



Newsletter, #53 Spring 2019

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Spring Program

Standing Room Only Crowd Listens to Patrick Snickles Discuss the Eastern Coyote

A large crowd of approximately 86 came to the Blue Spruce Lodge on a Friday night, with predicted severe thunderstorms, to learn about the success of the Eastern Coyote. A survey of those registered showed people came from all over the county. We received 30 e-mails.



Pennsylvania State Game Commission Supervisor Patrick Snickles used power point graphs to illustrate the migration of coyotes from west to east over the past century. As a result of interbreeding with wolves and dogs the Eastern Coyote has become a separate species from western coyotes. Pictures showed the difference between large dog tracks and coyotes. Dogs meander but coyotes on the move have a definite purpose. Mr. Snickles told of his personal experiences with coyotes. They were very observant of the slightest human motion. Of late there has been an increase in the hunting and trapping of coyotes. However their pelts are not profitable.

If you favor efforts to reduce the coyote population you are out of luck. Coyotes manage their own population by having bigger litters in face of declining population. Snickles advised listeners who have small pets to not let them unsupervised.

Save the Date:

2018-2019 Annual Pot Luck Picnic Meeting Scheduled for June 25

Evergreen Conservancy's annual meeting for members and friends has been scheduled for Tuesday June 25th at the Tanoma Wetlands Outdoor Environmental Educations Center. The Tanoma Center is located at the corner of Tanoma and Rayne Church Roads and can be accessed from either route 286 or 119.

You may recall our 2017 and 2018 meetings were affected by flooding. As a result of this experience Thursday June 27th has been established as a backup date. You will be informed by traditional and social media should this be necessary.

The annual meeting begins with a potluck picnic dinner at 5:30 pm. The conservancy board will grill hamburgers, hot dogs, meatless items and provide buns, condiments and drinks. Those attending should bring a salad, side dish, or desert as well as their own table service.

A key feature of every annual meeting is the presenting of the annual Evergreen Award. Last year's recipient was Dr. Kathryn (Katy) Farnsworth who is with IUP's geoscience department. This year's awardee will be discussed in another article.

Another feature of the annual meeting is the opportunity to join Evergreen Conservancy or renew your membership. Your check written June 23th will cover the entire 2019-2020 program year. You will notice a booth set up near the pavilion for that purpose.

During the meeting dues paying members will be given the opportunity to vote for Evergreen Conservancy board members. A nominator will name a list of candidates and give opportunity for nominations from the floor.

There will be a review of the year's activities, recognition of volunteers, and a presentation of educational interest.

The annual meeting is open to friends as well as dues paying members though members only can vote on business issues.

If you want to come for the meeting only it usually starts between 6:30 and 7:00 pm as soon as the pot luck is cleaned up.

It will be the perfect time to renew your membership!!!

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

Grant News

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation recently awarded \$30,000 to 24 environmental organizations in 14 counties across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as part of their 2019 Watershed Mini Grant Program. Evergreen Conservancy was one of the awardees and received \$1,300 for water quality monitoring throughout Indiana County, newsletter costs and promotion of its environmental education programs, which are offered free to the public. Cindy Rogers accepted the 2019 Mini Grant award from Dominion Energy's State Policy Advisor Don Houser and Dominion Energy's Environmental Supervisor Jennifer Hazen McCloskey, P.E. during last month's award ceremony in Blairsville, Pa. Financial support for our 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. This grant program is 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.



Evergreen Award

Anne Daymut to Receive Annual Evergreen Award

Anne Daymut was nominated for the Evergreen Award by Adam Cotchen with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Anne is currently the Watershed Coordinator for Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR). Anne has become known by the Indiana County Conservation District, watershed groups and conservation organizations as a resource for varied issues related to abandoned mine drainage. It seems the answer to the question "Who are you going to call?" is Anne Daymut.

Those who been involved in conservation issues will remember Anne as an AmeriCorps/OSMVISTA worker with the Blackleggs Creek Watershed Association for two years. After that she became the Indiana County Conservation District's Watershed Specialist. There she helped implement the Bear Run Watershed Renaissance Program. This was the first of its kind under PA Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Watershed Renaissance Program.

