

## BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

March 2021 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

### Spring is Just Around the Corner!

March 20th is the first official day of spring, so we want to take this opportunity to feature our favorite signs of spring!



Harbinger of Spring

This small plant is usually one of the first flowers of spring and can be seen blooming right now in rich hardwood forests and parks.



Virginia Spring Beauty

These plants will form dense carpets of white and pink flowers, they can be easily seen in the forested area before our trailhead from March until May.

The high pitched peeping call of this frog can be loud, considering it is only about an inch long. They will begin calling on warm nights in March.



Spring Peeper

Look out for more signs of spring from us on social media and around the trails! Tell us which of these signs are your favorite by tagging/messaging @bereafoc on Facebook or Instagram

These solitary ground-nesting bees will forage exclusively on the pollen of Spring Beauty flowers. They are to be fed to the developing larvae

Spring Beauty Miner Bee



#### Land Acknowledgement:

*Osiyo. Hatito. (Hello)*

We invite you to join us in acknowledging that the Berea College Forest is located on the traditional territories of the sovereign Shawnee and the Cherokee nations. Both nations hold these mountains in care and tradition. Tribes are often involved in work to protect land that many have been forcibly driven from. The harms inflicted by the separation and removal of Indigenous People from these ancestral lands run deep. The erasure of their language and stories further rewrites the narratives we tell about these lands and waterways to keep them conveniently open, and this only deepens wounds for Indigenous communities.

Please take a moment to reflect on this beautiful land, to honor and show gratitude towards its original caretakers- the Shawnee and the Cherokee. We hope that you, too, will become a caretaker of this land.

Thank you to Tiffany Pyette for this Land Acknowledgment Statement.

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/>

# #WaterWeekLex

This month, we return to the topic of water! Stay tuned for activities and social media posts as Berea joins Lexington in celebrating Water Week March 20-27th.

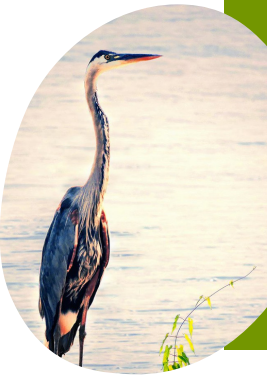
Check out these water critter facts:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mna\\_YCbOHKf5uQGnwOOHnaYdJrCrOELO/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mna_YCbOHKf5uQGnwOOHnaYdJrCrOELO/view)

Dragonflies love damp habitats and can often be found near ponds and creeks. Dragonflies are considered a beneficial insect because they prey upon mosquitos.



The Great Blue Heron is the largest species of heron in North America with a wingspan of around 6 feet. Great Blue Herons are an aquatic bird and one of over 350 species of bird native to Kentucky.



Red-Eared Sliders are a turtle species native to Kentucky. They get their name from red stripes on the side of their head, and the fact that they slide into the water when threatened.



## March Skies Over the Forest

Last Quarter: March 6th  
New Moon: March 13th  
First Quarter: March 21st  
Full Moon: March 28th



On March 20, of this year, spring officially arrives in the northern hemisphere of our planet. On that day the Sun can be seen directly overhead at noon if you happen to be standing on the equator. To learn more about what's happening this month, go to our website:

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

# All About Watersheds

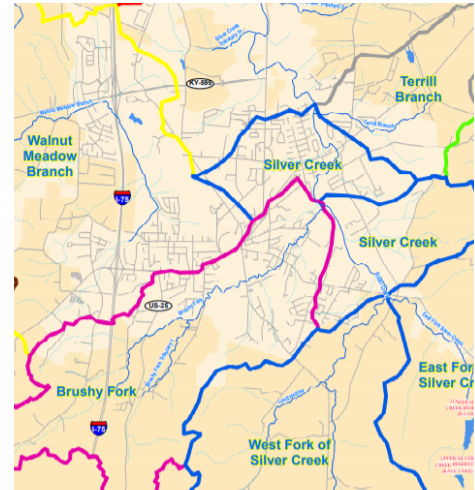
## What do you know about Berea's Watershed?

Check out the EPA's watershed locator for information about any local waterways.

<https://mywaterway.epa.gov/community/40403/protect>

## A watershed

is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel.



## How can you help your local watershed?

- Contribute to local water cleanup efforts.
- Find a watershed protection organization to support.
- Volunteer to help monitor water quality.
- Lead a campaign to educate your community about impairment from nonpoint sources, like stormwater.
- Sponsor a watershed festival in your community to raise awareness about the importance of watershed protection.
- See how your state is protecting your waters.

Follow the Berea College Forestry Outreach Center and the Berea College Forestry Department's social media pages for information throughout February!

*Wado. Niyaawe. (Thank you).*

## Reach Out!

Questions about the forest? Hiking? The natural world? Feel free check out our website (<https://forestryoutreach.berea.edu/>) or reach out to:

FOC Director: [wendy\\_warren@berea.edu](mailto:wendy_warren@berea.edu)

FOC Naturalist: [john\\_abrams@berea.edu](mailto:john_abrams@berea.edu)