



**This Week's Topics:  
Blooms, Mushrooms and Big Booms. Oh ... and One Awesome Cat.**

Hello again from the team at [Mindy Bianca Public Relations!](#)

In this week's edition of "Happy Things from Our Clients," we're pleased to present [Greater Wilmington and The Brandywine Valley](#), a truly beautiful corner of the world. For those who haven't yet had the opportunity to visit, this would be the time of year to do it ... if we could leave our homes. Since we can't be there physically, we wanted to share some virtual snippets of why this little intersection of Delaware and Pennsylvania is such a treasure.



This region is part of the area nicknamed "**America's Garden Capital.**" The flowers that bloom here are total stunners, and there are **six beautiful public gardens within just a 12-mile radius.**

This is a **botanical destination** where the commitment to natural landscapes was passed down from generation to generation of the du Pont family, which arrived here from France in the late 1700s and became one of the richest American families by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Their various properties – [Longwood Gardens](#); [Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library](#); the [Mt. Cuba Center](#); [Hagley Museum & Library](#); and [Nemours Estate](#) – each boast amazing gardens and each one tells part of the story of this fascinating family that loved and preserved natural beauty.



Here we're sharing a few images of spring blooms in the area. Things get truly amazing right around Mother's Day, so you're getting a sneak preview of the beauty yet to come. The little white rue-anemones are currently blooming at Mt. Cuba Center, those purple and yellow violets are at Winterthur, and the pink tulips are in Longwood Gardens right now.

This region isn't just known for growing incredible flowers. The little town of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, is nicknamed the **"Mushroom Capital of the World"** thanks to its major crop. With more than a million pounds of mushrooms harvested here each year, Kennett Square is responsible for half of all mushrooms grown and distributed throughout the United States!

Around here, locals and visitors make a sport of trying to figure out which restaurant has the **very best mushroom soup**. Our vote goes to [Buckley's Tavern](#) in nearby Centreville, Delaware. If you happen to have some mushrooms on hand, you can try to make their version at home.

## Buckley's Tavern's Amazing Mushroom Soup

### INGREDIENTS:

½ cup (1 stick) butter  
1½ cups (1 large) onion  
6 cloves garlic  
1½ cups diced celery  
1 nice sprig of rosemary, leaves stripped from stem  
3 pounds white mushrooms  
3 pounds crimini mushrooms  
4 cups water  
2 ounces vegetable base  
4 to 5 tablespoons corn starch  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
1½ cups heavy cream  
Fried leek strips, for garnish (optional)

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Melt butter in stock pot. Add onion, garlic, celery and rosemary leaves. Sweat the vegetables over medium heat until translucent.
2. Add the mushrooms and sauté for 5 minutes.
3. Add water and vegetable base. Bring to a simmer and cook until mushrooms are tender.
4. In a bowl, add corn starch to a small amount of water to make a slurry. Add the slurry to the mushroom mixture to thicken.
5. Puree the soup by using a stick blender. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Finish with heavy cream.
6. Garnish with fried leek strips.



MAKES 1 GALLON

OK ... now that we've made you hungry, let's get back to the du Ponts for a minute. When their patriarch, Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours, arrived in the colonies, he set about making gunpowder in a mill along the banks of the Brandywine River.



Yes, they had an explosion or two. Or 228, if we're sharing all the facts. Despite those dramas, they eventually figured it all out and the du Ponts became one of the wealthiest families in the United States, achieving great success in the chemical and automotive industries. But it all began at a rustic mill beside a beautiful river, and today that historic site is preserved as [Hagley Museum & Library](#).

Though Hagley is currently closed, its historian, [Lucas Clawson](#), takes visitors behind the scenes in a video series called "[Hagley from Home](#)." He reveals secrets from Hagley's Manuscripts and Archives department, and considering how influential the du Ponts were, you can imagine they got their hands on some pretty amazing information from other captains of industry. Here's Lucas talking about some unexpected things you might find in the manuscript collection:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqDFUhKWVAQ&feature=youtu.be>

We'll end this week's note with a tribute to **our favorite cat in all of Delaware, Dude**. He's part of the staff of the [Delaware Museum of Natural History](#), where he comes to work each day with Chris Hayden, the museum's director of facilities. Chris found Dude near a trash bin behind the museum on March 8, 2008, adopted him, and the cat quickly became a fixture around the place, perhaps intrigued by the facility's **collection of 113,000 bird specimens**.

The Museum of Natural History, which opened in 1972, has long been planning a "Museum Metamorphosis" that will begin later this year. The physical building will be closed until January 2022, when it will reopen for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a much more interactive museum. That means that the staff already had a jump on creating a series of virtual programs so museum fans could continue to "visit" the facility even during construction.

Chris is an essential employee, so he and Dude go to the museum every day; but, Chris says, Dude misses his coworkers and all the guests. But if he gets lonely, Chris can just connect Dude virtually to watch the [latest programs](#), checking out behind-the-scenes tours, live animal demonstrations, and story time. (Dude loves books. He's even authored five of his own, and they're sold in the museum store.)

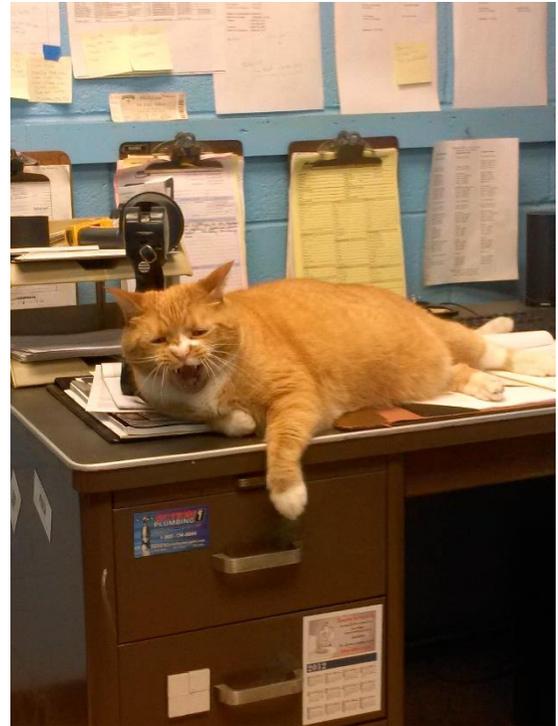
Dude is beloved by museum staff and visitors alike. He has his [own Facebook page](#), and he's **honored at a big birthday bash** every March. In fact, his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated with a smaller-than-usual party on March 8, just before we all began sheltering in place.

Chris took this picture of Dude at his desk. Clearly the cat is over this whole pandemic thing.

Like Dude, we look forward to better days ahead ... and know that they're coming. Meanwhile, though, we're happy to be able to virtually connect with you each week and continue to send you positive vibes and best wishes for good health and much happiness.

Until next week ...

Mindy, Ashley, Mallory, Monee and Sara  
The MBPR Team



*As always, if you'd prefer not to receive these messages, please just send me a return email!*

P.S. Last weekend we shared with you the news that a **pair of eagles was set to hatch** at [Dollywood](#) in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. Several of you have asked about the status of the eagle family, and we're pleased to report that the first eaglet hatched on Sunday, April 12, around 11:15 a.m. It's doing great, as are mom Glenda and dad Grant, who did a great job of protecting their new baby and their remaining egg despite a lot of rain.

The other one could hatch any day now. The eggs were laid on March 3 and March 7, so it's not unusual for them to also hatch a few days apart. Here's what the first baby looked like right after hatching:

