

In the Glen

Summer 2021 | News and Activities of the Glen Helen Association

Farewell Horace

In this issue:

The Famous Statue Is on the Move

Ecocamp and the Healing Benefits of Nature

The Effect of Cicadas on Wildlife

In the Glen

In the Glen is published for Glen Helen Association members and friends.

Contributors

Editor: Nick Boutis; Contributors: Sarah Cline, Rebecca Jaramillo; Design: Bob Bingenheimer

Glen Helen Nature Preserve

Trails are open daily, sunrise to sunset. All wildlife, vegetation, and natural features are protected. For general information: 937-769-1902

Administrative Office and Nature Shop

Located in the Vernet Ecological Center
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Temporarily closed. Visit glenhelen.org for details.

Trailside Museum

505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs
Temporarily closed. Visit glenhelen.org for details.

Outdoor Education Center

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

Raptor Center

Raptor education and rehabilitation center
Visitors are welcome to visit the center and see the resident birds.

Summer hours: 9am-7pm, 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs 937-767-7648

Mission

The mission of the Glen Helen Association is to steward and strengthen Glen Helen nature preserve 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.

Glen Helen Association Board of Trustees

Bruce Bradtmiller, Ken Dahms, Emily Foubert, Scott Geisel, Bethany Gray (president), Ben Hooper, Jon Horvath, Jeremy Main (treasurer), Betty Ross (vice president), Dan Rudolf, Paul Sampson, Kat Walter (secretary)

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Zach Bollheimer, Land Manager; Nick Boutis, Executive Director; Tom Clevenger, Assistant Director for Finance and Administration; Sarah Cline, Outdoor Education Center Director; Rebecca Jaramillo, Director, Raptor Center; Shannon Schenck, Outdoor Education Center Business Manager; Susan Smith, Ranger; Shahkar Strolger, Property Manager

On the cover: The Horace Mann Monument and environs. Contributed by Honeycomb Archive.

From the Director

June, 2021. I would be grateful if you would indulge me while I take a moment for some self-reflection. As of this month, it has been fifteen years since my family and I moved west so that I could take the directorship of Glen Helen. In a fit of wistful musing, I went looking for the first missive I wrote for In the Glen. It's too wordy to repeat in its entirety, but here's how it starts:

"I began my tenure as Director of Glen Helen on June 1st, which, as luck would have it, was a Thursday. Two days later, I was on the phone, having my weekly conversation with my father. If you ever have the chance to meet my dad, you'll recognize him immediately as an older, taller, smarter, less patient version of me.

"We chatted, and he asked the question that I knew was coming: 'So, are you all settled in?'

"Picture this metaphor: I felt like I was staring up at an enormous mountain. At the base of the mountain, you can't even see the summit, but you can tell that the trail winds unrelentingly upward. Sure, I knew the Glen from my year here as a naturalist in 1990, but, as with any new job, I had a lot to do, and a lot to learn. That week, however, my computer wasn't working, nor was my voice mail. My in-box overflowed, and the back of my chair had a problem that made it fully recline with the slightest pressure.

"At home, we were surrounded by boxes from our move from Washington, DC. Despite the fact that we'd maintained the philosophical imperative to simplify our lives, we required three 28-foot long trucks to



move our belongings to Ohio. Several rooms were stacked so tall with boxes that you couldn't even enter them. Nobody could find the box that held the screwdrivers. Or the shampoo. Or the plug for the computer.

"No, I wasn't settled in yet.

"Gradually though, things are starting to come together. We found our shampoo and plugged in our computer. And at the Glen, I've been working with our staff and volunteers to make progress on some of the many challenges we face.

"There is still the proverbial mountain to climb, but every day, I feel like we can turn around and survey the view from here. And the view is improving. When we spend the time and energy to take care of our preserve, nature finds ways to reward our investment."

Knowing what I know now about the past fifteen years, I appreciate the optimism that I exuded in those latter paragraphs, because I've had ample reason to have that optimism challenged: We navigated through the closure of Antioch College. Decades of deferred maintenance in our

buildings and on our trails meant that every day, something else was leaking, or breaking, or broken. A painfully large number of our board members and volunteers reached the end of their lives. Our White Ash and Green Ash trees, which had once represented 13% of our forest canopy, fully succumbed to an invasive pest. One of our buildings was destroyed in a tragic explosion. I could go on...

