



# NEWSLETTER

*Our newsletter is filled to the brim. Spring is our busiest season, with daffodils blooming, gardens growing, tree plantings and two important fundraising events.*

Bucks Beautiful kicked off the season on April 11th with our Spring Fling Gala held at the beautiful Barley Sheaf Farm. We're happy to report that we were sold out with more than 150 guests in attendance. Our greatest appreciation goes out to Mike Feeney for matching all our "Raise the Paddle" donations pledged that evening to support our RePlant Bucks initiative. This will allow us to double our restoration efforts to replace our failing tree canopy for future generations to enjoy. Thank you for helping us make it such a memorable night. Read on for more exciting news!

## Behind the Blooms

We're pleased to announce **Tom Hebel has been elected as the new Vice President of the Board.** He has been involved with Bucks Beautiful's since its inception. Over the years, Tom was acknowledged for his outstanding efforts with the organization as the 1997 Laurel Award recipient as well as being a past president of the Board. Owner of Bucks Country Gardens, Tom has a passion for business, gardening, and people that he says creates "opportunities to connect with so many folks in our community." As an invaluable member of the Spring Fling and Kitchen and Garden Tour Committees, as well as being crucial to fostering our Replanting Bucks mission, Tom has been instrumental in shaping and enhancing Bucks Beautiful's impact on our community.

**After 12 years of service with Bucks Beautiful, we congratulate Susan Carr on her retirement.** Susan and her husband John were our guest at the recent Spring Fling where her service was acknowledged with a Certificate and a Mercer Tile. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick presented Susan with a United States flag that was flown over the Capitol Building as well as a proclamation in honor of her legacy of compassion and commitment to our community. Susan joined the organization in 2014 as the Finance Director and has been instrumental in the day to day workings and coordinating our special events. We're grateful for the dedicated service she's given to Bucks Beautiful over the years. We'll miss her and wish her the best. We hope Susan enjoys her free time having new adventures!



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We're thrilled to host the 30th Annual Kitchen & Garden Tour!

This beloved event offers exclusive visits to hidden gems tucked throughout bucolic Bucks County. Stroll through remodeled kitchens, breathtaking gardens, and lovingly tended landscapes.

Bucks County Master Gardeners will be onsite to share their expert insights as you explore stunning specimen trees, vibrant perennials, colorful annuals, and more!

Tickets:

\$45 if purchased by May 31st

\$50 beginning June 1st

Each ticket includes:

A full program with maps, photos, and garden descriptions

A complimentary garden gift bag

Bucks Beautiful Members enjoy FREE admission plus VIP early access starting at 10:00 AM. Non-member tours begin at 11:00 AM.

All proceeds support Bucks Beautiful's vital initiatives, including RePlant Bucks, Bulbs for Bucks, and Garden Grants.

Celebrate the beauty of Bucks County and help us continue growing a greener future. We can't wait to see you there!



# Partners in Planting: Celebrating Our Latest Grant-Funded Projects

Bucks Beautiful is proud to announce the recipients of our latest round of grants, awarded to support impactful beautification and reforestation projects across our community. These deserving organizations share our vision for a greener, more vibrant Bucks County, and we're honored to help bring their projects to life. Through their efforts, new trees will take root, neglected spaces will bloom, and our shared environment will flourish for generations to come.

## **County of Bucks**

Employee volunteer planting project to reinvigorate the main entrance of the Bucks County Administration Building

## **Bucks County Civil War Museum & Library**

Flower beds beautifying the Museum & Library entrance and the 104th monument honoring soldiers in the heart of Doylestown Borough.

## **Buckingham Township**

Replace approximately sixty trees that have died at Holicong Park.

