

In the Glen

The View from Here – The Director's Report to the Community

I began my tenure as Director of Glen Helen on June 1st, which, as luck would have it, was a Thursday. Two days later, I was on the phone, having my weekly conversation with my father. If you ever have the chance to meet my dad, you'll recognize him immediately as an older, taller, smarter, less patient version of me.

We chatted, and he asked the question that I knew was coming: "So, are you all settled in?"

Picture this metaphor: I felt like I was staring up at an enormous mountain. At the base of the mountain, you can't even see the summit, but you can tell that the trail winds unrelentingly upward. Sure, I knew the Glen from my year here as a naturalist in 1990, but, as with any new job, I had a lot to do, and a lot to learn. That week, however, my computer wasn't working, nor was my voice mail. My in-box overflowed, and the back of my chair had a problem that made it fully recline with the slightest pressure.

At home, we were surrounded by boxes from our move from Washington, D.C. Despite the fact that we'd maintained the philosophical imperative to simplify our lives, we required three 28-foot long trucks to move our belongings to Ohio. Several rooms were stacked so tall with boxes that you couldn't even enter them. Nobody could find the box that held the screwdrivers. Or the shampoo. Or the plug for the computer.

No, I wasn't settled in yet.

Gradually though, things are starting to come together. We found our shampoo and plugged in our computer. And at the Glen, I've been working with our staff, our volunteers, and colleagues at Antioch to make progress on some of the many challenges we face.

There is still the proverbial mountain to climb, but every day, I feel like we can turn around and survey the view from here. And the view is improving.

Some steps are small. We're working to

improve the living conditions for our naturalist interns, and completed a renovation of one of the bathrooms in Clayton House on Route 343. The Glen Helen Building received a new water fountain in time for the peak heat of summer. Our information kiosk received a new sign to help folks locate the Nature Shop here in the Glen Helen Building

Some steps are larger, and will help us with our work in the years to come.

The Land

George Bieri, our land manager, plus a legion of volunteers led by Jan Foiles, have been tackling the invasive species that have been taking over, changing the ecology of the preserve. Outside my office window is an area that was recently cleared of honeysuckle. When the area was first cleared, the ground appeared barren and lifeless. Yet today, five-foot tall native cutleaf grows in the same spot. Goldfinches love the area. Last week, they were joined by a hummingbird, which plucked gnats out of mid-air while I watched. When we spend the time and energy to take care of our preserve, nature finds ways to reward our investment.

Teams of volunteers have been taking out invasive honeysuckle throughout the preserve. These three photographs show how quickly the habitat heals. Left to right:



Before: The honeysuckle forest is green, yet lifeless. Nothing grows underneath the bushes. Native plants die back.

During: Honeysuckle has been cut away, leaving bare ground. It may look ugly, but it's a necessary step.

After: With the honeysuckle gone, native wildflowers return.

The Facilities

Perhaps the area of the Glen that most urgently needs our attention is the Outdoor Education Center. The OEC, as we call it, welcomes 3,000 schoolchildren each year, who stay for a week they'll remember for the rest of their lives.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the OEC. In many of the communities in the Dayton-Springfield area, kids grow up hearing about the OEC not just from their older siblings, but from their parents and grandparents as well.

Many of the buildings on the site were built by volunteers when the OEC was created, using spare parts and sweat equity. The facilities have been lovingly used for 50 years, but are now sorely in need of renovation. This renovation will be a big job, but the pieces that will make it possible are beginning to come together.

Thankfully, we have received a \$150,000 grant from the US EPA to improve the way that wastewater is handled at the Outdoor Education Center. This funding was made possible through the efforts of U.S. Senator Mike DeWine. When paired with a required 45 percent match, it should be sufficient to meet our needs. We're taking on this project at a time when there are a host of exciting options for how to resolve wastewater treatment problems. We hope to be able to find a solution that can serve as a model for others who contemplate a decentralized approach.

Other areas of the OEC that deserve our attention are the office and classroom spaces. The original office is no longer usable, so staff used a leased trailer for the past several

Two Government Grants Destined for Glen Helen

We were thrilled recently to hear that Glen Helen is eligible to receive a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This funding was made possible through the efforts of U.S. Senator Mike DeWine.

Story continues on page 7

Continued on next page

years. The original classroom space, built by volunteers from the Jewish American Committee for Service, also needs to be taken off-line. Rebuilding these will require resources, but we've already made headway on that front.

State Representative Chris Widener has secured \$25,000 in funding through the Ohio Commission for the Humanities. Thanks to Representative Widener, we'll be able to put this money towards building and outfitting a new classroom.

Another significant asset in our efforts to renovate the OEC comes from the late Janet Hackett. Janet left the Glen Helen Association a bequest valued at \$302,000. Her profound generosity will allow us to make improvements that will be valued for generations to come.

In July, we hired a new Director for the OEC. Her name is Beth Krisko, and she actually worked at Glen Helen in a variety of roles between 2001 and 2005.

The Glen was the living laboratory for Beth's graduate research on tree communities. Her study was a substantial accomplishment, and one that will aid us in land management planning for years to come. She also served as the coordinator of our volunteers, directed our Trailside Museum, and managed our summer EcoCamps. In her time away from the Glen over the last year, she taught science to at-risk seventh and eighth graders in inner city Dayton.

I'm delighted that she's back, and able to put her love for the Glen, her detailed knowledge of our programs, her passion for education, and her formidable work ethic to use in her new role at the OEC.

Bringing It All Together

One of the things that has challenged the Glen over the years has been the complexity of communicating fluidly between staff, college, boards, volunteers, and other interested folks in the community. I began this job with the commitment to do everything in my power to keep communication lines open. This newsletter is a small part of that effort.

We've also worked with the computer pros at Antioch to establish an e-mail network so that staff and supporters of Glen Helen can communicate freely and openly with each other. Called "Friends of Glen Helen," it has a funny, but easy-to-remember address: friends@www.glenhelen.org. We invite everyone who supports and cares about the Glen

to join. The network does much more than allow me to let folks know about things we're working on (no junk, I promise). It's a two-way street that will enable friends and supporters to communicate with staff and vice versa. Want to offer comments, compliments, or criticisms? Want to ask staff if we need that snow blower you have sitting in your garage? Want to spend the weekend pulling garlic mustard, but don't know who to ask? This e-mail network is for you.

To join, simply send a message to friends@www.glenhelen.org.

The Friends of Glen Helen e-mail network is born of the philosophy that the success of the Glen as a nature preserve, as an educational center, and as a living laboratory depends on the cumulative efforts of everyone who cares for its future. In simplest terms, I believe that we can best care for the Glen by working together. I hope you'll join us. On a clear day, the view is magnificent.

— Nick Boutis

2007 Glen Helen Calendar Coming



The new Glen Helen calendar features 12 months of stunning photos from the preserve. Pick one up for your friends, family, and every room in your house. The calendar, which sells for the modest price of \$10, can be purchased at the Glen Helen Nature Shop and a number of stores in Yellow Springs.

As with all Glen Helen merchandise, your purchase helps support our efforts on behalf of the Glen.

Art in the Atrium: A Call for Entries

An exhibition of artwork by members of the Glen Helen Association will be held from January 18 through March 1, 2007 in the Glen Helen Building. We invite all GHA

members to submit one nature-themed drawing, painting, sculpture, fiber art or photography for this first-time exhibit.

Entry forms are available at the Glen Helen Building or by calling Mildred McConville, Art in the Atrium coordinator, at 937-767-1588. Forms must be returned by January 2, 2007. Artwork must be dropped off at the GHB on Wednesday, January 17 between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm only.

Honors Students Complete Summer Institute



Honors Institute students conduct a stream study

Twenty-four gifted high school students from all over Ohio resided in Glen Helen Nature Preserve at the Outdoor Education Center for two weeks this August. They came to explore the field of Environmental Studies first hand, as participants in the Antioch College Summer Honors Institute.

2006 was the second year this unique, experiential learning Institute took place, and another successful one at that. Antioch Faculty, local environmental professionals, and Glen Helen Naturalists all worked together to facilitate a dynamic variety of learning experiences. Thanks to their efforts, student participants were introduced to college academic life, gained a better understanding of environmental issues, and explored ways in which they can personally become more active citizens.

In the Glen

is published quarterly for 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: Nick Boutis

Contributors: Nick Boutis, Beth Krisko, Joan Horn, Jessica Bilecki, Betty Ross, Ann Shaw, Cindy Steffen

Design: Bob Bingenheimer

Honors Institute coordinator Jessica Bilecki deserves a special word of thanks for her outstanding efforts in orchestrating the undertaking to near perfection. All who participated learned a great deal and felt inspired after the program finished. We look forward to continuing these partnerships next summer!

Would You? Could You? Volunteer!

With people having less and less time these days to just “be” or to do the things they want rather than the things they have to do, it is always amazing when a new person calls to say they would like to volunteer at the Glen. We do not take their willingness to commit a few hours each week or month lightly because time is precious. But we believe people also donate their time because it is a chance for them to give to a cause, grow as a person or get a sense of satisfaction from the work they do.

So, if you have some margin in your life (or need to make some) consider the many volunteer opportunities here at Glen Helen. We’d like to have you on our Volun-Teams because we couldn’t do it without you! We have volunteer teams involved in every type of work we do here in the Glen, from pulling invasive plants, to leading hikes, to renovating buildings, to interacting with visitors.

Please call volunteer coordinator Cindy Steffen at 937-769-1907 for more information or to sign up for training.

A Tree for Bev



Glen Helen volunteer, board member, and benefactor Beverly Viemeister was memorialized with a tree dedication on July 3. The white oak tree, with its plaque, can be found just south of the Corry St. entrance to the Glen.

Fall at a Glance – Upcoming Events

October

Nature Story Hour

Wed, October 4, 1 pm, Trailside Museum

Full Moon Hike

Thurs, October 5, 7 pm, St. Rt. 343 Parking Lot at OEC entrance

Edible Plants & Mushrooms

Sun, October 8, 4 pm, Trailside Museum

Columbus Day Explorer Hike

Mon, October 9, 2 pm, Trailside Museum

Reptile Feeding

Sat, October 14, 11 am, Trailside Museum

Street Fair/Trail Flair Hike

Sat, October 14, 12 noon, Trailside Museum

Raptor Center Open House

Sun, October 15, 2-4 pm, Raptor Center

Art in the Atrium

Richard Baumer

October 16 – November 12, Glen Helen Building

GHA Bird Seed Sale

Sat, October 21, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Glen Helen Building

Fall Scavenger Hunt

Sat, October 21, 1 pm, Trailside Museum

Nature & Poetry Hike

Sun, October 22, 2 pm, Jacoby Rd Canoe Launch off Clifton Rd

Glen Helen Lecture Series

Nick Boutis and Staff, Wed, October 25, 7 pm, Glen Helen Building

Farewell to Daylight Saving Time Hike

Thurs, October 26, 5:30 pm, Trailside Museum

Reptile Feeding

Sat, October 28, 11 am, Trailside Museum

Fall Colors Medallion Hike

Sat, October 28, 1 pm, Trailside Museum

November

Nature Story Hour

Wed, November 1, 1 pm, Trailside Museum

Full Moon Hike

Sat, November 4; 5:30 pm, St. Rt. 343 Parking Lot at OEC entrance

GHA Nature Shop at the Aullwood Shop-a-Round

Sat, November 11, 9am – 5pm, Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, 1000 Aullwood Rd., Dayton

Glen March in Honor of Veteran's Day

Sat, November 11, 9-12, Trailside Museum



White trillium photo by Tyler Jones

Reptile Feeding

Sat, November 11, 11 am, Trailside Museum

Nature Arts & Crafts Show

Sat, November 18; 9 am – 5 pm; Sun, November 19, 11 am – 5 pm, Glen Helen Building

Nature Arts & Crafts Hike

Sun, November 19, 1 pm, Glen Helen Building Entrance

Reptile Feeding

Sat, November 25, 11 am, Trailside Museum

Hibernation Hike

Sat, November 25, 1 pm, Trailside Museum

Art in the Atrium

Glen Helen Historical Exhibit, November 27 – January 15, 2007, Glen Helen Building

Glen Helen Lecture Series

Women of the Glen by Scott Sanders, Wed, November 29, 7 pm, Glen Helen Building

December

Nature Story Hour

Wed, December 6, 1 pm, Trailside Museum

Escape the Holiday Flurry Hike

Sat, December 9, 10 am, St. Rt. 343 Parking Lot at OEC Entrance

Reptile Feeding

Sat, December 9, 11 am, Trailside Museum

Winter Wonders Medallion Hike

Sat, December 16, 1 pm, St. Rt. 343 Parking Lot at OEC Entrance

Nature at Rest Hike

Sat, December 23, 10 am, Trailside Museum

Glen Helen Lecture Series

No Lecture in December

Outdoor Education Center

Meet Our Fall Interns

Our fall naturalist interns have arrived, bringing energy, excitement and experiences that will make our school camp program outstanding for yet another term. Intern naturalists come to the Glen from a variety of places and backgrounds, but share a common love and appreciation for the natural world and enthusiasm for working with children.

Upon arrival to the OEC the interns participate in a 3-week training period designed to familiarize them with OEC curriculum and Glen Helen natural history. Throughout the training period OEC staff and returning interns introduce new naturalists to our thousand-acre classroom and the variety of environmental education activities that can be used to facilitate discovery in children and promote understanding of ecological concepts. We prepare the interns for the challenges and rewards of working with children on the trails by calling upon local experts who provide training on child development and behavior management specific to the outdoor education experience. The 3-week training time also allows for community-building activities, which are important for creating a positive learning and work environment. By the time students arrive and the OEC is in full swing, we are confident that naturalists are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that will allow them to be successful environmental educators.

The 2006 naturalist staff:

Nicole Reid (Extension Naturalist):

Nicole is a native of Jacksonville, Florida, who recently graduated with an M.S. from Michigan State University. Her thesis project focused on how reservoirs affect river water quality.

Lauren VanArsdale (Program Coordinator): Lauren is from Columbus, Ohio, and went to Ohio University in Athens where she earned a degree in magazine journalism. She discovered a love of camping and the outdoors through travel to national parks. She is

planning to get her Master's in Environmental Education after working in the Glen.

Katie Jensen (Raptor Center Assistant):

Katie grew up in Kansas City and recently graduated with a B.S. in Biology from Luther College. One of her most rewarding experiences was hiking through the rainforests in Costa Rica. She hopes to spend her time at the Glen sharing with children her enthusiasm for the environment.

Brad Benne: Brad is from Springfield,

Ohio, where he grew up taking advantage of the many outdoor and cultural experiences offered by Wittenberg University. He attended Butler University where he graduated with a B.A. in History. While at Butler, he worked for the intramural and outdoor education department and served as campus recreation chair.

Steven Paul Butera Jr.: Steve recently

graduated from the College of William and Mary with a B.S. in Mathematics. His interests include permaculture, natural building and architecture, vegan cooking, biking, kayaking, singing and playing guitar. He aspires to become a high school teacher and also to build an earthen home and begin a small farm.

Darlene Crow: Darlene was a special

education teacher for the last seven years. Her B.S. is from Heidelberg College and Master's of Education is from University of Findley. Her deep love for our natural environment and desire to share and encourage that love in others drew her to Glen Helen. She feels that being a part of the OEC team is an opportunity to be a positive part of the future of our planet.

Cathy Haendiges-Schmidt: Cathy is

from Dresden, Ohio, and graduated from Zane State College with an Associate degree in Parks, Recreation, and Wildlife. Cathy loves animals, especially the creepy, crawly critters and her husband Jeffrey, for his undying support.

Daniella Hutcherson: Daniella has

an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from University of Maine, but is originally from Maryland. She enjoys environmental politics and studying aquatic plant life.

Ann Marie Long: Ann Marie is a nature

lover from Missouri whose parents were both teachers and farmers. She explored agricul-



Front row from left to right: Lauren, Steve, Katie, Cathy, Beth Krisko (Director). Back row: Naresh, Bernard, Brad, Nicole, Darlene, Daniella, Whitney, Ann Marie

ture-agronomy, animal science, horticulture, forestry, and soil science. Her work history includes political activism, work in local businesses, farm markets, and at a flower farm. She also loves to travel.

E. K. Nareshwar: Naresh is from Ah-

mendabad and has a M.Sc degree in Zoology and Environmental Biology, which he acquired while working at the Center for Environment Education (CEE). Naresh has worked in the fields of environmental education, teacher training, and nature education camps. He has also worked in a reptile park, researching herps. Naresh has a strong desire to incorporate interpretive eco-tourism activities in wilderness areas in India.

Bernard Mwengi Kitheka: Bernard is

from Nairobi, Kenya. He has a deep interest in working with youth and nature, especially in interpretation and communication. Having worked with young people from Kenya, United Kingdom, Southern Africa, and Kazakhstan, he looks forward to learning from, interacting, and sharing skills with school kids in the US.

Whitney Reinhard: Whitney is from

Nebraska where she graduated from Hastings College with a B.A. in Psychology and Religion. She has a passion for traveling and experiencing new places. She worked with young people in many settings, including summer camps. She is glad to be at the Glen, and excited to discover the possibilities of working with youth in nature.

In Appreciation

Gifts to the Glen

We are profoundly thankful for the following contributions received between our previous newsletter deadline on February 1, 2006, and August 31, 2006. All of our efforts on behalf of Glen Helen are made possible by the generosity of our donors and volunteers. We appreciate your continued support.

UNRESTRICTED

Grants

Glen Helen Association

Lucy and Arthur Morgan Society

Robert Baldwin
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Dave and Barbara Case
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Mike Gardner
John E. Hart Jr. *in memory of Joanne Hart; half to Raptor Center*
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Hardy Trolander
Henning and Hanlo VonGierke
Judith and Lowell Williams
Philip Weinstein and Taija Ventrella, daughter, Taija, entering Antioch College
Edward Wingard
Yellow Springs Village Manager with The Emporium

RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED

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Raptor Center

Grants

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Tim Zeller's students at Springfield and Clark County Joint Vocational School

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Mitch Tanksley
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Gifts in Kind

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Christi Brittin of YSI
Lisa Dawn
Tom Ernst
Mel Fine
Dave Hansen
Nick Hennessy
Sarah Hippensteel
Miami Valley Astronomical Society
Suburban Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Paul Stull, Dr. Michael Brown and staff
Tom's Market
Weavers Guild of Miami Valley
WYSO
Young's Jersey Dairy

We are grateful to Jan Foiles and her Habitat Healers, Robbie Nash, the Welch family, Ian Suzuki, Patrick Morrissey, Stieven Sperry, Maxwell Cheney, Frank Stone and others for their hard work this year ridding honeysuckle, garlic mustard and

euonymous from around the Glen Helen Building. Next spring, as you walk by and see all the newly emerging wildflowers, you will have them to thank.

Thanks to all the new Glen Guides who helped lead weekend hikes and staff Trailside Science Museum this year. In addition, we are very grateful for sponsorships of the Friends Music Camp concert, donations to the Enchanted Forest Ball silent auction, food for the Raptor Center, Yellow Springs businesses' coupons for EcoCamp staff, gifts for the Viemeister plaque and all the contributions faithfully placed in our donation receptacles.

Your support gives us such a boost and helps us to be successful with our programs.

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

Kara Anastasio, Wayne Carmichael, Marilyn Faulconer, Mel Fine, Tom Haugsby, Brian Hawkins, Richard Jurasek, Michael Krug, Steven Lawry, Noel Lemons, Mark Meister, Nancy Nerny, Virginia Paget, Bob Parker, David Rubin, Lynn Tobey, Kathryn Van der Heiden, Edward Wingard, Sam Young

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Staff

Nick Boutis, Executive Director; George Bieri, Property Manager; Ann Shaw, Assitant Director of Administration; Charlene Buster, Office Manager, Outdoor Education Center; Sue Harphant, OEC Cook; Ray Harphant, Glen Helen Crew Leader; Beth Krisko, Director, Outdoor Education Center; Betty Ross, Director, Raptor Center; Cindy Steffen, Volunteer Coordinator

Scheduled Glen Helen Building Volunteers

Tosh Asakawa, Myra Baker, Ruth Bent, Ted & Becky Campbell, Mark Cummings, Wilma Deen, Bill Evans, Jean Hankison, Paula Hurwitz, Dawn Kramer, Ann Kusma, Edwin Lainhart, Marv Lamborg, Nancy Mahoney, Mildred McConville, Alice McKinney, Rose Moore, Dorothy Scott, Evelyn Sikes, Gail Simpson, Susan Stiles, Carol Weber, Helen Westneat, Kathleen Wilkinson, Phyllis Williams, Nancy Zimmerman

The Raptor Center



Moving Forward

The population of bald eagles in Ohio has increased greatly in recent years, with 150 known pairs producing over 200 young this year, but it's still a rarity to see one in the Miami Valley area, and even rarer for us to admit one. So, three in one month was quite unusual.

Two were juveniles whose nest tree was blown down in a storm at Brookville Lake in Indiana. Dave Russell, an ornithology professor at Miami University, brought them to us until arrangements could be made for a return to the nest site or foster nests. Dave's students and colleagues got busy constructing a platform and nest that same day, however, so we took them right back. The parents returned to care for them, not seeming to mind the human-constructed nest or the catfish nuggets and tilapia fillets we left in it.

The third eagle, an adult male with a damaged wrist, was found at Deer Creek Lake. He is not banded, so his age, except for being more than five years old, and origin, aren't known, but he is very small, more the size of Solo, our eagle from South Carolina, than the larger size of an Ohio bird. The wound was infected and the joint capsule damaged, so antibiotics and surgery were needed. He is starting to fly, but so far can get only a few feet off the ground. Recovering the necessary amount of mobility is always more difficult when joints are involved. We are hopeful, however, and are very glad we have the large flight cage for him and will give him all the time he needs.

Another high-profile patient was a peregrine falcon from Columbus, who damaged many of her just-growing-in flight and tail feathers by either sliding down the side of a building or trying to climb up the side. She molted (dropped) the damaged feathers, perhaps because of the shock to her system, and grew in new ones, but that took quite a bit of time. It was decided that since she had never hunted on her own and had been away from her parents so long, it would be best to have her trained to hunt and flown by a falconer.

Fortunately, there were no problems with the Dayton peregrine pair who raised four chicks this year.

The successful recuperation and release of a turkey vulture, not exactly considered a glamorous bird, and not even a raptor, was quite special anyway. The vulture had been flying low around a farm with a very old, rusted leg hold trap on its foot, until it flew into a barn and was captured. Although it lost two toes, circulation remained good in the rest of the foot. It's amazing how bodies can often heal themselves when they have supportive care, good food, a safe environment, and plenty of time.

Sometimes fractures and injuries are old, however, and no amount of care or time will heal them enough for release. That was the case with the other vultures, and many of the red-tailed hawks and great horned owls brought in.

The highest release rates, of course, are for the youngsters, because many are healthy, just in the wrong place at the wrong time. We have admitted 114 birds so far this year, with more than half already released back to the wild. Our first youngster was a great horned owl admitted in April, then a barred owl and red-shouldered hawk, screech-owls in May, American kestrels in June, and Cooper's hawks in July.

