



# Glen Helen

PRESERVING NATURE / SHAPING LIVES

## ANNUAL REPORT

A Report to our Friends | July 2024 - June 2025



The beautiful new bridge over the Birch Creek Cascades

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

**Contributors**

Editor: Nick Boutis; Contributors: Nick Boutis, Margaret Dunn, Rebecca Jaramillo, Robyn Wright, 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)

**Trailside Museum and Nature Shop**

505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387  
Thurs-Sun, 10am-4pm

**Outdoor Education Center**

Overnight environmental education center for school groups and summer Eco-Camps.  
1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs, OH 45387  
937-767-7648

**Raptor Center**

Raptor education and rehabilitation. Visitors are welcome to visit and see the resident birds.  
Winter hours: 9am-5pm  
1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs, OH 45387  
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.

**Current Glen Helen Association Board of Trustees**

Jill Allen, Art Boulet, Bruce Bradtmiller, Ph.D. (Secretary-Treasurer), Margaret Dunn, M.D. (President), Mitch George, Rick Hoffman (Vice President), Ronald Kerans, Jeremy Main, Stephanie Noe, Paul Sampson, Yasmeen Soin, Liz Valenti, Nick Boutis (Ex-officio)

**Current Glen Helen Association Staff**

**Administration**  
Executive Director: Nick Boutis  
Deputy Director: Kat Christen  
Development Manager: Tracey Tackett  
Administration and Finance Coordinator: Becky McKinney

**Land Management**

Senior Land Steward: Steve Strauss

Ranger: Susan Smith  
Trail Crew: Allyson Brown, Mark Junkerman II, River Walling

**Outdoor Education Center**

Director: Robyn Wright  
Partnerships and Marketing Manager: Kelsey Mazur  
Education Manager: Kayla Lawyer  
Kitchen Manager: Joretta Johnston  
Kitchen Assistant: Sarah Blankemeyer  
Kitchen and Facilities Assistant: John Mick  
Lead Naturalists: Emily Foubert, Eileen Haney

**Raptor Center**

Director: Rebecca Jaramillo  
Assistant: Christine Avery  
Educator: Adrianna Burrows

**Outreach**

Manager: Sarah Strong  
Facility Rentals/Booking Coordinator: Ashley Mason  
Event Facilitator: Tevon Ademu-John, Shoshawna Craycraft

**Maintenance**

Supervisor: Shahkar Strolger  
Staff: Leah Duffy, Kyle Lewis

**Parking**

Coordinator: Bill Mischler  
Attendants: Jen Ater, John Baldasare, Emma Bennett, Emily Cook, Andy Graff, Patrick Harney, Chris Muratore, Melani Muratore

**Grinnell Mill Bed and Breakfast**

Manager: Susie Butler

[www.glenhelen.org](http://www.glenhelen.org)

Cover photo by Pan Reich

— Annual Report —

# Dear Friends of the Glen

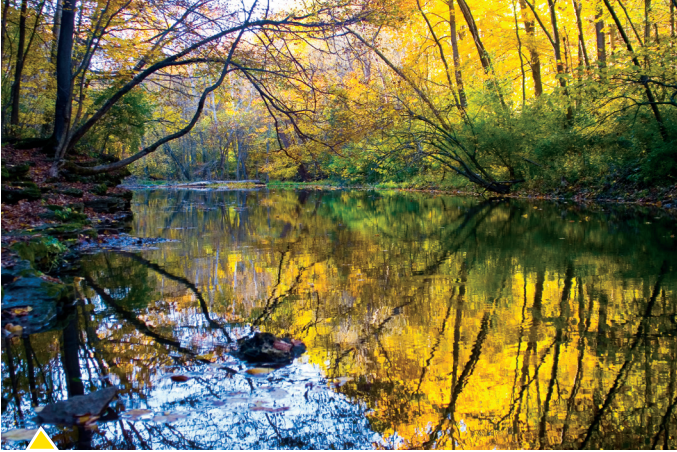


Photo by Craig Rucks

In a complicated world, we all need some kind of sanctuary.

That is what Glen Helen offers.

Sanctuary for the schoolchildren who experience a life-shaping week at our Outdoor Education Center. As someone who grew up in an era where my folks would tell me to “be home by dinnertime,” I grieve the fact that it’s now normal for children to spend most of their waking hours indoors. At Glen Helen, we work to counter that trend. Over the space of a school week in the Glen, they learn that we are all part of our environment, and that our environment can support and nurture us if we do the same for it. As you will read in these pages, this past year we welcomed over 2,800 children to Glen Helen.

