



Newsletter, #79  
Winter 2025/26

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

PO Box 0783, Indiana, PA 15701 [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com)

## Learn About The Johnstown Flood April 10 at Blue Spruce Lodge

Relive the greatest historical event – the Johnstown Flood – in Western Pennsylvania on Friday April 10, 2026 at Blue Spruce Lodge, beginning at 7 pm. This presentation is sponsored by Evergreen Conservancy, is free and geared to families.

Doug Bosley, Chief of Interpretation/Site Manager of the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site and Johnstown Flood National Memorial will make the presentation. Doug will cover the events that led to the Great Johnstown Flood of May 31, 1889. He will give an overview of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club, owners of the South Fork Dam. He will also cover what happened the day of the flood, the aftermath, and the relief efforts and eventual clean up.

Participants will learn about the Johnstown Flood National Memorial and be invited to pay a visit.

Mr. Bosley is a native of Johnstown and has been a park ranger for the National Park Service at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial and Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site since 2000.

Visit the Johnstown Flood National Memorial's website at: [www.nps.gov/jofl](http://www.nps.gov/jofl).

This event is free and open to the public, and sponsored by Evergreen Conservancy. Evergreen Conservancy has served the Indiana area since 2004, when it was incorporated. Water quality is a prime focus of the conservancy by manual testing of watershed streams and the use of about 30 dataloggers. The Evergreen Conservancy's mission is "To advance the preservation, protection and stewardship of Natural, Cultural and Historical Resources in and around Indiana County".

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## Seeking Nominees for the Evergreen Award

Evergreen Conservancy announces that it is time again for nominations for the Evergreen Award to recognize grassroots citizens, groups, or businesses that show exemplary leadership and active participation in protecting or preserving our environment.

Citizens, groups, or businesses can be nominated by individuals or groups, or can self-nominate.

You can contact any board member or go to the web site to obtain an application: [evergreenconservancy.org/about/evergreen-award](http://evergreenconservancy.org/about/evergreen-award).

Address: PO Box 783 Indiana, PA 15701

Email: [evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com)

Candidates for the award should demonstrate grassroots leadership in the following areas:

- Preservation and/or protection of the environment.
- Grassroots activism to preserve or protect our precious resources. This leadership can take a variety of forms including, but not limited to:
  - New or innovative technology to prevent harm to our environment.
  - Participation in activities that show a direct positive effect on our environment.
  - Participation in activities that resulted in the preservation of a historical, cultural or natural resource.
  - Participation in activities of notable stewardship of the environment.

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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 • 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

## 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.

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.

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).

Applications are accepted through January 12, 2026, or until the course is filled. Learn more at [pamasternaturalist.org](http://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](mailto:SWProgram@pamasternaturalist.org). For Info on ICCD contact Blake Mauthe at [b.mauthe@iccdpa.org](mailto:b.mauthe@iccdpa.org).

### Plant Patrol

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

### Plant Patrol Events:

- Buttermilk Falls Natural Area . . Sun, March 22, 2026 . . 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Blue Spruce Park . . . . . Sun, April 12, 2026 . . . 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Blue Spruce Park . . . . . Sat, April 25, 2026. . . . 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

## Combined Committee Meetings and Board Meetings

PR & Finance committee meetings have now been incorporated into the main board meeting.  
Full Board will meet at 5:30 PM.  
All meetings will be held at ICCD.  
May 12, 2026  
July 14, 2026 Annual Meeting  
September 8, 2026  
November 10, 2026

### Dates to Remember

- March 21 . Saturday . . . 11:00 am – 3:00 pm . . . FamilyFun Fest at the Indiana Mall
- April 10 . . Friday . . . . 7:00 pm . . . . . Johnstown Flood Presentation at Blue Spruce Lodge
- April 18 . . Saturday . . . 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm . . Healthy Kids Day the the YMCA
- April 25 . . Saturday . . . 9:00 am . . . . . Trash Pick Up, Blue Spruce Park Office
- April 29 . . Wednesday . 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. . . . Senior Envirothon at Blue Spruce Park

## 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](mailto:r.caldwell@iccdpa.org)) or Cindy Rogers ([evergreenconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenconservancy@gmail.com)) for more information.

## 15 Years of Data Loggers - 2026 Season

As we welcome the warm weather of spring, Evergreen Conservancy is preparing for our 2026 data logger season. 15 years ago, Evergreen started our water quality monitoring initiative to protect local streams in Indiana County. With the support of the community and dedicated volunteers, we've been able to continue our efforts and provide detailed data of the overall quality of our county's stream health.

During this time of year, the data loggers are collected for maintenance and to be cleaned, standardized, and cleared of old data to prepare them for the stream. With the usual number of 25 data loggers across Indiana County, we rely heavily on

volunteers to help us monitor these loggers and retrieve data on a biweekly basis. This data is sent to our AmeriCorps member, who uploads it to Three Rivers Quest through WVU as public information of our stream's health.

