



Newsletter, #65
Spring 2022

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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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 at 6 pm at Tanoma Environmental Center. As you know our annual meeting has been disrupted in recent years by COVID and weather – actual flooding.

Departing from tradition we will not have a pot luck picnic dinner. All attendees are suggested to bring their own packed dinner. The Conservancy will provide dessert and drink.

Keeping with tradition there will be a report on our previous year's activities and recognition of volunteers.

This membership meeting is when we ask members to pay their dues for the upcoming year and for friends to join.

There will be two Evergreen Awards given this year. John and JoAnne Ferraro will be recognized for their long involvement in the environmental community. They are founding members of Evergreen Conservancy. The Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited will also be recognized. They will be celebrating 50 years of involvement in clean water efforts. Many are able to tie flies because of their classes.

The annual meeting is also board election time. A slate of officers will be presented.

There will be an informational program. Its topic will be announced later.

Weed Wrangle at Tanoma

We had a very successful, hard-working day at Tanoma on Sunday April 10th to get rid of invasive plants. Thirteen folks pulled out 100's of multi flora rose and bush honeysuckles. We used a tool called a Pullerbear to wrench the bush and root out of the ground. We now have four huge piles of invasive weeds that we want to dry out and later chip and shred. Thanks to Blake Mauthe, Mitchell Posney, Julia Robins, Noah Mattingly, Jason Dejesus, Kaleb Keech, Renallan Neckles, Carson Zadroga, and Jennifer Searight, from IUP who came out to help. Thanks also to Cindy Rogers, John Dudash, Ellen Yerger, Ed Donley, Barb Hague, Tim Fulmer, and Trent Millum for all their help and planning to make this happen.



What are Invasive plants and why do we want to get rid of them?

An invasive plant is one that is not native to the area. It can displace native plants, threaten native plant biodiversity, harm agriculture, degrade wildlife habitat, or use more water than the plants it displaces. Non-native invasive plants pose a threat on a local and national scale to our native plants. Our insects and wildlife coevolve with native plants and when invasive plants displace natives it can disrupt our food chain and cause a loss of species.



Board Members

Cindy Rogers - President • Shannon Kundla - Vice president • Becky Snyder -Treasurer
Tara Binion - Secretary • Dan Boone • Bob Lankard • John Dudash • Mike Tyree
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 26	Evergreen Conservancy had a table at the Family Fun Fest at the Indiana Mall. Over 125 kids made sundials and learned more about the sun and what it does for us.
April 22	Earth Day - The Tourist Bureau sponsored a bus tour that included the Tanoma AMD passive treatment system. After a tour of the system and some activities the participants ate lunch at our pavilion.
April 22	Walk to Whites Woods. Evergreen Conservancy had a booth at the Walk to Whites Woods on Earth Day. We did an activity about climate change and displayed information about Evergreen Conservancy.
June 5	We will participate in the Nature Ploozza at Blue Spruce Park.

Tanoma Update

We continue to monitor the water at Tanoma.

We were awarded a grant from 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 were also awarded a grant from the CRSP to design a conversation provoking sign about the climate change issue.

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 plastic collection efforts will continue into future rounds. The next bench is going to be donated to Aging Services at the Mahoning Center.

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.

Marcellus Shale Network Conference

Cindy attended the May 12–13, 2022 In-Person Annual Shale Network Workshop in State College, PA. The 2022 Theme was Ten Years of Unconventional Resource Development: Lessons Learned and Future Directions. It was a very informative conference with all sides of the story.

Blue Spruce Road Clean Up Scheduled April 9th Was Cancelled

Our roadside clean up was cancelled due to rainy cold weather and rescheduled for April 23rd

Evergreen Conservancy had its spring trash clean-up for 9 am on April 23rd. The clean-up covered Blue Spruce Road from the office to Route 110 as well as the road through the park. Volunteers collected ten bags of litter at Blue Spruce Park in the morning. Showers were predicted but they held out for a sprinkle just as we finished. Much of the conversation centered on the number of light beer cans and bottles thrown out along Blue Spruce Road.

Thanks to volunteers: Mackenzie Anderson, Andrea Del Favero, John Dudash, John Ferraro JoAnne Ferraro, Anna McGonnell, Cindy Rogers, Bob Lankard, and Janis Long.



