



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

March 2024

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:

Lots this month including the annual Goose Creek cleanup, Spirituality and Sustainability lecture at WCU, World Water Day, Our Plans for Earth Day, the Impact of a T-shirt, the latest on Porchfest, and glow-in-the-dark petunias!



WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



No Board meeting this month.

For details on other March and later events, see listings beginning page 3.

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, 401 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/>

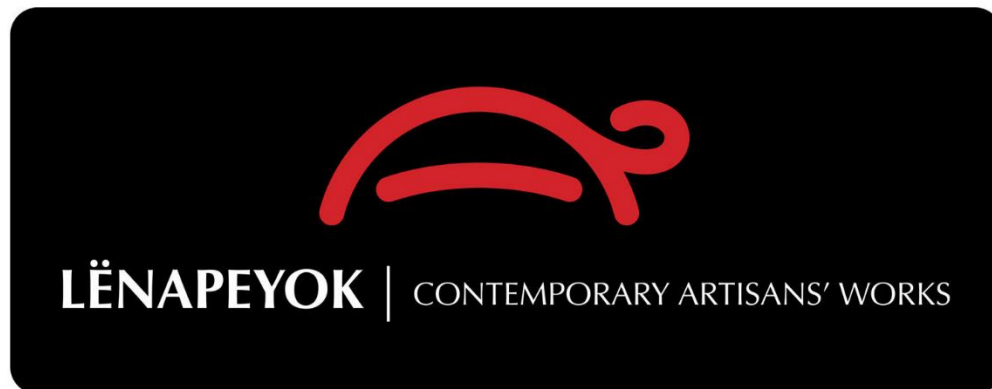
NOTE: Deadline for the April 2024 issue is March 31! We welcome contributions and suggestions from our readers for possible inclusion in a future issue. E-mail your ideas to Dianne Walsh at LDwalsh318@gmail.com.

This and That

More Coming Attractions:

Lënapeyok: Contemporary Artisans' Works February 28, 2024 – April 29, 2024

This special pop-up exhibition, guest curated by Lenape artist Ben Miller, features an exciting range of traditional and contemporary style works by noted Lenape artists from across the United States. The exhibition emphasizes the persistence and vibrancy of Lenape arts and crafts.



Ben Scott Miller is a graduate of the Academy of Art University San Francisco, an enrolled citizen of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, and registered Lenape artist. During this Meet the Artist event, learn about his upcoming residency to create a public art mural in the Sykes Student Union, and the traditional and contemporary Lenape art and style on exhibit at the Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology's special pop-up exhibition Lënapeyok: Contemporary Artisans' Works.

March 9: [Repair Café](#) from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown. Bring your beloved but broken items and have them fixed for free!

March 16: Courtney Finneran is co-leading the annual Goose Creek cleanup at Site 112 with Mike Dunn, founder of the Goose Creek Alliance. We hope you will join them again this year to help make a difference in the health of our local waterways. Thank you to the Borough of West Chester for their ongoing support and to CRC (Chester Ridley Crum) who provides the logistics to make this day a success. Please meet us on Saturday 3/16 around **8:45 AM** to sign in, gather supplies, listen to a quick safety moment/CRC update, and then head out to our assigned sites. **We will meet at 205 Lacey Street at the Public Works Building**, which has ample parking in the adjacent lot. Please RSVP at the link below so we can have a proper head count. And for those of you who are brave, there are a few spare sets of full-size adult waders for anyone willing to wear them!

<https://www.crcwatersheds.org/what-we-do/streams-cleanup/>



March 18:

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY'S
FIFTH SPIRITUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY COLLOQUIUM

RELIGIOUS ANIMAL BODIES?

Monday, March 18th, 2024
4:30 - 6pm • Sykes Theater
Refreshments and greetings, 4pm

FEATURING DR. DONOVAN SCHAEFER

What does it mean to think of religion as something that starts with our bodies rather than our beliefs? And how might this approach help us reframe our approach to the natural world? Drawing together reflections from contemporary philosophy of emotion and evolutionary biology, Dr. Schaefer suggests that humans and other-than-human animals are defined by the deep emotional relationships we form with the world around us.



FREE AND OPEN TO ALL!

