



connecting people with nature

**For Immediate Release:
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**BERNHEIM CONTINUES RESEARCH WITH TRACKING OF
NEW GOLDEN EAGLE, SEEKS THE PUBLIC'S HELP IN NAMING**

Clermont, Ky. March 21, 2024 Bernheim Forest and Arboretum is excited to announce the addition of a new Golden Eagle to their ongoing research project on the species. This remarkable achievement marks the third Golden Eagle that Bernheim has been able to track thus far. In addition to tracking Athena, a female Golden Eagle captured in Bernheim in 2019, we are now following the journey of this new male eagle across the United States and Canada.

"Since Bernheim will be researching this Golden Eagle for hopefully many years, we are inviting help from our supporters to give him a name," said Dr. Mark Wourms, Bernheim's Executive Director. "Our mission is to connect people with nature, so we are asking the public to vote and follow along with Bernheim's Golden Eagle project."

We invite the public to participate in naming this magnificent eagle as we study and document his travels. Cast your vote for your favorite name at Bernheim.org/goldeneaglename.

"Bernheim plays an important role in bridging the gap between the scientific community and the general public," according to Bernheim Director of Conservation Andrew Berry, "Data from Bernheim's Golden Eagle research contributes to publications like the Conservation Plan for Golden Eagles in Eastern North America, but also helps engage the public in understanding the importance of places like Bernheim for migratory species and wildlife conservation."

On February 28, 2024, the golden eagle made a dramatic entrance, causing squirrels to chatter and scramble with its swooshing flight. Examination determined that this bird is likely a male, weighing 8.8 lbs. The characteristics of his feathers indicate that he is at least six years old. His impressive talons and intense presence served as a reminder of why golden eagles are apex predators. Equipped with a solar-powered satellite transmitter, we can track his movements throughout the summer in Canada and on his wintering grounds in the United States.

"Golden Eagles in eastern North America are drawn to large, intact forests like Bernheim," said Bernheim Natural Areas Manager Evan Patrick. "A number of these enigmatic birds are

found to overwinter or migrate through Bernheim each year, an indicator of the importance of these wild places to the eastern Golden Eagle population.”

After his release, the golden eagle spent the following night in Bernheim before embarking on a journey across neighboring properties. Flying north at speeds exceeding 50 mph, he traversed east of Louisville, going over the Parklands of Floyd's Fork, where he briefly stopped in a woodlot to hunt. Continuing his journey, he flew over Crestwood, Buckner, and directly over Westport, KY as he crossed the Ohio River into Indiana. This route, which involved passing through protected parks and flying over several large farms, underscores the significance of these green spaces in supporting migrating species amidst urban environments.

Having crossed the Ohio River, he passed over Madison, IN, and Clifty Falls State Park. Some time was spent in Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge, a sprawling 50,000-acre protected forest and wetland site recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area. From there he went south again into Kentucky to hunt in the Carrolton area, flying throughout the Eagle Creek watershed and nearly as far south as Owenton before turning north again and reentering Indiana. Data is slowly filtering in from his migration, but we know on March 19, 2024, he was in Serpent River, Ontario. He has been spending time hunting within Matinenda Provincial Park, a remote protected area north of Lake Huron. We will continue to follow his migration and anticipate discovering his complete migration path and ultimate destination in northern Canada.

Bernheim's Golden Eagle research has been made possible through the unwavering dedication of our staff, who have devoted years to monitoring, planning, and collaborating with esteemed partners such as Cellular Tracking Technologies, Conservation Science Global Inc., Beckham Bird Club, Kentucky Audubon Council, Eastern Golden Eagle Working Group, and Parks Canada, among others.

For further updates and to participate in naming our Golden Eagle, please visit [Bernheim.org/goldeneaglename](https://bernheim.org/goldeneaglename).

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About Bernheim Forest and Arboretum

Bernheim’s mission is to connect people with nature. At over 16,000 acres, it is the largest privately held contiguous forest block in the eastern United States dedicated to conservation and education. Bourbon maker Isaac Wolfe Bernheim established the arboretum and forest in 1929 as a gift to the people of Kentucky. Fun, educational programs, diverse tree collections, a renowned art collection, 40 miles of hiking trails, and varied landscapes are available every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. A \$15 per car donation is suggested for non-members. For more information about Bernheim, visit <https://bernheim.org/>.