



Newsletter, #47 Fall 2017

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Our Fall Tree Program Gets Standing Room Audience

An estimated 105 people crowded Blue Spruce Lodge on September 29 to hear a program about threats to our forests presented by board member Dr. Mike Tyree, an Assistant Professor of Plant Physiological Ecology in the Department of Biology at IUP, and several of his students.

The program was billed as "What's buggin' our trees" and a diverse audience showed their concern about our forests. They learned how our forests are changing in response to invasive pests and how we can respond. The program included an introduction of some relatively recent attacks we have seen in western PA such as the disappearance of American chestnut from our upland forests and the rapid decline of the American elm and ash. Dr. Tyree looked at threats to our state tree, the "eastern hemlock" and current efforts to restore American chestnut back to our forests. Several students discussed studies measuring success with restoring certain tree species.

The audience did not leave with a "feel good" feeling because the challenges to our forests will continue. When forest scientists try a new technique it will be many years to find if they got good results.



Stream Restoration Project On Laurel Run – COMPLETED!

Thanks to Adam Cotchen (Indiana County Conservation District), the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Mark Sausser, and his staff, Yellow Creek State Park staff, Phil Hay and Son Excavation Company, several PASEC and Evergreen volunteers and Eli Long from Trout Unlimited, this project was completed in one day on Sept 25th. The stream was threatening to undercut the walking path to a dangerous degree and the bank needed to be stabilized. It is also a trout stream and will benefit from the fish habitat this project created. It was incredible to watch the precision of the skid loader operator as he moved logs and rocks around to create the log vanes and mud silt that make up the fish habitat and stabilized the bank. The company prides



itself on having a low impact on the surrounding area

and they did an outstanding job. After the work was completed we seeded the banks and area around the project with a seed mix of native plants for riparian buffer zones. Thanks to everyone for their work to make this happen.

Evergreen was able to fund this project with a grant provided by the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion Energy companies. Western PA Conservancy administered the grant. Friends of Yellow Creek also helped fund this project with a donation to cover the additional cost of the seed needed for the disturbed areas.

Board Members

Cindy Rogers - President • Malcolm Hermann -Vice president • Becky Snyder -Treasurer
Tara Binion - Secretary • Dan Boone • Bob Lankard • John Dudash • Mike Tyree
Paul Yacovone • Stacey Robertson • Tim Slippy • David Janetski • Nicole Kelley

OUR MISSION:

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

Tanoma Updates

Several groups of students, including our own board member Nicole Kelley, from IUP have been doing research at Tanoma this past semester. Stay tuned for the results.

The Trompe is experiencing some issues at the present time. We are trying to figure out what is wrong and correct it before winter sets in. We are also experiencing lower rates of iron coming into the system for some reason right now and so the iron going out is also lower which is a good thing but we want to solve the issue and get the Trompe back up and running.

Because the weather has been so unpredictable this year we had two aggressive floods at Tanoma that washed out our pavilion floor. The first time Rayne Township came in to help us out. They recaptured all the stone that had been washed out and replaced the floor, brought in additional stone for the floor and path, reseeded the lawn around the pavilion and made the place look great. We are very appreciative of their quick work to get it fixed. However two weeks later we had another flood and it washed out again. We made the decision to do a more permanent solution and took steps to pour a cement floor for our pavilion, raising our battery shed up and hopefully out of the flood waters when it happens again. Art Grguric, his son Artie Grguric and his crew did a beautiful job and we appreciate their efforts and great work.

More work was done at Tanoma, Tim Dahany of Bio Most and his crew installed a new weir at the end of the system to more accurately measure water flow.

