



BEREA COLLEGE FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

at the Pinnacles: Homelands of Shawnee and Cherokee Peoples

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

August 2023 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

The Forest Has a Memory

by Phil Vogel, Berea College Forester



In their book *Ecological Forest Management*, Franklin et al. refer to a forest's memories as "biological legacies." These might include downed trees or dead standing trees, distinctive soil conditions, or root sprouts—anything that carries pre-disturbance conditions into the post-disturbance environment. When the chestnut blight swept across the Eastern U.S. in the early 20th century, decimating the American chestnut population by the 1950s, it left behind a memory that still lingers today.



Phil next to a surviving American chestnut

A decade ago, Clint Patterson, the College Forester, designed a harvest to encourage chestnut sprouts on Pinnacle Knob, a sandstone ridge that lies at 1500-1600 feet above sea level in elevation—ideal growing conditions for American chestnut. By opening up the forest canopy and allowing light to reach the forest floor, the harvest uncovered hundreds of chestnut sprouts.

Since then, the Berea College Forestry Department has been managing the area in collaboration with the Kentucky chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (KTACF) as an in-situ orchard. Despite the success of the initial harvest, the chestnut sprouts were still not flowering after over a decade of growth. Last year, we selectively harvested trees that overtopped the largest chestnut sprouts, and the increased light conditions helped these trees to flower for the first time. Earlier this summer, Ken Darnell from KTACF collected pollen from one of these trees with the goal of using it in efforts to breed a blight-resistant American chestnut with genes adapted to Kentucky.



Follow their efforts and learn more at acf.org

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Images thanks to KTACF

"May your children hear and breathe the words of our Indigenous ancestors. May we all be so lucky to know an Indigenous future."
~Matika Wilbur, Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America

August Events:

All events at the FOC/Pinnacles unless otherwise noted.
Free and open to all.

Outdoor activities weather-dependent.

- **Nature Hikes at the Pinnacles, every Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am**
 - **Nature Relaxation and Restoration:**
 - August 17th, 5:30-7:30pm @ the Pinnacles
 - August 30th, 5:30-7:30 @ Anglin Falls
 - **Wonders of the Night: August 24th, 7:30pm**
- Kid Activities*
- **August 20th, 11:00am: Bug Safari**
 - **August 27th, 2:00pm: Curiosity Hike**

event information on page 2



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/>

As time goes by, fewer and fewer people remember collecting chestnuts or seeing a mountainside covered in creamy white blooms. Holding the ladder as Ken collected pollen, I tried to imagine what Pinnacle Knob might look like covered in flowering American chestnuts. It is hard for me to picture, but the forest remembers.



Clint and Phil

Aug. 1st & Aug. 30th

Aug. 8th

Aug. 16th

Aug. 24th

Learn about what the local night sky will look like this month on our website under *Skies Over the Pinnacles* thanks to Jeff Hutton!



Wonders of the Night



Thursday, August 24th at 7:30pm

Join us for an evening of learning about the night sky with, Jeff Hutton.

If the night is clear, we'll head outside to look through telescopes. If you have one of your own, bring it along! Jeff can answer any questions you might have about setup and viewing.

The FOC staff will also guide a short walk in the woods to look for critters. *Please bring a flashlight!*



Nature R&R



a slow-paced, relaxing and restorative forest experience

Bring water and a portable seat or ground cover.

- August 17th, 5:30-7:30 @ the Pinnacles
- August 30th, 5:30-7:30 @ Anglin Falls

Please reserve your free spot on Eventbrite by searching for Berea College Forestry Outreach Center. Learn more about Nature R&R by watching the informational video on the event pages or on <https://www.youtube.com/@bereacollegefoc>

Check out some of our summer sightings. You can follow along and contribute on iNaturalist.com !



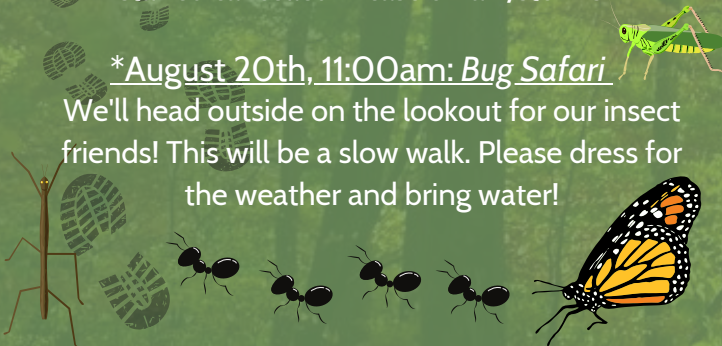
This red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) lives on Berea's campus and is frequently seen around campus.

Summer Kid's Activities

Follow our Facebook for updates/cancellations, starred cancelled in case of rain/storms

*August 20th, 11:00am: Bug Safari

We'll head outside on the lookout for our insect friends! This will be a slow walk. Please dress for the weather and bring water!



*August 27th, 2:00 pm: Curiosity Hike

On this walk through the woods, we will try to ask as many questions as we can think of! It's okay if we don't always know the answer--staying curious is the important part! We'll take our time to notice things we might not day-to-day and stop to appreciate the smaller details in nature!

This is a 1 mile loop that is a bit uphill at the start then has minimal elevation change. Please dress for the weather and bring water!

A green frog (*Lithobates clamitans*) was enjoying a humid day at Anglin Falls.



An io moth (*Automeris io*) laid her eggs on a redbud leaf, one of their caterpillar's favorite species to feed on.

This iridescent wasp, *Euperilampus triangularis*, is the first of its kind documented on iNaturalist in Kentucky!