For more information,
contact Dr. Jea Sophia Oh at
joh@wcupa.edu

Dr. Donovan Schaefer is Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Religious Affects: Animality, Evolution, and Power* (Duke UP, 2015) and *Wild Experiment: Feeling Science and Secularism after Darwin* (Duke UP, 2022), which won the Ludwik Fleck Prize from the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) and the annual book prize from the International Society for Science and Religion. His research and teaching examine the role of affect and power in formations of secularism, religion, science, and material culture.

DONOVANSCHAEFER.COM

SPONSORED BY:

Office of Sustainability
Philosophy Department
Women and Gender Studies @ WCUPA

SPIRITUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE:

Welcoming Message:

Dr. Bradley Flamm (Office of Sustainability)

Presider/Respondent:

Dr. Jea Sophia Oh (Philosophy)

Respondents:

Dr. Joey Miller (Philosophy)

Professor Ed Pollitt (Philosophy)

World Water Day: WATER for PEACE

On March 22, 2024, people around the world and in our own community will celebrate World Water Day. The first World Water Day was celebrated in 1993 and each year there is a theme related to the importance of fresh water on the living earth and as a human right. This year the theme is Water for Peace and Prosperity.

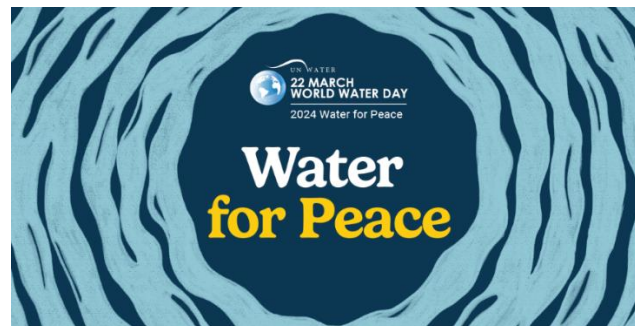


Art by Helen Webber

"Water is the driving force of all nature" - Leonardo da Vinci

"When we cooperate on water, we create a positive ripple effect – fostering harmony, generating prosperity, and building resilience to shared challenges¹. Water can be a tool for peace when communities and countries work together over this precious shared resource."

Water flows through the news every day. Many stories about climate change, economics, politics, wars and culture have a water-related dimension,



#1 ['Water for Peace' - World Water Day 2024 campaign launches | UN-Water \(unwater.org\)](https://www.unwater.org/campaigns/2024-world-water-day)

If you would like to participate in a water and peace discussion and meditation as part of West Chester Green Team's / Transition Town's "Inner Transition" gatherings, please contact Dawn S. Mazzone for March 22nd's Zoom Info. dawn@creativeeconomyenterprises.com. Zoom will run from Noon-1:30.

...toward a culture of belonging, renewal, and joy

April 1: Lecture 4:30-6:30 PM, LPAC Pearson-Hall Theatre

April 2: Breakfast and Book Club Discussion 8:30 - 10:30 AM, Scheuer Room, Kohlberg Hall Swarthmore College

Prof. Robin Wall Kimmerer is the author of the bestselling collection of essays *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*. She is also a distinguished teaching professor and director for the Center for Native Peoples and the



Environment at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Wall Kimmerer will focus her talk on ways Indigenous knowledge might contribute to a transformation in how we view our relationship to consumption, and move us away from a profoundly dishonorable relationship with the Earth.

Pollinator Garden Clean-up

West Chester BID are planning for a clean-up of the Community Pollinator Garden on Saturday, **April 6th at 9 a.m.** If you would like to help, sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FAAAD2EA6FFCE9-48220262-chestnut>.

One Home, One Future

There is an exciting, free, online program from ecoAmerica and One Home, One Future, **Tuesday April 16, from 12-5:15 PM**, just in time for Earth Day! This is an all faiths-based organization that uses wisdom from many different faiths, along with up-to-date scientific knowledge, to help us to protect the Earth. There may be a local host location to watch along with others identified in the near future, look for updates in the sign-up materials. [National Faith + Climate Forum 2024](#)

Have any hazardous waste?

April 20: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in Phoenixville from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Must [pre-register](#) here.



Marshall Square Park Clean-up

April 20: 8:30 AM - Noon



Consider helping out Marshall Square Park on Earth Day. Be part of this year's Cleanup Crew by giving Marshall Square Park a couple of hours picking up sticks, spreading mulch, and keeping it safe, beautiful and healthy. Kids are welcome to come with their parents, too! Coffee, donuts, and water will be available at the gazebo!

