



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | March 15, 2018

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## SCIENTISTS TO PRESENT FINDINGS FROM INDIANA FOREST & WILDLIFE STUDY

(Indianapolis, IN)—The Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA) will present a special symposium documenting the results of an intensive inventory of Indiana trees and other plants, reptiles, amphibians, birds, lichens, moths, bees, and mammals (including bats) on a 100+ year-old tract of state forest.

The symposium is part of the day-long 133rd Annual Academy Meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science, Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

“For the past four years, the IFA has obtained permits from the DNR and engaged teams of scientists from 13 Indiana colleges and universities to conduct this research documenting biodiversity within this mature hardwood forest,” said Dr. Rae Schnapp, conservation director at the Indiana Forest Alliance. “We’re eager to present our findings about the ecological complexity of the forest and the nearly 4,000 species we’ve identified so far.”

Known as the “Ecoblitz,” this study focuses on a relatively undisturbed 900-acre tract in the Back Country Area of Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests in south central Indiana. The Ecoblitz is the first comprehensive baseline inventory ever undertaken in the Indiana state forests. Launched in 2014, the Ecoblitz was made possible by individual contributions and grants to IFA from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and the Efroymsen Family Fund.

The symposium, entitled “Characterizing Biodiversity in Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests,” will discuss the ecological importance of mature forests within the Indiana state forest system. Presenters include:

- **Dr. Leslie Bishop**, Earlham College; **Dr. Paul Rothrock**, Indiana University; **John Taylor**, Ball State University; Jerome Delbridge, Tree-Centric Solutions LLC; and Samantha Buran, Indiana Forest Alliance: *Structural and compositional attributes of the Ecoblitz Study Area within Morgan Monroe-Yellowwood State Forest*
- **David Rupp**, IndiGo Bird Tours of Bloomington, IN: *Observations of Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) Nesting Behavior in the Ecoblitz Area of Morgan-Monroe State Forest*

- **Jeremy Sheets**, senior wildlife biologist, Orbis Environmental Consulting and **Dr. John Whitaker**, Indiana State University: *Mammals Surveys for the Ecoblitz of Morgan-Monroe State Forest*
- **Leroy Koehn**, LepTraps Inc.: *Moth Diversity of Morgan-Monroe State Forest and Yellowwood State Forest*
- **Keaton Veldkamp** and **Dr. Glene Mynhardt**, Hanover College: *Diversity of Wasps from the Yellowwood State Forest Backcountry Area (Insecta: Hymenoptera)*
- **Dr. Robert P. Jean**, Senior Entomologist, Environmental Solutions and Innovations, Inc: *Bee Surveys in the Ecoblitz Area of Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests in Indiana*
- **Dr. James Lendemer**, New York Botanical Garden: *New Data on Indiana Lichens Highlight of Under-studied and Imperiled Component of Biodiversity*

Registration fee is \$140. [To obtain a free media pass, contact Anne Laker at [anne@indianaforestalliance.org](mailto:anne@indianaforestalliance.org)]. To register and view the entire schedule of the IAS meeting click [here](#).

**WHO:** Indiana Forest Alliance at the Indiana Academy of Science Annual Meeting

**WHAT:** Results from Ecoblitz Study

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 7 AM - 6 PM

**WHERE:** Marriot Hotel, 350 W. Maryland St, Indianapolis