

## Friends of White's Woods to host webinar

- By INDIANA GAZETTE
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Dr. Linda Rohleder is the founder and executive director of the Wildwood Restoration Project.

Submitted photo

Friends of White's Woods (FWW) has set a date for an upcoming webinar, "Volunteers Growing Native Plants for Restoration Projects."

This webinar, held from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday via Zoom, will be presented by Dr. Linda Rohleder, founder and executive director of The Wildwood Restoration Project.

The nonprofit organization seeks to "restore the health and diversity of our Hudson Valley forests with local native plants grown by volunteers and to inspire a passion for continued stewardship."

By using local ecotype seeds, or seeds that are sourced from local, native plant populations, volunteers are helping to preserve the region's genetic diversity and restore habitats in these parks.

Dr. Rohleder will explain how the project collects and stores native seeds and organizes volunteers to pot the seeds and grow the plants at home.

She will also discuss the concepts and challenges they face with local ecotype seeds and sustainable growing practices.

Since 2022, the project has engaged more than 450 volunteers and cultivated tens of thousands of plants.

This initiative highlights the powerful impact volunteers can make through collective action.

Rohleder launched the Wild Woods Restoration Project in 2022 to engage volunteers in growing local ecotype native seeds for park restoration projects.

She had previously spent nearly a decade as Director of Land Stewardship at the New York–New Jersey Trail Conference, where she built the Stewardship Department and created the Invasives Strike Force and the Conservation Detection Dog programs.

She was also the founding coordinator of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), leading regional invasive species management efforts across 50 plus partner organizations.

Dr. Rohleder holds a Ph.D. in Ecology from Rutgers University and has more than 30 years of experience creating native plant habitats on her own properties.

To register for the webinar, send an email to [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org).