



March, 2013
#28

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Project Wet

On February 5th, 10 participants came out to a Project WET workshop hosted by Evergreen. Conservancy members Cindy and Sally were joined by OSM/VISTA volunteer Kelly, 3 local teachers, 3 AmeriCorps members, and a Crooked Creek Watershed Association member. We spent the day exploring water education activities lead by Scott Detwiler, an environmental educator with the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's Beechwood Farms in Pittsburgh. We worked through lessons like the H2Olympics and used balloons to demonstrate the movement of water molecules. After the workshop, all the participants received a Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide filled with over 100 activities! We are eager to start putting them to use.



Spring Program

We have all heard of diseases infecting Pennsylvania wildlife. Very recently there have been confirmed cases of Chronic Wasting Disease in several counties in Pennsylvania. We wonder: Could they be wiped out? Is the disease in our area? Can the disease be passed to humans? Can we eat the meat? How can we identify a sick animal?

Evergreen Conservancy is sponsoring their spring event Friday March 15th at Blue Spruce Lodge at 7 pm. Wildlife Conservation Officer Patrick Snickles will discuss "Diseases affecting Pennsylvania Wildlife". The conservancy will update everyone their activities and light refreshments will be served.

A flier has been attached on the last page of this newsletter. Please print it out and post it in a public place to promote the event.



Evergreen Conservancy To Clean Hoodlebug Trail

Evergreen Conservancy will conduct a cleanup of the Hoodlebug Trail on Saturday April 13th, beginning at 9 a.m. Volunteers will meet at the Homer City ball field parking lot. Recently the cleanup has taken less than two hours. To get to the meeting place take old 119 south through Homer City (Main Street), go past the high school. Take the first right and follow about ¼ mile to a stop sign. Turn right and cross the Hoodlebug Trail turn left and follow the trail to the parking lot. Those wishing to help with this clean up should report to the ball field with gloves. Garbage bags will be supplied. The clean up will be conducted unless there is extremely bad weather. In this event an announcement will be made to the local media.

OUR MISSION:

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

Evergreen Conservancy Project Updates

Visit our web site to learn more about these projects ...

www.evergreenconservancy.org

Tanoma up-dates

- Now that the DEP work is finished we will be installing the aerator in the first or second pond. Stream Restoration provided the aerator for the project. We have been waiting for the weather to cooperate to dig our ditches to lay the cable and install the aerators. We hope that will increase oxygen levels, thereby increasing the efficiency of the system.
- Renewable energy update: Dan has repaired the inverter for the renewable energy system and it is working again. Storms damaged some panels in our wind turbine. Dan assures us that it's an easy fix and will be repaired by April. The water turbine will be removed from its present location, rebuilt and installed in a new location this spring.

Water Monitoring:

- We have 31 data loggers in the streams at present. We monitored them over the winter and downloaded in between cold spells. We had to reinstall a few due to ice and high water but they all seem to be working well.
- If you are interested in becoming a water monitoring volunteer with this project, please contact us at info@evergreenconservancy.org. Time commitments vary, and we are looking for volunteers to come on our bi-monthly uploads when their schedule allows! Visit our web site to learn more about these projects... www.evergreenconservancy.org



Checking data logger installations

VISTA Americorps News

On Saturday, April 20th, Evergreen will once again participate in IUP's "Into the Streets" event. "Into the Streets" was designed to diversify the number of students participating in service activities throughout Indiana and to demonstrate the importance of that service. Evergreen participated last year and had IUP students install bat boxes at Tanoma. This year, we will again host IUP student volunteers at Tanoma, and they will help to prepare the site for a local Boy Scout's Eagle Project. Our work will include taking apart the bridge and digging out a space to prep for a shed that the Scout will build. If you would like to help, we would love for you to join us on April 20th at Tanoma.

Boy Scout Eagle Project

Kyle Heckert, 16, is a Boy Scout from Troop 11 in Indiana, which is chartered by Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Community service is an essential component of the boy scouting experience. For his Eagle project, which is the highest rank a boy scout can attain, Kyle is leading the effort to build an 8' x 8' shed at the Tanoma AMD Wetlands Educational Site. The shed is being constructed to store a new "green" lawn mower, along with other tools and supplies. As soon as necessary approvals are obtained (hopefully within a month), Kyle will be distributing a letter asking for donations to pay for materials and supplies, such as lumber, nails, siding and roofing materials. Any money raised beyond what is necessary to fund the project will go to the Evergreen Conservancy for future projects. Assuming approval of the project, workdays for the actual construction of the shed are tentatively planned for mid to late May. Kyle thanks you in advance for any assistance you can provide to the project, whether it be financial support, labor, or moral support!

WHAT WE CONSERVE:

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

Environmental Education News

We have many environmental education programs on the schedule already for this year including four programs in the girl scout program book for 2013. They will work on badges and toward Journeys. If you are interested in scheduling a program for you group, please let us know. If you have time and would like to volunteer to help with any of our programs please give us a call.



