Please Join Us

Salamonie River/Frances Slocum State Forest will host its annual Open House at the 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.

EVENTS

National Trails Day Volunteer Day:

We will be holding a volunteer work day on Saturday, June 6 in honor of National Trails Day. Please meet at the Horsemen's Day Use Parking Lot at the back of the Horsemen's Campground at 9:00 a.m. if you are interested in volunteering. Please bring a water bottle, work gloves, a set of loppers, and/or a shovel, and a sack lunch if you plan on working past noon, and please come dressed for the weather. Watch the Division of Forestry's Facebook page for more updates.

Special Halloween Weekend

Date is TBD, look for more information to come this summer.

Salamonie River State Forest

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LAGRO, IN 46941

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DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

SALAMONIE RIVER STATE FOREST

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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Learn about our planned improvement timber harvest.

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Read about our hardworking interns and the work they competed.

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Learn about the variety of DNR ownerships and land management.

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Read about recent upgrades to the property trails.

P4: OUR NEW MAP!
Get to know all that Salamonie River has to offer with our updated Horse & Hiking Trails Map.

P5: Invasive Species Progress
Invasive species can devastate a landscape. See what has been done to combat this issue.

P6: National Trails Day Volunteer Day
Come celebrate National Trails Day with us!

P6: Please Join Us!
Join us at our upcoming open house and learn more about the properties.

Forestry DNR

ALONG THE SALAMONIE

Winter 2020

We LOVE Our Volunteers

It is amazing what a small group of dedicated individuals can accomplish. I am just in awe of my volunteers here at Salamonie River and Frances Slocum state forests as they continue to make vital contributions to both properties. When you need them, they are there no matter how daunting or minuscule the task. This past year volunteers have assisted with trail maintenance, installing the new hitching posts in the horsemen's campground, painting projects, invasive removal work, acting as campground hosts, doing trash clean-up, removing trees, and making repairs to the office fireplace & conference room, and Civilian Conservation Corps picnic tables in the Hominy Ridge Picnic Area.

The BIRDS

The Division of Forestry presented Jerry and Renee Bird with the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award at the Division of Forestry's annual meeting last February as a thank you for all of their hard work and many hours of service they have donated to help make Salamonie River State Forest a wonderful place for all to enjoy.

Our Fantastic Interns

We were very lucky to be able to hire three absolutely wonderful interns in 2019. Nathan Hardcastle, Andrew Kaylor, and Bailey McIntire worked extremely hard this past summer through the rain, the mud, the heat, and the bugs to tackle invasive species, drainage issues on our trails, update trail signage, and to assist with every project we have thrown their way. I hope that they will look back fondly on their time here at the forest and that they will take the skills they have learned this summer and utilize them in their future endeavors. **Thank you and good luck to all three of you!**

Managing Our Forests Wisely

Forestry personnel have recently completed the marking work for an improvement harvest on Salamonie River State Forest in Compartment 1, Tract 3 with plans of selling the timber in 2020. Total tract acreage is 121 acres, however, not all 121 acres have been marked for harvest and the majority of the marking consists of thinning and single tree selection. There are no clear-cuts planned for this improvement harvest.

Portions of Tract 3 were cleared for agricultural use during the 1800s to early 1900s. These areas were planted to pine by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp 589 in the mid to late 1930s. Many of the pines are in decline, or have already died out, and hardwoods have begun to move into the area. The tract also contains areas of older mixed hardwoods located mainly along the Salamonie River and in drainages.

The goal of this improvement harvest is to remove some of the dying, over mature, poorly formed, suppressed, and damaged trees in order to release the better quality, healthy trees in the area. This will improve spacing and resource availability to the remaining trees as well as allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor to promote the regeneration of native hardwoods such as oaks, black walnuts, tulip trees, and hickories. This work is accomplished by individually selecting every tree that is going to be harvested.

