



## Newsletter, #57 Spring 2020

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

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

### Tammie Robinson Will Be 2020'S Evergreen Award Recipient

At its May 7th meeting Evergreen Conservancy's board voted to make Tammie Robinson our 2020 Evergreen Award recipient. Many of you are familiar with Tammie from the Conservation District and the annual Envirothon. Tammie was nominated by Douglas Beri, District Manager of the Indiana County Conservation District.

Tammie has been the office administrator at the conservation district for more than 35 years. Mr. Beri noted that "she has held the district together through three and half decades of changes and progress. Her passion and dedication to environmental conservation over the years has proven to be an invaluable resource for the district and Indiana County as a whole."

However it is Tammie's involvement with the Indiana County Envirothon that is extraordinary. Since the start of the Envirothon in 1987 Tammie has been the cornerstone in making it a yearly success. She was instrumental in starting a junior high Envirothon in 1999. She helps raise money to support a scholarship fund for participants that has raised \$21,500. In this extraordinary year because of the pandemic she organized a "virtual Envirothon".

Conservancy members recall that the presentation of the Evergreen Award has been a feature of our annual membership meeting since 2010. However because of COVID-19 it has been necessary to postpone our annual meeting. Tammie Robinson will be presented with the 2020 Evergreen Award at some future public event.



### Cancelled Programs

Due to the COVID Virus the Litter pick up and our spring program were cancelled this spring. We hope to reschedule both at a later time this fall.

Even though we had to cancel, we wanted to give a big thanks to Mindsight who gave us two days of free electronic billboard advertising for our spring event.

Our summer membership picnic, scheduled for June has been cancelled this year.

### 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

## 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.**



## Grant News

We received a \$1,200.00 grant from Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion Energy companies. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) administered the grant. The grant will be used for data logging maintenance and our newsletter costs. Much thanks to both Dominion Energy and WPC.

Colcom Foundation reached out to us with the following: ... "the uncertainty we are facing has impacted the non-profit community particularly hard. In recognition of the challenges you may face and the relationship that brings us together, the Board of Directors of Colcom Foundation has awarded this grant to be utilized at your discretion for general operating purposes". They very generously gave us a \$5,000 grant.

## Environmental Education News

### Family Fun Fest

We had a great day at the Mall for Family Fun Fest. Everyone loved the frog races. They learned a little bit about frog sounds and which frog lived locally and which were not from our area. Many took the challenge to see if they could jump as far as a frog. We will be back next year.

Unfortunately all of our programs for April, May and June had to be cancelled due to the COVID Virus and the need for social distancing and stay at home orders. We felt it was better to be safe.



## Datalogger Download Help Needed

If you are interested in helping us do data logger downloads let us know at [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com). We have a route of three locations in town that we need volunteers to help out with. Each route should take about 1 to 2 hours to do every two to three weeks. That is only about 2-4 hours a month and gets you in the outdoors on a creek. If you have a laptop you can use we will give you the software and a reader to use. If you do not have a laptop we can supply you with one. We will go with you the first few times to show you how to do the downloads till you are comfortable doing the them. It is simple once you learn the steps. You just download the data and then send it to Cindy via email. So, if you think you might be able to help us out – please let us know. Thanks!

## Datalogger Maintenance

We have continued to do maintenance to our data logger sites as needed. Here are John and Cindy replacing a cable on a logger up in the northern part of the county. Our dedicated volunteers are back out getting the data downloads even wearing facemasks!



## Bags to Benches

Evergreen Conservancy with our partner LWV environmental committee began a 6 month collection of plastic which we turn into our local Giant Eagle who ships it to Trex. When we get 500 pounds of plastic Trex will make a bench for us and ship it to us.

We started out with a bang and in 2 months had collected almost 300 pounds of plastic. Then the COVID virus hit and all of our bin locations closed. However Chevy Chase is still collecting plastic for us through their lunch program and as of May first we have logged 350 pounds of plastic. We still have till August to meet our 500 pounds. Keep saving plastic for us! We will be able to collect it at some point and turn it in. That keeps all that plastic out of the landfills! Even when our collection ends we plan on another organization continuing it, so we will just keep on collecting plastic. Just as a reminder the type of plastic to save is clean and dry film plastic. For example, grocery bags, saran, wraps on newspapers, the plastic that covers paper towels and toilet paper, any type of soft plastic. Unfortunately we cannot accept bottles or hard plastic containers. Thanks for your support so far and keep collecting your plastic! If you do collect, weigh and take it to GE yourself – let us know and we can count it into our total. The YMCA has put the bin outside the front doors under the roof if you want to drop plastic out there you still can. Contact Cindy if you have any questions at [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com).



