



Back to the Land: The Influence of Land Ownership & Management

"The earth smells old and warm and mellow, and all things lie at peace. I too serenely lie here under the white-oak tree, and know the splendid flight of hours all blue and gay, sun-drenched and still." The land truly inspires us as it did Helen Birch Bartlett to write these lines which are now inscribed on the memorial tablet to her residing under a magnificent and aged white oak in Glen Helen.

There was a time when America's forests were endless. Almost three hundred years ago when Helen's white oak was just emerging from the land's rich soil, you could behold a sea of grandiose trees towering to the sky: Oaks, Chestnuts, Beech, Maples, Ash, Poplars, Elm, Cherry, Pines, all comprising the canopy of these rich woods. The great deciduous forest of eastern North America extended from the east coast, west through the territory of Ohio before ending in the grasslands beyond the Mississippi River. The unending land and magnificent woods seemed eternal and few could imagine the disappearance of such a vast forest. But human activities have been extensive and damaging – clearing of the woods for farming, settlement, lumber – the never ending push west and the growth of the United States.

These forests support a unique and complexly interrelated diversity of life. Today, the United States is home to 16,000 species of vascular plants of which 1,800 are imperiled or at risk. Eleven are extinct and another 126 presumed to be extinct. In Ohio there are more than 2,000 native plant species. Of these, the Ohio Division



Glen Helen Lake – yes, there was once a lake – an example of an earlier era's land management practices.

of Natural Areas and Preserves lists 92 presumed extirpated, 254 endangered, 162 threatened and 112 potentially threatened. Disrupt this plant life and you upset the foundation for the diversity of all life.

Locally, Arthur Morgan was greatly concerned by the spoiling of the land and sought to protect and acquire pieces of the Glen. Subsequently, in 1929 Hugh Taylor Birch entrusted the Glen to Antioch College and with it a responsibility to the land. What is the responsibility to Glen Helen? We may seek guidance in the following: "The influence of land ownership and management, good or bad, cannot be overstated. Quite simply, landowners have the ability to conserve these biological resources or degrade and, in some cases destroy them." These are very compelling words written by the Nature

Conservancy in their recent book *Precious Heritage*.

We may also look to the written words of Hugh Taylor Birch and other significant Antioch leaders. The Will and Deed of Hugh Taylor Birch clearly state his intent for the land (In the Glen, Spring/Summer 2002). Ken Hunt, the Glen's first director, writes in 1946 that Glen Helen should be a vehicle by which "...to encourage people to appreciate, to understand, and to enjoy nature." Arthur Morgan wrote "...the chief potential value of the tract was to be as a natural forest or wilderness area, where a natural unspoiled forest may be enjoyed by those who care for it and for moments, or hours, of solitude..."

We must remember that much of Glen Helen has been degraded and no longer truly represents the native forest of a few

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Director's Letter



Bob Whyte

Glen Helen First. I have recently been reading from a Nature Conservancy publication *Precious Heritage* (2000) in which the foreword written by renowned biologist E.O. Wilson begins with *America First*. E.O. Wilson sought to use this phrase in the context of the magnificent natural environment that exists in the United States. In borrowing from this well-used phrase, and I hope you will forgive me for doing so, I seek to promote the Glen and all that it gives us, and our need to provide essential and needed stewardship of this incredible area.

For too long we have sought to use the land to maximize our use and enjoyment from it. On the Glen's 1,000 acres we have intruded and established 25 miles of trails, 23 buildings and structures, a Riding Centre, Raptor Center, School Forest and more. Please don't misunderstand me, all that I list here provide meaningful service and value to the community. But we have perhaps lost sight of the land itself. We all have a responsibility to the land – the College, the Glen Helen Ecology Institute, the membership of the Glen Helen Association, and all who benefit from the Glen. We also have a responsibility to protect Glen Helen for future generations.

Land management and efforts to develop a land use plan, a critical aspect of the GHEI's responsibility to the Glen, are discussed in the lead article of this issue. The GHEI has also recently rededicated itself to the Glen by adopting a new Mission Statement: to protect Glen Helen for present and future generations. The

GHA provides an annual donation specifically for the stewardship of Glen Helen. This is the leadership of Glen Helen recognizing, accepting, and acting on its responsibility. If I may, however, I would like to address the community's shared responsibility for the Glen, and do so by relating a recent incident.

Prior to a recent hike, I met a man and his "leashless" dog as they were leaving the Glen. When I asked if he would please leash his dog while in the Glen, he responded in a manner that I would describe as neither courteous nor discourteous, but a response possessing an attitude. An attitude that said he didn't have to follow the rules. Regrettably this incident is not isolated, but all too common. Such individuals show little respect for Glen Helen and accept no responsibility for it either.

Since 1929, when Glen Helen was entrusted to Antioch College, the Glen has been a unique resource for the community providing recreational and educational opportunities, and aesthetic and spiritual enjoyment. However, it is not possible to serve all interests and to have multiple-use occurring throughout the Glen without reducing the quality of the environment and its use. We can, however, satisfy the diverse community interests as well as the educational goals of Antioch College by establishing some basic rules for the use of the Glen, to include spatially separating conflicting uses, limiting certain uses, and prohibiting other uses entirely. We ask that all guests of Glen Helen help by following the established rules.

"Rules for use" exist to protect the Glen, and its guests. Two recent examples perhaps best illustrate this: the closure of the Yellow Springs parking area and the agreement to allow limited horseback



Established rules for the use of the Glen are essential to protect the native habitat and community interests, and for Glen Helen's future generations.