Glen Helen provides sanctuary to the injured, orphaned, or starving birds of prey we admit into our rehabilitation program at our Raptor Center. This year we took in more injured, orphaned, or starving birds than ever before. Whenever possible, we release those hawks, owls, eagles, and falcons for a second chance at life in the wild. Each bird we take in—even the ones that don’t make it—provides a vital learning opportunity for our interns, by helping them gain the training that will make them effective educators and rehabilitators over the entire arc of their careers. The Glen offers sanctuary for you—and everyone

who visits—to hike, attend a program, or seek quiet inspiration. In the past year, we have made it easier for folks with limited mobility to access the preserve by creating, repairing, or replacing 25 bridges and boardwalks, including the awesome new bridge over the Birch Creek Cascades. We intend to continue this work over the coming year, as we complete our first wheelchair-accessible path.

We also offer sanctuary to the plants and animals who live here. The beaver pond on the Yellow Springs Creek is but one example. We made the choice early on to work around these animal engineers, rather than force them to work around us. To steward native habitats, we actively work to remove non-native, invasive plant species throughout the preserve. Over the course of this past year alone, we removed woody invasives like honeysuckle from 170 acres of the Glen. Walk the preserve, you can see evidence of invasive species laid low, and replaced by new growth of native plants.

Perhaps it goes without saying, but I’ll say it anyway: everything that we have accomplished has been made possible by everyone who supported or undertook the work of the organization over the past year. We are deeply grateful to you.



*Nick Bowditch*

Executive Director,  
Glen Helen Association

— July 2024 through June 2025 —

# Year At A Glance

## At the Raptor Center:

We never turn a raptor away, and this year, we took in more birds over a 12-month period than ever before! Fully 286 injured, orphaned, or starving birds of prey received specialized medical care, with the goal of returning healthy birds to the wild.



We had a busy year for Raptor Center educational programs, reaching 8,199 participants through 173 programs.

For the first time ever, the Raptor Center has a full-time Educator. We welcomed former intern Adrianna Burrows to the role.

Providing training for the next generation of wildlife educators and rehabilitators is a core component of our work. Each year, we take on several interns, who while learning the operations of the Raptor Center, help make our work possible. This year's interns included Sydnie Matda, Anthony Oleo-Romo, Danelly Cartagena-Ramos, and Jess Scaff.

Thanks to an ongoing partnership with the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, we hosted three students who served as Miller Fellows: Chloe Harvey, Abbie Hays, and Joi Johnson.

Our signature event, *Whoo Cooks for You*, returned under a big tent in the Glen. The event made \$73,626 gross, in support of the work of the Raptor Center. We are grateful to everyone who made the event a success—from chefs, servers, and other volunteers, to sponsors and participants. We couldn't have done it without you.



Outdoor Education Center staff and Spring 2025 naturalist teacher Interns: From bottom left, Mary Ludwick, Samuel Kerr, Amy Welshimer, Zoe Perna, Samantha Bryn, Lead Naturalist Emily Foubert. From top left - Director Robyn Wright, Assistant Director Meigan Turner, Hannah Lewis, Rochele Rodriguez, Lily Gibson, Addison Jones, Education Manager Kayla Lawyer, Lead Naturalist Mallory Campbell, Marketing and Partnerships Manager Kelsey Mazur. Not pictured Lead Naturalist, Eileen Haney.

## At the Outdoor Education Center:

Our naturalist internship trains passionate people to become gifted environmental educators during their time in the Glen. We hosted a nine-person cohort this year, including Samantha Bryn, Lily Gibson, Addison Jones, Samuel Kerr, Hannah Lewis, Mary Ludwick, Zoe Perna, Rochele Rodriguez, and Amy Welshimer.

We welcomed more kids than ever for an amazing week of summer Ecocamps, hosting 493 campers in 2024 and 510 in 2025.

Glen Helen is now the host organization for Educators' Week, an annual professional development conference for classroom teachers, naturalists, and other environmental education professionals.

This year, 2,353 schoolchildren, from 54 schools, had a life-shaping visit to Glen Helen. One enthusiastic teacher noted "Glen Helen is an absolute must for any Middle School age student!"

We work to secure scholarship funds to enable economically disadvantaged children to participate in our environmental learning programs. The funds, with support from individual donors and charitable foundations, supported 783 children this year.

