



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

June 2026

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:



WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



June 6. Garden Tour. See more info on page 3.

For details on other June and later events, see listings beginning page 3. Also see more events at <https://wcgreenteam.com> and countywide events at <https://chescoenvt.org>.

Related groups and committees (please check online before attending, especially on or near a holiday):

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/>

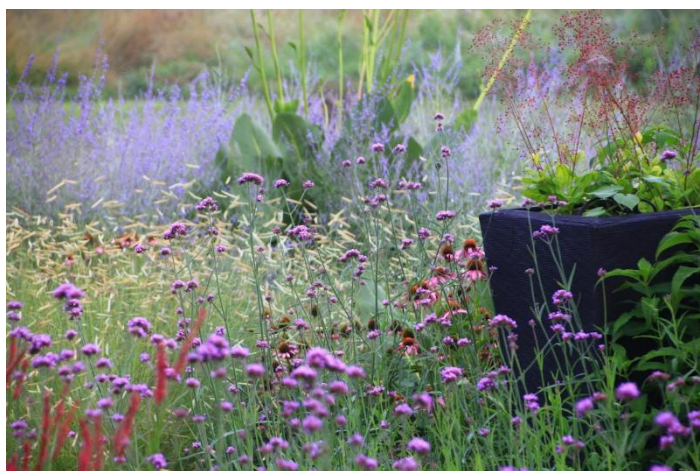
NOTE: Deadline for the July 2026 issue is June 30! We welcome contributions and suggestions from our readers for possible inclusion in a future issue. E-mail your ideas to Dianne Walsh at LDwalsh318@gmail.com.

This and That: More Coming Attractions

June 6: Garden Tour, 10 AM 'til noon

The Green Team traditionally holds a garden event in June. This year our Vice President, landscape designer Chris Pugliese, has set up an exciting opportunity to visit the personal gardens of Donald Pell Gardens, a design-build landscape company located half an hour's drive north of West Chester, near Phoenixville. This event is free to all. (Photos illustrate some of the Pell gardens.)

If interested, please email nathanielbsmith@earthlink.net to sign up and receive driving instructions. We expect 10-15 participants and will facilitate car-pooling. To see more information about gardens [here](#), including links to past tours and videos of local gardens. For our 2025 tour, see [here](#).

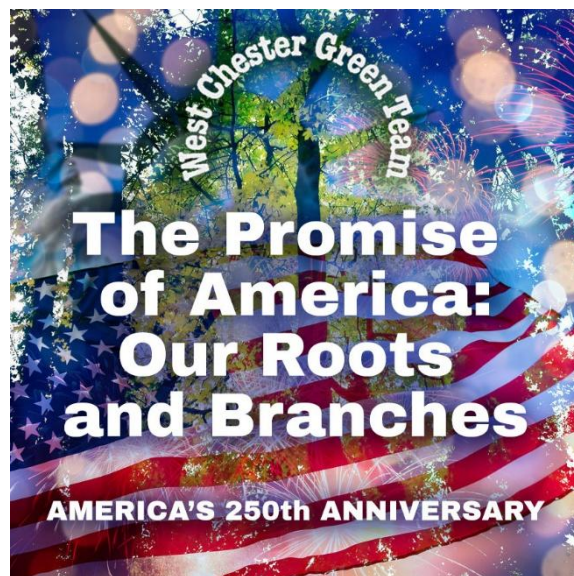


July 2: 6 PM, Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with an evening of stories, reflection, and community. Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center, 226 N. High St., West Chester. Free admission.

The Promise of America: Our Roots and Branches

Join Uptown as we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with an evening of reflection, storytelling, and community. This special free event will feature the Iroquois Address to the Natural World, a reading of The Declaration of Independence, and a collection of poems, stories, and readings honoring the spirit and history of America. The band White Feathers will be performing.

A reception will follow the program with tacos by El Limon and free ice cream! Rain or shine.



See [Special Events - Uptown](#) and [The Promise of America - Uptown](#)

July 11: canoeing at Westtown Lake at 11 AM. To reserve your spot on the canoeing, contact mhudgings@gmail.com. Canoeing is free thanks to Tim James and Westtown Meeting, Society of Friends on the campus of Westtown School.



July 26: Green Team group trip to "Ain't Misbehavin'" at People's Light and Theatre Co., Malvern. The ticket cost is \$25 for adults and children and \$15 for college students. Show time is 2 pm. For tickets contact mhudgings@gmail.com.

From *Natural Lands*:

Spring is the season for planting.

Consider swapping in some native species this year.

