



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



July

NIGHT CRITTERS: BAT EDUCATION IN WHITE'S WOODS

Wildlife Biologist Julie Zeyzus will lead an after-dark walk in the White's Woods Nature Center (WWNC) on July 15, 2025. Participants will meet at the WWNC 12th Street Entrance at 8:15 p.m. for this 90-minute educational event.

On this evening excursion, using specialized equipment, Zeyzus will give walkers a chance to "listen" to the ultrasound emitted by bats. Participants will also have the opportunity to identify the unique calls of resident Nature Center owls, along with the sounds of resident mammals foraging in the fading light.

Zeyzus is founder of Tealeaf Ecological, LLC. and an Adjunct professor at Shepherd University. She holds a B.S. degree in Secondary Education from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.S. degree in Biology from Shippensburg University. Since 2001, Zeyzus has conducted bat studies for research, conservation management, and environmental permitting purposes for private companies, resource agencies, and academia. Throughout her career, she has provided public education and outreach programs for audiences of all ages. Her graduate research included developing a protocol to collect and detect DNA of the federally protected and endangered Mexican long-nosed bat that feed at



Wildlife Biologist Julie Zeyzus

flowering Havard's Agave within a known foraging area of Big Bend National Park, Texas. This bat is also listed on the [International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species](#). Zeyzus has also studied patterns and behavior of migratory bat species within Pennsylvania, including the eastern red bat, silver-haired bat, and hoary bat. Due to known fatalities of these species at operating wind facilities, results from these studies were designed to assist in development of best conservation and management practices for wind facilities for the protection of migratory bats. Zeyzus is a native of western Pennsylvania and currently lives in south-central Pennsylvania. To join this Night Critters evening expedition, please email info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org and meet at the 12th St Entrance at 8:15 p.m., July 15th.

BARBERRY REMOVAL: HELP WANTED

Between the rainstorms, volunteers got in three Saturday June work-sessions, removing the invasive Japanese barberry from the area alongside the Stairs and from the WWNC Natural Heritage Area. Much progress has been made in both areas, though the task of removing the re-growth --- small plants that pop up from seeds or roots--will need attention for at least the next few years.

The invasive barberry crowds out the native plants that help sustain wildlife. No animal seems to be a fan of barberry! Barberry is a rapidly spreading, highly aggressive invasive. Attentive woods-walkers notice how dramatically the unattended patches spread each year.

A group of volunteers working together can have a big impact in a short period of time -- and we need help. You can sign up [on the FWW website](#), or send an email to info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org.



This June 14th volunteer group celebrates the removal of a large barberry patch.

UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Saturdays: Invasive Plant Removal. 10 a.m. to noon. **Please help!**

<https://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org/barberry-removal-sign-up> and/or watch for FWW email announcements.

July 15: Bats in the WWNC, Julie Zeyzus, Wildlife Biologist, meet at the 12th St. Entrance 30 minutes before sunset for an evening walk in the woods. (8:15 p.m.).

Early Fall: Discussion with author Darlyn Brewer Hoffstot about her book, *A Farm Life*, and her recent New York Times article, [Dreams of the Possible and Impossible for This Year's Garden](#).

Next *Naturally* Column in the *Indiana Gazette*

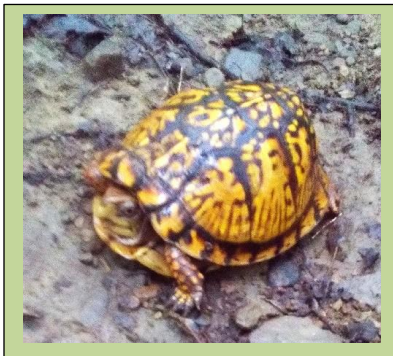
The July *Naturally* column, sponsored by FWW and the *Indiana Gazette*, will appear soon in their weekend edition. Titled *Hanging out with Hickory in White's Woods*, the article is written by Dr. Dana Driscoll, a professor of English at IUP. You can read all of the archived *Naturally* columns at the [FWW website](#).

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 60
July 2025

ENDANGERED AND AT-RISK SPECIES IN WHITE'S WOODS

The 2021 Pennsylvania Diversity Inventory of White's Woods, conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the PA Game Commission, and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources indicated that our woods are in the vicinity of the endangered Indiana Bat, Little Brown bat, and Northern Long-eared Bat. Reports by others, including dedicated citizen-scientists, have



Eastern Box Turtle

identified dozens of other bird, plant, reptilian, and amphibian at-risk species in White's Woods, including the Eastern Box Turtle and a delicate flowering plant (both pictured right). A variety of factors are contributing to the [ongoing steep decline](#) in eastern forest migrating birds, as well as a decline in [native plants](#). This is part of the reason that the number of at-risk species in White's Woods is actually increasing. [Nineteen at-risk species](#) were listed in the 2001 White's Woods Stewardship Plan. Since 2001, ten additional



eastern migratory songbirds whose populations are rapidly declining have been [spotted in White's Woods](#), including the oven bird, chestnut-sided warbler, Baltimore oriole, and black-eyed junco.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT NATIONAL FORESTS

Federal action has been taken to limit the impact of the [Endangered Species Act](#), (ESA) the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA), and, most recently, the Roadless Rule. These action seem to be aimed at helping to achieve the dramatic increase in timber harvesting in national forests called for in [two March, 2025 Executive Orders](#). --in part by limiting scientific, public, or judicial review.

At the same time, multiple Congressional actions are also aiming for huge timber harvesting increases in national forests, as well as finding ways to weaken both the ESA and NEPA. One recently introduced U.S. Senate initiative called for a substantial sell-off of public lands. Climate Forests urges citizens to act. Call your U.S. House and Senate representatives to tell them to oppose the [Fix Our Forests Act](#), the [Budget Reconciliation](#) bill, and all efforts to reverse the Roadless Rule or [even sell off public land](#). We have a democracy. And we must act. You can find contact information for your representatives at <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

ATTEMPT TO ROLLBACK THE "ROADLESS RULE" PROTECTING NATIONAL FORESTS

Climate Forests is sounding a new alarm. On June 23, 2025 U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is [rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule](#). The Roadless Rule protects 58.5 million acres of national land from costly and harmful roadbuilding and clear-cut logging [in 39 states – a bedrock protection](#) for our National Forest system that generates tourism, outdoor recreation, and hunting opportunities nationwide. The rule was created after more than 600 public hearings were held around the nation, and the public provided more than 1.6 million comments in favor of adopting it — more comments than any other rule in the nation's history.

Roadless areas sustain essential ecosystems for wildlife such as the salmon in southeast Alaska and Grizzly Bears in the Yellowstone region, that are vital to the fishing industry and subsistence traditions alike.

More than 60 million Americans get their clean drinking water from our national forests, and roadless areas contain all or portions of 354 municipal watersheds. Repealing the Roadless Rule is bad climate science – mature and old growth trees are natural carbon sinks that store carbon dioxide and provide shade for cooler temperatures. Essentially, these forests fight climate change simply by existing, and Roadless Areas include huge amounts of our remaining mature and old growth trees. Wildfires are nearly four times more likely to start in areas that have roads. This decision is not about fire safety, rather it is another move to privatize our public forests that Americans rely on.

JOIN OR RENEW
YOUR FWW
MEMBERSHIP!

It's time to renew your FWW membership. Please go to the [FWW website and click on membership form](#).

But, let's take this a step further. Encourage a friend, neighbor, or relative to join our organization.

FWW HAS NEW
T-SHIRTS!

These beautiful shirts identify the many virtues of a forest. Get a new FWW shirt with a \$25 FWW donation.