## **Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council**

Expansion of Native Demonstration Garden at Central Park

## **Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)**

Restoration of the Crime Victim Commemorative Arbor Memorial Garden at Core Creek Park

## **TJS Distributors**

Volunteer project to plant 10 native trees to replace those lost due to storm damage at Tinicum Park

## **Town & Country Players**

Revitalization of Theater grounds

## **Washington Crossing Historic Park**

Rehabilitation and expansion of the Thompson-Neely Kitchen Garden

***To apply for a matching grant for Garden Projects, Bulbs for Bucks Daffodils or RePlant Bucks Trees, please request a grant application via email to [info@bucksbeautiful.org](mailto:info@bucksbeautiful.org). The application deadline for the Fall is August 31, 2025.***



# Spring Fling Success

What a joy it was to celebrate our 12th Annual Spring Fling! Your presence—and every generous bid and smile—helped turn the evening into a true celebration of our mission. We're deeply grateful to everyone who played a part:

**Guests & Supporters** – Your enthusiasm and contributions directly fuel the programs that enhance Bucks County.

**Committee Members & Volunteers** – Your countless hours of planning and hands-on help brought the event to life.

**Donors & Sponsors** – Your generosity set the stage for a successful Spring Fling!

Because of you, we're one step closer to revitalizing our community with impactful reforestation efforts.





# Blossoms of Remembrance

This spring, thousands of new daffodils brightened our community thanks to last fall's Bulbs for Bucks plantings. In partnership with Gale Nurseries Inc., we planted 10,000 bulbs at YMCA Bobby's Playground and Pine Run Retirement Community in memory of our beloved co-founder, Carol McCaughan. Volunteers also hand-planted 500 bulbs at Doylestown Presbyterian Church, and we were proud to expand our reach to M.M. Seylar Elementary—our first school partnership in Upper Bucks County. The results bloomed beautifully!







## Digging In: Volunteers Join Forces for Arbor Day Planting

Bucks Beautiful was proud to donate two Ashe's Magnolia trees and a Black Gum tree for Doylestown Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Arbor Day planting.

The trees found their new home in the water basin adjacent to the ever-expanding Native Demonstration Garden at Central Park.

A huge thank you to the volunteers from the Women's Farm & Garden Association and Bucks County Master Gardeners who teamed up with EAC President Heidi Shiver and members Chad Clem and Marcello Mangano to plant the trees and other native plantings on Saturday April 26th. Together, we're growing a greener future!





**Our newest RePlant Bucks initiative contributed 10 native trees to Tinicum Park to replace those lost to storm damage, with more slated for Fall.** We're grateful to partner with Tyler Simpson — Solebury School senior & founder of TJA Distributors — and Colleen Kenny of Bucks County Parks & Rec. on this important community project. The variety of trees purchased from Tree Authority includes Red Maple, Hackberry, Honeylocust, Swamp White Oak and Elm. They were selected to provide year-round interest, color and beauty, as well as natural habitat, food and shelter for native wildlife.

Big thanks to these enthusiastic volunteers for providing manpower to plant the trees on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>: Mark, Melissa, Ben and Mirabel Roxey (Roxey Ballet Company); Jennifer Alemian; Nicole Butler and Michelle; Laura and Jason Taylor; Judy, Marvan, Gaye, Tyler, Justin and Alex Simpson; Judeen Rowe and Colleen Kenny. Special kudos to RePlant Bucks Chair Dominic Zimmaro for delivering supplies and providing gloves courtesy of Bartlett Tree Experts -Dublin.

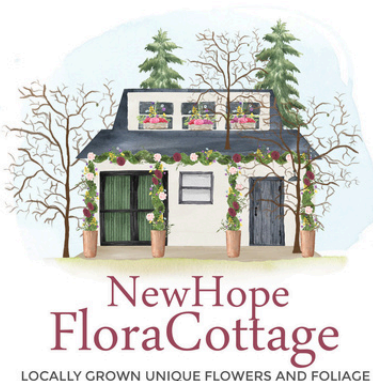
Check out TJA Distributors' sustainable products business at [www.tjadistributors.com](http://www.tjadistributors.com).







by Bryce Sanders  
Volunteer Board Member



New Hope Flora Cottage is owned and run by Donna Marshall, a longtime friend of Bucks Beautiful and a 30 year veteran of the floral design industry. I chatted with Donna recently about what makes her business special and why she supports Bucks Beautiful.

