our members and the friends of Bucks Beautiful, we could not continuously advance our beautification mission. Thank you!

Have a great summer!

Gary Mathern, President, Board of Directors



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Thank You to our Kitchen & Garden Tour Volunteers

Wanda Andrews
Corinne Brintnall
Holly Brintnall
Lydia Brintnall
Jeanne Barney
Marie Bushnell
Pam Byers
Holly Cipollo
Leah Cipollo
Gail Donegan
Sandra Dubois
Melody Eble
Michael Flanagan
Marin Ford

Rachel Ford
Taylor Ford
Beverly Fulgham
Michael Gross
Heather Haberle
Annie Hall
Delaney Hall
Dipal Harris
Hailey Harris
Tom Hebel
Joanne Heim
Linda Hendershot
Susanne Hewitt
William Hughes

Kay Johnson
Rich Johnson
Corie Kearns
Molly Kearns
Melanie Kok
Mia Kok
Michele Lefchack
Jamie Lecker
Alice Marcy
Marcello Mangano
Jeanne Mantell
Louise Matt
Kathleen McCarthy
Jenna Olanday

Kristin Olanday
Caitlyn Puhalla
Kimberly Puhalla
Susan Priore
Rena Shields
Madelyn Peters
Sarah Peters
Lizzie Pubins
Layna Raheem
Talia Raheem
Caroline Roland
Kristen Roland
Alexis To
Carter van Dyke

Grant Applications Welcome!

Since 1991 we have been providing Community Grants to encourage non-profit organizations, schools, garden clubs and local municipalities to host public garden or tree plantings in Bucks County. These include:

- Plantings are done at public places as well as other non-profits and conserved properties such as hospitals, war memorials, public parks, gateway gardens and town centers
- Supporting garden clubs, community gardeners, home owner associations and other groups who volunteer to do plantings throughout the community
- School garden projects
- Bulbs for Bucks daffodil displays
- Native tree installations through our RePlant Bucks initiative

The grant award is a 50/50 cash match up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year. Funds may be used for the purchase of annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs, trees, mulch and garden related materials. We highly encourage the use of native plant materials whenever possible.

Please request an application by emailing info@bucksbeautiful.org. Applications can be submitted at any time however the deadline for Fall is 8/31/24 and for Spring is 3/31/25.



Shane's Meadow

Through our Garden Grant program, we planted a Bulbs for Bucks daffodil display, plus endowed a Wildflower Meadow at Jamison Elementary to memorialize Shane Sloms, a former student who tragically passed away last summer at just 22 years old. Shane loved the outdoors and had started his own landscaping business.

Third graders at the school raise butterflies, and at the end of the school year had a release party in Shane's Meadow.

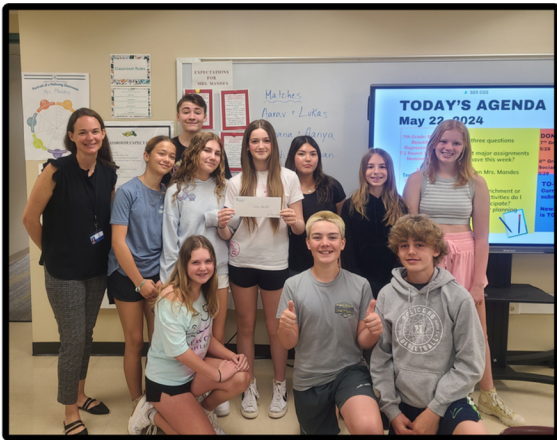
This project is a beautiful tribute to Shane, while also serving the students as a wonderful outdoor classroom setting.

Thank you to Jared Hottenstein, Fifth Grade Teacher at Jamison Elementary, for sharing these photos as well as creating a terrific video of the students planting the perennials.

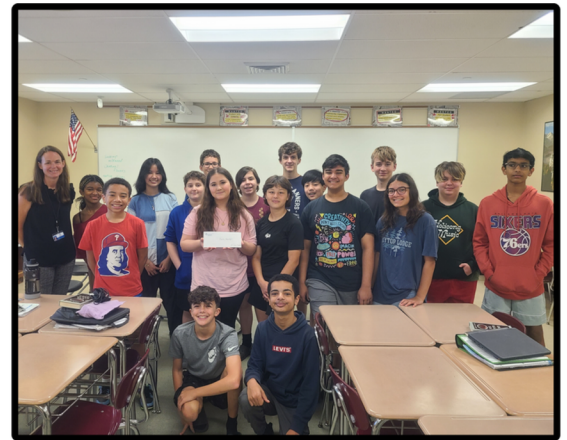


Growing Together - Students Support Buckingham's Wetlands Project

This year two student groups coincidentally reached out to Bucks Beautiful with a planting project agenda. Seventh grade PEN Program students at Holicong Middle School held fundraisers which raised \$255 towards planting trees in Buckingham. The Central Bucks East High School Key Club offered volunteers to plant trees. We were thrilled to provide a matching grant which doubled the student funds and labor, plus coordinate the native plant material purchase and installation.



