



BUCKS BEAUTIFUL

NEWSLETTER

President's Prose

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of Bucks Beautiful, I want to wish all of you a very Happy Spring! We kicked off the season on April 8th with our Spring Fling. The event was once again "back home" at the beautiful Barley Sheaf Farm, following a 2-year pandemic hiatus. We're happy to report that we sold out with 142 members and guests in attendance on what was a picture-perfect evening. Thank you!

The evening commenced with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and an opportunity to reconnect live with our guests. A silent auction with over 30 items -everything from vintage wines, sports admissions and cultural events to fine dining and original pieces by Bucks County artists- kept everyone entertained. Vacation trips to 8 locations around the world were a new auction addition, which heightened excitement.

During dinner, a live auction included original oil paintings by renowned local artists Dot Bunn and Christopher Willet, plus a basket of rare vintages hand-picked from the wine cellar of our late co-founder Bob Byers, Sr. The lively bidding session was led by PBS Emmy-winner Grover Silcox.

A "Raise the Paddle" in support of the RePlant Bucks initiative to install 10,000 native trees across the County successfully raised \$8,650.00!
...continued on page 2



We're thrilled to welcome Jeanne Connelly to our Board of Directors. A longtime Doylestown resident, Jeanne retired from Johnson & Johnson with thirty years of experience in pharmaceutical and diagnostic businesses. She then performed private consulting with several pharmaceutical companies.

Jeanne's community outreach includes the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, and currently with NOVA, as she believes strongly in the programs they provide to our community. Horseback riding is Jeanne's favorite pastime. The equestrian spends at least two hours every day riding and visiting with her horses at the stable.

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Background entertainment during cocktails was provided by the very talented musicians of the Central Bucks East Chamber Orchestra—a beautiful collection of classical favorites that enhanced the event experience.

The evening was highlighted by the presentations of two awards:

- The Bucks Beautiful Leadership Award was earned by Board Member Melissa Eiseman for her continued support of the mission through insight, ideas and financial contribution.
- Mark and Deena Frank, owners of The Inn at Barley Sheaf Farm, received the Laurel Award. This award recognizes the efforts of individuals in advancing the growth of Bucks Beautiful.

A heartfelt appreciation to our recipients for all they do in support of our nonprofit.

The festivities concluded with an extraordinary dance performance by professional dancers from the Fred Astaire Studio of Doylestown. These dancers are globally recognized and hold many titles competing worldwide. An exciting and fun night was had by all!

In conclusion, I want to offer a sincere thank you to all who attended the Spring Fling as well as those who were unable to be there. Your continued support is vital in advancing the Bucks Beautiful mission.

We have lots more to do as we move forward with our Summer events planning; stay tuned for updates on programs and dates. As always, we are delighted to have you joining us on our beautification journey!

Sincerely,

Gary Mathern
President



We're grateful to all of the generous donors, vendors & guests who contributed to the Spring Fling's success!



View video highlights on our YouTube Channel



A recipe for spring's bounty of greens
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BUCKS COUNTY HERALD
LIVING
ENTERTAINMENT - ART

Town & Country opens 75th season with a classic
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SECTION C

April 21, 2022



Bryce and Jane Sanders.

Spring Fling

Bucks Beautiful's annual Spring Fling took place April 8 at Barley Sheaf Farm in Holicong. The event featured cocktails and dinner, a silent and live auction, wine pull and raffle. The Master of Ceremonies was PBS39 reporter Grover Silcox. Entertainment was provided by Fred Astaire Dance Studios and the CB East Chamber Orchestra.

Photographs by Carol Ross



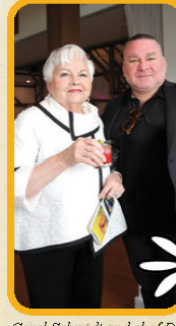
Melissa Eiseman, who was honored at the event, with Barbara Donnelly Bentivoglio.



Jeanne and Dr. Robert Ozols.



