

"Improving Our Quality of Life"



Newsletter, #49
Spring 2018

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Trout Primer Program

Participants learn how many things affect fish at spring event.

Evergreen Conservancy's spring event for 2018 was titled "A Primer on Trout and Salmon". One person asked me, "What's a Primer?" I explained that a primer starts at the beginning of a subject like a first grade reader. This Trout and Salmon Primer as presented by board member and IUP biology faculty member David Janetski was a lot of basic information for those who attended the April 13 event at Blue Spruce Lodge.

Dr. Janetski began by taking us back to the coming of the Europeans to detail many events that affected Great Lakes fishes. A commercial carrier, unrelated to fishing, could bring foreign species into the waters which would greatly affect Great Lakes fish life. He showed pictures of extinct species.

David then took us closer to home – our inland waterways. Pennsylvania is second only to Canada in the amount of stream mileage that could potentially support fish. He pointed out how seeming innocent things such as culverts and trees/or lack of have a big impact on fish. A number of colleges and organizations are teaming up to study the fish population and find ways to sustain them. I was surprised to learn that certain fish species do not fare well in the same waters.



Brook Trout

Save the Date Evergreen Conservancy Annual Membership Pot Luck Picnic June 27th at Tanoma

Evergreen Conservancy's annual membership meeting will be held Wednesday June 27th at 5:30 pm at the Tanoma Wetlands Outdoor Environmental Education Center. The Tanoma facility is located at the corner of Tanoma and Rayne Church Roads. Normally Tanoma Road can be accessed from 119N and 286 N. However as of mid-May you have to take a detour onto Rayne Church Rd. from Rt. 286.

The annual meeting begins with a potluck picnic dinner at 5:30. The Conservancy Board will grill hamburgers and hot dogs, provide buns, condiments and drinks. Those attending should bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. All attendees should bring their own table service.

A key feature of the annual meeting is the presenting of the annual Evergreen Award. This year's recipient will be Dr. Kathryn (Katie) Farnsworth who is in the Geoscience Department of IUP.

After the award those who are members will vote on the Evergreen Conservancy Board. Several current members will stand for reelection and it new members may be nominated.

The annual meeting always includes a summary of the past year's activities and we will have a short program on the role of "Plastics" in our world today.

It is also a time for Evergreen members to renew their dues and friends to join up. If you pay by check it will not be deposited until after July 1 so you will be credited for being a 2018-2019 member.

If you want to come for the meeting only, it usually starts about 6:30 pm as soon as the pot luck is cleaned up.

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 • Tim Slippy • David Janetski • Shannon Jackson

OUR MISSION:

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

They're Baaaack... and they're hungry!

I was sitting on my porch swing one morning with a cup of coffee, enjoying a bit of warm sunshine and a few quiet moments when something small went buzzing right past my head. The hummingbirds had returned, promptly on May 1st. I thought it was a little early in the season for their return – I always thought that they came back to Indiana County around the end of May. As I was sitting on my porch swing, with a hummingbird hovering over my head (right about where the hummingbird feeder usually sits) I started asking some questions. Unfortunately, the only ones listening were the cat (who yawned and looked at me like I was a little crazy for talking to him) and the hungry hummingbird who was swooping over my head. I decided that my coffee needed a refill, so I went in the house and made a batch of hummingbird nectar, dug out the feeder from the basement and also to do a little research on these curious little visitors.

It turns out that I didn't know as much about hummingbirds as I thought I did. There are three types of hummingbirds that have been reported in Pennsylvania, though the Calliope Hummingbird is very rare to Pennsylvania. It is so rare, that experts have often wondered if it was only here by accident, and had strayed off course. The other two types, the Rufous Hummingbird and the Ruby Throated hummingbird are frequent visitors to and Indiana County. Both types of birds actually arrive in Pennsylvania in late April (no wonder my little visitor seemed hungry!) The males generally are the first to arrive and the first to depart. The females usually follow suit and arrive in May. The male ruby-throated hummingbird is pretty easy to



