



BUCKS BEAUTIFUL

NEWSLETTER

A Night to Remember!

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our guests, donors, sponsors, and supporters, our Spring Fling Gala fundraiser raised more than \$100,000 in support of Bucks Beautiful's community initiatives and grant programs.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the evening such a success – especially our Spring Fling Committee and dynamic auction team, Matt Braud of Hollow House Farms and Will Belcher of Ground Control, whose energy and enthusiasm kept the crowd engaged throughout the night.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spring Grant Projects - 2
Kitchen & Garden Tour Preview -4
Trees for Tomorrow - 5
Rooted in Knowledge - 6
Thank you Donors - 7
Native Plant Sale - 8

Upcoming Events

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

PLANT SWAP



WEDNESDAY MAY 20TH - 6 PM
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER
425 WELLS ROAD, DOYLESTOWN

FREE Community Event! All plants welcome - sun, shade & native perennials, house plants or trees. Please label with Latin names when possible. Unloading & Plant ID help available from 5-6 pm. (Please no invasive plants.) Swap starts at 6pm sharp, rain or shine. Any questions, call/text 215-340-3639.



Save the Date **KITCHEN & GARDEN TOUR** June 14, 2026

Tour preview and link in on page 4

Expanding Our Impact with New Funded Projects

We're 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.

Bucks County 104th Monument – In partnership with Jenny's Flowers and Landscaping, enhancements were made to the flower beds surrounding the historic monument at Main and Court Streets in Doylestown. Dedicated on May 30, 1868, the 19-foot marble and granite obelisk honors the 104th Pennsylvania Volunteers, known as the "Ringgold Regiment," and is recognized as one of the nation's earliest Civil War memorials.

Bucks County Parks and Recreation – Volunteer planting of more than 200 saplings, including a diverse mix of maple, locust, and viburnum species, to help restore and strengthen the local ecosystem at Peace Valley Park.

Bucks County SPCA – Beautification of the Lahaska shelter grounds through the removal of a dying pear tree and the planting of a native yellowwood tree in honor of former Executive Director Anne Irwin and former Shelter Director Carol Hinckley. Both women played an instrumental role in the organization's growth through more than forty years of dedicated service.

Bucks-Mont Delta Waterfowl Chapter – Planting of fifty native oak trees on state game lands in Quakertown to benefit both wildlife habitat and the surrounding community.

County of Bucks Employee Volunteers - Employee volunteer planting project to revitalize the main entrance of the Bucks County Administration Building.

Four Lanes End Garden Club – In celebration of Langhorne Borough's 150th anniversary and America's 250th anniversary, the club will create more than fifty-five red, white and blue hanging baskets and planters throughout the borough. The project will also provide planted urns for homeowners along Langhorne's historic streets.

Lower Makefield Township – renovation of the native plant demonstration garden at the township tax building to showcase how native plants can thrive beautifully in both public spaces and residential landscapes.

The Next Steps Program, Doylestown – Hands-on gardening initiative designed to teach participants essential life skills including responsibility, teamwork and healthy living. An educational component will further engage participants through journaling, guided learning activities and cooking demonstrations using harvested produce.

New Britain Township Environmental Advisory Council – Expansion of the demonstration pollinator garden and addition of a native berry zone at North Branch Park. The project aims to educate the community about the ecological benefits of native plants while inspiring residents to incorporate natives into their own landscapes.

Palisades Middle School Roots and Shoots Club – Creation of a certified Monarch butterfly waystation, a firefly habitat, twenty bluebird nesting boxes, and a native plant rain garden to provide students with hands-on environmental learning opportunities while supporting local biodiversity and conservation efforts.

Salem United Church of Christ, Doylestown – Installation of native perennial and shrub gardens, along with birdhouses and feeders, to create a welcoming outdoor gathering space for the community. The project will provide educational opportunities for children to learn about pollinators while partnering with seniors to create fresh flower arrangements for shut-ins.

Solebury Township Parks and Recreation – Restoration project at Pat Livezey Park to reduce stormwater runoff and erosion while creating valuable habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. The site will also serve as a public demonstration area promoting native plants and sustainable land management practices, with volunteer planting opportunities and youth participation through summer camp programs.

Village Improvement Association of Doylestown - Creation of a peaceful seating area featuring foliage plants and colorful annual containers at the new Bright Path Center operated by Lenape Valley Foundation. Designed as a quiet space for reflection, hope, and healing, the garden will offer visitors the restorative benefits of nature in a calming environment.

Bucks Beautiful has been providing Community Grants since 1991 to encourage non-profit organizations, schools, garden clubs and local municipalities to host public garden or tree plantings. The grant award is a 50/50 cash match up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year. Funds may be used for the purchase of annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs, trees, mulch and garden related materials. We highly encourage the use of native plant materials whenever possible.

Please request an application by emailing grants@bucksbeautiful.org. While submissions are accepted anytime, the deadline for Fall is 8/31/26 and for Spring is 3/1/27.

