



Newsletter, #64
Winter 2021-22

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Weed Wrangle

What in the World is a "Weed Wrangle"

Weed Wrangle® is a volunteer effort to help rescue our public parks and green spaces from non-native, invasive species through hands-on removal of especially harmful trees, vines, and flowering plants. Supervised by an expert in invasive weed management, Weed Wrangle® volunteers learn, practice and begin a habit of maintaining an area free of non-native invasive plants and encourage replanting with natives in removal areas. By engaging our neighbors and challenging them to take action in their own spaces, we hope to create a movement that will have the greatest impact on the invasive plant population. Weed Wrangle® is a grassroots project whose efforts are improved one weed, one volunteer at a time. This project idea emerged in 2015 from discussions between members of The Garden

Club of Nashville, a member of The Garden Club of America and the Friends of Warner Parks about the number of invasive weed pulls that were being hosted sporadically around the city of Nashville. The Garden Club of Nashville coordinated efforts of local parks and green spaces to discuss the idea of having a one-day education and eradication event, city-wide, with a media blitz. Years later, this grassroots project is now in multiple states and growing invasively, like a weed! The mission of this group is to establish partnerships that connect volunteers and public lands for the purpose of education and eradication of non-native invasive plant species followed with the planned restoration of native plant communities. Go to www.weedwrangle.org for more information.

Indiana County is forming its own "Weed Wrangle"

Our first project will be at Tanoma Wetlands where we will be removing multi-flora rose, autumn olive and bush honeysuckle. The weed wrangle date at Tanoma will be April 10th. If you are interested in helping and learning more about invasives please contact us at evergreenconservancy@gmail.com.



For our weed wrangle we will use a "Pullerbear". This, and other similar tools that do this job are a tremendous help in removing larger invasive bushes and trees without the use of herbicides.



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

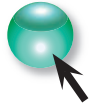
OUR MISSION:

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

Environmental Education News

March 1, 2022 Evergreen will be at the IUP Community Involvement Day at the HUB.

March 26, 2022 Evergreen Conservancy will have a table at the Family Fun Fest at the Indiana Mall. Come on out and visit our table.

June 5, 2022 we will participate in the Nature Palooza at Blue Spruce Park.

Field Work

All our datalogger download volunteers collected their data loggers before the ice and snow. Cindy and Anna cleaned and calibrated all the data loggers. We had to send in four for repairs. Laptops will be updated and all will be returned to the volunteers and dataloggers will go back in the streams sometime in March or April (weather dependent). A huge thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who make our work in this water monitoring possible. We could not do it without YOU!

Tanoma Update

We continue to monitor the water at Tanoma on a regular basis.

We submitted a grant to the Office of Surface Mines to cover construction costs related to an upgrade at Tanoma to make the system function more efficiently in the beginning of the system. Stay tuned for more on this in the near future.

We will be gathering volunteers for the Weed Wrangle® April 10th, to remove invasive plants.

Bags to Benches Project Update

Evergreen continues collecting plastic in exchange for a TREX bench in partnership with the LWV Environmental Committee of Indiana. We have donated benches to Chevy Chase Community Center, The Indiana County Conservation District, the Y, and the Community Garden. The most recent bench was donated to Giant Eagle (our partner in the collection process) after February 22nd you will find it outside Giant Eagles front door. The plastic collection efforts will continue into future rounds.

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. That type of plastic 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. Please see evergreenconservancy.org/bags-to-benches-plastic-collection for a list of what plastic we can and cannot collect.



Green Drinks

Save the date –March 23, 2022 and Come out to our Green Drinks Fundraiser at Spaghetti Benders

“Green Drinks” is a recurring networking and happy hour on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 5:30pm. Each month, the event will be held at a different location and benefit a different, local, environmentally friendly or “green” project or organization. The vibe will be informal, fun, and the aim is for you to meet like-minded locals while supporting a great cause! No RSVP needed — just come! There is no cost but a donation would be appreciated. Follow the Indiana County Conservation District on Facebook for more info on this and other happenings. Evergreen Conservancy will be the Organization targeted for the fundraiser. All donations will go to Evergreen Conservancy.

Blue Spruce Road Clean Up Scheduled April 9

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled its spring trash clean- up for 9am on April 9. The clean-up will cover Blue Spruce Road from the office to Route 110 as well as the road through the park. Volunteers should park in the lot nearest the park office. Bags, gloves and orange vests will be provided. Blue Spruce Road is a through highway and appropriate signs will be posted. Volunteers may be exposed to rough terrain and ticks.

