



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

July 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:

Reports from Living Landscapes, Dark Sky Committee, and Taylor Run Clean-up, Mondays at Everhart Park, Philip Jamison Art Award, Native Plant Sale, Please Don't Eat the Calamari...and much more!



WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



July 9: 11 am, Green Team outing at Bondsville Mill Park, Downingtown. See page 3 for details.

July 18: 7 pm in Join the Green Team's Dark Skies Committee led by Prof. March Gagne in Everhart Park to learn about the importance of dark skies for lightning bugs and seeing the Milky Way. Sen Carolyn Comitta will join us. Free program. All welcome. Please join us on the Union St side of the park by the new playground.

July 26: 7 pm, WCGT Board meeting at the home of Gillian Alicea, 319 W. Miner St., West Chester. Special guest will be Chris Pielli, who will speak on his environmental views.

Related groups and committees:

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 July 31! 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.

This and That:

Taylor Run Clean-up Report

On Saturday, June 20, a small contingent of the WCGT joined a group from Westside Community Center/Providence Church to clean up a stretch of Taylor Run. This bit of stream mainly flows underground in the borough, at the Elks Club on North Wayne and West Washington Sts. It emerges for a bit in the area now owned by Cornerstone Church. Unfortunately, this stream was used as a dumping site for construction materials years ago and lots of rusting metal pieces were retrieved and discarded. Special thanks to Courtney Finneran of the Green Team and Emily Bronkema from Cornerstone Church for taking on this project.



Save the Dates!

Our first ever Green Team outing!

When: Saturday, July 9 at 11 am

Where: Bondsville Mill Park, Downingtown, PA

What: Tour the historic Bondsville Mill, the newest park in Downingtown.

Bondsville Mill will be joining our "Chester County Grows" event on August 27. They have been following Doug Tallamy's guidelines and planting native pollinator friendly plants as they work on transforming and restoring the Bondsville Mill.

While the mill ruins are fenced off and too dangerous for hands-on exploring, visitors can get within just several feet of the mill and see all the detail of the remaining infrastructure. The park offers a ¼ mile compacted gravel loop trail around the mill buildings and along Beaver Creek. There is also a nature trail up to the water tower and a loop to the north of the property through old spruce, maple and oak forest, which total ¾ mile in length.

Join the Green Team in exploring this bit of Chester County history. Invite friends and family. It's free! Next to the creek are picnic tables so you can bring your lunch along and picnic afterwards down by the old mill stream.

Who: Hosted by Beth Watts of the Bondsville Park Committee.

And a special event in August...

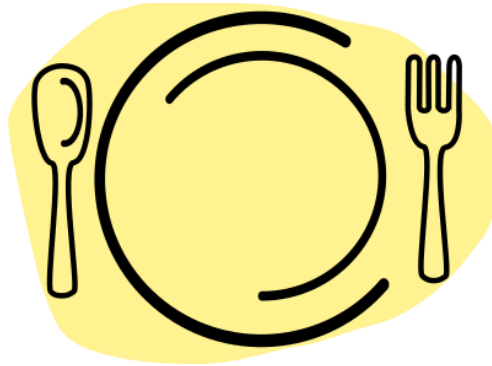
When: Saturday August 27 at 5 pm

What: A garden tour, our fourth annual, featuring the many pollinator-friendly gardens the Green Team has planted around town will comprise our online self-guided garden tour this year. Do the tour whenever 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 Baker--a cake decorated with icing images of native wildflowers. Also, there will be D'Ascenzo's

Gelato--mocha chip and peach. The peach gelato will be made of peaches from Barnard's Orchards--another of our big supporters.

Best of all, we will be joined by environmentalists from across Chester County interested in Doug Tallamy's work. The program content is Homegrown National Parks in Chester County.

Please RSVP for this event to Margaret Hudgings mhudgings@gmail.com and Rani Norley raninorley@gmail.com by July 15.



More Coming Attractions:

September 20 at 7 pm: **Chester County Climate: Plans and Progress.** Panel including Josh Maxwell, Chester County Commissioner

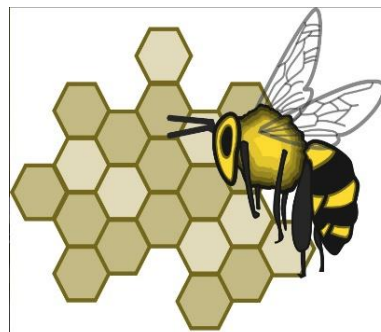
October 18 at 7 pm: **Drew Anderson. WCU Professor and Fox News meteorologist. On Plastics.** Introduction by Jonathan Sprout, Quaker educator

November 15 at 7 pm: **Water in our Town-- Prof Megan Fork and student researchers.** First annual Philip Jamison Art and Nature Award presentation.

