

ECO Tour Update

The Eco-Tour (a three year goal) will be made up of a collection of Indiana County’s environmentally significant locations. We want to show off places, work and things we are proud of and what our county has to offer. Coordination of this project is the responsibility of our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. Since the beginning of the year we have had several meetings with an 11-member planning committee with many community partners.

Over the last year we have been working on a list of potential sites to visit. We now have a fairly comprehensive list that we split into 5 categories: Conserving/Preserving water, Conserving/Preserving land, Healthy Communities, Wildlife Habitat and Sustainability.

We are still in the early stages of planning, but when the tour is ready those categories will help us put together various tours. We will be able to develop tours in one category or a mix of categories. Tours may take many different forms from self-guided tours, to multimedia, to actual bus tours. If you know of any sites in the county that would be a good example of any one of the 5 categories above, if you would like to join our planning group, or if you have any questions please contact us at evergreenconservancy@gmail.com. We value your in-put!

Volunteers Needed

Can you spare an hour or 3 to help us at our fundraising table sales. We are in need of volunteers to be at our table December 2-3-4 downtown Indiana at 701 Philadelphia Street (formerly the Gatti Pharmacy) at the Holiday Pop up Market and again December 9-10-11 at IUP Ceramics Sale at the Robertshaw Building Ceramics Area. We will have a table. All will be supplied. You just have to write out receipts and take people’s money when they purchase items. We will schedule volunteers for however long they can help. Please let us know if you can help us out. THANKS! Email to evergreenconservancy@gmail.com or call Cindy at 724-422-1547.

Upcoming Dates:

- December 2-3-4, 2016

Holiday Pop-up Market – 701 Philadelphia Street

Evergreen will have a table selling their Christmas wares.
- December 8-9-10, 2016

IUP Pottery Sale - Robertshaw Ceramics Rooms

Evergreen will have a table selling their Christmas wares.
- December 6, 2016

PR and Finance Meetings 6:30 and 7:30
- January 5, 2017

EC Board meeting
- January 28, 2017

Friends of the Parks annual pot luck meeting.

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 _____



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“Improving Our Quality of Life”

Fall Newsletter, 2016
#43

Evergreen Conservancy 2016 Fall Program

Evergreen Conservancy presented its fall program on September 24th at Blue Spruce Park Pavilion #2. IUP graduate student Erin Janetski titled her program “Plants on the Move”. She began her program by taking the participants on a nature walk collecting seeds and other parts of plants. When we returned to the pavilion Erin talked about plant parts and how seeds are dispersed. She used power point and other visual aids. A number of grade school aged participants were very active in answering questions and being volunteers. 27 participants came with a wide range of ages and many new to Evergreen Conservancy. Sara Beatty gave an overview of Evergreen Conservancy.



Erin Janetski

Welcome To Our New Vista Americorps

As we say good bye to Sara and thank her for her efforts this past year, we are pleased to announce that our new VISTA started November 14th and will be with us for one year.

Hello everyone! My name is Jamie Douthit and I am the AmeriCorps VISTA for the 2016-2017 year. I am very excited to be working with you all!

I grew up in Rochester, New York where my passion for the outdoors began. I studied Environmental Science at the University of Delaware, and continued to develop my environmental background this summer by conducting sea turtle conservation research in Costa Rica (see picture). There, I realized my aptitude and enjoyment of working with volunteers and educating about environmental issues. After returning to the United States I decided to expand upon these skills by applying for the Environmental Outreach Coordinator position through AmeriCorps VISTA. And here I am!

I enjoy hiking, camping, and cross country skiing. I am an avid traveler and hope to schedule a trip to Peru in the near future. I have just recently joined the Book of the Month Club, but would love any additional book suggestions/loans you may have for me. I am looking forward to getting to know the people and places of Indiana County, and to becoming a member of your community!



Jamie Douthit

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

OUR MISSION:

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

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	spaghattibenders.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



We are looking for additional businesses who would like to partner with Evergreen Conservancy. If you would be able to offer a discount or other incentive to members of Evergreen Conservancy at your place of business we would be happy to note that in our newsletters and on social media. We both benefit! Let us know if you are interested.

Into The Streets

IUP students helped Evergreen Conservancy on October 8th. Organized through IUP's office of Service Learning, Evergreen has been a participant for several years. At Tanoma they took down the storybook walk for the winter and did other needed maintenance jobs. A group also helped at Santa's workshop making ornaments that we will be selling at our sales this year. Thanks to all who came out to volunteer this fall.



