

*"Improving Our Quality of Life"*



Newsletter, #56  
Winter 2019/20

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

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



## Evergreen Conservancy Meets with the County Commissioners

Our last election brought new County Commissioners into office. Board Members of the Evergreen Conservancy met with them as well as representatives of State Senator Joe Pittman, and Representative Jim Struzzi to update everyone on the progress we're making on so many fronts.

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## Evergreen Award

### Evergreen Award Gives Recognition to those who improve our environment

"There are a lot of things being done in Indiana County to improve our environment – to make our county a better place to live. But everyday citizens are unaware that it is going on." These points were made at an Evergreen Conservancy board meeting in 2012. As the result of that brain storming the Evergreen Award was created. We gave the first award to Leroy Vatter. Since then every year Evergreen Conservancy takes nominations for a business, volunteer, organization, or employee who has demonstrated grass roots leadership in environmental activities.

We are looking to recognize a person or organization that is using innovative technology to prevent harm to our environment, has a direct positive impact on our environment, and participates in activities that result in preservation of historical, cultural, or natural resources.

In the past most of the Evergreen Award winners have been volunteers, but we have honored one business. Those who receive the Evergreen Award will be recognized at the conservancy's annual meeting. Most invite friends and family to share in this event.

We are asking you to nominate a person, business, or organization by completing a nomination form that is available from our website at [www.evergreenconservancy.org](http://www.evergreenconservancy.org). If you do not have access to a computer you can request a nomination form by calling 724-349-4333. This nomination should be returned to Evergreen Conservancy, PO Box 783, Indiana, PA, 15701 no later than April 30.



**Who Will It Be?**

## 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 Kundla

## OUR MISSION:

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

## Grant News

### Walmart Registry

Want to donate to the Evergreen Conservancy but not sure how? We have partnered with Walmart's Registry for Good and have registered for items that our organization needs. You can log on to Walmart.com, and under the drop-down menu, click on Walmart Services. You can then click on Registry for Good. It will direct you to a page that shows the registries in the Indiana PA area. Once you add the items to your cart, you can pay and have them shipped to Evergreen Conservancy! It is that easy!

Go to [www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood/welcome](http://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood/welcome) and look for Evergreen Conservancy; or just click here:

**Click Here to Help Us  
With Our Wish List.**



## Litter Pick Up

### Remember the New Location, Blue Spruce Road

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled its spring clean-up of Blue Spruce Road for 9 am on April 4th.

The conservancy will provide bags, orange vests, and gloves (some prefer to bring their own). This will be our second pick up of Blue Spruce Road. We no longer do the Hoodlebug Trail. Volunteers are reminded that compared to the trail Blue Spruce Road is open to traffic so vests are required and caution is advised. Also note that most of the trash picked up in the fall was on the "other side of the guard rail" so some may have to navigate rough terrain.

The Blue Spruce pick up will be Saturday April 4th beginning at 9 am. Park in the lot nearest the park office.



## Welcome to our New AmeriCorps Volunteer Monica Lee

Hello, my name is Monica Lee, a recent IUP alumnus with a bachelor's degree in Biology, focused in ecology/conservation.

I had two field seasons of experience studying native bee, butterfly, and wildflower populations in managed timber harvest. Additionally, I have gained a strong interest in ornithology throughout my studies. Recently, I joined the Americorps where I have accepted to be the project assistant for Evergreen Conservancy in addition to the Indiana County Conservation District. I am super passionate towards the environmental field, but extremely indecisive of my future path. This is a wonderful position to achieve self-growth as a new biologist. I am excited for the future experiences I now have the opportunity to be a part of.



## Environmental Education News

### Family Fun Fest

Evergreen Conservancy will have a table at the FFF on February 29th at the Indiana Mall. The theme this year is LEAP. If anyone has time that day and wants to help at the table – please contact Cindy and let her know. [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com)

Visit us at the Mall and learn more about the wonderful frogs in western Pennsylvania.



The 17th  
Annual Family  
Fun Fest  
@ Indiana Mall  
10AM-3PM

# LEAP

Saturday, February 29, 2020

## Solar News

Solar Congress will be February 15th at the Chestnut Ridge Golf Resort & Conference Center  
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM EST

Go to [www.eventbrite.com/e/pennsylvania-solar-congress-tickets-85144620853](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/pennsylvania-solar-congress-tickets-85144620853) to register. The Pennsylvania Solar Congress is a free public conference that brings together solar supporters from across the state to learn and discuss the current solar landscape and future for solar energy in Pennsylvania. The day will include a series of presentations about solar technology and policy topics as well as ways to get involved with helping to grow solar in Pennsylvania. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees! This event is FREE and open to the public. Everyone is welcome to attend! Whether you are a solar homeowner, completely new to solar, or somewhere in between – this event is for you!



Stay tuned – there will be a second round for the Neighborhood Solar Co-op in Indiana County.