Susan Smith and John Lund.



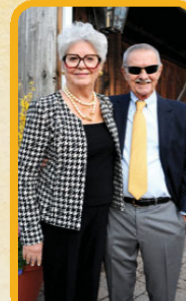
Carol Schmidt and chef Davide Rodriguez.



Carol Benson and Melissa MacAllister.



Joan and Dr. Don Parlee, Barbara Donnelly Bentivoglio and Dr. Lamberto Bentivoglio.



Pat and Bruce Hamilton.



Mark and Lynda Miller, and Trish and Capt. Joseph Hebert.



Kyle McKoy, Heather Cevalasco and Jen Thome.



Laurie To, Brittany Brown and Danielle Gannon.



Grover and Peg Silcox, and Anthony Grisafi.



Regina Poeske, Pam Eyers and Becca Masters.



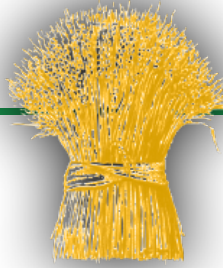
Ann Holloway and Flo Celender.



Christine, Barbara and Chuck Gale, major sponsors of Bucks Beautiful.

Community Partner Profile

by Laurie To



♦♦♦♦♦ THE INN AT ♦♦♦♦♦ BARLEY SHEAF FARM

Mark and Deena Frank are the warm and welcoming proprietors of The Inn at Barley Sheaf Farm, a historic bed & breakfast situated on over 100 acres of pasture and country gardens in Holicong. Through the years, Barley Sheaf has been a leading example of the adaptive reuse of an old farm and its transition to a historically preserved, self-sustaining and profitable property, without the need to subdivide or develop. The farm is currently becoming designated as conserved land to preserve open space in Bucks County.

Running the B&B is a relatively recent chapter in Mark and Deena's journey. The couple, who are celebrating 35 years of marriage, met in college and started their life together in New York. Initially Deena was a school teacher while Mark worked in hospital administration, before spending 25 years running marketing and advertising agencies in the pharmaceutical business. Their careers took them to New Jersey, then Ohio, before settling in Bucks County in 2006.

In addition to teaching, Deena's passions include baton twirling, which she performed competitively growing up. She transitioned to teaching the skill, both individually as well as coaching teams throughout the northeast. She currently works with the University of Delaware marching band and twirling line, in addition to managing events at Barley Sheaf.

Raised in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, Mark earned money as a teen assisting his neighbors with landscaping and pool maintenance at their cottage hotel. Over the course of several summers his responsibilities grew, and he gained insight and enjoyment working in hospitality.

Mark realized during his tenure in advertising agencies similarities to the hospitality industry, such as managing expectations and helping clients achieve their goals. This sparked some ideas, and after residing in bucolic Bucks County for five years, he started casually looking to return to hospitality. In early 2013 the Franks found and fell in love with Barley Sheaf Farm. After a lot of hills and valleys, they closed just before Thanksgiving. The couple's daughter was in college at the time, and their son in high school. Deena was working in small business then while Mark burned the candle at both ends until early 2017, when he retired from the pharmaceutical industry to turn his attention full time to the Inn.



*Deena & Mark Frank
Proprietors, The Inn at Barley Sheaf Farm*



The previous owner hired the outstanding chef, who remains today, and the Franks credit her with having good leadership in place. She had also done a beautiful job from a decorative standpoint, among other important things.

The Franks' focused on enhancing the restaurant service through marketing, improving gardens on the grounds, and the expansion of the 18th century bank barn, which was their biggest undertaking.

Deena carefully assessed features important for holding events during the renovation, which was completed in early 2018. In fact, the Bucks Beautiful Spring Fling was the first affair to christen the transformed space - ribbon cutting ceremony included - which has since become a popular venue.

