



NEWSLETTER

A Spectacular Spring into Summer for Bucks Beautiful!

With Spring behind us, and Summer's sizzle bearing down, we're taking a moment to highlight recent accomplishments of the past season. In spite of the ever-present uncertainties and restrictions caused by the Pandemic, Bucks Beautiful made incredible progress advancing our beautification mission across Bucks County.

Visually- the 1.6 million plus "Bulbs for Bucks" daffodils planted since 2010 bridged us from "Winter blues" to a new beginning with bright hues of "Spring yellows." This welcomed seasonal transition created a vibrant picture-perfect landscape along the roadways, paths and walking trails as well as other public spaces. In 2020, the program expanded to include 30,000 new bulbs at three sites: Pine Run Community in Doylestown, Trinity Episcopal Church in Buckingham and The Inn at Barley Sheaf Farm in Holicong. We continue to expand this initiative!

Building a Community- to create deeper engagement for our many supporters, we launched our inaugural Membership Program earlier this year. Commencing with 100% Board participation, our charter memberships now include over 200 individual/family and corporate members. The benefits package includes a quarterly newsletter, logo giveaways and complimentary Garden Tour tickets. We continue to enhance the program, so stay tuned... To learn more please visit bucksbeautiful.org.



2021 Garden Tour- After a year of quarantine, how nice it was to welcome back this popular event! On June 13th, we hosted our 26th annual Tour with 7 gorgeous gardens. The properties ranged from quaint cottages to historic estates and farmhouses. Staffed with master gardeners, landscape architects, home owner experts, and volunteers, this was both educational and inspirational to the 800 plus visitors. Between ticket and merchandise sales and sponsorships, we raised a record \$35,000. A very successful endeavor!

RePlant Bucks- We planted 25 native trees along Doylestown Township's Bike and Hike Greenway, 15 Oaks, Hollies and Willows along the Newtown Creek plus 2 trees were donated and planted in Linton Memorial Park in Newtown Borough by our landscape partner Collin Slota. Plans are in motion to install tree groves in Buckingham, Doylestown, Warrington and Warminster Township Parks, which need your support. Why not consider a donation to help us RePlant Bucks?

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As we continue our efforts to enhance Bucks County, the team has been busy executing several other projects that were initiated during the Spring:

- Sponsored a garden at the Village Improvement Association/Doylestown Health Designer House and Gardens fundraiser in Ivyland
- Funded the Warrington Garden Club's annual patio garden planting at Neshaminy Manor Home
- Flowers were planted at the Civil War Museum and War Memorial in Doylestown with support from a Bucks Beautiful Community Garden Grant
- Sponsored a Spring Plant Swap partnering with Delaware Valley University with over 50 participants
- Mounted a Daffodil Photo Contest
- Significantly increased our social media footprint to over 4,000 followers
- Forged a partnership with the Central Bucks Chapter of the National Charity League

I want to personally thank each and every one of you for supporting Bucks Beautiful not only through memberships but for your financial generosity to help advance our mission. Your continued support is vital to our efforts as we evolve our current programs and expand into new areas of enhancement for all of Bucks County!

Wishing you all a pleasant and safe summer!

Gary Mathern
President, Bucks Beautiful



Bucks Beautiful Beginnings: Dazzling Daffodil Displays

by Bryce Sanders, Board Member

Everyone loves the daffodil displays Bucks Beautiful has planted on public spaces and along roadways in Bucks County. As a Member, you can take pride in supporting this effort. You might wonder, how did it all get started?

In 2010, our volunteer board members were seeking a new project. Chuck Gale proposed the idea of massed plantings of daffodils. It aligned with our mission to beautify Bucks County. A veteran nurseryman (Gale Nurseries), Chuck saw two unique advantages offered by these perennials: they regenerate and deer don't eat them.

Bob Byers, Jack McCaughan and Mike Feeney joined Chuck in each pledging to finance 10,000 bulbs apiece and the Bulbs for Bucks Program was born. (Our projects have primarily been supported through contributions from private citizens). The first 40,000 bulbs were planted the following year along the 202 Bypass. Five other nurseries joined the effort, providing the manpower.