We released many young kestrels and screech-owls at our public programs this summer as well as a hawk and owl at our Earth Day program. Besides public releases, Raptor Center staff presented programs for groups at the Raptor Center, in classrooms, assemblies, for park festivals, scout groups, seniors, pre-schools, day care centers, summer camps, library reading programs, special summer school programs, work outings, and even for small family groups. We will be presenting even more programs this next school year, as we received grant funding from The Kenneth Scott Charitable Trust, a KeyBank Trust, for special programs in the Fairborn schools.

Education continues to be our main priority, but usually it's the stories about the individual birds we admit for care that people want to hear about in our updates. We can give you even more details and interesting stories, in addition to natural history and conservation information, if you schedule one of our programs for your group.

— Betty Ross



Two juvenile bald eagles in their new nest.

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:

Joan Barton
EarthSavers Club of Normandy Elementary
Wayne Heinfeld for Enon Elementary
The Kristensen Family
Miami Valley Bird Club
Katherine Ryllien
Summit Elementary School

Welcome to our adoption family:

Bellcreek Elementary Fourth Graders
BSA Cub Scout Pack 173
Shauna Field
Meredith Frenchmeyer
George Greenleaf
Northwood Elementary Fifth Graders
Susanna Paterson and Flavio Sutti
The Staley Family

Upcoming Raptor Events

Raptor Center Open House—Sunday, Oct. 15, 2-4 pm at the Raptor Center.

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.

GHA Notes

With the June arrival of Nick Boutis as the new Glen Helen Director, things in the Glen smoothly continued on after the able interim co-leadership of Ann Shaw and George Bieri. There have been some noteworthy improvements in the past year. Pre-Nick, furnaces and boilers in several Glen buildings were replaced or upgraded. Six new GHA board members were chosen. And George had made a structural analysis of 18 buildings within the Glen boundaries. Cindy Steffen, the Volunteer Coordinator, initiated training sessions for both new and seasoned volunteers, the result being a series of expanded hikes led by those folks. A Glen history video, "First Came the Land," written by Sandy Love, is in the process of being redone by the Yellow Springs Historical Society as a fundraiser, with the expectation that it will also be available through the Nature Shop in the Glen building.

There was the GHA annual meeting and potluck in May, held this year in the Glen building, with the added attraction of two speakers: Diane Cantrell, formerly of the ODNR Soil and Water Conservation Office, and Jean Sanford Replinger, founder of the Outdoor Education Center, and director for its first decade of operation. They each provided an historical perspective on the national growth of the environmental education movement, and the fifty-year history of our OEC. Another highlight was the presentation of the Dick Fowler Award to Jan Foiles, volunteer extraordinaire, who has been nicknamed the Garlic Mustard Queen for her unflagging efforts to eradicate that plant and several other invasive species in the Glen. She continues to be helped by people she recruits everywhere she goes. Be on the lookout – your shoulder may be tapped next!

While supervision for young children had been offered during the annual meeting, no children attended. Next year, in the interests of expanding GHA membership, it is hoped the young families who come to the annual

OEC Pancake Breakfast will also return for the annual meeting.

Another event was the Enchanted Forest Ball in June, masterminded by Lynn Tobey, GHA Board President. The circular auditorium of the Glen building was transformed, with the help of fake trees, pixies and butterflies on the walls, and hanging tropical flowers, additional seating spilling out onto the patio, with live music from Dr. Skillet, and foods contributed by members. Those same decorations were used the very next day for a story-telling session for young children, sponsored by the GHA.

And then came Nick, though he popped in several times at important moments in advance of his official beginning. His wife, Kathleen, has already joined him in an interest in restoring the Hugh Taylor Birch House in the south Glen to a more useful role. He has jumped into every phase of the Glen's operation, with numerous meetings to expand his understanding. He is not just "up and running," but sprinting.

The GHA is pleased it will be reinstated in this year's Combined Federal Campaign. We are also exploring the best way to use a significant bequest from Janet Hackett to upgrade the infrastructure and buildings at the OEC.

