



This year, the Preserve was honored to host the annual Regional Intern Outreach Day, bringing together 69 interns and 27 staff from 14 Greater Philadelphia gardens.



TWINLEAF NEWSLETTER

A Year of Growth and Connection at the Preserve

This past year has been one of transformation and renewed connection at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. Guided by our strategic plan and inspired by our community's dedication, the Preserve has flourished as a destination where nature and people come together.

Thanks to our staff, volunteers and supporters, meaningful progress has touched every corner of the Preserve. We strengthened our commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility, ensuring that everyone who visits is welcomed and able to learn from our programs and enjoy our natural landscape. Sustainability remained central to our mission, and we launched new initiatives to address the ongoing challenges of climate change. Visitors saw safer, better-marked trails and refreshed museum exhibits. Our popular Land Ethics Symposium returned in person, reaffirming our leadership in environmental education.

Volunteerism surged, with more than 300 passionate individuals now giving their time

and talent to the Preserve. From citizen science projects to nursery operations, volunteers continue to be essential partners in our work. Meanwhile, our Native Plant Nursery celebrated another record-breaking season, supported by our Piece of the Preserve brand and knowledgeable garden guides who help connect our mission to home landscapes throughout the region.

At every step, our community has been the thread holding us together. The Preserve is not only a place of beauty—it is a shared endeavor, rooted in the belief that native plants are essential to a healthy environment. This year, our supporters demonstrated extraordinary generosity, sustaining our \$1.3 million operating budget in an increasingly challenging nonprofit landscape. These contributions kept trails open, programs running and habitats protected.

As Executive Director Peter Couchman reminded us at Rooted in Our Future, "The Preserve's mission delivery doesn't stop just because federal funding does." Indeed, our legacy is strong: at 91 years, the

Preserve is one of the oldest environmental organizations in the nation, with our own centennial now on the horizon.

The Preserve is not only a place of beauty—it is a shared endeavor, rooted in the belief that native plants are essential to a healthy environment.

Looking ahead, 2026 is set to be another milestone year. We will begin the next strategic plan, pursue museum reaccreditation and continue investing in the nursery, collections and educational resources that set the Preserve apart. And in an exciting change, our annual fundraiser, Rooted in Our Future, will return to the spring. Mark your calendars for April 25, 2026 when we will once again celebrate amidst the peak bloom of our spring ephemeral season. Together, we'll continue growing a vibrant future—rooted in our mission and blooming with possibility.

Twinleaf Newsletter

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

Visit Us:

1635 River Rd
New Hope, PA 18938

To Mail Correspondence:

PO Box 685
New Hope, PA 18938-0685

Phone: (215) 862-2924

The Preserve is located 2 ½ miles south of
New Hope, Pennsylvania. Open year-round.

Hours

April - June, Open daily, 9 am - 5 pm
(Last admission at 4 pm)

July - March, Open Wednesday - Monday
(Closed Tuesday), 9 am - 5 pm
(Last admission at 4 pm)

Closed on Thanksgiving Day and
for the winter holidays

Website: bhwp.org

Email: bhwp@bhwp.org



Admission

Preserve Members: FREE

Non-Members: \$12, discounted rates available
for students, seniors, military and ACCESS
card holders

Staff

Renee Coppola, *Bookkeeper and Office Administrator*

Peter Couchman, *Executive Director*

Rick Fonda, *Grounds and Facilities Manager*

Brie Ilenda, *Grants Specialist*

Santino Lauricella, *Education Manager*

Sarah Norris, *Director of Donor and Partner Relations*

Gabrielle Roberts, *Nursery and Collections Coordinator*

Brianne Scott, *Volunteer and Visitor
Services Coordinator*

Logan Staton, *Development Coordinator*

Maggie Strucker, *Interpretive Specialist*

Jen Ventresca, *Director of Finance and Operations*

Ariel Wapnick, *Marketing and Membership Coordinator*

Glenn White, *Nursery Manager*

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve increases the
knowledge and use of native plants by serving
as an educational resource and destination that
inspires conservation action.

*Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve encompasses
part of the Indigenous homelands of the Lenape
peoples. We pay respect and honor to these
lands' original inhabitants and acknowledge their
displacement by European colonization. We are
dedicated to being respectful and sustainable
stewards of the Preserve and to deepening the
relationship with the Lenape peoples.*



Together, We Are Stronger

Dear Preserve Friends,

This year's newsletter highlights a pivotal year of growth for the Preserve and how **together, we are stronger**. As you read each article featuring this year's successes and the coming year's big goals, please know that both are made possible thanks to you.

