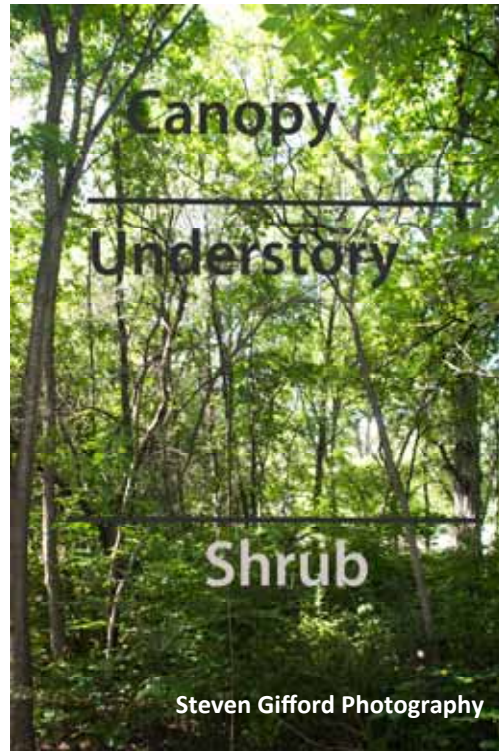


Forest Structure



Mature woodlands and forests have a structure. The tallest trees upper branches comprise the canopy. In Bristol Woods the canopy trees are usually oaks and hickories. Somewhat beneath the canopy are smaller trees and trees that have not yet grown into the canopy. they comprise the understory or under canopy. Closer to the ground is a shrub level can be made up of Vibrunums. At ground level there can be a layer of flowers or ferns. Finally is the litter layer, made of dead leaves, twigs and other organic material from previous growing seasons. There is a reason for this “stratification.” As each growing season emerges from winter, sunlight is needed by all the plants and trees at each growth level. The plant and lower level green out earliest, before the shrubs and higher tress block out the sun. The shrubs green out and flower before the canopy trees green out and absorb the majority of the sunlight. At the height of the growing season, as little as 1% of the available sunlight reaches the forest floor. Different birds and insects occupy different levels of the forest's structure.