



BUCKS BEAUTIFUL

NEWSLETTER

A Beautiful Day in Doylestown

Bucks Beautiful welcomed over 800 guests to their 31st annual Kitchen & Garden Tour, which was held on June 14 in Doylestown Borough. We are incredibly grateful to the seven property owners who shared their homes with us for the day, as well as our generous sponsors who helped make this day exceptional. We are extremely proud of the support we receive from the community for this event, especially from our membership - 300 of whom attended this year's tour! We always welcome suggestions on homes for future tours, so if you have a tour-worthy home idea, please email us at info@bucksbeautiful.org.



Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers, including the Master Gardeners and those from the National Charity League.



Don't miss the deadline to apply for a Fall Grant. The Community Garden Grant award is a 50/50 cash match up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year. Educational Grants are awarded up to \$1,000 to eligible educational institution applicants. 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. Proposals need to be for a public or preserved space or from an educational institution within Bucks County, PA. Request an application by emailing grants@bucksbeautiful.org.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Rooting for the Future - 2

From Lemons to Local Biodiversity - 3

Patriotic Pride Blooms Through Grants - 4

Nature's Summer Spectacle - 5

Supporter Spotlight - 7



Rooting for the Future

Our commitment to local conservation just grew stronger roots. On May 16th, our RePlant Bucks initiative successfully partnered with the Bucks-Mont Delta Waterfowl Chapter to plant 100 native oak trees on State Game Lands in Quakertown.

Native oaks are considered a keystone species. By planting them, we are establishing a lifeline for local ecosystems. Over time, these trees will provide critical food and shelter for regional wildlife, improve soil stability, and enhance water quality. This project ensures that our public lands remain vibrant and resilient for generations to come.

This impactful day was made possible through incredible teamwork. We extend a special thank you to our RePlant Bucks Chair, Dominic Zimmaro, alongside Darrin Bowman and the dedicated members of the Bucks-Mont Delta Waterfowl Chapter. Their hard work and volunteer manpower brought this important project to life.



From Lemons to Local Biodiversity

We are still smiling as we look back on a sweet community effort from this year's Doylestown Memorial Day Parade. Youth philanthropists Maddie and Ben Belcher led the charge by running a high-energy lemonade stand to raise funds for Bucks Beautiful. Thanks to their hard work, neighborly spirit, and refreshing drinks, the community supported their efforts.

To amplify the children's hard work, Bucks Beautiful Business Member Ground Control and the hosts at The Green House Airbnb generously stepped up to match the proceeds. Because of this teamwork, Maddie and Ben recently presented a fantastic **\$500 donation** to Bucks Beautiful!

These dollars are already hard at work in our community. Funding from this lemonade stand is directly supporting our hands-on planting project at Palisades Middle School. Through this program, local students will directly support biodiversity and regional conservation efforts. Together, they are establishing a brand-new pollinator habitat and a native plant rain garden on their school grounds.

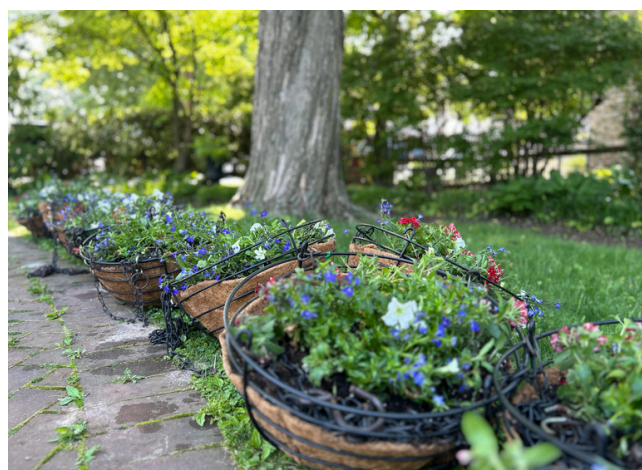
Thank you to Maddie, Ben, Ground Control, and The Green House Airbnb for collaborating to plant the seeds for a more vibrant, sustainable community. It is a beautiful reminder that you are never too small to make a big difference!



