



Newsletter, #62 Summer 2021

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Friends of White's Woods Received 2021 Evergreen Award

Evergreen Conservancy presented its 2021 Evergreen Award to Friends of White's Woods on August 12th at its environmental education center located near Tanoma. The conservancy has been giving this award since 2012. The Friends of White's Woods organization was nominated by Laurie Lafontaine. Bob Lankard pointed out that FWW began dealing with cutting trees in White's Woods but did not remain a single issue organization. They have evolved into a community environmental organization. They have presented educational programming, collaborated with other community groups, served as a public advocate, supported statewide conservation groups, worked to engage the public in environmental decision making, helped to sponsor important community-wide conversations regarding climate change, and helped to highlight the value of our natural area. Representing Friends of White's Woods in the presentation were Tom Miller, Dave Dahlheimer, Sara King, Susan Dahlheimer, Pat Heilman, Fred Heilman and Jessica Jopp.



Evergreen Conservancy is a Pannier Photo Contest Winner

Our photo of the sign we created to inform people about riparian buffer zones and the importance of Native plants on the Hoodle Bug Trail is the 2ND PLACE winner of Pannier's 2021 Photo Contest! Thanks to Adriene and her two children, Leo, four years old, and Layla, eight years old for posing for the photo!

Board Members

Cindy Rogers - President • Shannon Kundla - Vice president • Becky Snyder -Treasurer
Tara Binion - Secretary • Dan Boone • Bob Lankard • John Dudash • Mike Tyree
Paul Yacovone • David Janetski • Malcolm Hermann • Adriene Smochek

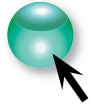
OUR MISSION:

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

Walmart Registry a Reminder

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! Thank you to the folks who have donated to Evergreen Conservancy in this way. It is much appreciated!

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



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

Environmental Education News

7/24/21

We partnered with the Indiana Free Library to offer a free program for kids and their parents at Tanoma. We tie dyed bandanas with the iron oxide from the Tanoma passive treatment system. We used pollution to make art! Then we went into the stream and netted macroinvertebrates and identified them. Macroinvertebrates can tell you a lot about the water quality in the stream and we found a lot of pollution sensitive macros which means the water quality in Crooked Creek is pretty good! A good time was had by all.



8/4/21

We hosted a group of boys from the PA Outdoor Corps for a tour of the system and a macroinvertebrate catch.

EcoTour Updates

The eco geocache tour is still going strong.

You can still 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 near the Indiana County Technology Center if they are open. Contact us and we can arrange for you to get a passport or your geocoin when you are done. 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 ecology-themed geocache trail sites. Trade that completed passport in for your very own trackable geo coin in the shape of Indiana County!

Trash Pick-Up At Blue Spruce October 23

After a busy summer it is time for Evergreen Conservancy to perform trash pick-up at Blue Spruce Park. The pick-up has been scheduled for Saturday October 23rd starting at 9 am. Volunteers should park in the lot nearest the park office. Bags, vests and gloves will be provided – though some prefer to bring their own gloves. There is traffic on Blue Spruce Road and appropriate signs will be posted. We had a good number of volunteers this spring so we hope you will come out.

Bags to Benches Project Update

Evergreen is now in the 6th round of collection which began in June. The plastic collection efforts will continue into future rounds of collection.

The purpose of all this is to keep plastic from going to the landfills. So the opportunity to recycle soft plastic is ongoing. Residents can donate grocery bags, bread bags, water case and soft drink overwraps, dry cleaning bags, ice bags, wood pellet bags, Ziploc and other reclosable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, and cereal bags. All bags must be clean and dry. Unfortunately, plastic bottles and all other hard plastics cannot be donated to this program. They should be donated to the Indiana County recycling program. Also please do not include any bags that have metallic lining or sound really crinkly when you crunch them.

If you want to support the bags to benches project you can take your items to the YMCA bin outside the door or the S & T Arena in the bin inside the door. If you have plastic you can email us at evergreenconservancy@gmail.com and we may be able to pick it up.

Evergreen Conservancy Holds Annual Meeting

Members and friends of Evergreen Conservancy met at Tanoma Environmental Educational Center on August 12th for its 2021 annual meeting. Approximately 25 to 30 were present. When the meeting started it was a pleasant, sunny summer evening.

President Cindy Rogers began with recognition of volunteers. All that Evergreen Conservancy accomplishes is the result of volunteers. Cindy recognized the following new volunteers: Tom and Lois Malmgren, Bridget Gardner, Joe Kennedy and Elizabeth Brunner.

At every Evergreen Conservancy annual meeting since 2012 we have presented an individual or organization with its Evergreen Award. This year the award was given to Friends of Whites Woods.

