



## Newsletter, #75 Winter 2024/25

[www.evergreenconservancy.org](http://www.evergreenconservancy.org)

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### LEARN ABOUT THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT

At Blue Spruce April 12th

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire." Most likely you either sang or listened to this song over the holidays. This song is a part of Americana. Also most likely any chestnuts you roasted would not be American Chestnuts. Why? A chestnut blight in the early 20th century wiped out most of American Chestnuts in our local forests. Mike Tyree will discuss this blight and attempts to restore the American chestnut at Blue Spruce Lakeside Center (not the blue spruce lodge) on Saturday April 12th beginning at 7:00 pm.

The story of the American Chestnut has a personal connection with me. When I was perhaps 10-years-old, my father took our family on a Sunday drive. He pointed to a mountain near Mount Union, PA where my grandfather and he had operated a sawmill. The Lankard Saw Mill had been prosperous until it was wiped out by both the Chestnut Blight and Great Depression.

In the early 1900s eastern forests were dominated by the American Chestnut. They were called the redwoods of the east. In the early 1900s nursery stock from eastern Asia was introduced in United States. These plants contained an

exotic fungus – the chestnut blight. This blight covered the entire chestnut range by mid-20th century – wiping out nearly all chestnut trees. Attempts to restore the American Chestnut began in the 1950s with little success. Mike Tyree will discuss current attempts to restore the American chestnut.

Mike is a professor of Applied Plant Ecology in the biology department of IUP and a former Evergreen Conservancy board member. He earned a B.S. in forestry from Penn State University and MS and PHD degrees from Virginia Tech. After working at LSU he returned to Pennsylvania at IUP, where he was allowed to blend his passion for teaching, planting and forest restoration. He is the curator of the A.G. Shields Herbarium and will become co-director of the Allegheny Arboretum at IUP.

Dr. Tyree's presentation will be free and open to the public. Plan to attend on Saturday April 12th at 7:00 pm at Blue Spruce Lakeside Center. This event is sponsored by Evergreen Conservancy.

Bob Lankard



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### 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 • 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

## ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### JULY 9TH at the Indiana County Conservation District

Plan to attend Evergreen Conservancy's annual meeting of members and friends on Wednesday July 9th at 5:00 pm at the Indiana County Conservation District. Not Tanoma????!! In recent years this event has been disrupted by two floods and extremely hot weather, so the board has decided to schedule the meeting at the conservation district.

One thing we are keeping is the pot luck dinner. Board members will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs and non-meat products. Those attending should bring a side, salad or dessert and their own table service.

As always a main feature of this day is the presentation of the Evergreen Award. This year the recipient will be 4-H leader Deb Beisel.

Since 2012 Evergreen Conservancy has honored local environmental leaders with its Evergreen Award. Our first Evergreen

Award winner was Lee Roy Vatter. Since then we have honored John Novak, Karen Eller of Plant-It-Earth, John Somonick, Alex Lezark, Dr. Katie Farnsworth, Anne Daymut, Tammie Robinson, Friends of Whites Woods, John and JoAnne Ferraro and Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Elizabeth Brunner was awarded the Evergreen Award in 2023, and Dr. Robert Eppey received a lifetime achievement award. Lisa Meadows received this award in 2024.

- An educational program is in the planning stage.
- Members will be given the opportunity to elect board members.
- There will be a report of 2024-2025 accomplishments.
- Volunteers will be recognized.
- Those attending will be given the opportunity to Join Evergreen Conservancy or renew their membership.

## DEBORAH BEISEL TO RECEIVE 2025 EVERGREEN AWARD

The Evergreen Conservancy Board has selected Deborah Beisel to receive the 2025 Evergreen Award. She was nominated by Angela Boring.

Deb is scheduled to receive the award at Evergreen Conservancy's annual meeting of members and friends. The annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 9th at 5:00 pm at the Indiana County Conservation District. Besides the award presentation this event will include a pot luck dinner and a business meeting. Friends of Deb Beisel are encouraged to spend this time with her.

Deb is mostly known for her involvement with 4-H. She has a total of 29 years volunteering with the organization. She has led several 4-H clubs and currently leads 4-H Outdoor Adventures. She excels in helping youth qualify for national events. Deb has coached Home Schooled Envirothon teams.

