

“Improving Our Quality of Life”



Summer Newsletter, 2011
#22

www.evergreenconservancy.org

PO Box 0783, Indiana, PA 15701

info@evergreenconservancy.org



Mothers Day Walk at Tanoma Wetlands

The Friends of the Parks Mothers' Day Walk and Tea was held at Tanoma AMD Wetlands this year. Despite rain in the forecast, 27 folks showed up and it turned out to be a beautiful sunny day. Cindy Rogers led a plant walk and shared fun facts about the wild flowers. After the walk all present got to sample some wild weed drinks and snacks. On the menu were dandelion cookies, Japanese knot weed jam, stinging nettle dip, dandelion cheese spread, violet candy, spice bush tea, violet cooler and Staghorn sumac lemonade.



Ken Sink Trout Unlimited Youth Conservation Field Day, June 4, 2011

Thank you to the Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited for having us host a table at their 1st Annual Youth Conservation Day at Waterworks Park just outside of Indiana. We used the Enviroscape to teach youth about the wetlands area in the park. We also enjoyed learning how to tie and cast flies from seasoned fly-fishermen.



Boy Scout Day Camp a Huge Success

Katie Oberthaler, AmeriCorps VISTA, and Debbie Diehl, summer intern, participated in the Penn Woods' Cub Scout Day Camp on June 15th at Yellow Creek State Park. We hosted a macroinvertebrate stream catch for over 200 cub scouts. Using buckets, kick nets, tupperware, and their own bare hands, the boys enjoyed uncovering and identifying stoneflies, crawfish and other bugs from a stream. Many of the educational materials were purchased with the support of a Sprout Fund Spring Grant.



Waltz for the Wild, June 14, 2011

John Dudash, Joanne Ferrero, and Katie Oberthaler hosted a table at the 1st Annual Waltz for the Wild, put on by IUP's Department of Music. A confluence of music and environmental activism, we were able to put on a datalogger demonstration while listening to the melodies of Indiana's own Cornsilk Folk Trio. We enjoyed meeting new groups dedicated to our natural resources while participating in a hoedown! Thanks to Susan Wheatley for having us at this innovative event!

OUR MISSION:

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

Evergreen Conservancy Project Updates visit our web site to learn more about these projects www.evergreenconservancy.org

Tanoma:

- Dan Boone and Steve Soltez are hard at work making a few structural changes to our water turbine and installing the generators to produce energy from our new wind and water turbines.
- DEP met with us at Tanoma and did some water testing. Members of the board met there in August also. DEP and we are in the process of making decisions about what to do to improve the system and finding funding.

Water Monitoring:

- Our datalogger water monitoring project is gaining momentum as we continue to install dataloggers and train more volunteers on the data collection process in the field. We have now installed 11 dataloggers.
- Many thanks go to Ron Moretti, Paul Yacovone, and Deb Diehl for taking over the driving, uploading and data dissemination for our first loop twice a month. Also thanks to Pat Scanlon for volunteering to download data loggers in the Yellow Creek vicinity. We are now beginning to install loggers for a second loop of loggers in a different part of the county. Thanks also to Katie Farnsworth and her crew at IUP for the work on the data base that will house all the downloaded data.
- We have an instructional guide created by Debbie Diehl, for volunteers on how to correctly upload data in the field using our equipment and software. Check it out on our web site.
- If you have a creek of concern or would like to volunteer with this project please let us know. We would appreciate volunteers to help with the installations and also to help go out once or twice a month to download the data.
- If you are interested in becoming a water monitoring volunteer with this project, please contact us at info@evergreenconservancy.com. Time commitments vary, and we are always looking for rotating volunteers to come on our bi-monthly uploads when their schedule allows!

Canoe Launch

- Work is progressing on our Homer City Canoe launch. There have been meetings with PennDOT and we are moving forward. We are working with Western Pa Conservancy, PADOT, and local agencies to create low impact boat launches.

Renewable Energy Project

We submitted our final reports to the Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, ARRI-PA and the Dominion Foundation. Thanks to these three funders we were able to build a renewable energy demonstration project at our Tanoma AMD Wetlands Site. The solar panels were providing on average 30 kilowatt hours during the winter months and are now turning out much more electricity with more ambient sunlight during the summer. The wind turbine and hydro turbine were constructed, installed and are working very well. The generators for both turbines are being brought online this summer to provide even more electrical power. We have been using power from the system for our pavilion, and the system is already being used for educational purposes demonstrating the potential use of these renewable energy sources. It will soon power aerators in the ponds to help increase dissolved oxygen in the system.

Evergreen Conservancy – Grant Work

Growing Greener Grant

We obtained our first payment from the Growing Greener Grant, which we were awarded to do water monitoring in and around Indiana County with. This three year grant will enable us to expand our water monitoring project in the county.

