



"Improving Our Quality of Life"

Newsletter, #45 Spring 2017

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Evergreen Conservancy's Annual Meeting Will Be Thursday June 22

Evergreen Conservancy will hold its annual meeting for members and friends on Thursday June 22 at 6 pm at Tanoma Wetlands Outdoor Environmental Center.

A standard of the annual meeting is the potluck picnic dinner that precedes the meeting. Please bring any salad, dessert, side dish, main dish, or homemade specialty. Also bring your own table setting. The Board will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and rolls.

Another standard of the annual meeting is the presentation of the Evergreen Award. If you do not fish already you will want to after meeting our award winner.

Joining the conservancy or renewing your dues is another part of the annual meeting. Please note that any checks written for membership purposes will be held until July 1 so your membership will be credited for the 2017-2018 year.

Evergreen Conservancy cannot function without its volunteers. A number that have been most active will be recognized.

Once a year members will be given opportunity to select members to the Board. Several current members will be up for reelection and we hope to present some new faces.

If you haven't been to Tanoma Environmental center it is located at the junction of Tanoma and Rayne Church roads between Clymer and Marion Center. There are directional signs on routes 286 and 119N.

What has Evergreen been up to lately? There are some exciting new developments. An update of Evergreen's past year will be presented.

Spring Event Draws 100 Visitors

Evergreen Conservancy's spring event focused on "What was it like to work as a coal miner in Indiana County?" The April 28 event drew 100 visitors.



Herb Gleditsch and Dr. Jim Dougherty were the main presenters. John Busavicki had a table of pictures of mining towns. Herb amused the audience with his accounts of life in mine company towns. They particularly enjoyed his opening anecdote asking if miners were human. Jim picked up with the "what happened" to mining employment in Indiana County. Among other causes the 1950's railroad conversion from coal to diesel was to be the beginning of the end for the "boom town atmosphere". There was an amazing sense of energy in the audience which was compacted into a too-small facility. Jamie Douthit gave an overview of Evergreen Conservancy to a group that had many unfamiliar with "who we are".



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	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 has joined us with their support!
They will give a 12 oz. (Med) drip coffee for \$1 to Evergreen members.
theartistshandgallery.com or like them on facebook.



The Artists Hand Gallery
& Espresso Bar

ECO Tour update

We have many sites identified in Indiana County which will be on our ECO tour. We are in the process of developing our first tour which will be a geocache tour for people to visit different sites and learn about different topics. Other projects in the works includes a video and future virtual and physical tours. Stay tuned for more exciting news!

Into the Streets



The weather cooperated and we all got so much done! 13 IUP students joined us at Tanoma to do our spring maintenance and install our storybook walk. The students helped clear the area for our new solar panels, cut down the meadow to allow it to grow this spring, mowed the story path and dug a ditch for the solar panel new cables. Thanks so much to IUP and to all the students!

New storybook walk installed! *Daniel Finds a Poem*

Thanks to the Indiana Free Library for the donation and lamination of our new storybook walk. IUP students painted frames, installed the pages and set up the storybook walk at Tanoma along Crooked Creek.



Spring Trail Clean Up Started With Rain - Ended With Sun

Evergreen Conservancy's spring Hoodlebug Trail and adjoining 119S clean-up was completed Saturday April 29 approximately 10:30 am. We kicked off the clean-up with light rain but ended in a warming sunshine. No real unusual items were found.

Thanks to the volunteers: Jamie Douthit, John Dudash, JoAnne and John Ferraro, Doris and Paul Hicks, Jennica Hopkins, Bob Lankard, Janis Long, Stacy Robertson, and Cindy Rogers.

Tanoma Updates

- The Trompe is up and running and seems to be helping the system increase the dissolved oxygen in the ponds. Our numbers continue to be better this winter than last.
- A new Story Walk has been installed for the summer.
- Heavy rains, around three inches, the night before Memorial Day caused a minor amount of damage. Rayne Township Supervisor Mike Keith and his crew generously repaired the damage. However, a long-term solution is needed to prevent washing in the pavilion area.

Grants in Progress

Dominion Mini Grant

Dan Boone and Cindy Rogers attended the Western PA Conservancy and Dominion Mini Grant Award luncheon on April 18th. Tim Danehy did a very interesting presentation about the Trompe. We were awarded our grant for a stream restoration project on Laurel Run near Yellow Creek, data logger costs and for marketing newsletter costs. We appreciate their support and the grant! The event is always a pleasure to attend and we always learn from the speakers and others in attendance.



