



Newsletter, #66 Summer 2022

www.evergreenconservancy.org

PO Box 0783, Indiana, PA 15701 evergreenconservancy@gmail.com

Evergreen Conservancy Annual Membership Meeting Held June 23 at Tanoma

For the first time in four years the annual Evergreen Conservancy membership meeting was held without disruption from storms and flooding. Mother Nature tried but missed the day by sending heavy rains and some flooding Wednesday night. Approximately 20 persons attended.

Cindy Rogers opened the meeting by reviewing Evergreen Conservancy activities over the last 12 months. COVID continues to restrict in person activities. She also reported a very positive financial situation.

Cindy acknowledged new volunteers who benefited the conservancy over the past year.

Bob Lankard then conducted the election of board members for a term lasting to 2025. Becky Snyder and Dave Janetski were reelected unanimously. Monica Lee, a former conservancy AmeriCorps worker, was unanimously elected as a new member. Becky will serve as board treasurer.

Bob then presented the Evergreen Award to John and JoAnne Ferraro. The Ferraro's have been active in Indiana County's environmental community for more than 20 years. Bob noted that they are founding members of Evergreen Conservancy. He also pointed out their involvement in water testing, trash clean ups, environmental Ed programs, and macro invertebrate surveys.

A second Evergreen Award was presented to the Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Bobby Kish and Damian Cordell represented Trout Unlimited which is in its 50th year of service to Indiana County. Their mission is to improve and maintain cold water fisheries and improve native trout streams. They are best known for their fly tying classes.

For your information the first Evergreen Award was presented in 2012 to LeeRoy Vatter. Other recipients include the late John Novak, Karin Eller at Plant-It-Earth, John Somonick, Art Grgurick, Dr. Katie Farnsworth, Anne Daymut, Tammie Robinson, and Friends of Whites Woods. Two recipients were present at the meeting.

Cindy Rogers presented information on the Spotted Lantern Fly which is now present in Indiana County. This invasive presents a serious threat to plant life. She said, "If you see it, just kill it".

Bob reported that the conservancy is presenting an informational program on invasive plants on Friday August 19th at Blue Spruce Pavilion #1 at 6 pm. Dr. Ellen Yerger will discuss why you should avoid nonnative plants in your home landscaping.

Some attendees ate their packed dinner. Thanks to Shannon for the cupcakes as snack.

Greeting our new AmeriCorps Volunteer

Hello everyone! My name is Emily Rahalla and I recently graduated from Clarion University with a degree in Environmental Biology and a minor in Sustainability. I am a PA native and was born and raised in the Brookville/DuBois area. I am extremely excited to meet everyone in the upcoming year!



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 • Monica Lee

OUR MISSION:

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

2022 Evergreen Award

John and JoAnne Ferraro and Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited presented Evergreen Award

At its annual meeting Evergreen Conservancy presented its 2022 Evergreen Awards to John and JoAnne Ferraro and the Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited on June 23rd at its Tanoma Outdoor Environmental Education Center.

Evergreen Conservancy has been giving the Evergreen Award since 2012. At that time the conservancy board recognized that much was being done in environmental and nature areas but one person did not know what others were doing. The first Evergreen Award was given to LeeRoy Vatter.

Since then John Novak, Karen Eller of Plant-It-Earth, John Somonick, Alex Lezark, Art Grguric, Dr. Katie Farnsworth, Anne Daymut, Tammie Robinson and Friends of Whites Woods have received the Evergreen Award. Dr. Robert Eppley received a lifetime achievement award.

John and Joanne Ferraro have been involved in environmental issues for a long time. JoAnne is active on the environmental committee of the League of Women Voters and helped write Marcellus Shale Guidelines for land and water issues.

JoAnne is the administrative assistant for Indiana County Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps and has sent out the newsletter for more than 20 years.

John and JoAnne have done water testing in creeks all around Indiana County for many years for PASEC, Kiski-Connemaugh

Stream Team and Evergreen Conservancy. They download water quality data to create a permanent record.

The Ferraro's are founding members of Evergreen Conservancy, members of Blacklick Watershed and Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited. JoAnne is an active member of the Stormwater Education Partnership.

The Ferraro's plant riparian buffer zones, help with environmental education programs, and litter pick-ups. John participates in macro invertebrate sampling in creeks throughout the county.

Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited is celebrating its 50th year of activity in Indiana County. The organization was originally called the "Evergreen Chapter" but changed its name to be named after the chapter president, Ken Sink. Mr. Sink, in addition to being chapter president, was president of both the state and national organizations. The mission of Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to improve and maintain cold water fisheries throughout Indiana County as well as support national initiatives to achieve a habitat for native trout.

Trout Unlimited is known mostly for their fly tying classes and support of Trout in the Classroom. TU sends a young person to conservation camp each year. The chapter also has a youth council giving young people a voice on chapter activities.

Bobby Kish and Damian Cordell accepted the award for the Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Barrie Mann is the current president.



