



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

June 2022

Mission: The West Chester Green Team is a civic organization in West Chester, PA, that works to educate the local public and to establish and nourish green initiatives in the community in harmony with nature and each other, promoting the health of all living things and of planet Earth.

Inside:

PORCHFEST Recap, Students Propose Free Bottle Refill Stations, Living Landscapes News, Our Summer Programs...and Dinner with Doug!



WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



June 5, 11: Varying times, Volunteers needed for the Chester County Art Association pollinator garden. See page 6 for details.

June 18: 9-11am, WCGT is leading the first annual Taylor Run Stream Cleanup located off Hannum Avenue on the northwest side of town.

June 28: 7 pm, WCGT Board meeting at the home of Margaret Hudgings. E-mail mhudgings@gmail.com

4th Monday of every month: East Bradford Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), 7 – 8:30pm, East Bradford Township Bldg, 676 Copeland School Rd.

4th Monday of every month: East Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 7 – 8:30pm, East Goshen Township Bldg, 1580 Paoli Pike

4th Tuesday of every month: West Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6 – 8 pm, West Goshen Township Bldg., 1025 Paoli Pike

4th Tuesday of every month: Westtown Environmental Advisory Council, 7 – 8:30pm, Westtown Township Bldg, 1039 Wilmington Pike (Rt. 202)

4th Thursday of every month: West Chester Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6:30 – 8 pm, Room 240, Borough Hall, E. Gay St.

Be sure to visit our Web site at <https://wcgreenteam.com/> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WCGTeam/> (all are welcome to post environment- and sustainability-related items there). If you wish to support our work, please donate here: <https://wcgreenteam.com/contact-2/>

NOTE: Deadline for the July issue is June 30! We welcome contributions and suggestions from our readers for possible inclusion in a future issue. E-mail your ideas to Dianne Walsh at LDwalsh318@gmail.com.

PORCHFEST Recap

Now it's in the history books. WC's first Porchfest! May 21, 2022--and a good time was had by everyone! It was hot --in the 90's but fortunately there was a breeze in the afternoon and many hosts provided water to attendees--and their dogs. And no rain. We had bands and solo performers especially on guitar and keyboard--and singers. And lots of attendees--2500 by one count, far exceeding our own predictions for the day.



Our Green Team porch Living Landscapes--featuring how to grow native plants was very popular. Courtney Finneran from the GT board and Sallie Jones who lectures on the topic cohosted at Sallie's house with its gorgeous native flower garden.

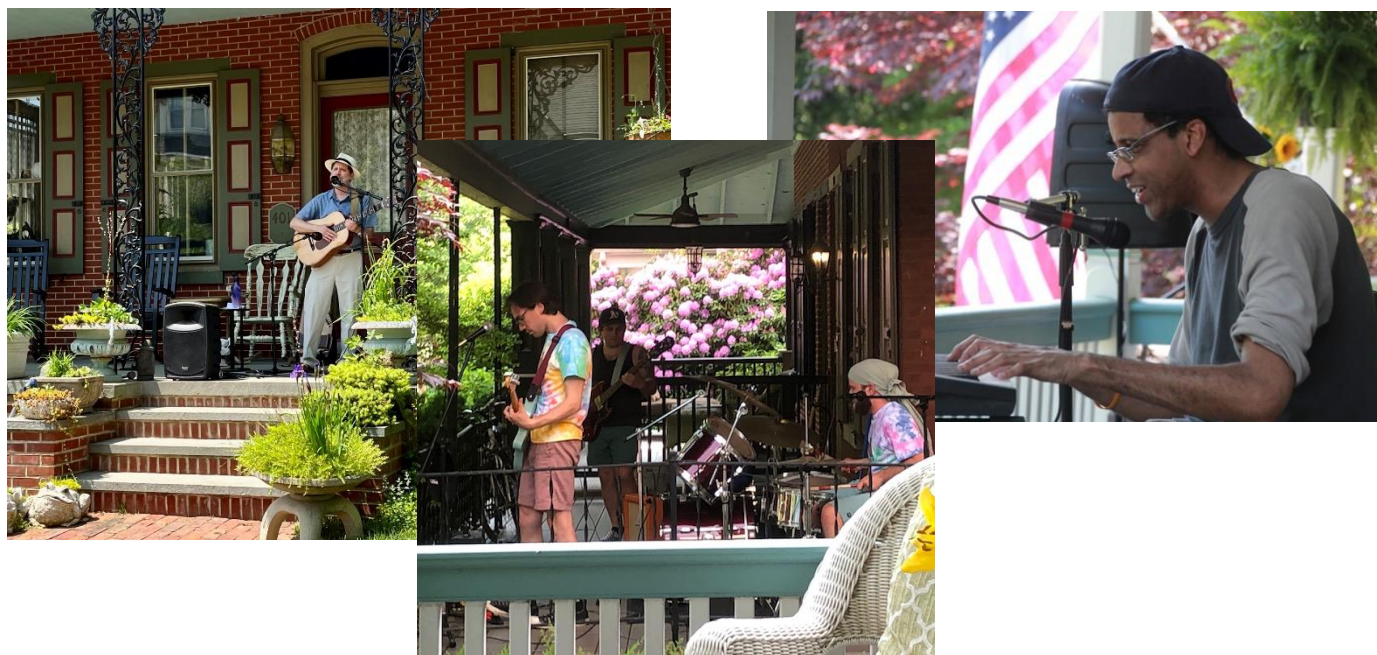
Food trucks and a fish pond, kids' crafts and an ice cream truck, street chalking and blowing bubbles and delicious strawberry shortcake and above all music all wrapped up in crowds of smiling people. Families came together. Friends met up. Our goal with Porchfest was building community and spreading happiness. We succeeded!

