

THE HEE UPDATE



Volume 2, Issue 2
Summer 2009

2009 SUMMER FIELD CREW

The 2009 HEE summer field season has come to an end. It's hard to believe how fast it has gone by! This summer has been one huge undertaking with so many different projects going on. Thankfully, there were no major mishaps this year—other than the occasional truck breakdown.

This summer's sampling activities have included: aural bird surveys, small mammal trapping, timber rattlesnake and eastern box turtle tracking, over-story/vegetation sampling, bat mist-netting, beetle collections, Lepidoptera (moth) collections, Cerulean Warbler and chickadee sampling.

On behalf of all the researchers, thank you to the large group of students who have worked so hard collecting all of this data. Everyone involved with HEE would again like to thank all of the DNR folks who have helped out with housing and have continued to allow us access to the research sites. We are also grateful to the state forest's Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps (YHCC) members who helped us out for a week hanging fence on the deer exclosures.

Hopefully, everyone learned a lot and of course had fun. Perhaps some of you will consider coming back again next year. Thanks again to everyone who has participated in the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment this summer. Great job!



Many of the summer field techs gathered at Morgan-Monroe State Forest on July 30, 2009 for an end-of-the-season pizza party.

Standing left to right: Travis Stoelting, Lucas Woody, Keith Norris, Matt Cross, Sarah Tuttle, Allison Hess, Stephen Friesen, Abby Irwin, Wade Lieurance, Jessica Rodkey, Ken Kellner, Holly Hughes, Kelsey Pearman, Sara Johnson. Kneeling left to right: Kaylee DeCosta, Jami MacNeil, Rita Blythe, Heather Powell, Megan Taylor, Andrea Currylow. Other field techs not pictured: Steve Kimble, Kat Lillie, Kat Powers, Melissa Malloy, Travis Schwering, Jarrod Armstrong, Lauren Brierley, Maggie MacNeil, Kyle Kaminski, Lora Nelson, Andy Ripley.

Species Highlight: Eastern Box Turtle

Terrapene carolina: Eastern box turtle. This elusive little critter has become a big part of the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment. We are currently in the third year of data collection. Box turtles are generally thought to be declining throughout much of their range across Eastern North America, including here in Indiana. Contributing factors likely include loss of habitat and road mortality, as well as being collected by humans. The state of Indiana has taken steps to help the population. A law passed in 2004 makes it illegal to collect box turtles from the wild. However, the HEE researchers are permitted to handle these turtles for a brief period of time.

Researchers have been working to measure home range sizes of individual turtles using radio telemetry. Thanks to their excellent camouflage, box turtles can be very difficult to find. When a turtle is found, it's picked up and affixed with a small radio transmitter. Researchers are then able to track the turtle's



This turtle is having a rough day as Steve Kimble (Purdue graduate student) attaches a radio transmitter to its carapace (top part of the shell).

Is that a turtle under all those leaves?

Thanks to their excellent camouflage, box turtles can be very hard to find.



movements and determine the size of its home range. With two years of pre-harvest data, we'll be able to see how home range sizes change in relation to the different harvest methods that have taken place. There are currently 41 turtles being tracked on the HEE project (23 males and 18 females). If you want more information on the habits and habitats of the Eastern box turtle, check out the Indiana DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife's website—<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3378.htm>.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR HEE?

- Rattlesnake and box turtle tracking continues through October.
- Salamander sampling will start up again and continue through the fall.
- Oak mast collection will begin.
- TSI work will continue throughout the harvest areas.
- Installation of the deer exclosure fencing will continue.



Andrea Currylow (Purdue graduate student) uses a radio telemetry antenna and receiver to relocate Eastern box turtles.

Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee met at Purdue on May 21, 2009 and Indianapolis on July 15, 2009.

- Next Contract— The current contract with the IN DNR-DoF ends April 30, 2010. We are in the process of preparing the next four-year contract for the HEE project. We are trying to get a better idea of exactly how funds have been spent so far on each of the individual research projects.

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

Education Committee Update

A potential HEE Field Day is in the works for this fall. It will be an educational opportunity for local farmers and landowners to see what is happening at the research sites. The tentative date is November 7, 2009. Contact Brian MacGowan for more 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	Rebecca Kalb, Purdue FNR
Melissa Malloy, Purdue FNR	Jeff Riegel, Purdue FNR	Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR

Grant-Writing Committee Update

Several members of the HEE Grant-Writing Committee have worked to put together a proposal to look at beta-diversity and dominance patterns of multiple species groups. This proposal was submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in July. It will be several months before we can expect to hear anything back. Here's to hoping!

HEE Grant-Writing Committee Members:

Rob Swihart, Purdue FNR, Chair	Barny Dunning, Purdue FNR	Scott Haulton, IN DNR - DoF
Jeff Holland, Purdue Entomology	Kamal Islam, Ball State Univ.	Rebecca Kalb, Purdue FNR
Brian MacGowan, Purdue FNR	Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR	Keith Summerville, Drake Univ.

In Press

Congratulations to Dr. Jeff Holland, Purdue University Department of Entomology and Dr. Keith Summerville, Drake University Department of Environmental Science and Policy. Dr. Holland has a paper on his HEE beetle research in review with *Landscape Ecology*. Dr. Summerville has a paper on his moth research with HEE in review with *Forest Ecology and Management*.

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

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:
www.HEEForestStudy.org.

NOTE TO RESEARCHERS:

- Fall Research Committee Meeting - Keep an eye out for information on an upcoming researcher meeting, likely in October. This will be an important meeting as we prepare to move into the next four-year contract. Details to come soon!
- Data Storage and Archiving - Any and all HEE data that you have collected needs to be submitted to the Project Coordinator for archiving. This includes copies of original data sheets, GPS data, files of entered data, metadata, etc.
- Presentations, Papers, and Posters - As the project progresses, more and more researchers will be presenting their HEE data in some form or another. Please pass on the details of these events to the Project Coordinator as soon as they come up.

Thanks and happy researching!



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.