

## **Cook Forest Outing – June 6<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Make plans to get your spring “warbler fix” with an outing to one the best migrating warbler traps in Western Pennsylvania, Cook Forest State Park.

Michael Leahy from Knox, PA a long-time member of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society in Clarion, will be the leader for a field trip to one of the gems of the Pennsylvania State Park system, The Cook Forest. Located along the picturesque Clarion River, Cook Forest has some of the largest tracts of ancient and virgin forest remaining in Pennsylvania. Classified as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service, Cook Forest State Park is often referred to as the "Black Forest" of Pennsylvania. The park's 11,586 acres contain some of the largest specimens of Eastern Hemlock and White Pine found in all of the eastern states. At 184.7 feet tall, The “Longfellow Pine” was the tallest White Pine tree in the Northeastern United States and the 3<sup>rd</sup> tallest east of the Mississippi River. Unfortunately, it was felled during a microburst in May of 2018. We will visit the remains.

Cook Forest, with all of its acres of mature evergreen and hardwood trees is a real magnet for large numbers of migrating warblers and other forest dependent passerines.

We will meet at the Park office at 9:00 am and then proceed to the Log Cabin Interpretive Center where we will begin our adventure into the “Forest Cathedral”. Depending on time and group preferences, we may visit the fire tower where you can climb to the top and maybe look a Blackburnian Warbler right in the eye and then visit Seneca Rocks overlook for spectacular views of the Clarion River Valley and surrounding countryside.

Set your GPS to 100 State Route 36, Cooksburg, PA and you will make it to the park office. There are restrooms available at both the park office and the Log Cabin Interpretive Center. Bring water and a lunch or if the weather is wet, there are several restaurants to choose from.

In the case of inclement weather, the outing will be canceled. Check with Michael to confirm details.

For questions feel free to contact Michael at 814-229-1648 or mrl706@gmail.com