## Around the Glen:

Throughout 2025, we've worked to honor the legacy of our namesake, Helen Birch Bartlett, who died 100 years ago in 1925. This has included celebrating her birthday on February 27, recognizing the anniversary of her passing on October 24, plus two initiatives spearheaded by a marvelous volunteer—a reprint of her book of poetry, *Capricious Winds*, and a professional recording of several of her musical compositions.

We continued to enhance the recently renovated and reopened Trailside Museum. A new sign, created entirely by a team of stellar volunteers, welcomes visitors to the space. The Nature Shop moved to the Museum in February. Both the museum exhibits and the Shop are now located in our most visited building at this popular trailhead.

We welcomed 245 new members to the Glen Helen Association. Overall, 1,898 individuals, couples, families, foundations, and organizations made a contribution in support of our work.

We could not do the work that we do, without the significant and tireless contributions of volunteers, in every area of the organization. Over 60 dedicated volunteers worked in land management, programs, the Raptor Center, the Trailside Museum and the Nature Shop, special events, education and administrative projects. There were 4,042 volunteer hours given to the Glen, valued at \$128,530.



The historic Grinnell Mill.



We continue to offer public programs, plus over night stays at the restored, historic Grinnell Mill. Rooms at the mill are now listed on AirBNB.

This was our first full year offering eco-birthday party programs for children. They include an hour of naturalist activities including a live animal visit. Ten kids celebrated their birthday with us this year.



Vernet Ecological Center.

The Vernet Ecological Center, Camp Greene, and Birch Manor were popular destinations for weddings, celebrations of life, meetings and retreats, and more. We hosted 34 such events over the year.

By the end of the year, we had 30,452 followers on [facebook.com/glenhelen](https://facebook.com/glenhelen), and 1,830 followers on [instagram.com/glenhelenature](https://instagram.com/glenhelenature). Our most seen post, from June 2025, highlighted a rare black bear sighting in Yellow Springs, and had a reach of 152,000 Facebook users.

In May 2025, we launched the new version of our web site at [glenhelen.org](https://glenhelen.org). Visitors can now easily find an abundance of information on visiting the preserve, participating in programs, or getting involved in our work.



## On the Land

We have been busy attending to the ecological health of the preserve, public safety, and accessibility. Over the year, we...

Processed over 157 acres of woody invasives including bush honeysuckle, common privet, Callery pear, and Asian bittersweet.

Managed non-woody herbaceous invasives including lesser celandine (185 acres!), garlic mustard, dame's rocket, and stiltgrass (100 acres)

Cleared 213 trail obstructions, and cut 37 hazard trees.

We have now constructed or replaced 34 bridges or boardwalks, as part of an ongoing project to improve preserve trails. This includes the magnificent new bridge over the Birch Creek Cascades, which reopened in December 2024. Our bridge and boardwalk work allowed us to reopen the rugged Talus Trail, which had been closed for several years.

We replaced nearly a quarter-mile of decrepit chain-link fence along Corry Street. The new panel fence has drawn positive reviews because it is both easier to see through and easier to repair.

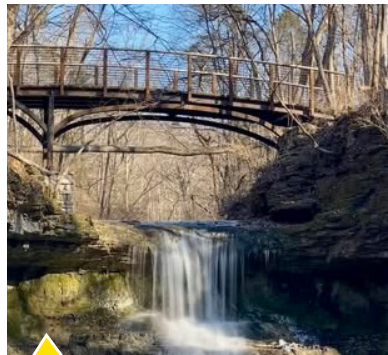
On June 8, 2025, we had our most significant flood in over a decade. It left stretches of the Inman Trail boardwalks damaged and unusable. Thankfully, a secondary flood of donations helped us get straight to work on trail repairs. All damaged boardwalks were repaired within six weeks.

Interacted with visitors regarding guidelines and rules on 571 instances.

Thanks to an ongoing partnership with the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, we hosted Brennan Mumper who served as a Miller Fellow.

With support from the Ohio Historic Bridge Association, we were able to paint the interior of the Grinnell Road Covered Bridge, covering decades of graffiti and helping reduce fire risk for this historic structure.

