



Bowman's Hill
WILDFLOWER PRESERVE
P.O. Box 685 New Hope, PA 18938

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Angela Jacobsen, Director of Development
Jacobsen@bhwp.org, (215) 862-2924

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Engages Local Artists For Fundraiser

Several of the region's premiere artists will contribute custom painted garden benches for auction at annual Spring Wildflower Gala

On Saturday, April 30th Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve will host its 13th annual Spring Wildflower Gala, a black tie and muck boots event. This year's Gala, themed "Wild about Meadows," builds on the 2015 effort to celebrate meadows and the variety of plant, animal and bird life they support.

For this year's Gala, the Preserve has partnered with several of the area's most prestigious artists to create custom painted garden benches to be auctioned off at the event. Similar to the Cow Parade of Chicago and the painted mules of Bucks County, these unique works of art are expected to be among the most coveted auction items, generating much needed funds for the Preserve's *Pocket Meadow Initiative*. Three artists have been selected to paint the garden benches for the 2016 Auction; Guy Ciarcia from Ringoes, NJ, Donna Deely of New Hope, PA and Tony LaSalle from Lambertville, NJ.

"The Pocket Meadow Initiative brings meadows to local schools and public spaces and provides valuable lessons in natural science and horticulture for our children," states Gala co-chair Deborah Agnew. She goes on to say, "A Pocket Meadow can transform an otherwise empty space into a lovely oasis that also serves as a rich environment for students to learn about native plants, responsible gardening, diversity, wildlife, interdependence, season cycles and sustainability". According to Agnew, more than \$140,000 was raised at the 2015 Gala for the Pocket Meadow educational initiative.

A special thanks to Gala donors whose contributions make these programs a reality. *Twinleaf Sponsors:* Marian and Ken Disken, Friend of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, Lori Hoppmann – Edward Jones Investments, and Thompson Lexus. *Spring Beauty Sponsors:* Addison Wolfe Real Estate, Bryn Mawr Trust Company, Bowman's Tavern, Fox Rothschild LLP, Joyce and Bob Byers, Vivian and Michael Francesco, Gale Nurseries Inc., Dave and Jacqui Griffith, Alison and Richard Hargreaves, Ray and Sue Hurst, I.E. Shaffer & Co., Dr. Robert & Christine Reilly, Tricia and Scott Reines, Uehling Wealth Management.

Periodic updates will be posted on the BHWP website and on their Facebook and Twitter feeds. To keep up to date on these and other exciting Preserve initiatives visit: bhwp.org. Tickets for the Spring Wildflower Gala are now available. Contact the Preserve at (215) 862-2924 for more information on attending, sponsoring, or donating auction items to this event.

Photo:

[TonyLaSalle.jpg] Caption: Artist Tony LaSalle with the garden bench he will transform for the 2016 BHWP Gala.

About Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve: Established in 1934, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve is a 134-acre nature preserve, botanical garden, and accredited museum working to inspire the appreciation and use of native plants by serving as a sanctuary and educational resource for conservation and stewardship. Managed by Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Association, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. For further information, visit www.bhwp.org and www.facebook.com/BowmansHillWildflowerPreserve. Follow us: Twitter (@Bowmans_Hill_WP) and Instagram (@wildflowerpreserve).