



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



March

MARCH 4 WEBINAR

TO CALCULATE VALUE OF WHITE'S WOODS

White's Woods provides significant economic and health benefits to the Indiana area community without a single tree being downed and sold for timber.

This information and calculation will be the topic of the Friends of White's Woods next free webinar March 4 when Todd Sherbondy, a certified arborist with The Davey Tree Expert Company headquartered in Kent, Ohio, explains the i-Tree analysis of White's Woods.

For example, Davey's analysis reveals that, in its current state, White's Woods soaks up 207,540 gallons of stormwater each year – stormwater that would otherwise run downhill into Indiana and would require extensive and expensive mitigation efforts. The trees also store 1,102 tons of carbon dioxide per year, already storing 27,688 tons of carbon dioxide. Factoring in the other pollutants absorbed by the trees and placing a dollar value on the total work of the trees reveals a \$32,984 per year environmental value that also improves the health and well-being of area residents. White's Woods lowers summer air temperatures, provides wildlife habitats, adds aesthetic benefits and enhances property values. Add to this value the possibility of carbon offset funds, an annual payment from carbon-producing industries and businesses to municipalities and/or family tree farm owners, and White's Woods offers economic opportunities to White Township.

Sherbondy, who holds a bachelor of science degree in horticulture from Penn State, is a 2003 graduate of The Davey Institute of Tree Sciences training course as well as the Davey Advanced Arborist Training and Advanced Rigging Program. He began his career with Davey in 2000 and currently holds the position of sales arborist. Since 2005, he has been the Asian Long-horned Beetle Eradication Field Supervisor. An outdoor lover, husband and father of two girls, he enjoys tree climbing and is a member of the Camp Advisory Team for Skymeadow Girl Scout Camp in Avonmore.

The webinar, offered via Zoom, runs from 4 to 5 p.m. and is open to the public. To register for the webinar, send an email to info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org.



*Todd Sherbondy
Certified Arborist*

The Davey Tree Expert Company

FWW: Taking Our Show on the Road (so to speak)

In February, FWW was invited to make presentations at local clubs and organizations, including the Indiana Road Runners Club and the Indiana Rotary.

Four members of FWW: President Sara King, Vice President Dave Dahlheimer and board members Fred Heilman and Norma Tarnoff provided information on the results of community surveys on how area residents use White's Woods, the history of attempted timbering of the woods and tree removal's effects on stormwater runoff, the i-Tree economic analysis of White's Woods, and forester-recommended methods to remove invasive species.

More presentations are planned. If you belong to an organization that would like to hear this 40-minute virtual presentation complete with pictures and charts, please contact Norma Tarnoff at ntarnoff@comcast.net.

These presentations are free to area clubs and organizations.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

March 4: "Friends of White's Woods: i-Tree benefit calculation" by Todd Sherbondy, an arborist with The Davey Tree Expert Co. of Monroeville.

March 5: "Monetizing Forest Carbon: A Local Economic Opportunity," by Kevin Yoder, The Nature Conservancy; 12 to 1 p.m. (The Indiana County Sustainable Economic Task Force and FWW are co-sponsors; register at <http://sustainableindianacounty.org/events/summit/>)

April 15: "Deer Exlosures and Removing Invasive Species: The Hartley Acres Project" by Shari Edelson, director of operations, The Arboretum at Penn State.

The FWW webinars, offered via Zoom from 4 to 5 p.m., are free and open to the public. To register for a webinar, send an email to info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org.

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

Like us on FaceBook: Friends of White's Woods, Inc.

Follow us on Instagram: [friendsofwhiteswoodsinc](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwhiteswoodsinc)

**Issue 9
March 2021**

**Pennsylvania Department
of Conservation &
Natural Resources:
Protecting Pennsylvania's
Forests, Plants and Wildlife**

According to the Pennsylvania DCNR website, plants perform many functions for humans and the environment, including:

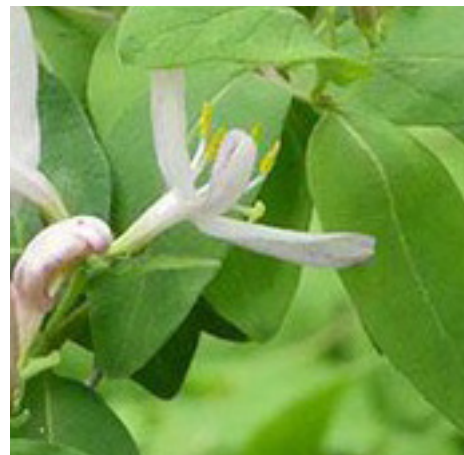
- Filtering water
- Stabilizing soil
- Storing carbon
- Providing valuable commodities to humans such as food, medicines, and raw materials for construction and technology
- Aesthetics, relaxation, and recreation are also enhanced by the beauty of plants.

