

In the Glen

Fall 2022 | News and Activities of the Glen Helen Association

Securing the Future of Glen Helen

Also in this issue:
50th Anniversary of Ecocamp

In the Glen

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

Contributors

Editor: Laurie Freeman; Contributors: Nick Boutis, Zach Bollheimer, Sarah Cline, Rebecca Jaramillo, Kelsey Mazur, Tabitha Guidone, Dan Rudolf, Aimee Maruyama; Design: Bob Bingenheimer

Glen Helen Nature Preserve

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

Administrative Offices

405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs
937-769-1902

Nature Shop

Located in the Vernet Ecological Center
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs
Thursday-Sunday: 10am-4pm

Trailside Museum

505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs
Visit www.glenhelen.org for the opening date and hours.

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
Visitors are welcome to visit the center and see the resident birds.
Fall hours: 9am-6pm
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.

Glen Helen Association Board of Trustees

Art Boulet, Bruce Bradtmiller, Ph.D., Ken Dahms, Ph.D., Margaret Dunn, M.D., Scott Geisel (President), Mitch George, Jon Horvath, Jeremy Main (Treasurer), 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
Director of Finance & Administration: Tabitha Guidone
Manager: Scott Cline
Office Administrator: Ceaira Frasher

Land Management

Manager: Zach Bollheimer
Ranger: Susan Smith

Outdoor Education Center

Director: Sarah Cline
Assistant Director: Kelsey Mazur
Business Manager: Shannon Schenck

Raptor Center

Director: Rebecca Jaramillo
Assistant: Christine Avery

Outreach

Manager: Laurie Freeman

Facility Rentals/Booking

Coordinator: Ashley Mason

Maintenance

Supervisor: Shahkar Strolger
Assistant: Sam Crawford

On the Cover:

The Yellow Spring, Eric Wright

From the Director

My first stint in Glen Helen was in 1990, when I became a naturalist intern here. There were thirteen of us, living in three houses, the Farmhouse, Clayton House, and the Roost. The Farmhouse was my immediate favorite. It was a funky old place, built in the late 1800s. It had this vibe that made it super inviting if you were a twentysomething environmental educator. Big rooms with high ceilings that looked out into the Glen. A big front porch for further contemplation of nature. A tiny living room with multiple couches shoehorned into it to accommodate the five naturalists who lived there.

Alas, the Farmhouse was not in the best condition. I remember hanging out with fellow naturalists there, and watching out the window as a squirrel ran toward the house. Moments later, we could hear the squirrel inside the wall, as it climbed up to the attic where it no doubt had a fully weatherized nesting space. The hardwood floors had multiple holes, which had been repaired with tacked-down bits of sheet metal. The basement was an enter-at-your-own-peril zone.

That was thirty-plus years ago. We've worked to keep up the house over the years, but honestly, by 2020, nature was taking it over. The framing was rotting. Some skunk friends found their way into the already unappealing basement. The once cozy interior was sliding from unhospitable to uninhabitable. There was a decent chance that we would need to demolish the structure and start fresh.

Visit the Mercer Farmhouse today and you'll see a dramatically changed space, representative of changes across Glen Helen since we began the Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen. For more on the Mercer



Farmhouse, see page 6. It's a story of how generous donations, coupled with extraordinary individual efforts, have made a space that is welcoming, well-built, and ready to host naturalists for decades to come.

Yet, the goal of the work on the Mercer Farmhouse and other facilities around the Glen isn't to have nice buildings, it is to have life-shaping environmental learning programs. And, having warm, dry, skunk-free homes that our naturalists can live in while they train and practice their craft is a bare necessity for ensuring our programs continue. That, in a nutshell, is the purpose of our Campaign – to make sure that our urgent needs are met, so that the work of Glen Helen can go forward.

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported our campaign to date. Happily, as you'll read on page 3, we are nearing our \$4.25M goal. Your support will help make Glen Helen's future possible.

