

A photograph of a small waterfall cascading over mossy rocks in a forest with autumn foliage. The water is blurred, creating a soft, white effect as it falls. The surrounding rocks are dark and covered in green moss. The background shows trees with yellow and orange leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Glen Helen

Preserving Nature
Shaping Lives

**A Report to our
Friends...**

Annual Report
July 2020
to June 2021

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,

This has been a year of change, hope, and resurrection. Like the rest of the world, Glen Helen has navigated the COVID-19 pandemic over the last year. Yet, that is only one reason that this has been our most extraordinary year.

When our most recently completed fiscal year began on July 1, 2020, Glen Helen was closed to the public, our programs shuttered, and most of the staff had been furloughed. By that date, however, we had a framework of a way forward in place: The Glen Helen Association, which had for years served as volunteers, donors, and advocates in support of the Glen would secure the funds to purchase the preserve from Antioch College, and work to nurse it back to vibrancy.

On September 4, 2020, we signed the papers and received the “keys to the trees.” Less than a week later, the yellow caution tape at our entrances came down, and visitors were once again able to connect with nature along the trails of Glen Helen.

A milestone, to be sure, but our work was only beginning: We had only a shell of our former staff. Trail conditions were rough after the long stretch without a land management staff. Our buildings were not fit to serve schoolchildren or the public. And, we still needed to raise the funds to finance the purchase of the preserve.

It has been a year of dramatic progress, made possible by the extraordinary generosity of the two thousand people who supported Glen Helen in the past year. Your support, coupled with a heavy lift from staff and volunteers, has positioned the Glen to emerge healthier than ever, and even better positioned to shape the lives of the children we serve. Every day, we are here, working to ensure that Glen Helen continues to be healthy and accessible to visitors, and that our programs continue to shape the lives of students and the public.

We are motivated by the promise that we can make a difference – for the people of our community, our region, and the world, as well as for the land and the history that we steward within the preserve.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Boutis".

Nick Boutis, Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Geisel".

Scott Geisel, President, Glen Helen Association
Board of Trustees

Accomplishments

July 2020 to June 2021

Out in the Glen

After being closed for nearly six months, we **reopened trails** to the public on September 9, 2020. To protect public safety, the trail system was initially flagged as one-way only.

Our **ranger** had a busy year, even with the preserve closed for much of the time, interacting with Glen visitors regarding preserve rules on 1,381 occasions.

Our land management team cleared 153 **trail obstructions**.

Our advocacy efforts helped **protect the watershed** when a 300-gallon used motor oil storage container, which had been positioned just upstream of the Glen, was relocated.



Photo: Kathleen Galarza

The Inman Trail bridge over the Yellow Springs Creek is the perfect place to observe the new beaver dam.

A **family of beavers** began construction of a dam just upstream from the Inman Trail bridge over the Yellow Springs Creek. Visitors marvel at the daily changes made by the ever-busy native animals.

Our land management team and volunteers managed a host of **invasive species**, including Amur Honeysuckle, Autumn Olive, Japanese Stiltgrass, Common Privet, Tree-of-Heaven, Asian Bittersweet, Lesser Celandine, Garlic Mustard, Reed Canary Grass, and Field Vetch.

We hosted the "Brood X" 17-Year **periodic cicadas** in late spring, and measured their trill at nearly 80 decibels.

Our annual **Christmas Bird Count** was held on December 31, 2016. We found 6,536 individual birds, representing 63 species.



Photo: Kathleen Galarza

Birders explore the Glen

We found 99 species in Glen Helen during our annual **birdwatching-for-dollars** event took place on May 8, and generated \$24,012 in support of our land stewardship efforts.

With support from a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we are removing woody invasives on our **Sutton Farm** property. Our team put in 79 hours cutting honeysuckle, removed an old barbed wire fence, and planted 23 trees on the property.

Programs

We reopened the Outdoor Education Center after a fifteen-month closure, and operated at-capacity, welcoming 238 children for our summer **Ecocamps**. Featuring day programs for 5- to 13-year-olds, each Ecocamp has a unique theme designed to inspire children and bring them closer to nature.

