

Glen Helen

Natural Sanctuary
Outdoor Classroom
Living Laboratory

A Report to our Friends...

Annual Report
July 2012
to June 2013



Our Work

We steward and strengthen Glen Helen for present and future generations, safeguard the ecological, historical, and geological resources within its bounds, and utilize the preserve to offer life-shaping environmental learning to our students and visitors.

Dear Friends of Glen Helen,

Earlier this year, we took a major step forward in a ninety-year effort to give Glen Helen permanent protection as a natural sanctuary and outdoor classroom. Since the 1920s, Glen Helen has been shaping the lives of all who visit. But, there has always been a cloud hanging over the preserve; a worry that the land was unprotected and might someday fall to development.

Arthur Morgan recognized this problem in the early 1920s, and tried to safeguard the Glen by having it declared a water source for the Village of Yellow Springs. Inspired idea, but a practical failure because the calcium-rich water quickly clogged pipes. Glen Helen leadership, notably Ken Hunt and Ralph Ramey, worked for decades to improve the legal protections afforded Glen Helen, by buffering the Glen with "Country Commons" easements, enrolling a section of the property in the National Natural Landmark system, and placing parts of the preserve in the National Register of Historic Places. These efforts were helpful, but piecemeal. There remained a concern that, were anything to happen to Antioch College, Glen Helen would be vulnerable.

Now, thanks to a collaborative and extraordinary effort by the Tecumseh Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land, and all of us at Antioch College and Glen Helen, we have been able to put in place the protections that eluded us in previous attempts.

More than half of Glen Helen now has a state-of-the-art environmental covenant in place to ensure that the land will remain forever intact as a nature preserve. This covenant allows our educational work to continue unabated, and allows the public to continue to enjoy, appreciate, and learn in the Glen. Any question – in anyone's mind – about whether Glen Helen was here to stay, has now been answered and abated. As we write this, we are nearing completion of the conservation easement that will protect the remaining acreage of the Glen, and expect that work to be completed early in 2014.

Every Glen Helen supporter deserves a share of the credit. We could not have accomplished this success without the time, resources, and effort of our members and volunteers. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support of Glen Helen and our programs!



Nick Boutis

Nick Boutis
Executive Director
Glen Helen Ecology Institute
Glen Helen Association



Dan R. Halm

Dan Halm, Ph.D.
President
Glen Helen Association

Accomplishments

July 2012 to June 2013

The Outdoor Education Center completed its 56th year of operation. We welcomed 2,271 students for our 3 to 4 day residential **outdoor education program**. 35 schools sent students to the Center, including:

- Bennett Intermediate School, Piqua, Miami County
- Catholic Central School, Springfield, Clark County
- Celina Intermediate School, Celina, Mercer County
- Central Middle School, Xenia, Greene County
- Cleveland PreK-8 School, Dayton, Montgomery 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
- 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
- Northwood Elementary School, Dayton, Montgomery County

- O. R. Edgington Elementary School, Englewood, Montgomery County
- Ruskin PreK-8 School, Dayton, Montgomery 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. Marys Middle School, St. Marys, Auglaize County
- St. Marys School, Greenville, Darke 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 fifth 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 329 children from 9 schools to participate in our residential environmental learning programs.

The Outdoor Education Center welcomed 376 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 3 administrative interns for the 2012-13 school year.

The **Raptor Center** had another busy year for hawk and owl rehabilitation. In all, we admitted 169 birds for rehabilitation, and were able to release 99 of them for a second chance at life in the wild. Many of the birds we admitted and released were juveniles found starving in the sweltering summer of 2012.

The Raptor Center conducted 98 **raptor education programs** for schoolchildren, civic groups, senior centers, and other programs, providing 5,085 participants an up-close and personal experience with birds of prey.

The Raptor Center continued its **collaboration with the Boonshoft Museum and the Ohio Division of Wildlife** to monitor and protect the raptors of Dayton. Web-based cameras allow public viewing of the eagle pair nesting at Eastwood Lake and a falcon pair in downtown Dayton.

The **Glen Helen Facebook page**, www.facebook.com/glenhelen, now has over 8300 "likes."



