



## KEEP THE INFORMATION FLOWING

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform everyone related to or interested in the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE). We have over sixty individuals on our master email list. Aside from big announcements such as the Annual Meeting, this email list often goes untouched. Now this list will receive this quarterly newsletter to spread the word of HEE

and all HEE is doing.

Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter with topics of interest, new findings, future research opportunities, and funding avenues.

As the newsletter editor, I will attempt to include updates of field work, media attention, publications, executive committee meeting highlights, and presentations as quarterly high-

lights. Please submit any talks, papers, posters, or other outlets to me as they occur or as they approach.

Thanks for your help in making this an informative and effective communication tool.

Thank you,  
*Cortney Mycroft*  
mycroftc@purdue.edu

### Spring is in the Air

With the thawing of snow, comes the emergence of our silent, and sometimes slimy, salamanders.

Despite the dry summer, over 2,400 salamanders made their way to our cover objects for fall sampling. Only one year (Fall 2007 and Spring 2008) of baseline data will be available for the

woodland salamander effort. To supplement this, Dr. Rod Williams has expanded the salamander sampling by adding 30 square-meter quadrat surveys to each of the 66 coverboard grids this spring.

From mid-March through early May, full time and student field technicians will be giving



Purdue Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources students, Lucas Woody and Marie Hamstra, sift through leaves, twigs and other debris in search of salamanders within their square-meter quadrat.

up their weekends to help with the effort.

### WHAT'S NEXT FOR HEE?

- Salamander work will continue through early May.
- The summer field crew will begin training on May 12.
- Timber in our harvest areas will be sold on April 17
- Harvests will begin in the uneven-aged areas in mid-July.



## HEE's Featured in Outdoor Indiana

Scott Haulton and Duane McCoy of Indiana DNR Division of Forestry, with the help of individual researchers, pulled together a general audience article about the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment. This article was included in the March/April 2008 Issue of Outdoor Indiana, a publication of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

John Maxwell, a DNR photographer, spent a few days capturing our project in arguably the best pictures to date.

With a long term project, it is essential that we capture the story of the project in its infancy to hold for posterity. Thanks for the hard work, this article goes down as the first published material for the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment.

Contact Cortney Mycroft for information on how to obtain a .pdf or hardcopy of this article.

We're on the web!  
[www.fnr.purdue.edu/HEE](http://www.fnr.purdue.edu/HEE)

## HOOSIER ECOSYSTEM EXPERIMENT A CENTURY IN THE WOODS

BY SCOTT HAULTON AND DUANE MCCOY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN MAXWELL

The forests of Indiana have a varied history of surviving both natural and manmade changes. Each change has affected forests differently, but the forests have survived, albeit in an altered state. Making sure that forests thrive while meeting various natural and induced challenges demands answers to difficult questions. This is where the Hoosier Ecosystem Experiment (HEE), a century-long study to determine the effects of different management techniques on the plants and animals of the forests, comes in. The various tornadoes, droughts, wildfires and other natural phenomena that occurred before humans settled here kept the forests and their wildlife residents diverse across the whole landscape. At concurrent times, some forested areas would be in short-term recovery, others in long-term. The rest would be at their normal state. Humans have caused more drastic and long-term changes to forests, actually moving them to a more uniform big-picture status. First we cleared millions of acres for farms and cities, and hunted many forest animals to excess, drastically dropping their populations and diversity.

Cover page of the Outdoor Indiana article featuring the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment

### HEE TIDBIT

John Maxwell, who photographed our project for the Outdoor Indiana article, will return to the woods to take 360 degree pictures to document the pre-harvest condition of each treatment type. These "before" images will be used on our website once the "after" images are available. The paired photos will be available for teaching and outreach purposes.

## Executive Committee Update

During the winter months, the HEE Executive Committee met monthly to work through details pertaining to the upcoming harvests and field season. Since October 31, the HEE Executive Committee has:

1. Established guidelines for foresters marking timber
2. Set a limited window for harvesting timber (from July 14, 2008 to February 28, 2009) and set other stipulations on harvesting to provide the most consistent and efficient removal of timber from the research cores
3. Acquired state-owned vehicles for summer field crew transport
4. Begun the discussion of focusing the project's efforts on long-

term funding and setting objectives

5. Developed "The HEE Guide" to document all aspects of the project from the overall study design to protocols to field marking.

The goal of the HEE Executive committee is to increase efficiency when all researchers meet to make broad-based decisions regarding the project.

HEE Executive Committee Members:  
Jack Seifert, IN DNR, Chair  
Rob Swihart, Purdue FNR, Co-Chair  
Scott Haulton, IN DNR  
Duane McCoy, IN DNR  
Cortney Mycroft, Purdue FNR  
Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR