



# Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



## ARTISTS' SHOW DRAWS LARGE CROWD

More than 100 art lovers attended the Dec. 3rd opening of the Friends of White's Woods art show at The Clark Gallery in the Indiana Theater Building.

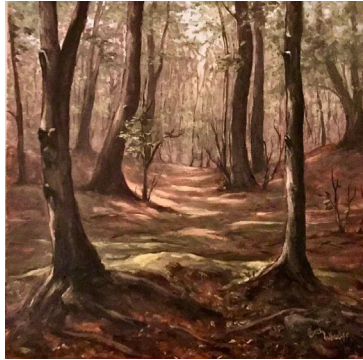
Organized by Indiana artist Chuck Olson, "In White's Woods: An Artist's Response" featured the artwork of Ron Donoughe, Rick Landesberg, Mandi Moerland, Jolene Joyner, Jonelle Summerfield, HK Miller, Greg Langham, Beth Wheeler, Ashleigh Bowman and Katie Brashear. During October and November, these 10 regional artists created works on their interpretations of White's Woods.

More than one-third of the paintings were purchased during the exhibition which ran through Dec. 19. The remaining paintings can be viewed at the Friends of White's Woods website where information on their purchase can be found.

In addition, interested parties may reserve the 2022 print at the website for a \$100 or more donation to FWW.

These paintings were also designated as purchase prize honorees:

"White's Woods Cave" by Ron Donoughe; The Delaney Purchase Prize



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

"Last Light" by Beth Wheeler, The Bajwa Prize

"The Overlook" by Ashleigh Bowman, The Kauffman Purchase Prize.

### White Township Names Woodlot Subcommittee Members

Five members were named to the Woodlot Subcommittee charged with developing a stewardship plan for White's Woods.

They are: David Dahlheimer (FWW member), Sierra Davis, Barb Hauge (subcommittee chair), Jeffrey Geesey and Matthew Klunk.

### UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

**Jan. 27:** "Preserving Town-Owned Forests" webinar by Dr. Joan Maloof, executive director of the Old Growth Forest Network, from 4 to 5 p.m.

**Feb. 24:** "Options to Restore Forest Cover" webinar by Dr. Susan Cook-Patton, senior forest restoration scientist, The Nature Conservancy, time TBA.

**Spring 2022:** Bird Walk with Margaret Higbee and Plant Walk with Cindy Rogers. Watch future newsletters, our website and FaceBook page for updates.

The webinars, offered via Zoom, are free and open to the public. To register for a webinar, send an email to [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org).

### Preserving Town-Owned Forests Webinar Jan. 27

White Woods in Pennsylvania is a town-owned forest that has been subjected to numerous attempts at logging. In this discussion of town-owned forests, Dr. Joan Maloof will share stories of forests owned by other towns, municipalities and counties, and the threats they faced. Success stories and best practices for saving forests will be discussed. Maloof will also describe the organization she created – the Old-Growth Forest Network – and the town-owned forests that are part of that national network.

Maloof is a writer, an ecologist and a conservationist with a unique voice in today's times. She has studied and worked with plants her entire life. Her formal education includes a bachelor's degree in plant science, a master's degree in environmental science, and a doctorate in ecology. She is a professor emeritus at Salisbury University where she taught biological sciences and environmental studies. Maloof has published numerous research articles and five books about forests: *Teaching the Trees*, *Among the Ancients*, *Nature's Temples*, *The Living Forest*, and *Treepedia*. In addition to her research and writing, Maloof founded an organization with the goal of creating a network of protected forests across the U.S. That organization, the Old-Growth Forest Network, now has thousands of supporters. Maloof travels widely to educate others regarding the extent and condition of our forests and to encourage their preservation.

