A Report to our Friends...

Annual Report
July 2013 to June 2014
Dear Friends of Glen Helen,

Ordinarily, it’s impossibly unfair to characterize a year with too broad a brush. Yet, this has actually been a year, across the programs of Glen Helen, where the same dynamic keeps cropping up. It’s a sense that we are building toward the cusp of significant change, and that this year has been about creating the foundation that will enable that movement.

We continue to work towards placing a modern conservation easement on the preserve. Already, half the preserve is forever protected from subdivision or commercial development. Now, thanks to our work over the past year, this multi-year, multi-collaborator process is poised for completion. The final phase of the easement process not only will ensure that the Glen is permanently protected, it also will bring funding that we’ll need to continue our work as stewards of the preserve.

This year, we welcomed a number of new staff members to the Glen, including an entirely new administrative team of at the Outdoor Education Center. Janene Giuseffi, Jaime Shepherd, Shannon Schenck, and Kristen Bruns have brought fresh insight and energy to a program that has reached over 150,000 schoolchildren over its 57 years, and is now poised to continue shaping the lives of southwestern Ohio children for generations to come.

To that point, the Glen Helen Association has begun to lay the groundwork for what we anticipate will be a comprehensive campaign to revitalize the facilities of the Outdoor Education Center. The work we do over the coming years will ensure that we are able to continue connecting children with nature for the next half-century.

Also this year, we added land to Glen Helen. Not much – just 6.6 acres. But, that land improves our ability to steward the National Scenic Little Miami River. Plus, thanks to work done over the past year, we are poised to add larger and more significant lands to the preserve, better protecting the Glen, our watershed, and the plants and animals that depend on the preserve.

Your support, as a friend, member, or volunteer has made this work possible. We are deeply grateful for all that you enable us to accomplish this year and into the future.

Nick Boutis
Executive Director
Glen Helen Ecology Institute
Glen Helen Association

Dan Halm, Ph.D.
President
Glen Helen Association
At the Outdoor Education Center

The Outdoor Education Center completed its 57th year of operation. We welcomed 2,436 students for our 3 to 4 day residential education program. 39 schools sent students to the Center, including:

- Antioch School, Yellow Springs, Greene County
- Bennett Intermediate School, Piqua, Miami County
- Catholic Central School, Springfield, Clark County
- Celina Intermediate School, Celina, Mercer County
- Central Middle School, Xenia, Greene County
- Clintonville Academy, Clintonville, Franklin County
- Columbus Academy, Gahanna, Franklin County
- Dayton Early College Academy, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Edwin D. Smith Elementary School, Dayton, 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
- Greenville St. Mary’s, St. Mary’s, Darke County
- Holy Rosary, Saint Marys, Auglaize County
- Horace Mann PreK-8 School, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Immaculate Conception School, Celina, Mercer County
- Kemp PreK-8 School, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Kenwood Elementary School, Springfield, Clark County
- Licking Heights North Elementary School, Pataskala, Licking County
- McGuffey Foundation School, Oxford, Butler County
- Miami Valley School, Dayton, Montgomery County
- Mills Lawn Elementary School, Yellow Springs, Greene County
- Northmoor ES, Englewood, OH, Montgomery County
- Northwood Elementary School, Dayton, Montgomery County
- O. R. Edgington Elementary School, Englewood, Montgomery County
- Ruskin Prek-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, Dayton, Montgomery County
- St. Brigid School, Xenia, Greene County
- St. Patrick School, London, Madison County
- Talawanda Middle School, Oxford, Butler County
- Union Elementary School, Union, Montgomery County
- Washington Intermediate School, Piqua, Miami County
- The Wellington School, Columbus, Franklin County
- Laura Ingalls Wilder Intermediate School, Piqua, Miami County

For the sixth 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 330 children from 8 schools to participate in our residential environmental learning programs.

The Outdoor Education Center welcomed 375 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 11 naturalist interns and 4 administrative interns for the 2013-14 school year.

