



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

November 2023 Friends of the Forest Newsletter

Art and Contemplation in the Forest

"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

November Events:

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

Outdoor activities weather-dependent.

The FOC will be closed Nov. 22nd-27th
Trails remain open. Happy Thanksgiving!

- Nature Hikes at the Pinnacles, Saturdays at 1:00 pm
no hike on Nov. 25th

Family Activities

- Nov. 5th 2:00-4:00pm: Nature Masterpieces-Join us in creating art inspired by nature through paintings, music, salt dough impressions, and designing a terrarium.
- Nov. 12th 1:00-4:00pm: Into the Wild-Join us on an outdoor adventure to explore the forest! Wear sturdy shoes and bring some water to hike the Pinnacles.
- Nov. 19th 2:00-4:00pm: Shapes in Nature-Through exploration and creative crafts, we will dive into the world of natural patterns.



Berea College Forestry Outreach Center



@bereacollegefoc

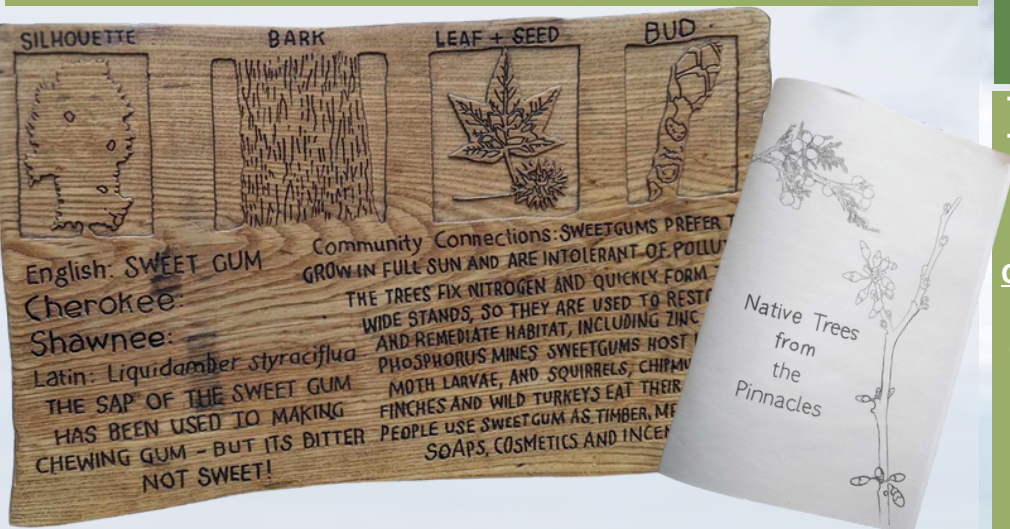


Citizen Science Project: Biodiversity of the Berea College Forest



Seek app by iNaturalist, great I.D. tool for kids and families

<https://forestryoutreach.berea.edu/>



Local artist bugz fraugg created hand-carved wooden signs to compliment several species of trees in the forest. When you pause to read them, you will learn more about our tree friends than just their common and scientific names. These identification signs encourage paying attention to a tree's bark, buds, leaves, seeds and silhouette. Each one also describes how the tree is important to our ecosystem--including humans. The signs start in the lower forest area and continue up the main trail. Stop by the Center to pick up the 'zine bugz designed to accompany the signs, or find it on the front page of our website!

Enjoy a break from campus and visit Brushy Fork where Head Forester, Clint Patterson, created a grove across from the walking bridge. His hope is that this is a space where folks may go to sit on a simple pine slab and contemplate their place in nature, to pray, and to perhaps meet



others who share this mindset or are seeking someone to share their cares with. He hopes folks will enjoy this simple addition to the forest and treat it with reverence...and treat all who enter it with love. You can learn more about Clint's vision and add your own thoughts by opening the wooden chest you'll find there.

Enhancing Our Campus Ecosystem



The Berea College Grounds team works hard to keep the campus environment healthy. Recently, four aggressively invasive Bradford pear trees were removed along Walnut Meadow Rd.

In their place, eight native trees were planted-- an act that will positively affect the ecology of the area.

Christina Hoddinot and Michael Barnes in Facilities Management planted trees in various soil structures to research how climate change influences their growth. Berea's forest campus offers endless opportunities to learn more about the environment and our place in it. The outdoors is the best classroom...



Finally, several native eastern white pines and white oaks were planted near the new student parking lot, trees across campus have been mulched to protect their roots, and mini-meadows have been established that will provide habitat for pollinators throughout the year.

Thank you, Berea College Grounds staff and students!

Nov 5th

Nov. 13th

Nov. 20th

Nov. 27th

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

Did you catch the partial solar eclipse that occurred on October 14th? Here was our view from a telescope!



If the clouds got in your way, don't worry. A total solar eclipse is coming fairly close to Berea on April 8th, 2024. Learn more at the Pinnacle Astronomy Club.
jeffp.hutton@gmail.com

Nature Relaxation & Restoration: *Try this!*

In the shorter days of winter, it's harder to find times to offer full two-hour Nature R&R experiences. In the meantime, you can experience the many health benefits of being outdoors. **Try This:** Find a spot not far from your home that you can easily visit; it might even be a front or back porch—or a spot near a window in your home. Commit to spending 15 minutes in this spot every day—or as often as you can. This is time not to do, but just to be: to watch, to listen, to smell, and to feel. Our senses help us become more attuned to our bodies, which remember our deep connections with each other and with the more than human world.

Reflection on Tree Week 2023

October brought our annual week-long celebration of trees. More people join us every year; thank you for all who attended. We're already looking forward to next year. We invite community organizations to hold Tree Week events. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the fun!

Mulch Madness

Thanks to community volunteers including Scout Master Joe White, his scouts, and folks from Novelis, over 100 trees in the lower forest at the Pinnacles now have protected roots!



Student-Led Painting Events

Jeriel led a "painting in the forest" event in Brushy Fork to help students relax amid midterm tests and projects.

Kya crafted her own watercolor paints made from natural materials such as lichen, sunflower seeds, matcha, and black walnuts.



"Clear Day Thunder" Documentary Screenings

The FOC welcomed students and the community to learn more about the American Chestnut, a nearly extinct tree species. Berea College Forestry is working with The American Chestnut Foundation to restore this tree, vital to the Appalachian ecosystem and culture.



Learn more at tacf.org