



November, 2012  
#27

[www.evergreenconservancy.org](http://www.evergreenconservancy.org)

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## EC walks away with a prize at this year's Watershed Cruise



Friends, colleagues and partners were all present at this year's Ohio River Watershed Celebration Cruise in downtown Pittsburgh. Stream Restoration, Inc. and WPCAMR (Western Pennsylvania Coalition on Abandoned Mine Reclamation) were the major hosts of the party aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet. The boat pulled out of the docks and toured all three rivers in Pittsburgh, while everyone networked and got to meet new people.

All sorts of watershed groups and businesses related to the field were present, putting up displays that explained their involvement with watershed work. Evergreen Conservancy set up a display focusing on our Iron Oxide for the Arts Initiative. It was so well received that we even walked away with second place for "Most Innovative Display"! Besides just recognition, the group also received a \$250 check to continue our efforts. Much thanks to Joanne, Cindy and Megan, who worked meticulously to create such a great display. Your efforts paid off.

## Bobcats in Pennsylvania?

Up to 50 people came to Blue Spruce Lodge on Friday October 12 to learn more about Bobcats in Pennsylvania. These people attended Evergreen Conservancy's Fall Event with homemade treats and drinks. After a brief update about Evergreen Conservancy by Cindy Rogers, Wildlife Conservation Officer Patrick Snickles did a very interesting power point detailing the ups and downs of bobcats over the past century.



These cats went through a period of decline due to unregulated hunting and trapping. Bobcats have made a big comeback over the past 25 years. Still, very few people have seen a bobcat in Indiana County because they are nocturnal and avoid residential areas.



## Business After Hours

Every month the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce schedules meetings that help chamber members get to know each other and to see a business up close. They call it "Business After Hours". Most of these events are held in Indiana area offices. On September 20th chamber members traveled to Tanoma to get to know Evergreen



Conservancy better and see what we have accomplished at the Tanoma Environmental Education Center. Approximately 25 chamber members attended and most were unfamiliar with the conservancy before they came to visit. Many of the chamber members participated in the system walk or alternative energy program and were very interested in how it worked and what we do. We heard many complimentary comments and several days later there was a very nice newspaper column by Carl Kologie about Evergreen Conservancy and our Tanoma AMD Wetlands.



## 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](http://www.evergreenconservancy.org)

### Tanoma up-dates

- DEP arrived at Tanoma and worked for two days on several different things. They moved two barriers from the parking lot and built a road across the first, second and last emergency overflows so we could drive a vehicle across to access the area when needed. They dug out land and made the flow area bigger from the first to the second ponds. They built a new weir in the last overflow (going into crooked creek) so we can better measure the flow coming out of the system. Malcolm and Cindy bought a chain and a lock to put up as a barrier so people can't drive across the new access road into the area. We have it locked to the barrier handles. They also moved the second bridge off the overflow and it will no longer be part of the path, it is presently sitting just off the path. The old bridge will be recycled into a new shed to house our new electric lawn mower and string trimmer.
- Now that the DEP work is finished we will be installing the aerator in the first or second pond. Stream Restoration is funding the aerator and we will be installing it this fall.

### Renewable energy update:

Dan is working on our electrical system after finding a glitch in the storage system. We ordered the generator for the water wheel. That water wheel should be up and running in the spring after we see what the water levels look like this winter. As soon as we get the new aerator we will get it installed, which will run on the wind turbine power.

### Water Monitoring:

- Our datalogger water monitoring project is ongoing. We now have installed 29 data loggers. We finished maintenance this fall on all the loggers' locations, checking the installations and calibrating each data logger.
- IUP students have been busy with Megan and Cindy doing stream assessments at every data logger location. PASEC volunteers, two students from Duquesne University and Evergreen volunteers have started doing macro-invertebrate sampling at each logger location. All this information will give us more data about the water quality and give us excellent baseline data to compare results in the future.
- We want to give a big THANKS to the Central Indiana County Water Authority for the donation of funds to purchase a data logger.
- 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 bimonthly uploads when their schedule allows!

### Trail Clean up

Members and friends of Evergreen Conservancy picked up trash along the Hoodlebug Trail on Saturday, September 15. The crew found the trail in very good shape. It took little over an hour to cover the trail. We only found 4 bags worth. Thanks to those who helped: JoAnne and John Ferarro, Cindy Rogers, John Dudash, Megan Baskerville, Bob Lankard, Paul Hicks, and Tim Slippy.



