



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

October 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.

Upcoming events, including the Plastics Panel and Auction; reports on our Annual Meeting and more; the WC Co-op and sustainability; light pollution; standing up for birds; what to do with fall leaves; an environment quiz; and lots more.

Deadline for November
2026 is October 31! E-
mail your ideas to Dianne
Walsh at
LDwalsh318@gmail.com

We welcome
contributions and
suggestions from our
readers for possible
inclusion in a future
issue.

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West Chester Green
Team

WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



See more local events on [our website](https://chescoenvt.org/) and countywide events at <https://chescoenvt.org/>

Thursday, October 15: 12-1pm, WCU sustainability tour: North Campus. Sign up [here](#)

Saturday, October 17: 1-5pm, Fall Festival & Connect, [Stroud Preserve](#), East Bradford. More info [here](#).

Spend an autumnal Saturday afternoon in the transformed barnyard space at Stroud Preserve for this year's Fall Festival. Info [here](#).

Tuesday, October 22: Green Team members are invited to join the Chester County Art Association for a **trip to Glenstone** in Potomac MD, an extraordinary destination where art, architecture, and nature converge. Green Team Interim President Chris Pugliese will share his knowledge and insights.

Tuesday, October 22: 6:30pm, 3 panelists discussing Plastics and Health, Business and Public Management Center, 50 Sharpless St., West Chester. How to minimize our microplastics exposure and clean up the planet? At 6pm, reception with light refreshments and tabling by some of our youth members.

Monday, October 26: 12-1pm, WCU sustainability tour: Gordon Natural Area. Sign up [here](#).

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/>

The Green Team is a chapter of [Transition Network International](#), a movement founded in 2005 that encourages communities to start local in addressing the big challenges we face as we move toward a more renewable future.

The Green Team's Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting took place at the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester on Sunday afternoon September 20.

Tabling before the event featured, among others, the West Chester Co-op, introducing its newly opened full-service grocery store at 204 W. Market St.

The keynote speaker, West Chester University graduate and Westtown resident Nick Rickards, led off with a talk about the [Turks Head Trail plan](#), which expanded the overview he provided to riders during our sold-out August 30 train ride from West Chester to Wawa Station near Glen Mills. Some highlights:

The proposed 9.3 mile trail route, split nearly evenly between Chester and Delaware Counties, would run along the SEPTA-owned rail corridor where the train ride took place. What makes this possible is that the corridor is actually wide enough to accommodate both a train and a trail, though the corridor does narrow at some crossings such as at routes 926 and 202. However, he is confident these “tricky spots” can be figured out in a feasibility study.

Significantly, the trail will benefit the train through cross-promotion as well as bring benefits to nearby restaurants, and all who wish to walk, run or bicycle on it for pleasure or to get to the numerous points of interest along its path. Two high schools and two universities, as well as two elementary schools, several parks and a swim club, would be connected by the trail. It will solve the anomaly that the Borough itself is very walkable but its surroundings mostly are not.

The trail can be integrated into extant networks of trails and public transportation. Ideally, people will be able to move around the area and to Philly without driving.

Since Nick's idea began in 2020, he has contacted a lot of people, including elected officials, and has had to become, he said, a bit of a “delusional optimist.” There are many aspects to work out through a feasibility study, and then of course substantial funding will be needed for the idea to become reality, but he believes it is worth the effort and represents a great opportunity for all who live or visit the West Chester area.

In or in answer to questions:

Along with a detailed account of planning and the status of other local trails, of which our area is fortunate to have so many, [Hello West Chester, 8/28/26](#), took a poll showing that 95% of respondents favored the Turks Head Trail idea.

There would be gardens along the way, plaques about birds and trees, etc.

Connecting West Chester and Cheyney Universities would be a plus, as the two have some shared activities.