Holicong Middle School Teacher Julie Mandes with her two 7th grade Pen Program classes, who presented Bucks Beautiful checks with funds raised toward RePlant Bucks.



Our Community Engagement Manager, Jennifer Finelli, contacted Buckingham Township to identify a suitable location. We learned that between Buckingham Elementary and the Buckingham Township building stretches a peaceful wetlands oasis where redwing blackbirds soar and the only sounds are the rustle of leaves, birdsong and the croaking of frogs. However the area lacked definition and purpose, while invasive plants such as multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet and autumn olive were driving out native foliage, to the detriment of the creatures that make the wetlands their home.



L: Wetlands before.

R: Natives selected for the makeover. Gino's Nursery from Newtown provided our nonprofit with a wholesale discount and delivery.



Jen then partnered with the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) co-chair Jim Walter, who also serves as a Master Gardener and Master Watershed Steward. Jim removed the invasive plants prior to planting. He and Jennifer (a Master Gardener as well), selected native plants appropriate for the site such as three varieties of summersweet shrubs, a dozen perennial swamp milkweed. Two Sweetbay magnolia trees were chosen for their ability to thrive in the wet environment, and one Redbud tree which will have an early season pink bloom in the spring. The Township donated surplus from their native plant sale, which consisted of Irises, Cardinal flowers, asters, wild bergamot, woodland phlox and beardtongue. These were interspersed with the milkweed. Also provided by the Township was compost that was created from residents recycling leaves and Christmas trees.



Additional recruits for the June 5th planting included Master Watershed Stewards Laura Mein and Matt Braud, plus Matt's wife Lisa. Together they own Hollow House Farms in Furlong, which offers fresh eggs, honey and range free products. The C.B. East Key Club supplied 11 hard working students who toiled in the soil for two hours after school. Their efforts are beneficial in preserving our environment.

The team effort beautifies the area while also providing a sustainable habitat for our pollinating insects, birds and small animals across the seasons. Expect to see many more Monarch butterflies, bumble bees, honey bees, green bees, hummingbirds, gold finches, chickadees and cardinals when you walk the soft wood-chipped path. You can even relax on a bench in the gazebo to enjoy the peaceful setting.



MEMBERS TOUR - HIBBS HOUSE GARDEN

By Marie G. Bushnell, Member

Our Members were recently offered a complimentary private tour with Washington Crossing Historic Park's Historical Horticulturist of the Hibbs House Garden. Bucks Beautiful awarded a multi-year grant for the garden, which engages visitors through presentations and interactive programs that explore the historical flora and fauna, sowing and harvesting of plants and broom-making, cooking and dyeing demonstrations. Board Member Susan Sandor documented with photos, and member Marie G. Bushnell kindly shared her experience of the event:



Having the invite from Bucks Beautiful to visit Washington Crossing State Park, namely the Hibbs House garden tour, was soooooo amazing!



Historical Horticulturist Anna Davis' knowledge of nature, horticulture and history is truly fascinating. The plants are accurate to 1776. We have them in our own gardens and didn't even know these plants had so many medicinal and culinary values.



Plants included St. John's Wort, corn poppy, borage and bee balm - some can be made into a salve with other ingredients used for burns. Corn Poppy (also known as Flanders Poppy) have been used for a mild sedative. Flanders Poppy name came from Flanders Field, an American cemetery in Belgium. Fields of red poppies grow near the grave crosses of soldiers that died during World War 1. Bee Balm is used for teas, usually a bergamot. Many of these native plants were very important to the people of the 18th century. When they moved, they packed their native plants with them- a lifeline for healing remedies and culinary purposes.



This tour is Not To Be Missed! Anna dressed in the period and never missed a beat with the names and values of all these native plants that she planted in this kitchen garden. Visit the Washington Crossing Website for information on the next garden tour.

Bucks Beautiful Membership: WIIFM*

By Bryce Sanders, Membership Chair

*WIIFM: What's In It For Me. Thanks to the commitment of neighbors, friends and local businesses, our membership is now 443 strong! In addition to supporting a noble cause, or joining when a friend approached you, what are the benefits of membership?

