

Outdoor

May/June 02 \$2.50

INDIANA

FOXES

FAMILY TRAVEL

NEW MUSEUM

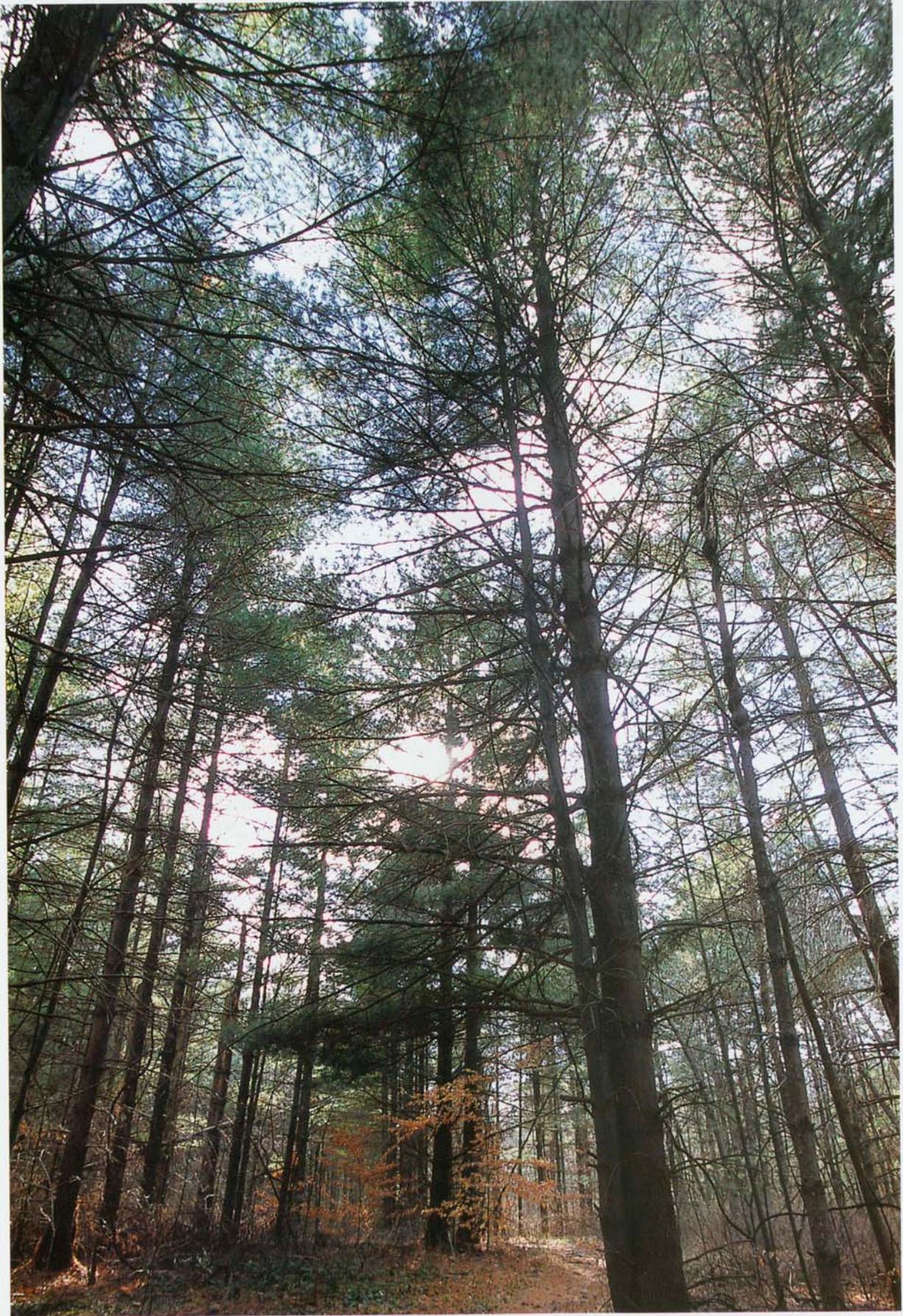
MOUNTAIN BIKES

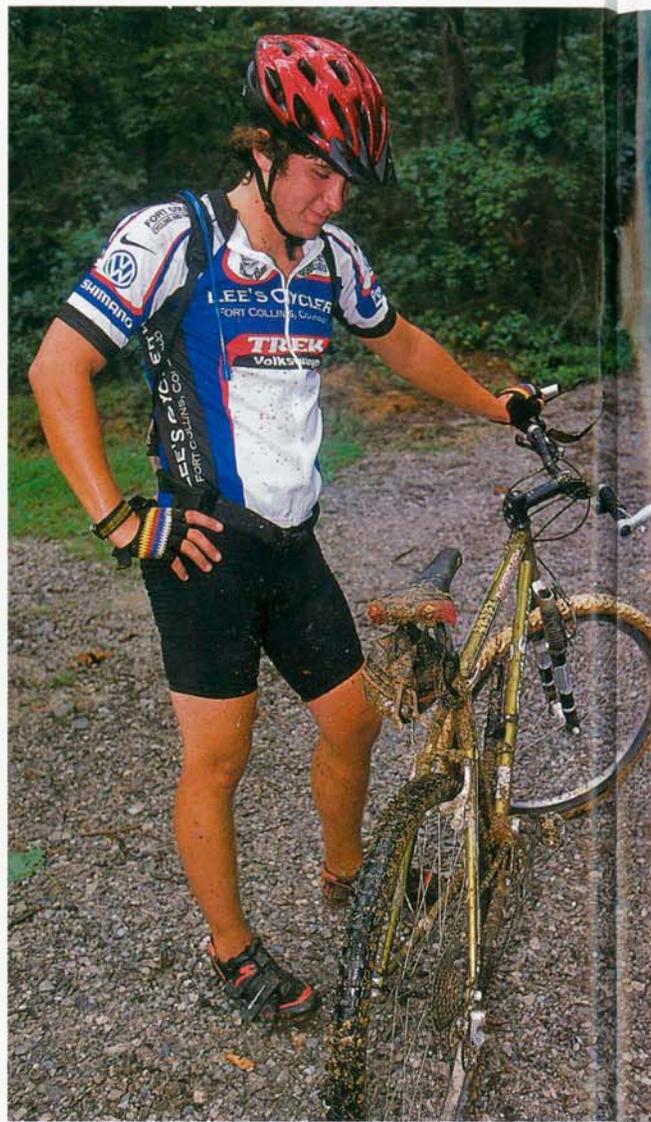


Single *trackin'*

By Ted E. Mioduski III
Photography by Richard Fields







The trails

Jackson-Washington State Forest and Starve Hollow SRA

Near Brownstown
12.2 total miles
Moderate/Difficult

Nestled in the hills just east of Brownstown, this landscape provides a truly thrilling array of deep woods riding.

The two separate rides alone span more than 12 miles within the densely forested woods of Jackson County, making a great workout both on and off the bike.

Brenda Cooper, an employee at Jackson-Washington recalls: "One man came in with his \$4,000 bike. I gave him directions to the trails. He came back a few hours later and said that he had ridden for a long time and that we had some of the toughest terrain he had seen. Sometimes I just think those boys need to learn how to hike."



Cooper was right. I often found myself dismounting my bike for a few paces.

The terrain in parts sometimes became very steep, and muddy conditions existed even though the weather wasn't wet. Sometimes a muddy ride leaves evidence on your body that you had fun, but riding in the mud leaves ruts that cause trouble for future riders and hikers.

Be sure to monitor the weather, especially for these two areas in particular, since rain can cause thick mud and steep hills to become instant hazards.

To get to Jackson-Washington State Forest, take U.S. 50 West at the Seymour exit and drive about 10 miles through Brownstown. From there, turn left at Indiana 250 and head east. The property entrance is two miles down the road on the left.