Gardens & Grand Design in Historic Doylestown

We're pleased to host the 31st Kitchen & Garden Tour on Sunday June 14, 2026, from 11 am-4 pm, rain or shine. Stroll through historic Doylestown Borough to discover hidden gems, each offering a unique blend of inspired design and natural beauty. This year's self-guided walking tour features an exceptional collection of homes and gardens, including:

- An award-winning landscape architect's 1870 Victorian residence and renovated barn set on a wooded lot, complete with an aviary garden and wildflower meadow
- Craftsman home showcasing a reimagined interpretation of the 1985 Philadelphia Flower Show Best of Show exhibit, "Christine's Garden"
- An 1875 Victorian, thoughtfully restored with a newly remodeled kitchen and surrounded by native plantings
- Colonial Revival home featuring diverse outdoor spaces—from a rock garden with native prickly pear to a serene woodland retreat
- A charming brick Cape-style home framed by meticulously maintained gardens featuring a waterfall and fish pond
- Beautifully renovated 1890 rowhome—once owned by James Michener—blending historic character with refined modern craftsmanship

Early birds catch the worm with the discounted price of \$45.00 until May 31st, after which tickets will be \$50.00. Included with your ticket purchase is a program with maps, photos and descriptions, plus a garden gift bag. Tickets will also be sold at the door on June 14th at our office: 77 N. Broad Street, Doylestown PA.

Want free tickets? Become a Bucks Beautiful Member to receive complimentary admission plus exclusive access from 10 to 11 a.m. Proceeds support our community grant program.





Trees for Tomorrow

Over 100 native trees took root at Peace Valley Park through our RePlant Bucks initiative celebrating Arbor Day on April 25th.

In partnership with Bucks County Parks and Recreation and Bartlett Tree Experts - Dublin, PA, this effort was powered by an incredible 48 volunteers from Bucks County Master Watershed Stewards, Penn State Master Gardeners of Bucks County, CB East High School's Key Club, Kutz Elementary Cougars 4 a Cause and more.

Together, they planted a diverse mix of saplings—including maple, locust, and viburnum—helping to restore and strengthen our local ecosystem for generations to come. Thank you to everyone who showed up to make a difference!



Rooted in Knowledge

Bucks Beautiful extends its sincere thanks to Heather Guidice of Kona Compost Co. for presenting “Composting for a Sustainable Future” on April 30th. The program drew an engaged and enthusiastic audience, eager to learn practical, sustainable practices that can be implemented at home.

We are also grateful to Mike Feeney of Feeney’s Wholesale Nursery and the Doylestown VIA for their support as co-sponsors of the series.

This event was part of Bucks Beautiful’s ongoing educational lecture series, which will resume this fall with additional opportunities to inspire and inform the community.



Why Should We Compost?

- Reduces food waste
- Increases soil health and biodiversity
- Lowers amount of items sent to landfill
- Use as a fertilizer/soil conditioner for our gardens
- Stores carbon in soil
- Reduce greenhouse gases (methane)
- Helps stop erosion (we lose 1% of our topsoil annually)
- Draught protection (compost holds 5x it's water weight)
- Enhances plant disease suppresion
- Bio-remediates toxins out of soil
- Saves money in the long run

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.

Susan Achenbach
Helen Banister
Justin and Tammy Braley
Matt and Lisa Broad
George Byers
Joyce Byers
Angela Diodato
Susan Carr
Mo Castronuovo
Exelon
Mike Feeney
Dave and Jodi Fermier
David and Christine Flack
Chuck and Barb Gale
Christine Gale
Joseph & BettiJean Giedgowd
Bruce Hamilton
Stephenie Harris
Tom and Hebel
Ryan and Emilie Hebel
Sue Johnson
Pamela Kerr
Kim Kiendl
Dianne Magee
Malmark, Inc.
Carole Martin

Gary and Helene Mathern
Charles McLean
Richard B. Millham
George Mundy
Eileen & Robert O'Neil
Joan Parlee
Marcy Perks
Danielle Preston
Denise Rimby
Blair Rush
Howard Savin
Susan Sandor
Bryce and Jane Sanders
Brad Scovil
Jonathan Sharaf
Charles & Donna Shaw
Solebury Partners LP
Thompson Lexus
Carter van Dyke
Bob and Alice Vernon
Maria Wirths
Wolstenholme Associates, LLC
Marvin Woodall
Sharon Yerkes
Richard Zaveta
Dominic & Ashley Zimmaro

Community Partner News

BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP EAC

— with Bucks County Master Gardeners —

POLLINATOR & BUTTERFLY

GARDEN SALE!

Interested in
native plants?

Want to help our birds & bees
but not sure how?

The Buckingham Township Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) and the Bucks County Master Gardeners have created a **ready-to-plant pollinator/butterfly garden** just for you!



Native to
Bucks County



Deer
Resistant



Attracts
Birds, Bees
& Butterflies

Includes 6 beautiful, carefully chosen native plants:



Golden Ragwort



Aromatic Aster



Cardinal Flower

Pre-designed
6-plant garden
ONLY

\$10



PICK-UP DATE:

May 16



10:00 AM – 12:00 PM



Hansell Park Pavilion



Payment by
cash or check
at pick-up
site only.

Bee there!



President
Bryce Sanders

Vice President
Thomas L. Hebel

Board of Directors

Will Belcher
Justin Braley
Matthew Broad
Pam Byers
Mike Feeney
Michael Flanagan
Chuck Gale
Gary Mathern
Susan Sandor
Jonathan Sharaf
Carter van Dyke
Dominic Zimmaro

Advisory Board

Rick Caputo
Steve Darlington
Melissa Eiseman
David Fermier
Dr. Vail Garvin
Renny Reynolds
Michael Stumpf

Executive Director

Denise Sezack

Communications Director

Laurie To

Finance and Programs Director

Jennifer Finelli

Founding Benefactors

Robert L. & Joyce Byers
John F. & Carol McCaughan

Thank You to our Major Sponsors



THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

PREMIER LEVEL

