Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest is seeking a creative and experienced leader as Director of Horticulture and Sustainable Landscapes. This senior level position will be fundamental as Bernheim strives to fulfill our vision – to be a nationally treasured leader in ecological stewardship that inspires the exploration of our deep connections with nature.

Bernheim is known for its extensive temperate climate woody plant collections and beautiful naturalistic landscapes in its 600-acre arboretum, a very public portion of its 16,137-total acreage of Kentucky knobs habitat. The widely recognized arboretum displays historical collections as well as mixed landscapes with over 8,500 accessioned trees and shrubs. For more information on Bernheim, visit www.bernheim.org.

Enjoyed by more than 500,000 visitors each year, Bernheim is seeking an excellent communicator with an intellectual curiosity about nature – particularly plants – who will share a broad knowledge and appreciation of native and horticultural plant varieties, as well as an understanding of and experience with environmentally sensitive management of gardens and landscapes. A demonstrated history of creativity, ecological engagement and community collaborations will be beneficial. The successful candidate will bring management experience, innovation, long-term vision and design excellence to Bernheim’s horticulture activities, programs and sustainable landscapes. She/he must also be ready to excel in public presentations and donor interactions in support of our mission – connecting people with nature.

As important as strong horticultural skills and hands-on experience is, this person must also come with a sense of humor and enjoy supporting and inspiring the horticulture team, volunteers and surrounding communities, through example, training and cutting-edge programs.
The right person has the opportunity to rebuild Bernheim’s horticulture programs to address the challenges of the climate crisis by utilizing multi-disciplinary approaches and sustainable/regenerative practices, as well as his/her skills, knowledge and experience with people, plants and biological sciences.

Excellent administrative, written and oral communications – particularly using story telling in science and natural history – as well as proficient computer skills are expected. Bernheim has completed a master plan which emphasizes the role of horticulture in the visitor experience, outreach to surrounding communities, and creative fulfillment of education and conservation goals over the next 15 years. He/She will inform final design and implement priority projects in the master plan, while reworking established landscapes. The Director of Horticulture and Sustainable Landscapes will be actively engaged in development activities, as well as messaging for interpretive materials and social media.

An advanced degree is desirable, but at a minimum, a four-year degree in horticulture, ecology, landscape design or a related field, and ten years of increasing responsibility at respected institutions is required.

Salary and benefits are competitive.

Bernheim is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

All applications should include a cover letter, resume, one writing sample and one photograph of your work with a one-paragraph explanation. Please email all questions and/or your application package to:

Deborah Medley, Human Resources Coordinator – dmedley@bernheim.org

Applications accepted until close of business February 29, 2020.