



# Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



## Reasons to join Old Growth Forest Network

White Township Manager Chris Anderson urged the stewardship committee at the June 15th meeting to take a look at the larger picture to discern what might lay the groundwork for the future.

For example, Anderson noted, maybe joining the Old Growth Forest Network is the way that the committee wants to go. Or, maybe, Anderson continued, it is the work of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) to which the committee is most drawn. Either option for future care of White's Woods answers a lot of questions about the future.

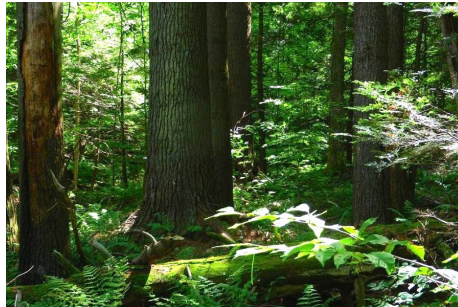
The Old Growth Forest Network (OFGN) offers so much, to so many, in so many ways. The OFGN is working to identify one forest in each county in the United States that will be permanently open to the public and never logged again.

Big, mature trees provide carbon absorption, avian and animal habitat, help mediate regional temperatures, and control stormwater. And forests with big trees provide the aesthetic beauty, solitude, and awe that sustains human visitors to the forests as well.

OFGN documents explain that:

“Majestic forests that supported abundant biodiversity were this nation's inheritance. The vast majority of those forests have now been removed or radically altered (average loss is 95% in the west, >99% in the east).

It is time now to set aside a few forests and allow them to recover their old-growth characteristics. These “future old-growth forests” will be our generation's gift to the generations coming after us. If we are able to reverse the decline in mature, native forests we will be the



*Mature forests store more carbon than young trees. According to the Old Growth Forest Network, protecting intact, unmanaged forests is an important strategy for reducing atmospheric carbon.*

first generation to have done so.”

By joining the OFGN, the committee and township would follow-through with their original Project 70 commitments; acknowledge public convictions; follow the lead of DCNR in setting aside mature, 100-year old forests to get old; lay a path for future care of White's Woods; take a vital step to preserving public land for future generations; and make our region a better place to live and to visit.

On their website, the WPC lists their management activities: bat roost installation, Eastern massasauga habitat improvement, Eastern hemlock conservation, invasive plant control, parking and trail enhancements, lake shore restoration, riparian forest restoration, and tree planting.

That is a good model for management, particularly if it is the follow-up to joining the OFGN.

Right now, joining the OFGN and following the lead of the WPC are far down on the list of questions-to-be-reviewed by the Stewardship Committee. They should be first.

For more information on the Old Growth Forest Network, go to: <https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/>.

## ATTENTION: WEED PULLERS NEEDED

Friends of White's Woods is organizing the first of a series of invasive plant removals July 12th.

For one hour -- 11 a.m. to noon -- members will remove Japanese barberry from a designated section of White's Woods. Please meet at 11 a.m. at the College Lodge parking lot.

Wear good gardening gloves and remember to protect your arms and legs from ticks.

Approved by White Township, this activity will require the completion of Volunteer Forms, which will be available at the parking lot.

Please consider this activity as a way to volunteer some time to assist FWW and protect White's Woods.



Photo by Richard Gardner

*Barberry, an invasive species, takes over the landscape forcing out native species.*

## Next Naturally Column in the Indiana Gazette

The sixth *Naturally* column, sponsored by FWW and the *Indiana Gazette*, will appear soon in their weekend edition.

Titled *Spicebush: An Appalachian Treasure*, the article is written by Dr. Dana Driscoll, a professor of English at IUP, who has been teaching wild food foraging, herbalism and sustainable living for more than 10 years.

Missed the first five columns?

You can read the five columns at <https://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org/general-7-1>.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

**July 12: Invasive Plant Removal.** 11 a.m. to noon. Meet at College Lodge parking lot.

**July 20: White Township Stewardship Committee** meeting. 6:30 p.m., White Township Municipal Building.

**Oct. 2: FWW Membership** meeting. 6:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, Indiana.

**Oct. 11: Plant Walk** by Dana Driscoll. 12th Street entrance, White's Woods.

Webinars will resume in September. All previous webinars can be viewed at [friendsofwhiteswoods.org/events](https://friendsofwhiteswoods.org/events).

For more information, visit: [friendsofwhiteswoods.org](https://friendsofwhiteswoods.org)

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## **JUNE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SEEKS EXTENSION; PLANS PROCESS FOR WRITING DRAFT, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

At the June 15th meeting of the Stewardship Committee, Chairperson Barbara Hauge reported on her meeting the previous day with the supervisors who asked how the committee wishes to proceed and how much additional time they need, as the 18 months originally allotted for the project expires June 30.

Hauge said the supervisors would be given “what we’ve learned” and a summary of consultants’ presentations. The committee explored options for stewardship plan development, including: providing public input to a consultant who would then write the report; asking Township staff to draft a proposal; dividing topics among committee members.