John and Joanne Ferraro



Bobby Kish and Damian Cordell representing Trout Unlimited

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, the Community Garden, Giant Eagle (our partner in the collection process), ICAP and the Mahoning Social Center. 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

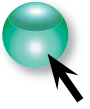
wrap, salt bags, and cereal bags. All bags must be clean and dry. Unfortunately, plastic bottles and all other hard plastics cannot be donated to this program. That type of plastic should be donated to the Indiana County recycling program. Also, please do not include any bags that have metallic lining 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.

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!

Go to www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood/welcome and look for Evergreen Conservancy

Click Here to Help Us
With Our Wish List.



Environmental Education News

June 5th We participated in the Nature Palooza at Blue Spruce Park with a lesson on frogs and toads. It was enjoyed by all.
July 12th & 13th . Marion Center summer school groups visited us at Tanoma for a morning of environmental education programs.
July 16th We held a program at Tanoma with cub scouts. We tie-dyed bandanas with the iron from Tanoma and learned about frogs and macro-invertebrates.

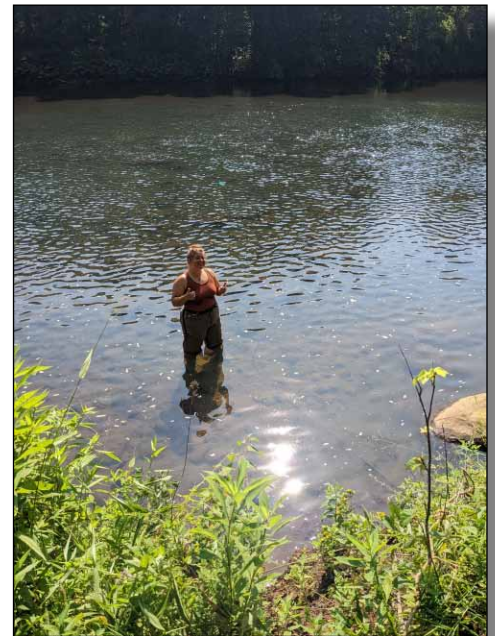
Telemetry Multi Probe Water Monitor System Finally!

Evergreen Conservancy has been working for several years on getting the financing to replace our five water monitoring telemetry sites with new satellite units. As you may remember, all the major wireless carriers have dropped 3G service, so our telemetry units that ran on the 3G network have become inoperable. The five monitoring sites are important because they're located on good quality streams where potential spills may occur due to traffic accidents. We partner with Indiana County Emergency Management on this project. Evergreen Conservancy takes care of the maintenance of the datalogger equipment and Emergency Management sponsors the airtime for the units.

Earlier this year we received financing from the PA Foundation for Watersheds, the Colcom Foundation, and the Indiana County Commissioners. Due to weather, lack of volunteers, COVID, and equipment glitches we were running behind on getting the units into the field. However, we're happy to report that we now have two units up and running. One is located at Laurel Run near the Yellow Creek State Park Office and the other is upstream of the bridge over Blacklick Creek at Blacklick, PA.

Additional monitoring sites will be located on Yellow Creek, Blacklick Creek near Heshbon, and Two Lick Creek. These units will be installed in August and September.

We want to thank our dedicated volunteers who have braved all types of weather conditions; underbrush so thick we had to cut our way into sites; and those pesky bugs and animals! Many thanks to the following folks: Paul Majoris, Tom Anderson, Anna McGonnell, Bill Anderson, and Becky Snyder.



Riparian Buffer Zones (RBZ) Signs at Yellow Creek State Park

Here are some visitors checking out the RBZ signs we installed at Yellow Creek to help people learn about RBZ's and the importance of native plants.



Weed Wrangle® at Tanoma Phase 2 - August 28th

We will finish up working to remove many of the invasive plants at Tanoma.

If you want to help – let us know at evergreenconservancy@gmail.com.

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

An invasive plant is a plant that is not native to the area. It can displace native plants, threatens native plant biodiversity, harms agriculture, degrades wildlife habitat, or uses 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.

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 at its beginning. 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.

Invasive Plant Program Speaker advocates planting native plants and trees in your back yard.

Dr. Ellen Yerger, IUP Biology professor, spoke to approximately 20 attendees at Blue Spruce Park on Friday August 19. Her topic: Benefits of Avoiding Invasive Plants in your Home Landscaping.

Dr. Yerger touched on nonnative (invasive) plants, native plants, White's Woods and the lack of underbrush due to over browsing by deer, birds, larvae, butterflies, pollination, selectivity – critters will eat or nest in only one variety of plant, avoiding nonnative plants, and weeding out invasives. Dr. Yerger tied all these subjects into an interrelated circle – hopefully not vicious.

Dr. Yerger passed around a volunteer sheet asking participants to join in activities to physically weed out invasives in public lands. This shows she thinks the spreading of invasives is a serious issue. I was also impressed when she advised against planting a tree bought in Tennessee in Indiana County Pennsylvania because of differences in soil and climate.

Dates to Remember:

September 8th 6 pm Board meeting This meeting will be in person at the new ICCD building and zoom. If interested please contact evergreenconservancy@gmail.com.

October 4th 6:00 & 7:00 pm Next PR and Finance committee meetings at ICCD.

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.

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 _____