



Membership Newsletter

1.6 Million Daffodils Planted

1,525 Trees Planted

The President's Letter

by Gary Mathern

The initial kickoff message to the membership of Bucks Beautiful was planned to look back at the past 30 years of the organization, and to preview our initiatives going forward. Sadly, on December 21st, 2020, our co-founder Bob Byers, Sr. passed from this world into the next, surrounded by his loving family. Let us now take a moment to celebrate the life and achievements of our esteemed leader along with his wife, best friend and business partner, Joyce Byers.

Bob liked starting things. After traveling throughout Europe, and seeing how natural beauty is presented, supported, and encouraged in those towns and cities, he co-founded Bucks Beautiful with the goal of bringing the same beauty home to Bucks County. One of Bob's greatest gifts was the ability to mobilize folks to support projects he was passionate about. He knew water flows downhill.

Bob wanted all people in Bucks County to feel the pride and excitement he felt when he saw a beautiful vista while driving around our county. He wanted people to have the opportunity to learn; to improve their own properties; to get their hands dirty. Bob knew the organization needed to lead by example. The Byers themselves and the Byers' Choice Foundation made leadership gifts to fund garden initiatives.

Much has been written about Bob Byers, Sr. He was a founding member of the Michener Art Museum in 1987 and named Trustee Emeritus. He co-founded the Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project in 2005. He was a Board Member of the Salvation Army for 18 years, and

In Memoriam 1938-2020



Robert L. Byers Sr.

a Trustee for Drexel University, his alma mater. Bob and Joyce founded Byers' Choice, the company that launched the iconic Christmas Carolers figurines over 40 years ago, which consistently gives 20% of its profits to charity. Bob and Joyce stand out as philanthropic leaders in Bucks County and beyond. How do you create a perpetual motion machine? Maybe Bob did this during his lifetime. Thanks to the support of the community, Bucks Beautiful can continue to deliver the vision Bob originally saw. Bob was a great man! Bob was a leader! Bob, we will miss you.

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STORIES INSIDE:**

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Bucks Beautiful's Beginnings

by Bryce Sanders, Board Member

Was Bucks Beautiful always here? Did the county always look this good? Was it a Federal beautification program like the WPA in the 1930's? If not, how did it start?

The 1980's: Local residents Bob and Joyce Byers toured the British Isles and other parts of Europe. They saw beautiful private gardens. Landscaped public areas. They saw villages proud of their designation as Britain in Bloom winners. As forward thinking people they said: "With some organization in the background, we can bring this concept home to Bucks County."

The 1990's: Betz Laboratories CEO Jack McCaughan and his wife Carol joined the Byers in officially founding Bucks Beautiful in 1991. They shared space and staff with the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, while operating as an independent nonprofit. Plenty happened in the early years.

Public Projects- The parkway needed trees. Responding to the call, Feeney's Nursery donated over a hundred trees including labor to plant them. It was our first public landscaping project.

Garden Competitions - Picking up the village award idea, Bucks Beautiful organized awards for individual, business and community gardens. An awards ceremony was held.

Flower Show at then Delaware Valley College (DVU):

Philadelphia is famous for its flower show. Many exhibitors are local. Because plants cultivated for the show bloom at different times, nurserymen often found themselves with some great plants, after the show concluded. Why not organize a local show and invite the same exhibitors?

Kitchen and Garden Tour:

Homeowners need inspiration. The Philadelphia Flower Show can be intimidating. What can a local person do at their own home? In 1995 the tour was born. This walking tour through Doylestown continues today.





Amy and daughters Ella and Brooke are picture perfect by the pretty perennials we planted at the Mercer Museum.

2000 to Present: Projects and events evolved over time, keeping thing fresh while pursuing the mission of enhancing the beauty of Bucks County.

Daffodils: It's the project closely identified with Bucks Beautiful. In 2010, Gale Nurseries led the way by planning 40,000 daffodils in public spaces. The initiative grew and grew. A mechanical daffodil planter was acquired. Today, the number planted has surpassed 1.6 million daffodils.

The Spring Fling: We needed an annual event to bring supporters together and raise money to fund our projects. In 2012, the inaugural Spring Fling was held in a small tent alongside the Lock Tenders House in New Hope. Hundreds attended. The event expanded, moving to Byers' Choice in Chalfont and later the Inn at Barley Sheaf Farm in Holicong.

Our Own Place: In 2013 the small Bucks Beautiful staff relocated to the Doylestown office premises of Carter van Dyke Associates, Landscape Architects. The organization now had "its own door."

Replant Bucks: It started with trees and has returned to trees. Bucks County has lost thousands of trees to disease, insects and storm damage. We are committed to leading the way in facilitating reforestation, by pledging to plant 10,000 native trees. With the help of community partners, 1,525 young trees have been installed to date.

The story of Bucks Beautiful is continuously written. Future newsletters will divulge more about each project, how it started, who made it possible and the humorous experiences that happen when like minded people get together to support a common cause.

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Bucks Beautiful Launches Membership Campaign

As we all spend more time locally, many have appreciated the inspired gardens and sustainable plantings that Bucks Beautiful works hard to create throughout our community.

Now YOU have the opportunity to help Bucks Beautiful accomplish even more by becoming a Member.

Membership support will bolster our reforestation initiative, daffodil displays, scholarship programs, educational lectures, community garden projects and pop-up parks, school plantings and special events.

Become part of a special network of friends and neighbors who are committed to improving Bucks County for now and for future generations.

Those who join during 2021 will be designated CHARTER members of Bucks Beautiful.



Membership Benefits:

- ***Complimentary Garden Tour Admission***
- ***Early Tour Access***
- ***Signature Car Magnet***
- ***Special Event Notification***
- ***Quarterly Newsletter***



Joining is easy! Visit www.bucksbeautiful.org to enroll online, or to print an application to mail.

Community Partner Profile: Colin Slota

by Laurie To

Why is it important to use a professional landscape designer?

"Seeking a professional regarding anything outside of your own expertise is so important because many crucial aspects are often missed. A landscape designer accounts for every variable and challenge that may present itself. As a landscape professional, I will always make the right decisions to assure that your beautiful landscape will also be functional and maintainable."

What is the most common mistake that homeowners make in their landscaping?

"A common mistake I see is controlling stormwater. Often, this is overlooked, but it is such a key aspect in building both a practical and attractive landscape."

Why is it important to incorporate locally grown plants?

"I always recommend Native Plants be utilized as they often help control water runoff, as well as attract/ provide for insects and other species that live here."

What criteria would you recommend?

"A 'modern' concept has been rather popular; however, when choosing a trendy landscape, you need to consider your long-term goals. Will you eventually sell your home? If so, can a new homeowner



transition into the landscape you built comfortably? Are you staying in your home? Do you plan to add to this landscape in the future? All of these questions are essential to consider when designing your landscape."

What are some ways that your customers can help you best succeed in the projects they hire you for?

"Open collaboration with your designers as well as flexibility is the recipe for success. Both parties have to work together. It is the clients job to communicate their expectations and it is my job to bring those expectations/dreams into a functional reality!"

What makes Slota's unique?

Slota's Property Maintenance has a goal to provide an awesome and easy customer experience while bringing your landscape dreams to life, which is why we are so active on social media platforms. I think that showcasing our work and interacting on Instagram and Facebook brings a unique feature to this company. It allows current and future clients to familiarize themselves with our work and staff. After all, we are working on YOUR home. We want everyone who decides to work with us to feel comfortable."

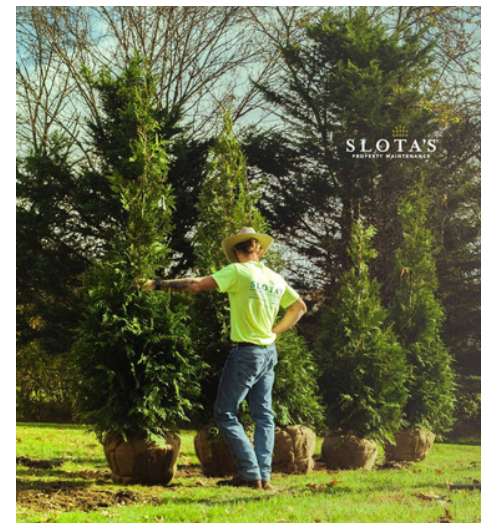
Contact for a complimentary consult:
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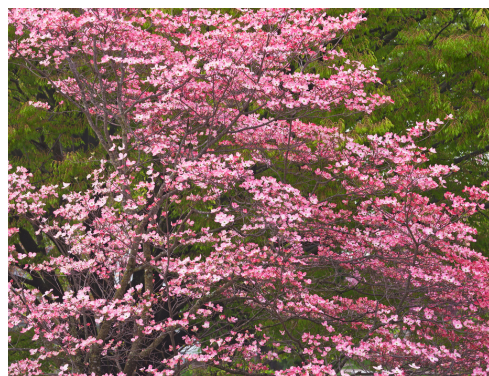


What's Your Favorite Tree?

by Denise Sezack, Executive Director

As Bucks Beautiful continues our reforestation initiative to restore the aging tree canopy of Bucks County, someone recently asked me what my favorite tree was. The question stopped me in my tracks as I thought how difficult that simple question was to answer. Over the years the answer has changed often, sometimes daily. It changes every time I read a gardening book, a new magazine or receive a catalogue in the mail. It changes with every trip to a nursery, arboretum, or plant sale. So, to answer the question, I thought back to one of my fondest memories of driving down Aquetong Road in the early spring and seeing the array of white and pink dogwood trees blanketing the woods at the home of woodworker George Nakashima. It was a breathtaking site I still remember today. It's sad to see that over the years anthracnose or the dogwood blight has taken many of our woodland native flowering dogwoods (*Cornus florida*). Luckily you can still find this beautiful tree along with new blight resistant cultivars in local nurseries and I for one would love to see more of them back in the landscape.

Additional benefits of the dogwood are the fall color, the red fruits that are enjoyed by birds, and its role as a butterfly host. They prefer moist, well-drained soil and light shade or dappled sunlight. We have learned that too much shade can run the risk of blight so you want to make sure that it receives enough sunlight as well as good air circulation. Dogwoods typically do best with morning sun and afternoon shade. It's important that a newly planted dogwood tree receives plenty of water during dry periods to reduce stress along with a light layer of mulch to help to retain soil moisture.



"To care for the woods is to witness all: nature unfolds, the seasons pass. The footprints of nature's great variety appear on the new-fallen snow." -George Nakashima

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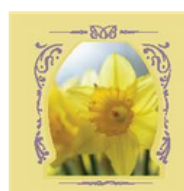
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