



NEWSLETTER



Fall Forward

It's never been a better time to become a Bucks Beautiful Member! Thanks to the generosity of our Business Members we've added **nine exclusive discounts**. These range from garden center classes, continuing learning workshops and greenhouse plants to pet services, cafe refreshments, container gardens and holiday gifts.

Next month we're showing gratitude for our Members with a **complimentary reception**. This informal open house is a wonderful way to mix and mingle in a seasonal setting - and enjoy a shopping incentive to boot!

For the first time in a decade the **ticket price of the Kitchen & Garden Tour will rise in 2024, however our Membership Rates will remain the same**. Considering Members receive free VIP tickets plus early access to this popular event, enrolling now is ideal.

Our Membership program promotes the enhancement of Bucks County through beautification, reforestation and educational efforts. We're grateful for all who have endorsed our mission, and welcome new community members to join us.

As we go through the remainder of 2023 and beyond, thank you for supporting our cause. May you and your families have a glorious holiday season!

Kind Regards,

Gary Mathern, President, Board of Directors



Save the Date

Spring Fling - April 19, 2024

Kitchen & Garden Tour - June 9, 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fab Fall Containers - 2
RePlant Bucks News- 4
Meet 400th Member - 5
Impact of Clean Ups - 8
Supporter Spotlight - 10

FABLOUS FALL CONTAINER GARDENS

By Deborah Pomroy, Business Member

Bring on the season of cool nights, brilliant leaf color, warm sweaters, pumpkin spice everything and fire pits. We are blessed to live in the northeast where we experience four seasons. This allows the opportunity to embrace each season with fresh décor.

Container gardens work perfectly in this short season. We have traditionally expected the first frost around October 15th with the first hard freeze possibly occurring in early November. That gives us about two months of this bountiful season. Let's make the most of it with lush container gardens full of texture and color. Embrace those jewel tone colors or pursue the trendy white monochromatic look to design your container gardens to highlight your personal style.

There are so many plants to choose from! Fall annuals, such as any of the many types of Celosias, Ornamental Peppers, Flowering Cabbage and Kale, mix well with our durable summer spillers such as Potato Vine, Lysimachia (Creeping Jenny), Licorice and Ivy. Fall Pansies are a sweet treat with a bonus flush of flowers in the Spring. Traditional hardy Chrysanthemums provide color season after season. Grasses such as Ruby Grass or any of the Millet varieties create movement in container gardens.

There are even some late season perennials, such as Echinacea, Asters and Montauk Daisies, that work nicely into larger container gardens. Foliage perennials such as Heuchera are also a perfect compliment. I even like to include some deeper toned smaller woody shrubs, such as Nine Bark, Weigela or Nandina with its fall-colored leaves, into some of my larger pieces.

Plant your containers full of plant materials, as they will not have much time to grow out and fill in your pot as our summer plants do. Unless you are in dense shade, most fall plants do well in the less intensive sun. Watering is even easier in the fall due to the lower temperatures, but those chrysanthemums do have abundant root systems that will need water on sunny days. Including Garden Element's Bud and Bloom fertilizer when first planted will help push those blooms to full show.





Adding texture to your container gardens is a perfect way to make them stand out. Branches, such as Red or Yellow Twig Dogwood, Birch or Curly Willow, add height. Bittersweet vine is one of my favorites to wind through container gardens. Seasonal accents such as pumpkins and gourds add a pop of appealing color. Dried materials like Lotus Pods, Japanese Lanterns or Mushroom pieces create interest. Bits of ground moss, reindeer moss or sisal add texture at the soil level.

My current trendy favorite is to include topiary forms in my container gardens. These come in many different shapes like pyramid, sphere and obelisk. These architectural shapes add great distinction to your décor. As an armature, they can be used to support your container garden physically or visually. Fill the topiary forms with gourds or wrap with bittersweet to create an eye-catching display.

