



Squirrel & Small Mammal Crew

- ◇ Sarah Baker (PhD Candidate, Purdue) and three Wildlife Technicians conducted squirrel point count surveys. Camera trapping for squirrels and small mammals was also conducted.

Cerulean Warbler Crew

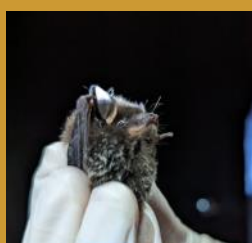
- ◇ Julian Grudens (MS Candidate, BSU) and Brit Nahorney (MS Candidate, BSU) worked with two Technicians to conduct aural surveys, nest searching, and mist netting.
- ◇ They also collected caterpillar droppings to investigate the dietary preferences of Ceruleans.

Bat Crew

- ◇ Josie Hoppenworth (MS Candidate, UIUC) and Reed Crawford (PhD Candidate, UIUC) worked with two Technicians to conduct mist netting and find and catalogue roost trees.

Additional Work

- ◇ Longhorn beetle trapping was conducted (Purdue).
- ◇ Moth samples were collected (Drake University).



Introducing New HEE Staff

Rae Garrett — Field Coordinator

Rae began as the Field Coordinator in May 2023. Recently she graduated from Purdue University with a BS in Wildlife Biology with a minor in Insect Biology. Since then, she has worked in various temporary positions gaining experience in field work and outreach. She looks forward to assisting HEE Researchers with continuing data collection and working with Kat to reach new goals in outreach.



Kat Shay— Project Coordinator

Kat began as the Project Coordinator in September 2023. She has an MS in Environmental Science and an MPA from Indiana University, where she worked in Dr. Kim Novick's lab on various phenology, carbon flux, oak leaf-miner, and cicada projects in Morgan Monroe and Yellowwood. She holds a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Alabama, where she worked in the Spatial Ecology Lab. She previously worked for NOAA at the Beaufort Lab in NC, conducting research on carbon flux and storage in salt marshes. Most recently she worked in the San Bernardino National Forest in southern California, managing conservation, recreation, and restoration projects. She has lived in Scotland, Germany, and all over the US and loves reading, traveling, and sports (especially soccer and rugby). She's excited to join the HEE team and continue working in the forests she loves.



Departures

We are sad to announce the departure of Dr. Jeff Holland from Purdue University and from the HEE on June 1, 2024. He has been a dedicated and distinguished member of the HEE since the beginning. His work on the impact of land use at different spatial and temporal scales on insect populations and diversity has been a key component of the project. We would like to sincerely thank him for all of his extensive contributions to the HEE throughout the years, and we wish him all the best in the future. Thank you, Dr. Holland!

We are also sadly saying goodbye to Dr. Rob Swihart; he will retire from Purdue on June 30, 2024. Dr. Swihart has been a cornerstone of the HEE from the beginning with his extensive work on small mammals and oak mast as well as his thoughtful and crucial guidance as a member of the Executive Committee. We would like to sincerely thank him for all of his many contributions to the HEE throughout the years. Thank you, Dr. Swihart, we wish you all the best and fun time times ahead!

Upcoming Notices & Project Plans

We will begin the process of compiling the HEE budget for 2024-2028 soon, so be advised that we will be sending out budget requests soon. If you have any preliminary questions or concerns, please reach out to Dr. Saunders and/or Kat.

As a reminder, harvests are planned for winter 2028-29. The harvests will be single-tree selection in the uneven-age units (throughout the matrix outside of the patch cuts) and either shelterwood or clearcut in the burned areas of the even-aged units. As we look ahead to plan budgets and projects, it may be time to begin thinking about how you would like to adjust sampling to account for the harvests.

HEE Office Update

The office for the Project Coordinator has moved - I am now based in Morgan Monroe State Forest HQ. Below is the contact info.

- Office number: 765-792-4877
- Address: 6220 Forest Rd Martinsville, IN 46151

The Field Coordinator, Rae, is still based out of the Bridgehouse in Yellowwood State Forest.



Student Highlight

We'd like to highlight an undergraduate student that's been doing great work on the HEE, Jonathan Shimizu. Jonathan is a senior at Purdue University studying Forestry with a concentration in Forest Science. His undergraduate thesis focuses on the interaction between prescribed fire and hardwood timber quality. Jonathan has been working with Dr. Saunders on this project since the beginning of the year and has just wrapped up his field work in the burn areas of the HEE. Within the burn areas, he has been examining how fire-related scars develop after burns and how they impact timber quality and harvestable volume. After graduating in May of 2024, Jonathan intends to move out west and work as a wildland firefighter for a few seasons before returning for graduate school.