



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



February

GO NATIVE!

Find native plants
for your garden!



PURPLE CONEFLOWER



BLACK COHASH



MILKWEED



SPICEBUSH



WISTERIA



VIBURNUM

NATIVE PLANTS LIKE THE ONES SHOWN HERE ENRICH THE SOIL AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS. THEY ARE THE BASE OF THE FOOD CHAIN FOR BIRDS, POLLINATORS, AND MAMMALS. EXOTIC INVASIVE PLANTS, OFTEN SOLD LOCALLY, ESCAPE INTO LOCAL FORESTS, CROWD OUT NATIVE PLANTS, PROVIDE FEWER NUTRIENTS, & SUPPRESS BIODIVERSITY.

FWW is working with White Township to put up new signs! The *Go Native!* Sign (above) urges residents to be mindful of the importance of native plants for our local ecosystems, as well as the likelihood of exotic, invasive plants – many of which are sold at local nurseries – migrating into our local forests.

There are many wonderful, colorful native plants and shrubs that can be found in White's Woods. FWW is, of course, removing invasives to protect these natives.

Resilient, ecosystem-supportive native plants for your yard or forest can be purchased at local nurseries that specialize in native plants and shrubs, too! [SEE the FWW Website](http://friendsofwhiteswoods.org) for lists of local native plants and shrubs.

UPCOMING FWW EVENTS

***Invasive Plant Removal:** Weather permitting. **Please help!** Sign up at the [FWW website](http://friendsofwhiteswoods.org) and/or watch your email.

***March 25, 2026: Volunteers Growing Native Plants for Restoration Projects, Dr. Linda Rohleder, Founder** [Wildwood Restoration Project](http://friendsofwhiteswoods.org) To register for this webinar, send an email to info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org

***April 18, 2026:** IUP Into the Streets, including the FWW Community-wide Spring Barberry Removal Project.

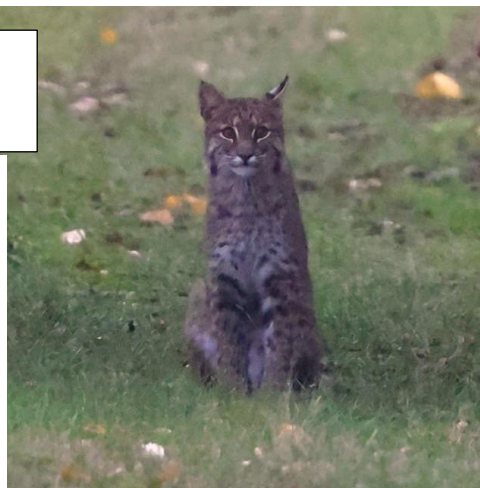
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Bobcats In White's Woods

One advantage of a good snow cover is that a hiker can easily see animal tracks. Although rare, bobcat tracks have been spotted in White's Woods.

This is no surprise, says DCNR Assistant District Forester Gerald Hoy. Bobcats



Pennsylvania Game Commission photo

are one of the most common forest animals in Pennsylvania, even though people rarely get a chance to see them. They are about twice the size of housecats and are beautiful! [Estimates of Pennsylvania's bobcat population](#) vary from 5,000 to 20,000. Generally, however, the PA Game Commission regards the population as stable, with population increases now being seen in some parts of the state, including the southwest. Like almost all other Pennsylvania forest animals, the population is rebounding from the low point around 1900, when our state was almost completely clearcut. Bobcats are most active in very early morning and from sunset to midnight. Litters of 1-6 kittens, born in April or May, stay with the mother until winter. Otherwise, these animals, whose lifespan is about seven years, are generally solitary. According to the [Penn State Extension](#), a bobcat's range varies from 7 to 17 square miles.

ADDITIONAL FWW UPDATES

- The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (DCNR -BRC), which oversees all Project 70 grants, is expected to weigh in soon on the 2024 White's Woods Nature Center Stewardship Plan. White's Woods was obtained with Project 70 funds. Two weeks ago, [DCNR's Bureau of Forestry provided their "technical review,"](#) that expressed much support for the plan, including enrolling the forest in the Old Growth Forest Network and expanding the size of the forest through the purchase of adjoining land.
- FWW needs volunteers to "adopt-a-patch." These volunteers will walk through a designated area at least twice a month during growing season to pull out small (6"-10") invasive barberry re-growth and protect our success in this invasive's removal. Email info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org to volunteer.

HOPE FOR PROTECTING THE ROADLESS RULE FOR WILDERNESS AREAS?

The 2001 Roadless Rule was put in place after extensive public input to protect over 45 million acres in U.S. national forests. This rule has prevented both road-building and logging in these forests. The Roadless Rule protects the water supply for [over 60 million](#) citizens and provides habitat for [more than 500 at-risk species](#). Roadless areas protect many of the [last remaining wilderness areas](#) left in our country.

In June 2025, the Trump administration's Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, [announced their plan](#) to eliminate (rescind) the Roadless Rule and open the formerly-protected forests to road-building and resource extraction, including logging. [Over nine million acres](#) of mature and old growth trees in the [Tongass National Forest are at risk](#).

There are two current initiatives working to protect the Roadless Rule. The first is to rely on the public to tell the U.S. Forest Service to leave the Rule in place. An opportunity for public input to a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is [LIKELY](#) to become available in March, though no announcement has yet been made. The comment period, contrary to previous federal practice, is likely to be short. Watch for updates.

The second initiative is being led by Washington Senator Maria Cantwell and numerous co-sponsors who [recently introduced the Roadless Area Conservation Act \(RACA\)](#) that would permanently codify the Roadless Rule into federal law. This act has [also been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives](#). Interested citizens should contact both [their Senators](#) and [U.S. Representatives](#).

Three Current Federal Initiatives to Increase Logging in National Forests

There are three ongoing federal initiatives to increase logging in national forests: (1) repeal of the Roadless Rule (see article above); (2) the mis-named "Fix Our Forests Act, [which inaccurately claims](#) that increased logging will decrease wildfire risk; and (3) A March 2025 Executive Order that ordered [an immediate expansion of timber production](#) due to a perceived "[national emergency](#)." [Kentucky](#) and [Michigan](#) are both now seeing the impact of this order.

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org
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