



Friends of White's Woods received the 2021 Evergreen Award from the Evergreen Conservancy Aug. 12 for their work in educating the public on environmental issues and for their collaboration with other environmental agencies.

In the presentation by Robert (Bob) Lankard to FWW President Sara King, Lankard noted the educational programs FWW made available to the community via Zoom on topics such as invasive species and their removal, the value of the woods to the physical and psychological health of the community, how to inform rural communities on climate change, and the benefits of community forests to birds and people, among others.

Lankard commended FWW for their outreach to other environmental groups. In addition to the Evergreen Conservancy, these include the Sierra Club, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Todd Bird Club, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, and the Climate and Rural Systems Partnership of Western Pennsylvania, among others.

In her acceptance of the award on behalf of the group, King said: "Friends of White's Woods is thoroughly honored to receive the Evergreen Award because it is from the organization that has been a leader in protecting Indiana County natural resources for over two decades. It means so much to be honored by the environmental leaders in our region. The Evergreen Green Conservancy's steady work, particularly in environmental education, land remediation, and stream restoration in Indiana County is so important - and contributes so much to the future well-being of our land and its residents alike."

FWW becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Evergreen Award given to individuals, groups or businesses who have demonstrated grassroots environmental leadership in a variety of areas, including new or innovative technology to prevent harm to the environment; activities that show

a direct positive effect on the environment; preservation of historical, natural or cultural resources; and notable stewardship of the environment.

FWW has been in an 18-month battle to preserve White's Woods from an invasive species removal and timbering plan that qualified foresters deemed disastrous to the 250-acre, 80+-year-old forest.