As we prioritized a more **education-forward Native Plant Nursery**, you joined us in overwhelming support to visit our Nursery Marketplace, learning how to best steward your own properties with the right native plants and planting a record number of native plants from the Preserve's Nursery.

As we prioritized a **unique and engaging schedule of community events**, you showed up in inspiring numbers to celebrate, explore and connect with these experiences, including Preserve @ Play family day, Regional Intern Outreach Day volunteer project, Land Ethics Symposium, Rooted in Our Future annual fundraiser and Music in the Meadow fall fest.

As we prioritized **meaningful volunteer engagement**, you came together in impressive force to participate in our inaugural Phenology Citizen Science Program and filled upwards of 60 new volunteer roles at the Preserve!

And as we prioritize our **important commitment to closing 2025 on strong fiscal footing**, I know that you will come together to support us in this final month of 2025.

Stewarding 134 acres of preserved land, over five miles of trails and exhibits, a renowned Native Plant Nursery and far-reaching educational programming takes significant resources: the passion and talents of our Preserve team, hundreds of knowledgeable volunteers and \$1.3 million annually.

If you would like to enjoy safer trails, more accessible and refreshed facilities, a healthy native plant museum collection and an unparalleled Nursery plant selection, please consider making a gift to the Preserve by December 31.

Together—with YOU—the Preserve is honored to steward a place and a mission that support both people and the planet, now and for generations to come. Thank you for your support!

Peter Couchman
Executive Director



Rooted in Pennsylvania's History

In 2026, the United States will mark its semiquincentennial—250 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1776. Since then, Pennsylvania has changed dramatically. If we could step back to the time before European colonists arrived, we would see landscapes shaped by thousands of years of Indigenous land stewardship. For the Preserve's lands, those stewards were the Lenni Lenape, who used these native plants for food, medicine and materials for daily life. When the first colonists arrived, they quickly learned from the Lenape how to use these native plants to survive and thrive in a new world. In celebration of 250 years, here are five native plants—one for every 50 years—that tell a story of both the land and the people who have cared for it.

1. EASTERN WHITE PINE (*PINUS STROBUS*)

After decimating England's forests, King George III turned his attention to America's rich Eastern white pine forests to grow the British Royal Navy. The Eastern white pine was an invaluable tree for ship masts because of its straight, flexible trunk. Heavy taxes by the crown eventually led to colonial uproar, and the "White Pine Riots" became one of the earliest acts of rebellion during the Revolutionary War. Long before Europeans, the Eastern white pine was integral to the medicinal, practical and spiritual life of the Lenape. All parts of the tree were utilized, from its resins and bark to its wood and needles.

2. AMERICAN CHESTNUT (*CASTANEA DENTATA*)

Once comprising a quarter of North America's Eastern hardwood forest, the American chestnut provided durable, rot-resistant wood and abundant nuts that sustained both Indigenous communities and early colonists. It remained a major cash crop until the early 20th century, when a devastating fungal blight led to its near-complete loss across the landscape.

3. SASSAFRAS (*SASSAFRAS ALBIDUM*)

One of the first cash crops during the colonial period, England imported nearly 77 tons in 1770 alone. The English settlers were quite fond of drinking tea made from its bark. More recently, its roots have been used to flavor soft drinks such as root beer. The Lenape used the roots of young trees and bark of older ones to make a springtime tea believed to prepare the body for warmer weather. Additionally, oils were used as an antiseptic, a perfume and an insect repellent.



2. American chestnut
(*Castanea dentata*)



A map showing the ancestral homelands of the Lenni Lenape people, the original stewards of this land.

4. WILD-GINGER (*ASARUM CANADENSE*)

While native populations used wild-ginger for medicinal and culinary purposes, the spicy, fragrant root of this native plant was heavily utilized by early Pennsylvania colonists as a local, accessible substitute for imported Asian ginger, demonstrating the essential role native flora played in offsetting the cost of imported goods.

5. LOWBUSH BLUEBERRY (*VACCINIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM*)

A traditional food source for Indigenous peoples for millennia, the lowbush blueberry became a commercial crop in the early 20th century after scientist Dr. Frederick Coville began breeding experiments to improve the plant. Elizabeth White, the daughter of a cranberry farmer, invited Coville to conduct his work on her family's farm. In 1916, the first cultivated blueberries reached the market, making agricultural history.

Pennsylvania is home to nearly 2,100 native plant species. These plants were nurtured by the Lenape people for thousands of years. Their knowledge of the lands sustained communities and shaped ecosystems. Early colonists relied on this expertise, learning how to use native plants for food, medicine and building materials—forming a shared, if unequal, botanical knowledge that bridged the two worlds. As we commemorate 250 years of United States history, may we also recognize the enduring legacy of Indigenous stewardship and knowledge that continues to guide us in caring for these landscapes. As you explore the grounds of the Preserve and the greater world around you, know that each native plant is part of a living history, connecting us to generations of people who have learned, adapted and flourished here.

Community Connectivity



In 2025, the Preserve deepened its roots in the community like never before—representing our mission at local festivals, inspiring children with new onsite exhibits and programs, supporting schools and nonprofits through our flourishing Plant Grant Program and welcoming record numbers of families and volunteers. Our mission is growing stronger, and our community connections deeper.



Tabling at the Sourland Mountain Festival.

TABLING

In 2025, the Preserve prioritized meeting our community where they are by participating in various events throughout the Delaware Valley. The Preserve was represented by staff and volunteers at four times as many events as the previous year, with a plan to strategically expand our presence further in 2026. From the Sourland Mountain Festival to ShadFest in Lambertville, we met and engaged with hundreds of new people by sharing the significance of native plants and promoting resources like our Native Plant Nursery, year-round education programs, special events and volunteer opportunities. Have you seen us at one of your neighborhood events? Do you have an event in your community that you would like us to attend in 2026? Send suggestions to pr@bhwp.org.

STORYBOOK TRAIL

This spring, we installed the newest permanent exhibit at the Preserve, the Storybook Trail. Situated near the Visitor Center and the Native Plant Nursery, the exhibit features 16 panels along the Bucks County Trail, starting near the Log Cabin and ending at Sycamore Hollows. The trail will serve as a rotating, seasonal exhibit featuring a new family-friendly story each season. Its goal is to connect our youngest changemakers to nature through reading and exploration—sparking curiosity, encouraging idea-sharing and supporting the confidence and imagination of budding naturalists. This was all made possible by the generous sponsorship of BLBB Charitable.

The inaugural book selection was *A Poem Grows Inside You*, a story by Katey Howes, illustrated by Heather Brockman Lee. With this choice, we honor the legacy and memory of Katey, a member of the Preserve and an award-winning children's book author and poet devoted to fostering a love of reading in children and inspiring them to see themselves as makers, inventors and creators.



Opening of the Storybook Trail. Left to right: Interpretative Specialist Maggie Strucker, Director of Donor and Partner Relations Sarah Norris, Executive Director Peter Couchman and Executive Director of BLBB Charitable Nicole Tell.



Playing during Lolly Hopwood's performance at Preserve @ Play.

PRESERVE @ PLAY

Back for its fourth year, our annual family day, Preserve @ Play, offered over 400 children and family members an opportunity to engage with and connect to their community and the natural world. Additionally, over 122 new households signed up for our weekly Preserve Notes newsletter—our largest single-day signup this year! Sign up today by visiting bhwp.org and scroll to the bottom of your screen.

With a theme of “Wee Wonders” inspired by native pollinators, guests enjoyed musical entertainment by Lolly Hopwood, met seven ambassador animals with Aark Wildlife, engaged in woodland crafts, ate tasty treats by Travelin’ Hot Dogs food stand and played interactive, educational games—all celebrating nature’s smallest creatures with their very big impact on our thriving ecosystem. Special thanks to this year’s event sponsors, BLBB Charitable and Capital Health.



Bucks County sign at the Preserve's Great Lawn this summer.

BUCKS COUNTY SIGN

This summer, we had the honor of hosting the ever-popular "Bucks County" sign. This traveling statue, owned by Visit Bucks County, the official tourism arm of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, is a popular tourist attraction and a wonderful way to promote destinations and drive new visitorship.

Every day this summer, visitors marveled at the 33-foot red sign nestled into the Preserve's Great Lawn adjacent to the Captain James Moore Pavilion. Visitors posed for photographs in front of the sign and curious passersby stopped to snag a photo and, in turn, learned more about the Preserve's unique offerings. While the Bucks County sign has moved on to its next temporary home, we look forward to hosting it again.

PLANT GRANT PROGRAM

Since its start over six years ago, the Preserve's Plant Grant Program has grown into a cornerstone initiative that brings our mission to life by enriching local ecosystems.

An extension of our Native Plant Nursery, the program provides high-quality native plants and education to foster biodiversity in community landscapes. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, schools and other public-facing 501(c)(3) organizations across the Delaware Valley engaged in gardening, restoration or beautification projects.

This year, the Preserve supplied over 2,500 native plants to support more than 25 community projects, setting a new participation record. Learn more or apply at bhwp.org/plant-grants.