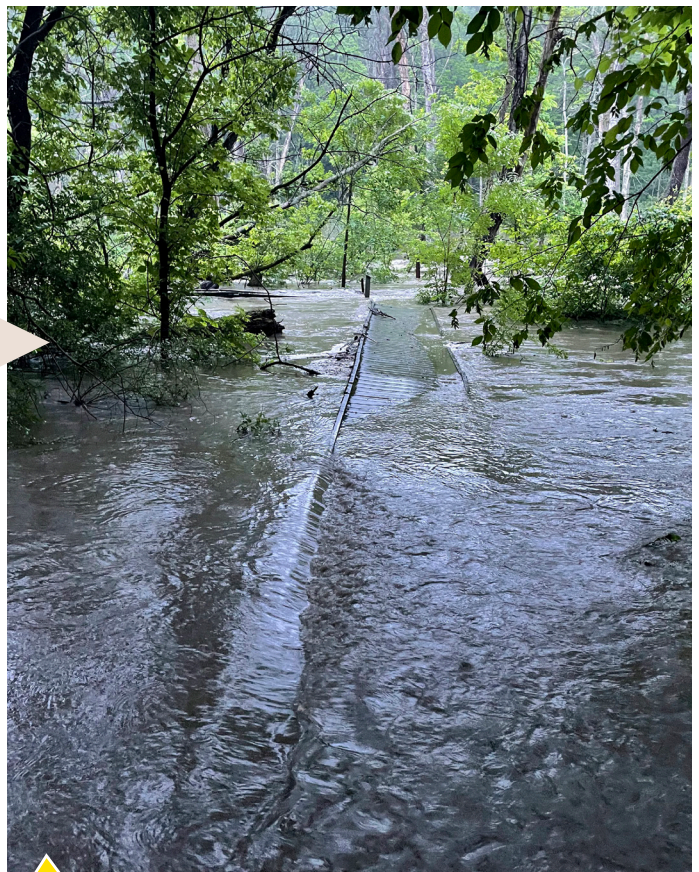
We continued our multi-year project to make it easier for people with limited mobility to access Glen Helen trails. In November, we opened the "Cascades Lot," a new parking area in the level terrain off State Route 343, which provides easy access to the Raptor Center, Birch Creek Cascades, and the Yellow Spring. This will become the trail head for our new ADA trail, which will follow the level portion of our historic Inman Trail. When fully complete, the lot will also feature bike racks, a bathroom, and electric car chargers.



Birch Creek Cascades bridge.



Boardwalk installation.



A flash flood tore through the preserve in June. A second flood of donations helped us repair and reopen trails.

# 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



Outdoor Education Center Lodge



## 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.



## 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.



## Birch Manor

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



## Outdoor Education Center Lodge

The cafeteria-style dining room, lobby area with fireplace, and outdoor areas make the Outdoor Education Center Lodge a great place for day retreats, birthday & anniversary celebrations, and family reunions.



## Cedar Center Dormitory

NOW AVAILABLE FOR WEEKEND OVERNIGHTS! With room for up to 40 guests, Cedar Center Dorm is the perfect option for large groups looking to reconnect with nature.



Please visit [glenhelen.org/rentals](http://glenhelen.org/rentals) for photos and information. For rates, questions, or to schedule a tour, contact [rentals@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:rentals@glenhelenassociation.org) or 937-769-1902 x1101.

Pull Out  
Program  
Calendar



# DFC JAN FEB 2025-26 Glen Helen Program Calendar

## DECEMBER

**5**  
FRI

### Full Cold Moon Hike

6:30-8:00pm

Embrace the enchantment of the Full Cold Moon, a name that reflects the frigid winds and winter's grasp. As you wander the Inman Trail under its silvery glow, join Brendan and Simone Baumann for a moderate 1-mile hike. Experience the quiet beauty of the winter landscape, where the chill in the air is met with the warmth of shared stories and starlit paths. Feel the magic of the season unfold around you. Registration required at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org), \$5 program + \$10 parking, members free. Meet at Steps. Parking Lot: 505 Corry St.



**5**  
FRI

### Solstice Poetry Reading

7:00-9:00pm

Enjoy an evening of nature inspired poetry as we enter the busy holiday season. Twelve poets will read poetry with the theme of ember. A wine and cheese reception will follow, and the night will close with open mic. Poets will have books for sale. \$10 suggested donation to support the Tecumseh Land Trust and Glen Helen Association. No registration required, no parking fee. Vernet Ecological Center: 405 Corry St.

**6**  
SAT

### Late Fall Birds

8:00-10:00am

We'll search the north Glen for hardy birds on this one-mile walk. \$5 + \$10 parking, members free. Meet at the new Cascades Parking Lot, just off 1075 State Route 343.

**3**  
SAT

### Full Wolf Moon Hike

6:30-8:00pm

As the Full Wolf Moon rises, named for the hungry howls of wolves that echo through the winter nights, join Pan Reich and Michelle Stroh for a mystical hike along the Inman Trail. Listen closely for the haunting calls of Barred Owls, resonating in the crisp night air. This moderate 1-mile hike invites you to connect with the wild magic that surrounds us, immersing yourself in the nocturnal symphony of nature. Registration required at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org), \$5 program + \$10 parking, members free. Meet at Steps Parking Lot: 505 Corry St.

