



Newsletter, #78 Fall 2025

www.evergreenconservancy.org

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Evergreen Held a Great Educational Program About Bats at the End of October

Fifty-five people signed in. Many were elementary age (along with their parents). We had many more new people than "regulars", making the program a fine success.

Pennsylvania Game Commission Information and Education Specialist Chloe Kalp gave a very informative presentation to an enthusiastic audience.

White-nose syndrome is a fungal disease caused by the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which affects hibernating bats in North America, leading to significant population declines. It is characterized by a white fungal growth on the bats' muzzles and wings, and has resulted in millions of bat deaths since it was first identified in 2006.

Our program coincidentally occurred the week before Halloween.



PA Master Naturalist Program at ICCD 2026

The Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD) is excited to share an opportunity for individuals who love nature and community service. In Spring 2026, Pennsylvania Master Naturalist—a statewide nonprofit dedicated to training conservation-minded volunteers—will offer a new volunteer training course in Indiana County, in partnership with ICCD.

If you enjoy the outdoors, want to deepen your understanding of our natural world, or hope to make a meaningful local impact, this program is an excellent fit. The course runs April 1 to June 17, 2026, with weekly Wednesday evening classes (6-8:30) and four Saturday field sessions (April 11, May 2 & 16, June 3).

Trainees complete 50 hours of instruction, followed by 30 volunteer hours and 8 hours of continuing education to become certified. To maintain certification each year, volunteers complete 20 service hours and 12 education hours. There are many opportunities locally to earn these hours.

Applications are accepted through January 12, 2026, or until the course is filled. Learn more at pamasternaturalist.org under "Become a Master Naturalist" and "Training Courses." Scholarships are available. For scholarship or course questions, contact Susie Moffett at SWProgram@pamasternaturalist.org. For Info on ICCD contact Blake Mauthe at b.mauthe@iccdpa.org.

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

Geocaches

Have you ever been on a treasure hunt? Geocaching is the next best thing! Using GPS coordinates, you have access to thousands of sites that have hidden containers for you to find and record. Participants share these locations online, often swapping small trinkets or signing logbooks to document your adventure. Evergreen Conservancy has our own GeoTrail

that has a series of 20 geocaches all over Indiana County! A GeoTrail is a series of geocaches that center around a common theme. Our GeoTrail's theme focuses on areas of environmental interest in the county. Join in on the fun by picking up our official Indiana County Ecotour Geotrail Passport at these following locations around Indiana:

- Indiana County Tourist Bureau
- Blue Spruce Park Office
- Indiana Free Library
- Yellow Creek State Park Office
- Blairsville Community Development Authority
- Solar in Smicksburg Geocache Site

The passport has the sites' names, a place to list the code word you find, and a few questions you can answer after finding all the sites. Each of the 20 sites will bring you to a place in the county, exemplifying one of five themes: water, land, wildlife habitat, sustainability, and healthy community. In the cache, you will find information about the site and a code word that should be written in your passport. Once you've found all 20 caches and filled out all

20 code words, bring your passport to any participating location to receive your very own trackable Indiana County GeoCoin.

For more information and a full site list, visit our website: evergreenconservancy.org/indiana-county-eco-tour/indiana-county-geotrail/

We hope to see you on the trail!

Tanoma

DEP removed the weir at the end of the system. An AgriDrain™ was installed at the end where the weir was.

Board members have been 'tinkering' with minor repair and upgrade chores at Tanoma.

Combined Committee Meetings and Board Meetings

We decided there's not enough business to hold PR & Finance on opposing months, so we combined them with the Board meetings.

PR & Finance will meet at 5:30 PM.
Full Board will meet at 6:00 PM.
All meetings will be held at ICCD.

January 13, 2026
March 3, 2026
May 12, 2026
July 14, 2026 Annual Meeting
September 8, 2026
November 10, 2026

Data Logger Volunteers Needed!

Are you interested in water conservation and monitoring water quality? Evergreen is looking for data logger volunteers to help download data in the streams of Indiana County! Evergreen has 25 data logger sites that record parameters to help detect pollution events. Volunteers will go out and download data on a continual basis, then send the data to our AmeriCorps member. The data is uploaded to the Three Rivers Quest (3RQ) site at the West Virginia Water Research Institute. This 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.

Volunteers typically go out to the stream to download data about once a month from spring to fall. We appreciate any amount of time you can contribute! If you're interested, please contact Rebecca Caldwell (r.caldwell@iccdpa.org) or Cindy Rogers (evergreenconservancy@gmail.com) for more information.

Data Loggers - End of Year

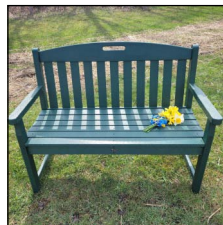
The 2025 year for data loggers is slowly coming to an end. Our volunteers have been winding down this winter season by taking data loggers out of streams and storing equipment to brace for the cold. This project runs annually from spring to winter, giving us time to clean and standardize our data loggers before returning them to the streams next year. With 25 data loggers covering key streams in the Allegheny River Basin, we've recorded thousands of water quality entries during 2025. Thankfully, no major spills or pollution events to report!

County Water Quality Monitoring Initiative. We're currently in the process of making a data logger map to display our 25 data logger locations and document the history of our efforts over the past decade. We plan to continue our dedication to keeping Indiana County's streams clean, which wouldn't be possible without the support of our members and the community. A huge thank you to our volunteers for the time and work they dedicate to helping Evergreen Conservancy with our conservation efforts. We look forward to another successful year in 2026, with more to come!

2026 marks Evergreen Conservancy's 15th year of our Indiana

Planning the Location of the Next Bench

The soft plastics recycling collection continues. The next benches are suggested to go to: Four Footed Friends, Book Nook, IRMC dialysis center, Ernest Mine Memorial park, Chevy Chase food forest. A bench in honor of Patty Holmes is to go in Memorial Park.



Donation Received

A donation of \$500 was received from a private individual as a tribute to the many years of John Dudash's efforts in a wide variety of conservation efforts. John has been a diligent board member for many many years.

Plant Patrol

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

Plant Patrol Events:

No events are currently planned, but check the website. More will be posted.

Conservancy Picks Up Trash At Blue Spruce

On Saturday September 27th Evergreen Conservancy picked up trash along Blue Spruce Road and through the park. Eight people participated, including four from Wal-Mart. We got a lot of thanks from race participants who were at the park that day. There was a surprisingly small amount of trash for a pick up after the summer.



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.



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 _____

