



NEWSLETTER

Why Become a Bucks Beautiful Charter Member?

Almost every day when we pick up our mail, we find a solicitation to join a new organization or renew an existing membership supporting a cause. Most often, these pleas begin with an emotional appeal, intended to not only raise your awareness, but to make you “feel good” about financially committing whether as a one-time donation or a pledge for ongoing support.

Thirty years ago, **Bucks Beautiful** began as a local grass roots organization committed to the beautification of Bucks County. While staying true to our mission, we are now launching a Membership Program offering two levels of support: individual/family and corporate. Each offers specific benefits including tickets to special events, quarterly newsletters, future advertising opportunities, etc. A work in progress! Our overall goal is to extend our reach throughout the County to support new and evolving beautification efforts.

What have we done to gain your continued support?

- **A Welcome Sight of Spring:** We’ve planted over 1,600,000 daffodil bulbs across public spaces throughout Bucks County. As they are now in bloom, we hope that you enjoy their beauty as you drive, bike or walk along our many scenic roadways. With your help, our goal is to reach 2 million bulbs and hopefully go beyond.
- **Over 1500 Trees Planted:** Your donations have allowed us to work to restore our forests and fields that have been ravished by invasive insects. This is a relatively new initiative. Although our efforts were impacted last year as a result of the pandemic, we are ramping up again to achieve our goal of 10,000 trees!
- **Garden Tour Event:** On June 13th, we will be offering an opportunity to tour many local private gardens. This is a chance to gain inspiration to enhance your own residential retreats.

Yellow?

Yellow's no shrinking violet, shivering in its boots,
rooting undercover till roused by spring.

It's a cocky crocus stuck in the snow, poking through
the permafrost, and a lowdown dandelion looking
askance at the sun, daring the temperature to drop.

Yellow's no pansy either, cowering from the cold; it's a
dashing daffodil, flirting with frost, dancing up a chilly
hill, or some splashy forsythia buttering bald backyards
still tundras of cold toast.

Yellow's no languishing lilac, shaking like a leaf, afraid
of waking up winter. Yellow gets here first.
Yellow's not yellow.

- Thor Rinden, 1937-2009

- **Educational Series:** Throughout the year, we offer programs to expand your gardening knowledge by learning from horticultural experts, on-line and in-person.

Bucks County is a unique and beautiful slice of Pennsylvania! We believe that everyone should not only benefit from the results of our efforts and the programs we support, but join us through membership.

Together we can make Bucks County a **beautiful** and great place to live and work!

Thank you for your careful consideration in helping **Bucks Beautiful** fulfill its beautification mission.

Sincerely,
Gary Mathern, President

**MORE GREAT
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Bucks Beautiful's Accomplishments: Garden Competitions

by Bryce Sanders, Board Member

You know Bucks Beautiful does great things today. Let's revisit an earlier highlight from our 30+ year history.

The Garden Competition – What Was it All About? Our nonprofit awarded many grants for community gardens in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Were these gardens installed? When? How could we know? The Garden Competition was born.

The competition included three major categories: Residential, Business and, of course, Community. This included those funded through grants, but other organizations with garden price could enter too. Subgroups such as flower, water and container gardens added further definition. This widely opened the competition because people living in townhouses and those with large properties could both compete within a category of their peers.

Since Bucks County is large, judging took place across three regions: Lower, Middle and Upper Bucks.

Teams of judges were dispatched within each region. Scoring was done across several categories on a point basis by those volunteer judges who were Master Gardeners, industry professionals or academics within the field.

Recognizing the Winners: When you dig in the dirt and create a garden that wins acclaim, people need to know about it. The first award ceremonies were organized in New Hope and at the Mercer Museum.

Ceramic tiles were commissioned, allowing owners to mark their gardens with their distinguished achievement. Our Executive Director, Denise Sezack, explained some plaques continue to be on display decades later. Award winners take their gardens seriously. Details of the homeowner's garden and awards won have even been included in local obituaries!

Many see landscaping as a quest for perfection, often associated with large estates employing

professional garden staff. Peter Fernandez, current board member and former president of Bucks Beautiful, explained the spectrum of winners was much broader.

"Imagine when a group of 12- year old children walks onstage to collect their award for best container garden. Or think about the group of volunteer Church parishioners receiving the award for best community garden. These winners carry that memory through their lives."

These initial awards ceremonies were so well received by the community, they later grew into the annual Spring Fling Gala. But that's another story.