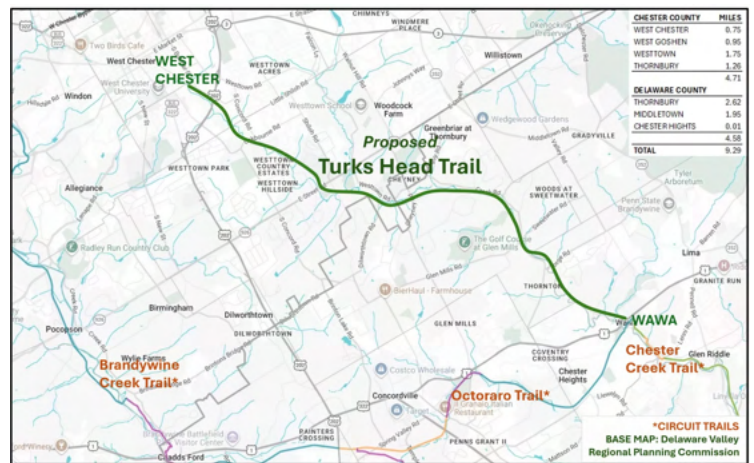
Municipalities have been very supportive. Trails increase real estate values.

The trail could be surfaced in permeable packed gravel, though asphalt might be needed where washouts are possible. Surface material is just another aspect that would need to be addressed by a feasibility study.

Some bicycle commuters, e.g. to PennState Brandywine, would appreciate the route.

Summing up: a win for people, environment, open space, everyone!

Map showing the proposed trail:



Next on the program, ceramic artist Suzanne Kent presented the Philip Jamison Art and Nature Award to this year's winner: Nancy Salamon. Noted were the abundance of natural images in Nancy's clay and pottery. Nancy began ceramics long ago at Antioch College and has kept branching into new forms, including garden sculptures and the indoor equivalent. She has kindly donated a basket of works to this year's auction. Suzanne concluded her presentation: "Nancy's beautiful work is a celebration of the natural world."



Nancy Salamon at the meeting

A word of thanks to our officers and other board members who make our work possible:

Chris Pugliese, Interim President, Living Landscapes

Tim Lawlor, Vice President, Dark Skies Committee

David Wickard, Treasurer

Chris Blakely, Auction and Finance Committee

Sandy Brinker, Auction and Finance Committee

Margaret Hudgings, Senior Adviser

Dawn Mazzone, Program Chair

Karen Slossburg, Past President

Nathaniel Smith, Senior Adviser

Dianne Walsh, Newsletter Editor and Corresponding Secretary

Mark Your Calendar!

October 22:



**Thursday,
October 22nd, 2026**

**Business and Public
Management Center**
50 Sharpless St, West Chester, PA

Reception with light
refreshments,
6:00pm, Room 102

Panel discussion and West
Chester Green Team
awards presentation,
6:30pm, Room 116

Moderator

- Cheryl Wanko, Professor,
West Chester University English
& Sustainability

Panelists

- Erika Prinz Ben-Zur, Acupuncture
and Chinese Medicine
- Elliott Arnold, Professor, West
Chester University Earth and Space
Sciences
- Megan Fork, Professor, West
Chester University Biology

**WCGT Environmental Leadership
Award to be presented to Rachael
Griffith, Sustainability Director,
Chester County Planning Commission**

Questions? Email sustainability@wcupa.edu

WCGT at WCU's Sustainability Showcase

By Isabella Gigliotti

On September 16, the West Chester Green Team participated in West Chester University's annual Sustainability Showcase in the Sykes Student Union Ballrooms. The Showcase brings together groups and departments from across campus that promote environmental, social, and economic sustainability and gives them a chance to share their current programs, events, and projects with the WCU and surrounding community.

At the Green Team table, visitors could learn more about our work, upcoming events and meetings, and ways to get involved. We also invited visitors to take a sustainability quiz to test their knowledge of environmental topics.

Want to test your own sustainability knowledge? See the quiz at the end of this newsletter!

Throughout the Showcase, attendees explored tables focused on topics such as recycling and waste reduction, green roofs, responsible purchasing, and sustainability education. The event also included activities, giveaways, food, and opportunities to connect with different organizations. It was a great opportunity for the Green Team to meet WCU students and community members while sharing more about our work in West Chester.



From left: WCGT representatives Nathaniel Smith, Dawn Mazzone, and Tim Lawlor at WCU's Sustainability Showcase.