- **You support RePlant Bucks.** Extreme storm and insect damage is evident everywhere. Everyone has heard trees are “the lungs of the Earth.” Your contribution supports our efforts to plant 10,000 trees on public land in Bucks County. Currently the count is 1,839. Some people plant tiny trees. We plant bigger trees.
- **Daffodils everywhere.** Your support has enabled Bucks Beautiful to plant over 1.6 million daffodils in public spaces around Bucks County. They are deer resistant. They reproduce. (The daffodils, although the deer do too.) People love them. You can point to a roadside display of daffodils and say: “I helped make that happen.”
- **Tickets to the Kitchen & Garden Tour.** This annual event has been taking place for 29 years! Membership includes a complimentary ticket to the self guided tour, a \$40 value.
- **Early admission to the Kitchen and Garden Tour.** If you have taken the tour before, you know it attracts crowds. Members are allowed to start the tour one hour before the general public.
- **Admission to our Annual Member Event.** Once a year we host a free party for our members on the property of one of our business members, donated for the occasion. This free event includes food, beer and wine.
- **Discounted tickets to the Spring Fling.** Our annual gala held in April was a sold-out event. The party includes an open bar cocktail hour with passed hors d’oeuvres, seated dinner along with live and silent auctions. It sells out for a reason.
- **10% discount at Bucks Country Gardens,** applicable on non-sale greenhouse or nursery plants on the 1st Monday of every month. Take advantage of your discount.
- **10% discount at Byers Choice.** Visit their gift shop in Chalfont and show your membership card. Another discount!
- **15% discount at the The Garden Girl Company.** Show your membership card and become a new container garden client. One more discount.

- **Free night's lodging at Holiday House Pet Resort.** Or redeem for a free daycare introduction day-your choice. Let your pet experience resort life!
- **10% discount at Nonno's Café,** valid on Tuesdays. More savings.
- **10% off Studio Classes at Seasons Garden Center.** They have a variety of educational classes. Learn more, pay less.
- **New Hope Flora Cottage offers Members buy 1 bouquet, get 1 free.** This deal is twice as nice!
- **Bucks Beautiful Car Magnet.** If you own an SUV, you know they all look alike. Now you can find your car in a crowded parking lot.

You joined Bucks Beautiful for all the right reasons. Please take advantage of the benefits associated with your membership.



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by Bryce Sanders, Membership Chair

Laura SD Greloch is a Landscape Architect and the owner of The Outdoor Room, LLC. This Design, Build and Maintain (DBM) landscaping firm serves Bucks, Northampton and Lehigh counties. They are also business members of Bucks Beautiful. I spoke with Laura to learn more about her business.

Tell us about The Outdoor Room, LLC. How do you help clients? As the DBM description implies, we can work with a client from the moment they decide they start considering landscaping their property, through the installation process and afterwards, helping them maintain and steward the property. I chose the name, The Outdoor Room, because people should view the area beyond their door as additional space for relaxing, creating memories and entertaining.



We consider ourselves to be creative problem solvers. We prefer to engage potential clients as early in their process as possible. Our experience and knowledge covers many services including grading, drainage, pool design, lighting, irrigation, large tree procurement, holiday and seasonal display. We focus on residential clients, large properties. boutique commercial, restaurant and destination venues, and interactive public spaces.

The landscape is a vital influence on how people form a first impression, display curb appeal, create value and a sense of place for their own well-being. We're often consulted when a homeowner is not sure how to create some definition to their property, juggle the use of outdoor spaces, establish a scale of space that is comfortable and functional and bring it all together with context and continuity.

A client may have a beautiful home, but the land never received proper attention, has drainage issues or lacks an ease of flow between outside and in. Views may be hidden or undefined and plantings lack structure and movement. These are opportunities for improvement through architectural elements, hedging, focal points and plantings that surprise, add color and movement.

Tell me about yourself. Why did you start your firm? My family roots are deep in Bucks County, where I attended The George School, then Penn State. Travel opportunities as a young person confirmed that landscape architecture was a good career choice for me. Sustaining the environment is intuitive when you spend time outside and study habitat. Nature's design practices can be replicated aesthetically and ecologically functional when building outdoor spaces and choreographing plants. It's key for me to have a relationship with every detail, the hands-on work and crafting outdoor spaces that appear to have been there forever.



Why should one choose to become your client? We take time to understand each client and what makes both them and their property unique. We encourage flexibility. One client's property does not need to look like all their neighbors. There can be some mystery in your landscaping, like turning a corner and suddenly seeing a secret garden. There are essential talents on our team plus additional experts we can call upon to execute each project.