That last mental image captures the spirit of Bucks Beautiful. To promote and recognize the beauty of Bucks County's landscapes, vistas and gardens to everyone.

The Future: Think this sounds like an idea worth reinstating? We're looking at ways to bring the garden competition back!



A Meaningful Memorial

by Laurie To, Communications Manager

In November 2019 Bucks Beautiful donated 5,000 daffodil bulbs to Bridge Valley Elementary School to memorialize student Aum Kalanuria, a first grader who passed away the previous Spring. The entire second grade participated by hand planting 500 bulbs near the flagpole in honor of their former classmate. The students were assisted by Aum's older sister and parents (Atul and Vinita Kalanuria), along with his aunt and cousin, who had traveled from India for the important occasion.

Principal Kevin Cochran educated the students regarding the process of the dormant bulbs transforming into spring perennials, and explained the special reason for the planting. "Each year when the daffodils bloom, we can think of Aum and how he was an important part of our school, and maybe you will remember something special about him."

After the planting activity, Mr. Cochran led the group in a touching moment of silence and praised the children for helping to create a new field of flowers at their school.

"The bulbs you planted today are a symbol of how beautiful things come and go in this world and how we can show love and appreciation for beautiful things when they are here with us."

Gale Nurseries Inc.'s crew installed the remaining 4,500 bulbs on either side of the school's entrance on Sugar Bottom Road in Furlong. The resulting effect is a dashing display of the glorious golden flowers.



The Bulbs for Bucks Program was the inspiration of board member Chuck Gale, to beautify Bucks County at key locations with the first splendor of spring. "I like the idea of planting daffodils because the bulbs multiply each year, and the project is long-lasting for future generations to enjoy. To my knowledge, this is the largest bulb planting project in the state of Pennsylvania," Gale said.

It's Back! Bucks Beautiful Garden Tour 2021

by Susan Sandor, Board Member

Yes, we missed the garden tour as much as you did last year. The bright side is that it gave our garden hosts even more time to get their gardens growing for this our 26th year of presenting a spectacular event.

Tap the date into your phone or mark your date book for Sunday, June 13 to visit six beautiful gardens that have never been publicly shown before. Wear comfortable shoes since three gardens are walking distance from one another and three are a short drive from town.



The gardens selected this year range from a quaint cottage to a historic estate. You will see specimen trees, beloved perennials, colorful annuals, container succulents, ponds, water features, and vegetable gardens so popular these days. Most gardens feature dining areas that will be adorned with freshly cut flower arrangements courtesy of our generous local florists.

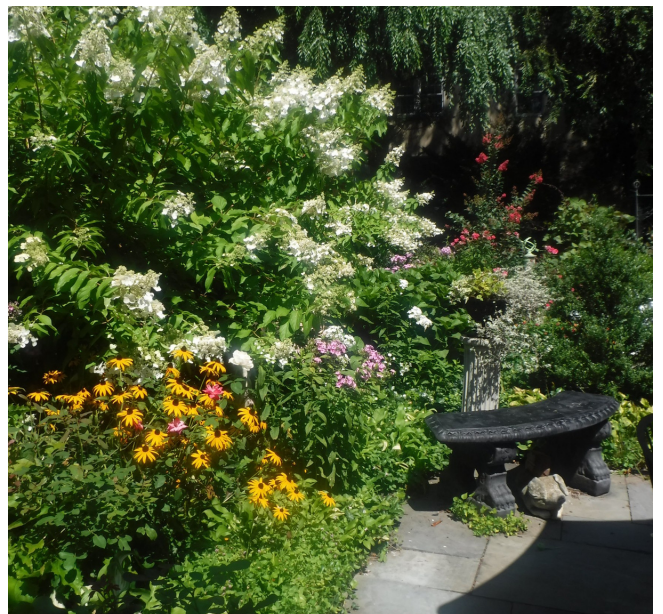
Brett King, a certified remodeler, and his client have invited us to view a recent estate renovation and to stroll around the expansive landscaped property. This is a rare opportunity to walk through this residence and will be a fine addition to the tour.

Gatekeepers will be stationed at each property to ensure that masks are worn at all times. Admission to view the gardens will also be overseen to make sure social distancing protocols are met. Early birds still catch the worm with discounted ticket prices of \$30 until May 31st. Thereafter, tickets will be \$35.

Included with your ticket purchase will be a booklet with maps, photos and description of each garden, plus a garden bag filled with fun gifts for the first 400 guests. If you are a shutter bug, feel free to click away to take home some inspiration.

