



Newsletter, #70 Fall 2023

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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November Program at Tanoma

On November 2nd, Evergreen Conservancy, with the help of some staff from Indiana County Conservation District, hosted a group of 10 students and 12 adults for an educational day at the Tanoma Wetlands Environmental Center. It was an afternoon full of learning about water quality and water conservation. Students were also excited to tie dye tee shirts with iron oxide collected from the wetlands. The day began with a tour of the wetlands system. Students tested the water at the start of the wetlands and helped determine that the water had a pH of around 7 and an iron concentration of 9 ppm. Along the tour, the group got to learn about renewable energy and see the solar panels, wind turbine, and water turbine that all work together to provide electricity to the pavilion located on the property. At the end of the wetland tour the iron concentration was tested again, where students found that iron concentration dropped to 2 ppm.

The group then discussed how much water they use every day. This led to a discussion about how much water is available on earth for us to use. The students did some activities to help them get a better picture of the amount of fresh water available to them. Out of all the water on earth, there is only a small amount of fresh water, and of that fresh water most is frozen in the Arctic and Antarctic. The group then did a water relay activity pretending that the students needed to collect water and haul what they were going to use for one day. It was a great fun-filled day to learn about the importance of water conservation and quality.



Cindy led the group on the tour of the wetland system.



Part of the group showing off their iron oxide tie dyed shirts.

Trash Clean Up at Blue Spruce Park Canceled October 14

Evergreen Conservancy was scheduled to conduct a little clean-up on Blue Spruce Road on Saturday October 14. However that day was marked by heavy rain and temperatures in the 40's. The clean-up was not rescheduled because of the likelihood of more inclement weather. Look for an announcement of a spring clean-up sponsored by Evergreen Conservancy.

Board Members

Cindy Rogers - President • Shannon Kundla - Vice president • Becky Snyder - Treasurer
Tara Binion - Secretary • Dan Boone • Bob Lankard • John Dudash
David Janetski • Malcolm Hermann • Adriene Smochek • Monica Lee • Emily Rahalla

OUR MISSION:

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

Environmental Education

We hosted an environmental education program for Commonwealth Charter Academy at Tanoma on November 2nd, 2023.

On November 15, 2023, Evergreen Conservancy welcomed 9 high school students and 3 teachers from Penns Manor to Tanoma Wetlands Environmental Center. Staff from the Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD) led the day's activities. It was a frosty and chilly morning that started with a quick tour of the AMD wetlands passive treatment system measuring the iron concentration at the beginning and end of the tour. We found that iron concentration at the start was estimated to be 8 ppm and at the end less than 1 ppm. The high school students rotated through three stations at Tanoma. There was a station with Ben Wenger from ICCD, where students learned and participated in different chemi-

cal tests that are done to test water quality. Aislinn Slaughaupt from ICCD led a lesson in sustainable living and water use, where students calculated estimates of how much water they use in a day, and determined where they can make changes to conserve water. Cindy Rogers and AmeriCorps member Allison Smith from Evergreen Conservancy led a lesson on renewable energy, where students learned about different types of renewable energy and got to test how much electricity is generated from solar panels in the sun versus in the shade. During the time at Tanoma, a Bald Eagle was spotted, along with a Great Blue Heron, and a Red-tailed Hawk. Overall, it was a great day spent at Tanoma.



Cindy Rogers and Allison Smith teaching about renewable energy.



Ben Wenger, Aislinn Slaughaupt and Penns Manor students who came out for an educational day at Tanoma.

Attendees Learn of Possible Reintroduction of American Marten to Pa Wilds

Pennsylvania Game commission Biologist Tom Keller spoke on the possible reintroduction of the American Marten at Blue Spruce Lodge on Friday November 3rd.

The American Marten was once common in Pennsylvania but for over a century no martens are to be found. This was the story presented by Furbearing Biologist Tom Keller. It was wiped out by deforestation and overharvesting.

Keller began his presentation by noting other species that have been reintroduced in Pennsylvania: elk, river otter, white-tailed



deer, bald eagles, wild turkey, fishers, peregrine falcon, beaver, and osprey.

Tom then discussed the possible reintroduction of the American Marten. It is not a done deal yet and a decision will be made by the Game Commission in January. He asked attendees to submit comments to PAmarten@pa.gov. The presentation was not a hard sell listing the benefits and the negatives of reintroducing the

Marten. Benefits of introducing marten include: increasing forest health, strong public support, cultural importance, and increased economic growth.

