



## Newsletter, #51 Fall 2018

[www.evergreenconservancy.org](http://www.evergreenconservancy.org)

PO Box 0783, Indiana, PA 15701 [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com)

### Fall Event, Crowd Delighted by "Tales of Kritter Kamp"

Seventy people, many of them ten and under, came to Blue Spruce Lodge on Friday October 19 to learn about the operation of Kritter Kamp.

Ayn Van Dyke changed her program because of the large number of young people, and began by talking about the different type of animals found in our wilds – raptors (not rappers) and marsupials. She explained in ten year old terminology how one should deal with the different types of sick, wounded or abandoned critters found in the wild. She dispelled a commonly held belief that a mother bird will reject a chick that has been touched by human hands. Most birds you will find cannot smell. "If you see a fawn seemingly alone, don't do anything right away – come back the next day", she advised. I was amazed at how well she presented the topic of rabies for all to understand.

She entertained the audience with stories of wild animal behavior that she has observed over her 35 years. I enjoyed the story of a fox bringing his mate to Kritter Kamp to have her broken leg mended. Also the story of the goose missing for several years rejoicing at seeing familiar surroundings.

The program was taken over by Penny the Possum and Gideon the Goose to finish out the program. Many wanted to pose for pictures with them!

*Bob Lankard*



[pakritterkamp.weebly.com](http://pakritterkamp.weebly.com)

---

### Hunter Education Safety Course

The Hunter Education Safety Course, hosted by Evergreen Conservancy, took place on Sunday, October 7th at the Pine Ridge Lodge in Blairsville. The course ran from 8 AM until 6 PM. Attendees learned about responsible practices for hunting and trapping, firearm handling, and conservation practices. We had over 40 kids and adults attend. Ralph Muir and his crew did a wonderful job leading the course! A Game Commission officer also attended the course to go over the local rules and regulations with the attendees. It was a long day, but all attendees passed the course and were then able to buy their hunting/trapping licenses!



---

### 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 • 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

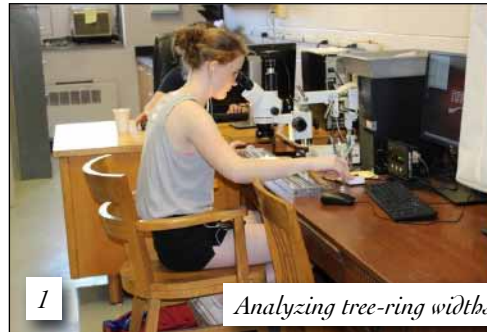
## Trees Remember Everything

### Dendrochronology is the study of tree-rings.

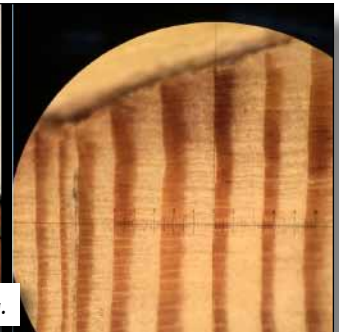
The premise of this research is that, everything a tree experiences throughout its life such as drought, fire or insect attack is recorded permanently in the pattern of the annual growth rings. Ecologists have been using these patterns, which are as “unique as fingerprints” to answer questions about the timing and magnitude of a disturbance. Over the next few issues we will provide examples of how this technique is being used in our applied plant ecology lab here at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Photo 1).

In Pennsylvania and throughout much of the range of eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) there is an exotic, aphid-like insect called the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA; Photo 2) that is infesting (Photo 3) and killing our state tree. This insect has spread throughout most of Pennsylvania and is showing no signs of slowing. We are currently collecting tree-ring data to determine the timing and magnitude of infestation (Photo 4) as well as testing the effectiveness of a biological control (predator beetle) that shows early promise of being able to treat hemlock forests without the use of chemicals. Early data suggests this technique may provide an accurate estimate of time and recovery, which can allow for more effective monitoring and treatment of our hemlock forests.

