



Spring Newsletter, 2016 #41

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Record Attendance at Talk About Ticks and Lyme Disease

All the chairs were set up at the Blue Spruce Lodge and there were still more people wanting to hear Evergreen Conservancy's spring event presentation. It was officially promoted as "Safely exploring the woods in the age of ticks and Lyme disease" AKA "the tick talk". Drs. Tom and Anne Simmons and a half dozen IUP students held a crowd of 100 raptured for an hour and a half.

Dr. Simmons, a biology professor, needed a location where there were a lot of ticks to do a study of ticks with his students. He picked the hill behind blue Spruce Lodge where Evergreen Conservancy's spring event was being presented. The Simmons and students explained how they did the study and illustrated this with a power point. Dr. Simmons discussed some precautions to prevent a tick bite and what to do if you get one. "Walk in the middle of the trail and do not wander off of it. Wear full length trousers and long shirts of light color. Use insect repellent. Inspect your body after being in the woods or even your garden. Gently remove the tick as soon as it is discovered. Seek medical attention as soon as any signs of infection appear." These were some of the instructions given by the presenters.

It appeared that there were many first time attendees at an Evergreen Conservancy event. VISTA volunteer Sara Beatty gave a power point presentation that explained what Evergreen Conservancy was all about and told of recent developments.



Evergreen Conservancy Trail Clean Up Rescheduled for Friday June 3rd at 9 am

Our Hoodlebug Trail/119 South clean up scheduled on April 9th was cancelled due to inclement weather – a first for us. That event has been rescheduled for Friday June 3rd at 9 am. Please note that traditionally trail clean ups have been scheduled for Saturday mornings, but this time it is on a weekday morning. We have also been given more territory – the clean up extends to Saylor Park in Black Lick.

To get to the meeting place (the Homer City Baseball Fields) take old 119 South through Homer City (Main Street) and go past the high school. Take the first right and follow that about 1/4 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 provided. In past years we have been able to finish in two hours or less.

OUR MISSION:

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

Plan to Attend the Annual Meeting on Tuesday June 28th

Evergreen Conservancy's annual membership meeting will be on Tuesday June 28th at 5 pm at our Tanoma Environmental Education Center.

A standard of the annual meeting is the potluck that precedes the meeting. Note the potluck will start at 5 pm to accommodate those who wish to attend the afternoon meeting mentioned below. Please bring any salad, desert, side dish, main dish, or homemade specialty. The conservancy will provide drink and meat items such as hot dogs and hamburgers. Be sure to bring your own table setting.

Another must for the annual meeting is election of board members. Some members will be up for reelection and there will be new persons being presented by a nominating committee.

The annual meeting is also when you will be able to renew your membership or join if you are a friend of the conservancy. Please note that any checks written for membership purposes will be held until after July 1 so your membership will be credited to the 2016-17 fiscal year.

A highlight of recent Evergreen Conservancy annual meetings will be the presentation of the Evergreen Award given to a volunteer who is particularly active in environmental activities. See related article.

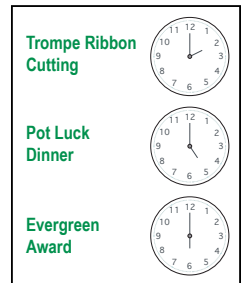
Evergreen Conservancy cannot operate without its volunteers. A number that have been most active will be recognized.

A special guest will be at this meeting Tim Dehaney, who supervised the construction of the Trompe system at Tanoma. He will give a tour and explain how the system operates. Mr. Dehaney will also host a Celebration of Completion event at Tanoma at 2 pm that afternoon. You are invited to attend both events. See the article below.

There will be an update on Evergreen Conservancy activities.

The board has been reviewing our by-laws and is recommending some changes. The bi-laws are posted on our Web page www.evergreenconservancy.org. Please come prepared to discuss these changes.

All members and friends of Evergreen Conservancy are invited to attend the annual meeting on June 28th.



