



# Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



## What has FWW done for White's Woods?

That was the question a White Township supervisor asked of FWW Board member Dave Dahlheimer at the Aug. 26th supervisors' meeting. Dave was startled by the question, probably because it illustrated a lack of awareness of just how much FWW has done for the woods.

Here are some examples: We have planted approved wild flowers and trees; spread mulch on trails; repaired the bridge; cut wild grape vines; routinely picked up litter to maintain the pristine condition of WWNC; reported unwanted activities to authorities (motorized vehicle in the park, after-dark campfires and partying, illegal dumping); conducted a comprehensive survey of WWNC users and analyzed the results; conferred with experts on forestry, recreation, regional planning, and more to learn about best park management practices; conducted extensive research on Project 70 guidelines, invasive species control, forest regeneration, pest management, and a variety of other topics raised by the supervisors; hired a consulting forester to evaluate WWNC and the current 'stewardship plan; prepared a 250+ page binder summarizing both public and professional opinion; written countless letters to the Supervisors, DCNR, and the *Indiana Gazette* supporting scientifically sound stewardship practices; produced and distributed yard signs, newsletters, a website and other PR material to keep the public aware and informed; contacted local biologists with backgrounds in forest ecology to evaluate the currently proposed Township stewardship plan; and hired legal counsel three times (1995, 2007-08, 2020) to research Project 70 regulations, second class township code, and open government practices.

And, of course, the trees are 25 years older and a lot taller than when we began the mission to save the woods 25 years ago.

Speaking of things FWW has done for White's Woods, we will be hosting a series of webinars/Zoom meetings in the near future. The first will be on using goats to clear weeds and other invasive species. Allegheny Goatscape, based in Pittsburgh, has agreed to host a webinar for us at 4 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24. Check your email for how to enroll. Not a member, please join by visiting our website shown below. Other upcoming Zoom meetings/webinars include one on stormwater runoff and erosion, a major concern for Indiana Borough residents, and another will be on the concept of carbon capture where municipalities are paid to leave the woods the way they are (No Timbering!) to offset the pollution created by certain industries.

So, yes, FWW has done a lot for White's Woods.

## *FWW celebrates the woods with The Artists Hand*

The "heArts of Wood" exhibit, scheduled for Oct. 20 through Nov. 14 at The Artists Hand Gallery on Philadelphia Street, will feature the works of local artists.

The Artists Hand Gallery seeks artists who respond with wood and to wood as both an art material and subject. Submit works for inclusion in the upcoming "heArts of Wood" exhibition. The show will be juried by B.A. Harrington, associate professor of woodworking at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. This exhibit is co-sponsored by Friends of White's Woods and will include an interactive event to promote the beauty of woodlands.

Artists must reside within a 35-mile radius of Indiana and submitted works must have been created within the last five years. Submission images or requests for appointment are to be emailed to [brian@theartistshandgallery.com](mailto:brian@theartistshandgallery.com) no later than October 1st, 2020 (midnight). Decisions will follow within two weeks of receipt or appointment.

For complete size and submission information, including entry fee and sales commission, please go to <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cLEZXY-Hd-Lcp7v3S3Xx2pHswBd4DimSu/view?usp=sharing>

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

**Like us on FaceBook: Friends of White's Woods, Inc.**

**Follow us on Instagram: [friendsofwhiteswoodsinc](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwhiteswoodsinc)**

**Issue 3  
September 2020**

# Human History Among the Trees of Whites Woods

by Kevin Patrick, September 1, 2020

*The information for this article comes from Kevin Patrick's forthcoming book, Whites Woods; A Year in an Allegheny Forest.*



*One of the more mysterious relics of human history found scattered through White's Woods is this concrete foundation to quarrying equipment located on Overlook Hill.*



*The inner vault of the White Family Tomb stands in the yard of a house on White's Woods Trail. Built in the 1850s, the tomb once held up to nine members of the White family. The last of the bodies was removed and buried in a family plot at Oakland Cemetery in 1923.*

## **T-Shirts, Masks, Mugs, Still Available**

You can order t-shirts (sizes S to XXL) for \$15 each and masks for \$10 each by sending a check made payable to FWW, Inc., to FWW, Inc., P.O. Box 1271, Indiana, Pa. 15701. Be sure to include size of t-shirt.

Mugs at \$10 are available for sale at Commonplace Coffee, 1176 Grant Street (7 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., S/S).

*Donations to help cover legal, research, outreach and other essential activities are still needed. Please visit our website for more information.*



A smaller quarry dug into the same sandstone foundation on the next knoll north (marked as the Old Quarry on the Whites Woods trail map) was likely the source of stone Judge Thomas White used for the gatehouse and family tomb he built in the 1850s. These structures were intended to be the front and back bookends of a baronial manor house that was never built. After falling to rubble, any evidence of the old stone gatehouse was swept away with the building of Whites Woods Estates, the same housing development that preserved the White Tomb as a garden folly in the yard of a large house on Whites Woods Trail.

Housing developments, like quarries, are part of the human imprint framing Whites Woods. Circling around Overlook Hill from 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Fulton Trail is all that remains of a failed 1959 housing development called Charwin Park. Ending at a hilltop cul de sac, this spiraling spine to unbuilt houses was bulldozed as White Cliff Drive. Whites Woods has always been Indiana's near-woods nature park even when existing alongside more profane pursuits that threatened to overwhelm it. Predating the 1968 founding of Whites Woods Nature Center by almost a century is an advertisement in the June 4, 1874 edition of the Indiana Progress announced the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July "Pic-nic and Dinner" celebration to be held in "Whites Woods" that promised "eloquent speakers," a "first-class band of music" and a "large dancing platform." It suggests that Whites Woods was already well established as a cherished near-woods extension of Indiana.

*The second installment of Kevin Patrick's work, titled "Whites Woods, Indiana's Near-Woods," will appear in the October issue.*

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

**Like us on FaceBook: Friends of White's Woods, Inc.**

**Follow us on Instagram: [friendsofwhiteswoodsinc](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwhiteswoodsinc)**

**Issue 3  
September 2020**