We have been able to complete our pick up before 11am in past pickups. In the event of bad weather April 23rd has been set as the backup.

Save The Date - Annual Meeting Set For Thursday June 23rd

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled its annual meeting of members and friends for Thursday June 23rd. Please mark your calendars – in pencil. As you know our annual meeting has been disrupted in recent years by COVID and weather – actual flooding. For this reason traditional features such as the pot luck picnic, report of the years activities and election of board members have not been set in stone. We will keep you informed with details of our annual meeting.

Dates to Remember:

March 10th 6:00 PM

Evergreen Conservancy Board Meeting – in person and virtual – If interested please contact evergreenconservancy@gmail.com. This meeting will be in person at the new ICCD building.

March 23 5:30 PM

Green Drinks, at Spaghetti Benders, 563 Philadelphia Street, Indiana – See above.

March 26 9:00 AM – 3 PM

Evergreen Conservancy will have a table at the Family Fun Fest at the Indiana Mall

April 5th 5:00 & 6:00 PM

PR and Finance committee meetings at These meetings will be in person at the new ICCD building and zoom. If interested please contact evergreenconservancy@gmail.com.

April 9 9 AM

Trash collection along Blue Spruce Road, See above.

April 10 Time TBD

Weed Wrangle® work session in Tanoma.

April 22 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Earth Day and the Walk to White's Woods. See article on page 6

May 12–13

In Person Annual Shale Network Workshop State College, PA 2022. Theme: Ten Years of Unconventional Resource Development: Lessons Learned and Future Directions. There will be a field trip, posters and a great line up of topics on many different topics that will of interest to all. Please plan on attending.

June 5 9 AM – 3 PM

Nature Palooza at Blue Spruce Park.

June 23

Evergreen's Annual Meeting in Tanoma. See above.

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 9am at the new ICCD building.

Japanese Barberry Sale Banned in Pennsylvania in 2023 – What Changed?

A shrub that's been a favorite of landscapers has been added to the Pennsylvania List of Noxious Weeds and its sale will be banned by the fall of 2023. Stock reduction orders are already in place.

Why was it banned? Japanese Barberry is rapidly invading Pennsylvania forests and is a significant threat to native Pennsylvania forest plants. It crowds them out! Deer won't eat it! And the shrub harbors the exploding population of ticks (and the mice that host them) that carry Lyme disease. Have other states banned the sale of Japanese Barberry? Many states, including New York, Maryland, and West Virginia, have already banned the sale of Japanese Barberry. Some did so as early as 2015.

What should I do with the barberry that is now in my yard? REMOVE IT! But remove it carefully! Much of the Barberry damaging our forests migrated from residential properties.

What shrub can I use as a substitute? The following native shrubs are suggested as alternatives to Japanese barberry for landscape use: winterberry holly, inkberry holly, New Jersey tea, bayberry, wild hydrangea, ninebark (e.g. "Sewards Summer Wine" and "Berts Darts G'Festivus", silky dogwood, red chokeberry, black chokeberry. (Rhoads & Block, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.) New Jersey tea can really handle the sun, as well as dry, sandy soils, though it's fine with a little less sun or more water. Its bright white clusters of flowers attract pollinators (even hummingbirds!), and it keeps a pleasantly dense, rounded shape without pruning, like barberry.

Before you rush out to your yard to pull the barberry, please follow these steps to remove it correctly and properly.

How to Remove Japanese Barberry:

1. Properly identify Japanese barberry. Educate your neighbors about what you are doing and why.
2. Hand-pull what you physically are able before Japanese barberry produces berries (seeds); preferably before July.
3. Use a Weed Wrench on hard-to-pull plants; preferably before July.
4. Hire goats. They will eat barberry!
5. Plants that prove too difficult to remove by way of pulling or digging, you can cut to one-inch stumps and immediately apply a glyphosate herbicide to freshly cut stumps using a paint brush or sponge applicator. Stump application is very effective during July, August, and up to mid-September.
6. Bag the barberry that you remove, let it dry, and deposit it in a landfill.

If you do not wish to spray herbicide you can instead cut the plant 6 to 12 inches from the ground before it starts to produce berries (seeds) in July. After the taller stumps have re-sprouted, you cut them to one inch above the ground and immediately apply glyphosate herbicide to the freshly cut stumps. Allowing the stumps to re-sprout during the summer months draws carbohydrate and other growth compounds from the roots and depletes some of the root energy, making herbicide kill more effective. (Use herbicide as directed by manufacturer.)