WHAT WE CONSERVE:

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

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.



You can help! – Adopt a Bridge

Would you like to adopt a bridge, or part of a bridge, as a donation to support Evergreen Conservancy? Each of the bridges cost \$650. We will put names of contributors on each bridge or a name in memory of a loved one.

Please send contributions to:

Evergreen Conservancy, P.O. Box 0783, Indiana, PA 15701



Evergreen Award

Evergreen Conservancy would like to start to give an annual award of recognition to people, groups or businesses in or around Indiana County who show exemplary leadership in protecting or preserving our environment by implementing green practices or doing service in an environmental field. We would like your help. If you know of anyone who might fit the following criteria we would like you to nominate them for our new award. Send your nominations to info@evergreenconservancy.org.

The criteria for this award is:

- New or innovative technology to prevent harm to our environment
- Participation in activities that show a direct positive effect on our environment
- Participation in activities that resulted in the preservation of a historic, cultural or natural resource.
- Participation in activities of notable stewardship of the environment.

Thanks for your help!

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



Tanoma Bacteria

If you have visited Tanoma lately, then you've seen the iron floating on the surface accompanied by a silver, shimmering slick-looking layer. This film coats the top of the water surrounding the iron. This substance looks like an oil slick, but that's deceiving. In fact, it is a bacterium belonging to the genus *Leptothrix*. This bacteria thrives in aquatic environments with an abundance of organic matter, which presently Tanoma ponds have. This species is known to be capable of oxidizing iron and manganese, which makes it unique from other bacteria. The anatomy of the bacteria includes a sheath that is coated from the products of the iron and manganese oxidative reactions, ferric hydroxide and manganese oxide. The species likes water temperatures between 10-35°C (50-95°F) and a pH of 6.5-7.5. You can find out more about this bacteria at www.lindagrashoff.com, Linda Grashoff is a photographer who has committed some of her life to learn about and catch some amazing photos of this bacteria.



Welcome to our new Board Members!

Stacey Robertson:

Stacy is a Practicing physician, associated with Indiana Regional Medical Center working at the Indiana Healthcare Physician Services Medical Center in Bolivar. My passion is helping young people learn about the natural world. I have worked with the Board of Directors Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania on the Property committee for the last three years. Previously I was a Girl Scout troop leader and also worked with local Boy Scouts. I was introduced to Evergreen Conservancy by my late husband Donald Robertson and share his concern for wise use of resources and preserving wild areas for future generations.



Paul Yacovone:

Paul comes to the board with a varied background of experience. He served on the U.S. Department of Interior Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative. He was a reclamation specialist for abandon mine lands, dealing with government agencies from local to federal levels. He volunteers his time to do water testing and monitoring for PASEC and is currently helping out with Evergreen's water monitoring installations and data downloading. He always helps with whatever environmental and preservation project needs his help.



4th Annual Tanoma Wetlands Days

Tanoma Wetlands Education Center

Saturday October 8, 10am – 3pm
Rayne Church & Tanoma Roads
Clymer, PA



Evergreen Conservancy

- ☛ Guided nature walks
- ☛ Fly fishing demonstrations
- ☛ Wind, solar & water electricity-generating demonstrations
- ☛ Games for children
- ☛ StoryWalk
- ☛ Handicapped Accessible trail
- ☛ Interactive environmental learning activities
- ☛ Educational & fun activities for all

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OSM Vista News

My year as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer at Evergreen has come to a close this month. As of the end of August, I will have completed eight months working closely with Cindy, the Indiana County Conservation District and the Crooked Creek Watershed Association in a variety of capacities.

From collecting water samples in sub-freezing temperatures my first week on the job to catching crawdads with 200 Boy Scouts this summer, I have learned more about environmental stewardship and community organizing than I even thought possible in a year. Listening to local residents and DEP representatives talk about Marcellus Shale drilling and providing public information about our datalogger project gave me a deep perspective on an issue that I was previously unfamiliar with; gaining exposure to the nuanced components and solutions that go into preserving our natural resources taught me tremendous lessons in respect and communication.



Katie Oberthaler

I have had the good fortune to trudge through streams with some of you; others I have met through Evergreen outreach at local events. I feel so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn and serve our community with such wonderful, dedicated people who care greatly about their

land and their neighbors. Whether reaching out to youth groups such as the Auberle Center or developing relationships with artists to reuse iron oxide sludge in creative ways, Evergreen demonstrates an tremendously successful model of civic engagement. That Evergreen accomplishes such large-scale projects like the Tanoma AMD Wetlands Outdoor Environmental Center and the innovative county-wide datalogger program using only the effort of community volunteers has amazed me at every turn. Our members' commitment of time and passion into projects to improve our rural area with sometimes limited resources has inspired me to work hard during my time in Indiana County.