Here are some words from one of our hosts.

"Oh my gosh, it was so great and just an incredibly fun time! We loved it, the kids loved it - all around wonderful. Our musician, Mark Oppenlander, was great and so easy to work with. Thanks again for planning it and for all the efforts! It was wonderful!"-- Whitney Pfeffer

WC Porchfest was cosponsored by the WC Green Team and Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste. The Porchfest Committee had six members: Noel Hedgecock, Margaret Hudgings, Shruti Malelo, Miggy Mason, Rani Norley and Beth Quarfot with assistance from Lillian DeBaptiste, Theresa Eadie and Nathaniel Smith.

Watch for WC Porchfest 2, coming **Saturday, May 20, 2023**. Save the date and join the fun!



West Chester Students Propose Installation of Free Bottle Refill Stations

By Bill Rettew, Daily Local News

WEST CHESTER — A group of West Chester Friends School students were again back at borough council chambers, this time to promote installation of water refill stations.

In 2018, a different group of Friends School students successfully lobbied the borough to ban plastic bags and straws. That ban took effect Jan. 1.



On Monday night, about 20 fifth graders pushed to add free water refill stations to parks, businesses and borough hall.

We are getting people to change their habits if they're using plastic and to instead use reusable bottles," said Amy Domenick, a facilitator for the West Chester Quaker Leader Ship Team.

The action of the gradeschoolers was sparked by Refill, a United Kingdom program.

The students urge businesses to put signs in shop and restaurant windows showing that reusable water bottles may be filled there for free.

Students also suggested that the borough support the program by listing participating businesses on the borough website.

Students figure that it would be easiest to possibly install refill stations at parking garages and in parks where there are already water fountains. John O. Green, Everhart, Marshall Square and Hoopes parks were suggested for inclusion in the suggested program by the 5th graders.

The West Chester Green Team and the Friends School are partners. Green Team initiated the bottle refill idea and the students ran with it.

The 5th graders spent weeks researching, writing and designing the presentation that about 20 students gave at Monday's meeting.

Bottle Refill, con't.

Domenick and Nancy Hiro are facilitators of the Quaker Leadership Team. Bonnie McLennan, a 5th grade teacher, and Priscilla Dahl, a technology teacher, also helped.

“As Quaker educators at West Chester Friends School, it is our role to foster the ideals of stewardship,” reads a joint statement from Domenick and Hiro. “From a very young age, these students have developed and built a strong understanding of their social responsibility to care for the earth.”

“(The) proposal to borough council was the culmination of their enthusiasm and hard work. It was truly inspiring to witness these young people using their voices to make positive change and with such confidence and conviction.”

The students came to the meeting prepared with statistics: one plastic bottle takes about 450 years to decompose; an estimated 100,000 marine animals die from plastic water bottle pollution each year; and about 35 million water bottles are thrown away in the U.S. each year.

Also, about 8-9 million metric tons of plastic end up in the ocean each year and perhaps shockingly, around 1 million water bottles are bought around the world every minute.

Each year, the 5th graders have an opportunity to join the Quaker Leadership Team. They are ambassadors of the Quaker Way at West Chester Friends School.

The group acts on the concept of consensus when making decisions. They decide on activities and programs that they would like the school to participate in that highlight the Quaker philosophy.

The Quaker Testimonies (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship) are brought alive on campus from ideas generated by the group.

Another important aspect is engaging in service, social justice and stewardship.



See the article at <https://www.dailylocal.com/2022/05/20/west-chester-students-propose-installation-of-free-bottle-refill-stations/>

This and That: **Living Landscapes News**

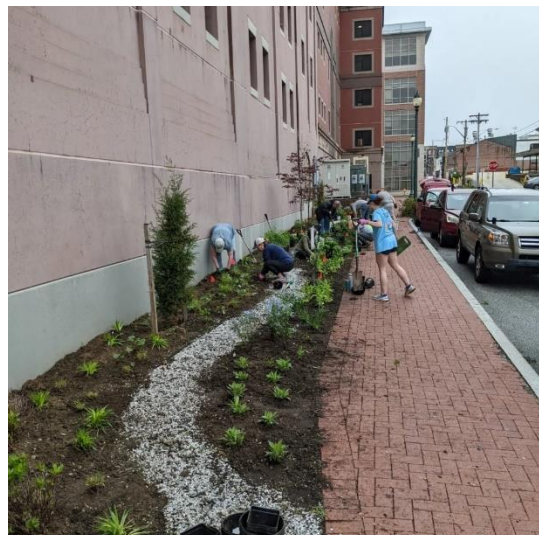
The Living Landscapes subcommittee has been so very busy this spring season!

On **April 24**, a new 100-sq ft native garden was planted in the hellstrip with the help of 10 volunteers (THANK YOU ALL!!). Christiane, our project leader, was resourceful as always, and managed to acquire donated plants that were transplanted from local gardens. This site is located at the corner of High and Miner (across the street from Dia Doce), so be sure to check it out next time you are picking up cupcakes.

On **May 14**, we partnered with West Chester BID and 15 volunteers showed up to help plant thousands of plants at the base of the Chestnut Street Garage on Prescott Alley. This garden has truly transformed the landscape and is set to become a registered Pollinator Garden. The pathway allows for up-close viewing of the garden, so take a walk and check it out.

On **May 21**, we set up a table on Union Street at the first annual [PorchFest](#) and gave away packets of seeds. We talked to so many people and the interest in native gardening is certainly growing. Thanks to Sallie Jones for sharing her front porch, a lawn conversion project - if you missed it, you can check out the video we made on our [YouTube channel](#)!

You can also check out the WCGT google Calendar - [subscribe here with this link](#).



Scenes from the Chestnut Street
Garage pollinator garden planting

Living Landscapes Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Sunday, 6/5 at 1:00PM - We need a few volunteers to help with loading mulch to prepare for our Chester County Art Association native garden. This should only take about an hour or so, and please email courtney.marm@gmail.com if you can help.

Saturday 6/11 from 10am-1:00pm - Time to dig in the dirt and plant some gorgeous native plants! Meet at Chester County Art Association and help us plant out the new WCGT-designed native pollinator gardens.

Saturday 6/18 from 9-11am - WCGT is leading the first annual Taylor Run Stream Cleanup located near Hannum Avenue on the northwest side of town. Meet at 9:00 am at 415 W. Washington Street (there is a carwash where you can park) and wear your boots and long sleeves/pants. We will provide gloves, trashbags, and donuts for our wonderful volunteers! Children are welcome to participate. **Please email courtney.marm@gmail.com to RSVP.**



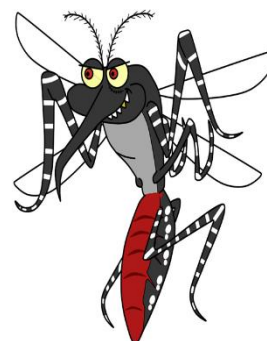
Save the Date!

A garden tour, our fourth annual, featuring the many pollinator-friendly gardens the GT has planted around town, will comprise our online self-guided tour this year on August 27. Do the tour whenever it's convenient--that afternoon or a week in advance-- and then gather at 5 pm at the Chester County History Center for a light supper catered by Mae's. (it comes in a box so you can take it outside if you prefer al fresco dining on their porch), We will have our usual Italian soda, beer and wine and a gorgeous cake created especially for the Green Team by Master's Baker--a cake decorated with icing images of native wildflowers.

Best of all, we will be joined by environmentalists from across Chester County interested in Doug Tallamy's work. Be sure to save the date!

Mosquito Season is Here . . .

. . .and West Chester Borough would like to help you get out ahead of it this year by stopping the little buggers before they start. To do so, they will once again be providing non-toxic, pet-friendly BTI dunks to larvicide any standing water you may have on your property. Just drop the dunks into the water and count yourself larvae-free for 30 days. The dunks are available at no charge and can be picked up at Borough Hall (but [you need to register here first](#)).