Patrons will notice the darling animals residing on property, all of whom have been rescued. There are three miniature horses, three goats, two sheep and two pigs. The pigs were adopted from Jamison's Ross Mill Farm, recognized nationally as experts in care and training of pet pigs, while two sheep and two goats arrived from Last Chance Ranch, a nonprofit animal rescue and rehabilitation located in Quakertown. One of the horses and the third goat was donated by a bride who held her wedding reception there last June.



The partnership with Bucks Beautiful began in 2016 when Executive Director Denise Sezack called to inquire about a site to host the Spring Fling. The Franks immediately hit it off with the BB crew. Guests savored the experience and delectable fare, along with the quintessential Bucks County setting. The Barley Sheaf staff took great care of the Bucks Beautiful team and did an exceptional job accommodating the event. Both parties enthusiastically agreed to make the Spring Fling at The Inn at Barley Sheaf an annual tradition!

The Franks are very supportive of the local community and their philosophy nicely aligns with the Bucks Beautiful mission. Be sure to visit The Inn at Barley Sheaf for your next special occasion for an outstanding experience. Tell them Bucks Beautiful sent you!

Bucks Beautiful Beginnings: Branching Out

by Bryce Sanders, Board Member

“They do the daffodils.” Ask anyone who knows anything about Bucks Beautiful and that is the answer you will likely get. We are responsible for over 1.6 million daffodils which bloom around the county. Now it is time to talk trees. Through the Replant Bucks Initiative, we have added 1,618 trees with the goal to plant 10,000. But how did it all start?

Bucks Beautiful originated in the 1980's by Bob & Joyce Byers, Jack & Carol McCaughan and others who wanted local communities to showcase and preserve their natural beauty. Long before Bulbs for Bucks, our nonprofit initiated a garden grant program. If a locality or organization planted gardens in public spaces, or even installed window boxes, they could earn matching funds up to \$2,000. This endeavor also covered tree planting.

Fast forward to 2018. Bucks Beautiful has held garden fairs. Daffodils are in the ground. The Spring Fling has been running for several years. But now trees are dying. Why? The emerald ash bore and oak wilt is spreading through the county. Climate change is producing violent storms which are uprooting trees. This is evident today. Everywhere you drive you see bare trees standing in the woods or fallen alongside the road. Something needed to be done.

Bob Byers, Jack McCaughan, Bill MacDowell, Mike Feeney and many others rallied together to launch Replant Bucks, a reforestation pledge to plant, well, actually replant 10,000 native trees throughout the county in cooperation with local townships and organizations.

The first trees were 1" calipers about 8-12 feet in height. These were bareroot trees, meaning they needed to go in the ground the day they arrived. Gradually the program evolved into planting those you see with burlap wrapped root balls. What kinds of trees get planted? Obviously not ash. The native trees include red maple, river birch and sugar maple trees. There are eight tree types in total, chosen based on the soil and dampness of the planting sites.

Who installs these trees? There are 17+ nurseries, landscapers and community partners involved. Township environmental committees and shade tree commissions are in the mix too, since the trees need ongoing care. You might be surprised local school children have a hand in the process too. Why? Because Bucks Beautiful also has an educational mission. Preserving the natural landscape includes teaching children they need to be stewards for their generation and the next.

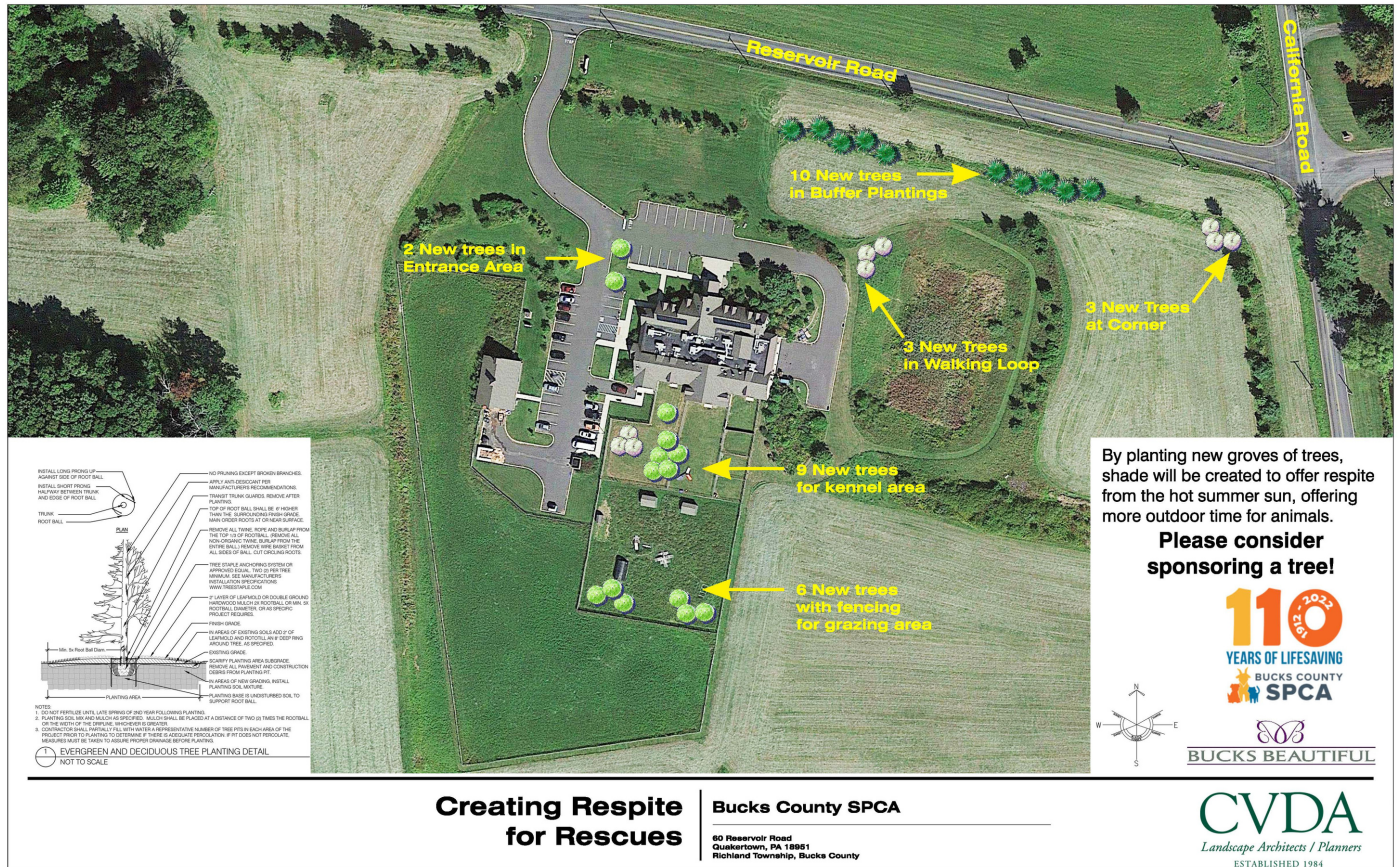
The Replant Bucks program comes with its share of challenges. Logically you want to preserve the natural beauty through the use of native plant species. Deer are thrilled! They have been dining on them for years. We need to find the right plants that fit the native character of the area while not being irresistible to deer.

When you become a Bucks Beautiful Member, RePlant Bucks is one the important initiatives your membership dollars support. To learn more about the 23 locations where trees have been planted, how the program works and the businesses supporting the project, click on the link below.



Creating Respite for Rescues

by Denise Sezack, Executive Director



Our friends at the Bucks County SPCA assist animals in need and prevent suffering through rescue, rehoming, cruelty prosecution and community outreach. Animals come to the shelter to find their forever home. One of our upcoming projects is to help keep these animals safe, happy and healthy during their time at the shelter.

