

NEWSLETTER

Planting the Future

Introducing the Bucks Beautiful Legacy Fund

To secure the future of our mission, we're proud to announce the creation of the Bucks Beautiful Legacy Fund. This permanent fund has been established to provide sustained support for our programs, ensuring that our work continues to enhance the beauty and environmental health of our community for generations to come.

We are now accepting contributions to the Legacy Fund through direct gifts, as well as planned gifts and estate donations. These thoughtful investments help ensure that Bucks Beautiful remains vibrant, active, and financially sustainable well into the future.

A gift to the Legacy Fund is more than a donation – it is a lasting commitment to the landscapes, communities, and educational programs that define Bucks Beautiful. What you plant today will blossom for decades to come.

Click the button below for more information.



2026 Special Events



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Where Learning Takes Root

By Laurie To, Communications Director

Through our Bulbs for Bucks initiative, Bucks Beautiful was honored to help students at three Bucks County schools experience the joy of planting while contributing to meaningful community beautification.

On October 24, 2025, Sol Feinstone Elementary School in Newtown welcomed a burst of future spring color. Bucks Beautiful provided 5,000 daffodil bulbs and sponsored the crew from Gale Nurseries, Inc. to install them along the school's front entrance. In addition, the crew prepared a special planting area where the third-grade class enthusiastically hand-planted 500 bulbs to frame the school sign. We are grateful to Sol Feinstone PTO Treasurer Elizabeth Thompson—who also serves on Upper Makefield Township's Environmental Advisory Council—for spearheading this project and helping us engage students in hands-on environmental education.



Sol Feinstone Elementary

Just days later, on October 29th, Bulbs for Bucks continued at Charles Boehm Middle School in Yardley. Bucks Beautiful installed 5,000 signature daffodil bulbs to brighten the school grounds. Mrs. Quinn's eighth-grade STEM class and the school's Green Team, led by Sandra Metzger, joined in by planting a portion around the school sign, fostering environmental pride and stewardship among students.



In November, students at Newtown Middle School completed the trio of projects by hand-planting 550 daffodil bulbs in an underused campus courtyard. This effort will bring color and joy to the space in the spring. Special thanks go to NMS Library Teacher and Bucks Beautiful member Jana Bovino for leading and coordinating this wonderful project.

*Charles Boehm Middle School - L
Newtown Middle School - R*

We also extend our sincere appreciation to Board Member Dominic Zimmaro of Bartlett Tree Experts in Dublin for donating garden gloves so every student could dig in safely.

As these daffodils bloom in the months ahead, they will serve as lasting reminders of what grows when students, educators, volunteers, and community partners come together to nurture both the landscape and the next generation of environmental stewards.





RePlant Bucks Delivers Two Major Park Enhancements

Bucks Beautiful’s RePlant Bucks initiative made strong progress in November with two significant tree planting projects.

Holicong Park – Buckingham Township: On November 4th, phase two of the major tree replacement project at Holicong Park continued with the installation of 30 native red maples—bringing the total to 64 new trees. This restoration effort, funded through a RePlant Bucks grant underwritten by Mike Feeny of Feeny’s Wholesale Nursery, is helping to return shade, beauty, and habitat to this well-loved community space. We extend sincere thanks to the Buckingham Township crew for their hard work on the installation.

Tinicum Park – Erwinna: The second phase at Tinicum Park was also completed, enhancing the grounds with new shade trees and historically inspired plantings. A period-appropriate kitchen orchard was established at the Erwin Stover House featuring fruit trees such as Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry, American Persimmon, American Plum, and Winesap Apple. Additional trees—including Eastern Redbuds, disease-resistant Dutch Elm, American Sycamore, and Swamp White Oak—were planted around the playground. The installation on November 15th was made possible with hands-on help from RePlant Bucks Chair Dominic Zimmaro, Bucks County Parks and Recreation Director Colleen Kenny, and many dedicated volunteers.

These collaborative efforts continue to restore tree canopy, strengthen natural habitats, and enhance public parklands across Bucks County. We are proud to support the ongoing revitalization of our community’s shared green spaces and are grateful for the steadfast partnership of Bucks County and Buckingham Township.



Safeguarding Trees and Shrubs in Winter

By Dominic Zimmaro, RePlant Bucks Chair and Bartlett Tree Experts Arborist

Some love it, some hate it, but an inevitable fact of life in Bucks County is that winter is here! Sure, spring and summer are beautiful with leaves and flowers on the trees (I certainly prefer it), but winter has a unique beauty all its own. With the winter, however, comes specific opportunities and concerns regarding the trees and shrubs on your property that we will touch on below.

During much of the growing season deciduous trees in good shape will have full canopies. This is great and a crucial part of tree health, however when canopies are fully foliated it can make it difficult to see defects in the canopy. These can come in the form of included bark, cracks, hollows, large dead wood that is normally obscured, and a list of other things that may need to be remediated for the health of the tree or safety of your property. It is also easier to see cables, lightning protection systems, and other hardware to verify functionality. Having a qualified arborist perform an inspection and complete any necessary work is strongly recommended.