Outdoor Education Center Naturalists and Staff
Row 1: Ellen Biscotti, Annie Kravet, Anna Fontanetta, Kelly Lecko Row 2: Rebecca Jaramillo, Jen Lang, Bonnie Berg, Caley Mackenzie, Autumn Foutch Row 3: Molly Finch, Gerlisa Garrett, Lydia Reese Bet Ross Row 4: Dexter Norris, Kyle Wonser, Selene Carey, Keegan Williams



With grant support from The Nature Conservancy, we completed the largest **ecological restoration project** in the history of Glen Helen. Over the course of 2012, we removed invasive species from the riparian zone of the Little Miami River in the South Glen. 80 acres were restored in all.

We officially rededicated the Glen Helen Building as the **Vernet Ecological Center** at our October 27 open house. With this change, we honor Sergius Vernet, whose foundation funded construction of the building, and whose efforts helped prevent a sewer line from being routed through the Glen.

Responding to the challenge of the **Emerald Ash Borer invasion**, we identified about 50 white and green ash trees near public areas that will eventually need to be cut. The highest priority 28 trees were taken down, and six specimen trees were treated, to hopefully preserve these trees into the future.

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

- Ailanthus: 128 units, plus 7000 sq. ft. sprouts, plus 38 individual sprouts
- Bush Euonymus: 102 units
- Callery pear: 4 trees
- Euonymus fruiting bodies: 29 units

- Garlic mustard: 25 acres scythed
- Grape: 45 vines choking silky dogwoods and black haw
- Honeysuckle: 39 acres along the Little Miami River, 8 acres elsewhere
- Japanese Switch Grass: 2100 square feet, plus 30 clusters
- Lesser Celandine: 25,000 sq. ft.
- Multifloral rose: 18 units
- Norway maple: 118 units
- Oriental bittersweet: 974 units
- Poison hemlock: 1 acre plus 7000 sq. ft.
- Privet: 2000 sq. ft. privet, plus 5 additional groups
- Thistle: 1 patch mowed
- Vinca minor: 2500 sq ft. removed



We conducted **restoration plantings** of pawpaw, spicebush, black haw, and white oak, using seeds, acorns, or saplings gathered within the Glen.

Trails were open every day, dawn to dusk. 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 181 trail obstructions
- Creating 43 trail closures

With support from the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, we welcomed Rebecca Smith, Katherine Harrison, and Kira Painter as **Miller Fellows**. These Antioch College students worked part-time throughout the year as a land stewards and Trailside Museum docents.

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
- Yellow Springs flow rate. Tested through bromide tracer. Songlin Cheng, Wright State University
- Longitudinal study of Ash and their epiphytes. Linda Fuselier, Antioch College and Don Cipollini, Wright State University
- Stream invertebrate colonization dynamics. Yvonne Vadeboncoeur, Wright State University
- Survey of macro-invertebrates in stream ecosystems. Amber Burgett, Wright State University
- Habitat preferences of Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) based on forest size, isolation, and composition. Anna Holtvoigt, Wright State University
- Analysis of total hardness and hardness due to calcium in the Yellow Spring. J. Eric Hils, University of Dayton

Our annual **Christmas Bird Count** was held on December 29, 2012. We found 590 individual birds, representing 36 species.

Fifth graders at Mills Lawn Elementary and the Dayton STEM school created a **Glen Helen book**, and held a launch party in the Glen.

Ecology Institute staff were "goal team co-chairs" for the Antioch College **strategic planning effort**, developing action plans around the goal of building a sustainable educational environment.

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

- Jim Adkins of the Sustainable Poultry Network presented a talk on heritage poultry.
- Wright State professors Allen Hunt, Volker Bahn, Yvonne Vadeboncoeur, and Don Cippollini led a panel discussion on climate change.

We completed the largest environmental restoration project in the history of Glen Helen!

■ Artist and author Julie Zickefoose was the engaging and wide-ranging keynote speaker for our annual meeting.

We hosted a **day-long workshop** on wilderness survival and adventure first aid.

Birch Manor in the south Glen was the site of three **arts workshops**.

Glen Helen license plates were available for any Ohio motorist. By June 2013, 272 people had purchased a plate for their vehicle.

We offered **262 public programs**, spanning from hikes, lectures, after-school sessions, volunteer opportunities, art shows, and events.

As reported in the *Dayton Daily News*, *WYSO*, and the *Yellow Springs News*, we placed an **environmental covenant** on the most ecologically sensitive 536 acres of Glen Helen, ensuring the permanent protection of this irreplaceable resource, in partnership with the Tecumseh Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land.