War is Ecocide

Talk by Olivia DiNucci

What is ecocide? Etymologically, it is home (in the metaphorical sense of where we live, as in ecology) + killing (as in homicide). Killing our own home on earth. As the 1960s poster and slogan said: War is not healthy for children and all living things.

After a welcome by Dr. Bradley Flamm, Director of the Office of Sustainability, Dr. Tabassum Ruby, professor in WCU's department of Women's and Gender Studies, who headed a committee that organized this talk, gave an introduction focused on the vast expenses of military operations in the past 60 years, which could have been used for beneficial purposes.

Then Olivia DiNucci took the microphone. Some highlights:

War is a human and environmental catastrophe. We need to think more of the effects of bombing on the land, military-related chemicals in the air and water, diesel production and exhaust, disruption of earth, the energy and raw materials used to build military hardware, and much more.

The #1 institutional polluter and consumer of fossil fuels in the world is the US military, which uses 270,000 barrels of oil per day and which, like other smaller militaries around the world, is largely exempt from the international greenhouse gas reporting agreements. The US has about 1,000 foreign military bases (Russia 9, China 1).



Per one of her slides: "We can't fight the climate crisis without ending war." We are in a dark time, with wars and conflicts all around us. But a good time to take action. We have no choice.

She has seen downtrodden communities abroad model solidarity by sharing meals and story-telling.

We are told that "It's happening over there." But she was in northern Minnesota during the fight against the pipeline, which she sees as enabling colonial resource extraction. The data centers in Virginia are mostly serving the Pentagon. High gas prices are making some people turn anti-war.

Educate... organize... escalate....

There have been some successes: a flotilla taking medical supplies, food and solar panels to Cuba, through a long-standing blockade; forcing the Navy to agree to close facilities poisoning ground water in O'ahu; boycotts and divestments.

In answer to questions: Far-reaching change won't happen through the ballot box, but voting is a tool for change. The Green Party is fine, but we don't now have an apparatus for a third party to win. Dialogue needed on, e.g., AI.

For more background, she recommends Earth's Greatest Enemy, a film by Abby Martin.

The talk was sponsored by the WCU Office of Sustainability, the Greater Philadelphia Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Consortium, the West Chester Green Team, and the Westtown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

The West Chester Green Team auction is coming soon!



Our 2027 West Chester Green Team auction will take place entirely online, from your phone or computer, beginning at 8pm November 25 and finishing at 8pm on December 5.

During the auction's last 3 hours, please also join us for dinner at 5pm at Holy Trinity Church, 212 S. High St., West Chester.

You can sign up as of now. Go [here](#) and, under "Overview," click "Donate & Tickets" to buy tickets for the dinner and/or click "Auction" and then "Register to Bid" to register for the auction. Then sign in if you already have an account from last year (be sure to update your credit card if it has changed) or sign up for a new account. There is no hurry but you will need an account before bidding.

We will tell you more next month about the great menu and exciting items up for bid. Big favorites are always bargain-priced weeklong rentals. Pictured: the village in the French Alps that is the location of a mountain hideaway.

The WCGT auction is a perfect way to do your holiday shopping and enjoy yourself in the process.

This auction is the Green Team's chief means of raising funds for our many initiatives during the year to come. Please support us!

West Chester Co-op, Sustainability and Community

By Nathaniel Smith

After 11 years of planning and preparation, the West Chester Co-op has now opened its full-service community-oriented grocery store at 204 W. Market St. West Chester is lucky to have become one of only several hundred co-op locations in the country!

On September 29, I talked in detail with Judy Carrino, president of the Co-op's board, and Sue Patterson, longtime volunteer, former member of the board and a frequent presence at Green Team events.

There is so much to say that I'm going to divide the info in two installments. This month I'll emphasize the community and sustainability side; and another time, more info on how the Co-op functions.

Just to anticipate the second installment: everyone can shop there, you really will find what you expect of a grocery store (including wraps and heatable prepared food), and it is very welcoming, as you see from the friendly folks in the photo: Assistant Manager Ralph Young, Sue Patterson, Manager Issa Ostrander, Judy Carrino, in front of the esthetic hues of the Garden section.

How does the Co-op advance sustainability?