Great Blue Herons Nesting on Crooked Creek

One benefit of the improved water quality in Crooked Creek is the increase in fish and other aquatic species that Great Blue Herons feed on. Herons will inhabit an area as long as their habitat is not lost or destroyed by development, pollution, or the cutting down of trees serving as nesting areas known as heronries or colonies.

Great Blue Herons are one of the largest and most majestic of Pennsylvania's birds, reaching a standing height of four feet with a wingspan of six feet. Their nesting colonies are found in several areas along Crooked Creek.

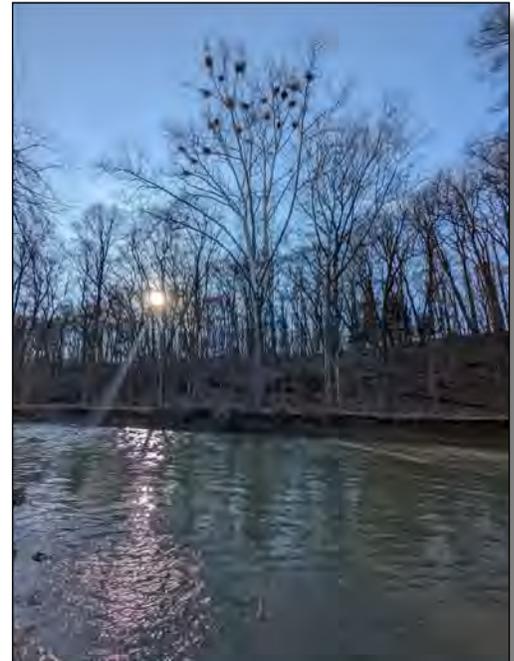
Great Blue Heron colonies can include a sizeable number of nests in close proximity to one another. A pair of herons will reuse a nest or build a new one if necessary. The nests are made of large sticks and limbs lined with twigs and can reach four feet in diameter. The male gathers the limbs, the female does the nest construction.

Females lay four to six blue colored eggs and after hatching both the male and female feed the young. Young Great Blue Herons can fly after sixty days, typically they leave the nest after ninety days if not sooner.

The Pennsylvania Bird Breeding Atlas notes populations of Great Blue Heron have steadily increased in abundance and distribution in the state over previous decades.

The average colony size of nests in a 1999 survey was 14 nests. Great Blue Herons seem to be adaptable to human activities, this particular colony is a few hundred feet from a busy highway. They should continue to thrive along Crooked Creek in the years to come.

Ed Patterson, Indiana County Parks and Trails



Heron colony along Crooked Creek. There are 20 nests in this particular Sycamore tree. The eroding streambank may cause the tree to eventually fall over.

"If you, too, dream to be born again as a bird wouldn't you want to be a great blue heron... you loved your life as a human who sheltered in a small house by a lake, you could summer there again nesting in the white pine, fishing on the shore in the blue Zen of stillness when early morning ambers the eastern sky."

*Margaret Hassse, from the poem
Audubon's The Birds of America, Color Plate 221*



The Heron Tree

"The nest of the Blue Heron, in whatever situation it may be placed, is large and flat, externally composed of dry sticks, and matted with weeds and mosses to a considerable thickness. When the trees are large and convenient, you may see several nests on the same tree."