Want free tickets? Become a Bucks Beautiful Charter Member and receive garden tour tickets along with more benefits. Members also have exclusive access to the gardens from 10 to 11 a.m. Gardens will open to non-members at 11 a.m. and the tour concludes at 4 p.m.

Details and ticket purchasing options can be found on our website www.bucksbeautiful.com or call 215-340-3639.





Board Member Spotlight: David Fermeir, Bucks-Mont Party Rental

by Bryce Sanders

Bucks Beautiful has been around for 30 years. Many of its early supporters still play an active role today. Dave Fermeir, Owner of Bucks-Mont Party Rental is a good example.

Who is Bucks Mont Party Rental?

In 1989, Dave's family was in the construction business when his mother came up with the idea of starting a rental company. Instead of construction equipment, she chose party supplies: china, tents, tables and chairs. Today, Dave, his wife Jodi and other family members continue to run the family business.

How did they get involved with Bucks Beautiful?

Over the years, Bucks Mont Party Rental has worked with many local organizations including Doylestown Hospital and Delaware Valley University, and are longtime members of the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce.

The Bucks Beautiful Garden Show at Del Val was created not only to inspire with landscaping ideas, but to provide an educational component. However the number of classes was limited by the amount of rooms available. Dave devised a plan to erect tents filled with chairs to create additional space for the event's gardening programs. Dave became committed to Bucks Beautiful.

Over the past twenty five years, many of Bucks Beautiful events would not have been possible without the support of the Fermeir family. From small Garden Fair tents, large two-tiered tented Million Bulb Celebration and Spring Fling Spectacular, to Kitchen & Garden Outdoor Cafes, they were there for us.

Bucks Mont Party Rental Today

When you consider a party rental company, tables, chairs, linens and place settings come to mind. They do all that. They also provide flooring for inside the tent, lighting plus wiring and cabling. Should a caterer require ovens, or carnival equipment is needed, they have it covered.

Technology has advanced their business capabilities. Dave remarked erecting a tent in the early days required knowing the right knots. Today, ratchets and strapping secure their tents, which could be as large as 60x140 feet. They use computer aided design to show a homeowner where the tent could be sited on their property.

Bucks-Mont Party Rentals' 25 years of event planning expertise is something they are proud of. They are a local family owned and operated business that cares and supports our community.
www.bucksmontparty.com
Phone: 215-345-4556



Bucks Beautiful Business Membership



Benefits

- *Your Business Link on the Bucks Beautiful Website*
- *Garden Tour Tickets*
- *Early Tour Access*
- *Framed Certificate to Display to Customers Showing Your Community Support*
- *Window Badge for Your Business*
- *Signature Car Magnet*

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

By popular demand, we are now inviting Bucks County businesses to join our Membership program.

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

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

Those enrolling in 2021 will hold the distinction of CHARTER MEMBER.



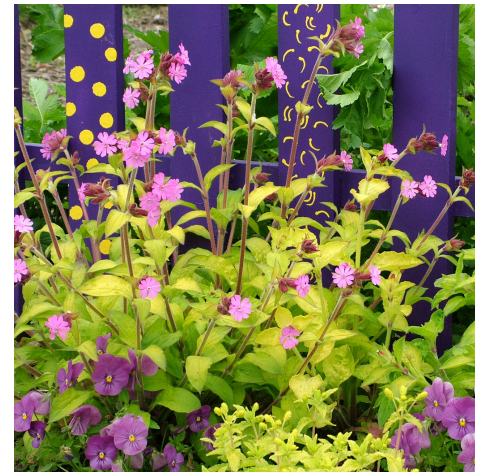


Seeds from a Plant Geek's Garden

by Denise Sezack, Executive Director

Spring is here and we are all anxious to get back outside and into the garden. Over the past year many of us have rediscovered the simple joy of growing our own plants. If you're seeking locally harvested out-of-the-ordinary seeds you have to go no further than *Hayefield Seeds*.

Bucks Beautiful member, author, and self-proclaimed plant geek Nancy Ondra lives for the thrill of sowing and growing interesting plants each year. After having so much success with sharing the seeds from her 4-acre homestead right here in Bucks County, Nancy now makes them available for sale so other gardeners can enjoy trying them too. All of the seeds she sells are collected from open-pollinated, unpatented, non-GMO plants grown in her garden and meadow. Expert growing advice and Nancy's seeds are available through www.Hayefield.com.



"When life hands you dirt, plant seeds." – Matshona Dhliwayo

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