



Newsletter, #68 Spring 2023

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Annual Meeting of Members and Friends

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled their annual meeting of members and friends for Thursday June 22 at 5:30pm 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. That's 3900 Rayne Church Road.

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,

veggie burgers, condiments and drinks. 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 by Tim Dahaney of BioMost.

Everyday Life in Coal Mining Town - McIntyre, at Blue Spruce Lodge June 9

Susan Ferrandiz, whose maternal grandfather Pietro Arduini worked as a coal miner for R&P Coal Company, will share memories from her relatives and McIntyre townspeople and results of her research into everyday life in McIntyre from 1910 through 1947. Her presentation will be at the Blue Spruce Park Lodge on Friday June 9th beginning at 6 pm. This program is sponsored by Evergreen Conservancy.

Ms. Ferrandiz, who was born in Brooklyn, would visit relatives during the summer that lived in McIntyre, Coal Run, and Iselin. Susan's mother would tell her memories she had of growing up in McIntyre. While in the area Susan would take pictures of the people, town, and coal mining activity. Ferrandiz, in the library department of Slippery Rock, would eventually develop a web site "McIntyre PA, the history of an everyday coal mining town: 1910-1947"

Her presentation The History of McIntyre an Everyday Mining Town will present the results of her research into the history of McIntyre. She will touch on the miners of the area, the union,

leisure and recreation, and church life. She will conclude a reading of memories gathered from those who lived there.

Susan Ferrandiz, in the library department of Slippery Rock, would eventually develop a web site "McIntyre, the history of an everyday coal mining town: 1910-1947". While in the library department she pursued a second Masters which resulted in the McIntyre web site.

Before accepting a faculty position at Slippery Rock University, Ferrandiz was the New Castle District State Library Consultant. She was also the secretary to the Korean Ambassador to then, librarian in several public libraries in Brooklyn, and director of the Center for Visually and Hearing Impaired in Baltimore.

Her Website on McIntyre was awarded a proclamation from the Indiana County Board of Commissioners in 2003.

The Presentation Is Free.

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

We helped with Indiana County Conservation District's The Senior Environthon which was held at Blue Spruce Park on May 3rd. They had a record number of students from Indiana County.

We will be helped at Yellow Creek State Park on May 17th with a group of first graders from Ebensburg Catholic School.

We will help at Nature Palooza at Blue Spruce Park, Saturday June 3rd, from 10-3 in Pavilion 3.

Evergreen Conservancy's Trex Bench Has Been Placed At Tanoma in Remembrance of Paul Yacovone.

Bags to Benches

Evergreen Conservancy's current TREX bench was placed at Tanoma in remembrance of Paul Yacovone. Many of Paul's family and friends came out to Tanoma for the dedication of Paul's bench. He will be missed very much.

Evergreen Conservancy earned this bench by collecting over 500 pounds of soft plastics 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

Donars take the plastic to different locations including the YMCA, the borough building and S & T Arena and deposit it in a collection box. The plastic is collected by volunteers, weighed, reported to TREX, and taken to Giant Eagle which bales and forwards the plastic to Trex.



Paul Yacovone

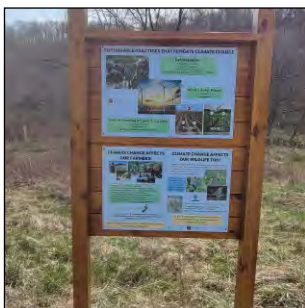


Paul's family and friends attended the dedication.

Climate Change Signs Installed at Tanoma with help from the Indiana County Park staff

A big thanks to Ed Patterson and the crew from Blue Spruce who helped mount and install the signs at Tanoma. We hope they will encourage conversations about climate change.

Special thanks to Ellen Chinn for her volunteer work designing the signs.



Grants

We thank the Cocolom 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 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.

Thanks to Western PA Conservancy and BHE GT&S (Berkshire Hathaway Energy) for our grant for outreach and maintenance costs in our water monitoring program. John Dudash and Cindy Rogers attended the WPC award luncheon on April 19th, 2023 to receive our grand award.

We are very appreciative for the continued support from WPC and BHE GT&S.

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

We also 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.



*Colcom
Foundation*



Dates to Remember:

June 3rd	10:00-3:00	Nature Palooza at Blue Spruce Park, Pavilion 3.
June 9th	6:00pm	Free presentation at Blue Spruce Lodge McIntyre, the History of an Everyday Coal Mining Town: 1910-1947
June 21st	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".
June 22nd	5:30pm	Annual meeting for members, at the Tanoma Outdoor Education facility. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share for the evening meal.
July 13th	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 .
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.

Elizabeth Bruner Will Receive Evergreen Award – June 22nd Annual Meeting

Miss Elizabeth Bruner has been selected to receive Evergreen Conservancy's Evergreen Award at our annual meeting June 22 at Tanoma. Miss Bruner was nominated by Indiana County 4-H with a supporting letter from Carol Schurman, retired 4-H Educator. At 19 Elizabeth is the youngest recipient of the Evergreen Award.