In evergreens, especially less mature or smaller specimens, there is a risk of them drying out or experiencing winter burn (pictured left). This is when foliage can discolor and dehydrate due to cold temperatures, wind, and sun exposure and the fact that evapotranspiration (water loss) happens through the foliage quicker than the plant can absorb moisture from the soil. Some ways to avoid this are through applying burlap wraps to shield vulnerable plantings from exposure, or anti-desiccant sprays to help with moisture loss. Keeping your trees and shrubs healthy and well-watered throughout year will put them at an advantage going into winter months as well.

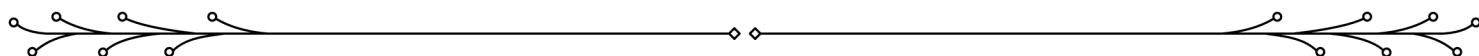
Adverse weather can also negatively impact trees and shrubs. Heavy, sticky snow (which is great for making snow people and snowballs) and ice storms present a hazard to plant material as well. In trees with poor branch structure or overextended limbs, accumulation of snow and ice can cause limb failure and result in damage to the tree and people or objects in the path of the falling branch. It can sometimes also create dangerous situations where the limb fails to snap completely, or the limb can get stuck somewhere on the way down creating what is know as a “hanger” or “widow maker”.



In these cases, it is highly inadvisable to address the situation alone due to the high risk of injury or death. Calling an expert with the necessary tools and skills to remove the hazard in a safe and controlled manner is recommended. While it's not guaranteed, snow and ice damage can generally be avoided by having your trees inspected and pruned by a certified arborist regularly (Generally every two to four years though frequency will vary based on species, maturity, and site conditions).

For shrubs, the same damage can occur from snow and ice accumulation though usually in a less dramatic fashion. It is advisable to tie up shrubs like Boxwood that can splay and break under the weight of snow and ice to keep them stable and gently remove snow from them as it accumulates. Burlap or jute twine works great and is biodegradable, but remember to remove it as the weather warms and these risks are no longer present.

The last point to touch on is salt damage. Trees and shrubs along sidewalks, roadways, and driveways that are salted are all at risk for salt damage from runoff that contains the salt or other chemicals used to melt snow and ice, or drift due to accidental misapplication of the products in areas other than concrete, stone, or asphalt surfaces. Salt damage can manifest itself in many different ways including wilting, browning, reduced leaf size and flower production, bud and twig dieback, and a general lack of vigor. There are soil treatments that can be applied by professionals beforehand to aid in the prevention of salt damage and afterward to help plants recover from the damage if not too severe. Contact your local Bartlett Arborist for more information.



Cultivating Connection Through Education

We had a fantastic turnout for the return of our Educational Lecture Series on October 23rd – 75 attendees joined us to hear from Dan Bangert, leader of the Grounds Team at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia.

Dan shared insights on creating garden environments that inspire connection and healing, reminding us how thoughtfully designed plantings can nurture both body and spirit. He generously donated his speaker fee to the Bucks Beautiful Scholarship Fund, which supports students studying horticulture.

Many thanks to Mike Feeney of Feeney’s Wholesale Nursery, our major patron of the Educational Lecture Series, and to our co-sponsors, the Village Improvement Society and Bucks County Master Gardeners, for making this event possible.



A special highlight of the evening – Dan connected with audience member Michael Flanagan by sharing a cutting from Albert Einstein’s begonia, continuing its remarkable legacy.



LECTURE SERIES



CREATING WILDFLOWER MEADOWS
*Speaker David Hughes, RLA,
Weatherwood Design*

Upcoming Lecture

 **Thursday**
2-12-26

 **James-Lorah Memorial Home Auditorium**
100 N. Broad Street, Doylestown

 **6:00 PM Mingle**
6:30 PM Lecture

 **General Public:** \$10.00
Free Admission: Bucks Beautiful Members

Donations welcome for the Bucks Beautiful Scholarship Fund

The Common, but Extraordinary, Snowdrop

By Melissa Palmer, Bucks Beautiful Member and Master Gardener

Galanthus nivalis (Common snowdrop) originated in the Middle East and Europe, then naturalized in Europe, North America and other regions. They are a popular ornamental plant, often naturalizing in damp, wooded areas where they bloom in late winter, poking through the snow.

These beauties symbolize hope, purity, rebirth and new beginnings. They represent life emerging from the cold winter, but can also signify sympathy, resilience, and mourning- due to the petals resembling a shroud.



Galanthus signifies hope in the darkness, the promise of spring, and quiet strength- therefore they can be used for both optimism and sorrow. Mostly, to me, they mean the start of SPRING -my favorite time of the year!

