



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



Stormwater Webinar Highlights November; Wolf's October Webinar Affirms WW's Health

"If a tree is felled in White's Woods, how much additional stormwater will rush downhill into surrounding communities?"

That question is the crux of the November 19 webinar on "The Role of Trees and Forests in Managing Stormwater" by Vincent Cotrone, a Penn State Extension regional urban forester and educator. (*See below for registration information*).

October's webinar by FWW's consultant forester Mike Wolf of Appalachian Forest Consultants of Johnstown reviewed his July presentation to the White Township Board of Supervisors where he stated that White's Woods is in good health and no immediate drastic measures need to be taken to improve that health. His webinar revealed that the three dangers to the woods are competing plants, including invasive species; adding light, which will help these invasive species to thrive; and not controlling the deer population, which is consuming tree seedlings at an alarming rate.

Interested in doing some research on your own on the topic of forest health? Here are some links FWW recommends:

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (<https://paparksandforests.org>)

The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania (<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/pennsylvania/>)

National Natural Areas Association (<https://naturalareas.org/>)

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (<https://waterlandlife.org/>)

PA Natural Heritage Program (<http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/>)

The PA Forestry Association (<http://paforestry.org/about/about-pfa>)

The Penn State Extension (<https://extension.psu.edu/>)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Nov. 19: "The Role of Trees and Forests in Managing Stormwater" by Vincent Cotrone, Penn State Extension educator and urban forester

Jan. 14: "Bird Habitat" by Dr. Margaret Brittingham, Penn State professor of wildlife resources and extension wildlife specialist

Feb. 11: "Comfortable Spaces for Uncomfortable Conversations: The Climate and Rural Systems Partnership of Western Pennsylvania" by Indiana native Dr. Bonnie McGill, an ecosystem ecologist and science communicator with Carnegie Museum of Natural History

The 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.

REMINDERS

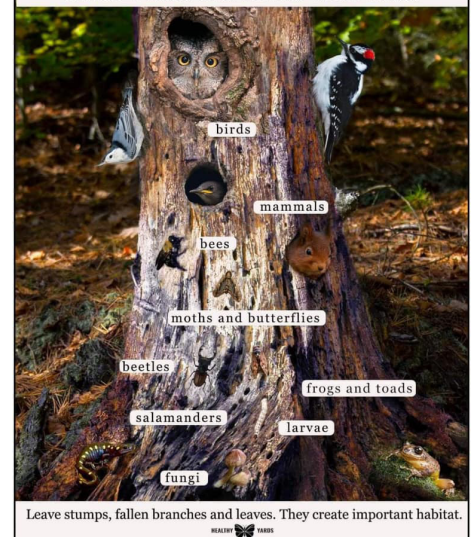
- The "heArts of Wood" exhibit, scheduled for Oct. 20 through Nov. 14 at The Artists Hand Gallery on Philadelphia Street, will feature the works of local artists. Please patronize this exhibit, which is co-sponsored by FWW.

- You can order t-shirts (sizes S to XXL) for \$15 each and masks for \$10 each by sending a check made payable to FWW, Inc., to FWW, Inc., P.O. Box 1271, Indiana, Pa. 15701. Be sure to include size of t-shirt.

Mugs at \$10 are available for sale at Commonplace Coffee, 1176 Grant Street (7 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., S/S).

- Donations to help cover legal, research, outreach and other essential activities are still needed. Please send checks made payable to FWW to P.O. Box 1271, Indiana, PA 15701. FWW is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so all donations are tax deductible.

Dead Trees are filled with Life!



For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

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Yellow poplars in White's Woods reach for the sky with their yellow headdress, creating a canopy of gold to protect what grows below.

Excerpts from Mike Wolf's October Webinar

"Light is the enemy to an unhealthy forest understory. In my June 24th report, I detail the health of the understory in White's Woods. It is obviously unhealthy. ALL of our native PA trees can germinate and begin to grow in a shaded understory – especially when the shade level (height) is high, like that created by the overstory tree canopy. A tight canopy is NOT the issue in White's Woods. I recommend to NEVER add light to a forest floor until after desirable seedlings are sufficiently present.

The current "tight" canopy is the only defense White's Woods has against the proliferation of MUCH MORE invasive plants!"

Wolf's take-home message to viewers: "Light is the enemy to an unhealthy understory.

White's Woods forest is not over-mature.

White Township Supervisors have time on their side."



White's Woods' frames Indiana with the vibrant colors of autumn. The stunning beauty of the varied species of trees reminds residents of the treasure this forest is to the area.

The Nature of "White's Woods"

by Kevin Patrick, November 1, 2020

The information for this article comes from Kevin Patrick's forthcoming book, Whites Woods: A Year in an Allegheny Forest.

I walked through Whites Woods in October enveloped by a fall foliage forest draped in yellow. Tulip tree leaves drizzled down around me with a soft pitter-pat as they hit the forest floor spiked by the staccato of acorns dropping from oak trees just starting their turn from green to russet. Dark yellow hickories contrasted with the bright yellow tulip tree canopy with witch hazel bringing a dusty yellow to the understory. Each plant in the forest has its season, the time of the year that brings forth its distinctive characteristic that allows it to briefly stand out against the variegated monotony of the woods. Fall highlights the handful of mature maples that orange-up the canopy, but also reveals that most of the maples are small, yellow and in the understory -- waiting. Most of the large oaks -- red oaks and chestnut oaks but few white oaks -- grow on the rocky hilltops, their slowly broadening girth turning up broken bits of sandstone from mossy ground. American beech trees stand out in fall by holding onto their green longer than most trees, creating little islands of summer with their surrounding clone armies of suckers, a sign that even the larger trees are not that old.

The nature of Whites Woods is an overlap of forest types common to the Eastern

Temperate Forest that covers the country from the Gulf of Mexico to southern Canada, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. The tulip trees -- also known as yellow poplar or tulip poplar -- that dominate the Whites Woods canopy grow thicker and larger among the oaks of southern Appalachia. Maple, beech and birch anchor forests farther north, surrounding the Great Lakes and extending into New England. Oak-hickory forests straddle the northern Appalachians from the Atlantic through the Midwest. Over the last three million years of Ice Age climate change, forest types have seesawed back and forth across the hills of Indiana County. Deciduous trees forced south by glacial periods were replaced by coniferous trees from the north, then treeless tundra for tens of thousands of years before the return of the warmth of interglacial periods, and with it the needleleaf boreal forest followed by northward marching oaks, hickories and tulip trees. The glaciers and therefore the forests of Whites Woods have cycled like this eight times in the last 740,000 years. Each time the mixed deciduous forest returned -- never quite the same as before -- it re-mantled the sandstone knobs and saddled ridges occupied by the Whites Woods we know now.

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