



Annual Potluck Membership Picnic

It was a beautiful evening for the June 23rd Evergreen Conservancy and annual meeting. Not so that afternoon. There were storms and heavy rain. I even got calls wondering if we were going to cancel. But I looked at my AccuWeather hourly forecast: the last rain was to be at 3 pm and by 5:30 pm it would be nice and sunny. The picnic was great with enough food and table space for everyone. In a short business meeting, Tim Slippy and Sally Thornton and Dan Boone were reelected for three year terms. Paul Yacovone, John Dudash, Bob Lankard, Cindy Rogers, Jason McGinnis, Malcolm Hermann, Stacy Robertson, and Becky Snyder are remaining board members. Mike Tyree was elected as a new board member. Cindy Rogers followed with a finance report and highlights of the year report (included in the newsletter) Cindy thanked all the datalogger download volunteers and presented new volunteers who have been doing field work for at least one year: Ruth Farrier, Paul Majoris, Betty Hovland, and Bill and Dorothy Rodgers.

This year the Evergreen Award was given to John Somonick. Joanne Ferraro introduced John and noted his long time involvement in environmental issues including long time membership in Indiana Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps and charter membership in Evergreen Conservancy.

After the meeting opportunity was given for participants to join or renew their membership in Evergreen Conservancy. Videos were shown of rain gardens and rain barrels made for the Stormwater Partnership that Evergreen Supported.



OUR MISSION:

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

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.



Fall Program - Elk in Pennsylvania November 14th, 7PM – Blue Spruce Lodge

Join the Pennsylvania Game Commission EES, Mandy Marconi to learn about elk in Pennsylvania: past, present, and future. The program will begin with a 30 minute documentary video, followed by a hands-on, interactive presentation as you learn about elk adaptations, seasonal behavior, and interesting facts.

Mandy Marconi joined the Pennsylvania Game Commission in the summer of 2013 as an Elk Intern for the 100 Year Celebration of Elk Restoration in Pennsylvania. She is now the Environmental Education Specialist for the Northcentral Region. Her primary responsibilities are assisting the Northcentral Region Information and Education Supervisor and Wildlife Conservation Officers with educational and public programs, setting up and working at exhibits, developing public programs and presenting them throughout the region for various groups and State agencies. Mandy received an Associate's degree in Wildlife Technology from the Pennsylvania State University. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences with a Minor in Natural Resources.

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](#)

Highlights of the year

- Evergreen Conservancy has been very busy with environmental education programs with over 550 attendees to programs.
- We partnered with IUP for "Into the Streets" hosted in the fall and this spring. It was a great opportunity for them and us.
- Water monitoring: We had to reinstall several sites after the hard winter and ice, but they are all cleaned, recalibrated, and back in the streams ready for nice weather! We have added two more sites this spring and took out a few to bring our total number of manually downloaded loggers to 32. We had problems with 5 loggers and had to send them back for repair – 4 were beyond repair and had to be discarded. We are still considering a few other places. We recalibrated and did maintenance on our Telemetry loggers - dealt with battery issues and snow but they are all up and running and sending data to a website 24/7.
- Education for our board: We took advantage of several training events this past year.
- Last fall Cindy Rogers attended training with the Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT) for our OSM VISTA position in Beckley WV for 3 days funded by the ACCT.
- Cassy and Cindy went to the 2015 Pa Land Trust Association Training, May 7-9 where they attended a variety of different sessions. They were funded to go through a generous scholarship from PALTA.
- In June Sally, Sean and Cindy went to a free two day training about watersheds put on by game commission and the state parks.
- Many of you attended our programs in the fall and spring. Last fall was on rain gardens with Barbara Hague and March 27th Ed Patterson, Indiana County Parks and Trails director, presented a program on local salamanders
- Last Fall Evergreen hosted an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team for nearly two weeks at the end of last summer. The group was made up of 7 young adults from across the country who pledge 10 months of their life to do public service. They volunteered at Tanoma, Homer City Boat Launch Park, and Yellow Creek State Park
- Board member news: We had some board changes this past year. New board member Janelle Revo had to resign because of personal reasons. She had volunteered to be our new treasurer when Jon Miller moved back to Pittsburgh.

What do your membership dues do?

The membership year for Evergreen Conservancy starts each July. Recently you may have been asked to renew your membership and you may wonder why we need your dues every year. While we do get grants and donations due to the hard work of our leaders, most of this money is designated for specific work.

Our other expenses depend on membership dues and donations. We provide educational programs for children and adults. We provide the equipment and supplies for these programs and most of the programs are free (however some groups graciously make a donation to help). Hopefully we can encourage families to explore the out-of-doors.

We are privileged to have a Vista Volunteer to help with our educational programs, grant writing and other work. We pay a portion of her stipend along with one other organization. We do not have any employees.

We also continue to monitor water ways with data loggers. These computer based units require regular maintenance and like anyone who deals with electronic equipment knows, they breakdown. We also need to replace the computers to download the data. The information from the data loggers is available. If you are interested in seeing the data, just let us know.

Evergreen Conservancy also has the usual expenses of every organization such as insurance, accounting services, and office supplies. We also have expenses for our properties such as Tanoma where we supply a Port-O-Pot in the summer, equipment for the renewable energy

Project, maintenance of the system, and lawn care. If you have paid your dues for this year, thank you. If you haven't joined for this year please send in your dues today. We appreciated every donation, no matter what amount. If you would like more information on our finances, join us the first Tuesday of every even month for our committee meeting.