December 13 at 7 pm: **Sustainable Living--Prof. Ashlie Delshad and Prof. Megan Schraedley**

Did you know . . . bees can recognize human faces?

Humans have known about bees for a long time: 8,000-year-old cave paintings in Bicorp, Spain, show early humans scaling trees to collect honey. But modern scientists wanted to know if bees recognize *us*, which is why researchers have put the insects' microscopic brains to the test. In a 2005 study, honey bees were trained to memorize pictures of human faces by scientists who rewarded them for correct matches with droplets of sugar water. While a bee's-eye view isn't as clear as our own gaze, the buzzing insects were able to correctly differentiate between faces up to 90% of the time — even two days after first seeing them, and when the sweet incentives were removed.



The emerging research into bee brains shows that not all living creatures need the complex brain systems humans have in order to recognize and recall environmental differences, but some researchers say that's not entirely shocking. The *Apis mellifera* (aka the European honey bee) can visit up to 5,000 flowers in one day, distinguishing between buds that give off beaucoup nectar and those that don't. So, it makes sense that bees have some form of working memory. And unlocking how bee brains work has practical applications for both us and them: Tech developers may be able to fine-tune artificial intelligence systems (in part by understanding how such tiny brains work so efficiently), and entomologists can better focus on supporting these crucial insects — which are responsible for an estimated 80% of food crop pollination.

From *Interesting Facts* e-mail newsletter, June 23, 2022

WCU Earns Silver Star for Sustainability

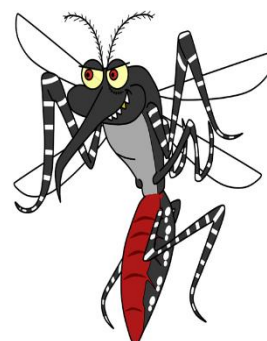


Gold star to West Chester University on earning a silver STAR in sustainability. WCU was recently recognized by the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for its efforts to measure and encourage “sustainability in all educational and operational aspects of higher education.” The Golden Rams started their sustainability journey in 2012 as a “reporter,” upped that to “bronze” in 2018 and “silver” in 2020 and again this year. Read more about their sustainability initiatives [here](#).

From *West Chester Weekly News Roundup*, Cara Corridoni, June 17, 2022

Reminder: 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](#)).



Living Landscapes Report

By Megan Schraedley

In June, the Living Landscapes committee of the Green Team completed a native garden project at the Chester County Art Association. The committee renovated the two large planters on the CCAA's back patio and added in two new garden beds with a mix of native and hybrid plants. Some of the native perennials added to the garden included: Solidago "Fireworks," Eupatorium dubium "Baby Joe," and Tiarella cordifolia. These plants should bring beautiful textures and colors all year long and attract a wide variety of pollinators to the area. In addition, the planters now include native plants like Amsonia hubrichtii and several edible herbs. Check out the new plantings on your next drive by or visit to CCAA. The project was completed with the volunteer help of Laurie Moran (CCAA), Julie Morse, Megan Schraedley, Courtney Finneran, Eric Schraedley, Jacqueline Alnes, Gus Shrevelius, Chris Pugliese, Craig Mikus, Sara Getz, and Mary Manning. Special thanks to Julie Morse for leading the committee by coordinating donations from local nurseries and providing incredible expertise in landscape design for the site.

And a Special Thank You to . . Manor View Farm, North Creek Nurseries, Sam Brown's Nursery, Organic Mechanics, and Aronimink Golf Club for helping us with plant material for our work in planting pollinator-friendly gardens at the Chester County Art Association.



*Planting at
CCAA*

Dark Sky Committee Report

By Mark Gagne

This report covers May and June 2022. The Dark Sky Committee hosted two tables at Porchfest in the 400 block of Dean St., with posters on light pollution, and a sunspotter telescope to show sunspots and limb darkening on the Sun. It was hot that day, but the event was well attended. We recruited a new member to the committee.



The Dark Sky group is co-hosting a pair of July 12 events to unveil the first color images from the Webb Space Telescope. West Chester University is an official NASA site for these events. Both the 6 PM (110 seats) and 7 PM (60 seats) events are sold out. Sen. Carolyn Comitta, University President Chris Fiorentino, College Dean Radha Pyati, and Sandra Mather will attend the events. We will use these events as a platform to talk about light pollution and our Dark Sky work.

