

WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

May 2023

Mission: The West Chester Green Team, a civic organization in West Chester, PA, educates the local public and establishes and nourishes green initiatives in the community in harmony with nature and each other, promoting the health of all living things and of planet Earth.

In this
issue

Celebrating Earth Day, Anticipating Porchfest, greening our spaces,
plastics reduction, and lots more



We welcome contributions and suggestions for possible inclusion in a future issue. E-mail your ideas for June to Dianne Walsh LDwalsh318@gmail.com by May 31st. This issue copyright ©2023, West Chester Green Team.

WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

West Chester Green Team

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 6 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 7 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 8 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 9 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 10 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 11 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 12 Open House 11am - 1pm
May 13 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 14 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 15 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 16 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 17 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 18 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 19 Open House 11am - 1pm
May 20 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 21 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 22 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 23 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 24 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 25 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 26 Open House 11am - 1pm
May 27 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 28 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 29 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 30 Open House 11am - 1pm	May 31 Open House 11am - 1pm		

May 12-15 Help Bondsville Mill Park in Downingtown get a large delivery of plants into the ground; RSVP to [Sandy Moser](#).

May 13, 9am-1pm Pollinator Garden planting at the Chestnut Street Garage, with the BID and WC Borough. Please RSVP at [Sign Up Genius](#).

May 13, 10:00am – 2:00pm Repair Cafe, Central Presbyterian Church, 100 W Uwchlan Ave, Downingtown. Bring items you need repaired

May 16, 11:00am – 12:00pm Alley greening model project, 400 block W. Union St. If you're interested to see how professionals plan alley beautification, feel free to join the WC Green Team on-site

May 18 Native Species Day

May 20, 1:00 – 7:00pm 2nd Annual West Chester Porchfest: free public community celebration: performers and hosts volunteer their time and talents, porches and lawns in the southwest quadrant of the Borough

May 23, 7pm West Chester Green Team Executive Board monthly meeting

May 27 Rachel Carson's birthday (the world-famous ecologist was born in PA, 1907)

Regular Municipal committee meetings:

2nd Wednesday of every month: East Goshen Conservancy Board, 7pm, East Goshen Township Building, 1580 Paoli Pike

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

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

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

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

4th Thursday of every month: West Chester Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6:30pm, Borough Hall, 401 E. Gay St.

Please see full details of the above and new and updated events on our Web site (bottom of home page) at <https://wcgreenteam.com/>. All are welcome to post relevant items on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WCGTeam/>. If you wish to support our work, please donate at <https://wcgreenteam.com/contact-2/>.



Our Next Big Event: Porchfest, May 20

West Chester Porchfest is organized by the West Chester Green Team to build connection, promote community, and celebrate Spring in our historic borough. Come out to hear the music!

It's family-friendly and FREE for all! Performers and hosts volunteer their time and talents/ porches and lawns in the Southwest quadrant of the borough – from Church Street to Bradford Avenue and

Miner to Dean Streets.

Attendees stroll from porch to porch and relax on front lawns and sidewalks as they enjoy live local talent on the beautiful porches of historic West Chester. Food trucks and children's activities add to the festivities.



You'll be able to check out all the schedule, performances and info tables soon [here](#). At the event, you'll be able to show your support by purchasing the pictured T-shirt and poster.

For a comprehensive and extremely welcome article about this year's Porchfest, see the spring 2023 issue of [WCPress](#) (cover shown above), bringing out not only the variety and quality of the music but also the event's community spirit "spirit of generosity."

If you'd like to purchase a 2023 Porchfest T-shirt or donate to support Porchfest, you'll be able to do so at the event.

Welcome Earth Day, WCU, April 21



Our Earth Day Welcome on April 21, sponsored by WC Green Team and WCU Office of Sustainability, was held on the Academic Quad with the inspiring backdrop of the Frederick Douglass statue.

We are grateful to all who participated for showing in this way their support for our green mission.

The group was welcomed by WC Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste, who received in appreciation a 2023 Porchfest poster from Molly Hanford and who also dedicated the new look of our signs with a “Plant a Tree in ’23” sticker designed by Steve Marvin (*as the Mayor displays in the photo*) to be affixed to our extant yard signs, and by WCU President Chris Fiorentino (*photo above*), who recounted the impressive environmental progress at WCU and—his own academic specialty—spoke to the economics of environmentalism.

Prof. Joan Welch, as moderator, and Dr. Bradley Flamm, Director of the Office of Sustainability, noted many concrete aspects of the University respecting



the environment and reducing its institutional impact on it. Awards, as well as a handsome tea pot created by local potter Suzanne Kent, were presented for outstanding service of long-standing Green Team volunteers: Don Braceland, George Squire and Christi Marshall. (Photo: Green Team president Margaret Hudgings with George and Amy Squire).

