

Please Join Us

Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests will host their annual Open House at the Morgan-Monroe forest office 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>.



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EVENTS

- February 26, 2020 — Open House at Morgan-Monroe State Forest, 4-7 p.m.

Please keep a lookout for the following upcoming announcements:

- Grand Opening of the New Hike Bike Trail and new Public Bathroom
- Grand Opening of the Trail Side Shelter on Indian Hill along the Tecumseh Trail



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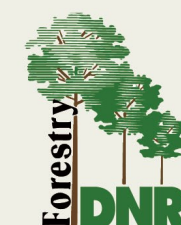
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MORGAN-MONROE and YELLOWWOOD STATE FORESTS

FOREST Quill

Winter 2020

Clif Bar Volunteer Tree Planting

By: Michael Spalding, Resource Supervisor

On a sunny day in April, nearly 40 volunteers from the Clif Bar Baking Company of Indianapolis took a scenic bus ride down to Yellowwood State Forest to assist with a reforestation tree planting project on Bear Creek Road in northern Brown County. These volunteers hand planted over 3,000 trees on approximately 6 acres in two fields. Species planted included those that are difficult to regenerate naturally in the forest: northern red oak, white oak, and black walnut. This planting project was made possible through a generous donation by the Clif Bar Family Foundation. Another tree planting was completed on October 29, 2019. This time not only did the Clif Bar Family Foundation and Clif Bar Baking Company assist, but also the Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever. This planting included 3,000 white oak and northern red oak seedlings.

Other recent volunteer projects at Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests included two separate Americorps NCCC teams that served the forests. One team served during fall 2018 and worked to help manage invasive plants on state forest land in Brown, Monroe, and Morgan counties. Another team served in spring 2019 and assisted with constructing control lines for prescribed fire projects and also assisted with conducting multiple prescribed fires.




Nearly 40 Clif Bar volunteers assisted with planting nearly 3,000 trees at Yellowwood State Forest.



Kayaks

Available for Rent at Yellowwood State Forest



\$8/Hour

\$20/Day

Available for rent

Monday - Saturday

Kayaks must be returned by 3:45 pm

Backcountry Camping Policy:

1. All campers must register with State Forest Office via person, phone 765-792-4654, or sign in sheet at kiosk. Users must indicate the general region of planned camping. During periods of high-fire danger, the area may be closed by the Property Manager.
2. Camping groups are restricted to family units, or groups not exceeding six persons.
3. No campsite may be established within ¼ mile of access points into the area.
4. Use of the area is restricted to a maximum of three nights by any individual.
5. Carry in/Carry out trash policy, i.e., what you carry in you must carry out.
6. Minimal impact camping/hiking in backcountry area to preserve natural state of forest.



Kiosk at Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

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


Changing of the Guards

By: Katharine McPherson

There have been many changes in personnel during the past 2 years. Jim Allen, the long-time Property Manager, retired in January 2018. He had been with DNR for 35 years, serving as a forester at Yellowwood, Owen-Putnam, and Clark state forests. During his tenure, several chunks of land have been added to the State Forest system, including Ravinia Woods, the former Girl Scout Camp, and Mt. Tea, as well as some adjoining property. Also, Yellowwood Lake was dredged, and part of Yellowwood Lake Road was paved.


Darren Bridges filled Jim’s position, overseeing Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood state forests as well as continuing his role as the State Fire Coordinator. He has been with the State for a number of years in various positions, including the Assistant Property Manager at Martin State Forest and Assistant Fire Coordinator.

The Assistant Property Manager has also changed as Jon Roales took a position at Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area, and Heather Zengler was hired as the new assistant manager. Heather worked for the Soil and Water Conservation District in southern Indiana before coming to work at Morgan-Monroe State Forest.



Assistant Property Manager
Heather Zengler


At the same time, Derrick Potts has accepted the Assistant Property Manager position at Yellowwood State Forest. He has worked at Jackson-Washington State Forest as well as at Yellowwood as a Resource Specialist.



Grant Coordinator Laura Morse

Laura Morse is the new Grant Coordinator at Fire Headquarters/ Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Prior to joining the state, Laura worked in the medical field at a Pathology Lab for 26 years.

After over 15 years of service Laurie Burgess left Yellowwood, for other opportunities. In October 2019 Cole Jones, a recent graduate from Purdue University, was hired to assume her duties. Cole comes to Yellowwood with a diversity of experience.




