

# In the Glen

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE  
GLEN HELEN ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2023

**COVER:** The Yellow Springs Creek beaver pond which runs past Pompey's Pillar.  
Look for upgrades coming to this submerged boardwalk! *Photo by Katie Egart*



## From the Director

Ecological restoration has a long arc. I know this to be true, and yet at the same time, it's hard to be patient. I'm thinking particularly of the site of the former Antioch College power plant. In the fall of last year, we removed the structure from the face of the planet; one of the mission-critical activities of our Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen.

In many ways, the site still has the look of an open wound. Even though we tried to get every last brick and strip of bent metal out of there, many remain, and taunt me when I visit the site. We know it will take many, many years for native columbine and ferns to colonize the sheer rock faces. For now, those cliffs remain barren. Likewise, the ground appears bare and brown. It will likely be a long time before native flora is able to colonize the whole area.

And yet, signs of life and the irrepressible forces of nature are there. As soon as the power plant was removed, the natural spring trapped beneath it began to flow again, quickly creating a new wetland pond. It is not yet a rich and diverse habitat, but it's on its way. On a recent visit, I

found a dragonfly hunting on the surface of the new pond, and hundreds upon hundreds of tadpoles wriggling at the water's edge. Deer and geese left abundant tracks at the water's edge. Out of sight, a Baltimore oriole called out. These beauties like to build their gourd-shaped nest over water. Perhaps they will try to nest here?

So, nature is taking over the power plant site. And also, we intend to help it along, by supplying some of the species that are native to this area, but might not otherwise find their way here. So far, we have planted sedges around the pond edge. We'll likely add to these plantings in time. We also have more cleanup to do. Once we're confident that the site is safe to visit, we look forward to opening it up to public visitation. Left alone, nature would eventually bury the bits of coal and brick under soil, but we would like to accelerate that process.

With each step, we're trying to find the balance between patience and a hunger to see change manifest.

Nick Boutis  
Executive Director, Glen Helen Association

### In the Glen

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

### Contributors

Editor: Laurie Freeman; Contributors: Nick Boutis, Christine Avery, Laurie Freeman, Dan Halm, Rebecca Jaramillo, Ashley Lackovich-Van Gorp, Aimee Maruyama, Kelsey Mazur, 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

### Nature Shop

Located in the Vernet Ecological Center  
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387  
Thurs.- Sun., 10am-4pm

### Trailside Museum

505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387  
[www.glenhelen.org](http://www.glenhelen.org) for opening date and hours

### Outdoor Education Center

Residential environmental education center for school groups and summer Ecocamps.  
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.  
Summer hours: 9am-7pm  
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.

### Glen Helen Association Board of Trustees

Art Boulet, Bruce Bradtmiller, Ph.D., Margaret Dunn, M.D., Scott Geisel (President), Mitch George, Rick Hoffman, Jon Horvath, Jeremy Main (Treasurer), Jade McDaniel, Betty Ross (Vice President), Dan Rudolf, Paul Sampson, Yasmeen Soin, Kat Walter (Secretary), Nick Boutis (Ex-officio)

### Glen Helen Association Staff

#### Administration

Executive Director: Nick Boutis  
Deputy Director: Kat Christen  
Manager: Scott Cline  
Office Administrator: Kara Pennella

#### Development

Director: Ashley Lackovich-Van Gorp

#### Land Management

Ranger: Susan Smith

#### Outdoor Education Center

Director: Sarah Cline  
Assistant Director: Kelsey Mazur  
Operations Manager: Meigan Turner  
Food Service Manager: Kristen Bruns  
Lead Naturalists: Emily Foubert, Kayla Lawyer

#### Raptor Center

Director: Rebecca Jaramillo  
Assistant: Christine Avery

#### Outreach

Manager: Laurie Freeman

#### Facility Rentals/Booking

Coordinator: Ashley Mason

#### Maintenance

Supervisor: Shahkar Strolger  
Staff: Leah Duffy

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

— A Timely Update —

# Securing the future of Glen Helen

It's hard to believe three years have passed since March 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic first moved into Ohio. At a moment when we arguably needed nature most, public access to Glen Helen was closed and the future of the Glen and its staff was uncertain. A few months later, the Glen Helen Association stepped forward with a plan to purchase, reopen and secure the future of the preserve. The group quickly organized a plan and campaign to set the organization on a path to steward Glen Helen's health and beauty, invest in its educational mission, and realize the Glen's potential to become one of America's leading nature centers.

Today, with the support of nearly 700 donors, the Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen is very close to reaching its \$4,250,000 goal to finance the acquisition of the preserve, keep the Glen open, improve access for visitors, address high-risk safety and code compliance issues, and restart educational programs and ecological stewardship activities.

