



Newsletter, #48  
Winter 2017/18

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

PO Box 0783, Indiana, PA 15701 [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SPRING PROGRAM

A primer on Trout and Salmon will be presented at Blue Spruce Lodge on April 13th.

IUP Biology professor Dr. David Janetski will present on trout and salmon Friday April 13 at 7 pm at Blue Spruce Lodge. Evergreen Conservancy sponsors the program that will discuss brook trout management, problems caused by invasive species, introduction of new species (Pacific Salmon) and Great Lakes fish. Think of it as an appetizer for the first day. The program is free and open to the public. Light snacks will be provided.



*Brook Trout*

Contact Information: Maegan Stump (724) 471-6668  
[maegan.stump@gmail.com](mailto:maegan.stump@gmail.com)

---

## MYSTERY EGGS AT TANOMA PAINTED OR SNAPPING TURTLE?

Walking down the path from the end of the system several people have noticed shells of eggs laying on the path near a hold in the ground. We sent out pictures and ask what they could be. The answer was that they are probably eggshells from painted turtles that hatched this fall and emerged on their own. A predator probably found the empty nest chamber after the hatchlings emerged and enlarged the hole. If it's about 3-4 inches deep and clutch size ~ 7, it's probably a painted turtle. Nest cavity 6+ inches deep and clutch size > 20 would be a snapping turtle. Eggs of both species are laid around June and hatch late summer/early fall. Most painted turtle hatchlings at northern latitudes stay in the nest over winter and emerge the following spring, although some emerge during fall. Snapping turtle hatchlings always emerge during fall. Look for the female to nest again next June, especially on a warm, rainy day. Our mystery egg shells are about 1 1/2 in long and the hole is about 10 feet from the water and about 3" in diameter. There were a total of 6 or 7 empty shells. So, if you are at Tanoma this year, keep your eyes out for turtles. If you see any, take a picture and send it to us. Help us figure out this mystery!



---

## 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 • Shannon Jackson

## OUR MISSION:

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

## TANOMA UPDATES

### The Trompe

The Trompe has not been able to keep air pressure in the pipes. Tim from Bio Most and his crew have been trying to figure out what the problem is. We had a crew come out with a camera to take pictures in the pipes and observed some water lying in the lines. Bio Most installed a 'Tee' clean out pipe and a pump to remove any water that accumulates in the pipes. They think that the frost may have damaged a pipe in the Trompe at the end of the system. They will be out there as soon as the weather permits to dig up some of the pipes and do repairs. Hopefully that will take care of the lack of oxygen getting through the system.

---

## PLANTS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR - Tanoma site

If you have walked out the path at Tanoma have you ever wondered what that plant was in the ponds and what is it doing there?



The plant that covers most of the last few ponds is called Bur-Reed, in the Sparganium family. It is a sedge and is native to North America. A website lists over 25 species of Sparganium around the world but there are only about 9 in North America and 3 in the eastern United States. The flowers form into groups called "burs" – the source of the plant's common name. Sparganium americanum (which is what I believe we have at Tanoma), Sparganium androcladum, and Sparganium acaule are found in eastern North America.

The plants seem to flourish in the iron laden ponds and in fact help to remove the iron from the mine pools by slowing down the water and allowing the iron to catch on the parts below water. They grow in marshes, ponds and streams and come back each year. They are 3-4 feet tall

with the majority of the plant under the water. The stem emerges from a buried rhizome, which like many wetland plants, is dependent on the spongy tissue that forms spaces or channels in the leaves to transport oxygen to the rooting zone. The parallel veined leaves are flat at the top getting wider to the bottom and triangular in shape. The flowers are borne in



globular heads, about an inch in diameter, which can be either male or female. The female flowers have a single stigma, light green, scaly sepals and petals, and form large, spiny clusters along the lower part of the stem. The male flowers form slightly smaller and more numerous flower clusters above the female clusters. These light green, male clusters are covered with a fuzzy coating of pollen and tend to shrivel and fall off after pollination. The light green, flowers are arranged in tight round structures positioned at each stem juncture along the length of the zig-zagged stem. The seeds may accumulate in the soil which allow the plants to regenerate during low water periods.

Bur-Reed provides food and cover for wildlife and waterfowl. The seeds of the bur reed are a popular food source for waterfowl and other marsh birds. Unfortunately the entire plant serves as a food source for muskrats which we have to trap every year or they would ruin the banks and land outcroppings of the system.