Follow signs to the property office where you can find trail maps and directions to the trailhead.

Contact:

- 812-358-2160 (Jackson-Washington State Forest)
- 812-359-3464 (Starve Hollow SRA)



have heard our trails are not exactly for the novice rider.”

I soon found out what Doug was talking about. With its trailhead just inside the forest entrance on the left, I first rode the Foxy Hollow Trail, about 1.3 miles long.

I marveled at the excellent condition of the trail, as well as its steep winding singletrack, which left me more exhausted than I anticipated.

Singletrack trails are known as a delicacy of the mountain biking world, and Ferdinand State Forest has plenty of them.

Five separate trails make up the property’s 8.8 total miles, which are well maintained. See the forest office for a map and details.

Contact:

- 812-367-1524 (Ferdinand State Forest)



Martin State Forest

Near Shoals

7 total miles

Moderate/Difficult

Just east of Shoals on U.S. 50, Martin State Forest has one of the most well-kept and easy to follow trails of the five bike-accessible state forests. Just about a mile inside of the forest on the left you’ll

find the trailhead leading to 7 miles of deep-woods biking designed in some parts for more advanced riders.

At Martin State Forest, you’ll find steep hills perfect for exciting downhill descents.

Several water crossings give the trail added challenge.

With map in hand it is nearly impossible to get lost within the woods of Martin State Forest; all trails are well marked at every intersection and trailhead.

