

Final Report

Wildlife Preservation Fund – Small Projects FY 05
June 30, 2005

Grant Agreement Number – 05-002W
Project Title – “Viewing Nature”

Ballard Nature Center
5253 E. US Hwy 40
Altamont, IL 62411

Contact Person: Karan Greuel – Environmental Educator
618-483-6856

The Ballard Nature Center received a \$1,000.00 grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund in FY 05. The funding was for the purchase of binoculars for use in our educational programs. The project has been completed and we are now requesting the funding payment. Attached you will find the final report, photo documentation, invoices, and a newspaper article.

Final Report

The Ballard Nature Center, a non-profit 501 C 3, is responsible for the management of a 210-acre nature center located between Effingham and Altamont, IL. The legal description is Effingham County, Mound Township T. 7N. – R. 4 E. Section 2. The center's primary goals are environmental education and on-site restoration and management of natural communities typical to the Southern Till Plain Division of Illinois.

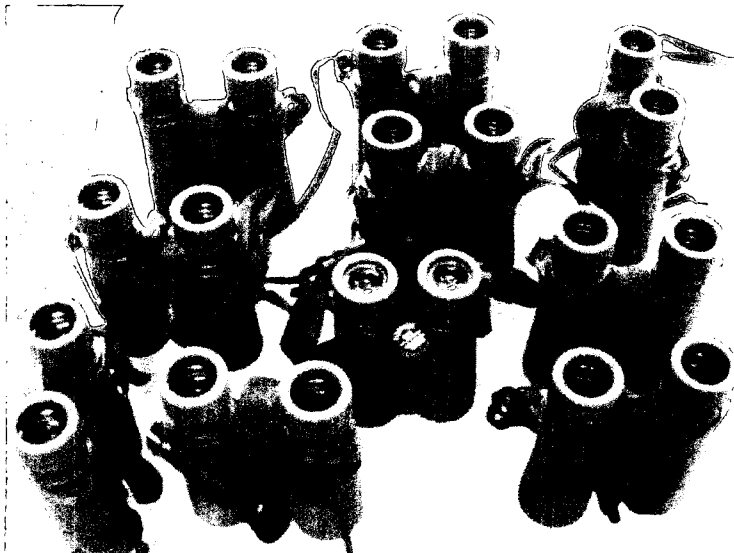
A large part of the center's goals for environmental education is accomplished through youth educational programs. The binoculars are being used in a variety of programs that already exist at the nature center, plus they will be used in new programming. The binoculars were purchased through Eagle Optics through a special program titled "Product Matching Donation Program." Eagle Optics reduced the price of their Audubon Equinox 8x42 binoculars by \$100.00 each. The Ballard Nature Center was able to purchase 10 pairs of binoculars that originally sell for \$199.99 each for \$99.99 each. These binoculars are ideal for not only bird watching, but will also be used in programs on butterflies, dragonflies, and wetlands. As part of the nature center's educational programs, children will be taught how to correctly use binoculars and will then participate in activities on viewing songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, dragonflies, butterflies, basking turtles & snakes, and wildlife in general.

Budget

10 Binoculars at \$99.99 each

Total	\$999.90
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The Ballard Nature Center would like to thank the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund for providing funding to assist with this project.





EAGLE OPTICS

2120 W. Greenview Dr. #4
Middleton, WI 53562

Toll Free: 800-289-1132
Local: 608-836-7172
Fax: 608-836-4416
Email: webmaster@eagleoptics.com
Website: <http://www.eagleoptics.com>

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Date: 6/28/2005

Invoice# 70410

Bill To: Karen Greuel

The Ballard Nature Center
5253 East Highway 40
Altamont, IL 62411

Ship To:

Karen Greuel
The Ballard Nature Center
5253 East Highway 40
Altamont, IL 62411

Payment Info

Payment Type: V
Card # 4798 ***** 4780
Approval Code: 709271

Customer No. 62928 Customer Phone: 618-483-6856 Email: bnc@altamont.net

Shipping Weight: 3.0 Lbs
Ship Via: Ground

Notes: Matching Donation on Invoice # 70411 Shipping charge waved

Qty	B/C	Item#	Bin#	Item Description	Unit Price	Adj Price	Total
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5		BIN-AB-0842	A-2	Audubon Binoculars 8x42 Equinox	199.99	199.99	999.95
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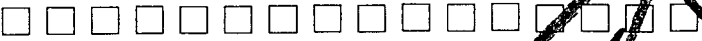


Merchandise Total \$ 999.95

Shipping & Handling \$ 0.00

Total \$ 999.95

***** 4780, Addr: 709271 ***** -999.95



Donate to wildlife fund

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois residents have the option of donating on their income tax form for the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species and wildlife habitat in Illinois. Funds donated through the wildlife check off are also used for research and education in the field of endangered species and habitat.

"These donations are an investment in the long-term future of Illinois," said Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Joel Brunsvold. "The projects funded through the check-off mean Illinois natural treasures will be part of our children and grandchildren's world."

Donors may give a minimum donation of one dollar. There is no limit on the maximum amount taxpayers may donate.

"It is remarkable what a big difference a relatively small donation can yield," said Glen Kruse, IDNR Biodiversity Program Manager. "Last year, we awarded funds to more than forty projects statewide."

Donations to the Wildlife Preservation Fund are tax deductible and may be made on line 28a of the IL-1040 form. Donations may also be

Ballard N.C. receives two grants

The Ballard Nature Center recently received two grants from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Preservation Fund, each at an amount of \$1,000.

One grant is for the purchase of binoculars to support the numerous educational programs offered at the center, and the other is for the development of reptile and amphibian habitats.

In an effort to increase awareness and appreciation

for reptiles and amphibians, the nature center will create two vernal pools in the center's woodland, two shallow water pools in the center's prairies and two reptilian hibernacula.

The grants were funded through the Wildlife Preservation check-off on the Illinois state income tax return form. The voluntary check-off designation provides an opportunity for taxpayers to contribute to non-game wildlife preservation.

sent to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Resource Protection and Stewardship, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271.

To apply for the Wildlife Preservation Fund grants, go to dnr.state.il.us/grants. Projects proposed for grant funding must focus on management, site inventories, or education, and cannot exceed \$2,000.

Projects currently funded from around the area are:

Shelby and Moultrie Counties — \$4,658.16: Official census of birds on Lake Shelbyville Fish and Wildlife Management areas, prior to

ecosystem restoration.

Shelby, Champaign Counties — \$962.50: Study impact of assisted pollination in three species.

Effingham County — \$1,000: Funding for education and conservation appreciation day.

Jasper County — \$1,000: Funding for teaching materials and kits about Illinois Prairie, to be made available to educators.

Neoga Schools, Cumberland County — \$955: Purchase of interpretive signs to be installed along a prairie trail to create an outdoor classroom.