



## HARDWOOD ECOSYSTEM EXPERIMENT MAKES HEADLINES

On September 3, HEE held our first Media Day. We had a couple reporters attend the press tour. That afternoon, Purdue Agriculture Communications sent out a press release. HEE has been sighted in the Purdue Exponent, Lafayette Journal and Courier, and featured in the Bloomington Herald Times. Two radio shows (WIBC 93.1 FM Indy and WITY 1340 AM Danville, IL) interviewed Cortney. Our press release has popped up on several internet websites. We have a few media contacts that

plan to check in on the project periodically for future stories.

In general, the feedback we've received has been positive — all of it focusing on the scientific-based research that is driving the harvests. If you have someone that is asking questions about the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment, feel free to direct them to Cortney ([mycroftc@purdue.edu](mailto:mycroftc@purdue.edu)) for more information. You can read a copy of the press release by clicking this [link](#).

### ONE DOWN, FIVE TO GO

Our first uneven-aged area harvest is complete! This included two 5-acre openings, two 3-acre openings, four 1-acre openings, and nearly 200 acres of single-tree selection. The logging took approximately 5 weeks to complete, followed by a couple weeks of best management practices (BMPs) — installation of waterbars along skid trails, seeding landings, etc. — to close out the area.

In October, we expect to have a second uneven-aged area harvest complete. By the end of the month, the third uneven-aged area harvest will be underway as well as the first of our even-aged area harvests.

After the logging companies close out a logging area, the work begins for forest employees and researchers to prepare the area for post-harvest sampling. Smaller trees will be cleared to allow sunlight to hit the forest floor. Herbicide will be applied to cut trees to prevent undesirable species from spouting.

Dr. Mike Saunders is collecting slices of the stumps in our openings for future genetic work. The study's field crew will be reinstalling the salamander cover objects and remarking the small mammal and bird points as these areas become available.



A truck loaded with logs leaves the research forest. Revenue from the timber sale helps to fund additional research.

# A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Documentation is key in a project the size of the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment. One of the best ways to show the contrast between pre-harvest, immediate post-harvest, and a given time since harvest is through permanent photo points. In May 2008, John Maxwell of Indiana DNR took 360° pictures in different locations. Different group selection sizes, a single-tree selection, a clearcut, a shelterwood, and controls are included in this photo library.

An example of a 360° photo is located below. By standing centered over a GPS marked point, and meticulously leveling his tripod, Maxwell was able to pivot over the point create the picture you see. Trees inside the harvest area (marked by the bracket beneath the picture) were marked by a for-ester in yellow paint. Nearly all of the photo points are associated with long-term vegetation points that will quantitatively monitor the changes we see in the photographs.

In November, Maxwell will return to the woods to take post-harvest pictures at the same points. These photos will be able to be aligned to compare the changes within a forest opening over time. We plan to use these photographs on our website and eventually in signs at the corresponding photo points.

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR HEE?

- Salamander and mast sampling will continue into December. The units currently undergoing harvest are not being sampled.
- Timber rattlesnakes are making their way back to their hibernacula. Within the next month, they should be holed up for the winter.
- Vegetation sampling will continue in the even-aged and control areas. This sampling was completed in the uneven-aged areas during the summer.
- Deer exclosure planning is underway, and construction will begin in December.
- Timber harvests will continue through February 2009.

Visit us on the web!  
[HEEForestStudy.org](http://HEEForestStudy.org)



East

South

A 360° photograph taken in May 2008 shows the pre-harvest condition of this 3-acre opening. Harvest trees are marked with yellow paint. Post harvest photos will be taken in November 2008 and in subsequent years to document the regrowth of the harvest area. Photo by John Maxwell.

## Executive Committee Update

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The HEE Executive Committee met at Morgan-Monroe State Forest on September 16. The following items were on the Committee's agenda:

*Harvest Area TSI (Timber Stand Improvement)* — A combination of mechanical removal and chemical treatment to prevent resprouting will be used in the harvest areas. Stems 1-inch or larger will be cut in the openings. This cutting could begin as soon as the logging operation is closed and will continue until March 2009. Chemical applications in the clearcut areas will occur approximately July 2009. In 2010, follow-up spot treatments will be done as necessary.

*Deer Enclosures* — Materials to erect the deer enclosures will be ordered in October. Two temporary DNR positions will be created to work on the deer enclosure project. The deer enclosure crew would consist of one full-time DNR employee to run heavy equipment (bobcat with auger), two field technicians, and a HEE representative (M. Saunders, S. Haulton, or C. Mycroft). Cortney will be in charge of locating people to fill these temporary positions.

*Field Tour*— The Executive Committee visited several completed harvest areas in Unit 1 to discuss TSI and deer enclosure needs.

### HEE Executive Committee Members:

John Seifert, IN DNR - DoF, Co-Chair	Rob Swihart, Purdue FNR, Co-Chair	Scott Haulton, IN DNR - DoF
Duane McCoy, IN DNR - DoF	Cortney Mycroft, Purdue FNR	Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR

## Education Committee Update

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The HEE Education Committee is developing a brochure for Morgan-Monroe State Forest, Yellowwood State Forest, and Brown County State Park visitors. This brochure will give a brief description of the project and direct readers to the website for additional information.

### 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	Melissa Malloy, Purdue FNR
Cortney Mycroft, Purdue FNR	Jeff Riegel, Purdue FNR	Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR



West

North

3-Acre Harvest

## A Note from the Project Coordinator: HEE Help Wanted

Hello everyone,

As some of you are aware, the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment never sleeps. Winter is a slow time for sampling, and the general assumption is that the study forests are vacated during the cold winter months. This couldn't be further from the truth!

This winter, in addition to the vegetation sampling and the post-harvest preparation that our study areas require, we will be erecting deer exclosures in a sub-sample of our 3-acre group selections, clearcuts, and shelterwood harvest areas.

We need help with this endeavor! From late December or early January through March, we will need technicians to do this work. If you know of a few strong backs willing and able to assist full-time, send them my way! Chainsaw experience is a plus, as they will be working to clear paths for equipment and fencing.

Thank you,

Cortney Mycroft  
HEE Project Coordinator

### HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Please send your news, findings, tid-bits, publications, funding opportunities, and committee reports to Cortney at [mycroftc@purdue.edu](mailto:mycroftc@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 on our website: [HEEForestStudy.org](http://HEEForestStudy.org).

## STRANGER IN THE WOODS



This is a grapple skidder used to pull cut logs from the forest floor to the log yard or "landing" where they are then loaded onto a semi-trailer for transport.



### RESEARCHER BULLETIN:

With the ongoing harvests in our research areas, it is important that we all pay close attention to the impacts we have in the woods. The logging companies are required to install water bars (large humps across skid trails to divert water to the forest floor to avoid rutting and soil movement) and to seed skid trails and landings. Frequent travel across these water bars will cause them to break down, and they will lose their usefulness. Driving down a skid trail is not permitted! You must park at the log yard and walk to your destination. If you are walking down a skid trail, please make every attempt to walk around or step over the water bar. These simple actions will keep the trails from rutting and minimize long-term impact in these areas.

Thank you!