

Annual Report

MARCH 1, 2014 – FEBRUARY 28, 2015

Bernheim
ARBORETUM AND RESEARCH FOREST
connecting people with nature

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest is home to approximately 15,000 acres of pristine land, which offers a unique opportunity for nearly 200,000 visitors to connect with nature annually. The privately funded arboretum and research forest is dedicated to conservation of a biologically diverse ecosystem and a wide breadth of programming and expert staff. 2014-2015 brought many diverse opportunities to fulfill **our mission of connecting people with nature**. A few highlights are presented here. For more information, please visit Bernheim.org or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

DEEP CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE

EDIBLE GARDEN: This unique garden opened to the public May 17, 2014. Thousands of edibles were installed both within raised beds and surrounding areas, including vegetables, herbs, fruit trees and shrubs. The garden demonstrates best growing practices and provides a powerful tool for teaching biology, math, and ecology. The four-acre site just across from Bernheim's Visitor Center is designed to connect people with nature via the country's most popular pastime – gardening.

FIELD EXPERIENCES: Over 6,000 Pre-k – high school students from public, private, and home schools in Bullitt, Hardin, Jefferson, and Nelson Counties in Kentucky and Clark County in Indiana engaged in nature-based field trips and interactive outreach experiences. In addition, two local schools and Gilda's Club of Louisville partnered with Bernheim to host three weeks of summer camps, where campers discovered nature and science through participation in insect safaris, plant identification hikes, Wilson Creek excursions and more.

VISUAL ARTS: Bernheim welcomed four artists and two writers in residence from across the globe for the 34th year of the Artist in Residence program. In addition, 2013 artist in residence, Mei-Ling Hom installed *Rhizolink*, a mycoculture sculpture in the Edible Garden. Each piece is designed to highlight the interconnected relationship between art and nature.

Artists in Residence during 2014-2015 included:

- Firat Erdim, Large installation in a Bernheim Forest river bed, 2014
- Myung Gyun You, *Photosynthesis*, 2014 adjacent to the Visitor Center





- Sevryna Lupien, *Atomic Apartment*, 2014 and *I Wish I was a Flying Thing*, 2014, at the Visitor Center and Education Center respectively
- Don Pollack (working in 2014-2015 for an exhibition in January of 2016)

Writers in Residence, a partnership with Sarabande Books included Christian Moody, Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at Centre College and writer, Margaret Kimball.

EVENTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Over 12,000 visitors experienced Bernheim's signature events – BloomFest, CONNECT, BugFest and ColorFest. New activities, including a focus on the Edible Garden opening at BloomFest and the addition of pumpkin launch at ColorFest, enhanced experiences at each festival.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: Volunteers are vital in helping visitors connect deeply with nature, in addition to the passion they cultivate while giving their time. Volunteers gave over 10,000 hours in horticulture, natural areas, visitor services, education and more. At the current Independent Sector rate, their time translates into a \$230,000+ contribution. From discovery stations and educational programs to night hikes to helping to maintain the arboretum and natural areas, volunteers help throughout Bernheim.

ACTIONS BEYOND OUR BORDERS

MANAGEMENT OF ADDITIONAL ECOSYSTEMS:

Bernheim planted 250 trees and shrubs at I-65 exit 112 to help beautify the highway interchange. Additionally, Bernheim renewed its commitment to maintain two living roof sites in Louisville – the American Life Building and the Nucleus Building.

PLANT FOR THE PLANET GRANT:

Bernheim was awarded the LG&E Plant for the Planet: Communi-tree grant, which funds the purchase of trees to be donated to schools, government organizations, and other non-profit organizations. Bernheim volunteers and staff then plant the trees, along with providing an education of right tree, right place, and proper tree care. Bernheim's expert horticulture team also provides a curriculum that encourages students to take an interest in tree growth and maintenance.

MONARCH WAYSTATION:

Bernheim's Edible Garden is registered with the Monarch Watch Association to be a waystation – a location that provides resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their population.

CHILDREN AT PLAY:

Studies have shown that nature-based free play is critical not only to a child's health and well-being but also their academic performance and overall appreciation of nature. Bernheim is spearheading this initiative for the Greater Louisville region and seeks to become a national leader in this field by organizing monthly Free Play Days at area parks, fields, and Bernheim. This major initiative is supported by PNC Bank - Grow Up Great sponsorship.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH:

Within the research forest, methods like acoustic monitoring were used to detect eleven bat species, including several endangered and rare bats. Using this research, Bernheim hopes to establish bat maternity roost poles on Wilson Creek to investigate its feasibility as a maternity site.

HARPER, THE GOLDEN EAGLE:

In conjunction with the Beckham Bird Club and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bernheim began tracking a golden eagle through its migration patterns from Kentucky in the winter to points north as summer





approached.