All animals get their energy directly from plants, or by eating something that has already eaten a plant. Insects are especially good at passing on energy, which is why they're such vital components of healthy ecosystems.

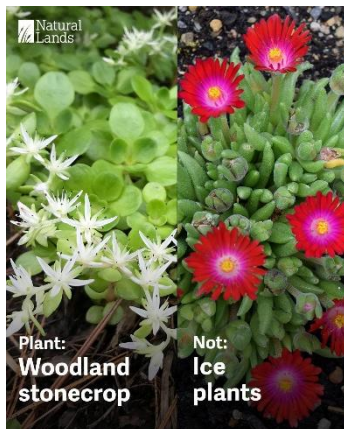
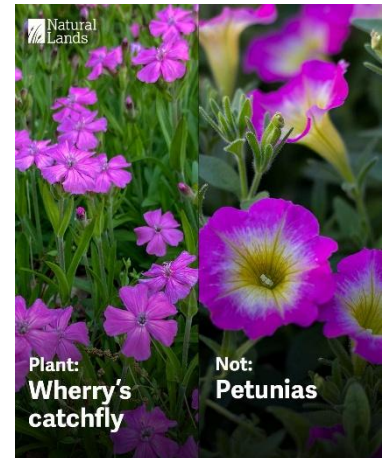
So many animals—including reptiles, spiders, amphibians, rodents, and birds—depend on insects for food. Removing insects from a food web spells its doom. When we plant with non-native species—those that originated elsewhere—we are doing just that.

Native plants, on the other hand, co-evolved with our native insects making them the perfect potential meal for our precious pollinators and other creatures.

Ground Covers

Starting from the ground up...

Instead of spending money and time planting annuals every year, try this bright and cheery perennial. Purple-blooming **Wherry's catchfly** (*Silene caroliniana* ssp. *wherryi*) grows in low, dense mounds.



Woodland stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*) is a low-growing, tough-as-nails succulent alternative that provides value for early spring pollinators.

Robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*) offers thick, fuzzy leaves that crawl over and hug the ground, giving way to a carpet of delightful native flowers each spring.

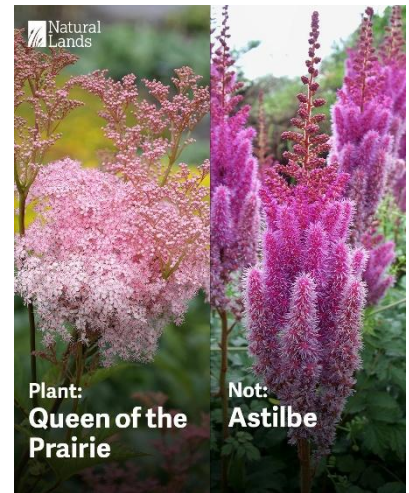


Perennials

Bow down, astilbe, there's a new queen in town. It's **queen of the prairie** (*Filipendula rubra*) and her tall, elegant plumes certainly are magnificent to behold.



Orange you glad orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) is low maintenance, blooms for months, and attracts myriad pollinators? Lose our number, orange daylilies.



The leaves of **white sagebush** (*Artemisia ludoviciana*) are ghostly silver, a rather uncommon color among other plants native to our region. While white sagebush may not have the most show-stopping flowers, it's still highly aromatic.

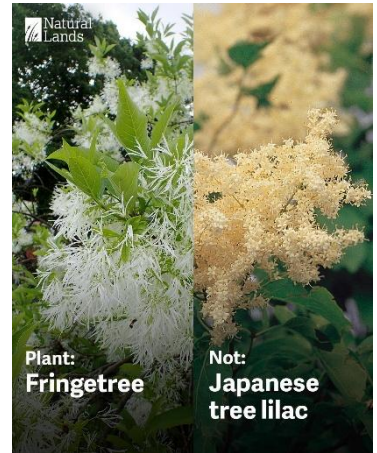


Trees



American redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is the ultimate “look at our pink trees” species. This native is an important nectar and pollen source for early season pollinators and is a favorite among bumblebees.

American fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) is named for its frothy white flowers, but the scent this native provides is equally stunning. Consider planting this small tree near a deck, porch, or other regularly frequented space to ensure maximum olfactory enjoyment during the bloom period.



Honeylocust 'Ruby Lace' (*Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Ruby Lace') not only boasts stunning red foliage throughout the growing season, but the feather-like leaves offer lovely ornamental display. This tree is tolerant of urban conditions, unpalatable to deer, and attractive to long-tongued bees and butterflies.

Find Natural Lands database of native plants here: [visit our native plant database](#)

June Gardening Tips: Your Monthly Checklist

The Philadelphia Horticultural Society suggests these activities for this month: <https://phsonline.org/for-gardeners/gardeners-blog/june-gardening-tips-monthly-checklist> Caging your tomatoes is just one.



Volunteer of the Month – Catherine Bosna

Catherine Bosna is a long-time member of the WCGT Art Committee. Catherine was a founding member of the West Chester Co-operative Playschool and is a graduate of Rosemont College. She comes from a family of artists including her sister Mia, who played the role of enlightened teachers at our GT Earth Day celebration at the United Methodist Church back in April.

Both Bosna sisters have donated to our auctions, and Catherine's husband Wayne Passe has offered us the most beautiful handcrafted cutting boards. Catherine has also located bits and pieces here and there and made gorgeous baskets for our GT auctions.

In addition to her artistic talents, Catherine is a teacher. She pioneered the Journey Stick activity when the Green Team first offered our three years of Lenape programming. She is pictured teaching the children how to make journey sticks at our first Porchfest five years ago. You can count on Catherine. She will always step forward to help out. Thank you, Catherine, for sharing your talents with the community through the WC Green Team.



Scenes from Porchfest

From bunnies, to Mummers, to Green Porches, to kids' activities, to boys in the band cooling off in a pool, Porchfest was a wonderful day enjoyed by all who attended!



Chester County Catch the Rain Program

Residential Green Infrastructure Rebate Program

From Chester County Planning Commission and Chesco.org



[Apply to Chester County's *Catch the Rain* program](#) today to help protect local waterways!

By planting trees and native vegetation, installing rain gardens, and reducing or replacing pavement, you can help protect aquatic habitats, support pollinators, and enhance biodiversity in your community.

The Chester County Water Resources Authority's *Catch the Rain* program offers rebates to private landowners for the installation of green infrastructure

practices to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality across the County. This program provides incentives for County residents and landowners to reduce runoff and improve water quality on private land. These small-scale efforts complement regional initiatives that protect and restore Chester County waterways. Funding for this program was provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Plus Grant Program.

The Catch the Rain program was first launched in the [White Clay Creek watershed in 2016](#) to help residents invest in their community's water resources. To date, it has supported the installation of dozens of green infrastructure projects, including rain gardens, tree plantings, conservation landscaping, riparian buffers, de-paving and permeable paving retrofits. This County-wide Catch the Rain program expands upon the original program, empowering more landowners to take an active role in stormwater management while advancing long-term environmental sustainability and strengthening community resilience.

Landowners who apply and are selected through the program are eligible for rebates covering 50% of project costs up to \$2,500. Please see eligibility guidelines and program details below.

Eligibility:

Properties must be residential and located within Chester County to be eligible for this rebate program. The applicant must own the property for which an application is submitted. Property owners in the White Clay Creek watershed should apply directly to the [White Clay Creek Catch the Rain Program](#). Please use [ChescoViews](#) to determine your home watershed.

Eligible practices include:

- Rain gardens
- Conservation landscaping
- Canopy, riparian buffer, or shade tree plantings
- De-paving or permeable pavement retrofits

Project funding is limited and rebates for program participants will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Only projects that are implemented after acceptance into the program are eligible for rebates.

All applicants must sign a copy of the [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Landowner Agreement](#) to receive a *Catch the Rain* rebate. All projects must be maintained for a minimum of 20 years in accordance with the Landowner Agreement.

Deadlines:

[Applications for the Spring/Summer 2026](#) round will be open until June 30th. A Fall application round is anticipated to open in early September, pending continued availability of funds.

Application Process and Program Overview:

1. Confirm your eligibility (i.e., Chester County resident outside of the White Clay Creek watershed)
2. [Submit your application online](#)
3. If accepted, CCWRA will contact you to coordinate a site visit with a landscape professional
4. Following the site visit, review conceptual plan developed for your property and decide on projects to implement
5. Install your project (use a contractor or DIY!)
6. Save all receipts and submit as a single package to CCWRA
7. Schedule a final project inspection with CCWRA
8. Receive your rebate and set your strategy for ongoing maintenance

Have questions? Contact catchtherain@chesco.org or call 610-344-5400.

This project is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Plus program.

Pesticide Exposure Linked to 150% Higher Cancer Risk in Major Study

Source: Institut Pasteur, Science Daily:

“To better understand the link between pesticides and cancer, researchers created detailed models showing how agricultural chemicals spread across the country. The analysis included 31 widely used pesticides. None of these are classified as known human carcinogens by the World Health Organization (WHO), yet their combined presence in the environment was carefully tracked.