This year, Evergreen created a data logger map to display our current and previous data loggers to share with the community. We hope this provides a more transparent view of our initiatives to the public and supporters as well as a way to help keep track of the history of our water quality initiative. We're always welcoming new volunteers or interested individuals who want to be involved with Evergreen's activities!

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## Blue Spruce Trash Pick Up Scheduled April 25<sup>th</sup>

Evergreen Conservancy has scheduled a trash clean-up of the roads of Blue Spruce Park on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 am. Volunteers are invited to participate. Please reply if you intend to participate. The cleanup is weather dependent with a backup date April 12<sup>th</sup>. In the event of a cancellation you will be notified by Email or announced 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](mailto: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	<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 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.



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 \_\_\_\_\_

# Data Loggers in Indiana County, PA

Monitoring Water Quality in the County

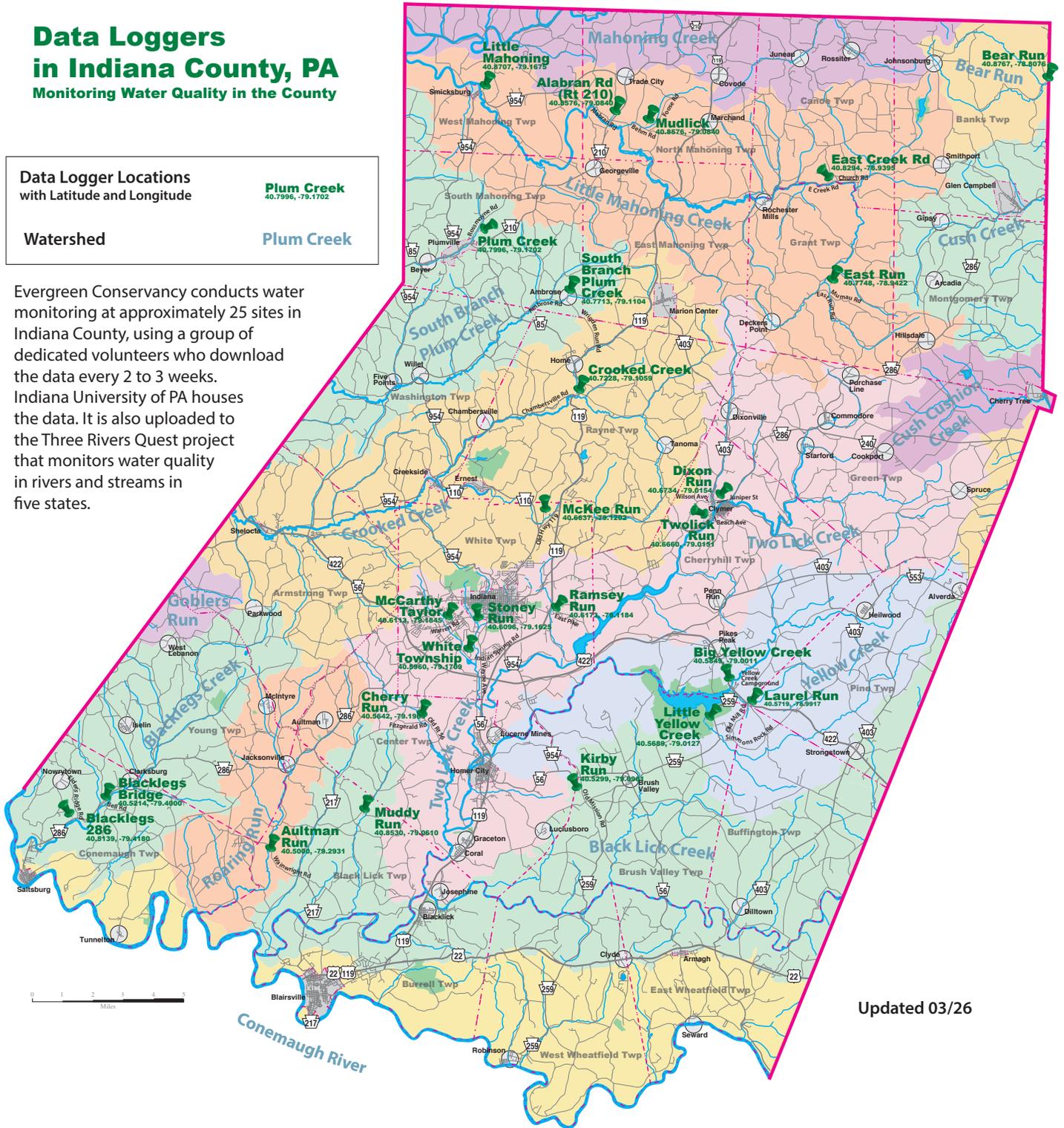
Data Logger Locations  
with Latitude and Longitude

Plum Creek  
40.7996, -79.1702

Watershed

Plum Creek

Evergreen Conservancy conducts water monitoring at approximately 25 sites in Indiana County, using a group of dedicated volunteers who download the data every 2 to 3 weeks. Indiana University of PA houses the data. It is also uploaded to the Three Rivers Quest project that monitors water quality in rivers and streams in five states.



Updated 03/26