Friends of White's Woods
Monthly Newsletter



NOVEMBER

FWW November 12th Webinar: Pennsylvania Endangered Species

Pam Shellenberger, a US Fish & Wildlife Service Endangered Species and Ecological Services specialist, will present a Friends of White's Woods webinar on November 12th, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. The webinar, titled ***Restoring and Managing Habitat*****,** will highlight several federally listed and at-risk species and how the Service is working with partners to restore and manage their habitat. The presentation will provide an overview of several case studies and the ways that management and/or restoration was accomplished**.**

Shellenberger is a staff member in the Pennsylvania Ecological Services Field Office that is located in State College, Pennsylvania. This office provides technical assistance and consultation to private citizens, local, county and state governments and federal partners in all 67 counties throughout the commonwealth. According to the field office website, Pennsylvania's diverse landscape offers habitat to a number of federally protected plants and animals, including rare terrestrial species such as the wetland dependent bog turtle and eastern massasauga rattlesnake. Seven species of aquatic freshwater mussels found in the Allegheny and Delaware River watersheds are protected. And two species of federally endangered bats, the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, rely on Pennsylvania caves and mines for hibernation, as well as a healthy forest ecosystem throughout the rest of the year. Two protected shorebird species call Pennsylvania home during migration (red knot), and for breeding and migration (piping plover).

The US Fish & Wildlife Endangered Species program has enjoyed notable success. Species such as the Oregon chub, brown pelican, American peregrine falcon, American alligator, Kirtland's warbler, Louisiana black bear, bald eagle, and Colorado butterfly plant have been successfully delisted from the ESA due to recovery. To register for this November 12th webinar, email info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org .

UPCOMING FWW EVENTS

SATURDAYS: Invasive Plant Removal & Tree planting: Weather permitting. **10- noon. Please help!** Sign up at the FWW website and watch your email for announcements!

November 3rd: VOTE! Election day – forests are "on the ballot."

November 12th: Restoring and Managing Habitat for Imperiled Species, Pamela Shellenberger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4-5 p.m.

January 28, 2027: Native Bats: Thriving & At-Risk. Bat Conservation and Management, Inc., John Chenger,

See the monthly ***Naturally*** column, **brought to you by The Indiana Gazette and FWW to showcase the wonders of nature in our area.**

FALL 2026 TREE PLANTING IN WHITE'S WOODS



Thanks to donations from the Allegheny Arboretum Plant Research program, along with donations from individuals who have grown native seedlings, volunteers are planting an array of native trees in our community forest. Up to 50 American black walnut, pawpaw (pictured above), bitternut hickory, chestnut oak, scarlet oak, red oak, white oak, and black oak tree seedlings will get their start this fall. Thanks to White Township for providing the staked tree protectors. Kudos to the hardworking volunteers.

2026 FWW ANNUAL MEETING

On October 27th, nearly forty people gathered at the Zion Lutheran Church for the 2026 FWW annual member meeting. Both the cake and the conversation were outstanding. The evening was devoted to a review of woods-related events during the previous year, ongoing challenges, and steps that can be taken to strengthen the White's Woods Nature Center's protection for future generations.

The White's Woods Stewardship Plan was finally applauded by Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, tens of thousands of Japanese barberry plants were removed from the forest (thanks to the help of hundreds of volunteers), hundreds of tree seedling have been planted and/or protected, and FWW's educational efforts (webinars, woods-walks, the Indiana Gazette *Naturally* column) are still going strong.

Dr. Ellen Yerger provided an update of both the IUP Co-op timbering and the ongoing efforts to establish a stakeholder-shaped, science-based management plan. Yerger showed recent pictures of the now unrecognizeable Co-op Park: the forest is gone and the lake is full of sediment. Who wanted this and why?

Jessica Jopp reviewed the status of the Homer City data center application, explaining that even though the Amazon application was shockingly incomplete, the County Planning Commission accepted it for review. Jopp also reviewed the significant threats to clean air and water, as well as animal and human health.

Members are urged to look for ways to help protect White's Woods and our surrounding environment: Keep an eye out for new petitions, as well as important FWW, IUP, and Indiana County meetings. Also look for opportunities to donate your time and/or money. Thanks to Tom Miller, Susan Dahlheimer, Norma Tarnoff, and Sara King who accepted new three-year terms of service to the FWW board.

Porcupines originated in Africa 30 million years ago, with some eventually "rafting" to South America. Then, about five million years ago, some of these animals walked into North America. According to research presented by the Florida Museum, there are 16 species of porcupines in Central and South America, but only one species in North America. And some of these live in the White's Woods Nature Center.

Porcupines are rodents, with bright orange front teeth that continuously grow – and have to be worn down by gnawing on things. Porcupines are closely related to Guinee pigs. (Groundhogs are rodents, too – but they are part of the squirrel family, instead.) These animals weigh 9-20 pounds, have up to 30,000 quills, and are very at home in trees! They descend from a tree tail-first. A porcupine does not "throw" quills, but the quills are loosely attached and will dislodge if the animal is attacked.





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

YOU CAN HELP & YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Email FWW!
Or fill out this



ROADLESS RULE UPDATE

Over 1.1 million people submitted public comments to the U.S. Forest Service about proposed changes to the Roadless Rule. Ninety-nine percent of those weighing in said that the Roadless Rule needs to remain in place. This is the first important step in what will be, no doubt, a long battle to protect wild areas in U.S. national forests. Fifty-seven percent of at-risk species live in Roadless areas. Other links:

Threat to Endangered Species
Montana Free Press
Threats to National Parks
National Parks & Conservation Assoc.
Threats to National Monuments
"Fix Our Forests" (???) Act:
Environment America
*Sierra Club & Defenders of Wildlife 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.