*“The signs of this support can already be seen throughout the Glen.”*

This past fall, we began the single largest restoration project that Glen Helen has ever undertaken with the careful demolition of the derelict Antioch College coal-fired power plant. The natural spring-fed wetland that has long been obstructed by the plant is once again flowing freely. We have begun ecological restoration at the site, adding local sedge plants, and working to make the habitat once again an integral part of the ecology of the preserve.

The Outdoor Education Center has also been rejuvenated and is once again hosting students for the life-shaping residential environmental learning in its Outdoor School and Ecocamp programs. The Center was brought back to new life with an ambitious suite of improvements to ensure that our buildings are code compliant and ready to host schoolchildren. Improvements included a top-to-bottom renovation



The Antioch College coal-fired power plant.

of the Mercer Farmhouse where our naturalists live; a new yurt classroom; kitchen improvements and new furniture in the Lodge; new furniture, a new roof, and air conditioning in the student dormitories; and, a new porch and meeting space for the office. The Outdoor Education Center is also once again fully staffed, with a core team of five, plus nine naturalist interns, and ready to continue our legacy to teach, guide, and inspire children.

Educational programs at the Raptor Center were also expanded. With a newly renovated classroom, we now host regular open hours with family-friendly activities for visitors and program participants.

We also made great strides toward improving safety and access on the trails, removing a build-up of hazardous trees and trail obstructions that occurred during our closure in the early part of the pandemic,



The new yurt classroom at the Outdoor Education Center.

and adapting to landscape changes caused by our newly established resident beavers along the Yellow Springs Creek.

We are currently accepting bids so that we can move forward with significant improvements to our trail system and access point. This summer, we hope to begin the renovation or installation of over 50 bridges or boardwalks, a new ADA-compliant trail, three ADA-compliant parking areas, and improved wayfinding signage. These improvements will help us prevent erosion, ensure visitor safety, and improve accessibility throughout the preserve for those with limited mobility.

If you've been in the Glen recently, you may have noticed that we are starting to recognize friends who have helped us bridge this transition with their support of our campaign. Inscribed boardwalk planks are working their way across the bridge atop the Yellow Springs Creek Dam. This recognition is available to all campaign contributors who have given \$1,000 or more in support of the Campaign. We hope we can include and celebrate you.

In addition to bringing back staff furloughed during the pandemic, contributions from the campaign have enabled the creation of two critical, new positions for Glen Helen. In January, we added Ashley

Lackovich-Van Gorp as our new development director. In this role, Ashley will build strong communication with our members and help develop the resources to safeguard the Glen and its programs. Ashley has a rich background leading programs and organizations in the US and internationally. She also taught at Antioch College and received a Ph.D. from Antioch University in Leadership and Change. Just as important, Ashley and her family are members and supporters of the Glen. She knows every trail and represents the Glen with head and heart. I hope you can meet her soon! We are also just completing the hiring process for a Deputy Director of Glen Helen, who will oversee Glen Helen's programs and administrative operations, and we are in the process of hiring a new Land Manager.

The coming year promises to be an exciting, important time for Glen Helen. As we bring in the final gifts and complete this \$4.25 million campaign, we—and you—are helping ensure that the Glen Helen Association is able to move forward on firm and sustainable footing, and that the Glen and its programs will be open to the public and serving the children of the region for generations to come.



Ashley Lackovich-Van Gorp, Development Director  
alackovich@glenhelenassociation.org | Aimee Maruyama, Development Consultant



— Saturday, July 15 —

## Honey Harvest Fest

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 childrens activities, plus try your hand at beeswax candle rolling!

Enjoy this free, family-friendly event from 11 am-4pm. Pure, local honey and items will be for sale, which serves as a fundraiser for the bee club. Camp Greene 3452 Grinnell Rd. Yellow Springs, Ohio, 45387

For more information, go to [gcbeekeepers.org](http://gcbeekeepers.org).

# The Once and Future Naturalist

With each season of Outdoor School and Ecocamp, the Outdoor Education Center welcomes a new batch of young naturalists to engage with our programs, our students, and the Glen. Through our Naturalist Teacher Internship, the center staff provides on-going training, mentorship, and hands-on teaching opportunities to young professionals as they begin their careers in environmental education, conservation, and natural resources. A vital part of the Outdoor Education Center mission, the Naturalist Teacher Internship is an environment of learning, exploration, inquiry, and growth.



Naturalists 1976 - photo courtesy of Kris Fister

If you are a previous Outdoor Education Center naturalist and would like to share your experience, please reach out to Kelsey Mazur, Outdoor Education Center Assistant Director, at [kmazur@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:kmazur@glenhelenassociation.org) or fill out this quick survey: [forms.gle/ffyCzdDWDAsxKo7F9](https://forms.gle/ffyCzdDWDAsxKo7F9)

If you are interested in becoming a naturalist to share your skills and passion with young people in nature, please visit our website at [www.glenhelen.org/employment-internships](http://www.glenhelen.org/employment-internships).



