

Berea College Forestry Outreach Center

at the Pinnacles: Homelands of Shawnee and Cherokee Peoples

2024 Year in Review



BEREA COLLEGE
FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER



BEREA COLLEGE
FORESTRY



2047 Big Hill Rd. Berea, KY 40403

Trails & outdoor restrooms open DAILY, dawn to dusk

FOC hours: Tues.-Sat. 10:00am-4:00pm, Sun. 12:00-4:00pm

We will be closed Dec. 21st-Jan. 6th for winter dormancy...

Thank you to everyone that visited the forest or joined us for an event this year. Please enjoy our highlights from 2024!

Hikes and Programs

The FOC consistently welcomes over 12,000 visitors through our doors each year with the Pinnacles attracting over 100,000 hikers annually. We host hikes and programs, as well as collaborations with community partners and classes. This year we had...

44 K-12 & College groups
with
800 participants

78 programs/events
with
1,400 participants

34 group hikes
with
70 participants



Farm & Forest Festival

Over 500 people joined us in celebrating land-based initiatives at the College and in the community. It was a joy to welcome ~150 people to visit the new Draft Barn, as well as demonstrate horse harnessing and logging for a crowd of nearly 100. The College Farm hosted tractor-drawn wagon rides and brought farm animal representatives for folks to learn about. Thanks to Berea College Human Resources, the tradition of a College chili cookoff was revived!

A huge thanks to the College and community groups that partnered with us on this wonderful day!





An Addition on the Horizon

This year, the Forestry Department has been working towards converting a historic logging road into a new trail in the Berea Forest! It will traverse through a “working forest” where you can learn about the restorative management actively happening on the land. There will be educational signage with opportunities to dig deeper into each topic. One of the highlights is that a portion of the trail allows folks to walk amongst a mother orchard of American Chestnut trees. This project is enabling the addition of 3+ miles of trails in the woods as well as easier access to our native prairie.

Stay tuned for opening details including location and parking!

Berea’s Biodiversity

“Biodiversity of the Berea College Forest” is a project on iNaturalist.com that is built by citizen science--community-driven data collection of the flora and fauna found here. Hundreds of visitors to the Berea College Forest and our ecologist, John Abrams, have helped document our wildlife, including threatened/endangered species and new state records.

Understanding what is living in the forest and in what abundance is critical for Berea to consciously manage for the health of the ecosystem.

Help contribute to our knowledge of the forest!

Upload any wildlife photos you take while at the Pinnacles, Anglin Falls, Brushy Fork, or campus to [iNaturalist.org!](https://www.inaturalist.org)

3,764

Species identified
to date

(up from 3,498 in 2023)

thanks to

33,971

individual
observations



Berea’s Urban Forest

Berea’s campus is known to have beautiful landscaping, thanks to the Grounds crew and labor students. In addition to the Tree Committee, which is a voice for the trees on campus, Michael Barnes has transitioned into a role that allows for intentional urban forestry. This work involves monitoring tree health, planting, mulching, invasive removal, and addressing dangerous or downed trees. Students are able to gain valuable knowledge and skills through working with the Grounds team, and our campus trees benefit greatly. To learn about how many benefits there are to having healthy trees on campus, you can find stats and a tree map on the FOC website under “Forest Ecosystem” or berea.edu/campus-maps.

Student Spotlights

Each student that works at the FOC chooses a project to enhance our educational opportunities for the community or help us learn and care for our ecosystem. Here are a few examples of projects from this year:



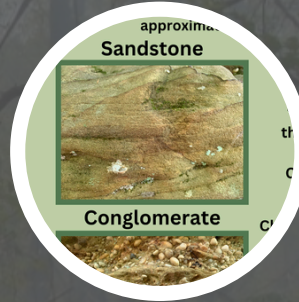
Claire Mast helped lead our first-ever summer camp! She also created discovery drawers with activities for families to check out during their visit.

Abigail Kingston is growing trees and river cane seedlings to plant as needed. She is also exploring uses of the invasive plant kudzu, including making fiber and weaving.



Jeriel Byron-Dixon, Reuben Hicks, and Zeke Williams participated in the prescribed burn conducted on the forest this spring.

This is a great opportunity for students to gain experience and get a certification!



Abegail Blakey used their interest in geology to create educational signs that identify the types of rock you walk on as you travel up to

the Pinnacles' overlooks. Stay tuned for when they are installed this winter...

Graduating Seniors - FOC and Forestry

Congratulations are in order for students graduating this month and this coming spring. It is always bittersweet to say "see you later," but we know they have bright futures ahead of them!



Edie Jo Wakin has completed two internships in the forest as well as worked at the FOC. Edie's interest in wildlife that is often overlooked is to be admired. You can see the snail display they curated at the FOC!



Kya Norman is our first labor student to spend four full years with us. From her work on our website, to making stickers, to working with K-12 students, we appreciate her sharing her wide range of talents with us!



Jeriel Byron-Dixon is always interested in learning new things and loves sharing them with others. From her work, to club leadership, to internships and study abroad, her wealth of knowledge will be shared far and wide!



Senna Jenkins has set an amazing example that if you put in the time to work on your passions, you will succeed. It has been a joy to watch her confidence and skills in horsemanship grow through the years.