

BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

February 2020 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

Group Hikes!

Our Saturday group hikes at The Pinnacles continue from 1:00-3:30 led by various members of our team.

Group hikes will also be at Brushy Fork on Fridays at 12:00! Meet at the fountain by the Alumni building and Shinn's Tower.

Students watch for an email to SIGN UP for the Saturday 12:45 SHUTTLE from ALUMNI CIRCLE

CENTER HOURS:

Every Day 10:00AM-4:00PM

Closed @ 3:15 on Tuesdays

What's coming up?

All events are free, open to the public, and kid friendly.

*Group Hikes: Saturdays
1:00-3:30 pm at The Pinnacles

*Group Hikes: Fridays
12:00-2:00 pm at Brushy Fork

*Weekday Walkers: Wednesdays
starting Feb. 12th
10:45-12:00, meet at the FOC

*Stellar Monday:
Feb. 10th, 6:00 pm

*Documentary Dialogue:
Telescope Talk
Feb. 20th, 6:00-8:00 pm

*Kelly's Trail Group Hike
Feb. 29th, 12:00-5:00



Berea College
Forestry Outreach
Center



@bereacollegefoc



Naturalist

Project: Biodiversity of
the Berea College
Forest

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

Astronomical Events with Jeff Hutton

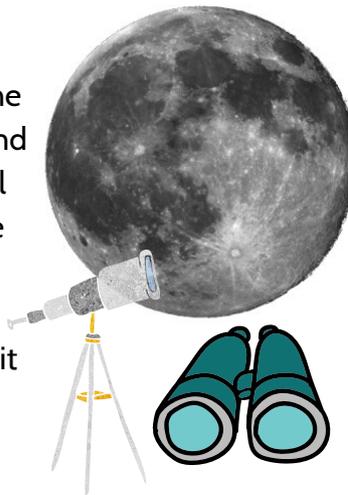
Stellar Monday: Feb. 10th, 6:00 pm

Let's take advantage of the nearly full moon and discuss our satellite's origins, structure and how she has influenced the deep and recent history of the Earth. Join us as we explore our moon during a short presentation in the classroom at the FOC.

Immediately after, we'll don our coats and head outside to view the moon and other heavenly objects through large telescopes, including the Center's newly acquired 8-inch Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain instrument.

As a bonus, during upcoming monthly Stellar Mondays, we'll take time to try and glimpse the tiny, earth-sized companion star in orbit around the brightest of all nighttime stars, Sirius. We'll use our powerful telescopes to attempt to see the "Pup," a white dwarf star that becomes visible to us about every 50 years as its orbit carries it away from the glare of Sirius. Why is it called the "Pup"? That's because Sirius has another name: "The Dog Star"!

Moon photo by Jeff Hutton



Documentary Dialogue, Telescope Talk: Feb. 20th, 6:00 pm

Have you always wanted to learn to use a telescope? Maybe you got one as a holiday gift...Whether you own a telescope or not, join us for a beginner's guide to telescope use as a way to tour the universe. If you own a scope or a pair of binoculars, bring them along, and Jeff Hutton can help you get started. Like most events at the Center, this is open to learners of all ages! (Rescheduled from January 16th)

Weekday Walkers

Wednesdays starting Feb. 12th at 10:45 am

Love to explore the wilderness with your family, but the rugged terrain of the Pinnacles won't allow the use of your stroller? Sometimes hikers can be intimidated by venturing through the forest alone, or mobility issues can limit the ability to fully enjoy the outdoors. Weekday Walkers is a volunteer-led group geared toward families with strollers and children of all ages, individuals who would like to enjoy some forest time at a slower pace, and nature lovers interested in walking with a group while enjoying a no-pressure journey.

We will meet at the FOC every week to take a leisurely stroll on the paved trail. Our group will also plan future activities while we explore, such as scavenger hunts and plant identification, and we will enjoy a sweet treat at the end of our first walk!



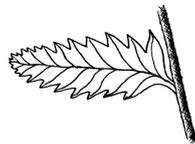
Student Project Spotlight

One of our labor students, Elijah Hicks, grew up in Red River Gorge learning all that he could about the natural world. He has illustrated an identification book for native ferns, and now he is lending his artistic skills to the Center! His first illustration is of a Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*). Follow our Instagram and Facebook for "Fern Fridays"!

From left, clockwise:
Christmas fern, sori
on underside of
pinnae, variation of
pinnae shape



Elijah Hicks



Elijah Hicks

Doing this type of art allows you to take a very close look at details and really learn about what you're observing. Try it for yourself!

Kelly's Trail Hike

Feb. 29th, 12:00-5:00 pm

Join us on leap day for a hike honoring Kelly Ambrose's idea of "required fun". Kelly's Trail is the newest and longest trail here at The Pinnacles that leads to Robe and Basin Mountains. Named after Berea College professor Kelly Ambrose, whose students learned that spending time outdoors is essential for one's mental and physical health, this trail was built to honor Kelly's work.

The hike is a 6 mile round-trip and is challenging, so please plan to bring snacks, water, and wear appropriate clothing.



Thanks to all who attended our January events!

Our programming at the FOC is catching on, thanks in large part to volunteers and our student workers who are taking the lead. The Falconry presentation, for example, by student worker Kennet Manley and his father, Marc, drew 70 people! The Eco-brick Workshop later in the month attracted around 30 people who collectively made 60 eco-bricks. This will help student worker, Lucas Collett, complete the compost bin he is constructing for the Center!



Expanding Volunteer Opportunities

As always, we invite community members to share their ideas for programming and take the lead on them! This month, Weekday Walkers led by Jody Denny, Documentary Dialogues developed by Nina Verin, and Stellar Mondays by Jeff Hutton, are all prime examples.