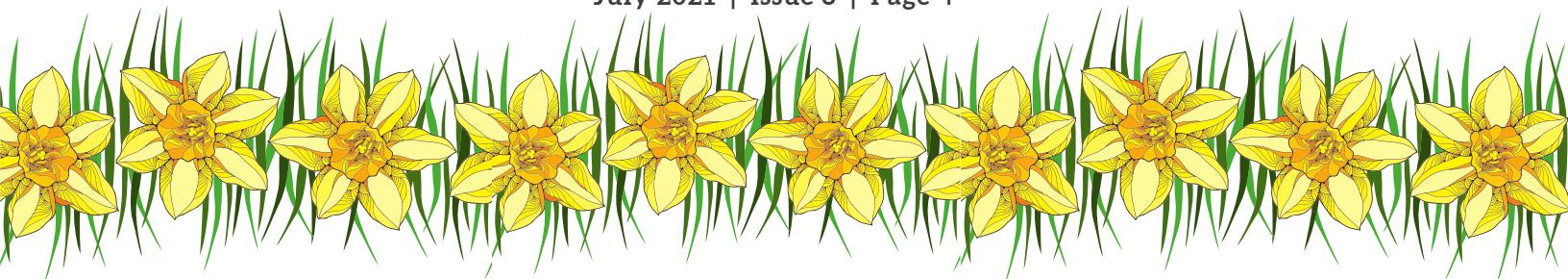
Entrance to Washington Crossing National Cemetery



In 2012, interest in the project was growing. Fellow board member Melissa Eiseman suggested holding a fundraiser to scale up the effort. That year, a 40x40 tent was erected at the Locktender's House in New Hope. This event later became formalized as the Bucks Beautiful Spring Fling.

The funds raised in 2012 made it possible to step up to planting 300,000 bulbs that year! One of the primary sites was the length of the Delaware Canal from Bristol to Riegelsville, which was selected by Bucks Beautiful in conjunction with people responsible for the canal.

For several years, Bulbs for Bucks were planted at an average of 250,000 per year. Chuck's daughter Christine Gale, now President of Gale Nurseries Inc., has worked hard to scout many of the sites and oversee the installations. While our nonprofit has been fortunate to receive grants supporting the project, the majority of financing has come through private gifts and fundraising.



If you've ever tried digging in our soil, you will wonder "How can they plant 300,000 daffodils? It must be a lot of work!" The first 40,000 were planted by hand but Chuck realized a better solution was required. He researched bulb planting machines, finding most were in Holland (the Netherlands). He eventually found a man in upstate New York with equipment sitting in his barn for ten years. Chuck bought the machine, which can plant 10-11,000 bulbs a day when operated by a three-person crew.

Chuck related a story highlighting "why we live where we live." In 2017, Bucks Beautiful organized a pilot program with Willowdale Elementary in Warminster to teach 2nd graders about daffodils. A section of ground was cultivated to make planting easier, then each child was given two bulbs to plant. The students returned to their classroom to learn how bulbs grow into flowers. Unknown to them, a crew arrived to install 10,000 bulbs at the site. The next Spring, the children were impressed, thinking the pairs of bulbs they planted magically multiplied into thousands of blooms! One of the most cherished memories are the over 100 hand made thank you notes the Gales and Bucks Beautiful received from the wonderful students that took part in the program.

The project taught the children how plants grow, but provided other benefits. The children, now 3rd graders, saw the results of their efforts. The new 2nd graders saw the completed project. Chuck explained even after they've grown, some return in the Spring to see the results of the daffodils they planted. The wonderfully successful Bulbs for Bucks Elementary school planting program is now an annual event.

Will we be planting more daffodils? Yes! The plan is to add 50,000 – 100,000 in the coming years. Bucks Beautiful has other signature projects in mind. More on that in our next issue!



Gale Nurseries' Crew utilizing the bulb planting equipment at Trinity Buckingham Church in November 2020



Native Summer Perennials for Bucks County Gardens

by Nancy J. Ondra, Charter Member

Native plants are finally getting the attention they deserve from gardeners, as we learn more about their critical role in supporting pollinators, other native insects, and our environment as a whole.

Incorporating native plants into our beds and borders doesn't have to mean starting over with a whole new plant palette, though: a good number of summer garden perennials occur naturally right here in Bucks County. Here are just a few worth adding to your yard for their beauty as well as their ecological benefits.

Milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.): Milkweeds are among the most valuable summer perennials, providing an abundance of beautiful blooms that are rich in nectar to attract a variety of insects. Their foliage is also an important food source for the larvae of monarch butterflies. Plus the plants are deer-resistant! Bucks County is home to over a half-dozen species, including common milkweed (*A. syriaca*), with light pink flowers in ball-shaped clusters; swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*), with richer pink blooms in slightly domed clusters; and butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*), with vivid orange flowers (pictured below).



Mountain Mints (*Pycnanthemum* spp.): The densely clustered white blooms of mountain mints are magnets for many pollinators, and their fabulously fragrant foliage makes the plants a delight for people but distasteful to deer. Be aware they tend to spread by creeping roots, so put them in a spot where that's not a problem. Some of our wonderful wild species include narrow-leaved mountain mint (*P. tenuifolium*), short-toothed mountain mint (*P. muticum*), and Virginia mountain mint (*P. virginianum*). (Pictured above in heading.)



Lobelias (*Lobelia* spp.): The striking spikes of these adaptable perennials add a dramatic touch to somewhat shaded summer plantings. Cardinal flower (*L. cardinalis*), with brilliant red blooms, and great blue lobelia (*L. siphilitica*), with blue flowers, are two of our native species. Bumblebees love them, and so do hummingbirds—particularly cardinal flower; deer, however, generally don't find them appealing. (Pictured above in red.)

To learn more about our glorious Bucks County natives, visit Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve (bhwp.org), located in New Hope. There, you can meet the plants in person and buy some to take home, too!

Photo credit: Nancy J. Ondra.



Inaugural Business Member: Georgi Sensing, Compass Realtor

by Bryce Sanders, Membership Chair

When our Business Membership debuted in April, Georgi Sensing of Compass Realty immediately sent in her check! Let's learn more about our first Business Member!

Georgi is no stranger to Bucks Beautiful, having seen the daffodil and tree plantings over the years. When Denise Sezack, our Executive Director stopped into her agency three years ago, she took the first step of getting involved, putting a poster for the Kitchen and Garden Tour in her agency's window.

Her involvement deepened over the years as she helped with fund raising and logistics, finding a fabulous property in 2019 that could be used for the thank you event for the 25th Anniversary of the Kitchen and Garden Tour. She found the more she got involved, the more fun she had.

Georgi sees Bucks Beautiful as a healthy organization. She admires homeowners who open their properties for the tour. "These are people who love their gardens and want to share with others."

A keen equestrian, Georgi earned her real estate license in 1990 as a way to fund her passion for horses. Her college degree in social work proved beneficial in her new career.

"I find working in real estate utilizes many of the skills I learned studying social work. A large part of the process is talking with people and getting to know them." She tries to treat all clients with the same dignity and respect, regardless the size of the transaction. "Real estate requires plenty of people skills. A person selling their home might not realize the house looks tired and needs a sympathetic refreshing to help the house shine."

As an experienced gardener, Georgie realizes gardens and landscaping can enhance the value of a property. As we emerge from the pandemic lockdown, Georgi looks forward to returning to showing properties in person. She explained she joined Compass Realty because the technology platform they utilize allowed for showing homes virtually, which was vital during the pandemic.

If you would like to talk with Georgi, here's how you can find her:

Georgi Sensing
Compass Realty
Cell: 267-980-1083
www.compass.com/agents/georgi-sensing/
georgi.sensing@compass.com



"A large part of the process is talking with people and getting to know them."



Where is Your Bucks Beautiful Magnet Visiting this Summer?

Many of us are hitting the road this season, whether it be day trips or extended vacations . **Send us a picture of your BB Supporter Magnet on your travels to be featured in our next Newsletter!** Traveling abroad, you can even pack us in your suitcase to travel to faraway lands. Email your photo with location to Laurie@bucksbeautiful.org , or post on social media and tag @BucksBeautiful.



