



NEWSLETTER

President's Prose

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of Bucks Beautiful, I want to wish all of you, our loyal supporters, a Happy New Year! I hope that 2022 will bring happiness, good health and prosperity to each of you and your families.

Thank you!

Because of your generous support, and in spite of the challenges we faced during 2021, Bucks Beautiful was able to continue advancing our beautification mission.

As we enter 2022, while there are many uncertainties and unforeseen challenges ahead, we will continue to support and grow our established programs while developing new ones.

Stay tuned, as we finalize the details, objectives and launch timelines, we will provide you with periodic updates on "what's new" and how you can become involved.

Again, heartfelt thanks. We could not achieve these accomplishments without your on-going support and continued commitment. Collectively, we will continue to keep Bucks County beautiful!

Sincerely,
Gary Mathern
President, Bucks Beautiful

Welcome Aboard Pam



We are so pleased to welcome Pam Byers as our newest Board Member. Pam states, "I'm a native Bucks Countian who has witnessed the growth and change of our area over the last half century. I've traveled all over the world and still find Bucks County to have some of the most beautiful scenery anywhere. I appreciate Bucks Beautiful for recognizing, enhancing, and promoting the natural gifts of our area."

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Bucks Beautiful Beginnings: Spring Fling

by Bryce Sanders, Board Member



Lovely ladies volunteering at the 2015 event.

The Spring Fling is the Bucks Beautiful signature gala. Some of you have attended but perhaps wondered about the origin story.

The first social event of the season takes place each April, around the time those 1.6 million daffodils are poking through the ground. In recent years it's been held at the historic Inn at Barley Sheaf Farm, with cocktails, dinner, dancing plus live and silent auctions. Funds raised support Bucks Beautiful projects, most notably planting new native trees, community gardens and daffodils around Bucks County.

How did the Spring Fling get started? It all goes back to those daffodils. Believe it or not, the initial beds of bulbs were hand dug and planted! This was extremely hard work when working on roadside plantings. How can this be improved? One wintery night, several board members put their heads together. This includes Chuck, Barbara and Christine Gale, Gary and Helene Mathern along with Melissa and Phil Eiseman. They agreed a bulb planting machine would enable Bucks Beautiful to significantly ramp up the daffodil planting process. Managing to acquire such a machine allowed for thousands of bulbs to be planted by the hour.

The million bulb project had begun! The idea of holding a fundraising event to buy the bulbs to be planted was born. The first Spring Fling was a small outdoor affair held outside the Locktender's House in New Hope. It was well received. As its popularity increased, the event moved to The Aldie Mansion in Doylestown until the crowd size outgrew the mansion's capacity. Then to a tented affair in the beautiful gardens at Byers Choice. The current venue is the Inn at Barley Sheaf, where about 250 people now come together to support our mission.

The Spring Fling also served as a gathering to boost Bucks Beautiful's visibility. The daffodil plantings suddenly appeared. People loved them, but no one knew who was making this happen. It was a "ghost" project to many people. Today, Bucks Beautiful has 250+ Members, a newsletter, the Kitchen and Garden Tour, school programs and other activities raising our profile in the community. But building awareness started with the first Spring Fling, organized by a handful of dedicated volunteer board members.



For the Love of Lichen

by Melissa Palmer

As our gardens fade and the leaves fall and become silhouettes in the light, something is still thriving around us and in the woods that we might just pass by. Lichens. A lichen looks like a single organism, but it's actually a symbiotic relationship between different organisms. It's made up of a fungal partner and one or more photosynthetic partners. The photosynthetic partner is usually algae or cyanobacteria. There are three different types of lichens: Foliose, Fruticose and Crustose, with over 13,500 and counting species around the world. (Going forward, be advised that I am not a Lichenologist, but this is what I know.)

Lichens with their beautiful hues of green to blueish gray (cyanobacteria) vary in color depending on what fungi and algae are present. They "decorate" our rocks, trees and outdoor wooden furniture with tie dye-like splotches. These small ecosystems contain bacteria, tardigrades (water bears) and nematodes (microscopic worms).

