



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



Deer Hunt in White's Woods?

At their June 23rd meeting, the White Township Supervisors approved a motion to institute a "deer management plan" for WT parks, mainly White's Woods Nature Center (See *Indiana Gazette*, June 24, 2021)

The plan is modeled on one in use in the Murrysville parks and allows permitted bow-hunting of deer (both does and bucks) in White's Woods during the upcoming 2021-2022 winter doe season, December 26, 2021 - January 23, 2022.

Although the agenda included an item "Deer Management Program for WT Properties - info from Murrysville Parks program," there was no opportunity for public comment after the information was presented (The board's new rules for public comment require that the public address agenda items PRIOR to getting to the agenda items. So, the public would not have known that the board intended to take action at the same meeting the information was presented). Nor was there any effort by the Township to solicit input from citizens or other interested stakeholders -- such as through scheduled public input sessions -- prior to the approval of this motion.

A SIMILAR PLAN for bow-hunting in the WWNC was proposed in 2006, but was withdrawn, according to the Supervisors, because of public outcry and concern for safe use of WWNC.

We strongly encourage you to read the model Murrysville plan (go to friendsofwhiteswoods.org) and let your opinion be known.

DCNR has emphasized the importance of public opinion in decisions regarding White's Woods. It is important that your voice be heard.

Send your email to winfo@whitetownship.org and milt@whitetownship.org (Please send us a copy of your email, as we are interested in compiling input from our members.) Attend the next Township meeting (July 14 at 1 p.m.) Contact info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org for more information.

Medicinal Plant Walk Slated for September **All Edible and Medicinal Plants and Trees of White's Woods** **5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021**

About the Walk: Whites Woods is home to many species of plants and trees that can offer food and medicine. In this plant walk, Dana will cover approximately 15-20 plants and trees, focusing on wild foods and medicines that can be harvested sustainably. Participants will learn about identification, harvest and preparation as well as the history of uses of these plants and trees. She will specifically cover plants that are able to be harvested in September and October including, but not limited to, Oak (acorn harvesting, including bread making), Spicebush, Butternut, and much more. A basic discussion of wild food foraging practices, ethics, safety, tools, and resources will also be covered.

About the Instructor: Dana Driscoll has been teaching wild food foraging, herbalism and sustainable living for over 10 years. She is a traditional western herbalist, wild food forager, homesteader, certified permaculture designer and certified permaculture teacher living in Western Pennsylvania. She is also a faculty member at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Dana's approach to teaching and enjoying wild foods is one rooted in respect and reciprocation for the living earth.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew your membership. If you have not donated to support this campaign since last summer, please consider a donation now by visiting the FWW website or by sending a check made payable to FWW to FWW, P.O. Box 1271, Indiana, PA 15701. We need to be ready to respond to the continuing threats. In addition, we need your volunteer time as well. Please see the forms in this newsletter for more information on how you can help.

Please recruit a new member for FWW. If even half of current FWW members could ask a friend or family member to show their support by formally joining FWW, it would make a huge difference! Please help this way if you can.

Remember: For a donation of \$100 or more, as supplies last, you will receive one of Chuck Olson's limited edition, signed print of the woods. Same holds for new members. Please have new members include their name, street address, email address and phone number with their check.



The Framing Hut Galleries (1502 Oakland Ave./Regency Mall) is offering a 20% discount on the framing of Chuck Olson's print when you mention you are a member of Friends of White's Woods.

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

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**White's Woods Plants
Spotted on May Plant Walk
with Cindy Rogers**

