Early Fall 2026 | Issue 25

BUCKS BEAUTIFUL

# NEWSLETTER

## Remembering Chuck Gale

Bucks Beautiful mourns the passing of Chuck Gale, a longtime Board member, former President, and devoted supporter of our mission to beautify and reforest Bucks County.

Chuck's impact on Bucks Beautiful can be seen each spring in one of the organization's most enduring initiatives: the Bulbs for Bucks Program. The program was Chuck's inspiration—a vision to bring the first splendor of spring to key locations throughout Bucks County through the planting of blooming daffodils.

"I like the idea of planting daffodils because the bulbs multiply each year, and the project is long-lasting for future generations to enjoy what we are doing now! To my knowledge, this is the largest bulb planting project in the state of Pennsylvania," Chuck once said.

When the program began, bulbs were planted by hand. Recognizing the scope of Chuck's vision, he invested in a bulb-planting machine and committed his landscaping services to help Bucks Beautiful well exceed its ambitious goal of planting one million bulbs- a legacy that blooms year after year.

Chuck also spearheaded the RePlant Bucks reforestation initiative. Through Gale Nurseries, countless crew hours were donated to help install dozens of trees county-wide. In addition, Chuck generously served as co-chair of the Spring Fling Gala, Bucks Beautiful's largest annual fundraiser, helping make the event a successful celebration of the organization and its mission.

Through his vision, generosity, hard work, and commitment to Bucks Beautiful, Chuck helped create something that will continue to bring beauty and joy to our community for generations to come.

We are grateful for Chuck's many years of service and friendship, and for the beautiful impact he leaves throughout Bucks County.




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# The Next Steps Community Garden Takes Root



A garden takes work, teamwork and patience—and for participants at The Next Step Programs (TNS) in Doylestown, it is also providing valuable opportunities to learn and grow.

In May, TNS was awarded a Bucks Beautiful grant to support a hands-on gardening initiative designed to teach young adults with disabilities essential life skills, including responsibility, teamwork and healthy living. Since then, participants have been involved in building and caring for the TNS Community Garden from the ground up.

What began with support from Bucks Beautiful has blossomed into a space where participants can experience the satisfaction of contributing to a project and enjoying the results of their hard work. The garden also provides opportunities to incorporate learning beyond the garden including cooking demonstrations using produce harvested from the garden.

Founded with the mission of helping bridge the gap between high school and adulthood for young adults with disabilities, TNS works to create opportunities for individuals to become leaders, contributors and valued members of their communities. The community garden is a wonderful example of that mission in action—giving participants the opportunity to work together, develop practical skills and take pride in something they helped create.





We are delighted to see how the Bucks Beautiful grant is helping this project take root and grow, creating not only a garden, but a meaningful hands-on learning experience for the TNS community.

***Check out the video below from The Next Steps Program to see the garden and the participants who helped make it happen!***

# A Lasting Tribute in Bloom

What began with 75 daffodil bulbs has blossomed into a vibrant pollinator garden at the Herbst Sports Complex in Pipersville, thanks in part to a Bucks Beautiful Community Grant.

In Fall 2023, the Central Bucks Athletic Association (CBAA), a nonprofit youth sports organization serving approximately 3,000 local children, purchased daffodil bulbs through the Bucks Beautiful Bulbs for Bucks fundraiser. The bulbs were planted in memory of Maddie Antunes, a former CBAA intramural player who tragically passed away in 2022. A fifth grader at Groveland Elementary, Maddie was an acting and piano student, and a fearless defender on the soccer field. Her CBAA family wanted to create a perennial reminder of her energy and light.

When the daffodils bloomed the following spring, the clusters of sunny yellow flowers brought new life to the garden at Herbst Sports Complex, where local children play soccer, basketball and lacrosse. Inspired by the transformation, CBAA's newly formed garden committee envisioned turning the 35-foot-wide circular garden into a pollinator-friendly space.

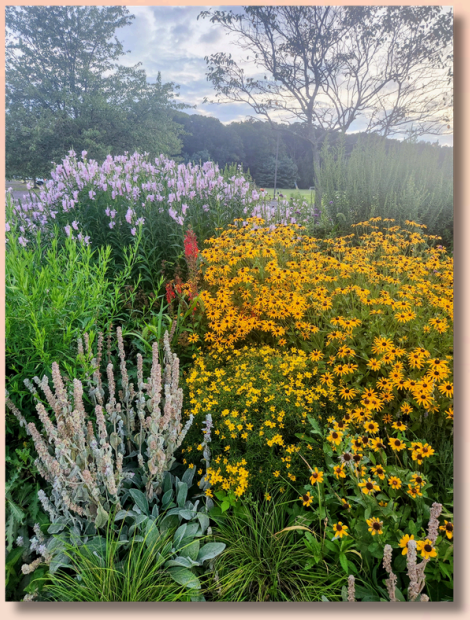
The committee, with assistance from players on the Girls 2010 Buckingham United soccer team, began removing thistle and persistent bindweed and gradually introduced native perennials and other plants that support pollinators and wildlife.

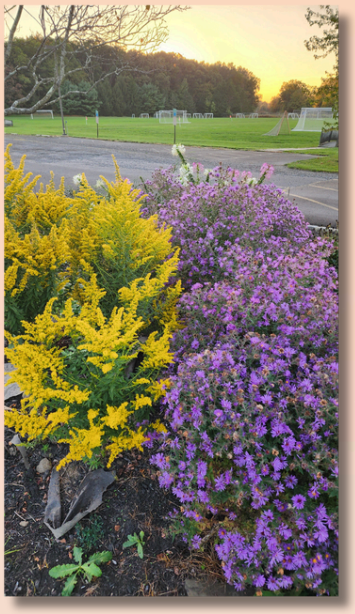
Today, the garden is thriving with colorful blooms, including asters, goldenrod, black-eyed Susans and other pollinator-friendly plants. What was once an overgrown and struggling landscape has become a vibrant community garden enjoyed by players, families and pollinators alike.

And each spring, the original daffodils return—continuing to honor Maddie's memory and the light she brought to those around her.

Bucks Beautiful is honored to support community-led projects like this through our grant program, helping transform local spaces while creating lasting benefits for people, plants and wildlife.







# Growing Community at Salem United Church of Christ

We're pleased to share an update from Salem United Church of Christ in Doylestown, a Bucks Beautiful Community Grant recipient. The installation of native perennials and shrubs, along with birdhouses and feeders, is transforming the grounds into a welcoming outdoor gathering space for the community.

Beyond enhancing the landscape, the project creates opportunities for education, connection and service. Children will be able to learn firsthand about pollinators and the importance of native plants, while seniors will participate in creating fresh flower arrangements to brighten the homes of community members who are unable to get out.






Projects like this demonstrate the lasting impact of community partnerships—and how thoughtful gardens can bring people together while supporting local wildlife and the environment.

To apply for a matching garden grant, please request a grant application via email to grants@bucksbeautiful.org. Application deadlines are March 1st for Spring 2027 and August 1st for Fall.



Supporter Spotlight

BLUESTONE GROUP
LANDSCAPE · DESIGN · BUILD

by Bryce Sanders

Jeff Robinson is the Vice President of Bluestone Group Landscape - Design - Build, a full service company based in New Hope. He and I discussed how his firm does their part in keeping Bucks County beautiful.



**Tell us about Bluestone Group.** Our firm has been part of the community for more than 40 years. Peter and Danny Schwalm started Professional Landscape Services in 1984 (PLS) and ran the business until 2023 when Mark Savitsky and I became co-owners. We have always been a firm that can design, build and maintain the outdoor space on almost any property. We recently acquired Indigenous Ingenuities, a local firm that complements our business through its focus on ecological restoration and native plantings.

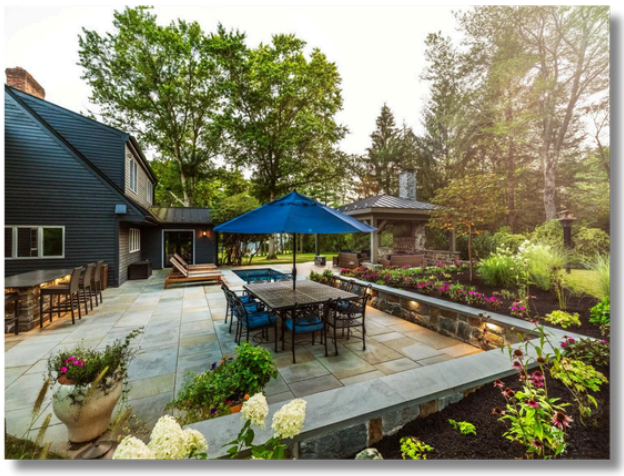


**What role do you play in the firm?** I brought additional landscape design and field management skills to the business after it was established. In 2023, having been a designer and manager, I became co-owner with Mark. This is a business where success is defined by keeping your clients happy while also training and maintaining a workforce, providing opportunities for career advancement. .

**What is your service area?** We have many clients in the Bucks and Hunterdon county areas. You may see our lawn signs all the time. Many clients have more than one home. We have taken on projects on the Jersey Shore, for example. We have also done work in Montgomery and Chester Counties.

**What services do you provide?**

We work with clients across the design, build and maintain spectrum. We have landscape designers and architects on staff, as well as carpenters. Whether you're dreaming of a hardscape patio, wooden deck, outdoor kitchen, gardens, lawn, specimen trees or outdoor lighting, we can do it all.



**Who is your typical client?** This covers a wide range. We've performed design work and maintenance on 30-acre estates, and have helped create a great garden outside townhomes. We work with homeowners as well as with neighborhoods through the homeowner's association. Our clients cover a wide age range: energetic younger clients; successful professionals who want an outdoor space where they can relax; older clients who enjoy their garden, yet prefer someone else to maintain it.

**How do you work with clients?** It all starts with listening. We walk the property with them to learn what they want and how they want it to come together. Some people prefer a design where they can complete a section at a time. Others would like everything built at once. We discuss the opportunities and limitations of their property. Is shade or drainage an issue? We try to provide what they want, but not more than they need.



