



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

June 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:

Porchfest wrap-up, Hellstrip planting, Art award, Legendary Lenape program returns, and Green wagons



WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



Tuesday, June 18: June Green Team board meeting, 6:30 pm at 409 W Union Street

Saturday, June 22 from 10-4: Green Living Tour: Tallamy Inspired Gardens, Self Sufficiency and Aging in Place. See details on page 3

For details on other June 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 July 2024 issue is June 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

June 22 from 10-4 Green Living Tour: Tallamy Inspired Gardens, Self-Sufficiency and Aging in Place. The WCGT and the West Chester Garden Club are teaming up! We will be hosting a garden and house tour at select locations around the Borough. Come check out how other people care for their gardens, raise chickens, provide for pollinators and other native species, and adapt to changing landscapes. This free event will be on Saturday, June 22. Gardens will be open from 10am to 4pm and houses open from 11am to 3pm. This year's garden tour goes a bit beyond and features two GT members who are working toward a zero-waste lifestyle. Megan Schraedly and Christiane Torres will invite you in to see the chickens and the composting, the bread baking, and the reused clothing. Margaret and Jim Hudgings will open their home to show a Hazley renovation that they hope will allow them to stay home as they age. It is best for people and communities for older citizens to stay put. See how Hazley renovated a Victorian twin for one story living. Also, 10 gardens will be featured on the tour. More details soon! Stay updated at wcgreenteam.com and on Facebook @wcgreenteam.



All month in June: [PA Firefly Festival](#)



Lights Out For Lightning Bugs: Starting June 1 through the month of June, you can do your part to help protect and conserve the fireflies in your backyard. The decline of fireflies worldwide is due to many reasons all of which are results of human causes. The most obvious cause is light pollution. The lights interfere with the mating behaviors of fireflies. Fireflies lighting displays are how they find mates, and if artificial light is shining, they can't compete or see their mates.

We can help by simply turning off outdoor lighting during the mating season, which in our area is mostly the month of June. If you can't turn off your lights completely, consider shading them so they are focused to a smaller area on the ground, or use a timer or motion detectors to reduce the amount of time the lights are on at night.

Reducing or eliminating lighting also helps other nocturnal insects and others species of birds, reptiles and mammals. Humans also benefit from darkness by

improving natural circadian rhythms and other health benefits. If we reduce our lighting, we will see a reduction in energy costs too.

So, we hope you will join us in the Lights Out For Lightning Bugs this June. Go outside and watch for fireflies and enjoy the dark skies in your favorite park or backyard. Scan the QR code in the poster or go to our website to find out more. <https://www.pafireflyevents.org/lights-out-for-lightning...>

Other ways you can help fireflies:

- Identify wetter, shady areas and leave them be. This includes minimal foot traffic and mowing, no pesticides, and let leaf litter and decaying wood accumulate.
- Provide a clean water source
- Plant a variety of native plants.

September 9: The film "Common Ground," free and open to the public at WCU. Co-sponsored by WCGT and WCU Office of Sustainability. Celebrities explore how many of the problems that ail humans connect to the state of the world's soil. Independent farmers implementing historic indigenous techniques demonstrate how changing agricultural practices could potentially save the world to come.

September 23: Spotlight on tree planting enthusiast Ryan Davis from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, speaking at WCU on September 23. A program jointly sponsored by WCU Office of Sustainability and the WCGT. He will also speak on meadows. Read more about Davis at:

<https://www.greenzine.org/post/alliance-for-chesapeake-bay-ryan-davis>



Art Award Winner Named

Suzanne Kent, potter and head of the art committee of the WCGT, has announced that **Vaughn Stadtmiller** is the winner of the Philip Jamison Art and Nature Award bestowed annually on a local artist who exemplifies Jamison's art in commitment to nature and to Chester County. The award will be presented this coming summer at an event keyed by State Senator Carolyn Comitta and focusing on the importance of dark skies for the health of the planet. Comitta is being recognized by the Green Team for her environmental leadership which has guided her followers here in Chester County and led her colleagues in Harrisburg.



