

In the Glen

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
GLEN HELEN ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2024



COVER: Make it Count for the Birds... Inspiring folks who care about wildlife, birds, and habitat. *Photo by Scott Stolsenberg*



From the Director

In this issue of *In the Glen*, we take stock of our birding-for-dollars fundraiser, **Make it Count for the Birds**. I'm a data guy, so I had a lot of fun first plugging in the records for each of our 17 years of this annual birdwatching marathon, and then pouring over the results to look at the trends.

After all, the data tell many stories for us—it tells us what birds are here every year (like a Blue Jay), and what birds are hardly ever here (like a Greater Yellowlegs, which we've only seen once).

I was also curious to see what the data might tell us about changes over time. Are there species that have gotten scarcer since 2007 when we started the count? Are there species that have gotten easier to find? It looks like the answer is a firm yes to both questions. Thankfully, we have more species become easier to find than the other way around! For ten species where I see a significant change over the time we've been doing the count, see the chart on page 9.

Of these, only one—the Pine Warbler—has gotten harder to find. We found them about half the time through 2014, but not since then. This is a well-named bird, with a definite preference for pine trees. As our Pine Forest has declined, they have found less suitable habitat in the preserve.

The other nine species have gotten easier to find. In the case of the Rock Pigeon and the House Finch, I think it's mostly because we now know where to look—close to downtown Yellow Springs! Then, there are species that have gotten more common overall, and we are seeing that play out in the Glen. I'd put Wild Turkey and Bald Eagle in that category. There are also species whose range is expanding northward, perhaps in response to climate change. Black Vulture fits into this category.

This leaves Red-Headed Woodpecker, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Cape May Warbler. With the caveat that more research would always be helpful, it seems to me that these species are finding more of the habitat they need in the Glen. Take the Prothonotary Warbler as an example—this lemon-headed beauty likes to nest in wet woods with mature trees. The area around the beaver pond is perfect for them!

The bird list ends up being a bit of a gut check on our land management strategies, because it shows us what wildlife we support in Glen Helen. If we make good stewardship decisions, we can expect to see the abundance and diversity of birds grow. So far, so good!

Nick Boutis
Executive Director, Glen Helen Association

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

Contributors
Editor: Nick Boutis; Contributors: Mariela Gantchoff, Dustin Holmes, Rebecca Jaramillo, Ashley Lackovich-Van Gorp, Steve Strauss; Design: Jennifer Perry

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 Offices
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
937-769-1902

Vernet Ecological Center
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Daily 10am-4pm (except holidays)

Nature Shop
Located in the Vernet Ecological Center
Thurs-Sun, 10am-4pm

Trailside Museum
505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs
Opening Spring 2024. 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 937-767-6656

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.

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www.glenhelen.org

— Nature's Engineers —

Watching an expansion of a new Beaver Colony

If you've been to the Glen recently then you may have noticed some new residents have moved in. Over the past three years, beavers have been in the process of making the Glen their home, and now their dam and subsequent pond are so large that a boardwalk needed to be enlarged three times in order to accommodate it. While the staff is excited to welcome these important ecosystem engineers; they present some management challenges.

The term ecosystem engineer refers to an organism that changes its environment to create new habitat for itself and other species. Beavers are one of the most well-known ecosystem engineers and are very important to ecosystems across the United States. While they used to be plentiful in Ohio, in the 1830s they went locally extinct due to unregulated fur trade; however, since the mid 1900s they have begun to recover.

The challenge at Glen Helen is that the beavers have placed their dam very close to a frequently used trail, causing issues to existing hiking trails and putting the beavers at risk for unwanted human interaction. That is why the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Lab at the University of Dayton has started researching the beavers to determine their activity patterns, what tree species and sizes they prefer, and what effect they might have on the other wildlife in the reserve.

After a year and a half of research, the lab has made a few discoveries. By setting up wildlife cameras we have found that the beavers are most active in the early morning and dusk, which is when they exhibit felling behavior (you might call it chewing trees). Beavers are active at these times mainly because they are very vulnerable to predators when chewing on trees so they use the darkness as camouflage. We have observed two beavers working together on the same tree, so it would appear a bonded pair is occupying the area and will likely reproduce in the near future. It was also discovered that the beavers preferred maple, oak, and hackberry trees over other



A trail cam captured this image of two beavers working by night to fell a tree.

species. These trees might be preferred due to their size, different hardness of the wood, and close proximity to the water. Yet, there is still a lot to learn about these beavers.

“Beavers are one of the most well-known ecosystem engineers and are very important to ecosystems across the United States.”