Patriotic Pride Blooms Through Community Grants

Bucks Beautiful was proud to award grants to two projects that celebrate both the beauty of our communities and our nation's rich history. As America marks its 250th anniversary, these initiatives serve as a reminder that flowers and landscapes can honor the past while inspiring civic pride for generations to come.

Celebrating America's 250th in Langhorne - The Four Lanes End Garden Club received a grant to help commemorate two milestone anniversaries—Langhorne Borough's 150th anniversary and America's 250th anniversary. The project brings patriotic color throughout the borough with more than 55 red, white and blue hanging baskets and planters displayed in public spaces. In addition, beautifully planted urns grace the homes along Langhorne's historic streets, creating a festive atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.



Honoring Heroes in Doylestown - In partnership with Business Member Jenny's Flowers and Landscaping, enhancements were made to the flower beds surrounding the historic Bucks County 104th Monument at the corner of Main and Court Streets in Doylestown. Dedicated on May 30, 1868, the 19-foot marble and granite obelisk commemorates the 104th Pennsylvania Volunteers, known as the "Ringgold Regiment." Recognized as one of the nation's earliest Civil War memorials, the monument now enjoys a refreshed landscape that complements its historic significance and provides a fitting tribute to those who served.

These projects reflect Bucks Beautiful's mission to enhance our communities through horticulture, civic engagement, and partnerships that make Bucks County an even more beautiful place to live, work, and visit.

Nature's Summer Spectacle: Fireflies

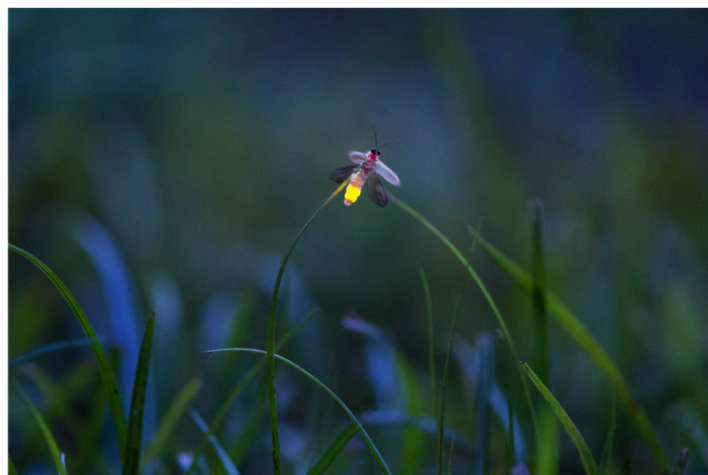
by Melissa Palmer, Member and Master Gardener

Some say that Fairies are make believe, but I beg to differ. When you're outside on a summer evening you can witness the magic of small flittering's of light! Fireflies are one of the most fascinating creatures on the planet and they are right in our backyards, fields and streams and woodlands on the Eastern seaboard.

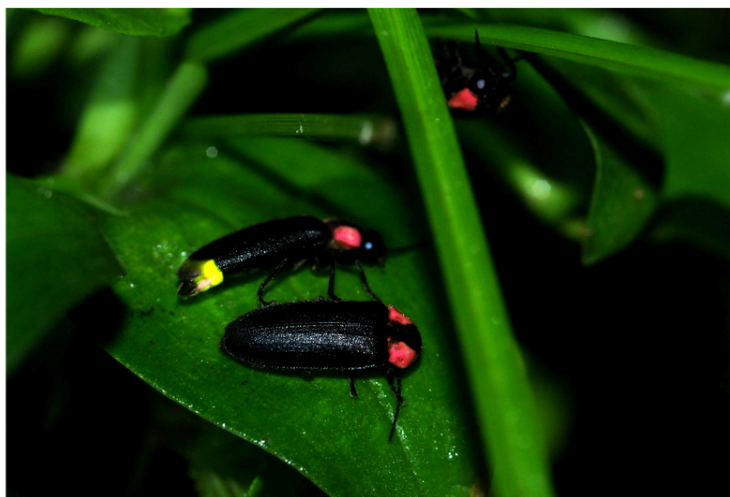
There are over 150 species of fireflies found throughout the United States and about 2,000 species worldwide, but West of the Rocky Mountains few are luminescent. In fact, Fireflies are not even flies, they are beetles, part of the family Lampyridae. Like beetles they undergo complete metamorphosis with four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Their life cycle can take anywhere from a couple of months to a couple of years. Most of their time is spent in the larval stage (glow worms) under leaf litter, in moist soil and marshy areas, hunting their favorite prey of snails, slugs and worms. Adult fireflies' diets vary significantly by species, and some do not eat at all. Since their adult lifespan is only a few weeks, their primary goal is to reproduce.