We established two new **endowment funds** at the Dayton Foundation, using proceeds from the environmental covenant process.

Our proposal to the **Clean Ohio** fund was the top scoring application, and will provide \$961,730 in support of a new conservation easement for the preserve, to protect those areas of the Glen not already safeguarded by the environmental covenant.

The Hearth Room at the Outdoor Education Center Lodge was named in honor of **Len and Dave Cargan**, in recognition of their support for the Glen.

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.

The Ecology Institute oversaw operations of the **Antioch College Farm**. The farm was the largest campus employer of students, with a dozen summer workers. New on the farm this year were two heritage breeds of sheep.

Antioch Farm Manager Kat Christen participated in an **education project in Ethiopia**, where she demonstrated small-scale gardens and soil building techniques.

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

Along with the Tecumseh Land Trust, we were **honored by Little Miami, Inc.** for our efforts to protect habitat along the National Scenic River.

Facilities improvements were made across the Glen, including:

- *Birch Manor*: Musty gray carpet was removed from throughout the first and second floors, and the formal staircase was restored. The original linoleum was refurbished on the second floor. A floating bamboo floor was installed on the first floor.
- *Trailside Museum*: The floor got a fresh coat of vivid blue paint, and cedar boxes were constructed around the heater risers.
- *Naturalist Housing*: We replaced the basement windows in Clayton House with glass block, installed new windows and a new front door in Clayton House, and replaced walls and the shower enclosure in the Roost bathroom.
- We removed the remaining traces of two derelict sheds that had been located in the woods off Corry St. In all, three loads of brick, block, and debris went to the dumpster.
- *Outdoor Education Center dormitories*: We repaired flooring and baseboards in the three student dormitories, installed new toilets in Hickory and Sycamore dormitories, and replaced pipes leading from the dormitories to the grinder pump.

Special Events

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 \$4,595 for Glen Helen programs.

2013 was another great year for our annual birdwatching marathon, **Make it Count for the Birds**. The event, timed for the peak of spring bird migration, not only provided valuable data about the abundance and distribution of Glen Helen birds, we located a record 102 bird species in Glen Helen, and raised \$12,794.

The Glen Helen Association sponsored a community-wide recycling event in the form of the annual **Glen Helen Garage Sale**, bringing in \$5,638.

We held our third annual benefit dinner for the Raptor Center. **Who Cooks for You** featured chefs from Dorothy Lane Market, The Meadowlark Restaurant, Seasons Bistro, Roost Modern Italian, and Rue Dumaine. This marked the first year that it didn't rain, and everything went smoothly. Net revenue was \$20,000.

The third annual **Earth Day 5K** took place on April 20, 2013. 391 people ran in this year's race, helping generate \$5900.

We also celebrated Earth Day with a **Raptor Center program**. Nearly 200 people came to tour the cages, meet the birds, and watch a rehabilitated Cooper's hawk fly away to freedom.

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

Administration

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Staff

Nick Boutis, Executive Director
 George Bieri, Land Manager
 Kristen Bruns, Food Service Manager
 Brooke Bryan, Project Manager
 Les Groby, Housekeeper
 Robbie Marion, Property management staff
 Karen Moore, Outdoor Education Center Office Manager
 Betty Ross, Raptor Center Director
 Ann Shaw, Business Manager
 Ann Marie Simonson, Project Manager
 Jaime Shepherd, Outdoor Education Center Assistant Director
 Susan Smith, Ranger
 Shahkar Strolger, Property Manager

