



Spring Newsletter, 2015 #37

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Annual Potluck Membership Picnic

Plan to attend annual meeting on Tuesday June 23rd

Evergreen Conservancy's annual membership meeting will be on Tuesday, June 23rd at 6pm at our Tanoma Environmental Education Center.

A standard of the annual meeting is the potluck that precedes the meeting. Please bring any salad, desert, side dish, main dish, or homemade specialty. The conservancy will provide drink and meat items such as hot dogs and hamburgers. Be sure to bring your own table setting.

Another must for the annual meeting is election of board members. Some members will be up for reelection and there will be new persons being nominated. A nominating committee has been formed for that purpose.

The annual meeting is also when you will be able to renew your membership or join if you are a friend of the conservancy. Please note that any checks written for membership purposes will be held until after July 1 so your membership will be credited to the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Evergreen Conservancy annually selects a person or organization that has been active in protecting our environment for the Evergreen Award. That award will be given out June 23rd.

Lots of things have been happening at Tanoma in the past year. Our alternative energy project has been changed or added since the last annual meeting so there will be a tour. You have heard of geocaching, but have you heard of an earth-cache? We will explain our new list of things to do at the annual meeting. As you know, our current system of ponds is not adequate to adapt to the increased flow of AMD water from the mines. We will be installing a system called Trompe to make the ponds more effective. We will explain what the Trompe system is all about.

We hope you have added our annual meeting June 23rd to your calendar.

Salamanders were the focus of our spring event

A Presentation by Ed Patterson

The flier promised, "Love salamanders? Want to know more about them? Join us March 27th....." Indeed over 30 people showed up at Blue Spruce Park to learn more about the remarkable creatures. As I handed out the flier about town people told me how they loved looking for salamanders when they were kids.

Ed Patterson, Indiana County Parks and Trails director, presented things he has learned about local salamanders as a participant in the Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey. The survey is not a scientist-only project and Mr. Patterson invited interested persons to join him in the study. Even though it was late March Mr. Patterson brought some live specimens with him.

Ed was most entertaining in talking about R.W. Wehrle, a prominent businessman of the previous century. He was an accomplished jeweler and the building that housed his store is now Wolfendales. Wehrle was an amateur naturalist and collected numerous specimens which he sent to various museums. He was so noted for his scientific efforts that a species of salamander was named Wehrle's salamander. Think of this Mr. Wehrle spent his 70th birthday by walking to Punxsutawney to visit friends.

In addition Cassy Allen, our Vista Volunteer, gave an update on the recent activities of Evergreen Conservancy.



Wehrle's Salamander

OUR MISSION:

To advance the preservation, protection and stewardship of Natural, Cultural and Historical Resources in and around Indiana County, PA

If you believe that we need to protect our planet, visit www.GoodPawsGoodCause.org, an on-line store for good people and good pets!

10% of every Fur The Earth™ purchase benefits Evergreen Conservancy and The Conservation Fund.

Thanks to GoodPawsGoodCause for their year-end donation to Evergreen Conservancy.



Welcome to our summer Intern

Greetings readers; my name is Lucas Tatarko and I am the new intern at Evergreen Conservancy for the summer. I am currently finishing up my degree in Geoscience in the Environmental track. I am from a small coal mining town called Twin Rocks, about 30 minutes east of Indiana. Due to the nature of the area where I grew up, I have seen first-hand the effects of acid mine drainage on streams. Over the years I have curiously watched as the Blacklick Creek has been cleaned up and I've always wanted to be part of the solution to help clean up the area and the local streams.



Tanoma Update

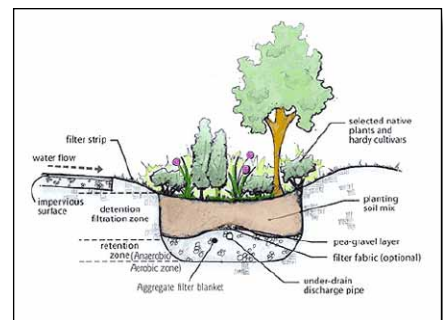
We are waiting for final approval to begin the installation of the Trompe System. Stay tuned.

We continue to do weekly testing on the water quality and flow.

There are two new picnic tables at Tanoma, with space for wheelchairs, thanks to the generosity of John Somonick and David Polovnia.

Rain Garden Dedication - White Township Building, 950 Indiana Springs Rd, Indiana PA – 6/3/2015

There will be a dedication of the rain garden that White Township installed. A new sign will be unveiled and a short presentation about rain gardens will be given by Adam Cotchen of Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD). Get a firsthand look at a rain garden and talk to experts. Sponsors of this event are White township, ICCD, Indiana Co. League of Women Voters, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, Indiana Community Garden, and Evergreen Conservancy.



Water Monitoring:

Evergreen Conservancy's water monitoring continues. We have 35 data loggers in local streams to monitor our waterways and make sure they are healthy.

We have been doing maintenance on the installations throughout the county. The winter dislodged several sites and we had to fix them up. We got all the loggers calibrated and re-installed after the winter. All our wonderful volunteers are back in motion checking and downloading the loggers after a winter break. The telemetry probes are all up and working. We have several new volunteers we are going to be training in the next few weeks. Thanks to all who are involved in this worthwhile project.



Fundraising

Need any gifts or want to buy something nice for yourself? Come on out to support us and others at the Indiana Free Library on June 20th at the Indiana Players Craft Fair.



