



BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

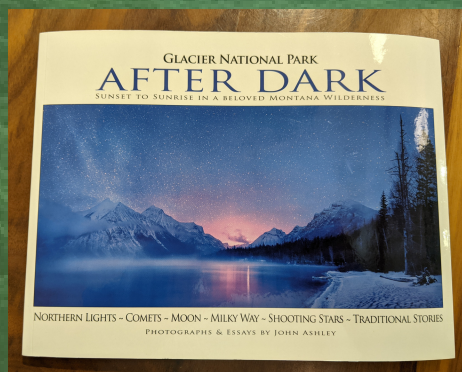
November 2021 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

The Dark Sky Movement A campaign against light pollution

What does the sky look like when you look up at night? How different might it have looked years ago, before electricity allowed us to light up the dark?



The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) is an organization that works to educate the public and affect legislation in favor of preserving our night sky. The impact of human-made lighting is far reaching and in ways we might not immediately recognize. We can all do our part to dim the effects of artificial lighting to benefit wildlife and ourselves.



John Ashley is a Montana-based photographer who has spent countless hours capturing the beauty of the night sky where it is still able to be seen. A collection of his beautiful work was published in 2015 in his book, Glacier National Park After Dark. The book jacket contains a great summary of global light pollution:

"Just 136 years after Edison's first light bulb patent, we are losing our dark, night skies all across the globe. Without realizing it, we are trading the Milky Way for an alien orange glow that smothers the stars. After evolving with darkness for millennia, this relatively sudden shift to lighter nights is causing human health issues and ecological problems for many of the plants and animals that we share this little planet with. Too much light, too little real darkness. It's a modern problem that's easy to fix. Mostly what's missing is an awareness."

Visit John's website: johnashleyfineart.com

The FOC is OPEN
Our hours are
Tuesday-Saturday
10-4, Sunday 12-4.

Land Acknowledgement:
Osiyo. Hatito. (Hello)

The lands which comprise the Berea College Forest are the traditional homelands of Shawnee and Cherokee peoples who hold these mountains in care and tradition. Thank you to Tiffany Pyette for this Land Acknowledgment Statement.

November Events:



THE FOC WILL BE CLOSED
NOV. 24th-29th

Outdoor restrooms will be open

- Pinnacles group hikes Saturdays at 1 pm. Meet at the FOC. All welcome!
- Brushy Fork Friday hikes. Meet at 4:15 pm at grassy patio behind Alumni.
- Nov. 13th, 2-4 pm Outdoor Free Play w/ Winterberry Studio. Meet at the Pinnacles amphitheater. All welcome!
- Star Parties! Nov. 3rd and 10th 7:30 pm. All welcome, bring your telescope if you have one!
- Fall Kids Craft Day! Nov. 14th, 1-3pm Free and open to all, stop by!
- Homeschool Activity & Hike, Nov. 19th, 1:00 pm



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/>

Human Health & Heritage

Studies have shown an increase risk of cancer, obesity, diabetes, depression, and other health problems as a result of artificial lighting disrupting our circadian rhythms.

Humans have romanticized and learned from the night sky for thousands of years. Now, many people in younger generations might not ever know what a sky full of stars looks like. The sky is a universal cultural element that ties us together.

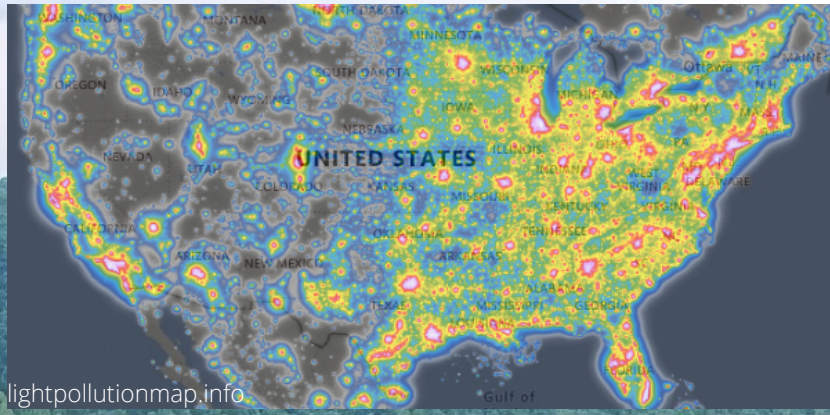
Wildlife

Animals like the indigo buntings, that use the stars to navigate, and plants are feeling negative effects of artificial light.

Circadian rhythm changes affect traits like nocturnal/diurnal behaviors, predator/prey relationships, etc. that can affect species populations. When so many individuals of so many species are affected, ecosystems suffer.

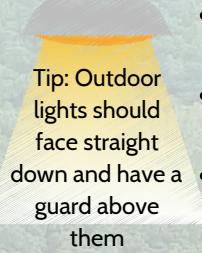
Energy Waste

It's estimated that 30% of outdoor lighting in the U.S. is wasted per year, adding up to 21 million tons of carbon dioxide. Continuing to use unnecessary and/or inefficient lighting is greatly contributing to climate change.



This map shows the light emittance of the contiguous United States, where red is more intense and blue is less intense light.

What Can We Do?



- Be thoughtful about the lighting at your home and educate others
- Advocate for changes in lighting and policy in your community
- Participate in International Dark Sky Week and Earth Hour events
- Watch the documentary *The City Dark* on PBS to learn more about our relationship with the night sky

Star Parties!

Gain a new perspective...take a look through a telescope at the night sky! Thank you to Jeff Hutton, Dr. Hodge and her students!

Nov. 3rd and 10th at 7:30 pm at the FOC.
If overcast skies, events postponed to the next evening.



November Moon Phases



New Moon: Nov. 4th
First Quarter: Nov. 11th
Full Moon: 19th
Lasts Quarter: 27th

Check out Jeff's *Skies Above the Pinnacles* article for November on our website!

Fall Kid's Activities

Please bring masks for all events

Visit the FOC between 1:00-3:00 pm on November 14th for free, fun nature crafts!
All ages welcome.

Join Winterberry Studios' outdoor free play November 13th, 2:00-4:00 pm.
Free and open to all!
Meet at the amphitheater.

Homeschool Lesson & Hike November 19th, 1:00 pm.
Dress for the weather, rain or shine!

Mountain Day Fun

We LOVED seeing so many Berea College students enjoying spending time outdoors with their college community. Excellent performances were had by all, including some of our own labor students!

Tree Week

Thank you to everyone who participated in Tree Week activities in Berea and beyond! We love sharing the magic of trees with you all. Let us know if there are any specific events you would like to see for Tree Week 2022!

Paleontology Walk

As you walk up the main trail at the Pinnacles, you'll be following an evolutionary timeline! We hope you enjoy learning about the importance of the past that got us here, today.