



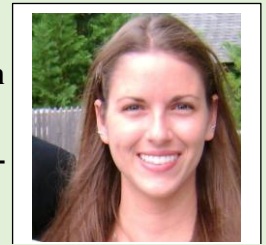
Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



APRIL

DCNR APPLAUDS WHITE'S WOODS STEWARDSHIP PLAN

In a recent letter to White Township, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [Bureau of Recreation and Conservation](#) (DCNR-BRC) Chief Ashley Rebert praised the development of the 2024 White's Woods Stewardship Plan and identified the plan as consistent with Project 70 guidelines.



BRC Chief Ashley Rebert

Rebert's February 6, 2026, letter read, in part:

“The Department would like to acknowledge the noteworthy commitment of the Township to develop a plan backed by public input and subject matter expert engagement. This plan is consistent with the Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act (“Act”) and includes natural area best practices that align with the passive recreation opportunities valued at White's Woods. No further coordination with the Department is required unless the management and stewardship strategies recommended in the plan change in a way that conflicts with the protections under the Act.”

Rebert was appointed as the new Chief of DCNR-BRC in August, 2025. Chief Rebert identified her February 6th letter as DCNR's direct response to the plan submitted for review by White Township in January, 2025.

BRC has formal responsibility for administering Project 70 grant properties and has provided feedback to previous Township plans for White's Woods. This is the first time that a White's Woods stewardship plan has been identified by DCNR as consistent with Project 70 guidelines.

The process of DCNR feedback to the 2024 White's Woods Stewardship Plan seems to have been something of an anomaly, to the degree that previous procedures serve as a guide. The December, 2025, letter from the DCNR Bureau of Forestry (BOF) would normally have been sent to BRC for their consideration prior to being passed along in the context of the BRC review. The February 6, 2026, letter from Chief Rebert is posted on both the [FWW](#) and [White Township](#) websites.

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..

April 18, 2026: IUP Into the Streets, including the FWW Community-wide Spring Barberry Removal Project. Meet at the College Lodge.

April 22, 2026: EARTH DAY – FWW FREE OAK TREE SEEDLING DISTRIBUTION, 12th St. Entrance, 1-3 p.m. Please let people know!

April 22, 2026: EARTH DAY – Tree Seedling Planting in White's Woods, 12th Street Entrance, 3 p.m.

Late May (TBD): Meet the Animals Education Program by the Stormy Oaks Nature Conservancy

Late July (also still TBD) Bat Education Walk in White's Woods, Julie Zeyzus, Wildlife Biologist; President, Tealeaf Ecological, LLC.

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.
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EARTH DAY 2026: April 22nd

Earth Day, celebrated on April 22nd every year, was established by a bi-partisan coalition in 1970 to underscore our problems with severe environmental degradation, as well as our collective commitment to restoring environmental health.

Thanks largely to climate change and the industrial and consumer policies that drive it, 56 years after Earth Day was founded, our environment is more degraded than ever. The concerns are not abstract. People, other animals, plants, and even air, water, and soil need a healthy environment to survive.

The website 350.org lays out details:

- ❖ The planet is 2-2.5° F warmer than it was in the late 1800s.
- ❖ [Warmer weather doesn't just mean higher temperatures](#). It brings extreme weather events, drought, flooding, increased fire, melting icecaps, rising sea-levels, changes in ocean temperatures, changes in plant (including food) and tree growing zones, and more. Animals, insects, plants, and people have to move!
- ❖ The [primary driver of climate change](#) is the human choice to burn fossil fuels.
- ❖ [Current U. S. federal policy](#) calls for an increase in fossil fuel burning.
- ❖ There is no real debate about the basic science of climate change: [99% of scientists](#) agree that humans are causing it.
- ❖ If emissions continue even a few more years, by 2100, [up to 75%](#) of the global population could face life-threatening conditions from extreme heat and rainfall.
- ❖ U.S. home insurance possibilities and patterns have been [profoundly affected by](#) climate change already.
- ❖ [33% of the current U.S. Congress](#) are climate change deniers, [including some from PA](#).
- ❖ According to the Center for American Progress, [climate deniers hold 69 percent of leadership positions](#) in Congress, the executive branch, and the Cabinet, combined.
- ❖ Drought is expected [to occur in 55%](#) of the continental U.S. this year.
- ❖ The current administration has [removed climate change data from federal websites](#).
- ❖ In addition, plastic pollution is found in [all ecosystems in the globe](#) – air, water, soil, even the [human body](#). Plastic debris [will outweigh fish in the oceans by 2050](#),

EARTH DAY IS EVERY DAY: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. VOTE (see article, left).
2. Participate in the local and national democratic process: attend government and political meetings, talk to neighbors, help campaigns, run for office, donate (as you can).
3. [Stay informed & aware](#) of the details of (increasing) fossil fuel use, climate change impact, opinions of local, state, and federal business & public leaders.
4. Use a lot less plastic. Avoid single-use plastics entirely (e.g. bags, forks). Use zero plastic bags in 2026. [Plastic is rarely recycled](#).
5. Walk more. Buy less. Buy local, where possible.
6. [Plant more trees](#) and keep the ones you have.
7. [Protect land](#). Protect [public land](#). Support “[30 by 30](#)” - including [in Pennsylvania](#).

ADDITIONAL FWW UPDATES

- Enrolling White's Woods in the Old Growth Forest Network was one recommendation in the new WWNC Stewardship Plan – and one that was supported in the DCNR Bureau of Forestry feedback. Watch for a new citizen petition soon!
- 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.
- FWW has great [new t-shirts for membership renewal](#). [Get yours!](#) FWW appreciates (and could use) your continued support!

Citizens Working to Save National Forests

There are three ongoing federal initiatives to increase logging in national forests: (1) repeal of the Roadless Rule ; (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](#).”

★ IN late March to mid - April, a **Roadless Rule Public Comment Period** is expected to open. Information and assistance in participating in the public comment period (when it opens!) can be found at Roadless.org.

★ **Tell your [Senators](#) and [Representatives](#) to protect national forests and old growth.**

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