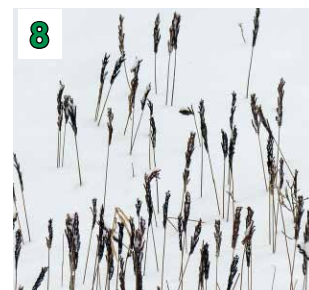


Plants To Be On The Lookout For - Winter "Weeds"

Winter is a great time to learn to identify our wild plants. Many have an easy-to-identify look in the winter. If you know where a plant is in the summer, spring or fall go out and locate it now to see what it looks like. Here are some easy ones:

- Goldenrod (2-4 feet) seeds loved by birds, a home to insect homes called galls – (round growth on the stems)
- Teasel (3-5 feet) native to Europe was used in the wool industry to card wool.
- Dogbane (1-3 feet) pencil thin pods with fluffy parachute seed, stem was used to make cording or twine, summer leaves poisonous to ingest
- Milkweed (2-4 feet) home to the monarch butterfly
- Joe pye weed (4-6 feet) used medicinally by Native Americans, late summer early fall forms a beautiful top cluster of showy purple/pink flowers.
- Thistle (2-4 feet) lots of sharp thorns, goldfinches love thistle seeds
- Cattail (3-4 feet tall), likes wetlands, lots of edible uses, habitat and food for critters
- Wild Carrot or Queen Ann's Lace (2-3 feet) closed flower head looks like a "birds nest" odor of carrots
- Dock (2-4 feet) rich red brown color seeds, member of buckwheat family, healthful food
- Sensitive ferns (1-2 feet) a stem of brown capsules contain the spores of this fern.

See if you can guess which is which; answers below.



Answers: 1 Dock, 2 Teasel, 3 Cattail, 4 Dogbane, 5 Joe Pye weed, 6 Milkweed, 7 Thistle, 8 Sensitive Ferns, 9- Teasel, 10 Queen Ann's Lace

By Cindy Rogers

Grants In Progress:

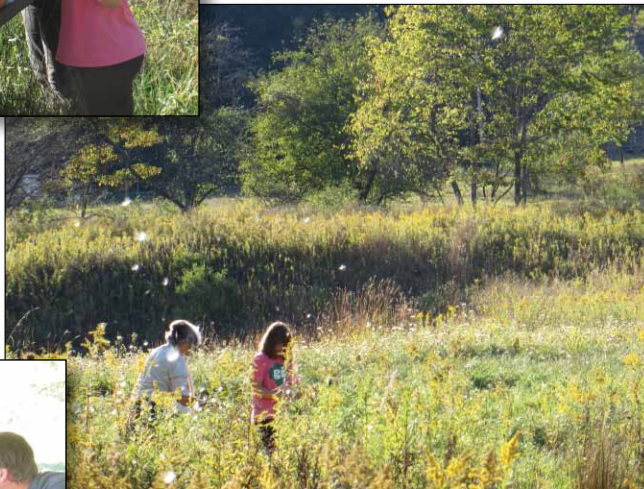
Dominion Mini Grant, provided by the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation and administered through Western PA Conservancy supported us this year by funding maintenance costs to continue our water monitoring program, brochure and newsletter costs, and helping with our stream restoration project. We appreciate their continued support to make it possible for us to continue to help our community. We are working on the final grant report.

2017 DEP Environmental Education Grant – This grant was used to fund our eco tour project. We hope to make people who live in the county more aware of great things happening in our county and also let others who visit from outside the county know all the things we are proud of! We are writing the final grant report to send in.

We are working on a few more grants for projects in 2018.

