



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

April 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

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WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



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

April 13th Saturday: West Chester Green Team Board Meeting, 9:30, 409 W Union St. Board members are open to members with advance reservation and to contact Margaret Hudgings (mhudgings@gmail.com) for invitation.

April 20th Saturday: Earth Day: Planet vs Plastics Rally, 3-4:15pm, 2 N High St. Speakers include Senator Carolyn Comitta, State Representative Chris Pielli, County Commissioner Josh Maxwell. Former Mayor Jordan Norley leads march in Earth's support from Chester County Courthouse to Unitarian Congregation.

April 20th Saturday: Earth Day Celebration, 4:30, 501 S High St. Maurice

Sampson II speaks on Environmental Justice and tabling by 12 environmental groups. Mexican Buffet Dinner offered but ticket required. Tickets \$10-25 for adults, children/students 18 and under are free with an adult.

Tickets can be reserved here: <https://ticketstripe.com/events/21930428139905>

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 May 2024 issue is April 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:

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. He has a residency to create a public art mural in WCU's Sykes Student Union, and his traditional and contemporary Lenape art and style is on exhibit at the Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology's special pop-up exhibition Lenapeyok: Contemporary Artisans' Works. More info at <https://www.wcupa.edu/sciences-mathematics/anthropologySociology/museum/exhibits.aspx/>.

Pollution Prevention Update

Join EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator Jennie Romer on **Wednesday, April 10, from 2-3pm** for a webinar focusing on the growing use of reusable food service ware, an important strategy for preventing pollution. Hear how EPA is supporting businesses and nonprofit organizations to incorporate reusable food service ware into their operations and how sports and entertainment venues are replacing single-use plastic with reusables.

This webinar is the second in their new webinar series Pollution Prevention in Action, covering various topics ranging from reducing and eliminating PFAS products to source reduction solutions in industrial sectors. Register [here!](#)

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 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](#)

Friends of Everhart Park Clean-up

April 20: 9:00 AM - Noon

Please consider helping out Friends of Everhart Park on Earth Day (April 20th). Be part of this year's Cleanup Crew by giving Friends of Everhart Park a couple of hours picking up sticks, spreading mulch, and keeping it safe, beautiful, and healthy.

Children are welcome to come with their parents, too! And visit the children's playground!

Please Email Herb Schwabe

(herb.schwabe.FOEP@gmail.com) if you are

planning to help or have questions! Let us know

in your email if or what tools you could bring. **If you are bringing your own tools, PLEASE mark them with your name. We do have tools but never enough to go around.** We do have some work gloves, but again not enough, so please bring your gloves. And wear yardwork-friendly footwear.



'Rain or shine', check in with Herb Schwabe at the green building in the center of the West Union St. side. Also, while you are at the park, please consider becoming a Friends of Everhart Park member or renewing your membership. Check or cash, no credit cards on-site, the Website handles credit cards <https://www.friendsofeverhartpark.com>

Growing Gardens

Help us out on **Saturday, May 11** with new planting along the Chestnut Street garden at the YMCA in West Chester. Stay tuned for more details and updates!

Also, we still have vegetable garden plots available at both of our garden locations in the Borough. Contact us for more information!

New Program from ecoAmerica

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. PAIPL, Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light, and the Environmental Justice Team of the Penn SouthEast Conference of the UCC, are co-sponsoring the host location. When you register, you can choose to log in to the online program on your own. But if you prefer to meet and network with others in your community please choose to attend at a local host location and look for "West Chester--United Church of Christ East Goshen." There will be refreshments and a comfortable set-up to watch together! There is plenty of parking and the building is fully accessible. Watch for updates on the website: www.nationalfaithandclimateforum.org

International Dark Sky Week

April 2 – 8, 2024 is International Dark Sky Week, a week of action and awareness to celebrate dark skies, take notice of the artificial light around us, and seek solutions for the well-being of animals and the planet.

As migration ramps up, hundreds of millions of birds, like the Indigo Bunting, are on their way north to their breeding grounds, mostly flying by night. Unfortunately, many won't make it to their intended, final destinations. Migration is a strenuous activity made all the more hazardous by artificial lights, especially at night.

Making the night skies safer for birds can start at home, and it can start with something as easy as flipping a switch.