Kelsey Mazur, Assistant Director of the Outdoor Education Center  
[kmazur@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:kmazur@glenhelenassociation.org)

"My time as a naturalist set me on a career path that still invigorates and motivates me to do my best today."

- Julie Kozak, 2010



"My favorite tradition at the Glen is the night hike—I watched students who were quite scared at the beginning of the night open up and end up having a great time, listening to the world around them, and enjoying a rousing game of bat moth!"

- Sarah Croston, 2014-15

"It was such a formative experience. I made some of the deepest friendships while learning how to be an adult. Be present and enjoy every second of it."

- Leah Valerio, 1999-2009

*We reached out to previous naturalists to see how this experience impacted them, their best memories, and what advice they have for today's naturalist interns.*



"Becoming a naturalist was life-changing for me –working with those kiddos completely restored my hope for the world, my sense of whimsy and wonder, and my willingness to let go and just be a silly goofball."

- Brenna Taylor, 2013-15



"Waving goodbye to the buses and then running down the driveway to wave goodbye a second time."

- Kevyn Breedon

"Finding life-long colleagues and friends."

- Brian Forist, 1982-84

— It Isn't Trash —

# It's Glen Helen's Raptor Enrichment!



Enrichment activities at the Raptor Center.

When you visit the Raptor Center, you may notice odds and ends in our enclosures that don't seem like they belong there. Perhaps the crow enclosure abounds with shreds of paper, or the turkey vultures have empty paper towel rolls scattered about. What may look to the casual observer like random bits of trash is actually purposeful and important. Almost all our birds at the Raptor Center were wild once and they can no longer survive in the wild on their own. That means before they came to live in our care, they had lives full of hunting, socializing and doing all the things that keep a bird's mind and body fit. Because they can no longer engage in those behaviors, it is our responsibility to create activities for them that mimic what they might do in the wild. This practice is called "enrichment" because it enriches the lives they live in captivity.

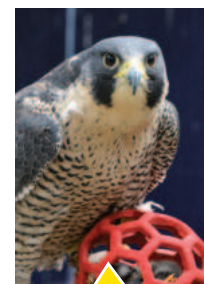
For example, in the wild, turkey and black vultures must reach into, pull and tug at carrion to eat a meal. This exercises their neck and back muscles, wears their beak properly and gives their mind something to do. We can't leave an entire deer carcass in the enclosure, so we will put their food inside paper

towel rolls or bury their food under leaves, gravel, or objects inside the enclosure. They must use their sense of smell to locate their food, pull it out of its hiding place, and tear it apart to eat.

Raptors are hunters, which means that curiosity is a survival trait. The bird that is curious about what might be moving in the pile of leaves is more likely to catch the squirrel in its nest. Putting objects into their enclosure to allow the birds something to explore exercises their minds and increases their quality of life. For instance, Archimedes the owl loves fabric. He enjoys the feel and texture. He will rub his face on it, drag it around, and hide inside it. He loves to play.

What interests our birds and is healthy for them might not look like anything valuable for humans, but it is priceless for our feathered friends. Bony parts of an animal that don't provide much nourishment, like a skull, or a deer spine, are wonderful enrichment for birds of prey, so often we leave those bones in the enclosure rather than removing them right away with the leftover food. Other common things you may see as enrichment at the raptor center include:

- Variations in ground level
- Variety of textures: shredded paper, pine shavings/straw, leaves and sticks)
- Sand, dirt, peat moss for dust baths
- Nest boxes, logs, platforms
- Variety of feeding stations and styles
- Areas for escape and privacy
- Christmas trees for screech owls and Kestrels to hide and play in
- Perches and platforms wrapped with different textures
- Sisal rope toys, egg cartons, biodegradable toilet paper, paper towel rolls



Swinging or dynamic perches that hang on chains are used so the birds must use muscles to balance.

Often what the birds leave behind during their play looks like trash, and perhaps tomorrow it will be, but today it's just good fun!



Christine Avery, Raptor Center Assistant Director  
cavery@glenhelenassociation.org

# 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

**Amenities:** Spacious auditorium, stage with stage lighting, projector and large screen, PA system with speakers and wireless microphones, restrooms, atrium, two-tiered natural stone patio, parking.

**Capacity:** 140 seated theatre-style or 80 seated at tables

**Rental Season:** Year-round



## Camp Greene

**Amenities:** Lodge with screened in porch, two lofts, two fireplaces, heating, and air conditioning, premier restroom trailer, private meeting/prep area in the bunk house, two pavilions with picnic tables and fireplaces, open-air overlook of the Little Miami River, parking.

