



BEREA COLLEGE

FORESTRY OUTREACH CENTER

at the Pinnacles: Homelands of
Shawnee and Cherokee Peoples
Tues.-Sat. 10am-4pm, Sun. 12-4pm
Trails open dawn to dusk, daily
2047 Big Hill Rd. Berea, KY 40403
859-756-3315

<https://forestryoutreach.berea.edu>

UPCOMING EVENTS

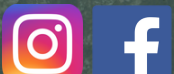
All events at the FOC/Pinnacles unless otherwise noted. Free, all welcome.

*Outdoor activities weather-dependent

- *Saturday Group Hikes, 1:00pm
-Feb. 7th, 21st, 28th: the Pinnacles
Feb. 14th: Pinnacle Knob (new)
- *STUDENTS: a shuttle will leave Alumni Circle at 12:45 and return around 3:30pm*
- Forest Meditations each Saturday 10:00-11:00am
- Nature Journaling through the Arts: Feb. 7th, 11:00am-12:30pm
- Valentines to Nature Craft Night Feb. 11th, 6:00-7:30pm
- Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 13th-16th, birdwatch with us, 9:30am
- Lichen Walk: Feb. 17th, leave at 2pm
- Exploring Amphibians Walk Feb. 22nd, leave at 2:00pm
- iNaturalist I.D.-a-thon Workshop Feb. 28th, 11:00am-1:00pm

Family Activities:

- geared towards elementary-aged kids, but all welcome*
- Feb. 8th: All About Birds 2-3pm
- Feb. 15th: Likin' Lichen Walk, leave at 2



@bereacollegefoc



Citizen Science Project: Biodiversity of the Berea College Forest

FEBRUARY 2026 FRIENDS OF THE FOREST NEWSLETTER

A CALL TO FIND HOPE AND PEACE IN THE NATURAL WORLD

"I had always found comfort in the leaves, in their silence. They were like a parchment that holds words of wisdom. Simply holding them in my hand gave me some of the peace a tree possesses. To be like that--to just be--that's the most noble thing of all." - Silas House, A Parchment of Leaves



We hope that this month of February is a reminder that hope is always cycling.

From the icy glaze melting to the emergence of the first tree buds, the turn of the seasons continues to carry us forward together into an ever-changing world. This is what is real: that we have each other, our wildlife kin, and the Earth. We each share a part in our ecosystem and our communities.

There is hope and peace there. Practice this mindfulness with us at our upcoming gatherings:

Nature Journaling through the Arts, Feb. 7th, 11:00am-12:30pm
Do you find yourself drawn to write, draw, paint, or compose music—as a way to respond to and connect with the world we are a part of—but never quite get to it? Use this as a springboard! Wear clothing for comfort both indoors and outside and bring materials we may not be able to provide: your writer's notebook, a special sketchbook, an instrument, a specific set of pastels or paints. We will also have generic materials available for your use. Feel free to bring a snippet of your favorite nature writing/poetry, art, story, or song to share.

Valentines to Nature Craft Night, Feb. 11th, 6:00-7:30pm
We will have crafting and natural materials to make valentines, love notes/letters to nature. You are welcome to keep them private, or we would love to display them in the Center and share them on our social media on Valentine's Day!

iNATURALIST I.D.-A THON

February 28th, 11:00am-1:00pm

Help us get closer to identifying all of the amazing wildlife people have observed in the forest! Bring a computer (preferable) or your smartphone to join in on our I.D.-a-thon: a time dedicated to classifying iNaturalist wildlife observations. No experience necessary! We will go over tips and tricks to I.D. on iNaturalist that go beyond this event and beyond local observations!

Pop in and out as you'd like. We will have light refreshments.

WILDLIFE WALKS

February 13th-16th: **Backyard Bird Count, 9:30am**

Join one of the largest citizen science projects by birdwatching as little as 15 minutes each day and recording observations on eBird or Merlin. We will be participating in the lower forest each morning if you would like to watch with a group!

February 17th: **Exploring Lichen, 2:00pm**

Lichen are an often overlooked organism in the forest. Join our ecologist to learn more about these amazing beings.

February 22nd: **Exploring Amphibians, 2:00pm**

We will take a short walk to our pond to learn about the amphibian life there and yonder!



FOREST MEDITATIONS

Saturdays, 10:00am

Come join us for Forest Meditations every Saturday at 10 am at the Forestry Outreach Center. This is an opportunity to connect with ourselves, each other, and the earth. All are welcome.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Always **free** and open to all. Geared towards elementary ages.*

Outdoor activities are weather-dependent. RSVP on Facebook for more info and updates.

February 8th
All About Birds
2:00-3:00pm

Bird migration will be starting up again soon and there are still birds living here during the winter! To learn about them, we'll make pinecone bird feeders, bird themed crafts and games.

February 15th
***Likin' Lichen Walk**
leave at 2:00pm

While many plants lay dormant for the winter, there's still a lot of green to be found in the forest. We'll go on a slow-paced, child-led walk in the lower forest to learn about lichen and moss. We can collect some to bring back and examine under a microscope!



Tree of the Month!

by Aidan Teague ('26), BC Urban Forestry Labor Student

February's tree of the month is the Eastern Hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*. The pictured tree is ID (3455) and is next to Lincoln Hall, on the side that faces Emory. This medium sized conifer has the potential to reach 70 feet tall and 35 feet wide! Considering its location, it's likely that this particular Eastern Hemlock won't grow much more than it already has. The tree's needles (unlike Poison Hemlock leaves) are safe to consume and are used for their high vitamin C content. The Eastern Hemlock is native to Kentucky and provides shelter and food for many different animals, like the wild turkey! The Eastern Hemlock is endangered because of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, an invasive aphid that drains the tree of its resources faster than it can regenerate them. Our Eastern Hemlock has been treated and seems to be in good health, but this isn't guaranteed for the future; so, like with all our endangered trees, appreciate it while it's still healthy.



Explore the full campus tree map yourself! Scan the QR code or look under the "Forest Ecosystem" tab on our website.