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, Betty Ross, Tony Arnett, Ann Shaw, Brad Whaley

Design: Bob Bingenheimer

riding in the Glen. This past year incidents of vandalism at the Rt. 343 parking area have significantly increased. To ensure visitor safety several initial actions were taken including increased surveillance by the Sheriff's Office, clearing of the dense undergrowth surrounding the parking area, and placement of signage asking visitors to lock their vehicles and remove all valuables before entering the Glen. Unfortunately problems have persisted requiring complete closure of the parking area. I hope this measure will be temporary and the Institute is actively seeking alternatives. Contributing to this problem is the Glen's lack of resources which prevents the Glen from adequately monitoring access and ensuring safety in all parking areas.

On a more successful note and as an example of community cooperation, the GHEI has reached agreement with several area barns including the Riding Centre to allow limited riding access in the South Glen. Horses may cause severe erosion to trails, spread unwanted plants, and interfere with other activities. In fact, horses are generally prohibited in nature preserves nationally. Antioch College through the GHEI already provides the Riding Centre 50 acres of Glen Helen (with no fee). This area provides space for barns, lessons, therapeutic riding, and riding trails.

The new agreement will allow riding in the Glen, beyond the Riding Centre, along a single designated trail. Initial riders will be stewards of the trail providing trail maintenance and working closely with Glen staff to ensure the overall well-being of the area. There will be a \$50 annual fee for all riders of this pilot program. The riding fee will directly fund land management efforts in Glen Helen. This is a good example of how the Glen can work cooperatively with the community to meet the

needs and interests of the community and simultaneously help Glen Helen.

I realize that a leashed dog and other Glen Helen rules for use are not matters of life and death. However, they are important to creating a culture of community responsibility. Ultimately the impact of not following the rules can contribute to loss of plant and animal life and the deterioration of critical habitat upon which life depends. Rules for use allow us to better manage Glen Helen and following the rules ultimately facilitates a more enjoyable Glen Helen for all. Please, Glen Helen First.

— Bob Whyte



The Photo Search Is On for the 2004 Glen Helen Calendar

Glen Helen Ecology Institute seeks images for a 2004 wall calendar. The proceeds from the sale of the calendar contribute to the continued protection and restoration of Glen Helen. Those entries that most inspire, invite, and invoke a sense of place, and are distinctly representative of a season in the Glen will be selected. The final goal is to have a collection of photos depicting the monthly changes that take place, while displaying the full range of natural diversity in Glen Helen.

Here's what you need to do:

- Fill out the application form, which can be obtained at the Glen Helen Building.
- Submit black and white or color photographs taken in or near the Glen.
- Submit up to four images of any size in print, slide or electronic format. (If electronic, also provide a color print.)
- Make sure negatives, prints and/or high-resolution (300 dpi at 8" x 10") electronic copies are available.

Deadline for submissions is June 16, 2003. Bring or send your application and photos to 405 Corry St. in Yellow Springs, Attention: Calendar photo search committee.

For more information, call Beth Krisko at 937-767-7375.

Summer Wetland Ecology Course at Glen Helen July 22 – August 22

Open to college students, area environmental professionals, teachers, and amateur naturalists, this course will be an intensive introduction to wetland ecology. It is designed for the undergraduate student who already possesses a basic understanding of ecological processes and for the environmental professionals or educators who seek to enhance their understanding of wetlands and gain additional tools and skills related to wetlands, their management and the teaching of wetland principles to others.

Overall, the course will provide the student with a basic survey of the terminology, types and ecosystems, distribution, structures, environmental factors,

functions, values, and conservation of wetlands worldwide, but with an emphasis on wetlands in North America. Because the majority of wetlands are vegetated, there will be a strong emphasis on the ecology and biology of these plants.

The course will survey field methodology and research techniques, wetland delineation methods, and environmental education activities. A significant amount of time will be spent in the field studying wetlands. The class will visit a number of area wetlands that may include the Beaver Creek wetlands complex, Cedar Bog, the Ohio State University managed wetland complex, and the wetlands found in Glen Helen.

We will also take a 2-day field trip to Lake Erie and the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve,

Huron, Ohio. The class will typically meet Tuesday and Thursday, 9am – 5pm. Class size is expected to be small (5-10 students) but may be expanded dependent upon demand. For more information contact Bob Whyte at 937-767-7375 or email rswhyte@antioch-college.edu.

Girl Scouts and the Glen

Each month from November until April, the Girl Scouts of Buckeye Trails spent about three hours in the Glen working on various service projects. They picked up trash, made and painted trail markers, and removed invasive species, such as honeysuckle, euonymous and garlic mustard.



Girls Scouts painting trail markers.

Their largest accomplishment was a renovation of the Jim Howell Memorial Bird Blind. The girls removed invasive species from around the structure, hung new birdfeeders, and painted the interior.

The girls had a great time and did a

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 2002-2003 (received between July 1, 2002 and April 30, 2003):

George and Toshiko Asakawa
Sam Bachtell
Jane Baker
Ruth Bean
Julia Cady
Ken and Peg Champney
Roger Cranos
Byron Dann and Sylvia Carter Denny
Al and Donna Denman
Thomas Dozeman and Mary Talen
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Esther and Philip Rothman
Tracy Stewart and Steve Holtzman
Doris and Robert Swabb
Cy and Ilse Tebbetts
Two Herons Consulting; Donald Kaufman and Cecilia Berg
Beverly Viemeister

Gifts to the Glen

We also gratefully acknowledge the following for their contribution to the Glen Helen Ecology Institute received between February 1, 2003 and April 30, 2003:

Benefactor

Betsy and Leon Whitney
(honoring Judy Miller's 30 years with Baldwin & Whitney)

Contributor

Peggy Johnson
James and Paula Saunders and John Varner (in memory of Lou Gregg)

