



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

August 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:

Chester County Grows, Bondsville Rescheduled, Borough Rain Gardens, Hydroponics at Kendal-Crosslands, Lithium Battery Recycling, Making Your Yard an Oasis



WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



Throughout August: Doug Tallamy-inspired Garden Tour of locations in West Chester Borough, East Bradford Township, Bondsville Mill Park, Uwchlan Township, West Vincent Township and Phoenixville. Visit our website at <https://wcgreenteam.com/> to see garden descriptions

August 20: 10 am, Green Team outing at Bondsville Mill Park, Downingtown. See details on page 5.

August 23: 7 pm, Green Team Board meeting at the home of Margaret & Jim Hudgings, 409 W. Union St., West Chester

August 27: 5 pm, Chester County Grows: Green Team garden tour and dinner at Chester County History Center, N. High St., West Chester. See details on page 3.

August 27: 1 pm, on the porch of Chester County History Center. Native plant sale by Northbrook Natives with proceeds to benefit the History Center and West Chester Green Team.

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

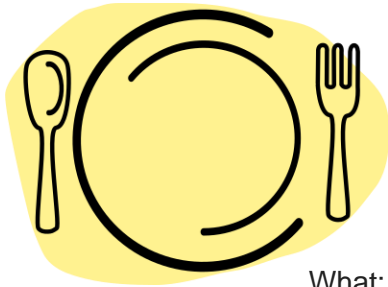
4th Tuesday of every month: Westtown Environmental Advisory Council, 7 – 8:30pm, Westtown Township Bldg., 1039 Wilmington Pike (Rt. 202)

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 September issue is August 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:



SOLD OUT! Now waitlisted!

A very special event...

When: Saturday August 27 at 5 pm

What: Chester County Grows. 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. 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.

Note that before the meal, there will be a native plant sale by Northbrook Natives on the front patio of the History Center. Proceeds will benefit the Center.

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.

This event is sponsored by Courtney and Justin Finneran and Brandywine Urban Forest Consulting. **This is a ticketed event and is sold out.** Contact Margaret mhudgings@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the waitlist.

More Coming Attractions:

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

October 1 & 2 from 10 am to 4 pm: **Chester County Clean Energy Tour** organized by Chester County Ready for 100. Virtual. More details coming next month!

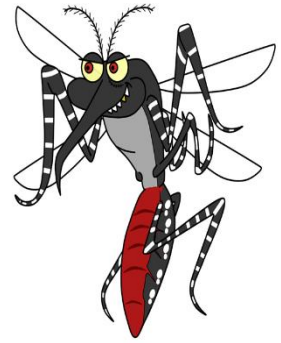
October 18 at 7 pm: **Drew Anderson. WCU Professor and Fox News meteorologist. On Plastics.** Introduction by Jonathan Sprout, Quaker educator

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: **Celebrating a Green Holiday--Prof. Ashlie Delshad and Prof. Megan Schraedley.** ~~Come and enjoy some holiday spirit and make an item to take home. More details coming soon!~~

Mosquito Season Isn't Over . . .

. . .and West Chester Borough would like to help you this year by stopping the little buggers. To do so, they are once again 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](#)).



How to Turn Your Yard into an Ecological Oasis

By Tyler Wells Lynch

Published by *Yes! A Better World Today*



The story begins,,For years, Toni Genberg assumed a healthy garden was a healthy habitat. That's how she approached the landscaping around her home in northern Virginia. On trips to the local gardening center, she would buy whatever looked pretty, "...typically ornamental or invasive plants," she says. Then, in 2014, Genberg attended a talk by Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. "I learned I was actually starving our wildlife," she says. What happened next?

[Read the entire story here.](#)

Bondsville Outing Rescheduled

On Saturday morning, August 20, at 10 am, we will meet up at the park for a tour guided by our friends at Bondsville. You can sign up by emailing Margaret at mhuddinngs@gmail.com. We will offer carpooling opportunities, or you can meet us there. It is best to sign up so you can be informed of possible weather-related or other cancellation or delay. If you are interested in Doug Tallamy's vision for planting and like Chester County history, join this tour with the Green Team. Bondsville Mill Park is a unique East Brandywine Township park on the grounds of Bondsville Mill Village dating back to the early 1800's. Some of the Mill property remains are being restored to reflect the history. The gardens have been inspired by Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park Program and as such, the focus of the expanding gardens has been to remove invasives, plant natives, use Keystone Plants where possible, ensure use of host plants, pollinator plants and habitats, and to use the gardens and programs to educate our neighbors and local communities so they will be inspired to start native habitats on their properties. Our aim is to study, restore and preserve the natural habitat and to provide support and information that will inspire our neighbors to respect and care for nature in their backyards. Read more at <https://wcgreenteam.com/2022/08/02/introduction-to-bondsville-mill-park/>

