



Newsletter, #77 Summer 2025

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Members and Friends Met for the Annual Meeting

Members and friends of Evergreen Conservancy met July 9th at the Indiana County Conservation District for the conservancy's annual meeting. The meeting kicked off with our traditional pot luck picnic dinner.



The meeting was highlighted by a presentation by Rebecca Sterley on the Monarch Butterfly. This tiny creature is known for its amazing migration. Rebecca pointed out ways we can support Monarch Butterflies in Indiana County.

President Cindy Rogers reviewed activities of the conservancy from July 2024 through June 2025. Becky Snyder, Dave Janetski and Cindy Rogers were reelected to new terms on the conservancy board.

Members and friends joined Evergreen Conservancy.



Learn About Bats at Blue Spruce Lodge Friday, October 24th, 7:00pm

Bats are fascinating creatures. Long ago people would cover their heads if they saw a bat believing that bats liked to make nests in people's hair. Exterminators advertise their service of getting bats out of people's attics. The bat population is decreasing and environmentalists are concerned because bats eat insects. A single bat can eat 1200 mosquitoes in a single hour. They also pollinate flowers. Lee Roy Vatter, the first recipient of the Evergreen Award, was so concerned about the decreasing bat population that he would occasionally go to a cave near his home and count the bats exiting and entering. A species of bat considered endangered is named "the Indiana Bat". Never seen a bat! Bats are nocturnal preferring night to daytime.



bats on Friday October 24th, beginning at 7:00 pm at the Blue Spruce Lodge in Blue Spruce Park. Pennsylvania Game Commission Information and Education Specialist Chloe Kalp will present this program. Question and answer time will follow the presentation. The program is free and open to the public. The evening will conclude by 9:00 pm.

Evergreen Conservancy's mission is to advance the preservation, protection and stewardship of natural, cultural and historic resources in and around Indiana County. The conservancy is concerned with water quality in the Indiana County area by testing water in local watersheds. They maintain the Tanoma Wetlands Environmental Education Center. The conservancy also presents environmental education programs to school and scouting organizations throughout the year.

Evergreen Conservancy is sponsoring an educational program on

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 • Emily Rahalla • Joseph Lankard

OUR MISSION:

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

Deborah Beisel Presented with Evergreen Award

Deborah Beisel was presented with Evergreen Conservancy's Evergreen Award August 13th at the Indiana Conservation District office. She was nominated for this award by Angela Boring of Indiana County's Penn State Extension office.. Family members and friends supported Deborah as she received this award.



In her nomination Angela Boring noted Deborah's 29 year involvement with 4-H. She teaches classes in Wildlife and Forestry and has overseen more than 300 projects; Ms. Beisel currently leads the Outdoor Adventures 4-H club.

Deborah had many youth attend state and national events. Under her leadership twenty three youth have qualified for National Forestry events.

In addition to her involvement with 4-H Deb Beisel has coached home schooled Envirothon teams which have taken first place three times.

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 Eppley received a lifetime achievement award. Lisa Meadows received this award in 2024.

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Environmental Education

EC has been busy this year with environmental education at the Tanoma Wetlands, the Waterworks Conservation Area, Family Fun Fest, Nature Palooza, the Indiana County Junior and Senior Envirothon events, and Happy Kids' Day. We have presented programs for over 245 children and adults so far this year.

New Board Member Joseph Lankard

Joseph Lankard is a long-time member of the Evergreen Conservancy who was elected to the Conservancy's Board in September 2025. Joseph grew up in Indiana and is an Eagle Scout with Troop 11. He attended and worked at Penn State's Conservation Leadership School. He is a 1994 graduate of Indiana Area Senior High School and a 1998 graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Environmental Resource Management. After graduating, Joseph worked at several internships and then worked for the Indiana County Parks & Trails. He has also worked for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and Whole Foods Market.



