

Whitman Woods Project



For Immediate Release

Free Fall Migration Bird Walk Trilogy

Saturday, September 22, 8 a.m. - Noon

Featuring 3 notable sites:

Timber Creek Park, "Whitman Woods" & Crystal Springs

LAUREL SPRINGS, New Jersey — Esteemed New Jersey Audubon Field Guide Lloyd Shaw will lead a trilogy of free Fall Migration Bird Walks through Timber Creek Park, "Whitman Woods" and Crystal Springs for budding birders, Friends of Whitman Woods Project and members of Audubon Wildlife Society and Rancocas Nature Center. The three sites are known Camden County stopovers for birds migrating south for the winter along the Atlantic Flyway, and each also offers shelter and sustenance to hardier, year-round feathered residents.

Shaw, a lifelong "Springer," grew up in Laurel Springs within a proverbial stone's throw of Crystal Springs and aspirational "Whitman Woods," and has observed the seasonal comings and goings of the area's wildlife for decades.

Among the species one can hope to spot with him are Cooper's and Red-tailed hawks, Red-bellied and Hairy woodpeckers, Carolina wrens and chickadees and water birds such as Mallards and Cormorants. A highlight of the day could be a sighting of an American Bald Eagle, which relies heavily on Big Timber Creek habitat.

The 8 a.m.-until-noon adventure will also shed light on why formally preserving "Whitman Woods" on the Laurel Springs lakefront is so important to Shaw, intended owner/steward North American Land Trust and a legion of others. These 3.75 acres provide a "green island" for wildlife in the charming (yet built-out) Victorian-era town, and play a role in the very survival of certain species inhabiting this portion of the Inner Coastal Plain.

Attendees should meet shortly before 8 a.m. in the parking lot at Big Timber Creek Park (formerly known as Slim's Ranch, and located in Blackwood at the intersection of Chews Landing Road & Taylor Avenue). The group will then caravan to the two other locations.

Wear long pants and closed-toe walking shoes or hiking boots

Bring water and bug spray

Cont. >>>



Photo Captions:

Left: A legacy Tulip Poplar treasured by Field Guide Lloyd Shaw is among the soaring trees that provide a cathedral-like canopy at aspirational "Whitman Woods."

Right: Lloyd Shaw leads a 2017 Fall Migration Walk at aspirational "Whitman Woods," a 3.75-acre privately held site that, if endowed as a passive park, will provide a sanctuary for wildlife and the only public access to Laurel Lake.

Whitman Woods Mission — Distill art, nature, history and science into a living land legacy that will preserve precious passive open space in perpetuity, serve as an open classroom and pay homage to the iconic American poet Walt Whitman.

To learn more about North American Land Trust's effort to formally establish "Whitman Woods" in advance of the May 31, 2019 Bicentennial of Walt Whitman's birth visit whitmanwoods.org or nalt.org

Attachments:

Big Timber Creek Park Map

Follow Whitman Woods Project on Facebook and Instagram

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