My summer internship was spent working primarily with the Horticulture dept. and briefly with the Natural Areas dept. at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, located in Clermont, Kentucky (25 miles south of Louisville).

Bernheim is a nonprofit organization that is over 14,000 acres (240 acres of main arboretum, 640 acres including surrounding areas) of reclaimed strip mining land that was bought for $1 and acre in 1929 by Isaac Wolfe Bernheim, who’s vision was being leaders in ecological stewardship and connecting people with nature.

The arboretum contains over 185 cultivars of American Hollies along with other tree collections ranging from Dogwoods, Beech’s, Maple’s, Ginkgo's, Buckeye’s, Zelkova’s, Pears, Conifers, Dwarf Conifers, and many more! Those are just to name a few.
Map of the arboretum collections and surrounding areas including trails, amphitheater, Woodland Pavilion, and Children's Play Garden, and other locations.
Horticultural Responsibilities and Duties

- My time at Bernheim was a highly educational and well rounded experience. The duties included:
  - Laying sod at the Earth Measure art installation
  - Working with irrigation lines
  - Planting/redesigning accent, flower, and tree beds
  - Working with horticulture volunteers
Horticultural Responsibilities and Duties contd.

- Ground maintenance (string trimming, shrub/tree pruning, shaping, removing and replacing old/dead specimens)
- Repotting plants for the nursery and greenhouse
- Chainsaw training and usage (felling, limbing, bucking)
- Weeding (hand pulling, herbicide application)
- Soil sterilization
Experiences and Activities

- Quail conservation and reintroduction (Nat. Areas)
- Expanded “What’s in Bloom?”
- Invasive species surveying and eradication (Nat. Areas)
- Two Green Roof (“living roofs”) installations and maintenance (Hort.)
- Assisted in teaching a Naturalist In Training workshop about trees and plantings from a horticultural perspective
- Edible Garden installation and maintenance
Experiences and Activities contd.

• Nightjar and scorpion survey (Nat. Areas)

• Robinson Forest Prescribed Burn (Nat. Areas)

• Bloomfest (Hort. Plant sale)

• Became a certified Private Applicator (meaning I can legally apply herbicide/pesticide at Bernheim)

• Natural Wetland installation

• Picking up plant orders from various surrounding nurseries

• Intern trips to Mammoth Cave and Red River Gorge
Experiences and Activities contd.

- Various lunch outings
- Jim Beam Distillery tour (right next door)
- Trail hiking and driving in Bernheim private access
- Crawling around in “Spaulding Cave”
- Weekend cookout at a coworkers
What I obtained from this experience

- Learned and strengthened various horticultural maintenance methods including pruning with loppers, hand pruners, hand saws, chainsaw, pole saws, herbicide application wands, backpack herbicide sprayers, and string trimmers, tillers, and trenchers.

- Polished irrigation installation and planting skills including tree, shrub, perennial, herbs, vegetable, and sod plantings

- Became familiar with various manual vehicles including dump trucks, pickup trucks, and water engine (for prescribed fires)

- Learned what a nonprofit organization is, and got a glimpse into how it’s run and the issues that go along with it. Such as, financial status based upon grants, loans, funds, donations, and membership.

- Built, strengthened and realized the importance of teamwork and effective communication for job completion and good work ethic.