



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

November 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:

The Auction! Plus, Award nomination, Bondsville Update, PFAS, Pennsylvania's not doing too well, New officer and Board members, and Meanwhile in Caln Township...



WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



November 15 at 7 pm: Water in our Town-- Prof Megan Fork and student researchers, Dr. John Jackson of Stroud Water Research Center, and Byron Riggins of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, moderated by George Seeds. Program starts with the First annual Philip Jamison Art and Nature Award presentation. Art show by Beth Clark.

November 16 at 7 pm PORCHFEST '23 Meeting at the home of the Hanfords, 344 W Union St. All are welcome. Rsvp to mbhanford@msn.com.

November 17 at 2:30--Education Committee meeting at the home of Nora Ziegler, 817 Bretingham Ct. West Chester 19382. Planning for the summer program with Bondsville Mill Park with focus on the Lenape tribe. Contact noraziegler@me.com. All are welcome.

November 22 at 7 pm--WCGT Board meeting--at the home of Margaret and Jim Hudgings, 409 W Union St., West Chester 19382 More information mhudgings@gmail.com

November 23 to December 3--SEASON'S GREENINGS Auction. See pages 3 & 4 for details.

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 December issue is November 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.

This and That

More Coming Attractions:

November 4 (bad weather date 11/5) 7:30 - 9 p.m. **Owl Prowl** \$15 pp at Welkinweir - live owls!
Registration required - email gva@greenvalleys.org

Also on November 4:

**IMPACTS of HUMAN ACTIVITY on WILDLIFE:
LEARN from WILDLIFE AMBASSADORS**

Nov. 4, 2022; 7-8pm

Great Valley Middle
School Rm 154
255 Phoenixville Pike,
Malvern
Registration requested:
tinyurl.com/2p8h8axr



Michele Wellard is a Pennsylvania State Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator with 14 years experience. She is Asst. Director of the Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center, which treats over 3000 wild patients every year. She will discuss what we can do to minimize damage to wildlife from our activities, what rehabbers do, and how we can protect wildlife. Michele will share patient stories and bring live wildlife ambassadors.

December 13 at 5 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!

As always, see updates and other events in our website calendar at the bottom of our homepage at <https://wcgreenteam.com>

Get Ready, it's Auction Time!

Our Seasons Greenings online auction starts November 23 and runs through December 3. Join the bidding, join the fun! Help us continue our mission. What do we have? Vacation homes, art, experiences, services, yummy foods, unusual items, and more! Don't miss it!

WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM PRESENTS:

Season's Greenings!

A virtual fundraiser auction

SAVE THE DATE

November 23rd, 7am - December 3rd, 7pm
VISIT wcgreenteam.com for more info, and to support our work!

WC Green Team Proudly Serves The Community:

- Providing plots for residents to grow food
- PORCHFEST, music around the town
- Inspired by Doug Tallamy, planting pollinator-friendly gardens in public spaces, collaborating countywide
- Offering children's environmental education at local parks and the Melton Center



Green Team Nominated for Award



We are very pleased and honored to announce that we have been nominated for a Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Community Pride Award! We were nominated by State Senator Carolyn Committa. According to its web site, "The Community Pride Award **recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship** and can be awarded to individuals, schools, community organizations or civic groups that make an outstanding commitment to litter control, recycling, beautification or general environmental stewardship." Only elected officials can nominate a constituent for a Community Pride Award. The award is open on a rolling basis.

To see past recipients of the award, visit the web site at <https://www.keeppabeautiful.org/grants-awards/awards/community-pride-award/>

Don't forget Election Day is November 8. VOTE!

Green Teamers in the Community

West Chester Green Team board member, Christi Marshall (right), joins the fun at the East Goshen Pumpkin Festival held on October 15.



Bondsville Butterfly Update



Bondsville tells us they've sent 148 tagged Monarchs off on their migration to Mexico. It's an amazing migration!

<https://monarchjointventure.org/monarch-biology/monarch-migration>. They continue: "Monarchs can't fly for long stretches of time. Their wings are frail and tear easily. But they can glide on warm winds for miles and miles. They travel by day - never at night as it is too cold. As they get closer to Mexico, groups of Monarchs join up – hundreds, then thousands, then millions. For the people of central Mexico, the arrival of the Monarchs is a big event. According to traditional belief, the monarchs are the souls

of ancestors who are returning to Earth for their annual visit. Google Monarchs and Day of the Dead for more information."

The gardeners followed up on why they haven't seen the great spangled fritillary in the gardens. "The problem isn't solved but we think we know what happened. All of the violets that had been growing in the fern garden were overrun by Packera/Golden Ragwort. We'll plant more violets but this won't necessarily solve the problem because the fritillary female is just plain careless where she lays her 2,000 eggs. The fritillary caterpillars hatch in the fall and go to sleep right away in leaf litter without feeding. They sleep through the winter and will only awaken in the spring at the same time as violet plants begin to grow. The hungry caterpillars can only hope that violets are nearby."