Yet, fifteen years in, I have not just optimism, but confidence

Partly, it's because we accomplished tremendous things over the past decade and a half. Glen Helen now has a series of modern conservation easements on it, thanks to our fruitful collaboration with the Tecumseh Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land. These provide a permanent legal security blanket, for the first time protecting the Glen from ever being subdivided and developed. We started new endowments thanks to bequests from Fred Anliot, and from Charlie and Glenora Mercer; these now help sustain our land stewardship and Raptor Center operations. Speaking of the Raptor Center, we have rebuilt nearly all of the enclosures there in the last half dozen years. We have cleared hundreds of acres of invasive honeysuckle. We've trained 200 naturalist educators, who in turn provided a life-shaping week of environmental learning to over 30,000 kids. We've made improvements to buildings around the Glen – making them more useful, more energy efficient healthier spaces. We've built a team of staff who believe in our work – in

a world where rapid turnover is a norm, most of us have been here for more than five years. We acquired three neighboring properties, growing our protected area to 1,125 acres. We started the work of making the Glen more visitable for folks with limited mobility, including the recent bridge across the Yellow Springs Creek Dam. Here too, I could go on!

And all that before last year, when, amid a global pandemic, the Glen Helen Association stepped forward to purchase the preserve. Now, in the thick of a capital campaign to finance the purchase, restart our programs, and ramp up our ecological stewardship of the preserve, I have never felt greater confidence about the future of Glen Helen. We are well on our way, thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, and the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers. I have long held the belief that, as long as everyone who loves the Glen supports the Glen, our efforts will succeed. I'm grateful to everyone who is helping prove me right. 🍀



– Nick Boutis, Director, Glen Helen Association

Top 10 Ways to Help the Glen! (How Many Have You Done Today?)

1. **Support the Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen.**

Your contribution will help us finance the purchase of Glen Helen, restart programs, and reinvest in ecological stewardship of the preserve.

2. Sponsor a bird. For just \$100 a year, you can help us feed and care for the hawks, falcons, owls, and vultures of our Raptor Center.

3. Consider a planned gift to Glen Helen. No single act can do more to help us sustain our efforts.

4. Come to Ecocamp. A week in Glen Helen helps shape the lives of the kids who experience it.

5. Join the Glen Helen Association. Support from members allows us to maintain the preserve and all of our programs.

6. Rent the Glen. Think of the Glen for your next party, meeting, or memorial. The Vernet Ecological Center, the Outdoor Education Center, Camp Greene, or Birch Manor might be the spot you're looking for.

7. Volunteer. Whatever your interests, there is a volunteer project perfectly suited for you.

8. Explore some of our 15 miles of trails and track your sightings on www.inaturalist.org, to document the biodiversity of the preserve.

9. Specify Glen Helen Association through the Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor Program, the Kroger Rewards Program and the Amazon Smile Program.

10. Fulfill Our Wishes. We maintain a wish list for new and gently used items. Visit glenhelen.org for the current list of needed items. 🍀

Farewell Horace



HORACE MANN

There are a few locations in Glen Helen that are jarringly out of place from their surroundings, but none are as bizarrely incongruous as the formidable monument to the great Horace Mann. It will be clear to anyone who wanders past it that there must be a story behind it. Later this year, Antioch College intends to relocate the monument onto campus, in accordance with the agreement to separate Glen Helen from the college. So, this seems as good a time as ever to dive into this story.

Horace Mann, the Man.

Horace Mann was a New Englander, an intellectual, a politician, a driven man. The foundation of his legacy stems from the 12 years he spent as Secretary for the Massachusetts Board of Education, from 1837 to 1848. The annual reports that he produced during this time are widely recognized as being the basis for what we now know as public schooling in America. He advocated that every child be able to receive a basic education funded by taxes. This model – significant challenges aside – is now taken for granted as an American norm.

Subsequently, Mann served in the United States House of Representatives as a member of the Whig party, then ran for Massachusetts governor on an anti-slavery platform. When he lost that race, he became the founding president of Antioch College. Although Mann lived on the college campus, he acquired about 150 acres for a farm, at the top of a ridge above the Little Miami River.

