



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



APRIL FEATURES: WOODLAND RESTORATION WEBINAR; PLANT, BIRD WALKS

Spring will open up many outdoor activities, and the Friends of White's Woods will do the same.

White's Woods has a sister woodland, of sorts, in Hartley Wood, part of The Arboretum at Penn State.

Also a remnant old-growth forest parcel, Hartley Wood underwent a renaissance by using ecologically and environmentally sound practices. Shari Edelson, director of operations at The Arboretum at Penn State, will explain this project sharing methods used and lessons learned at the free public webinar April 15th from 4 to 5 p.m., sponsored by the Friends of White's Woods.

Topics will include invasive plant removal, deer fencing, re-introduction of native plant species, volunteer engagement, and the development of a written landscape management plan.

Edelson earned a master of science degree in public horticulture at the University of Delaware and Longwood Gardens. Before coming to Penn State, she worked with several public gardens and community greening organizations, including Reeves-Reed Arboretum, the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, the Delaware Center for Horticulture, the Parks & People Foundation, and Cylburn Arboretum. Her responsibilities at The Arboretum at Penn State include the development and care of the Arboretum's plant collections, oversight of new garden planning and construction, and coordination of maintenance operations.

April 17 will feature a bird walk with Margaret and Roger Higbee of the Todd Bird Club of Indiana, Armstrong and Cambria Counties. Scheduled for 8 a.m. at the 12th Street entrance to White's Woods, the walk will be limited due to COVID, so please email info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org to reserve a space. Bring binoculars and prepare for inclement weather.

Cindy Rogers, president of Evergreen Conservancy, will conduct a Plant Walk at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 1, at White's Woods. Reservations, due to COVID, are required. A good phone app to have for the walk would be "Seek." Please wear tick-repellent clothing and use insect repellent. Plastic bags for pulling invasive plant species will be provided.



*Shari Edelson
Director of Operations
The Arboretum at Penn State*

Legal Update

Opposing counsel in the FWW lawsuit submitted a request for summary judgment in the case, and FWW's attorney Tim Fitchett of Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services submitted FWW's response March 22. Oral arguments were held March 30 at the Indiana County Court of Common Pleas.

The request for summary judgment repeated the preliminary objections opposing counsel raised originally:

1) FWW does not have standing to challenge White Township's invasive species removal and consulting contracts on behalf of FWW members who are township taxpayers; and

2) Whether there is an outstanding factual issue on whether White Township contracts are exempt from statutory advertising and bidding requirements even though invasive species removal does not qualify as a professional service and the Township initiated the competitive bidding process.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

April 15: "Woodland Restoration in The Arboretum at Penn State" by Shari Edelson, director of operations, The Arboretum at Penn State.

May 20: "Ecological Impact of Invasive Plant Species" by Dr. Sara Keubbing, an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh, where she runs an invasion ecology research lab, and Dr. Marion Holmes, an ecologist working as a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Sara Kuebbing's lab.

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

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**Local Artist Donates
Signed Limited Print
Original Artwork
for FWW Fundraiser**

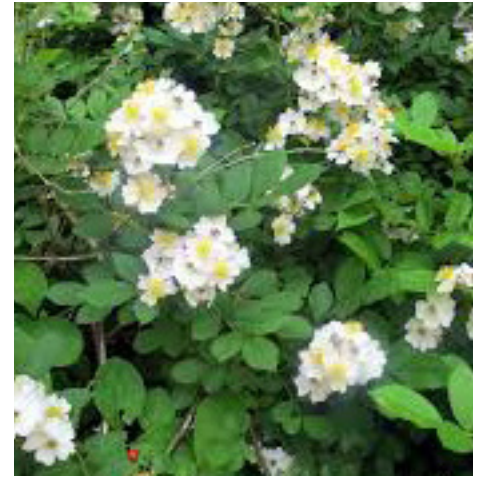
If you have ridden Indiana's Indigo buses in recent weeks, you may have noticed the prints encouraging the preservation of White's Woods as a natural woodland. Now, 100 prints of similar design will be available for a \$100 donation through the generosity of the artist Chuck Olson.

The 12" x 18" prints will be individually signed and numbered by the artist. If you are interested in reserving a print, please contact Norma Tarnoff at ntarnoff@comcast.net. Please include all of your contact information in the email.

Olson has had his paintings featured in over 300 solo, group, and juried exhibitions throughout the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Bermuda, Scotland, and Japan.

His work has been included in the following selected museum and corporate collections: Carnegie Museum of Art, Osaka Museum of Modern Art Contemporary Art Center, Charleston Museum of Art, Amarillo Museum of Art, Galerie Lillebonne, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Duquesne University, Marietta College, University of Scranton, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University, Saint Francis University, UPMC Corporation, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Corporation, Double Tress Hotel Corporation, Westinghouse Corporation, ALCOA, Oxford Development, PPG Industries, PNC Corporation, National Bank of the Commonwealth, McDonald's Corporation, Price Waterhouse, Coopers and Lybrand, Hilton Hotel Corporation, Tokyo Marine, Gulf Oil Corporation, USX Corporation, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Pine Richland School District, Hewlett Packard, Cassa di Risparmio di Reggio Emilia, and many private collections in Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Ohio, Vermont, Maryland, Florida, New Jersey, Texas, Massachusetts, Connecticut, California, and Europe.

A graduate of IUP with a bachelor's in art education and a master's in painting, Olson also attended the Tyler School of Arts at Temple University. He served as a professor of art from 1976 to 2019 at St. Francis University, Loretto.



A single multiflora rose plant may produce a million seeds per year, which may remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years. The hips are readily eaten by birds, which are the primary seed dispersers. New plants can also be formed by rooting from the tips of canes touching the ground.

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Multiflora rose was introduced into the United States as ornamental rootstock from Japan in 1866. Beginning in the 1930s, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service promoted it for use in erosion control and livestock fencing. It was also encouraged in wildlife plantings and as a crash barrier along highways. Recognition of its tenacious and unstoppable growth habitat came too late, and it is now considered a noxious weed in many states.

Native to Asia, multiflora rose now occurs throughout most of the United States, especially the eastern half.

Multiflora rose is a dense, thorny shrub, reaching up to 15 feet in height, with arching canes (stems) that are capable of rambling up trees. Its leaves are pinnately compound, divided into seven to nine leaflets, and finely serrate. Clusters of fragrant white to pink flowers appear in May or June. Small bright red hips (fruit) develop during the summer and remain on the plant through winter.

This invasive shrub has a wide tolerance for various soil, moisture and light conditions. It can be found in dense woods, along stream banks and roadsides, and in open fields and prairies.

Multiflora rose forms impenetrable thickets that exclude native plant species. This shrub grows very prolifically in riparian areas, where its inedible leaf

litter can change the composition of the aquatic macroinvertebrate community. Its occasional habit of climbing can weigh down trees, making them susceptible to breakage.

Multiflora rose could easily be confused with other rose species (both native and non-native), especially when not in bloom. This is a concern, since some native species are of conservation interest.

Scattered populations may be eliminated by complete removal of the plants. Be sure to remove all root material because this shrub readily re-sprouts.

Application of herbicides, such as glyphosate or triclopyr, on freshly cut stems is an effective control method since it destroys the root system and prevents re-sprouting. This may be done during the dormant period, which reduces the likelihood of damaging desirable species.

APRIL 8TH MARKS ONE YEAR

The one-year anniversary of FWW's discovery of the the already-long-in-development White Township plan to timber WWNC is April 8. FWW's success, driven by extraordinary member support, in holding off this timbering plan so far has been a significant community effort. Let's keep up the fight!

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

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