The best container gardens are a mixture of many of these ideas. Show off your decorating style by choosing plants, mixing textures and affixing accents that define you. Let's keep Bucks Beautiful as we celebrate this harvest season with creative fall décor.

Arrangements and photos by Deborah Pomroy

Deborah Pomroy has been designing florals for over 35 years. After owning her own shop for 17 years, she moved on to wedding floral design at Fabufloras in Philadelphia. She is an Adjunct Professor at Mercer County Community College where she teaches the Floral Design program classes. Deborah currently serves as Educational, Event and Floral Coordinator at Seasons Garden Center in Washington Crossing.



*"A tree is our most intimate contact with nature."
— George Nakashima*



Bucks Beautiful partnered with Bill Hirst from Highland Hill Farm and Trauger's Park Cabin Owners to plant 12 trees along the watershed on conserved land at Trauger's Park in Pipersville.



Dedicated volunteers from TPCO performed the installation of the native Maple and Sycamore varieties. We're grateful to Gerri Ameri, Adam and Barb Buehler, Nick Harding, Tim Johnson, Shannon Kirby, Herman Ledger, Brody Murphy, Rob Nuyianes, Joe Papeleo, Adam Snyder, and Blake Trauger for all of their hard work!



Q & A

Meet Our 400th Member!



Will Belcher, Ground Control

What is a Landscape Architect and how does it differ from a Landscape Designer or Landscaper?

Landscape Architecture is the art of creating outdoor physical environments for humans and society that are in tune with the place and region in which they are created. Landscape Architecture requires a deep understanding of sociology, horticulture, scale, proportion and materiality. The differences between Landscape Architects from Landscape Designers or Landscapers include educational requirements, formal training and license procedures. Typically in Landscape Architecture firms, staff are called landscape designers until they pass the exam. I know many talented landscape designers that for whatever reason decided to not take the exam.

How did you become interested in landscape architecture?

I grew up in the rolling foothills of Virginia, spending my childhood in the woods of the Shenandoah, developing a fondness for the beauty of the natural environment. In high school, I was artistic but didn't know what I wanted to spend my career doing until I stepped foot into the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech.

When did you found Ground Control?

Post graduation I was offered a position at world renowned Landscape Architecture firm OLIN in Philadelphia. Following a decade there, including a 2-year break to help launch another landscape architecture firm, we launched Ground Control in late 2018. This allowed me to focus on passion projects and enjoy more time with our growing family.

What are the most rewarding aspects of your job?

For me, the most rewarding aspects of practicing landscape architecture are having the opportunity to draw extensively and travel the world, while creating beautiful places for people to enjoy.



What have some of your favorite projects been?

My most rewarding projects that I've had the opportunity to work on include Apple Park, the new headquarters for Apple in Cupertino, California; Mill River Park in Stamford, Connecticut (pictured left); and The National Desert Storm Memorial on the National Mall.

What would your dream project be?

We are very fortunate to be working on dream projects every day. Our work varies in scale and typology, and location. We are currently working on a new park on the bank of the Christina River in Wilmington, Delaware, a 150-acre woodland retreat along the banks of the Black Creek in Upstate New York, and a residence on Schroom Lake in Adirondack, New York.

What brought you / your business to Doylestown?

My wife Carly and I hold Bucks County in a special place in our hearts. We celebrated our wedding at Bowman's Wildflower Preserve in 2015. Five years later we moved Ground Control from Philadelphia to Doylestown during the height of the pandemic to be closer to my wife's family and to live in a place we love.



Ground Control Office

What is your favorite example of landscape architecture in Bucks County?

Where do I start?! I'm inspired by the natural beauty of geology and topography of the Tohickon Creek, so much so that we purchased an abandoned camp on the banks of the Tohickon, adjacent to Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge. I also enjoy the allées of Sycamores at Fonthill, the meadows and the dappled light under the groves of Black Walnut at Bowman's Hill, and the incredible beauty of the gardens of Andalusia, Mill Fleurs, and Paxson Hill.

