



BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER at the Pinnacles

2047 Big Hill Rd. Berea, KY 40403

March 2022 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

Welcoming Back Spring Wildlife

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.



"Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)" by almiyi on flickr

Have you noticed louder bird songs in the morning? Seen any familiar friends at your bird feeders? The Spring Equinox is March 20th, ushering in warmer weather, longer days, and more active wildlife! Amphibians, reptiles, mammals, insects and birds will all soon be out and about to welcome spring.



Waterfowl, such as the ruddy duck pictured above, are some of the first migrating birds to return in the spring. Keep an eye on lakes and ponds to spot ducks, geese, and swans. There are around 40 species of waterfowl found in Kentucky!

Frogs and salamanders are starting to awaken and lay their eggs. On February 11th, the pond by the FOC was full of wood frogs (right)! The next frog to emerge will be spring peepers, a sure sound of the season. If you go out on a warm, rainy night, you may see spotted salamanders, black with bright yellow spots. Jefferson's salamanders won't be far behind. Check out puddles and ponds to spot amphibian eggs!



March Events:

(* see newsletter for info)

- Pinnacles group hikes Saturdays at 1 pm. Meet at the FOC. All welcome! Student shuttle leaves from Alumni Circle at 12:45 pm.
- *March 5th, 12-3 pm: Leaders of Color Crew Info Session and Hike (good for spring grads, shuttle avail.)
- March 12th, 2-4 pm: Outdoor Free Play w/ Winterberry Studio. Meet at the Pinnacles amphitheater. All welcome!
- March 18th, 1 pm: Homeschool Activity & Hike. All welcome, dress for the weather!
- *March 20th, 2 pm: Wildflower Talk at the FOC
- *March 26th, 5:30 pm: Wildflower Walk series start at Anglin Falls



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/>

Come visit our new woodland playscape!



"Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt."

— John Muir

Leaders of Color Crew Info Session Hike

March 5th, 12-3 pm at the FOC



Southeast Conservation Corps, an AmeriCorps affiliated non-profit out of Chattanooga, TN, is currently hiring for its upcoming Leaders of Color Conservation Crew that will be based in Berea, KY. The Leaders of Color Crew, running from June 2022 - May 2023, will provide a supportive environment for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) identifying individuals ages 18-30 to engage in a variety of trainings, gain certifications, and develop leadership skills through project work related to natural resource management and land stewardship. Crew members will be working with Daniel Boone National Forest and Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area partners as they partake in a variety of projects across Kentucky related to wildland fire, trail maintenance, chainsaw operation, and disaster response. To learn more about the Leaders of Color program please join us at the Berea College Forestry Outreach Center on March 05, 2022 at 12:00 PM for the SECC Informational Session and Hike at the Pinnacles. *Student shuttle leaving Alumni at 11:45*

Wildflower Talk

March 20th, 2:00 pm



by Delores
Carpenter and
Ann
Longsworth

Please join us at the FOC as we share our adventures in wildflowering by car. This talk and photo presentation by Delores Carpenter, retired social worker, and Ann Longsworth, retired psychologist, discusses wildflowers that can be seen on the byways of Madison and surrounding counties. Although not professional botanists or photographers, we are professional wildflower lovers and have been able to find numerous native plants while barely getting our toes wet.

We will have lots of handouts and a couple of suggestions on drives you can take to get you started appreciating the beauty that is still left on the back roads of surrounding areas. We look forward to kicking off the spring blooming season with you!



Wildflower Walks at Anglin Falls

5:30 pm March 26th, April 2nd, April 9th

Join our Naturalist, John, on a series of walks to see what wildflowers are blooming week to week. Directions are on our website or follow the signs when you enter 842 Anglin Falls Rd. on a GPS. These lead up to the Kentucky Native Plant Society's Wildflower Weekend April 8-10th!

March Moon Phases

New Moon: March 2nd

First Quarter: March 10th

Full Moon: March 18th

Lasts Quarter: March 25th



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

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

Homeschool Activity & Hike

March 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

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

All ages welcome!

University of Kentucky Students Complete Capstone Project on Berea College Forest

by Phil Vogel, Forester

If you have noticed some individuals wearing bright orange vests gathering in the Indian Fort parking lot before dispersing into the forest, it is not a fashion convention featuring the latest trends. The pockets of these “blaze orange” cruising vests are stuffed with compasses, maps, diameter tapes, clinometers, and other tools of the forestry trade. Every spring, seniors in the University of Kentucky’s Department of Forestry and Natural Resources complete a forest management plan for their capstone project. They survey the assigned property, perform a timber cruise, and develop recommendations for management based on real-world constraints and objectives. For Berea College these objectives include recreation, watershed protection, invasive control, and ecological forest management—in particular the maintenance of the native oak-hickory forest and the restoration of both shortleaf pine and American chestnut stands. At the end of the semester, the UK students will submit written management plans and present oral versions to UK faculty and natural resources professionals from across Kentucky.



As a senior at UK several years ago, I also completed my capstone project on the Berea College Forest. Many of the ideas that continue to shape who I am as a forester today first began taking form through this experience: the value of time spent in the woods, the complexity and beauty of a multiple-use forest, and the importance of connecting people with their environment. I have held these ideas close through other jobs and more school. Now I find myself back in the forest where they originally took root. From the window of my office, I sometimes see those orange-clad students re-emerging from the woods at the end of the day. They remind me of the lessons I learned years ago and make me wonder what lessons they are learning today.