

Please Join Us

Ferdinand-Pike State Forest will host its annual Open House at the Ferdinand forest office on Thursday, February 27 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>.



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EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE

The Ferdinand-Pike State Forest open house will be held on Thursday, February 27th from 4:00—7:00 pm at the Ferdinand State Forest office.

FAMILY NATURE FEST 2020

Keep a look out for our forthcoming advertisement of the 2020 Spring Family Nature Fest at Ferdinand State Forest. This event has usually taken place in April each year. Look for flyers at the property.



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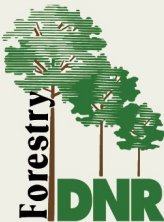
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Please join us on February 27th at our annual open house...



FERDINAND & PIKE STATE FORESTS

THE Ranger

Winter 2020

Explore the Nature Fest!

The 2019 Family Nature Fest held at Ferdinand State Forest on April 27, 2019 saw a crowd of 55 people attend. Visitors enjoyed coffee and snacks while learning about invasive species, beekeeping, and other interesting nature subjects. Also, some were able to participate in building an Aldo Leopold rustic bench. Activities included doubling up to use an old-fashioned crosscut saw to cut out tree “cookies” for use in arts and crafts, sampling stream life with kick nets, and a law enforcement canine demonstration led by Indiana DNR Conservation Officers.



The annual Nature Fest is a DNR-sponsored collaboration between staff at Ferdinand-Pike State Forest and the Four Rivers Forestry Committee. It is a free activity for the public and is one of the highlight events for the Forestry Committee, a group of landowners and forest professionals in southwest Indiana engaged in promoting forest management to ensure healthy forests for the next generations.

Judi Brown, of the Forestry Committee, says, “The Nature Fest is a fun way for families to get out and enjoy Ferdinand State Forest in the springtime. The Committee invites groups such as Purdue Extension and local Cooperative Weed Management Areas to participate with fun activities and crafts for families to do together. Spring wildflowers are in bloom during the time the fest is scheduled, so we always include a spring wildflower walk. And every year we try to bring in a presenter to share information about nature. In the past, we’ve featured raptors (eagles, owls, and hawks) as well as snakes. Our crosscut saw activity is always popular, and for the past couple of years, local boy scout troops have joined in the activities.”

The Nature Fest is an important event for Ferdinand-Pike State Forest, as it is a good opportunity for adults to share curiosity, exploration, and discovery with children. It also is a great way for young people to partner, and even take the lead, in the shared pursuit of enjoying the outdoors.

“A fun way for families to get out and enjoy Ferdinand State Forest in the springtime”



Ever hear there is nothing new left to discover? Try telling that to kids encountering crane fly larva for the first time. Or listen to the story of the time a newborn fawn turned up in the woods. Or, when knocking on the side of a log, a youngster exclaims, “That’s some good wood!” This participation in discovery and sharing has allowed excitement about nature to pass from one generation to the next. These encounters, and more, can be found at the Family Nature Fest. We hope you will come see us next spring. Also, come out to Ferdinand-Pike State Forest anytime and have a “nature fest” of your own making.



Volunteer Opportunities Increasing

Retired and looking for something to do? Are you a student or professional looking to gain experience in outdoor projects? Bring your family along and do something meaningful for your community by volunteering at Ferdinand-Pike State Forest. Your rewarding service helps the Division of Forestry accomplish our mission of managing, protecting, and conserving state forest resources for use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Help out by writing creative educational material, mowing, landscaping, painting buildings, performing trail maintenance, and tidying up on the property. Possible volunteer projects are as varied as the imagination. Other options can include development and improvement of trail marking and signage, interpretive displays, educational programs, designing & creating landscaping around the property, etc.

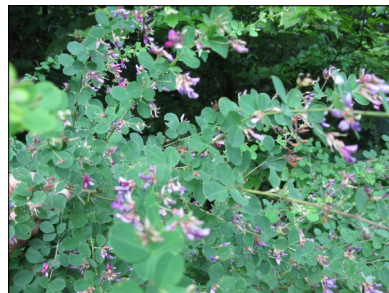
We want you to get plenty of good from volunteering. Protecting soil, air, minerals, water, forests, and wildlife from waste and unsustainable treatment brings an appreciation of working outdoors that will bring you back time and again. Your contribution counts.