**How did you get involved with Bucks Beautiful?** In the early 1990's, Bucks Beautiful held Garden Fairs at Del Val University, the week after the Philadelphia Flower Show. I worked the show behind my firm's display booth. I was intrigued and got more involved. We worked on Bulbs for Bucks and Replant Bucks, two initiatives that remain important today. One thing led to another, and I served as one of the early presidents of the organization.

**In what other ways do you give back to the community?** Bucks Beautiful has been our major nonprofit area of involvement. We also work with local townships on public service projects, helping where we can. For example, we have been a designer featured at the Bucks County Designer House and Gardens in support of Doylestown Hospital.

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# Upcoming Events




Choosing the right tree is one of the smartest investments you can make for your landscape. During this presentation, discover the best trees for beauty, shade, wildlife habitat, and long-term success.

Whether planting a single specimen tree or designing a larger landscape, learn how to select trees that thrive in our region, enhance property value, support pollinators and wildlife, and provide lasting environmental benefits.

Dominic Zimmaro of Bartlett Tree Experts serves as an Arborist Representative and is supported by the diagnostic resources of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories. He enjoys helping clients make informed decisions to maintain the health of their trees and shrubs while achieving their landscape goals.

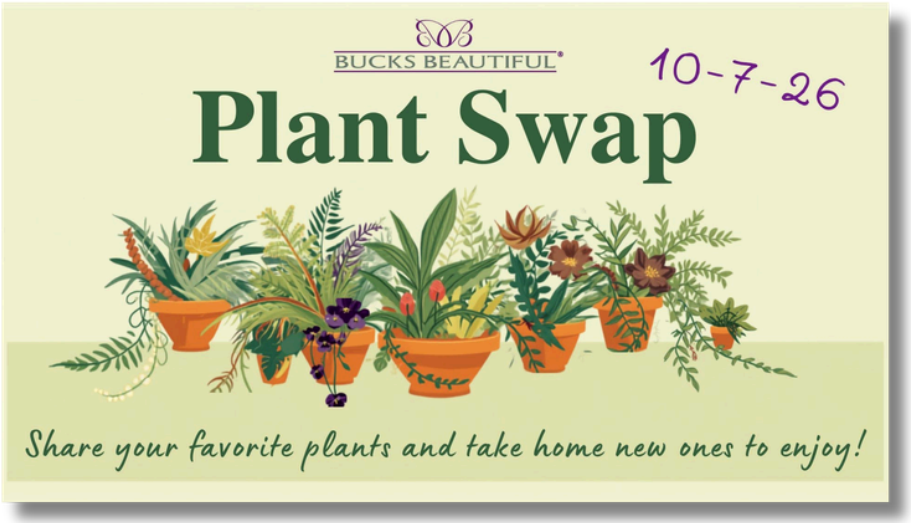
Mr. Zimmaro also serves on the Board of Directors of Bucks Beautiful, where he chairs the RePlant Bucks reforestation committee, helping expand tree canopy and promote environmental stewardship throughout Bucks County.

Thank you to our lecture series co-sponsors Mike Feeney of Feeney's Wholesale Nursery and the Doylestown Village Improvement Association.

Whether you're just discovering your green thumb or you're a seasoned gardener, join us for this FREE community Plant Swap! Bring sun, shade, and native perennials, houseplants, or trees to swap with fellow plant lovers. Please do not bring invasive plants, and label your plants with their Latin names whenever possible.

Questions? Call or text 215-340-3639.

This event is proudly sponsored by Bucks Beautiful in partnership with Doylestown Township and the Delaware Valley Garden Group.




**Wednesday, October 7, 2026**

**5–6 PM: Plant unloading and identification assistance**

**6 PM: Plant Swap begins promptly (rain or shine)**

**Community Recreation Center, 425 Wells Road, Doylestown**

# Upcoming Events

This fall, 250 new trees are coming to Peace Valley Park—and we need your help to get them in the ground.

As part of the our RePlant Bucks initiative, volunteers will plant trees that will help protect water quality and improve wildlife habitat. Join us for one Saturday—or all three!

October 24: Plant 25 trees at near Angler's Pier
October 31: Plant 200 trees at Sailor's Point
November 7: Add 25 larger trees near the boat launch

Please register via the button below.







Stay tuned for exciting news about our 2027 Spring Fling! We're refreshing the event with a new venue and a new format while preserving the welcoming atmosphere and community spirit that have made this fundraiser such a special tradition. We look forward to sharing more details in the coming months and hope you'll join us for this exciting new chapter.

Save the second Sunday in June for our annual Kitchen & Garden Tour. This popular event returns to a walking tour throughout historic Doylestown Borough.

Do you have, or know of, a home that would be a grand addition to a future Tour? Here is your opportunity to submit an entry for consideration! Please email us at info@bucksbeautiful.org with the address and owners' name (if known), along with photos. A committee representative will contact you and/or the homeowner to explore interest.



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