A Proposal to Preserve University Woods, 30 acres on the south end of ETSU's campus, south of the railroad bypass, by means of 1) a memo of understanding; 2) language in the master plan; 3) a public dedication

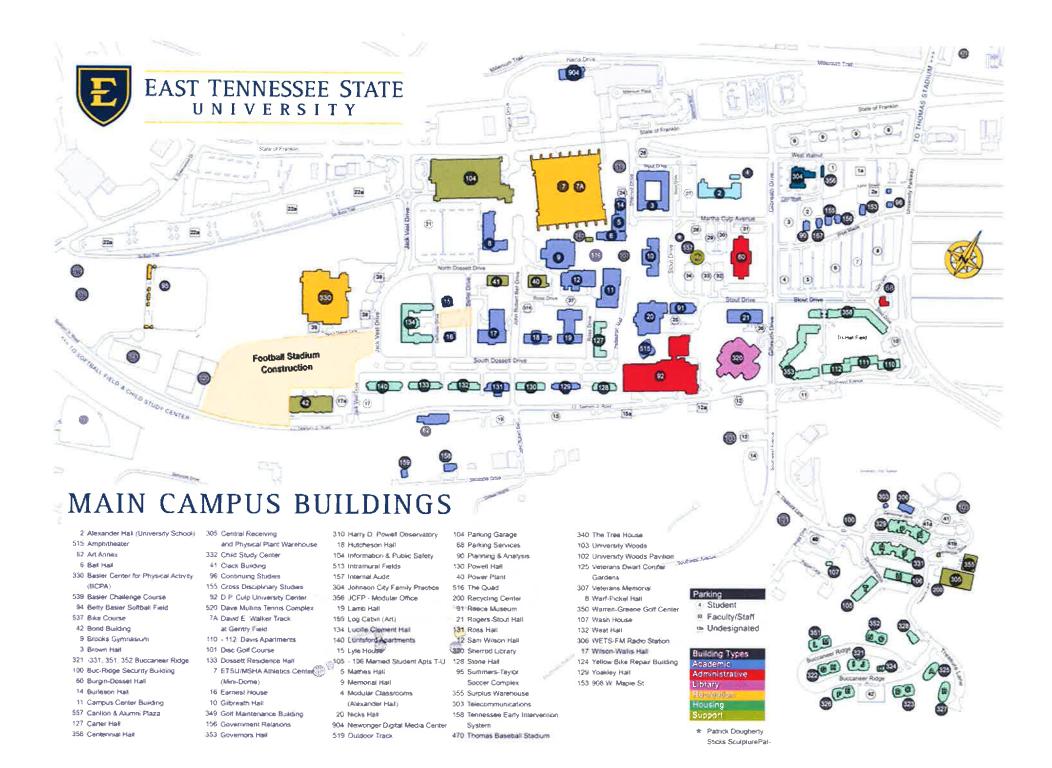
Slides to accompany a 15-minute presentation delivered by Kevin O'Donnell, Professor of English, ETSU Dept of Lit and Language, odonnell@etsu.edu to ETSU's University Council, Dr. Wilsie Bishop, Presiding Chair Monday January 14, 2019

#### **Sources**

- A University's Story, 1911-1980: East Tennessee State University. By Frank B. Williams, Jr. East TN State U Press, Johnson City TN, 1991.
- Where There Are Mountains: An Environmental History of the Southern Appalachians. By Don Davis. University of Georgia Press, Athens GA, 2003.
- Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old-Growth Forests. By Joan Maloof. Ruka Press, Washington DC, 2011.
- The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate. By Peter Wohlleben. Translation by Jane Billinghurst. Greystone Books, Vancouver CA, 2016.
- Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder. By Richard Louv. Algonquin Books, Chapel Hill NC, 2005.

