



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

See descriptions on p. 2

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

*Outdoor activities weather-dependent

• CLOSED MAY 10TH--Graduation Day

• *Nature R&R at Brushy Fork

May 7th, 5:15pm– email signup:
warrenw@bereda.edu

• *Birdwatching Walk, Saturday May 9th, 9:00am

• Cosmic Cafe & Star Party, May 14th
8:00pm

• *SummerFest, May 17th 12:00-4:00pm

• *Critter Crawl Walk, May 19th, 5:30pm

• *Nature R&R at the Pinnacles
May 23rd, 1:30-3:30pm--email signup

Family Activities:

geared towards elementary-aged kids,
but all welcome

• May 3rd: Migratory Bird Day 2:00-3:00pm

• May 17th: Paint a Pot and Planting
2:00-3:00pm

• *May 24th: Micro Exploration,
2:00-3:00pm

• May 31st: TBD, 2:00-3:00pm

RECURRING EVENTS

• *Saturday Group Hikes, 10:00am

-May 2nd., 16th, 23rd, 30th: Pinnacles

• -May 9th: Anglin Falls--email signup

• Forest Meditations each Saturday
9:00-10:00am

MAY 2026 FRIENDS OF THE FOREST NEWSLETTER

FUN IN THE FOREST

April kicked off the busy season for the Pinnacles and the Center. The wonderful spring ephemeral wildflower season just concluded which, along with the unseasonably warm weather, drew an estimated 15,000 visitors to the trails--our busiest April yet. Homeschool and traditional school groups frequent the forest; last month we worked with five different K-12 groups and are scheduled to work with eight more in May, bringing our spring field trip total to nearly 500 students!

We are so glad that these students are getting essential time outdoors to explore and learn from the natural world.



The bustling activity certainly doesn't stop with recreational visitors or educational groups. Wildlife is starting to get more active as temperatures rise and days grow longer. You'll begin to hear and see migratory birds returning to their mating grounds. World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice a year--once in the fall and once in the spring--to bring awareness to birds' amazing journeys and the obstacles they face. You can learn more on a...



BIRDWATCHING WALK

Saturday, May 9th
leave at 9:00am

Blackburnian warbler



This will be peak migration season! Join Michael Mecham for a slow birdwatching walk. Bring binoculars if you have them!



Chimney swift

NATURE R&R

May 7th at Brushy Fork, meet at bridge at 5:15pm

May 23rd at the Pinnacles, meet at Center
at 1:30-3:30pm

Email warrenw@berea.edu to sign up

Join us for a slow-paced, relaxing and restorative forest experience. Please bring water and a portable seat or ground cover. We will meet at the Forestry Outreach Center and caravan to Anglin Falls. Ability to navigate uneven terrain required.

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



FOREST MEDITATIONS

Saturdays, 9:00am
meet at the Center

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

COSMIC CAFES & STAR PARTIES

8:00pm

May 14th, June 18th, July 21st,
& September 10th

Cosmic Cafes are casual meetings open to all who are interested in the night sky.

They will be followed by star parties (looking at the night sky) when weather allows.



CRITTER CRAWL

May 19th
meet at 5:30pm

Join us for a SLOW, observational walk at the Pinnacles. This is for folks who want to take each step at a time with no destination, just exploration. We will be using the app iNaturalist to document our wildlife findings along the way!

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.

May 3rd: Migratory Bird
Day, 2:00-3:00pm

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day (May 9th) by learning about the birds that call Berea home for some or all of the year! We will read the book "Is This Panama?" at 2:15pm. It is a story of a bird's first migration journey. We will have other bird related activities like pinecone birdfeeders and crafts.

May 17th: Paint a Pot
and Planting, 2:00-3:00pm

Use your creativity to paint a pot then plant a seed to take home with you!

*May 24th: Micro Exploration
2:00-3:00pm

We will have microscopes set up to explore what natural things like leaves, bugs, and soil look like close up!

May 31st: TBD
2:00-3:00pm

Find details on our Facebook/website closer to the date!



Trees of the Month!

This month, we are celebrating a few newly planted trees in the lower forest area. The FOC, Forestry, and Urban Forestry crews teamed up to host a tree planting day for a local homeschool co-op.

The students assisted in planting the first tree, a black walnut, alongside staff. Then, the students got true hands-on experience, taking the lead in planting the others: black walnut, red oak, buttonbush, elderberry and chokeberry.

Planting trees to give them the best chance of survival has levels of nuance and best practices, all great information that the foresters were able to share with the families. These young trees will grow alongside saplings planted last year with support from the older trees in the area.

If you walk in the lower forest, you'll also see LOTS of tiny white oak saplings.

Our hope is that about 10% of these trees will grow well enough to stick around as we plan ahead for the health of the area as our large trees continue to get older.



Making sure the tree is level in the ground!

