



Friends of *Carson Road Woods*

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Happy New Year to all for the continued work and preservation of Carson Road Woods.

1) Woods, Trails and Maintenance

The flora of Carson Road Woods matured noticeably again in 2021 due to the mild winter. Formerly idle open fields and the peach orchard are becoming more wooded with Red Oak, Sweet Gum and Bradford Pear. Perimeter trails benefitted from our battery-powered hedge trimmer that makes short work of Multiflora rose that was used at several work parties this year. Berries had a terrible year because of the summer dry spell and tree nuts were almost non-existent.

Our trails are in excellent condition. In 2021, we cleared a number of fallen trees. The Township skipped treating the LHT weeds again in 2021. All trails are presently open, mostly passable (albeit a bit soggy right now). The town installed the first of two access points that will allow direct tractor and hay field access without using and damaging the trails.

The BMS donated 'Gator' was immensely helpful again in getting volunteers and equipment to the areas in need of attention, especially in the heat of Summer! Efforts are going twice as far with the help of this machine. In addition to our battery-operated hedge trimmer, we added a battery-operated chainsaw to allow quick and quiet work along the trails.



Thanks to Bob Hunsicker and Dr Moini for supporting me when there was work to be done, and Matt Potts who took on the deep woods trails. All others, please consider heading out with a set of shears and help us clip back, preserve, and maintain the trails. Use the contact us link to express your interest, send an alert, or have your email added to work party invitations <http://www.carsonroadwoods.org/alert/>

2) Pets and Trash

Lawrence Township has a leash-law that requires pet owners to keep a leash connected to each pet at all times. I still find pet owners releasing them and find doggie bags just left on the side of the trail. We also appreciate your helping us keep CRW pristine by picking up and removing any other trash that you might come across in or around the preserve. Lunchtime car operators seem to think that the parking areas are their personal ash trays. Feel free to point out that this was not the reason we preserved this space.

3) Election of 2022 Board Members

The Friends will hold elections for three Board positions in the next few weeks. Anyone interested in serving should contact our secretary, Benjamin Brickner, at info@carsonroadwoods.org, **on or before Monday March 14.**

4) FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

A) Annual Dues

It's that time again - Please submit your membership dues by using our new online Donate/Renew page! Dues primarily go towards fuel for the tractor to keep the trails cut. All labor is done by unpaid volunteers. Along with suggested dues of \$25/year for individuals and \$35/year for families we have other levels to choose from. <http://www.carsonroadwoods.org/join/>. Checks made out to **Friends of Carson Road Woods** can be mailed to **48 Carson Road**, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.



B) Tractor and Gator Maintenance Fund

Like annual dues, building up our Tractor and Maintenance Fund remains ongoing. The 29-year-old Kubota tractor is charming, but temperamental. In 2020 we had new blades installed which helped us get through the thicker grass. I might do the same this year.

**If you are interested in being a tractor trail-cutting operator, please let us know! Sadly Bob sold his house and will be moving away; leaving behind a void, as he carried out at least half of the trail cutting.



‘Spring Beauty’

C) Amazon Smile

In 2014 the Friends were approved to participate in **AmazonSmile**, a program in which Amazon automatically donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to a charity of the customer's choice. Click [here](#) to designate the Friends as your charity! It's an easy way to help preserve Carson Road Woods while buying your items!

5) Website and Social Media

There are more ways than ever to connect with Carson Road Woods. like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/carsonroadwoods/>

and post your own photos and discoveries

Submit recipes and outdoor activities on [our blog!](#)

Volunteer or send us maintenance alerts on [our website!](#)

We'd love to know what you think! Visit us at

<http://www.carsonroadwoods.org>

6) Wildlife

Carson Road Woods remains an active place for bird and animal watching! Regular deer sightings were way off this Fall but quite a few healthy looking red tail fox, Red-Tailed Hawk, and a Bald Eagle.

7) CRWoods Safety

Please be especially vigilant about ticks. After walking in the woods, even on the mowed meadow trails, it is always prudent to check yourself (and pets!) for ticks, particularly during the warmer spring and summer months following these recent mild winters. Both Bob and I have both been treated for Lymes. Similarly, poison ivy grows along (and sometimes within) most trails - three pointed shiny leaves and hairy vines climbing trees! To learn more and see photos click [here](#).

Storms, Wind & Ash Trees.

Storms developing in the distance provide about 20–30 minutes to get to safety. There's the continued threat from overhead - the dozens if not hundreds of Ash trees dead or dying from Emerald Ash Borer damage. These can be old growth, very substantial trees whose branches we see coming down regularly. Windy days, gusty days and summer storms are all reasons to stay vigilant when nearby.

To all the Friends of Carson Road Woods: We look forward to seeing and hearing from you in 2022.

John Marshall
president

Friends of Carson Road Woods, Inc.

<http://www.carsonroadwoods.org/>

The Friends of Carson Road Woods, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity