

Please Join Us

Clark State Forest/Deam Lake State Recreation Area will host their annual Open House at the main office of Clark State Forest on Wednesday, February 26 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Information will be provided regarding recreation, forest resource management and major projects that are planned on the property for the upcoming 1-2 years. Property personnel will be available to answer questions and discuss management activities.

In addition to its regular open house events this year the division is also seeking public input for the 2020-2024 Strategic Direction. The Strategic Direction guides all aspects of the division for the next five years. Topics covered under the Direction include Private Forestlands Management, the Fire Program, Community and Urban Forestry, Conservation Education, Nursery, and State Forest properties. Input received at the Open Houses will be used during the development process of the Strategic Direction to help formulate guidance in each of the division's program areas.



A copy of the 2015-2019 Strategic Direction is available on the division's website at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry>. Public comments may also be submitted through the division's website at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/8122.htm>.

EVENTS

February 15th:

Poplar Plunge

February 26th:

Open House

March 1st:

Deam Lake campground reopens with limited amenities.

March 15th:

Knobstone Knockout 5K/10K/50K

April 29th:

Deam Lake campground reservation system opens.

Memorial Day Weekend:

Deam Lake beach opens.

October 17th:

Haunted trail and Halloween activities.

October :

Free hayrides Saturday nights.

More information by visiting:

http://www.in.gov/activecalendar_dnr/eventinformation.aspx

IN THIS ISSUE

P1 / Volunteers

P2 / Fishing at Clark

P2 / Nature Preserves

P2 / DNR Portfolio

P3 / Property and Recreation

Improvements

P4 / Trail Information

P4 / ADA Playgrounds

P4 / Reservation Opportunities

P5 / Learn to Hunt

P5 / New Faces

P5 / Interns

P6 / From the Manager

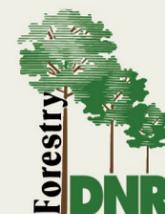
P6 / Deam Lake Special Events

P6 / Ticks of Indiana

P7 / Forest Management

P7 / Property Updates

P8 / Open House Information



THE Knob

Winter 2020

Volunteer Opportunities Increasing

We want to thank all the volunteers who help make Clark State Forest and Deam Lake SRA a special place. Volunteers make a big difference and help make Clark and Deam Lake an enjoyable place for all visitors.

Special thanks to:

Steve Schaftlein: for his work on the Knobstone Trail Bridge Project (near the dam at the Southern Terminus of the KT (just south of the dam).

Austin Muench: (Troop 4015, New Albany, IN) decided to complete his Eagle Scout Project at Deam Lake SRA. His project consisted of constructing and installing 5 separate horse mounting steps (a nice accommodation for Deam's horse riders). He planted 6 trees in the family campground, and donated his leftover fundraising funds to DNR.

Northside Christian Church: Volunteers came to Deam Lake SRA to complete Service Day Projects. Some of the projects included staining the front entry gate and planting flowers at the front gate, main office, and forest education center.

David Hicks: Built the kayak racks so we can keep our kayaks secured and available for rent.

All the cast members who helped with the haunted trail event.

Woodrow Jamison: for his work improving the Clark State Forest grounds and campground. He is one of Clark's campground hosts.

Gilbert Jamison: For his volunteering to monitor roads and campgrounds.

All the members of the Friends of Clark/Deam horse trails whose efforts at trail building and fund raising have made such a difference in the last 3 years.

Steve Smith, Joe Prather, and Arthur Coates: For their work rehabbing the current Clark State Forest gun range, staining buildings, and making general improvements to the property.



We are always looking for volunteers at Clark State Forest and Deam Lake. Whether you would like to donate a few hours of your time here and there or several days, we would love to have you come give us a hand. Just a few examples of what you could help us with include campground cleanup, trash pickup, trail maintenance, grounds or building maintenance, and campground hosting. Individuals and groups of all sizes are welcome. If you are interested please give us a call at 812-294-4306.