We have more projects planned for 2024, including a more detailed tree selection study and a survey of new aquatic wildlife in the beaver pond, such as amphibians, reptiles, birds, and macroinvertebrates. It is exciting to see this keystone species returning to the area, however, both research and management are needed to facilitate their coexistence with the Glen and its visitors for the long term.

Dustin Holmes and Mariela Gantchoff, *The University of Dayton*

— The Power of Planned Giving —

A Legacy of Love for Glen Helen



Glen Helen is itself a testament to the enduring impact of planned giving. It was the visionary generosity of Hugh Taylor Birch that preserved this beautiful glen in honor of his daughter, Helen. Today, you can carry on this remarkable legacy of love and ensure Glen Helen remains a vibrant sanctuary for generations to come.

Planned giving is a powerful way to extend your commitment to Glen Helen beyond your lifetime. It allows you to make a significant contribution—often larger than you might think—while still taking care of your own needs and providing for your loved ones.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving encompasses a variety of charitable giving options that are arranged as part of overall financial and estate planning. Some popular planned giving options include:

- **Bequests:** One of the simplest ways to create an enduring legacy, a bequest is a gift through your will or living trust. You can designate a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or specific assets to Glen Helen.
- **Gifts of Life Insurance:** By naming Glen Helen as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, you can make a substantial gift to support our mission.
- **Retirement Assets:** Leaving retirement assets (like an IRA, 401(k), or pension) to the Glen Helen Association can reduce the tax burden on your heirs. Update your beneficiary with your plan administrator.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts:** This method allows you to donate assets, such as stocks or real estate, to a trust that provides income to you or your beneficiaries for a specified time. The remaining assets ultimately pass to Glen Helen.



Benefits of Planned Giving

Beyond the profound impact your gift has on the future of Glen Helen, planned giving offers numerous benefits:

- **Tax Advantages:** Many planned giving options provide significant tax benefits, including income tax deductions, reduced capital gains taxes, and potential estate tax savings.
- **Flexibility:** Planned giving can be customized to meet your unique needs and goals. You can choose a method that fits comfortably within your overall estate plan.

The Glen Helen Legacy Society

When you make a planned gift, you become a member of the Glen Helen Legacy Society, a community of dedicated supporters committed to preserving the Glen's future. Their generosity creates a lasting legacy, ensuring the beauty and educational opportunities of the Glen endure for generations to come.

If you've already included Glen Helen in your estate plans, please update any references to "Glen Helen Ecology Institute" or "Antioch College" to "Glen Helen Association" to ensure your gift is directed appropriately.

"... Glen Helen remains a vibrant sanctuary for generations to come!"

We're Here to Help

If you're considering leaving a legacy, our Development Director, Ashley Lackovich-van Gorp, would be honored to speak with you. Reach out at alackovich@glenhelenassociation.org or (937) 708-0144 to explore how your generosity can make a lasting difference. We hold all planned giving conversations in confidence.

If you've already included the Glen in your estate plans, please let us know. We would love to celebrate you and your commitment to Glen Helen.

 Ashley Lackovich-Van Gorp, Development Director
alackovich@glenhelenassociation.org



— Raptor Center Update —
Building Access

If you have visited the Raptor Center recently you may have noticed quite a bit of construction and commotion and a distinct lack of raptors, but it's all for a good reason! The Raptor Center has always been one of the more easily visited parts of the Glen due to the drive-up nature of the Center, but now we are taking our accessibility to a whole new level with an upgraded parking area and a sidewalk all up to current ADA standards. Our patio is getting a big upgrade as well, and will be able to double as an outdoor classroom space on sunny days allowing the birds and people a shady spot to get up close to our non-releasable avian ambassadors.



These efforts will make the Raptor Center fully accessible to anyone with mobility restrictions and will make visiting the center a reality for many people who previously were unable to. We believe access to learning and building connection with our natural world is a fundamental activity that should be available to everyone and what better way to do this than by meeting raptors up close.

Once the construction has finished, we will be expanding our weekend activities as well by offering a free, drop-in raptor talk at the Center every Saturday at 1pm in June-August. These talks will vary and will feature a live raptor native to Ohio. Learn about their specialized adaptations, how they survive, why they came to live at the center, and other fascinating facts. Raptor talks are appropriate for all ages and will be sure to engage and fascinate everyone. We can't wait to open our doors again and welcome you in!

 Rebecca Jaramillo, Raptor Center Director, rjaramillo@glenhelenassociation.org



The new ADA compliant sidewalk takes shape around the raptor enclosures.

Rent The Glen

Did you know that Glen Helen has many unique rental facilities for hosting a variety of functions such as weddings, graduation parties, reunions, celebrations of life and business retreats?