Scientists have a pretty good idea why fireflies light up. Flashing patterns play a central role in mating. Males advertise that they are here for business and light up to attract the female, which is usually sitting on a blade of grass or branch low to the ground. If the female is interested, she returns the flashing pattern of the male, signaling to come closer.

The Photinus firefly contains defensive steroids called lucibufagins, which cause them to taste quite bad and can even poison creatures that eat them. Fireflies of the Photuris genus do not have these toxins but sometime end up with them. Why? A Photuris female will lure a male by mimicking the flashing pattern, and then eat them. These "Femme Fatales" get more than a meal, they inherit the defense steroid which then protects them - smart gals!



Not all adult Lighting bugs create light, and those that do can emit different colors (wavelengths) of light, from green to yellow and even red. Our Bucks County fireflies tend to emit yellower flashes of light, although in full darkness they can emit greener flashes.



A firefly's flashing pattern isn't just a pretty pattern of light, if you pay close attention, the flash can tell you a lot about the species and the outside temperature. You can find these identification flashing charts through a search online. In Bucks County we primarily have: *Photinus pyralis* (Common Eastern firefly) also known as the Big Dipper- the most common lightning bug in America; and the *Photuris pennsylvanica* (Pennsylvania firefly), also known as the dot-flash.

A fun fact about Bioluminescence, the U.S. Government funded research in the chemical generation of light from 1963 to 1984. Those initial scientists, working out of Naval Air Weapons Center China Lake, were trying to recreate the bioluminescent qualities of fireflies when they discovered chemiluminescence -the chemistry that powers light sticks today! All from the research on how fireflies light up.

Roll Out the Green Carpet for Fireflies

- Rethink exterior lighting. Flooding yards with artificial light drowns out their delicate mating signals, disrupts breeding and disorients them. This ultimately reduces firefly populations.
- Upgrade bulbs to a wildlife-friendly amber, yellow or red. (Learn more in the Xerces Society Firefly-Friendly Lighting Practices Guide.
- Use motion sensors.
- Block indoor light with curtains or blinds.
- Skip pesticides and chemical lawn treatments, as firefly larvae live in soil and are highly sensitive to insecticides.
- Leave the Leaves: Firefly eggs and larvae develop in leaf litter. Leave a natural, un-raked area or use leaf mulch.
- Mow higher: Let some edges of your yard grow taller. Keeping grass blades around 3 to 4 inches provides resting spots for adult fireflies.

Spark a child's love for nature with this fun craft!
Email info@bucksbeautiful.org to request instructions.

Further Reading on this Topic:

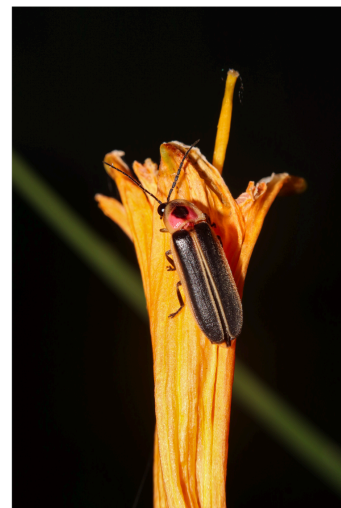
"Fireflies, Glow-worms, and Lightning Bugs" by Lynn Frierson Faust

Check out this website: www.pafireflyevents.org

ID flashing patterns: www.ncparks.gov/search/ncparks?keys=common+firefly+flash+patterns



Photinus pyralis



Photuris pennsylvanica



Firefly Nightlight



KyBecTech

HELPING YOU PRESERVE A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES

by Bryce Sanders

Ever hear of a “round tuit?” It sounds like something you can hold in your hand, yet it’s actually one of those projects you intend to get done. “I’ll get the garage cleaned out when I get around to it.” We all have “round tuit” projects. Here is one example: Memories last. Technology does not. Tech continually advances. Music was once on record albums, then migrated to cassettes and compact discs. Today we get music through our Smartphones.



