Glen Helen
Natural Sanctuary
Outdoor Classroom
Living Laboratory

A Report to our Friends...

Annual Report
July 2015
to June 2016
Dear Friends of Glen Helen,

Several multi-year efforts came to a successful conclusion this past year. Several others just began.

Completed: Conservation Easement. In August, we completed a multi-year effort to place modern conservation easements on the preserve. With those easements now in place, Glen Helen is, in accordance with the best legal tools available, permanently protected as a nature preserve. For the first time, we can now say with confidence that Glen Helen is forever.

Completed: Case Woods Acquisition. In October, we finalized the acquisition of the Barbara and David Case Woods. This success came as part of our strategic effort to acquire ecologically significant or vulnerable lands on our perimeter. The Case Woods totals 46 acres directly adjacent to the Outdoor Education Center. For fifty years, David and Barbara managed the property as a nature preserve, encouraging native trees and dispatching invasives like honeysuckle. The Cases were not just neighbors to Glen Helen, they were also volunteers and supporters. Barbara headed up an extensive vascular plant survey of the preserve; David was one of only a half dozen people to be recognized as an Honorary Life Trustee by the Glen Helen Association for his efforts. Working with their daughters, Marty, Janet, Polly, and Sarah, we reached agreement to purchase the property, and raised funds from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund to complete the transaction.

In progress: Sutton Farm Acquisition. The ink was barely dry on our agreement with the Case family when we started to work on another acquisition. The Sutton Farm is directly north of the Case Woods; a 76-acre property owned by the Village of Yellow Springs. As with Camp Greene and the Case Woods, the Sutton Farm is integral to the ecological health of Glen Helen. Before Birch Creek enters Glen Helen, it flows through the Sutton Farm. The Farm is the first line of defense in terms of enhancing and protecting the water quality of Birch Creek, and we saw an opportunity to manage it as a natural area, instead of its current use, in which more than half of the property is devoted to conventional agriculture. We sought funding from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, and received the happy news that our application was the top scoring project in the pool! Now, we are on track to finalize the purchase of the property by the end of 2016.

In progress: North Glen Annexation. It’s a little-known fact that only 73 acres of Glen Helen are actually in the Village of Yellow Springs, with the remainder in Miami, Cedarville, and Xenia Townships. Even
the Yellow Spring itself is outside of Yellow Springs! And, while that may sound like a largely technical distinction, this split designation has created real challenges in terms of public safety. The Yellow Springs police have jurisdiction within the Village; the County sheriff has jurisdiction everywhere else. But, when you’re in the woods of the Glen, it’s nearly impossible to tell which you’re located in. And, when we’ve had vandalism or other challenges, it complicates coordination. To help address this issue, we have been working to shift the north section of Glen Helen from Miami Township into the Village. It’s moving forward, and should come to a successful resolution in the coming months.

**In progress:** land restoration. We are not only working to acquire ecologically important lands next to Glen Helen, we are also working aggressively to remove invasive species on these properties. One year after acquiring Camp Greene from the Girl Scouts, we have cleared fully half of the property of invasive honeysuckle. Now, we are working to plant native trees and shrubs in the newly exposed areas of the camp. Likewise on the Case Woods, we are working to reestablish the natural flow of the streams that cross the property, and to beat back Japanese stilt grass where it spread on the property.

Your support, as a friend, member, or volunteer makes this work possible. We are deeply grateful for all that you enable us to accomplish.

Nick Boutis
Executive Director
Glen Helen Ecology Institute
Glen Helen Association

Dan Halm, Ph.D.
President
Glen Helen Association
Accomplishments
July 2015 to June 2016

At the Outdoor Education Center
The Outdoor Education Center completed its 59th year of operation. We welcomed 2,011 students for our 3- to 4-day residential outdoor education program. 35 schools sent students to the Center, including:
- Antioch School, Yellow Springs, Greene County
- Bexley Middle School, Bexley, Franklin County
- Catholic Central School, Springfield, Clark County
- Celina Intermediate School, Celina, Mercer County
- Clintonville Academy, Columbus, Franklin County
- Columbus Academy, Gahanna, Franklin County
- Dayton Early College Academy, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Edwin D. Smith Elementary School, Oakwood, Montgomery County
- Englewood Elementary School, Englewood, Montgomery County
- Englewood Hills Elementary School, Englewood, Montgomery County
- Fulton Elementary School, Springfield, Clark County
- Graham Elementary School, St. Paris, Champaign County
- Horace Mann Pre-K-8 School, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Immaculate Conception School, Celina, Mercer County
- Kemp Pre-K-8 School, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Kenwood Elementary School, Springfield, Clark County
- McGuffey Foundation School, Oxford, Butler County
- Miami Valley School, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Northmoor ES, Englewood, OH, Montgomery County
- Northwood Elementary School, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Perrin Woods Elementary, Springfield, Clark County
- Piqua Central Intermediate School, Piqua, Miami County
- Richard Allen Academy, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Ruskin Pre-K-8 School, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Seven Hills Doherty School, Cincinnati, Hamilton County
- Snowhill Elementary School, Springfield, Clark County
- Snyder Park Elementary School, Springfield, Clark County
- South Vienna Middle School, South Vienna, Clark County
- St. Albert the Great School, Kettering, Montgomery County
- St. Brigid School, Xenia, Greene County
- St. Mary’s Greenville, Darke County
- Talawanda Middle School, Oxford, Butler County
- Union Elementary School, Union, Montgomery County
- Warner Middle School, Xenia, Greene County
- The Wellington School, Columbus, Franklin County