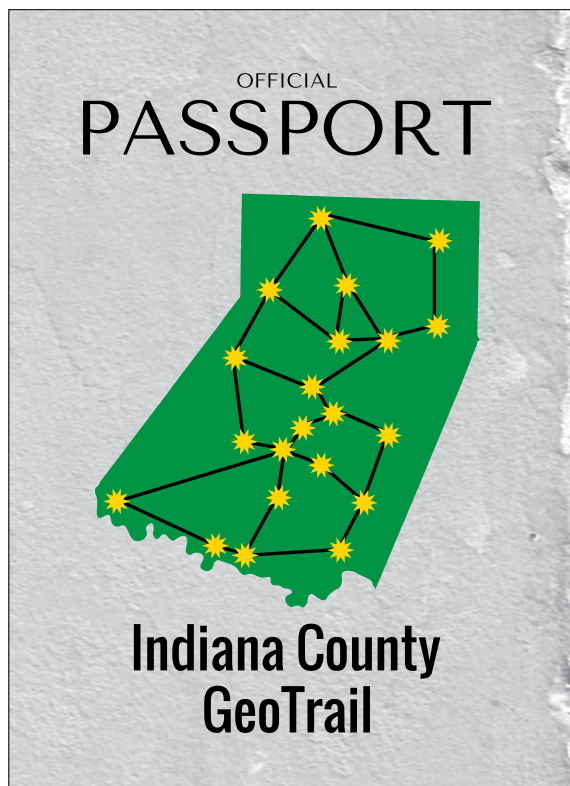
Environmental Education

We did programs in October with two different Girl Scout groups on tree identification at Tanoma. Mike Tyree helped Jamie and Cindy to do the presentation and the girls really seemed to enjoy it, learning more about our native trees. At the end of the program we asked them to help us with a little task. We do not have a large population of milkweed at Tanoma and are hoping to change that. We had a donation of milkweed pods and seeds, a native plant that monarch butterflies need to survive. We asked the girls to help us spread the seeds. You should have seen the air with all those girls running around and the milkweed seeds flying through the air hopefully taking root to grow new plants next year. Thanks to John S. for picking all those seeds and donating them to us for Tanoma. In 2017 we engaged over 800 adults and children in a variety of programs and events to learn more about the environment.



Eco Tour Update

Our eco tour geocache series went live November 1st. We have had many people who have already found our caches and given us feedback. We presented a “kick off” presentation on Saturday the 4th to explain the Eco tour and find the first cache in the series. We handed out passports that people can use to fill in a code word found in each cache and turn in when the series is completed to get their prize trackable coin. You can get passports at several locations in the county and turn them in at the same locations including Blue Spruce Park, Yellow Creek State Park, the Tourist Bureau, the Indiana Free Library, Blairsville Community Development Authority, the Indiana County Conservation District office and a home with a solar array in Smicksburg. Join the fun and learn about cool things happening in your county! Find more information at www.evergreenconservancy.org and click on the Indiana County Geo Trail Tab. You can also download a passport from the web site. When you finish the trail – would you take the short survey? We would appreciate your feedback.



“Muggles” Brave the Cold to Learn about Geocaching

Twenty- five children and adults came to Blue Spruce Pavilion 1 on Saturday Morning November 4th to learn about geocaching. Being cold and damp didn't dampen their enthusiasm. What's a “Muggle”? If you don't know you probably are one. It's anyone who is unfamiliar with geocaching. Evergreen Conservancy VISTA Jamie Douthit, with help from Cindy Rogers, explained geocaching to the group and everyone received their passport to start their geocaching eco tour.

Geocaches are items hidden around the world in a global game of hide and seek. You can join the fun by creating an account on geocaching.com. Once a geocache is hidden its GPS coordinates are posted online and others can use those coordinates to find it. Our geocache series includes sites that show renewable energy, animal habitats, healthy living, and best management practices in land and water use. You can find all our cache sites on our website at evergreenconservancy.org, click on the Indiana County Geo Trail, and go to the coordinates and links page.



Membership Benefits

We are pleased to announce the following partners who have supported Evergreen Conservancy by giving discounts to card-carrying members of Evergreen Conservancy. Visit them, get your discount, and thank them for supporting Evergreen Conservancy!

Spaghetti Benders	15% discount	spaghettibenders.com
Michael B's Shoe Store	\$10 off any purchase	www.michaelbshoes.com
Plant-it Earth	15% discount	on FaceBook The-Plant-It-Earth-Greenhouse-And-Gardens
Doughnut Connection/ Portia's Bistro	15% discount	www.portiasdonutconnection.com
Little Mahoning Creek Pottery	10% discount	www.nancysmeltzer.etsy.com
		littlemahoningcreekpottery.blogspot.com
Homemade Restaurant	10% off total bill	www.thehomemaderestaurantpa.com
Artist Hand Gallery	12 oz. drip coffee \$1	theartistshandgallery.com

JOIN OR RENEW your membership TODAY if you have not already done so for 2017-2018.