**10**  
**17**  
**24**  
**31**  
SAT

### Turtle Feeding

1:30-2:00pm

What does a box turtle eat? Drop in to find out as we feed our resident turtles and other native ambassador animals. No registration required. All ages welcome. Program: Free. Parking: \$10, members free. Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.

**13**  
TUES

### Eco-book Club: The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating

6:00-7:30pm

Join Glen staff and volunteers for an informal, fireside discussion of the book *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elisabeth Tova Bailey. We'll gather at the beautiful historic Grinnell Mill. Co-sponsored with the Yellow Springs Community Library, where copies of the book are available. Registrations requested at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org). Free to participate. Grinnell Mill, 3536 Bryan Park Rd.

**18**  
SUN

### Bird House Build

1:00-3:00pm

Join the Raptor Center team for a hands-on, step by step instructional program to build a small bird nesting box (bird house) appropriate for a wide range of native Ohio songbirds. We will provide the tools, instructions, and the materials to ensure you leave the program with a ready to install domicile for the most

## FEBRUARY

**1**  
SUN

### Pine Forest and Full Snow Moon Hike

6:30-9:00pm

Join Tom Sabin for a captivating journey to the Pine Forest under the enchanting Full Snow Moon. Experience a moderately strenuous 3-mile hike, where each step reveals the secrets of the woods. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with nature and explore the beauty of winter! Registration required at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org), \$5 program + \$10 parking, members free. Meet at Steps Parking Lot: 505 Corry St.

**7**  
SAT

### Winter Birds

8:00-10:00am

We'll search the north Glen for elusive winter finches on this one-mile walk. \$5 + \$10 parking, members free. Meet at the new Cascades Parking Lot, just off 1075 State Route 343.

**7**  
**14**  
**21**  
**28**  
SAT

### Turtle Feeding

1:30-2:00pm

What does a box turtle eat? Drop in to find out as we feed our resident turtles and other native ambassador animals. No registration required. All ages welcome. Program: Free. Parking: \$10, members free. Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.

**10**  
TUES

### Eco-book Club: The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World

6:00-7:30pm

Join Glen staff and volunteers for an informal, fireside discussion of the book *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, *Gathering Moss*. We'll gather at the beautiful historic Grinnell Mill. Co-sponsored with the Yellow Springs Community Library, where copies of the book are available. Registrations requested at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org). Free to participate. Grinnell Mill, 3536 Bryan Park Rd.





## 6 SAT

**School Forest Festival**  
9:00am- 3:00pm  
Visit Ohio's oldest educational forest to take part in a longstanding Yellow Springs tradition! Cut your own Christmas trees, grown by the School Forest Club of Yellow Springs High School. Funds raised support the club's efforts at Glen Helen. Hayrides, a bonfire, hot cocoa, and homemade treats are available. [School Forest, 3777 Bryan Park Rd.](#)

## 6 SAT

**Happy H-OWL-idays Winter Crafts**  
11:00am-2:00pm  
Join the Raptor Center team for an afternoon of winter bird crafts for all ages. Make a gift for a friend, a decoration for your house, or even a treat for your wild neighbors. Be sure to get a picture with Santa's favorite helper elves, the Screech Owls! Drop-ins welcome. \$5 suggested donation + \$10 parking, members free. [Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry St.](#)

## 26 FRI

**Geology and Climate Walk**  
2:00-4:00pm  
Join Wright State geomorphologist Allen Hunt on a walk to discuss the emerging science behind climate change, and the role of rocks like limestone on the carbon cycle. To be postponed in the event of poor trail conditions. Registration requested at [glenhelen.org](#). Program: \$10 parking, members free. [Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.](#)

# JANUARY

## 3 SAT

**Christmas Bird Count**  
8:00am-2:00pm  
One of the world's longest-running citizen science efforts. In addition to Glen Helen, our 15-mile count circle includes John Bryan State Park, Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, and many Greene County parks. Each year observers spot over 2,500 individual birds! Free to participate. RSVP to [nboutis@glenhelen.org](#).

demanding of avian tenants.  
Registration required: [glenhelen.org](#)  
One kit per \$30 registration + free parking. (Two builders can share one kit.) [Outdoor Education Center Lodge, 1075 State Route 343.](#)