At the Raptor Center

We had another busy year for hawk and owl rehabilitation. In all, we admitted 153 birds for rehabilitation, and were able to release 64 birds for a second chance at life in the wild. Our rehabilitation rate was lower than typical, because a greater than normal percentage of the birds came to us with serious injuries, often as a result of collisions with cars.
We conducted 89 raptor education programs for schoolchildren, civic groups, senior centers, and other programs, providing 5,285 participants an up-close and personal experience with birds of prey.

We constructed all new enclosures for our resident birds in a major project that took most of the year to design and build. In an extraordinary pro-bono effort, Jerry Papania completed the caging plans. Construction was headed up by Andrew Kline of Green Generation Building. Multiple ash trees needed to be removed to prepare the side and insure ongoing safety. The new enclosures are safer for our birds, and allow visitors better viewing opportunities.

The Raptor Center continued its collaboration with the Boonshoft Museum and the Ohio Division of Wildlife to monitor and protect the raptors of Dayton, and allow public viewing through web-based cameras. This year, three Eastwood Lake eaglets, and three Dayton peregrines all lived at the Raptor Center since 1983. He will be missed.

Out in the Glen

We have continued the sad but necessary work of removing dead or diseased ash trees in vulnerable locations. This year, 36 trees were removed from around buildings and parking areas.

As a result of four land transfers in fall 2013, Glen Helen grew by 6,624 acres, to a total of 973,424 acres.

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

- Ailanthus: 125 trees, 350 sprouts
- Autumn olive: 2 very large units
- Bush Euonymous: 17 units
- Callery pear: 2 units
- Canada thistle: Spot mowing
- Euonymous fruiting bodies: 2 large units
- Garlic mustard: 26.5 acres scythed
- Honeysuckle: 21.25 acres, plus 55 units including a new "champion" 20" diameter tree
- Japanese barberry: 7 bushes
- Lesser celandine: 1.5 acres sprayed
- Multifloral rose: 24 units
- Norway maple: 45
- Oriental bittersweet: 426 units
- Poison hemlock: 7 acres scythed
- Reed Canary Grass: 10,000 sq. ft.

The Village of Yellow Springs replaced a bridge on the trail just north of the Vernet Ecological Center, to allow safe passage across a channel dug by storm water runoff.

We tackled the vertical horizon of honeysuckle removal, and started the long process of removing invasives along the Yellow Springs Creek cliffs.

Trails were open every day, dawn to dusk. An estimated 100,000 visited Glen Helen to walk, explore, and learn.

We won a victory for land stewardship along the Little Miami River when John Bryan State Park abandoned its plans to install a disc golf course next to the Glen along the river.

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

- Clearing 98 trail obstructions
- Creating 23 trail closures

Our annual Christmas Bird Count was held in the midst of an unseasonal deluge on December 21, 2013. We found 773 individual birds, representing 36 species.

We inked an updated utility easement with the Village of Yellow Springs, to better protect Glen Helen land that the Village uses for its municipal water line.

On May 21, 2014, we experienced what some have labeled a 500-year flood, when five inches of rain fell on the watershed in just two hours. Stepping stones washed away, rocks in the creeks were moved on a massive scale, our 300-foot-long boardwalk below Pompey’s Pillar floated about six feet downstream, and the footbridges below old dam washed away.

Education, Collaboration, and Research

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

- Water quality assessment, Birch and Yellow Springs Creeks, Yellow Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant, Morris Bean foundry effluent. Audrey McGowin, Wright State University
- Longitudinal study of Ash and their epiphytes. Linda Fuselier, Antioch College and Don Cipollini, Wright State University
- Qualitative habitat evaluation index and of BioIntegrity fish index of Yellow Springs Creek. Elayna Grody, City of Columbus
- Analysis of total hardness and hardness due to calcium in the Yellow Spring. J. Eric Hils, University of Dayton

An article from Glen Helen director Nick Boutis was included in “Connecting Children to Nature: Ideas and Activities for Parents and Educators” a new book on the benefits of outdoor and environmental education.

Our 2014 magazine featured stories on the photography of Axel Bahnsen, plus land management with George Bieri.