Please Register below if you are planning to help! Let us know in your registration if or what tools you could bring.

'Rain' or shine, check in with Roger Lacy near the corner of Marshall and Matlack, or Jordan Norley near the corner of Franklin and Biddle.

REGISTER NOW

Earth Day Plans



The West Chester Green Team is collaborating with the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester and West Chester Cooperative to sponsor Earth Day: Planet vs Plastic rally and celebration. On **Saturday, April 20 at 3:00pm** at the Chester County Courthouse Professor Megan Schraedley will MC a program with these speakers: State Senator Carolyn Comitta, State Representative Chris Pielli, County Commissioner Josh Maxwell, and youth environmental activists Quinn Galey and Owen Weber. Reverend Dan Schatz will play music and inspire us. At 4:15pm: Former Mayor Jordan Norley will lead us in a march for Earth's support from the courthouse to the Unitarian Congregation.

At 4:30pm: Join us for a celebration of Earth Day at the Unitarian Congregation! Twelve environmental groups from around West Chester will share their work on issues ranging from water to native plants and dark skies to environmental education, and you will have a chance to circulate among their tables and chat with their staff.

Then our keynote speaker Eastern Pennsylvania Director for Clean Water Action Maurice Sampson II will discuss Environmental Justice. For those who wish to sign up, a Mexican Buffet will be served with vegetarian options, drinks and flan included! Children 18 and under are FREE with an adult. Please pay as you can, from \$10 to \$25 per person.

Children's activities will include games and prizes for everyone. All welcome.

For tickets see wcgreenteam.com.



West Chester Green Team, Unitarian Congregation of West Chester and West Chester Cooperative sponsor

Earth Day Rally & Celebration: Planet vs Plastic

April 20, 2024

Rally @ Chester County Courthouse, 2 N High St., West Chester

3:00pm: Rally featuring:

- State Senator Carolyn Comitta,
- State Representative Chris Pielli,
- County Commissioner Josh Maxwell

4:15pm: Former Mayor Jordan Norley leads march for Earth's support from Courthouse to Unitarian Congregation



Unsplash



"Nature Hand" by Dawn Mazzone



"Koi" Painting by Denise Viallo, www.deniseviallo.com

Celebration @ Unitarian Congregation of West Chester, 501 S High St., West Chester

4:30pm: Earth Day Celebration:

- Keynote Speaker: Eastern Pennsylvania Director for Clean Water Action Maurice Sampson II speaks on Environmental Justice
- Tables by 12 environmental groups
- Mexican Buffet with vegetarian options--includes drinks & dessert



Follow the QR code or go to WCGT's website for more information!

The Surprising Impact of a T-shirt

By David Masur, Executive Director, PennEnvironment



100 billion pieces of clothing are made every year.



30% of clothing produced each year will **never** be sold. Instead, it's likely **landfilled or incinerated.**



34 billion pounds of textiles discarded by Americans in 2018.



That's enough waste to **fill the Mall of America every 6 days.**

Each year, 100 billion pieces of clothing are made. That's twice as much as in the year 2000.¹

We're making more clothing than ever before, but a huge chunk of it gets thrown out after being worn just once or twice -- or it's never even worn at all before ending up in a landfill.

Continually pumping out cheap clothing to fuel the next trend is incredibly wasteful -- about 30% of the billions of pieces of clothing produced every year will *never* be sold, and are likely sent to a landfill or incinerator instead.

Why is the fast fashion industry making tons of cheap clothing that never even reaches our closets? And why are heaps of unsold clothes being sent directly to landfills or incinerators?

It's absurd to burn and toss shirts, pants and dresses that have nothing wrong with them except being so last season. And it's even more absurd to waste so many resources to make, ship and stock huge quantities of clothes that will never be sold.

Here's all the resources it takes just to produce one cotton t-shirt and one polyester t-shirt:

- For each shirt, another half a shirt worth of material is discarded.
- It takes **157 gallons of water** to make a polyester shirt. A cotton shirt takes **1,019 gallons of water** to grow and process the cotton material.
- The threads for the polyester shirt are made from **1.5 cups of crude oil**. The equipment that processes the cotton shirt burns the fossil fuels equivalent to **nearly a gallon of oil**.
- The cotton threads need about **1/2 cup of fertilizers and pesticides** to grow.
- Making these two shirts produces about **37 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions**.
- If you wash the polyester shirt every two weeks, it will release roughly **1 million microplastic fibers every year**.²

Now imagine that billions of times over. The scale of the fast fashion problem is massive.