For more information see USDA Natural Resources Conservation Science Invasive Plant Control - barberry or Penn State Extension- Japanese Barberry.



Autumn Olive



Japanese Barberry



Multiflora Rose

The Importance of Native Plants and Why Invasive Plants are a Problem

Restoring native plants to our land is vital to preserving biodiversity. Natives are a source of food for our bees, butterflies, insects, caterpillars, birds, and all wildlife. We are losing species at a tremendous rate because 90% of our native species are specialized, feeding on only 3 or 4 species of plants. If we don't bring back native plants we will continue to lose birds and animals. Our gardens are filled with exotic plants from around the world. These plants are typically not edible by our native caterpillars which are the foundation of our food web. 96% of land birds feed caterpillars to their young because of their high protein content. In fact, caterpillars are the primary food source for much

of our wildlife. Native plants give us the environmental support services that we need to live. They provide oxygen, clean our water, build topsoil, buffer extreme weather, sequester carbon, and provide shelter for animals. They are a source of food for our native bees, butterflies, insects, caterpillars, birds, and all wildlife. If you are looking for plants, bushes or trees to plant on your property PLEASE make sure they are native to our area. Help our insects and birds survive! To learn more about native plants go to this web site:

www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/Landscapingwith-NativePlants/Pages/default.aspx

Funding for New Satellite Systems Approved

On February 9, 2022 the Indiana County Commissioners approved Evergreen Conservancy's request for \$40,838 to purchase four new satellite-based telemetry units.

Evergreen Conservancy has partnered with Indiana County Emergency Management to implement and maintain a cellular telemetry water monitoring system in Indiana County for the last nine years. These systems monitor water quality 24/7 at five sites in Indiana which are prone to traffic accidents. With this system, alerts can be set to warn of any accidents that could impact water quality. The units are placed in Blacklick Creek, Yellow Creek, Little Yellow Creek, Two Lick Creek, and Laurel Run.

The units are comprised of a cellular reporting device, a solar panel that provides power to the unit's batteries, and a Manta multiprobe with underwater cable that measures five different in-stream parameters: pH, Conductivity, Salinity, Oxidation/Reduction Potential, and depth.

The current cellular system that the units utilize is a 3G network provided by T-Mobile, AT&T, and Twilio. In 2022 all of the cellular providers have indicated that they will discontinue their 3G networks, thus making the units we now use obsolete. At the present time, we only have two systems out of five that can still receive a cellular signal.

Through grants provided by the Foundation for Pa Watersheds and the Colcom Foundation, Evergreen Conservancy was able

to purchase the first unit that will use satellite, rather than cellular transmissions to provide 24/7 in-stream water quality data. This new system consists of a satellite transmission unit and a Manta Multiprobe with underwater cables to record the same five water parameters as the old system. We can reuse the existing solar panels to power the system.

We want to thank the Commissioners for their generous contribution to this project, as well as Tom Stutzman, Director of the Indiana County Emergency Management System for his help with securing financing for this important water monitoring project. We also want to thank the Foundation for PA Watersheds and the Colcom Foundation for providing grant money to purchase the first satellite unit.

The first unit will be placed at Yellow Creek as soon as the weather breaks and volunteers can access the site. The additional four units will be purchased and installed during 2022. Eureka Water Probes is providing the Manta Plus Multiprobes in conjunction with Data Garrison who is providing the satellite telemetry units.



Compost Now by Monica Lee

Compost Now is a door step composting company. Although it is not available in Indiana PA yet, if 500 interested people sign up on the waiting list (compostnow.org/coming/pa/indiana), this composting service will be available to Indiana in the near future. Composting is an under-rated practice. In the US alone, food waste is alarmingly high at about 63,100,000+ tons (EPA Studies of 2018). Although this waste is managed in numerous ways, only 4% of it is composted while 56% of food waste is sent to the landfill producing methane instead of creating healthy, fresh soil. If people sent food and dry scraps to be composted, methane emissions from landfills could be reduced immensely and lower everyone's carbon footprint. (Check out your carbon footprint here: www.footprintcalculator.org/home/en)

So what is door step composting? Compost Now will collect your scraps weekly directly from your house by a provided bin, leaving you a clean bin. You can use your account to then track your personal impact. Additionally, you can request compost in return to be delivered to you during your next collection or simply donate your earned compost to a local garden.