As president, Mann ran Antioch College as a secular institution, an approach that created tension between him and the Christian Connexion, the church that founded and provided the initial funding for the school. His approach brought him attention from supporters as well, one of whom, Erastus Birch, moved with his family to Yellow Springs so that he could serve on the Antioch College board and help the school in its early days. Erastus' son Hugh, born in 1848, grew up in Yellow Springs, and spent his childhood exploring the wooded glen on the east side of town. This link evinces that we owe the existence of

Glen Helen to Horace Mann. If Erastus had not followed Horace Mann to Ohio, young Hugh Taylor Birch would not have developed the relationship with the Glen that inspired him to acquire it as a memorial to his daughter eighty years later.

Mann served as Antioch's president until his death in 1859. I should note, some mystery surrounds Horace Mann's death. His widow, Mary Mann, believed that the stresses of Antioch drove him to his death, so much so that after he passed away and was buried in Yellow Springs, she had his body disinterred and relocated to Rhode Island. His official cause of death is listed as typhoid fever, which is plausible as well. Others have suggested that he was actually done in by milk sickness, which was a potentially fatal infirmity caused by drinking milk from cows that graze in woodland habitats where they are exposed to and eat White Snakeroot, a wildflower that blooms in late summer. This too is plausible, because of the location of Mann's farm, in what is now Glen Helen, where White Snakeroot grows naturally.



Hugh Taylor Birch with Barbara Mann, Horace's great granddaughter. Courtesy of Antiochiana, Antioch College

Horace Mann, the Statue. Part One.

Not long after his passing, his friends in Massachusetts came together to plan to memorialize him with a



Emma Stebbins, the sculptor behind the statue.

monument. They chose an American woman working in Europe, Emma Stebbins, to create the sculpture, and it was cast in a foundry in Munich Germany in 1865. As Horace Mann's friends had wished, this monument was positioned on the grounds of the Massachusetts Statehouse, where it can be seen to this day. The inscription on its pedestal reads "Horace Mann: Father of American Public Education."

continued

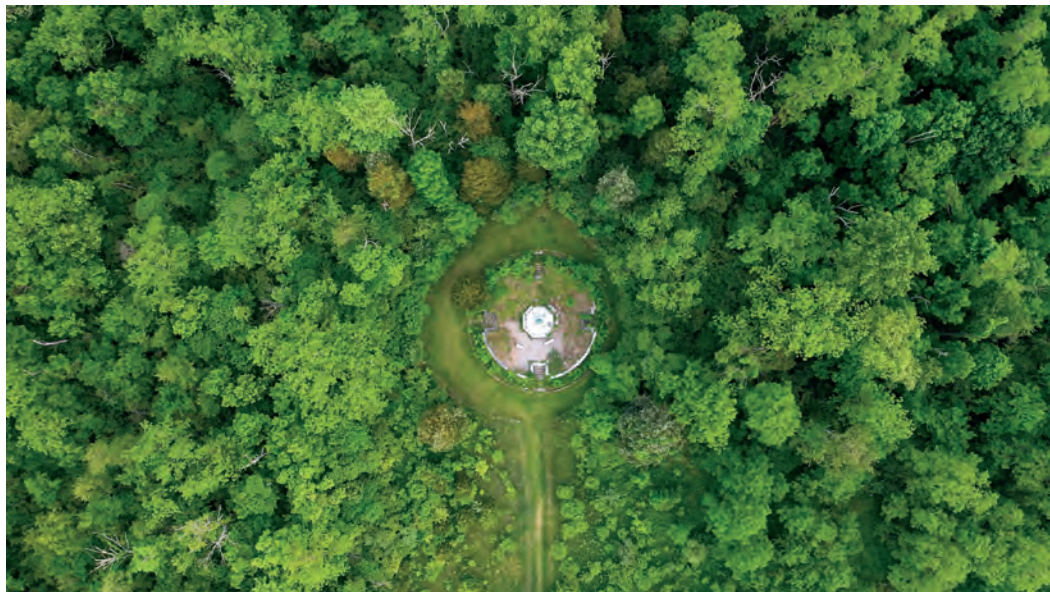
Horace Mann, the Statue. Part Two.

Hugh Taylor Birch was keen to celebrate Horace Mann, one of the people he idolized, and determined that a fitting way to do that would be for Antioch College to host a conference in recognition of the 100th anniversary of public schooling in America. Mann specified this date, mindful of when Mann had begun his work with the Massachusetts Board of Education.

