



NEWSLETTER

Swinging into Spring!

Spring is our busiest season at Bucks Beautiful. It kicked off with our delightful daffodil displays blooming all over Bucks. Then we hosted the 10th anniversary of our Spring Fling, which raised considerable funds for our ongoing beautification, education and reforestation efforts.

The next day we celebrated Earth Day with a Keep Nature Wild Clean-Up in Sellersville. Along with co-sponsors Britt Around Town and Bartlett Tree Experts, the hard-working volunteers picked up 606 pounds of litter. Many thanks to Kevin Juchno and Julie Franks from Bartlett who devoted time on a Saturday to chip up 10 yards of tree debris.

The following Saturday found us in Doylestown's Central Park for our RePlant Bucks Arbor Day venture (read on for details and photos).

Our grand finale this Spring will be our 28th Annual Kitchen & Garden Tour. Preparations have been underway for months for this year's Tour, which will include seven stops in bucolic Bucks County.

Homes to be featured include a grand colonial overlooking a picturesque golf course; a historic Victorian restored to original character with redesigned backyard space; an award-winning landscape architect's residence and gardens; a 238-year-old restored home with extensive mature gardens; a contemporary house on lush grounds cultivated with dozens of specimen trees;

a private community vegetable garden with collectible barn; a newly renovated home with poolside entertaining spaces. We hope that many of you have the opportunity to enjoy the Tour and bring home some inspiration!

Warmest Regards,

Denise Sezack
Executive Director



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Arbor Day Project



Last summer arose an idea to incorporate trees throughout the disc golf course in Central Park. This would not only improve the environment but simultaneously create a natural challenge for the course. Through the generosity of a RePlant Bucks supporter, Bucks Beautiful was able to donate 24 mature trees. We partnered with Doylestown Township and Doylestown Disc Golf to identify best suited native trees and their placement.

The rain didn't dampen the spirits of 45+ volunteers who pitched in on this Arbor Day project. Doylestown Boy/Cub Scout Troop 52 and Central Bucks East High School's Fellowship of Christian Athletes provided manpower to mulch, stake and tie 24 trees. The Oaks, River Birches, Pines, Honey Locust, October Glory, Red Sunset and Sugar Maples are interspersed throughout the 9-hole course, which originated as an Eagle Scout project. Stop by to play a round, or sign up for one of the Township's upcoming Disc Golf clinics!

CB East Fellowship of Christian Athletes Projected Strength



Chris Mason of Doylestown Township instructs the Scouts on staking technique



The Smith Family reads the Arbor Day Proclamation







Master Gardeners PennState Extension

**by Jennifer Finelli, Community Engagement Manager,
Master Gardener-in-Training**



Joan Pfender & Jen Finelli, Class of 2023

At Bucks Beautiful, we have several members who are established Master Gardeners. This is one of the features that drew me to the organization. If you're interested in learning a bit more about the Master Gardener Program here in Bucks County, please read on.

What is the history of the Master Gardener Program?

The seeds for the Master Gardener Program were sown in 1862 when the Morrell Act granted federal land to agricultural colleges in each of the states. Later in 1887, as part of the Hatch Act, these land grant institutions were awarded funding on an annual basis to create agricultural research stations. In 1890, the 2nd Morrell Act was added to prohibit race-based discriminatory practices in agricultural education access.

By 1914, the idea of a Cooperative Extension was formed. The Extension was designed to be a network of educators who work to "extend" the university's knowledge to its communities. The Master Gardener Program was officially introduced in 1972 at Washington State University when two Extension agents devised the concept of the "Master Gardener" to address public demand for greater access to information about plant challenges. Their concept was to recruit and train volunteers to serve the urban population.

In 1982, Penn State Extension began its own Master Garden Program. Today, each of the 50 states have their own Master Garden programs and although each is a bit different, they all share the objective of bringing user-friendly, science-based horticultural knowledge to the public. Currently, there are more than 3,500 Master Gardeners volunteering in all 67 Pennsylvania counties.

How do you become a Master Gardener?

Individuals who work as Master Gardeners are locally organized out of each County Extension office. Here in Bucks, we have over 200 active Master Gardeners and each year, we train about two dozen more. To become a certified Master Gardener, each person participates in over 40 hours of classroom learning and completes 50 hours of hand-on educational training. Classroom lectures cover a range of topics including botany, propagation, soil health, lawn care, vegetable gardening, native and invasive plants, plant pathology, pests and weeds. Once trainees have completed this program, each individual must complete at least 20 hours of educational outreach work annually to maintain their certification.

Continued...

Do Master Gardeners actually garden?

This is a quirky issue with Master Gardeners. Of course, most of us LOVE to garden. However, the purpose of the Master Gardener Program is educational in nature. The program itself is designed to bring research-based practical knowledge to the home gardener via the Master Gardeners as an “extension” of each state program. So, with a few exceptions, we are not typically “gardening” while wearing our Master Gardener hats. We are working through various programs to help you access information and resources to enable you to garden more successfully.

How can I access the Master Gardeners as a resource?