Glen Helen Association Board of Trustees

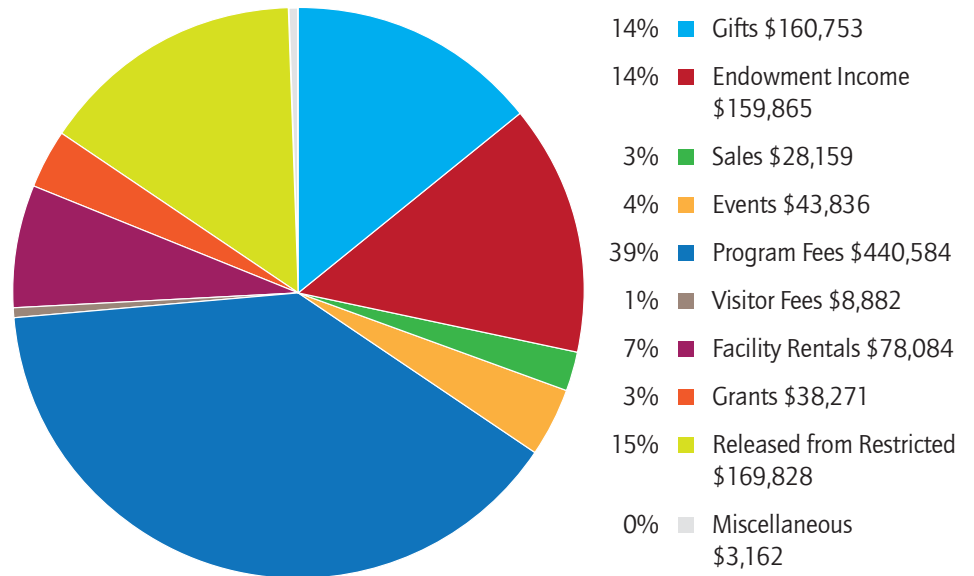
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July 2012-June 2013

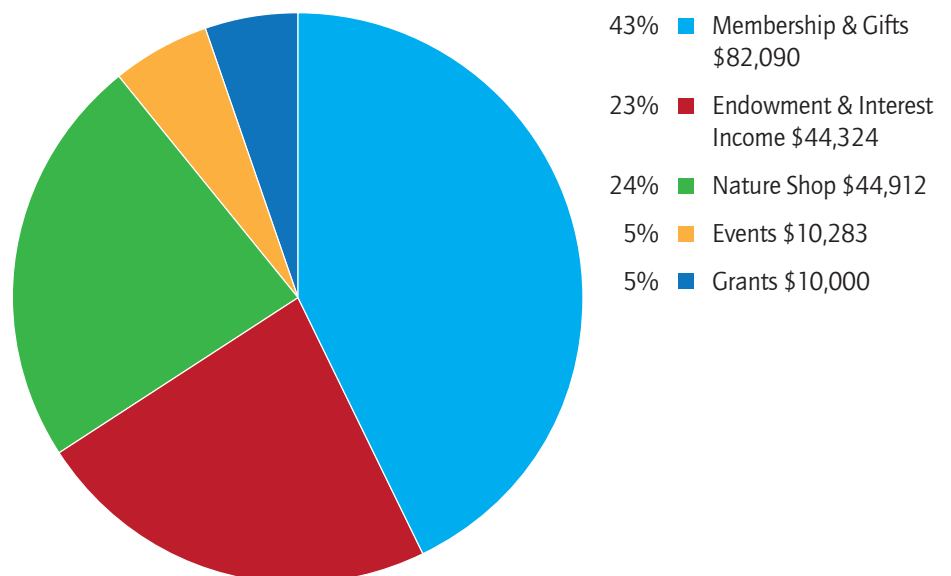
Operating Expenditures: \$1,131,424

Environmental Education Programs: 34%
 Raptor Center: 5%
 Land Management: 6%
 Facilities: 26%
 Administration: 29%

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Revenue



Glen Helen Association Revenue



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.

Sture Fredrik Anliot,* Anonymous (1),* Anonymous (2), George Asakawa,* Robert Baldwin, Sr.,* Ruth and Tony Bent, Hugh Taylor Birch,* Dr. George W. Comstock,* Ann O. Edison,* Janet Hackett,* Jim Perry,* Ruth Rickett,* Deborah L. Stone,* Kenneth C. Tregillus,* Robert Van Lehn,* Beverly Viemeister,* Deann Ward & Neil Dawson

* deceased

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:

100 Women of Greene County, Anonymous (1), Anonymous (2), Toshiko Asakawa, Leo and Kay Drey, Joseph and Sarah Marcum, Ruth Rickett, Deborah Stone

\$1000-\$4999

Anonymous, Carl Asakawa and Andrew Pavey, Ruth Aschbacher, Carolyn Bailey, Jane Baker, Doug Barker and Linda Clemens, Nick Boutis, David Case, Roger Cole, Gordon Cowperthwaite, Al and Donna Denman, John DeWine and Michele Burns, Mike and Fran DeWine, Alice and Nick Dudukovich, Tom and Betty Finke, Paul and Jewel Graham, Linda J. Griffith and Scott K. Kellogg, John and Bari Hart, Joan Hollister, Priscilla Janney-Pace, Bill Kent and Gayle Gyure, Lori Kuhn, Marvin and Mary Lamborg, Licking Heights Elementary

The Glen Helen Legacy Society: Stories of Stewardship



George Asakawa

Glen Helen has had a handful of supporters over the years who have, literally and significantly, changed the shape of the organization. One of those people is George Asakawa. As a lifelong philanthropist and President, CEO, and ultimately board chair of Vernay Laboratories, George and his wife Toshiko were involved for decades as volunteers, donors, and advisors.

