

JOHN B. STEPHENSON Memorial Forest State Nature Preserve was dedicated into the state nature preserves system on December 10, 1996. The Cobb-Venable family owned this 123-acre wooded gorge for nearly five decades before it was sold to Friends of Anglin Falls, a non-profit organization, for preservation purposes. Ownership was then turned over to Berea College, which now manages the site. The preserve is named after the late Berea College president, John B. Stephenson, who was so inspired and moved by this site that he spent the last years of his life campaigning for its protection.

John B. Stephenson Memorial Forest SNP is a scenic, wooded ravine that protects Anglin Falls, a wet-weather waterfall of nearly 75 feet. On both sides of Anglin creek there are steep slopes that lead up to rocky ridgelines with many rock outcrops and small caves. As the trail ascends to Anglin Falls, large moss-covered boulders and the sounds of water trickling onto rock entice hikers to the serene view at the top of the gorge. The forest provides peaceful escape from urban living for those seeking solitude and renewal. The public has been generously granted access to this tract for as long as people can remember.

The preserve has more than 450 species of native plants including 32 ferns. Visitors to the forest can experience one of the Commonwealth's most spectacular springtime wildflower displays as they hike on the trail.

Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*), cut-leaf toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), catchfly (*Silene rotundifolia*), broadleaf waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum canadense*), purple trillium (*Trillium erectum*), dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), wood

poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) are among the wildflowers that can be observed there.

The preserve harbors a mixed mesophytic forest community consisting of mainly yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), oaks (*Quercus spp.*) and hickories (*Carya spp.*). Other tree species present are basswood (*Tilia americana*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). A rare tree, butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), is found in the preserve near the falls.

The preserve provides an outdoor laboratory for environmental education. Research conducted by students and faculty from nearby universities help us to understand the forest's ecological significance.

The preserve is open year round, sunrise to sunset, for non-consumptive recreation such as hiking, birding and nature study. The trail is considered moderate to strenuous. Visitors are asked to remain on the marked trail at all times for their safety and to protect the integrity of the biotic community surrounding them.

Owners:

* Berea College

Manager:

* Berea College

* Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

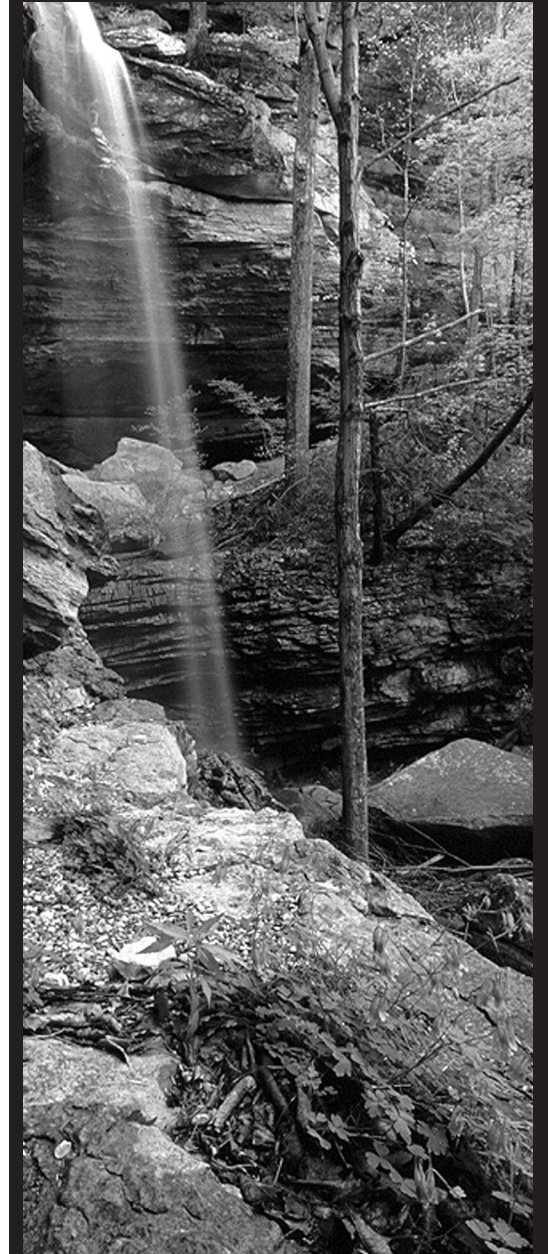


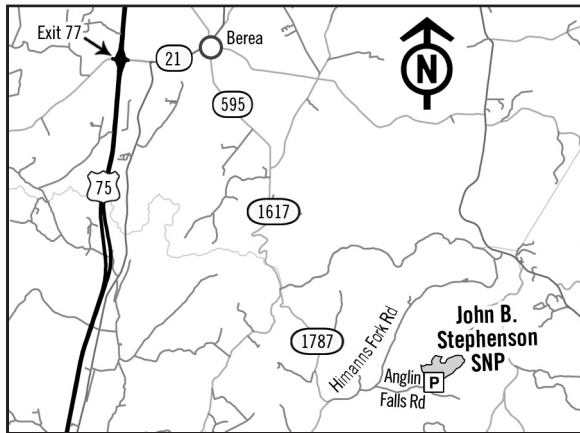
For more information please contact:
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cover photos by Thomas G. Barnes

JOHN B. STEPHENSON MEMORIAL FOREST STATE NATURE PRESERVE





From Exit 76 on I-75, take US25/KY21 (Chestnut St.) 1.5 miles into Berea. Turn right onto KY595 (Scaffold Cane Rd.) for 2.25 miles, and continue on KY1617 (Scaffold Cane Rd.) for 2.1 miles. Bear left onto KY1787 (Disputanta Rd.) for 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Himanns Fork Rd. (CR1043) for 0.8 miles. Turn right onto Anglin Falls Rd (CR1042) for 0.8 miles. Turn left onto a gravel driveway, the parking area for the preserve is at the end of the driveway on the right.

By observing the rules for State Nature Preserves, you will be helping to protect Kentucky's natural heritage.

1. Preserves are open sunrise to sunset.
2. Trails are open to foot traffic only. The established trail system provides you with the safest and best way to travel through the preserve. Visitors must not re-route or shortcut the existing trail system.
3. Horses, bicycles, climbing and rappelling are not permitted in nature preserves because of their destructive impacts to the trails and natural features.
4. Motorized vehicles are not permitted.
5. Possession of drugs or alcohol is prohibited.
6. Collecting plants, animals, rocks, artifacts or wood reduces those things that are needed to maintain nature's delicate balance. Therefore, collecting, hunting and trapping are prohibited on dedicated state nature preserves.
7. To ensure the natural beauty of each preserve and to promote visitor safety and enjoyment, camping, picnicking, building fires, audio equipment and pets are not permitted.
8. Remember to carry out your trash.

THESE RULES ARE ESTABLISHED BY 400 KAR 2:090. ANY PERSON IN VIOLATION OF THIS REGULATION MAY BE LIABLE FOR A CIVIL PENALTY OF \$1000 PER DAY AND POSSIBLE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN KRS 224.