New Weir to Measure Flow at Tanoma



Renewable Energy Helps Maintain Tanoma



Downloading Water Quality Data



Doing a Stream Assessment



Insect Life Helps Determine Stream Quality

### WHAT WE CONSERVE:

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



## Environmental Education News

- Bugs! We offered a program on September 13th for 16 girls to earn their Brownie "Bug badge". It was a cold day (started out at a mere 27 degrees). But the girls were all excited to be there and had a great time. As the temperature went up a bit we got into the stream and caught bugs to identify, examine and talk about. Each girl drew a picture about their favorite bug and learned about our Tanoma system and how it protects the creek.
- November 6, a student in Whit Watts' Geography and Regional Planning class at IUP invited Cindy Rogers to come and speak to their class. They invite different organizations in the community to come in and talk about their organization so the class can learn more about the community and what groups are doing.
- On November 10th 27 Girl Scouts in Grades 6-10 visited Tanoma for an "Eco Art" program "Journey" on an absolutely beautiful fall day. We made tie-dye tee-shirts, created amazing eco art sculptures (which you can still see at Tanoma in various locations) and ended the day by creating a nature program. We all had a great afternoon and the girls learned a little more about abandoned coal mines and treatment systems.



Eco Artists



Eco Art

## 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.
- We now have a renewable energy rechargeable lawn mower and string trimmer that can be charged by our renewable solar and wind power thanks to our recent Walmart Foundation grant through the Local Community Contribution/Hunger Outreach Grant Program and our local Walmart store.
- WREN grant: The generator that we need to rehabilitate our water wheel was funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Section 319 federal Clean Water Act grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency.



## 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



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.



## IUP Anthropology Student Focuses Project on Environmentalism in Indiana County

Elye Schenk, a Junior at IUP in the Anthropology Department, participated in the IUP Oral History/Ethnography Field School course this past summer, led by Dr. Amanda Poole and Dr. Anastasia Hudgins, both Assistant Professors of Anthropology. Over ten students participated, selecting their own aspect to focus on, with the main theme being "An Ethnographic Study of Marcellus Shale Development." Elye decided to focus on the PA Senior Environmental Corps (PaSEC) and how/why the volunteers work on environmental projects throughout the county. She interviewed many members of Evergreen and PaSEC, our OSM/VISTA Megan, and IUP Prof Katie Farnsworth, who is helping compile our datalogger data.

Her project resulted in a short video that is able to be viewed on Evergreen's YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jry4l47Bg60](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jry4l47Bg60)

"While this video was only a short overview, my conclusion I have reached for my ethnographic research is that members of PASEC and affiliates are motivated to volunteer for multi-dimensional reasons from their experiences from the past, present, and the future to come; yet they all have a common goal to protect, preserve, conserve, learn and educate

our local community about the health, safety and nature of our waterways in Indiana County." —Elye Schenk



## EC Provides Amplification

Can you make electricity by riding your bike?

Evergreen Conservancy's Dan Boone was on hand at the Indiana Fifth Street Event on September 25th and Yellow Creek Park's Annual SeptemberFest on September 29th to show people how bike riding can be turned into electricity. Two bicycles were hooked up to power the music system in use by local musicians. Four bands/musicians performed over several hours and it was **run completely on green power**. There was a lot of interest in how it was possible and no lack of volunteers to get on the bikes and peddle. A good time was had by all!

## Web Site News

Check out the new additions to our web site. We now have "DONATE" buttons for you to make a donation and to renew your membership through PayPal or with a credit card. Join or renew your membership online this year!

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 do Face book, 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.



## Evergreen Award

Please think about a person or group that really deserves to be recognized for their stewardship of our environment. You can nominate them at any time. Send us a note about that person and why you think they should be given our Evergreen Award. There is a form you can fill out on our web site or contact us with the information.

## Evergreen Events Calendar:

- December 18, 2012 Festival of the Lights - Evergreen will be manning the gates at Blue Spruce Park. Come on out and see us, and see the lights!
- November 30 and December 1, 2012 Please come out and visit us at any one of three locations to support us with our fall fund-raising sales. We will have a table at the Robertshaw IUP Pottery Sale 11/30/12 and Saturday 12/1/12. We will also be at the UU Church Christmas Bazaar and the Mall near Bon Ton on 12/1/12. Buy your Christmas presents or a special gift for yourself.



## Christmas Sales

We have homemade cat and dog treats, handmade swags/garlands, note tiles, donated pottery from local artists, our comforting corn heaters and eye pillows, delicious chocolate, iron oxide chalk, lighted bottles and decorative window blocks, iron oxide tie-dye tee-shirts, wooden boot jacks, and more. How can you buy some of unique items???