We hosted the Midwest regional meeting of the Association of Nature Center
Administrators drawing staff from nature centers as far away as New York.

Antioch College welcomed a new cohort of students back to campus, and we found opportunity for student co-op and part-time workers on the trails of the preserve, at Trailside Museum, and in the Glen Helen administrative offices, including three Miller Fellows through the support of the Yellow Springs Community Foundation.

The Ecology Institute oversaw operations of Antioch College Farm. The farm was the largest campus employer of students, with a dozen summer workers. In 2013, our second full growing season on acre, we harvested 6,000 pounds of produce.

The Antioch farm started its first egg incubation and chicken-breeding project in spring 2014. We collected eggs and incubated them at the Trailside Museum. Fifteen heritage breed Black Australorp chicks hatched 21 days later.

Antioch Farm staff and volunteers began what will eventually be an edible forest, planting 100 fruit trees this including apples, pears, plums, cherry, and paw paws. Beneath the trees, we planted an understory layer of raspberries, mint, sorrel, and comfrey.

Glen Helen facilities were widely used by the community, hosting a number of significant events, including 25 weddings, receptions, or engagement parties, 5 memorials, 3 family reunions, and 6 significant events.

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

- Legendary environmental thinker and writer Wendell Berry held a Q&A with students and community members.
- Antioch archivist Scott Sanders presented on the celebrated photography of Axel Bahnsen.
- Former Ohio First Lady Hope Taft spoke at the Glen Helen Association annual meeting, about her efforts to protect the Little Miami River watershed.

We offered over 250 public programs, spanning from hikes, lectures, after-school sessions, volunteer opportunities, art shows, and events.

**Administration**

We welcomed several new staff members, including, in order of appearance, Jaime Shepherd, Outdoor Education Center assistant director; Tina Spencer, project manager; Janene Giuseffi, Outdoor Education Center director; and Shannon Schenck, Outdoor Education Center office manager.

We dove deeper into the social media pool. The Glen Helen Facebook page, www.facebook.com/glenhelen, now has over 9900 “likes.” In addition, supporters are now also able to connect to Glen Helen via Twitter, Instagram, iNaturalist, and Constant Contact.

The Glen Helen Association set up a new term endowment fund at the Dayton Foundation to receive the planned gift from the estate of Fred Anliot. The fund is restricted to land stewardship activity.

Glen director Nick Boutis served as a chair for Antioch’s “self-study,” a major step in the college efforts to gain accreditation.

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

Facilities improvements were made across the Glen, including:

- Birch Manor: The old building suffered in the cold winter, with five leaking or burst pipes that required repairs, including plaster work and repainting, carpet cleaning, and replaced plumbing. We also installed glass block windows in the basement.
- Naturalist Housing: New block windows were installed in the Farmhouse basement.
- Outdoor Education Center: We removed the Craft Hut, the original classroom building for the Outdoor Education Center. Built by volunteers over 50 years ago, it provided many years of service, but suffered from significant rot and insect damage, and was too close to the natural area of the preserve. The job required a surprising five dumpsters to complete.
- Outdoor Education Center office: The office is still in a trailer, but it’s a fresher space than it has been in years. We power washed the exterior, installed a new sign painted by a naturalist, and hung new shelves inside.

**Special Events**

The Glen Helen Association resuscitated a beloved community event—the annual pancake breakfast. The crowd was treated to a delicious breakfast served by volunteers, and the event raised $1,838.

The Friends Music Camp in Barnesville, Ohio once again brought their impressive musicianship to Yellow Springs for a concert to benefit the Glen. The crowd learned about the Glen, enjoyed a fine concert, and raised $3,365 for Glen Helen programs.

2014 was the most rainy year yet for our annual birdwatching marathon, Make it Count for the Birds. Even so, our team of observers were able to find 90 species in the Glen. The event, which has now in its eighth year, continues to provide valuable data about the abundance and distribution of birds. This year, donations in support of the event raised $12,354 for land stewardship in Glen Helen.

