



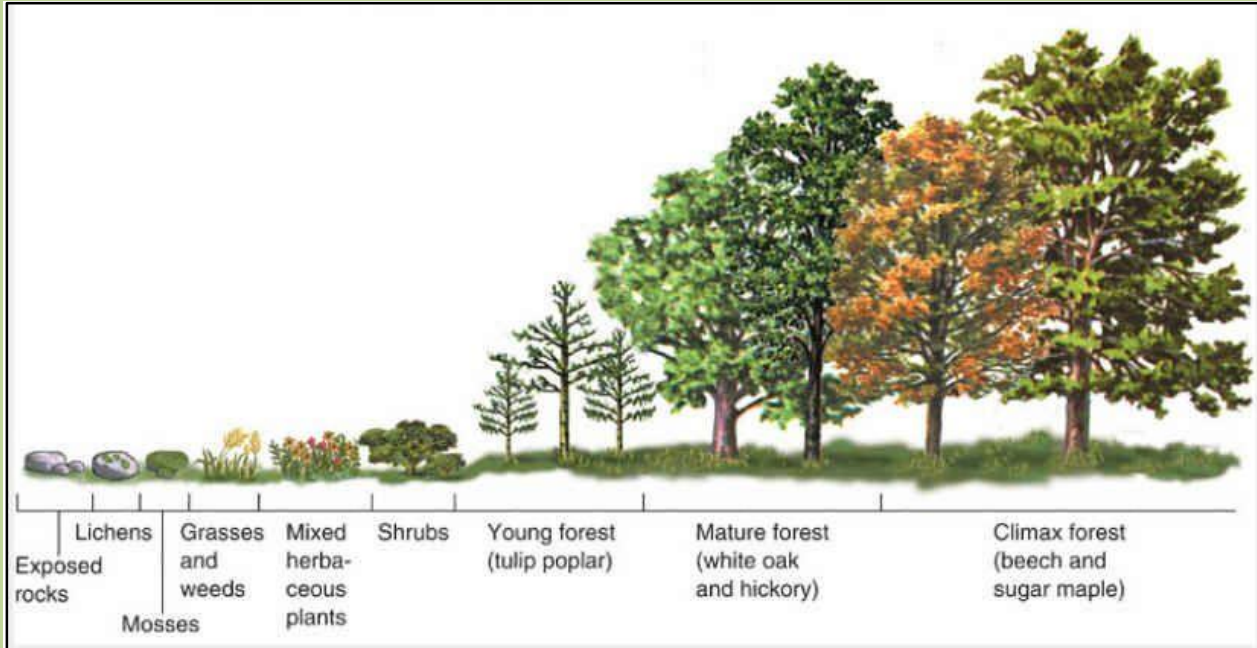
Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



JUNE

FOREST NATURAL SUCCESSION:

The 80-year old White's Woods Forest is just beginning to mature



Right now, as expected, tall, majestic Tulip Poplars dominate the lush tree canopy in White's Woods.

Forest ecologist Jess Riddle noted that "It takes about 100 years in the shade for a tree to get to the canopy ... Then, that tree will survive another 100 to 200 years. Calling an 80-year-old forest old is like calling a 30-year-old a senior citizen." Our community forest, now a "second-growth" forest, can mature into old growth if we do what we've done for the last 80 years: Let the trees grow! The Old Growth Forest Network promotes the growth of secondary-growth forests to become old growth. It is time for the White's Woods Nature Center to become the Network's newest member. (Chart: *eco-intelligent.com*)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS

June 13: Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk by Dr. Dana Driscoll (12th Street entrance), 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

June 27: FWW MEMBER MEETING, Zion Lutheran Church, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 22: "Climate Change and Penn's Woods: What Does the Future Hold?" webinar by Greg Czarnecki, Director of Applied Climate Science, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 4 to 5 p.m. The webinars, offered via Zoom, are free and open to the public. To register for a webinar, send an email to info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org.



Cindy Rogers, Evergreen Conservancy Director, (pictured above) lead the May 21, 2022 Friends of White's Woods Spring Plant Walk. See her updated 2022 partial list of White's Woods' plants at our website, friendsofwhiteswoods.org

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FRIENDS OF WHITE'S WOODS 2022 BIRDWALK



Twenty-three different bird species were sighted on this April 30th White's Woods outing, led by Margaret and Roger Higbee, including three special warblers: a Blackburnian Warbler, a Black-throated Blue Warbler, and three Yellow-rumped Warblers. Other species included a Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, and Blue-headed Vireo.



Top left: Ray Winstead and Margaret Higbee. (Photographer Cheri Widzowski.)



NEED A PRINT?

"Sunlight's Dance" by Indiana artist Beth Wheeler, which was selected by the Friends of White's Woods Board of Directors as the 2022 print, is available for a \$100 donation. To reserve a print, please send an email to info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org. The Framing Hut Gallery, 1502 Oakland Ave., is offering a 20% discount on the framing of this

WHITE TOWNSHIP STEWARDSHIP PLAN FOR WHITE'S WOODS: MORE CONFUSION

. Although the committee explored many relevant issues in the May 19, 2022 White Township Stewardship Committee meeting, no conclusions were reached.

The committee contacted the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records with questions about Sunshine Law requirements regarding work conducted between meetings. The Office advised the committee to pose their questions to the Township solicitor. Ryan Shaffer stated that Township manager Chris Anderson had forwarded the questions to the solicitor, but no response has been received. No action was taken.

The Committee Chair suggested that they could 'kickstart' the process of developing definitions of stewardship and other terms, such as timbering, by generating a list together and then working on interpretation individually. The chair tabled further discussion pending a response from the solicitor about work sessions.

The planned walk with forester Mike Wolf was postponed because the Township did not post the required notice of the public meeting 48 hours in advance. The committee plans to watch the FWW webinar presented by Mr. Wolf before the next meeting, and explore with him both timing and format for a future meeting.

Methods of choosing speakers from the list of twenty proposed presenters were discussed. Committee members expressed concerns about the time necessary to hear from multiple speakers and the possibility of duplicate presentations. Committee members Dahlheimer and Davis were assigned to group speakers according to areas of expertise. The chair deferred further discussion to the June meeting.

Three IUP departments are under consideration to assist the Stewardship Committee with public input: Sociology; Geography, Geology & Environment, Planning; and the Small Business Institute (Eberly College of Business). The committee agreed that input from multiple researchers would be beneficial. The identified faculty member in each department will be contacted to determine further interest.

In a discussion of a potential Mission and Vision of the Stewardship Plan, committee members discussed the need for better data before a mission for WWNC can be written. Specifically, public input, plant and wildlife inventories, and use surveys are critical. No further action was taken.

The committee concluded the meeting with discussion about a recently-received letter from FWW that highlighted the need to: maintain WWNC as a natural area; base any plans on public values; allow adequate time (beyond 18 months) to develop the plan; seek grant support for WWNC.

Late update: To the complete surprise of the public and to Stewardship committee members, the Township filed a Greenways Trails and Recreation grant application in late May, 2022 to hire professional foresters to assess White's Woods, even though FWW had been told by both Township staff and Committee Chair Hauge that grant applications would be considered only after the stewardship plan was complete. FWW attendance matters! The next Stewardship Committee meeting is on June 16.

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

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