We had another busy year for **hawk and owl rehabilitation**. In 2020, we admitted 214 birds, representing 16 species, for rehabilitation, and were able



Photo: Kathleen Galarza

Glen Helen trails were busy with visitors once we reopened to the public in September 2020

to release 79 birds for a second chance at life in the wild.

We were fortunate to be joined by three **Raptor Center interns** over the year: Andy Aparicio-Ramirez, Brooke Daeschner, and Abbey Corbin.

We conducted 74 **raptor programs**, providing 1,454 participants an up-close and personal experience with birds of prey.

Our **new educational barn owl** was a long-distance acquisition. We had to travel all the way to Oklahoma to retrieve it!

After an eight-month gap, we restarted our **public educational programs** in December 2020. We hosted 31 programs, connecting 415 participants with their environment.

We were recognized as Partner of the Year by the Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment.



David Letterman visited the Yellow Spring with Dave Chappelle, as part of the Netflix program "My Next Guest Needs No Introduction."

Collaboration and Communication

Glen Helen was featured beautifully on the Netflix show **My Next Guest Needs No Introduction with David Letterman**, during an interview with Dave Chappelle. No spoilers here, but suffice it to say that at minute 26:30, it seems that Dave and David fully committed themselves to always return to the Glen.

We were recognized as **Partner of the Year** by the Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment, at the organization's annual meeting.

Our **Fall 2020, Winter 2020-21, and Spring 2021 magazines** featured the purchase and reopening of Glen Helen, the 50th Anniversary of the Raptor Center, and the Horace Mann monument, respectively.

Social media is a significant way that we stay connected with friends and visitors. Our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/glenhelen, now has over 22,200 "likes." Our most popular post, with 34,000 views and 2,065 comments, reactions, and shares, announced news of the September 2020 trail reopening.

Administration

Zach Bollheimer joined us as our new **Land Manager**.

With funding from the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, we engaged three students – Zach Ebaugh, Tennyson Love, and Lucas Sansom – to serve as part time employees through the **Miller Fellowship program**.

The Glen Helen Association grew to become **2,141 members** strong, in support of our work.



Photo: Kathleen Galarza

The Cascades at Birch Creek observation point

We made a long list of **facilities improvements** across the Glen, including:

- A top-to-bottom renovation of the 140 year-old Mercer Farmhouse, which houses Outdoor Education Center naturalists.



Photo: Kathleen Galarza

Schoolchildren enjoying the Trailside boulder

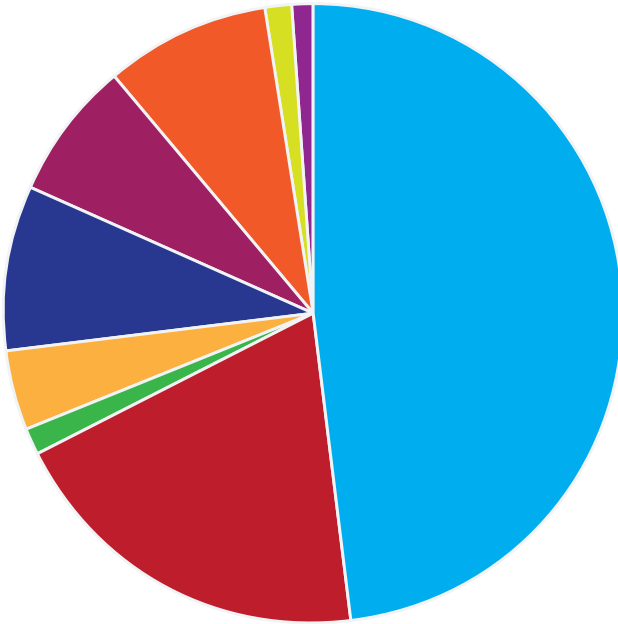
- At Outdoor Education Center Lodge, a fresh coat of paint, a new standing seam roof, a new water fountain/bottle fill station in the dining room, new stalls in the restrooms, and a new ventilation hood for the kitchen.
- Completing a new 9-enclosure rehabilitation complex at the Raptor Center.
- Protecting the Grinnell Road covered bridge, including site cleanup and removal of hazard trees, with support from the Ohio Historic Bridge Society.
- Redoing the slate patio at the Vernet Ecological Center.
- Adding filtration and air conditioning systems to the three dorms at the Outdoor Education Center.