### Awards and Recognition

- Indiana County Human Service Council – Volunteer of the year 2006
- County Outstanding Volunteer – Southwest 4-H Leaders Symposium 2005
- National and PA winner – 4-H Wildlife and Fisheries Outstanding Volunteer -2006
- PAE 4-H – A Clover Award Winner 2008
- PA nominee for national 4-H volunteer of the year 2005
- She coached home schooled Envirothon teams which have won the event three times.
- Again friends of Deb Beisel are invited to share this time with her on Wednesday July 9th at the Indiana County Conservation District at 5 pm.

## BLUE SPRUCE TRASH PICK UP SCHEDULED March 29th

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled a trash clean-up of the roads of Blue Spruce Park on Saturday March 29th beginning at 9:00 am. Volunteers are invited to participate. Please reply if you intend to participate. The cleanup is weather dependent with a backup date April 12th. In the event of a cancellation you will be notified by Email or an announcement on our local radio stations.

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.

### Dates to Remember:

March 29th . . . . .	9:00AM . . . . .	Trash Collection Blue Spruce park
March 4th . . . . .	6:00PM . . . . .	Board Meeting at ICCD
July 9th . . . . .	5:00PM . . . . .	Annual Meeting at the ICCD
April 5th . . . . .	10:00AM – 12:00 . . .	Plant Patrol, White's Woods Nature Center
April 9th . . . . .	6:00PM . . . . .	PR & Finance Meetings at ICCD

### Plant Patrol

Plant patrol is seeking volunteers to help remove invasive species. Check the website for information. [www.plantpatrol.org](http://www.plantpatrol.org)



## TELEMETRY DATA LOGGERS

Evergreen Conservancy would like to thank the Emergency Management Agency and the Indiana County Commissioners for their continued financial support of the telemetry dataloggers. This financial support helps us to buy airtime for the five satellite dataloggers that we have installed at the Little Yellow Creek, Laurel Run, Blacklick Heshbon, Two Lick, and Blacklick Grafton sites. These sites were chosen to monitor the streams in the case of a vehicle accident which could pollute sensitive waters.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who help to maintain these five sites: Paul Majoris, Bill Collins, Tom Anderson, Bill Anderson, and our Americorps Representative, Rebecca Caldwell.

In addition to these five sites, EC also monitors another 28 sites in streams throughout Indiana County. These volunteers go out and download data on a continual basis, then download the data to our

Americorps volunteer. The data is uploaded to the Three Rivers Quest (3RQ) site at the West Virginia Water Research Institute. The 3RQ project monitors streams and rivers that drain an area of over 25,000 square miles located in five states. The data is used by the public, researchers, state & federal agencies, and industries to monitor the overall health of our local rivers and streams.

We would like to thank the following volunteers who monitor these sites: Tara & Ed Binion; Ruth Frech & husband; John & Joanne Ferraro; Paul & Sue Majoris; Sue Watkins; Joe Kennedy; Betty & Judy Gallo; Blake Mauthe; John Leib; Bill Collins; Betty Hovland; and John Dudash.

Without our caring and committed volunteer base we would never be able to accomplish our mission of the preservation, protection, and stewardship of Indiana County.



## 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	<a href="http://spaghettibenders.com">spaghettibenders.com</a>
Michael B's Shoe Store	\$10 off any purchase	<a href="http://www.michaelbshoes.com">www.michaelbshoes.com</a>
Plant-it Earth	15% discount	<a href="#">on FaceBook The-Plant-It-Earth-Greenhouse-And-Gardens</a>
Little Mahoning Creek Pottery	10% discount	<a href="http://www.nancysmeltzer.etsy.com">www.nancysmeltzer.etsy.com</a>
		<a href="http://littlemahoningcreekpottery.blogspot.com">littlemahoningcreekpottery.blogspot.com</a>
Artist Hand Gallery	12 oz. drip coffee \$1	<a href="http://theartistshandgallery.com">theartistshandgallery.com</a>



**JOIN OR RENEW your membership TODAY if you have not already done so for 2024.**



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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_