



November 2014
historic
Keeping our neighborhoods beautiful...
& keeping them *green*

October 11, 2014... an historic "watershed" in the cultural and environmental history of Cumberland County:



LOCALS & VISITORS COME OUT TO HEAR LESTER "SUSTAINABILITY" BROWN AT CHABA CON & STICK AROUND FOR A DAY OF "PLACEMAKING"

The Night Before CHABA CON:

Lester Brown met with CHABA organizers and participants on conference eve Friday night. Here Jeff Fogg (center) thanks Brown for his work as Marion Spence, Brown's sister, looks on proudly.



Scientists often call Earth "the water planet" for good reason: it's the only body in our solar system known to contain this single most important supporter of life as we know it. Water is also a finite resource. So if a message about the state of the world's water supply can be called electrifying, then that is what this was: Lester Brown, outlining what we have done as a species to threaten this unique feature of our habitat.



In the early morning, Lester Brown met up at the Sheppard House with (L to R) brother-in-law Robert Spence, Meghan Wren--champion of storm-damaged shore areas--and New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Doug Fisher for a "Run in the Park" to highlight the vital importance of integrating green space--and green values--into healthy and sustainable cities. At 80, Brown is still a champion runner.

Dodging a morning downpour on Saturday, October 11, about 200 hardy visitors sparsely filled the Bridgeton High School auditorium to hear MacArthur Genius Fellow and Bridgeton native son Lester Brown focus his thoughtful attention on "World Food Prospects."

There was irony in the rain: Brown's talk, stressing the dependence of global food production on continuing abundant fresh water, pointed out how at-risk that water is everywhere, but especially in the world's most highly-populated, hungry, and economically distressed regions. Not surprisingly, they also include some of the most culturally sensitive, embattled and volatile places on earth.

Following Brown's talk a roundtable of scholars and activists brought sustainability home to West Jersey, targeting several areas of local/regional concern embracing culture, agriculture and aquaculture and the links among them.

Speakers included Dan Saunders of the State Office of Historic Preservation, Michael Henry of Watson & Henry Associates, Matt Blake from Woolwich Township in Gloucester Co., Meghan Wren of the Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Daphne Munroe of the Rutgers Haskins Lab at Port Norris, and John Norwood of the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Tribal Nation. Rutgers's Sal Mangiafico moderated.

More about the event (including photos) on the [CHABA website](#). And NEW!: [LESTER BROWN'S TALK on YOUTUBE!](#)

Thanks to the Board of Education and to the Faculty, Staff and Students of Bridgeton High School. Special thanks to Bill Waterman, Paul Decker and James Boner for their hospitality, cooperation and hard work in helping us bring this important event to the community, and making it a teachable moment for Bridgeton students in many subject areas.

Did you take the post-event survey? You can still do it [HERE](#).

NEWS FLASH: The Historic Preservation Commission has postponed the Annual Bridgeton Rose Preservation Awards ceremony normally held in mid-November. A future date has not yet been announced.



CHABACON GREEN CITY TOUR



About 15 tourgoers, including visitors from all over the region and beyond, joined forces Saturday afternoon for a "Green City" bus tour that embedded Bridgeton in its agricultural setting and identified many of the green and water resources essential to its economic and environmental survival and future development. *Above left*, local historian-activist Goldie Wulderk offers background on the Owens-Illinois industrial site. *Above right*, C. J. Achee narrates the extraordinary tale of the making and remaking of Immaculate Conception Church and its historic congregations. *Left*, Marcus Weaver lovingly describes the Mill Creek Farm project that brings fresh hydroponic produce to inner-city residents. This unique tour also included Sunset Lake, the Hopewell Greenway Outdoor Classroom and the CATA Organic Garden in the heart of the Bridgeton Historic District. PLUS designated developer Ron O'Neal discussed the possible future of the Ferracuta site as an aquaponics facility. The tour was jointly organized by CHABA and the American Littoral Society, with strategic assistance from CATA, CAWA and Gateway CAP. Thank you all!

PRESERVING CULTURE & HISTORY IS ABOUT MORE THAN BUILDINGS...



...It's also about dressing up and telling our stories...in dance, in music, in art, in theater. It's about making sure we know who we are by knowing where we came from. About remembering what happened before us in a way that's enriched with all our colors and cultures and what they said and did.

Some people call it "intergenerational justice." **We call it what we do.**

Above: Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Tribal Dancers perform for CHABACON at the Ashley McCormick Center. **Left:** Local students, coached by Rutgers Theater professor Ellen Williams, interpret historical figures associated with aspects of Bridgeton and regional history.

Below Left: Conservator Cassie Myers repairs damage to an historically-themed WPA mural at Broad Street School. **Below Right:** the mural slowly reveals its gorgeous colors and local themes.



BUT IT IS ALSO ABOUT BUILDINGS...



More coming soon on our workshop plans for 2015!



Like to be part of this pioneering Bridgeton initiative? Please contact us at centerhabarts@gmail.com

[chaba]
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IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER: STATE FARM FUNDS NEW STORYTELLING VIDEO