



## SPRING EVENT SCHEDULED APRIL 20, 2012

Have you seen a fisher or talked to anyone who has seen one? Most likely you have. They are spotted frequently in our area. Kind of interesting since they were just reintroduced to Pennsylvania in 1994 after being nonexistent in Pennsylvania since the 1920s.

Evergreen Conservancy's spring event will focus on the fisher, a member of the weasel family. Wildlife Conservation Officer Patrick Snickles will talk about fishers at the Blue Spruce Lodge on Friday April 20th at 7 p.m. That evening's program will also include updates on conservancy projects and refreshments afterward.

You may recall Mr. Snickles was at our 2011 event when he talked about otters. Otters and fishers have a similar story of being extinct in Pennsylvania but reintroduced in the 1990s.

What do fishers eat? If you answered fish you would be wrong. Actually they prefer small mammals like mice. Mark Friday April 20 on your calendar for an interesting presentation, exciting news about Evergreen Conservancy, and fellowship with those who appreciate the outdoors.



## February 8, 2012 IUP Volunteer Fair

Bob Lankard, Megan Baskerville and Cindy Rogers greeted potential IUP student volunteers at an IUP Volunteer Fair. Students stopped by to ask about Evergreen and several signed up to help out with field work projects.



## Iron Oxide Art initiative – Art Cleans our Streams!

Fantastic success! We received 25 beautiful pieces of art. We sent out dried iron oxide collected from our Tanoma AMD site to artists. They used the iron in their art and sent us their pieces. We are thrilled with the creative beautiful results. The money raised in this project will benefit the Indiana Arts Council and Evergreen Conservancy. The bids were awarded December 7th at the Indiana Arts Council's Annual Meeting at Coventry Inn. This project was so successful we will probably do it again this year. If you, as an artist, are interested in creating something with iron oxide – please contact us and we will be happy to send you some iron to experiment with!

## Chamber of Commerce EXPO 2012

Here our board member Dan Boone, right, shows expo-goers the various projects Evergreen Conservancy takes on. We're looking forward to next year!

We had a great time at Indiana's Chamber of Commerce Business Expo in January! We were able to share what we do and build interest for learning about the environment and renewable energy with many people who stopped by. EME Homer City Generation supported Evergreen by paying our booth fee and allowing us to make others there more aware of us and our mission.



### OUR MISSION:

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

## Environmental Education News

### Scheduling Programs

We are starting to schedule environmental programs for the spring/summer. If you know of any groups that would like to come out to the Tanoma AMD site and participate in a variety of programs, please get in touch with us.

### Celebrate Your Wetlands!

While most eyes were focused on the beloved groundhog to the north, February 2nd also marked the 41st World Wetland Day. People across the globe gathered to shed more light on, and enjoy, one of our most valuable resources – the wetland. What makes a wetland a wetland? There are so many names for them – swamps, bogs, marshes – that it is hard to nail down a specific definition. According to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (the group that began World Wetlands Day in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran) a wetland is piece of ground that is saturated with water permanently or occasionally throughout the year. The many different types of wetlands are based on the vegetation seen at each site. For example, if a wetland can sustain trees, it is known as a swamp. If it supports just grasses, it is a marsh.



Wetlands, previously seen as nuisances and mosquito breeding grounds, are now known for the great benefits they offer. For example, they serve as natural water purifiers, flood control, shoreline stability, and reservoirs of biodiversity. Unfortunately, 56% of all wetlands in PA have been lost from the 1780s-1980s, according to an EPA study done in the 1990s. This may have occurred naturally, or from human activities like filling in wetlands for development or for cropland. But we have many wetlands still in Indiana County, and they are a great resource in treating AMD. The theme for 2012 is "Wetlands and Tourism." What a great reason to get out and visit the wetlands in our own area!

*by Megan Baskerville*

## Evergreen Conservancy Project Updates

Visit our web site to learn more about these projects... [www.evergreenconservancy.org](http://www.evergreenconservancy.org)

### Tanoma:

Work was done on weirs and incoming pipes to increase the dissolved oxygen in the water. We are tracking the DO levels. DEP toured the site and will be doing additional work on the site. At present there is too much water coming into the system to be efficiently treated. We are working with DEP to make additional changes and hopefully increase the efficiency. Because of the high water levels the water turbine will have to be removed and the concept rethought. The wind turbine is being repaired due to wind damage but will still be running. We hope to have it powering a water aerator within the next few months.

### Water Monitoring:

- Our datalogger water monitoring project is continuing to gain momentum as we continue to install dataloggers and train more volunteers on the data collection process in the field. We have now installed 22 dataloggers and are working with a second group of volunteers to download data on a second loop.
- 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](mailto:info@evergreenconservancy.com). Time commitments vary, and we are looking for volunteers to come on our bi-monthly uploads when their schedule allows!