The committee voted to request a six-month extension at the next Township meeting.

Vice chair Dave Dahlheimer argued that the committee should proceed with a draft proposal, suggesting that completion in four months is reasonable. Secretary Sierra Davis agreed, stating that she wants to leave the plan “in a good place.” She noted that review by the public and by DCNR are critical to the process.

Members decided to divide topics and begin the writing process. Dahlheimer offered to write “public input” and “history.” Davis volunteered for “management philosophy,” observing that documents previously provided by Dahlheimer adequately addressed “purpose” and “goals.” Klunk offered to write about “deer management,” with assistance from Geesey. Hauge will upload PNDI maps and soil analysis.

Dahlheimer offered to write additional sections, suggesting that the current approach will slow the process, but Hauge curtailed further assignment, stating that the committee should proceed slowly. Dahlheimer also suggested that editing and even some writing could be offered by Friends of White’s Woods.

Township manager Chris Anderson suggested that the plan would become a long-term working document, possibly the product of collaboration among consultants, local advocacy groups, DCNR, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, among others. He proposed that the committee continue to develop the outline distributed to the supervisors previously, emphasizing “what we don’t want,” and

explore joining the Old Growth Forest Network (OGFN).

He noted that the supervisors authorized implementation of recommendations by consultant Dr. Mike Tyree for addressing naturally occurring canopy gaps without introduction of heavy machinery: rolling logs away from the trail; setting up deer-exlosures; hand removing invasive plants; and planting seedlings. Additionally, they approved hand removal of invasive plants by staff with assistance from volunteers.

Hauge reported that 10 local organizations have been approached with offers for presentations as part of the committee’s public outreach efforts. Three have responded with invitations. Hauge said she planned to base her presentations on the “Executive Summary” she distributed at the May meeting rather than the extensive summary of committee “Talking Points” distributed for review at this meeting.

Dahlheimer observed that public engagement was premature in the absence of a proposal for the public to review, noting that it would distract from the major goal of writing the plan. On a Dahlheimer/Klunk motion, the committee voted 4:1 (Hauge opposed) to schedule no further presentations till after the next committee meeting.

Hauge indicated that she would make the presentations to the League of Women Voters and Evergreen Garden Club that had been previously scheduled.

Choice of organizations selected for presentation was also discussed, with Dahlheimer questioning the inclusiveness of the target audiences. He suggested open meetings in a “town hall” format be planned so that all stakeholders could be included. Hauge stated that the committee meetings are open to the public and questioned the need for separate meetings; however, Davis noted that regular meetings were not conducive to presenting a plan.

Dahlheimer requested that documents to be discussed be distributed a minimum of 48 hours prior to meetings. While the committee agreed this to be desirable, the motion died with no second. Members expressed concern that a time limit might be too restrictive, although they support the goal.

## **FWW JOINS CLIMATE FOREST ORGANIZATION TO STOP LOGGING ON PUBLIC LANDS**

The Climate Forest Organization has as its mission the protection of mature and old-growth trees and forests from logging across America’s public lands as a cornerstone of U.S. climate policy

Here is an excerpt from their website:

*On Apr 22, 2022, President Biden recognized the importance of our mature and old-growth trees and forests on federal lands as an essential climate solution, and directed federal agencies to define, inventory, and develop policies to protect them. Despite this Executive Order, the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management continue to log these essential climate-saving trees and forests at alarming rates. The Climate Forests campaign released a report called “Worth More Standing,” in July 2022 which outlines over 240,000 acres of egregious mature and old-growth logging projects taking place on our federal public lands right now.*

*Our latest report, America’s Vanishing Climate Forests comes more than 6 months after President Biden’s Executive Order directive and serves as a progress report detailing the urgent, imminent, and continued threat of logging to our federal public lands. Findings show that federal agencies have done nothing to correct the course on any of the original logging projects highlighted this past summer, with the exception of two projects where a judge found agencies were illegally harming an imperiled species. Rather, America’s Vanishing Climate Forests spotlights 12 additional egregious examples of mature and old-growth logging set to take place in federal forests in defiance of President Biden’s order to protect them.*

We urge members to visit the website at [climate-forests.org](https://climate-forests.org) for more information and to sign the petition urging the Biden administration to make protection of our public forests part of the climate policy.

Also, visit the “Who We Are” section to see the logos of all of the organizations that have joined Climate Forests. Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the list to see the Friends of White’s Woods logo.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

It’s time to renew your FWW membership. Please go to:

<https://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org/copy-of-membership> and click on membership form.

But, let’s take this a step further.

Encourage a friend, neighbor, relative to join our organization. Print out a mem-

bership form to give them so action can be immediate.

Volunteer some time. How about July 12 for the barberry pull?

Attend Stewardship Committee meetings and Board of Supervisors meetings.

We need your donations, yes. And we need your time and talents as well.

**For more information, visit: [friendsofwhiteswoods.org](https://friendsofwhiteswoods.org)**

**We welcome feedback. Email us at:**

**[info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org)**

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