## 18 SUN

**Nature Journaling Club**  
1:30-3:30pm  
Join retired teacher and nature journaling enthusiast, Anne Griffith, for some guided, creative time in the Glen. Bring drawing supplies: colored pencils, and blank paper or your favorite sketchbook and other painting/drawing materials. Participants will head to a special spot in the Glen, weather permitting, to get drawing prompts to guide your creative endeavors. Ages 12 and up are welcome. Registration required at [glenhelen.org](#). \$5 program + \$10 parking, members free. [Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.](#)

## 24 SAT

**Eco-Game Nite**  
4:00-6:00pm  
Join Eco-Game Nite Host & Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Jake Haney for an evening of board games & fun! Participants can bring a game to share, learn a new game and/or play an environmentally themed game like Wingspan, Photosynthesis, Trails, and more. All ages & abilities welcome. Registration requested at [glenhelen.org](#), drop-ins welcome. Program: Free. Parking: Free for participants. [Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.](#)

## 31 SAT

**Volunteer Social Gathering and Celebration**  
1:00-3:00pm  
Join Us! This event is for everyone who has, does, or wants to volunteer with us here at Glen Helen. Celebrate our past and present team, learn about new opportunities, meet our resident turtle and our new volunteer coordinator! Live music and light refreshments. Let's Mingle! Family Friendly. Registration requested at [glenhelen.org](#). [Vernet Ecological Center: 405 Corry St.](#) RSVP to [nboutis@glenhelen.org](#).

## 14 SAT

**Hearts for my Valentine**  
2:00-4:00pm  
Are you and your nestmate looking for somewhere to spend the day together? Searching for a special feathered cupid to celebrate the season of love? The bachelor and bachelorettes of the Raptor Center are here to help! Visit the Raptor Center and celebrate Valentine's Day raptor style! Make bird shaped valentine cards and buy special heart shaped treats to give to your favorite bird bestie at the Raptor Center. You can even snag a picture at our photo booth! Drop-ins welcome. \$10 parking, members Free. [Glen Helen Raptor Center, 1075 State Route 343.](#)

## 22 SUN

**Nature Journaling Club**  
1:30-3:30pm  
Join retired teacher and nature journaling enthusiast, Anne Griffith, for some guided, creative time in the Glen. New and veteran journalers are welcome. Bring drawing supplies: colored pencils, and blank paper or your favorite sketchbook and other painting/drawing materials. Participants will head to a special spot in the Glen, weather permitting, to get drawing prompts to guide your creative endeavors. Ages 12 and up are welcome. Attend one or many. Registration requested at [glenhelen.org](#), \$5 program + \$10 parking, members Free. [Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.](#)

## 28 SAT

**Eco-Game Nite**  
4:00-6:00pm  
Join Eco-Game Nite Host & Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Jake Haney for an evening of board games & fun! Participants can bring a game to share, learn a new game and/or play an environmentally themed game like Wingspan, Photosynthesis, Trails, and more. All ages & abilities welcome. Registration requested at [glenhelen.org](#). Program: Free. Parking: Free for participants. [Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.](#)

Group sizes are limited. Register early to ensure your participation. Many programs are discounted for Glen Helen members. Please visit [glenhelen.org](#) to learn more. Contact [programs@glenhelenassociation.org](#) for member discount code.



— Glen Helen —

# Announcements

## Grinnell Mill

Grinnell Mill Bed & Breakfast offers beautiful accommodations in an expertly restored, historic grist mill located in Glen Helen near 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 [www.glenhelen.org/grinnell-mill](http://www.glenhelen.org/grinnell-mill)

## Order a Glen Helen License Plate Today!

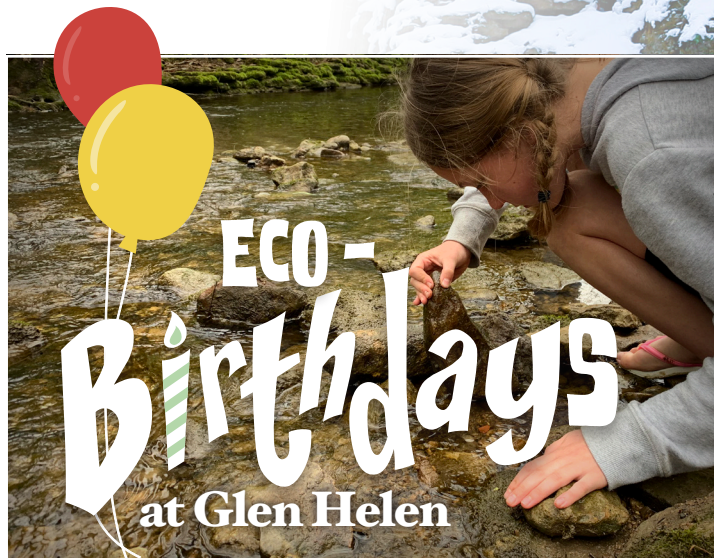
The Glen Helen license plate is a way to show the world that you love the Glen. Plus, as a bonus, you get to drive with a beautiful Charley Harper sapsucker affixed to your bumper. Any Ohio car owner can acquire the tag, either from your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles office, or by visiting [oplates.com](http://oplates.com). No need to wait until your regular renewal date on your birthday—you can order your plates at any time. For each driver who purchases or renews these specialty plates, the Glen Helen Association receives \$15.

## Sponsor a Raptor

We are not financially supported by state or federal funds, so your contributions allow us to continue our work. When you sponsor one of our resident raptors, you not only help us provide ongoing care for our educational ambassadors, but you also help provide specialized care needed by sick, injured or orphaned birds undergoing care in our rehabilitation facility. Sponsorship levels start at just \$100 per year. Your sponsorship of \$1,000 or more will last for the lifetime of the bird. Visit [www.glenhelen.org/bird-sponsorship/](http://www.glenhelen.org/bird-sponsorship/) for full details, including a complete list of all of our resident raptors.

## Join our Family of Volunteers

We depend on volunteers to carry out many of the programs, events, and initiatives that help preserve Glen Helen. From fundraisers, to mailings, to trail maintenance, volunteers at the Glen not only participate in our important efforts, they have fun while they do it! Whether you are a short-term volunteer with a service requirement, or seek a longer-term position, we may have an opportunity for you. To learn more, and to join our family of volunteers, visit [www.glenhelen.org/volunteer](http://www.glenhelen.org/volunteer)



Celebrate your child's birthday with a memorable nature-themed party at Glen Helen!

- For ages 4 to 12
- Two hours of private party space for up to 20 people
- Party room set up with tables, chairs, and table coverings
  - 4 program themes to choose from
- Animal encounter and outdoor activity included

*Packages start at \$250*

For inquiries and bookings, please contact [rentals@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:rentals@glenhelenassociation.org) or 937-769-1902, ext. 1101



Students use binoculars while learning how to identify common songbirds.

## Programs and Events:

Throughout the year, we offered a wide range of education programs for all ages and physical abilities. These included...

We hosted 52 public programs, attracting 1,150 participants over the course of the year. These included perennial favorites like our monthly full moon hike, bird walks, wildflower walks, nature journaling, raptor programs, and more.

Thanks to the intrepid efforts of a pair of volunteers, hundreds of people got a chance to see a newly remastered version of *First Came the Land*, a 45-year-old documentary on the history of Glen Helen produced by Sandy Love.

We offered a monthly bird walk, coordinated the Greene County region's participation in the Christmas Bird Count, and held Make it Count for the Birds, an annual fundraiser which aims to see how many species can be found in Glen Helen on one day. This year, we found 100 species, and raised over \$19,500 for our land stewardship work.

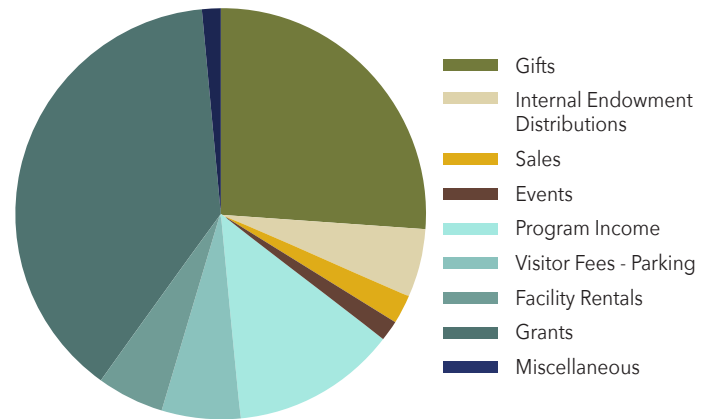
14 people participated in the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist training this past Spring. Each newly minted naturalist commits to at least 40 hours of volunteer service.

Our Golden Walkers Club gathers weekly. This partnership with the Yellow Springs Senior Center attracts mobility-challenged seniors and their family members or caretakers.

