Annual Report

MARCH 1, 2017 - FEBRUARY 28, 2018

demonstrated its leadership in ecological stewardship through the acquisition of an additional 954 acres for conservation and renewed efforts to connect people with

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Bernheim nature through education, art, horticulture, and play. Bernheim's attendance remains strong as our staff and volunteers offer experiences in nature for everyone. A few highlights follow.



LEADERSHIP IN ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP

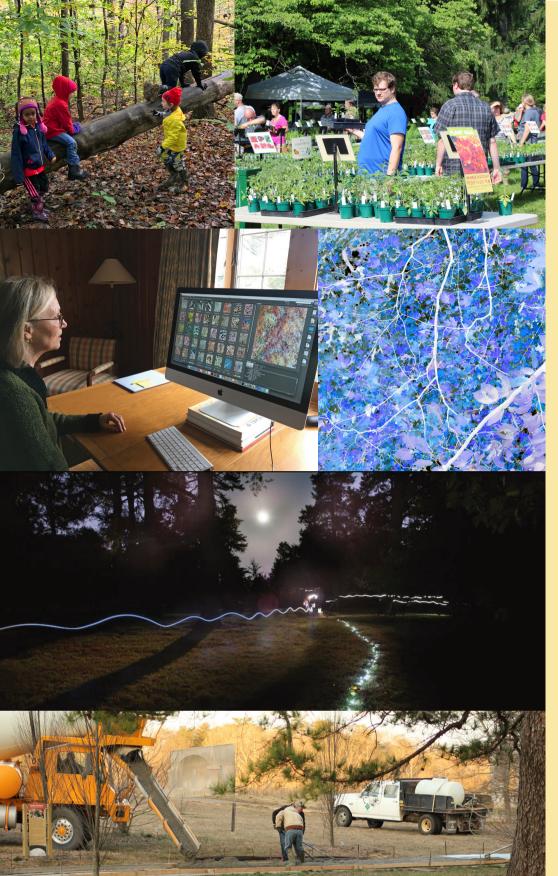
- Purchased 954 additional acres, known as the Big Level. Stewardship work on this land will protect upland forests, wetlands, streams, and increase Bernheim's wildlife corridor to the Salt River.
- Discovered a new species to science, the Bernheim Cave Beetle.
- Purchased 17 acres on Harrison Fork that protects over 100 feet of streams, springs, and bottomland in Wilson Valley.
- Edible Garden Water Cycle signage developed and installed through grant from the Louisville Water Company Foundation.
- Planted over 100 trees in the arboretum: 50 flowering cherries, 20 black gum, Blue Atlas cedars, dawn redwood, Eastern red cedars, and cultivars of redbud. New collections this year include Prunus (cherries) and Nvssa (black gum).
- Began restoration of the 162-acre Thurman Tract, including planning for wetland and stream improvements.
- Forest Manager, Andrew Berry, hiked 17 miles, from the northern to southern tip of Bernheim Forest, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of John Muir hiking through the Greater Bernheim area.





EXPLORING DEEP CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE

- Engaged over 10,000 Pre-K-12 students in nature-based field trips and education outreach experiences, representing public, private, and home school populations from local counties, across the state, and beyond.
- Trained and supported a team of 45 Volunteer Naturalists, who served a total of 4,200 hours - about half of all service hours conducted at Bernheim - and made 42,248 unique interpretive encounters with visitors by presenting discovery stations, leading programs, offering fire tower tours, managing beekeeping efforts, and more.
- Hosted 205 public programs, attended by 11,000 visitors, includina:
 - o 131 drop-in programs (ECO Kids Discovery Days, Fire Tower Tours, First Sunday Nature Hikes, Honeybee Hive Installations, Spring Break Adventure Week, SONICBernheim)
 - 74 programs requiring pre-registration (Bernheim Backroads, Creatures of the Night, Evening at Isaac's, Lunch and Learn, Muddy Boots Play Group, Night Hikes, Pollywog Play Parties, Smart Gardens and Landscapes, Star Tours, Wildflower Walks, and more)
- Hosted four annual events and one special event, attended by 18,876* visitors, including BloomFest, CONNECT, Solarbration, BugFest, ColorFest,
 - o 9th annual CONNECT included art from local and regional artists:
 - Live musical performances by The Family Secret, Joan Shelley and Plum Hokum
 - Louisville artist, Peyton Hoge enamored audiences with his pyro powered kinetic sculpture
 - Artist and WKU professor, Joon Sung projected abstract video pieces at the Garden Pavilion
 - Bowling Green visual artist, Beth Reitmeyer transformed the quiet garden into a Glowing Wonderland of electrically operated and powered geodes complete with soundtrack
- Established the Bernheim Little Free Library, a collaborative project between Project Learning Tree, the Albert I. Pierce Foundation, Mt. Washington Elementary School, and Bernheim member/donor, John Beckner.
 - Bernheim staff, volunteers, and visitors have generously donated books focused on art, science, and nature.
- Doubled the square footage of the kitchen area and installed new counters at Isaac's Café.