#### **Photos**

- Charlie Warden, Lead Photographer, ETSU University Relations
- Historic photos from the archives of Appalachia



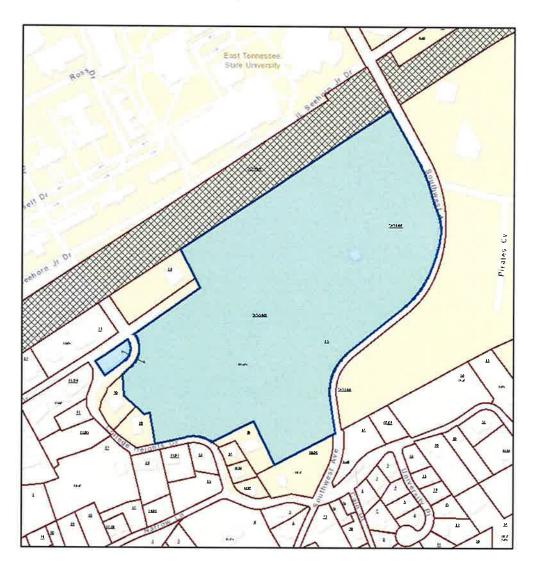


#### ETSU University Woods: Proposed Protected Area

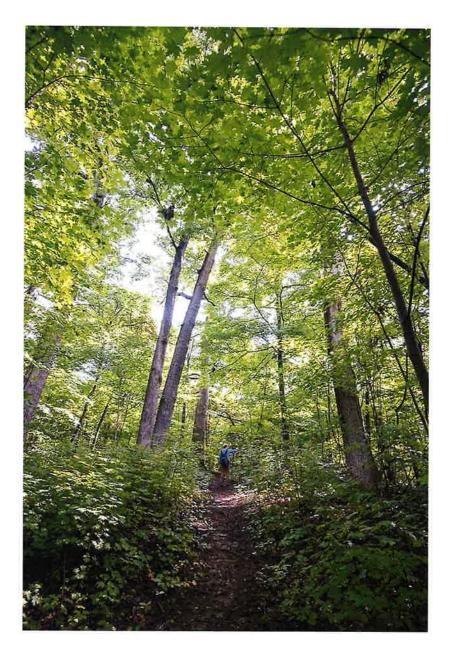


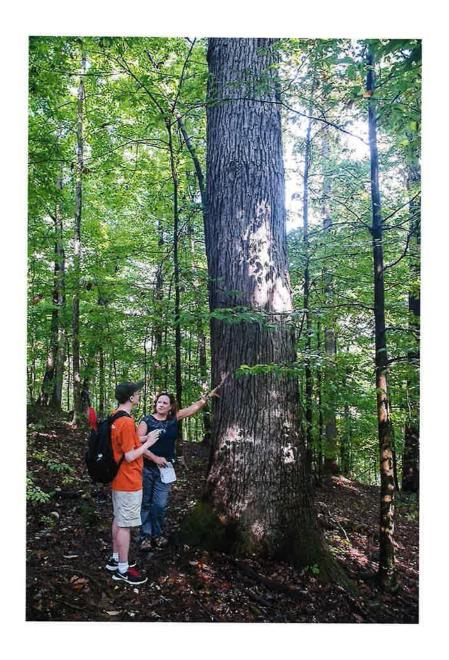


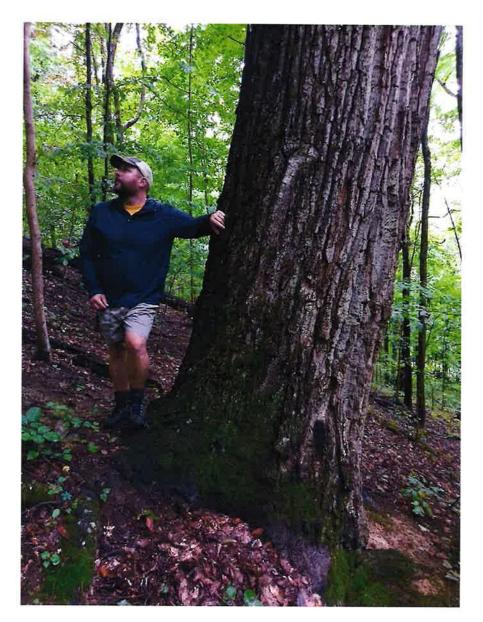
#### Washington County - Parcel: 0540 A 015.00