**Capacity:** 200

**Rental Season:** April 1 - November 14



## Birch Manor

**Amenities:** 1930s mansion with three rooms downstairs (great room, dining room, library) and four bedrooms upstairs, restrooms, prep area for caterers, large brick patio, flat lawn area for outdoor tent, lawn space for wedding ceremonies under the natural arch of a large tree, and ample parking

**Capacity:** 110 indoors or 150 outdoors

**Rental Season:** Year-round

Please visit [glenhelen.org/rentals](http://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](mailto:rentals@glenhelenassociation.org) or 937-769-1902 ext. 1101.



**Pull Out Program  
Calendar >**



JUNE - AUGUST 2023

# Glen Helen Summer Program Calendar

Group sizes are limited. Register early to ensure your participation at [www.glenhelen.org](http://www.glenhelen.org). Many programs are free or discounted for Glen Helen members. Contact: [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org) for member code.



## JUNE

3 SAT

### National Trails Day Hike

10am-12:30pm  
The Buckeye Trail, Ohio's 1,400-mile grand loop, runs through Glen Helen. In recognition of National Trails Day, join us as we walk the Glen Helen section of the Buckeye Trail. A four mile walk, including return on the bike path. Free. Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St.

3 SAT

### Guardians of the Glen

1-3pm  
Help with litter collection to keep the Glen clean! Great service opportunity. All ages welcome. Youth under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Trailside Museum: 505 Corry St. Repeats Saturdays: June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19, and 26.

3 SAT

### Coyote Questions Answered!

4-5pm  
Learn about every aspect of coyote life, habits, and natural history, and also every myth about them and the truth behind it. Carol Cartaino, the author of *Myths and Truths About Coyotes: What You Need to Know About America's Most Misunderstood Predator* will be giving a presentation. \$10, members \$5. All participants must register. For member code contact: [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org). Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry St. More details on page 11.

3 SAT

### Strawberry Full Moon Hike

9-10:30pm  
Experience the beauty of the Glen under a full moon! Hike the Inman trail with Pan Reich (one mile hike). We suggest bringing a small or red flashlight. \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact: [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org) for member code. Trailside Museum parking lot.

10 SAT

### Yellow Springs Street Fair

9am-5pm  
Come visit the Glen Helen booth, browse a selection of items from our nature shop, and learn about our programs and membership opportunities. Xenia Ave, downtown Yellow Springs.

16 FRI

### Honoring the Glen Benefit Concert #5

7-9pm  
Featuring the "Trees", Matt Minde, Jeanne Harmon, Brenda Anthony, Scott Lindberg and other musicians. Guitars, cello, flutes, standing bass, mandolin, drums, harmonica and beautiful vocal harmonies. Scott Lindberg, inspired by slow walks in the local forest writes songs about his love for Helen, the Glen and the beautiful village of Yellow Springs. Featuring a bubble song for the kids to blow bubbles and a sing-along entitled "All hail to the Trees." Opening the concert, Liam McMahan, age 11, and guitar instrumentalist Owen Drum, age 14.

All proceeds go to The Glen Helen Association. \$8 in advance \$10 at the door. Children under 6 free. Limited tickets. Please register online. Vernet Ecological Center Patio, 405 Corry St.

17 SAT

### Summer Birding

8-10am  
We'll search the north Glen for breeding birds on this two-mile walk. \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact: [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org) for member code. Trailside.

24 SAT

### Pride Hike

8:30am and 11am  
Celebrate Yellow Springs Pride weekend with a moderate one mile hike on the Inman Trail led by a naturalist. Learn about the natural features including The Cascades, Hopewell Indian Mound, and the actual Yellow Spring. This hike is open to all. Free. Trailside Museum parking lot. To sign up for either one of these hikes go to [www.glenhelen.org](http://www.glenhelen.org).

29 THUR

### Raptor Center Screech Owl Release

7:30pm  
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. 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. Free. Camp Greene: 3452 Grinnell Rd.



## JULY

3 MON

### Buck Full Moon Hike

9:00 - 10:30 pm  
Join us as we explore the Inman Trail with Pan Reich (one mile hike). We suggest bringing a small or red flashlight. \$5, members Free. All participants must register. Contact [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org) for member code. Trailside Museum.

15 SAT

### Honey Harvest Festival

11am-4pm  
Honey Harvest is a family event to educate the public about bees, beekeeping, honey and pollination. Hosted by the Greene County Beekeepers Association. Free. Camp Greene, 3452 Grinnell Rd. For more information, go to page 4.