The Bucks County Penn State Extension office is located at the Middletown Grange in Newtown and is open year-round. They field questions Monday through Friday about plants, insects, watershed issues and backyard conservation.


Bucks County Master Gardeners Hotline: 267-483-2022, Email: bucksmg@psu.edu

Penn State hosts a number of outreach programs including plant clinics, plant sales, pollinator programming, speakers bureau and youth summer camps.

You can stay abreast of upcoming programs offered by signing up for the newsletter Home Garden News or checking out the County website, which is ripe with content regarding backyard topics:

<https://extension.psu.edu/trees-lawns-and-landscaping/home-gardening>

This program is a free service for Bucks County residents, as the objective of Extension is to deliver science-based information to people, businesses, and communities.





Sponsor Spotlight:

by Bryce Sanders,
Board Member



The Silverman Gallery has been a devoted supporter of Bucks Beautiful for many years. As our bucolic landscapes burst with color this Spring, we thought it appropriate to share their story.

What is the origin story of the Silverman Gallery?

It would be hard to find a longtime Doylestown resident who does not recognize the name Herman Silverman. Along with his business successes, Herman and his wife Ann were major local philanthropists. An urban legend tells the story when Herman and Ann visited the Louvre in Paris, he looked around the museum and said: "We could do this." The James A. Michener Art Museum was opened in 1988.

Herman ascended to the position of Chairman of the museum. Having succeeded in showcasing the works of the famous Bucks County Impressionist artists, he saw a need for ongoing exhibit space for the current generation of up-and-coming artists. The Silverman Gallery was established. Rhonda Garland started with the gallery as assistant director in 2012 and took over as director in the fall of 2013. In 2016, she became owner and has been able to continue Herman's vision into the future.

Why is the focus on Bucks County Impressionist art?

The paintings in the Michener Museum are there for a reason. This is one of the most important creative communities in the United States. Impressionism captures the essence of the Delaware River towns, farms, forests and waterways. Regular viewers of Antiques Roadshow know paintings by the previous generation of Bucks County Impressionists appear on the show from time to time.

Is there a new generation carrying on the Bucks County Impressionist tradition?

That is the reason the Silverman Gallery was opened in 2011 and has been continuously showing new works for more than ten years. There is a tremendous amount of talent in the current generation and the gallery provides a showcase. Since the famous artists like Garber, Redfield, Sotter and Coppedge have passed on, living artists such as Joseph Barrett, Jennifer Hansen Rolli and Desmond McRory carry on the tradition. Today, twelve artists are represented by the gallery.



In Plain Sight by David Stier



Courtyard Bouquet by Evan Harrington

How has the gallery been involved with Bucks Beautiful?

The Silverman Gallery has been a long-time, generous donor. This includes donating original art to the charity auction at the Spring Fling Gala, donating framing and also gift certificates. One of the most popular auction items (pre pandemic) was the “Win the Gallery” package. The high bidder has the use of the gallery as an entertainment space for a surprise party or client recognition event.

Do people actually visit the gallery and buy paintings?

Yes. Over 12 years, the gallery has sold over 1,500 works of art. In the early years, the familiar small tags displaying the painting title, medium and price were displayed end-to-end on the office wall once the picture was sold. The collection was taken down once the wall was filled and the area needed to be repainted. When quality art speaks to you and the price is fair, people buy paintings.

The Silverman Gallery is open Wednesdays through Sundays. Come for a visit. See if the art speaks to you!

Buckingham Green
Shopping Center

4920 York Road
Holicong, PA 18928

215-794-4300

Browse the gallery’s extensive website at
www.silvermangallerybuckscountypa.com.



Cerulean Slivers by Jennifer Hansen Rolli

Manderfield Woodland Preserve

by Nancy J. Ondra, Bucks Beautiful Member

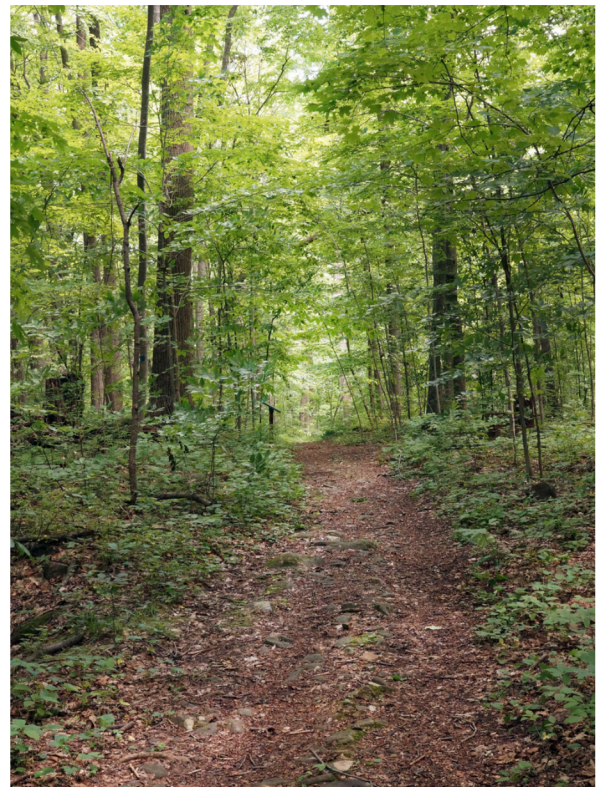
We're lucky to have so much public land to enjoy here in Bucks County, whether we're looking for well-manicured parks or more natural spaces. If you enjoy a walk on the wild side, it's worth a trip to Manderfield Woodland Preserve, a little-known gem in West Rockhill Township, Bucks County. This 50-plus acre property belonged the late Charles J. Manderfield, a local philanthropist who wanted the land to be preserved for others to enjoy.