Medicinally it was used in the 1500's for snake bites. The unripe fruit, infused in a red wine often with a little cinnamon, was used as an astringent and was used for fevers, against instabilities of the stomach, and bleedings of all kinds. It was used externally for wounds and to wash old ulcers.



Next time you are out at Tanoma take a good look at the plants growing in the ponds.

*By Cindy Rogers*

## GRANTS NEWS:

Evergreen was Awarded a grant for support of our stream monitoring program and to help with our marketing/newsletter costs. This financial support is 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." The grant is administered by the Western PA Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science based strategy, leadership, and collaboration.

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

---

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

**SAVE THE DATE AND COME OUT TO THE MALL March 3rd at the Family Fun Fest.** 10:00am – 3:00 pm

The theme this year is Furs, Feathers and Fins. Evergreen will have a table with animal furs for kids (and adults) to feel and examples of those animals' scat to see if they can match up the furs with the pictures and scat.

---

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE FOOD DRIVE

Since January 2009, the AmeriCorps VISTA with partnering watershed associations and has hosted a Food Drive in Indiana and/or surrounding counties on Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Day of Service. Often, the VISTA partners with other AmeriCorps in the area to help collect both non-perishable food items and monetary donations to benefit the Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP) Food Bank. This year, two AmeriCorps members with the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps helped me, the OSMRE AmeriCorps VISTA with Evergreen Conservancy and Blacklick Creek Watershed Association, collect donations at the Giant Eagle in Indiana on Monday, January 15th or MLK Jr. National Holiday. Each person who donated was offered a reusable bag to minimize the amount of plastic bags they took away after shopping. We collected 85 food items and \$150 in monetary donations this MLK Jr. Day. In the past, anywhere from 50 to 300 food items and \$25 to \$450 have been donated.



In 1994, Congress deemed MLK Jr. Day as not only a federal holiday, but a national day of service. The Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that manages AmeriCorps, was also elected to manage MLK Jr. Day of Service. MLK Jr. Day will always be, "a day on, not a day off." Countless service projects are hosted each year on MLK Jr. Day of Service throughout the nation. To find out more information on the national day of service go to, [www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday](http://www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday).

*By Maegan Stump*



*Keeping Body and Soul Together...Naturally*

**Mon-Tue: 9:00am - 6:00pm Wed: 9:00am - 7:00pm Thu - Fri: 9:00am - 6:00pm Sat: 9:00am - 5:00pm**

*Please support Nature's Way market in Greensburg. They support us with a generous donation!*



Thanks again for the generous donation from Nature's Way of Greensburg who belongs to 1% of the Planet. Next time you are in Greensburg stop by and say thanks to them!

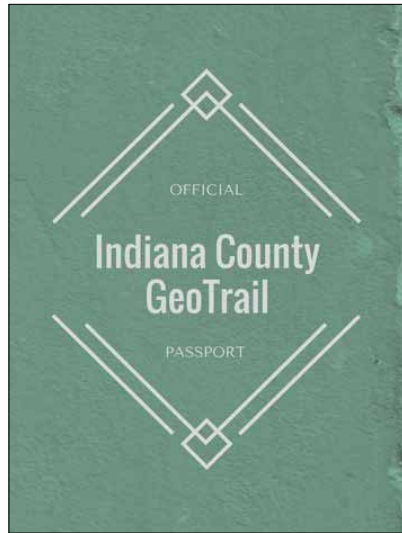
1% of the Planet is a global network of businesses, nonprofits and individuals working together for a healthy planet. Businesses that join 1% for the Planet commit to giving 1% of total sales each year to your choice of our approved nonprofit partners. You can get involved! Joining is easy – go to [www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/tell-us-about-your-organization](http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/tell-us-about-your-organization) . 1% of the Planet brings dollars and doers together to accelerate smart environmental giving. The Planet needs you NOW.



