



Fall Newsletter, 2016 #42

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Evergreen Conservancy 2016 Annual Meeting

Evergreen Conservancy's annual membership meeting was held June 28th at the Tanoma Environmental Education Center. As usual the meeting was preceded by our potluck picnic. There was an overflow crowd but enough food to go around. Thanks to all who brought food and prepared the hot dogs/hamburgers on site.

A purpose of the annual meeting is the election of board members. Cindy Rogers, Becky Snyder and Paul Yacovone were current board members who were reelected to serve another 3 year term. A number joined Evergreen Conservancy or paid their dues. A reminder to Evergreen Members please up your membership by paying your dues.

The Annual Evergreen Award was received by Nancy Lezark for her husband Alex Lezark. Many Evergreen members knew Alex as the water testing trainer for Indiana PASEC. Alex passed away July 12, 2016.



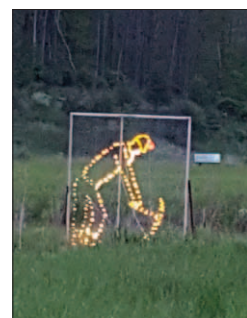
Tim Dehaney Explains the Trompe Aeration System

Cindy recognized volunteers for 2015-2016: Stephanie Reeger, Matt Harper, Nancy Smeltzer, Mike Tyree, Sue Majoris and Tara Binion.

A special feature of the 2016 meeting was a presentation and tour by Tim Dehaney who supervised the construction of the Trompe system that is designed to improve the performance of our remediation system

Cindy gave an update on Evergreen Activities as well a brief history of Tanoma.

Tanoma has a new resident. He is an animated figure of a coal miner. Similar to the figures at the Festival of Lights. Ken Bobak won the contest to name our new resident. His name is now "Big John" The song "Big Bad John" is a country song originally performed by Jimmy Dean. It tells the story of a mysterious and quiet miner who earned the nickname Big John because of his height, weight, and muscular physique. We thought the name was appropriate for our new light display.



"Big John"

The members were informed and voted on changes to our by-laws.

Evergreen Award recipient for 2016:

Nancy Lezark, wife of Alex Lezark, was presented the 2016 Evergreen Award for Alex at Evergreen Conservancy's annual meeting on June 28. Alex was unable to attend due to ill health. 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. The nomination was supported by a letter from the Kiski Conemaugh Stream Team.

Alex had been involved with the Environment Corps since 1998. His main role with the organization was as trainer in chemical analysis. He trained more than 200 volunteers. He was also involved in the Blackleggs Watershed Association and the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team.

He got into environmental activities because of his interest in fly fishing. "Fish need clean water", he would say.

Alex passed away on July 12th. His family reported he was thrilled at receiving the Evergreen Award. I recall Alex as being a real gentleman, passionate about clean streams, and knew what he taught – water testing.

OUR MISSION:

Bob Lankard

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



Nancy Lezark accepting the Evergreen Award for her husband, Alex

Save the Date – ‘Plants on the Move’

Have you ever seen an air borne seed and wondered where it came from or where it was going? Did a plant appear at a location where you did not plant it? Evergreen Conservancy is sponsoring a program explaining the importance of seed on Saturday September 24th at 6 pm at Pavilion #2 of Blue Spruce Park (It shares a parking lot with the large Pavilion # 1). The program led by IUP graduate student Erin Janetski will begin with a nature walk collecting seeds. Erin will discuss the parts of a plant, how pollination occurs, and different methods of seed dispersal. Originally designed for elementary aged children, it can also be enjoyed by all ages. The program is free and open to the public.



