

# Please Join Us

Martin State Forest will host its annual Open House at the 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>.



## EVENTS

### February 27:

Open House - 4-7 p.m. at the forest office



# WILLOW VALLEY Post

Winter 2020

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

After more than 40 years of serving as the property manager for Martin State Forest, Jim Lauck is now enjoying his retirement. We are happy to announce that Joshua Kush (pictured below) has accepted the position of property manager of Martin State Forest and assumed the title and duties as of June 2019. Joshua spent the last several years as a resource specialist at Martin State Forest, and before that he served as the assistant property manager at Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Please welcome Joshua as he assumes his new duties.



After spending most of her career in northern Indiana, please welcome Donna Horton, our new office manager, to the hills of southern Indiana. She brings strong skill sets with a great personality. She's a master of keeping the office running and of avoiding having her picture taken. Please stop in and say hi the next time that you are in the neighborhood.

Two additional positions, that of maintenance/repair and resource specialist, will hopefully be hired within the following months. We look forward to the filling of these vacant positions and the oncoming of new staff to the property.

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14040 WILLIAMS RD.  
SHOALS, IN 47581

CONTACT US:  
(812) 247-3491  
MARTINSF@DNR.IN.GOV



## Volunteer Opportunities

We have a small staff here at Martin State Forest, and there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer.

Whether it is coming in on Monday mornings and helping us by picking up trash at the campground, cleaning up the shelter houses after weekend use, helping keep the trails cleared of downed trees or acting as a campground host for a weekend, we appreciate everything our volunteers do.

If you are interested in volunteering at Martin State Forest, please contact our office for more information at 812-247-3491.



## Proposed Timber Management in the Forest

Compartment 1 Tracts 2 & 5; Compartment 5, Tracts 6 & 8; Compartment 6, Tract 7; Compartment 7, Tract 5; and Compartment 8, Tract 6 are proposed for intermediate timber harvests. Individual trees will be marked by staff foresters to improve overall quality of each of the tracts. Typically the trees that are marked are poorer quality trees such as lightning-damaged, insect-weakened or diseased trees. Occasionally, where groups of trees have died or are declining, group selection openings are made to encourage establishment of seedlings that require substantial amounts of sunlight.

Controlled burns are planned in Compartment 4, Tract 4; Compartment 4, Tract 2; Compartment 5, Tract 8; and in a 1-acre kudzu patch on the Combs Unit of the forest. Please note that these plans are subject to change.



## 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 encompass 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.

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>521,240</b>

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

## Martin Lake Shelter House Rebuild

The post and timber components that were used in the reconstruction of this shelter house were sawn from trees that grew here at Martin State Forest. Some of those trees were growing right at that location. These trees had either recently died or were showing significant signs of stress or disease. They were felled by property staff, and the logs were hauled to the Branchville Correctional Facility. Once there, the white oak logs were sawn into the posts, the black oak logs were sawn into the beams and braces, and the tulip tree (yellow poplar) logs were sawn into the truss components. Even though the trees are now gone, their legacy lives on in this shelter house.

Staying true to our goal, we accomplished all of the work ourselves.

After numerous weather delays and other issues not planned for, the shelter was nearly completed and reopened for use for the Labor Day holiday of 2018. The final touches of staining and constructing a new sidewalk behind the shelter house was completed this spring.



## New Playground at the Campground

Introducing our new ADA compliant playground completed in December 2018. The playground is located at the center of our campground and has its own parking area.



## MSF UPDATE

### Future Projects for Martin State Forest

- ◆ Due to the deterioration of our existing water lines, we hope to be replacing a good portion of the lines throughout the forest. Originally installed in 1980, these lines have sprung leaks over the past couple of years. The leaks have been repaired but pressure in the lines has diminished. We hope to improve the lines to have ample pressure throughout the property.
- ◆ Plans to build flower boxes in front of the new front entrance signs are in process. Native foliage will be used.
- ◆ There will also be a new kiosk installed at the campground soon. This will have more area to supply property-specific information as well as an improved camper check-in area.
- ◆ A new restroom will be installed soon at the campground.
- ◆ Additional pull-through campsites are being constructed.