Friend

Francine Alfandary (in memory of Lou Gregg)
Gladys Bishop (in memory of Lou Gregg)
Howard Brown (in memory of Lou Gregg)
David & Nancy Bull
Barbara Butterfield
Jean Campbell
Jeremy Carlucci (in memory of Lou Gregg)
Helen Dunham
Heidi and Roy Eastman
James & Helen Hawthorne
David and Elizabeth Huber
George & Anne John

Betty McDermott
Alice McKinney (honoring Beth Krisko)
Jane and Clarence Miller (in memory of Lou Gregg)
Billy and Lois O'Shell (in memory of Lou Gregg)
Susan Padawer
Robert Rae
Beryl and Stephen Schicker

Corporate, Foundation and Community Partners

The Antioch Company
Doc's White Front Tavern (in memory of Lou Gregg)
The Emporium
Glen Helen Association
Impact Weekly
Meadwestavaco Foundation
Tom's Market
U.S. Bancorp Foundation
The Vernay Foundation
WYSO

Gifts-in-Kind

Bob Bingenheimer

wonderful job! We hope to have them back at the Glen next year. The Girl Scouts' activities were supported by a grant from the Yellow Springs Community Foundation.

Earth Day Garlic Mustard Pull a Pungent Success



The non-native Garlic Mustard (top) replaces more desirable native wildflowers such as the Large-Flowered Trillium (above).

In honor of Earth Day, community members participated in the removal of the invasive, non-native species garlic mustard from the oak forest in the Glen. Participants were able to clear a total of 1,850 plants, weighing in at 185 pounds! Next time we

hope that you will join us on our quest to rid the Glen of this non-native invader!

Thank you to Gabriel Day, John Day, Peter Day, Vernon Dunlap, Sam Green, Moira Laughlin, Ruth Paige, Eamon Papania, and Rory Papania.

Volunteer Opportunities

Front Desk/Nature Shop: Greet visitors and interact with GHEI staff regularly. You will answer and direct phone calls, ring up sales at the Nature Shop, and answer visitor questions.

Hike Leaders: Share your knowledge and love of nature with others. Create and implement your own hikes through the Glen. Hikes can be as long or as short as you would like, and on a topic of your choice! Use the resources in the Glen Helen Building Library to design your hikes, and create a schedule that works for you.

Habitat Healers: Help free the Glen of invasive species such as garlic mustard and bush honeysuckle. While removing these highly invasive species from the Glen, you will learn about their life histories and see first-hand their devastating effects.

The Glen Helen Ecology Institute's Volunteer Program is supported through the financial generosity of the Glen Helen Association. The GHEI acknowledges and gratefully thanks the GHA and its membership.

Do you have a special skill not listed above that you would like to share with the Glen? Please contact Beth at 937-767-7375, to see how your talents might be used to benefit Glen Helen.

Glen Helen Lecture Series

Glen Helen Ecology Institute sponsors a monthly lecture series that runs the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the Glen Helen building auditorium. Each year, GHEI invites a diverse array of speakers to discuss varying environmental and Glen-related topics.

For a complete 2003 lecture series schedule, stop by the Glen Helen Building.

June 25: The Meaning of "Management" in Natural Areas Protection

Bob Whyte, Executive Director of Glen Helen Ecology Institute, will discuss the purpose of management in conservation planning, various management strategies, and the current management issues at Glen Helen.

July 23: Our Ground Water, Our Drinking Water

An EPA ground water geologist will discuss the precious resource of ground water, how it is protected from many risks, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and local ground water issues.

August 27: Glen Helen Water Cure

Scott Sanders, historian and curator of Antioch's Antiochiana, will share historic photos while telling the story of the water cure that existed right here in Glen Helen. He will discuss its rise, its fall, and the "love cult" that operated it.

Guided Nature Hikes

Medallion Hikes

Hike for the health of it! Medallion Hikes are designed for people who want to experience the beauty of Glen Helen while getting some exercise too. These 3.5 hour, 5-mile hikes will wind you around the Glen's

continued on next page

trails, through the forests, across fields, and over the waterways.

You will get a good glimpse of the Glen, and learn about many of its natural wonders by experienced guides.

Sunday, June 22: Summer Solstice Medallion Hike, 11 am; meet at Trailside Museum, led by Michelle Ditto

Saturday, July 19: Midsummer Morning Tree Hike, 9am; meet at Jacoby Rd. Canoe Launch in Xenia Township, led by George Bieri

Sunday, August 24: Cool of the Morning Medallion Hike, 9am; meet at Trailside Museum, led by Michelle Ditto

Discovery Hikes

Experience the sights, sounds, and smells of summer while discovering the wonders

I walked 100 miles in Glen Helen

Don't forget to log your miles to earn your free T-shirt

Free, but donations are welcome! Each hike will provide a new route, with new and exciting natural wonders to see and experience.

Mondays at 6pm on June 16, 23 and 30, July 7, 14 and 28, and August 4, 11 and 18.

Call Beth Krisko at 767-7375 for more information.

Wetlands Hike

Saturday, July 26 at 7:30am. Bring your water boots to discover and explore the Glen's natural and human created wetlands. With GHEI Executive Director Bob



Whyte, you will see firsthand the wonders of wetlands, learn their ecology and the plant species that inhabit them. Meet at the Jacoby Road Canoe Launch in Xenia Township. Reservation required.

Prairie Hike

Saturday, August 30 at 1pm. Explore the Glen's open spaces with Executive Director Bob Whyte. As we hike from field to field, we will discuss the area's ecology and potential to restore these areas as prairie or other key habitats for the native flora and fauna.

Summer EcoCamps

This summer's EcoCamps will begin June 23rd and end August 1st. Raptor Camp, EcoArt, Nature Awareness & Survival, Pioneer Camp, Exploring the Gorge,



Get in the swing of things at EcoCamp.

Nocturnal Camp and several day camps for young children will be offered for children ages five through thirteen.