Yellow Springs Mayor Pam Conine presents a proclamation celebrating the acquisition of Glen Helen to board members and director Nick Boutis

Finances

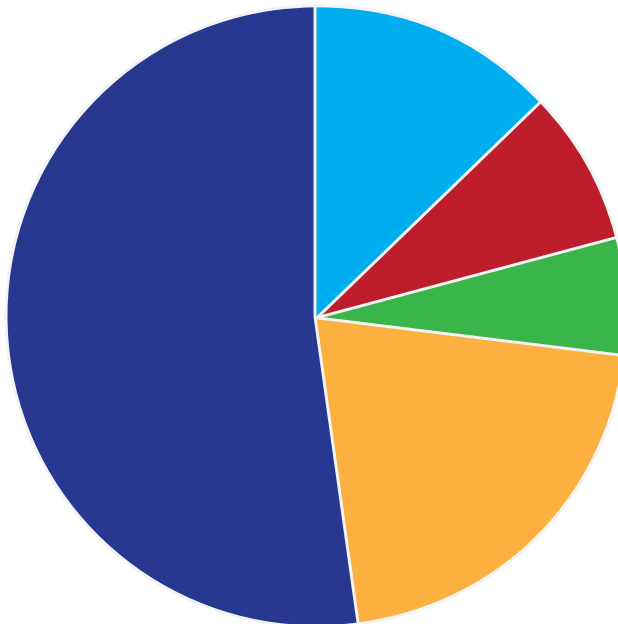
Operating Revenues



- Clockwise from top:
- 48.2% ■ Gifts \$432,658
 - 19.5% ■ Endowment Income \$175,142
 - 1.4% ■ Sales \$12,463
 - 4.0% ■ Program and Events Fees \$35,994
 - 8.8% ■ Visitor Fees \$79,361
 - 7.2% ■ Facility Rentals \$64,619
 - 8.5% ■ Grants \$77,593
 - 1.4% ■ Investment Revenue \$12,567
 - 0.9% ■ Miscellaneous \$7,200

Total Operating Revenues: \$897,597

Operating Expenditures



- Clockwise from top:
- 13% ■ Endowmental Education \$98,892
 - 8% ■ Raptor Center \$62,001
 - 6% ■ Land Management \$45,950
 - 21% ■ Facilities \$163,884
 - 52% ■ Administration \$407,993

Total Operating Expenditures: \$778,680

Staff and Board

Glen Helen Association Staff

- Zach Bollheimer Land Manager
- Nick Boutis, Executive Director
- Sarah Cline, Outdoor Education Center Director
- Tom Clevenger, Director of Finance and Administration
- Sam Crawford, Maintenance Assistant
- Laurie Freeman, Outreach Manager
- Rebecca Jaramillo, Raptor Center Director
- Kelsey Mazur, Outdoor Education Center Assistant Director
- Shannon Schenck, Outdoor Education Center Business Manager
- Susan Smith, Ranger
- Shahkar Strolger, Property Manager

Glen Helen Association Board of Trustees

- Bruce Bradtmiller
- Ken Dahms
- Emily Foubert
- Scott Geisel (President)
- Ben Hooper
- Jon Horvath
- Jeremy Main (Treasurer)
- Betty Ross (Vice President)
- Dan Rudolf
- Paul Sampson
- Kat Walter (Secretary)

The Glen Helen Legacy Society: Stories of Stewardship



Toshiko Asakawa

Tosh Asakawa lived an extraordinary and long life, passing away in 2020 at the age of 100. She trained as a nurse, then a researcher, then a librarian. A California native, she was one of many Japanese Americans to be imprisoned in an internment camp during World War II.