Erin Janetski

ECO Tour

Part of my job as the VISTA worker is developing an Eco-Tour in Indiana County. The tour will be a series of sites of environmental significance. So far we have created a committee, gotten a list of sites to include on the tour and we've sent out a survey to help expand the list. That list of sites was broken into categories and sub-categories. The categories include Saving/Preserving land, Saving/Preserving water, Wildlife Habitat, Sustainability and Healthy Communities, we will then use these categories to create tours. Eventually we will have a color coordinated map with all the sites. We are now working on expanding that list as much as we can and using it to network and advertise, as well as working on getting funding. If you want to be part of the planning for these exciting tours, we would welcome your help. Join us at our next meeting. Let me know and I will add you to our mailing list. You can help us out too, by sending in any site suggestions you may have, to me at sgbeatty92@gmail.com.

We have many partners, interested individuals and organizations. The tourist bureau, represented by Maria Jack has been an important part of this process and will use this information to help increase tourism in Indiana County. Our other partners have been very helpful in the planning process, with lots of great ideas. I expect this to be an amazing tour when it is completed, highlighting sites that show positive growth and progressive management.

Sara Beatty OSM/VISTA

Strategic Planning

We had our Strategic Planning meeting on June 10th facilitated by Rebecca Slak. She led us in developing our plan for the next 5 years. We had 11 people present and came up with some innovative ideas and a solid plan to move forward. We are continuing to add specifics to the plan in our committee meetings. The plan is posted on our web site and will be updated with additions as we add them to our 2016-2021 strategic plan.

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. We would appreciate any time you could volunteer. Please contact Sara through evergreenconservancy@gmail.com. Thanks!

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

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](#)

[Renewable Energy – S3VOATx0mRY](#)



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

Tanoma Update:

Trompe Grand Opening

Over 40 people attended the opening and were given a tour by Tim Danehy on the Trompe system and how it works at Tanoma. There was a lot of interest and many questions. It was a beautiful day and conditions could not have been better. The Trompe was working at full capacity and is already starting to have a positive impact on the passive system.



GeoCache and EarthCache at Tanoma

Our geocache location is back in operation after a brief hiatus for construction. Installation of the Trompe system has changed the landscape a little. Go to Geocaching.com and look for "The Last Bridge", GC208EA, for a fun treasure hunt (kids love it).

We have recently had several visits to our earth cache location with positive comments. For a more in-depth educational experience visit Geocaching.com and look for the Earthcache "Tanoma AMD Site", GC5A825. You can learn about the treatment of abandoned mine drainage by actively testing and participating (bring a student along).



IUP helps with Maintenance at Tanoma

Ms. Judy Shabbick brought her class of 20 students from Westmoreland Community College—Indiana campus—to Tanoma to do volunteer service for us. They did a great job of moving and cleaning up lumber and siding piles, organizing the Scout shed, weeding, mowing, trimming, digging post holes, and cleaning the sludge off of the hydro turbine blades. As you can see, they were a very busy group who accomplished a lot, and to whom we owe much thanks. Thanks to Dan, Malcolm, Cindy and Sara for helping out with the students and work also.

Meadow

Our meadow is coming along nicely. It will be fun to see how it changes every year. We did have to weed a lot of ragweed out of it but it looks pretty with the cosmos, bachelor buttons and other annual summer flowers. Next year we should see some of the perennials.



Picture Post

A Picture Post is an 8-sided platform for taking and sharing repeat digital photographs on the Picture Post website. Picture Posts are installed at forests, parks, and schools - even your backyard. Each post guides visitors to photograph a location in different orientations. Photos can be dated, geotagged, uploaded, and shared on this website. Picture Post is a part of the Digital Earth Watch (DEW) network. DEW supports environmental monitoring by everyone! Malcolm built and installed a picture post at Tanoma and we are actually the first in Western PA! Teachers can use this site to do experiments in math and science, we can use it in our environmental education, and just for fun to see changes in the environment and the system. Some things that can be monitored are seasonal change (phenology), recovery from a storm, disease or pest damage, growth of trees, system effectiveness. See picturepost.unh.edu/index.jsp for more information. Our site is called "Tanoma AMD Wetlands".