From Stadtmiller's biography:

"Living in Chester County most of my life, I've developed a deep appreciation for its own charm, beauty and history. During the past years, I've focused most of my work on our feathered friends, especially paying attention to detail with all the things that surround us."

Another Hellstrip Made Heavenly

By Chris Pugliese



On the morning of Saturday, May 11, volunteers from the Green Team met to plant native perennials along Chestnut Street at the Lasko YMCA location in West Chester. The planting of the "hellstrip" is a continuation of the planting effort completed two years earlier at the corner of High and Chestnut Sts, which is now thriving. Although hellstrips are narrow, the impact of such a planting cannot be underestimated - especially along the high-visibility streets in the Borough. Thanks to the volunteers that pitched in!

Green Wagon Project

By Anna Sechrist



We kicked off the Green Wagon Project on Sunday, May 26, with big success! For those not familiar, the project is inspired by a similar initiative by Keep Media Green. Think of it as a Little Free Library for plants instead of books. We are trying to keep a native plant focus and align it to Homegrown National Park. In just the first week, the wagon has shared over 30 plants to the community, but we need help to keep it sustainable. Plant donations are an integral part of the project. If you have native plants to split, please consider potting, labeling, and dropping them off to the wagon following its schedule as follows.

Veteran's Memorial Park June 2-June 8

Everhart Park June 9-15

John O Green Park June 16-22

Hoopes Park June 23-29

The wagons will return in late summer/early fall. Thank you for your help with this new project! Any questions can be directed to Anna Sechrist annaisechrist@gmail.com.



Legendary Lenape Program Returns

Our Legendary Lenape Summer Program is back and registration is now open! This free, family-friendly 4-week program will meet on select Saturdays in July and August. We will continue to learn about the Lenape, the Indigenous people who lived here before European settlers arrived. Their place names and ways of growing and cooking live with us and often go unrecognized. Each week we will have different activities such as canoeing on Westtown Lake, creating clay pots and other Lenape crafts, learning the Lenape language, studying streams and butterflies at Bondsville Mill, and ending the summer with a banquet at Camp Liden. More information, details, and registration can be found here: <https://wcgreenteam.com/2024-legendary-lenape-series/>

LEGENDARY LENAPE SUMMER PROGRAM 2024



This is our second year of programming for families about the Lenape, the Indigenous people who lived here before European settlers arrived. Their place names and ways of growing and cooking live with us and often go unrecognized. During this 4 week program, we will be learning more about the Lenape and honoring their legacy. The sessions will take place at locations around Chester County, on Saturdays from July 13 to August 3, at varying times. Please double check dates, times, and locations!

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Week 1: Canoeing, Clay Pots and Lenape Language; Westtown Lake, July 13, 10-12pm
Week 2: Streams and Butterflies; Bondsville Mill Park, July 20 10-12pm
Week 3: Culture & Crafts of Woodland Native Americans; Marshallton United Methodist Church, July 27, 10-12pm
Week 4: Campfire & Lenape Banquet; Camp Linden, August 3 5-7pm

**FOR SESSION REGISTRATION AND MORE INFO
VISIT [WWW.WCGREENTeam.COM](https://wcgreenteam.com)**



Porchfest Wrap-up

Despite many challenges, both financial and meteorological. Porchfest once again delighted the community. With over 100 bands and many popular children's and gardening events and food trucks, Porchfest had something for everyone and was a lively and well attended community celebration. Special thanks for its success go to the Porchfest committee headed by Molly Hanford and Renee Perna who handled the multitude of details needed to bring it to life. Thanks also to all the fundraisers and donors who helped us to cover costs. Porchfest '25 is already planned for next year. Save the date--Saturday, May 17, 2025.

The Green Team has been asked by the WCU Office of Sustainability to present a program on how to do a Porchfest, folding in green education in the process. The program presented by Molly Hanford, Charlot Barker of Gingko Arts and the Ukulele Orchestra, is scheduled for April. 2025.

Also, we thank Taka Nagai for these wonderful photos:



Maps and schedules

Green tables



Performers!



Food trucks



Activities



And more performers!

See you next year!