If you would like to receive a brochure please call the OEC office at (937) 767-7648 after mid-March.

Focus on the Glen

Continued from page 1

hundred years ago. Also, distinctly lacking was a philosophy promoting active management of the land. Why? This was a time when many thought the best policy was to "let nature take its course." We cannot assume, however, that places such as Glen Helen will be protected by simply designating them as nature preserves. Our perspective on nature has changed, as reflected in the words of the Nature Conservancy. We must recognize our responsibility to the land, much of which has been degraded over the past 200 years, and demonstrate a willingness and ability to actively manage and restore Glen Helen.

Glen Helen does have a long history of management, but not always conservation-minded management. Early land management efforts are still evident in the Glen today. One of the best early examples are the numerous spring-fed pools created by Hugh Taylor Birch. The breached dam in the North Glen once held back the waters of the Yellow Springs Creek forming an extensive lake in Glen Helen. The School Forest was started in 1949 and today continues to grow pines and spruce, providing Christmas trees for the community. These land management practices were designed to enhance the "use" of the land (for various purposes) and not to restore the ecological integrity of the land.

Perhaps the earliest example of land management (post-1900) for the direct purpose of restoration is the original planting of the Pine Forest in 1926 by the Ohio Division of Forestry. Trees planted included Austrian pine, Norway spruce, White pine, and Scotch pine. These non-native trees were planted for the purpose

of stabilizing and enhancing the soil with the intent to thin the trees over time and allow the native hardwood trees to reclaim the land. This area has since become a significant spiritual area to the community. There are other examples – the establishment of the upper and lower prairies and the butterfly preserve in the South Glen. These areas have not been actively managed or maintained and no longer support the originally intended purpose.

So how do we best manage Glen Helen? A good management plan is essential. A good management plan also requires good information; information about the land and knowledge of the tools to restore and maintain the health of the land. Scientific studies – botany, zoology, ecology, are essential. Glen Helen lacks a comprehensive land management plan nor has one been done before. There is a great deal ecologically that we do not know about the Glen. Beth Krisko of the



Visitors to the School Forest, circa 1950s.

GHEI staff recently completed a plant community analysis of Glen Helen (2002) which provides important information to guide management efforts. The study,

while not a comprehensive floristic inventory, does provide critical information on the Glen's plant communities, their health, and existing and potential threats to these communities. But much more is needed.

We cannot recapture those post-glacial and pre-settlement woods – in some aspects they are lost to us forever. Glen Helen, however, provides us with an opportunity to make a difference, to restore the forests and enhance its critical biological diversity. Today, Glen Helen is uniquely an engrained part of the community with a long historic tradition. The College as the owner is but the caretaker of this tradition, and it is a trust Antioch must watch over carefully.

The GHEI has initiated a management planning process with a goal of completing a preliminary management plan in 2003. Bob Whyte, the Glen's Executive Director will speak on this topic and other aspects of managing Glen Helen at 7pm, June 25, at the Glen Helen Building.



The plot of the soon-to-be School Forest, circa 1949-1950



Both the Hickory and Sycamore dorms recently got new roofs, thanks to the GHA.

GHA Raises the Roof!

The Glen Helen Association is proud to have underwritten the entire cost of the recent roof replacements for Hickory and Sycamore dorms at the Outdoor Education Center. The total cost of the project was approximately \$17,000.

Thank you GHA members! Your support enabled GHA to meet this critical need for the Glen.

Upcoming Events

Street Fair, Saturday, June 14

Volunteer at the GHA booth, or just come and spend money there!

GHA Volunteer Opportunities

Many volunteer opportunities exist for Glen Helen Association members. You can:

- Volunteer at the Glen Helen Building, weekdays.

- Help run the Nature Shop, weekdays and weekends.
- Put your shoulder into it with the Stewardship Committee repairing buildings and doing trail maintenance.
- Lead a hike through the Glen.

For more information, contact Beth Krisko, Volunteer Coordinator at 767-7375.

GHA: Why? What for? Where to?



The Glen Helen Association's mission is to provide support for the operation of Glen Helen, managed by the Glen

Helen Ecology Institute.

This support for the Glen and GHEI is provided through the following ways:

- Operating the Nature Shop
- Volunteers for the Glen Helen Building and Glen activities
- Stewardship efforts (building repairs, trail maintenance)
- Events including the Nature Arts & Crafts Show, Street Fair and Bird Seed Sale
- Individual and family memberships

This year, GHA will provide more than \$50,000 to support the Glen.

You can help by joining the GHA, because your membership donations go directly to supporting the Glen.

The GHA's present membership is 642. Our goal is to reach 1000 members in the next few years.

Help us reach our goal. Join or renew now! Go to: www.glenhelen.org/gha/gha.htm

CFC # 7044???

Glen Helen Association Board, 2002-2003

President:

Tony Arnett

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Glen Helen Association

Board Meetings are held

on the third Wednesday

of each month at 7pm in

the Glen Helen Building.

GHA members are

welcome to attend.

Send Us Your Prospective Naturalist Interns

Do you know someone who may be interested in being a Naturalist for the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Program? As with most anything, "word-of-mouth" advertising is the best kind we can get! We hire a total of 20 naturalists each year and are always taking applications.

What do our Naturalist Interns do? They teach our environmental education curriculum to visiting school groups that typically stay for 4 days in our residential program. With groups of about 10-12 students (upper elementary – middle school), naturalists lead hikes and activities in areas such as geology, stream study, critters, forest communities, environmental problem solving, raptor ecology, living history, and cooperative activities.

We offer two terms each year. The fall term begins in late August and ends in mid-December and the winter/spring term lasts from early January to early June. All applicants must have at least two years of college (in any field) and a strong love for children and nature.