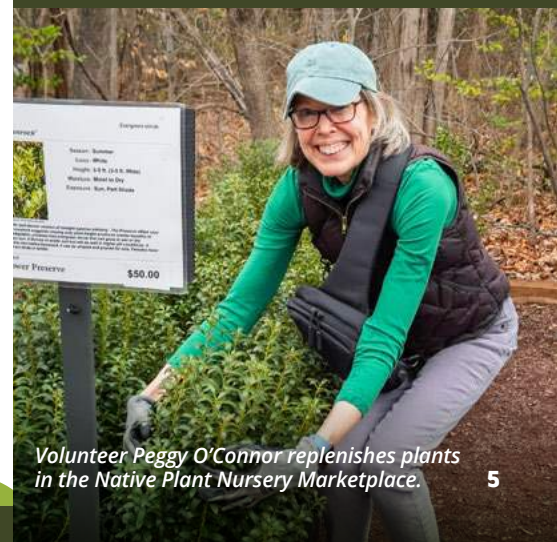
Plants set aside for a Plant Grant recipient.

Cheers to Our Volunteers!

The Preserve's volunteer family is thriving! In 2025, our volunteer community totaled 318 incredibly passionate individuals. Our volunteers contribute 10,000 hours annually, equivalent to about five full-time staff members at the Preserve. We're aiming to welcome even more nature-lovers, hands-on helpers and friendly, service-oriented friends in 2026. This year, we offered several new volunteer opportunities, from the New Pond gardeners and bird feeder maintenance to growing support in curation and collections. Our volunteers shone at community tabling events, including Aark Wildlife's Open House, The Trenton River Days and Newtown Historic Market. A brand-new Volunteer Events Calendar rolled out with appreciation programs and events like Native Plant Trivia Night, Cookie and Book Swap and multiple group field trips. With fresh faces, dynamic energy and diverse skills, the Preserve's volunteers are set to make 2026 our brightest year yet.



Garden Guide Leah Hight assists visitors in finding the right plants for their landscapes.



Volunteer Peggy O'Connor replenishes plants in the Native Plant Nursery Marketplace.



25th Annual Land Ethics Symposium

The 25th Annual Land Ethics Symposium was held on August 29, 2025 at Delaware Valley University's Life Science Building, marking a wonderful homecoming after being virtual since 2021. Over 140 people participated in this full-day event, learning about ecological stewardship and landscape beautification. Attendees ranged from homeowners and gardeners to landscape architects and other industry professionals—a true demonstration that this conference is for everyone. The day would not have been possible without the support of our long-standing event sponsors and our generous host.

The day featured engaging presentations by experts across disciplines, including David Hughes of Weatherwood Design, Michael McGraw of Princeton Hydro, horticulturist and designer Donald Pell and Tyler Arboretum's Dr. Will Ryan. Nancy Lawson, wildlife advocate and author of *The Humane Gardener*, closed the day with a moving reflection on coexistence and compassion for the creatures that share our backyards. A pioneer in wildlife-friendly landscaping, Lawson inspired everyone by weaving a story of the creatures with whom she shares her suburban landscape. From rabbits to frogs, birds to bees, each is a valued member of the backyard community, buttressed by native plants.

Additionally, the Land Ethics Awards are a way to celebrate those already putting these values into action. Winners included Katie Fisk (Best Individual Effort), Friends of Foote's Pond Wood (Best Community Effort) and Buckingham Township EAC (Best Large-Scale Effort). The Distinguished Award of Merit went to Environmental Science teacher Zachary Barton from York County School of Technology for inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.



Guests of the Symposium chat and network with like-minded colleagues during an intermission.



Volunteers Wendy Margolis and Deb Vari assist with plant sales.



Attendees participating in one of this year's presentations.

SAME CONFERENCE, NEW NAME!

In honor of this long-standing conference and its continued appeal to both homeowners and landscape professionals, the Preserve is excited to announce a conference branding refresh in 2026. "The Symposium has grown so much over the past 25 years that it is time for a refreshed identity that encompasses what the event truly stands for," says Education Manager Santino Lauricella. **Mark your calendars for Friday, June 12, 2026, back at Delaware Valley University, and stay tuned for a fresh new look!**



GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GROWING—AN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TO THE PRESERVE.

Members receive year-round admission, invitations to special events and discounts on our programs and in our retail outlets. To learn more, contact membership@bhwp.org or (215) 862-2924 x112.



The Giving Effect

2025 is a year that both nonprofits and their supporters will not soon forget. However, in a year of such economic uncertainty, Preserve supporters have doubled down on their support, resulting in remarkable outcomes.

As always, we are listening to you! Here is a snapshot of our 2025 “wins” and the exciting new enhancements to your favorite ways to support the Preserve.

