

## BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

April 2020 Friends of the Forest Newsletter--Part 1



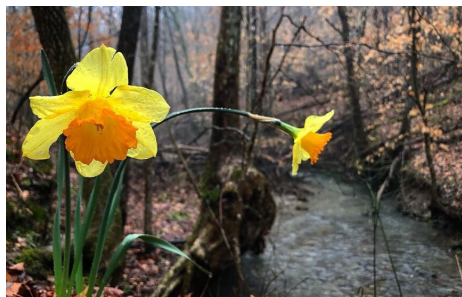
### Nature Isn't Closed and Spring is Here!



Though we may feel unable to appreciate the outside world during this time, spring is upon us no matter what. The sown seeds sprouting through fresh earth can touch more than our spirits but our awareness of nature and the complexity of our senses.

Walking through a bustling forest welcomes sounds we had not realized we missed: the birds singing their mating calls, water flowing over stones and sticks, and deer grazing on the newly bloomed clovers.

Take a moment in nature. Allow yourself to become more grounded in your surroundings. Find your breath growing full. Give yourself want to be more like the growing hepaticas and meadow-rues, stretching their roots deeper and deeper into the earth to feel belonging and attachment.



Hopefully you are able to find some peace in the small certainties of springtime: the rain will be plenty, the sun will grace us with its presence, and the ecosystems within the forests will become alive again.

The Forestry Outreach Center is currently CLOSED.  
**The trails are OPEN.**

Follow us on our social media for these regular posts:

**Mushroom Monday**  
**Try This! Tuesday**  
**Wildlife Wednesday**  
**Thinking Thursday**  
**Fern Friday**  
**Stellar Saturday**

All posts will be up at 9:00 am and are perfect for sparking an interest in learning!

Keep an eye out for April Newsletter 2 later this month!



Berea College  
Forestry Outreach  
Center



@bereacollegefoc



Project: Biodiversity of  
the Berea College  
Forest

<https://forestryoutreach.berea.edu/>



# Fantastic Fungi Day

March 26th

Get ready for the chance to watch the film *Fantastic Fungi: The Magic Beneath Us* with the chance to ask questions in a Q&A afterwards on March 26th. The filmmakers write: "As we enter into an even vaster understanding of just how interdependent we are and how fast something travels between us all, we can appreciate the power of our interconnectedness." This, as you'll find, is the case for fungi and the basis for all life on Earth. Fungi's root-like structures, mycelium, can span huge distances and connect with each other to pass on information and share nutrients, even between species. We're finding out more and more every day about these often overlooked organisms, and in doing so, we will learn more about ourselves. Visit this website to watch the film when it is available on March 26th!

[www.fantasticfungi.com/connect](http://www.fantasticfungi.com/connect)



## Share with Us!

As you spend time outdoors, if you take pictures, write, or just experience nature, we would love to hear about it! Send us a direct message or post on social media and tag us! We will feature wildlife pictures in our upcoming newsletters or Instagram and yours could be one of them!

Also, if you have any questions about what you're seeing, email our Naturalist at [john\\_abrams@bera.edu](mailto:john_abrams@bera.edu)!

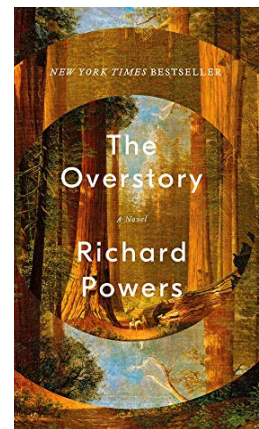
## Wildlife Spotlight



## From Our Staff:

### What we're reading

"From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, [*The Overstory* by Richard Powers] unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables ... There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected ... magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world." - Goodreads



ENVIRONMENTAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

### What we're watching

The Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (DCEFF) has moved online now until March 31st! Watch select films from the festival at their website: [www.dceff.org](http://www.dceff.org).

## Night Skies Over the Pinnacles

In early April we'll be treated to one of the prettiest sights to be seen in the night sky. The planet Venus will appear near the cluster of stars we call the Pleiades. You don't need a telescope to enjoy this view: just your eyes or maybe binoculars. Look for brilliant Venus in the western sky at dusk and you can't miss it!

Stay tuned for more astronomical info in our upcoming newsletters thanks to Jeff Hutton!

### West, April 2020, Nightfall

Aldebaran •

Venus • "The Pleiades"