



Newsletter, #67
Winter 2022/23

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Evergreen Award Nominations Sought

Every year at its annual membership meeting Evergreen Conservancy presents its "Evergreen Award" to someone, an organization or business. The award is given to an individual or organization that has shown leadership in environmental or nature concerns. We are asking members and friends of Evergreen Conservancy to suggest/nominate potential recipients.

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



Last year there were two recipients of the Evergreen Award: John and JoAnne Ferraro and the Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Other recipients include: John Novak, Karen Eller of Plant-It-Earth, John Somonick, Alex Lezark, Art Grguric, Dr. Katie Farnsworth, Anne Daymut, Tammie Robinson, and Friends of White's Woods.

If you have someone in mind please access Evergreen Conservancy's web site: evergreenconservancy.com. Click on About EC, then Evergreen Award where you will see bios of past winners and the nomination form. You can also email Evergreen directly at evergreenconservancy@gmail.com.

Evergreen Conservancy Schedules Meeting of Members And Friends

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled their annual meeting of members and friends for Thursday June 22 at 5:30 pm at the Tanoma Outdoor Education facility. This facility is located at the intersection of Tanoma and Rayne Church Roads, which are accessible from Routes 119 and 286.

Over the past several years Evergreen Conservancy has deviated from tradition by not having a pot luck picnic because of COVID. However the June 22 gathering will again feature the potluck picnic. The



conservancy board will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments and drink. Those attending should also bring their own place setting as well as a pot luck side, salad or dessert.

The meeting will include a report on Evergreen Conservancy activities, presenting the annual Evergreen Award, voting on board members and giving the opportunity to join or renew membership in Evergreen Conservancy. The Tanoma Educational Center has experienced changes over the past twelve months and attendees will be given a tour.

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

Environmental Education

- Look for us at the Family Fun Fest at the Mall on Saturday, March 25th, 2023. Evergreen will present an Australian theme.
- We will be helping with the ICCD's Senior Envirothon, which will be held at Blue Spruce Park on May 3rd.
- We will be helping Yellow Creek State Park on May 17th with a group of first graders from Ebensburg Catholic School.

Evergreen Conservancy's next TREX bench will be placed at Tanoma in remembrance of Paul Yacovone.

Evergreen Conservancy earned this bench by collecting over 500 pounds of plastic bags through a program run by TREX, a nationwide recycling effort. TREX sends a bench to any organization that collects 500 or more pounds of soft plastic in a six-month time period. The conservancy is calling this effort "Bags to Benches".

This soft plastic recycling concept came to Indiana County as a Boy Scout Eagle project. The purpose of the collection of soft plastics is to prevent these items from going into landfills.

Evergreen Conservancy and the League of Women Voters picked up on this practice and have alternated six-month projects of collecting over 500 pounds of plastic about every three months. The organizations are now in their ninth round of plastic collection. Since starting over 5,500 pounds of plastic has been collected.

Imagine over 500 - 55 gallon bags filled to the brim with soft plastic. That would be enough to fill a large room or several dump trucks! That is how much plastic we have kept out of our landfill.

Donators take the plastic to different locations including the YMCA, the Indiana Borough building and S & T arena and deposit it in a collection box. Plastic is collected by volunteers, weighed, reported to TREX, and taken to Giant Eagle which bales and forwards the plastic to Trex.



Paul Yacovone, Former
Evergreen Board Member.



5,500 pounds of plastic that
didn't go into a landfill.

Grants

We thank the Colcom Foundation for supporting us once again with a grant to help fund our AmeriCorps position and to help us with costs related to the water monitoring that we do around the county in over 28 streams.

We received a CRSP (Climate and Rural Systems Partnership) grant to design and install signs to encourage conversations about climate change and the effect on our environment. To learn more about CRSP visit carnegiemn.org/educator/crsp.

An Office of Surface Mines (OSM) grant was awarded to Evergreen Conservancy to improve the efficiency of the Tanoma System.

We are also the pass-through organization for a new OSM grant for the Indiana County Conservation District who will be working

on improvements to the mine discharge at the Twolick Waterworks Park.

BHE GT&S mini grant, which is handled by Western PA Conservancy, awarded Evergreen Conservancy a grant for water monitoring costs and for our promotional out-reach. We appreciate their support. We will be attending an award ceremony April 19th to receive our grant. Thank you to BHE GT&S and Western PA Conservancy.



Backyard Biodiversity

Our world is full of ecosystems that are interconnected. To make a positive change for the world, you don't need to think big, instead think small like your backyard. Making healthy changes for your yard is a great place to start.

Choosing native plants for your backyard is a great way to start. Most plants that are widely available in garden stores provide little to no benefits for native birds and insects. However, native plants provide shelter and mating areas for birds, insects, and small mammals. Native plants typically require less water and maintenance than non-native plants. Non-native plants may provide food for native wildlife, but many do not provide the necessary nutrients needed. For example, the butterfly bush produces a large amount of nectar that attracts insects but doesn't have the correct nutri-

tion. Native counterparts to the butterfly bush would be sweet pepperbush or buttonbush. Both plants are great for local wildlife while providing the correct nutrients.

Planting a landscape that mimics a forest creates a plethora of ecosystems. A good ground layer plant is Pennsylvania sedge. It creates coverage for the soil creating a cool and moist area for worms and microbes to thrive. This plant also creates food for butterflies and shelter for their eggs. A sweet pepperbush and winterberry would be perfect for a midsize forest layer. Winterberry is an amazing plant to have in your back yard. This plant has red berries throughout winter. This provides food for wildlife during the harsh winter months. As for the canopy layer you can plant any native tree that you see fit.

Emily Raballa

Trash Clean Up at Blue Spruce Park Scheduled April 22

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled a trash clean-up of the roads of Blue Spruce Park on Saturday April 22nd beginning at 9am. Please note this is Earth Day. Volunteers are invited to participate.

Those who choose to volunteer should park in the lot nearest the park office. Volunteers will be provided trash bags, gloves and orange vests. Some prefer to bring their own gloves.

The cleanup will involve Blue Spruce Road from Route 110 to

the park office. It will also include the road through the park. Volunteers are reminded that Blue Spruce Road is heavily traveled – orange vests will be provided and appropriate signs will be posted. The cleanup will include some rough terrain and exposure to ticks.

Previous cleanups have taken less than two hours. Please dress appropriately if you plan to volunteer.

Bob Lankard

Dates to Remember:

March 8th	6:00pm	Board meeting. This meeting will be in person at the new ICCD building, as well as on Zoom. If interested please contact evergreenconservancy@gmail.com .
March 25	10:00-3:00	Family Fun Fest at the Indiana Mall.
April 5th	5:30pm	Evergreen Public Relations and Finance Meetings, at the Conservation District building. These are in-person meetings but anyone wishing to attend can be "Zoomed In".
April 22	9:00am	April litter clean up Blue Spruce Park Road.
May 3rd		Senior Envirothon which will be held at Blue Spruce Park.
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.
June 22nd	5:30 pm	Evergreen's annual meeting and pot luck dinner at the Tanoma Outdoor Education facility.

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.



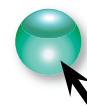
Walmart Registry, a Reminder

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.**



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 does 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 _____