Meanwhile in Caln Township. . .

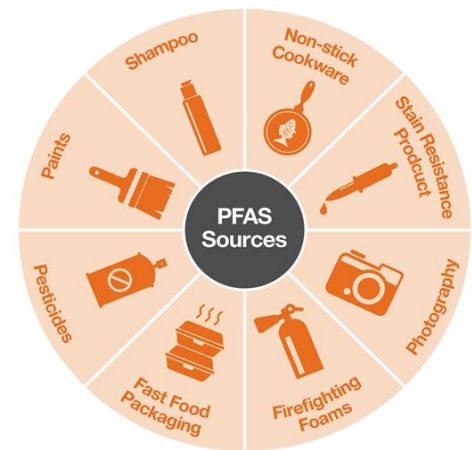
Check out what Caln Township is doing. They're planting an environmentally friendly "meadow park."

From the *Daily Local News* article: "Meadows using native plants are a recognized best management practice that is increasing in popularity as municipalities look for effective stormwater management strategies, beautification and habitat creation, public engagement spaces, and ways to save municipal resources through decreased mowing." Read more at <https://www.dailylocal.com/2022/10/13/environmentally-friendly-meadow-park-comes-to-caln-township/>

Toxic PFAS: What You Can Do From: *Environmental Action*

Toxic PFAS "forever chemicals" are contaminating our rivers, lakes and streams and putting entire ecosystems -- as well as our own health -- at risk.

Fortunately, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering requiring the cleanup of certain PFAS pollution already in our environment, including at 180 Superfund sites. But polluters are already speaking out against the proposal -- and that's why it's so important the EPA also hear from environmental activists like you.



PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a class of man-made chemicals that have been used for decades to make products resistant to water, grease, stains and heat. They're in everything from clothing and furniture to food packaging and nonstick cookware.²

These toxic substances enter our environment at practically every stage of these products' lifecycles -- from when they're made in factories to when they're discarded in landfills. **And once PFAS are in our environment, they stick around forever -- earning them the nickname "forever chemicals."**

[Submit your public comment before the Nov. 7 deadline to urge the EPA to act on PFAS pollution.](#)

How's Pennsylvania Doing? Not So Good. From: Chesapeake Bay Foundation, "*State of the Blueprint*"

"Less than four years remain to the 2025 implementation deadline for the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. The success of the science-based, federal-state plan to restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay is critical to our region's health, economy, outdoor heritage, and quality of life.

...no state is completely on track. Model projections indicate Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania will achieve their 2025 commitments for wastewater, but not for agriculture or urban and suburban

Pennsylvania, Con't.

runoff. This progress in the wastewater sector may allow Maryland and Virginia to meet their commitments overall. Due to its large agricultural sector, Pennsylvania remains far off track despite its success with wastewater.”

Here is the sad state of affairs for Pennsylvania:

PA PENNSYLVANIA		Nitrogen	Phosphorus
	Agriculture	OFF TRACK	OFF TRACK
	Urban/Suburban Polluted Runoff	OFF TRACK AND POLLUTION INCREASING	OFF TRACK
	Septic	OFF TRACK	N/A
	Wastewater & Combined Sewer Outfall	ON TRACK	ON TRACK
	OVERALL	OFF TRACK	IN DANGER

Read the entire article at <https://www.cbf.org/how-we-save-the-bay/chesapeake-clean-water-blueprint/state-of-the-blueprint/>

WCGT Welcomes New Officer and Board Members

As a result of September's elections, Nathaniel Smith, WCGT co-founder, stepped down as corresponding secretary, and Rani Norley was elected to this position. Nathaniel will be staying on as an advisor, and we all want to welcome Rani and her business knowledge which should be invaluable as the Green Team grows.

The Green Team also added three new board members. Ginny Marcille-Kerslake will advise us on water quality and pipeline issues and will do outreach in West Whiteland Township. Renee Perna will work on Porchfest and on community education and outreach. Mike Dunn will head up the Tree Committee and spearhead work on Meadows with a demonstration project in West Whiteland.

Welcome new leaders! With a special thank you to Nathaniel Smith for his many years of service. And an invitation to readers of this newsletter to contact us about opportunities to help our green efforts.

...and an Introduction from Our New Intern

Hi everyone! My name is Emily Miller, I'm the new intern on the West Chester Green Team. I'm majoring in computer science at West Chester University, and I'm also a Sustainability Peer Educator. In my free time, I love to write, code, and do graphic design work whenever time allows. I can't wait to see what the rest of this year and the next brings as a member of the team!