Vernet Ecological Center



Camp Greene



Birch Manor


Vernet Ecological Center
 With its spacious auditorium and beautiful natural stone patio, Vernet Ecological Center is the perfect space for weddings, receptions, celebrations of life, dances, and business meetings.

Capacity: 140 seated theatre-style or 80 seated at tables
 Rental Season: Year-round


Camp Greene

The 200-person capacity lodge and outdoor spaces make Camp Greene the ideal private location for weddings, receptions, family reunions, business retreats, and celebrations of life.

Capacity: 200
 Rental Season: April 1 - November 14


Birch Manor

Birch Manor's historic home and surrounding lawns are a welcoming setting for weddings, receptions, and business retreats.

Capacity: 110 indoors or 150 outdoors
 Rental Season: Year-round

Please visit glenhelen.org/rentals for photos and information. For rates, questions, or to schedule a tour of any of our facilities, contact Ashley Mason at rentals@glenhelenassociation.org or 937-769-1902 ext. 1101.



Pull Out Program Calendar >

Glen Helen Summer Program Calendar

JUNE JULY AUGUST 2024



Group sizes are limited. Register early to ensure your participation. Many programs are discounted for Glen Helen members. Please visit glenhelen.org to register or to learn more.



Photo: Susan Smith

Recurring Programs

SATURDAYS in June, July, August:
Summer Raptor Talks
1pm

Visit the Raptor Center for a 20-minute raptor talk. This is a free, drop-in talk that will take place every Saturday in June, July, and August on the Raptor Center lawn. Heavy wind or rain may result in a cancellation of this program. Bring a dollar to drop in the donation bin if you feel inspired. Raptor Center: 1075 State Route 343. Repeats every Saturday.

THURSDAYS in June, July, August
Golden Walkers' Club
10-11am

Gather in the Glen for a slow-paced walk on an easy wooded trail. Enjoy the beauty of the Glen and each other's company while getting some mild morning exercise. Geared toward older adults, but all ages and abilities are welcome. Registration suggested, walk-ins welcome. Weather permitting. Cost: Free. Parking: Free for program participants. Meet outside the Vernet Ecological Center at the far end of the parking lot. 405 Corry St. Co-sponsored by the Yellow Springs Senior Center and the Glen Helen Association. For registration, through Yellow Springs Senior Center, contact Maggie Dean at MDean@ysseniors.org or 937-767-5751 (no club July 4)

JUNE

15 SAT

Honey Harvest Fest
11am-4pm

Hosted by Greene County Beekeepers Association as a way to educate the community about bees. Festival displays include beekeeping equipment, bee suits, video footage of bees and a closed observational hive. Hands-on activities for the public such as a supervised honey extraction and filtering process, and observation of bottling honey. Fun hands-on children's activities, plus try your hand at beeswax candle rolling! Pure, local honey and items will be for sale, which serves as a fundraiser for the bee club. Free, family-friendly event. No pre-registration needed. Camp Greene, 3452 Grinnell Rd. Yellow Springs. For more information, go to gcbkeepers.org.

16 SUN

Father's Day Raptor Photo Program
8-9:30am

Morning! Bring your father to this special photohoot event, whether you use a cell phone or a Nikon to capture the moment, the birds always fulfill the promise of a special memory to share together. Take photos of hawks, owls, and falcons against the natural background of the forest and experience the beauty of a bird on the wing as she flies to her perch or her handler! Make it a Father's Day your dad will never forget. Participant cost: \$60 per person, (\$50 for members) limit 25. Due to the up close nature of this event, no non-ticketed observers please. Rain date: Sunday June 30. Raptor Center: 1075 State Route 343.

21 FRI

Strawberry Full Moon Hike
9-10:30pm

Embark on a journey under the glow of the full moon. Led by the knowledgeable Brendan Baumann, this moderate one-mile hike promises awe-inspiring views and memorable moments. The Strawberry Full Moon marks the beginning of strawberry harvesting season. It symbolizes abundance, renewal, and the richness of nature's bounty. We recommend bringing a small or red flashlight. Preregistration required at glenhelen.org. \$5, members free. Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.

23 SUN

Summer Birding
8-10am

We'll search the area around the Little Miami River for breeding birds on this one-mile walk. \$5, members free. Grinnell Mill: 3536 Bryan Park Rd.

27 THUR

Screech Owl Release Program
7:30-8:30pm

Every year the Raptor Center takes in young screech owls that were displaced from their nests and raises them onsite. Help us celebrate their rehab "graduation" and watch as they take flight on their road to freedom. A short owl program will begin promptly at 7:30pm and the release will follow. Bring a folding chair or blanket to sit on. Program will proceed in light rain. Heavy rain or wind will necessitate a cancellation. Program will be held at Camp Greene: 3452 Grinnell Rd.



