



BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

August

2020 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

Welcome back, Berea College students!

Whether you are an incoming or returning student, the forest and the Forestry Outreach Center (FOC) team welcome you! Berea is wonderful place to experience nature.

During this uncertain time, please remember that taking care of yourself is extremely important. Spending time in nature is one of the best things you can do for your physical, emotional, and mental well-being. We encourage you to find a way to add nature into your life in whatever amount, in whatever way, and wherever you are. The natural world will always be there for you.



Did you know Goldenrod is the Kentucky state flower?



Berea College Forest: Did You Know?



How well do you know the Berea College (BC) Forest? In this edition of the newsletter, we wanted to highlight some facts about the BC Forest that is so important to the College, town, and wildlife. This unique ecosystem affords never-ending learning opportunities and experiences. Follow our social media (listed to the right) to stay connected with the forest and the FOC team!

Enjoy these fun facts about the BC Forest!



Silas Mason, a BC professor, created the first forestry management plan for the forest. He acquired land that had water and with funding from Sarah Fay, by 1918 the College owned nearly 5,400 acres of land and provided the College with running water.

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



Naturalist

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/>

There are now four reservoirs and over 9,000 acres of managed forest lands to maintain a healthy ecosystem for both wildlife and humans.



People from the Cherokee and Shawnee nations have cared for this land for thousands of years. We honor all who continue to protect the watersheds and ecosystems that sustain our lives.



Thousands of people come to hike in Berea each year. In 2019, over 20,000 people visited the FOC building and The Pinnacles averaged 5,000 hikers a month!

The Berea College Forest is a rich ecosystem with unique biodiversity. Over 2,100 species have been logged on iNaturalist with over 12,000 individual observations.



Spending time outdoors reduces your stress and lowers your blood pressure. Just 15 minutes outdoors can relax you and restore your mental and physical health. *(The Nature Fix)*

So take a break from your screen and head outside!

August Skies Over the Forest

August 3rd: Full moon

August 11th: Last Quarter Moon

August 19th: New Moon

August 25th: First Quarter Moon



The Earth is passing through the trail left by a comet so keep your eye out for a meteor shower! Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars are also visible throughout 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/>

Forest Spotlight: Brushy Fork



Also referred to as the "cross country trails," Brushy Fork is a trail system right behind Alumni Fields! With just a short walk from campus you can be greeted by trees and a peaceful place to relax. There are different trail loops you can take with varying mileage and difficulty. Or, you can find a lovely place to sit to do homework, read, or just enjoy the outdoors. You may catch a glimpse of some forest friends, too!

A bridge over the stream is a great starting landmark. A map is available there and on our website under 'Hiking Adventures'.



Alumni Fields Pollinator Garden

First Lady Laurie Roelofs is a butterfly lover. She has raised and released monarch caterpillars for years and has helped the FOC in that mission as well. Ms. Roelofs established a pollinator garden to provide habitat for our pollinator friends, as they play an important role in keeping a healthy, happy ecosystem. As you walk to the Brushy Fork bridge, you'll see the garden on your right. Check it out!



Reach Out!

Questions about the forest? Hiking? The natural world? Feel free to reach out to:

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