



# Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



## January's Webinar on Changes to Community Forests; Bird Habitats

"Community Forests: Benefits for Birds and People - Options and Challenges," the title of FWW's Jan. 14th webinar, promises to enlighten participants on the role of community forests in bird breeding as well as their migratory habits. Community forests provide wintering habitats as well as stopover sites for neotropical bird species.

Dr. Margaret Brittingham, a Penn State professor of wildlife resources and extension wildlife specialist since 1988, will conduct the free webinar from 4 to 5 p.m. with a q-and-a opportunity at the webinar's conclusion.

Brittingham's areas of expertise include: avian ecology, forest songbirds, human impact on bird populations, wildlife habitat management on private lands, landscaping for birds, and effects of shale gas development on forests and birds.

A baccalaureate graduate of Vanderbilt University, Brittingham holds three degrees, including the doctorate, from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She is a member of the American Ornithologists' Union, the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Cooper Ornithological Society, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, the National Audubon Society, Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, Sigma XI, Society for Conservation Biology, The Wildlife Society (national and Pennsylvania), and the Wilson Ornithological Society.

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



*Dr. Margaret Brittingham  
Penn State professor of wildlife resources.*

## The Value of WWNC Trees

When you consider the value of trees, one must consider more than the dollar value of the timber. To explore the value of WWNC trees, FWW contracted with Davey Institute of Kent, Ohio, a division of The Davey Tree Expert Company.

Here is what they have valued so far in White's Woods:

Avoided stormwater runoff per year:  
207,540 gallons @ \$1855

Carbon dioxide absorbed each year  
by trees:

1,102 tons @ \$25,641

Carbon dioxide already stored in the  
trees:

27,688 tons @ \$643,945

Pollutants removed each year by  
WWNC trees (includes carbon monoxide,  
nitrogran dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide,  
particulate matter):

17,010 pounds @ \$5,488

So, leaving WWNC in its natural state accrues \$32,984 per year in environmental value plus an increase in tree storage of carbon dioxide.

### UPCOMING WEBINARS

**Feb. 11:** "Comfortable Spaces for Uncomfortable Conversations: The Climate and Rural Systems Partnership of Western Pennsylvania" by Indiana native Dr. Bonnie McGill, an ecosystem ecologist and science communicator with Carnegie Museum of Natural History

**March (TBA):** Family Forest Carbon Capture Program by Kevin Yoder of The Nature 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).

### Reminders

- You can order t-shirts (sizes S to XXL) for \$15 each and masks for \$10 each by sending a check made payable to FWW, Inc., to FWW, Inc., P.O. Box 1271, Indiana, Pa. 15701. Be sure to include size of t-shirt.

- Donations to help cover legal, research, outreach and other essential activities are still needed. Please send checks made payable to FWW to P.O. Box 1271, Indiana, PA 15701. FWW is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization so all donations are tax deductible.

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

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## ***FWW Board Members Discuss WWNC's Future with Rep. J. Struzzi***

Friends of White's Woods board members met with State Representative Jim Struzzi and his district manager Adriene Smoczek in early December to explain the results of our research, consultant conclusions and proposed plans for the woods.

After reviewing the history and acquisition, we explained how White's Woods is used by the community and beyond based on FWW's surveys and petitions. With 8,000 responses to the petition and 229 responses to the survey, the results clearly showed that the vast majority want the woods to be left alone and in its natural state. White's Woods, White Township's center for passive recreation, is used for walking, hiking, enjoying fresh air and family, biking, running, bird watching, teaching about nature, and cross-country skiing.

FWW Consultant Forester Mike Wolf was quoted as saying that these woods are as beautiful as any he has seen. The trees are in their prime!

Our conversation showed how these woods increase the property values of surrounding communities as well as the desirability factor for new residents. Our stormwater runoff consultant Vince Cotrone concluded that these woods, located above these communities, absorb thousands of gallons of water, thereby mitigating stormwater runoff. The forest also cleans the air, absorbing much of the carbon and nitrogen, as well as particulates, thereby making Indiana healthier.

The Carbon Capture and Sequestration program was also discussed. This program, to be introduced in Pennsylvania this year, will pay forested landowners a yearly income to leave their woods in their natural state.

After listening, Rep. Struzzi confirmed his support of our actions and both he and Adriene are willing to help FWW in any way they can. They were clearly interested in preserving White's Woods. We all felt this was a very positive and informative meeting.



*Japanese Barberry, an exotic invasive shrub, has invaded open woods, woodland borders, pastures, fields, waste lots, abandoned building and house lots, roadsides, and natural area paths. The leaves (right) are small, oval, smooth and untoothed, from 1/2-1 1/2" long.*

## **Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*): The Deer Tick Habitat**

Japanese Barberry, an exotic invasive shrub native to China and Japan, has no effective predators that feed on this plant. Even deer avoid it as food.

However, the plant provides a humid shelter for the ticks that carry Lyme disease. It is also a hospitable environment for white-footed mice that carry the ticks.

Some states have banned the plant, including New York, Maine and Minnesota and two years ago Pennsylvania considered banning it as well because of the Lyme disease problem.

Barberry plants are not browsed by livestock or wildlife due to thorns, giving it a competitive advantage over native plants. Shrubs form dense stands that displace native species. Japanese barberry can also raise pH levels in soil.

Japanese barberry is shade-tolerant. However, it frequently invades sunny spots, which is why it is seen growing in open fields and pastures, along field edges, along roads and paths and open woodlands.

### **Identification:**

- Spiny, deciduous shrub usually 1-2 feet, but can grow up to 6 feet in height
- Small, oval-shaped green leaves with smooth edges turn red in the fall
- Brown to reddish stems with thorns at each node
- Small, pale yellow flowers with six petals hang from stems, blooming in spring
- Fruits are small, bright red, egg-shaped

berries that persist into winter

- Can be confused with the native American barberry, which has toothed leaves

### **How to Remove Japanese Barberry:**

1. Properly identify Japanese barberry. Educate your neighbors about what you are doing and why.
2. Hand-pull what you physically are able before Japanese barberry produces berries (seeds); preferably before July.
3. Use a Weed Wrench on hard-to-pull plants; preferably before July.
4. Hire goats. They will eat barberry.
5. Plants that prove too difficult to remove by way of pulling or digging, you can cut to one-inch stumps and immediately apply a glyphosate herbicide to freshly cut stumps using a paint brush or sponge applicator. Stump application is very effective during July, August, and up to mid-September.

If you cannot stump-apply during the summer months, then you can instead cut the plant six to 12 inches from the ground before it starts to produce berries (seeds) in July. After the taller stumps have re-sprouted, you cut them to one inch above the ground and immediately apply glyphosate herbicide to the freshly cut stumps. Allowing the stumps to re-sprout during the summer months draws carbohydrate and other growth compounds from the roots and depletes some of the root energy making herbicide kill more effective.

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

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