



## Media Contact

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## For Immediate Release

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### **FIND Outdoors launches free virtual forest bathing and nature therapy program**

**PISGAH FOREST, NC** – Staying home never felt so good. FIND Outdoors is bringing the natural beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the world in an effort to foster a sense of calmness and community. Free virtual forest bathing and nature therapy walks will take place Saturdays at 9 a.m. EDT, hosted live via Zoom by Kelly Bruce, a certified forest therapy guide.

The Japanese art of forest bathing, or Shinrin Yoku, is the restorative practice of immersing oneself in nature, inviting healing for the body and mind. From the comfort of their own yard or living room, participants will quiet their minds and awaken their senses with a guided meditation and a slow, gentle walk. A series of thoughtfully crafted activities invite participants to experience nature in a new way. The event culminates in a virtual tea ceremony where everyone can share their observations and experiences.

FIND Outdoors, formerly the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association, has devoted half a century to education and recreation in the outdoors through partnerships and community involvement. “FIND Outdoors is entering a new era of education and we’re excited to bring this innovative practice to the global community,” says Natalie Britt, Find Outdoors’ executive director. “Our priority is the health of our visitors, program participants and staff. We look forward to offering virtual experiences during this pandemic and beyond.”

“These are unprecedented times and we need nature and community now more than ever,” Bruce explains. “Virtual forest bathing is a wonderful form of self-care for people of all ages and abilities. While technology is bringing us together, the idea is to unplug and connect to the land in your own backyard. Sharing this experience simultaneously with people around the world builds a sense of togetherness and well-being.”



Detailed instructions on how to participate are provided upon registration. Although this program is free, donations are accepted and appreciated to ensure that FIND Outdoors can continue providing the public with connections to our natural world. Register at [GoFINDOutdoors.org](http://GoFINDOutdoors.org).

### **About FIND Outdoors**

FIND Outdoors, formerly Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association, is a 47-year-old 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in Pisgah Forest, NC at the entrance to Pisgah National Forest. FIND's mission promotes educational, recreational and interpretive opportunities about forest and water resources, natural history, and the Cradle of Forestry in America. FIND Outdoors serves approximately 800,000 visitors each year with over 150 educational and recreational programs, special events, and tours and manages 21 recreation, education and camping facilities in North Carolina, Georgia and Indiana. Learn more at [GoFINDOutdoors.org](http://GoFINDOutdoors.org).