See <https://wcgreenteam.com/2023/04/24/earth-day-welcome-and-awards-april-21-2023/> for more info and photos about this memorable event.

The Green Team Celebrates Earth Day



On the 54th "Earth Day Birthday," April 22, the Green Team held a rally at the County's Historic Courthouse, moderated by Prof. Megan Schraedley. Smithsonian recording artist Rev. Dan Schatz (*left*) of West Chester's Unitarian Congregation played and sang beautifully and meaningfully for all committed to beneficial change. Lenape elder David Eagle Heart Simon gave a Lenape blessing, with incense and incantation.

We were particularly honored by the presence of County Commissioner Josh Maxwell, State Representative Chris Pielli, and State Senator Carolyn Comitta, all of whom spoke highlighted progress in environment and sustainability at the county and state levels. Chester County is at the forefront of such efforts, with over 30% of its area as preserved open space and about one-third of all PA municipalities to have banned single-use plastic bags. Many thanks to dedicated public servants such as these!

Former West Chester Mayor Jordan Norley gave the impetus toward a rail connection with Philadelphia as an example of acting to reduce fossil fuel use and traffic congestion. Renee Perna (*right*) gave an update on the West Chester Porchfest event coming up on May 20. And Ollie Finneran represented the environmental commitments of today's children in style, even finishing his remarks with a joke.



Senator Comitta also presented the Green Team, represented at the top of the steps by board members Gillian Alicea and David Wickard, with a Community Pride Award from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. The award, shared with the West Chester Business Improvement District, honored the two community organizations for building a pollinator garden last year at the Chestnut Street Parking Garage in downtown West Chester. See more in the [Daily Local News, 5/1/23](#), and [on our web site](#). This three-way collaboration includes West Chester Borough, which provided and cleared the site, permits the planting, provides mulch, helps recruit volunteers, and hauls away waste from cleanups. Many thanks to the Borough and its taxpayers!



A following Green Fair co-sponsored by the [Unitarian Congregation](#) included snacks by the the [West Chester Co-op](#), a display by Mother Compost, a plant giveaway, displays by [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) and the [Dark Sky](#) initiative, and an origami workshop whose participants folded 61 cranes for Congresswoman Houlahan to send as symbols of hope to Hiroshima for the G7 Summit.

Finally, our first Repair Cafe answered questions and offered help to people with items in need of repair. If you can help us a future such events by repairing clothing, small appliances, electronics, lamps, small pieces of furniture, etc, please email us [here](#).

Living Landscapes Report

Courtney Finneran, leader of our **Living Landscapes** team, asks you to please [email](#) her if you would like to help in projects like these or have questions about the current projects. *(Photo: strip planted by Green Team volunteers on E. Miner St. next to S. High St.)*



1) The WCGT is looking for volunteers to help out with our planting event on May 13th. Join project sponsor the BID as we partner to expand the pollinator garden at the base of the Chestnut St garage. Meet at 9am and bring all your planting tools! Please use this [Sign Up Genius](#) to RSVP so we can coordinate any last-minute changes.

2) To help fill out the plants at this additional garden, we are looking for some specific species/varieties. If you have any of the following that you are able to divide from your home garden, please let me know; we will be happy to come out and dig up!

- Phlox subulata
- Allium Millenium
- Amsonia "Blue Ice"

3) On May 20th, we are hoping to have another table at the [West Chester Porchfest](#). If you are interested in helping out for an hour or two by giving out seeds and information on the group, please let her know.

4) Our friends at Bondsville Mill Park in Downingtown are expecting a large plant delivery for one of their amazing restored gardens, and could use some help getting things planted as soon as possible. The dates that volunteers are needed are May 12-15. Please RSVP to [Sandy Moser](#).

5) We still have Homegrown National Park yard signs for sale; let me know if you would like one for your yard. \$10 each.

6) If you have any ideas for a LL project, let me know! We are always looking to scout new locations. In fact, we are looking for a location to demonstrate a lawn-to-meadow installation.

Speaking of Planting...

Chester County's representative in Congress, Chrissy Houlahan, was recognized for her support of the environment by the planting of a tree in Everhart Park, West Chester, sponsored by our allies Citizens' Climate Lobby. See more in Daily Local News, 4/26/23 <https://www.dailylocal.com/2023/04/06/rep-houlahan-honored-with-tree-planting-in-west-chester/>.



Greening Sacred Spaces workshops

by Paula Kline

The Green Team is co-sponsoring with the Concord Quarter Climate Action working group the 4-part series for local faith communities called *Greening Sacred Spaces*. The series aims to inform and inspire houses of worship and faith based schools and retirement communities to start the healing journey with nature.

