

Special Wildlife Funds Grant  
for  
Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund  
Final Report  
January 1st, 2014 - June 30th, 2014

**Grant Agreement Number:** 14-035W  
**Grantee Name:** Beall Woods State Park  
**Address:** 9285 Beall Woods Avenue  
**City,St,Zip:** Mt.Carmel, IL 62863  
**Telephone:** 618-298-2441  
**Grantee Representative:** Jacqueline Cullison  
**Title:** Natural Resources Coord.

**Project Objective:**

Provide funding to the Illinois' Raptor Center in order for them to present the "Owls of Illinois" program to the Albion Grade School and Edwards County High School students. Purchase additional supplies for classroom presentations including owl pellets, forceps, food chain activity kits, a Great Horned owl skull, plus an owl pellet and common prey display.

**Project Description:**

The "Owls of Illinois" program was presented to Albion Grade School and Edwards County High School students on April 17th, 2014. A Great Horned, Barred, Barn, Short-eared, and two Eastern Screech owls accompanied Jack Nuzzo and Jane Seitz of the Illinois Raptor Center to the high school gymnasium. One-hour assemblies were scheduled for the K through 4th grades, 5th through 8th grades, and high school students. Students became aware of the different species of owls living in or migrating through Illinois and the role that owls have in the ecosystem. Nuzzo discussed identification by sight and sound, preferred habitat, choice of prey, and the population status of each owl species. He also pointed out the physical characteristics that categorize owls as birds of prey.

Further investigation of owls and their diet continued in the classrooms. I scheduled individual "Hungry Hoot" programs with teachers from 1st through 7th grades. "Hungry Hoot" programs included a powerpoint presentation and a hands-on activity. Students learned about an owl's feathers (silent flight), excellent hearing (location of ears), talons, eyes, head rotation, choice of prey, regurgitation of pellets, and strategies used while searching for prey. First and second grade students created owl paper bag puppets. Third and fourth graders constructed a food chain model to illustrate how each link is consumed by another organism until reaching the top member "the owl". Students in the fifth through seventh grades dissected regurgitated owl pellets and identified the skeletal remains of the owl's prey.

During the classroom presentations, emphasis was placed on the Barn Owl's population status and the conservation efforts that are currently taking place in Illinois. Third grade students created posters in order to educate the public about Barn Owls. Each poster included a fact about Barn Owls and a drawing depicting the information. Posters have been on display at the Citizens National Bank in Albion and in the Visitor Center at Beall Woods SP.

## Project Description Cont.

### Presentations:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Location</u>
04/10/14	2nd grade - Ms. Stewart	23	Albion Grade School
04/10/14	2nd grade - Ms. Stover	24	Albion Grade School
04/10/14	3rd grade - Mrs. Shepherd	19	Albion Grade School
04/10/14	3rd grade - Mrs. Stanhope	19	Albion Grade School
04/15/14	5th grade - Mrs. Murbarger	26	Albion Grade School
04/15/14	5th grade - Ms. Simms	25	Albion Grade School
04/15/14	6th grade - Science Mrs. McCurdy	22	Albion Grade School
04/15/14	7th grade - Science Mrs. McCurdy	25	Albion Grade School
04/15/14	7th grade - Science Mrs. McCurdy	27	Albion Grade School
04/16/14	1st grade - Mrs. Munsey	21	Albion Grade School
04/16/14	1st grade - Mrs. Ellis	22	Albion Grade School
04/17/14	Owls of IL - Illinois Raptor Center K-4th	277	Edwards Co. High School Gym
04/17/14	Owls of IL - Illinois Raptor Center H.S.	230	Edwards Co. High School Gym
04/17/14	Owls of IL - Illinois Raptor Center 5th-8th	201	Edwards Co. High School Gym
05/02/14	4th grade - Ms. Robinson	30	Albion Grade School
05/02/14	4th grade - Ms. Benham	31	Albion Grade School

### Species that benefited from programs:

Eastern Screech Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>

With all of the information presented during the assemblies and in the classrooms, students and teachers have a better understanding of an owl's role in the ecosystem and how important it is for us to help provide them with a suitable habitat. Program participants will be less likely to pollute or destroy an owl's habitat / nesting site and more likely to install nest boxes.

### Outcomes Achieved:

Participants acquired a greater respect and appreciation for wildlife and the environment. This awareness can now be shared with future generations. Posters created by students will be viewed by hundreds of visitors at Beall Woods State Park and will hopefully increase visitor's knowledge about Barn Owls and their needs for survival.

**Project Expenditures:**

**Nature-Watch  
5312 Derry Ave.  
Suite R  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301**

Quantity Purchased	Item Code	Description	Total Cost
1	506K	Pellet and Prey Display	\$79.95
2	400C	Natural Owl Pellets	\$398.00
5	400F	Tweezers	No charge
1	806I	Great Horned Skull	\$108.10
1	146S-1	Food Chain Activity Kit	\$129.00
Shipping and Handling			\$27.84
<b>Total Cost of Order</b>			<b>\$742.89</b>

**Illinois Raptor Center  
5695 W. Hill Road  
Decatur, IL 62522**

Quantity Purchased	Item Code	Item Description	Total Cost of Item
1	Initial educational program	Owls of Illinois	\$300.00
2	Additional programs	Owls of Illinois	\$450.00
6	NA	Raptors	\$150.00
1		Mileage	\$180.05
<b>Total Cost</b>			<b>\$1,080.05</b>

**Other Project Expenditures:**

Item	Price	Donated by:
Poster board	\$16	Edwards County Farm Bureau-AITC
Prizes-poster contest winners	\$50	Edwards County Farm Bureau-AITC
Plastic 5 - gallon buckets	\$16	Gillards True Value

**\$82**