

# Neighbors of Whites Woods

24 October 1995

Dear Neighbors,

I apologize for the long delay since I last updated you on our activities. A total of 2,980 dollars was collected from 31 contributors, an impressive show of support! The total bill from John Bonya was 2,135.25 dollars leaving a balance of 844.75 dollars minus 2.00 dollars pre-authorized debt, or 28.28% of the total donated. Consequently, the enclosed check represents a 28.28% rebate of your donation.

Although Neighbors of Whites Woods has been inactive since the township supervisors had a change of heart and voted against logging, Friends of Whites Woods has remained vigilant. They meet on a regular basis and have formed an executive committee. I was asked to represent our neighborhood, and fellow neighbors Neil Asting, Mike Kesner and Alizia Linzey also serve on the committee in different capacities.

Friends of Whites Woods feels that although logging has been thwarted for now, the future of the Woods is uncertain. Their goal is facilitate liaisons and activities to insure its protection for years to come (e.g. biological inventories, land trusts and community programs). The now defunct Natural Heritage Survey of Indiana County would have been a step in the right direction. On a positive note, the Todd Bird Club is conducting a study in the Woods.

Many of you may not know that a Master Plan Development for Whites Woods has been drafted by a consulting firm. The plan includes development of the 12th street entrance (see back), creation of a Fulton Run Road entrance with outdoor amphitheater, and a paved road leading to a large pavilion and interpretive center in the heart of the Woods. The White Township supervisors have solicited comments from Friends of Whites Woods regarding the proposal. The response from Friends of Whites Woods supported the concept of improved access, but strongly recommended that any development be limited to the periphery of the Woods. They also noted that a plan of this magnitude is not in line with the township survey results. The township supervisors have not yet replied. If anybody is interested in seeing the entire blueprint for Whites Woods please let me know.

Clearly, Neighbors of Whites Woods has a vested interest in protecting the Woods. At this point, our interests can best be represented through the activities of Friends of Whites Woods. I encourage you to support their activities by attending their meetings or providing input through me. The next Friends of Whites Woods meeting is **Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Unitarian Universalist Church on Twolick Drive (off East Pike). The agenda includes adoption of by-laws, future direction and project proposals.

I would also like you to consider endorsing your check for deposit by Friends of Whites Woods and mailing it to John Coffman, 471 South 7th Street, Indiana, PA 15701. His organization could really use the donation, and it would be money well invested.

Happy Halloween,

Tom Simmons