- Many of the products are very local, as shown by the miles traveled on tags.
- Local vendors, almost 50 of them, are preferred, as well as nearby distributors from Lancaster County.
- Some coffee, chocolate and nuts are from [Equal Exchange](#), a co-op which distributes fairly-traded food from small-farmer co-ops and worker-owned sources around the world.
- The majority of the fresh produce is organic, and there are organic options in all of the product categories, including meats, cheeses, dairy, soups, sauces, condiments, cereals, snacks, etc.
- Like all other retailers in the Borough, the Co-op does not give out plastic bags. They do offer paper bags at a cost, but naturally hope all customers will bring their own reusable bags. Hint: if you have extra reusable or paper bags, give them to the Co-op and customers will use them!
- Eliminating plastic packaging is a challenge. The Co-op does have a bulk section, to which you can bring your own preferred container (get it weighed first).
- The Co-op fights food waste by reducing the price on food near its shelf limit, then by sending food that is usable but past its sellable date to the West Chester Food Cupboard. If food is not edible by people, it goes to its suppliers' goats and chickens, or to compost. Never to landfill! Cardboard is recycled too.



The Co-op and Community

- It's a new location for regular grocery shopping as well as a spontaneous destination. People working in the Borough or walking by can pop in, and those with small kids in strollers are happy not to have to do the carseat/parking routine.
- Its Member Owners have a say in decisions and can run for the board of 9 volunteers in yearly elections.
- It participates in community events... such as the Green Team's!

To join the Co-op, that is, to become a Member-Owner, see the [web site](#). An "equity share" will cost you \$400 (once, not annually) in one payment or in installments. You will join, currently, 863 others in the Co-op community. More on the benefits another time.

Congratulations to West Chester, PA Bird Town #103!

by Constance McEvoy



The Borough of West Chester has been designated Pennsylvania's 103rd [Bird Town](#), which was formalized by a presentation from Heidi Shiver, President of Bird Town Pennsylvania, which is affiliated with the Pennsylvania Audubon Council.

The ceremony, officiated by the Mayor, Her Honor Lillian DeBaptiste, conferred the official designation and signage certifying West Chester's status as an official Bird Town on Sept. 30 at Borough Hall, attended by members of the Borough's Sustainability Advisory Committee, which authored the application, representatives from West Chester Bird Club and the Green Team, along with various Borough staff and Council members. (Coincidentally, and helpfully to birds, West Chester has been an officially designated [Tree City USA](#) for more than 30 years.)

The Borough was invited to apply and readily gained its preliminary "green" status because of the many bird-habitat-friendly practices exercised in the Borough, ranging from no pesticides used in public parks and municipal properties to the growing number of rain and pollinator gardens located throughout the town.

Ongoing education about birds and their needs take place at all levels of the school system and West Chester University, which boasts a Cornell University-educated ornithologist in its Biology department. That professor's [Uehling Avian Lab](#) collaborates with other professors at the University in studying environmental impacts on birds and their habitats, particularly stream water plastic pollution. West Chester has been the home, for well over a century, to a Bird Club which hosts information sessions and bird walks for the public, as does the WCU ornithologist.

To borrow a local favorite phrase, "Go Birds!" And, as brought out in the presentation, let's all protect them by shielding our windows from bird collisions, keeping cats away from birds, eschewing pesticides and herbicides, and planting native species to favor insects that many birds depend on.



Bird Safe Philly

Making Philadelphia Safer for Birds

Bird collisions are a problem.

- More than 1 billion birds are estimated to collide with buildings and other human made structures in the U.S. every year.
- Glass is reflective and transparent and kills birds directly. Artificial light at night can confuse birds and increase collisions.
- Most collisions are fatal.
- Bird collisions can happen year-round in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- Data shows that birds regularly collide with residential, industrial, and commercial buildings in Philadelphia.



CLEAR WINNERS

Options abound for window treatments to keep birds safe—many easy to make or install yourself. Find a method that fits your budget and preferences.



What are the solutions?

- Applying dense patterns of “dots”, stripes, even tempera paint, or other barriers, such as screens or hanging cords in front of the glass will help birds stay away from windows.
- **Spacing matters.** Any product should be applied in a 2x2 inch grid pattern and applied to the **outermost surface** of the glass.