Keeping Body and Soul Together... Naturally

Mon-Tue: 9:00am - 6:00pm Wed: 9:00am - 7:00pm Thu - Fri: 9:00am - 6:00pm Sat: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Please support Nature's Way market in Greensburg. They support us with a generous donation!

Evergreen's Website

www.evergreenconservancy.org

For The Latest News.

On Facebook

If you use Facebook, please go to our page and tell us if you like it. We can send you event notices and update you with current events! Become our Friend. [Like](#)

And on YouTube:

[About Evergreen Conservancy – crNa11j5J2M](#)

[Tanoma AMD Wetlands – yaGLM4Ob8Ks](#)

[Renewable Energy – S3VOATx0mRY](#)



If you wish to learn more about Evergreen Conservancy please check our new and improved website www.evergreenconservancy.org.
Twitter User? – [evergreenc2014](#)

Grants in progress

- **Growing Greener, AMD Set Aside Program** – We are waiting for approval to start our Trompe project.
- **Dominion Mini Grant**

Evergreen was awarded a grant from the Dominion Foundation for project implementation and marketing costs at the award luncheon April 8, 2015. Financial support for this grant was provided by the Dominion Foundation which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies. The grant program was administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership and collaboration. We thank both Dominion and WPC!

- **Indiana County Endowment**

Evergreen Conservancy was awarded a \$3,000 grant from The Indiana County Endowment. ICE is a component fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation. ICE is a nonprofit community foundation dedicated to making charitable giving that will benefit our community. We will be designing and installing three new signs at Tanoma to explain our renewable energy and our new Trompe system. These will be available for visitors to Tanoma to learn about our system and to help with the environmental education programs we do at Tanoma. We thank ICE for their support.



Environmental Education Highlights

Evergreen Conservancy has been very busy with environmental education programs.

In April, a Girl Scout troop from Blairsville came to Tanoma to complete their hiking badges and to learn about the water cycle. We also had a reading group from Homer City Library make "eco art" at Tanoma. In May, we taught students of Saltsburg and Kiski Elementary schools about the water cycle during their "Trout in the Classroom" release days. A Ford City school group learned about macro-invertebrates, geocaching, tree ID, renewable energy, and salamanders taught by Ed Patterson at Tanoma. We have more education programs coming up, with activities including: tie-dying with iron, system tours, water testing, and more.



PALTA Convention

Cassy and Cindy went to the 2015 Pa Land Trust Association Training, May 7-9 where they attended a variety of different sessions. They were funded to go through a generous scholarship from PALTA. The highlight for Cindy was the session by Bernard Sweeney from Stroud Research Center. He spoke on riparian buffer zones. Model riparian buffer for municipality ordinances were reviewed. Studies show that trees planted along stream banks, called streamside forest buffers, help filter pollutants, prevent bank erosion, keep stream channels wide, normalize temperatures, and provide a variety of food in the form of leaves, shade loving algae, and dissolved substances. She also attended very informational sessions on social media. Now to put all that information into action! Cassy learned all about board building and fundraising.

WHAT WE CONSERVE:

Wildlife Habitat • Stream Access • Scenic Vistas • Land in need of Restoration • Working Landscapes • Historic • Cultural Sites

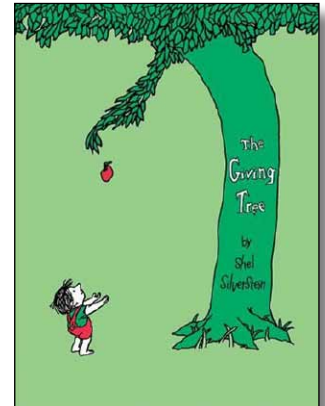
IUP Spring "Into the Streets" Event

"Into the Streets" is an event that is held every year "to increase and diversify the number of people participating in sustained and thoughtful community service in the Indiana area." Students from IUP partner with local non-profits and volunteers seeking groups for a day of community service. Members of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, along with a few other students, chose to volunteer with Evergreen Conservancy on April 18th. The 11 volunteers, with the help of Sean, Malcolm, Cindy, and Cassy, cleaned up the Tanoma signs, installed the storybook walk and removed 15 bags of trash and 7 tires from the spring and bore hole at Tanoma. Thank you to everyone for your hard work in helping get Tanoma ready for the summer!



Our Current Storybook Walk

Thanks to Indiana Free Library for their hard work to laminate all the pages of our new story book walk. They generously donated their time and the book so we can offer you a new story book at Tanoma. The book is an all-time favorite called The Giving Tree. Stroll along Crooked Creek as you read The Giving Tree. Enjoy the outdoors and read a book while you are doing it. Tanoma is open down to dusk.



Upcoming Dates

June 2 PR and Finance meetings 7:00 pm & 8:00 p.m.
 June 3 Rain Garden Dedication at White Township Municipal Building 12:30 P.M.
 June 20 Craft Sale at the Indiana Free Library 11:00-3:00
 June 23 Evergreen Conservancy annual pot luck picnic at Tanoma 5:30
 July 2 Evergreen Conservancy Board meeting 7:00 p.m.
 August 15 . . Knotweed Festival



Join Evergreen Conservancy Today!

Support the all-volunteer Evergreen Conservancy and its mission through your membership.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Membership Levels:

_____ \$15: Student _____ \$25 _____ \$45 _____ \$70 _____ \$100

_____ \$1 Youth (17 and under) _____ \$ Other _____ \$75: Business/Org

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Complete this form and send check to:

Evergreen Conservancy, PO Box 0783, Indiana, PA 15701