Dates to Remember:

Wed., Sept. 24th Envirothon
 Sat., Sept. 27th . . . 9:00 am – 11:00 am . . . Fall Litter Pickup, Blue Spruce Main Parking Lot
 Sat., Oct. 4th 11:30 am – 4:00 pm . . . Apple Fest at Conservation Dist., Hamill Rd.
 Wed., Oct. 8th 5:30 pm PR Committee Meeting at ICCD
 Fri., Oct. 24th 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm . . . Bat Program at Blue Spruce Lodge
 Wed., Nov. 12th . . . 6:00 pm EC Board Meeting at Conservation District
 Wed., Dec. 3th . . . 5:30 PM. Finance Committee ICCD

Plant Patrol

Plant patrol is seeking volunteers to help remove invasive species. Check the website for information. www.plantpatrol.org



Plant Patrol Events:

Sat, September 20 . . . 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
 White's Woods Nature Center
 Sat, October 11 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
 Yellow Creek State Park

AmeriCorps Program Update 2025-2026 AmeriCorps Member Return

The PMSC AmeriCorps Program has returned for the 2025-2026 year! We welcome back Rebecca Caldwell who served as our 2024-2025 AmeriCorps Member and who will serve as our member for this year alongside the Indiana County Conservation District. Last year, Rebecca helped with our water quality monitoring initiatives by assisting with data logger and telemetry site maintenance and data downloads. She

also attended numerous outreach programs including YMCA Healthy Kids Day and Family Fun Fest with Evergreen's President, Cindy Rogers, as a way to interact with the community, and bring awareness to Evergreen's activities and programs. We appreciate Rebecca's service and PMSC AmeriCorps for offering these positions to provide more support to local communities and organizations.

"Hi again! My name's Rebecca Caldwell and I'm really excited to start my second year as an AmeriCorps member. I've enjoyed the work I've done previously through Evergreen and hope to continue gaining even more experience in the field, as well as, in outreach programs. In my free time, I enjoy being with my cats, traveling, and visiting friends".

ICCD's Apple Fest - Visit our Booth!

The Indiana County Conservation District's third annual Apple Festival is right around the corner! Join us on October 4th for a variety of food and craft vendors as well as non-profit groups to table at this highly-anticipated event. Evergreen Conservancy will have a booth displaying information about our environmental activities as well as those of the Plant Patrol

organization. It's a great chance to connect with the community, sample fresh-pressed cider, and listen to live music. Please visit us at this fun fall-themed event and stop by our booth, we'd love to see you there!

October 4th at 11:30-4:00pm
435 Hamill Road, Indiana, PA

Grants

We've received \$1,600 in grants from BHE/GT&S, in partnership with the Western PA Conservancy, to be used to maintain our dataloggers in 30 streams in Indiana County and to provide printing of our quarterly newsletters. In addition, we also received a \$14,000 grant from the Colcom Foundation to support our Americorps Member position for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal years. This Americorps position is vital to the daily operation of the organization and we welcome Rebecca Caldwell back for another year. Thank you to both entities for your continued support of Evergreen Conservancy!

Additional Programs

- The Conservancy maintains 20 geocaching sites.
- Also, the "Bags to Benches" is a program, which collects soft plastic (mostly grocery bags) and packages the bags which are turned into benches that are donated at various sites in the community.

Blue Spruce Trash Pick Up Scheduled September 27th, 9:00 AM

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled a trash clean-up of the roads of Blue Spruce Park on Saturday September 27th, beginning at 9:00 am. Volunteers are invited to participate. Please reply if you intend to participate. In the event of a cancellation you will be notified by Email or 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.

evergreenconservancy@gmail.com

Click here to email us.



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
Artist Hand Gallery	12 oz. drip coffee \$1	theartistshandgallery.com



JOIN OR RENEW your membership TODAY if you have not already done so for 2025-2026.

Financial support for this newsletter is provided by BHE GT&S which is dedicated to the economic, physical, and social health of communities served by BHE GT&S companies. This grant program was administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership, and collaboration.



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 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 _____