‘We first modeled the dispersion of pesticides in the environment over a six-year period, from 2014 to 2019, which allowed us to create a high-resolution map and identify areas with the highest risk of exposure,’ explains Jorge Honles, PhD in epidemiology at the University of Toulouse.

The team then compared these exposure maps with health data from more than 150,000 cancer patients recorded between 2007 and 2020. This comparison revealed a clear pattern.”
In these areas, the likelihood of developing cancer was about 150% greater on average.

We're in a Drought, But How Bad Is It?

This bad. This is a survey of water levels in a sampling of wells in Chester County as of May 2026.

CHESTER COUNTY OBSERVATION WELL NETWORK - REPORT FOR MAY 2026

Levels Indicated are Depth to Water Below Land Surface in Feet

Well ID	Municipality	CURRENT MONTH		CHANGES	
		Depth to Water (feet)	Drought Status	From One Month Ago (1)	From One Year Ago (1)
2	Honey Brook	11.50 **	Emergency	0.38	1.67
10	West Marlborough	14.67	Emergency	0.71	0.86
38	New Garden	10.26	Emergency	1.05	1.07
210	Tredyffrin	23.21 **	Emergency	0.60	0.40
1201	West Sadsbury	5.72	Watch	0.21	0.27
1229	Upper Uwchlan	40.08 **	Emergency	0.22	2.44
1247	West Vincent	30.06	Warning	0.16	3.77
1387	Thornbury	35.54	Warning	0.42	0.69
1571	East Vincent	7.59	Emergency	0.13	1.41
2273	West Brandywine	4.83 **	Emergency	0.11	2.86
2313	East Whiteland	22.25 **	Emergency	0.13	3.45
2328	East Nantmeal	3.27	Warning	0.09	1.22
2457	East Goshen	19.91	Warning	0.49	0.31
2584	East Marlborough	24.18 **	Emergency	1.22	2.24
3289	Tredyffrin	20.78	Median	0.72	5.43
5422	Londonderry	20.35	Emergency	0.84	1.09
6513	North Coventry	NR	NR	N	N
6516	Pennsbury	5.33	Emergency	0.16	1.22
6517	West Caln	71.91	Emergency	-0.20	1.98
7007	Wallace	31.96 **	Emergency	-1.31	0.70
7275	New Garden	47.90 ^N	N/A	0.09	0.22
7279	East Bradford	24.07 ^N	N/A	0.13	0.97
Mean Changes of All Wells				0.32	1.74

Wells were measured on May 18, 19 & 21, 2026

SUMMARY

Number of wells at or above Median Level = 1
 Number of wells at or below Drought Watch Level = 18 (17 of these are also below warning or emergency levels)
 Number of wells below Drought Warning Level = 17 (13 of these are also below emergency levels)
 Number of wells below Drought Emergency Level = 13

19 of the 21 wells have statistics

Notes

NR = no reading available for this well on this month.
 (1): A (-) negative number indicates the level of water in the well has risen compared to the previous period (or a decrease in the depth from the land surface to the water level in the well).
 *: Well reached Minimum Depth to water in the well for this month (not applicable this month)
 **: Well reached Maximum Depth to water in the well this month (not applicable this month)
 ***: Well was dry at time of observation (not applicable this month)
^N = Well has not been monitored for a long enough period of time to develop statistics.

Wells CH 2273, CH 2328 and CH 6516 can have ground water flowing above the land surface (known as an artesian well);
 a (-) negative number under "Depth to Water" indicates water flowing above the land surface.

Drought categories based on USGS's *Pennsylvania Groundwater Watch* web page.

For additional information contact the Chester County Water Resources Authority at water@chesco.org.

Date Prepared: 5/28/2026

Recipe From Our Earth Day Dinner: Bulgarian Salad

By Kremena Pappert

Ingredients:

1 pound of cucumbers - peeled and cut in half or quarters

1 pound of tomatoes - cut in one-inch pieces (or small tomatoes)

1 orange or yellow pepper cut in 1/2-inch pieces

1/2 cup of Kalamata pitted olives

Greek Olive oil

Any kind of vinegar - I used Organic Apple cider vinegar

1 cup of chopped Italian parsley

1 cup of chopped dill

2 Tablespoons of Bulgarian Sharena Sol

1 cup of shredded Bulgarian Sheep Feta

EuroMarket in Broomall has the Sharena Sol spice combination and the Bulgarian Feta.

To give it the delicious flavor be sure to get the Sharena Sol and sheep feta.