You can find its sign and small parking lot at the one-lane bridge over the Butter Creek (1190 Allentown Road, Green Lane, PA 18094). Next to a gate, you'll see some signage about the property, and a color-coded map of the trails. (I suggest taking a photo of the map with your phone so you can refer to it if you get a bit muddled as you traverse the woodland paths. Look for the color patches painted on trees along the trails to help you stay oriented.)

Walk up the remnant of paved road, and you'll eventually come to a bench and another sign. I like to keep straight along the old road (the Blue Trail), but if it's your first visit, consider turning right at the bench to access the Pink Trail. It winds past a picnic table, over a creek, and through a gated area meant to exclude deer. It eventually meets with the Orange Trail at a beautiful bit of remnant stone wall. If you turn left here, you'll go through an extensive patch of Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*); if you turn right, you'll wander through a wonderful stretch of trail that's filled with spring wildflowers. You'll also see a number of the diabase boulders typical of this area, including a magnificently large one known as Turtle Rock.



The Yellow Trail in Late April



The Blue Trail in late June



Both ends of the Orange Trail bring you to the Blue Trail, which runs through the entire property and eventually becomes Cedar Hollow Road. Near its far end, the Blue Trail connects with both the Yellow Trail and the White Trail. It's quite a trek to get back there but worth it for the peaceful woodland experience, with the scenic Butter Creek cutting through slopes lined with towering trees and marvelous moss- and lichen-covered boulders.

Manderfield Preserve is worth a visit any time of year, but it's particularly spectacular in April and May, when you can spot a wide variety of ephemeral wildflowers lining the trails: more common kinds such as spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), round-lobed hepatica (*Anemone americana*), and several species of violets as well as uncommon gems like Virginia pennywort (*Obolaria virginica*) and showy orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*). From spring to fall, you can find many interesting mushrooms. Manderfield Preserve is also a terrific spot for birding. According to eBird.org, visitors have spotted over 75 different species here.

If you are planning a visit, I recommend wearing boots, because many of the trails are rocky and parts can be very wet, particularly in spring. You may also want to carry a pair of pruners with you, as the trails nearest to the entrance have a fair bit of multiflora rose, particularly now that those trails are sunnier due to the removal of dead ash trees. Bring your camera, too, to capture memories of this magical spot. And as you leave, don't forget to send a mental thank-you to Mr. Manderfield for his gift, as well as the good folks of West Rockhill Township who care for his legacy.



Cut-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*)
& trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*)



Dryad's saddle mushroom
(*Cerioporus squamosus*)



Virginia pennywort
(*Obolaria virginica*)

Nancy is a freelance garden-book writer, editor, and photographer residing in Bucks County. Her writing and photography have appeared in a number of national gardening magazines, including *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Gate*, *Horticulture*, and *The American Gardener*.



Hayefield Seeds
www.hayefield.com



Plant Swap



Wednesday May 17th - 6pm

Central Park Parking Lot - New Britain Rd Entrance

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, rain or shine. (Please no invasive plants.)



*Sponsored by Bucks Beautiful in conjunction with
Doylestown Township Parks & Recreation
The Delaware Valley Garden Group
The Henry Schmieder Arboretum
of Delaware Valley University*



We're thrilled to announce that our Spring Fling was voted Runner-Up for Best Fundraiser!

Thank you to all who voted on our behalf.

This section features a green background with leafy branches. The text '365' is prominently displayed in a large, black, serif font with a thick underline. Below it, the phrase 'Members and counting!' is written in a black, cursive script. Further down, a paragraph in a black sans-serif font reads: 'Join a special network of Bucks County business owners and neighbors committed to enhancing our community.' Below this is a bold, black sans-serif line: 'Enroll today for your free Kitchen & Garden Tour Ticket!'. At the bottom, there are five small square icons, each featuring a different flower (yellow, orange, purple, blue, and green) inside a decorative frame. Below these icons is a line of small text: 'Bulbs for Bucks • Spring Fling • Kitchen & Garden Tour • Grants, Scholarships & Education • RePlant Bucks'.

Event Sponsorships Available! Email info@bucksbeautiful.org

KITCHEN & GARDEN TOUR

Sunday June 11, 2023 - 11am-4pm, Rain or Shine

15% OFF




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TICKETS: \$35.00 ADVANCE SALE THRU 5/31-\$30.00



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