Who is your typical client? Ideally, a referral from a current client, builder or a professional in a tandem architectural design profession that is familiar with our work and can communicate a need for full service. We prefer when clients have a budget in mind but allow us the wings to do our best creative work, and have patience through the process. We begin with a questionnaire and exchange of ideas, wish list items and constraints which set parameters. While hardscapes should reflect timelessness, plantings grow and evolve over time, therefore we expect to build relationships over seasons as the landscape matures. Our ideal client forms a bond of trust and will allow leeway for opportunities to make their garden even greater.

In what situations can you make the greatest “before and after” impact? An example is the secret garden concept mentioned earlier, a reflective space, a water feature that you may hear before you see it, or something musing like a giant chess/checker's board waiting for play beyond a decorative gate. We want to create those “aha” moments while respecting the client and their overall goals for the site.

You were involved with the Bucks County Designer House this year. Tell me more. In the landscaping business, visibility builds your reputation. Firms like ours want to be seen by potential residential clients, but also by fellow professionals like custom home builders who will have a need to refer professionals in complimentary businesses to their clients. Participating in the designer house supports a good cause and shows the public the skills we bring to the table.



How did you get involved with Bucks Beautiful? That's easy to answer. Having grown up in Bucks County, I have known about Bucks Beautiful for years. Your reputation precedes you. I know other respected professionals in my industry. Some are business connections, yet in other instances, our children would play together. Many are already Bucks Beautiful members. When I learned they supported this noble cause, I wanted to get onboard too.



In what other ways do you give back to the community?

This is a work in progress. The Outdoor Room, LLC serves a wide footprint throughout the Lehigh Valley, Bucks, Berks counties and some Pocono Communities. Buck's Beautiful has a unique mission, however there are not as many similar opportunities in other areas. While I am seeking a good fit for contributing elsewhere, my current focus is giving back in Bucks County, which is so familiar.

I am attracted to community education projects because many people would like to learn about the basics of landscaping, as well as more technical and ecologically artful and high functioning planting schemes. The community needs advocacy and resources that can be used as a pillar to do for themselves, plus the knowledge to know where to find and when to bring in a professional that is a great match for their endeavour.



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CREATURE FEATURE

by Jennifer Finelli, Community Engagement Manager

If you've ever come out to your garden and found your parsley or dill whittled down to bits, it may have been the work of a few swallowtail caterpillars. These swallowtail butterfly is part of a large family (Papilionidae) with more than 500 varieties fluttering over six continents. In PA, we have a number of species including the Spicebush, Giant and Eastern tiger. Swallowtails are attracted to a wide variety of blooms for nectar (milkweed, coneflower, joe-pye, ironweed, goldenrod, gaillardia) and it can vary by the type of swallowtail.

One of the most important things for the butterfly is the ability to find a host plant for their caterpillars. The host plant is where the butterfly will lay her eggs and where the caterpillars will then develop. A female swallowtail will lay 200-400 eggs per season, but it's estimated that just 2 out of 100 survive to become a butterfly.

Swallowtail caterpillars can be hosted on a number of plants, but in PA, are commonly seen on members of the Apiaceae family, which includes parsley, Queen Anne's Lace, carrot, celery, fennel and dill. These creatures outgrow their skin a number of times. Each stage is known as an instar, and there are five of these stages.



Swallowtail caterpillars feasting on Queen Anne's Lace



Swallowtail caterpillar with osmeterium

Swallowtail caterpillars have a very slick defensive trick. They all have a Y-shaped organ called an osmeterium tucked into a cavity just behind their head. When it feels threatened, it emerges and releases a smell foul enough to repel some predators. (I personally have seen one attempt to ward off a cat using these means while I was doing some up-close observation for this article.)

The caterpillar then creates a chrysalis (pupa) and metamorphoses into an adult butterfly after 9-18 days. There are generally 2 generations each summer.

So, if you're interested in supporting the butterfly population, consider planting some extra dill and parsley in your herb garden for the caterpillar food bank. And don't forget some of the native pollinators that draw the adult butterflies.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



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Created with the purpose of supporting local agriculture, the team sources local and organic cream, milk, fruits and vegetables, cage free eggs and raw honey. They work tirelessly to do better each year, bolstering more farms, removing plastics from their shops, creating more extraordinary flavors and boosting our Bucks County community.

Visit their newest location in Chalfont's former firehouse with beautiful open space and lots of seating.

PJ Whelihan's Doylestown proudly joins the PJs family as our 22nd location. Featuring 50 80-inch TVs, it's your premiere spot for catching any big game.

Indulge in their unmatched selection of signature wing sauces, explore the extensive cocktail menu, and enjoy over 36 taps offering a diverse array of brews to satisfy every taste.

Conveniently situated within the Cross Keys Plaza Shopping Center, the inviting venue includes a charming 4 seasons room plus outdoor patio.

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