



"Improving Our Quality of Life"

Newsletter, #69 Summer 2023

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Evergreen Conservancy Celebrates Annual Meeting June 22nd at Tanoma

Evergreen Conservancy's annual meeting for members and friends was held June 22, 2023 at the Tanoma Environmental Education Center. After a several year absence Evergreen again featured a pot luck dinner with hot dogs, hamburgers, meatless items, plus sides, salads and desserts brought by attendees. Predicted rain held off for the entire event.

Cindy Rogers gave a report of Evergreen's activities. Lots of things were accomplished. We have a healthy balance in our checking account. We were the recipient of a number of grants.

A plaque was placed on a native scarlet oak tree planted in Tanoma in memory of Bob Curey. His family was unable to attend June 22 so a later ceremony will be held.

Cindy Rogers recognized new volunteers Ruth Frech, Bill and Tom Anderson.

The Evergreen Award was presented to Miss Elizabeth Bruner. Her family, friends and representatives of Indiana County 4-H shared the evening with her. Elizabeth is the youngest recipient of the Evergreen Award.

Tim Dahaney led a tour of the passive treatment system focusing on new features. Old timers were reminded what the ponds were about.

Shannon Kundla, John Dudash and Bob Lankard were reelected to serve new terms on the Evergreen Conservancy Board. Bob Lankard announced that a vacancy exists on the board and asked for nominations. None were received. Please contact the board if you are willing to serve.

During the meeting dues were collected from Evergreen members and new enrollees. If you are a member you can renew your membership – a year is only \$25. One can renew at various levels – not limited to \$25.



Tim Dahaney of BioMost Gave a Tour of the Treatment System.



Elizabeth Bruner Received the Conservancy's Evergreen Award on June 22.

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 will be hosting an environmental education program for Commonwealth Charter Academy at Tanoma on November 2nd, 2023.

New AmeriCorps Volunteer



Hello everyone! My name is Allison Smith. I am an AmeriCorps member serving the Evergreen Conservancy and Indiana County Conservation District this year. I received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Saint Vincent College in 2022. I spent the past year teaching outdoor education in the California redwoods. In my spare time I enjoy being outside hiking, kayaking, or hammocking.

New Evergreen Board Member

Hello everyone my name is Emily Rahalla. I was introduced to Evergreen Conservancy as an AmeriCorps Member last year. Before AmeriCorps, I received my Environmental Biology degree at Clarion University in May of 2022, to give a little background. I am excited to introduce myself as the newest board member of Evergreen Conservancy.



Should the American Marten be Introduced to the Pennsylvania Wilds? Program November 3rd at 7 pm at Blue Spruce Lodge

A small mammal has been missing from Pennsylvania forests for more than a century. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is considering bringing it back. The animal is the American marten, aka the pine marten. It weighs two pounds and may reach two feet in length. Martens most closely resemble weasels, minks or fishers. The American marten disappeared in Pennsylvania around 1900 because of deforestation and over harvesting.

Tom Keller, a fur bearer biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, will discuss the possible reintroduction of the American marten on Friday November 3rd, at 7 pm at Blue Spruce Lodge. This event is sponsored by Evergreen Conservancy. It's free and open to the public.

The game commission has yet to commit to the reintroduction of the American marten. They have been studying the issue since 2022. Martens like to live in forested areas where there is at least 35 inches of snow. Once approved martens would be introduced to the area known as "Pennsylvania Wilds" in north central. Martens

are eaters of small animals like red squirrels, mice, birds, rabbits, fish, as well as grasses and berries. In states where martens live there is little impact on turkeys and grouse.



Mr. Keller received a Bachelors in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from Penn State University, and a Masters in Conservation Biology from Green Mountain College. He has worked for the USDA Wildlife Services and the Game Commission. Currently he manages 16 fur-bearing species from weasels to coyotes.

Keller's presentation will concentrate on the history of wildlife management in Pennsylvania, the loss of habitat and species in the state, and the rewilding in Pennsylvania.

Then he will discuss the feasibility of reintroducing the marten in Pennsylvania. He will also discuss marten biology.

Again, Keller will discuss the American marten on Friday November 3rd, at 7 pm at Blue Spruce Lodge. This presentation is free and open to the public.

Grants

We submitted an application for an Indiana County Endowment grant to help support the costs involved with plant patrol projects in ridding the invasive plants in Indiana County. We are waiting to hear if we will receive the grant.