Ground Control Design: The Cooper, Wilmington, DE



Ground Control emphasizes resuscitating ecologies and restoring natural systems. What can Bucks County homeowners could do to bring the same mindfulness to their properties?

Often the restoring ecologies and natural systems benefit humans as well. For example, planting trees provides habitat for fauna, reduces heat island effect, and at the same time creates a pleasant environment for humans. Studies have shown that streets with trees improve home values by up to 15% †. Additionally, removing or simplifying man-made materials and structures reduces impervious services, reduces visual noise, and allows for the enjoyment and theater of natural systems.

What inspired you to become involved with Bucks Beautiful?

We were introduced to Bucks Beautiful through the 2023 Kitchen & Garden Tour in which our office was featured. We enjoyed sharing our studio and garden with a record-breaking number of guests. Ground Control's values of improving natural beauty and stewardship align with those of Bucks Beautiful. We are proud to call Bucks County our home and look forward to contributing to the continued beautification of this incredible place through our partnership with Bucks Beautiful!

† Wolf, Kathleen L, PhD, University of Washington (2007) City Trees and Property Values. Arborist News. 16, 4:34-36

Creature Feature

by Jennifer Finelli,
Community Engagement Manager

Lady beetles or ladybugs are among the most recognized of the beneficial predatory insects. Over 450 species are found in North America alone. Some are native and some have been introduced from other countries. Mostly, they are known for their insatiable appetite for aphids and are often-sought allies of the gardener.

A particular lady who's gotten some recent bad press is the Asian lady beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*.) The Asian lady beetle belongs to the same family (Coccinellidea) as the other more traditional lady bugs, but they are often referred to as "invasive."



Asian Lady Beetle

(Photo Credit: Cornell University)

While they can be a nuisance because of their attempts to overwinter in homes in larger groups, they do not generally pose any true threat. They can, however, produce a yellowish defensive chemical which will sometimes cause spotting on walls and other surfaces- generally an annoyance to homeowners. It is interesting to note that unlike genuine invasive pests such as the marmorated stink bug and notorious lantern fly- the Asian Lady Beetle was first introduced to the US intentionally by the USDA in 1978 as a biological control agent.

There are so many variations between different species of lady beetles, it proves challenging to tell them apart. A few key features to look for in the Asian lady beetle: a more white colored "head" (lady bugs usually have black heads,) an M-like pattern over the white head and a slightly more pointed head than the more traditional oval-shaped lady bug head.



Native Lady Bug

A Simple Yet Effective Revival: The Profound Impact of Cleaning Up Our Community

by Razvan Dominic Ionescu, Business Member

Picking up litter. It's a humble act, often overlooked, yet it holds the power to transform our beautiful rural landscapes and invigorate our connection to nature and history. From rolling farmlands and majestic landscapes to historic boroughs and new residential neighborhoods, Bucks County's beauty cannot be overstated.

Our sense of community is strong, and we want to improve that by reducing rubbish. Whether we're driving to work, enjoying a bicycle route, walking with our friends, or dropping our kids off at daycare, we want to see clean spaces. Unfortunately, littering tarnishes our landscapes and roadways. Let's explore seven compelling reasons why collecting trash in our surroundings is a small but mighty endeavor.

1. Preserving Natural Heritage

Our rural and lightly touched areas are sanctuaries of natural beauty and historical significance. Litter, particularly plastic waste, threatens these treasures by endangering wildlife and disturbing fragile ecosystems. Every discarded piece of trash removed, every cigarette butt collected is a step towards preserving the pristine charm of our countryside.



2. Immediate Rewards

Unlike grand environmental projects, local cleanup yields instant gratification. As you clear litter from country roads, forest trails, and riverbanks, you witness a tangible transformation of your natural haven. It's a fulfilling sense of accomplishment, reminding us of our capacity to quickly enhance our surroundings.

