



Harrison-Crawford State Forest

Special points of interest:

- Upcoming Open House
- A Departure and a New Arrival
- Wyandotte Cave Re-Opens

Our Annual Open House is coming up! September 22nd from 3:00pm to 7:00pm just come on by our office at 7240 Old Forest Rd SW Corydon, IN 47112

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Harrison-Crawford State Forest

August 2016

Greetings from the Property Manager – Dwayne Sieg

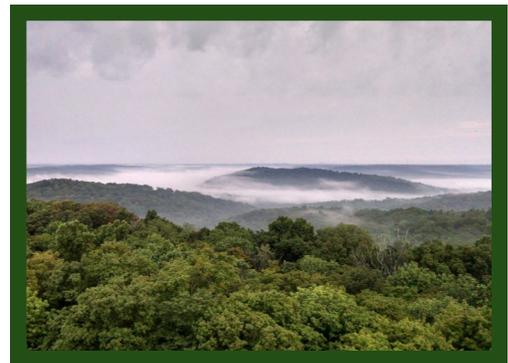
Greetings and hello from Harrison-Crawford State Forest. We have been busy here at the state forest with many different projects. One of our larger ongoing projects is the refurbishment of the state forest office. The original building was built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The enclosure of the breezeway is nearly complete and features paneling and a staircase built almost entirely of native hickory woodwork. Additionally, work has begun upstairs converting the space from storage space to newly refurbished offices. When complete the offices upstairs will feature white oak flooring and woodwork trimmed with black walnut. The staff have also been busily work-

ing to prepare timber sales, inventory timber, make timber stand improvements, install access roads and make repairs to existing access roads, do boundary work, and control invasive species. For three weeks this summer, two Purdue Forestry students spent time battling invasives species on the property. Their efforts were mainly directed toward spraying herbicide to control ailanthus (tree of heaven), autumn olive, multi-flora rose, and Japanese stilt grass. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is another invasive plaguing Indiana's forests. EAB probably arrived three to four years ago. Research suggests, EAB takes two to three years to start showing physical signs of damage. Last year

signs woodpeckers were removing bark looking for larvae and dieback in the crowns of ash trees became very noticeable. Efforts to locate and market tracts of timber containing larger amounts of ash have been underway for the past two years. For more information, please come see us at our annual open house on September 22nd from 3:00pm to 7:00pm EST. If you cannot make it, please feel free to stop by during our regular business hours which are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Closed weekends and Holidays. For more information visit us at www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/4826.htm. Don't forget to like us on Facebook. Have a great year!

Good Bye and Hello

In February 2016, here at Harrison-Crawford we were sad to say good bye to our laborer Dave Meyer who made large strides towards the completion of the office remodel before leaving to take a position with the town of Palmyra. Shortly thereafter we were happy to hire Jack Hopper. Jack, a long time resident of Southern Indiana, worked for Duke Energy for 31 years before moving with his wife to Harrison County to be closer to their granddaughter.



A view of Greenbrier Knob from the Wyandotte Fire Tower.
Photo Courtesy: Katie McGrath

Timber Harvests

To achieve our goal of sustainable forest management, one of the most critical tools we use here at the state forest is timber harvesting. Harvesting timber allows us to remove individually selected trees which have poor form, are diseased or are suffering from external stresses such as insect damage or drought, and trees that are shading out more desirable species or the regeneration of more desirable species. The more desirable species for Harrison-Crawford, like much of southern Indiana, are the oak and hickory species which would have historically dominated the landscape here. More common oak species would include those such as white oak, northern red oak, black oak, chinkapin oak, and chestnut oak. The more common hickory species would likely be pignut hickory and shagbark hickory. Shagbark are known to be an important source of refuge for the federally endangered Indiana Bat which is found only in the Midwest. All oak and hickory species are an important provider of mast, or a food source, to a variety of wildlife species including squirrels, turkey, and white-tailed deer, all of which are found in abundance here at Harrison-Crawford State Forest.