Students included members of the Delta Tau Sigma service sorority, students in the Career Explorations class, and even a stray high school exchange student from Thailand.

November 5th, 2016 Trail Clean-up

The morning of November 5th was chilly – frost was heavy on the ground even at 9 AM. But 10 volunteers didn't mind the chill as they picked up trash on the Hoodlebug Trail and adjoining areas. I am guessing a total of ten bags. Most interesting find was a tire. A special thanks to Paul and Doris Hicks who cleaned the wall area - which always has a lot of trash. Thanks to: Sara Beatty, John Dudash, JoAnne Ferraro, John Ferraro, Bob Lankard, Janis Long, Stacy Robertson, Cindy Rogers, Rebecca Snyder and John Somonick.

Environmental Education

A group of girl scouts attended a program at Tanoma in October to learn about local plants and their uses. We had a nice day and the girls learned about many plants. They expressed an interest in coming back in the spring for more programs.

IUP Education Project

Erin Janetski brought a group of high school students out to Tanoma to learn about streams and bugs found in Crooked Creek. "The IUP Biology Department has partnered with the Evergreen Conservancy, the Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corp, and area schools to develop what is being called the Western Pennsylvania Water Watch (WPAWW). This initiative, funded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, is designed to provide a citizen science stream monitoring program for local high school students. Students will be involved in collecting data pertaining to local streams, particularly by sampling for macroinvertebrates, and contributing the data to ongoing research conducted by various local organizations. This project will also provide students the opportunity to sample local fish, amphibian, and reptile populations. The hope of the WPAWW project is to increase local stream monitoring efforts, improve awareness of watershed and water quality issues, and provide a meaningful learning opportunity for students."



Grants In Progress

The last 27 trees were planted at Yellow Creek with the help of volunteers from Evergreen Conservancy and IUP students for a total of 51 new trees. The trees were all about 7-10 feet tall. A machine was used to dig the holes and help move the trees and the volunteers helped to plant them and tamp in dirt. Seven different varieties of oaks, maples, and service berry were planted. We were also able to purchase tree ID tags that we are installing on trees at Tanoma and Yellow Creek to help people learn to identify trees and to use in environmental education. Thanks to the Indiana Rotary for their support in this project.



The Great News:

Evergreen was awarded a Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation Grant this month. The grant will go toward the support of our VISTA position and an expansion of our renewable energy demonstration project at Tanoma. We will be able to purchase four new solar panels and increase our battery array to store the energy.



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

Indiana Nature... by the Season - Fall 2016

Tree News

Dormancy - For plants in our part of the world dormancy is essential to their survival. We mainly observe this phenomenon as leaves changing colors and eventually dropping. Although beautiful, leaf change has an important biological role for plants. The reds, yellows, and orange colors we see in the fall are a result of the plant no longer producing green chlorophyll. Most of the other pigments have been present the entire time, but just never shown through until chlorophyll was no longer present. This is a strategy on the plant's part to save valuable nutrients (nitrogen) in addition to protecting the leaves from excess light when temperatures are cool.



Leaf drop is inevitable for deciduous, perennial plants. If you are like me you spent your last couple weekends raking leaves and are keenly aware of this event. Again, this is extremely important for deciduous plants in the winter because leaves are particularly vulnerable to cold temperatures and are easily damaged. As a result some plants have opted to drop their leaves rather than fill them with resins and other substances that act like antifreeze as we see in conifers. This provides an additional advantage to deciduous plants. Less leaf area prevents ice accumulation that can break the tops of trees. We witnessed this a couple years ago when an early season snow hit the northeast around Halloween and damaged a lot of our trees that still contained leaves.

Plants have adapted, generation after generation, to time their annual milestones to local conditions. Leaf change and abscission are yet two more examples of this phenology.

Mike Tyree

Plants to be on the lookout for

As we move into November and December we are still experiencing unusually warm weather. The meadow at Tanoma is still in full bloom as I write this, with the pink and white cosmos's waving in the wind. Shorter maroon and yellow gaillardias are still showing nearer the ground. Our meadow has been beautiful this summer with annual flowers. Next year we should see some perennials and different colors in the meadow.



Other plants at Tanoma have moved into their winter garb. Cattails are still visible but the seed heads are brown and ready to burst open to spread seeds and fluff. Critters use this fluff for nests and houses. In early days, the fluff was used for padding, insulation, and tinder. Every part of the cat tail is usable either for food or survival. In the spring the tender shoots are peeled and eaten, the green tops are also edible. The yellow pollen covering the top shoots can be gathered and used as flour. The

roots can also be dried and pounded to be used as flour. The long straight leaves can be woven into mats with the fluff used in between two mats for padding. Cattails (as well as any plants used for food) should be gathered in places away from pollution.