3. Enhanced Physical Coordination

Getting out in nature, bending down to retrieve discarded items and disposing of them properly sharpens our motor skills and boosts our dexterity. It's a workout for the mind and body!

4. Embrace the Outdoors

Litter cleanup is an invitation to escape the confines of our homes and embrace the natural wonders that surround us. Breathing in the crisp, air, basking in the warmth of natural sunlight, and immersing ourselves in our natural environment reduces stress, enhances mood, and nurtures overall well-being.

5. Reconnect with Ancestral Instincts

Deep within us lies an ancient instinct to hunt and gather. Collecting trash taps into this primal drive, allowing us to actively seek and acquire resources—albeit in a different form. Modern tools make it feel like a treasure hunt, aligning our actions with our natural inclinations and fostering a deeper connection to the land.



6. Leadership and Community Bonds

When we clean our areas, we set an example for others, including our children. Our actions underscore the impact individuals can have on preserving the countryside's charm. As we join together in this shared mission, we build stronger bonds within our rural as well as suburban communities, united by a common purpose. This is a big need, in light of the continual growth in new communities and the gradual diversification of our demographic. Uniting around a common goal is key, as 90% of people agree that litter is a problem in Pennsylvania, according to a recent survey and research study commissioned by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), PennDOT, and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, the state affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful national nonprofit.

7. Historical and Natural Legacy

Our rural areas are not just landscapes; they are living testaments to history and natural beauty. By safeguarding them from debris and degradation, we ensure that future generations can marvel at the same scenic vistas and experience the sense of wonder that our countryside offers.

In conclusion, picking up litter in our areas is more than just a small act; it's a commitment to preserving the legacy of our countryside. It's about blending suburban development with a bucolic feel, ensuring that our rural landscapes remain pristine and captivating for generations to come.

So, let's embrace this simple yet powerful effort. In going outside to help cleaning your environment, you'll discover a profound connection to nature, history, and the enduring spirit of our communities.

Razvan is a financial services professional and Newtown resident. He recently launched the website www.OneBeautifulPlanet.org, to share his journey in environmental education and track action toward a cleaner, healthier world. If you would like to join hands and pick up litter with Razvan, or receive his weekly e-mail newsletter, please contact him at razvan@onebeautifulplanet.org.





Supporter Spotlight

by Bryce Sanders,
Membership Chair



Gasper Landscape Design and Construction was started by Bob Gasper in 1987. Work done on his own home in Holland spread by word of mouth and his business grew. In 1995 the family went into the retail side of the business, opening their Richboro store on Tanyard Road. Gasper opened its Furlong store in focusing on outdoor furniture last year. This local firm continues to expand its presence, planning another location on Mearns Road to be the headquarters of the Landscape & Design construction division as well as a new Bucks County Hardscape wholesale location.

How does Gasper make client's lives easier?

Locals love receiving the Gasper's glossy catalog in the mail, but a visit to the Richboro location of Gasper Home & Garden Showplace is a must! There you will find a large nursery, an annuals area outside along with the region's largest pottery collection. Inside, everything you need to make your home and garden a better place to be. It truly is a destination garden center.

Their company promise is summed up in the statement, "Outdoor living perfected." If you want to optimize your outdoor space, spend time with family and friends, enjoy a firepit in the evening and make memories, Gasper can help make this happen.

Gasper designs your outdoor experience. They can put in the major building blocks of the project, including hardscape, decking, pergolas and gazebos. To bring more outdoor living into the picture, they can build outdoor kitchens and add that firepit. A pool house can become an ideal family gathering spot on mild evenings. A Florida room (sunroom) can bring outdoor living closer to your living room. They do the plantings that transform these installed additions into outdoor rooms and gardens.



Dana Gasper, Paula Gasper, Bob Gasper Jr. and Bob Gasper

How is Gasper different from other firms?