Female Rufous



Male Ruby-throated

spot – it has a ruby red throat, a white neck collar and a green back with a forked tail. The females have green backs, and her tail feathers are banded white, black and gray-green. The male rufous hummingbird is also distinguishable- they can be identified by their glossy red throats while the females have whitish speckled throats, green necks and crowns and white tipped tail feathers. Something interesting I learned is that the rufous hummingbird is said to have the longest migration route of any hummingbird – they can potentially travel over 2,000 miles from Alaska, to southern Mexico and back. Which leads to another question: where do they come from and where do they go? These little seasonal visitors come from Central Mexico to Western Panama in Central America – during their spring and fall migrations, most will make the 500 mile non-stop flight across the Gulf of Mexico! I was so amazed that these tiny little creatures, who weigh as little as a US Penny, are capable of such a great feat! Amazing! According to www.hummingbirds.net, which has been tracking the annual northward migration of ruby-throated hummingbirds since 1996, the birds will

continue north towards PA and other northern destinations at approximately 20 miles per day.

My hummingbird nectar was cool by this point, so I cleaned out my feeder, filled it with nectar and hung it back up. The hungry visitor (which I could now identify as a male ruby throated hummingbird) must have been nearby – he was there within seconds!

Usually the only time you will hear a hummingbird chirp is when they are threatening an intruder (sometimes another hummingbird in their feeding territory.) If the warning is ignored, they will chase the intruder by diving at him and striking him with his bill or feet. A females will tolerate her own young at her favorite feeder for a short period of time after fledging, but she will soon treat them as rivals, chasing them away (what a tough mama!)

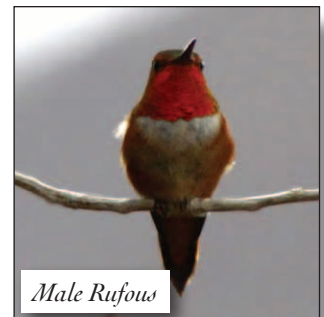
Hummingbirds primarily feed on nectar taken from over 30 plant species- their favorites are the flowers with the highest sugar content: wild bergamots, bee balm, red buckeyes, columbine, trumpet creeper, red morning glory and honey suckle. They lick at the nectar about 13 times per second! They are also said to be attracted to the color red.

If you want to watch these amazing little creatures this summer, you can make your own nectar and/or plant some flowers that attract them. Studies have shown that the hummingbirds come back to the same location each year.

Making your own nectar is really easy:

Dissolve one part sugar in four parts boiled water, to make it easier to dissolve the sugar and to purify the solution so that it will stay fresh longer. Let it cool before putting it in your feeder. You can store homemade nectar up to a week in the refrigerator. Never use artificial sweeteners (very harmful to hummingbirds) or honey (it ferments easily and spoils quickly, making it prone to a bacterium that is dangerous to the birds). Empty, rinse and refill the feeder every 2-3 days to prevent spoiling. Some commercial foods contain red dyes and preservatives, which are marketed to attract the hummingbirds because of the red color. Over the years, there have been some suggestions that the red dyes actually harm the hummingbirds, though nothing has ever been reported on the long term effects. Plain sugar and water will be the perfect beverage for these little guests!

These feathered friends are great little visitors to entertain each year at your home. They eat an amazing amount of insects each day (up to 2,000), they help pollinate the flowers, and they are naturally inquisitive- if you have on something red, they may approach you, associating you with food. You can entertain them in your yard until late September/early October. Consider putting up a feeder, grabbing yourself a nice (adult?) beverage and sitting back and watching these little birds interact. They are pretty inspiring to watch. Even the cat was intrigued long enough to open his eyes, roll over and go back to sleep!



Male Rufous

By Shannon Jackson

Environmental Education News

We have been busy this spring so far. Evergreen participated in two environmental programs in April with school groups doing programs on watersheds and AMD and wetlands. We will be helping out with the Family Nature Palooza at Blue Spruce Park on June 2nd with a table and different activities. We are also scheduled for a day at the Girl Scout Camp this July to do nature activities. If anyone wants to schedule a program this summer please contact us at evergreenconservancy@gmail.com. We can tailor programs to your needs, journeys, or scout badges.

Tanoma Update

As you know something was wrong with the air pressure in the Trompe at Tanoma. We had tried several things to troubleshoot and nothing solved the problem. BioMost came in and had to dig up the Trompes at the end of the system. They found a broken pipe that was the culprit causing the loss of air pressure. The system is now back in working order and the six towers in the first pond are working. Thanks to Stream Restoration for help in funding this repair! We have completed the work for the Growing Greener grant and have received the final payment reimbursement.