Cindy accepted the award on behalf of Evergreen; Jamie accepted an award on behalf of the Crooked Creek Watershed Association; and Christopher Schaney accepted an award on behalf of AWARE (Aultman Watershed Association for Restoring the Environment).

2017 DEP Environmental Education Grant

We are proud to announce that we were awarded a DEP Environmental grant for the purpose of building awareness of places in Indiana county that are best management practices (BMP's) in different categories, including land, water, habitat, sustainable renewable energy use, and healthy living. Our first project will be a geocaching tour of 20 of these sites. We are in the process of developing this tour. More tours will follow in the coming years to highlight various sites. We are excited to be working with many different people and organizations to develop this project. We need your help too! If you have, or know of any sites that we could add to our site list, please get in contact with us. We would be thrilled to add you to our list of places to encourage people to visit to see BMP's in place in Indiana County.

Award

The 2017 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

Jamie Douthit, Cindy Rogers, John and Sandy Dudash, and Commissioner Hess attended the Award ceremony in Harrisburg on April 25th. We were one of 16 statewide awards given. We were presented the award for our efforts on AMD remediation at Tanoma with our new Trompe. We set up a display at the event and had many interested people stop by to ask questions about what we do and the Trompe.

Senator White added a document of congratulations the following week. The commissioners honored Evergreen Conservancy at their meeting on May 24th, with a formal proclamation of congratulations.



John Dudash, EC Board member • Cindy Dunn, Secretary of the PA DCNR • Cindy Rogers President of Evergreen Conservancy
 Patrick McDonne, Acting Secretary of the PA DEP • Davitt Woodwell, President of Pennsylvania Environmental Council
 Jamie Douthit, Vista Volunteer • Sherene Hess, Indiana County Commissioner

Donations

Thanks to the BPO Elks Indiana Lodge 931 for their support and financial donation to Evergreen Conservancy. We will use it to further our mission in water and land protection and to support our environmental education programs.

Thanks to the Rayne Township Supervisors and Crew for their donation of time and equipment usage to repair the flood damage to the Tanoma pavilion area.

Plants to be on the Lookout for

Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.) is one of the most under used plants I know! Believe it or not, it is a delicious spring vegetable, soup, or tea. It has been cultivated for the fiber in the stalks to make a linen like cloth or paper, and could be used as string or rope in an emergency. It is used dried as a tea and as animal and poultry feed. It is high in vitamin A, B complex, & C, minerals, amino acids, and is the highest of any green vegetable in protein. Stinging nettle is a perennial, single stemmed green that grows from a few inches to seven feet tall. Long slender clusters of greenish tiny flowers droop from the angles between the leaves and stalks. It has paired leaves which are the culprits that can leave you in misery. The stalks and undersides of the leaves are lined with fine stinging hollow bristles that are filled with a fluid made up of formic acid and other substances.



Stinging Nettle

To eat these plants, after absolute identification, cut them in the early spring when only a few inches tall when the leaves are young and tender. Wear good gloves and long sleeves! Steaming the leaves in a little bit of water eliminates the sting and turns them into a cooked green and can be substituted in any spinach recipe. Dried nettle leaves used for tea will not sting either.

Not only is stinging nettle tasty but it is medicinal as well. It has been used to treat prostate cancer, alleviate arthritis, and as a blood purifier and builder. There is a long list of other varied uses ranging from a cure for anemia to urinary system ailments. Stinging Nettles can be found in many places in our Indiana County parks. Keep your eyes open but don't touch! Until next time... Happy flower hunting.

By Cindy Rogers

Dates to Remember: Mark your Calendars!

June 6th	6:30 & 7:30 pm	Evergreen Conservancy PR (6:30) and Finance Meetings (7:30 pm) 1005 Oak Street 2nd floor
June 14th	9:00 am	PASEC meeting 1005 Oak Street 2nd floor
June 22	6:00 pm	Save the Date for the Annual Membership Picnic at Tanoma.
July 6th	7:00 pm	Evergreen Conservancy Board meeting, 1005 Oak Street 2nd floor all are welcome
July 12th	9:00 am	PASEC meeting, 1005 Oak Street 2nd floor
August 1st	6:30 & 7:30 pm	Evergreen Conservancy PR (6:30) and Finance Meetings (7:30 pm) 1005 Oak Street 2nd floor
August 9th	9:00 am	PASEC meeting, 1005 Oak Street 2nd floor
August 26th	10:00 am	Friends of the Parks Raingarden Program White Township Garden on Ben Franklin Road
Sept. 29th	7:00 pm	EC Fall Program on trees by board member Mike Tyree

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 _____