A mandatory part of every annual meeting is the election of board members. Current board members Tara Binion, Malcolm Hermann and Dan Boone were elected to new four-year terms. Thanks to Tim Slippy for serving on the Evergreen Conservancy board – he did not choose to serve a new term. Adriene Smochek was confirmed as a new board member.

Cindy Rogers updated members and friends about activities and challenges that Evergreen faced during the previous two years (because of COVID). She pointed out that person to person events have been seriously curtailed due to COVID. We have been successful in obtaining grants. The Bags to Benches project is a glowing bright spot.

Bob Lankard announced plans for an educational program about the threat of the Spotted Lantern Fly. At the time of the meeting detailed plans were still pending. He also announced that the fall litter clean up at Blue Spruce Road will be October 23.

Former founding board member Alysha Trexler was introduced to discuss Riparian Buffer Zones. Alysha is the Watershed Project Manager with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Her lively and interesting presentation focused on stream quality in residential and farm areas. Stream quality is improved with planting trees and native plants near the stream. During her presentation it became obvious that a storm was brewing so her presentation was cut short. Members grabbed available cupcakes and hurried off to head home before the storm hit.



If you are interested in watching the spotted Lantern fly webinar please email evergreenconservancy@gmail.com and we will send you a link to a Zoom meeting broadcasting the webinar. You do not need to download a Zoom app onto your device in order to join a Zoom meeting. All you need to do is click the link in the email invite that says "Join Zoom Meeting" and follow the instructions. If you are joining by phone only, you need to click the link for "Find your local number". Please turn off both your video and audio on joining--only the presenters and hosts will have audio and video. If you can't figure out how to do that, don't worry-- the hosts will do it for you if they see you are still connected. If you do not have a good internet connection and would like to attend, the educational room at the new Indiana County Conservation District building at 435 Hamill Rd., Indiana PA 15701 will be open but please RSVP so we know who will be attending in person. Save the date for this most important webinar!

Dates to Remember:

September 7th, 2021 . . 6:00 PM . . . Evergreen Conservancy Board Meeting – Virtual – If interested please contact us.

September 23rd, 2021 . . 7:00 PM . . . Spotted Lantern Fly virtual Webinar - more details for the webinar to follow. You may think the Spotted lantern Fly is a really pretty insect but it will be devastating if it gets a hold in Indiana County. Learn about it now so you know what to do if you see one.

The Spotted Lanternfly is a complex insect and has the potential to impact each one of us in many different ways. So, what can you expect when it arrives? We will discuss the life cycle of this invasive pest and learn what to look for as it expands its range across the Northeast. There will be a question and answer segment to help better equip you to safely deal with this unwanted intruder when it reaches Indiana County and your backyard. See above.

October 5th, 2021 . . 6:30 & 7:30 PM . . PR and Finance committee meetings.

Second Wednesdays of every month . . 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. Locations will be announced close to each meeting with COVID precautions.

Story Maps

The New and Improved Hiking Trails Within Indiana County Storymaps!

Have you checked out Evergreen Conservancy's Storymaps that include all the areas to hike in Indiana County? There are many unique views at many locations, all within our county. Some locations have multiple trails and different forms of recreation. This Storymaps provides brief information, a few photos, and an additional URL to learn more about that location. The goal of this project was to create one location via the web to find each spot for people to enjoy nature and connect with Indiana's community and environment. Although traveling far is fun, the local spots are convenient to access frequently but unfortunately are overlooked or even unknown. Since the previous launch of this Storymaps last fall, 7 more hiking spots were added. Share this with friends and families to enjoy these hiking trails and get outdoors just a few miles from home!

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e74bb6bcd2d4e44954b8515c3061f9a>



AmeriCorps News

It is time to say a sad good by to Monica Lee, because her time as our AmeriCorps is over but the good news is that she accepted a full-time job with the Indiana County Conservation District so she will be staying in Indiana County and we will still get to work with her.

"I would like to thank Evergreen Conservancy for the abundance of opportunities. The experience I gained was perfect post-graduation. Many things I had learned in the classroom were utilized during my term. I was easily impressed with the ambition and how proactive this non-profit organization was in their local community. Additionally, I have met so many people that have truly inspired my passion for conservation even more. Most importantly, it brought perspective to the importance of working with the community to achieve conservation and the needed changes to benefit the environment. Although my time as an AmeriCorps has come to a close, I am forever thankful for such a great opportunity and for all the wonderful role models. I am now the Indiana County Conservation District's first District Educator and feel well prepared, solely because of my AmeriCorps experience."