For well over half her life, she was active as a volunteer and supporter of Glen Helen. In the early 1970s, she, along with her late husband George, helped secure the funds to build the Vernet Ecological Center, our main visitor's and office facility. She and George commissioned lauded artist Charley Harper to paint the now iconic image of Glen Helen in springtime, replete with row after row of white trilliums. Using her library skills, she curated the Glen's collection of books, journals, and files.

She was also an avid gardener. Into her nineties, she continued to care for the plants in the atrium of the Vernet Ecological Center. This required carrying around a step stool, climbing said step stool with a watering can, and leaning across a stone seating area to the plants beyond. The atrium didn't have enough light to keep the plants happy, so Tosh would rotate them out periodically, bringing the plants home to provide them with some TLC, and placing new plants in the building.

On her passing, we were profoundly grateful to learn that Toshiko had included the Glen Helen Association in her estate plans.

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 and Toshiko Asakawa*, Robert Baldwin, Sr.*, Ruth and Tony Bent, Hugh Taylor Birch*, Sylvia Carter Denny*, Dr. George W. Comstock*, Neil Dawson* and Deann Ward, Robert Grimm*, Ann O. Edison*, Joan Edwards*, Janet Hackett*, Robert Hankey, Jr.*, Ellen Mayer*, Charlie and Glenora Mercer*, Judy Oplinger, Susanne Oldham*, Gloria Jean Pauzar*, Jim Perry*, Ruth Rickett*, Betty Ross, Deborah Stokes*, Deborah L. Stone*, Ellen Stutz*, Kenneth C. Tregillus*, Robert Van Lehn*, Beverly Viemeister*, Mary White, Jill Wilson*
* deceased

Glen Helen Association Members and Supporters

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.

Corporate Contributions

A-C Service Company, Adoption Link, Inc., American Parts Depot, Anthrotech, Apple, Belden, Calypso Grill and Smokehouse,

The Glen Helen Association grew to more than 2,000 members.

Catalpa Lane Pottery, Chevron, Countryside Animal Hospital, Craig T. Matthews and Associates, LPA, DeLong Air, Inc., Flying Mouse Farms, Ha Ha Pizza, IBM International Foundation, Margaret A. Hamilton, O.D., Inc., Microsoft Matching Gifts Program, Screenplay, Synchrony Financial, TEGNA Foundation, Thermo Fisher, Tom's Market, Whole Foods Market, Wild Birds Unlimited, Yellow Springs Chiropractic, Yellow Springs Pottery, LLC, Yellow Springs Psychological Center

Grants

Carillon Eagle Friends, Chemed Foundation, Della Selsor Trust, DeWine Family Foundation, Frank Pace Jr. Foundation, Inc., The Clara Weiss Fund, Mathile Family Foundation, Morgan Family Foundation, The SEK Keystone Preservation Trust, Szilagyi Family Foundation, The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation, Yellow Springs Community Foundation

Public funds

USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Village of Yellow Springs, Yellow Springs Exempted School District

Nonprofit contributors

Antioch School, EMU: The Environmental Mobile Unit, I.O.O.F. Lodge 279, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs, Yellow Springs Friends Meeting

Contributors, \$100-\$999

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Stories of Stewardship



Joan Edwards

Joan was a resident of Yellow Springs since the 1970s, when she joined the faculty of Antioch College as an assistant professor of physiological ecology, making use of her Ph.D. in endocrinology. After leaving Antioch in 1979, she earned a degree in nursing, and went on to a long career as an emergency room nurse died at Green Memorial Hospital. Even before becoming a nurse she served the Yellow Springs community well as a member of the Fire and Emergency Squad, which she continued to do for many years, such was her desire to help people.