Birch was aware of, and was impressed by, the statue of Mann at the Massachusetts Statehouse. He bade his son-in-law Frederick Bartlett, Helen's widower, that he travel to Munich Germany to see if he could locate the foundry where the original monument was made. Perhaps they would have plans or models that could be used to make a replica? What Bartlett learned, amazingly, was that the foundry had actually kept the mold from the 1865 casting. Seventy years later, it was still in storage there! Birch commissioned a second casting from the mold, which was apparently carried out by the son of the man who had made the 1865 casting. It was shipped to Ohio, and dedicated in 1936.



Hugh Taylor Birch with the newly unveiled monument. Courtesy of Antiochiana, Antioch College.



Once surrounded by open ground, as seen in this 1936 photo from Antiochiana (top), the monument now stands amid a mature forest (bottom, contributed by Honeycomb Archive)

Hugh Taylor Birch commissioned several other monuments in the area, including an obelisk in honor of his father that rises just to the left of the Mann monument. In what is now John Bryan State Park, hikers can also find a 1938 monument Birch placed in memory of Edward Orton, Sr., who taught him while at Antioch, and later helped launch his successful legal career.

Nature is untiringly enveloping the monuments. The fields and young trees where Mr. Birch planted these monuments have given way to

mature forests. Relentlessly, the forest is working to turn the statuary back to soil. In many, many ways, it doesn't really make sense within the modern protocols for natural area management to have a massive monument in the center of the Glen. Still, it's a great story, and I'll miss the old Mann when he's gone.

Farewell, Horace. 🍀

Nick Boutis (nboutis@glenhelen.org) With gratitude to Scott Sanders, Antiochiana, for details, images, and perspective.

HORACE MANN

1796 – 1859

FIRST PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER
OF ANTIOCH COLLEGE

THIS MEMORIAL IS ERECTED TO
PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF AN ABLE
LAWYER, A GREAT STATESMAN AND A
PIONEER IN EDUCATION. MAY HIS LIFE
AND EXAMPLE EVER INSPIRE AND EXALT
THE STUDENTS OF ANTIOCH COLLEGE.

HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH
DONOR 1936

Homage to Horace Mann

Hugh Taylor Birch's remarks at the dedication of the monument were included in *Educating for Democracy*, a 1937 publication by the Antioch Press, and are excerpted below:

"My good friends: It is a delight to see you here today. This is one of my happy days. I have lived quite long and have had many of them, but today is a culmination of them all. I want to say to you, in a few words, what may surprise you. I knew Horace Mann. Eighty years ago this

summer I was coming up one of the streets of Yellow Springs and met Horace Mann face to face. He held out his hand to me and I reached up and took it. And I want you to remember that in that handshake, that small boy of nine years received a thrill that has not left me.

That is one reason that I am here today. I had an inspiration from Horace Mann, and in all these eighty years that have passed, I have never forgotten that I owe to Horace Mann a deep debt

of gratitude. I inquired, in every way that I knew how, to find out what was in that master spirit. He seemed to me to be above the rest. I as a boy fell in love with him, we might say, and in all the years and struggles that I passed through I have never forgotten him. Today we meet here face to face.

Horace Mann's soul is in this statue, and I have brought it here for the benefit of the people of Ohio.... And I want it to inspire you, one and all, to some great deed in life, because Horace Mann

believed in performance rather than in expression. He wanted everyone to be upright and honest and true, and to impress that upon his fellow men....

I want you all to feel that humanity has been uplifted by the presence of this monument in this State. I want you all to reverence it, and I believe that Horace Mann will live again among you, and his great spirit will give you life to go on and do great things in the world." 🌱



Ecocamp and the Healing Benefits of Nature

In the months after our initial quarantine period last spring, I experienced a wave of outdoor recreation and nature enthusiasm pass across my social media feed. It seemed like many people were coming to appreciate an idea that I have always strongly believed: that time spent in nature is critically important for our health and happiness. Richard Louv coined the term 'nature deficit disorder' to speak to the costs of our alienation from nature. Since then, a large body of scientific research on the relationship between nature experience and human development has tied nature-deficit to a diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties

obesity, and higher rates of emotional and physical illnesses. In the words of Louv, "childhood has moved indoors". I think many of us experienced this phenomenon in an abrupt and extreme way as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many of us have struggled this past year, and children in particular have lived with unprecedented restrictions and altered social interactions. Looking on the bright side, they've learned new technological skills and tested their abilities to adapt and problem solve. They've also moved and played less, and spent more time looking at computer screens. Moving forward we need to seek a healthy balance. I know many families are looking to reset and recover this summer. Ecocamp may just



Top: Ecocampers climbing the Trailside boulder

Above: Ecocamper with one of our educational ambassador snakes

be the perfect antidote for all that ails us.

