

Glen Helen Strengthens Connections Between the Public and the College

By Liz MacDonald (Liz works in the Antioch Development and Alumni Office and is a graduate of Antioch College)

Nearly every graduate of Antioch College has special memories of Glen Helen. It is a resource not only for Antiochians, but also the Yellow Springs community and the entire Miami Valley region. Every year over 100,000 people visit the Glen for a multitude of purposes: education, exercise, romance, play, meditation, inspiration, appreciation of nature and more. This 1,000-acre preserve is supported by a staff of ten whose efforts are supplemented by 200 volunteers. It is a tremendous resource, and one that Antioch is happy to share.

The College, the Glen and the community are interconnected in many ways. Because the Glen is adjacent to campus, it is an easily accessible outdoor classroom and location for experiential learning. "Very few small liberal arts colleges can say they have a resource like the Glen. That's unique and a huge asset," says Bob Whyte, Executive Director of the Glen Helen Ecology Institute (GHEI). "The Glen brings students and the public together. I find the interfacing of these two groups to be incredible."

Making Change Happen: The Campaign for Antioch College seeks to strengthen those connections. The goal for Glen Helen is \$6.1 million, broken down into two areas. The Glen is seeking \$3.6 million to improve its endowment, and \$2.5 million for the renovation of its facilities. The Ecology Institute identified the need for a larger endowment to support and expand its existing programs. A larger endowment would provide general operating costs, guarantee faculty and staff positions, and ensure the maintenance of the land and buildings.

The Glen's facilities are in need of renovation in order to best fulfill the ecological and educational mission of the Glen. The majority



Antioch students studying Glen Helen wetland.

of the buildings in the Glen were built in the 50s using recycled materials. Bob Whyte gives an example: "Trailside Museum was put together in 1952 by students, faculty, staff and volunteers. They took apart limestone kilns which lined the railroad and used those to create Trailside. Now it's 50 years later, and the building has lived a good life, but you can only recycle materials for so long." The buildings at the Outdoor Education Center consist of old army barracks and the reconstructed materials from a skating rink. "We really need to fix these and build new facilities. When you have kids coming in on a daily basis you need to make sure you have safe facilities to put them in. It's camp — we don't need the Taj Mahal," Whyte laughs, "but we do need to make sure we have a safe and comfortable environment for the schoolchildren."

The Glen Helen Ecology Institute was started in 1996 to protect the Glen, manage its educational programs and seek funding to support its activities. Bob Whyte signed on as Executive Director in 2000. GHEI is responsible

for managing the 1,000-acre preserve, which includes trail maintenance and overall land management. GHEI also administers the Outdoor Education Center, which provides on-site environmental education to 3,000 school children each year through day programs and residential programs like the summer Eco-Camp. Additional educational programs include the Raptor Center, which also makes off-site presentations, and the Trailside Museum, which recently installed a new exhibit on mammals native to Ohio's deciduous forests.

The work done by the Ecology Institute is not limited to Yellow Springs. The GHEI also does outreach in the Miami Valley and beyond. These projects spread the positive reputation of Glen Helen as well as serving the larger purpose of environmental education. Whyte explains, "If we do a project in Dayton, folks know we're from Glen Helen and then they are learning about Glen Helen as well as enhancing their own local environment."

Whyte hopes to make the GHEI recognizable on a national level by pursuing research projects across the country. GHEI recently received a grant from the state of Ohio and federal government to conduct a scientific study of Lake Erie coastal wetlands. Projects like this not only enhance the reputation of the GHEI, they also provide excellent opportunities for students to participate in research and build skills that they can then bring back and apply in Glen Helen. "We have a wetland in the Glen we would like to restore, which funds from the campaign would allow us to do. Projects such as this invite student participation in both the physical work and the research," Whyte says.

The Campaign for Antioch College has reached the halfway mark, and Glen Helen is

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Director's Letter



Bob Whyte

In December 1964, the University of California Board of Regents established the Natural Land and Water Reserves System. Today the system contains 26 reserves representing unique ecosystems of the

state. Through outstanding faculty and administrative leadership the reserve system is today unparalleled by any other University in the United States.

