



BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

June 2020 Friends of the Forest Newsletter--Part 1



Biodiversity and Human Diversity

John Abrams, the Center's researcher and naturalist, has documented over 2,000 species which make their home in the Berea College Forest. And he knows this is a fragment of the forest's diversity. Appalachia is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world. We celebrate it and understand its importance.

Due to persistent stereotypes about Appalachia, not everyone recognizes the human diversity it contains. It's puzzling that people don't always value human diversity the same way they value biodiversity. Yet it is important for many of the same reasons.

You may have read this week's press release by Berea College President Roelofs which references Christian Cooper's recent experience birding in New York City's Central Park. He politely asked a white woman to follow the leash requirement so her dog wouldn't disturb the birds he was watching. Her response was to threaten to call the police to say that "an African American man was threatening her and her dog. She trusted that her voice would be heard. President Roelofs wrote, "The message was clear—Mr. Cooper would be perceived by the police as a threat to her..."

The response was to organize #BlackBirdersWeek. The Sierra Club interviewed one of the organizers, Jason Ward. Ward describes what he calls the headwinds that exist for people of color who choose to spend time in the natural world. And J. Drew Lanham, who wrote an article called "Birding While Black" published in 2016, wrote that people's stereotypes of birders often don't include black men like him. He wrote, "I am a black man and therefore a birding anomaly."

Berea's logo states: "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth." On Berea College forest lands, all are welcomed to bird, hike, to relax, unwind, and reconnect with the land that sustains our lives. The forest is once again open, and we hope to welcome you soon.

The Pinnacles, Brushy Fork, and Anglin Falls trails are OPEN. The Forestry Outreach Center and restrooms are CLOSED.

We appreciate you practicing safe social distancing as well as Leave No Trace in order for the trails to remain open safely.

Read the full re-opening announcement on our social media and website listed below.



Berea College
Forestry Outreach
Center



@bereacollegefoc



Citizen Science Project:
Biodiversity of the Berea
College Forest



Seek app by
iNaturalist, great I.D.
tool for kids and
families

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

Visit Our Pollinator Garden



The next time you're at The Pinnacles, take a look at our pollinator garden in front of the FOC building. The garden was planted by teachers working with FOC staff and two groups of educators during a professional development day sponsored by the Madison County Pollinator Working Group. This garden helps provide food and shelter to our pollinator friends. Many thanks to the Madison County Working group for providing seeds and supplies, the Madison County Conservation District for contributing funds, Americorps member Kayla Zagray for designing the sign, and Center Researcher and Naturalist John Abrams and volunteer Ann Longworth for garden maintenance. Stop by and let us know what you see by sending us a message, tagging us, or by using #bereacollegefoc on Instagram and Facebook!

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help with summer weeding. If interested, please contact John Abrams at John_Abrams@berea.edu. It truly takes a village.

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@berea.edu!

Wildlife Spotlight



From Our Staff:

What we're reading

Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors by UK Professor Dr. Carolyn Finney. Engaging popular culture, science, and art, Finney works to create more inclusive frameworks that encourage and welcome everyone to engage with and care for the natural world. Finney's research for the book focuses on the question "Why are African Americans so underrepresented when it comes to interest in nature, outdoor recreation, and environmentalism?"



What we're watching

"Jason Ward has been an avid birdwatcher since he was a kid growing up in the Bronx, where he spotted a peregrine falcon eating a pigeon on a ledge outside his bedroom window...[T]he avian advocate and father of two travels around the Northeast...delighting audiences with his contagious curiosity about the natural world—and the creatures within it. Those creatures include those of the human variety, too..." (Topic channel on Youtube)

Night Skies Over the Pinnacles

June is the final month this year in which our days will get steadily longer until the Summer Solstice--the longest day of the year! Jeff explains how to view multiple planets this month and how to tell planets from stars. No telescope needed!

June 19: Venus rises before dawn

June 21: Summer Solstice and New Moon

For the June moon phases and more info on all of these events and how to view them on our website, thanks to Jeff Hutton:

<https://forestryoutreach.berea.edu/skies-above-the-pinnacles/>

