



CHANGE IS IN THE WOODS

The 2009 HEE summer field season is fast approaching. Crews are gearing up for another summer in the woods of Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests. The anticipation is mounting for researchers since this will be the first year of true post-harvest data collection. After three years of collecting pre-treatment data, everyone is excited to catch the first glimpse of change. All of this change is going to pose a whole new host of challenges for those lucky enough to venture out to the woods.

Sampling activities for this summer include: aural bird surveys, small mammal trapping, timber rattlesnake and eastern box turtle tracking, overstory/vegetation sampling, bat mist-netting, beetle collections, Lepidoptera (moth) sampling, Cerulean Warbler and chickadee sampling. Also, timber stand improvement (TSI) work is still continuing throughout many of the harvest areas.



This is a post-harvest view of one of the clearcuts at Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

All of the harvested units are going to pose a whole new host of challenges for the field crews and researchers that will be traversing these areas.

Becoming a Tradition: The 3rd HEE Annual Meeting

The 3rd Annual Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment Meeting was a rousing success. It was held March 25-26, 2009 at the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park, Nashville, IN. We had over 40 people in attendance. The morning session of day 1 consisted of committee updates and discussion among researchers. The afternoon session was host to presentations and a poster session. One special presentation was given by Rochelle Renken of the Missouri Department of Conservation about MOFEP (Missouri Ozark Forest Eco-

system Project), a long-term, large-scale study with similarities to the HEE. Day 2 was the field tour portion of the meeting. This was held in response to multiple requests from last year's meeting. Everyone travelled by bus to shelterwood, clearcut, and group selection harvest areas for presentations/demonstrations on several of the research topics including, eastern box turtles, small mammals, bats, beetles, chickadees, deer exclosures, and discussions on the different harvests. Many thanks to all our presenters. Great job!

Fencing Out the Deer... Part Two

After a long winter of back-breaking work, the installation of the deer exclosures is finally winding down. Travis Stoelting and Jeremy Sheets have been working diligently all winter. They have been running chain saws and hand-augers and hauling long, heavy posts up and down the never-ending hills of Morgan and Brown counties.



Scott Haulton (DNR) discussing the deer exclosure project at the 2009 HEE Annual Meeting field tour.

To date, posts have been set at all of the uneven-aged sites. The remaining shelterwood and clear cut sites should have posts set by mid May. So far, fencing has only been installed on three exclosures at the Unit 6 clearcut. We visited this site during the HEE Annual Meeting field tour on March 26. The hope is to have all the fencing hung by the end of May.

Sampling of the exclosure sites is currently scheduled to begin this fall/winter. Researchers will be looking at the effects of deer (and other herbivores like rabbits) on hardwood growth and survival and how these effects vary among the different harvest types (clearcut, shelterwood, group selection, control) and in relation to the distance from the harvest boundary.

Many thanks go out to the DNR folks at Morgan-Monroe State Forest for their on-going assistance with this huge project.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR HEE?

- Salamander sampling will continue through early May.
- TSI work will continue in the harvest areas.
- Installation of the deer exclosures continues.
- DNR photographer, John Maxwell, will be back to take the next round of 360° photos.
- Summer field crew training begins May 13.

Brown County State Park



Come join the fun at the
Brown County State Park Bioblitz
on June 5-7, 2009.

You can view all the details and
register to volunteer or participate at
www.bcbioblitz.com.

Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee met at Morgan-Monroe State Forest on February 13, 2009. The following items were on the committee's agenda:

- **Housing and Vehicles**– The Purdue FNR fleet is providing 7 total vehicles for this summer. Ideal long-term housing would provide permanent, year round housing for 5 people at Morgan-Monroe and 5 people at Yellowwood. Hopefully near these structures would be trailer/camper hook-ups to add seasonal/temporary housing for larger crews.
- **TSI Update**– We are waiting on a clearcut bid for chemical treatments this summer. TSI continues throughout several of the harvest areas.

