



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



EARTH DAY 2022 CELEBRATION APRIL 22 AT WHITE'S WOODS

Come celebrate Earth Day April 22 with Friends of White's Woods and many other eco-conscious organizations.

Walk (or drive) from wherever you are, rain or shine, from 4 to 6 p.m., to the 12th Street entrance of White's Woods. Tables from various organizations – community and university – will be there to provide information on their environmental efforts and on their organizations. And, there will be music!

The first 100 arrivals will receive two tree seedlings from "One Million Trees," and each participant will receive an Earth Day sticker. Walk through the woods with a friend or two when you arrive.

To date, in addition to Friends of White's Woods, the following organizations are participating in the April 22nd event: Evergreen Conservancy, Federation of Democratic Women



of Indiana County, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Indiana Community Garden, Indiana Humane Society, Indiana WalkWorks, IUP Coalition for Christian Outreach, IUP Sustainability Studies, Keystone Progress, League of Women Voters of Indiana County, Sierra Club, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Come celebrate Earth Day and the contribution White's Woods makes to our community to help mitigate the impact of climate change!

IMPROVING FORESTS WITHOUT NEGATIVE EFFECTS TOPIC OF APRIL 7 WEBINAR

The comparison of managed with unmanaged landscapes will show the impact of common forest management practices, according to the forest ecologist who will present the free webinar April 7.

Jess Riddle, who serves as a consultant with Georgia Forest Watch, an organization whose mission is to promote sustainable management that leads to naturally diverse and healthy forests and watersheds within the 867,510 acres of national forestlands in Georgia, will present the webinar from 4 to 5 p.m.

According to Riddle, managers, who are tasked with improving forests, face additional complexity from conflicting user demands. Novel conditions, such as climate change, only increase the challenge. As a result, even the most well-intentioned attempts at forest management often fall well short of their ecological goals and produce undesired consequences.

Riddle will examine multiple aspects of forest management, using case studies drawn from National Forest projects that will illustrate the range of outcomes forest management can produce. To understand the effects of timber harvests and prescribed fire, they will be compared to natural forest processes.

"Forests are complex," Riddle said. "Hundreds of thousands of species interact with each other and respond to disturbances, such as storms and droughts, which are themselves highly variable."

Riddle earned his master of science degree from the SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry, where he studied climate influence on tree growth and how that influence varies depending on whether a tree is growing at the southern or northern edge of its range. He has also investigated riparian forests along the Missouri and Sacramento Rivers. Riddle is the author of the 2018 edition of Georgia's Mountain Treasures, an illustrated report showcasing 40 exquisite wild areas within the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.

To register for the webinar, which is open to the public, please send an email to info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org.

UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

April 7: "Natural Succession/Passive Management of the Eastern Deciduous Second-Growth Forests" by Jess Riddle, executive director of the Georgia Forest Watch, from 4 to 5 p.m.

April 22: Earth Day Walk to White's Woods (12th Street entrance) with numerous environmental groups, 4 to 6 p.m.

April 30: Bird Walk with Margaret and Roger Higbee of the Todd Bird Club, (12th Street entrance), 9 a.m.

May 21: Plant Walk with Cindy Rogers of The Evergreen Conservancy, (12th Street entrance), 10 a.m.

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

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

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EARTH DAY 2022: CLIMATE FACTS

As we celebrate Earth Day April 22, the facts of climate change must be somberly considered.

On March 21, the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres said, “Countries are sleepwalking into a climate catastrophe.”

The *United Nations Report on Climate Change* states we are facing significant global economic and political upheaval resulting from climate change, including competition for resources and necessary population migration, evermore intense storms, impact on water and agriculture, real estate loss from sea-level rise, and disruptions to the energy sector. Five islands have already been lost to rising seas.

At least two U.S. towns – Valmeyer, Illinois, and Ilse de Jean Charles, Louisiana – have already moved to escape climate change effects.

The Department of Environmental Protection’s *2021 Climate Change Impacts Assessment* reveals that Pennsylvania can expect more flooding, more heat, more drought, disruption to agriculture, more insects, more health consequences and increased costs for repairing infrastructure and recovery from major storm events.

In addition:

1. PA ranks 4th in the United States in greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Temperatures have increased 1.8F in the last century and are expected to warm another 5.9F by 2050.
3. The warmest parts of the state could experience up to 37 days above 95°F by 2050.
4. PA has seen a 70% increase in frequency of heavy rain events in the past few decades—and can expect more in the future.
5. Ticks, mosquitoes, and invasive plants thrive in warming weather. PA now leads the nation in Lyme disease cases.
6. PA is seeing changing population

distributions of animal and plant species.

The impact of plastic on the environment cannot be overstated. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is growing and is now twice the size of Texas (three-times the size of France). The trash is mostly plastic – because plastic does not biodegrade, it just breaks into smaller and smaller, irretrievable bits, according to *The Ocean Cleanup*, an environmental organization.

Microplastics have been found in air, water, food, animals, and human blood samples, according to *Environment International Ltd.*

According to *Earth Policy Institute*, U.S. consumers use 100 billion plastic bags every year.

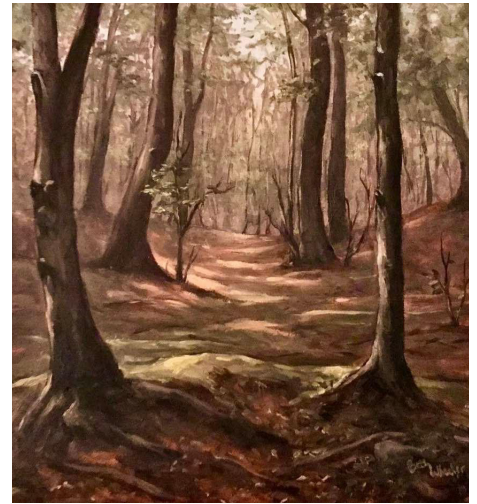
Trees are crucial for absorbing carbon and slowing global warming. When trees are cut down, all of the carbon they have stored is released into the atmosphere, thereby adding to the total greenhouse gas accumulation. Preserving forests and planting trees are among the urgently needed steps necessary for meeting the 2030 greenhouse gas-reduction targets.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Preserve forests and plant trees. Trees absorb carbon and provide a critically important natural solution to climate change. Stop using disposable plastic products. Use your own water bottle, straws, take-out containers, utensils and reusable cloth bags. Conserve energy. Buy locally produced food and products. Walk more. Drive less. Invest, where possible, in alternative energy products. **VOTE CLIMATE.**

MEETING POSTPONED

The March 17th meeting of the White Township Stewardship Committee was postponed to March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the White Township Municipal Office, 950 Indian Springs Road. Please attend and voice your support for White’s Woods.



GOT PRINTS?

“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 print.

HELP NEEDED!

Yes, we are all busy people. But, if we each pitched in a little, it would really help. With more than 300 dues-paying members of Friends of White’s Woods, we could accomplish a lot more with more hands (and minds). Can you:

1. Attend 1-2 White Township Supervisors meetings per year and/or Stewardship Committee meetings.
2. Staff a table for an hour or two at events in which FWW is organizing and/or participating.
3. Send emails/letters to the supervisors on your support for leaving White’s Woods development to natural succession. In other words, leave a healthy forest alone.
4. Write a letter or two to the Gazette supporting the least-intrusive methods of forest management in White’s Woods.
5. Distribute literature/door hangers in your neighborhood.

Please email info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org with how you will lend a hand. Thank you.

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

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