- Agrimony** (*Agrimonia eupatoria* L)
- Aster, wood** (*Eurybia divaricata*)
- Aster, Large leaf** (*Eurybia macrophylla*)
- Bedstraw** - Cleavers (*Galium aparine*)
- Bedstraw, licorice** (*Galium circaezans*)
- Black Cohosh** (*Actaea racemosa*)
- Burdock** (*Arctium*)
- Canada May Flower, Wild Lily of the Valley** (*Maianthemum canadense*)
- Chickweed** (*Stellaria*)
- Cinquefoil** (*Potentilla repens*)
- Coltsfoot** (*Tussilago farfara*)
- Common Greenshield lichen** (*Flavoparmelia caperata*)
- Cress, Winter or Bitter** (*Barbarea vulgaris*)
- Dandelion** (*Taraxacum officinale*)
- Dock** (*Rumex patens*)
- Dogbane** (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*)
- Fleabane** (*Erigeron philadelphicus*)
- Garlic Mustard** (*Alliaria officinalis*)
- Gill-over-the-ground** (*Glechoma hederacea*)
- Goldenseal** (*Hydrastis canadensis*)
- Ground pine** (*Lycopodium obscurum*)
- Interrupted Fern** (*Osmunda claytoniana*)
- Japanese Barberry** (*Berberis thunbergii*)
- Japanese Knotweed** (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
- Lady's thumb** (*Polygonum persicaria*)
- May-apple** (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
- Multiflora Rose** (*Rosa multiflora*)
- PA Bittercress** (*Cardamine pensylvanica*)
- Plantain** (*Plantago*)
- Poison Ivy** (*Toxicum (poison) dendron (plant)*)
- Rue Anemone** (*Anemone* or *Thalictrum thalictroides*)
- Solomon's Seal** (*Polygonatum (many jointed) biflorum*)
- Spicebush** (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Spotted Wintergreen** (*Striped wintergreen*) (*Chimaphila maculate*)
- Spring Beauty** (*Claytonia virginica*)
- Squaw root** (*Conopholis americana*) also Cancer Root, Bear Cone – parasite on oak roots
- Sweet Cicely, Hairy** (*Osmorhiza claytonia*)
- Sweet woodruff** (*Galium odoratum*)
- Thistle** (*Cirsium*)
- Twisted Stalk** (*Streptopus lanceolatus*)
- Violets** (*Viola*)- (blue, downy yellow, cream - white)
- White lettuce** (Three leaved Rattlesnake root) (*Prenanthes alba* or *Nabalus trifoliolatus*)
- Wild Geranium** (*Geranium maculatum*)
- Witch hazel** (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- Yellow Fairy Bells** (*Prosartes lanuginosa*)

When is a Timbering Plan a Timbering Plan?

Three impermissible White Township timbering plans were officially rejected in 25 years. Yet Township supervisors recently insisted that they never had a timbering plan for the Commonwealth's Project 70-funded natural area, White's Woods. How odd.

The 1995 David Beale timbering plan, titled "Timber Cruise and Appraisal and Timber Sale Recommendations," notes that "[w]e look forward to your further instruction regarding the initiation of the timber sale as proposed." (This 1995 plan was rejected by a 2-1 margin in a Township-conducted citizen vote.)

The May 10, 2006 White Township minutes report that "Gail McCauley moved that the Supervisors direct the Manager to begin contacting foresters regarding the process of having selective timbering done in White's Woods." (See "New Business"- "Timbering of White's Woods.")

The subsequent 2007 plan by forester David Babyak has a section titled "Timber harvest schedule; Revenue projection and Harvest volume" (p.2). "Revenue for 10 year cycle: \$166,000" (p.25). (This 2007 plan was rejected April 10, 2008, by DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation because, "[t]he plan is not consistent with the Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act in that the amount of timber harvesting it calls for is not consistent with the definitions of recreation and conservation in the Act.")

Millstone's 2019 preliminary documents identify the primary goal for White's Woods as "Sustainable Objective Timber Harvest" and state that "[a] shelterwood harvest is the recommended harvest prescription to be done to this forest stand," and would involve "taking about half of said volume." (p.2). Numbers in the Township's 2020 Stewardship Plan submitted to DCNR were more opaque, but the plan still made clear the goal to "open the canopy" and harvest "high quality," merchantable trees.

(On March 25, 2021, DCNR once again rejected White Township's timbering plan--this time, the Millstone plan-- because "[t]imber harvesting cannot reduce the recreational opportunities, detract from the educational experience, nor disrupt the ecological function of the site.")

We don't need to waste taxpayer money on a fourth impermissible timbering plan. No matter what you call it.

Copies of the three Township timbering plans can be found at friendsofwhiteswoods.org/management-plans.



Silver-Haired Bat



Box Turtle

Species and Communities of Concern in Indiana County

(from 2021 Indiana County National Heritage Inventory)

Fifty-four species and natural communities of concern were documented in Indiana County. Many of these have multiple occurrences across several Natural Heritage Areas across the county. Factsheets describing habitats, threats, and conservation recommendations for many of these species may be found on the PNHP website at <http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/under Species Lists>. FWW encourages you to record sightings of these "species of concern" by downloading the inaturalist app onto your smart phone or tablet (It's free).

- Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)
- Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)
- Eastern Small-footed Bat (*Myotis leibii*)
- Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Allegheny Woodrat (*Neotoma magister*)
- Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)
- Queen Snake (*Regina septemvittata*)
- Woodland Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*)

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