Trompe Ribbon Cutting

Evergreen was awarded a Growing Greener Grant in 2014 for the installation of a Trompe in Tanoma to help the system work more efficiently. Originally developed in Italy in the 17th century, it was integrated into the iron making process and became the defining component of the Catalan Forge. A trompe is a water-powered air compressor with no moving parts. Abandoned mine water flowing out of the treatment system powers the trompe which generates compressed air that is fed to the beginning of the system, where it is used to aerate the mine water. The aeration process drives off carbon dioxide dissolved in the water (carbonic acid) to reduce acidity, which raises the pH, as well as adding oxygen to the water. Iron oxidation occurs more quickly at higher pH and reacts with the oxygen to form solids that settle in the ponds. Tim Dahaney and his team from BioMost worked through the winter and spring of this year to get the system installed. It is an amazing installation with intake at the outflow of the last pond producing air running through pipes all the way to the first pond. There are three sleds with 20 diffusers on each sled in the first pond. In addition there are two more fountains running off of the same system to produce an incredible amount of oxygen in the pond. The system just went on-line in full production of oxygen this month and we are hopefully going to see a good change as the system settles in and starts affecting the water quality. We are going to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 28th, at 2:00 pm to celebrate the completion of this system and demonstrate how it works. Tim will be on hand to give a tour and lead us through how it functions to produce the air. There will be light refreshments and other watersheds will be invited to set up displays. All are welcome to attend and see this innovative system. Save the date and join us June 28, 2016, at 2:00 pm at Tanoma.



Evergreen Award: Alex Lezark to receive Evergreen Award on June 28

Alex Lezark will receive Evergreen Conservancy's Evergreen award on Tuesday June 28 at Tanoma Environmental Education Center at the intersection of Tanoma and Rayne Church Road. Lezark lives in Indiana with his wife Nancy. The award is given annually by the conservancy to persons or organizations who have demonstrated grassroots leadership in innovative technology to prevent harm to our environment.

Mr. Lezark was nominated for this award by Indiana County Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps (PASEC). The nomination was supported by a letter from the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team.

In nominating Alex PASEC said that Alex has been a member of PaSEC/EASI since 1998. He is a certified trainer in chemical analysis and how to use the colorimeter and digital titrator testing for AMD. He has trained over 200 people statewide, including school students. He was featured in the EASI May 2002 volunteer stars special edition.

He has been active in the Blackleggs Watershed Association since 1998, and served on its Board of Directors for three years. AMD remediation projects have been designed and built using the data that he collected. In 1999, Alex began volunteering with Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, testing water quality and collecting water samples. In 2003, he and his wife Nancy were Stream Team Volunteers of the Year. He also has conducted seminars on AMD treatment systems for Saltsburg High School.

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](#)

And on YouTube:

[About Evergreen Conservancy – crNa11j5J2M](#)

[Tanoma AMD Wetlands – yaGLM4Ob8Ks](#)

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If you wish to learn more about Evergreen Conservancy please check our new and improved website www.evergreenconservancy.org.

Twitter User? – [evergreenc2014](#)

Tanoma Update:

Over the past few years we have been getting an increase of water in the system and we felt too much iron was going into Crooked Creek. We are still having this problem and can't control the amount of water coming into the system in the present situation. We are getting anywhere from 2 to 5 thousand gallons per minute coming in from the mine pools. Even though the system is working to decrease the iron going back into the creek in our opinion it is not, during high water flow, decreasing it enough. Iron going into Crooked Creek is visible. When the water levels drop in the summer the system works more efficiently and we do get a sufficient drop in iron by the end of the system to the amount we would prefer. One of the reasons too much iron was going through the system and back into Crooked Creek was that there was not enough oxygen in the first several ponds to help the iron drop out into the water and settle into the ponds early on in the system. Our Trompe installation is now finished and is up and running with some additional fountains. It is doing the job to add oxygen to the first ponds. The water flow is still very high and is still producing iron which is flowing into the creek. Evergreen Conservancy called a meeting with DEP in May to discuss the issue of the increased water flow. Several issues were discussed and we will have to see what evolves from the discussion. Stay tuned.