We held our fourth annual benefit dinner for the Raptor Center. Who Cooks for You featured chefs from Dorothy Lane Market, Fresco, The Meadowlark Restaurant, Roost Modern Italian, Rue Dumaine, and Seasons Bistro. Net revenue was $17,666.

The fourth annual Earth Day 5K took place on April 26, 2014. 401 people ran in this year’s race, helping generate $5,442.

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.
Finances

July 2013-June 2014

Operating Expenditures: $1,032,116
Environmental Education Programs: 36%
Raptor Center: 5%
Land Management: 6%
Facilities: 25%
Administration: 28%

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Revenue

Glen Helen Association Revenue
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 (2), Laura Wallis, Steve Winig

$1000-$4999

Sture “Fred” Anliot

Fred’s connection to Glen Helen goes back nearly sixty years. He attended Antioch College, graduating in 1960 with joint majors in biology and fine arts. Starting the year of his graduation, he began a project to catalog the plants of Glen Helen, John Bryan State Park, and Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve. His report, published by the Ohio Biological Survey, is a resource that is still referenced today.

In 1969, Fred joined the faculty at Wilmington College and for many years served as curator of their 32-acre Hazard Arboretum. Taking students on field trips was one of his great joys. In the early 1970s, he identified rare trees in the woods near the Caesar Creek Dam project and persuaded the Army Corps of Engineers to extend Caesar Creek State Park to the southwest to protect the trees. Also, he and a colleague traveled throughout Clinton County measuring literally thousands of large trees. Their work resulted in data on 146 species of trees, some of which were the largest recorded in Ohio. Ultimately, he helped create five new parks in Clinton County, one of which bears his name.

Fred balanced his love of botany with an interest in poetry and landscape painting. He published a collection of his poetry titled Nature-Nurture and once owned an art studio in Yellow Springs. After he retired from teaching in 2004, he served as president of the Clinton County Streamkeepers. Fred passed away in December 2012.

Through his estate plans, Fred planned a bequest restricted to land stewardship activity in Glen Helen. To honor this request, we established a new endowment fund at the Dayton Foundation to fund ecological restoration, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and other land stewardship activities.

We are honored and grateful to be the beneficiaries of his support.
Tom and Betty Finke, David Goodman, Paul and Jewel Graham, John and Bari Hart, Joan Hollister, Priscilla Janney-Pace, Bill Kent and Gayle Gyure, Marvin and Mary Lamborg, Dr. Barbara Mackey, Joseph and Sarah Marcum, Philip and Susan Miller, Morris Bean & Co., Nancy Nerny, David and Sharen Neuhardt, Orion Organic Farming, The Oxford Society, Virginia Paget, Susan Palmer and Christopher Cordle, Roger and Macy Reynolds, The Riding Centre Association, Harold R. Rieck, Jr., Barbara Robertson, Chris Rolitsky and Peter Buswinka, Seth Tibbott, Dr. Terry Voss, Maxine Anne Weinstein, Sam Young and Sandy Love

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

Sylvia Carter Denny, Carl Champney & Charlene Prestopino, Naomi Ewald-Orme, Robert F. Hankey, Terry and Eva Hemdon, Todd and Gabriele Leventhal, Gregory Stobbs, Katherine and John Vassallo, Glenn and Jenny Watts

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Without our donors and volunteers, preserving the Glen would simply not be possible... we thank you all!

Ralph Overton, Ford and Catherine Ross, Philip Rouse, Chris Schuyler, Robert and Jane Scott, Elizabeth A. Sorensen, Jim and Jan Swaney, Ilse Tebbetts, Glenn and Jane Watts

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Supporter

Grants
Mathile Family Foundation (Outdoor education scholarships)
National Science Foundation, Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (Outdoor education and ecological restoration)
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation (Outdoor education scholarships)
Yellow Springs Community Foundation (Miller fellowship)

Volunteers
Over the year, volunteers contributed 5,735 hours of work, equivalent to a contribution of $93,086. Gracious thanks to everyone who generously volunteered their time in service to Glen Helen.