Support Evergreen when Shopping

You can support Evergreen Conservancy this year by shopping! Shop local first, but if you do on line shopping do it at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to Evergreen Conservancy. Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0808065 and Amazon donates to Evergreen Conservancy.

Into The Streets IUP Service Day Was October 21, 2017

Several students from IUP came out to Tanoma to help with our regular fall maintenance. They took down our story book walk and stored it for the winter. They helped move rock and gravel around the base of the new pavilion floor and helped pull out and clean our aerating sleds in the ponds. We appreciate their willingness and help! We now have the shed up on the base of cement and hopefully out of the way of floods.



Hilton Garden Inn Joins Evergreen Conservancy Members in Picking Up Trash on Hoodlebug Trail

October 14 was a beautiful day to conduct a clean-up of the Hoodlebug Trail and adjoining route 119 areas.

Evergreen members had a nice surprise when staff from the local Hilton Garden Inn arrived to help with the clean-up. "This is our community support week and we chose this clean up as our project. The trail goes by our motel and we direct guests to hike or bike on the trail". Special thanks goes to: Michael Boek, Malcolm Keels, Stephanie Keith, Cindy Leasure, Ken Leasure, Briana Tomack, Melissa Teacher and Linda Wheeler.

Evergreen Conservancy members who participated: JoAnne Ferraro and John Ferraro, Doris and Paul Hicks, Bob and Joseph Lankard and Becky Snyder. This group collected several bags of trash and were done before 11 am.

Again JoAnne Ferraro wins the prize for the most unusual item collected. She found a current driver's license of an out of state resident which she mailed to him explaining where she found it.

Our OSM VISTA AmeriCorps

We said a sad good bye to Jamie Douthit this November. She will be greatly missed and we appreciated all her hard work this past year. In past years we partnered with Crooked Creek Watershed and Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD) for the VISTA position. Crooked Creek decided not to continue in the program this year but Blacklick Watershed was able to fill in and will now be our partner for the position. The VISTA worker will continue to have office space at the ICCD office.



Our new VISTA will be starting this November 27th. Let us introduce Maegan Stump:

Hello! My name is Maegan Stump and I will be the AmeriCorps VISTA for the '17-'18 year.

I am originally from Pittsburgh and attended college in Meadville, PA at Allegheny College where I received a degree in Environmental Science. I recently arrived home from a summer working for the National Park Service in Glacier National Park where I had the chance to explore the mountains and see a whole new variety of wildlife. I love being outside, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, skiing, and exploring with my dog, Milo.

I am excited to learn from and work with the Evergreen Conservancy, the Indiana County Conservation District, the Blacklick Creek Watershed Association, and those in the Indiana community, in the next year. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions about myself or my position. Hopefully I'll be seeing you all very soon!

Dates To Remember: Mark Your Calendars!

- December 2, 2017 UU Holiday Bazaar and Café (Twolick Drive)– Come out and see us at our table and buy your Christmas presents!
- December 5, 2017 PR committee meeting 6:30 1005 Oak Street, second floor
- December 5, 2017 Finance and Fundraising Committee meeting 7:30 pm 1005 Oak Street, second floor
- December 8,9,10 Downtown Indiana Mart... Please come visit us and do your Christmas shopping. We will be in one of the huts on the 8th, 9th and 10th in the IRMC Park on 7th street. If you have a little time to help out and volunteer to help man the booth, please let us know!

Happy Holidays to ALL from all of us!

Give a gift of a membership for the Holiday Season! It is not too late to renew or Join for the 2017-2018 year! Support Evergreen Conservancy with a year-end gift!

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



I am interested in volunteering:

___ as a board member ___ on a committee (finance, PR fundraising) ___ with water monitoring field work
 ___ on Legal issues ___ with grant writing ___ environmental education ___ social media ___ Homer City gardens plots
 ___ with fundraising activities (making crafts or manning a table at sales) ___ other _____