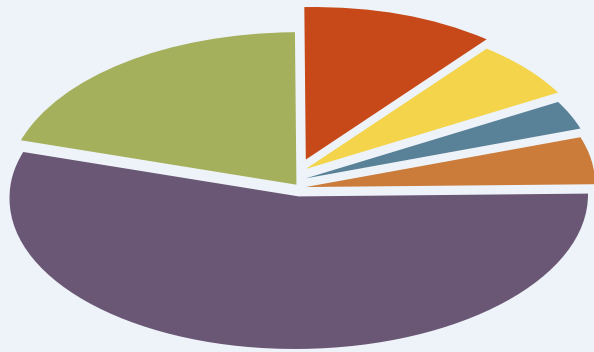
ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP

LAND EXPANSION: Bernheim received a donation of two acres of adjacent property, which expands the footprint of preservation efforts and biodiversity. The land features exceptional boulder fields and cliffline in Meadow Peak subdivision.

EDIBLE GARDEN: In design, construction, and operational phases, the Edible Garden demonstrates new sustainable and regenerative design practices. The garden aims to meet the requirements for the Living Building Challenge.

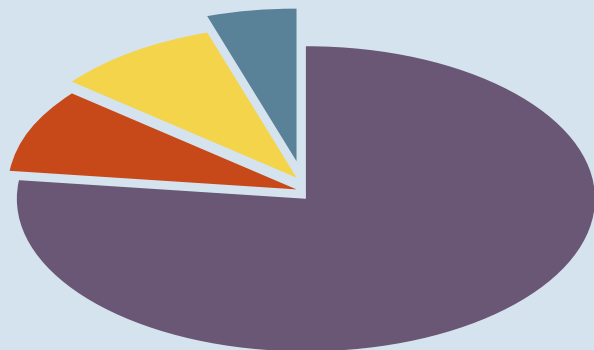
HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM: Continued efforts to maintain Bernheim's pristine landscape through controlled burns, invasive species removal, wildlife monitoring, and more.

FISCAL YEAR: MARCH 2014 – FEBRUARY 2015 OPERATIONAL STATEMENT



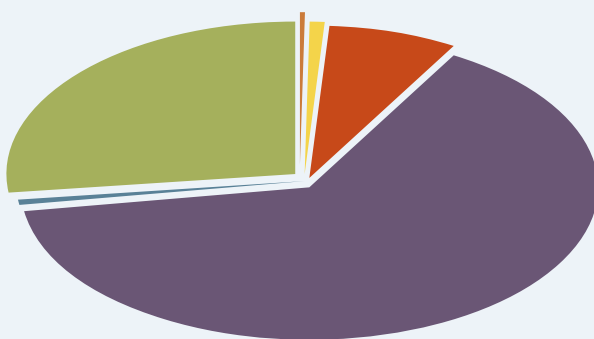
OPERATIONAL INCOME

Endowment Income	\$1,477,339	55.00%
Memberships, Contributions, Programs & Impact Fee	\$544,310	20.00%
Investment Depreciation Coverage	\$307,555	11.00%
Gift Shop & Craft Sales	\$158,771	6.00%
Grant & Restricted Funds	\$79,635	3.00%
Other Funds	\$118,401	5.00%
Total Income	\$2,686,011	100.00%



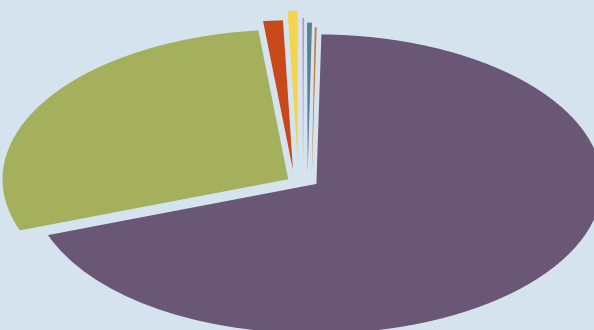
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Programs, Exhibits & Landscape Improvements	\$2,073,600	77.20%
Operational & General Expenses	\$260,543	9.70%
Fundraising	\$228,311	8.50%
Membership Services & Public Relations	\$123,557	4.60%
Total Expenses:	\$2,686,011	100.00%



BALANCE SHEET ASSETS

Cash	\$199,503	0.40%
Temporary Cash Investments	\$398,107	0.80%
Investments	\$3,899,523	7.70%
Funds Held In Trust By Others	\$34,724,520	68.80%
Land, Building, and Equipment	\$10,656,958	21.40%
Other Assets	\$404,872	0.90%
Total Assets	\$50,283,483	100.00%



LIABILITIES AND FUNDS BALANCES

Accounts Payable	\$25,490	0.05%
Accrued Expenses	\$124,595	0.25%
Board Designated Funds	\$47,122	0.10%
Temporarily Restricted Net Asset	\$442,569	0.90%
Permanently Restricted Net Asset	\$34,724,520	69.20%
Other Liabilities	\$260,352	0.50%
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$14,658,835	29.00%
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$50,283,483	100.00%

Thank you for supporting Bernheim

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