- Turn off or dim unnecessary lighting inside and outside. Draw your blinds at night to keep light indoors and shut off decorative lighting outdoors.
 - Make sure any outdoor lighting has a cover above it and aim it downward.
 - Treat your windows to make them bird-friendly during the day. Explore a variety of solutions that can be easily installed or applied.
 - Encourage your representatives to support legislation like the Federal Bird Safe Buildings Act and learn about efforts at the local level to reduce bird mortality from window collisions.
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Earth Day Is Almost Here!



The History of Earth Day

The history of Earth Day is pretty remarkable. The net result is 20 million people came out on the streets. It remains the largest civic day of action in human history. There's no other country, no other world that ever had 20 million people coming out on the streets around a single issue. That was on April 22, 1970, and right after that, it became apparent with that many people that Congress and State legislators had to do something about it because, frankly, they were afraid of that many people all speaking in one voice. The philosophy of Earth Day is very much about building a big movement, making sure it's diverse, constantly improving the ways that people access information, and have access to mechanisms

for legal relief.

Over the course of the next couple of decades it became year-round, it went international. This organization now works 365 days a year. At this point, we're in 192 countries with about a billion people participating, so we take advantage of that bully pulpit to really educate people about critical issues.

-KATHLEEN ROGERS
President of EarthDay.ORG

Our Celebration and Rally: Environmental Justice

As a part of WCGT's celebration, our Keynote Speaker Maurice Sampson II is Eastern Pennsylvania Director for Clean Water Action and will be speaking on Environmental Justice. Sampson II shared some information on Environmental Justice below and will share more about his work at the **West Chester Unitarian Congregation** on **Saturday, April 20 at 4:30pm**. For more information about WCGT's upcoming Earth Day Rally and Celebration see the flyer farther down.

What is Environmental Justice?

- The term originated from the 1988 Study "Toxics and Race."
- The Principles of Environmental Justice, produced in the 1991 First People of Color Environmental Summit.
- In Pennsylvania the term has come to describe those areas of the Commonwealth that are subject to higher levels of pollution and debilitating socioeconomic factors.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) created the PennEnviroScreen framework, which provides an annually updated snapshot of undue environmental burden on vulnerable communities.
- This model combines Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics data in order to identify Environmental Justice (EJ) Areas in accordance with the EJ Policy, which will increase public participation in the permitting process of proposed facilities.

-Maurice Sampson II

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

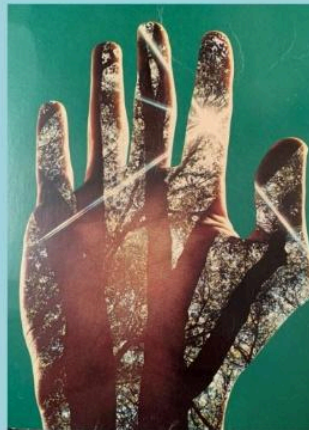
3:00pm: Rally featuring:

- 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 Vitallo, www.denisevitollo.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!

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

Porchfest is Coming SOON - The West Chester Green Team's THIRD annual West Chester Porchfest will be on Saturday, May 18th 1:00-7:00 pm! 102 performers have signed up for Porchfest. Amazing!!! (The performer sign-up closed on April 1st).

Music and more

There will be music playing from Church Street to Bradford Avenue and Price Street to W. Miner Street. There will be classical, jazz, dance, ukuleles, pop, funk, blues, brass band and good ole rock n' roll. There's something for everyone—and not just music! Let's not forget the 10 (and growing) porches with "Green Initiative" and "Children's Activity" options available and the Food Trucks – 13 and counting.

West Chester Porchfest will also be celebrating the Borough of West Chester's 225th birthday! Many of the host porches of Porchfest are historic and photos of what they looked like "back then" will be displayed (courtesy of Cocoon). Also, in addition to Green Team sponsorship, the presenting sponsor of Porchfest will be the West Chester Downtown Foundation.

Want to get involved? Whether 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! Let's make this year's Porchfest the best one yet! Spread the word, invite your friends and be a key player in this community celebration.

Thank you from the West Chester Green Team Porchfest Volunteer Committee!!!



More Porchfest News

West Chester's popular community music festival Porchfest returns on May 18. Seventy-four bands have signed up to perform so far. "Green" porches will offer native plants and tips on creating your own native wildflower gardens. Chris Pugliese, landscape architect and WC Green Team vice president, will host an information porch on Barnard St with a "green wagon" of plants to share. Pugliese states, "The goal with the plant wagons is to educate our neighbors in West Chester area communities about the value of native gardens and landscapes and to share resources that will inspire and facilitate pesticide-free/herbicide-free native gardening/landscaping in yards. We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment and more ecologically friendly places in the world."