- Bird-friendly glass, such as etched-glass or fritted glass is also available for new projects.
- Reducing the amount of artificial light at night can help birds stay on their natural migration paths. Closing blinds/curtains or turning lights out completely can help to protect birds from collisions.

What is Bird Safe Philly?

- Bird Safe Philly is a coalition led by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, National Audubon Society, Valley Forge Audubon Society, and Liberty Bird Alliance (formerly Wyncote Audubon Society) that works to engage the community in learning about bird collisions and how we can prevent them.
- Our volunteers monitor high-impact areas during migration and transport injured birds to our local wildlife rehabilitators for evaluation and treatment.
- Light's Out Philly, a component of Birds Safe Philly, is part of a national movement, where participating buildings and homeowners turn their lights out during migration to help reduce bird collisions.



Learn more at birdsafephilly.org

[f](#) [i](#) @birdsafephilly



Light Pollution: Does West Chester have an Environmental Justice Problem?

by Tim Lawlor, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and Vice President of the West Chester Green Team

West Chester is objectively a progressive municipality when it comes to issues of sustainability. Borough ordinances are evidence of this. Four or five years ago, for example, it invested in new LED streetlights, which are known for reducing power usage by up to 90%. But as in most towns, their ordinances are only as good as their enforcement, and that depends on budget and staffing.

Enforcement appears to have been relegated to only reacting to complaints by residents. And then, results can be mixed. And as it turns out, the new LED streetlights, as well intentioned as they were, have come with unintended consequences. Specifically at issue is their bright white color temperature, correlating to temperatures of 4000 K to 5000 K (the brightest segment of a light corresponds to the temperature of its source). This color temperature can produce blinding reflections and glare, especially during rainstorms.

For LEDs, this temperature range also comes with a hidden danger: the white glow conceals a thin very luminous spike of blue light, the color most scattered by our atmosphere. Nationwide, this has accelerated sky glow and has muted our night skies.



But losing the night sky is not the only adverse impact. That blue band of light has been identified by the American Medical Association as a human health hazard for [disrupting human sleep](#) and melatonin production, and therefore has been linked to a variety of medical conditions ranging from anxiety and depression to deadly cancers. And it does not stop there.

The blue band hinders insect breeding at night and harms tree health by delaying dropping of leaves in the fall and bringing out buds too soon in the spring; and West Chester is full of beautiful, mature trees.

The light also draws migratory birds off course because they mistake it for the moon and stars, thus exhausting them and attracting them to urban areas where food sources may be short and lit windows at night lead to many millions of bird strikes. [The American Bird Conservancy reported](#) on a study that this number is more than one billion birds a year in the United States alone. It is particularly critical to tamp down light pollution during migration season; the [map at birdcast.org](http://map.atbirdcast.org) projects over three days where in the country migration is the most intense.

West Chester Borough has a proliferation of bad lighting, both public and private. This includes locations that were built long after West Chester instituted its [lighting ordinance](#), which requires that “All applicants shall promote a dark sky lighting effect through the

installation and maintenance of light fixtures with lights pointing down, and lighting that is shielded to prevent lighting pointing up.” (Photo: a blinding array to walk through.)

It does not take long to see that the most egregious bad light offenders are around apartment buildings and lower-income county-supported housing. These neighborhoods, where children are growing up, are flooded with damaging blue-white LED lights, often spilling onto other properties and creating glare. Such presumably well-intended safety measures may in fact make matters worse, causing deep dark shadows and causing pupils to dilate.

In West Chester, many apartment complexes are lit up at night to near daylight brightness – like those found on East Barnard and South Matlack Streets, or those at East Biddle and Maple Streets. Some of the brightest light is found surrounding the County-supported housing on East Barnard Street, an area also bathed in outrageously bright spotlights from the nearby West Chester Railway station. Families there would need to buy expensive blackout shades to aid in sleep. A newer townhome community at East Barnard and South Adams Streets installed numerous streetlight globes, all unshielded, despite the long existing Borough ordinance disallowing such lighting.

