



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



MAY

2026 Volunteers Tackle WWNC Invasive Barberry (again)

For the third consecutive spring, FWW led a large volunteer effort to remove invasive Japanese barberry from the White's Woods Nature Center.

Volunteers worked in the watershed near the Fleming Trail and Spring Trail on Saturday, April 18th and in an area adjacent to the ridge-top Fulton Trail on the following day. One hundred six volunteers contributed 197 total work hours to make this two-day event a success.

Among the groups participating were the IUP Ambassadors, Delta Theta, IUP Cook Honors College, Student Government Association, and the Student Association of Nutrition and Dietetics. Forty-one members of the IUP football team worked on Saturday afternoon. Students from the IUP departments of Business, Biology, Ecology, and Sustainability Studies, along with members from the community group Plant Patrol, also contributed their time and effort.

IUP Assistant Director of Student Development Donovan Daniel and IUP Football coach Brett Brice helped coordinate student volunteers. FWW team leaders for the event included Dr. Gail Berlin, Dr. Susan Comfort, David Dahlheimer, Dr. Susan Dahlheimer, Angelique Conrad, Jessica Jopp, Tom Miller, Lucas Rowcliff, and Dr. Sara King. SGA president Madeline Metts led the April 19th team.

This year's barberry-removal efforts actually got underway in late March, with groups working in the woods each Saturday morning ever since.

Much more help is needed! Whatever your strength and energy level, we have a job for you! Help is needed to pull the small plant re-growth (6-10 inches), along with clearing remaining densely invaded areas. If you or your group can help, please email FWW to let us know. The entire community will appreciate your effort.



Madeline Metts



Leon Parsons



JUNE 11TH - SAVE THE DATE

Bring a dish, eat a meal! FWW members and supporters will gather at Blue Spruce Park to celebrate our successes, regale each other with stories, and plan for our future. Watch your email for more details!

UPCOMING FWW EVENTS

SATURDAYS: Invasive Plant Removal: Weather permitting. **10- noon. Please help!** Sign up at the [FWW website](#) and/or watch your email. Meet at the WWNC 12th Street Entrance.

May 15, 2026: Meet the Animals Education Program. *Stormy Oaks Nature Conservancy*, May Mart, FWW table, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

June 4, 2026: Big Tree Walk in White's Woods, 12th Street Entrance, 5:30 p.m.

June 11, 2026: FWW Gathering to Celebrate, Blue Spruce Park Pavillion, 4-7 p.m.

July 26, 2026: Bat Education Walk in White's Woods, Julie Zeyzus, Wildlife Biologist; President, Tealeaf Ecological, LLC, dusk.

See the monthly [Naturally](#) column, brought to you by [The Indiana Gazette](#) and FWW to showcase the wonders of nature in our area.

**For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org
Like us on FaceBook: Friends of White's Woods, Inc.
Follow us on Instagram: [friendsofwhiteswoodsinc](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwhiteswoodsinc)**

**Issue 68
MAY 2026**

CLIMATE FORESTS UPDATE

Urgent citizen action is essential to protect national forests from extensive logging and to protect the Endangered Species, Clean Water, and Clean Air Acts, according to recent Climate Forest Coalition report.

As detailed in the article titled “[Congress is About to Legalize the Liquidation of American Forests](#),” the current administration has decided that the solution to controlling wildfire is cutting down trees and that the remaining 800-year-old cedars in the Tongass National Forest are a major obstacle to U.S. forest management.

Take action by connecting with national organizations (linked below):

Repealing the Roadless Rule:
[Defenders of Wildlife](#)
Farm Bill: [Forest Service Employees for Environ Ethics](#)
“**Fix Our Forests**” (???) Act:
[Environment America](#)
*[Sierra Club](#) & [NPCA](#) and other groups are working, too

It is time to renew your FWW membership!

You can get a [great new FWW t-shirt](#) with a \$25 membership renewal. Even better, you can support FWW community education (website information, signs, presentations), research (forest ecology consultants, audio recording devices), and ongoing projects to protect the woods. [Support FWW](#) and continue your efforts to save White’s Woods.

SPRING BIRD MIGRATION IS UNDERWAY!

Cornell Lab’s [Spring Migration BirdCast](#) website is active until June 15th. On April 28th, radar identified 420,700 birds flying over Indiana County. Bird species migrating now include the [Wood Thrush](#) and [Ovenbird](#). Both of these bird species summer in White’s Woods – and both are now experiencing severe [population declines](#).

FWW member Cheri Widzowski documented some of the returning White’s Woods summer residents on [ebird](#). This citizen-scientist website is an essential tool for recording bird observations. Everyone’s help is needed. The [Eastern Bluebird](#) (right) is another seasonal migrant to our area.



Stormy Oaks Nature Conservancy to Visit

Home of Wildbird Recovery, Inc., the [Stormy Oaks Nature Conservancy](#) helps rehabilitate songbirds and raptors. The conservancy, which is dedicated to conservation of wildlife and natural resources, hosts many [events](#) throughout the year. FWW is sponsoring a visit by Stormy Oaks to a local grade school classroom and to the FWW table at May Mart on May 15. The two-day [May Mart](#) festival is held annually at the S&T Recreation Complex.

FWW Red Oak Seedling Distribution & Planting

On Earth Day, FWW distributed red oak seedlings provided by [Million Trees Project](#), a volunteer group dedicated to replenishing nut-bearing trees in the U.S. More seedlings are available. Some will be planted by FWW volunteers in WWNC, others will be available at the [May Mart](#) FWW table on May 15-16.

2026 Barberrry



Before



After

ADDITIONAL FWW UPDATES

- FWW needs volunteers to “adopt-a-patch.” 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 preserve our progress! Email info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org to volunteer.
- [A list of valuable native plants](#) in White’s Woods can be found on the FWW website.
- Enrolling White’s Woods in the [Old Growth Forest Network](#) is supported by DCNR. Watch for a new citizen petition soon!

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