Gasper can do the entire project for you, from design through installation. They also provide outdoor furniture that will enhance the setting. The firm and its team take pride in their craftsmanship and stand behind their work. They will not leave until the client is completely satisfied and happy. They provide a guarantee on their work, which is detailed on their website.

Has Gasper won any awards?

Third party recognition is important, because it sets you apart from other firms. The International Casual Furnishings Association (ICFA) presents the Apollo Awards annually. In 2021 Gasper won the single store award. Another award recognized Gasper as having the Best Outstanding Outside Furniture Store (multi store category) in 2023. This means the selection and service are excellent.



*Gasper Exterior Furnishings Studio
760 York Road, Furlong*

How did Gasper get involved with Bucks Beautiful?

Their involvement was sparked the same way as many of yours, as fellow members. Driving around the county, Bob and the Gasper family were inspired by the large drifts of daffodils and ongoing tree replacement program. They realized how Bucks Beautiful plays its part to beautify the county and they wanted to support our mission by becoming a Business Member. We appreciate the Gasper family and firm, and their enthusiastic community involvement to make Bucks County a better place!



Gasper Home & Garden Showplace
316 Tanyard Road, Richboro
215-364-2400
www.gasper.net



We're Thrilled to be Nominated for Six Coveted Categories in Bucks County Herald's Contest!

- Best Charities: Bucks Beautiful
- Best Local Causes: Bucks Beautiful
- Best Fundraising Events: Kitchen & Garden Tour and Spring Fling
- Best Local Events: Kitchen & Garden Tour
- Best Summer Events: Kitchen & Garden Tour
- Best Family Events: Kitchen & Garden Tour



Please show your support by casting your Vote by October 25th.



Beautify Your Yard with Our Signature Daffodils While Supporting Our Mission.

- Low Maintenance
- Deer and Rabbit Resistant
- Multiply Organically

Value Bags Available - More Bulbs for Your Bucks!

Thank You to our Volunteers

We're grateful to these enthusiastic volunteers from the National Charity League - Central Bucks Chapter for staffing our recent community booths. They did a wonderful job representing Bucks Beautiful at New Britain's Pop-Up Park and Buckingham Friends' Peace Fair.

Lisa Chappell
Madeline Chappell
Alexa Donaher
Mairead Donaher
Catherine DeLorenzo

Elizabeth DeLorenzo
Norah DeLorenzo
Megan Jarkowski
Brynn Jarkowski
Joanne McGrath

Anna McGrath
Grace McGrath
Katelyn Olsen
Kristin Olsen
Lindsay Olsen



President
Gary Mathern

Vice President
Michael E. Peters, Esq.

Treasurer
Michael J. Stumpf

Board of Directors

Matthew Broad
Pam Byers
Steve Darlington
Melissa Eiseman
Mike Feeney
David Fermier
Peter R. Fernandez
Michael Flanagan
Chuck Gale
Dr. Vail Garvin
Thomas L. Hebel
Kevin Juchno
John F. McCaughan
Renny Reynolds
Bryce Sanders
Susan Sandor
Jonathan Sharaf
Carter van Dyke

Executive Director
Denise Sezack

Financial Director
Susan Carr

Communications Director
Laurie To

Community Engagement Manager
Jennifer Finelli

Founders & Benefactors
Robert L. & Joyce Byers

Founding Major Patrons
Byers' Choice Ltd.
John F. & Carol McCaughan

Thank You to our Sponsors and Business Supporters



THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS



CHARLESWORTH • FLEISCHACKER Landscape Architects, LLC



Silverman Gallery



THE RODON GROUP®



One Beautiful Planet



Garden Alley Therapeutics



ground control



SEMANOFF ORMSBY GREENBERG & TORCHIA,
BUSINESS LAWYERS SERVING BUSINESS PEOPLE®



Webster Law P.C.
CRIMINAL DEFENSE



SURVIVAL TRAIL

NEWTOWN
LIFESTYLE™

The Cardinal GO • SEE • DO Doylestown

BucksCounty
magazine