She had wide-ranging interests that spanned music, art, pottery, knitting, travel, hiking, gardening, cooking, and her beloved dogs. Joan passed away in December 2019. We were delighted to learn that she had directed a portion of her estate to Glen Helen.

Adams, Lora Ellis-Mazzaro and Mario Mazzaro, Eric Rowley Elliston, Arida Emrys, Claire Enterline, Brian and Traci Erickson, Jennifer Erickson, Keith and Joan Erickson, Staffan and Anne Erickson, Audrey Ernst, Peggy Erskine, Becky Eschliman, Eric Espinosa, Bill and Kathy Estep, Bill and Phyllis Evans, Carrie Evans, James and Barbara Evans, Naomi Ewald, Sonia and Larry Ewald, Jonathan Falk, Rebecca and Phil Fannin, Cindy Farley, James Faulconer, David and Ann Fay, Phillip and Catherine Fay, Bill Felker, Glenn Feltz, Jeff Ferguson, Emily Fine, Ernest and Susan Strong Fine, John and Ann Finlay, Kathie Finney, Susan and William Firestone, Ms. Kristin Firth and Mr. Jay Taylor, Larry and Kim Fish, Joe and Amy Fisher, Mary and Trent Fisher, Phyllis Fisher, Kris Fister, James and Kathryn Flannery, Lara Flaute, Eve Fleck, Michael and Leigh Fletcher, Richard and Marie Flickinger, Phil Flynn, Michelle Ann and CJ Fogarty, Caelan Ford, Deborah Gates Ford and Kenneth Gilfillan, Gary Ford, Elizabeth Fox, Debbie Fralick, Richard Francaviglia, Linda Francis, Ann and Detlef Frank, Mark French and James Nealon, Amanda Frey, Martin L. Fried, William Frieler, Steve and Rose Fryburg, Mark and Joanne Fuchs, John and Elaine Gaglione, John R. Gall, Joseph and Joan Gallagher, Ginger Gandy and Pam Jacobson, Michelle Gantt, Cathy Gardner, Karen Gardner, Benjamin Gatson, Nicole and Brian Gay, Turiya Gearhart, Patty Gehring and Kitty Jensen, Scott and Pam Geisel, Erna Gelles and Alan MacCormack, Paul and Rike Gemin, David Gentry, Sarah Gerould, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Gerstle, George Gianakopoulos, Ben and Michelle Gibbons, Scott Gilkeson, Rebecca Gilmore, Rebecca and Adrian Gilmore, Lois Gladchild, Michael Glover and Christopher Queen, Jacob Goble, Timothy Gockel, Lisa Goldberg, David Goodman, Beth and Harold Goodrich, Susan and Richard Gosnell, Amanda Gotschall, Anne Gottschalk, Terry and Mahya Graham, Robert Grahamjones, Kevin Green, Diane and Saul Greenberg, Carl K. Greene, Don and Diana Gregory, Michael and Sharon Greitzer, Anne and Ed Griffith, Owen and Toni Griffith, John Grote and Liz Blakelock, Erika Grushon, D.C., Jody Guenther, Joe and Sandy Guilfoyle, Christina Gustin and Jason Hogg, Caroline Guthrie, Elizabeth and Michael Gutmann, Lisa

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We reopened the Outdoor Education Center after a fifteen-month closure, and welcomed 238 children for our summer Ecocamps.