To help insure timber harvests are always done in a sustainable manner, all timber harvests done by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources at Harrison Crawford State Forest are independently certified by two third party certifiers, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). SFI strives to promote sustainable forest management, conserve biological diversity, and promote and improve sound forestry practices. They can be found online at <http://www.sfiprogram.org/buy-sfi/>. FSC, a non-profit organization, states they move to promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial, and economically prosperous forest management. They can be found online at <https://us.fsc.org/>. We share their goals of sustainable management and biological diversity are our goals here at Harrison-Crawford.

In 2016, Harrison-Crawford State Forest held five timber sales. The first of these harvest areas is located north off of SR-62 west of Wyandotte (tract 1802). By using sustainable management techniques in 1989 when this area was last harvested, foresters have been able to facilitate the growth of desirable hardwoods. Pictured below, summer intern Katie McGrath stands by a large marked ash in a similar area also cut in 1989.



Pictured Above: After a sustainable harvest in 1989, this area of the State Forest remained forested and is now ready for a harvest.

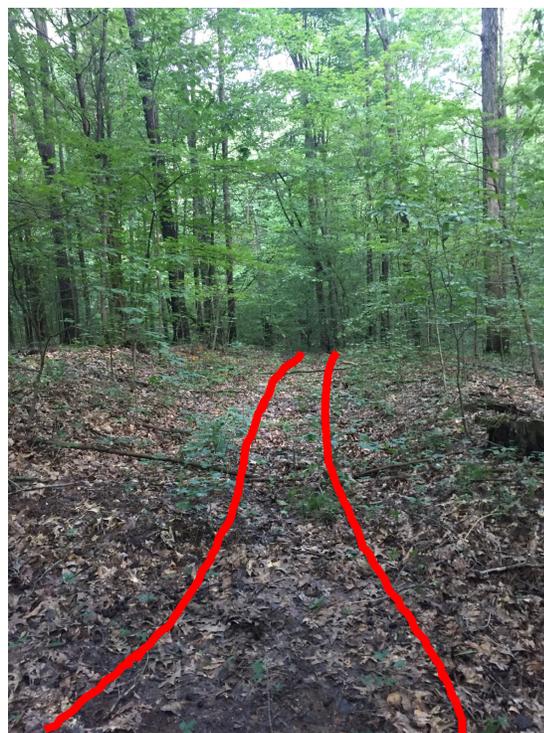
Timber Harvests (continued)

The second of these harvest areas is located south of Cold Friday Rd in Harrison County (tract 3105). A third of the sawtimber on this sale was ash. Ashes across the country are being threatened by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This non-native beetle feeds on the inner bark of ash trees eventually killing them. Removing ash trees removes the borers' food source and allows foresters to capture the value of the trees. The third timber harvest, which was harvested last winter, was made up entirely of ash to be salvaged before EAB affects the area any further. The fourth timber harvest area is located south off SR-62 west of Wyandotte (tract 1803). Like much of the land which makes up Harrison-Crawford State Forest, this area was pastured at the time it was bought. Over the last 50 years, the land has had a chance to recuperate from some of the abuse from years of farming, but the area (like so many others) has grown back to cedar. A harvest in this area should facilitate the growth of hardwood species such as oaks and hickories. The fifth and final harvest area is located north of the "Little Italy" parking area off of SR-62 in Harrison County. This sale is comprised almost entirely of cedar. Removing the cedar should allow the existing young hardwoods to flourish.

Collectively these five sales included more than 1.1 million board feet of timber and generated \$216,000 in revenue. When the state holds a timber harvest, 15% of the revenue goes to the County in which the harvest was held. This year Harrison-Crawford State Forest will probably be giving around \$100,000 back to Harrison and Crawford counties!

Please remember these areas are closed while harvesting operations are ongoing for your safety and the safety of the loggers as well. Please be aware of trail closures and details and carefully read any signage that may be posted. If you are interested in a harvest operation or would like to see one up close, please feel free to contact our office and we will be glad to accompany you and provide a safe experience.