What do our Naturalist Interns receive? They get 10 graduate or 12 undergraduate

credit hours through Antioch, full room and board, and a \$250/month stipend. In addition, the greater benefits are numerous: wonderful days hiking in the Glen every day and watching the environment change through the seasons, smiles and laughter from children who've just touched a snake for the first time or found a raccoon track in the mud, and the rewards of living in a strong supportive community of others whose primary focus is teaching a new generation to see and to understand and to love the out-of-doors. These are just the beginning!

Please contact the Outdoor Education Center at 937-767-7648 for more information and an application.

OEC's Impressive Programs

Observations from the Assistant Director

Allow me to introduce myself, I'm Brad Whaley, the OEC's new Assistant Director. I joined the Glen last August and have been impressed with the Glen since I began. Let me tell you why.

The natural facilities we have to teach children about the natural world are outstanding. Rocks, trees, wildflowers, creeks, waterfalls, geologic features and



Brad Whaley, OEC Assistant Director

trails throughout its 1000 acres make Glen Helen a special place. Many camps are only sited on a few hundred acres. One of our 2-hour-30-minute hikes would cover the entire grounds, but not here! The land is beautiful.

The quality of the experience for the Naturalist and Administrative Internship is second to none. We bring together people from all over the United States and the world with one common goal - educating the next generation about the environment. The naturalists come with different experiences and educations but all with a love for children and the out-doors. The diversity they bring and the

OEC Wish List

Would you like a chance to give to the Outdoor Education Center? If you are able to offer any of the following items or services please give us a call at (937) 767-7648. Our office is open Monday – Friday from 8:30am until 4:30pm.

- Craft supplies: scissors, glue, markers, glitter, feathers, poster board, candle wax/paraffin, leather scraps

- Bicycles for naturalist interns

- Flashlights and batteries

- Pioneer and Native American clothing (circa 1796)

- Strong wheelbarrows

- Snow shovels, snow-blower

- Sunflower seed, cracked corn

- Southwest Ohio mammal and bird mounts

- Taxidermy services

- Binoculars for students

- Binocular repair service

- Rakes, shovels, pitchforks

- Firewood

- Furniture in good condition for naturalist housing

- Gift certificates to Wal-Mart, Meijers, hardware stores, craft stores, pet shops

teamwork and individual spirit that they show is amazing. We put them through a rigorous but fun training program at the start, then work through the term with them to allow them to be the best naturalists possible. Week after week teachers compliment us on the quality of the staff. They are enthusiastic, caring, giving, professional, friendly leaders of the students.

The environmental education curriculum taught at Glen Helen is impressive. From geology to stream study with everything in between, it showcases the natural environment first and foremost. The children become active participants in discovery of

the world and its relationships that are right around them. The supportive learning atmosphere and positive environment that the Glen Helen Ecology Institute's Outdoor Education Center provides is beyond words.

Each week on Friday morning Sue Feller, OEC Director, and I meet with the teachers from each of the visiting schools. During this formal evaluation time we hear from teachers about their weeklong experience at the OEC.

When asked how the overall program met with their expectations, one group of teachers responded "you went above and



Students participate in an activity to learn about land use and pollution issues as part of "Environmental Problem-Solving."

beyond." When asked about strengths in our staff, they said, "We're so impressed with the naturalists! They're wise, kind, and fun. All of them are strong. They have so much energy!"

When asked about the meals, we're told: "Cooking was excellent, kids loved the food." and "Great, kid-friendly but healthy."

Of course we talk about the curriculum as well – "What were the 'tie-ins' to the classroom curriculum?" It goes across the board here. "Dichotomous keys, food chains and webs, weather, cooperation and teamwork, owls and raptors, ecosystems and relationships."

We focus on the students themselves and ask teachers to identify any noticeable behavioral differences in the students during their visit. It's great to hear responses like (names changed) "Everyone got along – there were no cliques", "Billy really helped others", "some of the quiet students have come alive", and "Susie really loved this week, she overcame a lot of fears."

Finally, we delve into the overall week for the students with "What values were encouraged during the schools OEC experience?" Once again we are able to smile with teachers answering "Respect for each other, cooperation, conservation, and responsibility" or "not wasting, teamwork,

Thank You

The Glen Helen Ecology Institute wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their support and donations to the Outdoor Education Center:

The Glen Helen Association, for new roofs for our dorms. Special thanks to the GHA's Stewardship Committee (Tony Arnett, Dan Halm, Matt Halm, Jim Mayer, Rick Donahoe and Scott Geisel) for helping to clean and fix up our old office for its use as temporary classroom space.

Old Town Butcher Shop, for suet.

Celina Public Schools, for donation of birdseed.

Dorothy and Marion Poland, for magazines.

Ford Ross, for sports and play equipment.

Kay Curley, for a bicycle and craft supplies.

Dan and Joan Gray, for blankets and craft supplies and bicycle.

Kathleen McCloud, for craft supplies and books.

Ryan Rigel, for living history costume.

Bruce Bradtmiller and Carol Cottom, for books and carpet for staff housing.

Lisa Dillon, for craft supplies.

Chuck Reece from Fairborn Waste Management of Ohio, for a tour of their recycling facility.

Troy Slone, for a tour of the Yellow Springs wastewater treatment plant.

Terry Jaworski, for a tour of Cedar Bog.

Bob Parker, for a historical hike through the Glen for our interns.

Rachel Costello and Bob Brill from Brukner Nature and Rehabilitation Center for a tour of their facility.

Sarah Hippensteel, for doing a stream study with our staff.

Jim McCormac from the ODNR, for an interpretive hike at Clifton Gorge.

Joan Horn and Abby Cobb, for help with our staff training.

Kenny Compton from Greene County Environmental Services, for mulch.

