

Outdoor Education Center Pursues Closer Relationship with Antioch College

Hugh Taylor Birch, in donating Glen Helen to Antioch College 75 years ago, recognized the importance of the Glen as an educational resource for Antioch College. Citing the need to refresh and revitalize this community treasure, Susan Kamins, new Director of Residential Programs for the Glen Helen Ecology Institute, has embarked on a program to strengthen the Outdoor Education Center (OEC) by revitalizing its ties with the College.

The Outdoor Education Center was started 50 years ago with a mission to serve as an educational laboratory for students at Miami Valley schools and Antioch College. Today, residential Schoolcamp programs serve more than 2600 students from around the Miami Valley and southwest Ohio. According to Kamins, the connection with Antioch College is what has dwindled and this, she says, "is a shame."

Kamins' first task after being hired in August was to stabilize the program following the departure of its Director. She quickly had to orient herself to the program, evaluate the needs and hire a group of interns. Although these interns become Antioch College students and earn academic credit from the College, Kamins says that, "no one could remember the last time they had been invited on campus." Kamins, herself an alumnus of the College, believes this is a symptom of a bigger disconnect. "The Glen, through the OEC," she says, "represents a unique intersection of Antioch College, Yellow Springs and the broader region. If you remove any one of those components the genius of the OEC is lost."

Peter Townsend, Professor of Environmental Science & Geology at the college, agrees that the combination is powerful. "There are a number of exciting possibilities that can happen by sharing the strengths of the college and the OEC. This kind of collaboration will benefit the whole community," says Townsend.



Naturalist Interns, who are registered as full-time Antioch Students, with their EcoCamp trail groups in the OEC dining hall.

Kamins, acting in conjunction with Dr. Robert Whyte, Executive Director of the Glen Helen Ecology Institute, is looking at ways to expand the programs of the Glen through both on-site and extension services. They are seeking to involve students in new ways and to use the resources of the College to provide better learning opportunities for interns, as well as Antioch students. Motyka Davidson was recently hired into the new position of Director of Day Programs at the Institute and working directly with the residential programs will seek to help build on this expansion.

"My role is to create new programs for the Glen that will involve more students, those only able to visit the Glen for one day or even a couple of hours, as well as younger students," says Davidson.

Antioch College is currently re-envisioning its curriculum and even its physical environment from the ground up in a strategic planning

process, which the Institute is a part of, to create The Plan for Antioch College. This plan aims to reposition Antioch College as a leader in undergraduate liberal arts experiential education. Both Kamins and Whyte see this as a unique opportunity to examine how the Glen and the Institute's programs can enhance and expand their relationship with the College, the Village and the entire region. "This is a rare opportunity and the staff and I are excited to be engaged in the process," says Whyte.

Antioch College is part of Antioch University, which includes the Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, New Hampshire; Antioch University Seattle in Washington; Antioch University Southern California in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara; and Antioch University McGregor in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The University administrative offices are also located in Yellow Springs

Director's Letter



Bob Whyte

Some have characterized the Glen as undergoing change these days. I'm not certain that it is change as perhaps more an assessment and desire to enhance all that we do. One change of a different sort and one that is never easy, is a friend's departure.

This past November I and the Antioch Community said goodbye to Sally Frye, the Executive Assistant to the President of Antioch College. For me saying goodbye is always difficult. How does one truly express their feelings, say thank you and tell someone how much they will be missed. Sally had a knack for putting things in perspective and continually brought a unique insight and wisdom to Antioch. She clearly recognized the importance of Glen Helen to the College and was instrumental in helping to reconnect the College and the Glen these past few years. Sally was that critical link that helped me and others in so many ways to do our jobs better. Sally will be missed for all she did, but perhaps more importantly because she is a friend.

Just as change at the individual level is always difficult, so too is change at the organizational level. When people ask me of changes at the Glen, I prefer to speak of leadership. It is only through leadership that we can seek to provide appropriate change and direction for the organization. The Institute as a unit of the College often looks to the College for leadership. At Antioch College the process to provide a new direction through the "Renewal Plan" has begun. As a direct result of the College's plan for renewal, the Institute has started two major initiatives: our strategic planning effort and the development of a graduate program in Environmental Education. The latter, we hope will be the first step in building a stronger and more comprehensive environmental program that will emphasize collaboration and interdisciplinary learning. Strategic planning will be vital to identify the major issues that are before us and provide focused direction to address our priorities.