Working with Executive Director Linda Reider, we are raising funds to complete the “Creating Respite for Rescue” project. The native trees to be planted on the property will provide a healthy environment to shade the rescued animals from the heat of the summer as they rehabilitate and wait to go to their forever homes.

Carter van Dyke Associates (CVDA) president and RePlant Bucks Committee Chair Peter Fernandez, has been instrumental in getting this project off the ground. Along with Peter, CVDA Landscape Designer Lisa Roman spearheaded this project by donating the time and skills to design a strategic tree canopy that will shelter the animal enclosures, as well as develop a tree lined walking path where prospective rescuers, volunteers and staff can exercise and bond with the animals. Our longtime supporter Christine Gale, from Gale Nurseries has agreed to do the tree installations.

Together with ongoing support of the Buck Beautiful community and other community partners such as the Charitable Giving Foundation of Penn Community Bank, we are excited to join with the BCSPCA to help protect and enhance the quality of life for the animals at the Upper Bucks shelter site.

Eat Your Pansies

by Melissa Palmer

Using flowers and leaves to garnish your plated meal is nothing new. While that orchid resting atop a lovely piece of steak sure looks beautiful, did you know that you can also eat it?

People have been fascinated by blooms and ingesting them for centuries, not to mention using them for medicinal purposes. Feasting on flowers is currently a big business, with most farms around the country growing them as a side crop for upscale restaurants and the home culinarian. Adding a few edible flowers to your vegetable garden is so easy and fun to do. A little planning on placement and you will be good to go!

You may find edible flowers at your local garden center like nasturtiums with their peppery bite, borage that has a clean cucumber taste, calendula, pansies, watercress and begonias just to name a few among hundreds you could possibly devour.



Every year I prepare dandelion jelly and violet jelly. I love the process of taking a walk to collecting flowers in a basket, which I later steep in a big pot. The reward is so sweet. Among my early summer brews is Elderberry syrup, which I enjoy making to use year-round on Sunday morning pancakes or to flavor my tea.

With dried petals of edible flowers such as rose, calendula, hibiscus, peony, jasmine, pansy, violet and a little borage, you can create a beautiful looking pepper to sprinkle on salads or mashed potatoes. To make the Floral Pepper arrange a single layer of petals on a parchment-lined baking tray and set aside for a week or two until completely dry. Toss with your fingertips every other day. (*Drying them in the oven removes their vibrant colors). Crush peppercorns with a mortar and pestle, or in a grinder, then add it to your petals. Stored in an air tight container the Floral Pepper will keep for months. It also makes a lovely gift!



A note of caution: never consume flowers without a reliable positive identification. Be absolutely certain that you know what it is, and that it's safe. Never eat flowers foraged from the roadside where contamination from pollution and herbicide occurs. Only ingest organically grown flowers from your garden center, as large flower producers use chemical applications for mass production.

There is a myriad of information on the topic – so have fun, and eat those blooms!

If you're seeking a reputable source, Melissa's own Florum Flowers grows Edible Petals
609-213-5631



Plant Swap



May 17th at 6 pm

**2100 Lower State Road
Doylestown**

(Former Del Val Market Parking Lot)

Share your favorite plants and take home some new ones to enjoy.

Please label your plants with Latin names when possible. Unloading and plant ID help is available during 5-6 pm. Swap starts at 6 pm sharp.

(Please no invasive plants.)

Introducing this 3" Mercer tree tile representing our **RePlant Bucks** reforestation initiative. Each is hand crafted by the historic Tile Works of Bucks County. Available in our online gift shop.



