



## BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER



JANUARY 2019 FRIENDS OF THE FOREST NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year from the Center to you! Happy New Year from all of us at the Forestry Outreach Center! We had over 8500 visitors to the Center during 2018, our first year of operation. We're looking forward to an event-filled 2019, thanks to input and ideas from our staff, volunteers, and visitors.

We hope you will make time at the center and in the forest part of your New Year's Resolutions. Hiking can be a great way to great way to get in shape, improve mental health by reducing stress, disconnect from social media, or meet new friends (with our weekend group hikes).

So start your 2019 off right and come hike with us at the center!



### What's Coming Up?

Winter Hours: Tuesday-Saturday  
10:00 AM-4:00 PM.

Every Saturday, 1:00-3:30 PM:  
Group Hikes at the Pinnacles!  
Student vans resume January  
12th. Vans leave Alumni Circle at  
12:45 PM.

January 12th: 1st Anniversary  
Open House, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

January 19th: Storytelling  
Workshop, 3:30-4:30 PM

January 26th: Storytelling Circle,  
3:00-5:00 PM

January: No Book Club, Book Club  
Resumes with *Braiding Sweetgrass*  
on February 2nd



Berea College  
Forestry  
Outreach Center

@bereacollegefoc

# First Anniversary Open House!



On **January 12th** the Forestry Outreach Center will celebrate its first anniversary! Please plan to drop by anytime between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM to visit, have some snacks, and learn about upcoming events and opportunities. We'd like to honor our 9,000th visitor on this day. Maybe it will be you! Thanks for making our first year a great one!

## Berea Outdoor Adventure Club

Berea Outdoor Adventure Club is partnering with Berea College Forestry Outreach Center to host a monthly Outdoor Free Play at the Pinnacles! This month our free play will take place at the Indian Fort Theater. This event is free and open to the public. Families with kids of all ages are more than welcome to attend. There is no specific agenda. Just a time and space for kids to get together for imaginative play and exploration in the beautiful outdoors.



# Once Upon the Pinnacles

As winter edges in and we take a chilled breath, we are reminded to listen. The earth is quieting all around us when the last leaves drop and the first snow falls. We are reminded that winter is a time to come together, not only for comfort and warmth but for laughter and life. Winter can be a mindful time, but remembering the lives and stories of those who have past, those who are present, and those who have yet to create stories of their own, can light a fire to keep us warm until spring.

The Appalachian Region is abundant with adventure and history, and people want to hear the stories of our unique area: The Berea Pinnacles. From narratives to folklores, from a myth to a romance, all are welcome to be shared, for these trails appreciate all tales.

We invite you to join us at the Center for a storytelling circle/open mic on January 26th from 3-5 pm to share a memory of time spent in Berea Forest lands. The story can take any form, including art, poetry, and music.

In preparation, Wendy Warren will offer a writing workshop at the Berea Writers' Circle meeting on January 19th from 1:30-3 at the Berea Public Library. A storytelling workshop with Michelle Berendsen will follow from 3:30-5 at the Forestry Outreach Center. You are welcome to join one or both events, which are free and open to the public.

You are also invited to share a short version of your story on our Facebook page. You'll find the prompt pinned to the top of the page



# Frozen Falls Hike

In addition to our regular group hikes on Saturdays at 1:00 PM, throughout the winter months, we will lead "Frozen Falls Hikes." These pop-up hikes won't be scheduled far in advance, so keep a close watch on our website and social media to find the dates! When weather permits, we will meet at the center and travel together to the Anglin Falls!



# Call for Volunteers!

Ever thought of being a greeter at the FOC? There are still positions available for **January and February!** Visit our volunteers' page on our website at [foretryoutreach.berea.edu](http://foretryoutreach.berea.edu) to sign up. If you would prefer us to sign you up, email [alison\\_adkins@bera.edu](mailto:alison_adkins@bera.edu) with the date and time you want to volunteer.

In the upcoming months, we hope to add more volunteer opportunities at the center. From invasive species removal, trail maintenance, litter clean-ups, and working as an assistant naturalist to the center staff! We'll be positng new opportunities on our website, social media, and future newsletters so stay tuned!

# New Book for Book Club

We won't be hosting a Book Club meeting for January, but meetings will resume Feb 2nd and every 1st Saturday of the month after that from 11:30-12:30 PM. Our next book will be *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Kimmerer is a scientist and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation who embraces the notion that plants are our oldest teachers. The book intertwines knowledge and perspectives in new ways, celebrating the reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world. The book is divided into sections. We'll discuss the first section, *Planting Sweetgrass*, for our first meeting. We'll follow that pattern, discussing a new section in sequence each month.

