

Volume 9, Issue 2

Fall/Winter 2016



Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment

THE HEE UPDATE

<http://HEEForestStudy.org>

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HEE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES 2017

Interested in working as a summer field technician for the HEE or know someone who is looking for a summer job?

This coming summer we will be surveying vegetation at the HEE. We are looking to fill a number of field technician positions. We will be hiring two technicians for surveys of understory vegetation and 6-8 technicians for overstory surveys. Applications and more details about the positions can be found by visiting our website at <https://heeforeststudy.org/jobs/>.

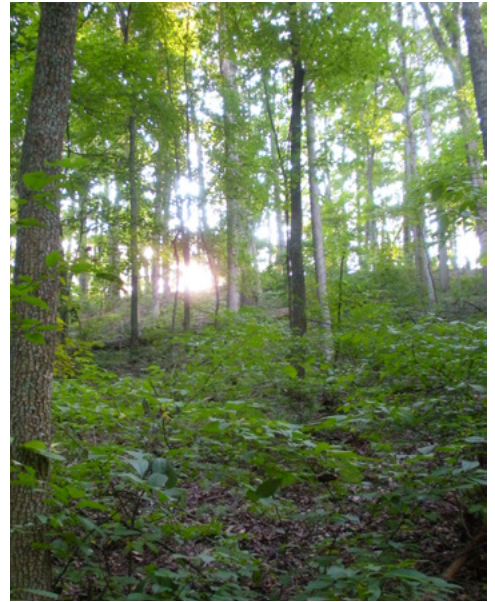


Photo: Andy Meier

The closing date for the positions is February 28th, 2017 or until all positions are filled.

Purdue FNR Freshman Field Day

On October 1st, 2016 students that are part of the Freshman Wild Things Learning Community in the Forestry and Natural Resources Department at Purdue visited the HEE. The students learned about some of the studies going on at the HEE and visited HEE research areas. The students also had an opportunity to talk to natural resource professionals about various careers in the field and what advice the professionals had for students pursuing a career in natural resources.



Photo: Morgan Sussman

Interested in scheduling a tour of the HEE for your group? Please contact the Project Coordinator at freemac@purdue.edu or 765-494-1472.

What's happening in the field this year?

- Bird mist-netting
- Bat acoustic monitoring
- Bat mist-netting
- Comprehensive overstory and understory vegetation surveys
- Deer exclosure vegetation surveys
- Winter Eastern Screech and Barred Owl surveys
- Spider surveys
- Beetle sampling
- Cerulean Warbler surveys
- Ruffed grouse surveys
- Moth sampling
- Spring Salamander surveys
- Prescribed burning
- Mast surveys



Photo: Charlotte Owings

New HEE & HEE-Related Publications

1. Kellner, K.F., P.J. Ruhl, J.B. Dunning, R.K. Swihart. 2017. Managing forests for birds in Indiana. *Indiana Woodland Steward* 25(3): 7-8.
2. Kellner, K.F., P.J. Ruhl, J.B. Jr. Dunning, J.K. Riegel, and R.K. Swihart. 2016. Multi-scale responses of breeding birds to experimental forest management in Indiana, USA. *Forest Ecology and Management* 382: 64-75.
3. Kellner, K.F. and R.K. Swihart. 2016. Timber harvest and drought interact to impact oak seedling growth and survival in the Central Hardwood Forest. *Ecosphere* 7(10):e01473. 10.1002/ecs2.1473.
4. Nemes, C.E. and K. Islam. 2017. Breeding season microhabitat use by Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) in an experimentally-managed forest. *Forest Ecology and Management* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2016.11.008>.
5. Olson, M.G. and M.R. Saunders. 2017. Long-term research on managed hardwood forests in eastern North America. *Forest Ecology and Management* 387; 1-2.
6. Summerville, K.S. and R.J. Marquis. 2017. Comparing the responses of larval and adult lepidopteran communities to timber harvest using long-term, landscape-scale studies in oak-hickory forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2016.08.050>.

Fall/Winter HEE Photos



In Fall 2016, small mammal, mast, owl, and salamander surveys continued at the HEE. We also had prime burn weather in mid-November which allowed us to do prescribed burns in various HEE research areas (*Photo captions go from the top to bottom photo, respectively*).

- A Southeastern Shrew caught in a clearcut during small mammal surveys in October at the HEE (*photo: Dana Nelson*)



- An Eastern Red-backed Salamander found nearby during field work at the HEE (*photo: Dana Nelson*)



- Prescribed fire in one of the HEE research units in Morgan-Monroe State Forest in mid-November (*photo: Charlotte Owings*)



- The effective camouflage of a toad which was still managed to be seen by one of our field technicians (*photo: Hannah Smith*).

*Do you have any pictures from any HEE related event or activity?
If so, you can submit them to our Project Coordinator at freemac@purdue.edu.
Please include any information about the pictures.*

Upcoming Events

- **March 7-8th, 2017:** Numerous HEE Researchers and graduate students will be attending and presenting at the upcoming Central Hardwood Oak Ecology and Wildlife Management Conference in Nashville, Indiana. If you are planning to attend the conference and would like to learn more about the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment, please say hello!

- **May 2017:** Our technicians will be out in the field again starting our summer field season in May.

- **2018:** The Central Hardwoods Forest Conference will be taking place in Indiana next year. Keep your eyes open for more details coming out later this year about the conference.

HEE Website

We are continually working to keep our website updated with publications, articles, newsletters, videos, and more. If you would like to learn more about the HEE or see the projects we currently have taking place, visit our website!

From the Project Coordinator

I remember being introduced to the term “plant blindness” for the first time in one of my courses in college. The term was first coined by Elizabeth Schussler and James Wandersee (1999) and refers, in part, to not noticing the plants around us or recognizing their importance in the ecosystem. The phrase stood out to me and made me think about how often we walk through the forests, or even our own backyards, and don’t take much notice of the plants and trees around us. As part of the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment, we recognize plants, shrubs, vines, and trees as an important part of the ecosystem and devote an entire summer every few years to surveying vegetation.

Our field technicians will not be suffering from “plant blindness” this summer. They will be going out specifically to survey vegetation across the HEE research areas. From the data they collect, we aim to better understand what changes we are seeing in our forests over time, what changes we can expect to see in years to come, and how different management techniques affect forest composition and structure.

Charlotte Owings
HEE Project Coordinator

Wandersee, J. and Schussler, E. 1999. Preventing plant blindness. *The American Biology Teacher*, 61 (2), 82,84,86.



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