



2012 Annual Membership meeting

Evergreen Conservancy had its annual membership meeting Wednesday June 6th at the Tanoma Environmental Education Center. We had great food, as usual, and a great turn out. It was nice to see some new faces also! Board members were elected and officers voted on. Cindy Rogers will continue as President, Malcolm Hermann as vice-president, Sally Thornton as our new secretary, and Megan Baskerville as acting Treasurer until November or until we can get a new treasurer. Anyone???



We previewed the first showing of IUP produced videos about Evergreen Conservancy by Shannon Cole. Her professor, Dr. Ali joined us for the meeting. We loved the videos and you can now see them on YouTube! The links are on our web site.



For some time Evergreen's board has had so many great volunteers and we want to take time to thank them all for all the help they give in so many ways. This year we gave out our first Evergreen Award to LeeRoy Vatter.

Tourist Bureau Mingle at Tanoma July 11th!

People connected with tourism in Indiana County met and mingled with Evergreen Conservancy members at Tanoma Wednesday evening July 11. Several times a year the Indiana County Tourist Bureau schedules events that allow members to network and learn about a member's operation – They call it a "Mingle". We hosted the Mingle in July.

After a few snacks and informal mingling Cindy Rogers gave those present a history of Evergreen Conservancy and explained how Tanoma fits into the forming of a conservancy. None of our guests had been to Tanoma and few were aware of what Evergreen Conservancy is all about.

Cindy then led the group of over 20 on a tour of our system. She explained why AMD is a problem in our streams and how we can clean it up.

Dan Boone, Evergreen Conservancy Board Member, gave a tour of all the renewable energy projects up and running at Tanoma. Dan's battery operated lawn mower was the hit of the evening. It was charged by electricity from our solar panels. Some took a trial run. Dr. Boone explained how much more polluting a gasoline lawn mower is than an automobile.

At the end of the evening, Penny Perman – Executive Director of the Tourist Bureau raffled off some giveaways to attendees. Some were donated by Evergreen Conservancy and others by the Tourist Bureau.

It was a great night to introduce more people to Tanoma and Evergreen Conservancy.

Thanks to all members who contributed home made snacks for the event.



Tourist Bureau
Executive Director
Penny Perman



System Tour,
Cindy Rogers



Alternative Energy
Tour, Dan Boone



Electric Lawn
Mower Display



Door Prizes,
Everybody Wins

OUR MISSION:

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

Evergreen's Website

www.evergreenconservancy.org

For The Latest News.

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](#)

And on YouTube:

[About Evergreen Conservancy – crNa11j5J2M](#)

[Tanoma AMD Wetlands – yaGLM4Ob8Ks](#)

[Renewable Energy – S3VOATx0mRY](#)



facebook

YouTube

New Board Member

We are very pleased to welcome Sally Thornton to the EC board. Sally is a retired Spanish Professor and Director of Critical Languages at IUP. She joined the board because of an interest in the environment and the desire to help. She was already a volunteer with our water monitoring program, helping to download dataloggers with Carol Cummins.

**Evergreen Conservancy Project Updates****Tanoma:**

- Tim has been keeping the path in good shape, Jason is mowing, Dan is working on the renewable energy system while Cindy, Malcolm and others have been doing work on the grounds; John and Paul are taking regular water tests. It has been a busy summer. We have had several programs and many visitors. We also planted about 15 blueberry plants around the site that were donated by Musser Nursery, left over from the Homer City Boat launch.
- We are tracking the DO levels. The system is working better now and the plants are thick at the lower end, helping to rid the water of iron. DEP will be doing additional work on the site. We are working with DEP to make additional changes and hopefully increase the efficiency. Some good news we heard from the Stream Restoration folks is that they will support getting an aerator system with a \$2000 grant; so sometime in the coming months, we should be able to start providing aeration to the first pond.
- Renewable Energy: A WREN grant for \$300 should help for a much-needed generator for the water turbine. Much of the project is on hold for awhile, since we must wait for the DEP to carry out a number of improvements to the entire system. We need to coordinate with DEP on installing the air and electric lines for the aerator during their renovation work. Also, the water turbine was irreparably damaged, including the previous generator, when a new weir was placed at the last outlet channel. That may not be a significant loss, because it is possible that the DEP improvements may necessitate relocation and redesign of the water turbine. The last word we've heard is that our project was on the DEP schedule for sometime this summer. The aerator could be run with just the solar panel and wind turbine outputs, and may be installed even before work on the water turbine is completed. So, renewable energy is still very much a work-in-progress at Tanoma.

**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 26 dataloggers and are working with more volunteers to download. We have done upgrades on the data logger software. We will be doing yearly maintenance this fall on all the loggers.
- 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.org. Time commitments vary, and we are looking for volunteers to come on our bi-monthly uploads when their schedule allows!