Jim O'Neil, for a slideshow on 18th Century Native American Interpretation.

Doug Christen, for working on projects around the OEC.

being kind, importance of conserving."

Just in case you're wondering — no, this wasn't just from one happy school; it happens week after week after week. It makes me proud to be a part of such a rewarding program. The impact of just one week on individual students and the group as a whole is incredible.

I spent 10 years before coming to Glen Helen doing conservation/environmental education for a county agency called the Williams Soil and Water Conservation District. While there I had the opportunity to work with teachers, students, and the general public in many capacities. I was able to develop my own programs and also to watch the programs of other people and groups/organizations.

I really enjoyed my previous position but after 10 years I went looking for a residential outdoor education center. I am convinced that nothing is better for children than a school week (or summer week) spent learning and growing at camp. I am also convinced that the Institute's Outdoor Education Center is the best place teachers and students could choose to spend that week!

— Brad Whaley

School Participation Winter-Spring 2003

People sometimes ask us if we have schools that actually come out for programs in the winter. The answer is a resounding "absolutely."

Typically, sixth grade students visit the OEC; however, the naturalist interns do get a chance to work with a variety of ages, from second through seventh graders.

Schools that have participated in the program January through June are: Ridgewood Elementary from Springfield, Jeffersonville Elementary School, Wilson



While naturalist intern Giddy Bobeche facilitates, his trail group works cooperatively to pass the hula hoops around the circle. This activity teaches communication, goal-setting and creative thinking.

Elementary from Washington Courthouse, World of Wonder of Dayton, Central Middle School in Xenia, Mary Help of Christians from Fairborn, Richard Allen Downtown Campus in Dayton, Snowhill Elementary of Springfield, Saint Albert the Great of Kettering, Phillipsburg, Snyder Park Elementary School from Springfield, Loos Elementary of Dayton, Warner Middle School in Xenia, London Middle School, Horace Mann from Springfield, Talawanda Middle School of Oxford, Celina Intermediate School, Summit Elementary from Licking Heights, and South Vienna Elementary School.

Our program is usually four days and three nights but shorter visits can also be accommodated. If you are affiliated with or know a school that may be interested in the programs we offer, we would be happy to provide them with information and/or a visit can also be arranged by calling the Outdoor Education Center office at 937-767-7648.

Visiting Glen Helen and the OEC

Everyone who knows Glen Helen loves it.

At the Glen Helen Ecology Institute's Outdoor Education Center we welcome and encourage the public to get outside

and hike or birdwatch or botanize to enjoy the same preserve that the OEC is using to teach our visiting students.

With the temporary closing of the Yellow Springs parking lot, efforts to reduce vandalism have been successful, but it has also brought increased traffic to the OEC. We understand that many of these people are only looking for a place to park and head out to enjoy the Glen. That is great. We do need to let everyone know though, that for the safety and security of the students, teachers, staff, and weekend groups that have rented the facility, the Outdoor Education Center area is not open to the general public for parking. We would welcome visitors by appointment.

Also included in the OEC facilities is the farmhouse located just outside the Yellow Springs parking lot. This is staff housing. Again, for safety and security of the people living there, we ask the public to please not park in the small lot or wander through the adjacent yard.

The gate closing the parking lot does not mean that Glen Helen is closed! It only means that we are asking everyone to park in the Institute's main lot on Corry Street. While there you'll have a chance to check out what's going on at the Trailside Museum and take a look at the new information kiosk with a beautiful full color map showing the Glen's points of interest and its 25 miles of trails. Other information about hikes, lectures and other events is also posted.

We ask that everyone help the Institute in its efforts to protect the visiting schools, our staff, and weekend groups by using the Corry Street parking lot.



Moving Forward A Message from the Raptor Center Director

As the winter-spring term at the OEC winds down, it is time once again to say goodbye to our intern staff. Some will stay for Eco-Camps and others as administrative interns next fall, but most will be leaving to return to school or other endeavors. We will miss them and Raptor Center Assistant Harriet



Some of the staff and birds at Aullwood's Flights of Fancy Festival.

White. Many thanks to Harry for all her hard work this term and for staying to lead

Special Thanks

A very special thank you to the Louis and Louise Nippert Trust, Tom and Betty Finke, Edmund Brown-Edwards, Eagle Hawk, and Michael Broome of Fort Dodge Animal Health for their very generous donations.

Many thanks, also, to Dr. Michael Brown and the staff of Bigger Road Veterinary Clinic for all their assistance; the Glen Helen Association Stewardship Committee for repairs of our Mouse House; Ron Austing for adoption photos and mats; Raptor Center Assistant Harriet White; Jane Ford for many weekend hours; Doug Christen for new perches; our loyal rodent donors; the Division of Wild-

Raptor Camp this summer. We are pleased that former assistant Jane Ford, who has been helping us on the weekends, will be here as the summer assistant.

There will be young peregrines to watch in June, but so far only two of the four eggs have hatched. There will be no young ospreys to monitor this summer, however. For the past seven years youngsters have been brought from eastern states and hacked out in boxes at Spring Valley Wildlife Area and four other sites. Now that pairs are nesting around the state, this isn't needed. There were sightings of ospreys last summer near Caesar Creek and again recently, but no confirmed nest in the area yet.

A black vulture was spotted with turkey vultures several weeks ago in the Glen, which may be a first. Usually seen further south, they were spotted at Spring Valley last year, and now have made it here, or at least one has. Another item of interest was a call from John Shrader in Centerville informing us that a pair of barred owls was again using a box placed there in 1996. When a beech tree came down in a storm then and left two young owls homeless, Ron Austing built a box

life Fish Management crew and Tom Finke for fish; Jenna Zengel for supplies requested from her birthday party guests; and to the following for their donations:

David Bidwell and Emily Nolan
Dick Coy
Claudia and Gilbert DiSanto
Sue Ann Gedra
Jean Knoblauch
Louise Bennett Rowe
Norman Tanksley
Charlot Wade
Bill Werst

and Jeff Hayes from Raptor, Inc. installed it. The young owls left the box the next day, but the box has been used off and on since then.