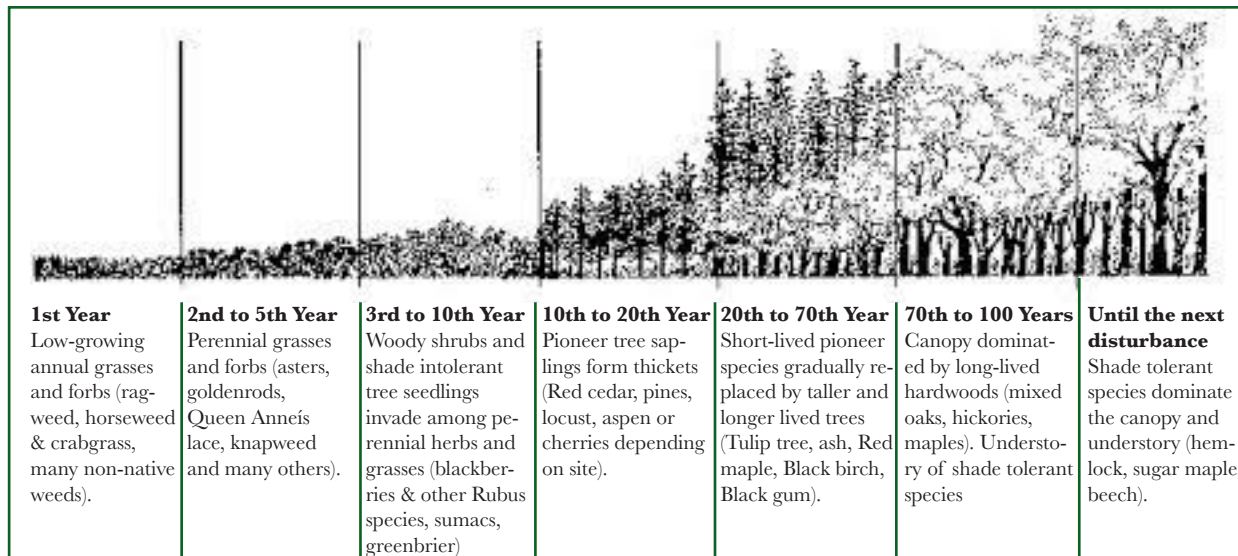
The webinar, offered via Zoom from 4 to 5 p.m., is free and open to the public. To register for a webinar, send an email to [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org).

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

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**Natural Forest Succession:** A forest allowed to generate in a natural way, without human interference, will develop over time until the next disturbance when the process begins anew.

## Forests follow pattern of natural succession

Forests regenerate themselves over time without the assistance of artificial interventions. Whether a forest begins from abandoned agricultural land, as the result of fire or tornadoes, or through clear cutting by the logging industry, forests will reappear in an established pattern as indicated in the diagram above.

Herbaceous plants form the first stage of plant succession following a disturbance. Flowering plants and grasses are usually the first plants to emerge following forest clearing or plowing a field. Ferns and vines often emerge first following a fire.

The shrub stage follows the herb stage in plant succession. Cane plants such as berries, woody-stemmed shrubs and small, sun-loving trees such as cedars spring up from the ground that has been stabilized by the herbaceous plant layer. Young white pines, aspens, and birches begin to appear as the shrub stage transitions to a young forest.

The young forest stage is characterized by thick growth of thin-trunk young trees. Aspens and birch are followed by specimens of maple, pine, and other species depending on the forest location and climate. Young forest trees climb quickly skyward, attempting to out-compete one another for sunlight. Slower trees are shaded out by their faster-growing neighbors and die off as the system moves toward the mature forest stage.

A mature forest includes diverse species of diverse ages, from ground cover and undergrowth plants to trees with low, mid- and upper-story canopies. Sun-loving successional varieties such as birch and aspen will die off, and varieties of hardwoods and straight-trunk conifers that need protected shade to germinate and grow will begin to dominate the forest system.

A climax or “old growth” forest is not an even-age forest of enormous old trees. Rather, a climax forest is the most diverse forest system. Trees left undisturbed to reach their full life span will then die and fall, serving as ‘nurse trees’ to new growth. This creates sunlit openings in the canopy that foster herbaceous growth, starting the stages of plant succession over again in a patchwork throughout the forest. Forests rarely reach the climax stage because disturbances such as fire, clearing, or timber management usually interrupt succession at the mature forest stage.

In a Project 70 natural area like White’s Woods, which is dedicated to conservation, passive recreation and historic preservation, there is no need to disturb the canopy or remove trees to introduce diversity. The opening of the canopy and the growth of trees in the understory will take place naturally as the faster-growing, large canopy trees such as the tulip poplar reach the end stage of their life, generally around 200 years.

### **FWW NOMINATES FLEMING TRAIL AS PA ‘TRAIL OF THE YEAR’**

FWW, with assistance from the White Township Board of Supervisors, nominated White’s Woods’ Fleming Trail as the state’s “Trail of the Year.”

Each year, the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources designates a Trail of the Year to help build enthusiasm and support for both large and small trails, and raise public awareness about the value of Pennsylvania’s trail network.

Nominated trails must be at least one mile in length. The winning trail will receive a trailhead marker, promotion on ExplorePAtrails and the DCNR websites and a grant for educational purposes, specifically those promoting safety and environmental protection.

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

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