Antioch College in 1929 through the leadership of its President Arthur Morgan and the generosity of Hugh Taylor Birch created a 1,000 acre preserve protecting the area's outstanding natural landscape and its biota and providing the College with an outstanding educational resource. In addition, unlike many preserve systems today, Glen Helen is highly accessible to the public. To maintain Glen Helen as an outstanding resource, the GHEI must continue to strengthen its connections to Antioch University and seek enhanced leadership and support from the faculty and administration.

As an educational tool Glen Helen has served the regions elementary and middle schools exceedingly well. Almost 3,000 school-children attend GHEI's Outdoor Education Center each year. Yet as a teaching and research resource for the College we continue to strive to reach a similar level of participation and excellence. What is the answer?

In this issue of *In the Glen* Liz McDonald writes of ongoing efforts to reconnect the College and the Glen. It is vital that we seek to expand the Glen's education and research efforts and directly encourage participation of Antioch faculty and students. Research and land management need to become a greater component of the Glen's programs to ensure adequate land protection. Invasive plants increasingly threaten native vegetation and alter important biotic relationships. The Glen's prairies have long since lost their prairie vegetation, the Pine Forest continues to shrink, and the oak communities are increasingly threatened.

I am encouraged, however, by the increase in interest in the Glen as a place of study by Antioch faculty and students. Dr. Collette Palmer, Assistant Professor of Environmental

Studies at Antioch is working with her students to restore a small prairie in the South Glen. This past semester her students cleared encroaching woody vegetation and conducted a floristic survey of the area. They plan a burn in the spring of 2005. Dr. Susan Kolb led her student's this past summer in a cursory study of the impact the Glen's trails have on insect movement in the preserve. A poster outlining her student's work was prepared and is on display in the lobby of the Glen Helen Building.

The Getty Foundation has recently awarded Antioch College \$150,000 to study its historic buildings and natural landscape. This will present the faculty and students an opportunity to assess the landscape and the rich cultural and heritage resources of Glen Helen.

Antioch students also recognize the importance of service to the Glen as they increasingly donate their time to various Glen Helen improvement projects.

This is all very encouraging. Ultimately, however, we will need to constructively reexamine the organizational structure and operation of Glen Helen. The College and University will need to direct its attention as well as resources toward the Glen if the preserve is to become an outstanding educational resource to the College and region as well as continue to serve the public. The community, particularly the Glen Helen Association, must also work with the Institute and the College to redefine its relations and role with the Glen. Clarity of purpose and clarity of the Glen's organizational structure, which is complex, will ultimately help facilitate the achievement of organizational goals.

This next year will prove exceedingly important to the Glen as we continue the capital campaign, seek to maintain the level of Glen programs, and undertake a comprehensive planning process to guide the Glen Helen Ecology Institute over the next 3-5 years and beyond.

I look forward to working with you all.

— Bob Whyte

Glen Helen Welcomes New Education Staff

Susan Kamins and Motyka Davidson have joined the Glen Helen Ecology Institute as co-directors of its varied environmental education programs. Under the umbrella of the



Susan Kamins



Motyka Davidson

Institute's education programs, Susan and Motyka are responsible for activities at the Outdoor Education Center to include SchoolCamp (school-year residential program), summer EcoCamp for kids, Trailside Museum, and other programs at the Glen Helen Nature Preserve.

Susan is a 1992 graduate of Antioch College and has since devoted herself to advocating and working to preserve and share our natural heritage. Motyka, a graduate of Miami University, was inspired by Glen Helen's EcoCamp as a youth helping her to better understand the important role environmental education plays in shaping our collective future.

2005 Calendar Is Here — Get Yours Now!

It's not too early to purchase a 2005 Glen Helen Calendar. We have again included 13 Glen scenes taken by visitors to the nature preserve. The pictures are more spectacular than ever, if that is possible. You may purchase your calendar (cost of \$10) at the Glen Helen Building or at local merchants. Proceeds will be used to repair trails and provide stewardship of the Glen, so buy many.



In the Glen

is published quarterly for donors, environmental educators, Glen Helen Association members, and other friends of the Glen Helen Ecology Institute. Send comments and suggestions to *In The Glen*, 405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.

