



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter

NATHAN COUGHLIN RECEIVES FWW 2025 VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The 2025 FWW Volunteer Service Award was presented to Nathan Coughlin at the July 25, 2025, FWW award luncheon.

In the last two years, Nate has volunteered 60-100 hours (we lost count!) to help with invasive Japanese barberry removal in White's Woods. He found time for this volunteer service while completing his master's degree in Applied Archeology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Nate's service was especially valuable because he was able to step into a leadership role in the Fall-Spring large group barberry-removal events, 2023-2025, teaching new volunteers how to successfully remove the invasive plants. He made a huge contribution this summer, as well, working to remove barberry for two hours every Saturday morning in both June and July. Thanks much to Nate's efforts,



Nathan Coughlin

the White's Woods Natural Heritage Area will be free of barberry by the end of summer, 2025.

Nate's master's thesis, *A Geophysical and Geomorphic Assessment of the Mary Rinn Archeological Site*, used ground



August

penetrating radar and sediment analysis to assess buried surfaces and to identify changes in water flow across hundreds of years. The Mary Rinn site, located 1.2 miles west of Creekside, PA, is a Late Woodland village site, radio-carbon dated 850 – 1550 AD.

Previous FWW Volunteer Service Award Winners include Tom Miller, FWW, Red Cross, Indiana Free Library, and Veterans Affairs volunteer (2022); Cindy Rogers, Evergreen Conservancy director and Chevy Chase Community Center Volunteer (2023); and Laurie Lafontaine, Hoodlebug and Ghost Town Trail planner, advocate, and volunteer (2024).



WHO ATE THAT TREE BARK?

During the winter months, particularly, porcupines rely on tree bark for sustenance. Evidence of more than one porcupine meal is visible near the intersection of the Friends and Bronson Trails. Patches of bark, six feet off the ground and higher, are missing on a few of the trees in that area.

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.

August 28, 2025 IUP DAY, volunteers needed to help staff an FWW table.

September 28, 2025 [Predicting and Managing Pollinator Health in a Changing World.](#) Dr. Christina M. Grozinger, Director, Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences Pennsylvania State University, noon-1:00 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](#). TBA

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BIRDS IN WHITE'S WOODS

The indigo bunting is one of the 90 bird species [documented](#) in White's Woods. This small, sparrow-size bird is sometimes nicknamed "blue canary," according to the Cornell Lab website, [All About Birds](#). You can find indigo buntings near the forest edge, in weedy fields, or along rural roads where they forage for seeds and insects in low vegetation. In White's Woods, this bird with the cheerful song, is most likely spotted near the utility right-of-way. Buntings learn their songs as youngsters. Buntings just a few hundred yards apart, will likely sing different songs. Due to habitat loss and climate change, indigo



bunting populations, like those of other migratory songbirds, are in significant decline.

BATS IN WHITE'S WOODS

On July 15, 2025, wildlife biologist Julie Zeyzous lead an evening bat walk in White's Woods. Zeyzous equipped walkers with microphones and hand-held computers that both recorded and identified the ultrasonic sounds, called echolocation, emitted by the bats as they flew overhead. Numerous species were identified that evening, including the eastern red bat, the hoary bat, and the silver-haired bat. Due to the ideal habitat, including extensive rock near the quarry and high canopy and spring in the Natural Heritage Area, FWW is planning to look for more bat species, including threatened species, in the future.

CLIMATE FORESTS UPDATE: PROTEST THE DECISION TO RESCIND THE ROADLESS RULE

The Trump administration recently announced a decision to [rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule](#). This critical environmental safeguard ensures the protection of 58.5 million acres of our nation's most pristine wild forestlands and provides durable climate benefits. The rule protects watersheds that provide drinking water to millions of Americans, preserves critical habitats for threatened species, supports recreation opportunities for American communities, provides protection for mature and old-growth rainforest, and storage of more than 1.5 billion metric tons of CO2-equivalent and sequestration of over 10 million metric tons of carbon each year. In the announcement, the administration claimed that this rule is overly restrictive and limits the ability to protect forests from devastating fires. Recent analysis of wildfire data shows that fires are nearly four times as likely within 50 meters of roads as in roadless areas. Further, the US Forest Service has stated that "the agency rarely builds new roads to suppress fires." It is simply untrue to assert that repealing the Roadless Rule will necessarily result in fewer or less damaging fires or that the USFS lacks the flexibility to respond effectively to these disasters. More than 1.6 million people wrote to support the creation of the 2001 Roadless Rule because it is key to keeping [wild ecosystems](#) intact. Even with the Roadless Rule in place, the Forest Service [already has a 380,000-mile road system](#) – twice as long as the nation's highway system – crisscrossing national forests. Climate Forests urges citizens to Call your Representative and both Senators and ask them to oppose and condemn this latest attack on public lands and to co-sponsor the [Roadless Area Conservation Act](#), which would codify the roadless rule. You can find contact information for your representatives at <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

SOME OF THE OTHER ONGOING NATIONAL FOREST CONCERNS

The federal government has (1) proposed [revision to the Endangered Species Act](#) (ESA) to suggest that destroying an endangered species' habitat [is not equivalent](#) to destroying endangered species; (2) declared that an "emergency situation" [requires a dramatic increase in logging in national forests](#); timber [quotas in national forests](#) are slated to increase by 25%; (3) proposed a new rule [to rescind Environment Protection Agency Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding](#); (4) significantly reduced support for [environmental research](#); (5) cut the [National Park Service permanent staff](#) by 24%; (6) demanded of [removal of any information](#) in national parks that might disparage (some) Americans; and (7) moved to [limit protection](#) under the Clean Water Act (CWA). [The Fix Our Forests Act](#), which ramps up timbering quotas and threatens both the ESA and CWA, remains on the Senate agenda.

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