



END OF THE BASELINE ERA

Let the harvests begin! As of July 28, the harvests have started. Through the next few months we will transition from “baseline” data collection to “post-harvest” data collection. This is an exciting time for the HEE project!

The timber in the research units were sold in blocks. Each block had an uneven-aged unit — which consisted of 20 acres of group selection harvest areas and the remaining acreage in single-tree selection—and an even-aged unit—which has two 10-acre clearcuts. On April 17, one company bought two

of the blocks (four units) and another bought one block.

Loggers have been instructed to begin in the uneven-aged cores, and do the bulk of their work before moving into the even-aged units to harvest the clearcut areas. Understory removal in the shelterwood areas will begin this fall — hopefully with the help of student volunteers under the supervision of Mike Saunders.

As of right now, only Unit 1 is in the process of being harvested.

Martinsville Under Water HEE’s Media Day Postponed

The Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment has been working with the Purdue University Department of Agricultural Communications to set a media day to officially announce our research project to the public.

The original media day had been planned for June 3. With a field tour planned as part of the media day, the event was postponed to June 9 due to rainy conditions. As it turns out, the rain

that delayed our media day was the same rain that would accumulate to 10 inches resulting in the worst flood in Martinsville, Indiana since 1875.

During the next few days, a state of emergency was declared and the National Guard was activated to evacuate flood victims. With all media attention on the floods in the immediate area, the media day scheduled for June 9 was again postponed.



Stephan Friesen, a philosophy graduate student at Indiana University and summer field technician, removes a chipmunk from a

WHAT’S NEXT FOR HEE?

- Snake and turtle tracking will continue into the fall.
- Mast and salamander sampling will begin in the coming weeks.
- The HEE media day will be in early September.
- Timber harvests will continue through February 2009.

Thank you 2008 Summer Crew!



Field crew members present at the appreciation dinner pose for a group picture. Front Row (Left to Right): Ben Tomson, Elias Rosenblatt, Andrew Hoffman, Joel Grant, Kyle Kaminski. Middle Row: Megan Caylor, Ruu Weist, Kari Heidebrecht, Madeline Turnquist, Laura Wallace, Maggie MacNeil. Back Row: Jeremy Sheets, Jeff Riegel, Natasha Urban, Brian Bailey, Leslie Schrei-

The 2008 summer field season is coming to an end. As many of you know, this summer has been a race to the finish to ensure that our sampling did not interfere with the loggers (and vice-versa). We were working with all hands on deck. At the peak of sampling activity, we had 27 researchers, graduate students, and field technicians working in the woods!

This summer's sampling included: songbirds, small mammals, Cerulean Warblers, timber rattlesnakes, eastern box turtles, bats, and beetles—continuing work from the last two summers. The crews are also sampling the vegetation matrix points that were installed this win-

ter.

In addition to sampling, the crews were responsible for completing the preparations our cores require prior to harvest. This includes replacing rebar stakes, which could puncture skidder tires, with whisker stakes; stacking salamander cover boards out of harm's way; and ensuring that harvest boundaries are marked clearly.

On July 25, all the field crews gathered with forest staff, researchers, family and friends at Morgan-Monroe for a crew appreciation dinner. After stuffing our faces with hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the fixin's, Jeremy Sheets and the bat

crew gave everyone a bat mist-netting demonstration.

With the Martinsville flood, the logging roads turning to mush, severe thunderstorms, extreme heat and humidity, and windthrow after windthrow blocking access, this years theme was "what doesn't kill you, builds character."

We had a great group of folks doing all this hard work. Many thanks to those who were out there climbing hills and building a whole lot of character!

We're on the web!
HEEForestStudy.org

Executive Committee Update

The HEE Executive Committee met via conference call on May 2 and in Indianapolis on July 21. The attention of this committee has been focused on the following:

Deer Exclosure Installation — Deer exclosures will be installed in four group selection openings, four clearcut areas, and four shelterwood areas. These 20X20 meter exclosures will be in the center of the opening, at the edge of the opening, and outside the opening for the group selections and clearcuts. Only center exclosures will be installed in the shelterwood areas. These exclosures will be installed this fall and winter following harvest.

Contract Renewal — While our current contract with the Division of Forestry continues through April 2010, we have been discussing renewing our contract for another four years. This funding will maintain steady support the project until we can qualify for a long term grant.

HEE Executive Committee Members:

John Seifert, IN DNR - DoF, Co-Chair Rob Swihart, Purdue FNR, Co-Chair Scott Haulton, IN DNR - DoF

Grant Writing Committee Update

The HEE Grant Writing Committee met for the first time on July 29 in West Lafayette. Various funding opportunities were discussed—both large-scale and focused proposal opportunities. It was decided that the effort at this time would be focused on smaller, targeted proposals. A couple of the proposals that the committee is currently developing are:

Community ecology – Changes of dominance within herps, moths, birds, woody, beetles, small mammals – Short term response over 2-3 years post-harvest and across gap sizes

Sensitivity analysis of structured oak growth model—Effects of deer herbivory, rabbit herbivory, seed predation, weevil infestation, and light competition on oak regeneration.

HEE Grant Writing Committee Members:

Rob Swihart, Purdue FNR, Chair	Shannon Amberg, Purdue FNR	Barry Dunning, Purdue FNR
Scott Haulton, IN DNR - DoF	Jeff Holland, Purdue Entomology	Kamal Islam, Ball State
Brian MacGowan, Purdue FNR	Cortney Mycroft, Purdue FNR	Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR

Education Committee Update

The HEE Education Committee has not met.

HEE Education Committee Members:

Brian MacGowan, Purdue FNR, Chair Brittany Davis, IN DNR - SPR Jim Eagleman, IN DNR - SPR

Research Committee Update

In response to the discussion at the HEE Annual Meeting, we will not be holding a Fall Researcher meeting this year.

HEE Researcher Committee Members:

Shannon Amberg	Virgil Brack	Megan Caylor	Rob Chapman	Barry Dunning	Lenny Farlee	Scott Haulton
Jeff Holland	Bill Hoover	Kamal Islam	Mike Jenkins	Kyle Kaminski	Brian MacGowan	Maggie MacNeil
Melissa Malloy	Duane McCoy	Cortney Mycroft	Mike Saunders	Jeremy Sheets	Dale Sparks	Keith Summerville

A Note from the Project Coordinator: We're Stepping Outside!

Hello Everyone,

At our last annual meeting, everyone was asked to complete an online survey to guide the planning for the 2009 HEE Annual Meeting. Over 90% of respondents said that a field tour would be worth while. Well, your voices have been heard! Next spring, we'll go out and see the newly cut harvest areas (and possibly a few salamanders).

Other responses to our annual meeting survey referenced discussion break-out groups and synergies between taxa. Some folks mentioned that the presentations for each study area (birds, bats, etc) didn't give enough time per speaker. Others added that the series of presentations wasn't necessary because everyone is still reporting baseline data.

What do YOU want to see at the next HEE Annual Meeting?

I want to make this experience as worth-while to everyone as I can. Please send me your suggestions!

Thank you,

Cortney Mycroft
HEE Project Coordinator
(765) 494-1472; my-

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Please send your news, findings, tid-bits, publications, funding opportunities, and committee reports to Cortney at 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.

H.E.E. ODDITY WHAT IN THE WORLD?



It's time for the "totes on a stick" to begin appearing in our woods! These traps collect acorns falling from our mast trees.



Natasha weighing a shrew
June 16, 2008

Red Bat
Summer '08

WE NEED YOUR PICTURES!

If you have pictures from this summer or any HEE-related work, please send them to Cortney for archiving. Please include picture content and photo