Editor: Bob Whyte

Contributors: Bob Whyte, Beth Krisko, Ann Shaw, Liz McDonald, Susan Kamins, Betty Ross

Design: Bob Bingenheimer

Outdoor Education Center

Notes from the OEC

SchoolCamp 04-05 is off and running! We have a great team of naturalists this term who are really enjoying taking groups of 2nd – 7th graders out on the trails. Teachers tell us their classes love their experience here, and that the curriculum significantly supports what they are doing in the classroom. Our naturalists are learning a great deal from the OEC's Antioch-style experiential program; the skills they acquire here will benefit them throughout their professional lives. The kids themselves will remember this for years. We've given them the basis for a lasting love of the land and a beginning understanding of what it takes to practice sound land stewardship – to the future benefit of the Glen and beyond. Many thanks to all of you for your help in making this experience possible!

SchoolCamp Naturalists

Jenn Brown (Canton, OH) Currently Jenn is studying Environmental Policy at Bowling Green State University. Her excitement of hiking and any kind of water sports (especially surfing) is contagious and she will add a lot

Back row from left: Lisa Freeman, Adam Bilecki, Matthew Geheran, Andrew Burch; Middle row: Jennifer Brown, Emily Magner, Miri Nasoff; Front row: Susanna Paterson, Flavio Sutti, Adam Wersan, Jessica Bilecki



of energy as well as smiles to the Glen.

Andrew Burch (Junction City, OR) Andrew pursued his interest in the outdoors and wildlife at Greenville College where he received his BS in environmental biology. After continuing on to graduate school he plans to become a high school biology teacher, and football or wrestling coach.

Emily Magner (Ann Arbor, MI) Emily is an Environmental Studies major at Antioch College. She sharpened her leadership skills by leading backpacking and kayaking trips for youth. Most recently she was a volunteer coordinator at the Buffalo Field Campaign in Montana.

Susanna Paterson (Fairfax, VA) Susanna is the daughter of Dick and Mary Paterson who met while working here in the mid 1970's. She has come armed with creativity, curiosity, excitement and an English degree from UVA to learn first hand what the Glen has to offer interns and elementary students. She will be going to graduate school next fall to study library science with a concentration in rare books and special collections.

Jessica Bilecki (Darien, IL) Jessica started in January as a naturalist, stayed on during the summer as an EcoCamp Coordinator, and is now the Program Coordinator. She has an Environmental Science degree from Towson University, and various outdoor experiences including researching salamanders, restoring native prairies, and working as an Interpreter for Bear Brook State Park.

Adam Bilecki (Darien, IL) Adam worked here for EcoCamps this summer and has decided to stay for another term. He has always been interested in the natural environment, and loves to explore. From his backyard to Belize, and now the Glen, he is looking forward to learning even more through first hand experiences.

Flavio Sutti (Mobegno, Italy) Flavio is the very talented Raptor Center Assistant this term. Aside from being a naturalist and Raptor Center assistant for the Glen previously, he also has experience in Italy working as a freelance naturalist, research assistant, guide for the Civic Museum of Natural History, and managed the Wildlife Refuge of Sondio.

Adam Wersan (New York City, NY) Adam has returned this semester as the current Extension

Naturalist. He has a long and varied work history from a career with doctors and lawyers in corporate America, and came to the Glen to get a new start. He's currently applying to go to college for a RN in nursing and loves his role as an enthusiastic natural educator.

Miri Nasoff (Yellow Springs, OH) In the last fourteen years since she moved to Yellow Springs Miri graduated from Antioch with a BA in Elementary Education, attained a teaching certificate and raised two young boys (5 & 8). The Glen has been an important part of her life the whole time and she can't think of a more fitting way to start earning her Masters.

Matthew Geheran (St. Petersburg, FL) In Florida Matthew worked at a children's shelter. He is interested in helping to facilitate experiences for young people that allow them to express their individual talents while promoting their sense of self-efficacy and community value.

Lisa Freeman (Fort Lauderdale, FL) "Loves nature, loves kids, people are responsible for the care of the earth. Woohoo!"

OEC Wish List

- We would gratefully accept any of the following needed items or services. Please call 937-767-7648, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.
- Compasses
 - Firewood
 - Nature related books
 - Foreign language dictionaries
 - Wheelbarrows
 - Pioneer and native clothing
 - Bicycles for interns
 - Craft supplies: beads, yarn, wax, scissors, leather/material scraps, feathers, etc.
 - Rain jackets/ponchos for kids
 - Poster board
 - Rakes
 - Chest of drawers for intern housing
 - Snow shovels
 - Wigs, costumes
 - First aid supplies

In Appreciation

Arthur and Lucy Morgan Society

The Glen Helen Ecology Institute greatly appreciates the contributions from the Arthur and Lucy Morgan Society members during fiscal year 2003-2004 (received between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004)

George and Tosh Asakawa
Jane Baker
Ruth Bean
Dave and Barbara Case
Ken and Peg Champney
Roger Cranos
Al and Donna Denman
Sylvia Carter Denny
Rachel Dewey
Thomas Dozeman and Mary Talen
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Mrs. Louise Nippert
Virginia Paget
Philip and Esther Rothman
Perry Stewart
Tracy Stewart and Steve Holtzman
Doris and Robert Swabb
Cy and Ilse Tebbetts
Beverly Viemeister

Hugh Taylor Birch Memorial Celebration

The Glen Helen Ecology Institute thanks all who contributed to the April 3, 2004 special fundraising event at Whitehall Farm.

Gifts to the Glen

We also gratefully acknowledge the following for their contribution to the Glen Helen Ecology Institute received between January 1, 2004 and Aug 31, 2004:

Capital Campaign and Endowment

Emma Austin

David and Joan Goodwin
Margaret Harris
Benefactor
Jerry Herst
Sponsor
Robert Brecha and Katharina Seidl
Kristin Consaul (Estate of Charles P. Doyle)

Contributor
Harden and Jeanne Ballantine
Caroline Beverstock
Wilma Deen
Donn Denman and Nora Kim
Beth Inskeep (for County Kingdom 4-H Club)
Nick Nissley
Bob and Sue Parker
Oscar Peters and Gertrude Chasens
Deborah and William Phillips
Julia Summers
Maria Varandani
Betsy and Leon Whitney

Friend
Carolyn and David Abel
Sture Anliot
Ann Booher
Daniel Brustein and Joan Trey
Jean Campbell
Dorothy Clark
Lisa Cohen
Trudy Elder
Shirley Kristensen
Heidi and Roy Eastman
Timothy Goodman
Bruce Hogan
Raymond and Nancy Lewkowicz
Phil Long
Paul Lukey
Ildiko and Eric Marcus
Patricia and Raymond Olds
Dianne Olix
Dorothy Pepple
Aaron Rourke
Jim and Nancy Zimmerman

Tributes
Al and Donna Denman (Rebecca Kuder and Robert Wexler's wedding)
In honor of Mark Babb and Janet Mueller's wedding:
Lawrence Kaiser
Greg Marckel
Carol and Michael Mueller
Jeffrey Naffziger and Katherine Walz
C. Scott Smith
Brian Wasserman
Peg Smelser (Class of '04 for Kyle McCann)

Community, Corporate and Foundation Partners
Clifton Mill
Dean Retirement Plan Services, Inc.
Glen Helen Association
Greene County Community Foundation

Key Foundation (employer gift match)
Suburban Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Paul Stull
Tom's Market
The Riding Centre Association
Upper River Fund of The Dayton Foundation
Village Walkers of Path N. Glen
WYSO
Yellow Springs Community Foundation
Yellow Springs School District (School Forest)
Young's Jersey Dairy

Gifts-in-Kind
Bob Bingenheimer
Wayne Carmichael, Ph.D. and Wright State Department of Biological Sciences
Judith Oplinger
Cindy Steffen

Special Thanks from the Raptor Center
Many thanks to Tom and Betty Finke and Summit Elementary School for their especially generous donations; Dr. Michael Brown and the staff of Bigger Road Veterinary Clinic; Ron Austing for adoption photos, mats, and cage renovations; Ohio Division of Wildlife Area staff and the Glen Helen Association Stewardship Committee for work on the flight cage and moving sand and mulch; Summer Raptor Center Assistant Jane Ford; our very important food donors, and to the following for their donations:

Katherine Beach
Eileen Beason
Nancy Bent and Roger Reason
Bruce Berra
Edmund Brown-Edwards
Burrroughs Nature Study Club
Gordon Cowperthwaite
Conni and Richard Daniel
Carl and Kathleen Eckell
Geraldine Fogarty
Maureen and Phil Fry
Mark George
Elaine Grayson
Robert Hankey
William and Janet Heater
Barb Mackey
Peter Noonan
Chuck and Karen Pellerin
Louise Bennett Rowe
James and Judith Salomon
Joanne Steinhilber
Mitch Tanksley
Seth Tibbot
Jean Weh

Thank Yous from the Outdoor Education Center
Nancy Nerry

Guided Nature Hikes

Medallion Hikes: Hike for the health of it – 3.5 hour, 3-5 miles:

October 23,
Saturday: Fall
Colors Hike,
1 pm, meet
at Trailside
Museum



November 20,
Saturday: Nature Arts & Crafts
Hike, 11 am, meet at Trailside
Museum

December 18, Saturday: Winter
Wonderland Hike, 1 pm, meet at
Trailside Museum

General Hikes (leisurely stroll in the Glen) from the Trailside Museum:

October 16 & November 6,
Saturdays: Fall Hike, 1 pm
October 30, Saturday: Poetry
Hike, 10am

Glen Helen Strengthens Connections

Continued from page 1

also well on its way to achieving its goals. Recently the Glen Helen Association – a friends group that regularly provides funding for the Glen – made an incredibly generous pledge of \$100,000 to the GHEI. "We are tremendously grateful to the members of GHA for all they do," says Whyte, "This gift gives us a real jump-start. It will provide wonderful momentum to the campaign and encouragement for our volunteers."

Anyone – student, Antioch graduate, villager, or out-of-town-visitor – who would like to give something back to the Glen through volunteering or making a financial contribution should contact Bob Whyte at (937) 767-7573, or the College Development Office at (937) 769-1200.

The Raptor Center



The Importance of Banding Birds



Banding birds before release can provide valuable information.

Late in December an adult red-tailed hawk was on top of our back flight cage. When approached it flew away, but continued watching from nearby trees. When it was there the next day, we put food out, which it later took. This continued for several days until we were able to see that the bird was wearing a band, and we figured out which bird it was. Through the years, we have recognized several birds in the Glen that we released, because they were banded. Most of the time, however, the value of the bands is when the bird has been recovered injured or dead, and the number is available for accurate identification.

The Bird Banding Lab of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides aluminum leg bands to authorized individuals to place on birds as permanent identification. Birds may be banded before they leave a nest or captured during migration or in their breeding areas. Rehabilitated birds may also be banded before release. Bird banding has provided information on the longevity of species and individuals, nesting and breeding information, migration patterns, and population trends. The rate of recoveries,

when birds are found injured or dead, runs less than 5 percent of all those banded, so in spite of the many thousands of birds banded, we have admitted very few birds banded by other banders. Our most exciting was the twenty-six year old red-tailed hawk we admitted and released in 2003.

We have had only fifty recoveries from the well over a thousand birds that have been banded for us before release. It is well worth having them banded, however, if only to find out if our rehabilitation efforts really are successful.

We take in many young birds each year, nestlings and fledglings, and use a variety of methods to get them back into the wild. Although not all the birds make it, it is good to know that the methods we use do work. Our preferred choice is to return a youngster to its original nest and parents. Next choice is fostering into another suitable family. Although we often have assurances from observers that the young have been accepted into the family, proof is nice. We have had recoveries of a fostered barred owl injured after three months, and a great horned owl and Cooper's hawk after six months.

When foster sites aren't available, hacking or modified hacking techniques are used; the young are released but provided food until they become proficient hunters. We have had five recoveries attesting to the success of this method. Two barred owls were found, one hit by a car seven months after release, and another injured over a year later and released again. Two great horned owls were injured and re-released over two years after their initial hacking. The most exciting band return for a hacked bird was of a broad-winged hawk released in 1993 which was recovered three years later in Bolivia. The smaller raptors, kestrels and screech-owls, are often raised in our flight cages and released in suitable locations. We have had band returns on both species after three months, five months, and more than a year.

Besides the young birds, there are those recovering from injuries such as head trauma or fractures. Most of the band returns for these birds show they have been successful for over four, five, and six months, with a Cooper's hawk over a year, two great horned owls over two years, and a red-tail over three years. They did get that second chance.

If the birds had not been banded, the stories would not be known, nor would essential information be gathered for research or for our rehabilitation efforts. It is not likely that you will ever encounter a banded bird, but if you do, report it to the banding lab at 1-800-327-2263. The banding process doesn't work without people reporting what they have seen or found.

Our Adoption Program

The adoption fee is \$75 per year; a photo and certificate will be sent, and a sign will be placed at the bird's cage. You may also request a visit with your bird to a school, scout pack, club, office, or home. The money helps to support not only the adopted bird, but all the birds that come into the Raptor Center needing help. An adoption is a wonderful way for a group to help the Raptor Center, or makes a unique anniversary, birthday, holiday, or memorial gift for someone special.

Thank you for these renewals:

Cindy Beckman
Celina Middle School
The Nine Dewey Grandchildren
Tonya Herron
Phyllis Holsapple
Kristensen Family
Ruth Mackey
Miami Valley Bird Club
Stan Mickel
Dennis and Sherry Mummert
Margaret Neikirk
Katherine Ryllien
Summit Elementary School

Welcome to our adoption family:

Evan Beason
Kiera Fogarty
Ryan Michaels
Jenna Wehr

Upcoming Events

Raptor Center Open House – Sunday, Oct. 17, 2-4pm at the Raptor Center.

A bald eagle and fourteen other species of Ohio's hawks, falcons, and owls will be on display at the Raptor Center's fall Open House. Staff members will have birds out for close-up introductions and photo opportunities. This is your chance to meet our staff and resident raptors, learn about our programs, and see our rehabilitation flight cages.

GHEI Mission Statement

The Glen Helen Ecology Institute exists to protect the Glen for present and future generations. The GHEI fulfills its mission by engaging in land stewardship, education, community outreach and service, and research.

Glen Helen Board

Tony Arnett
Tom Dietrich
Mel Fine
Dave Goodwin
Richard Jurasek
Michael Krug
Mark Meister
Nancy Nerny
David Neuhardt
Virginia Paget
Bob Parker
David Rubin

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Staff

- Robert Whyte, Ph.D., Executive Director
- Charlene Buster, Office Manager, Outdoor Education Center
- Ann Shaw, Assistant Director for Administration
- Beth Krisko, Volunteer Coordinator/Trailside Manager
- Betty Ross, Director, Raptor Center
- Ray Harphant, Glen Helen Crew Leader
- George Bieri, Property Manager
- Susan Kamins, Residential Programs Director
- Motyka Davidson, Day Programs Director
- Sue Harphant, OEC Cook
- **Scheduled Glen Helen Building Volunteers**
- Tosh Asakawa, Ruth Bent, Elaine Brown, Rita Colbert, Wilma Deen, Bill Evans, Lindsay Folck, Holly Gersbacher, Paula Hurwitz, Jean Huston, Amy Kimura, Marv Lamborg, Mildred McConville, Alice McKinney, Nancy Mahoney, Marcia Mathiasen, Marianne Newman, Dorothy Scott, Evelyn Sikes, Susan Stiles, Helen Westneat, Kathy Wilkenson, Phyllis Williams

Glen Helen Ecology Institute

- **Administrative Offices**
- Located in the Glen Helen Building
- 405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH
- Mon-Fri, 9:30-4:30
- **Trailside Museum & Visitor Center**
- 505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH
- For information on hours, walks & programs call 937-767-7375 or 937-767-7798.
- **Glen Helen Nature Preserve**
- Trails are open daily, sunrise to sunset. All wildlife, vegetation, and natural features are protected.
- **Outdoor Education Center**
- Residential environmental education center for school groups and summer EcoCamps.
- 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs, OH 937-767-7648
- **Raptor Center**
- Raptor education and rehabilitation center
- Visitors are welcome to visit the center and see the resident birds.
- 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs, OH 937-767-7648
- **Glen Helen Nature Shop**
- Located in the Glen Helen Building
- 405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH
- Monday-Friday, 9:30-4:30; Saturday 10-4; Sunday 12-4; 937-767-7375

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405 Corry Street
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387-0280
Phone 937.767.7375
Fax 937.767.6659
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