West Chester Green Team Summer Program Expands to Westside Community Center!

Taco Monday, free books, planting activities these are some of the activities on Mondays by the Green Team happening this summer starting on June 20 at the Melton Center *and* at Westside Community Center.

Are your children interested in learning about the Milky Way and cooking with food from the garden? Last summer, the Green Team worked with the Melton Center on an 8-week long summer environmental camp program on Monday evenings, and this year we are adding a second location at Westside Community Center. Rev. Ryan Enns and program director Emily have welcomed us to Westside, and we will be offering parallel programs at the two West Chester

locations this summer. The **Melton Center program is at 4 pm** and the **Westside program at 7 pm**. Each program lasts one hour and runs for 8 weeks. Both programs are for children 5-10 years old and are free.

To sign up your child, please fill out the requested information below and email it to Margaret Hudgings at mhudgings@gmail.com.

Child's name and date of birth:

Your name and relationship to child:

Your email address:

Your address and phone number:

Need more information? Call: 610 692-3849.

MONDAYS AT WESTSIDE

WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM & WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER INVITE CHILDREN AGED 5-10 TO A FREE SUMMER SERIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL READINGS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES. ALL EVENTS, BASED AT 430 HANNUM AVE., WEST CHESTER, START AT 7PM . SCHEDULE:

MONDAY JUNE 20TH
GROW A GARDEN
MONDAY JUNE 27TH
ENDANGERED ANIMALS
TUESDAY JULY 5TH
DARK SKIES AND FIREFLIES
MONDAY JULY 11TH
STORIES OF INDIA
MONDAY JULY 18TH
TACO MONDAY
MONDAY JULY 25TH
PLASTIC-FREE PLEASE PROJECT
MONDAY AUGUST 1ST
TALES OF JAMAICA
MONDAY AUGUST 8TH
FAREWELL ICE CREAM PARTY AND MUSIC

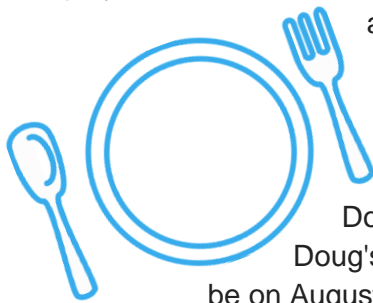
  **WESTSIDE**
COMMUNITY CENTER
Email Mhudgings@gmail.com
or call 610-692-3849 to register for Mondays at Westside



Dinner with Doug

On May 13, Doug Tallamy came to West Chester, advising Paula Kline and Alan Wright (winners of the Doug Tallamy consultation in our last auction) on planting at their home near Westtown School. After the gardening consultation there, he joined a group of local environmental activists for a delicious dinner of Indian food at the new home of former Mayor Jordan Norley and his wife Rani on Marshall Square Park in the borough.

Doug's work is an inspiration in West Chester and across Chester County where the push is on to return lawns to pollinator-friendly meadows and to change from exotics to native plants. This focus has inspired local residents to "green" alleyways and plant "hell strips" (those strips of often-barren ground between the sidewalk and the street) with bee-nourishing blooms. John O'Brien, of the local Business Improvement District, has championed this initiative. A sample of this Doug-inspired work will be on display in



August at the WC Green Team's Fourth annual garden tour. In addition to showing off borough sites such as the Chestnut Street Parking garage, this year the Green Team will be branching out by adding our first East Bradford site at the Chester County Art Association. We have also been invited to visit Heart of Uwchlan gardens and restoration work at Bondsville Mill Park in Downingtown to see the work that neighbors are doing to advance Doug's call for Homegrown National Parks. Our culminating meeting will be on August 27 at the CC History Center.

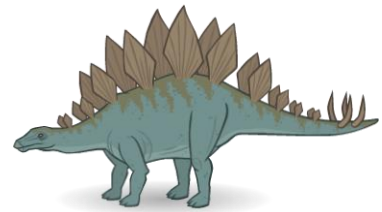
Thank you, Doug, for showing us the way to a healthier Chester County and a healthier planet.

RAWR!

Or, a Little More About Porchfest . . .

From Deb Hodies:

Judging from the number of kids and parents that participated in making a Cardboard Dinosaur at Porchfest, (I had enough supplies for 30 kids) about 25 kids made and took home dinosaurs--I'd say art at Porchfest was a huge success!



Each child that made a free-standing cardboard dinosaur from 2 - 4pm on the day of the event, (there were three dinosaurs to choose from: Stegosaurus, T-rex and Brachiosaurus) also received a dinosaur button as proof of their participation!

All in all, despite the **HEAT**, it was a fun event!