



Evergreen Conservancy's Spring Program

“Safely Exploring The Woods In The Age Of Ticks And Lyme Disease” will be presented at Blue Spruce Lodge Friday April 15th at 7 pm by IUP Professor Tom Simmons.

Evergreen Conservancy will present an informational program that is open to the public and free of charge. You will hear some of the board members refer to this as “The Tick Talk”. The presentation by Dr. Simmons will cover deer ticks and the human condition Lyme disease. Dr. Simmons will be assisted in his presentation by his wife Dr. Anne Simmons and several IUP students. Member Kurt Dudt will share his experience with Lyme disease.

Anyone who spends time out of doors should attend this program: fishermen, hunters, hikers, farmers, campers, and those who work in the timber industry.

Lyme disease is a debilitating condition that affects 300,000 people each year – 1.5 times the number of women diagnosed with breast cancer. Children are hard hit by Lyme disease, especially those between the ages 5 and 14. You correctly say we didn't worry about ticks and Lyme disease when I was a kid because wild animals didn't come into our neighborhoods where we lived; it is a tick borne infection. It is insidious because deer tick bites are painless and people will not know they are bitten until the symptoms occur. It is easy for an adult or even a doctor to misdiagnose Lyme disease because its initial symptoms are much like other conditions. “I have a summer virus”, some may say. Misdiagnosis can delay treatment. Some may never have the early symptoms while some may have different symptoms at different times. Early signs include: headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches and swollen lymph nodes. Many infected persons get a rash that often appears like a bull's eye. Later symptoms can include:

- Severe headache
- Arthritis with joint pain
- Facial or Bell's palsy
- Pain in the tendons and muscles
- Dizziness or shortness of breath
- Inflammation of brain or spinal cord

As overwhelming as Lyme disease seems the deer tick seems insignificant. It is half the size of ticks you may find on your dog. Deer ticks give humans a triple whammy because they require blood meals at all three stages of their development. These ticks reside on the tips of grasses and leaves along a trail enabling them to crawl onto an unsuspecting host. They do not jump or fly. The tick may crawl to the head or neck area where the skin is thinner for their “blood” feast. Remember on your skin the tick will appear the size of a poppy seed. If finding them is a challenge extreme care must be taken in removing a tick as boldly fluids may be released. The most effective way is to use tweezers or forceps.

Dr. Tom Simmons will tackle both of these topics on Friday, April 15th at 7 pm at Blue Spruce Lodge. Is there a solution to ticks and Lyme disease or should we retreat to the couch. The program is free and open to the public. There will be light refreshments.

Have you noticed all the construction going on at Tanoma? VISTA worker Sara Beatty will present a Power Point to explain the installation of the Trompe system and what it is to accomplish.



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.



Trail Clean Up Scheduled For April 9

It must be spring because Evergreen Conservancy is talking about picking up litter along the Hoodlebug trail and adjoining highway 119 area. But wait! It is not until April 9th at 9 am.

To get to the meeting place (the Homer City Ball Field) take old 119 South through Homer City (Main Street); go past the high school. Take first right and follow about ¼ 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 come to the parking lot with gloves. Garbage bags will be supplied. In past years we have been able to finish in two hours or less.

Volunteer Opportunities:

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

Field Work:

We will begin to put our data loggers back in the streams in March and April. If you want to get outside and be a download volunteer or help with installations and maintenance please let us know.

Tabling:

If you can donate 2 hours to help at our table for Family Fun Fest please let us know.

Environmental Education:

We have quite a few programs set up already, starting in April. If you are interesting in helping with programs please let us know. No experience necessary. We will train you on the programs.

Learning Opportunity

Calling all teachers & environmental educators

Evergreen would like to sponsor another Project Wet workshop. It is a great opportunity to learn how to teach others on a wide range of topics related to water. Evergreen will host the all day workshop, participants would only need to pay \$30.00 for their books and materials. The workshop also gives you access to great materials online. Teachers can earn CEU credits for the workshop. If you are interested please contact us at evergreenconservancy@gmail.com or 724-471-6020. We have not set up a date yet until we see if there is an interest. We need at least 10 people to hold the workshop. It will probably be held on a Saturday in Indiana.



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:

The Trompe has been installed in Tanoma. It is working and we are hoping to see an improvement in the efficiency of the system. We have a large increase in water coming into the ponds, currently up to 5,000 gallons per minute (gpm). The system was not built in the 1990's to handle that amount of water we now see coming in from the mine pools. We are still working on tweaking the system but the new Trompe seems to be handling that amount of water. Even though there is still iron going into Crooked Creek, it is less that when it enters the ponds and we hope to see it decrease as the system settles in.

Grants in Progress

Indiana County Endowment Grant (ICE) – The Pittsburgh Foundation

Our new brochure on Renewable Energy is finished thanks to funding from the ICE grant. You can find the brochure on our web site under projects – and in Tanoma, on site in a brochure holder at the pavilion or at our table at any of the events we attend. ICE is a non-profit community foundation in Indiana, Pennsylvania. ICE is a component fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation (TPF), the 14th largest community foundation in the United States.

PACD Mini Grant - The Conservation District is currently in the process of applying for support for an Eco-tour for Indiana County. Stay tuned for more details! If you'd like to be a part of the planning process, please contact us at evergreenconservancy@gmail.com or come to a meeting on the 17th at 10:00 a.m. at 1005 Oak Street, second floor. The Eco-tour will highlight sites of environmental significance. Sites could include things like rain gardens/barrels, Tanoma AMD site, agricultural practices, and other "green" practices. This eco-Tour will be a great addition to our community and a great way to educate people on various facets of conservation.