- See us at the Mall near Bon Ton on December 1st
- Visit the UU Christmas Bazar on Twolick Drive on December 1st
- Visit the IUP pottery sale at Robertshaw on November 30th and December 1st
- Go to our web site to order a gift
- Call us at 724-349-4333



## Need Volunteers

Need Volunteers to help man the three different Evergreen Sales tables (At the UU Church Christmas Bazaar, IUP Pottery sale and Mall booth) on Friday November 30th and Sat December 1st. If you can spare a few hours to help out those days please call Cindy at 724-349-4333 or e-mail [rogers944@comcast.net](mailto:rogers944@comcast.net)

## Bat Boxes Installed at Tanoma!

In June, members of Girl Scout Junior Troop 40942 enthusiastically painted the bridges at Tanoma Abandoned Mine Drainage Wetlands to help meet requirements for earning their Bronze Award. The Bronze Award is the highest award that can be earned by a Junior Scout. While at the AMD Wetlands, the girls learned more about reclaiming contaminated water and the benefits of the wetlands in preserving our environment. They also learned about the animals and insects that call the wetlands "home." They learned that bats are beneficial animals that provide one means of keeping an insect population from becoming out of control. This especially caught their attention because in March they had traveled to the Lincoln Caverns in Huntingdon County, PA, where they had learned that White Nose Syndrome was leading to a decline in the bat population of North America. They had wanted to do something to help the bats so together with Evergreen Conservancy representative Cindy Rogers, they came up with a plan to build bat houses both to help the Tanoma AMD and to help the bats. At an overnight camping event in July, Kate Metzger, Arianna Goodyear, Nadia Goodyear, Amanda Mettee, Hanna Contrucci, and Courtney Leydic, with help from parents Joy Goodyear, Heather Contrucci, and Diana Metzger, constructed and painted 4 bat houses to mount in the wetlands. The bat houses were installed by students from IUP during a day of volunteer work, "Into The Streets" through the University's Office of Service Learning.



The girls wish to thank Don Huey Construction for providing some of the materials needed to make the houses, and especially to Joy and Jim Goodyear, who had used the power tools to cut the pieces to size to facilitate construction. Poles were donated by Homer City Borough.



### Iron Oxide Art Cleans our Streams

Make sure you stop at Michael B's Shoe Store from now through the first week of December to see our beautiful art work in their 7th street side window. You can go in and put a bid on any of the pieces of art. We will have pottery, turned wood pieces, photography, paintings, and more, all using iron oxide in the art work. Final bids can be placed at the Indiana Art Council's annual meeting the first week in December. This fund-raising benefits YOU with a special piece of art and us: the Indiana Arts Council and Evergreen Conservancy.



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### VISTA Americorps News

#### Welcome to our new volunteer and a sad good bye to Megan Baskerville :'(

Our new VISTA volunteer is looking for housing. If you have or know of a room for rent or an apartment that she could rent please let us know. As you know VISTA volunteers are doing a year of service and their income is very limited; so we are asking for rent at the \$300 a month level.



#### Hello!

My name is Kelly Cossey, and I will be the new AmeriCorps VISTA with the Evergreen Conservancy and Crooked Creek Watershed Association. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas, and I graduated this past May with a degree in Environmental Studies from Washington and Lee University in Virginia. During my time there, I fell in love with the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Shenandoah Valley, and I am so excited to head back east and to explore a new part of the country. I have a background in elementary education, and I hope to pursue a career in environmental education and outreach. I'm eager to get started, and I look forward to meeting everyone very soon!

#### Thank You

It doesn't seem possible that I've been here an entire year working with Evergreen Conservancy, but it's true! I want to thank everybody that I've come into contact with over the year... everyone has been incredibly kind and open to sharing your region's history and environmental past with me. (You've also opened my ears to the wonderful world of Yinzer accents...) I am really impressed with the amount of work Evergreen's volunteers have done this past year, and I'm sure there's a lot more work ahead! I was glad to help further the water monitoring project over the course of the year, as well as further partnerships with the Girl Scouts of Western PA, and other environmental education partners. I look forward to hearing what the next year has in store for Evergreen! For me, I'm headed back to my home state of Illinois, to become the Watershed Specialist with the Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District. This year has no doubt prepared me for my next adventure, and again, that's thanks to all of you!  
-Megan Baskerville