In preparation for what may be another difficult year dealing with West Nile Virus, we vaccinated our permanent residents with the equine vaccine manufactured by Ford Dodge Animal Health. We are grateful to Michael Broome of Fort Dodge for donating what we needed, and



Welcoming visitors to the Raptor Center for special events.

to Dr. Michael Brown for making those arrangements for us. It is hoped that by next year there will be an effective avian vaccine developed.

We usually travel with only two birds for programs, so it was fun to take eight to Aullwood's Flights of Fancy Festival, and of course, to show off all our residents at our spring program and release at the Raptor Center. We hope you will join us for our special summer programs and releases of young kestrels and screech-owls. We usually don't know what happens to the birds, but we are giving them a second chance, and wish them well.

— Betty Ross

Arrivals & Departures

Late winter and early spring were relatively uneventful for us with the same number of arrivals as usual for this period.



The first youngster to arrive this season – a fledgling screech-owl.

Most of the birds were badly injured or starving, however, so there were only six releases, with three birds still recuperating, and two healthy juveniles.

It was exciting to release some earlier arrivals, however. One of those, a red-tailed hawk, is featured in another article. A red-tail with suspected West Nile Virus recovered from clenched feet to return to Springboro, and a great horned owl to Spring Valley. A first-year red-tail, found last fall weighing only half what it should have, spent the winter with us and was released in late April. A kestrel and two

screech-owls were released back to their home territories. One of the owls had been found cold and lifeless in a snowbank, while the other two had head trauma and were force-fed for weeks before making full recoveries. An earlier arrival which has not yet been released is a red-tail from Highland County. She had a wing fracture and is also blind in one eye, but that does not appear to be a recent injury. Her recovery has been very slow, but she has improved in the past few weeks, so we remain hopeful.

Collisions caused the arrivals of most of the red-tails, Cooper's hawks, screech-owls, great horned owls, turkey vultures, a short-eared owl, and a sharp-shinned hawk. The sharpie, found at WPAFB with a wing fracture, was released, as was one of the Coops, one of the great horned owls, and a turkey vulture. The vulture was reported on the ground near the Pine Forest in the Glen. When we approached, it flew up into the trees, but had difficulty landing, then crashed back down through the branches onto the ground. It attempted to fly and land several times before being caught. Within a few days, however, it was fine and flew off strongly to join the multitude of vultures that inhabit the Yellow Springs area.



A miracle kestrel that survived head trauma was finally released.

A second-year red-tail, found starving in February, was released in late April. It is the only one of seven red-tail arrivals that had not been involved in some kind of collision. Two of the great horned owls were caught in barbed wire in separate incidents. Both died, probably as much from the exhaustion and stress of trying to get out of the wire, as from the injuries themselves. In mid-April a great horned owl with symptoms consistent with West Nile Virus was admitted and died shortly after arrival. We hate to think WNV cases may be starting already. We can only hope we will not be hit as hard as last year, but even the experts aren't making any predictions.

Our first youngster of the season was a great horned owl found huddled under the steps of a mobile home. Instead of having it brought to us, we went to investigate to see if it could stay there. The young leave the nest before they can fly and are cared for by their parents, but do need to be in a safe spot. Great horned owl young stay with their parents through the summer and well into fall, so we wanted this one to stay with its family if possible. Another youngster and a parent

Upcoming Events

Falcon Program and Release – Thursday, June 26, 1:30pm at the OEC Meadow

Young American kestrels will be released for EcoCampers. You are invited to join us and to visit the Raptor Center afterwards with Raptor Campers as your tour guides.

Wednesday, July 16, 8pm, Corps of Engineers Visitor Center at C.J. Brown Reservoir and Dam near Springfield

Owl program and release of young screech-owls. Call 937-325-2411 for directions.

Thursday, July 17, 8pm at the Horace Mann Meadow off Bryan Park Road near John Bryan State Park

Owl program and release of young screech-owls. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Parking is available in the meadow.

were high in a pine, but there were no branches low enough for the owl to get up. After we decided on another tree and found a long branch to lift the bird with, the young owl surprised us by flying across a field. It was probably its first flight, so we retrieved it from a bush and put it higher for safety. We have heard nothing else since then, so assume all is well.

Two screech-owl fledglings came in from different locations, because there was no way to safely leave them where they were found. Screech-owls can be raised in a flight cage, if necessary, because they stay with parents only four to six weeks after fledging, instead of four to six months as great horned owls do. Before this newsletter reaches you, we will no doubt have more young screech-owls in our flight cages, and young kestrels as well. Join us for our public releases this summer to see them fly off.

A Survivor: From Morning Sun to Yellow Springs

In late September we admitted an adult red-tail which had been seen in a Germantown neighborhood, at first low in the trees, and later on the ground. It was lethargic and couldn't extend or flap one wing.

As there were no signs of trauma, it was thought to be another West Nile Virus case.

West Nile Virus started slowly for us last July with six suspected cases, then exploded with thirty-eight in August and twenty-eight in September, but was tapering off by the end of September when this bird arrived. Unlike some, it ate well on its own, so went into a flight cage ten days after arrival. Although it did nothing but sit in the cage during October, by early November it was starting to fly. In January it was flying better, but was still off-balance



A very special red-tailed hawk before its release.

on its landings. It had a long way to go to be released, but there had been progress, and it intrigued us that the bird was banded. We started to call the Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Lab to report it and get information on the bird, but put that off until we knew what was going to happen.