Jean Gross, well-known local real estate agent returns as a block organizer on Dean Street and will feature a porch of vintage clothing. The Green Team's vintage clothing swaps were begun by Aiden McFadden, East Bradford's soccer hero, who continues his work recycling clothing in Atlanta this spring.

Porchfest drew 6,000 visitors last May and many attendees were children. From face painting to Native American Lenape crafts to Taylor's Music's "zoo" of musical instruments, children could choose from a variety of activities in addition to listening to music. Because of the high demand

for children's activities last year, Porchfest is doubling its children's offerings from 5 to 10 options.

A returning activity is the Lenape craft of journey stick-making. Thirty-five children created this craft with artist and WC Playschool co-founder Catherine Bosna. Bosna returns to offer her workshop again this year on Union Street. "The process of making journey sticks helps children recall their own journeys and become active learners and caretakers of the natural world," Bosna says.

A first-time presenter is children's author, Sally Coveleskie who wrote the "Henry, the Steinway" series of books. Coveleskie will read and sign copies of her books on Dean Street. She comments, "As a children's author, I'm delighted to be part of Porchfest, where the magic of storytelling meets the joy of community. 'Henry the Steinway and the Piano Recital' will bring the happiness of making music to children as they visit from porch to porch."

Another new activity, "Celebration of Japan" with origami paper crafts and Japanese snacks, kimono dressing opportunities and Japanese folk songs will come to Miner Street. Professors Fumiyo Kobayashi Batta of Widener University and Reiko Yoshida from Temple University will lead the activities. Yoshida comments, "We are offering Japanese activities for the happiness of children. Folding origami frogs is fun and so is eating Japanese snacks. Porchfest is about building community and appreciating our diversity and having a great time in the process."

At Everhart Park, Diane Matthews School of Dance Arts will offer a class called "Jazz - Hip Hop Dance Fusion" with all ages welcome. Matthews returns with her students who are performing for the third year. She states, "West Chester Dance Works/Diane Matthews School of Dance Arts will encourage and entertain audience members with performances from our five company groups representing approximately thirty dancers aged 9-70! This year's presentation will include styles ranging from Lyrical to Hip Hop and will include an invitation to the audience to "join in" an open dance class/routine." This is the first time that Matthews will offer a dance class to the community at Porchfest.

A directory of all Porchfest activities will be available online by May 11 and at two locations on the day. All are welcome to this free community event sponsored by the West Chester Green Team. For more information, please go to westchesterporchfest.com.

Even More Porchfest News

Hello West Chester's editor, writer and creator Cara Corridoni shares Porchfest news in her newsletter. Her report is down below!

If you haven't already blocked your calendar for May 18, do it now. Porchfest is returning and it's shaping up to be the biggest year yet for the West Chester Green Team-sponsored music festival that pairs local musicians with neighborhood porches.

This year the concert footprint is expanding to include Price Street. The new boundaries will run north from Price Street to Miner and east from Bradford Ave. to Church Street. Organizers also hope to expand the number of blocks closed to traffic from seven to ten. While they are still waiting

on the final ok from the Borough, they requested the addition of the 200, 300, and 400 blocks of Barnard to a closure list that already includes the 200 through 600 blocks of Union Street and the 200 through 400 blocks of Dean Street.

So does this volunteer-executed, neighbor-organized event have what it takes to fill that much space with free music? They do and then some. As of Monday's submission deadline, a record number of musicians had signed up.

"Yes, 103 bands. Amazing," shared Porchfest co-organizer Molly Hanford in an email. For reference, last year's festival hosted 70 bands (which was up from 53 performances in year one). Band sign-ups are now closed but porches are still needed.

"Host sign-ups are OPEN!" says Molly.

If you are interested in participating (it's a lot of fun), sign up [here](#). In addition to bands, the West Chester Green Team is planning a variety of kids' activities, a vintage clothing swap, plant giveaways (this is the Green Team remember), food trucks, and more. You can find more details on all that is planned [here](#).

Also, get ready to welcome a new fuel source for all your creative visions. Opening next Friday at [118 N. High Street](#) - where the cigar shop used to be - is **Nightingale Materials** an art supplies, gifts, and studio shop. Look for a premium collection of art supplies, unique gifts, and a variety of [workshops](#) tailored to all skill levels.

