

Berea College Forestry Outreach Center December Newsletter & 2021 Year in Review



December Events:

- Pinnacles group hikes Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Meet at the FOC. All welcome! *No group hikes Dec. 22nd-Jan 3rd*
- Dec. 11th, 2:00-4:00 pm Outdoor Free Play with Winterberry Studio. Meet at the Pinnacles amphitheater. All welcome!
- Dec. 17th, 1:00 pm Homeschool Activity & Hike. Dress for the weather, rain or shine!

December Moon Phases:

New Moon: Dec. 4th Full Moon: Dec. 18th
First Quarter: Dec. 10th Last Quarter: Dec. 26th

Learn more on our website under 'Skies Over the Pinnacles'

FOC Hours:
Closed Monday
Tues.-Sat. 10:00-4:00
Sun. 12:00-4:00
**Closed Dec. 22nd-Jan 3rd
Trails & outdoor restrooms
will be open**



The past two years have looked very different at the FOC...

but, as we see again and again, the amazing community that surrounds us can get through tough times together. Here are some of our highlights of this year. Thank you to everyone who partnered with us, attended an event, or walked on the trails.

As of November 2021, the Center has welcomed 26,000+ visitors since we opened in January 2018. We hope to see you, soon!



Star Parties!

We thank Jeff Hutton and Dr. Tracy Hodge for providing awesome stargazing opportunities for students and the community here at the Pinnacles. Some of the views included the Moon, Saturn, the Pleiades and the Andromeda Galaxy.

Getting Students Outdoors

Since we re-opened in mid-August, we were grateful to get the opportunity to have over a dozen college classes and a number of homeschool groups join us to learn about the forest and experience nature. We look forward to learning outdoors with more friends next year!



Restorative Forestry

The Forestry Department welcomed Phil Vogel and Spencer Powell this year. Along with a dedicated group of labor students, the foresters work hard to restore and preserve Berea's forest ecosystem. Learn more by following them on social media and checking out our website, forestryoutreach.berea.edu.



An Addition to the Team

The College's Suffolk Punch draft horse family grew this summer with the birth of Lucy on May 5th. She's growing as large in personality as in size! She will be the first foal to be born and work at Berea College.



Berea's Biodiversity

The Biodiversity of the Berea College Forest is a project on iNaturalist.com that is built by citizen science--community-driven data collection of the flora and fauna found here. Hundreds of visitors to the Berea College Forest have helped document almost 3,000 unique species of wildlife from squirrels to fungi.

John Abrams, the FOC's Ecologist, dedicates many hours to exploring and identifying species. Along with citizen contributions, every day the biodiversity of the forest becomes clearer and more representative of just how complex and healthy this unique ecosystem is.

Take a look at the project for yourself on iNaturalist.com or on the app. Here are some of the highlights...

2,749
Species
identified

(1,466 in 2019)

by
402
Observers on
iNaturalist

(148 in 2019)



Biodiversity of the Berea College Forest

Number of Unique Species
as of November 2021

Invertebrates: 1,365

Most Observed:
Monarch butterfly
Danaus plexippus



Plants: 881

Most Observed:
Crane-fly Orchid
Tipularia discolor



Fungi: 278

Most Observed:
Funeral bell
Galerina marginata



Birds: 126

Most Observed:
Northern cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis



Reptiles: 23

Most Observed:
Eastern fence lizard
Sceloporus undulatus



Mammals: 27

Most Observed:
Eastern Gray Squirrel
Sciurus carolinensis



Amphibians: 25

Most Observed:
Eastern newt
Notophthalmus viridescens