Maps of tract locations, public comment forms, and other information can be found on the Division of Forestry Website, <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3635.htm>. Management plans, maps, and the opportunity to ask questions and make comments will also be available at our **annual open house on September 22nd from 3:00pm to 7:00pm EST**.

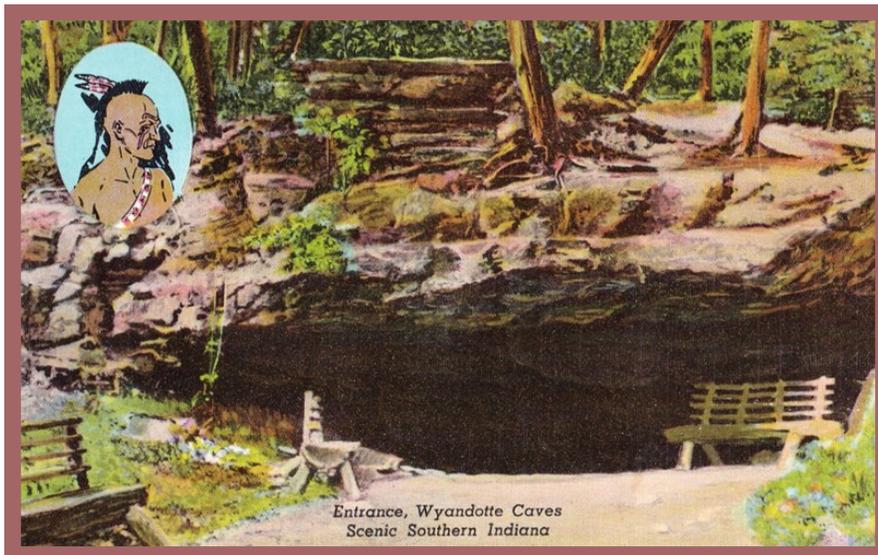


Can You see the old Skid Trail? During a harvest, loggers use machines called skidders to drag logs out of the forest. The path or "skid trail" used in 1989 when the area was last harvested has all but disappeared.

In Other News

Here at Harrison-Crawford State Forest we work with some very unique and special partners. Situated in the heart of the State Forest, visitors will find O'Bannon Woods State Park which hosts a slew of recreational facilities including a swimming pool, nature center, and newly re-opened Wyandotte Cave. Ever seen an Eastern hellbender? A research team out of Purdue University has! They've been working to study and release hellbenders in the Blue River.

What's Happening at Wyandotte Cave?!



Entrance, Wyandotte Caves
Scenic Southern Indiana

In 2006, a new fungal disease affecting bats was noticed in New York. The disease, which probably originated overseas, has spread quickly since then. The disease, White-nose Syndrome (WNS), causes bats to grow a white fungus on their nose and wings. Irritated by the fungus, bats will awake early from hibernation and freeze or starve during the cold winter months. Wyandotte Cave was initially closed in 2009 to help prevent the spread of WNS by removing the opportunity for people to transport the fungus into the cave on their clothes or shoes. With WNS in the area already this has become less of a concern and Wyandotte Cave was re-opened in July. Visitors can now take a two hour walking tour, which are available Friday through Sunday at 11:00am or 1:00pm for \$18 (adult price). Make sure you come on over for a tour before Labor Day Weekend (weekend of September 3rd) at which point the cave will close for the winter allowing the bats to hibernate in peace. Thus after eight years of closure, an attraction dating back to the 1800's is once again available for Hoosiers and cave enthusiasts from all over!

What's Happening with the Hellbenders?

Eastern hellbenders are North America's largest and most unique salamanders. They can even reach lengths greater than 2 feet! The hellbenders are fully aquatic and require cool, well-oxygenated rivers and streams. Because they require high-quality water and silt-free, rocky stream bottoms, they are thought to be indicators of healthy stream ecosystems. While individuals may live up to 29 years, possibly longer, many populations of this unique salamander are in decline across their geographic range. Purdue University has been working to study hellbenders in the Blue River and plans to release 80 juveniles next summer. Several of the hellbenders have even acquired nicknames such as Starburst and Dink.