Critical to our future is also ensuring the quality of our education programs in the present. We are completing another successful semester at the Outdoor Education Center. I am always amazed by the effort these young men and women give in teaching the school-children and handling the many other duties that we require of them as part of their over-

all educational experience. It was 25 years ago that I also had my start as a naturalist at an Outdoor Education Center in Indiana – it was an exciting time and hard work. And as I reflect back on it and realize how much more challenging their job is today, I am all the more impressed with our naturalists here at the Glen. I thank them all and congratulate them on their accomplishments.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you who have supported the Glen through your help in purchasing new bunk beds for the Outdoor Education Center (we have raised \$1,260 and we are still accepting donations – please call us) and for your parking donations at the Corry St. lot. We have taken in over \$2,000 in just two months. These funds will be critical to ensuring the financial health of Glen Helen. Thank you all!

– Bob Whyte

2005 Calendar Is Here – Get Yours Now!

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



Volunteer Efforts

Girls Scouts are for the birds...literally. The Jim Howell Memorial Bird Blind, which sits just north of the Trailside Museum, was given a major facelift this fall, making it a desirable spot for birds of all kinds to visit and for Glen Helen visitors to sit, watch, and learn. The Girl Scouts were inspired to renovate the Bird Blind when they came to the Glen for an education program. The girls saw the bird blind and the bad condition it was in, and wanted to do something about it. They had



The interior of the bird blind is now an educational tool, where visitors can identify the birds they are seeing at the feeders with life-like paintings on the walls.

prior interest in birds and thought this was the perfect project to enhance their own knowledge of birds and help others to love birds as well.

Two groups of Girl Scouts worked on the bird blind in separate capacities. For their silver star, the second highest award achieved by a Girl Scout, Jennifer Weubker, Anna Chifla, and Mary Tellers turned the inside of the bird blind into an educational tool, which can be used by Glen Helen for its programs, and enjoyed by the public at any time of day. The girls identified common Glen Helen birds, painted enlarged drawings of the birds on the walls, and posted corresponding natural history facts.

Girl Scouts, Christine Wuebker and Leah Ippisch achieved their gold star, the highest award in Girl Scouts, by providing the exterior bird blind renovation. This work included both renovations to the bird blind and the habitat immediately around the bird blind. They researched, designed, built and installed bird feeders and nesting boxes outside the blind. There are now two suet feeders, seven regular feeders, a thistle feeder, and a platform for squirrels to eat corn. The girls even built and installed a bat house! To improve the surrounding habitat, invasive plant species were removed and native shrubs, witch hazel and smooth blackhaw, were planted to help attract birds.

In the Glen

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

Editor: Bob Whyte

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

Design: Bob Bingenheimer

Already visitors are enjoying the view from the bird blind, and one visitor even reported sighting a Pileated woodpecker nearby. The Glen Helen Ecology Institute appreciates the hard work devoted to this project by the Girl Scouts and looks forward to working with other groups on similar projects in the Glen. You may all Beth Krisko at 937-767-7375 for information on how to get involved.

Volunteer Help Needed

Glen Helen needs your help! We are looking for reliable and friendly people, who love and value the Glen, to volunteer at the Glen Helen Building and the Nature Shop. Duties include greeting visitors, answering visitor questions, ringing up sales in the Nature Shop, and answering and directing phone calls. Volunteers can work one 3.5 hour shift per week or per month. In return you will have the satisfaction of helping the Glen; you will meet and socialize with other friendly volunteers and staff, and get a 20% discount at the Nature Shop. Please contact Beth Krisko at 937-767-7375.



Been to Our Website Lately?

If you haven't visited our website recently we invite you to check it out. With the volunteer help of Tom Ernst we have been steadily changing our look and seeking to bring you more up-to-date information on Glen Helen. You can also find all our past newsletters on line. Please visit us online!

Guided Nature Hikes

Explore the Glen on one or all of these remaining winter hikes. A good excuse to come out of winter hibernation and get out on the trails! Meet at 10am at the Trailside Museum.

January 22: Winter Hike

February 12: First Flower Hike

Outdoor Education Center

News from the OEC

The air is crisp and the leaves are fallen; the sound of rustling steps joins children's laughter on the trails. Fall term is over! It has been a great term for naturalists, children and teachers alike. We say goodbye to the friends of autumn and welcome new staff for winter. Four Naturalists will stay on to guide those who are new next term, while five will move on to new challenges. They will carry their experience in the Glen with them as they seek to foster appreciation of the natural world through work and in their communities throughout their lives.