Mark Kiedrowski, Donald Kincaid, Lori Kinney, Matthew and Kristina Kirk, Jaime Kirkpatrick, Susan Klein, Karl Kleiner, Joseph Knapp and Sarah Pines, Gabriele Knecht, Nancy C. Knickerbocker, Robert Abowitz and Kathleen Knight-Abowitz, Nancy J Knisley, Sarah Knudsen, Elizabeth Koehler, John Koerner, Lorraine Kogler, Joseph and Anita Kohler, David B. Kopacz, Ione Kotis, William Kovacs, II, Bob Kozmar, Janet Craig Krack, Catherine Kramer, Kenneth J. Kramer, Len Kramer and Toni Dosik, Michael J Kraus, Kevin and Marilyn Kreider, Keith and Elaine Kresge, Robert and Carol Krinsky, John Kristan, Shirley Kristensen, Michael and Amy Krug, Lori Kuhn and Karl Hendrickson, Richard Kutter, Kelly and Eric Kyser, Jill and Paco Labrador, Ashley and Dirk Lackovich-Van Gorp, Amy Lamborg, Gary Lamont, Conrad Landola and Sonia Nelson, John and Sally Lane, Ms. Susannah Lane, Judith Lang, Avrum and Dannette Lank, David LaRose, Tom and Janet Lasley, Albert and Patricia Laszlo, Shane and Mary Latham, Betsy and Martin Lavelle, Clinton Lawhorne, Julia Lee, Lawrence Lee and Carol Lynn Dimond, Stuart and Barbara Leeds, April Lemaster, Christopher Lemon, Hans D Lenz, Gavin DeVore Leonard, Gary and Patti Leppla, Carolyn Lethert, Rita Lethert, Kate LeVesconte and Steve McColaugh, Randy and Kathy Levine, Ann Lewkowicz, Brian Liming, John Limoli, Greg Lind, Carolyn Lindberg, Teri and David Linden, Nancy Lineburgh, Harold and Joyce Lingo, Dave and Christy Linnenkohl, Eileen and Steve Litchfield, James and Teresa Little, Cindy Livezey, Kat Livingston, Esther Lloyd, Thea Lopatka and Amando Komoda, Robert and Jean Lorenzetti, Greg Love, Linn and Jerry Lowry, Kevin and Brittnee Lydy, Karl and Maggie Mahle, Bruce and Cheryl Maier, Jeremy and Katherine Main, Michelle Maitland, Becky and James Makley, Robert and Molly Mann, Ildikó Marcus, Lise Maring, Dr. Richard and Elizabeth Marsh, Laura Marshall and Howard Horstman, R.A. Martineau and Jane Dorsey, Anne Martinson, Aimee and Benji Maruyama, Sho Maruyama, Alexandra Marvar, Nicole Marvin, Barbara and Marc Masquelier, Craig T. Matthews, Richard and Vicki Matthies, Ken and Darrell May, Jim and Theresa Mayer, Lynn Mazur, Tom and Barb McBee, Rebecca McClung, Alecia and Peter McClure, Virginia

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Stories of Stewardship



Ellen Mayer

Ellen was a Dayton-area native, who graduated from Fairborn High School and lived in Troy, and was a social worker by training. Over her career, she worked for Miami and Montgomery County Mental Health Department, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Miami County, Miami County Juvenile Probation and the Troy-Miami County Public Library. She passed away in June 2019.

Ellen's philanthropic priority was affordable health care, and she created the Ellen Mayer Charitable Fund at the Dayton Foundation to support the Health Partners Free Clinic, where she was a long-time volunteer.

By also including Glen Helen in her estate plans, she helped ensure that our work could continue as well.

Stories of Stewardship



Sylvia Carter Denny (Miller)

Sylvia had a spark of warmth and energy about her that could lull you into believing that she was much younger than she was. Even though she had made us aware that Glen Helen was in her estate plans years ago, we always thought that she had many more years left. She passed away peacefully in May 2021, at the age of 87.

She was dedicated to social justice and environmental issues, often the first person to volunteer when there was an opportunity to educate and advocate on issues she held dear, such as climate change.

As a member of the Unitarian Universalist fellowship in Yellow Springs, she once invited Glen Helen staff to provide a tour of the church groups to members of the congregation. She hoped that the members of the church could learn more about the habitats found on their property, and take action to make it as healthy as possible.

Sylvia directed her planned gift to the Glen Helen endowment, to ensure that her support would be ongoing evermore. We are so grateful to her.

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We admitted 214 birds to the Raptor Center for rehabilitation, and released 79 birds for a second chance at life in the wild.

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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 \$1,000 or more, ensures the fiscal health of Glen Helen.

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