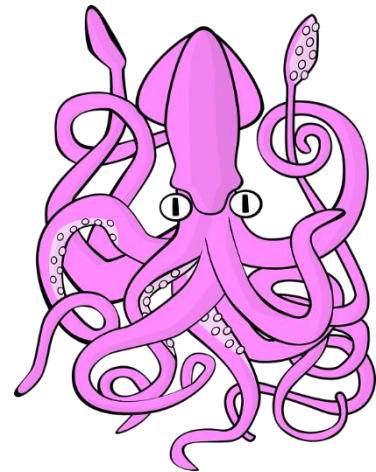
The Dark Sky group, led by intern Lucinda Bauman, has begun a summer-long project to quantitatively measure light pollution around central Chester County. We are purchasing a digital Sky Quality Meter to measure light levels at various locations and various times. We will obtain ground-level photography, and human-eye observations of sky quality (star and Milky Way visibility) at each measurement site. Our goal is to generate a sky quality contour map in a 5-mile radius circle around West Chester Borough. The circle will include light pollution hotspots along 202 south to Concordville, north to Exton/Lionville and east to Malvern/Paoli along Rte. 30, and west to Downingtown/Thorndale. After that, we hope to use the WCU drones to provide 400-ft aerial photography of bright and dark sites. The long-term goal is to establish procedures for reducing light pollution in the worst places and establishing dark sky sanctuaries in the best places.

Finally, the Dark Sky Committee would like to establish a more visible social media presence. We'll begin recruiting volunteers for this effort in the late summer and early fall.

Let's Cook Up Some Calamari—But Please Don't Try to Eat It!

By Dianne Walsh

Let's face it: We own too much clothing. Our closets and dresser drawers teem with it. We hide it in plastic tubs in the attic and chests under the bed. And then we go out and buy more. Eventually we get tired of it (or we—ahem—outgrow it) and we throw it out. We throw it out to the tune of an estimated 70 pounds of textiles per person per year. Multiply that by the population of the U.S. (about 330 million) and you begin to get an idea of the scope of the problem. That's a lot of fiber choking our landfills and much of it is still usable.



Now some of us in the fiber arts community are looking for ways to cut down on this waste and we are looking back at our great-great-grandparents' habits and are turning discarded clothing into quilts, wall hangings, rugs, cushions, and "upcycled" garments, just to name a few of the possibilities. And now we are getting closer to the calamari...



A t-shirt quilt—not made by me!

Look at what's possible with one item of clothing nearly everyone has plenty of: The t-shirt. That old Grateful Dead concert shirt you acquired back in the 70s is still haunting the rear of a dresser drawer and it has seen much better days. It now has a few holes under the arms, the graphic is faded, and you can't tell what color it used to be. Throw it out? No! It still has uses! The simplest use is to cut it up for cleaning rags and this is perfectly acceptable, but you can also do a couple other things with it. For one, the front graphics can be saved to make a quilt block (some people make quilts using the graphics from t-shirts—maybe a quilt of favorite concerts, or college/high school events, or any other theme you'd like). For another, you can make CALAMARI yarn!

What. The. Heck. Is. THAT??

You know that calamari (squid) is usually served cut up into rings. Well, t-shirts can be cut into rings, also. Slice off the top of the shirt to just under the sleeves and what you have left is a tube of fabric. That tube can then be laid flat and cut into strips of approximately 3/4-inch wide. You'll then have a pile of rings that can be joined together and rolled into balls of "yarn."



Calamari yarn rings being looped together and wound into a ball

Calamari, con't.

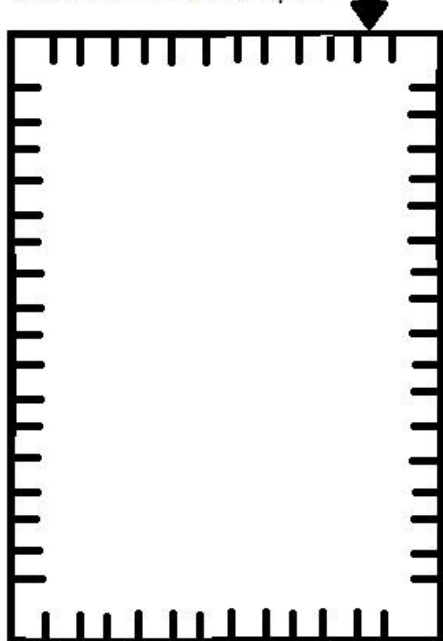
Now what do you do with it? You can knit, crochet, or weave it into all sorts of useful items. My favorite thing is to knit bathmats. A calamari bathmat will absorb gallons of water—a good thing if you have children who like to re-create the World's Greatest Naval Battles while in the bathtub. The mats wash and dry easily, are comfortable to stand on, and are nearly indestructible. I won't kid you, the yarn isn't the easiest stuff to work with and you'll need BIG knitting needles or crochet hooks (I use size 17 knitting needles), but the work goes fast and the results are worth it.

What if you don't knit or crochet, but would still like to play with some calamari? You can weave it. Did you ever weave a potholder on one of those little square looms? You can do the same thing on a larger scale on a loom you can easily make from a sheet of cardboard. How to do this: measure the length



One of my calamari yarn bathmats.