<https://usfwsnortheast.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/hellbenderbucket-e1364848752234.jpg>

Established 1932

By the 1930's much of southern Indiana had been cleared for farmland but the land had become eroded and was striped of its nutrients due to over farming. James B. Brewster a prominent local lawyer and an Indiana State Senator promoted the idea of creating a forest preserve to the General Assembly between 1924 and 1934. In 1932, that idea came to life with the creation of Harrison-Crawford State Forest. Brewster was among the first property owners to sell land to the state forest. He sold almost 1,000 acres to the state over the course of 5 years. Other families who sold land to the state in the early 1930s included: the Briles, Coles, Connors, Curhams, Curts, Gwartneys, Hannells, Hudsons, Johnson,s Lowes, Maucks, McAdams, McCabes, Pfeisters, Pfrimmers, Rothrocks, Smiths, Whitworths, and Zimmermans.

Pictured Top Right: A picture of the Service Barn of Harrison-Crawford State Forest with the fire tower in the background, thought to be taken in the 1930's. The Service Barn is still standing and in use and the fire tower is available for the public to climb and view the state forest. from.



With the Great Depression at its peak in 1933 and a quarter of the American work force out of a job, May 31, 1934 the 517th Company of the Civilian Conservation Corps arrived at Harrison-Crawford State Forest from Fort Knox. The 517th was one of the few all African American companies of the CCC. These men left a legacy of buildings (including the state forest office), walkways, and tree plantings we can still see today.

Pictured Bottom Right: members of the 517th company of the CCC constructing a retaining wall.

Each man received \$30 a month, \$25 of which was sent home to their families.

Photo Courtesy of Anne Cabaniss



State Forest Office:
(812) 738-7694

Property Staff:
Dwayne Sieg,
Property Manager

Brittanie Sillings,
Office Manager

Wayne Werne,
Forester

Elena Wilcoxson,
Forester

Jack Hopper,
Laborer

**Cooperative Forest
Management
(Classified Forest
Program)**
Abby Irwin,
District Forester
(extension: 790)

Interested in Volunteering?

We are looking for individuals or organizations to help us out with maintenance, construction, and wildlife projects. If interested please give us a call.

Invasive Species: Beefsteak Plant

Article Courtesy of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Beefsteak plant was introduced into the United States as an ornamental, culinary herb and salad plant by Asian immigrants in the late 1800s. It is a traditional crop of China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand and other Asian countries. Beefsteak plant is reported to be extremely invasive by wind-borne seeds. Beefsteak plant readily escapes cultivation into nearby natural areas where it can disrupt ecosystems, pushing out the native vegetation. Disturbed sites are especially prone to invasion. Avoided by cattle, this species is toxic to livestock and other herbivores.

What's it Look Like?

Beefsteak plant is a freely branching herb that may reach a couple feet in height. Its serrated, ovate leaves are generally purple or green. Between July and October, auxiliary and terminal clusters of white and purple bell-shaped flowers appear, each flower with distinctive fine hairs at the base. Stems and leaves have a strong odor that is reminiscent of basil and coleus or raw beef.

What Can I do about It?

Try planting other members of the mint family (Lamiaceae) such as bee balm (*Monarda* sp.), mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum* sp.) or horse-balm (*Collinsonia canadensis*) instead of beefsteak plant. Plants grown for culinary use should be watched closely and prevented from going to seed. Try growing indoors or in a greenhouse. To prevent the spread of this species, deadhead spent flowers, or cut off seeds or fruits before they ripen. Seedlings and shallow-rooted plants can be pulled when the soil is moist. Dig out larger plants, including the root system. Beefsteak plant can be effectively controlled by general herbicides such as glyphosate.



<http://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/viewSpecies.php?species=3735>