### **Tell us about your business?**

Nestled in Solebury Township, New Hope Flora Cottage is a micro flower farm dedicated to growing fresh, seasonal blooms. We specialize in handcrafted floral arrangements designed to celebrate special moments or simply brighten someone's day. Beyond individual customers, we also work with organizations to create memorable floral experiences for events and gatherings. From everyday flowers to special events - Our commitment to locally grown flowers ensures freshness, sustainability, and a personal touch in every arrangement.

### **How did you get involved with Bucks Beautiful?**

We need to go back 27 years, when Bucks Beautiful held the garden fair at Delaware Valley University the week after the Philadelphia Flower Show. I knew I had found a like-minded community because we all shared a passion for cultivating beauty. I have been involved with the organization since that time and then became a business member once my business had started.



### **When people think about flowers, there are similar business in the area. What makes yours stand out?**

At New Hope Flora Cottage, we take pride in offering locally grown, freshly cut flowers right from our property. When additional flowers are needed, we prioritize local growers first, expand to domestic sources if necessary, and turn to international suppliers only as a last resort.

Our arrangements primarily come in vases, making them easier to care for and enjoy. We also educate our customers about seasonal blooms, ensuring you receive the freshest, most fragrant flowers available. By choosing local, in-season flowers, you're supporting the local economy and reducing carbon emissions from long-distance shipping. Plus, our blooms stay fresh for 5-10 days with proper care—lasting longer and bringing more joy!



### **Do you grow your own flowers?**

Yes, we grow our own flowers without pesticides, ensuring fresh and sustainable blooms. Our growing season runs from April to September, and during the winter months, I focus on continuing education and planning next season's plantings.

### **What are the occasions where people should consider flowers?**

I may be a little biased, but I believe fresh flowers are for any occasion—or no occasion at all. They uplift your mood, ease stress, and inspire creativity, making any space feel warm and inviting. Our locally grown, pesticide-free blooms (available April–September) bring beauty for special moments like birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy, weddings, or formal events. But you don't need a reason to enjoy fresh flowers!



### **How do customers do business with you?**

At New Hope Flora Cottage, we're more of a farm than a traditional retail shop, so our website serves as the main portal for most of our business—about 80% of orders come through there. Why? Because most days, you'll find me out in the garden, not sitting behind a desk! That said, I'm always happy to connect with customers by email or phone, especially with our wonderful regulars who I know well from past orders. Once your arrangement is ready, you can choose to have it delivered (within 10 mile radius) or pick it up. We're here to make your floral experience as convenient and personal as possible!

### **What deserves a special mention?**

My future plans, include offering on-site floral workshops. I feel that people enjoying gathering with a common goal of creating. My shop is one that is relaxed and welcoming to all levels of floral knowledge. I'm open to hearing ideas for topics that people would love to explore, so I welcome anyone to get in touch and share their interests.

Additionally, I'm eager to collaborate with other floral designers, both locally and from out of town, who need workshop space and refrigerated storage prior to an event. They can either use my flowers or bring their own. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, feel free to reach out to learn more!

Bucks Beautiful  
Members:

Buy 1 Bouquet,  
Get 1 Free!

Call Donna  
to arrange.

*New Hope Flora Cottage*  
*6205 Lower Mountain Road*  
*New Hope, PA*  
*215-862-2207*  
*[newhopefloracottage.com](http://newhopefloracottage.com)*





# Start with the Perfect Soil

By Deborah Pomroy, Season's Garden Center  
and Bucks Beautiful Business Member

It is that time of the year when you walk the aisles of your favorite garden center, marveling at all the many types of plants available. You have visions of beautiful grandeur surrounding your home as you carefully select the combination of plants, herbs and vegetables you plan to add. I encourage you to just pause for a moment and “think like a plant.” Consider all the needs of your plant to continue growing and producing abundant flowers or fruit, such as lighting conditions, water requirements and soil structure. The performance of all plant material starts with the health of the soil it is planted in.



Good soil provides plant materials with suitable texture and structure for root formation, nutrients for plant growth, good drainage or water retention for plant survivability and a pH range of 6.0 to 7.0 for best nutrient absorption. Bucks County is known for its clay soil base. If you have ever dug into our clay soil, you will know that it is dense and does not offer optimal drainage or soil aeration. This is where adding soil amendments can assist us in enriching our soil for optimum plant performance. Soil amendments modify the condition of our soil. Specifically in clay-based soils

we can use soil amendments to improve soil aggregation, increase soil porosity and permeability, increase nutrient infiltration and improve root penetration.