This service is super easy and clean. Just put your com-

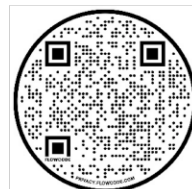
postables in the bin and set it out to be picked up on your collection day. Each collection, they will swap your full bin with a fresh clean bin with a compostable liner and airtight lid to ensure high level of cleanliness and no foul odors. This will reduce food waste. It's not just fruits and veggies, Compost Now will accept hard to compost materials like meat, dairy, paper towels, and pizza boxes. Composting can reduce your waste stream by 60%.

As I mentioned before, you can earn compost back. At each collection, your compost is weighed and recorded to your account. 25% of your weight is uploaded as redeemable compost and you are able to request whenever you want it delivered. If you don't want compost back, you can choose to share it with one of our garden partners to help support local food systems.

The cost of this service is \$39 per month for 1 bin (4 gal.) and \$49 per month for 2 bins (4 gal.). Additionally, they also can help arrange collection for offices and also food service.



Scan Here to calculate your carbon footprint.



Scan Here to get on the Compost Now waiting list.

Earth Day 2022 Walk **TO** White's Woods

April 22, 2022, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

- **START:** WHEREVER YOU ARE! (or drive a little closer, if need be)*
- **WALK:** TO the 12th Street Entrance of the White's Woods Nature Center
- **WHEN:** Plan to arrive between 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- **WHY:** To celebrate Earth Day and the contribution White's Woods makes to our community to help mitigate the impact of climate change!
- **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET THERE?** Celebrate!
The first 100 people who arrive can claim up to two oak seedlings (distributed courtesy of ONE MILLION TREES). Walkers can also claim an Earth Day sticker and meet members from Indiana Conservation Groups, including Friends of White's Woods, the Evergreen Conservancy, IUP Sustainability Studies; the Indiana County Conservation District, and the Sierra Club. Other valuable community groups are planning to greet walkers as well. More details about the 12th Street Walk **TO** White's Woods will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Important Earth Day 2022 Facts:

The quickest, most cost-efficient, and most effective natural solution to climate change is to protect the forests that we have! WHITE'S WOODS absorbs 200,000 gallons of stormwater run-off annually, removes 17,010 lbs. of pollutants (sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, etc) annually, helps mediate regional temperatures, now stores 27,688 tons of carbon (which would be released if timbered), and absorbs 1,102 tons of carbon annually. Our community forest helps to protect us!

And driving less (or driving "clean") helps to reduce carbon emissions.

It is time for us to act together. According to Earth Day 2022 organizers:

"This is the moment to change it all — the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, our livelihoods... together, we must Invest In Our Planet.

Because a green future is a prosperous future.

We need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It's going to take all of us. All in. Businesses, governments, and citizens — everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the planet.

And while there is still time to solve the climate crisis, time to choose BOTH a prosperous and sustainable future, and time to restore nature and build a healthy planet for our children and their children, time is short."

For more information about the global celebration of Earth Day 2022, visit www.earthday.org/earth-day-2022

For more information about the Earth Day 2022 Walk TO White's Woods, visit friendsofwhiteswoods.org

*Parking is limited at the 12 Street entrance, though street parking is available nearby.

Helping Overwintering Pollinators and Beneficial Insects

There are a lot of important native insects that overwinter in leaf litter, underground, and even in our garden beds. Ladybugs, wasps, dragonflies and ground beetles are just a few bugs that overwinter in our backyards and will help benefit our gardens. A lot of these insects are predators and providing them a safe place to overwinter will promote biodiversity within your garden. In turn, you will save energy, time and money by letting these predators do the fighting with your garden pests instead of using pesticides. Additional insects that overwinter in your garden are native bees. Most native bees are considered solitary bees, meaning they live alone. Instead of living in hives and making honey, a lot of native bees tunnel into the ground, lay their eggs in plant debris, or even in pithy stems that remain standing throughout the winter.

This year, help benefit your backyard bugs by resisting the urge to clean up your garden in the fall or early spring. Postpone clearing out your garden beds until you start mowing your lawn regularly, or if possible, wait until plum or apple trees have started to bloom. The simple action of waiting will give beneficial insects the best chance of survival while helping your garden, your local habitats, and the planet. Take it a step further and substitute heavy wood chip mulch with leaf mold or compost instead. Leaf mold or compost will provide insects with an environment that they can easily navigate, shelter themselves from the elements and even provide a source of food. Additional actions that are simple and great to practice are letting leaves decay in your yard in the fall, protecting invertebrates and the chrysalids that reside there and building a bug hotel in your yard to provide additional shelter.

seewhatgrows.org/how-protect-beneficial-bugs-winter-garden

www.si.edu/spotlight/buginfo/winter

seewhatgrows.org/kids-guide-beneficial-bugs-garden

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 _____