22 SAT

### Raptor Center Feather Festival

11am-2pm  
Come to the Raptor Center to learn all about feathers, flight, and fancy. Meet birds up close and get hands-on with these fabulous fibers! Free, but donations or gifts from our wish list are appreciated. 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs.

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. All participants must register. For member code contact: [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org) Grinnell Mill. 3536 Bryan Park Rd., Yellow Springs.



Photo by Anna Bellisari

## AUGUST

1 TUES

### Sturgeon Full Moon Hike

9 - 11pm  
Join Tom Sabin, Pan Reich and Paul Sampson for a full moon hike to the Pine Forest and nearby School Forest (moderately strenuous three mile hike). We suggest bringing a small or red flashlight. \$5, members free. All participants must register. For member code contact: [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org). Trailside Museum parking lot.

12 SAT

### Glen Helen Rim 2 Rim Hike

1 - 2:30pm  
Join Naturalist Paul Sampson and learn about hiking in the Grand Canyon. Get some hiking tips for your next adventure (moderate one mile hike). \$5, Glen Helen members free. All participants must register. Contact [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org) for member code. Trailside Museum Parking Lot.



19 SAT

### Early Fall Migration Birding

8-10am  
We'll search the north Glen for southward migrants on this two mile walk. \$5, members free. All participants must register. Contact: [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org) for member code. Trailside.

## DONATE TO THE RAPTOR CENTER WISHLIST

The daily work of caring for live hawks and owls requires a continuous supply of items for feeding and cleaning. Any time we're able to receive donations of these items, it means that more of our operating funds can go directly to our rehabilitation and education work. See our current wish list by clicking the Raptor Center tab at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org).

### Thank You!

*Thank you to the attendees and donors in this Spring's Take Flight for the Birds event hosted by Wheat Penny.*

**With your help we raised over \$10,000!** This will provide high quality food for our recovering raptors for six months!



— Glen Helen —

## Announcements

### Bird Seed Sale and Local Delivery

Did you know you can purchase bird seed at the Nature Shop? We stock locally-grown high quality black oil sunflower seed, plus hot pepper suet and other suet cakes. Yellow Springs residents (45387) may order seed or suet and have it delivered for just \$3. Hot Pepper Suet-\$4, Reg. Suet Cake: \$3 Black Oil Sunflower Seed (25 lbs.): \$20

GHA members receive a 25% discount. Products are only available for delivery to persons within the 45387 zip code. GHA volunteers will deliver within 48-72 hours. Order online at [glenhelen.org/birdseedsale](http://glenhelen.org/birdseedsale) or purchase at the Nature Shop.

### Glen Helen Calendar '24 Photo Submissions

We invite both first-time visitors and longtime friends to send us photos 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 5pm on **August 18, 2023**. For more information, go to [www.glenhelen.org/photo-contest](http://www.glenhelen.org/photo-contest)



**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](http://oplates.com).

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



 Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/glenhelen](https://facebook.com/glenhelen)

— How Can We Measure —

# The Success of Wildlife Rehabilitation

The wildlife rehabilitation efforts at the Glen Helen Raptor Center are supported by our donors, education program fees, and grants. As any good grant writer will tell you, having a metric to measure the success of a program is a vital piece in a good request for funds. So how do we measure the success of our rehabilitation program? The obvious answer would be release rates. In 2022, we cared for 223 birds at the center. Many of the birds have been released back to their wild homes, however, I do not believe that release rate is the only, or even the most important way to measure success.

*“...every bird that comes to the Raptor Center is treated with the hopes of release...”*

Let's look at 22-125-TV, a baby turkey vulture that was found by an individual in a barn. (Each bird we intake receives a code. In this case, “22” for the year 2022, “125” because it was the hundred twenty fifth bird we took in that year and “TV” for turkey vulture.) This individual, unaware that there were centers that would rehabilitate vultures, attempted to raise the youngster with the hope of eventually sending it back to the wild. Eventually, the bird ended up at the Raptor Center, and despite our best efforts, the youngster was too accustomed to people to be successful in the wild. Additionally, due to a lack of vital nutrients while it was growing, the vulture developed a calcium deficiency causing bone malformation. While the bird was not able to be released, it was a good candidate to be an educational ambassador due to its early exposure to humans. Currently 22-125-TV is now living at the Minnesota Raptor Center teaching visitors about the importance of getting animals to licensed wildlife rehabilitators to provide the best chance at a wild life. While not all non-releasable birds are good candidates for life in captivity, this bird's circumstances may prevent other wild animals from ending up in well-intentioned but ill-equipped hands, and I consider that a success!