One major hurdle here is that despite there being no evidentiary correlation between darkness and crime, a majority of people believe that more light equals more safety. In fact, poorly designed light can actually mean less safety.



Still, there is some good news. These are not hard problems to fix: choose shielded, warmer color lighting for outdoor use (in the range of 2200K to 2700K). When possible, use motion sensors or timers, or turn outdoor lights out after 10 pm or before bedtime. Individuals who have inadvertently installed bright white lights that shine beyond their own property may be able to redirect the angle in which they point. (“Shielded lights protect the night,” from [DarkSky](#).)

If it is not practical to replace your existing unshielded fixtures, replace any bright white bulbs with ones that have a warmer color temperature, and only use them when absolutely needed. When installing new lighting, choose “[dark sky compliant](#)” fixtures that are properly shielded. Talk to your friends and family about it.

Finally, if there are lights in West Chester Borough that are creating a nuisance for you, submit your complaint [here](#). If you are outside the Borough, you might find what ordinances your town or municipality has [here](#). Find your town, and enter the search term “lighting.”

For more information about the hazards of light at night and easy solutions, visit [DarkSky International](#). For more on the Green Team’s Dark Skies initiative, see [here](#) and links.

Getting some autumn re-leaf

By Cheryl Wanko, WCU Professor of English & Sustainability

With the arrival of fall comes a task dreaded by many: dealing with fallen leaves. Adopt new practices to save time, money, and your hearing, as well as create healthier ecosystems.

Leave the leaves – research shows that a light layer of whole leaves won't harm your lawn. If you have too many, rake them under trees (image from [Pixabay](#)) or shrubs, and use them to mulch your perennial beds. Even a deep layer won't hurt what's planted under them and will provide your dormant plants much-needed insulation in the cold, reducing the need for mulch.



Aid beneficial insects – leaving leaves helps save the insects we all love, such as lightning bugs, butterflies, and other pollinators, by giving them places to overwinter as eggs or chrysalises. Don't mulch your leaves, though, to avoid killing concealed life. These insects also provide food for some birds, which need massive numbers of spring caterpillars to feed their young, while others catch insects on the wing.

Reduce the fall whine – researchers are finding that one of the greatest environmental stressors for human health is noise. By cutting down on leaf-blowing, we reduce the racket that disrupts our neighborhoods in the fall. Anyone whose physical circumstances require a blower should check out the energy-efficient electric options, since gas fumes irritate not only *your* lungs, but those of others nearby, particularly children. Of course, picking up a rake can help keep you healthier!

Clear storm drains – water back-up onto roadways in fall and winter can cause slippery, dangerous conditions. Please do your part and maintain drains on or near your property.

Compost – if for some reason you must remove leaves, never put them or any yard waste in the trash. Compost them yourself, offer them to neighbors, leave them in the street at the specified time if your municipality permits, or take them to the designated township compost site. In any case, your leaves will magically turn to healthy soil that you or others can use in your gardens.

Fall Salt Pollution Stream Snapshot

An excess of salt is bad for the human body and, not surprisingly, it is bad for plants and animals.

A particular offender is road salt, which in winter is often applied needlessly, as on sidewalks that should be shoveled or in alleys where vehicles should always proceed cautiously.

Salty runoff from roads, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots then flows into streams, degrading water quality and killing off the more sensitive forms of aquatic life. It even adversely affects our drinking water.

One of the benefits of rain gardens is to keep salt and other pollutants from running into streams. On the other hand, if they don't reach streams, those pollutants eventually make their way into the underlying water table; so, as in the case of CO₂ pollution, it is much better not to cause it than to try to remedy it!

The Stroud Water Resource Center in southern Chester County conducts an annual Fall Salt Pollution Stream Snapshot to determine the extent of the damage in our waterways.

This is your chance to participate in citizen science and make a real contribution to knowledge on threats to the environment.

The survey is conducted preferably on October 15, unless it is delayed by rain, which would dilute the salt in the water.

There is salt in streams in October? Yes, unfortunately, so much salt is applied in winter that it contaminates soil and stream banks and seeps into the water all year round. The point is to measure the “baseflow” salt level; of course, the figure is much higher after a winter storm (see graphic, with one alarming spike greatly exceeding the salinity in sea water, from [here](#)).