For the eighth year, we provided scholarship funds to enable economically disadvantaged children from Dayton and Springfield to attend the Outdoor Education Center. The funds, with support from individual donors and charitable foundations, allowed 368 children from 10 schools to participate in our residential environmental learning programs.

The Outdoor Education Center welcomed 433 children for our summer residential Ecocamps. Featuring day programs for 5 to 8-year olds, and overnight programs for 8 to 14-year olds, each Ecocamp has a unique theme designed to inspire children and bring them closer to nature. The professional internship program of the Outdoor Education Center welcomed a new cohort of 10 naturalist interns and 3 administrative interns for the 2015-16 school year.

At the Raptor Center
After a long tenure as the director of the Raptor Center, Betty Ross retired in September 2015. Our new Raptor Center Director, Rebecca Jaramillo, previously served as the assistant director and director of the Outdoor Education Center.

We had another busy year for hawk and owl rehabilitation. In all, we admitted 146 birds for rehabilitation, and were able to release 51 birds for a second chance at life in the wild.

We conducted 60 raptor education programs for schoolchildren, civic groups, senior centers, and others, providing 4,854 participants an up-close and personal experience with birds of prey. This total would have been even higher, were it not for an Ohio Dept. of Agriculture ban on traveling with birds, in place for half the year.

We added a second bald eagle as a permanent resident among our display birds.

Outdoor Education Center Staff –
Out in the Glen

The Glen Helen Association acquired the Barbara and David Case Woods, a 46.69-acre parcel adjacent to the Glen. The property is directly next to the Outdoor Education Center, and an important parcel in the Birch Creek watershed. Funding for the purchase was made possible by the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and the members of the Glen Helen Association.

We completed an effort, nine years in the making, to formally and permanently protect Glen Helen by placing modern conservation easements on the preserve.

The first of two large deer exclosures was completed in the floodplain at Camp Greene, and planted with native trees by volunteers.

The Glen Helen Association sought Clean Ohio Conservation Fund financing to acquire the Sutton Farm from the Village of Yellow Springs. The 76-acre property is directly across from Glen Helen, and an important buffer in the Birch Creek watershed.

The walnut boardwalk in front of Pompey’s Pillar received a much-needed extension, thanks to a gift in honor of Maura Lohman.

We signed a memorandum of understanding with the Buckeye Trail Association, to route a section of this statewide footpath through the Glen.

For the first time in our history, we closed Glen Helen during the peak winter thaw of February 19-21, to protect trails from being widened and damaged.

Our assault on invasive plants continued throughout the Glen. Assisted by scores of volunteers, the following were cut, treated, and processed:

- Ailanthus: 244 units cut and treated
- Amur Honeysuckle: 26.06 acres cut and treated
- Euonymous fruiting bodies: 55 dispatched
- Garlic mustard: 41 acres scythed
- Japanese Stiltgrass: 2,000 square feet cut
- Lesser Celandine: 28.2 acres spot treated
- Multifloral Rose: Several very large bushes removed
- Norway Maple: 321 units cut
- Oriental Bittersweet: 825 units cut and treated
- Poison Hemlock: Grinnell Prairie scythed

An estimated 100,000 visited Glen Helen to walk, explore, and learn.

Our land manager and volunteers continued to maintain the 20-mile trail system, including:

- Clearing 110 trail obstructions
- Creating 26 trail closures

Our annual Christmas Bird Count was held on January 3, 2014. We found 3,548 individual birds, representing 56 species.

Education, Collaboration, and Research

The following research projects were approved or conducted during the year:

- Water quality assessment. Audrey McGowin, Wright State University
- Effects of Honeysuckle, Burning bush, and White-tailed deer removal on arthropod communities. Libby Sancomb, Wright State University
- Analysis of total hardness and hardness due to calcium in the Yellow Spring. J. Eric Hils, University of Dayton

Our Spring 2016 magazine shipped in May, with a cover story about the 60th anniversary of the Outdoor Education Center.