Invasive Species Update

This summer two interns from Purdue, Saufina Kemp & Rebecca Justice, worked to control invasive species at infested sites in Ferdinand and Pike State Forests. Over the course of the summer, they performed eradication work across more than 120 acres. Sweeping measures are essential to protect the health and resilience of our forests.



Along a trail, and even into the deep woods, invasive plants have come from Asia, Russia, and Europe, choking out native plants. The most common invasives are bush honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese stiltgrass, autumn olive, and tree of heaven. Some invasive plants were planted for ornamental purposes as landscaping as far back as the late 1800s and early 1900s in Indiana. Unfortunately, people did not consider the problems with these plants. Government agencies also encouraged planting of autumn olive and bush honeysuckle to enhance wildlife habitat.



Invasive plants mostly come from environments that are very similar to ours (temperate forest). In their home land they are a normal part of the ecosystem, settling nicely in balance into their niche. Here in Indiana, they take over because they have characteristics which with native plants surrounding them cannot compete. Each invasive plant has an aggressive, spreading nature coupled with a highly successful ability to establish and grow in a variety of habitats.

These invasives create an impenetrable thicket in the woods, making it virtually impossible to regenerate the natural landscape. Thus it is necessary to kill invasive species in order to continue the next generation of trees within a woodland. If not, many areas of forest land will change to a shrubland thicket when trees overtop of them are gone.

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

Our high standards for timber harvesting meet or exceed the domestic and international sustainability requirements.

Timber Harvests



Timber harvests already sold

Compartment 9, Tract 8: An estimated 275,783 board feet (Doyle scale) and 131 cords on 78 acres was sold May 16, 2019 to Jim Graber Logging for \$63,530.00. This was a sealed bid sale. Three other bidders participated with the lowest bid being \$48,329.00. This tract is located in S36,T1S,R7W Marion Township in Pike County.

Compartment 11, Tract 6: An estimated 187,902 board feet (Doyle scale) and 44.3 cords on 40 acres was sold July 18, 2019 to Phil Etienne’s Timber Harvest for \$52,622.00. Two other bidders participated with the lowest bid being \$34,434.65. This tract is located in S10,T2S,R7W Marion Township in Pike County.



Timber harvests being marked

Compartment 3, Tract 6: An estimated 300,000-400,000 board feet (Doyle scale) and 297 cords on 177 acres is currently being marked for a possible sale in 2020. This tract is located in S9 & 10,T3S,R3W Jefferson Township in Dubois County.

Timber harvests to be marked

Compartment 7, Tracts 6 & 7: An estimated 250,000-300,000 board feet (Doyle scale) and 282 cords on 180 acres is planned to be marked for a possible sale in 2020. These tracts are located in S16 & 21,T4S,R3W Clark Township in Perry County.

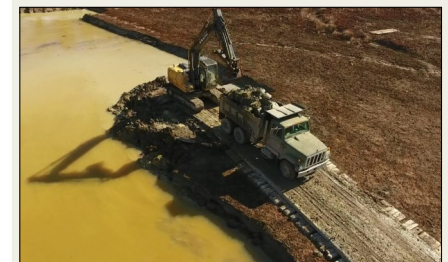
FSF + PSF UPDATES

PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT

Playgrounds at Ferdinand and Pike State Forests are scheduled for replacement within the next 2 years. New playgrounds will be placed in the campground at Ferdinand and by the Shelterhouse at Pike. These areas will be ADA accessible.

FERDINAND LAKE DREDGING

Dredging is set to begin at Ferdinand Lake as early as 2020. Pictured below, dredging operation at Starve Hollow State Recreation Area.



DIANE BEGLE RETIREMENT

After 23 years of employment with Ferdinand-Pike State Forest, the last 7 of those being full-time, Diane Begle has retired. Diane was office manager for both properties. Her last day was Friday July 12th. Thank you Diane!



CONTINUING PIKE REMODEL

Remodeling of the exterior siding at the Pike State Forest Service Building has been ongoing. Additionally, more energy-efficient windows and insulation are being installed.

VAULT TOILET REMODEL

Volunteers this summer completed rehab of all Romtec vault toilets around the property, a big thank you for the help!