*M. Tyree*



*Analyzing tree-ring widths.*



*Adult hemlock woolly adelgid with eggs (credit: Shelby Zakrzewski)*



*Infested eastern hemlock tree.*



*Sampling hemlock tree*

## Tanoma Update

We continue to do bi-weekly water testing at Tanoma to check the system. Winter maintenance was completed in October when 12 IUP students and scouts from Troop 1011 and Pack 1011 came out to help clean and wax signs, take down the story-book walk, winterize the Trompe sleds and plant over 30 trees and bushes.

Riparian Buffer Zones are so important to the health of a stream. A Riparian Buffer Zone is an area boarding a stream that has healthy native trees and bushes- ideally at least 50 feet wide on either side of the stream. The trees and bushes shade the water keeping it cool for the bugs and fish living in the stream and provide food for those that live in the streams. They help prevent erosion and sedimentation going into the water and help filter out contaminants. We felt we needed to improve the buffer zones at Tanoma. Western Pa Conservancy's (WPC) Alysha Trexler brought over 30 trees and bushes out to Tanoma and helped us figure out where to put them to maximize their benefits to Crooked Creek. On October 20th IUP and Evergreen volunteers and several local scouts came out to Tanoma to help get all the trees and bushes planted in their new homes. You can go to [waterlandlife.org/watershed-conservation/riparian-plantings](http://waterlandlife.org/watershed-conservation/riparian-plantings) to learn more about WPC's riparian tree plantings. Big Thanks to all the volunteers and Alysha for all their help!



*Without a Riparian Barrier*



*An Intact Riparian Barrier*



*Tree Planting at Tanoma to Improve the RBZ*



## Environmental Education News

### IUP Community Involvement Fair, August 30:

Evergreen Conservancy had a table at the IUP Community Involvement Fair. It was a great opportunity to meet new students, talk to them about what Evergreen Conservancy does, and share ways in which they can get involved!

### United Elementary School:

The Indiana County Conservation District staff organized an environmental education program at United Elementary School on October 13th. Maegan and Cindy helped out with a program on the water cycle. We had fun teaching over 80 3rd grade students and teachers about the water cycle in an activity where the kids became water molecules and had to travel through the water cycle.

### Girl Scout Geocaching Program in Homer City:

Maegan and Cindy were hosted by the Homer City Brownies for a program on Geocaching. After learning a bit about geocaching the girls went outside to practice using GPS units and found several geocaches that we hid for them to locate.



### IUP 'Into the Streets', October 20:

12 IUP students and a few local boy scouts helped at Tanoma to winterize the area. We also planted numerous trees and shrubs that were donated by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. While there they also learned a little about Tanoma and how it works to clean AMD. Thanks to Malcolm, Becky, Dan, Cindy and Maegan for organizing and directing so we could get everything done that day! See Tanoma, page 4, for more information.

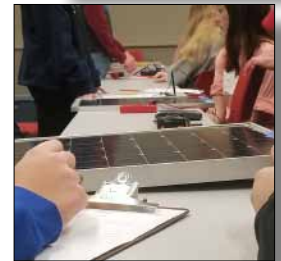
### IUP Upward Bound:

November 19th Evergreen Conservancy worked with 48 students from the Upward Bound program at IUP. Due to the weather instead of Tanoma we opted to do the programs at IUP in the Humanities Building. We had 3 stations that the kids rotated through in smaller groups - renewable energy, macro-invertebrates and AMD treatment, wetlands and watersheds. The last session was a large group activity about sustainability, recycling and plastics. Thanks to Paul Majoris, Tim Monk, Maegan Stump, Josh Brown, Erin Janetski, Lewis Rose, and Cindy for working on the program development and helping do the programs. Thanks also to Dan for his help in designing the renewable energy program. Thanks to Hilary Staples and her crew at Upward Bound for inviting us and helping us during the day. We had some great interactive activities to help the kids learn about some new concepts.