HEE Executive Committee Members:

John Seifert, IN DNR - DoF, Co-Chair

Rob Swihart, Purdue FNR, Co-Chair

Scott Haulton, IN DNR - DoF

Rebecca Kalb, Purdue FNR

Duane McCoy, IN DNR - DoF

Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR

Education Committee Update

The Education Committee met at Morgan-Monroe State Forest on February 13, 2009. The HEE website continues to be updated with new and changing information. Another round of HEE brochures has been printed. They are available for visitors at Brown County State Park as well as at Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests.

HEE Education Committee Members:

Brian MacGowan, Purdue FNR, Chair

Brittany Davis, IN DNR - SPR

Jim Eagleman, IN DNR - SPR

Lenny Farlee, Purdue FNR

Bill Hoover, Purdue FNR

Rebecca Kalb, Purdue FNR

Melissa Malloy, Purdue FNR

Jeff Riegel, Purdue FNR

Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR



This sign is located at the Unit 3 clearcut along the main forest road at Morgan-Monroe State Forest. The HEE brochures are available at this sign as well as at the Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood forest offices.

Grant-Writing Committee Update

We have applied for and received funding from the Purdue College of Agriculture's Mission Oriented Grant. This money will support extension events, baseline soil carbon sampling, sampling of harvested trees, additional bird sampling, and a social survey of private landowners.

We have also applied for and received two years worth of funding from the Signature SHE (Sustaining Hardwood Ecosystems) Funding Grant. This money will support staff salaries, equipment and educational materials.

HEE Grant-Writing Committee Members:

Rob Swihart, Purdue FNR, Chair

Barny Dunning, Purdue FNR

Scott Haulton, IN DNR - DoF

Jeff Holland, Purdue Entomology

Kamal Islam, Ball State Univ.

Rebecca Kalb, Purdue FNR

Brian MacGowan, Purdue FNR

Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR

Keith Summerville, Drake Univ.

Open House

Morgan-Monroe State Forest hosted an open-house on April 9, 2009. The event was open to the public to give people the opportunity to view and discuss the various activities going on at the forest. Amy Zillmer (DNR), Scott Haulton (DNR), and Jeff Riegel (Purdue) were stationed at the Unit 3 clearcut on the main forest road to explain the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment and answer any questions.

Do you have pictures from any HEE related event or activity?

If so, you can submit them to the HEE Project Coordinator for archiving. Please include any information about the pictures.



JUST A REMINDER:

As we all journey back out to the sites this summer, please keep the following in mind.

- If the ground is even slightly wet, please do not drive down non-graveled roads. Park where the gravel ends and walk.
- Driving down a skid trail is not permitted. Please park and walk. Remember to walk around or step over (not on) water bars.
- When navigating the harvest areas, remember to go up. Walking up the slope and around the harvest area will be much easier than trying to find a way through to the other side.
- Be aware of your surroundings, always carry more water than you think you'll need, and just use good common sense.

Let's all have a productive, fun,
and safe field season!

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Please send your news, findings, tid-bits, publications, funding opportunities, and committee reports to Rebecca at rkalb@purdue.edu to be included in "The HEE Update."

"The HEE Update" is distributed to anyone interested in receiving quarterly updates on the HEE Project—you need not be actively involved in the project. If you know of someone that would like periodic updates on HEE, we can add them to the list!

Previous issues of "The HEE Update" are available on our website:
HEEForestStudy.org.

Check us out on the web!
www.HEEForestStudy.org

GREETINGS TO THE HEE FAMILY

As the new HEE Project Coordinator and editor of "The HEE Update," I would like to take a moment to say hello. I may be new to this position but I'm not new to the project. I worked on the summer field crew during the very first year of HEE in 2006. It's been a few years, but I do remember the sites. I remember the hills, the ticks, and of course the greenbrier. I am very excited to be back, and I look forward to working with all of you as we enter the post-treatment phase of the project.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Kalb