## ECO TOUR UPDATE

The Indiana County GeoTrail is off to a great first few months! We are continuing to receive logs from geocachers even on the coldest of winter days. It's fantastic to hear how much geocachers are learning about our environmentally significant sites in Indiana County. We just put in our last site (#20) in the series on the IUP campus. Indiana County GeoTrail passports can be found at the Indiana County Tourist Bureau, the Indiana Free Library, the Blairsville Community Development Authority, Blue Spruce Park Office, Little Mahoning Creek Pottery, and the Yellow Creek State Park Office. Completed passports can also be turned in at any of these locations to be traded in for the trackable geocoins. To find a complete list of the Indiana County GeoTrail sites or to learn more, visit [www.evergreenconservancy.org](http://www.evergreenconservancy.org) and go the Indiana County GeoTrail tab. After completing the trail, please take the short survey on our website. We want to hear your thoughts and feedback on the GeoTrail!

Stay tuned for more updates on the EcoTour!



---

## There will be a showing of AN INCONVENIENT SEQUEL: TRUTH TO POWER

A movie about URGENCY and HOPE for Planet Earth followed by a panel discussion and Q & A.  
Friday, March 2nd at 6pm – Room 225 Humanities and Social Services Building, on the IUP Campus.  
Sponsored by IUP and the Center for Community Growth.



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

**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](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0808065) and Amazon donates to Evergreen Conservancy.

## EAGLE CAM

If you would like to take a look at Eagles up close and personal check out the following website:

Website sponsored by PA Game Commission. Nest located in Hanover, Pa.

[www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov)

Click on 'Bald Eagle CAM'.



## TRAIL CLEAN UP SCHEDULED SATURDAY APRIL 7th, 9am.

It's spring cleaning time. No not your house but the Hoodlebug trail. Evergreen Conservancy picks up trash twice a year along the Hoodlebug Trail and adjoining 119S areas. This spring our trash pickup will be Saturday April 7th.

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

Those wishing to help should go to the parking lot with gloves. Garbage bags will be supplied. In past years we have been able to finish in two hours or less.



## NEW BOARD MEMBER

My name is Shannon Jackson and I am the Property Manager for Westgate Group Apartments in Indiana Pa. I currently manager 500 apartments and a great staff of 12. I served as the Board President for the Indiana County Humane Society from November 2014 – March 2017, and will finish my current term on the Board of Directors in March 2018. I am extremely excited to be able to join Evergreen Conservancy's Board of Directors, and bring with me my past and current board experience. I currently live in Indiana Pa with my grandfather, and several cats.

## EVERGREEN AWARD GIVES RECOGNITION TO THOSE WHO IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

There are a lot of things being done in Indiana County to improve our environment- to make our county a better place to live. But everyday citizens are unaware that it is going on. Every year Evergreen Conservancy takes nominations for a business, a volunteer, an organization, or an employee who has demonstrated grass roots leadership in environmental activities.

We are looking to recognize a person or organization who is using innovative technology to prevent harm to our environment, or has a direct positive impact on our environment. Or possibly they participate in activities coinciding with our mission statement so that they result in preservation of historical, cultural or natural resources.

So far most of the Evergreen Award winners have been volunteers, but we have honored one business. Those who receive the Evergreen Award will be recognized at the conservancy’s annual meeting. Most invite friends and family to share in this event. A newspaper photographer will be there.

We are asking you to nominate a person, business or organization by completing a nomination form that is available from our Website [www.evergreenconservancy.org](http://www.evergreenconservancy.org). If you do not have access to a computer you could be sent a nomination form by calling 724-349-4333. This nomination should be returned to Evergreen Conservancy, PO Box 783, Indiana, PA 15701 no later than April 27.

### Dates To Remember: Mark Your Calendars!

- March 2nd, 6pm Truth to Power, the sequel to Inconvenient Truth, Room 225 Humanities & Social Services Building, IUP
- March 3rd, 10 – 3 Family Fun Fest at the Mall - Come on out and see us at our table! .
- March 8th, 7pm Evergreen Board Meeting 7 pm - 1005 Oak Street – second floor
- April 5th, 6:30pm PR Committee meeting at 6:30 –Finance and Fundraising meeting at 7:30 - 1005 Oak Street – second floor
- April 7th, 9am Hoodle Bug Trail clean up
- April 13th, 7pm Spring Program - A primer on Trout and Salmon at Blue Spruce Lodge 7pm
- April 21st IUP class tour at Tanoma
- April 26th and 27th Evergreen will participate in the High School outdoor environmental education program at Twolick Waterworks Park
- May 12th, 1pm Friends of the Parks Geocaching Program at Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Center - 1pm

**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 \_\_\_\_\_