Annual Conservation Easement Visit

Evergreen Conservancy and Robindale Energy entered into a land conservation easement agreement in December, 2017 concerning a 45 acre plot of Robindale Energy land near Dilltown. Robindale owns the land and Evergreen holds the conservation easement. This particular plot of land is considered a potential habitat for the Indiana bat. The Indiana bat was first seen in 1904 in Indiana's Wyandotte Cave and introduced to science in 1928. This is a small bat weighing the equivalent of 3 pennies. Its wing span is 9 to 11 inches. It hibernates in winter in caves or abandoned mines and is considered an endangered species. Indiana bats migrate to their summer habitat in wooded areas where they usually roost under loose tree bark on dead or dying trees. Indiana bats also forage in or along the edges of forested areas.

As part of the easement contract the Conservancy must walk the property annually to make sure there are no issues of concern. Every year Evergreen members walk the property, check the boundary markers and make sure there are no violations of the easement contract.

Mike Tyree, Cindy Rogers and Allison Smith did the annual walk around the conservation easement on November 6, 2023. They replaced a few boundary signs but found no issues of concern. The land is set aside for migrating Indiana bats. A report is shared with Robindale Energy.



Tanoma Tour

On Sunday, October 1, 2023, John Dudash and Becky Snyder hosted a group tour of the Tanoma AMD Wetlands Educational site. The group are stewards in the PSU Extension Master Watershed program. Highlights of the tour were the explanation of the trompe system for treatment of acid mine drainage (AMD); a discussion of our water monitoring equipment; and an explanation of the educational activities that we provide at Tanoma, including the renewable energy sources, storybook walk, climate change signage, and tree and plant identification signs. John also had the group participate in collecting and analyzing water samples to demonstrate the efficiency of the AMD treatment from the start of the system to the final discharge into Crooked Creek.

The Master Watershed Program involves an online training pro-

gram that covers a wide variety of water conservation related topics to prepare the stewards to educate the public and perform volunteer work in their community. Volunteers in the program are required to complete 20 hours of volunteer work each year and 10 hours of continuing education. This is a great program for those wanting to get involved with water conservation, as well as those who are looking for some additional training or opportunities. A training session will be coming up in March 2024. If you're interested in joining the program, please contact Justin Mansberger, Extension Educator at jxm5608@psu.edu.



Additional information can be found at: extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/counties/west-moreland-indiana-armstrong



Dates to Remember:

December 5th . . 5:30pm . . PR and Finance committee meetings to be held at ICCD

January 17th . . 6:00pm . . Evergreen Board Meeting ICCD and Zoom

Tick Warning

Tick season is in full swing in the fall. Ticks are commonly found in leaf litter. Fall walks, hunting, hiking, as well as backyard activities and raking the leaves can often result in a tick attaching to you. Ticks are often found on the edges of the forest and your own backyard. In Pennsylvania, 1 out of every 2 adult female blacklegged ticks are carriers of a tickborne illness. Here are the ways the tick research center recommends to prevent tick bites this fall:

- Walk in the middle of a trail avoiding high grass, bushes, and leaf litter.
- Do not lean against trees or sit on the ground, stone walls, or logs.
- Wear light-colored clothing so you can spot ticks easily.
- Tuck your hair in a hat, your shirt into your pants and your pants into your socks for optimal protection.
- Use a tick repellent and consider spraying your clothing, socks and shoes with permethrin.
- Always shower within two hours of coming indoors to scrub away any unattached ticks.
- Check for ticks! Feel your entire body for unexpected bumps that could be ticks. Pay special attention to hidden areas - the hairline, scalp, between the toes, behind the knees, around the waistband, back, bellybutton, arm-pits and groin.
- Make sure to inspect pets after they've been outside and treat pets with an effective tick repellent.

The Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania is continuing to offer Free Basic Panel Tick Testing for PA residents through funds received from the PA Department of Health. If you find a tick attached, submit your tick to the lab for testing here – www.ticklab.org/test-my-tick. They will test your tick and send you a report of their findings.

The tick lab address is:

Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania, 562 Independence Rd., Suite 114,
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301



Information taken from the Tick Research
Lab of Pennsylvania Weekly Newsletter

Renew Your Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership to Evergreen Conservancy for the 2023-2024 year.

We value your support, which helps continue all our environmental projects and our environmental education programs.

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.



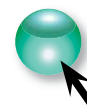
Walmart Registry, a Reminder

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.**



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 _____