She also initiated a partnership with the Crooked Creek Watershed Association and the ICCD to hire an OSM/VISTA to develop an EPA Section 319 Watershed Improvement Plan for the South Branch Plum Creek, a high-quality coldwater fishery that was impaired by sediment. Since the WIP has been developed ICCD has been able to implement multiple phases of improvement projects utilizing federal 319 funding.

Anne also serves on the board of directors of BCWA, Cowanshannock Creek Watershed Association (she became a director of the watershed association as an undergrad) and Allegheny Valley Land Trust. There she has helped administer significant amounts of grant funding from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development and DEP growing greener to develop and maintain AMD treatment systems in the watershed.

Anne currently lives in Yatesboro in the house she grew up in. Her house along Mahoning Creek remains her favorite place on earth. She has a younger brother Christopher. She was one of 20 graduates of Dayton High School. She knew in third grade she would go into an environmental field –saving the rain forests.

Anne is the daughter of Dave and step-mom Ann Livengood. Her biological mother Linda was killed in an auto accident when Anne was three months old. Her grandmother, Rosemary King, was significant in her upbringing.

She attended Chatham College but received her Bachelors in Environmental Protection from IUP. Then Anne received an MS in Environmental Management from Duquesne University. She also studied filmmaking and culinary arts. While at Duquesne she spent a month in China and interned with DEP's West Nile Virus for two summers. She also spent a summer with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Anne has two children: Coby who will soon be 21 and Mia who is 13.

Her pastimes include cooking, collecting cookbooks, mushroom hunting, and running.

Environmental Education News

Jeff, our AmeriCorps volunteer, is working on another hunter safety course for us to sponsor this fall at Pine Ridge Park. Last year's event was well attended and we hope to repeat a successful program this fall. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter.

We had a very busy spring so far in environmental education and more to come!

- April 13th we hosted 9 Girl Scouts at Tanoma and helped them earn their Wonders of Water Journey badge. We had good weather and the girls and leaders had a great day.
- April 17th we presented a tour of Tanoma for Dana Driscoll's class from IUP.
- We took part in the Blacklick Schools Trout release program day on 4/29/19 and did a program on watersheds with the students.
- We took part in the YMCA Healthy Kids day April 27th where Jeff, Tara, and Bridget helped the participants learn about geocaching and recycling.
- Jeff and Cindy helped out the Indiana County Conservation District during the Envirothon at Blue Spruce Park on May 1st where students from all over Indiana County come to test their knowledge in many environmental subject areas. Marian Center School won the top prize for the day.
- At May Mart on Friday and Saturday, May 17-18 Evergreen partnered with the Stormwater Education Partnership to help with a Rain Barrel workshop.
- We will be at the Blue Spruce Nature Palozza on June 1st with kids activities.
- And finally we are scheduled to be at the Blairsville Knotweed Festival with a display and sales on August 10th, 2019.

YMCA Healthy Kids Day

On Saturday, April 27th the Conservancy conducted educational activities with youth at the annual Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA. Bridget Gardner, Tara Binion, and Jeff Himes engaged children using activities focused on recycling, reusing, and product alternatives. One activity challenged youth to run a short distance, pick up a recyclable or reusable item and race back to put the item into the correct receptacle. The kids enjoyed the relay race, most continuing the relay until all the items were put in the proper place. We also had good conversations with youth & their parents on topics of geocaching, and microplastics. About 150 children & parents participated and the day ended with the giving out of door prizes. The Conservancy donated a basket with items that highlighted our work with iron oxide removal at Tanoma AMD site and the geocache trail.



Reminder to Renew Memberships!

It is time to renew your membership with EC for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Send it in or come to the annual picnic in June and renew or join that night. 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 gift!

Thanks to all!

A Swale Thing to DO

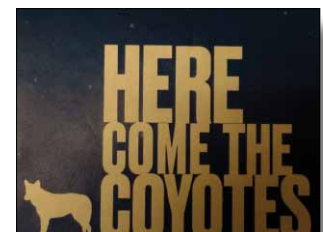
(Hint: one recently relocated cache)!

