



4 YEARS DOWN... 96 TO GO

April 30, 2010 marks the end of the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment's initial four-year contract with the Division of Forestry. Since its inception in 2006 with only a handful of research projects and a meager nine member field crew, the project has grown in leaps and bounds.

The HEE effort has contributed to the education of 15 M.S. and Ph.D. level scientists to date. It has employed over 50 undergraduate students to conduct summer field work. There have been 3 journal articles published using data collected from the HEE sites and over 20 local and national, outreach and extension events, presentations, and publications associated with the project. HEE has been highlighted in over 35 media outlets including *The Herald Times* (Bloomington), *The Chicago Tribune*, *WTHR Channel 13 Indianapolis*, and *WIBC 93.1FM/1340 AM Indianapolis*.

The following is a quick summary of the many research activities and the data that has been collected since 2006:

- Average of 60 songbird species have been recorded each year
- 472 bats representing 8 species have been caught, including 18 federally endangered Indiana bats
- 104 species of wood-boring and longhorned beetles have been recorded
- 14,000 individual salamanders have been caught, representing 9 species
- 5,703 small mammals have been captured, representing 7 species
- 353 singing male Cerulean Warblers have been documented
- 34 timber rattlesnakes and 41 Eastern box turtles are being tracked using radio telemetry
- 314 species of moths have been recorded with 17,806 individuals collected

Ongoing Research Projects:	Start Date	Years of Data Collected
Aural Bird Survey	2006	4
Bat Survey	2006	4
Wood-boring Beetle Survey	2006	4
Oak Mast Production and Acorn Removal	2006	4
Woodland Salamander Monitoring	2007	3
Small Mammal Sampling	2007	3
Cerulean Warbler Territories and Foraging	2007	3
Home Range/Habitat Use of Timber Rattlesnakes	2007	3
Home Range/Habitat Use of Eastern Box Turtles	2007	3
Lepidoptera (moth) Sampling	2007	2
Overstory and Sapling Inventories	2008	2
Socio-economic Study	2008	1
Owl Survey	2009	½
Deer Enclosure Study	2009	½

A New Home for the Season

The 2010 HEE summer field crew is living the high life at a former Girl Scout Camp in Nashville, Indiana. This facility was previously owned by the local Tulip Trace Council of Girl Scouts. With the help of The Nature Conservancy, the property is slowly being incorporated into Yellowwood State Forest. The facility consists of the Bridge House and several cabins. The Bridge House is equipped with two fully stocked kitchens, four bathrooms, and ample living space. The cabins serve as sleeping quarters with bunk beds for up to six people. The buildings are surrounded by acres of forestland and miles of hiking trails.

Thank you to the Division of Forestry for granting HEE the use of this facility for the season. It is truly a remarkable place and very much appreciated.



This facility was previously the home of the Tulip Trace Council of Girl Scouts.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR HEE?

- Salamander sampling
- TSI in the harvest areas
- Aural bird surveys
- Nighttime owl surveys
- Rattlesnake and box turtle tracking
- Cerulean Warbler surveys and territory mapping
- Bat mistnetting
- Overstory and understory vegetation plots
- Wood-boring beetle collections
- Lepidoptera (moth) collections
- Small mammal trapping



The Bridge House is fully equipped with two kitchens, ample living and working space, and a huge stone fireplace on the covered deck.



Each cabin has bunk beds for up to six people.

Executive Committee Update

- The HEE Executive Committee is pleased to announce that a new 2-year contract with the Indiana Division of Forestry has been finalized. This contract took effect May 1, 2010 and will continue until April 30, 2012.

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

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

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.