

Whitman Woods Project



July 10, 2019

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019, 5:30–7 p.m.

Mid-Summer's Eve Salon at "Whitman Woods"

A convivial assemblage of Music, Wine, Brew, Birdsong & the Bard's Nature Prose
*with Basilica Brass & Bird Whisperer Lloyd Shaw, presented in association with
Whitman At 200: Art and Democracy*

LAUREL SPRINGS, New Jersey — Nature lovers and Whitman devotees are invited to a mid-Summer's eve lakefront gathering at aspirational "Whitman Woods." Enjoy a convivial assemblage of Music, Wine, Brew and Birdsong. Celebrate Nature and the Good Gray Poet's 2019 Bicentennial with Whitman-era medleys by Basilica Brass paired with complimentary wine and beer tastings. Chat with New Jersey Audubon Field Guide and noted Naturalist Lloyd Shaw about the bird species Whitman counted along Timber Creek in his day, and spot the summer residents who rely on this last local vestige of the now near-relic native Inner Coastal Plain Forest today. Plus pick up pointers on backyard birding and regional bird-watching hotspots. Be transported by Whitman's "Jottings in the Woods," become an Open Space advocate or simply unplug and get your weekend on in the embrace of the future passive park's serene setting. **BYO Camp Chair**

Bird Bar — Unwind, unplug, lift a complimentary libation to Walt & commune with Nature on his old stomping grounds! *Featuring vibrant Chardonnay & bracing Rosé by Auburn Road Vineyards & transcendent Walt Wit Belgian-style White Ale by Philadelphia Brewing Company*

Basilica Brass — A suite of Whitman-era medleys will be performed as a Bicentennial tribute to the Bard by a quintet of gifted musicians hailing from Philadelphia's most esteemed orchestras.

Bird Chat — BYO camp chair and perch under the leafy canopy with noted New Jersey Audubon Field Guide Lloyd Shaw. Hear about the Birds who frequent Whitman's beloved Timber Creek and rely upon aspirational "Whitman Woods" for shelter and sustenance.

Birdsong — Bask in the trill and chirp of countless birds as they settle into their evening roosts amongst the towering beech, black walnut, oak and poplar.

Cont. on p. 2 >

Mid-Summer's Eve Salon at "Whitman Woods" | Friday, July 26, 5:30-7pm

Community Partners: Auburn Road Vineyards, Basilica Brass, Philadelphia Brewing Company, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Walt Whitman Initiative, Whitman At 200

Attire: "Camp" or "Casual" — long pants & closed-toe shoes are suggested!

Parking: Free street parking along Beech, Glen, Sycamore, etc.

Location: Enter the future Passive Park via footpaths at the terminus of Glen or Beech avenues
GPS Address: 720 Glen Avenue, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021

Please Note: *Uneven terrain. No restroom facilities. Please bring a camp chair!*

Rain Venue: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 433 Park Avenue, Laurel Springs, 08021

BACKSTORY: The **Mid-Summer's Eve Salon** embodies the **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 — and is timed as part of the global and regional Bicentennial celebrations of Whitman's 1819 birth.

Whitman Woods Project is among 40+ Camden County and Philadelphia entities participating in *Whitman at 200: Art and Democracy*, a yearlong regional collaboration organized by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, with major support from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

Walt Whitman meticulously documented his summer sojourns along the wooded Laurel Springs lakeshore, calling his first-person prose "Jottings in the Woods." Finding joyful inspiration in every molecule of Nature he encountered here, it was from these environs that much of "Specimen Days" was penned and significant additions made to his monumental life's work, "Leaves of Grass."

North American Land Trust (NALT.org) seeks to establish "Whitman Woods" in Laurel Springs. For nearly 50 years, the community has considered these 3.75 private lakefront acres a park in all but name. Generations of children, birders, poets, artists and canoeists have sought sanctuary here. All manner of wildlife shelters here. Bald Eagles hunt here.

When aspirational "Whitman Woods" is established as a Passive Park, the site will then be protected from development and forever serve as a green, nurturing oasis. Its elevation will afford wide lake vistas; its shore will provide kayak and canoe access. Safeguarding this sanctuary on Laurel Lake from development and preserving it in perpetuity is an attainable vision shared by countless locals, pro bono collaborators and patrons. Endowing the park in this Bicentennial Year of Whitman is the project's goal. Anyone can become a stakeholder at WhitmanWoods.org, where it is easy to Give, Pledge or Volunteer.

Media contact: Elizabeth Smith, projectmanager@whitmanwoods.com, 305.632.5611