KITCHEN & GARDEN TOUR

Sunday June 12, 2022 - 11am-4pm, Rain or Shine



BB

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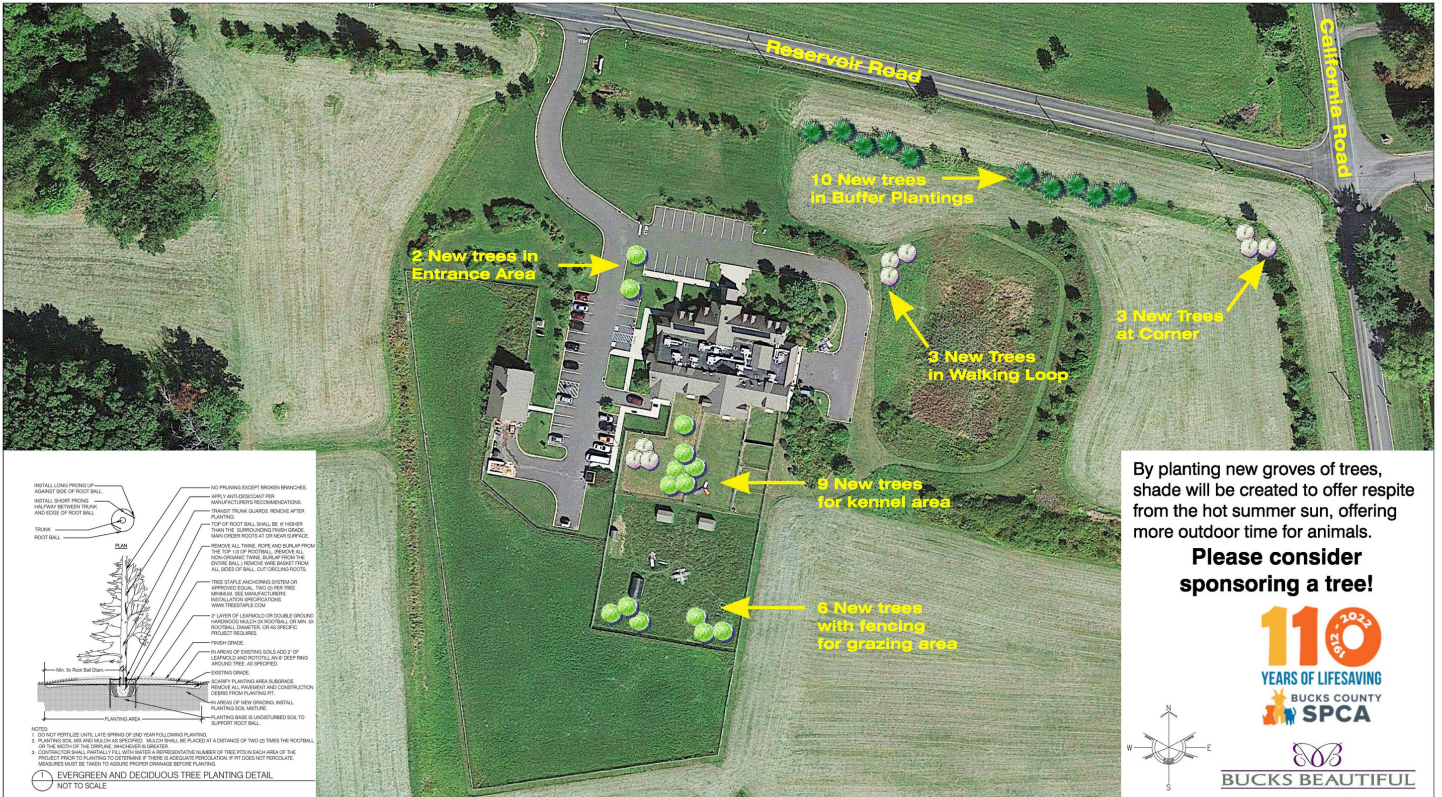
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Thank You to all of our Supporters





By planting new groves of trees, shade will be created to offer respite from the hot summer sun, offering more outdoor time for animals.

Please consider sponsoring a tree!



Creating Respite for Rescues

Bucks County SPCA

80 Reservoir Road
Quakertown, PA 18951
Richland Township, Bucks County

CVDA
Landscape Architects / Planners
ESTABLISHED 1984