



# Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



## CLIMATE CHANGE TOPIC OF JAN. 26 WEBINAR

Dr. Steve Hovan, dean of the John J. and Char Kopchick College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at IUP, will present a brief overview of climate science from the viewpoint of “what we know,” “what we don’t know” and “what we need to do better” at the Jan. 26th webinar sponsored by Friends of White’s Woods.

The presentation will look at global climate change models to project what climate change might mean for society in general and, more specifically, what impacts it may have on Pennsylvania.

Hovan, a 2007 IUP Distinguished University Professor, examines the relationships between atmospheric circulation, oceanic currents, and global climate changes. His research focuses on understanding the global climate system by studying long-term records of climate recorded in deep ocean sedimentary records. Hovan has been a faculty member in the department of geosciences at IUP since 1994, serving nearly 14 years as the chair of the department and two years as a program manager in Division of Ocean Sciences for the National Science Foundation. In 2021 he returned to IUP and is excited to lead the college as it moves into the new Kopchick Hall next year and transitions to its multidisciplinary future of scientific exploration and research.



*Dr. Steve Hovan*

In addition, he is the recipient of two National Science Foundation Awards and awards from several other agencies. He has conducted research on several ocean research vessels with IUP students and has presented extensively in his field throughout the United States and internationally.

Hovan won the 2000 Outstanding Achievement in Research Award from the IUP School of Graduate Studies and Research.

See below to register for this webinar, which will be held from 4 to 5 p.m.

### UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

**Jan. 19: White Township Stewardship Committee meeting.** 6:30 p.m., White Township Municipal Building.

**Jan. 26: “Climate Change - What Past Records of Climate Tell Us About Our Future.”** Dr. Steven Hovan, Interim Dean of John J. and Char Kopchick College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at IUP.

**Feb. 16: White Township Stewardship Committee meeting.** 6:30 p.m., White Township Municipal Building.

**Feb. 23: “Natural Area Forests in U.S. Cities: Opportunities and Challenges.”** Dr. Clara Pregitzer, Deputy Director of Conservation Science, Natural Areas Conservancy.

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](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org). Recordings of all webinars are available at [friendsofwhiteswoods.org/events](https://friendsofwhiteswoods.org/events)

### Old Growth Forest Network

White Woods has an opportunity to join the Old Growth Forest Network, an organization dedicated to naming an Old Growth Forest in every county in the United States. To date, 19 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties have designated a forest for this network.

White’s Woods is currently a second-growth forest because of the extensive timbering that took place in the 1930s. However, the OGFN wants to protect and preserve these second-growth forests so they may become Old Growth.

Old growth forests are mature native forests that are forever protected from logging and open to the public for passive recreation. Second growth forests, like White’s Woods, that are allowed to mature through natural succession, qualify for the Network.

According to their website <https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/>:

“It is time now to set aside a few forests and allow them to recover their old-growth characteristics. These ‘future old-growth forests’ will be our generation’s gift to the generations coming after us. If we are able to reverse the decline in mature, native forests we will be the first generation to have done so.”

“Majestic forests that supported abundant biodiversity were this nation’s inheritance. The vast majority of those forests have now been removed or radically altered (average loss is 95% in the west, >99% in the east).”

Benefits to Indiana would be the inclusion of White’s Woods on a national registry and map where tourists interested in forestry environmental issues would be able to find directions and maps of these woods.

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

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## YEAR-END REPORT OF STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Dec. 15th meeting of the Stewardship Committee was canceled due to weather concerns. Below is a summary of the committee's activities in 2022:

### What good things happened?

- The Millstone Plan finally seems to be behind us.
- After essentially rejecting this premise in January 2022, the White Township committee and staff finally acknowledged that the Project 70 status of the White's Woods Nature Center for regional residents is an important concern - though it is not yet clear that all fully embrace the vision and promise of that Act.
- The committee accepted for committee review FWW's draft management document, Current Value and Future Care, along with sample stewardship plans from other public natural areas and parks - though, excepting mention by committee member David Dahlheimer, these documents have yet to receive committee attention.
- The committee hosted a number of consultants, all but one of whom emphasized the importance of leaving the White's Woods canopy intact.
- FWW members attended and participated in every committee meeting - though even more FWW attendees will be very important in the future. FWW provided documents, letters, links, and/or information during Public Comment periods during every meeting.
- The committee finally acknowledged the relevance of some (just some) of the existing 27 years of public input regarding the protection of White's Woods: They agreed to review the questions, though not the data, of the 2020 FWW survey and the 2022 Community Interest Study.

### What discouraging things happened?

- The committee has not agreed to no timbering in White's Woods. They have made no clear commitment to protecting the canopy.
- The committee has not committed to forefronting the importance of input from White's Woods Nature Center frequenters, even though White Township's previous surveys for its other recreational facilities (e.g. the ice rink) surveyed primarily users of those particular facilities.



*White's Woods in December before the snow.*

*Cheri Widzowski Photography*

- The survey database prominently cited for surveys regarding the White's Woods Nature Center is the existing S & T Recreation Complex email distribution list, which, in all probability, does not include frequenters of WWNC.
  - No mention of climate change has occurred in committee deliberations, save that provided in Public Comment and documents prepared by FWW, beyond the general mention in a draft mission statement that the Nature Center is of ecological value to this region.
  - The committee mostly seems to regard White's Woods as a recreational area, rather than a natural area. No discussion has been devoted to migrating or resident bird inventories or any other permanent processes for forest monitoring.
  - Although the committee has expressed concern about problems with deer-browse, all deer management decisions, oddly, seem to lay with the Board of Supervisors.
  - The White Township staff has strongly discouraged seeking grants for deer fencing.
  - Even though DCNR's data indicates that White Township is one of the Pennsylvania municipalities most in need of additional public-access lands, the committee rejected pursuit of this question out-of-hand in January 2022.
  - See, also, the explanatory clauses in "What good things happened" above!
- Please set aside every third Thursday of each month to attend these committee meetings. We really do want to save White's Woods.

Protect

White's  
Woods



- Naturally!

No timbering. No development.

Protect

White's  
Woods



- Naturally!

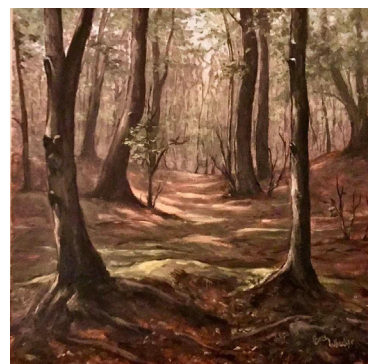
No timbering. No development.

### NEW YARD SIGNS AVAILABLE

A limited number of new yard signs with the motto: "Protect White's Woods -- Naturally" are available for posting in your yard.

A special thanks to Cheri Widzowski for the designs.

Please contact [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org) to obtain one.



*"Sunlight's Dance" by Beth Wheeler was selected as the 2022 limited print to benefit Friends of White's Woods.*

### 2022 Limited Prints Available

Interested parties may reserve the 2022 print, "Sunlight's Dance" by Beth Wheeler, for a \$100 or more donation to FWW.

Send check made payable to FWW to:  
Friends of White's Woods  
P.O. Box 1271  
Indiana, PA 15701

For more information, visit: [friendsofwhiteswoods.org](http://friendsofwhiteswoods.org)

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