

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.



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.

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 _____

“Improving Our Quality of Life”

**Newsletter, #54
Summer 2019**



www.evergreenconservancy.org PO Box 0783, Indiana, PA 15701 evergreenconservancy@gmail.com

Spring Program Annual Picnic and Evergreen Award

Annual Meeting Held Under Pleasant Conditions

Evergreen Conservancy's annual membership was held Tuesday June 25 at the Tanoma Outdoor Environmental Education Center on a pleasant, rainless day. This contrasts with the previous two years when participants endured flood conditions.

The meeting kicked off with the traditional potluck picnic.

Election of board members is a part of every annual membership meeting. Tim Slippy reported that Paul Yacovone, Becky Snyder, Cindy Rogers, and David Janetski agreed to serve another three-year term. No new nominations were received. The following board members were voted into terms lasting until 2022: Cindy, Malcolm, Tara, and Becky agreed to serve another year as president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Cindy gave a report on the past year's activities of Evergreen Conservancy. She also recognized new conservancy volunteers.

Anne Daymut received the 2019 Evergreen Award.

Persons attending were given the opportunity to renew their membership or join Evergreen Conservancy.



Anne Daymut Received the 2019 Evergreen Award

Anne Daymut received Evergreen Conservancy's annual Evergreen Award on Tuesday June 25th at Evergreen Conservancy's annual membership meeting. Ms. Daymut was nominated for this award by Adam Cotchen of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy office in Indiana.

Anne is currently the Watershed Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation. WPCAMR works with watershed volunteers, technical remediation experts, and government agencies to reclaim lands and streams polluted by historic coal mining in Western Pennsylvania. The organization was founded in 1982.

In this position Anne is well known by Indiana Conservation District employees, watershed groups, and conservation organizations. She is a resource for issues related to abandoned mine drainage. Anne was recognized for her help to watershed organizations and other environmental groups.



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

We are excited to announce that we were awarded a Walmart Giving grant for \$500. In the last bad storm our wind turbine was destroyed at Tanoma. We are replacing our wind turbine with this grant. We were also able to purchase an additional charger and battery for our electric lawn mower and a new more powerful weed eater. Both the mower and weed eater are charged with our renewable energy on site.

Environmental Education News

- Hunter safety course. Save the date! We are scheduled to host a Hunter Safety course at Pine Ridge Lodge on October 6th starting at 8am.
- Blue Spruce Nature Palozza was June 1st. We offered kids activities on recycling and geocaching.
- Blairsville Knotweed Festival was on August 10th. We had a display and sales. The weather was perfect, not too hot or cold with a nice breeze.

Litter Pick Up
Evergreen Conservancy Board Changes Litter Pick Up Location

At its July 18th meeting Evergreen Conservancy’s board unanimously voted to change the conservancy’s litter pick up location from the Hoodlebug Trail to Blue Spruce road – Route 110 to just beyond the Blue Spruce Park office.

Over the past several years litter pick up volunteers were noticing there was less trash to pick up. Indiana County Parks director Ed Patterson told us that park employees routinely pick up litter before mowing along the trail. Ed suggested we change our pick up location from the trail to Blue Spruce Road.

The first litter pick up at Blue Spruce Park will be Saturday October 19 beginning at 9am. Most of us should park in the lot nearest the park office. There will be some shuttle parking at the top of the hill. Contrary to the Hoodlebug Trail, Blue Spruce Road is open to vehicular traffic so we will have to wear orange vests which will be provided. The park service will put up safety signs to alert traffic to our presence.

Tanoma Update

The previous wind turbine at Tano-ma was destroyed by a bad storm. Dan Boone installed a new one in late August with the help of our IUP student volunteer, Stephen Plowcha. Unlike the old wind turbine, which was a vertical-axis type, this new one is a 1500W horizontal-axis turbine. We look forward to it adding to the mix of solar and hydro generators to keep our off-grid electrical system running.



EcoTour Updates

Get your passports at any one of the following locations:

Indiana Tourist Bureau, Indiana Free Library, Blue Spruce Park office, Yellow Creek State Park office, Blairsville Community Development Office, Solar Ar-ray cache site in Smicksburg, or the Indiana Conserva-tion District office on 4th street. Go on a fun adventure! Go to <https://evergreenconservancy.org/indiana-county-eco-tour/indiana-county-geotrail/coordinates-and-links> for all 20 of our eco geocache trail sites.