Evergreen Conservancy – Grant Work

- We continue to work on our Colcom and Growing Greener Grants. We are purchasing and installing data loggers. Our web site created by IUP to keep our data is up and running.
- We were awarded a Norcross grant for \$900 in January to purchase camera equipment which will be shared with Crooked Creek Watershed. Megan wrote this grant in 2012. Kelly and Cindy purchased the equipment. Watch out for Kelly as she uses our new equipment to capture happenings at all our events.
- Our GenOn proposal was approved at \$39,000 with a grant through the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds. We are working with Indiana County Emergency Management to place four telemetry, real-time read loggers at places where roads and stream intersect that are at risk for accidents where water could be polluted. This is an exciting project and unique to the state. We are currently in the process of identifying the actual locations for the installations and ordering the equipment.
- February brought more good news!
- We received a \$1,000 grant from the Dominion Watershed Mini Grant Program to help pay for insurance and our next brochure printing. We send out a big thanks to Dominion Foundation and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, who administers the grant, for their support.

Financial support for this project is provided by the Dominion Foundation, which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion Companies.

This grant was administered by the Western Pennsylvania conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania’s diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership, and collaboration.

- OSM Americorp position funded! We share our OSM Vista position with Crooked Creek Watershed. We received two grants this year which completely fund the position.
 - 1) Colcom foundation awarded us a generous grant to cover data logger costs and put \$2500 toward the position.
 - 2) We also received a convening grant from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, made possible through the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds for \$1,000 which will go toward funding our OSM VISTA AmeriCorps position. We really appreciate their help with this funding!



Join Evergreen Conservancy Today!

Support the all-volunteer Evergreen Conservancy and its mission through your membership.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

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



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.



A Special Thanks!

We were privileged to be given a \$500 donation from Nature's Way Market, 796 Highland Avenue in Greensburg, PA. Nature's Way choose Evergreen Conservancy for a 1% For The Planet donation. We really appreciate their support. If you are in Greensburg – stop in and say Thanks!

December News

Thanks to all who helped out at the Festival of the Lights at Blue Spruce Park on December 18, 2012 – Paul Yacovone, Tim Slippy, Malcolm Hermann, Paul Hicks, Cindy Rogers and Kelly Cossey.

Fundraising: A big thanks to all who helped make things, organize, and man tables for our iron oxide initiative and our fundraising efforts last fall. We had a successful season and raised over \$1,000. We have additional things for sale on our web site under Membership & Giving > Marketplace. There you will see some of the great handmade items that you can purchase year-round.



Don't forget to check out our evergreen website WWW.EVERGREENCONSERVANCY.ORG for the latest news.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

If you do Face book, please go to our new page and tell us if you like it. We can send you event notices and update you with current events! Become our Friend.

Evergreen Award

Please think about a person or group that really deserves to be recognized for their stewardship of our environment. You can nominate them at any time. Send us a note about that person and why you think they should be given our Evergreen Award. Please contact us with your nomination information. We would like to award this award at our June annual meeting. info@evergreenconservancy.org

First flower of the year was up in February! Skunk cabbage can generate temperatures of up to 59-95°F above air temperature to melt its way through frozen ground. You can see the flowers now, the stems stay buried below the surface and the leaves emerge later.



Evergreen Events Calendar:

- March 15th Spring Program at Blue Spruce Lodge with Conservation Officer Patrick Snickles who will discuss wildlife diseases
- March 20th and 21st evenings -two local cub scout programs at Horace Mann Elementary and the Calvary Presbyterian Church.
- April 6 and 7 – Our Region on Parade at the Indiana Mall – Come visit our table at the event.
- April 13th – Hoodlebug trail clean up
- April 20th - “Into the streets” IUP volunteers at Tanoma
- April 22nd - Home School Group program at Tanoma.
- April 27th – EC will be doing a program at the YMCA
- May 11th – program at Tanoma for the Girl Scouts
- May 16th – EC will do an activity at the Blackleggs Memorial Park for the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team with 5th grade students from Saltsburg Elementary School
- May 18th and 19th – Kyle Heckert will be doing his Eagle Scout project at Tanoma. He will be building a shed to store all our outdoor equipment. If you are free that day and want to help please let us know. (Alternate date will be June 1st and 2nd)

We have all heard of diseases infecting Pennsylvania wildlife. We wonder: Could they be wiped out? Is the disease in our area? Can the disease be passed to humans? Can we eat the meat? How can we identify a sick animal?

EVERGREEN CONSERVANCY SPRING EVENT

March 15 2013

Blue Spruce

Park Lodge

7PM *Wildlife Conservation Officer Patrick Snickles will discuss*



Disease and Pennsylvania Wildlife