The Preserve’s signature fundraising event, Rooted in Our Future, raised a record-breaking \$227,000. Fueled by the support of our honorary guest host, WHYY’s *The Connection* executive producer and host Marty Moss-Coane, along with 150 event guests and more than 40 supporters who contributed in absentia, the Raise Your Paddle portion alone generated an unprecedented \$156,000. Funds raised from this “party for a purpose” will support the Preserve’s crucial operations.

New for 2026: Same Rooted in Our Future, different season. After five years of hosting our signature fundraiser amidst a beautiful wildflower meadow each fall, we are moving to spring to celebrate the beauty of our peak spring ephemeral blooms. Please join us! **Save the Date for Saturday, April 25, 2026.**



Family adventures start here. Enjoy the beauty of the Preserve together with a Family Membership.

The Preserve’s **Membership Program** has seen an inspiring upsurge, including a steady increase in active family-level memberships.

New for 2026: Exciting Membership Benefits are coming. Stay tuned for new benefits to be announced in January, including not one, but two full weeks of before-hours admission to the Preserve—perfect for our bird watchers and early risers.



Your support keeps the Preserve thriving. Gifts to the Annual Fund help maintain our trails, care for the land and protect this special place for all to enjoy.

The Preserve’s **Annual Fund**, our core fundraising lifeline that garners unrestricted funds to support our most urgent priorities—including trail maintenance, repairs, safety enhancements, accessibility improvements and much more—is on its way to another successful year. But we need your support! Make your year-end gift to the Preserve and help us reach our \$210,000 goal by December 31.

New for 2026: Giving Made Easier, Giving Made for You. Starting in January, the Preserve will be introducing recurring gift options to help you plan, budget and streamline your charitable giving. Prefer to give monthly, quarterly or once a year with built-in consistency? This new option is just for you.



A gift that lasts for generations—dedicate a bench in honor or memory of someone special and create a peaceful place for others to enjoy.

The Preserve’s **Planned Giving** efforts are witnessing an incredible takeoff. In 2025, nearly a dozen Preserve supporters secured their commitment to supporting the Preserve’s bright future with significant planned gifts. Have you considered the Preserve in your estate planning? By designating the Preserve as a future beneficiary, you are also creating a lasting legacy for you and your family. Please contact norris@bhwp.org to discuss ways to make your greatest impact.

New for 2026: Be A Part of the Preserve’s New Giving Circle. Starting in January, the Preserve will be formally announcing its new Planned Giving program. Interested in joining fellow visionaries collaborating to secure the Preserve’s bright future? We want to hear from you!



From left to right: WHYY’s Marty Moss-Coane, Executive Director Peter Couchman and Director of Development and Partner Relations Sarah Norris at this year’s Rooted in Our Future.

Note from Sarah Norris, Director of Donor and Partner Relations

In my five years with the Preserve, it’s been remarkable to witness the collaboration among our donors and the beautiful growth of our circle of friends and supporters.

I thank you for the ways you’ve expanded your own support of the Preserve—whether it be volunteering your time, serving on a committee, renewing your membership or giving to the Annual Fund.

Any way you choose to support us is equally important—and appreciated. I am excited to embrace our big goals for 2026, together.

Warmly,
Sarah



Help the Preserve reach its BIG goal of raising \$210,000 for the Annual Fund, which supports crucial operations.

Scan the QR code to make a year-end gift before December 31.



Bowman's Hill
**Wildflower
Preserve**

PO BOX 685
NEW HOPE, PA 18938

19020-3977

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TWINLEAF NEWSLETTER

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026



**NEW! ENJOY FREE ADMISSION TO THE PRESERVE
ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH!**

PLUS, free admission on the following days:

- Earth Day: Wednesday, April 22
- Pennsylvania Native Species Day: Thursday, May 21
- National Pawpaw Day: Thursday, September 17



**SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL
EVENTS HAPPENING IN 2026**

- Native Plant Nursery Season Opening:
Thursday, April 9 (Members Only), Friday, April 10–Sunday, April 12
- Rooted in Our Future Fundraising Event: Saturday, April 25
- Land Ethics Symposium: Friday, June 12
- Preserve @ Play Family Day: Saturday, September 26
- Music in the Meadow: Friday, October 9



New England aster (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)

EXPERIENCE WHAT'S NATURAL | LEARN WHAT'S NATIVE
OUR PLANET DEPENDS ON IT

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve increases the knowledge and use of native plants by serving as an educational resource and destination that inspires conservation action.

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve
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@bowmanshillwildflowerpreserve



Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Association, Inc.