Visit our web site to learn more about these projects... www.evergreenconservancy.org

WHAT WE CONSERVE:

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

Environmental Education News

- We will offer programs in September to earn the Brownie Bug badge and a Junior Flower Badge.
- July 11th and 19th Girl Scouts visited Tanoma.
- "Bugs for Brownies", grades 2-3, October 13th from 9-12am
- "Eco Art", Grades 6-10 Saturday, November 10th from 1-4pm

Scouts at Tanoma June 22

Tie-dying tee shirts, examining macro-invertebrates, and identifying plants and trees was all on the agenda for June 22, when the Eisenhower Elementary Junior Troop 40942 visited Tanoma. The girls were there not only to learn, but to also complete a service project. Each year, the troop must complete a number of service projects; we were lucky to have them choose Tanoma! As a group, the girls decided to re-stain Tanoma's three wooden bridges, which definitely needed a new coat! Before getting to work though, the troop learned all about how the wetlands purified the polluted mine water, and saw how we remove iron from the system. They got to see the iron oxide firsthand as they tie dyed tee shirts with the pigment. After tie-dying and lunch, the 9 girls got to work on the bridges! Working as a team (and learning to not paint the floorboards first!) they completed the project in record time! The stain and brushes were provided by Evergreen Conservancy. After staining the bridges, the girls got a chance to cool off in the creek, as they completed a stream assessment in Crooked Creek. This involved using kick nets to discover what animals were living in the stream. Then, they identified the bugs and found out whether they were indicators of good or bad stream health. (Results: The headwaters of Crooked Creek are healthy, with large numbers of mayflies!) All 9 girls had a great time, completed a very much needed service project, and got to have fun all as a group!

4H Group finds bugs at Tanoma in Crooked Creek

Tanoma Wetlands hosted two groups of 4-H day camps on July 11 and 18th. As part of a 3 day camp in the county, kids spent one morning at the Wetlands, learning about our AMD system, making a craft with iron oxide, and doing a bug catch. Over 15 kids were in each group! Debbie Beisel, coordinator of the 4-H camp, led the first group on July 11th, showing them how we treat the AMD water, and led them on a bug catch in Crooked Creek. On July 18th, our OSM/VISTA Megan, and Board Member Sally, met the group. They led them on a complete tour of the site, testing the water at the beginning and end of the system. (The iron in the water coming out of the mines was at 9 ppm. By the end, it was down to .5 ppm!) Then, the kids were able to make iron oxide chalk as a fun craft. While the chalk was setting, Megan and Sally led the group to the creek, and they all looked for bugs, to determine the health of the stream. Crayfish were the most abundant. Everyone had a great day, and we look forward to hosting them again next year!



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



Evergreen Conservancy – Grant Work

- We continue to work on our Colcom and Growing Greener Grants. We are purchasing and installing data loggers. The web site created by IUP to keep our data is up and running.
- More good news is that Megan Baskerville was instrumental in getting a WREN grant for \$300 for a much-needed generator for the water turbine.

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.



Evergreen Award

Evergreen Conservancy was honored to give our first Evergreen Award to LeeRoy Vatter at our annual membership meeting at Tanoma ADW Wetlands on June 6th. The award is for a person or group which has demonstrated grass-roots leadership in 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, and/or participation in activities of notable stewardship of the environment. LeeRoy certainly met our criteria. LeeRoy, 81, has managed his 100 acre farm located along Crooked Creek since 1963. He has been active in many environmental focused groups over the years, including the Conservation District, the Governor's Citizen Advisory Group, Youth Conservation Days with the Keystone Sportsmans' Club. Has done hunter safety training as a member of PA Federation of Sportsmen, National Parks and Conservation Association Citizens

against Water Loss Due to Mining, PA Forestry Association, Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Conservation and Environmental Resources Council for DCNR, Crooked Creek Watershed, Indiana County Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps, and Evergreen Conservancy. He has been a hunting and trapping instructor, rifle and pistol instructor, and a 4H instructor. He initiated Growing Greener projects such as the Keystone Wetland Assessment and Redesign Project, and Crooked Creek and Campbell Run Stream Bank Restoration Project at Falcon Park. He was involved in efforts to eliminate mining pollution near Ernest. Mine discharges and runoff from 300 acres of slag and waste coal has drained into McGee Run, a tributary of Crooked Creek for decades.



LeeRoy has said, "Conservation of our natural resources is something that I've believed in for a long time."

** Don't forget – if you have someone you would like to nominate for next year's award please let us know and fill out an application found on our web site with the person's or group's information. Thanks!!

Chamber of Commerce

As a member of the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce Evergreen Conservancy will host "Business After Hours", the Chamber's monthly mixer, on September 20th at Blue Spruce Park. Snacks & refreshment will be provided by volunteers for EC' so we're requesting any baked goods or other items from our extensive network of volunteers. Activities will include tours of the treatment system and alternative energy displays.

Friends of Yellow Creek Septemberfest

Friends of Yellow Creek is having its 3rd annual Septemberfest on September 29th from 9:00 to 4:00 at Yellow Creek State Park Beach area. Free music, boating. Check www.foyc.org for more information.energy displays.

Evergreen Events Calendar:

- September 5, 2012 – Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- September 9, 2012, 2PM – Plant walk for Friends of the Park at Tanoma by Cindy Rogers
- September 15, 2012 – Hoodlebug Trail clean up
- September 20, 2012 – Chamber of Commerce Mixer at Tanoma
- September 22, 2012– Tanoma maintenance, IUP's "Into the Streets" students
- September 27, 2012 – 11th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration Networker Cruise - EC will have a display there
- October 12, 2012, 7PM – Evergreen's Fall Program
- October 13, 2012 – "Bugs for Brownies", Girl Scouts at Tanoma
- November 10, 2012 – Eco Art, Girl Scouts at Tanoma

Fall Program

A Fall program is planned, featuring the ever-popular Wildlife Conservation Officer Patrick Snickles reviewing bobcats in Pennsylvania. It's October 12 at 7PM, and the location will once again be the Blue Spruce Lodge at Blue Spruce Park.