## Tanoma Update

The Trompe: All towers and the sled are working to produce more dissolved oxygen. The Trompe is working to increase DO in the first pond. We continue to do water testing on a regular basis. No other news is good news.

## 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 Array cache site in Smicksburg, or the Indiana Conservation District office on Indian Springs Road. 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. Trade that completed passport in for your very own Trackable geo coin in the shape of Indiana County!

## Dates to Remember:

February 8th... 10 am .....The **Walk Works** kick off event – Chili Walk at Blue Spruce park – for more info on all the walk events go to Indiana County Walking Decathlon Facebook page.

February 15th... 9:30-4:00 .....**Solar Congress** at Chestnut Ridge, see above

February 29th... 10-3. ....17th Annual **Family Fun Fest** at the Indiana Mall

March 3rd... 7 pm .....Evergreen Conservancy **Board Meeting** – 1005 Oak Street – 2nd floor

March 18th... 11-2 .....The annual **Empty Bowls** Event – at the Eagles on Philadelphia Street. Come get a wonderful bowl of soup in a handmade bowl from local potters that you get to pick out yourself from 100's of bowls. You also get bread, and a dessert. You can get take out if you would rather do that. ALL proceeds go to our local food bank.

First Thursday of every month

2:30 pm .....**Stormwater Education** Partnership – Levity – all are welcome

Second Wednesday of every month

9 am .....**Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps** – (PASEC) Meetings. The Senior Environment Corps (SEC) program engages volunteers mostly aged 55 and over. SEC volunteers are engaged in numerous activities from water quality monitoring, stream habitat assessment, storm-drain stenciling, environmental education, community gardening, wildlife surveying, marking abandoned oil and gas wells, and cleaning up parks and trails. Please come to the meetings if you are interested in being involved in an active worthwhile activity and meeting new people. Indiana PASEC has people from all our watersheds and other local agencies that are interested in preserving and protecting our environment. Come join us! It meets at 9 am at 1005 Oak Street – 2nd floor.

# WANTED

## Plastic Bags 'n More...

### For "Bags to Benches" a Community Recycling Project



## COLLECTION SITES

**INDIANA BORO BUILDING • YMCA  
S&T ARENA • 4th ST. BILO**

*A recycling initiative by  
The League of Women Voters Environmental Issues Committee and Evergreen Conservancy  
in conjunction with Trex*

For more information, call Vera Bonnet at 724-397-4962

## Plants to be on the Look Out for: Skunk Cabbage

by Cindy Rogers

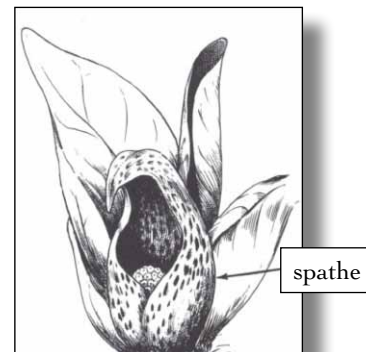
Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)

Skunk Cabbage is our first spring wild flower even though you typically don't think of February as spring. You will see it growing in wet swampy places, near creeks, or in wetland areas. Skunk cabbage blooms long before any other spring wildflower. You can usually find it flowering in February while there is still snow on the ground. The flower actually generates enough heat to melt the snow around the base of the plant. Close up this plant stinks, but there is a good reason for that smell. Its bad odor attracts bees, flies and gnats which help to pollinate it.

Skunk cabbage is a perennial with large, 1 to 2 foot broad oval leaves. Instead of having flower petals, the flower is a single leaf-like looking sheath called a "spathe." The leaf is hood-shaped and dark maroon streaked with greenish-yellow. The spathe protects the "spadix," which is a fleshy club-shaped spike. The spadix looks fuzzy because it is crowded with tiny flowers with no petals. The flower is low to the ground but is fairly easy to spot because the plant flowers before its leaves appear. Later, large leaves emerge and grow to the size of rhubarb leaves.

The Native Americans used this plant medicinally for cramps, convulsions, as a root poultice for wounds, and as an under arm deodorant. Later, physicians also used it as an antispasmodic for epileptic seizures, for asthma, and coughs among other remedies. But, be advised, you should not eat any part of this plant at any stage of its growth. It is considered toxic, especially the roots. If the leaves are ingested it will cause considerable burning and inflammation that will not be eliminated by drinking water. According to folklore, the roots will lose their toxicity if allowed to dry for over six months. But I do not recommend that anyone eat the dried root. This is definitely a plant to admire, not to ingest!

Get out this month to see the skunk cabbage flower. It is worth the trip.



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### Thanks to our Sponsors

Evergreen Conservancy would like to thank the following organizations for their generous donations:

- Indiana Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 174
- Red Barn Sportsman's Club
- Indiana Fraternal Order of Eagles 1468
- Homer City American Legion Post 493
- Blairsville VFW Club Post 5821.

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

**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](https://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](https://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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_