Cut notches about 3/4" apart



Your loom will look roughly like this. This sketch is not to scale and you will need more notches than shown here.

of your calamari loops, then cut a sheet of heavy cardboard that's about 2-3" longer by however wide you wish to make your rug (see illustration). Cut a row of notches at each end, and down both sides, making them about 3/4" apart. Loop your calamari over the notches at each end until your loom is filled. You have now "warped" your loom.

Now start weaving (go over and under) your warp loops with more loops. Secure the ends on the side notches. Keep going until your rug is the length you want and/or the loom is filled. This is a fun activity for kids once they get the hang of it. Remove your rug from the loom by starting at one corner and removing two loops, pulling the second loop through the first. Then continue all the way around by pulling each new loop through the previous. When you reach the final loop, pull it through the previous loop and then sew it down.

This is only one idea for using old t-shirts—but there are more. Look for some additional suggestions in future issues!

1st Annual Philip Jamison Art and Nature Award: Call for Submissions

The WC Green Team is inviting submissions of artwork for the first annual Philip Jamison Art and Nature award to be presented at WCU in November. The contest is addressed to professional and amateur artists, graphic designers, painters, photographers, etc., from Chester County, PA.



Purpose and theme of the contest

The contest is aimed at highlighting the theme of art and nature as exemplified by artist Philip Jamison. Jamison moved to West Chester from Philadelphia when he was a year old and lived here for his lifetime. The scenes of Chester County inspired much of his work. The subject matter submitted must portray nature in Chester County.



Awards

The competition has one winner and 2 runners up. Awards will be presented by the Awards Committee of the West Chester Green Team on Tuesday, November 15 at West Chester University.

Please direct submissions to the newsletter email address.

For more information on this local celebrity artist see the Daily Local News article by Bill Rettew. <https://www.dailylocal.com/2021/09/08/famed-chester-county-painter-philip-jamison-dies-at-96/>



What Happens on Mondays at Everhart Park?

Environmental education! These photos show a recent evening when the focus was on endangered animals. Jessica Nagle led the session with Nora Ziegler reading a story on the subject and intern Luci Baumann assisting with the activities. For a craft, the kids made bird feeders and then had their faces painted with a favorite animal by Stefanie Heron-Birl. The last few minutes of each evening are spent on the beautiful new playground at Everhart Park.



Native Plant Sale!

West Chester Native Plant Sale - **Sunday, July 10th - 11am to 2pm**, rain or shine.

Northbrook Natives is pleased to partner with the Chester County Art Association & West Chester Green Team for a native plant sale, with 10% of the proceeds donated to support their ongoing commitment to our community.

If you aren't familiar with the beauty and benefit of native plants in your home garden, we are happy to share more information on the day of the sale and encourage you to research the work of Dr. Doug Tallamy, entomologist and author from the University of Delaware. We also encourage you to visit CCAA and see the beautiful and beneficial pollinator garden recently installed by West Chester Green Team, who provided plant material, funding, and planting volunteers. We will have the following plants available. If you're in search of something specific not listed below, email northbrooknatives@gmail.com and we can bring along if in stock. Cash, Credit Cards or Venmo are all welcome, and prices include PA sales tax.



Aster oblongifolius 'October Skies' - Aromatic Aster
Baptisia australis - Blue False Indigo
Chelone glabra - Turtlehead
Chrysogonum virginianum var australe - Green & Gold
Echinacea purpurea - Purple Coneflower
Eragrostis spectabilis - Purple Love Grass (Grass)
Eupatorium coelestinum - Blue Mist Flower
Helenium autumnale - Sneezeweed (does not make you sneeze)
Heliopsis helianthoides - Oxeye or False sunflower
Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal Flower
Lonicera sempervirens - Coral honeysuckle vine
Monarda didyma - Scarlet Bee Balm
Monarda punctata - Spotted Bee Balm
Pycnanthemum muticum - Mountain Mint
Rudbeckia fulgida - Orange Coneflower or Black-eyed Susan
Ruellia humilis - Wild Petunia
Salvia azurea - Blue Sage
Schizachyrium scoparium 'Standing Ovation' - Little Blue Stem (Grass)
Silene caroliniana var Wherryi 'short & sweet' - Wild pinks or Wherry's catchfly
Solidago rigida - Stiff Goldenrod
Sporobolus heterolepis - Prairie Dropseed (Grass)
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae - New England Aster
Zizia aurea - Golden Alexander

We hope to see West Chester Borough gardeners on July 10th!

[Chester County Art Association: Creative Space For Everyone](#)
[West Chester Green Team](#)

100 N Bradford Ave
West Chester, PA 19382