Miss Bruner was the Indiana County 2021 Fair Queen but she could rightly be called "Miss Indiana County 4-H" because of her extensive involvement.

Elizabeth began her 4-H career at age 5 as a clover bud. She did 4-H projects in marketing and breeding livestock, dairy, beef, horses, clothing and textiles, fashion review, computer science/coding, STEM, horticulture, and engineering; she excelled in environmental sciences.

Miss Bruner achieved 4-H's Diamond Award, which is equivalent to the Eagle Scout award. To achieve that Diamond Award Elizabeth organized and led a three-day Wildlife, Forestry, and Aquatics camp for youth ages 8–12. During this camp she brought in the Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited to do fly tying and casting; a forester spoke on tree identification; Waterway and Conservation officers brought in snakes and amphibians; and a game warden brought a bear in a cage to be later released. She had the participants build bluebird boxes from kits and donated them to Indiana County Parks and Trails.

In addition to her extensive involvement in 4-H she is active in other environmentally related activities. She has been involved in Wildlife Leadership Academy, Ken Sink chapter of Trout Unlimited, Forbes Trail chapter of Trout Unlimited, National Trout Unlimited, and Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. She was President of the Governor's Youth advisory council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation. She testified in front of the PA Game commission and PA Fish Commission. Currently she serves on the governor's Adult Council as its youngest member. She was Captain of her team in the Indiana County and PA Envirothon.



Elizabeth has an Evergreen Conservancy connection because she has volunteered helping with data loggers.

Currently Elizabeth attends Penn State DuBois in pursuit of her Associate's Degree in Wildlife technology and her Bachelors' Degree in Forest Ecosystem Management. Over the summer she is working as a forestry intern for the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Clearfield County to gain experience in the forestry field. Future goals are to become a forester and manage the eastern deciduous forests for wildlife. Prior to college Elizabeth grew up in Blairsville with her parents Clark and Connie Bruner and siblings John and Abigail. Elizabeth was home schooled.

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

If you wish to read the Indiana Gazette article dated 8/21/2021 reporting on Elizabeth's 4-H Diamond Project – a three day Wildlife, Forestry and Aquatics day camp. You can also view videos promoting cold water boating safety created with the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

[Gazette article](#) – [One Youtube article](#) – [Another Youtube article](#)

Earth Day Activities – It was a rainy day but we got a lot done!!!

Work Day at Tanoma

Malcolm and Cindy worked with students from IUP on Earth Day April 22nd for “Into the Streets” Day. The students helped install our new ‘story walk’ library book that the Indiana Free Library laminated for us called Coco’s Fire, a children’s book about climate change. Come on out and walk along Crooked Creek as you read each page of the book. We also filled in some low spots in the path and cleaned off the signs along the path. Thanks so much to all the students who came out to help.



Litter Clean Up on Blue Spruce Road and Park

Even though it was a rainy day people showed up to pick up the litter along the Blue Spruce Road and in the Park. The turn out was amazing with 15 volunteers from our members, IUP students, and employees from Delany Car Dealership. The litter clean up was in conjunction with “Keep PA Beautiful”. The volunteers were split into groups and covered portions of the park along with the road from Rt 110 to Blue Spruce Park. All together we collected five big trash bags full of litter.

Walk to Whites Woods

Evergreen Conservancy joined several others in Whites woods for their Earth Day Celebration. The Whites Woods group gave out Red Oak trees to plant to all the participants. Oaks are one of the best native trees to plant because these large, long-lived trees support more life-forms than any other trees in North America. Doug Tallamny notes that Oak trees support 897 caterpillar species in the United States.



There is a New Group in Town, Plant Patrol!

Plant Patrol is a new all-volunteer group in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, dedicated to fighting invasive weeds in our county’s public green spaces. They have organized volunteer work events in our county parks, Yellow Creek State Park and other local sites.

Invasive plants grow outside their native range and cause environmental or economic harm, or harm to human health. Invasive plants are harmful to the environment, because most plant-eating insects eat only native plants. Most birds and many other animals feed on these plant-eating insects. The spread of invasive plants is contributing to the decline in insect and bird populations. The National Park Service has a program to combat invasive plants, some states and cities have developed invasive plant management plans. Indiana County’s Plant Patrol was founded in spring 2022 by Ed Donley, Barb Hauge, Monica Lee, Cindy Rogers, and Ellen Yerger to fill this local need.

Since its inception, Plant Patrol has had 45 volunteers spend 247 person-hours treating thousands of invasive plants of 9 species during 9 work events at Blue Spruce Park, IUP South Woods, Tanoma AMD Wetlands Educational Site and Yellow Creek State Park.

Additional volunteer work events will take place in June along the Ghost Town Trail and in Pine Ridge Park. Soon work events for late summer and fall will be scheduled. More details about these events are posted on the organization’s Web site at www.plantpatrol.org.

For additional information, please contact Ed Donley at info@plantpatrol.org.



Japanese Knotweed



Multiflora Rose



Japanese Barberry

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.



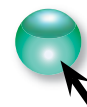
Walmart Registry, a Reminder

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 _____