Plant Patrol!

If you want to help rid various sites in Indiana County of invasive plants go to www.plantpatrol.org to see where and when the next clean up will be and sign up to help. Thanks!

www.Plantpatrol.org



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.

The Indiana County Conservtion District is Hiring

A Conservation Program Specialist is a full-time position that has a primary focus on conservation education projects. This is an exciting career with a lot of opportunity for creativity and community impact. The selected candidate will organize and carryout environmental education programs and conservation projects. They will teach kids and adults about conservation and agriculture, instilling an appreciation for nature. In addition to education and project management, this position will require grant writing, grant management, and grant administration.

Minimum Qualifications

Successful candidates will possess an Associates Degree in environmental science or related field, have experience in conservation education, be able to organize events, have excellent writing skills, have knowledge of conservation issues, and be able to work independently with minimal supervision.

How-to Apply

Email the following: • Cover Letter • Resume • Three Professional References

To: d.beri@iccdpa.org with Conservation Program Specialist in the subject line.



INDIANA COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Trash Clean Up at Blue Spruce Park Scheduled October 14

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled a trash clean-up of the roads of Blue Spruce Park on Saturday October 14th, beginning at 9am. Volunteers are invited to participate.

Those who choose to volunteer should park in the lot nearest the park office. Everyone 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.

Dates to Remember:

September 28th6:00pm	Evergreen Board meeting will be held at Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD) and virtually on zoom at = 6 pm. All are welcome.
October 4th6:00pm	PR and Finance committee meetings to be held at ICCD
October 14th9:00am	Litter pick up at Blue Spruce Park Road and park at 9am All are welcome to come and help!
November 3rd7:00pm	Presentation on the reintroduction of the american marten at Blue Spruce Lodge

Presidential Volunteer Service Award Presentation

On July 19th a special luncheon was held at Benjamin's Restaurant to honor Cindy Rogers for her volunteer work with numerous community organizations. Sara King, president of the Friends of White's Woods, presented Cindy with the 2023 Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

This award is a prestigious national honor in recognition of volunteer commitment that was established in 2003, and is given to individuals who have volunteered more than 500 hours over the course of a 12-month period. The award program is a way to thank and honor those individuals who inspire others to engage in volunteer service. The Friends of White's Woods became a certifying organization for the Presidential Service Award in 2022. They chose Cindy for this year's award because she had over 800 volunteer hours with a number of Indiana's community organizations last year.

Over 20 people attended the luncheon, each representing organizations that Cindy has volunteered with: Friends of White's Woods, Friends of Yellow Creek State Park, Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps, Evergreen Conservancy, Chevy Chase Community Center, Friends of the Parks, League of Women Voters, Aging Services, Indiana County Conservation District, Stormwater Educational Partnership, and the Indiana County Sustainability Taskforce, to name some of the organizations.

Evergreen Conservancy was represented by John Dudash and Becky Snyder. We are extremely proud to have Cindy as our Conservancy President and are thrilled that she was given this honor. Tom Miller, also a member of Evergreen Conservancy, was given the award last year for his numerous hours of community service.



Commemorative Tree Planting

A native scarlet oak has been planted at the Tanoma Wetlands in memory of Bob Curey.

A dedication is planned for the spring for family to attend.



Bench Dedication Planned for Paul Hicks

One of the more successful efforts Evergreen Conservancy has done is the recycling of soft plastics. Soft plastics include grocery bags, bread bags, soft drink case overwraps, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, etc. Evergreen collects these bags and sends them off to TREX – a recycling business. TREX in return sends us a bench after we have collected 500 pounds of soft plastic.

The next bench we receive will be dedicated to the memory of Paul Hicks. Paul and his wife

Doris regularly picked up litter on the Baker Trail. Fittingly this bench will be placed somewhere on the Baker Trail, Paul's bench will be the 11th one Evergreen has earned. They also helped when we cleaned the Hoodlebug Trail. Newsletter recipients will be notified when Paul's bench dedication is scheduled.



Future benches are slated to be donated to the Ernest Mine Memorial and the Tourist Bureau.

If you are not already participating in soft plastic recycling you may take these items to The YMCA, Indiana Borough Building, and S & T Arena.

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.



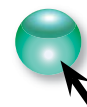
Walmart Registry, a Reminder

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 _____