Past timber harvests have occurred on Salamonie River State Forest in 2009, 1989, 1986, 1984, 1982, 1980, 1978, and 1967. It is thanks to the hard work of CCC Camp 589 and the continued management practices of the Division of Forestry that Salamonie River State Forest has developed and flourished into the woods that we know and love today.

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
Total	**521,240**

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

Tackling Our Invasive Species

Salamonie River State Forest staff has been hard at work cutting and treating non-native invasive plant species found on our property. A non-native invasive plant species is a plant that has been brought into the United States from another country and is now aggressively invading our native habitat types. These invasive plants tend to outcompete and even choke out or prevent the growth of native plants. Species that we are currently working on treating at Salamonie River include: Asian bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, garlic mustard, Japanese barberry, teasel, and burning bush.

Intern Nathan Hardcastle uses a brush saw to cut back multiflora rose.

A view down Firelane 1 after the Asian bush honeysuckle had been cut back and out of the lane. Clearing the growth within the lanes first will help staff to access the rest of the property in order to continue to treat invasive species.

SRSF UPDATE

- Our office sells bridle tags, state park annual entrance passes, and boat permits. Get yours today.
- You can reserve the Hominy Ridge Shelterhouse up to one year in advance for events such as weddings, family reunions, birthday parties, scout troops, and graduation parties. Some events may require a special event permit. Contact our office for more information at 260-782-0430.
- Our office sells firewood cutting permits for Salamonie River State Forest that allow you to cut firewood from our property to help you to heat your homes in the winter. Permits are $10.00 for a basic pickup truck load or $25.00 for three loads.
- If you love to camp and love Salamonie River State Forest, then do we have a position for you! Volunteer campground host positions at Salamonie River State Forest are still available for the 2020 camping season. Contact our office for more information.

Trail Maintenance & Erosion Mitigation Efforts

State forest staff have worked hard this year to install water bars, drainages, and cutouts along our trails despite the constant rains, the hot days, and the bugs. These water diversions should help move surface water off of the trails and onto the undisturbed forest floor. These practices should help our trails dry quicker after a rainstorm, reduce the number of muddy spots, and reduce the amount of soil erosion issues that we have along our trail system. Staff have also begun the hard work of closing off and signing unofficial trails as well as seeding and strawing many of them to help reduce soil erosion issues. Visitors can assist in our efforts by hiking and horseback riding only on the official trail system and by not climbing up and down the sides of the waterfalls or steep ravines.

The new water bars are capped with stone in order to help them last longer against the constant impact created by hikers and horseback riders. Installation of the new water bars will continue in 2020.

Our summer trails intern, Andrew Kaylor, works to close off access to an unofficial trail that has severe soil erosion problems.

This past spring, staff filled in an area near the Hominy Ridge Picnic Area restroom that had seen severe soil erosion over the last several years. They then seeded the area, strawed it, and strategically placed silt socks to prevent the erosion issue from occurring again. Staff will remove the protective barricades once the seed is growing well and the new soil has had time to settle into place.

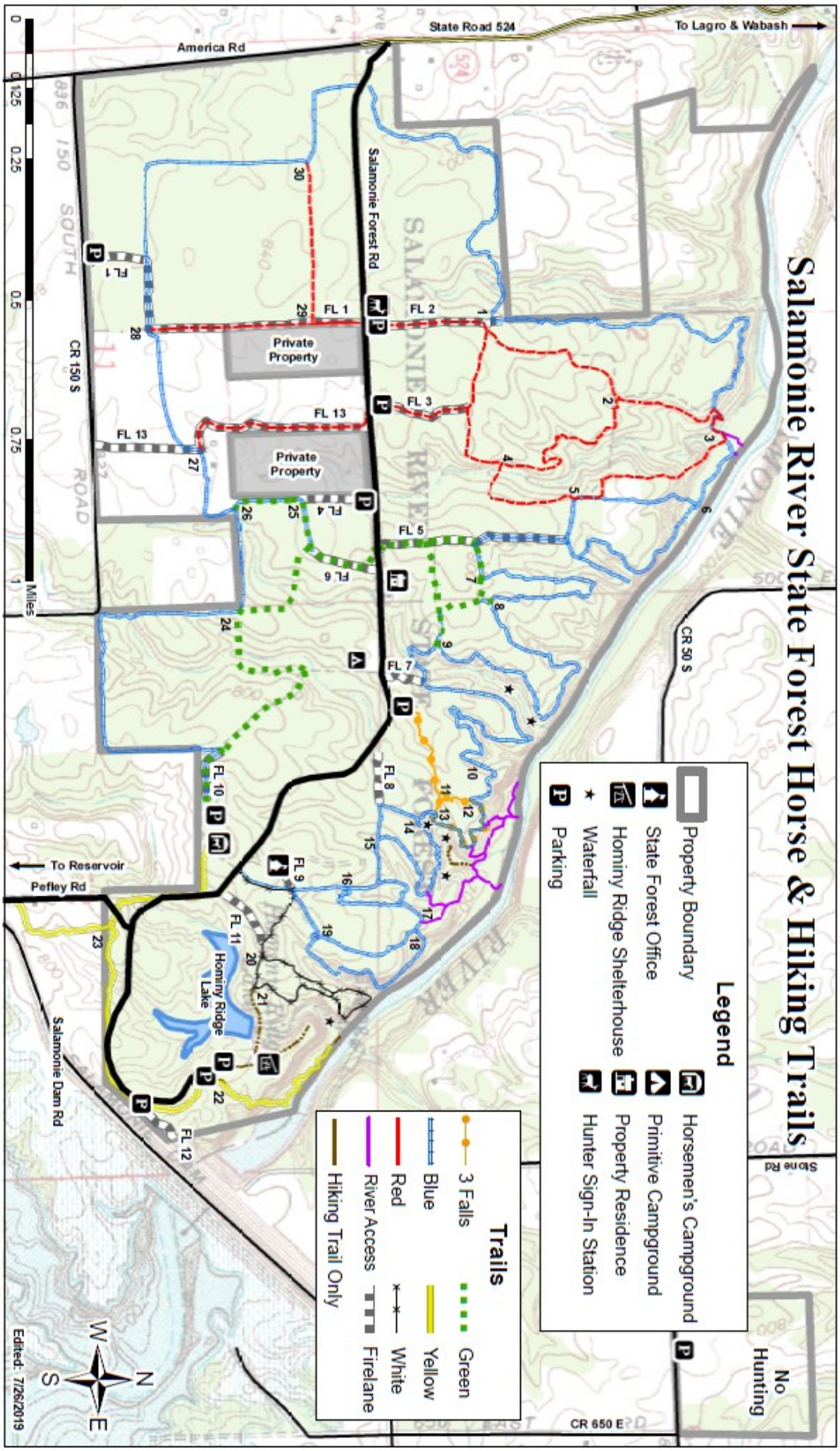
Interns Andrew Kaylor and Bailey McIntire test the foot bridge that they constructed through a very muddy area along Three Falls Trail. They also worked on installing water bars and strategically placing stone along the trail.

Map Updates

A few updates may still be made but our goal is to have the new map off to the printers later this year.

Post Numbers

As we update the trail signage at Salamonie River State Forest with new carsonite posts and colored trail markers we will be numbering certain posts with the corresponding number on the new map (currently numbered 1 through 30 but additional numbered posts may be added). This number system will help property visitors to correctly identify exactly where they are on the property. This will help reduce the number of visitors that get lost and make it easier for staff and emergency responders to find visitors who need assistance.

New Trails

A few of the unofficial trails have been selected to be signed and turned into official trails at Salamonie River State Forest. One trail will lengthen the Blue Trail and the other trails will create the new River Access Trail and official access into the base of the Three Falls Waterfalls from the new River Access Trail. These new trails should be signed and opened for use later this year.