Support from the Yellow Springs Community Foundation allowed us to hire several Antioch College students to serve as Miller Fellows, including Rachel Hale, Richard Hauck, Eleanor Hicks-Greene, Kayla Hopple, Rachel Isaacson, Alex Malangoni, Kelsea Pierson, and Nikki Sadat.

The Ecology Institute oversaw operations of the Antioch College Farm. Accomplishments included:

- We welcomed a herd of heritage breed sheep to campus, employing them to graze under the solar array.
- We expanded our annual growing to 2.5 acres, constructing a fence using locally sourced locust branches. One of the first new plantings in the expanded area was 1,600 crowns of asparagus.
- We developed a summer farm apprentice ship to help recent Antioch graduates develop leadership skills, and brought on Julia Honchef and Elaine Bell for the season.
- Students studying physics, genetics, philosophy, environmental economics, and the global seminars on food and energy used the farm as their living classroom.

Glen Helen facilities were widely used by the community, hosting a number of significant events, including 26 weddings, receptions, or engagement parties, 3 memorial, 3 family reunions, and 48 retreats or meetings.

We welcomed a wide variety of speakers and presenters to Glen Helen, including

- A celebration of our conservation easement signing, with speakers including Antioch president Mark Roosevelt, Krista Magaw of the Tecumseh Land Trust, Dave Vasarhelyi of the Trust for Public Land, Linda Bailiff of the Ohio Public Works Commission, and State Representative Bob Hackett.
Observers for *Make It Count for the Birds* found 95 species and raised more than $10,899 for land stewardship.

**Administration**

Our endowment funds swelled as a result of our conservation easement work, allowing us to hire an assistant land manager, Ben Silliman, and a ranger, Susan Smith.

Social media has become a major way of connecting with friends and visitors. The Glen Helen Facebook page, www.facebook.com/glenhelen, now has over 13,500 "likes." 3400 people receive electronic communication from us via Constant Contact.

The online travel site Trip Advisor awarded us a "Certificate of Excellence" based on the quality of user reviews.

The Glen Helen Association grew to become 856 members strong, in support of our work.

We published our annual full-color calendar. This attractive 12-month wall calendar utilizes photos supplied entirely by volunteer photographers.

We purchased a late-model pickup truck to replace the old one, with funds donated by the Glen Helen Association.

Facilities improvements were made across the Glen, including:

- Outdoor Education Center: We completed major renovations to Clayton House, one of three naturalist houses, including a new kitchen and bathroom, interior and exterior painting, and a new metal roof.
- Raptor Center: We completed our total overhaul of the display cages, and installed two new chest freezers for raptor food.
- Camp Greene: We completed an initial round of repairs to the camp facilities, including installing an electronic access gate, repairing the lodge chimneys, replacing roofs on four of the structures, and repairing the fire escapes. We also dismantled the nature nook shed and the co-op course.
- South Glen: We upgraded the electric service for Birch Manor, and completed a partial repavement of the driveway.

- For her senior project, Antioch student Nikki Saadat completed an analysis on the feasibility of installing composting toilets at the camp.
- We removed the bird blind adjacent to Trailside Museum, which was not in a productive location for viewing birds.
- In a devastating accident, our recently renovated house at the Riding Centre was leveled in a gas explosion. Fortunately, there were no injuries, and the structure was fully insured.

**Special Events**

For the ninth year, the Friends Music Camp made Glen Helen the beneficiary of its annual benefit concert. The campers always put on an impressive concert, and this year was no exception. Gross revenue was $2,845.

This was another great year for Whoo Cooks for You, our annual dinner for the Raptor Center. Between ticket sales, auction purchases, and sponsorships, the event brought in gross revenue of $36,000.

Nearly a ton of seed and suet was distributed at the Glen Helen Association’s annual bird seed sale, providing winter food for wildlife at hundreds of area feeders.

Our annual event Pancake Breakfast took place March 19, generating $1,628 in revenue.

The Great Stuff Garage Sale, in collaboration with the Yellow Springs Senior Center, was held on May 7. We recorded $2,689 in sales.

We had good weather for our tenth annual birdwatching marathon, *Make it Count for the Birds*, found a near-record 95 species in Glen Helen, and raised $10,889 for land stewardship in the preserve.