It is the season for people to spend more time outdoors. One option for the adventurous is a geocache hunt. We have had some challenges while maintaining the Conservancy's 20 site geocache trail but they are in good shape and ready to be discovered. Please visit these sites and talk them up in your communities. One of the best ways to protect and improve these fun and educational hidden treasures is frequent visitation and comments made by visitors. The fun begins with a visit to evergreenconservancy.org >Indiana County ECO Tour tab.

Happy Hunting.

Evergreen Conservancy Thanks Mindsight For Help In Promoting Coyote Event

Thanks to MINDSIGHT, LLC for providing two days of free advertising for the coyote event on their electronic billboard. Mindsight offers a community bulletin board for non-profits in the Indiana area. Ads were placed on the electronic billboards two days prior to the event.



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	spaghettibenders.com
Michael B's Shoe Store	\$10 off any purchase	www.michaelbshoes.com
Plant-it Earth	15% discount	on FaceBook The-Plant-It-Earth-Greenhouse-And-Gardens
Little Mahoning Creek Pottery	10% discount	www.nancysmeltzer.etsy.com
		littlemahoningcreekpottery.blogspot.com
Homemade Restaurant	10% off total bill	www.thehomemaderestaurantpa.com
Artist Hand Gallery	12 oz. drip coffee \$1	theartistshandgallery.com

JOIN OR RENEW your membership TODAY if you have not already done so for 2019.

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.



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!



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.

PENNDOT

Evergreen Conservancy would like to thank two PennDOT engineers: Frank Mouser and Greg Notto for their help in obtaining a Highway Occupancy Permit for the installation of a telemetry datalogger site on Yellow Creek. This site, when operational, will transmit water quality parameters for Yellow Creek on a 24/7 basis. The information will be used by Indiana County Emergency Management in case there is a vehicle accident which could cause pollution to the stream.

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 _____

Tanoma Update

The Story Book Walk is back up with a new book. The Indiana Library staff chose our book and supplied the pages for us again this year which is "The Sheep Take A Walk". Much thanks to the library for our story book every year!

IUP's honor college students: Annabel Haberberger, Shane Peterson, Hannah Peterson-Banks, & Kevin Berezansky came out to Tanoma to help with Spring maintenance and get the frames ready to reinstall our story book walk. They raked the whole path and cleaned all our signs. They were a huge help and we thank them for all their work.

Wiring was stolen from the pavilion sometime this spring. Dan and Malcolm rewired the pavilion so the lights and outlets are working again. The wiring is now more protected from vandalism inside conduit.



Students from the Honors College at IUP

Into the Streets:

Evergreen Conservancy participated in the spring Into the Streets on April 13th when students from IUP come out and help non-profit groups where needed. We split the group up this spring. Three students came out to Tanoma to help install the story book walk. They also helped take down the broken wind mill (from a windy storm that went through), and prep our pavilion for rewiring (we had some unfortunate vandalism, someone cut out all the wire under the pavilion this spring). Several other students worked on an installation for one of our telemetry data logger sites. Four students from IUP who are members of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity helped Evergreen Conservancy volunteers with the dirty work of digging, cementing, and setting a 4x6 post on the bank of Laurel Run at Yellow Creek State Park. EC maintains a telemetry datalogger at the Laurel Run site to measure the stream's water quality. Recently the installation's solar panels have become too shaded to adequately keep up with the battery use of the datalogger, so the whole installation had to be moved and a new pole set. Thanks to the Fraternity for helping with this project! We really appreciated their help in both projects.

Trail Clean Up on May 11th

Evergreen Conservancy's clean-up of the Hoodlebug Trail and adjoining 119S areas occurred on Saturday May 11 at 9 am. As usual we all met at the Homer Center Baseball field.

For our next clean up session go 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 go 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.