Monica

Welcome Anna

Our new AmeriCorps volunteer started on August 20th. We are pleased to welcome Anna McGonnell who is a recent graduate from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, having earned her bachelor's degree in Biology, focusing on Ecology, Conservation, and Environmental Biology. She grew up traveling to state and national parks, which greatly influenced her field of study. She is excited to have found a position that allows her to exercise her passion for the environment and give her the tools and knowledge to carry her onward through her career. Anna is currently living with her partner, their two cats, and several dozen houseplants. In their free time, she and her partner enjoy sketching, hiking, and gardening.



A Pollinator Poem

Nature's Unity
Birds, Bees, Wasps
Hummingbird Moths
Butterfly, Beetle
But not the boll weevil - it's a pest

Pollinators feed on
Nectar and pollen
Assisting the plant's need
To make fruits and seed

Pollination is the name
Of nature's symbiotic game
A true win-win
For the plant community
Making seeds, promoting unity.

By Barbara Hauge

Tanoma Update

We are a "Way Station" for Monarch because of the milkweed plants we planted. They are doing well and growing.



Rebecca Sterley deserves a big Thank you for her art work on the five new signs at Tanoma. She created signs about the monarchs, milkweed, some of the flowers at Tanoma and one sign about some things you can see at Tanoma. Check out the signs next time you are out at Tanoma. The County Parks staff framed and installed the signs for us. A thank you for all their work also!

We planted over 300 milkweed plugs several weeks ago on a very hot day with several wonderful volunteers! On Monday John saw a monarch caterpillar on one of the milkweed plants we planted at Tanoma. They found us!!!!



Here are examples of the new educational signs designed by volunteer Rebecca Sterley.

SWAMP



Asclepias incarnata

IN PRAISE OF MILKWEED

COMMON



Asclepias syriaca

Asclepias is a genus of herbaceous, perennial, flowering plants known as milkweeds, named for their latex, a milky toxic substance termed cardenolides, released where cells are damaged. Most milkweeds are **TOXIC** to humans and many other species. However, there are species that feed upon the leaves and the flower nectar. The genus contains over 200 species across Africa, North America, and South America. The genus was formally described by Carl Linnaeus in 1753, who named it after Asclepius, the Greek god of healing. A pond edges. As summer progresses look closely for the

Can grow UP to 5+ feet tall.

Swamp Milkweed
~ *Asclepias incarnata*

Common Milkweed
~ *Asclepias syriaca*

Milkweed seeds are produced in pods termed "follicle" overlapping rows, and bear a cluster of white, silky, floss (or "floss", "plume", or "silk"). The follicles ripen each carried by its coma, are blown by the wind.

Milkweed is grown commercially as a hypoallergenic for winter coats. *Asclepias* is also known as "Silk of a Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)" gathered mainly in the in Canada. The silk is used in thermal insulation, and

In May 2021 over 350 milkweed plants were planted here at Tanoma. The of the Monarch Watch Habitat Res in 2015. They distributed over half

✓ The milkweed filaments from the "floss" are hollow qualities. During World War II, many adults and children in the United States for life preservers as a substitute that grows around the seeds of the ceiba tree, used

✓ Milkweed latex contains about 2% latex, and during use it as a source of natural rubber, although no r

Information/photo sources: Monarch Watch and Wikipedia.

The MONARCH ~ KING of the Butterflies.



Patterson



Schilling



Schilling

Adult Monarchs feed on the nectar of flowers.

Male ~ **black spots** on lower wings. Female ~ **NO** black spots.

DON'T BE FOOLED! Note **WING DIFFERENCE** between Monarch and Viceroy.



Monarch
Danaus plexippus



Viceroy
Limenitis archippus

Monarchs have 2 sets of wings, wingspan of 3 to 4 inches. On average, Monarchs live 4-5 weeks. The migratory generation Monarchs can live up to 8 months.

Volunteer to TAG Monarchs! Tagging helps track migration and population numbers.

Look for dot chain.

Life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly.



Egg: Less 1/2 in. high; smaller width.



Up to 2 inches in length.



Metamorphosis (a physical change) to a Chrysalis.



Adult freshly emerged from its chrysalis.

Swamp Milkweed ~ a vital, main feeding source for the Monarch caterpillars.

Tiny Monarch eggs are usually laid on the underside of Milkweed leaves. Caterpillar emerges.

Monarch caterpillar dining on a Milkweed leaf.

Monarchs can travel 50 - 100 miles a day. It can take up to 2 months to complete their journey to or from Mexico. The farthest ranging Monarch Butterfly recorded traveled 265 miles in ONE DAY! ASTOUNDING for a creature that weighs LESS than 1 gram. (FYI = A typical raisin weighs 1 gram.)