At Seasons Garden Center in Washington Crossing, we offer our clients several types of soil amendments. Our most popular soil amendment is the Master Nursery Bumper Crop Organic Soil Builder. This “one stop shop” soil amendment is a tested combination of sphagnum peat to maintain pore space, aged wood fiber, cured compost aged bark, lobster meal to make plants stronger, worm castings to provide activated minerals, kelp meal and dehydrated poultry manure to green up your plants. The worm castings or worm manure are particularly effective due to their slow-release qualities, which allow for nutrients to be released over a four month time period. On top of all these great components, they have also inoculated the mix with endo mycorrhizal fungi to increase the root systems’ surface area. This mix has a pH of 6.5 to help maintain an acidic pH level in your soil.







Many seasoned gardeners rely on Coast of Maine's Quoddy Compost Blend with Lobster and Crab on their vegetable crops and specifically, use it to prevent Blossom End Rot on their tomato crop. Sourced from Quoddy Head, Maine, this mix includes lobster and crab meal, compost and sphagnum peat moss. It works well to revitalize the soil, aid in water retention or drainage and aerate the soil. Rich in chitin from the seafood, this mix produces stronger plants that are more resistant to disease.

We also recommend Coast of Maine's Schoodic Mix of Composted Manure Blend. Sourced from the Schoodic Peninsula in Maine, this mix is composed of composted cow manure, sphagnum peat moss and aged bark. Composted cow manure is superior to fresh manure because it has been heated above 145 degrees F to kill most pathogens and weed seeds and stabilizes the organic matter.



Soil amendments should be added to the soil at planting time by digging your hole twice as large as the root ball and creating a 50/50 mix of soil amendment and existing soil to use to back fill the area in the hole around the root ball. This rich, amended soil will act as the perfect transition area for those young roots to develop. Soil amendments can also serve to condition larger areas of soil by adding a 2" topcoat of soil amendment and working that into the upper 6" of soil. Lawns can be revitalized by adding a 1/2" layer of soil amendment to the lawn surface and raking it into existing grass, adding new seed where needed.

Your year of abundant flowers and edible crops starts with creating the perfect soil. Hopefully, you will "think like a plant" and provide your plants with the optimum environment for them to thrive. Remember to "Just Keep Blooming!"



1069 River Road  
Washington Crossing, PA  
215-493-4226  
seasonsgardencenter.com





# Bucks Beautiful Briefs

*Share your favorite plants and take home new ones to enjoy!*

## PLANT SWAP



**WEDNESDAY 5/28/25 - 6 PM**

**337 NEW BRITAIN ROAD, DOYLESTOWN  
CENTRAL PARK**

Whether you're ready to test your green thumb, or you're an experienced gardener, check out this FREE community event!

Sun, shade & native perennials, house plants or trees welcome (please no invasive plants). Please label with Latin names when possible.

Unloading & Plant ID help available from 5-6 pm. Swap starts at 6pm sharp, rain or shine.

Any questions, call/text 215-340-3639.



This spring, Bucks Beautiful with the support of Board Member Pam Byers, was proud to sponsor the Central Bucks West High School Girls' Flag Football Team.

We are thrilled to back these talented student-athletes as they break new ground and promote the growth of girls' sports in our community. Congratulations to the team on a great season!

Girls flag football will become an official PIAA sport in 2025-26.



# thank you

*Our sincere appreciation to our community members who donated this Quarter. Thank you for standing with us as we reforest, renew, and revitalize our shared spaces. Every tree planted, flower bed restored, and garden created is a testament to your commitment to a healthier, more sustainable world.*

Joyce Byers

Alan G. Cohen

Alesia Volans & Alex Loukedis

Angie & Doug Boylan

Angie Diodato

Barb & Chuck Gale

Bill Hughes & Michael Flanagan

Bridget Wingert

Bryce & Jane Sanders

Carter van Dyke & Sarah Webster

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