EXPLORING DEEP CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE

- Harvested 2,297 lbs of produce from the Edible Garden, supplying Isaac's Café with fresh ingredients throughout the year.
- Renovated the Garden Pavilion landscape to include over 50 new varieties of perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees that will serve as a display and testing site for new and interesting cultivars.
- Produced approximately 150 labels for the arboretum, including 75 for newly accessioned plants.
- Sold more than 4500 trees, shrubs, perennials, herbs, and vegetables through Bernheim's bi-annual Plant Sales.
- CAPN (Children at Play Network) launched Muddy Boots, a play group for children ages 3-6 modeled after forest kindergarten, an unstructured learning experience in nature that is child-led and play-based.
- Welcomed three Artists in Residence
 - Welcomed Jenny Zeller as the first-ever Regional Artist in Residence, in April, 2017. As a part of her residency, Zeller participated in the following events:
 - The Kentucky Natural Lands Trust Wildland Social Club, hosted by 21c in Louisville
 - A solo exhibition at Swanson Contemporary Gallery in Louisville, featuring her work as a Bernheim Artist in Residence
 - Sharon Harper in August, 2017, where she observed her surroundings and documented the natural forces at work in the forest.
 - o Irene Imfeld in fall, 2017, where she continued to explore her abstract nature studies through the photographic medium.
 - Imfeld's experience resulted in a series of 28 images entitled Phantasm: Autumn in the Kentucky Woods. The series is available in a limited edition of prints and has been made into a book that will be a membership perk for Bernheim's Giving Circles Members
- Artist in Residence, Jenny Zeller was subsequently hired as Visual Arts Coordinator at Bernheim in July, 2017
- Continued partnership with curators, Sara Louise Calloway and Aaron Rosenblum for SONICBernheim
 - o In April, Calloway and Rosenblum delivered a paper on their experiences curating SONICBernheim at the Invisible Places conference in Sao Miguel, Azores (Portugal) with support from the Great Meadows Foundation.
 - o July program, held in conjunction with the full "thunder" moon hosted featured speaker, David George Haskell, professor of biology at The University of the South and author of The Songs of Trees along with performances by local artists, Charles Rivera and Bobby Barbour.
 - o November program, held in conjunction with the full "frost" moon. Featured artists were researcher and soundwalk artist Andra McCartney of Concordia University (Montreal, Quebec) along with Wu Fei (Nashville, TN) and Connor Waldman (Louisville, KY).
- The 2018/2019 call for Artist in Residence submissions received 155 applications from 25 states, 31 countries, and 6 continents.
- Installed a new concrete walkway to Earth Measure to ensure access to all.
- Cleared and maintained Bernheim's 40+ miles of trails.

ACTIONS BEYOND OUR BORDERS

- Distributed over 1000 trees to visitors from Bernheim's surrounding counties through Bernheim's annual Adopt a Tree program.
- Worked with Guthrie Opportunity Center in Bardstown, KY to develop a fundraising plan for a new greenhouse and learning/production garden that will serve as a training facility for developmentally challenged adults to learn agricultural and horticultural skills in the coming years.
- The Children at Play Network (CAPN) worked to increase Free Play efforts across the region with events including:
 - o Sponsoring free play expert, Dr. Peter Gray, as a featured speaker and hosting a Free Play Zone at the IdeaFestival in Louisville.
 - o Free Play Days throughout the region that reached 1,000 children at Bernheim and beyond.
 - o Training more than 150 educators, parents and free play advocates in workshops on the play spectrum, loose parts, hosting free play days, natural materials and play environments.
 - o Sponsoring internationally-recognized play worker Morgan Leichter-Saxby, of Pop-Up Adventure Play, at Bernheim for a regional training institute for teachers, advocates and aspiring play workers.
 - o Working with the North Limestone Community Development Corporation (NoLiCDC) and a team of advocates -- children, parents, teachers, volunteers and local businesses -- to develop a natural play area in the municipal Castlewood Park in Lexington, KY.
- CAPN launched a new year-long effort called Seeds for Urban Play, sponsored by the Brown-Forman Corporation, to bring the benefits of outdoor play to more children in urban neighborhoods of Louisville.



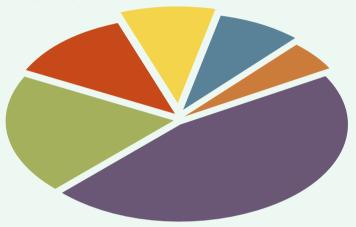


THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- Bernheim educators hosted national conferences including:
 - American Public Gardens Association (APGA) Sentinel Plant Network Midwest
- National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Sunny Southeast Regional Workshop
- o Project Learning Tree (PLT) International Coordinators Conference o Kentucky Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference
- Education Director, Whitney Wurzel served on the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)/ee360 Leadership Team, through grant awarded by the EPA to advance effective environmental education with larger and more diverse audiences.
- Interpretive Programs Manager, Wren Smith was awarded Outstanding Column Award in Legacy magazine for article, "Observational Ecology: Renewing the Study of Nature".
- The Children at Play Network worked to expand opportunities for activities that promote children's healthy development with the generous support of PNC Bank and the Brown-Forman Corporation.

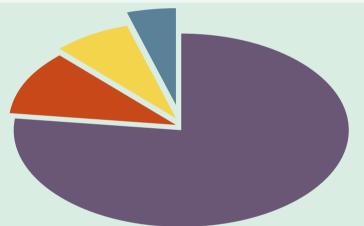
FISCAL YEAR: MARCH 2017 - FEBRUARY 2018 OPERATIONAL STATEMENT

OPERATIONAL STATEMENT



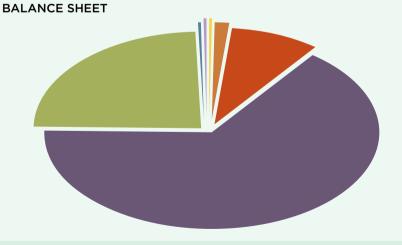
OPERATIONAL INCOME

Endowment Income	\$1,588,707	45.87%
Memberships, Contributions, Programs, & Impact Fee	\$696,850	20.12%
Investment Depreciation Coverage	\$423,703	12.23%
Gift Shop Sales	\$305,017	8.81%
Grant & Restricted Funds	\$259,670	7.50%
Other Funds	\$189,465	5.47%
Total Income	\$3,463,412	100.00%



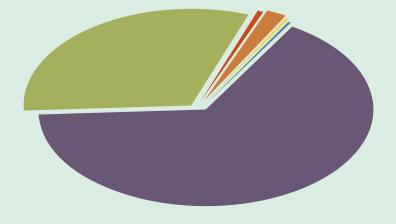
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

& Landscape Improvements	\$2,670,291	77.10%
Operational & General Expenses	\$375,087	10.83%
Fundraising	\$259,756	7.50%
Membership Services & Public Relations \$158,278		4.57%
Total Expenses	\$ 3,463,412	100.00%



ASSETS

Funds Held In Trust By Others	\$35,426,977	65.39%
Land, Building, & Equipment	\$12,818,304	23.66%
Investments	\$4,690,949	8.66%
Pledges & Grants Receivable	\$124,539	0.23%
Cash	\$254,331	0.47%
Temporary Cash Investments	\$682,403	1.26%
Other Assets	\$179,047	0.33%
Total Income	\$54,176,550	100.00%



LIABILITIES AND FUNDS BALANCES

Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$35,437,043	65.41%
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$16,857,741	31.12%
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$472,252	0.87%
Other Liabilities	\$104,221	0.19%
Accrued Liabilities	\$183,391	0.34%
Accounts Payable	\$51,934	0.10%
Board Designated Funds	\$1,069,968	1.97%
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$54,176,550	100.00%

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING BERNHEIM

THESE GIFTS WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN MARCH 1, 2017 - FEBRUARY 28, 2018

AMERICAN ELM

Tom and Jody Block J. David and Marlene Grissom Barbara Sandford Judah and Arlene Skolnick

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TULIP POPLAR

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