Later in the spring it began flying whenever anyone went into the cage, and finally was landing well, too. Before release, we made the call to the Banding Lab. That's when we learned the hawk had been banded by Jack Holt, a friend

and veteran bander from Massachusetts, who still bands young owls in Ohio and Massachusetts, as well as hawks, eagles, and ospreys in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ontario each year. He banded this red-tail when it was a nestling in Morning Sun, Ohio, near Oxford on May 10, 1977, which makes it 26 years old! What a thrill for us to have played a part in this bird's very long life.

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:

- Holmes Elementary Second Graders
- Kristensen Family
- Mad River Middle School
- Miami Valley Bird Club (2 birds)
- Prass Elementary Fourth Graders
- Arthur Wade
- Hadley Watts Middle School

Welcome to our adoption family:

- Emily Nolan and David Bidwell
- Claudia and Gilbert DiSanto
- In Memory of John Grove
- Miami Valley Outdoor Club
- St. Susanna First Graders

New Trailside Student Manager

Glen Helen Ecology Institute is pleased to have Melanie Malone as the summer Trailside Manger. Melanie, who was born and raised in Springfield Ohio, has spent much time hiking around the Glen. She is currently a junior at Williams College in Massachusetts, where she studies Geology and Environmental Science.

In addition to her studies, Melanie has a variety of environmental experience. She is a member of the Green Sense Club at her college; she has interned at the Springfield Environmental/Risk Management Department, and has worked for the Springfield Department of Parks and Recreation. Most relevant to her job at Trailside Museum is her experience working with children in both an environmental education and academic capacity.

Melanie comes to the Glen on a scholarship from the Center for Environmental Science at Williams College, which funds environmental internships for their students.

Please drop by Trailside to welcome Melanie to the Glen.

Summer Program Schedule

Nature Story Hour: 11-12pm on Mondays, designed for preschool–1st grade children; \$1/child

Come enjoy the comforts of Trailside while your child enjoys fun, exciting, and educational nature stories. Some days, there may be a short walk in the Glen to follow.

Nature Crafts: 11-12pm on Wednesdays, designed for 2nd–4th grade children; \$2/child

Your children will experience and learn about nature in a fun and creative way. A short hike may follow. Please RSVP at

767-7798 by the Monday before. Groups welcome.

Nature Explorers: 11-12:30am on Thursdays July 3, 10, 17, 24 or Fridays July 4, 11, 18, 25; \$20/child

A month long, weekly program of four 1.5 hour sessions with up to 8 registered children per program. Each week the Trailside Manager will introduce the children to a different theme related to nature and the Glen. The Trailside Manager will use the Glen as a laboratory for the children to explore, discover, and learn from. During each session, time will be spent in the museum and out on the Glen's trails. The program will be geared for children 2nd-4th grade. Registration deadline is June 16. Hurry, space is limited!

What Does Trailside Have to Offer?

- Interactive educational displays about nature and the environment for children and adults
- Information about the Glen (maps, rules, natural history, human history, etc.)
- A board that describes upcoming events at the Glen (hikes, lectures, workshops, etc.)... many of which are free!



Trailside is a fun place for children and adults. These visitors are using the interactive tracking exhibit to identify the tracks they saw on the trail.

- A friendly person (The Trailside Manager) with whom you can discuss your Glen Helen experiences
- Educational programs for kids
- Guided hikes for children and adult groups
- A fun and educational place to have your child's Birthday party! (call Ann Shaw at 767-7375 for details)

In addition to the above list, Trailside Museum also serves as a welcome center and point of entry into the Glen. We ask that groups of 10 or more register with the Trailside Museum by calling 767-7798, and on the day of their visit stop by for a map, a list of rules, and to give a donation.

For groups larger than 10 taking an unguided hike in the Glen, we request a donation of \$1 per person.

For a Trailside program or for a guided hike in the Glen by the Trailside Manager, we ask for a \$2 per person donation.

Thank You

- Larry Stone for bird call tapes
- Jean McCullough for bird song CD
- Valentine Bickett for the television/VCR
- Alex Chronis for the carpet in the kids' room
- Rowley Elliston for the nesting box

Trailside Wish list

- Stationary basin
- Children's scissors
- Construction paper
- Cleaning products
- Binoculars
- Laminate or laminator
- An artist to paint a nature mural

Trailside Hours (June-August)

Monday-Thursday: 10-6pm; Friday: 10-5pm; Saturday: 9-3pm; Sunday: 12-2pm

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 Ecology Institute Board

- David Hergesheimer, *Chair*, Catalpa Lane Pottery
- Tony Arnett, President, Glen Helen Association
- Donna Denman
- Nick Fairman, Assistant Professor, Antioch McGregor
- Dave Goodwin
- Paul Graham
- Peggy Harris, Teacher, Xenia Public Schools
- Becky O'Brien, Yellow Springs Village Schools
- Virginia Paget, Director, Individualized Master of Arts Program, Antioch McGregor
- Joan Straumanis, President, Antioch College
- Bev Viemeister, Glen advocate

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Glen Helen Ecology Institute Staff

- Robert Whyte, Ph.D., Executive Director
- Sue Feller, Director, Outdoor Education Center
- Brad Whaley, Assistant Director, Outdoor Education Center
- 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
- David Casenhiser, OEC Cook

Scheduled Glen Helen Building Volunteers

- Tosh Asakawa, Ruth Bent, Elaine Brown, Rita Colbert, Wilma Deen, Bill Evans, Lindsay Folck, Tee Forshaw, 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, 9:00-4:30

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
- Mon, 1-4pm; Tue-Fri, 9:30-4:30; additional Saturday hours 10-4; 937-767-7375



Glen Helen Ecology Institute
ANTIOCH'S LIVING LABORATORY

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