Dates to Remember:

June 2nd	10am – 3pm	Evergreen Conservancy at the Family Nature Palooza at Blue Spruce Park
June 5th	6:30 and 7:30 pm	PR and Finance Meetings 1005 Oak St., second floor
June 9th	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Dillweed Herb Fest Dilltown B&B
June 11th	7:00 pm	FOP program on the Grand Canyon Blue Spruce
June 13th	9:00 am	PASEC Meeting 1005 Oak St., second floor
June 27th	5:30 pm	Annual Membership Picnic at Tanoma
July 3rd	7:00 pm (note change)	Evergreen Conservancy Board Meeting 1005 Oak St. second floor
Sept. 8th & 9th		Evergreen Conservancy at the Northern Appalachian Folk Festival
August 7th	6:30 and 7:30 pm	PR and Finance Meetings 1005 Oak St. second floor
October 7th	time t. b. a.	Evergreen Conservancy hosts Hunter Education Safety Course at Pine Ridge Park

Save the Date! October 7th, 2018 - Hunter Education Safety Course

On Sunday, October 7th, partnering with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Evergreen Conservancy will host a Hunter Education Safety Course at the Pine Ridge Park Lodge. More details will be available as it gets closer to the event date.

Hoodlebug Trail Clean Up - Completed April 28

The weather held off raining and seven volunteers collected 8 bags of litter and one tire from the Hoodlebug Trail and adjacent areas of 119S. This was a rescheduled cleanup from a snowed out date earlier in the month. Most interesting find was 22 bottles of honey bourbon – empty bottles, that is.

Thanks to John Dudash, JoAnne Ferraro, John Ferraro, Shannon Jackson, Bob Lankard, Tyler Menichiello – IUP student, and Cindy Rogers. A special thanks to Paul and Doris Hicks who cleaned up that horrible area on the road side of the wall.



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!



Thanks again for the generous donation from Nature's Way of Greensburg who belongs to 1% of the Planet. Next time you are in Greensburg stop by and say thanks to them!

1% of the Planet is a global network of businesses, nonprofits and individuals working together for a healthy planet. Businesses that join 1% for the Planet commit to giving 1% of total sales each year to your choice of our approved nonprofit partners. You can get involved! Joining is easy – go to www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/tell-us-about-your-organization. 1% of the Planet brings dollars and doers together to accelerate smart environmental giving. The Planet needs you NOW.

Ecotour Update

EcoTour Updates

Our Indiana County GeoTrail and Friends of the Park Program Geocaching on May 12th was recently highlighted in the Indiana Gazette. The GeoTrail continues to get a lot of great reviews and is bring in lots of visitors from surrounding counties and even from other states! This summer, Evergreen Conservancy will be working with student interns from IUPUI's Communication Media Department and the IUP TV to produce videos highlighting ecotourism and the environmentally significant sites of Indiana County.

With the help of the Indiana County Planning and Development Office, we are also working on mapping out all of the EcoTour sites in the county to one day create a driving tour. Stayed tuned for these new projects!



Geocaching Program at Yellow Creek State Park – Completed May 12

In conjunction with Friends of the Parks, Evergreen Conservancy hosted a geocaching program at Yellow Creek State Park on Saturday, May 12th. The program was highlighted the week before in the Indiana Gazette.

AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, Maegan Stump, gave an introduction to geocaching and then talked about the Indiana County GeoTrail. Cindy Rogers then helped people find their first geocache! We had a full house with 51 people in attendance with a lot of first-time geocachers.



Membership Benefits

We are pleased to announce the following partners who have supported Evergreen Conservancy by giving discounts to card-carrying members of Evergreen Conservancy. Visit them, get your discount, and thank them for supporting Evergreen Conservancy!