Snowdrops have an interesting way of propagating. When the bloom starts to die the seeds drop out. They are coated with a lipid rich protein that attracts ants. The ants feed on the seeds underground, and the seed in turn

germinates and creates more snowdrops. Amazing, right? Snowdrops do take their time to spread in the garden and create those beautiful white carpets you see in February and March.

I feel the best time to plant *Galanthus* is in the spring, “in the green” meaning they are fully leafed out with blooms. You can also purchase the bulbs in the fall to plant then. I do not prefer this way since it takes a long time for them to make a beautiful bunch emerging in spring. I shop at my local garden centers -visit Bucks Beautiful Business Members Gasper Home & Garden in Richboro to obtain *Galanthus* “in the green” pots fully blooming in spring (available in March); or Bucks Country Gardens in Doylestown to procure *Galanthus* bulbs for fall planting.

This amazing plant has some wonderful features, such as hard-tipped leaves to enable them to pierce through the snow. They contain an anti-freeze protein in their cells which stops ice crystals forming inside the plant, allowing them to relax and bounce back from a hard freeze. Snowdrops contain galantamine, used in Alzheimer’s treatment, and a lectin studied for pest resistance. They are poisonous to humans and animals if bulbs are ingested (cause nausea, vomiting).

If I sparked your interest, there is a wonderful annual event called the GALANTHUS GALA (which I will be attending). This is ALL things Snowdrops - great lectures featuring internationally recognized speakers Michael Myers, Hester Forde and Jimi Blake; plus a really nice marketplace where you can buy everything *Galanthus*! The event will be held February 27th (virtual) and February 28th at Downingtown Friends Meeting, 800 East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335. Please use this link for more information and tickets: <https://brandywine-cottage.square.site/>





Neat

M E T H O D

by Bryce Sanders, Board President

Tiffany Lynch is the co-owner of NEAT Method, a professional home organizing service in Bucks County. She and I discussed how she got involved with Bucks Beautiful, What NEAT Method does and who it helps.



How did you get involved with Bucks Beautiful? Living in Bucks County, you cannot help noticing beauty throughout the county. You see farms, preserved spaces and private homes with beautiful gardens. I thought “There must be some organization that supports this mission.” We started by researching garden clubs, which is what led us to Bucks Beautiful. We are familiar with your annual Kitchen and Garden Tour. My mother-in-law had this on her list of things of experiences she wanted to have during her lifetime. This led us to Bucks Beautiful membership.

Tell us about NEAT Method. We are a national firm specializing in home organizing. Melanie Rickus, my business partner, and I represent the firm in Bucks County. When you think about how everything in your home is laid out, you want it to be functional, yet you also want it to be aesthetically pleasant, beautiful to see. No one likes clutter. We can help people organize anything from one room, to an apartment, up to an entire house. Two areas where clients really benefit from a home organizer is when preparing for renovations or unpacking when moving into a new house after a relocation. We can be brought in to organize the entire house or simply the kitchen and bedroom, leaving the homeowners to unpack at their own pace. We tailor the organization to their lifestyle. The goal is to bring calm and efficiency into your life.



You offer products in addition to services. Tell me more.

Storage does not need to be ugly or look utilitarian. We are continually testing products, often for storage. Yes, even storage spaces can be beautiful. Storage often meets specific needs. Clients with an outdoorsy lifestyle need a functional mudroom where coats, boots and scarves are easy to don or shed. The kitchen is much easier to navigate if you have segmented dividers in drawers instead of a tangle of utensils.

How you start your business? Melanie and I have been working together for 5 years. We were originally lead organizers with NEAT Method Philadelphia where we learned about the business and level of white-glove service that we wanted to bring to the Bucks County area.

Who becomes your client? This question has many answers. It can be a senior executive who has relocated to the area with their family. With a move, unpacking all of those boxes takes time, and they are moving into a new space with new storage areas and layout. We take the stress of figuring out where everything goes, and creating the systems off their “to do” list.



We also work with young families who are upsizing who need spaces and systems set up to grow with their young children, think playrooms, pantries, and basements. And then we have the clients who are downsizing, we like to help them edit their belongings to keep only what they truly love and need. No matter the client or space, we are firm believers in using the right products and that labeling is critical. With labels, everyone in the house can know where to find items, and most importantly where to return them. These are all areas where we can help!

How do you give back to the community? We are involved with business organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and networking groups. We partner with other members on volunteer projects in the community.

BUCKS BEAUTIFUL MEMBER DISCOUNT!

Free organizing services consultation; 10% product discount during organizational services.

How can readers get in touch? There are plenty of ways:



buckscounty@neatmethod.com



www.neatmethod.com
Click the “Find an Organizer” button



Check us out @buckscountyneat



267-240-6135



thank you

Our sincere appreciation to our community members who donated this past 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.

Ann Albence

Bartlett Tree Experts - Dublin

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Susan Carr in memory of Shurley Stumpf

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