



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*

- **CENTER CLOSED AUGUST 18th for
student orientation**

- Nature R&R/Forest Bathing at Anglin
Falls, August 5th, 9:30am *sign up
required*

- **Hike at Anglin Falls August 11th &
19th, 5:30pm *sign up required***

- Cosmic Cafe & Star Party, August
20th, 8:00pm

- **Night Hike, August 27th, 8:00pm**

Family Activities:

*geared towards elementary-aged kids,
but all welcome*

- August 2nd: Crafty Caterpillars,
2-3pm

- August 9th: Eco-Friendly Water
Balloons, 2-3pm

- August 16th: Hidden Habitats walk,
leave at 2:00pm

- August 30th: Forest Reptiles, 2-3pm

RECURRING EVENTS

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

- *Group Hikes each Saturday 10:00am

AUGUST 2026

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST NEWSLETTER

A SUMMER FULL OF LEARNING

Kayla, our Education and Outreach Coordinator, is back from a trip to Kenya through her graduate school program, Project Dragonfly. The trip was focused on human-wildlife conflict and how people in Kenya, specifically Maasai pastoralists, have coexisted with wildlife for millennia. The South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO) is an organization that blends the Maasai's place-based, traditional ecological knowledge and conservation science to guide work in their region. Kayla experienced many mind-blowing wildlife sightings and conversations with SORALO and community members. She has returned home with a deeper belief that to take care of the Earth for future generations, we have to turn to indigenous knowledge and community-led conservation. August 9th is the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. It is a reminder that no matter how near or far we are from them now, we all come from homelands that our ancestors learned from and cared for as the land cared for them. It is our turn to continue our reciprocal relationships with the natural world.



Left: Kayla with
elephants (her
favorite) in the
background
Right: Alex with
some of his
mushroom
specimen



FOC student Alex Patrick has learned a lot during his summer at the Center! He started his own mini fungarium with dehydrated specimen he collected from the forest. Alex has mailed some off (one to Harvard!) for DNA analysis and research. His summer has been full of learning information and techniques taught by FOC ecologist, John, on how to be a better scientist. And Alex helped teach others about fungus as well! He thinks it's something that we should all learn about! The best way is to go out and explore yourself, using iNaturalist.org, or by reading and watching videos!

NATURE R&R

August 5th, 9:30am at Anglin Falls
meet at the Center

Email Wendy at warrenw@bera.edu to
sign up. We will meet at the Center first.

We live in an age where stressors are all around us--and hope sometimes seems hard to come by. Research is increasingly describing what our bodies need: time together in the natural world we are a part of and opportunities for our bodies to remember this connection. As our stress levels come down, all of our body's systems function as they should. Join us to experience this for yourself.

ANGLIN FALLS HIKE

August 11th & 19th , meet at the Center at 5:30pm

Email Wendy at warrenw@bera.edu to
sign up. We will meet at the Center first.

When it's sunny and hot in the summer, Anglin Falls is a great place to hike. The falls are rain-dependent, so it may or may not be flowing strongly.



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.

**August 2nd: Crafty
Caterpillars, 2:00-3:00pm**

Caterpillars are one of the staples of our ecosystem. After you make a caterpillar craft, maybe you can spot some in the forest!

Beat the heat with eco-friendly, reusable water balloons made out of crocheted yarn! The fun and coolness without the mess.

**August 9th: Eco-Friendly Water Balloons,
2:00-3:00pm**

**August 16th: Hidden Habitats
walk, leave at 2:00pm**

We will go on a slow walk around the lower forest to explore what critters might be living in hidden habitats like holes or under logs.

Learn about the snakes, turtles, and lizards we have here in Berea and meet a box turtle in person!

**August 30th: Forest Reptiles,
2-3pm**

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

August 20th & 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.



Tree of the Month!

by Lily Gardner

When asked about their favorite tree, the most common pick from this summer's Urban Forestry team is *Quercus alba* (White oak), our tree of the month! The white oak is a keystone species that is native to the eastern and central U.S. As a keystone species, the white oak hosts over 200 species of insects. They also support wildlife by producing acorns, which are a valuable source of food, and create essential habitats through branches and foliage. Historically, white oak has been a reliable material due to its durability, which makes it a popular choice for whiskey barrels. The wood structure contains microscopic tissues called tyloses that "plug" the vascular cells to seal the barrel's liquid content.

White oaks grow to an average height of 60-100 feet and can grow to a diameter of 3-6 feet. The white oak pictured below (Tree ID 4866) is located behind the Student Craft building and is one of the largest on campus with a diameter of 56.2 inches.



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