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CLARKSF@DNR.IN.GOV

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PROPERTY STAFF:

Patrick Cleary, Property Manager
Derek Spanton, Deam Lake Assistant Property Manager
Wendy McClain, Clark Office Manager
Jennifer Villarreal, Deam Lake Office Manager
Dustin Alwine, Forest Resource Specialist
Ryan Bartlett, Forest Resource Specialist
Rocky Stephens, Maintenance Foreman
Chester Brandenburg Jr, Equipment Operator
Darrell Johnson, Maintenance Repair
Gary McKinley, Maintenance Repair
Troy Kimmel, Laborer
Don Gore, Laborer

Fishing at Clark State Forest

In 2018 Clark State Forest received stocking of catfish and rainbow trout. Catfish were stocked in mid-October. Lakes that were stocked that were: Oak (340), Wilcox (215), and Schlamm (450). Oak Lake also received 405 rainbow trout. The date for rainbow trout stocking is variable depending on the cooling of water temperature.

Indiana had four free fishing days in which Indiana residents did not need a fishing license to fish public waters. These will likely be occurring in 2020 as well. To find information on licenses, regulations, and public waters to fish, visit the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife's webpage: www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/.

	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Channel Catfish	10	None
Black Bass	5	14 inches
Rainbow Trout	5*	7 inches
* no more than 1 may be brown trout		

Nature Preserves

The past few years were big in nature preserves here at Clark State Forest. Our total acreage of nature preserves on Clark State Forest increased by over 150 percent with the addition of our newest preserve, the Outbrook Ravine Nature Preserve. Totaling 519 acres, the Outbrook Ravine Nature Preserve is an extension of the preexisting Virginia Pine-Chestnut Oak Nature Preserve. These areas include the northwestern most extension of naturally occurring Virginia pine among other rare plants. If you wish to explore our newest and largest nature preserve, access is pretty easy as the Knobstone Trail runs straight through it just north of State Route 160.



Our other nature preserves have remained the same. They include the White Oak Nature Preserve, 143 acres, right off the main drive through Clark State Forest by Frankie Lake. It has a nice loop trail about a mile long that makes for a pleasant little afternoon hike. The Virginia Pine-Chestnut Oak Nature Preserve, 24 acres, is landlocked by our new Outbrook Ravine Nature Preserve. Access can be gained through the Knobstone Trail. Our final preserve, the Alum Cave Hollow Nature Preserve, 142 acres, is located southwest of Deam Lake. Top of the Rock Trail runs straight into the heart of Alum Cave Hollow where you can see siltstone cliffs, dry upland forests, and native Virginia pine forests.

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”

-Aldo Leopold

Division of Forestry's Mission:

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry promotes and practices good stewardship of natural, recreational and cultural resources on Indiana's public and private forest lands. This stewardship produces continuing benefits, both tangible and intangible, for present and future generations.

Forest Management



Forest Stand Improvement

We currently have a few locations where Forest Stand Improvement (FSI) is occurring. FSI has been prescribed in recently harvested tracts to complete wildlife openings. By removing the few remaining trees, it allows more light down to start the new cohort of trees. This also gives us an opportunity after the harvest to treat and control invasive plant species.

Timber Harvests Sold

In 2019 there have been 6 tracts of timber sold at Clark State Forest. Two of these sales took place to accommodate the new modern campground being constructed. One sale on the north side of Deam Lake took place with the intention of providing sunlight to the abundant white oak regeneration. Two sales include shelterwood harvests, which will be the first to be performed on Clark State Forest.

Two timber sales from the last year are actively being harvested. These sales have a two year contract.

Upcoming Timber Harvests

There are two tracts north of Liberty Knob Road that will be marked in the future. A road is in the process of being built to provide access for future management. Three tracts will be harvested next to the current CSF horse campground. Two tracts will be harvested south of Smith Road. Any trails affected by these harvest will be rerouted. More information can be found at the open house on February 26th.

The second type of FSI being done is midstory removal. This removes the shade tolerant trees like beech and maple so that we can try to regenerate shade intolerant species like oaks, which benefit wildlife and are a declining component of the forest composition.

Invasive Plant Control

Here at Clark, like most natural places, we constantly deal with invasive plant species. These species outcompete native species and disturb the natural plant communities found here. By removing these invasive plants, native plants are able to grow more and produce a healthier ecosystem.

Why Should We Shelterwood?

A shelterwood's main objective is to regenerate a stand with primarily oak and hickory species. This harvesting method is performed in three parts: midstory removal, initial harvest, and final harvest. This method takes longer than a traditional single tree selection harvest, but is more effective at preventing the conversion of oak-hickory forests into beech and maple stands.