## 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 *some* of the following locations:**

Although most of the locations are temporarily closed you can get passports at 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 [evergreenconservancy.org/indiana-county-eco-tour/indiana-county-geotrail/coordinates-and-links](http://evergreenconservancy.org/indiana-county-eco-tour/indiana-county-geotrail/coordinates-and-links) for all 20 of our eco geocache trail sites. If you need a passport now email us at [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com) and we will arrange to get you one. Trade that completed passport in for your very own Trackable geo coin in the shape of Indiana County!

## Dates to Remember:

- June 9th 6:00 pm . . . . . PR and Finance committee meetings. These will be done by Zoom until we get the ok to go back to regular meetings. If you are interested in joining us let us know and we will send you a link. [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com)
- July 7th 7:00 pm . . . . . Evergreen Board Meeting These will be done by Zoom until we get the ok to go back to regular meetings. If you are interested in joining us let us know and we will send you a link. [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com)

First Thursday of every month

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

Second Wednesday of every month

9:00 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.

**Temporarily postponed until we can conduct live meetings again**



## Plants to be on the Lookout for

by Cindy Rogers

This month's article will be a little different and not focus on one or two plants. Because of the COVID virus limitations the Mother's Day Walk and Tea that I have done annually for over 20 years has been cancelled. I thought I would just share with you a list of plants you might be able to find at Yellow Creek and at Blue Spruce so if you are out there taking a walk on your own you might use it to see what you can find. Hope to see you next year!

### Yellow Creel Laurel Run Path

[\* Invasive ]

Anemone- wood {anemone quinquefolia}  
 Bedstraw/Cleavers: {Galium}  
 Bergamot - Beebalm {Monarda}  
 Bellwort- sessile-leaved (wild Oat) {Uvularia  
 Sessifolia}  
 Burdock: {Actium Minus}  
 Buttercup- Early or Swamp {Ranunculus Fascicularis}  
 Bulrush: {Scirpus validus}  
 \*Honeysuckle (Japanese – Lonicera japonica)  
 Bush – exotic – L. Amur, L. bello, L. fragrantissima, etc.  
 Canada May Flower {Maianthemum Canadense}  
 Carolina Spring beauties {Claytonia caroliniana}  
 Cattails: {Typhalatifolia}  
 Cinquefoil- Common {Potentilla simplex}  
 Celandine {Chelidonium majus}  
 Chickweed: {Stellaria Cerastium}

Coltsfoot {Tussilago Farfara}  
 Crowfoot- small flowered buttercup {Ranunculus abortivus}  
 Dandelions {Taraxacum Officinale}  
 Dock: {Rumex}  
 Dogbane {Apocynum}  
 Dogwood , flowering – shrub - ( Cornus florida)  
 Dwarf Ginseng {Panax Trifolius}  
 Evening Primrose {Oenothera biennis}  
 False Hellebore: {Veratrum virid}  
 Fleabane, common ( Erigeron philadelphicus)  
 Foamflowers {Tiarella Cordifolia}  
 \* Garlic Mustard {Alliaria petiolata}  
 Gillover The Ground: {Glechoma Hederacea}  
 Golden Ragwort {Senecio Aurea}  
 Jack in the Pulpit - Indian Turnip: {Arisaema}  
 \*Japanese Knotweed ( Polygonum cuspidatum)  
 Jewel Weed - Spotted Touch-Me-Not: {Impatiens Pallida}  
 Ladies Thumb {Polygonum Persicaria}

May Apple {Podophyllum Pettatum}  
 Meadow Rue- Tall {Thalictrum Polygamum}  
 \*Mult Flora Rose (Rosa multiflora)  
 Orpine-wild "live for ever" {Sedum Telephium}  
 Partridge Berry {Mitchella Repens}  
 \*Periwinkle {Vinca Minor}  
 Plantain: {Plantago}  
 Poison Ivy {Toxico (poison) dendron (plant)}  
 Red Dead Nettle ( Lamium purpureum)  
 Sheeps Sorrel: {Rumex acetosa}  
 Skunk Cabbage {Symplocarpus Foetidus}  
 Spice Bush { Linder benzoin}  
 Spring Beauty {Claytonia}  
 Toothwort {Dentaria Diphylla}  
 Trillium {Trillium}  
 Trout Lily {Erythronium Americanum}  
 Violets {Viola}  
 Winter Cress, Early: {Barbarea verna}  
 Yarrow: {Achillea Millefolium}

### Blue Spruce Park

Around the Lakeside Center  
 Cinquefoil (5 leaf) -Potentilla repens  
 Dandelion -Taraxacum officinale  
 Wintercress, early -Barbarea vulgaris  
 Gill-over-the-ground -Glechoma hederacea,  
 Plantain -Plantago major  
 Speedwell, common, -Veronica  
 Fleabane -Erigeron philadelphicus L

### In the Garden

Bergamot - Monarda didyma  
 Boneset - Eupatorium  
 Bouncing Bet - Saponaria  
 Celandine- Chelidonium majus  
 Daylilies red, yellow, or orange - Hemerocallis  
 Yarrow - Achillea millefolium

### By the Creek & in the Woods

Bedstraw - Galium aparine  
 Burdock - Arctium lappa  
 Buttercup, common - Ranunculus acris  
 Buttercup, Swamp (Ranunculus septentrionalis)  
 Buttercup, kidney leaf - Ranunculus abortivus  
 Canada May Flower, Wild Lady of the Valley -  
 Maianthemum canadense  
 Cleavers - Galium aparine  
 Colts foot - Tussilago farfara  
 Corn Salad Lamb's lettuce - Valerianella olitoria  
 Dock (Rumex patientia)  
 Evening Primrose (Oenothera biennis)  
 Garlic Mustard - Alliaria officinalis  
 Goldenrod - Solidago  
 Jewelweed Impatiens - capensis  
 Lady's thumb (Polygonum persicaria)  
 Mayapples - Podophyllum peltatum

Mullein (Verbascum thapsus)  
 Partridge berries - Mitchella repens  
 Phlox, wild blue (Phlox divaricata)  
 Queen Ann's Lace (Daucus carota)  
 Ragwort, Golden - Senecio aureus  
 Rue, tall meadow - Thalictrum polygamum  
 Shepard's Purse (Capsella bursa-pastoris)  
 Skunk Cabbage - Symplocarpus foetidus  
 Spicebush - Linder benzoin  
 Spring beauties - Claytonia virginica  
 Stinging Nettle (Urtica dioica)  
 St. Johns Wort - Hypericum perforatum  
 Sweet Cicely (Osmorhiza)  
 Toothwort - Dentaria diphylla  
 Trout Lilly (Erythronium americanum)  
 Violets - Viola odorata  
 Wild Geranium (Geranium)

## Birding in Indiana County

by Monica Lee

A great birding hotspot in Indiana County is Yellow Creek State Park. They have a large diversity of bird populations throughout the various habitats of the state park. They also have a waterfowl observatory trail with a wetland walkway and wildlife blind to provide a different viewing perspective and opportunity to see waterfowl. On the State Park's web page, they have a PDF of a park bird list. Some other hotspots in Indiana County are Blue Spruce Park and Conemaugh River lake. The birds that have been found in Indiana can be viewed (and recorded) on [ebird.org](http://ebird.org).

The prime time to bird watch is during migration, which occurs in the spring and fall. Birds are leaving, returning, and even passing through. It is a great way to observe birds that typically are not local and from a different region. Specifically, May is a good time to view birds as they are brighter than usual with their mating plumage and vocal with territorial and mating calls.

A bird of focus, simply chosen by a nice picture captured on a trail at Yellow Creek State Park, is the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). The males are eye catching with the bright orange to black plumage with white accents. Females (and immature males) have a dull yellow/orange, gray, and white plumage. These robin sized birds forage for flowers, fruits, and insects. Their pointy bills are used particularly for nectaring and also gaping, where they stab the fruit with their closed bill, then open to make a gash to drink the juice from. Baltimore Orioles can be found during their breeding season in open woodlands, forest edge, river banks, and small groves of trees. They can also be lured into residential areas when they are provided nectar resources like oranges, jams, or sugar water. They build hanging woven nests high in tall trees.

To learn additional information about Pennsylvania birds, go to [pa.audubon.org](http://pa.audubon.org). They provide a list of bird species found in PA with their song/call recordings. They also have a video to help identify common backyard birds.



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## We Need YOUR Input!

We are working on a story map that the general public can access that will include all the trails we can find in Indiana County that are on publically accessible land.

Do you know of a trail we can include? If you do – please share it with us. Send us a short description of the trail, where it is (if you have a latitude and longitude that would be perfect, but if not a description or a pin point on a map would work) and how to get there. If you have a picture of it you could send us that would be great too. So, please send us your ideas! Thank you so much for helping us out.

You can send any of your ideas to [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com).



## 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="#">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 2020.**



## 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](http://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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_