Ecocamp at Glen Helen has always sought to nurture an appreciation for nature in children. The foundation of all the educational programming at the Outdoor Education Center is the idea that time spent in nature, participating in investigation and hands-on exploration, sets the bar as one of the most authentic learning spaces that exists today. Holding this space and offering these opportunities for children is critically important work. And it is so much fun! At a time when things can feel heavy, a day in the woods with a group of children offers hope. You can see the wonder in their

eyes and feel the magic of nature as the Glen provides opportunities for respite, movement, and lots of laughter.

Children need nature for their physical and mental well-being; but nature can also help them connect to others. Participating in Ecocamp, as a camper or a staff member, means playing, learning, and living together in community for the week. As they take part in activities and explore the Glen, campers establish group norms and boundaries, tackle challenges, and come to care for each other. Ecocamp is a place where children can practice and grow their social and emotional skills outside the setting of their immediate family. To my mind, there is no better example of this than watching a camp group work together to build a fort amongst the trees. They laugh, negotiate, communicate, and almost always work together like a well-oiled machine as they figure out how to lift heavy logs and decide on the form their structure will take. The smiles on everyone's faces as they play in their finished product speaks to their sense of accomplishment and lessons well learned.



Quiet time with a natural history book

I got an email from the parent of a camper this week. The subject line shouted "SO EXCITED FOR ECOCAMP!!", and that is exactly how I feel too. It seems many families feel that way: we're almost





completely filled up for the summer ahead! Staff are in the midst of preparing our facilities, organizing supplies, and training our summer team. In the flurr of all this activity, our goal stands strong: to provide a joyful, restorative, and safe experience for all of our

Children need nature for their physical and mental well-being; but nature can also help them connect to others.

Ecocampers. The program will look a little different this summer as we operate within recommended best practices for summer camps; but, the team at the Outdoor Education Center is working to prioritize safety and to safe-guard our Ecocamp culture and traditions. I believe that an Ecocamp week (or 2, or 8!) will act as a soothing balm for the anxieties and gloom of the past year. I know my life will be better with a soundtrack of campers laughing around the fir circle! We're moving childhood back outdoors with your kids at Ecocamp this summer. So put on your tie-dye and I'll see you all in the woods! 🌲

Sarah Cline (sccline@glenhelen.org)

The Effect of Cicadas on Wildlife



Brood X is here! While this might sound like a preview to a bad alien movie, the aliens in this case are large, inch-long cicadas that have spent the last 17 years sleeping under our very feet. To some, the emergence of the cicadas is as good an excuse as any to spend a few weeks in Florida, but for wildlife the cicadas are an abundant source of protein in small crunchy shells.

The effect that cicada booms have on wildlife depends on the species. It has been noted that while some bird populations boom during the cicada emergence, others are found in lower than expected numbers during the 15 and 17 year cycles. According to Ohio Division of Wildlife biologist Mark Wiley, Wild Turkey poults are more abundant during cicada emergences. A study in Bloomington, Indiana found that Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos laid eggs earlier and in larger numbers to coordinate with the abundance of food during cicada eruptions. In 2004, when