The creation of our primary visitor's facility is a testament to the measure of George's support for Glen Helen. After Sergius Vernet's passing, George, and others involved in Vernay Labs and the Vernet Foundation, worked with Ken Hunt and later with Ralph Ramey to fund the creation of a facility from which Glen Helen educational programs could reach the community. This building, the Vernet Ecological Center, is now in its 40th year as our administrative offices, a public gallery, a lecture hall, a meeting room, a movie theater, a venue where weddings are celebrated and lives memorialized, a college classroom, a community theater.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Vernet Ecological Center would not exist without his leadership. He and Toshiko also established a fund at the Yellow Springs Community Foundation specifically to support the Glen. By including the Glen Helen Association in his estate plans, George ensured yet another enduring legacy to benefit all of us who work, learn, and love the Glen.

School, Dr. Barbara Mackey, Sho Maruyama, Justin Metcalf and Colette Palamar, Dr. L. David Mirkin, Nancy Nerny, David and Sharen Neuhardt, Thomas and Sandra Neville, Virginia Paget, Roger and Macy Reynolds, Jon Paul and Megan Rion, Ann Roberts and John Smith, Barbara Robertson, Chris Rolitsky and Peter Buswinka, Philip and Esther Rothman, Elizabeth A. Sorensen, Maxine Anne Weinstein, The Clara Weiss Fund, 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.

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John and Sagalia Cannon, Roger Cranos, Robert F. Hankey, Terry and Eva Herndon, Kay Kendall, Todd and Gabriele Leventhal

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Deann Ward & Neil Dawson

Deann and Neil live on Grinnell Circle, right on the edge of the Glen. Their windows look out into the Glen. Their drinking water comes from the Glen. And every day, they drink in the benefits of sharing a border with the preserve. Once, they watched a bald eagle fly over their house and down the Little Miami River valley. Coming to home to their house after being away, is coming home to the Glen.

To Neil and Deann, a planned gift to Glen Helen means giving back. In joining the Glen Helen Legacy Society, they hope to inspire others to take similar action as they make or update their estate plans. We hope that they Neil and Deann get to enjoy Glen Helen for many years to come, and we are deeply grateful for what their support will enable us to accomplish.

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Jim Perry

We were gratefully surprised to learn that Jim had bequeathed a portion of his estate to the Glen Helen Association. His cousin Jaiya used to live in Yellow Springs, and when he visited her, they would take walks in the Glen. Birdwatching was one of his favorite pastimes, and when he visited the Glen, he enjoyed sitting quietly with the birds, watching them and hoping to see something rare. He also loved bike riding and frequently rode on the bike path past the Glen. Jim eventually moved to North Carolina, and his last trip to the Glen was over four years ago.

By remembering the Glen in his will, Jim has ensured that others will get the same opportunities that he had to enjoy the trails and birds of the Glen.



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Over the year, volunteers contributed 7,630 hours of work, equivalent to a contribution of \$123,844. Gracious thanks to everyone who generously volunteered their time in service to Glen Helen.

Dick Fowler Volunteer Award Winner Bill Kent



The Dick Fowler Volunteer Award is given periodically to those who best exemplify the characteristics of service in support

of Glen Helen. The 2013 award went to Bill Kent. Bill, a board member since 2007, has been central to the efforts of the Glen Helen development committee, facilities committee, and membership committee. Without his efforts, it is doubtful that the Nature Shop would now have an electronic inventory, or that the Neff Carriage House – the oldest structure in the Glen – would still be standing. He has been a powerful advocate for our scholarship program to bring economically disadvantaged children to the Outdoor Education Center. And, he has been enthusiastic, capable, and irreplaceable, seemingly drawing joy from even the most annoyingly repetitive projects, and doing everything in his power to see to it that the Glen lives up to its full potential.



Photo: Jason Evans