



## BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER at the Pinnacles

2047 Big Hill Rd. Berea, KY 40403-----859-756-3315  
Tues-Sat: 10am-4pm Sun: 12-4pm, trails open daily dawn to dusk

### January 2023 Friends of the Forest Newsletter



## New Year, New Discoveries

There's always more to explore...



The Berea College Forest has a long history of management, including Berea's first Forester, Silas Mason. While management practices have looked different through the years, currently they work to support the naturally occurring biodiversity that makes this region unique and imperative to preserve. Because Berea Foresters manage land in Madison, Jackson, and Rockcastle Counties (9,000+ acres), studying what plant species live here is a big undertaking. Thankfully, Ralph Thompson, Professor Emeritus, has been dedicated to this exploration for decades and is now joined by ecologist John Abrams.

The article *Native and Non-native Additions to the Vascular Plants of the Berea College Forest, Madison, Jackson, and Rockcastle Counties, Kentucky* by Ralph Thompson, John Abrams, and Glen Dandeneau has been published in the scientific journal *Castanea* Volume 27 Issue 2.

This survey was conducted from 2014-2021. It has added:

- 45 new species/sub-species (21 native, 24 non-native) that represents 20 genera and 5 families
- 30 first documented observations (22 Madison, 4 Jackson, 4 Rockcastle)

In all, the documented flora in the Berea College Forest consists of:

- 1,087 unique species/sub-species
- 540 genera
- 144 families

It is important to continually survey the forest in order to know what plants are thriving or hurting, what rare species we might have that need special attention, and what non-native species may be invasive/damaging to our ecosystem.

A huge thanks to Ralph, John, and Glen for all of their hard work on this subject. You can help them out through citizen science by documenting plant life you find in the forest on iNaturalist.org!



Netted chain fern  
(*Woodwardia areolata*)

This fern had gone undocumented until 2019, as it can be easily overlooked. Look carefully...you never know what you might find!

#### Land Acknowledgement:

Thank you to Tiffany Pyette for this Land Acknowledgment Statement:

*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.

## January Events:

All events at the FOC/Pinnacles unless otherwise noted.

Free and open to all.



- Pinnacles group hikes Saturdays at 1:00 pm. No hike Jan. 7th  
\*Student shuttle leaves from Alumni Circle at 12:45, first come first served\*
- National Houseplant Appreciation Day Plant Swap, Jan. 10th, 4-6 pm
- Tiny Forest Meeting, Jan. 21st, 10 am

#### Sunday Kid Programs--3:00-4:00 pm

- Nature Story Time & Hot Chocolate Bar, Jan. 15th
- Winter Scavenger Hunt & Meet a Tree Kids Activities, Jan. 22nd
- Playscape Meetup & Make Birdfeeders, Jan 29th



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/>



## National Houseplant Appreciation Day Plant Adopt & Swap

January 10th, 4:00-6:00pm

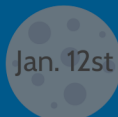


Did you get new plants over the holidays or are looking to fight the winter woes by adding some life to your home? Join us at the Berea College Forestry Outreach Center on National Houseplant Appreciation Day for a fun plant swap. Bring in your excess or unwanted houseplants and trade them with others, or adopt a new plant to take home with you.

This is a great opportunity to refresh your indoor greenery, meet other plant enthusiasts, and ask any questions about plant care you might have. We hope to see you there.

There are many benefits to caring for plants in your home! Houseplants...

- improve air quality and reduce respiratory problems and allergies
- reduce stress and improve mood
- provide a sense of accomplishment and purpose
- look beautiful!



Learn about the local night sky on our website under *Skies Over the Pinnacles* thanks to Jeff Hutton!

## Tiny Forest Meeting

January 21st, 10:00 am

We had a great first meeting in November for our volunteer-led, Tiny Forest group. If you are interested in unearthing the natural potential of your yard or outdoor space or would like to help others in their efforts, this group is for you! This meeting will discuss potential projects that will begin in the spring. There's something for everyone--invasive plant I.D. and removal, plant propagation, tree seedling transplanting, habitat restoration, and sharing of knowledge with others! Special thanks to Abigail Kingston for spearheading this event.



## *Happy New Year!*

Hiking or walking is a great way to kick off the new year. Not only does hiking get you outside and moving, it also allows you to connect with nature and clear your mind. Studies have shown that spending time in nature can reduce stress and improve overall well-being. So why not make hiking a part of your new year's resolution? With so many beautiful trails to explore, you'll never run out of new sights to see and experiences to enjoy. Lace up those hiking boots – your body and mind will thank you!

## Sunday Kid Programs

3:00-4:00 pm

Follow our Facebook for updates/cancellations

*Jan 15-Nature Books  
Story Time &  
Hot Chocolate Bar*



Stay warm from the winter chill with a hot chocolate and cozy story time! We'll have lots of books to choose to read out loud together or individually. There will also be a few self-guided activities for in between books!

*Jan 22-Winter  
Scavenger Hunt*

Bundle up and head outside to explore the forest together through a list of items to spot or collect and a series of clues that helps solve a puzzle...



*Jan 29-Playscape  
Meetup & Make a  
Birdfeeder*

Come play at our natural play area and help decorate the natural weaving arches! We will also have materials to make natural feeders for our bird friends!