Photo: Emma Jones

JULY

7 SUN

Art and Raptors
6-8pm

Calling all Artists! Come sit with a live raptor model for an evening to sketch and draw at this indoor program! Join us to learn some techniques for drawing birds of prey, even if you have never picked up a sketchbook. Practice your skills in your preferred art medium, or make use of the charcoal and pencils provided by the Raptor Center. Program fee of \$30 per participant (\$20 for members), limit 15. Raptor Center: 1075 State Route 343.

13 SAT

Summer Birding
8-10am

We'll search the area around the Little Miami River for breeding birds on this one-mile walk. \$5, members free. Grinnell Mill: 3536 Bryan Park Rd.

20 SAT

Buck Full Moon Hike
9-10:30pm

Dive into an evening of wonder and exploration, led by guides Pan Reich and Brendan Baumann, spanning a moderate one-mile hike on the Inman Trail. The Buck Full Moon was named by ancient cultures in reverence to the noble deer, it symbolizes strength, renewal, and the harmonious rhythms of the natural world. We recommend bringing a small or red flashlight. Preregistration required at glenhelen.org. \$5, members free. Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.

27 SAT

Feather Festival
Noon-3pm

Who doesn't love feathers?! Join us at the Raptor Center to celebrate the beauty of feathers with crafts, feather painting, educational activities and live birds! Learn about what feathers are made of, how to identify a feather by its shape and size, and which feathers are legal to own and use in your own home or use in arts and crafts. Free to the public; a \$5/person suggested donation is appreciated to help support the birds. Raptor Center: 1075 State Route 343.

AUGUST

6 TUES

Eco-Book Club: Reason for Hope
by Jane Goodall
6-7:30pm

Join us for an inspiring discussion of Jane Goodall's book, *Reason for Hope*, led by Glen Helen Development Director, Ashley Lackovich. Goodall's book delves into the resilience of nature, the indomitable spirit of humanity, and the transformative power of our own reasons for hope. Tea & light refreshments will be available. Registration required & space is limited. \$5, members free. Grinnell Mill, 3536 Bryan Park Rd.



Photo: Kayla Nagle

11 SUN

Raptor Photo Program
8-9:30am

Calling all photographers! Take advantage of the soft morning light and photograph the majestic raptors at the Raptor Center. This session will feature our flyers so bring your action lenses! \$60 per person (\$50 for members). In order to provide the best experience for the photographers as possible, no non-ticketed observers will be permitted. August 18 rain date. Raptor Center: 1075 State Route 343.

17 SAT

Late Summer Birding
8-10am

We'll search the Glen for summer residents and southward migrants on this one-mile walk. \$5, members free. Grinnell Mill: 3536 Bryan Park Rd.



19 MON

Sturgeon Full Moon Hike
9-11pm

Join our esteemed guides Tom Sabin, Pan Reich, Paul Sampson, and Brendan Baumann for a moderately strenuous three-mile hike to the Pine Forest and nearby School Forest. Named by indigenous cultures in honor of the mighty sturgeon fish, revered for its strength and resilience, the Sturgeon Full Moon represents endurance, transformation, and the abundance of nature's bounty. We recommend bringing a small or red flashlight. Preregistration required at glenhelen.org. \$5, members free. Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.



— Glen Helen —

Announcements

Bird Seed Sale!

Did you know you can purchase bird seed at the Nature Shop? We stock locally-grown high quality black oil sunflower seed! Just \$20 for a 25 lb. bag.

Glen Helen members receive a 25% discount. Order your seed online at glenhelen.org/birdseedsale or purchase at the Nature Shop.



Glen Helen Calendar '25 Photo Submissions

We invite both first-time visitors and longtime friends to send us photographs taken in the Glen including landscapes and natural attractions in the preserve, macro, and micro pictures of flora and fauna, and resident birds at the Raptor Center.

For consideration, please submit photos and a release form online by 5 pm on August 16, 2024. For more information, go to www.glenhelen.org/photo-contest



License Plate

Support the Glen with a License Plate! Plus, as a bonus, it comes with a Charley Harper sapsucker. Any Ohio car owner can acquire the tag, either from your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles office, or by visiting oplates.com.

Through your purchase, the Glen Helen Association receives \$15/year.



Grinnell Mill



Grinnell Mill Bed & Breakfast offers beautiful accommodations in an expertly restored, historic grist mill on the banks of the Little Miami River. A freshly prepared continental style breakfast and Wi-Fi access are included during your stay. The mill is also available to rent for private events such as retreats, meetings, conferences, parties, etc.

For more information or availability: visit grinnellmillbandb.com. Ready to book your stay? Call Susie Butler at 937-307-5529 to request a reservation.