Plants are essential to wildlife by providing food and shelter they need in their habitats. Pollinators depend on plants. The types of wildlife found in an area depend on what plants are present; plants are responsible for biodiversity within ecosystems.

DCNR manages 2.2 million acres of state forest land and 200,000 acres of state park lands for the conservation of native wild plants for the benefit of Pennsylvanians.

On DCNR lands and other lands across the commonwealth, the department is committed to conserving native plant species by:

- Classifying plants as rare, threatened, or endangered and conserving them
- Promoting the use of native plantings in landscaping and revegetation efforts to maintain protection of the commonwealth's native wild plants
- Managing and enhancing communities of native plants, and the habitats that they provide
- Addressing invasive plant species issues
- Management of American ginseng and other plants that are vulnerable to decline because they are removed from the wild for personal or commercial use
- Providing a program for acknowledgement of exceptionally managed properties through the Wild Plant Sanctuary Program
- Providing education and tools to combat invasive plants in Pennsylvania, <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>



Shrub Honeysuckle, an exotic invasive shrub, can be identified by its tubular fragrant flowers in spring and its red or orange berries that ripen in August. The plant can reach heights of 16 feet, and, although birds and other wildlife feed on the berries (and spread the seed that way), the nutrient value is very low and is equated to junk food.

Shrub Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica* and *Lonicera morrowii*): Junk Food for Native Wildlife

Bush honeysuckles, native to Europe and Asia, were introduced to the United States in the 1800s as ornamentals, wildlife food and cover. The two species commonly found in Pennsylvania are Tartarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) and Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*).

Bush honeysuckles compete with many native plant species for natural habitats. They grow in a wide range of habitats and tolerate varying moisture conditions. Birds feed on honeysuckle berries spreading the seeds, which can remain viable in the soil for several years. Though the iconic scent and blossoms appeal to generalists such as the European honey bee, the nutritional value of invasive shrub honeysuckle fruit is far less than that of native plants. Shrub honeysuckle fruit is low in the proteins and fats required by migratory birds on their flights, making it effectively like junk food.

Intolerant of shade, shrub honeysuckles are not typically found in mature forest interiors. They prefer areas with full to partial sun, like forest openings and edges, roadsides, abandoned agricultural fields, and other disturbed habitats where sunlight is penetrating the canopy, such as after a timber harvest. Opening the tree canopy in a mature forest, like White's Woods, would cause the proliferation of this invasive species.

This Pennsylvania varieties can be identified by the following:

- Upright multi-stemmed shrub.
- Opposite branching pattern.
- Simple, oval-shaped leaves with a sharp-pointed tip. Underside of leaves are fuzzy.
- Stems of mature plants are hollow,
- Tubular fragrant flowers bloom in spring. Flowers are pink or yellowish-white, depending on the species.
- Fruits are red or orange berries that ripen in August.
- Reaches heights up to 16 feet tall.

Bush honeysuckle can be cleared by hand pulling because of its shallow root system. Make sure to remove all the roots, because new sprouts will grow from the root system. For severe infestations, cutting them in early spring and late fall for several years will eventually kill the honeysuckle by reducing the plant's reserve nutrients. Do not cut the bushes in the winter because this will cause the plant to re-sprout vigorously. Applying an herbicide to the leaves or a freshly cut stump late in the growing season will also help control bush honeysuckles. Native alternatives such as flowering dogwood, witch hazel, spice bush, and sassafras are much preferred for their contributions to wildlife, insects and other native plants and trees.

**For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org
Like us on FaceBook: Friends of White's Woods, Inc.
Follow us on Instagram: [friendsofwhiteswoodsinc](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwhiteswoodsinc)**

**Issue 9
March 2021**