Another example of a non-release success is 22-78-RT. This adult red-tailed hawk was found with severe neurological symptoms and during triage we diagnosed it as avian influenza. This deadly and highly contagious virus spreads easily from both living and dead birds. Left in the woods, the bird would likely have passed the virus on to many other animals. Although there is no cure for avian influenza, we were able to end its pain with humane euthanasia and prevent the virus from remaining a threat to the local environment. Oftentimes our best option for a critically injured or suffering bird is euthanasia. The very word translates to a “good death,” and as wildlife rehabilitators we take this responsibility seriously. While euthanasia is never the desired outcome, it is also not a failure when it prevents the prolonged suffering of an animal.



Red tail hawk in clinic. Inset photo: X-ray of wing.

While every bird that comes to the Raptor Center is treated with the hopes of release, we have the responsibility of making the right choices for the individual rather than releasing birds when it is not appropriate. In the end if we treat our patients with the best medical intentions, educate the finders and the public when possible, and relieve suffering through any appropriate measure, we have succeeded. Thank you to our donors and supporters for making this success possible!

 Rebecca Jaramillo, Raptor Center Director  
rjaramillo@glenhelenassociation.org

— Glen Helen's part of the National Park Service—

# Lands of National Significance

*We last looked at the National Natural Landmark program about ten years ago. Now that this National Park Service program has turned 60, we wanted to take a fresh look at the program, and Glen Helen's participation in it.*

What does Glen Helen have in common with California's San Andreas Fault, Florida's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, or Colorado's Hanging Lake? All these sites are designated as National Natural Landmarks—a nationwide network of natural areas administered by the National Park Service, the same federal agency that oversees our national parks from Acadia to Zion.

The National Natural Landmark program began in 1962. (Yes, we know that "National Natural Landmark" is a bit of tongue twister. Perhaps that explains why the program is not more widely known?) The purpose of the program is to recognize and encourage the conservation of outstanding examples of America's natural history. A designation represents that the site is one of the best examples of a particular biological or geological feature within a region. The National Park Service has designated 35 such regions—large geographic areas with similar biological communities, geologic history, structures, and landforms.

Particularly, the National Park Service connection is telling. Think of these lands as part of the same family tree as our national parks. Together, they tell the story of America's ecological legacy. National Natural Landmarks may not be as well-known as the Grand Canyon or Yellowstone, but cumulatively, these lands share the burden and honor of sheltering all that is unique about our natural history.

Since its inception, the National Natural Landmark program has expanded to include 602 sites, spread throughout the United States, and even includes

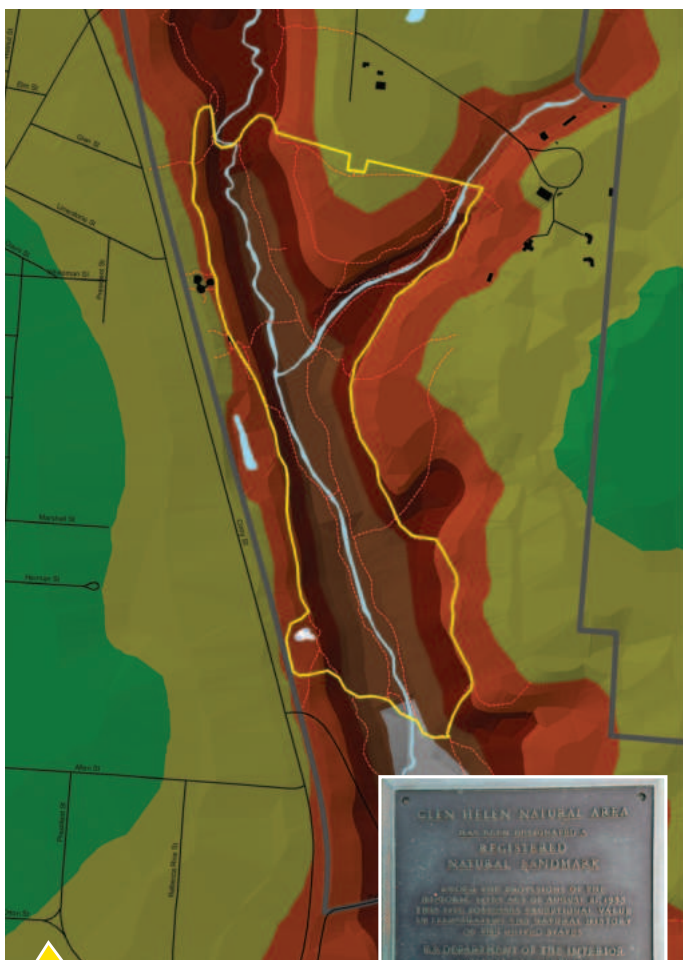
landmarks in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Lands under almost all forms of ownership have been designated, including private lands like Glen Helen, plus many others with tribal, federal, state, local, or municipal administration. Ohio contains 23 landmarks, including the serpent mound and Clifton Gorge. Glen Helen is one of the oldest National Natural Landmarks, having been designated in 1965.