Dates to Remember:

- June 1st Family Nature Palooza - Blue Spruce Park - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- June 11th . . . 6:30pm PR and Finance committee meetings – 1005 Oak Street – 2nd floor.
- June 25th (with a rain date of the 27th) Annual Potluck membership picnic at Tanoma
- July 16th . . . 7:00pm Board Meeting
- August 10th Blairsville Knotweed Festival
- September 6th and 7th Northern Appalachian Folk Festival – we will have a vendor table

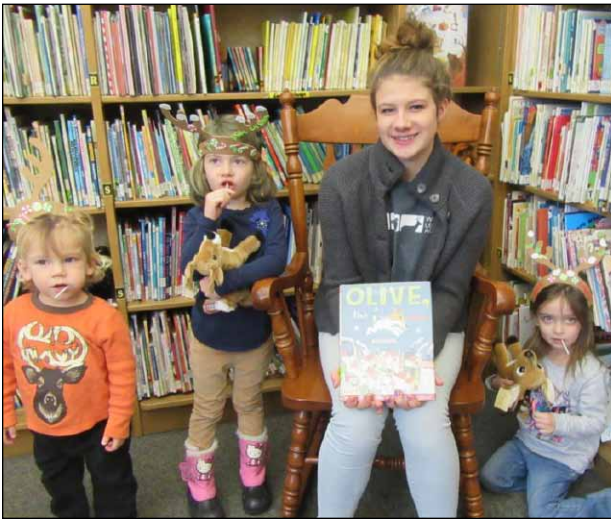
Elizabeth Bruner

Wildlife Leadership Academy

Do you like the outdoors? Do you enjoy nature? How about hunting, fishing, hiking or shooting? If so, read on – this article is for you!

Hello! My name is Elizabeth Bruner and I am a 15-year-old 4-H member from Indiana County and lifetime member of the PNGA. I first joined 4-H as a 5-year-old cloverbud and began what is turning out to be an awesome learning experience. Some of my projects have included market and breeding goats, textile sciences and fashion revue, horses, horticulture, dogs, and anything to do with nature! I've been a member of the Outdoor Adventures 4-H Club for several years now and enjoy wildlife, forestry, and shooting sports projects.

It's these topics that led me to experience an incredible opportunity last summer called Wildlife Leadership Academy. WLA's mission is to engage and empower youth to become Conservation Ambassadors in order to ensure a sustained wildlife, fisheries and natural resources legacy for future generations. WLA is for 14–17-year-old high school students who have a passion for wildlife. They offer week-long intensive field schools that focus on particular topics, those being: Bucktails, or white-tailed deer; Drummers, or Ruffed Grouse; Gobblers, or Turkey; Brookies, or Brook Trout; and Bass. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend bucktails and drummers field schools.



Even though my time at field school was short, it was intense! We were up at the crack of dawn every day, learning all about wildlife. My favorite activity by far was the necropsies. The PA game commission veterinarian, Justin Brown, dissected a doe and taught us about the different systems of the deer and how they all work together to create this unique animal. We were able to explore the different parts and identify them as well as tell whether or not the organs were in healthy condition. We also got to use radio telemetry to practice tracking the deer. We examined and aged deer fetuses and sexed and aged deer by their teeth and on foot. One of my favorite things we did at drummers was a nature walk close to dusk. We stopped at a clearing in the middle of the forest and stood very quiet watching and listening for an American Woodcock. It was right before dark when a woodcock flew right above our heads! It was a remarkable experience I will never forget! Each field school includes classroom style teaching as well as work in the field. We took nature hikes and every day we learned 4-5 plants that wildlife would use for food, cover, or both. Then we had tests to see how many plants we remembered! Some other things we did throughout the field schools were habitat

evaluations, shooting on the range, nature journaling, plant pressing, and so much more. We were taught by the best field professionals (like Gary Alt) who were so knowledgeable!

Once field schools were over, students do outreach and talk to the public about WLA by giving presentations, doing radio interviews, teaching skills to others, creating art projects, and much more. WLA then offers scholarships, reference letters of support, and further opportunities in their organization to expand young people's educational pursuits.

I am so thankful for 4-H that led me to the opportunity to experience the Wildlife Leadership Academy which very well may have led me to my future career path. I'd encourage any teenager who is interested in nature or the outdoors to explore WLA!

wildlifeleadershipacademy.org/elizabethbruner/

Elizabeth Bruner - Conservation Ambassador - Wildlife Leadership Academy class of 2018