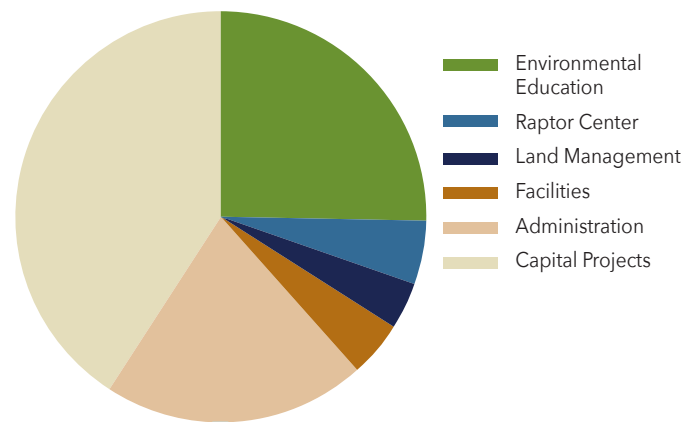
We collaborated with multiple agencies and universities on a variety of environmental research projects including Central State University, OSU Extension, Wright State University, and the Ohio EPA.

## Financials:

SOURCES OF FUNDS: \$3,137,498



EXPENDITURES: \$3,509,223



Snapshot July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025  
 Non-audited cash inflows and outflows are shown above. Glen Helen's finances are audited annually by a professional accounting firm. Our audits are available for review on [www.glenhelen.org](http://www.glenhelen.org).

— The Glen Helen Legacy Society —

# Stories of Stewardship



**John and Sigalia Cannon**

John and Sigalia were prominent property owners in Yellow Springs, where they rented

numerous properties and were known for being considerate and fair-minded landlords. Before making that work their career, they worked as academics. Together, they authored "The evolution of dynamics: vibration theory from 1687 to 1742" in the *British Journal for the History of Science*, in which they describe the emerging scientific understanding of the underlying mathematics of vibrating strings, rods, and chains.

They were extraordinarily modest people. Longtime donors to Glen Helen, they often gave an annual gift of \$999 so that they could stay under the recognition threshold of our Lucy and Arthur Morgan Society. They didn't seek anonymity, but they also did not want notoriety.

A decade ago, they came forward to discuss their estate plans, and were clear about what they wanted to accomplish with their philanthropy, specifying that they wanted their bequest to help balance nature by eliminating invasive species and replenishing native species. They wrote, "we presume that human activities (including education, recreation, nature enjoyment, etc.) are funded by other means and do not want (to fund) these activities." Their bequest includes John's family homestead, a beautiful tract of woodland that we look forward to stewarding over years to come.

Their transformative gift will indeed help us balance nature, and we are profoundly grateful to them.



**David and Peggy Erskine**

Peggy and David were long-time Yellow Springs Community members who met here in college. They were married for 62 years, until David's passing in 2020. David, trained as an engineer, spent his career at Wright-Patt AFB. Peggy had multiple career arcs, including nursing, fundraising, and school administration.

In retirement, Peggy and David traveled widely, often camping or sailing. They visited 48 states and all but one Canadian province, including a 500-mile canoe trip in the Northwest Territories. Reportedly, Peggy's enthusiasm for travel was so strong that David once said that if he had the occasion to marry again, he would examine the lady for any smidgeon of wanderlust, and if he found any, he'd run the other way. As part of their retirements, they were active volunteers at many organizations, including many years at the front desk and nature shop at Glen Helen.

When Glen Helen was part of Antioch College, we oversaw the Antioch farm, and that also ended up being a significant area of interest for Peggy and David. We had a focus on ecological agriculture, and they had an interest in seeing that we had the technological tools necessary to deliver on that. They were always coming by, asking about our needs, and stepping up to meet those needs.

We were surprised and humbled to learn they had included Glen Helen in their estate plan. Just as they had made a difference for the Glen during their lifetimes, their bequest will help support our work into the future.

— Glen Helen —

# Donor 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.

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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 \$1000 or more, ensures the fiscal health of Glen Helen.

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*We tried our best to include all of our special friends in this list. Please call us if you volunteered or gave, but aren't listed, so that we can correct our records.*



# Glen Helen

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## The Swinging Bridge, April 1962

The original swinging bridge across the Yellow Springs Creek was a marvel of do-it-yourself engineering. In this image, you can see how it was constructed almost like a treehouse—a living Osage orange tree served as the west tower. That tree and its roots needed to support the weight and forces from all the people climbing up and walking across.

Why didn't the bridge last, you might ask? It probably wasn't a great idea for 11 full-grown adults to cross it at one time! Later versions of the bridge bypassed the tree, but they too succumbed to use and abuse. While they lasted, they were magical. 🍁