

2010 Tredyffrin Back Yard Eco Tour: Scenes

The mild weather gave little hint that it was actually August 7, and the turnout for Tredyffrin Democrats' 2010 eco-tour used up our supply of preprinted registration badges. In short, the day was a success: pleasing scenery, interesting demonstrations, and some environmental education about using native plants, providing habitat for wildlife, controlling stormwater, and conserving energy. Thanks both to our hosts and to the tour participants, many useful ideas were exchanged over the day. Below are a few scenes.



Since the tour was intended as a demonstration and idea opportunity, reference papers and signs helped fulfill the education aspect--as well as through the discussions with homeowners.



At right, tour participants go for a "ramble in the bramble"--walking by John and Susan's extensive plantings of thornless blackberries. Their back yard fruit is all grown under the shade margins of a massive white oak tree.



Alan and Jayne (left) stressed the green aspect of the tour by completing the route on their tandem bicycle.

At right, Leslie's Paoli front yard featured a bright array of both perennial and annual flowers.

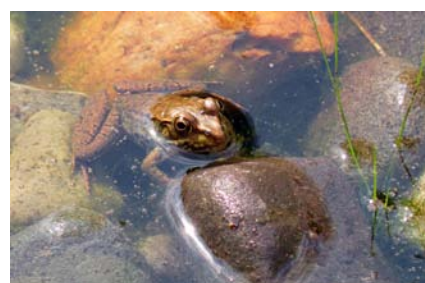




Composting of course featured at many sites. Leslie (left) introduced visitors to her Wormery, where composting worms digest her kitchen waste. Ana (center), who conducts Tredyffrin Township's composting workshops, talked about the proper way to mix greens and browns for successful decomposition. At right, a few of Ted's leaf composting bins.



A certified wildlife habitat, Cheryl and Barb's property is a sanctuary to a wide variety of flora and fauna--and particularly inviting to birds. Top right is a recent entry to their plantings--a Princeton American Elm, a disease-resistant cultivar hoping to restore elm shade to our towns, backed by butterfly-friendly meadow flowers. Their pond is a breeding pool for many dragonflies, and one of the resident frogs kept an eye on eco-tour visitors.





Homeowners undertaking new green energy methods were also featured on the tour.

Ana discussed her geothermal heating/cooling system.

At left, Bruce and Nancy have a roof full of solar panels and gave details on the engineering and economics of their system.



Finally, there was no reason for Tredyffrin eco-tourists to go home hungry if they stopped by Laurie's beautiful and bountiful organic vegetable garden.

Laurie demonstrated what you can grow in 1,000 sq. feet, with lush beds right off her back patio, including a head-high hedge of tomato plants.

Visitors got to test their taste buds on a colorful assortment of fresh cherry tomatoes.