No matter what the season, you can always find and identify plants. Winter is a great time to go out and find plants you have identified in other seasons. That will help you be able to identify that same plant as it changes with the time of year. Happy wild flower hunting!

Cindy Rogers

What is a Conservation Easement?

A Conservation Easement is a unique legal agreement, written to protect the conservation values of the land in perpetuity to meet landowner's goals. The landowner usually seeks an easement because it is permanent protection of the land they care about and they are creating a legacy for future generations. It is a contract between landowner and conservation organization. The land remains private property; the use of the land is dictated by the landowner in the contract and typically does not change. The property stays on tax rolls. The conservation easement, once signed, goes on the title forever no matter who owns the land in the future. The organization takes over stewardship of the land and visits it annually to make sure the terms in the contract are upheld.

Evergreen Conservancy is currently working on a Conservation Easement with Robindale Energy Services, Inc. The easement will protect a 45-acre wooded area that is prime habitat for the Indiana bat.

WHAT WE CONSERVE:

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

Evergreen's Website

www.evergreenconservancy.org

For The Latest News.



On Facebook

If you use Facebook, please go to our page and tell us if you like it. We can send you event notices and update you with current events! Become our Friend. [Like](#)

facebook

And on YouTube:

About Evergreen Conservancy – crNa11j5J2M

Tanoma AMD Wetlands – yaGLM4Ob8Ks

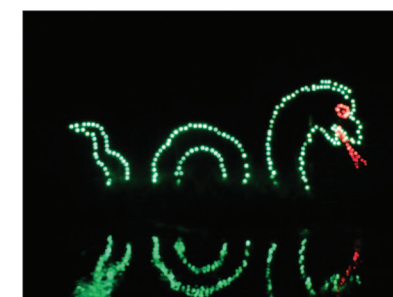
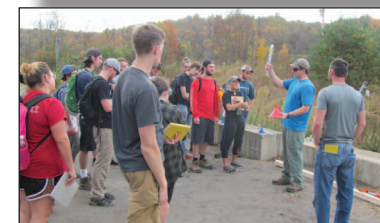
Renewable Energy – S3VOATx0mRY

YouTube

If you wish to learn more about Evergreen Conservancy please check our new and improved website www.evergreenconservancy.org.
Twitter User? – [evergreenc2014](#)

Tanoma Update:

- The Trompe is up and running and seems to be helping the system increase the dissolved oxygen in the ponds.
- We have had several tours at Tanoma this fall: pictures Mike's class, Greg's class, PA geo group.
- John D. led a group of PASEC folks from Somerset and Clearfield on a tour who were interested in learning more about our passive treatment system and the newly installed Trompe.
- Mike Tyree brought his class out to Tanoma for a tour and to learn about Evergreen Conservancy and other watershed groups.
- Greg Mount brought his class out to learn about abandoned mine discharge treatment and to do some research at Tanoma. They installed several instruments to take data on the ponds. We are excited that the site is being used to learn more about how the system works.
- The PA Geologists Conference used Tanoma as a field trip, part of their pre-conference schedule, this year. There were about 15 people who came for a tour of the system. They were very interested in the different aspects of the passive system.
- As the educational value of the Tanoma site becomes more widely known unscheduled visitors arrive, such as the Environmental Chemistry class from IUP.
- Reenie is up and running, with an addition. Stop by and see her light up in action any night from 6-9 pm.



Nominations Needed For Evergreen Award

At our last annual meeting held in June Nancy Lezark accepted Evergreen Conservancy's Evergreen Award for her husband Alex Lezark.

Alex received the award because he was nominated by PASEC and backed up by a letter of support from the Kiski-Conem-ugh Stream Team. So for someone to receive this award they have to be nominated.

What is the Evergreen Award anyhow? A volunteer, organization, business, or an employed person can be nominated for the award. The conservancy is seeking to recognize a nominee who has demonstrated grass-roots leadership in the following areas:

- 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

The narrative should not exceed 2 pages, be single spaced, font size 12 and include a maximum of three supporting documents. The nomination form can be found on our Web page: www.evergreenconservancy.org. The nomination should be mailed to Evergreen Conservancy, PO Box 783, Indiana, PA 15701. It could also be Emailed to info@evergreenconservancy.org. If you desire further information call 724-349-4333.

The deadline for submitting nominations is April 30, 2017.