Devil’s Walking Stick – Aralia spinosa L

It goes by many common names from Devil’s walking stick to Angelica tree, prickly-ash, and many more. It is a small tree/shrub that inhabits disturbed areas and is unfortunately largely overlooked; unless of course you grab a hold of it (Fig. 1)! The tree rarely reaches 30 feet in height although its leaves, which are awkwardly large, are bi- or even tri-pinnately compound. In addition to its formidable spines, it develops clusters of small, white flowers in late summer that mature into deep purple fruits (drupes) that contrast a light purple structure and is highly prized by birds and small mammals (Fig. 2). The distinctive fall color of Devil’s walking stick makes it a good addition to native landscapes where it quickly spreads by root suckering (Fig. 3), and it is even being looked at as a possible wildlife plant on reclaimed mine lands.

M. Tyree



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Save the Date:
Friday October 11 at 7 pm at the Blue Spruce Lodge
Solar May Provide Financial Opportunities

Henry McKay, director of Solar United Neighbors Program, will discuss these opportunities for farmers, property owners, businesses and communities on Friday October 11 at 7 pm at the Blue Spruce Lodge. McKay’s solar co-op in Indiana County is the most successful one in the state. He will talk about farmers leasing their land for solar, as well as farmers and homeowners using solar for their own energy. He will also discuss how solar can benefit communities. Picture an unused field earning money because of solar panels. This program is free and open to the public.

According to a recent Indiana Gazette article the Indiana County Solar cooperative has 65 members, making it the most successful in Pennsylvania. Solar United Neighbors is a nonprofit organization offering unbiased technical guidance regarding use of solar energy.

The solar energy program is free and open to the public.

Dates to Remember:	
September 6th and 7th.	Northern Appalachian Folk Festival – We will have a vendor table there and are doing a workshop on geocaching on Saturday. Check the whole schedule at www.NAFFInc.org
October 4th	Sustainable Indiana Summit III at Rustic Lodge - Stay tuned for more information about this interesting event!
October 6th 8 am.	Hunter Safety Course at Pine Ridge Lodge, Blairsville
October 11th 7 pm	Solar Program at Blue Spruce Lodge.
October 13th 1:00-5:00 pm	Solar Tour in Indiana. You can sign up to go on a free tour of local solar installations and a program by local installers after the tour.

Plants to be on the Look Out for – Wineberry
by Cindy Rogers

I recently received a request to help clear a patch of wineberry. I was not sure what a wineberry looked like because I did not remember ever running across it before. I wanted to help so I met some folks and we collected the berries to prevent the seeds from making new plants and cut the canes so they would not be able to spread.

Wineberry, Rubus phoenicolasius, is considered an invasive plant because once they become established in a place they take over and crowd out the other native plants in the area with dense thickets that reduce the area’s value for wildlife habitat and human recreation. When a nonnative plant takes over an area it does not support insects, caterpillars, and other life that a native plant would support. When there are no native plants in an area, it affects the whole food chain and contributes to the real problem of the extinction of animals and birds. Wineberry is in the rose or Rosaceae family. It can cause problems for native raspberries also by being a host to viruses that can affect native species. The wineberry is listed as a noxious weed in Connecticut and Massachusetts which means its possession and sale are prohibited by law and is considered invasive in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Unfortunately wineberries are attractive and the berries are good to eat. Wineberries can be eaten fresh, cooked, or used in making jams, jelly, syrup, juice, desserts, and wine. You can find lots of recipes on line. Be-cause they are so attractive and edible many people do not realize they are a really bad invasive plant that needs to be removed.

Many might mistake them for other berries although the stems are very different. The reddish stems are large and are covered with red hairy spikes that are easy to spot. It has three leaflets per leaf rather than five. They produce fruit June through August that are orange-red to start and turn a deep red when ripe. They come from China, Japan and eastern Asia and were introduced to the United States as an ornamental and in the 1890s as a stock for breeding raspberry cultivars. It can be found in most of the eastern U.S. and is hardy in zone 5.

Wineberry is usually found in disturbed areas along forest and field edges or along creeks and likes sunlight or partial shade. Birds, reptiles, and mammals like the fruits as much as humans and contribute to spreading the plants by distributing the seeds in new areas. The plant can also reproduce through their roots and by new plants that sprout from the ends of the canes that touch the soil.

Look around as you take a walk through our parks and trails, or even in your own back yard. You may just find wineberries! Even though they are good to eat, don’t let them take over our native plants.