**Becoming a Landmark:** According to the National Park Service, sites are closely examined while considering multiple criteria, including the condition of the site, the rarity or diversity of the area's features, and the potential for scientific or educational pursuits. *"When we select a site for evaluation, that site then goes through a pretty thorough scientific evaluation process, and part of that evaluation is the comparative assessment, looking at the site being considered against other sites that have similar features."*

In October 1964, Glen Helen administrative assistant David Rock wrote to the National Park Service to request that the Glen be considered for inclusion in the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The request set the wheels in motion, and the Glen was visited twice by Park Service naturalist Kenny Dale.

Mr. Dale found that "the natural area is rich in geologic and ecologic values. The valley of the Yellow Springs Creek supports a stand of old-growth hardwoods, primarily chinquapin oak, white oak, burr oak, sugar maple, basswood, and black walnut. The understory is largely redbud and spicebush. Limestone ledges rim the valley and from these seep numerous springs around which ferns and other moisture-loving plants grow in profusion."

Interestingly, he continued, "probably the greatest significance of the Glen Helen natural area stems less from uniqueness or rarity of its resources than from the realization of the value of these resources for education and human enjoyment."



The National Landmark line is show in yellow.

Dale recommended Glen Helen for inclusion in the program, noting that the “natural area meets the criteria to a very high degree.”

**The National Landmark at Glen Helen:** Not all of Glen Helen is designated a National Natural Landmark. In 1965 when the landmark was established, farming still took place in the south Glen. One hundred acres of the preserve were designated for horseback riding; another 100 acres were designated for educational forestry. Elsewhere, such as in the area around the Outdoor Education Center, agriculture had only recently ended, and young second-growth woodlands were beginning to recover the landscape.

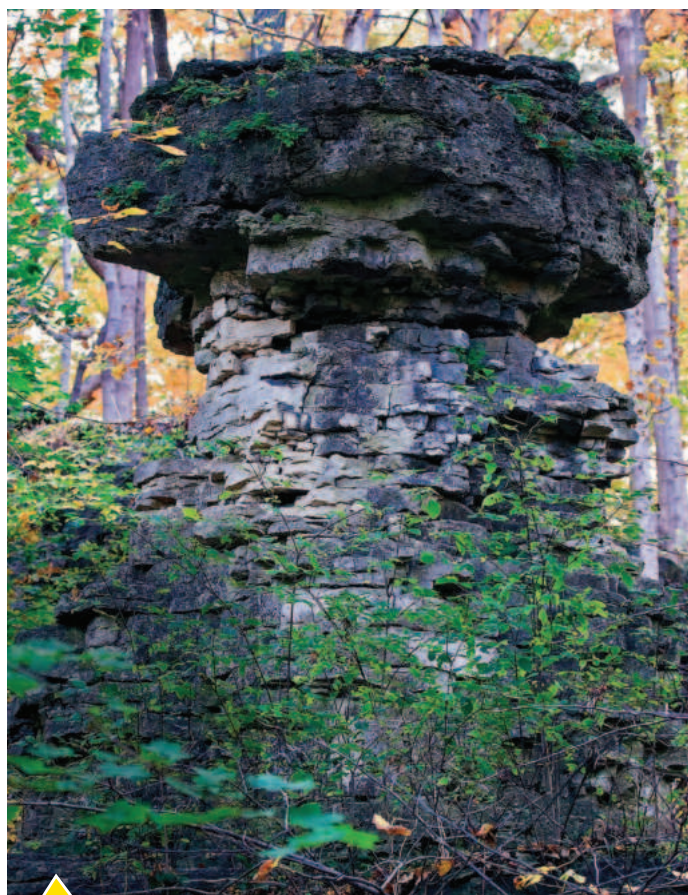
Rather than proposing all of Glen Helen for landmark status, David Rock requested that a 96-acre area be included. At its northern edge, the landmark area follows the Castle Rock and Inman Trails past the Grotto, Yellow Spring, Orator’s Mound, and Cascades on Birch Creek. It spans the Yellow Springs Creek valley down to the location of the old and former

swinging bridge, and sways west to include the small wetland at the old quarry site below Corry St. along the Talus Trail.

To a Glen Helen visitor, the only visible sign that you have entered a landmark is a bronze plaque found near the Corry Street parking area and Trailside Museum.

**The Landmark Program Today:** Today the National Natural Landmark system continues to be the only federal program that recognizes natural features under private and public ownership. It’s also unique in that participation in the program is voluntary. The owner of the property can withdraw from the program at will. That will not happen: For Glen Helen, participation in the program is, and will always be, a source of great pride.

