



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

February 2023 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

A Culture of Caretaking February Love for FOC Volunteer and Student Projects

The Tiny Forest Project...

...is a coalition of folks in and around Madison County working to re-establish our region's native habitats.

Abigail Kingston is a young person who has fallen in love with the Appalachian ecosystem. Lucky for us, she has found a home at the FOC, where she volunteers to lead initiatives like the Tiny Forest Project. Abigail has convened a group where people can share their breadth of knowledge about the land and learn together how to best care for their lands. Abigail's project began with collecting, raising, and giving away tiny saplings and has now grown to include restoring stands of river cane. This culturally significant plant is less prominent than in the past, but its presence is invaluable to prevent erosion and improve the ecosystem. A small population of cane exists along the creekbank near our native prairie and the FOC staff and Abigail, along with FOC students will soon begin a restoration effort there. You can read more of Abigail's re-wilding efforts in her article A Nature of Cartetaking on the FOC website's blog.

River cane



Art in the Forest

We love partnering with creative folks who appreciate the beauty of nature. Artist bugz fraugg has partnered with the FOC on a number of projects. Watch for

her gorgeous, handcarved tree ID signs to appear in the lower forest this spring. Bugz is also involved in the Tiny Forest project and is working on a number of zines focused on tree and plant identification. Prototypes for much bigger projects (literally and figuratively) are awaiting sources of funding.

Local artist Heather Dent is always looking for ways to use natural materials to express herself. Through Winterberry Studio, Heather invites folks of all ages to engage with the outdoors in artistic and personal ways through the workshops she offers and posting nature art inspiration on social media!



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.

February Events:

All events at the FOC/Pinnacles unless otherwise noted.

Free and open to all.



- Pinnacles group hikes Saturdays at 1:00 pm.
Student shuttle leaves from Alumni Circle at 12:45, first come first served
*Feb. 25th will be a difficult group hike with different times, see page 2
- Nature Relaxation & Restoration:
Feb 11th, 1:00 pm
- Kelly's Trail Group Hike: Feb 25th, 10:30am-3:30pm

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

- Feb 5th--Build a Fairy House
- Feb 12th--Design a Forest
- Feb 19th--Who Uses Water?



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/>

FOC Labor Student Projects

Kya is experimenting with making natural dye from fallen lichen! So far, she has had success with different methods of dyeing cotton. A blog post about her process will be on our website soon!

Elijah is coaxing oyster mushrooms to colonize disposable masks and pieces of plastic water bottles. The fungi chemically change the substrate, so once they are decomposed, the mushrooms should still be edible!

Charity is learning about traditional ways of weaving. She is practicing on our invasive bamboo stand, then will try to transfer her skills to using the tops of river cane that are harvested when transplanting.

Jeri and Citlaly are preparing to help lead an after school program at Berea Community Middle School this spring! Citlaly is also leading kid's activities each Sunday.

Nature Relaxation and Restoration

Saturday, February 11th, 1:00 pm
(rain date in March if needed)

Join soon-to-be-certified ANFT guide Wendy Warren as she guides her first public three hour Nature and Forest Therapy experience designed to relax and restore equilibrium to body and mind. Dress warmly as we will be outdoors and moving slowly. Bring a water bottle and perhaps a snack. This event is open to the public and the Berea College community.

Feb. 5th

Feb. 13th

Feb. 20

Feb. 27th

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

Kelly's Trail Group Hike

February 25th, 10:30am-3:30pm
(rain date in March if needed)



The longest out-and-back hike here at the Pinnacles takes you along the ridge line towards Robe and Basin mountains. Its name, Kelly's Trail, is in remembrance of Kelly Ambrose, a professor of health and human performance at the College who took his students for "Required Fun."

This time of year is perfect for the trek--when leaves are off the trees, you can enjoy the views all along the ridgeline.

This hike is about 6 miles round trip and is steep and rocky along the way. Please wear appropriate footwear, carry water and snacks, and bring any medications you may need (ex. epipen, inhaler).

We will meet outside of the FOC at 10:30 am to begin and should be back by 3:30 pm.

Sunday Kid Programs

3:00-4:00 pm

Follow our Facebook for updates/cancellations

Feb 5th

Build a Fairy House



Come design and build a fairy house to add to your own yard or to join our neighborhood in the playscape.

Materials will be provided but be on the lookout and hunt for any natural materials you could add!

Feb 12th

Design a Forest

Enjoy listening to a story time. Afterwards, try creating your own national forest! What will your forest be like?



Feb 19th

Who Uses Water?

Enjoy a puppet show while learning the importance of sharing water with all living things! There will also be a chance to create your own water story!