Coal Miner Arrives at Tanoma, but needs a name:

We have another new visitor to Tanoma... Our own Dan Boone created a new light up display. We need help in naming our new display. You can drive by after 8:30 p.m. any night and see him... Again – he runs entirely on our renewable energy! Submit your ideas for a name to evergreenconservancy@gmail.com. There will be a prize for the best name. We will announce his new name at the annual picnic on June 28th. ...Amazing job Dan! Thank you.



Grants in Progress

Dominion Mini Grant

Evergreen was awarded a grant from the Dominion Foundation for water monitoring maintenance and marketing costs at the Award luncheon in April. John and Cindy attended. Brian Swistock of Penn State gave an interesting presentation on the value of trees. Financial support for this grant was provided by the Dominion Foundation which is dedicated to the economic, physical, and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies. The grant program was administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership and collaboration. We thank both Dominion and WPC!



By-Laws

The board has discussed and recommended a few changes/additions to our current by laws. If you are a member and are interested in reviewing the changes and want to give input please feel free to go to our website and review them before the June 28th membership meeting. We will bring it up for a vote to accept the changes at the meeting. Thank you all.



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!

If you believe that we need to protect our planet, visit 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.



Environmental Education

It was a busy spring for environmental education. We helped with several programs in other locations and hosted programs at Tanoma. On May 30th we helped Girl Scouts accomplish their Wonders of Water Journey. The girls had to do five different activities, talking about how they love water, can save water, and how they can share water. They also had follow up work to do and made promises about how they could help conserve or protect water from pollution. We have several more programs scheduled for the summer.



Project Wet workshop.

Evergreen hosted the all day workshop on May 21st and Yellow Creek allowed us to have it in their Environmental Center. A fun day was had by all the participants. We learned a lot of new ideas and activities we can now offer for environmental education programs. Stacey Robertson, Tara Binion, Sara Beatty and Cindy Rogers attended for Evergreen Conservancy.



Volunteer Opportunities: If interested please contact us at evergreenconservancy@gmail.com or call 724-471-6020.

Tabling:

If you can donate time to man our table at the Northern Appalachian Folk Festival on September 10th and 11th it would be a great help so save the date and let us know if you can help with a few hours on either date. On August 13th we will be at the Blairsville Knotweed Festival and also need help manning the booth that day. We would appreciate any time you could volunteer. Please contact Sara through evergreenconservancy@gmail.com. Thanks!

Award

Our former VISTA Cassy Allen won an award on March 3rd at Lenape Tech. She won the "Outstanding Conservation Educator" Award from the Armstrong Conservation District. The award was presented by Pam Meade, associate director of ACD. She won because of her excellent help assisting Dennis at the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center.



Indiana Nature... by the Season - Spring 2016

Tree News:

Plant Phenology - Over the last month you have hopefully witnessed the greening of our forests and landscapes. Warming temperatures and longer spring days bring about the emergence of leaves and flowers throughout the temperate forests of the northeastern United States. We call these events "bud break", but it is just one of a number of events that plants undergo annually. The study of these major annual and life events in plants is called plant phenology. These events include leaf out, flowering, leaf change, and dormancy to name a few and we know that they differ for each species. For example maples are wind pollinated and their flowers appear prior to the emergence of leaves. This all occurs about a week or two before oaks and generally hickories undergo bud break even later (Figure 1).

Each species has adapted over generations a strategy to closely time its major annual milestones with its environment. Whether it is coevolved timing with pollinators or dropping leaves before the first major snow fall plants that compete successfully have closely matched their timing with their local climate. Plants do this by using nature's cues. Broadly speaking in our region plants use length of day to signal dormancy as they prepare for winter, whereas temperature is primarily used to signal a plant to resume growth in the spring. This is why on warm years we see plants flower early where as colder years, like last year, we see it delayed.