Finally, it's hello, again, old friend. [D'Ascenzo's Gelato](#), West Chester's original gelato locale, opens for its 14th season on Gay Street - today! The starting lineup includes perennial favorites: Banana's Foster, Philly Cheesecake, Mocha Espresso, cookie dough, and twenty more. Flavors rotate daily. Yum.

Thanks Cara! Don't forget to check out <https://westchesterporchfest.com/> for all updates and information before the big day! And, of course, stay up to date in all things West Chester at <https://hellowestchesterpa.com/>.

Bondsville Mill Updates

Rain, rain, and more rain! Maybe as soon as June, I'll be calling for rain dancing and remembering yesterday, and the day before, and the.....as the good old days?

The Gardeners are having fun preparing events for the Longwood Gardens Community Read book selection *The Secret Garden*. Longwood's Community Read is a collaborative effort between Longwood Gardens and the community to encourage reading for pleasure and to start a conversation surrounding gardens, plants, or nature. Our Nature Library certainly supports their vision for this program - Read. Think. Engage.

(<https://www.ebrandywine.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/126>)

Geocaching is the first of the Mill's *Secret Garden* events. One geocache box has been hidden at Bondsville Mill Park. Find this box using the free APP at <https://www.geocaching.com/play>. Two

bonus boxes with GPS coordinates can also be found at 40 1.1090N 75 45.3480W. and at N 40 1.2220 W 75 45.4630. Only the girls from Girl Scout Troop 40 and BSA Troop 1776 know where they are! When you find and open the box, you'll see the Secret Garden connection inside. If you register your finds at <https://www.bondsvillemillpark.org/program-registration.html>, you'll have a chance to win four tickets to Longwood Gardens! (Drawing June 22, 2024)

Geocaching can be a fun, family activity. If you don't know what Geocaching is (I didn't), visit the Mill's website where Geocaching 101 is posted.

<https://www.bondsvillemillpark.org/geocaching-at-bmp.html>

The Longwood book selections are both available to borrow at the Mill's Nature Library. Watch a Mill program in September inspired by the second book selected, *The Last Garden in England*.

You may already be familiar with the Honeybee information boxes at the Mill. These boxes were an Eagle project by Scout Connor Riley. Check out *What's Going On Inside a Honeybee Hive?* at <https://www.ebrandywine.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/127>. Page 7.

In this same township newsletter, upcoming historic-based presentations are on *page 4*. The presentation on *Chester County During the Great Depression* might give insight into how the Mill's workers lived during that time. (Sunday, April 21, 3 PM)

There are so many excellent garden presentations available on the internet! You can enjoy lectures on native plants at Grow Natives Massachusetts. Several of their speakers are well known right here in Downingtown. You select the speaker or topic of interest. Give these two presentations a try: [Cultivating Wildlife Conservation with Native Plants](#) May 2021. Desiree Narango talks about the relationships between plants, pollinators, and songbirds. These are the links that we try to make through our Mill programs.

[A New Garden Ethic](#) 2022. Benjamin Vogt is a well-known mid-western garden designer. His years of experience dealing with dry gardens connect to what the Mill is doing in the Culp garden. Last year's May -June drought isn't forgotten.

<https://grownativemass.org/Great-Resources/experts-videos>

Thank you for your interest in Bondsville Mill Park! --Sandy

Oceana's Featuring the Plastic Problem for Earth Month

Oceana is gearing up for Earth Day and Earth Month by featuring different articles about plastics and their impact on the environment. Plastic was first viewed as a revolutionary product for its versatile structure, but now it is causing a global crisis. The oil-derived products are making their way to the ocean and impacting marine life. Oceana is working to find ways to clean up the oceans and make plastics recyclable and reuseable, instead of becoming a permanent resident in our ecosystems. Find out how Oceana is combating plastic and read their articles here:

<https://oceana.org/reports/>

Why Urban Trees are Vital

The Sierra Club reminds us why trees—especially in urban settings are important to our environment. Trees provide a number of services for us: provide oxygen, decrease surface temperatures, clean the air and produce oxygen, and help prevent flooding. A federal investment into urban forestry and green spaces will help cities across the United States make access to trees

more equitable and available. The National Forest Service is investing \$250 million to ensuring cities become greener in hopes to create jobs, improving physical, mental and emotional health and creating spaces for everyone to enjoy! To read the full article, click here:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2024-1-spring/top/tree-grows-brooklyn-and-every-city>



Diane Matthews School of Dance Arts dancers performing at Porchfest. Photo courtesy of Diane Matthews.