At the end of August, I returned to my creative writing background by joining the marketing team at a large software company. The job takes me to the very opposite side of the country: Long Beach, California. While I am not quite sad to leave behind these Pennsylvania winters, I will dearly miss everyone I have met and worked with this year. I am confident the person who fills the AmeriCorps VISTA role in the future will continue the initiatives I've helped build this year while bringing new ideas to Evergreen's mission. I look forward to hearing about all the great projects that Evergreen continues to undertake in the coming years.

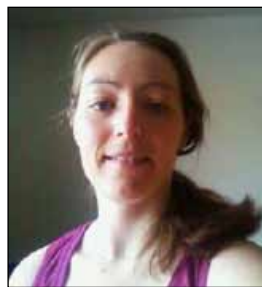
Don't Forget To Check Out Our Evergreen Website
www.evergreenconservancy.org For The Latest News.

Find Us On facebook

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

IUP Intern Report

Deborah Diehl's summer internship ended Friday, Aug. 12th. She has been busy over the past few months completing several projects and assisting with environmental education activities. We would like to share a summary of the internship projects with you. Deborah has been assisting with the data logging monitoring units by accompanying volunteers to collect the data from the loggers. Also, she created a 'cheat sheet' guide on how to use the data logging software, a map for loop 1, and driving directions. These will be used in the future by water monitoring volunteers of loop 1. The plant pamphlet found in the box at Tanoma's pavilion has been updated. The new version includes more plants and information about the renewable energy at the site. Six plant signs have been created by Deborah, which are being made at Crooked Creek Creations. The signs will be installed at Tanoma later this month.



Deborah Diehl

She has lent a hand to Cindy and Katie with three environmental education activities, one at a Boy Scout day camp early this summer, and two at Tanoma: Auberle troubled and at-risk youth from McKeesport, and IQ Camp for Indiana kids. These activities involved invertebrate stream catching, scavenger hunt, bookmark making, recycling, composting, and water quality. Also, along with Cindy's help, Deborah will post solar, hydro, and wind renewable energy information on EC website tying them to Tanoma's involvement with renewable energy. So overall it has been a great learning experience and she hopes that her projects will be beneficial to EC members and the Indiana community in the future.

We are very sorry to say good bye to Katie and Deb – but Deb will still be in Indiana and promised to stay involved on a volunteer basis!

**Many Thanks for the good-good Java that
THE COMMONPLACE COFFEEHOUSE & ROASTERY
donates to Evergreen Conservancy events!**



Marcellus Shale Expo 2011 at the KCAC

Katie and John Dudash joined the League of Women Voters table at the Marcellus Shale Expo to show how we are working toward our mission to protect and preserve our natural resources by evaluating the water quality in waterways in Indiana County. They demonstrated the use of our data loggers and answered questions from the participants at the Expo.

Auberle Teens from McKeesport, PA Visit Tanoma

The boys from Auberle came out to Tanoma for the day to learn about renewable energy, creek critters, water testing and just to have a great outdoor experience. We all had fun working together!



Fourth Annual Tanoma Wetlands Days

Mark your calendar! The Fourth Annual Tanoma Wetlands Day will be Saturday, October 8th from 10am to 3pm at the Tanoma Education center, at the intersection of Tanoma and Rayne Church Roads

The fourth edition of Evergreen Conservancy's annual event will include many familiar events: guided nature walks, fly fishing demonstration, games for children, AMD system tours, and interactive environmental activities.

Over the past year we have added some renewable energy projects which will be up and running in October. These will be demonstrated that day.

If its lunch you want Fat Boy's Hot Dog truck will be there with sandwiches and drinks. The conservancy will also have other items.

Have your kids seen our StoryWalk? "Grandfather Twilight" is still there and is an interesting activity for adults and kids to enjoy together.

Our exciting additions to the program this year are Ayn VanDyke of Critter Camp and Butch Laney of Naeskashoni Town. Visitors will learn about local wildlife and history, in addition to the other subjects covered.

As members and friends of Evergreen Conservancy I am asking some of you to help with some events. None are difficult or time consuming. Some of these include: acorn golf, scavenger hunt, goldenrod toss, or doing interactive environmental activities with kids. You may want to make cookies or brownies. If you are willing to help please let Bob Lankard know by sending an Email to lankard@comcast.net

Evergreen Events Calendar:

September 2, 2011 - Board Meeting - 1005 Oak Street - 2nd floor

November 7, 2011 Board Meeting - 1005 Oak Street - 2nd floor

Committees meet in June, August, October - see website for dates

October 8, 2011 - put it on your calendar - our 4th Annual Tanoma AMD Wetlands Educational Site event!

October 22, 2011 - Hoodlebug Trail clean up