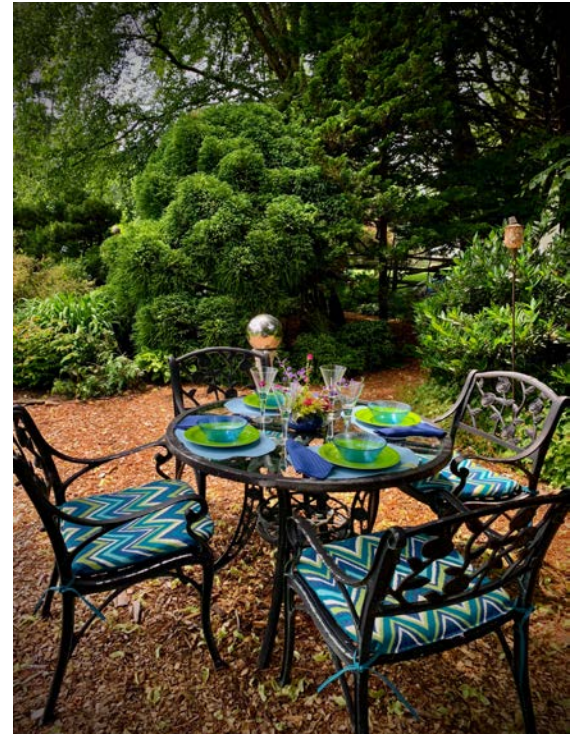
Bucks Beautiful's 2021 Garden Tour

by Denise Sezack, Executive Director

Wow! What an incredible day we had on June 13th! After weeks of uncertainty, we managed to pull off a spectacular event for our community. It was great to meet so many of our new Charter Members during the Member's Only Preview - what a wonderful show of support!

The 2021 Tour Committee wants to thank all of you who made the event a triumph. Whether you were an attendee enjoying the gardens, a homeowner sharing your residence, a volunteer helping the day flow smoothly or a sponsor providing financial or in-kind support, you contributed to our success!

The annual tour is not just to show some of the amazing gardens and homes in and around Doylestown, but it is also one of our main fundraising events. For the past 26 years we have had the privilege of visiting over 150 of our neighbor's homes. While every year we have been the guest of the most welcoming neighbors, this year, more than ever, it took special people to graciously share their homes and gardens with our community. We are so very grateful to:



Johnson Residence photo courtesy of Michael Stumpf

- Carter van Dyke and Peter Fernandez for preparing the gardens at the Kachline House to celebrate the 200-year birthday of CVDA/Bucks Beautiful's office building. Thanks to *Up In the Air Balloons* for the festive party decorations!
- Bill and Laurie Schutt and their beautiful pond and gardens with many specialty plants, designed in collaboration with Tom Hebel of Bucks Country Gardens.
- Longtime friends Helen and Jim Aldredge for sharing their awe-inspiring corner cottage garden with all of the community.
- Lauren and Don Morel for allowing us a rare peak behind the fence to see the gardens by CVDA at the gorgeous Craftsman home designed by architect Ellen Happ and built by Jarrett Vaughan Builders.
- Homeowners Kay and Rich Johnson for inviting us in to their ever-evolving gardens with their wonderful specimen tree and shrubs, extensive borders, and vegetable garden to be envied by all.
- The fun filled Flanagan and Hughes residence where Bill and Mike shared many laughs, great stories about their home and amazing surprises around every twist and turn throughout the fabulous gardens.
- New friends Meghan and Kurt Krause and puppy Lily who stole the show, for their warm hospitality in sharing their lovely Bucks County 1840's homestead with their incredible barn, peaceful gardens and rolling hillside. What a great way to end the tour with another spectacular kitchen renovation from our longtime supporters at Brett King Builders!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the over 70 volunteers that were required to staff the tour. Much thanks to our fabulous florists and their beautiful donated arrangements, our Bucks County Master Gardeners that shared their wealth of knowledge with our guests throughout the day, the mother and daughter teams from the Central Bucks Chapter of the National Charity League, and the Fernandez family for parking all those cars!

BB sends its heartfelt thanks to all our media partners, from the articles to the advertising coverage, we truly appreciate it.

We salute all the sponsors of the 2021 tour. Emerging from a year of uncertainty and hardship for many, there are not enough words to express how much their commitment and generosity has meant to our programs. Please support the businesses that have contributed to the success of this event.



Recommend a Home for the 2022 Tour!

Do you have or know of a home that you believe would be a grand addition to a future Kitchen & Garden Tour? Here is your opportunity to submit an entry for consideration.

Please email us at info@buckbeautiful.org with the address and owners name if known. A committee representative will contact you and/or the homeowner to explore interest.

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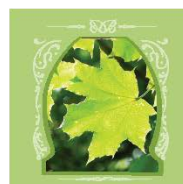
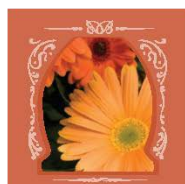
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