



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 JUNETEENTH, JUNE 19TH**
- Cosmic Cafe & Star Party, Thursday, June 18th, 8:00pm
- **The Extraordinary Caterpillar** documentary screening, Wednesday, June 24th, 6:30pm
- Night Walk & Moth Sheet, Friday, June 26th, 8:45pm
- **Family Activities:** geared towards elementary-aged kids, but all welcome
- June 7th: Teddy Bear Picnic, 1-3pm
- June 14th: Micro Exploration 2-3pm
- June 21st: Sun Day & Sundaes 2-3pm
- *June 28th: Bug Safari, leave at 2pm

RECURRING EVENTS

- *Group Hikes each Saturday, 10:00am
- Forest Meditations each Saturday 9:00-10:00am

JUNE 2026 FRIENDS OF THE FOREST NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

June 22nd-June 28th

Pollinators are cornerstones in nearly every ecosystem on the planet.

And, did you know that ~80% of the crops in our food system rely on pollination? Insect populations have been declining over the past decades due to habitat loss, climate change, pesticide use, and more. Pollinator Week helps highlight the importance of these tiny heroes. The more we learn how to support our insect friends, the healthier we, and our planet, will be.

Throughout the week, we'll be highlighting pollinators on our social media, as well as offering opportunities to learn:

The Extraordinary Caterpillar documentary screening

June 24th, 6:30pm



Join us for a showing of The Extraordinary Caterpillar, a documentary with amazing cinematography and close-ups of a huge diversity of caterpillars. The film is just over 1 hour in runtime and is great for all ages.



Night Walk & Moth Sheet

June 26th, 8:45pm

Join us for a slow-paced walk in the woods starting at sundown. This will give us a chance to find forest critters that are active in the evenings. We will also set up a moth sheet—a white sheet with a UV light that will attract nocturnal insects like moths and beetles—to observe when we get back from the walk. Plan for uneven terrain and about 1 mile of distance. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp!

Pollinator Plant Giveaway

starting June 1st

Come by the Center during open hours to pick up a native, pollinator-friendly plant to take home. Thanks to the Madison County Conservation District and Berea College Grounds. While supplies last!

Keep an eye out for turtles!

This is the time of year when turtle activity amps up as they are looking for mates and nesting sites.

If you come across an eastern box turtle, take a picture of the top of their shell and submit it to this survey:

<https://arcg.is/19yeij2>



So far, there's about 400 unique individuals documented throughout the state. Eastern box turtles are an endangered species, so it is important to track their population numbers and distribution.

If you see a turtle attempting to cross the street, follow tips from U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <https://www.fws.gov/story/tips-helping-turtle-cross-road>

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

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.

For June's meeting, you're invited to bring a poem with an astronomical theme to share if you wish!



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.

**June 7th: Teddy Bear Picnic
1:00-3:00pm**

Enjoy a day outside on the FOC lawn with your family and your favorite teddy bear, stuffy, toy, etc.! We will have snacks, crafts, and a photo op for you and your snuggly companion. The Madison County Public Library will have books, library card signups, and information on their summer reading program. Berea College Art in Action will bring their creative energy to share with and inspire you.

**June 14th: 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!

June 21st: Sun Day & Sundaes, 2:00-3:00pm

Happy Summer Solstice! Celebrate "Sun Day" on Sunday with sundaes and craft activities.

**June 28th: Bug Safari
leave at 2:00pm**

We'll go on a slow-paced, child-led walk through the lower forest and around the Center searching for insect friends to observe and admire!



Tree of the Month!

by Michael Barnes

June's tree of the month is *Cladastris kentukea* (American yellowwood). The pictured tree is ID (3882) that is part of our campus Urban Forest on the side of Hafer-Gibson near the Boone Tavern crosswalk and measures 11.81 inches in diameter. There are also some other nice examples of yellowwood across campus. Yellowwood's clear yellow leaves in the fall that hang on well into spring are a very striking feature. There are few trees like Oaks and Beech that hang onto their dead leaves as they wait to make their abscission layer, a process called marcescence. American Yellowwood's can grow to about 30 to 50 feet in height with a crown spread of 40 to 55 feet. They are known for their smooth bark and for their fragrant white clusters of flowers in the spring.

This tree prefers full sun and has a medium growth rate.

Yellowwood's can be a very nice street tree with a nice form and the have some tolerance to road salt, but are highly susceptible to ice damage.



You can explore all of the trees on campus through the QR code below or through our website under "Forest Ecosystem."

