



# Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



## VOLUNTEER GROUPS PULL INVASIVE SPECIES IN WHITE'S WOODS

On two consecutive April Saturdays, 13 university and community organizations united to help rid White's Woods of Japanese barberry, a non-native invasive plant that crowds out native plants.

The successful pull resulted in close to 200 fifty-gallon bags of pulled barberry that were later collected by White Township crews. The township also provided work gloves and removal bags for the effort. Volunteers totaled 142 with Friends of White's Woods members, organizers of the pull, serving as team leaders.

Participants included: Delta Zeta Sorority, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity, Sigma Kappa Sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, Alpha Xi Delta Sorority, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, the Indiana Area Senior High School Key Club, the Plant Patrol, IUP Honors College students, IUP ROTC members, FWW and 41 members of the IUP football team.

Pennsylvania has joined a list of states that have banned Japanese barberry, including Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire and New York. The plant — a “prolific invader” — takes over and disrupts native ecosystems with its “dense, prickly thickets,” according to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

FWW plans biweekly barberry pulls through the summer. To be notified of future pulls, visit the Friends of White's Woods website (<https://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org/events>) or send an email to: [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org).

Your assistance is vital in saving the woods from this invasive species. Please participate when you can.



*Members of seven IUP fraternities and sororities assisted in the barberry pull effort. Pictured is Lily Pierce from Sigma Kappa.*



*The IUP football team helped pull Japanese barberry from the woods.*



*Members of Plant Patrol demonstrated their expertise in eradicating the invasive species. Pictured from left to right: Loren Greene, Karen Greene, Ed Donley, Gavin Brown, Amy Provias and Lee Vest.*

## ATTEND MAY 2ND MEETING TO SUPPORT DRAFT PLAN

The White Township Stewardship Committee will meet Thursday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. to review the public feedback to the draft Stewardship Plan posted for review from Dec. 23 to March 22. The committee will consider possible revisions to the plan, if necessary, based on this feedback.

FWW conducted a review of all of the public feedback submitted. A total of 208 individuals and two organizations provided feedback with 200 (95%) respondents stating they support the draft plan (n=196) or the goals of the plan, (n=4), and in many cases indicated reasons for their support. The remaining eight responses critiqued grammar and/or specific management issues (e.g. deer browsing, ticks, erosion, dog walking, invasive plants), but did not evaluate the plan. None rejected the plan.

Citizens who provided specific reasons for their support of the plan most often cited: allowing the forest to mature to old growth, enrolling White's Woods in the Old Growth Forest Network (69%), using the least-intrusive management as the “default” choice, supporting natural forest maturation processes (59%), including public involvement in every management decision (58%) and non-removal of wood from the forest since dead wood is critically important to the health of the forest ecosystem (58%).

Some citizens encouraged hand-pulling of invasive plants and reliance on deer fencing (both components of the existing draft plan). A few commented on possible deer hunting with a majority of these comments (9 v. 3) calling for a ban on all hunting. (The draft stewardship plan cites hunting as a last resort for deer management.)

Many respondents noted the advantages of WWNC in their narrative, citing health benefits of exercise, close proximity to town, the desirability of the area to prospective residents, sharing nature with family/friends, and using the Nature Center for hiking, cross-country skiing, dog walking, and photography.

The meeting to be held in the White Township Municipal Building can be attended in-person or virtually (the link will be available on the Township website). Public attendance at this meeting will be important and helpful.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

**May 2: Stewardship Committee meeting**, 6:30 p.m., White Township Municipal building

**May 9: Big Tree Walk in White's Woods.** Dale Luthringer, DCNR education specialist, Cook State Forest. 5 p.m. 12th Street Entrance

**May 17 and 18: May Mart:** Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., S&T Bank Arena, White Township. Members needed to staff booth in two-hour shifts. Send email to [info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org](mailto:info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org) with your time availability.

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

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