### IUP Work Study and Evergreen Conservancy:

Lewis Rose is an IUP work study student that is helping Evergreen out this semester. He has helped with various projects and is working on our data housed in the geoscience department at IUP.



### Dates to Remember:

December 1, 2018 Fundraising event:

We will have a table at the Holiday Bazaar at the Indiana UU Church - 10 am to 3 pm. Come on out and get your holiday presents!

Nov 30 - Dec 1, 2018 – Underground Holiday Pottery Sale - handmade pottery from local artists - 9 am to 5 pm both days - University Square – 1176 Grant Street Indiana PA (Outside of Common Place Coffee House).

December 6, 2018 6:30 and 7:30 – Public Relation Committee meeting 1005 Oak Street – 2nd floor.

## Sad Goodbye to Maegan

Maegan's AmeriCorps VISTA term will be ending during the month of November. She helped out in so many ways over the past year in media outreach, environmental education, field work, with volunteers, and so much more. We are sad to see her go but she is moving on to a new job out west!

From Maegan: Thank you so much to all of Evergreen's board, volunteers, and members. You have made my AmeriCorps VISTA year so memorable and welcoming! I'm sad to go, but I will be moving out west to Jackson Hole, Wyoming just a few days after my VISTA term ends. I've accepted a full-time position with the Teton Science Schools, a field-based environmental education institute, just in time for ski season. Feel free to stay connected with me over email, phone or snail mail!

## October 13, 2018 Trail Clean Up

We dodged the rain drops again! It rained all night before, and it was still raining at 7:30 that morning, but as we headed for the Homer City Ball Park it began to clear up. This Trail Clean Up was the lightest pick up in a long time. As usual JoAnne Ferraro had the most unusual find, a pair of bike riding shorts and a jersey. She hesitates to speculate how they finished their ride. Thanks to those who participated: John Dudash, John and Joanne Ferraro, Paul and Doris Hicks, Jennica Hopkins, Shannon Jackson, Bob Lankard, and Becky Snyder.

## EcoTour Updates

The Indiana County GeoTrail continues to perform well even as the months get colder. It's never too late to get started on the GeoTrail, it's available year-round. All you need is a smartphone or GPS unit and our GeoTrail passport! The passport can be found on our website at evergreenconservancy.org under the EcoTour tab or at various locations throughout the county that are also listed on our website.

If you are curious to find out more about the Indiana County EcoTour and the GeoTrail, check out our three EcoTour videos linked to our website. We are also underway with a new project, so stay tuned for future developments!

## IUP Into the Streets

### Fall Work Session Coming Up October 20th

We had eight IUP students come out to Tanoma in the Spring. They installed the Storybook Walk, and performed quite a bit of laborious work.



## The Power of Social Media

On a friend's Facebook page I noticed that she indicated that for her birthday people could donate to Evergreen Conservancy. I was curious around my birthday last July to see a message pop up that said Facebook will donate \$5 to the non-profit of your choice so I thought ... "why not", \$5 is \$5. So I said "sure - go ahead". Much to my surprise on my Facebook page there was a message that said "Cindy requests that for her birthday donations be made to Evergreen Conservancy". I had no idea that would happen but when it did - people actually donated to Evergreen in my name. I want to thank everyone who made a donation. I was honored that so many people would do such a generous thing in my name, it was much appreciated! Between our friend and my Facebook post Evergreen had a substantial donation. Thank you Tina, for thinking about Evergreen and making that donation possible.

## Reminder to Renew Memberships!

Please don't forget to support Evergreen Conservancy with your membership renewal or new membership - due now. You can also support us painlessly by shopping with Amazon Smile or using Goodsearch as your search engine on the internet. As a reward for being a member you will get discounts at some local merchants which are listed on the back of your membership card. Consider giving a gift of a membership as a Christmas or Holiday gift! Thanks to all!

**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 \_\_\_\_\_