Indiana DNR Land Portfolio

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources manages over 520,000 acres across the State. The properties are managed by a variety of divisions (Fish and Wildlife, Nature Preserves, Outdoor Recreation, State Parks, and Forestry) and each division manages based upon their own missions and objectives. The State Forests, which encompasses less than a third of the DNR land base, have been actively managed for over 100 years under a “multi-use, multi-benefit” principle that aims to provide timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed protection, and the conservation of cultural and natural resources. Today's forests are the direct result of management practices that have been in place since the first state forest property was acquired in 1903. Unique from other DNR divisions, this multi-use system includes sustainable management and growth of ‘green certified’ timber. Based upon science, this conservation management practice provides combined benefits offered by no other public lands in Indiana. State Forests are the only properties where long term forest and timber management practices occur. Lands located within the Fish and Wildlife Areas, Nature Preserves, Recreation Areas and State Parks do not participate in, or are ‘set aside’ from, commercial timber production management.

More Than 50% of DNR Lands Are Set Aside From Commercial Timber Production

DNR Property	Acres
Fish and Wildlife	148,765
Forestry	158,949
Nature Preserves	21,781
Outdoor Recreation	5,322
State Parks	75,790
Federally Owned Land Managed by INDNR	110,633
Total	521,240

CSF + DLSRA UPDATES

Gun Range Updates:

One of the staples of Clark State Forest has always been its gun range. In the past ten years, fees were applied to the gun range to help pay for cleaning and gun range improvements. Now, we are looking to build a completely new gun range with modern amenities. With the help and guidance of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, we are hoping to take some of their winning strategies and apply them here at Clark State Forest.

Though still in the early planning and layout stage, the current thought process is that it will be a baffled gun range to lower the noise effect and to keep all the bullets shot in the range contained. The new range will be located southeast of the fire tower.



While the new range is being constructed, the old range will remain open until the opening of the new range. The prices of the current gun range remain the same; \$5 for a day pass or \$25 for an annual pass. These can be purchased at the Clark State Forest Office during office hours.

We are currently hoping that the new range will be completed within the next three to four years. If you want more information of the end product or location, please visit Clark State Forest's Office and inquire within.

Modern Campground

Construction on the modern family campground and comfort station has continued. The new campground will be adjacent to Clark's current horse campground. This location will provide a more secluded, quieter camping experience with a close proximity to Schlamm Lake. Trees have been cleared and the construction of the campground's main loop will begin soon. The new campground will have a comfort station with flush toilets, electricity hookups at sites, and a new playground. For current campers, the family campground will remain open until the new campground opens.

From the manager:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite one and all to come see us at Clark State Forest and Deam Lake State Recreation Area. Covering parts of 3 counties and approximately 26,000 acres, the properties are managed on a multiple-use basis and provide varied and many opportunities for the public. These offerings including hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, camping, and many other outdoor recreational pursuits. We also manage the properties for wildlife, watershed protection, and the sustainable production of forest products in the form of logs, veneer and pulpwood, thus contributing to the local economy. (Did you know that part of the income received from the sale of these products is returned to the counties they are produced in to help equip local fire departments?) We provide unique opportunities for the horse community, including miles of trails and equine camping at both Clark and Deam. So come join us and experience the great outdoors!

Special Events at Deam Lake SRA

We have many special events held at Deam Lake SRA throughout the year. These events include organized horse trail rides, triathlon training, hikes, parties, a fundraiser for the Friends of Clark/Deam Horse Trails, and a Polar Plunge fundraiser for the Special Olympics, at which approximately \$70,000 is raised. In addition, we also put on great Halloween activities each year, including a haunted trail, campsite decorating contest with prizes, and trick or treating in the campground. New to 2019 we started offering free fall hayrides, which turned out to be very popular. Our annual Halloween Haunted Trail was a great success last fall with over 380 visitors. A big thanks to our naturalist Sherrie Bryant and volunteer Mike Gibson who rounded up a great bunch of volunteers for this spooktacular event. We also want to thank all the other volunteers from the Deam Lake staff who make this an event to remember.



Family film nights take place at Deam Lake's campground every 2nd and 3rd Friday at 7:30 p.m.



A picture from the Campsite Decorating Contest.

Property Improvement Projects and Recreation Improvements

We are excited to announce we installed 3 more camping cabins last spring at Deam Lake. Due to their popularity and high demand, we have installed 7 new cabins over the last 2 years. We now have a total of 19 cabins. These cabins have electricity, ac/heating unit, table, chairs, porch swing, a double bed, and a bunk bed (bring your own bedding).

Hikers will now be able to access the 58-mile Knobstone Trail in southern Indiana from a new, permanent trailhead inside Deam Lake State Recreation Area. The new trailhead is at the parking lot for the Buzzard Roost shelter house, just west of the Deam Lake dam. It replaces a temporary trailhead previously located east of the dam on Wilson Switch Road. The Knobstone, aka KT, is Indiana's longest footpath.

Several additional improvements are as follows:

- New replacement water tower construction complete and is now fully operational.
- With help from volunteers, we did rehab work on Lake Loop and Tree Lane Loop horse trails.
- Installed and opened a new ADA playground which replaced the old playground located near the Deam Lake SRA beach parking lot.
- We are happy to announce that we are now renting out kayaks in addition to our row boat rentals (Memorial Weekend – Labor Day Weekend).
- Upgrades to the Forest Education Center include 2 new TVs to improve programing for visitors while they are exploring all that the FEC has to offer. The property Naturalist has fun and engaging activities planned every weekend throughout the summer and fall.
- Rehabbed/patched tears in the lagoon liner at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- Replaced approximately 900 ft. of sewer line located near the Deam Lake Swim Beach Lift Station.
- A new pier was constructed on Oak Lake.
- 6 interpretive signs were installed around Clark State Forest.
- The Ruffed Grouse Society installed an interpretive sign at the Jackson Trailhead.
- The Clark State Forest gun range has new tables, benches, a bridge, and target stands.



Ticks of Indiana

There are three main ticks that you will find while hiking the woods of southern Indiana. These are the dog tick, Lone Star tick, and the deer tick. There are a variety of tick borne diseases that they carry, but you can take simple precautions to minimize your exposure.

The common diseases transmitted are as follows:

Lyme disease, Alpha-gal allergy, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Some easy steps to prevent risk are to wear full length pants and shirts, treat your clothing with DEET or permethrin, and actively check yourself for ticks after spending time outdoors.



<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickbornediseases/tickID.html>



Trail Information and Updates

Clark State Forest contains an extensive trail system that hikers of all experience levels can enjoy. With the Knobstone trail, White Oak Nature Preserve Trail, and our multiuse trail system, visitors can enjoy nature on foot, horseback, or bike.

The Knobstone Trail is a 58-mile backpacking trail that passes through Clark State Forest, Elk Creek Public Fishing Area, and Jackson-Washington State Forest. This trail is commonly used by hikers preparing for longer treks, scout troops building comradery, and weekend hikers looking to unplug. With 9 trailheads, your adventure can be a variety of lengths and difficulties.

The 60+ mile multiuse trail system at Clark and Deam are available to both foot and horse traffic. These trails have easy access for those looking to hike for the day or get in 30 minutes of a green space. Six miles of the Deam Lake Loop Trail is designated for mountain biking. There is a foldable, waterproof property map available at the Clark State Forest and Deam Lake offices for \$10.70.

The Dry Fork Loop, the Cross Country Trail, the Forest Resource Trail, and the Beginner's Loop have had rehabilitation performed in 2019. This will continue into 2020.

Trail closures

The Yellow Trail will be closed north of Deam Lake from November 19, 2019 through April 1, 2020 due to a scheduled timber harvest.

A small portion of the Flower Gap Loop will be shared with harvesting equipment.



New ADA Playgrounds

There are two fun additions to Deam Lake SRA and Clark State Forest. An Americans with Disabilities Act compliant playground was installed at both properties and are already enjoyed by families.

The new playground at Deam Lake SRA is located by the beach, while Clark State Forest's is near the ballfield.



Reservation Opportunities

There are seven shelters and one recreation building that are available to be reserved at Clark State Forest. The seven shelters are open buildings that provide picnic tables and outdoor grills. These may be reserved for \$30-\$40. The White Oak Center is an enclosed building that has electricity, a modern bathroom, and is climate controlled. It can be reserved for \$100. All of these make a great venue for a birthday party, family reunion, or other special event. These may be reserved online at camp.IN.gov or by phone at 866-622-6746.



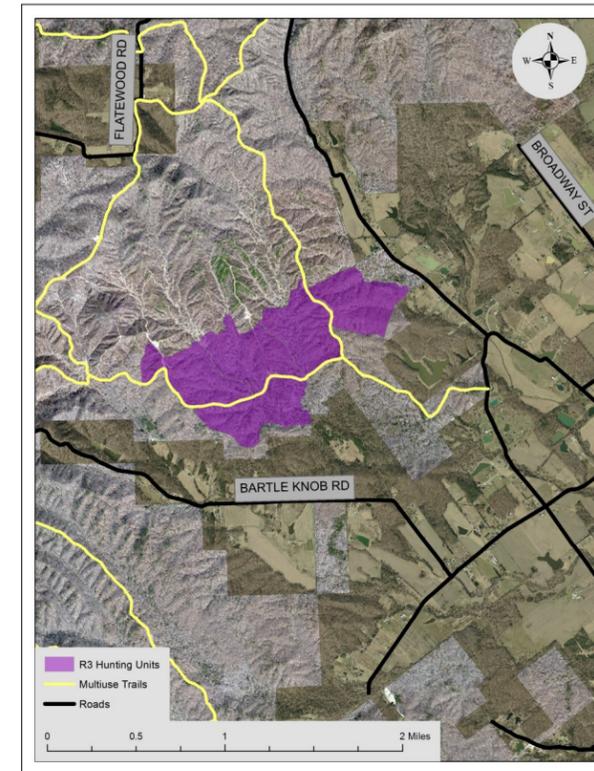
White Oak Center

DNR Learn To Hunt

Some new things have happened this past year with the deer hunting season here at Clark. The state forest has always been a first come first serve as far as hunting locations go, but with the help of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Clark State Forest tried something new in 2019. The new hunting initiative is called DNR Learn to Hunt. The goal is to get hunters into more remote areas of the forest and provide quality locations with access. Hopefully with defined locations of where to hunt and park, we can recruit new hunters to enjoy this resource.

This affects hunting at Clark by closing of certain sections of the forest so that hunters have tracts assigned to them. These tracts are aimed to be 70+ acres. Other hunters are not allowed to hunt within these defined tracts. Only five areas were used for the 2019 hunting season. These five trial areas were off the multi-use trail that is accessible from Mountain Grove Road. Plans are to continue this initiative throughout the 2020 hunting season.

The remainder of Clark State Forest will continue to operate on a first come first serve basis. All of Clark is available for hunting except for designated safety zones. When in doubt, hunters should stay 300 feet away from any buildings, roads, or trails.



Questions about the program can be directed to Jack Basiger at 317-233-9382 or JBasiger@dnr.IN.gov.

New Faces

If you think you have noticed some new faces around Clark State Forest and Deam Lake State Recreation Area, you would be correct. Long time Clark State Forest office manager Loretta Amos moved on last fall to a new job. She was replaced by our current office manager named Wendy McClain, a Scott County resident for the past 24 years. She obtained her Bachelors of Science in Therapeutic Recreation and her Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education from Radford University.

The forestry staff has also changed. Clark State Forest has completely replaced its forestry staff over the past two years. Ryan Bartlett was hired as the new Forest Specialist the last part of 2017. He had just graduated from Purdue University with his Bachelors of Forestry in the spring of that year. Dustin Alwine was hired next as the second Forest Specialist in the fall of 2018. He graduated from Purdue as well in the spring of 2018 and spent a few months working for District Forester Maddie Westbrook before we picked him up.

Don Gore, Derrell Johnson, and Rocky Stephens are the other three full-time hires at Clark State Forest. They serve as the Laborer, Maintenance Repair, and Maintenance Foreman, respectively. With this full maintenance staff we now have, hopefully we can get Clark State Forest in tiptop shape.

Interns Making a Difference

As one may imagine, it's hard for the Forestry staff here at Clark State Forest to keep up with the entire 26,000+ acres. It is just impossible for two Foresters to do everything that needs done on all that land. That is why interns are so important.

This past summer, we received help from Cody Moore. Cody was a Purdue student who had just finished his freshman year of college. He worked for us this summer as an Invasive Species Control Intern. He greatly helped us out by treating invasive or exotic plants that are negatively affecting the health of our forests. Cody is a hard worker and we are glad to have had his help last summer.