We are happy to share with you links to the recordings from the [first program](#) on March 1st, which focused on landscaping policies and the certification offered by the National Wildlife Federation.

You can watch the 2nd [workshop here](#). This featured a presentation on the Audubon Bird Friendly Yards, the Homegrown National Parks registration process and a case study from Gwynedd Quaker Meeting. Take a look at the [resource list that accompanies the series](#). We hope you will take advantage of these resources to develop a healing plan of your own.

At the 2nd workshop, we heard about [Journeywork](#), which organizes and equips communities to replace lawns and landscaping with plantings that are ecologically functional, economically viable, and socially appropriate. We urge you to suggest any schools, houses of worship or retirement communities you may be connected to reach out to them for an assessment.

And [please join us for the next workshop on June](#), which will focus on woodlands and forest restoration and for the [Ecological Landscaping tour](#) on June 17th. Come visit Birmingham Monthly Meeting and Barclay Friends Kendal-Crosslands retirement communities as examples of what we might all do!



Legendary Lenape summer program

The Legendary Lenape program is a summer 2023 series of educational gatherings for children, families and people of all ages taking place at locations around Chester County, on Saturdays or Sundays from June 24 to August 13, at varying times. Until our summer program web site is ready, for overall information, contact Margaret Hudgings mhudgings@gmail.com. The below schedule is a draft to be finalized by May 20.

June 24 Turtle Song session: Life of the Woodland Indians at West Chester Friends Meeting, with Chris Applegate from the Museum of Indian Culture in Allentown, including display of Lenape tools, furs, clothing, weapons, cradleboard, etc., 10am-noon

July 2 Wawaset Creek session: Canoeing on the Wawaset (Lenape name for the Brandywine), Northbrook Canoe Company, 8:45-11am

July 8 Eagle Heart session: Lenape Crafts and Games, Birmingham Meeting House, 10am-noon

July 15 Living With The Land: Animals at Bondsville Mill Park (*photo below*), 10am-noon

July 22 Moose Lake session: Canoeing on Westtown Lake, 10am-noon

July 29 Beaver Creek session: Stream study at Beaver Creek with Faith Zerbe, Bondsville Mill Park (*photo below*), 10am-noon

August 6 Drumming Bear Session: Garden Growing and Drumming at the Melton Center, 4-6 pm

August 13 Three Sisters Session: Feast of the Lenape at the Melton Center, 4-6 pm



Some Final Notes

- Our allies at PennEnvironment are gearing up for their **annual citizen climate action lobby day**. It'll be on June 8th and totally virtual, with video lobby meetings and a Zoom rally. Please join them to meet virtually with your state representative and/or senator about energy efficiency, clean energy. RSVP at <https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/events/virtual-climate-action-lobby-day-2023/>
- Another of our interesting and impactful events was an exchange of ideas on **how to reduce plastic waste** in our lives, landfills, streets and streams. Featured speakers were Delaware legislator Dee Durham and PennEnvironment Zero Waste Advocate Faran Savitz. See "Forum on cutting single-use plastics in Chester County" in the [Daily Local News, 4/29/23](#).
- The Green Team includes a **Dark Sky Committee**, dedicated to reducing night light pollution. We were glad to see a reflective and well-researched article by Dana Milbank in the [Washington Post, May 5](#), with the catchy title "I was busted by the light police. They had a point." Actually, the "light police" were his new neighbors, not uniformed authorities. He learned: "...unlike climate change and habitat loss, this problem has a cheap and painless fix: Just turn down the damn lights."
- The [Chester County Planning Commission](#) <Sustainability@chescoplanning.org> has issued its latest quarterly Sustainability News, dedicated to Waste Reduction and Recycling, with interesting info on topics of importance to all of us, like Repair Cafes, where our trash goes, tree plantings, and, encouragingly, "[Municipal Single Use Plastics Bans Gaining Traction in Southeast PA](#)." See this issue [here](#) and subscribe to future issues [here](#).



The umbrella organization Chester County Environment Alliance also is dealing with a range of such topics; see more [here](#). CCEA's latest group meeting considered, in particular, how to encourage county efforts in water infrastructure and plastics reduction.

- **Health-Conscious Food at any age:**

Volunteer chef Rebecca Malloy (*left*) created 140 healthy cupcakes for our Earth Day rally, with mostly organic ingredients including organic eggs, milk, carrots, and Rumford baking powder containing no aluminum.

Meanwhile, Birdie Schraedley (*right*), who attended our Earth Day rally, models healthy consumption of veggies.