— Cover Story —

Making it Count for the Birds



Cerulean Warbler



Barred Owl



Wood Duck

In May of 2007, we started a new event, one that was equal parts fundraiser, marathon, and citizen science effort. Then-Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Steffen coined the name—**Make it Count for the Birds**. The idea was simple—in one 24 hour period, how many bird species could we find in Glen Helen? We'd spend the full day scouring the preserve, visiting all of the various habitat types, and we would do this at what we hoped would be the peak of spring migration, on the Saturday closest to the 7th of May. We also hoped the event would inspire folks who cared about wildlife, birds, and the land stewardship work of the Glen. We wondered, would people be interested in sponsoring our count, where they would pledge a donation contingent on the number of species we saw. The answer, overwhelmingly, was yes.

Over the years, we've raised nearly a quarter million dollars in support of our land stewardship work, and in the process learned a great deal about the birds of Glen Helen. Every year, we generate a new suite of memories at the event, but here are some that stick out in my mind:

Nancy Bent and Roger Reason were two of the birders who came out to help find birds in our first year. I remember that we were standing near the Native American burial mound on the Inman Trail, when we heard a sound that I wasn't familiar with. But Nancy recognized it as a juvenile Great-horned Owl calling for food. A moment later, we watched as the parent circled around us, bringing their youngster a meal.

The toughest year we had was in 2014. It was cold, and rainy, and the rain just got harder and more relentless as the day went on. And yet, we lucked into one of the most unlikely sightings we've ever found, when we crested the slope at Baldwin Pond by the Outdoor Education Center, and saw an American Bittern straight ahead of us. Kim Carlson, who was in the group that day, is a highly experienced birder, but she had never seen this species before. So there we stood, with rain pouring off us and our binoculars, watching this rarity. And for a moment, it didn't matter that we were all soaked.

In 2018 we hit our all time high count of species, thanks in large part to heroic, dare I say legendary birding from Emma Loomis-Amrhein, who individually found 100 species in the preserve that day. I would not have believed it was possible, except that it happened. We (and especially Emma) found everything you'd expect to find (like Carolina Chickadee), essentially everything that you'd hope to find (like Cerulean Warbler), plus a few species that you wouldn't even think it was possible to find, such as Greater Yellowlegs.

It was a weird count in 2020. It was the height of the COVID pandemic, and the Glen was still closed to the public, but we decided to go ahead with the event. We were so concerned about contagions and social distancing that we didn't schedule any organized hikes, instead asking folks to go out on their own, and report back. It was eerie and beautiful to be in the preserve at a time that it was otherwise closed.

It was almost like the plants and wildlife had taken over during the months that people were away. All of our observers reported that there were birds everywhere they went. That year wasn't our highest count in terms of number of species, but it was the year that we found the most individual birds. I recall that three times over the course of the day, I found Red-headed Woodpeckers, the rarest woodpecker possible in these parts.

Last year was an exasperating count, because you could tell we were just a few days too early. While we found plenty of birds, our species count was only 82, close to our all-time low. Within days after the count however, we were seeing and hearing multiple species that hadn't yet arrived by count day. Eastern Wood-pewee is an example. We searched and searched, but never found one. Then on Monday morning, I got back to work and instantly heard one on my way into the office. Ah well.

2024 was another banner year, with 98 species found, including a new species for the count—a pair of Gadwall ducks that flew over the Glen, and happened to be spotted by two groups in different areas of the preserve.

There are so many variables that go into determining how well the count will go. First and foremost is the availability of habitat. You can find so many different bird species in Glen Helen because of the size, diversity, and quality of habitats here. The better a job that we do at stewarding the preserve, the more desirable the preserve will be as a home and visiting ground for wildlife. Beyond that, it helps to have perfect weather—not rainy, not windy, not freezing cold. Many bird species migrate at night, and the year that we had our best count of all, there were a line of storms that passed to our north the night before. Birds that were in Glen Helen that might have wanted to keep moving toward Canada stayed put, and birds that otherwise might have flown right over the Glen came down for a visit. Also, it helps to have a solid number of strong observers, who are both able to hear faint high-pitched calls of migrating warblers, and know what they're listening to. And, it helps to be lucky. Every year, there are number of birds that are only seen or heard once during the day. Look the right way, and you see it; look the wrong way, and you miss it. Some years, we somehow manage to be looking the right way more often than not.

 Nick Boutis, Executive Director, nboutis@glenhelen.org

Cumulative list of birds found in Glen Helen during Make it Count:

Canada Goose	Philadelphia Vireo
Wood Duck	Warbling Vireo
Blue-winged Teal	Red-eyed Vireo
Gadwall	Blue Jay
Mallard	American Crow
Northern Bobwhite	Carolina Chickadee
Wild Turkey	Tufted Titmouse
Ring-necked Pheasant	Horned Lark
Horned Grebe	Bank Swallow
Rock Pigeon	Tree Swallow
Mourning Dove	Purple Martin
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Black-billed Cuckoo	Barn Swallow
Chimney Swift	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Killdeer	White-breasted Nuthatch
Spotted Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Solitary Sandpiper	Brown Creeper
Greater Yellowlegs	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Double-crested Cormorant	House Wren
American Bittern	Marsh Wren
Green Heron	Carolina Wren
Great Blue Heron	European Starling
Black Vulture	Gray Catbird
Turkey Vulture	Brown Thrasher
Osprey	Northern Mockingbird
Northern Harrier	Eastern Bluebird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Veery
Cooper's Hawk	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Bald Eagle	Swainson's Thrush
Red-shouldered Hawk	Hermit Thrush
Broad-winged Hawk	Wood Thrush
Red-tailed Hawk	American Robin
Great Horned Owl	Cedar Waxwing
Barred Owl	House Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	House Finch
Red-headed Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
Downy Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Hairy Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Pileated Woodpecker	Field Sparrow
Northern Flicker	American Tree Sparrow
American Kestrel	White-crowned Sparrow
Olive-sided Flycatcher	White-throated Sparrow
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Song Sparrow
Acadian Flycatcher	Lincoln's Sparrow
Least Flycatcher	Swamp Sparrow
Eastern Phoebe	Eastern Towhee
Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow-breasted Chat
Eastern Kingbird	Eastern Meadowlark
White-eyed Vireo	Orchard Oriole
Yellow-throated Vireo	Baltimore Oriole
Blue-headed Vireo	

Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Waterthrush
Golden-winged Warbler
Blue-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler

Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Northern Parula

Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Yellow-throated Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Canada Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting

Species/year	2007	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Wild Turkey			X						X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Rock Pigeon						X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Vulture			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bald Eagle										X				X	X		
Red-headed Woodpecker										X	X	X		X	X	X	X
House Finch					X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prothonotary Warbler		X	X			X						X	X	X	X	X	X
Kentucky Warbler									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cape May Warbler										X	X	X	X	X			X
Pine Warbler			X			X	X	X									X



Juvenile Eastern Wood-Pewee perched on a branch



75

OF SPECIES WE HOPED TO FIND THE FIRST YEAR OF THE EVENT



80

FEWEST SPECIES FOUND IN ANY ONE YEAR

107

MOST SPECIES FOUND IN ANY ONE YEAR

Make it Count By The Numbers

18



YEARS THE EVENT HAS BEEN HELD INCLUDING 2024

143

OF SPECIES FOUND IN ALL

50

OF SPECIES FOUND EVERY YEAR

18

OF SPECIES ONLY FOUND ONCE

\$240,638

TOTAL RAISED FOR LAND STEWARDSHIP IN GLEN HELEN

5:30 AM

TIME OF THE FIRST BIRD WALK OF THE DAY

Zero

AVAILABLE DAYLIGHT AT 5:30 AM

802

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS (Thank you all!)

— Glen Helen's —
New Staff Member



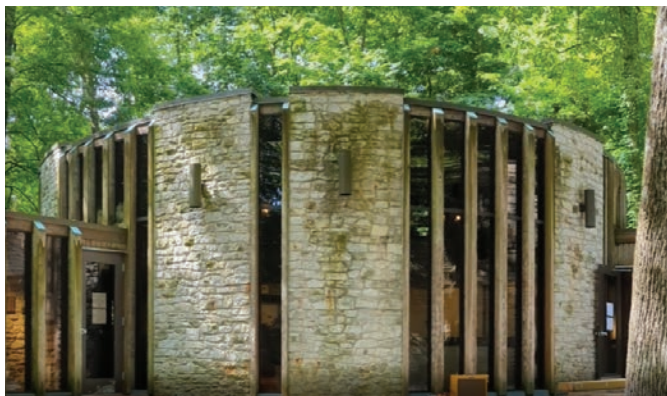
Glen Helen recently welcomed our new Senior Land Steward, **Steve Strauss**.

When did you begin at Glen Helen and what was your prior experience at the Glen?

In February, we welcomed new Senior Land Steward Steve Strauss to the Glen Helen Staff. Steve comes to the Glen with an ideal mix of previous workplace experiences that include construction and land stewardship work. Most days, you'll find Steve out on the trail, maybe working on invasive species, maybe working on one of the many boardwalks that we have in the works.

What is your favorite place in the Glen?

The Vernet Center parking lot. When I came to look at the Glen before my interview, it was a frigid Sunday morning in January. I arrived to find an empty parking lot, and thought I had the place to myself. After several hours of hiking the trails and meeting nearly 100 people, I walked back to my truck to find the lot still empty. This showed me the LOVE the Yellow Springs community has for the Glen.



What animal, insect, bird, amphibian, etc. do you identify with or absolutely LOVE?

The Eastern Box Turtle

Do you have a favorite vacation or adventure?

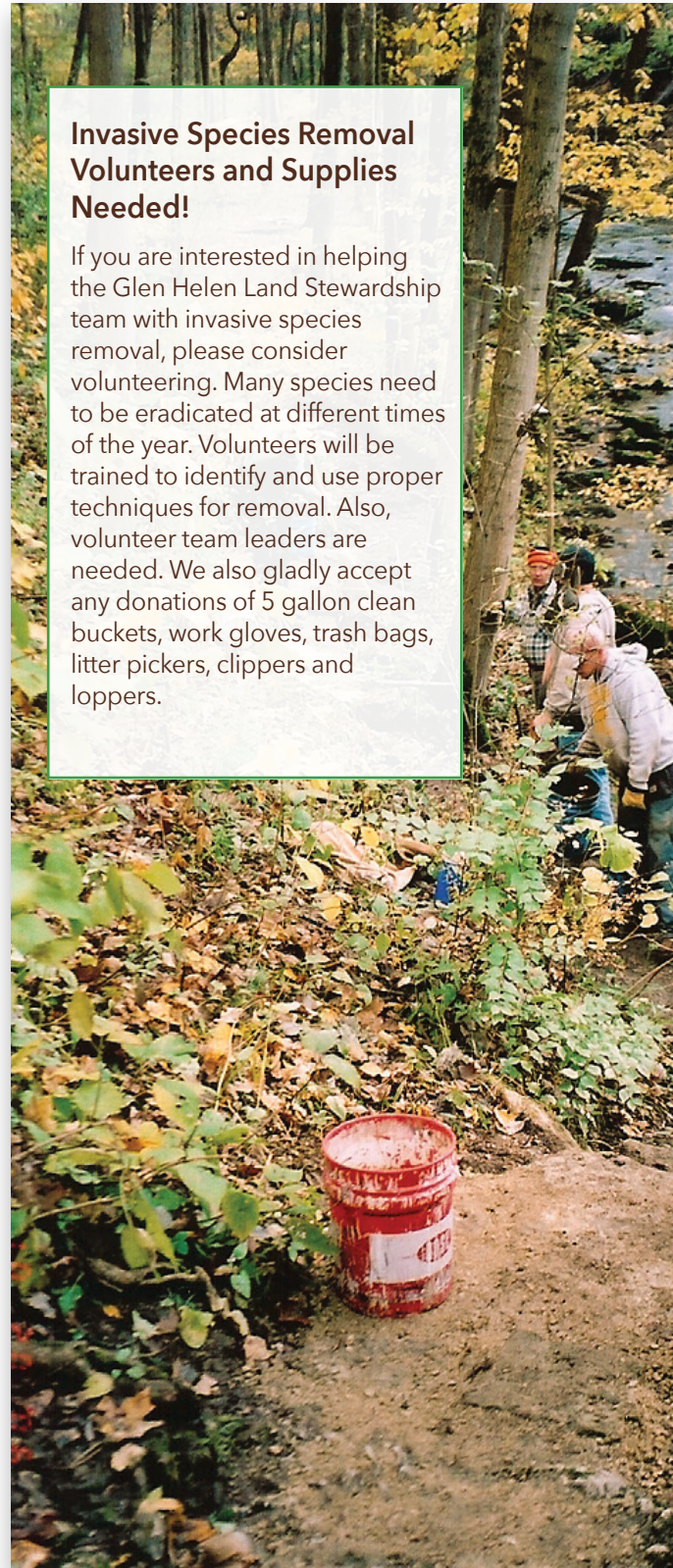
Absolutely...fishing with my wife in Wisconsin!

What is the best part of your job?

Walks and talks with George Bieri (the retired land manager).

Tastiest meal or treat?

Anything raised or harvested near or on my property. Farm/field to table is the best.



Invasive Species Removal Volunteers and Supplies Needed!

If you are interested in helping the Glen Helen Land Stewardship team with invasive species removal, please consider volunteering. Many species need to be eradicated at different times of the year. Volunteers will be trained to identify and use proper techniques for removal. Also, volunteer team leaders are needed. We also gladly accept any donations of 5 gallon clean buckets, work gloves, trash bags, litter pickers, clippers and loppers.

Up In The Hills

The earth smells old and warm and mellow, and all things lie in peace. I too serenely lie here under the white-oak tree, and know the splendid flight of hours all blue and gay, sun-drenched and still.

