



# Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



March

## MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> FWW WEBINAR: RESTORING NATIVE PLANTS

The March 25, 2026, FWW webinar, “*Volunteers Growing Native Plants for Restoration Projects*” will be presented by Dr. Linda Rohleder, founder and executive director of The Wildwood Restoration Project.

Volunteers with the [Wild Woods Restoration Project](#) are growing native plants for restoration efforts in local parks across the Hudson Valley New York area. By using local ecotype seeds, they 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 over 450 volunteers and cultivated tens of thousands of plants. This initiative highlights the powerful impact volunteers can make through collective action.

Dr. Linda Rohleder launched the Wild Woods Restoration Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, 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+ partner organizations. Dr. Rohleder holds a Ph.D. in Ecology from Rutgers University and has over 30 years of experience creating native plant habitats on her own properties.

To register for this March 25<sup>th</sup>, 4-5 p.m. ZOOM webinar, send an email to [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org)



Dr. Linda Rohleder

### Pennsylvania Invasive Replace-ive Program

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offers property owners the opportunity to receive free native trees and shrubs by removing one or more invasive plants from their yard, garden, or landscape – and trading these in for free native plants.

The [PA Invasive Replace-ive Program website](#) notes that: “Non-native trees and shrubs are widely found in much of Pennsylvania, including but not limited to [Callery pear](#), [tree-of-heaven](#), [Norway maple](#), [burning bush](#), [Japanese barberry](#), [butterfly bush](#), [privet](#), and [autumn olive](#). While many of these species are planted to add beauty and ornamental value to a landscape, numerous unsuspecting homeowners and commercial landscapers may not realize the negative ecological and economic impacts these species can have on nearby natural areas.”

Give-away sites have not yet been posted, but will be [listed soon on the project website](#).

#### UPCOMING FWW EVENTS

- \***Invasive Plant Removal:** Weather permitting. **Please help!** Sign up at the [FWW website](#) and/or watch your email.
- \***March 25, 2026: Volunteers Growing Native Plants for Restoration Projects, Dr. Linda Rohleder, Founder** [Wildwood Restoration Project](#) To register for this 4-5 p.m. webinar, send an email to [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org)
- \***April 18, 2026:** IUP Into the Streets, including the FWW Community-wide Spring Barberry Removal Project. Meet at the IUP College Lodge Parking lot, 10- noon.
- \***April 22, 2026 EARTH DAY, FWW tree planting in White's Woods & distribution of free oak trees from The Million Tree Project at the 12<sup>th</sup> St Entrance, noon – 2 p.m.**

For more information, visit: [friendsofwhiteswoods.org](http://friendsofwhiteswoods.org)  
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## EARLY SIGNS OF SPRING



Wood frogs winter-over in western Pennsylvania forests, including White's Woods. These frogs, who burrow under the leaf litter to hibernate through winter, emerge in February and March. When warm rains arrive and the air temperature reaches 50 degrees, the male wood frog will start to call his mate. "Often, the first singing is heard even before the winter's coating of ice has completely melted," according to [Environthon](#). Wood frogs are mostly diurnal, though people rarely get to see them. They prefer the habitat of damp woodlands. Wood frogs are about 1½ to 2¾ inches long. (PNHP photo.)

The Winter Crow Party is ending soon, says the website [BirdsOutsideMyWindow](#). From November to February, crows gather at their winter roosts. Crows are "partial migrants," meaning that some birds stay in their territory all year, some migrate south – and are replaced over the winter by birds from the north. [Discover PA Wildlife](#) notes that "Crows are relatively gregarious. Throughout most of the year, they flock in groups ranging from family units to several hundred birds. During winter, crows may gather by the tens of thousands in areas where food is plentiful. Later, these flocks break up as nesting season approaches." Some great books about super-smart crows can be found on the [FWW Reading List](#) – scroll down.



## NEW U.S. FOREST SERVICE PROPOSAL TO PERMANENTLY SLASH PUBLIC INPUT IN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING

There is a brief public comment period ongoing NOW for the public to provide input about [a new U.S. Forest Service proposal](#) to slash public input opportunity for future Forest Service national forest management decisions. Unfortunately, this is not a joke!

Comments on [this proposal](#) must be received in writing by March 9th, 2026 at 11:59 PM EDT on [the Public Comment Portal](#), or mailed to: Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination, 201 14th Street SW, Mailstop 1108, Washington, DC 20250-1124.

The new rule would [limit the public comment](#) and objection periods for Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements to 10 days and 20 days, respectively. These projects can be massive, spanning thousands of acres and impacting drinking watersheds, special recreation areas, and vulnerable wildlife habitat. Long-established public comment periods have generally ranged from 30-90 days (with prior announcement of an upcoming public comment period – a courtesy that has been absent in the last year). The proposed slashing of public input to plan for the care of public lands doesn't make sense. [Submit your comment](#). Tell your [Senators](#) and [Representatives](#) to withdraw the proposal.

### Three Other Current Federal Initiatives to Increase Logging in National Forests

There are three other ongoing federal initiatives to increase logging in national forests: (1) repeal of the Roadless Rule: **SHORT COMMENT PERIOD TO OPEN SOON, BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHEN ...WATCH YOUR EMAIL**; (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." [Kentucky](#), [Michigan](#), and [Ton-gass National Forest](#), are seeing the impact of this order.

### OTHER FWW UPDATES

- The response to the White's Woods Stewardship Plan by the DCNR Bureau of Recreation & Conservation (which provides Project 70 grant oversight), is expected soon. Watch for the March 11, 2026, White Township Board of Supervisors meeting agenda.
- FWW needs whatever help you can provide to limit invasive plants and promote native plant growth. [Sign up here](#).
- [FWW has new T-shirts](#). And they are great! Email [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org)
- [Find lists of native plants](#) for your land.
- Be sure to read the [Naturally column!](#)

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