



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

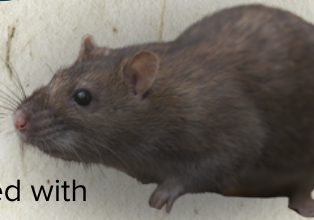
All events at the FOC/Pinnacles unless otherwise noted. Free, all welcome.

**Outdoor activities weather-dependent*

- *Saturday Group Hikes, 1:00pm
 - March 14th: Pinnacles
 - March 21st: Pinnacle Knob
 - March 28th: Pinnacles
- **Forest Meditations each Saturday**
10:00-11:00am
- Nature R&R:
 - March 19th: 6:00-7:00pm, meet at the Alumni Field fire pit
 - March 28th 11:30am-12:30pm at the Pinnacles
- **The Extraordinary Caterpillar**
Documentary Dialogue: March 18th, 6:30pm
- Natural Clay Workshop March 26th 4:30-6:30pm, meet at Alumni fire pit
- **Rat Appreciation Day with BC Art in Action: March 29th, 2-4pm**
- Pop Up Wildflower Walks--follow our Facebook and/or call us!
Family Activities:
geared towards elementary-aged kids, but all welcome
 - March 15th: Focus on the Forest, 2pm
 - March 22nd: Very Hungry Caterpillar Day w/ MCPL, 1-3pm

MARCH 2026 FRIENDS OF THE FOREST NEWSLETTER

THE LOVED AND THE UNLOVED



Soon, the forest floor will be speckled with ephemeral wildflowers--beautifully delicate signs of spring that provide the first source of nectar for emerging pollinators. They are diverse in size, color, and shape, making them a spectacle and a fleeting treat for visitors to the forest. Many of these flowers take years to establish in the soil before their short blooms, making their life cycles fragile and localized populations vulnerable to environmental factors. We ask that as you enjoy the wildflowers, that you leave them be for the next visitors of the forest to enjoy and for their wondrous life cycles to continue. Damage to wildflower populations is one of the reasons Anglin Falls needs a rest from many visitors, though we know visiting in the spring is a tradition for many. **We will be leading guided wildflower walks at Anglin Falls by RSVP only. We will post them on a rolling basis throughout March and April, so stay tuned to our social media or call (859-756-3315) Tuesday mornings to learn the upcoming walk dates. RSVP will be through Eventbrite or over the phone.**

Why are wildflowers so beloved while other members of the ecosystem are unloved or overlooked? Every being on Earth has a place and a right to life. We are all connected. Join us and the Art in Action team for **Rat Appreciation Day on March 29th, 2:00-4:00pm at the Hafer-Gibson building.** This is a celebration for World Rat Day (April 4th) as well as to acknowledge and shift perspective on critters that have a bad reputation. There's something for all ages, and the event is FREE.

- **Rat themed crafts**
- **Giant cardboard mazes**
- **Scavenger hunt**
- **Snake meet & greet**
- **"Pest" control info**
- **Rat themed trivia at 2:30pm**
- **Short presentations on native rats and anthrozoology**

The world needs more people who see wildlife as neighbors... not nuisances.

THE EXTRAORDINARY CATERPILLAR

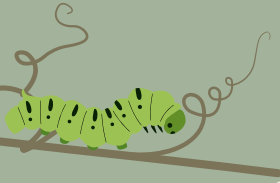
Documentary Dialogue Wednesday, March 18th, 6:30pm

Did you know it takes 6 to 7,000 caterpillars to sustain one nest of chickadees to adulthood?

Join us for a showing of an documentary about caterpillars, a sometimes overlooked critter but one that glues the ecosystem together.

After watching film, we invite you to stay for a short discussion about the film, caterpillars, and the natural world.

Light refreshments will be available.



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.



NATURE R&R

March 19th, 6:00-7:00pm, meet at the Alumni Field fire pit

March 28th, 11:30am-12:30pm, meet at the Center

Join us for a slow-paced, relaxing and restorative forest experience. Please bring water and a portable seat or ground cover. Learn more and RSVP for a FREE spot on Eventbrite, search for Berea College Forestry Outreach Center on eventbrite.com.

Give yourself the gift of a break and reconnect with the natural world.

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.

March 15th:
Focus on the Forest
2:00pm

We'll go on a child-led walk in the lower forest with film cameras and picture frames to focus in on parts of the forest we might overlook! We will get the photos developed and share them in our next newsletter or you can stop in the Center to see them in person!

March 22nd: Very Hungry Caterpillar Day w/ MCPL
1:00-3:00pm

Celebrate Very Hungry Caterpillar Day (March 20th) and the start of spring with us and the Madison County Public Library! We'll have a pop up library, crafts, and educational activities!



Tree of the Month!

by Michael Barnes, Urban Forester

March's tree of the month is the Foster Holly, *Ilex x attenuata* 'Fosteri'. The pictured tree is on the side of Jekyl Drama Center, ID 430 in our campus Urban Forest. There are a handful of Foster Hollies throughout campus. This species is unique because it is a cultivar of a naturally occurring hybrid of *Ilex cassine* and *Ilex opaca* which both have native ranges along the southeastern coast. Foster Hollies typically grow to a height of 20 to 30 feet with a spread of 10 to 20 feet and can tolerate full sun to part shade.

Foster Holly is also unique in that it is one of the few hollies in which females will produce fruit without being fertilized by a male, making them parthenocarpic. The resulting fruits won't have seeds and are red, pea-sized and are a favorite among birds.



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