Spaghetti Benders	15% discount
Michael B's Shoe Store	\$10 off any purchase
Plant-it Earth	15% discount
Doughnut Connection/ Portia's Bistro	15% discount
Little Mahoning Creek Pottery	10% discount

Homemade Restaurant	10% off total bill
Artist Hand Gallery	12 oz. drip coffee \$1

spaghettibenders.com

www.michaelbshoes.com

[on FaceBook The-Plant-It-Earth-Greenhouse-And-Gardens](#)

www.portiasdonutconnection.com

www.nancysmeltzer.etsy.com

littlemahoningcreekpottery.blogspot.com

www.thehomemaderestaurantpa.com

theartistshandgallery.com



JOIN OR RENEW your membership TODAY if you have not already done so for 2017-2018.

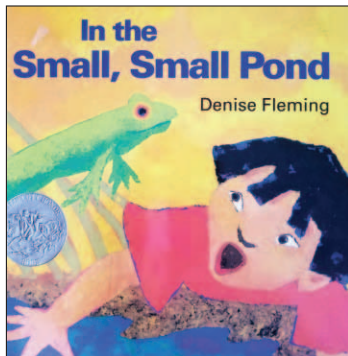
Support Evergreen When Shopping

You can support Evergreen Conservancy this year by shopping! Shop local first, but if you do on line shopping do it at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to Evergreen Conservancy. Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0808065 and Amazon donates to Evergreen Conservancy.

There's Work to be Done!!

IUP Into the Streets – Completed on April 21

We had eight IUP students come out to Tanoma on Saturday, April 21st as a part of IUP's Spring 'Into the Streets'. The students helped us clean and wax our signs at Tanoma, put up the new Story Book Walk, move some stone around, and other miscellaneous tasks. The Story Book that is up at Tanoma this year is *In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming.



Thank you to IUP and the participating students! We really appreciated your help.

Thank you to the library for choosing and laminating the story book for our story book walk.



Members of the business fraternity, Phi Gamma Nu puts in a work session at Tanoma for the Into the Streets program.



Mowing at Tanoma

Regular volunteer, Rosemarie uses our new electric mower to keep Tanoma in shape. Many thanks to Rosemarie.

Stone Grading Job Completed.

Thanks to BioMost who finished off the stone moving and grading job around the concrete pavilion pad.

Dr. Katherine Farnsworth to Receive Evergreen Award

The Evergreen Conservancy Board has selected Dr. Katherine (Katie) Farnsworth to receive the 2018 evergreen award. She will receive this award at Evergreen's annual meeting on Wednesday, June 27th at the Tanoma Wetlands Environmental Education Center.

Dr. Farnsworth was nominated for this award by Dr. Steven Hovan, chair of the Department of Geosciences at IUP. In nominating Katie Dr. Hovan cited her concern with local stream quality by installing monitoring systems, her involvement in storm water runoff prevention, and environmental education by going beyond her day job by being involved with high school teachers and students.

Katie is a professor of geosciences at IUP. She received her bachelor's degree in geography and computer sciences from DePauw University. She also received a masters and doctorate in marine geology from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at The College of William and Mary.

Dominion Watershed Mini Grant Award

Cindy and Dan attended the Award luncheon for the Dominion Watershed Mini Grant Program on April 18th, 2018 at the Chestnut Ridge Resort. We were awarded a grant for \$1,500 to be used for water quality monitoring and maintenance costs, as well as our newsletters, advertising for our environmental education programs and Eco Tour. We very much appreciate their continuing support. Financial support for this project is provided by the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion Energy companies. The grant program 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.



Give a gift of a membership for the Holiday Season! It is not too late to renew or Join for the 2017-2018 year! Support Evergreen Conservancy with a year-end gift!

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 _____

Bonus Friends of the Parks Program

Between the River and the Rim:

Friends of the Parks is pleased to announce a unique multi-media presentation with author Kevin Fedarko.

Date: June 11, 2018 (Monday)

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Blue Spruce Park Lodge, 1128 Blue Spruce Road, Indiana, PA 15701

Even though the Grand Canyon is widely recognized and universally loved, it's surrounded by threats: mining activity, helicopter traffic and development proposals.

To explore this paradox, filmmaker Pete McBride and author Kevin Fedarko decided to do something drastic: Walk a mega-transect through the heart of the canyon, from Lee's Ferry to Grand Wash Cliffs. Setting off in the fall of 2015, they embarked on what turned into an epic, illuminating, blister-inducing and arduous adventure of nearly 700 miles. Kevin will discuss his journey and how the challenges facing the Grand Canyon are emblematic of the National Park System.

