



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

May 2023 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

Reciprocal Relationships Nurturing the Forest as it Nurtures Us

In April, we were honored to have representatives from the Massachusetts Plimoth Patuxet Museums return to the Berea Forest. Back in 2016, the forest gifted the shipwrights of the *Mayflower II* with the 30-foot white oaks they greatly needed to make repairs. This year, the museum was searching for a source of bark with which they build wetuash, the traditional homes of the Wampanoag people.



Plimoth Patuxet Museums

Due to their limited land holdings and factors such as blights, deforestation, and invasive species, the trees traditionally used for building in that area are no longer an option to use. The tulip poplar trees in Berea's

forest make for a comparable building material. Berea's forest management practices allow for trees to reach great heights. The size of the tree is important, as there needs to be lengths of the tree free of branching to get a good sized bark peeling. The warm weather allowed for the tree's sap to flow, giving flexibility to the bark and letting it peel from the wood smoothly.



We appreciate the gifts the forest offers, as long as we care for it they way it cares for us.

You can learn more about Plimoth Patuxet Museums and the amazing education work they are doing at plimoth.org.

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.

May Events:

All events at the FOC/Pinnacles unless otherwise noted.

Free and open to all.

Outdoor activities weather-dependent.

FOC CLOSED MAY 9TH FOR STUDENT ORIENTATION

- **Special note: from May-August, [Saturday Pinnacle group hike times change to 10:00am](#)**
- Nature Relaxation & Restoration: [5:30-7:30 pm 10th @ Anglin Falls](#) [5:30-7:30 pm 24th @ the Pinnacles](#) [5:30-7:30 pm 31st @ Brushy Fork](#)
- **Star Party!** [May 27th, 7:30 pm](#)
- Sunday Kid Programs**
- May 7th: Save a Sapling
- May 14th: Natural Birdfeeders
- May 21st: Wondrous Weather

watch Facebook or our website for cancellations



Berea College Forestry Outreach Center



@bereacollegefoc



Naturalist

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/>

Star Party!

May 27th, 7:30 pm

Join FOC volunteer and astronomer Jeff Hutton to learn about solar eclipses! Did you know the next total solar eclipse not far from here will be on April 8th, 2024? Following that, it will be decades until the next local opportunity. After Jeff's presentation, if the night is clear, you're invited to gaze through telescopes at the stars and planets above us!

Mental Health Awareness Month

Nature R&R Experiences

Join center director Wendy Warren in a two-hour experience we call Nature R&R: relaxation and restoration. Wendy has recently become certified as a guide through the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy. Watch the video clip on the FOC website to learn its many health benefits. Dress for the weather, bring a water bottle, snack, and something to sit on.

Weather permitting, May opportunities include:

May 10th, 5:30-7:30pm @ Anglin Falls
842 Anglin Falls Rd.

May 24th, 5:30-7:30pm @ the Pinnacles
meet at the FOC

May 31st, 5:30-7:30pm @ Brushy Fork
meet at the bridge

Cancelled in case of rain, check Facebook
or our website for updates

Sunday Kid Programs

Follow our Facebook for updates/cancellations

May 7th Save a Sapling
leaving @ 2:30 pm

Help collect tree saplings that need a
better place to grow.

May 14th, Making Natural Birdfeeders
2:30-3:30 pm

Make a birdfeeder with natural
materials to take home.

May 21st, Wondrous Weather
2:30-3:30 pm

Explore activities that demonstrate
weather phenomena.

May 5th

May 12th

May 19th

May 27th

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

The Benefits of Burning



Credit: Simon Davies

Forestry labor student Simon Davies' photo of a controlled burn that won a photography contest!

The Forestry Department conducted two controlled burns on the west side of the Pinnacles forest in April. Fire has long been a part of forest ecosystems, and in the past few years, Berea foresters have reintroduced controlled burning as a management practice. One purpose is to reduce the amount of potential fuel in the understory. Another is to restore the Oak and Hickory habitat and increase the population of Shortleaf Pine once abundant in the area. The thick bark of Shortleaf Pine protects the food and transportation function of the cambium layer, and their seeds are also prone to sprout fairly quickly after fires. You can learn more at

forestryoutreach.berea.edu/fire-on-the-mountain



The Forestry Department's labor students are able to train for and participate in controlled burns. Here, Reuben Hicks leans against a shortleaf pine tree while watching the fire line.