Figure 1: Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata* (Mill.) K. Koch) leaves emerging from buds. Picture taken at Tanoma May 3rd 2016.

Not only is it fascinating to observe these differences among plants, but there are some really practical reasons to understand plant phenology. Landscape designers use this information to select plants that flower at a certain time such as planting flowering dogwood or serviceberry to correspond with spring graduation. We also know that when we move plants over long distances we can interrupt the intricate timing with local climate and pollinators, which can lead to major problems for the plant. Finally, as our planet warms we are finding that plants are undergoing bud break earlier and continuing to grow later in the year. Similarly, this causes a mismatch between timing of plant events and their changing local climate that can lead to problems such as early season frost damage and timing with pollinators. If you are interested in learning more about plant phenology there has been long-term research looking at these data nationally such as the USA National Phenology Network (www.usanpn.org/node/35) and Project BudBurst (budburst.org/aboutus). For more questions about local phenology you can contact me by email (mtyree@iup.edu).

M. Tyree

Plants to be on the lookout for

What more appropriate plant to be on the lookout for in May and June than one called the Mayapple or *Podophyllum peltatum*. Other common names include American mandrake, and ground lemon.



It grows across most of the eastern United States and southeastern Canada and likes wooded shady areas. Some stems bear a single leaf and do not produce any flower or fruit, but other stems produce a pair of leaves with a flower in the joint between the leaves. The beautiful white flower will usually open in May with the fruit becoming ripe in summer. Like the tomato all of the plant (the leaves, stem, and roots) are poisonous except for the ripe fruit. The green fruit is also toxic and should not be ingested but once it turns yellow and soft it is ripe and makes a delicious jelly or jam or can be used in other recipes. Some sources warn not to ingest large quantities of even the ripe fruit. In large quantities the seeds could kill a person or animal although animals usually do not eat it. It has medicinal properties used down through the ages. Mayapples were used as a laxative, to rid the body of intestinal worms, to remove warts, to induce vomiting and as an insecticide. There has been cancer research done with the chemicals in this plant for killing cancer cells or unregulated cell growth. Next time you go for a walk look for Mayapples and admire their beautiful flowers.



Cindy Rogers

WHAT WE CONSERVE:

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

Things to Do in the Area:

Check out the Friends of the Parks schedule for great programs offered at our County parks.

Go to www.indianacountyparks.org/friends-of-the-park.aspx to see the year's schedule of programs or visit them on face book.

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

Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Awarded to Evergreen

League of Women Voters board member, Laurie LaFontaine, congratulated Evergreen Conservancy on being given the 2016 Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award at the LWV's annual dinner May 17th, 2016.

The Peggy Clark Award is given to a person or group who have demonstrated grassroots leadership in the following areas: Preservation and/or protection of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment, and grassroots activism to preserve or protect our natural resources.



Evergreen was proud to be given this award and thanks the LWV for this honor.

Strategic Planning

It is time again to work on our next 5 year strategic plan. Rebecca Slak will facilitate the planning session for us on June 10th. It will be an all-day meeting with a break for lunch. Any of our members can join us and we hope that you will. This is your chance to contribute ideas and potential goals to the organization. Please feel free to join us for a few hours or the whole day if you can. We will review what we have accomplished and develop a plan to work on for the next 5 years.

Upcoming dates:

- June 10, 2016 Strategic planning meeting for all members
- June 22, 2016 During the WPCAMR conference at the KCAC, a day will be on touring the area and they will visit Tanoma for lunch and a tour.
- June 28, 2016 Trompe ribbon Cutting Celebration at Tanoma... 2:00 pm All are welcome to attend and learn more about the system.
- June 28, 2016 Annual Membership Picnic. 5:00 pm, bring a table setting and a dish to share. EC will provide rolls, hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill. A great day to renew your membership or become a member too!
- October 6, 2016 The Field conference of PA Geologists will visit Tanoma for a tour



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 _____