See more information and sign up [here](#) to participate. Stroud will furnish all you need.

Find out more about salt on the [Stroud site](#). See the Green Team's input on the topic [here](#), with links.

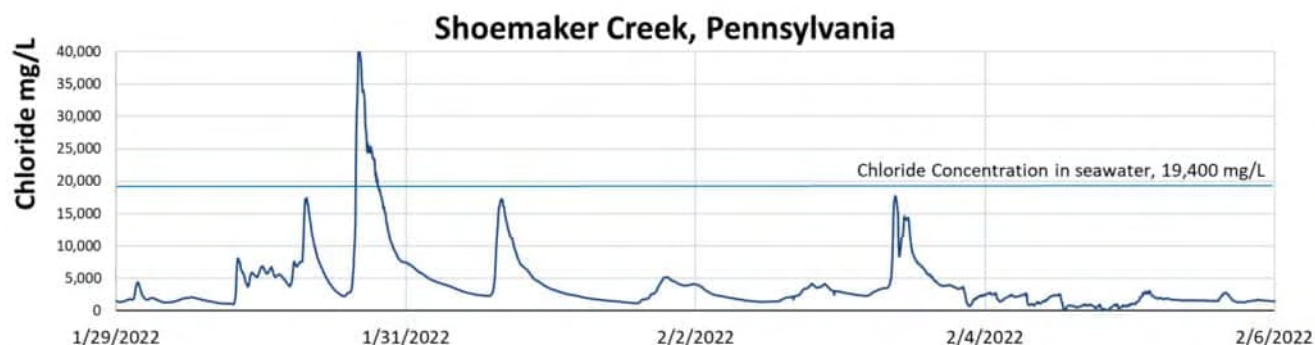


Figure 3. Chloride concentration in Shoemaker Creek, Pennsylvania, during winter storms compared to seawater. Data courtesy of Tookany- Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership.



Choose the correct answer for each question below

1. What's the problem with drinking water out of a plastic bottle?

- a. Some bottles contain germs
- b. Slightly bitter taste compared to aluminum containers
- c. You swallow microplastics
- d. Plastic bottles can't be recycled**

2. When do we see fireflies here?

- a. In late winter, when they emerge from melting snow
- b. In June and July, just after dusk
- c. All summer, all night
- d. At dawn in spring

3. What is West Chester Porchfest?

- a. A sustainable local cleaning company
- b. A rock music festival held by fraternities
- c. Free music performed in May in front of people's homes
- d. A restoration carpentry company founded by a WCU alum

4. What is a Transition Town, like West Chester and Media?

- a. A municipality getting ready for a post-fossil fuel economy
- b. A town growing quickly
- c. A place that promotes pre-school education
- d. An area with suburban and urban characteristics

5. How do solar panels work if it's cloudy?

- a. They don't, not any more than at night
- b. They run on light scattered in the sky
- c. They can store the sun's rays for several hours,.

d. Not well: they automatically switch off or they suck power from the grid

6. How many plastic bags end up in the Atlantic Ocean per year?

a. Almost none, because they get hung up on rocks, roots, and dams

b. About 1,000,000 a week

c. About 10,000,000 a month

d. About 300,000,000 a year

7. What % of Chester County is protected open space?

a. About 10%

b. About 20%

c. About 30%

d. About 40%

8. How does outdoor lighting affect birds?

a. It makes them lose their way when migrating

b. It makes them sleepy

c. It causes them to stop mating

d. Not at all because they sleep at night

9. Where does precipitation that falls in West Chester flow into the ocean?

a. Via Chesapeake Bay

b. Via the Delaware River

c. It doesn't; it is all used for homes, industry, and irrigation

d. Our rain water and snow melt go to Philadelphia

10. How much food does the US throw away every year per person in homes, stores, farms...?

a. About 50 pounds

b. About 150 pounds

c. About 250 pounds

d. About 350 pounds

Thank you for participating in our quiz! We are all learning and trying to keep up with the relevant info. Answers will be published in our November newsletter!