Surprisingly, lichens are not a moss. They are a Thallus, a plant body without stem, vascular system, leaves or roots. Thalli are usually algae, lichens, fungus and some liverworts. These creatures survive in a symbiotic relationship. Fungi and Algae working together to survive that forms a Lichen. Fungi gains nutrients from the host it grows on and algae provides photosynthesis for them both, providing food so that they can grow.

Lichens have a story to tell and a very long one at that! They are slow-growing and long-lived, lasting hundreds to thousands of years. One of the oldest found in the Arctic (Map lichen) was 8,600 years old -the world's oldest living organism. So, if you're out in the woods and happen to see a fell branch encrusted with lichens, know you could be looking at a very old species from 50 to 100 years of age. Amazing, right?

Well, that's not the entire story. Lichens have the ability to clean the air of pollutants. They convert carbon dioxide in the atmosphere into oxygen through photosynthesis, which we all need to survive. Lichens also provide valuable information about the environment around us. They can detect and absorb heavy metals, carbon, sulfur and any other pollutants in the atmosphere, making the surroundings habitable and thriving. Lichens will not be found in heavily polluted areas.

You can borrow a lichen covered branch for a floral arrangement to add naturalistic interest. After your flowers diminish you can place the branch right back in the woods where you found it, where it will continue its growing journey or decompose and put nitrogen back into the soil.

Lichens' wisdom to share with us is that everything in this world is always better if we work together to be able to thrive.

*Further Reading: "Urban Lichens- A Field Guide for Northeastern North America," by Jessica L. Allen and James C. Lendemer





Business Member Spotlight

by Bryce Sanders



marshall
FINANCIAL GROUP

Marshall Financial has been an integral part of the Doylestown community for over 40 years. The firm has been an enthusiastic supporter of Bucks Beautiful since its inception. You know who Bucks Beautiful is, but how much do you know about Marshall Financial?

I spent time with Paula Nangle, President and Senior Wealth Advisor at Marshall Financial. She explained the firm's mission is to provide "Total Wealth Management for Your Happiest, Healthiest, Most Productive Life." Nangle says, "We provide Wealth Management for every aspect of your financial wellbeing – to ensure your money and your plans for your money are aligned. In addition, we provide a welcoming, open-minded environment where people can feel comfortable asking questions, exploring options and planning for what is most important to them. We listen, learn about our clients hopes and dreams, and we create plans to mitigate risk, create opportunities and build long-term paths to achievement."

Marshall Financial wealth advisors are fiduciaries, meaning it's their duty to act solely in their client's interests and they are paid directly by their clients, with no commissions. This contrasts with other firms offering financial planning, yet are limited to the investment products offered by their employer.

The firm was founded by Bill Marshall, who devoted his career to being a trusted advisor and wealth manager to generations of clients. He is credited with being one of the first 100 persons in the U.S. to earn the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional designation in 1977. The firm has decades of experience working with clients through all stages of life providing total wealth management.

Who are Marshall Financial's clients? The simple answer is they can't tell you because of client confidentiality. Although this might include senior executives in local industries like pharmaceuticals and technology, the firm is an ideal fit for the corporate manager, business owner, or medical professional whose primary focus is on both their career and family responsibilities. Marshall Financial is well suited to take on the day-to-day responsibilities of investment management.



*Paula Nangle
President, Marshall Financial*



When you become a client of Marshall Financial, you gain a designated team working on your behalf. In most cases there's a senior wealth advisor, associate wealth advisor and a client care specialist. The firm also has a designated investment department and a diversity of staff experience and background, ranging from estate planning to accounting.

Your team gets to know you. Busy professionals find they have a team who listens to and understands their needs, dreams and goals. Together, you and your Marshall team develop a plan to help you get to where you want to go. Many clients like the accountability of this relationship. They aren't simply suggesting investments; they are helping assemble a puzzle that becomes a map to your destination.

Marshall Financial has given back to the community for 40 years. This brings us back to the Bucks Beautiful connection. Bill and Pat Marshall were long time supporters of keeping Bucks County beautiful, attending many of our fundraising events. Before she passed away, Jeanne Robinson was president of Marshall Financial. Her husband, Jeffrey Robinson, answered the call and was one of the first presidents of Bucks Beautiful. As Marshall Financial partners with many other non-profit organizations, they are pleased to share that members of the firm have served on the boards of the Bucks County SPCA, Doylestown Health Foundation, Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic, Heritage Conservancy and Roxy Therapy Dogs. They are sponsors of the Bucks County Classic bike race, Bucks 5k Series, the SPCA Working Cats adoption program and Doylestown Winterfest.