Grants in Progress

We are currently working on the following grants:

- The Colcom Foundation for data logger maintenance
- Dominion Mini Grant from The Dominion Foundation, managed by Western PA Conservancy, for PR/Marketing and data logger maintenance costs
- Growing Greener AMD Set back Grant for Trompe and work on Tanoma to improve the system
- Indiana Rotary Grant for the planting of trees at Yellow Creek. We will be doing a fall planting and are just waiting for the coordination of the equipment to dig the holes. Stay tuned – we will be asking for some volunteers to help with the planting this fall.



Environmental Education

- We spent two days out at Blue Spruce Park at the Girl Scout Summer Camp doing activities with the scouts on “Brook Snooping” The girls learned about macro invertebrates and water through games and activities.
- Cindy worked with three 4 H groups on Food Investigation. The girls and guys learned to identify some local “weeds”, learned about edible uses and even made plantain cookies for a snack. They got to sample stinging nettle dip and day lily dippers.
- John took a group of folks from Clearfield and Somerset on a tour of Tanoma and our new Trompe system.
- IUP students continue to visit Tanoma on field trips and others drop by to take advantage of the self-guided path.
- Erin Janetski brought a group of teachers out to Tanoma to learn about macro-invertebrates in August.
- One more activity is planned for this fall. A group from the Conference of PA geologists will visit Tanoma in October.

Business Opportunity

We are looking for businesses who would like to partner with Evergreen Conservancy. If you would be able to offer a small 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! We encourage people to go to your business and our members get a discount! A win-win for all. Let us know if you are interested. We will let you know all our partners in our next newsletter. Thanks!

Portia's Bistro & Donut Connection located at 95 Wayne Ave has partnered with Evergreen to offer discount on orders to card carrying members.

Plant-It Earth is also a partner with Evergreen. They are located at 1462 Rhine Road, outside of Homer City and are giving 15% off for all members with card. They grow their plants organically and carry many pollinator preferred plants.

Stop by and thank both businesses for supporting Evergreen! Stay tuned for more businesses in the next few months.



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

Indiana Nature... by the Season - Fall 2016

Tree News:

American chestnuts have arrived at Tanoma - Next time you visit Tanoma say hello to our new arrivals. Thanks to Lee-Roy Vatter for obtaining and planting two new blight-resistant American chestnut seedlings at Tanoma a couple weeks ago (Image 1). Both seedlings are located next to each other between the pavilion and the new meadow to the right of the trail. The placement of these seedlings at the Tanoma AMD educational site provides an opportunity to highlight the relationship between American chestnut restoration and surface mines throughout Pennsylvania.

American chestnut [*Castanea dentata* (Marsh.) Borkh.] was once a dominant tree species throughout much of the eastern United States comprising as much as 50% of the area in some Appalachian forests (Russell, 1987). Loss of *A. chestnut* throughout the early 20th century due to an introduced blight-fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica* (Murr.) Barr. has had enormous ecological consequences such as: dramatic changes in forest species composition, wildlife forage, and nutrient cycling (Diamond et al., 2000). The American Chestnut Foundation has led the way for over



Volunteer (and Evergreen Award Recipient) Leroy Vatter installs the covering to protect newly-planted trees.



Blight resistant American chestnut hybrid backcross planted on reclaimed mine lands at Flight 93 National Memorial.

three decades to develop a population of blight-resistant American chestnuts by backcrossing with blight-resistant Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima* Blume; Image 2). In 2005, the successful development of a blight-resistant backcross believed to possess many of the ideal growth characteristics of *A. chestnut* has been realized (Diskin et al., 2006) and early attempts to reestablish this highly valued tree species throughout its natural range has begun. Reclaimed surface mines offer a great opportunity to reestablish American chestnut throughout Pennsylvania. In addition to offering large amounts of acreage for planting, blight-resistant American chestnut has a number of qualities that make it a good choice for the purpose of surface mine reforestation. First, its tolerance of a wide variety of site conditions means that it should thrive on reclaimed soils. Second, its high growth rate in high-light environments means that it should provide tall sapling growth for use by birds and small mammals relatively quickly, which will encourage colonization of other species into reclamation sites. Third, its high survival in the shade means that even if planted in small clusters, if the surrounding matrix is colonized by other tree species, chestnut will be able to spread throughout the reforested site in subsequent years. Finally, its mast will provide a valuable food source for wildlife.