You can learn more about the National Natural Landmark system by visiting the National Park Service web site, at [www.nps.gov/subjects/nlandmarks](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/nlandmarks).



Pompey's Pillar

 Nick Boutis, Executive Director  
nboutis@glenhelen.org

— Glen Helen's —

# Stiltgrass Dilemma Once Again

We can add stiltgrass to the list of plants that have arrived in the Glen and disturbed the ecology. You'll likely notice the smooth leaves and stems of this grass and appreciate how it was good for packing material, which likely explains how it entered the country via commerce over 100 years ago.

The leaves of stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) show a distinctive silvery vein along the center. When you pull it up you'll notice it often has fallen over and rooted from several nodes along the stem giving it a stilt-like appearance and its name.



*Stiltgrass leaves with the telltale silver strip.*

Each year stiltgrass germinates from an abundance of seeds, and rapid growth allows stiltgrass to out-compete many herbaceous plants by growing long vining stems that collapse adjacent plants with their heavy weight.

The pervasive threat of stiltgrass to the ecosystem locally is that it can grow in the shade as well as in the open. Its voracious growth suppresses woodland wildflowers and grasses leading to a stiltgrass monoculture that limits diversity in the food web, from plants to invertebrates, and then to the birds and mammals that feed on them.

How did stiltgrass get to the Glen? Likely, stiltgrass seeds arrived on our shoes after we inadvertently walked through stiltgrass earlier in the fall season. Deer help spread the seed too, by sleeping on it and wandering the woods for food.

The solution to the stiltgrass problem removal by coordinated pulling and cutting, but the timing of the removal is critical in breaking the annual cycle of seed production. If you'd like to join us in late August and early September for our stiltgrass eradication efforts, contact Laurie Freeman at: [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org). Stiltgrass removal volunteer opportunities will also be posted on Facebook and at [www.glenhelen.org](http://www.glenhelen.org).



Dan Halm, Glen Helen, Property Committee

## 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. For more information, please email [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org).



# Coyote Questions Answered!

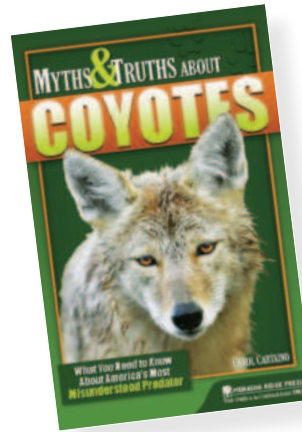
Glen Helen proudly presents Ohio editor and writer Carol Cartaino, the author of *Myths and Truths About Coyotes: What You Need to Know About America's Most Misunderstood Predator*.

• Saturday, June 3, 2023 | 4:00 - 5:00 pm •

Learn about every aspect of coyote life, habits, and natural history, and also every myth about them and the truth behind it.

As coyotes have spread across the country, making themselves at home in every state now except Hawaii, and in every town, city and suburb in the nation as well as the countryside, questions and concerns about them have proliferated.

All of these questions, and any others you may have, will be answered. See a stuffed (taxidermied) coyote up close, as well as a power point display of many photos of coyotes at all ages, both Eastern and Western coyotes. Hear an array of coyote calls too!



\$10, members \$5. All participants must register. Contact: [lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org](mailto:lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org) for member code.

## The Nature Shop for Your Summer Supplies

Whether you need hiking supplies, Glen Helen apparel, a nature guide or a present for someone, you are sure to find something good at the Nature Shop. New merchandise is arriving regularly. Hundreds of nature related items are available for friends and family including Charley Harper items, hiking supplies, new T-shirts, fun mugs, wind chimes, children's books and nature toys, and field guides. The shop even features beaver items paying homage to our beaver dam. Can't decide? Gift cards are also available.

The Nature Shop is in the Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry St. We've stocked the store with exciting new merchandise including surprises. *All store proceeds help support the preservation of Glen Helen.*



Remember as a perk of your membership, members receive a 10% discount on items. The Nature Shop is open Thursdays through Sundays, 10am-4pm.



# Glen Helen

405 Corry Street  
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387-1895  
937-769-1902  
www.glenhelen.org

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## Glen Helen 75 Years Ago!

If you were to come to Glen Helen 75 years ago, this would have been how the main trailhead appeared, as you started down into the Glen. And wow, what a time capsule: Note the car, and the mid-century modern sign, and the brand-new stone path signaling the top of the Inman Trail, the young conifers (probably

Norway Spruce trees), and the lamppost surrounded by lawn, and the complete absence of Trailside Museum (which was built around 1952). There is still a map of the Glen atop a stone wall in this location, but now it is protected under a rough-hewn cedar kiosk. 🍁