Marshall Financial helps the busy professional plan their financial goals and manage their investments. They also give back to the community. It's "The Marshall Way." Here's how you can learn more: www.marshallfinancial.com.

Investment advisory services offered through the Marshall Financial Group, Inc, an SEC registered investment adviser, with its principal place of business in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. For more information visit our website (www.marshallfinancial.com) or the SEC's website (www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/).



Perkasie Garden Club Celebrates 30th Anniversary

by Perkasie Garden Club Members



Linda List and Elsie Bartram were photographed as part of the article in the Perkasie News-Herald when the Club was awarded Second Place for Planters in the Community Container Garden Category of the Bucks Beautiful 1997 Summer Competition. Elsie was club president and Linda was the member who spearheaded the planters project.

Two other board members and a dozen original club members assisted her with planting and maintaining this garden as well as others throughout Perkasie. Bartram's family is a direct descendant of one of the world's greatest botanists, John Bartram, therefore she was a natural for the task.

In 1993, a Bucks Beautiful matching grant allowed the club to purchase shrubs for the Veterans' Memorial Garden and there has been continual expansion ever since. This garden has won two awards for "Garden of Distinction": one in 2009 from Delaware Valley's Bucks Beautiful and again in 2018 from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The Perkasie Garden Club has enlisted help with larger projects, such as the stone edging by a local Eagle Scout and the new fencing installed by Perkasie Borough. The new sign was donated by Chris Nicolosi and his company, Impact Signs. The garden is designed, planted and maintained by volunteers from the club. The current committee designed the garden around a red, white and blue theme.

In the mid-90's, a member of the club proposed the idea of establishing planters in the borough with the commitment of the garden club to plant and maintain them. The planters are currently planted and maintained by 20 or more members each and every year.

The Perkasie Garden Club has been a part of the community for 30 years. Elsie Bartram founded the club in 1992 after joining the board of the newly activated Parks and Recreation Department.

Paul Leonard, the borough manager at the time, wanted to improve the common land that had been neglected. One of his first projects was to clean up the corner at 5th Street and Park Avenue. At one time the corner had stone pillars and a stone wall as a graceful entrance to Menlo Park. The pillars and wall had been replaced by an unattractive chain link fence, with two World War II Howitzer cannons sitting behind. The corner became a hangout and was littered with cigarette butts and debris. Leonard hired a private landscaping company to clean up the area, plant new shrubbery and flowers to create the Veterans' Memorial Garden. Parks and Recreation had difficulty maintaining the garden due to other duties, therefore Leonard asked board member and avid gardener Bartram to take on the project and to start a club to assist her. Thus was born the Perkasie Garden Club.



An early activity of the Garden Club was a plant swap, which continues to take place in mid-May. Perkasié residents bring extra perennials or shrubs they have potted and exchange them for a different plant for their properties.

As the Club grew and attracted more members, new projects were taken on. One of the most popular activities has been the tours showcasing the gardens of homeowners in our communities. In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the June 25 Garden Tour will feature those of our club members.

Most recently the Club began hosting a Tea. Decorating the hall and tables and making delicious foods gives members another venue for our creativity. Proceeds from the event fund the club's scholarships, which are given to local students majoring in horticulture or environmental science. "Springtime in Paris" is the theme of the April 2023 Tea.

Many community leaders and businesses have given financial support or their services to help the Club maintain and improve projects over the past three decades. The Club thanks those businesses, Perkasié Borough Council and administration, and Perkasié American Legion Post 280 for their continuous support of their efforts to beautify Perkasié.

The Perkasié Garden Club holds club meetings on the second Wednesday from January through May at the Perkasié Regional Authority. To join, visit perkasiégardenclub.weebly.com

Bucks Beautiful congratulates the Perkasié Garden Club for their efforts in beautifying Bucks County for three decades.

This article originally ran in the Bucks County Herald.

Join us!



- Spring Fling ticket discount
- Free ticket to Kitchen & Garden Tour
- Early Admission to the Tour
- Select Community Discounts
- Promotion for your Business or Organization

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