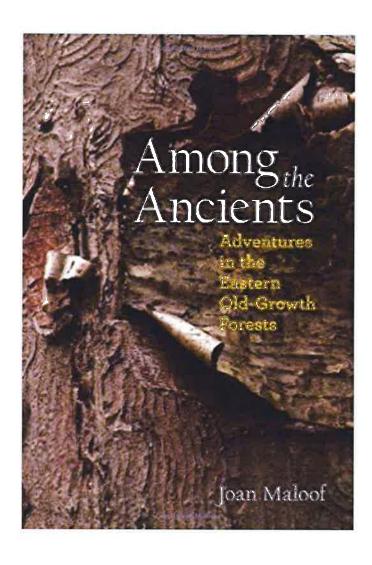












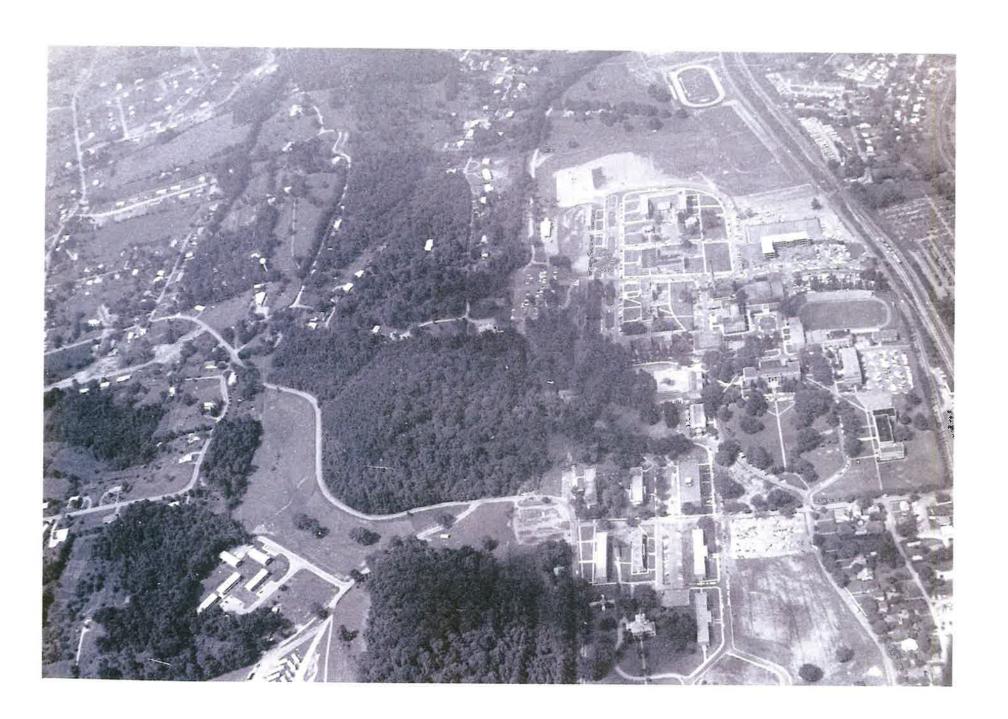
Ruka Press, Washington DC, 2011





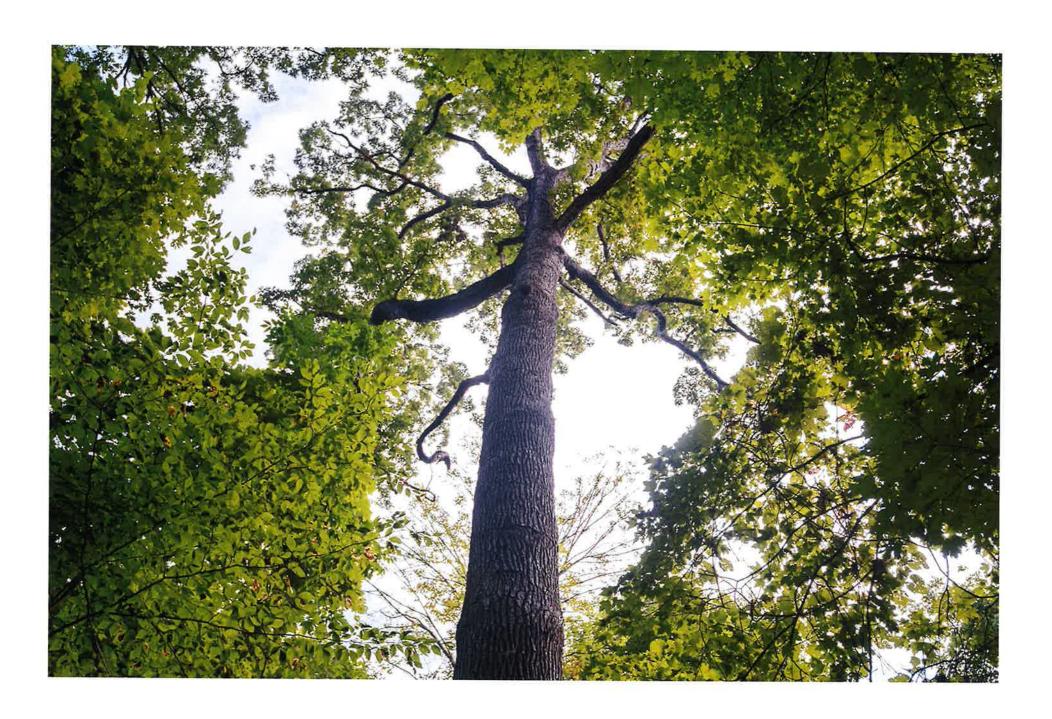
















### Trees Improve Human Health

**Improved air quality**: Trees intercept and absorb pollutants from the air. They also help moderate the outdoor air temperature when the weather is hot.

**Improved water quality**: Trees filter and purify local groundwater; they reduce runoff and sedimentation, and thus also promote cleaner regional waterways.

**Spiritual and psychological benefits**: Numerous studies show a correlation between an experience of trees and decreased heart rates, blood pressure, and stress levels; and improved moods.

**Immune system boosts**: Phytoncides [ fi - TAHN - sides ] -- airborne chemicals that plants give off to protect themselves from insects -- have antibacterial and antifungal qualities which help plants fight disease. When people breathe in these chemicals, our bodies respond by increasing the number and activity of a type of white blood cell.

Recreation – Hiking and Mountain Biking On Campus



# Proposal -- to recognize and preserve University Woods for its aesthetic, ecological, recreational, and human health values:

- 1. A memorandum of agreement between ETSU and the Old Growth Forest Network.
- 2. A statement in ETSU's master plan.
- 3. A dedication ceremony.

## Ad hoc Committee to Propose a Protected Status for University Woods (convened May '18)

- Fred Alsop, Professor, Dept of Biological Sciences
- Tim McDowell, Professor Emeritus, Dept of Biological Sciences; co-founder and Director of ETSU Arboretum
- Kathleen Moore, Director of Sustainability & Recycling;
   Chair of the Sustainability Fee Committee
- Dave Mueller, Assistant Director of Outdoor Adventure, Campus Recreation
- Kevin O'Donnell, committee chair; Professor of English, Dept of Lit and Language, and Director of the Environmental Studies minor
- Brian Rowe, Professor, Biomedical Sciences