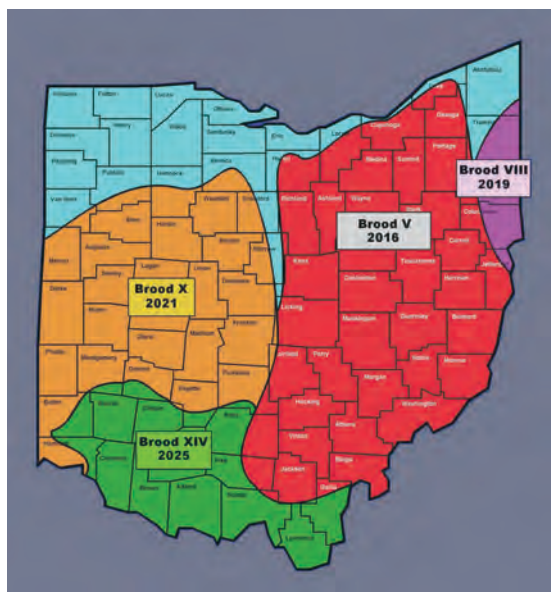
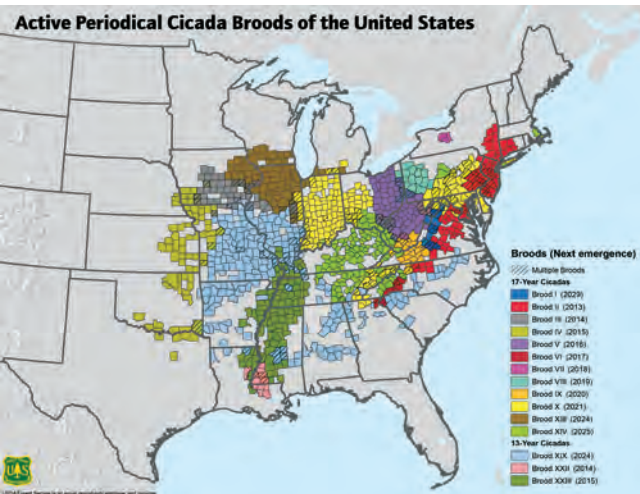
A cicada shedding its exoskeleton, which is the empty shell we find attached to trees and other objects.

Brood X last emerged from the earth, birders noticed Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites, raptors normally found in the southern U.S. coming north to feed on the vast abundance of airborne protein that the cicadas offered. In contrast, however, many insect eating birds such as crows, blue jays and cardinals are counted in lower numbers during 15- and 17-year cicada eruptions.

Walter Koenig, a senior scientist at the Cornell University Ornithology Laboratory, has spent years trying to find an explanation for this bizarre observation. Brood X will allow him to test his current running hypotheses that since bird populations boom two years after a cicada emergence, then typically fall two years after that, the odd year cicada eruptions (13, 15 and 17 years – two of which are prime numbers) typically fall in a natural low bird population year. Similarly, he is asking the question, “Do the cicadas’ increased rate of feeding on tree roots a year or two before emergence decrease tree seeds and thus

decrease bird populations in conjunction with eruption years?" While the answer is not yet clear, the 2021 brood will certainly lend more data to his research.

Birds are not the only species that have been shown to link population fluctuation to cicada broods. A study in Indiana showed that while populations of the white-footed mouse remained unchanged during the cicada eruption in 1987, the number of short-tailed shrews increased four-fold. Animals may



Maps showing the range of periodic cicadas in the United States (top) and Ohio (bottom)

even change their diets specifically to take advantage of the increase in protein rich morsels. Stomach content surveys during the 2004 eruption showed raccoon diets consisted of 51% cicadas during the cicada emergence.



Above, Miki, a Mississippi Kite, is an example of an insect-eating bird in Ohio that may benefit from the cicada eruption.

Even reptiles can take advantage of this unusual prey source. In Connecticut, copperhead snakes were able to recover their low populations caused by a multiyear drought by feasting on cicadas. Even weary wildlife rehabbers can munch on these mighty insects. While people with shellfish allergies should not partake, people all over the world have found ways to turn noisy insects into tasty treats. But before you ask: no, this wildlife rehabber has yet to participate in the buffet. 🍀

Rebecca Jaramillo (rjaramillo@glenhelen.org)

From the Archives



There are a few things of note in this image of the Horace Mann Monument, taken May 1, 1959. Let's start with an obvious one: The setting for the statue has changed dramatically. Compare this photo to the recent image on the cover, and it's evident how much the forest has grown up, and how much nature has started to reclaim the monument's base. It has always been unusual to find crowd convening with Horace, but back in the day, Antioch students

maintained an annual tradition of a May Day hike to the monument for a picnic.

Visit the monument today, and one thing you'll notice is that Horace's shoes are painted red. Not so, in this 1959 image. Despite semi-diligent sleuthing, we were unable to uncover much of a backstory about who, or why. Those familiar with the history of the monument trace this ritual back to the early 1970s. One explanation is that the shoes were painted red

like Dorothy's ruby slippers in the Wizard of Oz. Perhaps some way of reminding us that there's no place like home?

One other thing: See the student near the center of the photo, wearing a brown shirt and black pants, and holding a newspaper? We believe that that is Stephen Jay Gould, a 1963 graduate of Antioch College who went on to become one of the world's foremost evolutionary biologists. 🍀