In addition to our continued enjoyment of the schools we have hosted for years in residential programs, we had a wonderful time hosting Mills Lawn School Younger Group for day programs this fall. Mills Lawn teachers gave rave reviews for their habitat and animal adaptations hikes and Antioch Schoolers say they enjoyed their best living history experience ever when they visited us a few weeks ago. All of the OEC staff say "Let's do it again next year!"

As the season changes we continue to strengthen ties with College and community. Naturalists offer a special thanks to Prof. Peter Townsend for his gracious invitation to join his class on their annual Karst field trip. Upon returning, one intern declared that she learned more from Prof. Townsend in one weekend than from an entire semester of geology coursework at her alma mater. We look forward to further academic and cultural opportunities for interns through faculty participation in seminars and training and closer integration of interns into campus life. Grateful thanks are also due to members of the larger community who continue to provide invaluable assistance with training and seminars.

The participation of Antioch students in the OEC internship program has been much appreciated. Emily Magner has done a great job on the trails and as a member of the OEC community. Larissa Lasalle, another Antioch

student, will be joining us next term; we're looking forward to working with her. Many thanks to faculty and community members who have referred interns to the OEC program.

Not only does the College provide a wonderful service to the community through education programs in the Glen, the Glen Helen Ecology Institute's position as a unit of Antioch College provides particular strengths to our programs. Ongoing joint grant writing and other fundraising efforts, as well as interesting new program possibilities offer exciting opportunities for mutually beneficial, cooperative projects. Strengthening ties with the College while preserving the Glen and its programs as community resources will allow us to build on our success.

The Outdoor Education Center will soon celebrate fifty years of operation – Antioch students and community members built the original facilities here in 1956. The OEC was one of the first residential outdoor education programs in the region and was a model for other Centers. We look towards a promising future of innovative programming and financial security.

OEC Wish List

The GHEI-OEC would gratefully accept any of the following needed items or services. Please call 937-767-7648, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.

- Compasses
- Firewood
- Nature related books
- Foreign language dictionaries
- Wheelbarrows
- Pioneer and native clothing
- Bicycles for interns
- Craft supplies: beads, yarn, wax, scissors, leather/ material scraps, feathers, etc.
- Rain jackets/ponchos for kids
- Poster board
- Rakes
- Chest of drawers for intern housing
- Snow shovels
- Wigs, costumes
- First aid supplies

In Appreciation

Arthur and Lucy Morgan Society

The Glen Helen Ecology Institute greatly appreciates the contributions from the Arthur and Lucy Morgan Society members during fiscal year 2004-2005 (received between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005):

Yolie and Berger Mayne
Philip and Esther Rothman
Linda Griffith and Scott Kellogg

Gifts to the Glen

We also gratefully acknowledge the following for their contribution to the Glen Helen Ecology Institute received between September 1, 2004 and November 15, 2004:

Capital Campaign and Endowment

Margaret Harris

Benefactor

Joseph L. Marcum Foundation

Sponsor

Bob Brecha and Katharina Seidl

Contributor

Mike and Amy Krug
Stanley and Karen Mickel

Friend

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Marsha Casdorff and David Williamson
Neil Dawson and Deann Ward
Joseph Harmon
Mr. and Mrs. George John
Maggie Leon
Eleanor Manire-Gatti
Gerald Olwine
Nathaniel Rayfer

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St. Patrick's Home and School
Suburban Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Paul Stull
Tom's Market
WYSO
Yellow Springs Community Foundation
Young's Jersey Dairy

Gifts-in-Kind

Bob Bingenheimer
Don Colbert for a stuffed raccoon

Special Thanks from the Raptor Center

Many thanks to Dr. Michael Brown and the staff of Bigger Road Veterinary Clinic for all their assistance; Ron Austing for adoption photos, mats, and cage renovations; Ohio Division of Wildlife Area staff and the Glen Helen Association Stewardship Committee for work on the flight cage; Raptor Center Assistant Flavio Sutti; our very important food donors; and to the following for their donations:

The Arabic Club Foundation Fund
Tony and Ruth Bent
Ole and Kristin Dam
David and Peggy Erskine, *in memory of Cay*

Casenhiser

Jim and Cindy Halye
Fred and Becky Hoffs
Susan Kamins, *in memory of Elizabeth Ross*
Levin Family Foundation
Eleanor Manire-Gatti
Kristin Marks
Charlie and Glenora Mercer, *in memory of Cay Casenhiser*
Amy J. Munich Philanthropic Fund of the JFGD
Betty Ross, *in memory of Elizabeth Ross*
The Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust, a KeyBank Trust
Marianne Stephan
Norman Tanksley

Thank You's from the Outdoor Education Center

For donation of miscellaneous items:

Carol Braun
Old Town Butcher Shop
St Mary City Teachers
Ruth Strout
Roberta and Bill Allen
John Rossmiller
Ruth Bent
Pat and Eric Lowry
Kay Hollister
Ted Campbell
Yolie and Berger Mayne
Barb McCormick
Ben Trumbull
Susan Anderson
Kat Gray
Nick Hennessy
Ruth Letson
For training of staff interns
Eric Wolf, Jim O'Neil, Sarah Hipensteel, Brian Stern
For bunk beds:
John and Clarice Brooks
Mary Cargan
Rachel Dewey
Dorothy Kammerer
Shirley Kristensen
Marvin and Mary Lamborg
Harry and Donna Lipsitt
Robert and Jean Lorenzetti
Stanley and Karen Mickel
Dianne Olix
Marion and Dorothy Poland
Bertalan and Mark Szabo

Trailside Museum – Updates and Additions

Dorenda Watson, artist from Columbus, Ohio created a piece especially for Trailside Museum! An acrylic painting of the dam on Yellow Springs Creek highlights native Ohio amphibian species, including frogs, toads, and salamanders. Hung on the limestone wall at the south end of the museum, the painting is a window into the Glen, providing visitors with a glimpse of the Glen magic.

Visitors can browse our collection of field guides and other nature-related books in the renovated and updated Benetta Morgan Blain Library. You can sit down to read a book, flip through a field guide, or relax as you take in the view of the Glen from above. Children have a space designed especially for them! Kids can enjoy our children's nature story collection; they can draw pictures, or have fun watching the squirrels steal the bird seed for the feeder located just outside the window.

Understand more about what you see on the Glen's trails. Trailside's newest exhibits provide information on insects, amphibians, and reptiles. You will learn the characteristics of each animal class, you will understand some of their important life history characteristics, and you will be able to interact with the exhibits. They are good learning tools for visitors of all ages.

GHA Lecture Series

January 26: Mushrooms and the Maya with Aaron Lampman

Understand how mushrooms have played a role in traditional Mayan medicine and subsistence throughout time and how ecological knowledge is passed down through generations!

February 23: The Geology of Glen Helen with Peter Townsend

Discover the fascinating geologic history of Glen Helen. From Pompey's Pillar to the Cascades to the Blue Hole, you will understand the geologic wonders of Glen Helen and learn about the forces that have created this precious landscape.

March 23: A Visit to the Italian Alps with Flavio Sutti

Italian native and the Institute's Raptor Center Assistant will share the beauty and wonders of his home. Discover the natural history of the Valtellina Valley in the central Italian Alps.

The Raptor Center



Rehabilitation Review of 2004



The surprise arrival of the year – six nestling barn owls from Highland County.

As the year winds down, we should be close to the two hundred raptor admissions we have come to expect in recent years. This year our release rate is higher, however – more than 60% – thanks to a number of healthy youngsters.

At the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in February, we transferred eleven birds from an out-of-state facility to ours to improve the quality of care for them and determine which ones could be released. Besides other problems, most had major feather damage and had to be kept through a molt. Six of them were released, one being a long-eared owl, which we took to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area this fall, hopefully to join other long-ears who spend the winter there.

Young screech-owls began arriving in late April and peaked in May and early June. Five of them were nestlings, misplaced when lightning downed one nest tree and tree trimmers another. The rest were fledglings, some healthy, having been found in the wrong place at the wrong time, but others had a number of problems. A total of thirty-eight were admitted with twenty-six released.

Our numbers for American kestrels, the small falcons common in the area, were also high. The young began arriving in late May and totaled thirty-two in June alone. Twelve were nestlings, needing care due to nest trees being cut down and the others were recent fledglings. Thirty-nine of the forty-two were released, after enjoying many cicada meals

from the seventeen-year bounty, as did the screech-owls.

Unfortunately, red-tailed hawks didn't fare as well. Less than half of the forty-two we admitted were released. Three of this year's young were transferred to us for release at the Raptor Center where we could provide food for them behind the cages. Others came in with old fractures or severe injuries from vehicle collisions. We also had one rescued from a water treatment sludge tank, one caught in barbed wire, one tangled in kite string, one electrocuted, and two trapped for relocation because they had discovered an easy supply of food at a game farm.

