



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



JUNE

JUNE 11th FWW Potluck Picnic

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.



From 4-7 p.m. on June 11th, the FWW woods-walkers will be visiting this nearby lake, under the protection of Blue Spruce Park's Pavilion #2, for a summer gathering. If possible, bring a little food or a beverage to share and get ready to relax and spend some time talking with others who value the incredible land – trees, plants, water, birds and wildlife –that our community has to offer. Conversation will not only help us plan our future; it will lift our spirits! Bring your friends and family to Pavillion #2 on June 11th.

College Lodge: Timberrrr?

What appears to be an extensive logging project is planned for the IUP College Lodge forest – the forest that seamlessly connects to WWNC. [According to IUP Student Co-op Executive Director Lou Garzarelli](#), Millstone Land Management, LLC has a multistep plan that includes “selective thinning and pruning to improve forest health, aesthetics and sightlines and invasive species control within trail corridors and adjacent forest areas.”

A notable percentage of biggest trees along the main trails of the College Lodge forest have already been marked, presumably for removal, even though trails are dramatically cooler if protected from direct sunlight. A recent [Hawkeye article](#) by Dr. Susan Comfort provides additional information about this project, its potential similarity to the since-rejected WWNC Millstone plan, and other concerns.



Barn Owl, Education Specialist
Stormy Oaks Nature
Conservancy

Melissa McMaster-Brown from Stormy Oaks Nature Conservancy, home of Wildbird Recovery, made FWW-sponsored presentations at a local grade school and the Indiana Garden Club May Mart on May 15th. Melissa introduced a Barn Owl, a Merlin, and an incredibly soft and patient Pigeon as she talked about birds, how to protect them, and her rescue work. [Wildbird Recovery](#) is located in Valencia, PA.

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.

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

June 16, 2026: Big Tree Walk in White's Woods, 12th Street Entrance, 5:30 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
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CAN THE UTILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY IN WHITE'S WOODS SUPPORT POLLINATORS?

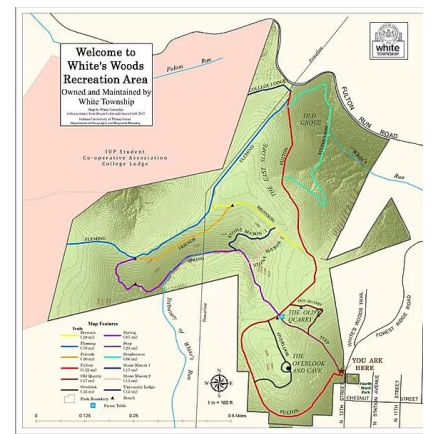
FWW pulled together experts and stakeholders to begin initial planning to improve the 120 ft. wide, nearly mile long utility right-of-way through White's Woods Nature Center. Such right-of-ways, if cared for properly, can provide rich habitat for pollinators and birds. With White Township support, FWW invited [Dr. Carolyn Grace Mahan](#), a faculty member in the Penn State [Center for Pollinator Research](#) and right-of-way pollinator expert, to visit White's Woods. Mahan brought students from her Ecology class and arranged for two representatives of utility line-owner *First Energy* to join White Township Manager Chris Anderson and FWW board members Sara King and Jessica Jopp on an April 13th walk. Improving the right-of-way so that it better supports pollinators is a multi-year, multi-step project. Mahan recommended that mowing in this area be suspended for a year or two so that we can see what is in the seedbed. Once the native plants that naturally grow in the area are identified, Mahan recommended that patches throughout the right-of way be protected. First Energy agreed to remove invasive plants (not a standard procedure) when they conduct future maintenance mowing.

Natural Heritage Area in White's Woods

The rich east-west valley between the WWNC Friends and Fulton trails is home to the most diverse tree, plant, reptilian and amphibian species, and maybe even bird and bat species, in our community forest. The area is so special, in fact, that it is officially recognized as an [Indiana County Natural Heritage Area](#).

The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) was established in 1982. "PNHP collects and stores location and baseline ecological information about rare plants, rare animals, unique plant communities, significant habitats, and geologic features in Pennsylvania." Protecting Pennsylvania's biodiversity is a key responsibility of PNHP. Fifty-four species and natural communities of concern have been documented in Indiana County.

What does this mean for WWNC human visitors? Take good care to protect this land and these species. It is really important to stay on the trails. WWNC walkers tend to take good care of our community forest and its inhabitants. This is a practice that we must make sure to continue.



WWNC TRAIL MAP

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.

CLIMATE FORESTS UPDATE

The multiple threats to national forests remain. SOMETIME SOON a public comment period about protecting the Roadless Rule (leaving some wild places in national forests) will finally be announced..

[Fifty-seven percent](#) of at-risk species live in Roadless areas. [Firefighters](#) have recently weighed in to protest the attempt to repeal the Roadless Rule. Please watch your email so that you can help. Other links:

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



Melissa McMaster-Brown,
Wildbird Recovery

Adopt-a-patch to remove small barberry plant re-growth? Help plant & protect tree seedlings?

**YOU CAN HELP
& YOUR HELP
IS NEEDED!**

**Email FWW!
Or fill out this
[form.](#)**



Protecting seedlings!

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