



BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

January 2022 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

❄️ Winter Critters ❄️ and where did all the others go?

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.



A white-tailed deer creeps through the brush

Wildlife has developed countless ways to combat or avoid the harsh chill and long nights of winter. Some put on weight, some hunker down, and some avoid it all together! While there are some animal friends that may disappear during the winter, there is still a world of wonder in the forest. And, there are ways that we can help out the critters that need a safe place to sleep and find food.



Who's out and about?

This winter, keep your eye out for furry and feathery forest friends. The slimy and scaly ones will be tucked away until spring.

Mammals: deer, bobcats (*print on right*), foxes, coyotes, raccoons, beavers, small mammals like squirrels, rabbits, mice, voles, and moles

Birds: cardinals, blue jays, woodpeckers, hawks (*red-shouldered hawk top right*), eagles, owls, turkeys, vultures, ducks, common loons
Short distance migratory birds: dark-eyed juncos (*top left*), white throated sparrows (*bottom right*), red-breasted nuthatch

Share your observations on iNaturalist!



January Events:



THE FOC WILL REOPEN
JAN. 7TH

Outdoor restrooms always open

- Pinnacles group hikes Saturdays at 1pm. Meet at the FOC. All welcome! Student shuttle leaves from Alumni Circle at 12:45 pm.
- Jan 8th, 2-4 pm: Outdoor Free Play w/ Winterberry Studio. Meet at the Pinnacles amphitheater. All welcome!
- Jan 21st, 1pm: Homeschool Activity & Hike. All welcome, dress for the weather!

Special Event:

Jan 16th, 2pm: The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu Presentation by Donna Abner



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/>

What plants/fungi thrive in winter?



Winter may not be quite as colorful as the other seasons, but there is still beauty to be found. Here are some plants and fungi that can still be seen!

- Pine trees
- Holly
- Ferns
- Mountain laurel
- Crane-fly orchid
- Putty root (1)
- Striped wintergreen
- Downy rattlesnake plantain (2)
- Mosses
- Lichens
- Moonworts
- Spleenworts
- Snakeworts
- Oyster mushrooms
- Split-gill mushrooms
- Hexagonal pored polyphore (3)



What You Can Do to Help Winter Wildlife



Leave Leaves Alone

Though it might look better to have your yard clear of leaves after fall, consider leaving them be. All sorts of insects, reptiles, and amphibians use plant debris to stay insulated during the colder months. In addition, the leaves will decompose naturally by spring and put rich nutrients back into the soil.

Found Wildlife

If you find an animal that looks to be in distress, please call a local wildlife rehabber or rescue for advice before taking action. The mothers of found babies may still be nearby and may not need help. If you see certain animals during the winter, like a box turtle, this means they were not able to enter brumation (similar to hibernation) correctly and will need help.



The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

January 16th at 2:00 pm at the FOC, 2047 Big Hill Rd., Berea

You are welcome to join us as Donna Abner shares a presentation discussing her adventure travelling to Peru and hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. She was drawn to visit by the mountain scenery and the wildlife. During the presentation, you will see photos from Donna's trip in a video produced by Tom McGlone, a Berea resident. After the video, Donna will be happy to answer any questions about her experience.

The Inca Trail spans approximately 28 miles of 6,000-13,800 ft elevation change through the Andes Mountain range ending at Machu Picchu. This was part of the Inca Empire Highway that spanned more than 2,500 miles from Quito, Ecuador to Santiago, Chile. Machu Picchu was one of a series of fortified sites for travellers along the Inca Highway. It was "discovered" by Hiram Binham III in 1911 and it became a UNESCO site in 1983.



January Moon Phases



New Moon: Jan. 2nd

First Quarter: Jan. 9th

Full Moon: Jan. 17th

Lasts Quarter: Jan. 25th



Learn more about the night sky with Jeff Hutton's monthly *Skies Above the Pinnacles* articles on our website:
forestryoutreach.berea.edu

Keep an eye out for more upcoming star events this year!

Homeschool Activity & Hike

Jan. 21st, 1:00 pm at FOC

Join us for a game about bird migration followed by a walk to see what birds we can find!

All ages of students welcome.

Dress for the weather! Please bring masks in case activity needs to be done inside.

Outdoor Free Play w/ Winterberry Studio

Jan. 8th, 2:00-4:00 pm at amphitheater

All ages welcome!