We also have some other grants in the works to help with data logger maintenance costs, help with VISTA funding, and to increase our renewable energy project at Tanoma. Stay tuned for the results of these efforts.



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

Indiana Nature... by the Season - Winter 2016

If you would like to take a look at Eagles up close and personal check out the following websites:

Website sponsored by PA Game Commission. Nest located in Hanover, Pa.

<http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pgc/9106>
Click on 'Bald Eagle CAM'.

Here's the one in Pittsburgh:

<http://www.pixcontroller.com/eagles/>

Plants to be on the Lookout For:

Of course skunk cabbage is the first to pop up this season but there are many to follow as soon as it warms up just a little. Skunk cabbage is a low growing, foul-smelling plant that grows in wetlands of eastern North America. The bad odor attracts its pollinators, scavenging flies, stoneflies, and bees. The odor in the leaves may also serve to discourage large animals from disturbing it. It is a beautiful purple mottled flower and can actually generate temperatures of up to 27–63 °F above air temperature so it can melt the snow and ice to push its way upward.

You will see Bluets, Dwarf ginseng, Foamflowers, Mayapples, Wood anemones, Squirrel corn, Dutchman's britches, Greek valerian, Jacob's ladder, Early buttercups, Virginia bluebells, Pokeweed, Jack in the pulpit, Stinging nettles, Bloodroot, Trailing arbutus and many more beautiful flowers popping out to greet the spring weather.



Tree News:

Juneberry (*Amelanchier*) is one of the first white flowering trees you will see this spring. It is called Juneberry because the fruit ripens in June. Other common names are Shadbush (first run of shad as they migrate upstream when the tree comes into bloom) or Serviceberry (it blooms when religious services were able to be held during the 19th century when snow covered roads became accessible again). The five-petal, white flowers usually bloom early in the spring, before the leaves appear. The berries start out red and turn a deep dark blue. They are edible but you will have to fight the birds for them. They grow in a variety of habitats on hillsides, in fields, woods, and along streams.



Sumac (*Rhus L.*) - Bursts of red color are a welcome treat during the cold, gray winter days in Indiana, PA. The three or four species of sumac native to our area are all considered small, multi-stemmed shrubs that typically grow along highways, trails, and the edges of fields. Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina L.*) is the largest and most widely distributed of the native sumacs, but smooth and winged sumac (*R. glabra L.* and *R. copallinum L.*) are both quite common as well. During most of the year they may go largely unnoticed, or even be mistaken as a weed, but throughout the long winter sumac is one of the few native plants that offer a visual reprieve from the grays, browns, and greens that dominate the landscape by providing us with stunningly red, clustered, upright fruits. Sumac fruits are not just wintertime eye candy; they are also an important food source for more than 300 species of songbirds. Staghorn sumac berries also make a great “lemonade” for people! So next time you are driving down the road, keep an eye out for these fruits.

M. Tyree



Things to Do in the Area:

The Bartram's Garden's land at IUP

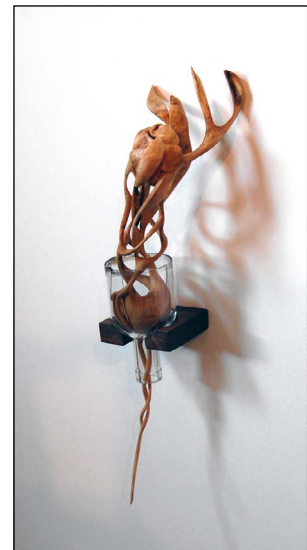
Bartram's Boxes is a traveling art exhibit coming to the IUP University Museum located in Sutton Hall from March 26th through May 7th. This collaboration between the Center for Art in Wood and Bartram's Garden showcases art made from 13 tree species from the Bartram's Garden that were felled by a storm. Please click on the IUP Museum's page for more details: <http://www.iup.edu/livelyarts/art/bartram-s-boxes-remix/>

Museum Regular Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 2:00-6:30 p.m.,
 Thursday: 12:00-7:30 p.m.,
 Saturday: 12:00-4:00 p.m.

See more at the exhibition website:

<http://centerforartinwood.org/exhibition/bartrams-boxes-remix>



WHAT WE CONSERVE:

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

Thanks to our new Acting Secretary, Tara Binion

We welcome her help.

The all-important position of Secretary includes the job of taking the minutes at our board meetings, helping keep track of our membership base, and sending out cards.



Board Members:

- Cindy Rogers - President
- Malcolm Hermann - Vice president
- Becky Snyder - Treasurer
- Dan Boone
- Bob Lankard
- John Dudash
- Mike Tyree
- Paul Yacovone
- Stacey Robertson
- Tim Slippy

Upcoming dates:

- March 10 Evergreen Board Meeting 7:00 pm, PASEC meeting room 2nd floor 1005 Oak Street. All Welcome.
- March 14 Empty Food Bowl Soup Sale by local potters at the Artist Hand Gallery. Come and get your beautiful bowl, lunch and support our local food bank.
- April 2 Family Fun Fest at the Indiana Mall
- April 5 Public Relations (6:30) and Finance (7:30) meetings, PASEC meeting room 2nd floor 1005 Oak Street. All Welcome.
- April 9 Spring Trail and highway clean up
- April 15 Spring Program "Tick Talk"
- April 8, 28, 30 Environmental Education Programs at various locations
- May 5 Evergreen Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- May 8 Environmental Education program at Tanoma
- May 10 Tentative date for Trompe ribbon Cutting Celebration at Tanoma... Stay tuned for more information.



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 _____