



# Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



## Dispelling Myths

**Myth 2: Opening the canopy to allow sunlight to get to the floor of the forest, is necessary for a healthy forest.**

Friends of White's Woods has yet to find a single biologist, invasive species ecologist or accredited forester who agrees with that statement.

In fact, these experts espouse that opening the canopy will actually do harm, perhaps irreparable, to the forest.

Forest trees need little direct sunlight to thrive and grow. If, however, there are invasive or unwanted species on the forest floor, the increase in sunlight will cause a proliferation of their growth. The canopy helps to diminish the spread of invasive species.

Dr. Sara Kuebbing and Dr. Marion Holmes of the University of Pittsburgh's Invasion Ecology Research lab stated in their May 20th webinar for FWW that most invasive species are located where land has been disturbed (as through a forest mulcher) or around the perimeter of a woodland where more sunlight is present.

In addition, the March 23, 2021 Bureau of Forestry analysis of White Township's Stewardship Plan states "[D]isturbing the soil typically promotes the spread of invasive plants and is even more concerning when coupled with opening the canopy and allow-



*The DCNR report and cover letter indicated that the revised plan should start with public input.*

ing more sunlight to the forest floor."

## Legal Update

The FWW lawsuit was heard by Senior Judge William Martin June 2, lasting approximately two and one-half hours. White Township Manager Milt Lady, Millstone owner Michael H. Lawer and FWW President Sara King were the witnesses. Briefs are due from both attorneys

by July 9. A decision should be forthcoming 30 to 60 days after the submission of briefs.

## NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

It's been more than a year since the most recent campaign to "Save White's Woods" began. We certainly have accomplished a lot, but it also looks like we have a ways to go. If you have not donated to support this campaign since last summer, please consider a new donation now by visiting the FWW website or by sending a check made payable to FWW to FWW, P.O. Box 1271, Indiana, PA 15701. We need to be ready to respond to the continuing threats.

Possibly the most valuable contribution you could make is to bring a new member to our cause. These woods matter to so many, and a show of broad support is incredibly important. If even half of current FWW members could ask a friend or family member to show their support by formally joining FWW, it would make a huge difference! Please help this way if you can.

Remember: For a donation of \$100 or more, as supplies last, you will receive one of Chuck Olson's limited edition, signed print of the woods. Same holds for new members. Please have new members include their name, street address, email address and phone number with their check.



## 20% Framing Discount!

The Framing Hut Galleries (1502 Oakland Ave./Regency Mall) is offering a 20% discount on the framing of Chuck Olson's print when you mention you are a member of Friends of White's Woods.

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

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

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

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## Birds Spotted in White's Woods

Sara King has spotted the five birds listed on this page in White's Woods. Margaret Higbee, president of the Todd Bird Club, reported that 33 of the 35 birds listed have been spotted in Indiana County. Help us get a better count. Please use the free App, eBird, to document what you see in White's Woods.

Also, download another free App, inaturalist, to record other plant and wildlife data about White's Woods. Your research could help to save White's Woods and assist scientists in assessing climatic impacts.



**Scarlet Tanager**



**Wood Thrush**



**Gray Catbird**



**Red-Headed Woodpecker**

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan: 2015-2025

Help Pennsylvania document the bird species of greatest need by filing your bird sightings on [ebird.org/home](https://ebird.org/home).

Below is the list of birds identified in the 2015-2020 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan as "species of greatest conservation need." See the complete plan: <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeActionPlan/Documents/SWAP-CHAPTER-1.pdf>

Tundra Swan

American Black Duck

Blue-winged Teal

Green-winged Teal

Lesser Scaup

Long-tailed Duck

Ruffed Grouse

Pied-billed Grebe

Horned Grebe

Red-necked Grebe

American Bittern

Least Bittern

Great Egret

Black-crowned Night Heron

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Osprey

Bald Eagle

Northern Harrier Sharp-shinned Hawk

Northern Goshawk Broad-winged Hawk

Golden Eagle

King Rail

Virginia Rail

Sora

Common Gallinule

American Coot

Piping Plover

Spotted Sandpiper

Upland Sandpiper

Red Knot

Wilson's Snipe

American Woodcock

Black Tern

Common Tern

Barn Owl

Long-eared Owl

Short-eared Owl

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Common Nighthawk

Eastern Whip-poor-will

Chimney Swift

Red-headed Woodpecker

American Kestrel

Peregrine Falcon

Olive-sided Flycatcher



**Eastern Towhee**

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Willow Flycatcher

Loggerhead Shrike

Purple Martin

Bank Swallow

Brown Creeper

Winter Wren

Sedge Wren

Marsh Wren

Swainson's Thrush

Wood Thrush

Gray Catbird

Louisiana Waterthrush

Northern Waterthrush

Golden-winged Warbler

Blue-winged Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler

Prothonotary Warbler

Nashville Warbler

Kentucky Warbler

Hooded Warbler

Cerulean Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Prairie Warbler

Black-Throated Green Warbler

Canada Warbler

Yellow-breasted Chat

Eastern Towhee

Field Sparrow

Savannah Sparrow

Grasshopper Sparrow

Henslow's Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

Summer Tanager

Scarlet Tanager

Dickcissel

Bobolink

Eastern Meadowlark

Rusty Blackbird

Red Crossbill

Pine Siskin

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