

BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

July 2020 Friends of the Forest Newsletter--Part 1



Ragged fringed orchid (*Platanthera lacera*) field milkwort (*Polygala sanguinea*)

Featuring the Biodiversity of the Berea College Forest

John Abrams, the Forestry Outreach Center Researcher, is currently working to relocate every species of vascular plant listed on the original College inventories. This is no small task, with over 1,200 species documented, and undoubtedly many more species yet to be found. He is working with Professor Emeritus Ralph Thompson, the original author of the inventory, to publish an addendum to the original paper adding many new species to the official list.

Already this year, they have collected over 30 species of plants that were previously undocumented in the forest. They have found over 1,000 unique species of plants including several rare and endangered plants. By locating and documenting these rare plant communities, our foresters are able to make management decisions to protect and preserve the vulnerable ecosystems that these rare plants depend upon.

This plant research adds to John Abrams' study of the biodiversity of our forest. Thousands of observations of plant and animal species are now recorded.



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/>

Project Highlights

Observations made in the Berea College Forest and posted on iNaturalist.org, which can be used by anyone, are automatically added to the 'Biodiversity of the Berea College Forest' project where they can be identified by John Abrams.

The observation data is also uploaded to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), where it is used by scientists for research like tracking climate change and the spread of invasive species. Using this approach, we can monitor our forest for the locations of rare and endangered species, as well as discovering and monitoring the locations of invasive species.

Using this data, our foresters can make informed decisions about how to best manage our forest to preserve the rare and combat the invasive.

- Over 11,000 individual records with 2,004 species represented
- 35 threatened and endangered species that depend on our forest for food and habitat
- 195 citizen scientists have assisted with data collection



A Bald Eagle that has nested in the area for over 4 years



Yellow Lady Slipper Orchid

July Skies

July 5th: The moon will slightly pass through the Earth's shadow around 10:15 pm.

Full moon

July 12th: Last Quarter Moon

July 20th: New Moon

July 27th: First Quarter Moon

Jupiter, Saturn, and Mercury will be visible at various points in the month. Check out the Skies Over the Pinnacles page under Forest Ecosystems on our website for more info!

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

Vulnerable Species Still Found Here



Eastern box turtle
(*Terrapene carolina ssp. carolina*)

American Bumblebee
(*Bombus pensylvanicus*)



Nodding Onion
(*Allium cernuum*)

From Our Staff:

What we're watching

*Bigotry to Brook Trout:
A Watershed Moment*

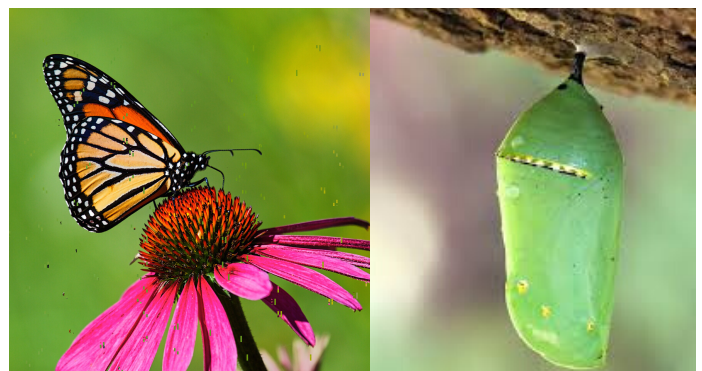


The filmmakers describe this documentary as "one man's transformation from a life of ignorance and hate to quiet solitude on the waters of northern Minnesota. Hard truth and honest self-reflection parallel the beauty of Fall brook trout in this rare display of vulnerability and acceptance. Geoff Vukelich owns his past and speaks his truth, reminding us that we have the capacity to change our lives."

National Pollinator Week

National Pollinator Week was June 22nd-28th! Pollinators are an integral part of our ecosystem. From butterflies to hummingbirds to bats, many critters are essential to help plants reproduce. Check out the Xerces Society for information on pollinators and pollinator-friendly native plants that you can cultivate near your home to support your local pollinator friends.

Have you checked out our pollinator garden in front of the FOC? VOLUNTEERS are needed for weeding. All it takes is 15 minutes each time! If interested, please contact John Abrams at John_Abrams@bera.edu. It truly takes a village.



Monarch butterfly on a purple coneflower (left) and a monarch caterpillar chrysalis (right)