



# Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



## *Why FWW Fights Same Battle in 2022*

The June 27th annual Membership Meeting of Friends of White's Woods, attended by approximately 50 members, raised the headline question: Why does this organization need to address this issue again (this is the third time: 1995, 2007, 2020), 27 years after township residents said they don't want White's Woods touched.

One member said: "I was involved in the 1995 battle to leave White's Woods alone, and here we are having to do it all over again. We need a permanent solution to this issue as the township keeps trying to timber there."

The Board explained the various reasons given by the supervisors for the need to timber since 1995: the gypsy moths will kill the trees (so we need to cut down the trees to save them?), the ash borer will kill the ash trees (same reasoning as for gypsy moths), invasive non-native plants need to be removed (by cutting down trees? FWW's consultant indicated that invasive species were not a major threat to the woods), lack of tree diversity (too many tulip poplars, they say. But, a tight canopy of large tulip poplars at the forest's 80+-year age is indicative of both forest health and optimal, natural maturation), the canopy needs to be opened (again, by cutting down trees) in order to promote seedling growth (forest ecologists state that opening the canopy will, instead, cause an explosion of non-native invasive species, even from surrounding woodlands. That, in fact, the canopy, in addition to being another marker of a healthy woods, is retarding the spread of invasive species). And there is enough natural light for every native tree species to thrive.

The Board did stress that the township does not intend to clear cut, but instead is looking at selective timbering. However, selective timbering will open the canopy and cause "collateral damage." To illustrate this point, a board member presented information that a local tree removal company, contracted to remove 100 trees from East Pike in July 2021, and, according to a memo from the township manager, removed considerably more than that, submitted a request to fell an additional 50 to 100 trees that were newly identified as dangerous or damaged after the removal of the original 100+. If that ratio holds, the 650 trees marked in April 2020 in one of seven sections of White's Woods

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS**

**July 21:** White Township Stewardship Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., White Township Building.

**August 18:** White Township Stewardship Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., White Township Building.

**Sept. 22: "Climate Change and Penn's Woods: What Does the Future Hold?"** A webinar by Greg Czarnecki, director of applied climate science, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 4 to 5 p.m. The webinars, offered via Zoom, are free and open to the public. To register for a webinar, send an email to [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org).

## ***FWW Receives Award from League of Women Voters of Indiana County***

Friends of White's Woods received the 10th annual Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Group Award from the League of Women Voters of Indiana County at its June meeting. This award recognizes citizens, groups or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in issues that involve protecting or preserving the environment.

The award noted FWW's promotion and education of the general public about the value of the relationships among habitat, air and water quality. FWW has promoted public engagement in environmental concerns by a number of different approaches: Educational programming, collaboration with other environmentally-focused community organizations, public advocacy, support of state-wide conservation organizations, engaging the public in community environmental decision-making, sponsoring important community-wide programming and discussions regarding climate change and carbon sequestration, and highlighting the value of local natural area to local residents and those outside the community.

The award was established in honor of a longtime Indiana County grassroots activist and league member Peggy Clark and is awarded annually to both an individual and a group or organization.

### ***Congratulations to the 2022 Evergreen Award Winners:***

Trout Unlimited  
John and JoAnne Ferraro  
from FWW, the 2021 award winners.

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

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## Same Battle (continued from page 1)

could have climbed to 975 to 1300 trees.

Information on “timbering terminology” was also provided at the meeting so members can spot “harmless-sounding” terms that can reap real damage in a wooded area such as White’s Woods. Production foresters view the woods as a crop. Here is some of the terminology they use:

### Production Forest Terminology

• **Sustainable forestry** is about caring for and managing forests to provide the natural resources, such as wood and clean water, we need now and in the future... Sustainable forestry involves forward thinking. It’s just as important to think about which trees will be left after a harvest as which trees will be cut.” Smith, S.S., Finley, J.C., & Jacobson, M.G., 2016, Sustainable Forestry, Penn State Extension.

• **Selective Cutting:** “A common form of timber cutting in Pennsylvania and many other states is known as high-grading. This practice is sometimes called ‘select,’ or

‘selective’ cutting as it removes only the most valuable timber and leaves the rest in the woods.”

• **Thinning:** “Sound forestry practices control tree spacing and species composition, to allocate site resources, and encourage remaining selected trees, known as ‘*crop trees*,’ (italics added) to grow and lead to natural regeneration.” Sanford S. Smith, Ph.D., July 27, 2020, Thinking of Selling Your Timber? Beware of “High Grading.” Penn State Extension.

• **Selection cut**—“the removal of trees singly or in small groups for the purpose of regeneration. A well-designed selection cut removes trees of *lesser quality* (italics added) and trees in all diameter classes along with merchantable and mature, high-quality timber.”

• **Regeneration harvest** - “The predominant challenge for sustainable forestry in Pennsylvania is prompt reforestation with desirable species.” Dr. Susan Stout USDA Forest Service.

## Oppose Mining

### under Yellow Creek Lake

The original proposal to mine under the lake at Yellow Creek State Park was submitted by Rosebud Mining to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in June of 2018. DCNR denied the proposal. It resurfaced during this year’s Senate Budget Hearings with DCNR when Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) and our local Sen. Joe Pittman proposed that DNCR consider both mining at Yellow Creek State Park and additional drilling into reserves under Pennsylvania state forest lands as a means to fund much-needed infrastructure repairs across our state park system. The state park system has an approximate backlog of about \$1.5 billion. DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn again expressed that she does not believe mining activities are consistent with DCNR’s mission of conservation of the land and resources.

According to justfacts.votesmart.org, one of Sen. Pittman’s top contributors is the owner of Rosebud Mining. Also, the mining industry is listed as the third top contributor to his campaigns. Ryerson Station State Park lost Duke

Lake in July 2005 due to stability impacts from mining activity. DCNR drained the lake because of the instability and determined that the damage to the lake bed was so extensive that reconstruction was not possible. A settlement was paid to the state which provided for upgrades such as new cabins - but the lake is gone. If you are concerned about mining at Yellow Creek, there is still time to act.

What can you do? To submit your concerns to Department of Environmental Protection, please see below. (Note: DCNR is on record as opposing the mining operation at Yellow Creek, but Rosebud Mining has requested the permit to mine close to DCNR land despite the DCNR opposition.)

Concerns must be submitted in writing no later than July 8th to:

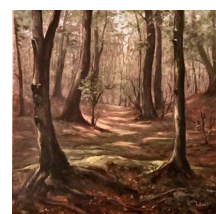
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) District Mining Operations  
25 Technology Drive  
California Technology Park  
Coal Center, PA 15423  
ATTN: Troy Williams  
Correspondence must contain name, address, telephone number, and a brief statement as to the nature of the concern/objection.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It’s time to renew your membership. Our membership year expired in April. So, if you have not donated to support this campaign in 2022, 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. In addition, we need your volunteer time as well.



Chuck Olson’s



Beth Wheeler’s

Remember: For a donation of \$100 or more, as supplies last, you will receive either one of Chuck Olson’s limited edition, signed print of the woods, or the 2022 print by Beth Wheeler called “Sunlight’s Dance.” Same holds for new members. Please have new members include their name, street address, email address and phone number with their check as well as the print choice.

## 20% Framing Discount!

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

## Have you been bitten by a tick?

The Pennsylvania Tick Research Lab offers FREE basic testing to all Pennsylvania residents.

The Pennsylvania Tick Research Lab can analyze your tick, testing for tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Order your test online and learn whether you’re at risk before symptoms appear.

<https://www.ticklab.org/>

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