Beckham Bird Club Birdathon Report Form for 2024 Grants

Date: __3-10-25_____

Organization name: __Bernheim Forest and Arboretum_____

Address: ___PO Box 130_____

Contact Person: Andrew Berry, Director of Conservation, reporting for

Bernheim Education Team _____

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Project Description: (Recap of the project funds were granted to support)

ORGANIZATION'S PURPOSE: Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest's mission is to *Connect People with Nature*. Isaac W. Bernheim purchased over 12,500 acres of eroded and heavily logged land in Bullitt and Nelson Counties in Kentucky in 1929. He established the Isaac W. Bernheim Foundation to ensure the long-term protection and management of his living legacy, which now protects over 17,200 acres with recent additions of 182-acre Buffalo Creek Tract and 856-acre Lotus Wildlife Corridor conservation easement.

Visitors connect with nature at Bernheim in diverse and meaningful ways. For example, school-aged children visit Bernheim on field trips, families explore the natural world during programs and events, and newly retired professionals find new hobbies and meet new friends. Bernheim's award-winning nature-based educators lead a team of over 60 volunteer naturalists who lead programs to inspire curiosity and passion for nature.

Bernheim Forest is a desired collaborative partner and focuses on building unique partnerships to leverage collective impact and bring innovative approaches to research, project development, and management, all of which connect people with nature. Bernheim is working at a regional scale to promote environmental education, conservation of natural land, research opportunities, and opportunities to connect people with nature.

AMOUNT REQUESTED: $5000
AMOUNT RECEIVED: $2750

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Bernheim Education team has been revitalizing equipment used in wildlife viewing for visitors and outreach. Bernheim hosts over 10,000 students a year and as many as 300,000 visitors through our front gates. These grant funds have greatly assisted the Education Team and wildlife viewing

areas at Bernheim. Providing habitats and spaces for people to interact with birds has always been a focus of Bernheim. During classroom visits having birds visible in predictable locations allows interpretation and meaningful experiences.

Weathering of feeders and new technologies spurred the need for this project. Equipment and feeders had become worn out and new technology such as the Bird Buddy provides new capabilities. These materials and equipment for programming allow Bernheim to create new and current lessons as well.

HOW WILL THE FUNDS WERE USED:

Total Spent: $2750.00

The funds were used to replace old bird feeders and add a bird buddy for taking images of birds. There were (10) bird feeders purchased along with seed and the Bird Buddy Smart Bird Feeder. Bird seed was also purchased to support these wildlife viewing areas. Monoculars were purchased to improve bird watching experience around the wildlife viewing areas.

Educational programming has incorporated owl pellets into their lessons. These owl pellets are dissected by students to investigate prey species and offer a fascinating look into owls' role as predators in the food web.

Anti-Collision decals were added to the Education Center and Visitor Center to help deter bird strikes. Several large windows were targeted for these decals where collisions had been a problem historically. Bernheim is committed to mitigating impacts to birds from structures and management of landscapes.

Building on our successful partnership, we greatly appreciate Beckham Bird Club's support of Bernheim's Bird Programming. This $2,750 investment allowed Bernheim volunteers and staff to improve our current features, expand capacity, and create new and meaningful opportunities for visitors to connect with nature through a shared interest and passion for the many birds who call Bernheim home.