Directions

1647 Bondsville Road, Downingtown PA 19335

From West Chester Route 100 North, take US 30 West to PA-340 W/Bondsville Rd, take the PA-340 exit and bear right at the end of the ramp to travel on Bondsville Rd/PA State Rd 4015 for 1.4 miles. The park will be on your right.

Children's Environmental Program

On Tuesday, July 19, the Green Team held an environmental program for children at Everhart Park in West Chester.

Helpers for the evening included (left to right below): Melissa Griswold (yellow shirt), Maggie Richardson, Sophie Griswold (in the middle), Sen. Carolyn Comitta, and Green Team intern Luci Bauman



Pretty, Pricey Rain Gardens for Greenfield Park

By Cara Corridoni, reprinted from Hello, West Chester, July 8, 2022



Flooding in the Greenfield Park parking lot after a rain

Last month West Chester Borough Council approved a new stormwater management project. This one, slated for the fields and parking facilities [at Greenfield Park](#), has been a target of the Stream Protection Program since it started five years ago.

The original idea had been to dig infiltration trenches along Greenview Alley to divert runoff from the Willows apartments to S. Franklin Street. However, over the years the thinking has changed and now the borough is proposing adding two rain gardens to the parking lot area instead. While the gardens, which use hardy plants to soak up excess water, will not eliminate flooding in the area they will help and they do offer a couple of benefits over the current situation.

1. **Moderate flood relief.** Improvements should be seen as long as rainfall stays under 2.5.”
2. **Cleaner runoff into Goose creek.** The plants not only help absorb excess water but they serve as a filter to help remove salt, dirt, and other grime from the water.
3. **The park will look prettier.** “I think there is also a beautification if this is done right,” said Borough Council President Michael Stefano.

“We know we have flooding in that area. We know it is complex problem but we thought this was a better option,” Mr. Metrick told Borough Council. You can see the full plan [here](#).

By the numbers: The total cost for the rain gardens is \$181,547. The borough secured a grant from the Chester County Conservation District for \$127,270. This will cover the bulk of the current project leaving the borough to pay the remaining \$61,000. A second component of the project, which was not approved at the June meeting, calls for repaving both the Greenfield parking lot and Greenview Alley with a pervious alternate at an additional cost of \$170,000.

Reminder: 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 of a \$300 cash award and a certificate of recognition. The award will be presented by the Awards Committee of the West Chester Green Team on Tuesday, November 15, at West Chester preceding a WCGT/WNU Office of Sustainability program on the safety of our water here in Chester County.

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/>

Lithium Ion Battery Recycling

Need to know about lithium ion battery recycling? Have batteries to recycle? Try these resources:

CHESTER COUNTY AND SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Next event - Saturday, August 27, 2022 – Oxford

PREREGISTRATION required: <https://www.chestercountyswa.org/121/Upcoming-Household-Hazardous-Waste-Event>

Earth 911 – handy look-up of retail drop-off points

<https://search.earth911.com/?what=Lithium-ion+Batteries>

Battery Recyclers of America – small businesses pick up 1-4 times annually

<https://www.batteryrecyclersofamerica.com/how-our-battery-recycling-process-works/>



Hydroponics at Kendal-Crosslands

By Lucinda Bauman

Farmers face urgent problems because of global climate change. Due to increasing droughts, floods, pollution, and record high temperatures, many areas are becoming inhospitable for agriculture. Lower agricultural yields put the global food supply at risk, leaving many people threatened with food insecurity and starvation. Because of this devastation, many farmers are abandoning their traditional farming for a novel alternative—hydroponic farming.

Hydroponic farming uses no soil. Instead, crops are grown only using a solution of minerals, nutrients, and water. Therefore, growers need not worry about dry soil, poor mineral concentration, pesticide runoff, or soil-borne diseases ravaging their plants. Unlike traditional farming, where much of the water is absorbed by the soil, hydroponic farming allows a plant to absorb all of that water. This is crucial for areas affected by drought because hydroponics uses up to ten times less water than conventional farming. Plus, hydroponic farming saves land because it can be carried out not only horizontally, but vertically as well.



Although Southeast Pennsylvania farms are largely traditional, many people in the area are now embracing vertical hydroponic farming. In 2016, Garden Spot Village retirement home in Lancaster County unveiled its new vertical hydroponic farm, capable of growing up to eighteen thousand plants. Inspired by Garden Spot Village's success, residents and staff at Kendal-Crosslands retirement home in southern Chester County got to work on learning how to set up their own hydroponics farm.

Kendal-Crosslands staff and residents introduced the hydroponic farm because of the benefits, namely more fresh and sustainable food at a lower cost. Kendal at Longwood resident Gina Bosworth elaborates on the benefits: "You're growing without pesticides, you're growing faster, your product costs 70% less than if you bought it on the open market." Bosworth explains how on top of that, hydroponics farming is more sustainable than traditional farming. She adds, "No need for tractors and farm machinery, no fertilizers, no packaging, no shipping produce." Because it is all grown and eaten in the same facility, there is no need for wasteful transport and packaging. Still, she noted that lighting is the most expensive aspect of their farm, even more sustainable LED lights. At Kendal-Crosslands, residents and staff have been experimenting with their hydroponic farm in order to make it as productive and sustainable as possible.

Bosworth explains, "We call it a hydroponics lab, because we're using it for experimenting. And we're experimenting with all kinds of things, different crops, different nutrients, just a lot of different things so that we can teach ourselves.... We've learned how to grow cucumbers up. So that was a plus. This kind of growing is known particularly for its leafy greens and herbs. There's lots of leafy greens, from spinach to kale to all kinds of lettuces and herbs, you name it we grow it."

Hydroponics, con't.



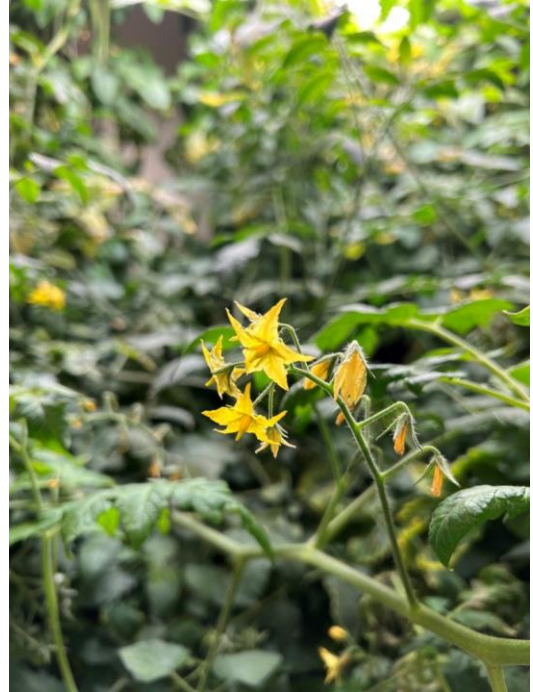
According to Bosworth, the hydroponic farm has been so successful that the staff is looking into expanding it. One of the options for expansion they are considering is a freight car hydroponics farm. This technique uses a refurbished freight car with vertical hydroponics farms inside. It is efficient in space, as Kendal-Crosslands would need only three of the cars to produce enough food to supply their kitchen.

Although hydroponic farming is highly advantageous, it is not without its drawbacks. After all, the method is limited in what it can grow effectively. For example, corn is far too large to be grown efficiently because it leaves less room for other plants to grow, especially in vertical farming.

Also, some of the most difficult plants to grow hydroponically are root crops and trees because of their extensive root systems. Overall, hydroponic farming is best suited for smaller plants with shallow roots—which are the majority of crops. Therefore, despite notable exceptions that are grown more sustainably using soil-based farming, hydroponics

nearly always saves time, space, resources, and money.

Our changing climate is leaving more and more farmland uncultivable—a grave problem for food production. Where food cannot be sufficiently grown using traditional methods, hydroponics farming is a viable solution. The farmers transitioning to hydroponics now, such as the hydroponics farm at Kendal-Crosslands, are opening the door to the new era of sustainable farming and food security.



All photos taken from Kendal-Crosslands Website.
<https://kcc.kendal.org/>