### Canoe Launch/Take out in Homer City

Thanks to the work of all the partners on this project a low impact launch/take out is going to happen in Homer City! The Homer City Borough, PENNDOT, Indiana County Planning Office, PASEC, WPC, and Evergreen Conservancy worked together to get the project approved and the Borough has started to work on the site. They will get it done as the weather cooperates. Western Pa Conservancy is funding the project with a grant. Read more about it at: [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/blairsvilledispatch/print\\_780861.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/blairsvilledispatch/print_780861.html)

### 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](http://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.**



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



**April 21, 2012 trail clean up**

Evergreen Conservancy will conduct a clean up of the Hoodlebug Trail on Saturday April 21st beginning at 9 a.m. Volunteers will meet at the Homer City ball field parking lot. Recently the clean up has taken less than two hours

To get to the meeting place take old 119 south through Homer City (Main Street), go past the high school. Take the first right and follow about ¼ to a stop sign. Turn right and cross the Hoodlebug Trail turn left and follow the trail to the parking lot.

**Don't Forget To Check Out Our Evergreen Website  
[www.evergreenconservancy.org](http://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](#)

**Evergreen Conservancy – Grant Work**

We continue to work on our Colcom and Growing Greener Grants. We are purchasing and installing data loggers. Our web site created by IUP to keep our data is up and running.

**Quick Response Grant for Tanoma:**

We applied for and received a quick response grant from WPCAMR to fix some structural problems at Tanoma and increase dissolved oxygen in the water. This work was completed but there is more to be done at the site.



We should know in March if we will be getting a few other grants related to additional water monitoring and educational projects.

**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



## Volunteers Needed

Volunteer with Evergreen Conservancy! Do you like to be outside? Do you have one to three hours once or twice a month that you could volunteer? Time is very flexible. For just a little bit of your time you will be helping keep our waterways clean and protecting one of our greatest resources. Evergreen Conservancy is installing data loggers that record water quality in Indiana County streams; then volunteers go out about twice a month to download the data. No experience is necessary. We will train you how to do it. Usually two or three people go out together. We can pair you up or if there are two or three of you we will show you what to do and where to go and help you until you feel comfortable doing it yourself. Please learn more about us and our project by reading more about our water monitoring project ([www.evergreenconservancy.org/?page\\_id=329](http://www.evergreenconservancy.org/?page_id=329)). If you can spare a few hours a month call Cindy at 724-349-4333 or e-mail her at [rogers944@comcast.net](mailto:rogers944@comcast.net) or [info@evergreenconservancy.org](mailto:info@evergreenconservancy.org). Thanks in advance!



## Oil and Gas Companies finding a possible use for AMD

In November, the DEP released a white paper on the new idea of oil and gas companies utilizing AMD for their water needs in hydraulic fracturing. As the logistics of this idea are fleshed out, the DEP gives some recommendations for how this process would take place, how to handle various liability issues, and the next steps that need to be taken.

In theory, the oil and gas companies would be able to extract water from AMD sites, and would store the AMD on their site. There are various ways to store this water, depending on the quality of the water. If it meets certain water quality standards, then the water can be held in a "nonjurisdictional impoundment." It can also be stored in impoundment dams or in on-site pits and tanks. In order for oil and gas companies to locate AMD sites suitable for extracting water, DEP recommends that a database be created, with AMD locations, water quality, and flow rates all available in an easy to use interface. Another issue that is mentioned is liability. If an oil and gas company were to use AMD

water, would they then be accountable for treating the discharge in eternity? Right now, there seem to be plenty of options to get out of the liability, such as being covered under the Environmental Good Samaritan Act, and being given a consent order and agreement by the DEP, effectively agreeing not to hold the company liable for long term treatment of the discharge.

In the white paper, the DEP suggests a rough step-by-step process for oil and gas companies to use when trying to acquire AMD water. In Step 2, it is mentioned the gas companies would "partner with a local entity, third-party service, or watershed group to implement the project." (PA DEP, 2011) This will be an interesting story to follow as more and more water is needed for gas extraction. You can read the full white paper on DEP's website at:

[http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/Watershed%20Management/WatershedPortalFiles/FINAL\\_WhitePaperReviewTeamFindings-ForUseOfAMD\\_ForFracWater.pdf](http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/Watershed%20Management/WatershedPortalFiles/FINAL_WhitePaperReviewTeamFindings-ForUseOfAMD_ForFracWater.pdf)



## 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](mailto: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 historical, cultural or natural resource.
- Participation in activities of notable stewardship of the environment.

*Thanks for your help!*

## Evergreen Events Calendar:

March 13, 2012 – Board Meeting 1005 Oak Street, Second floor

March 24, 2012 – Family Fun Fest Indiana Mall – Come and visit our table.

April 14, 2012 – IUP Into the Streets Volunteer Day – We will have IUP students at Tanoma helping with chores

April 20, 2012 – Spring Program at Blue Spruce Park – "Fishers" by Patrick Snickles

April 21, 2012 – Hoodle Bug Trail Clean up

May 13, 2012 – Mothers' Day Walk and Tea at Blue Spruce Park for Friends of the Park