Resource Specialist Cole Jones

After recently moving to the area, Michael Tryon was hired as full-time maintenance at Yellowwood State Forest.

MMSF + YWSF UPDATES

- New Paved Hike Bike Trail at Morgan-Monroe State Forest.
- Plans of building a new trail shelter along the Tecumseh Trail are being finalized.
- Morgan-Monroe State Forest has moved into the new office.
Hours of operation:
Monday—Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Yellowwood State Forest will be making updates to its campgrounds in the coming year, including electric sites and a comfort station.
- Yellowwood State Forest
Summer Hours of Operation:
Monday—Saturday
8:30 a.m. to noon
12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Morgan-Monroe State Forest and Fire Headquarters Move into New Building



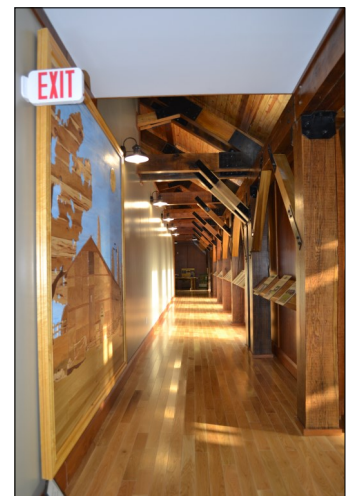
By: Heather Zengler, Assistant Property Manager

In October 2016, Morgan-Monroe State Forest broke ground on the remodel and expansion of its office building. In May 2019, Morgan-Monroe State Forest and Fire Headquarters moved into the new building. The building was built all in-house by DOC (Department of Correction) offenders and Morgan-Monroe/Fire Headquarters staff. Maintenance foreman Matt Morse oversaw the crew of offenders that worked on the building from demolition to turn key.

The office building contains 18 different species of wood, which was harvested primarily from dead trees salvaged from Morgan-Monroe and Jackson-Washington state forests. The fireplace mantel is made from reclaimed barn beams from a DNR Nature Preserve in Montgomery County. Some of the roof decking was reclaimed from a Department of Defense building in Charlestown.

Clad in native stone and yellow poplar siding, from the interior one meets with yellow poplar trusses set atop white oak beams in this modern park rustic structure that houses numerous educational displays encompassing such topics as the history of the property, cultural and ecological features, wildlife, and forest management.

At the new building there is a timeline of Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Those who visit the new office building will see a fireplace and handmade wood panels. Offices for both Morgan-Monroe State Forest and Fire Headquarters are located in the remodeled building. Come visit Morgan-Monroe State Forest and see the newly remodeled office.



What Can You Do to Prevent Invasive Species on State Forest Property?

By: Michael Spalding, Resource Supervisor

Smokey Bear says “only you can prevent wildfires.” The same can be said about invasive species infestations. We need your help to curb the spread of these plants throughout our forested ecosystems, both public and private. How can you help? First of all, do not plant non-native invasive species in your landscaping. A terrestrial plant rule went into effect April 18, 2019 that makes it illegal to sell, gift, barter, exchange, distribute, transport, or introduce 44 species of plants in Indiana. The details can be read at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/6351.htm>. Unfortunately, several invasive plants did not make this list and can still be bought in Indiana. Two of these that are showing up aggressively in our forests include winged burning bush and flowering pear (not the edible fruit-producing varieties). Second, never dump your yard trimmings out at state forest parking lots. We commonly find where people have dumped their tree limbs, ornamental grass clippings, and even vines in parking lots. These spread directly into the forest and cause harm. Last, if you own land (even a small lot around your home), learn to identify invasive plants and remove them. Many local resources are available, including MCIRIS, Brown County Native Woodlands Project, and the Invasive Management Cooperative of Morgan County. If you own a few acres or more of natural lands, you can contact the NRCS for information about cost-share assistance for treating invasive plants. Birds, people, and water can move invasive species around, so we need the support of each other to be successful against invasive species.

Invasive Species at Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forest

Autumn Olive

Elaeagnus umbellata



Bush Honeysuckle *Lonicera* spp.



Japanese Barberry *Berberis thunbergii*



Winged Burning Bush *Euonymus alatus*



Tree of Heaven

Ailanthus altissima



Multiflora Rose *Rosa Multiflora*



All pictures from bugwood.org.