M. Tyree

Plants to be on the Lookout for

Two of my favorite plants at this time of the season are Joe-Pye Weed and NY Iron Weed. When I see them I sadly realize the end of the summer is approaching but they are so colorful you can't help but enjoy them.

Joe-Pye weed (*Eupatorium*) is easy to recognize by its height, leaf placement, and flower. The variety most common in this area has a large dome like flower head, at the top of the stem, which is made up of many small tubular flowers. The long pointed leaves are in whorls of 3 to 6 leaves on the stem. Joe Pye was said to have been either the name of a Native American Indian or a settler who promoted Indians. (I like the first version better!) Joe-Pye used a root tea from this plant to cure people in New England of typhus fever and other illnesses and his name became the common name of this medicinal plant. Different varieties were used to cure many sundry ailments. It is said that to use its magical powers to gain love and respect from others you must put a leaf in your mouth or carry it on your person.



Joe-Pye Weed

New York Iron weed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) grows 3 to 10 feet and is easy to spot because of its height and dark, intense, rosy-purple color. The dark green, long, pointed leaves grow in an alternate pattern on the stem. The tubular flowers are in a large, loosely clustered head at the top of the tall stem. The name 'Vernonia' was given in honor of William Vernon, an English botanist who worked in North America. The name ironweed refers to the tough stem and the fact that the roots are hard to dig. Native Americans used this plant for a variety of pains. It is a native of North America and its range is generally the eastern half of the U.S. Although it is becoming somewhat of a pest in some states it is not considered an negative invasive in Pennsylvania.



Iron Weed

Both these colorful plants can be easily seen along roadsides, in our parks, near water, and in meadows.

Cindy Rogers

WHAT WE CONSERVE:

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

Upcoming Dates:

September 1, 2016 – Stormwater Education Partnership Meeting 10:00 at the White Township Building.

September 1, 2016 – Evergreen Board Meeting 7:00 pm second floor 1005 Oak St. Meeting Room. All are welcome to attend.

September 2, 2016 – Philadelphia Street Playhouse, 725 Philadelphia St Doors open: 6:00pm.

Speaker: 6:30pm, Film: 7:00 Environmental documentary, How to Let Go Of the World (and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change), directed by Josh Fox.

September 10-11, 2016 - Come visit us at the Northern Appalachian Folk Festival. We will have a table there with lots of items to buy. Our table will be set up Saturday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am -5:00 pm. Visit the website northernappfolkfest.org for the music and artist line up for 2016.

September 14, 2016 – Evergreen will have a table at the IUP Community Involvement Fair.

September 24, 2016, 6:00 pm – BS Park Join us for a fun presentation by Erin Janetski on “Plants on the Move”.

October 6, 2016 – the Field Conference for PA Geologists is coming to Tanoma as one of their field trips.

October 8, 2016 – Into the Streets IUP Students will be at Tanoma helping to do maintenance to get Tanoma ready for the winter.

October 11, 2016 – PR and Finance Meetings – 6:30 and 7:30 at second floor 1005 Oak St. Meeting Room.

November 3, 2016 – Evergreen Board Meeting 7:00 pm second floor 1005 Oak St. Meeting Room. All are welcome to attend.

November 12, 2016 – Evergreen will have a table at the IUP seed swap on campus

December 6, 2016 – PR and Finance Meetings – 6:30 and 7:30 at second floor 1005 Oak St. Meeting Room.



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 _____