John James Audubon

They're Here! Spotted Lantern Fly

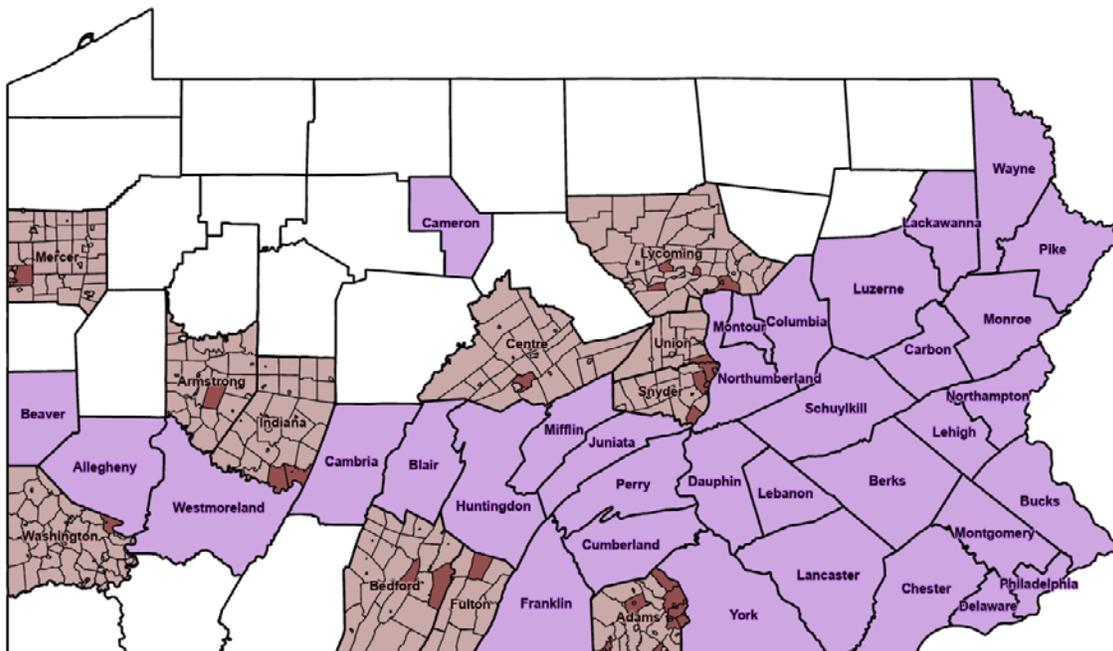
As of March, 2022, the Spotted Lanternfly has arrived in Indiana County, and the County is now under a quarantine order. This pesky invader has done serious agricultural damage in other Pennsylvania counties, chiefly to vineyards, as grapevines and tree-of-heaven plants are its favorite foods. In fact, some Pennsylvania vineyards have suffered devastating losses, and since vineyards are a growing industry in Indiana County, this is now a real concern.



What can we do? Not much right now, in terms of any truly effective control. At this time, there are a number of government and scientific agencies engaged in intensive research to find a solution. So, what we are faced with at the moment is a race against time: to do whatever we can to SLOW the spread of this "bad bug" until scientific solutions are found. There are a number of things we can all do as citizens and home-owners to assist in slowing down the infestation. A good beginning is to consult the Penn State Extension website



extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly to find out many recommended steps. On the website you will find abundant pictures of the insect in its various growth stages to aid in identification of this invader. Methods of killing the egg masses and hatched bugs are described in detail. We need to become vigilant at this point to make sure we limit the spread within our own county as much as possible and also keep from spreading it further outside our newly-quarantined area.



Pennsylvania Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine

- Existing Quarantine
- Counties added to Quarantine in 2022
- Infested areas in Counties added to Quarantine 2022



Infestation has been found in East Wheatfield and West Wheatfield Townships, within Indiana County.

ICCD Update on Tree Planting

Over the course of the last few weeks, with the assistance of a handful of amazing volunteers, the Indiana County Conservation District staff has planted 1810 native trees along different streams within Indiana County. We planted a total of 1010 in Armstrong township along Altman run. The rest of the 700 trees were planted in North Mahoning Township on Leasure Run.

Planting trees and shrubs along streams, or planting riparian buffer zones, helps stop erosion, stops pollutants and run off from entering the streams, and provides habitat for the flora and fauna that live in and around the water.

We will be having another round of riparian buffer zone plantings in the fall. If you are interested in helping us plant trees in the future, please contact our watershed specialist, Robert Sabo at the Indiana County Conservation District by emailing r.sabo@iccdpa.org



Farewell to Paul Yacovone

Long time Evergreen board member Paul Yacovone passed away in May. His expertise in mining and mine drainage made him a valuable asset to the Conservancy and he is greatly missed.

Dates to Remember:

June 4th, 2022.9:00 AM – 3:00 PM . Nature Palooza at Blue Spruce Park

June 14th, 20226:00 and 7:00 PM . .PR and Finance committee meetings. These meetings will be in person at the new ICCD building and zoom. If interested please contact evergreenconservancy@gmail.com.

June 14th, 20226:00 PM Evergreen Conservancy Board Meeting – in person and virtual – If interested please contact evergreenconservancy@gmail.com. This meeting will be primarily in person at the new ICCD building.

June 15th Program at Waterworks Park with the Indiana Library

June 23rd, 20226:00 Annual Meeting at Tanoma

July 9th Program at Tanoma with the Indiana Library

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 at the new ICCD building.

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.



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 _____