Welcome to our new board member Mike Tyree

Michael Tyree has been recently hired in the position of Assistant professor of Plant Applied Ecology within the Department of Biology at IUP. Mike earned his B.S. in forest biology from Penn State University and an M.S and Ph.D. from Virginia Tech. Academic interests include understanding the impact of land-use change and climate change on ecosystem carbon cycling, restoration ecology, and disturbance ecology. Mike has formally taught dendrology (tree id) over the last five years while teaching at Louisiana Tech University. Additionally, Mike has participated in a number of community outreach opportunities using tree identification as a tool to generate interest in natural resource conservation.



Thanks to our summer intern Luke Tatarko

Luke created a GIS map for us of all our logger locations in the county. He also made layers for Marcellus Shale wells and permits, the proposed deep injection well, and our telemetry locations. If you are in the PASEC room - it will be up on the wall.



Keeping Body and Soul Together... Naturally

Mon- Tue: 9:00am - 6:00pm Wed: 9:00am - 7:00 pm 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!

Fundraising

We will be holding workshops for anyone who wants to help us make some new things to sell for our fundraisers. We will supply all the materials and show you what we need to do. We need your hands to help make some items. The dates are as follows:

September 17th 6pm-9pm

September 22nd 6pm-9pm

Need any gifts or want to buy something nice for yourself? We will be selling our items on the website and at locations in Indiana this fall. Please don't forget us for your gift ideas this year.

Grants in progress

- Growing Greener, AMD Set Aside Program – We have approval to start our Trompe project. Tim Dehaney from Bio-Most is working on ordering the parts and hopes to start the project soon.
- Evergreen was awarded a grant from The Indiana County Endowment (ICE), a nonprofit community foundation in Indiana, PA. ICE is a component fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation (TPF), the 14th largest community foundation in the United States. The grant will allow us to design and install three new signs at Tanoma. Two of the signs will help to educate visitors to Tanoma about renewable energy. One sign will be dedicated to learning about the new Trompe system that is being installed at the site.
- Evergreen Conservancy applied for a grant from Norcross to purchase GPS units to add to our environmental education materials so we can offer more geocaching programs.
- The Indiana Rotary awarded Evergreen a generous grant to help reforest Yellow Creek State Park. Because many of the trees at Yellow Creek are dying and have to be cut down they needed help in replanting native trees in the area to help develop riparian buffer zones, as well as shade trees in the park. Rotary Club is an international service organization that embraces the theme “Service Above Self.”

Environmental Education Highlights

Evergreen Conservancy has continued with their environmental education programs. In May a group of Girl Scouts came out to Tanoma to complete their BREATHE Journey. We tie-dyed tee-shirts with iron oxide from the Tanoma treatment center, did a system tour, learned about macro-invertebrates,



learned to identify trees and did a tree planting exercise. In June, we had a Lenepe Tech Day Camp at Tanoma to tie-dye tee-shirts, take a system tour, and learn about macro-invertebrates, renewable energy, and geocaching. Then in July, Cassy and Brooke taught a Blairsville/Homer City Girl Scout Service Unit all about geocaching.

The geocaching programs have been very successful and sought after. For those who don't know: geocaching is a high-tech, treasure hunt game that is played worldwide and at your leisure. It requires the use of a handheld GPS unit and coordinates that can be found at geocaching.com. Due to the program's success, Evergreen Conservancy has submitted a Norcross Wildlife Foundation grant to purchase GPS units of our own. This would allow Evergreen to do geocaching programs whenever a group would like.

Water Monitoring:

Our volunteers are getting out to our County Creeks every two to four weeks to download the data that the loggers accumulate. We hope to get out to do macro-invertebrate and stream assessments this fall at the new sites.

Tanoma Update

We had a hornet problem at our last bridge, as well as the geocache located there. We had to get out there and get rid of the nest and move some very angry hornets. We continue to have visitors at Tanoma on a fairly regular basis who come out to walk through the system, read the story book, and enjoy the outdoors. We are waiting for BioMost to start the Trompe system.

WHAT WE CONSERVE:

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

A Meadow at Tanoma: The Value of Native Plants

During a recent Friends of the Parks program, Tim Slippy and Bob Lankard had the opportunity to tour Ed Donley's property. Mr. Donley has a native garden, meadows, ponds, native trees, and a landscape that benefits the native wildlife.

It is all about the bugs and birds. The birds that Donley wants to attract to his property eat native bugs, but these bugs have not developed a taste for foreign (non-native) food sources. So he has been removing and replacing non-natives with native plant species.

Creating the meadows required a lot of initial work and some maintenance. The meadow was originally full of non-native plant species and after unsuccessfully trying several natural means of getting rid of them, Donley had to resort to the herbicide Round-Up. He then had to sow all the native plants during the winter. It was important to do this when there was snow on the ground and just before another snow fall to prevent the birds from eating the seed.

At first glance, meadows look like random vegetation and easy to maintain. However, this is not so. The meadow would require some weeding and a regular mowing. This mowing schedule is dependent on the types of flowers you want to grow. If you want spring wildflowers, you mow after they have gone to seed and if you want summer flowers, you mow in May and then again after they have seeded.

Despite all the work involved, meadows have several benefits. They promote the growth of native plants, which then helps the native bugs, and on up the food chain to the native bird species. Another benefit of meadows is their ability to prevent the extinction of native species. If we were to plant a meadow at Tanoma, we would want milkweed in the native seed mix. Milkweed is critical to the survival of the Monarch Butterfly since it is the only plant they can eat.

If anyone is interested in creating a meadow at Tanoma or would like to volunteer to help with it, please let us know.

Upcoming Dates

Sept 2ndCub Scout program at Tanoma

September 9th . . .Community Involvement at IUP

Sept 12th.Northern Appalachian Folk Festival – we will be selling our items at the Festival.

October 10th . . .IUP "Into the Streets" Event

November 14th . .Saturday Night Fall Program on Elk in Pennsylvania at Blue Spruce Park.



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