When one adds to that exciting series of events the arrival of Beth Krisko, new Director of the OEC, and an upcoming Street Fair and Bird Seed Sale this fall, there is a sense of gratifying forward momentum. Nick's positive and enthusiastic approach, coupled with his success in having a drinking fountain reinstalled in the Glen building – well, there are wondrous and encouraging activities in store for all Glen members, young and old. And if you aren't already a member of the Glen Helen Association, please consider joining us to help support the Glen and keep it a remarkable and lovely natural resource in this area.

– Joan Horn, GHA Secretary

Two Grants

Continued from page 1

The Senator has come to the aid of the Glen before, hosting a fundraiser in 2003.

We are profoundly grateful for his leadership and efforts on behalf of the Glen. When reached in his office, Senator DeWine had this to say about the Glen: "Glen Helen is a wonderful educational tool that teaches Ohio's children about the ecology of the world around them."

The Senator, who knows the Glen well, having grown up in Yellow Springs, continued, "My family and I love to hike through the Glen. I am happy to support the important educational opportunities provided at this unique living outdoor classroom."

We intend to use this grant to improve the way that wastewater is handled at the Outdoor Education Center.

The Glen has also benefited from the efforts of State Representative Chris Widener, who represents Springfield and environs. State Representative Widener was able to secure \$25,000 in funding for Glen Helen through the Ohio Commission for the Humanities.

Thanks to Representative Widener, we'll be able to put this money towards building and outfitting a new classroom, with an emphasis on arts and the environment. In discussing his support for the Outdoor Education Center, Representative Widener noted: "Improving our education facilities is a top priority for me. I am pleased with our efforts in the past to provide the Glen Helen Ecology Institute with the tools necessary to succeed and I look forward to continuing those efforts in the future."

And we are tremendously pleased with his efforts to ensure that the Outdoor Education Center receives the resources necessary to offer the best possible educational experience for the kids who stay there.

Announcing Friends of Glen Helen e-mail network

It's the best way for you to communicate with Glen Helen Staff

It's our best way of sharing information with you.

It's free and available to all supporters of the Glen. Join today by simply sending a message to friends@www.glenhelen.org.

Our Wish List

Please call 767-7648 before attempting to deliver any of our hoped-for items:

- Bicycle air pumps
- Candle wax
- DVD player
- Earth-friendly cleaning supplies
- Furniture (see below)
- Hand tools
- Plastic storage bins with sealable lids
- Rakes
- Small couch in good condition
- Twin mattress
- Television
- Vacuum cleaners
- Wheelbarrows
- Whole fish for Raptors

The OEC is regularly in need of clean and sturdy furniture for the staff houses. Please call 767-7648 if you have a piece you would like to donate and we will determine if there is a place for it in one of our staff houses.

A Special Thanks to Our Major Donors

Every little bit of support helps us better protect the preserve and manage our programs. And, larger contributions help a little bit more. We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals and organizations, who provided contributions or grants of \$1000 or more during 2006:

Robert Baldwin, Harden Ballantine, Nick and Kathleen Boutis. Dave and Barbara Case, Rachel Dewey, Tom and Betty Finke, Friends Music Camp, Mike Gardner, Glen Helen Association, John E. Hart Jr., Ann Simon Koppelman and Diantha Rau, Dick Lang of Lang's Chevrolet, Jane Morgan, Virginia Paget, Ralph and Jean Ramey, The Riding Centre Association, The Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust (a KeyBank Trust), Robert and Doris Swabb, and Yellow Springs Community Foundation.

Glen Helen Nature Preserve

Trails are open daily, sunrise to sunset. All wildlife, vegetation, and natural features are protected. For general information: 937-769-1902

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Administrative Offices

Located in the Glen Helen Building
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Mon-Fri, 9:30-4:30; 937-769-1902
For facility rentals: 937-769-1903

Trailside Science Museum

505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs
For information on hours, walks & programs:
937-767-7798 or 937-767-7648

Outdoor Education Center

Residential environmental education center for school groups and summer EcoCamps.
1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs
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
937-767-7648

Glen Helen Nature Shop

Located in the Glen Helen Building
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs
Monday-Friday, 9:30-4:30; Saturday 10-4;
Sunday 12-4
937-769-1905

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