The dogs chase rabbits through the hazel-brush; I hear now close at hand their eager cries, now swift receding into the distance, leaving a-trail behind them in the clear sweet air shrill bursts of joy. There's something almost drowsy in that waning clamor; It brings the stillness nearer, and a sense of being bodily at one with the old warm earth, Blessedly at one with the fragrant laughing sun-baked earth, At one with its sly delightful wicked old laughter.

—Helen Birch Bartlett, poet

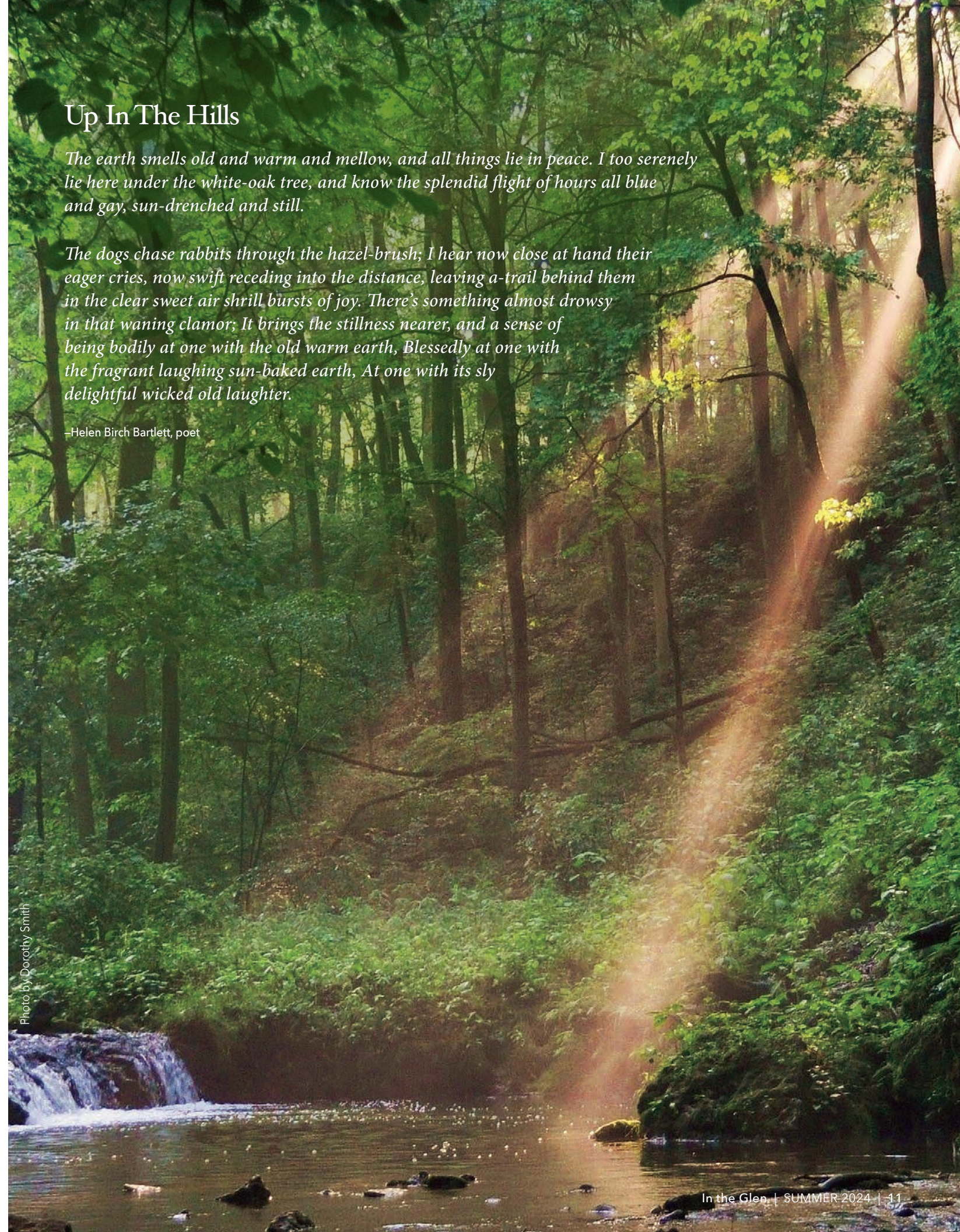


Photo by Dorothy Smith



Glen Helen

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Meet Helen

Glen Helen is named for poet, composer, world traveler, and art collector, Helen Birch Bartlett. She was born 140 years ago this year, and passed away at the young age of 42. We remember her through her poetry, including

"Up In The Hills," an excerpt of which you will find on a plaque on a glacial boulder near the Cascades. Poem found on the inside back cover. 