Photographs and video fit into their own special category. Memories captured on old mediums decay and disappear. Maybe you are lucky and that VCR tape is intact, but you threw out the player years ago. The bottom line is simple: You want these memories preserved.

This is where Becky Barlow and Kyle McGowan of KyBecTech come to the rescue. Their business takes your old photos, film and other mediums and transfers them into digitized files. They can also take your photos on your phone, desktop or other sources and organize them into albums and/or folders.

How did the business get started? Both Becky and Kyle are techies. They would often lend their advice or do the preserving, researching and organizing projects for family and friends. One day, they looked at each other and said: “This could be a business!” They earned the Certified Photo Manager designation of professionals in the field. Their business grew through referrals, and they learned about pricing from fellow certified professionals in the field.

The service area: Becky and Kyle are based in Bucks and Berks counties respectively. Because of the digital aspect of their business, they can serve clients on a nationwide basis.



How do they work with clients? This is where the story gets really interesting. They can teach a client how to do the task themselves, buying the right scanner, copying photos and assembling digital files. If they are teaching, they bill for their time. They can also undertake the entire project themselves, from receipt of a shoebox of photos to delivery of digital files. Those jobs are billed on a per project basis. They are concerned with longevity and confidentiality. The client gets three identical files they can store and access in various ways.



Finding the right skills. Becky and Kyle are a turnkey operation. You hire them and they hand over the finished product. For certain projects like digitizing 8mm home movies they work with a third-party provider specializing in that service.

How did they get involved with Bucks Beautiful? Becky and her husband are involved in the community. They have met several people in the community who are members of Bucks Beautiful and have great things to say. They have attended the Kitchen and Garden Tour. They realized this is a cause they should be supporting.

In what other ways do they give back to the community? The Barlow's are also supporters of the Michener Museum, Fonthill and the Mercer Museum, The County Theater and Heritage Conservancy.

Becky served in several roles over 17 years with Central Bucks Athletic Association as well as the President of Buckingham United Soccer for over 8 years. CBAA serves over 4000 families in Bucks County. Additionally, she devoted 9 years volunteering for Plumstead Township Park and Recreation Commission.



www.kybectech.com



Becky: bbarlow@kybectech.com
Kyle: kmcgowan@kybectech.com



215-801-4231



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

ASHER
SLAUNWHITE
+PARTNERS

ARCHITECTURE
asarchitects.com



BARTLETT
TREE EXPERTS
SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907



GEMMI
CONSTRUCTION INC.



Hugh Marshall
Landscape Contractors



SCHUMACHER
LANDSCAPE
DESIGN & BUILD
Imagine. Create. Enjoy.



GS
GEORGI SENSING
COMPASS



SARAH PETERS
REAL ESTATE TEAM

exp | LUXURY
REALTY

**ground
control**

CVDA
Landscape Architects / Planners



BLUESTONE GROUP
LANDSCAPE • DESIGN • BUILD

Hollow House
FARMS

**FURIA
RUBEL**

B Lauri Bosserman
Candace Brooks Team



Surrey House Music

it's all **Data**



THOMPSON
Collision Center
Detail Center



Kurfiss
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Penn State Extension
Bucks County Master Gardeners

Michael Richardson

Kurfiss | **Sotheby's**
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Lynnwood Services

Kelly Lewis Fine Art

Malmark
BELLCRAFTSMEN



McCAFFREY'S
FOOD MARKETS

SURVIVAL TRAIL

Peddler's Village

**JARRETT
VAUGHAN**
BUILDERS, INC.