



BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

February 2022 Friends of the Forest Newsletter



How to Love the Forest

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.

"I had always found comfort in the leaves, in their silence. They were like a parchment that holds words of wisdom. Simply holding them in my hand gave me some of the peace a tree possesses."

-Silas House

Here at the Forestry Outreach Center, we often acknowledge the ways that the forest provides for us and how we can support it in return. Having a strong relationship of reciprocity with nature can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life. Expressed in the quote above, it is clear that nature has so much to teach us if we care for it and are open to learning. Books such as *Finding the Mother Tree*



by Suzanne Simard and *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben show how much is truly in the story of a forest and, now knowing it, our place in that story. As spring approaches, we encourage you to get outside and explore your relationship with nature. What can you learn?



A 'hearts-bustin'-with-love' or common strawberry bush bursting with seeds!

Let your creativity flow into a piece of nature art! Write a poem, practice photography, or use natural materials to make a card or a design in the grass. Send us a picture on Facebook and we'll post them for others to admire! Follow Winterberry Studios on social media for more nature art inspiration...



February Events:

- Pinnacles group hikes Saturdays at 1 pm. Meet at the FOC. All welcome! Student shuttle leaves from Alumni Circle at 12:45 pm.
- Feb. 6th, 2 pm: The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu Presentation by Donna Abner
- Feb 12th, 2-4 pm: Building the Berea Playscape and Outdoor Free Play w/ Winterberry Studio. Meet at the Pinnacles amphitheater. All welcome!
- Feb 18th, 1 pm: Homeschool Activity & Hike. All welcome, dress for the weather!

Happy Valentine's Day!



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/>

Goofy Groundhogs!

(woodchucks, groundpigs, whistlepigs)

Groundhogs (*Marmota monax*) may not be able to truly predict the weather on Feb 2nd, but they're special nonetheless!



In preparation for true hibernation over winter, in which they sleep for weeks at a time, they eat enough to double their body size. Their burrow systems are dug 5 ft below the frost line and they have special burrows for hibernation. Instead of drinking from a water source, they stay hydrated from their herbaceous diet and dew on grasses.

Help Create a Natural Playscape

If you've hiked the Pinnacles trails recently, you've probably noticed the tiny cabin to the left just as you start out. It was built by forester Clint Patterson and has since been a place for imaginations to run wild! The FOC is partnering with members of the community to help expand this 'playscape' and you're welcome to help! On February 12th from 2:00-4:00 pm we will be out gathering natural materials to move to the area that will spark further imaginative play.



All ages are welcome!



The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

February 6th 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 travelers along the Inca Highway. It was "discovered" by Hiram Binham III in 1911 and it became a UNESCO site in 1983.



February Moon Phases



New Moon: Feb 1st

First Quarter: Feb 8th

Full Moon: Feb 16th

Lasts Quarter: Feb 23rd



Learn more about the wonders of 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

Feb 18th, 1:00 pm at FOC

Join us for a nature-based activity followed by a hike to discuss the topic we just learned!

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

Feb 12th, 2:00-4:00 pm at amphitheater

All ages welcome!