The numbers of our other two more common species, great horned owls and Cooper's hawks, were considerably lower than in previous years. Two nestling great horned owls fell from a nest on a golf course and were replaced. Of the other nineteen, one was caught in garden netting. Others had old fractures and one a tumor. Only one had obvious signs of West Nile virus. Their admission numbers may be down, however, because the virus hit them so hard the previous two years. Admissions of Cooper's hawks also dropped in half this year to seventeen. We admitted only one nestling and three fledglings, which we released in the Glen with a feeding station set up nearby.

Barred owl numbers were up with twelve admitted, seven having been hit by cars. Two were nestlings, both with injuries from falls from nest cavities, preventing them from being returned to their parents. They were hacked in the Glen since we have an abundance of wet woodland habitat barred owls prefer.

Other less common arrivals were four red-shouldered hawks too badly injured to save, and two nestling turkey vultures. No suitable nest sites were found for the vultures, so we raised them, then took them to a location more remote than ours where they could be fed, but with less temptation to hang around people, as we have had happen with young vultures in the past.

We also admitted birds considered endangered or threatened in Ohio. An osprey, a banded breeding bird, found with gunshot wounds, was transferred to Minnesota for surgery, but later died. Three young peregrines were admitted, one a migrant from the Arctic, but two from Ohio breeding pairs, one in Dayton and one from Ironton in southeastern Ohio. Dayton's youngster, Jefferson, spent a short time with us after coming off the building a few days early, but Bomber from Ironton is still with us because of elbow injuries.

The surprise arrival of the year was six barn owl nestlings. Barn owls are still considered a threatened species in Ohio, needing the grassland foraging habitat no longer available in much of the state. The last barn owl brought in from this area was one from Clark County in 1998. These six fell out of a tree cavity in Highland County after the tree was cut down. Division of Wildlife staff put up a nest box on a nearby tree and they were returned to the site that day, with parents observed feeding them in their new home that night. They didn't miss one night of food, just had a bit of an unscheduled adventure.

Although we can anticipate trends and timing of youngsters, there are always surprises, disappointments of birds we can't save, and the pleasure and satisfaction of releasing the ones we can.

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:

Brandles Daycare Center
Mark and Barb Christel
Jeff, Julie, Claire, and Nicole Christian
In Memory of Stephan Dam
Driscoll Eco-Club
Lit. K.I.D.S. with G.A.S.
Northwood Sixth Graders
Elizabeth Ross Family
Rushmore Elementary Kindergarten Classes
Rushmore Elementary Third Graders
Urbana North Elementary
Urbana South Elementary

Welcome to our adoption family:

Doug and Michelle Roby

Upcoming Events

Earth Day Program and Release—Sunday, April 24, 2pm at the Raptor Center.

Tour the Center, meet our staff and education birds up-close, and watch a rehabilitated red-tailed hawk fly off for a second chance at life in the wild.

GHEI Mission Statement

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

Glen Helen Board

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

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Glen Helen Ecology Institute Staff

- Robert Whyte, Ph.D., Executive Director
- Charlene Buster, Office Manager, Outdoor Education Center
- Ann Shaw, Assistant Director for Administration
- Beth Krisko, Volunteer Coordinator/Trailside Manager
- Betty Ross, Director, Raptor Center
- Ray Harphant, Glen Helen Crew Leader
- George Bieri, Property Manager
- Susan Kamins, Residential Programs Director
- Motyka Davidson, Day Programs Director
- David Casenhiser, OEC Cook

Scheduled Glen Helen Building Volunteers

- Tosh Asakawa, Ruth Bent, Elaine Brown, Wilma Deen, Bill Evans, Jean Hankison, Paula Hurwitz, Jean Huston, Edwin Lainhart, Marv Lamborg, Nancey Mahoney, Mildred McConville, Alice McKinney, Eva Paige, Roger Reynolds, Dorothy Scott, Evelyn Sikes, Susan Stiles, Helen Westneat, Kathleen Wilkinson, Nancy Zimmerman
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Glen Helen Ecology Institute Administrative Offices

- Located in the Glen Helen Building
- 405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH
- Mon-Fri, 9:30-4:30

Trailside Museum & Visitor Center

- 505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH
- For information on hours, walks & programs call 937-767-7375 or 937-767-7798.

Glen Helen Nature Preserve

- Trails are open daily, sunrise to sunset. All wildlife, vegetation, and natural features are protected.

Outdoor Education Center

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

Raptor Center

- Raptor education and rehabilitation center
- Visitors are welcome to visit the center and see the resident birds.
- 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs, OH
- 937-767-7648

Glen Helen Nature Shop

- Located in the Glen Helen Building
- 405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH
- Monday-Friday, 9:30-4:30; Saturday 10-4; Sunday 12-4; 937-767-7375

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