Monarchs roost for the winter in oyamel (sacred) fir mountain forests in Mexico at an elevation of



Monarch Butterfly summer ~ winter migration patterns. Explore <https://www.monarchwatch.org> 1-888-TAGGING

Restoring abandoned mine discharged **contaminated** water TO **LIFE SUSTAINING WATER**

This Tanoma treatment project uses a series of sediment settling ponds and aerobic wetlands to oxygenate, filter the water and to remove pollutants and the **IRON** in the mine water discharge. Iron was from the iron hydroxide, is the orange matter that you see ~ very hard on the pond bottom. The wetlands filter out the rest.

The PROBLEM?
IRON!

Basic layers of a settling pond

- ✓ Floating iron particle scum.
- ✓ Oxygen deprived murky water
- ✓ Iron particles on pond bottom

As you walk by the Do you wonder how bacterium called LD embeds itself naked eye and often an oil slick and a If the film flows b

Oxygen: ✓ Chemical element with the symbol O and atom It is continuously replenished in Earth's atmosphere by ph

OXYGEN FOR LIFE O_2

As Crooked Creek tr particles drift down to t healthier water now sp community. Crook

Donna Schilling, and Wikimedia Commons.

SOME OF TANOMA WETLANDS' MANY INTRIGUING NATIVE WILDFLOWERS

Rough Bedstraw (*Gajum asprellum*)

Blooms: June ~ September.

Flowers 1/8 inch across; 4 white petals longer than wide and pointed at the tip. Aptly named, the downward pointing hairs on leaves and stems allow it to grab onto and stick to anything that passes by.

2 ~ 6 ft.

Bladder Campion (*Silene vulgaris*)

Blooms: May ~ August.

Clusters of 5 ~ 30 white flowers, each less 1 inch in width; 5 white petals that are deeply lobed and have bladder-like cases which are fused inflated sepals with 20 distinct pink to white veins.

3 ft.

Mayapple (*Podophyllum*)

Blooms: Mid to late spring.

An herbaceous perennial plant. Flowers are white, yellow, or red, up to 2 inches in diameter, with 6 ~ 9 petals, and mature into a green, yellow, or red fleshy fruit up to almost 2 inches long. The fruit is ripe in August. **WARNING! DO NOT attempt to eat the fruit until you do your research about this plant!**

11 ~ 17 in.

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

Blooms: Mid-May ~ frost.

Coarse-textured, medium to large-sized deciduous perennial fern. Very sensitive to frost, the fronds dying quickly when first touched by it. Fiddleheads are a pale red color. **NOTE: Pollination takes place in FLOWERING plants. Ferns are NOT flowering plants.**

3 ft.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Blooms: Late spring into early fall.

An herbaceous, perennial plant. Huge, flat clusters, 5 in. across, packed with 20 ~ 25 creamy-white flowers. It has a strong, sweet scent, like that of chrysanthemums. Several cavity-nesting birds, including the common starling, use yarrow to line their nests. Experiments suggest that adding yarrow to nests inhibits the growth of parasites.

8 ~ 40 in.

Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*)

Blooms: July ~ August.

A perennial herbaceous plant, and poisonous. (*Apocynum* means "poisonous to dogs.") Stems reddish and contain a milky latex capable of causing skin blisters. Native Americans used it to make bows, nets, tie down straps, fishing lines, and clothing.

6 ~ 7 ft.

Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*)

Blooms: Early May. Look closely within the white ovals.

An herbaceous perennial plant. The flower spathe somewhat resembles the fire breathing dragon with the spreading leaf representing the dragon wings. The spathe covers a tapering, long thin spadix (spike). The tail-like spadix grows out around the top of its spathe. After flowering, up to 150 berries are produced in a club-shaped column. Each berry produces 1 to 3 seeds.

1 ~ 4 ft.

Save the POLLINATORS PLEASE

Bees Beetsles Bird Butterflies H-Bird Flies Insects Mosquitoes Moths

A bee visits around 100 flowers per foraging flight, with a max speed of up to 18 MPH. With 10 foraging flights per day, this equates to 1,000 flowers visited EACH DAY!

NO water, No life. NO BLUE ~ NO GREEN!

Food for thought... "We abuse land because we regard it as a COMMODITY belonging to us. When we see land as a COMMUNITY to which WE BELONG, we may begin to use it with love and respect." Aldo Leopold (1887 ~ 1948 ~ American author, philosopher, naturalist, scientist, ecologist, forester, conservationist, and environmentalist.)

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 2021.



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.

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 _____