We generated gross revenue of $6,091 for the sixth annual Earth Day 5K/10K.
Finances

July 2015-June 2016

Operating Expenditures: $1,158,566
Environmental Education Programs: 38%
Raptor Center: 5%
Land Management: 10%
Facilities: 16%
Administration: 31%

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Revenue

Clockwise from top:
- 12% Gifts $149,589
- 14% Endowment Income $131,676
- 2% Sales $21,407
- 2% Events $19,389
- 32% Program Fees $455,949
- 1% Visitor Fees $14,902
- 10% Facility Rentals $116,266
- 9% Grants $116,128
- 17% Released from Restricted $205,711
- 4% Miscellaneous $54,933

Glen Helen Association Revenue

Clockwise from top:
- 27% Membership & Gifts $119,289
- 7% Endowment & Interest Income $30,706
- 7% Nature Shop $29,841
- 1% Events $6,468
- 47% Grants $206,697
- 2% Facility Rentals $9,375
- 1% Miscellaneous $37,714

Administration

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Staff
- George Bieri, Land Manager
- Michael Blackwell, Outdoor Education Center Director
- Nick Boutis, Executive Director
- Kristen Bruns, Food Service Manager
- Tom Clevenger, Assistant Director for Finance and Administration
- Kelsea Gram, Trailside Associate
- Les Groby, Housekeeper
- Rebecca Jaramillo, Raptor Center Director
- Robbie Marion, Property management staff
- Shannon Schenck, Outdoor Education Center Office Manager
- Ben Silliman, Assistant Land Manager
- Ann Marie Simonson, Project Manager
- Jaime Shepherd, Outdoor Education Center Assistant Director
- Susan Smith, Ranger
- Tina Spencer, Project Manager
- Shahnkar Stroger, Property Manager

Glen Helen Association Board of Trustees
- Dan Halm (President)
- Richard Heil
- Allen Hunt (Vice President)
- Ron Lewis
- Kevin Lydy (Secretary)
- Craig Mesure
- Deanna Newsom
- Delia Raymer
- John Stireman
- Jo Wilson (Treasurer)
Recognition

The Glen Helen Legacy Society

Long term financial planning is key to maintaining Glen Helen into perpetuity. Through the Glen Helen Legacy Society, we recognize individuals who provide a planned gift to Glen Helen. Glen Helen itself is the legacy of Hugh Taylor Birch, who cared so deeply for this wooded glen that he sought to preserve it forever as a memorial to his daughter Helen. Members of the Legacy Society share this passion for ensuring a vibrant future for Glen Helen. Through their planned gifts, the members of the Glen Helen Legacy Society ensure the preservation of our unique, beautiful, and diverse Glen, and secure the chance for future generations to also gain life-shaping experiences through their immersion in the preserve and its programs.


Lucy and Arthur Morgan Society

Arthur and Lucy Morgan were singularly instrumental in the preservation of Glen Helen. Through the Lucy and Arthur Morgan Society, we recognize and honor donors whose leadership, through gifts of $1000 or more, ensures the fiscal health of Glen Helen.

$5000 and Above:
Anonymous, The Estate of Sture Fredrik Anliot, Toby Pinkerton

$1000 to $4999:

Glen Helen Association Members

We are profoundly grateful to every member and contributor, and have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please bring any errors or omissions to our attention. Thank you for your continued support of Glen Helen.

Benefactor
Stephen Biawitz, Beth Cameron, Roger Cranos, Terry & Eva Herndon, Pamela Hogarty, Dr. Richard & Elizabeth Marsh, Judith & Dan McGregor, Philip & Susan Miller, Andrew Schwarzer & Nancy Elder, Robert & Jane Scott, Lindsey & Pete Thaler, Glenn & Jane Watts

Contributor

Robert Grimm
Bob Grimm was an Antioch College alum from the class of 1957. He later earned a medical degree from the University of Michigan, and went on to a long and distinguished career as a neurologist. As a polio survivor himself, Bob brought uncommon care and compassion to his patients. He championed the least fortunate, respecting their dignity and providing his clinical expertise, support and unwavering loyalty.

Bob was also an accomplished naturalist and ornithologist. For over 30 years, he volunteered with an annual breeding bird survey in Eastern Oregon. (He was even featured in an Oregon Field Guide episode about his study of American Dippers.)

A dedicated conservationist, Bob loved the high country of the Cascades and other Pacific Northwest wilderness areas where, for decades, he backpacked with family and friends. He kept wilderness journals, complete with his pen and ink sketches. Bob and his wife Nancy chose to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a visit to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

He passed away in 2011 at the age of 77; his wife Nancy followed in 2014. Bob was a strong supporter of Antioch College, and we are profoundly grateful that he also chose to leave a portion of his assets to Glen Helen.
Supporter

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Donors

Benefactor

Contributor

Supporter

Volunteers
Over the year, volunteers contributed 4,336 hours of work, equivalent to a contribution of $61,023. Gracious thanks to everyone who generously volunteered their time in service to Glen Helen.

Grants
Clean Ohio Conservation Fund (David and Barbara Case Woods Acquisition)
Della Selsor Trust (Outdoor education scholarships)
Mathile Family Foundation (Outdoor education scholarships)
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation (Outdoor education scholarships)
The Springfield Foundation (Outdoor education scholarships)