And so often, we use gallons of water, fossil fuels, pesticides and other resources to make these clothes, and then just send them to the trash heap. In 2018, Americans discarded 34 billion pounds of textiles. That's about 14 loads of laundry for every American just thrown away like that.³

You and I might try to do our best to be less wasteful, whether it's choosing to buy fewer new clothes, thrifting second-hand clothes or patching up what's already in our closet. But to solve a problem this large, we need to tackle the root of the problem.

Fast fashion companies should commit to never burning or trashing their overstock. And they probably shouldn't make so many extra clothes in the first place.

T-shirt, con't.

We're calling on fast fashion companies to make public commitments to change their wasteful practices. It won't be easy to reverse these trends, but we can make protecting our planet the fashionable thing to do.

... and another viewpoint on thrifting

Donating old or unwanted clothing to thrift stores is one way to keep it out of landfills, but is it the best way to deal with our overflowing closets? This article takes a different point of view.

<https://www.earthday.org/unraveling-the-impact-of-thrifting>

PORCHFEST is coming! Here's the latest . . .

By Molly Hanford, 2024 West Chester Porchfest Co-Organizer

The West Chester Green Team Presents the
THIRD annual West Chester Porchfest on
Saturday, May 18th 1:00-7:00 pm!

We're thrilled to announce that there are already
37 musical groups, 10 non-band activities and over
10 food trucks booked for Porchfest!

Calling all musicians, poets, opera singers,
dancers and other individuals passionate about
showcasing your talent – we need YOU! Help us
create an unforgettable experience by joining our
lineup. The performer sign-up closes April 1st!

We're also on the lookout for enthusiastic hosts to
open up their porches for these incredible
performances. Share your space, and let the music
resonate.



Not musical, don't have a porch in the Porchfest area? Maybe you would like to volunteer your time. You may volunteer for an hour or for a day, any help will be greatly appreciated!

Ready to contribute? Whether it's performing, hosting, sponsoring, volunteering or making a donation, your involvement makes a difference. Visit the website at <https://westchesterporchfest.com/> to sign up and be a part of the Porchfest magic!

Together we can make this year's Porchfest the best one yet! Spread the word, invite your friends, and be a key player in this community celebration!



Would You Grow Glow-in-the-Dark Petunias?

Starting this spring, glowing plants will be offered for sale. Bioluminescent Firefly™ Petunias will be marketed by Light Bio for a hefty \$29 per plant.

The plants were genetically engineered using genes isolated from multiple species of luminous mushrooms.

Read more about Light Bio's achievement here:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/bioluminescent-plants-are-now-even-brighter-light-bio-to-begin-selling-firefly-petunias-to-consumers-with-usda-approval-302050054.html>

While this is certainly a novel development that will make gardens look as enchanting at night as they are during the day, it remains to be seen what effect these glowing flowers will have on bees, birds, and other wildlife.



Chester County Acquires First Electric Vehicle

In support of the goals established by Chester County's Climate Action Plan, we're excited to share that the county acquired its first Electric Vehicle (EV)! The vehicle, a 2024 Nissan Leaf, was delivered to the Chester County Library this past week and will be used by the Library's outreach program. The county's Facilities Department coordinated the install of a "Level 2" charger in the Library's garage to charge the vehicle.



Three additional EVs are on order for Chester County in 2024, which will be used by employees of the Pocopson Home, Chester County Prison, and Children, Youth & Families department, with more to come in 2025! [Learn more about how EVs fit into the county's Climate Action Plan.](#)

We Still Have Free Garden Space

We still have a few garden plots available for summer 2024. Our garden plots are 4 X 4 or sometimes 4 X 8 feet. We supply the space, you supply tools and your time.

The West Chester Green Team believes that gardening and growing our own food offer good ways to get in touch with the natural world, give us the satisfaction of acting for the good, and are educational to all concerned. Our gardeners are expected to grow organically and not use any chemical fertilizers or insecticides.

If you are interested, please act expeditiously, as some crops can be sown as early as March, and we will assign beds as soon as we have a good match with interested people. To apply, please see full information here: <https://wcgreenteam.com/2024/01/24/looking-for-garden-space-this-summer/>