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

– Nick Boutis, Director, Glen Helen Association

The Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen

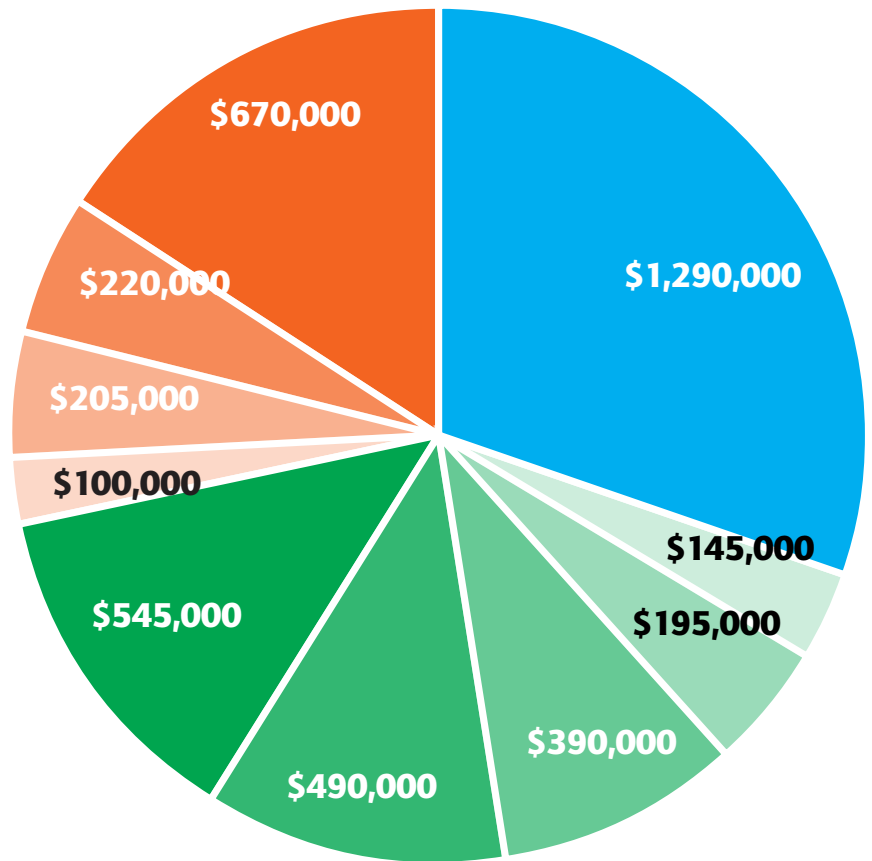
We have come so far in the last two and a half years. In March of 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic moved into Ohio, public access to Glen Helen was closed. Most staff were furloughed. The Outdoor Education Center suspended its programs and we sent the naturalists home, with no plans to reopen. There was a moment when it seemed possible that Glen Helen would no longer exist as a publicly accessible nature preserve and place of environmental learning.

Motivated by the urgency of the moment, and inspired by outpourings of concern and encouragement, your Glen Helen Association stepped forward to purchase and reopen the preserve. We knew that to succeed, we would need to have thoughtful plans for strategic investment to maintain the Glen and its programs and to realize its potential as a leading nature center.

We launched the Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen with a goal of raising \$4.25M to meet urgent needs: to finance the acquisition of the preserve, improve access, address high-risk safety and code compliance issues, and restart educational programs and ecological stewardship activities. The ambitious, but achievable campaign budget is organized into three primary goals: securing the purchase, stewarding the preserve, and restarting the Glen's programs.

The Purchase: \$1.29M will support the purchase price of \$2.5M. Funds will go toward an annual mortgage payment of \$50k for ten years and a final balloon payment to cover the balance due.

The Preserve: \$1.765M will support the health of the preserve and the experience of our visitors. Funds will address deferred maintenance and improvements along our 15-mile trail system, hire a land manager, including three years salary, benefits,



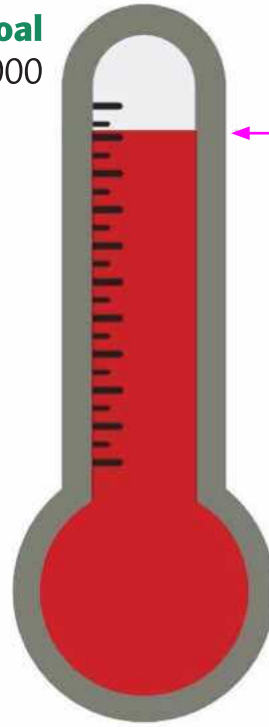
\$4.25M Campaign Budget

■	The Purchase	\$1,290,000	Finance the purchase of the Glen*
■	The Preserve	\$145,000	Public safety: signage, hazard trees, fencing
■		\$195,000	Land manager (3 years salary and benefits)
■		\$390,000	Demolition and site renovation of derelict structures
■		\$490,000	Access improvements: parking areas, restroom, ADA accessibility
■		\$545,000	Trail improvements: bridges and boardwalks
■	The Programs	\$100,000	Raptor Center improvements
■		\$205,000	Outdoor Education Center living spaces: dormitories, naturalist housing
■		\$220,000	Outdoor Education Center instructional spaces: lodge, classroom
■		\$670,000	Core staff (3 years salary and benefits for a senior administrator for the Outdoor Education Center, an outreach and communications coordinator, and a development professional)

* Purchase Price: \$2,500,000 (Breakdown - downpayment [done!]. Raised funds will be invested to cover \$500,000 - ten annual payments of \$50K and \$1,453,000 balloon payment after 10 years.)

Campaign Goal

\$4,250,000



\$3,940,000
93%

equipment, and supplies, make comprehensive improvements to bridges and boardwalks, improve access at parking areas, update signage, and demolish the derelict Antioch College Power Plant on site.

The Programs: We designated \$1.195M to support restarting the Outdoor Education Center's residential environmental learning programs so they can again serve the region's schoolchildren. Funds will cover two program staff and a development director for three years, enabling the Center to generate the revenue to fund the hiring of additional staff as needed. Funds will also support urgent health, safety, and code compliance repairs to Outdoor Education Center facilities.

Campaign Progress

It is so exciting to share that we are very close to reaching our goal! Your generosity has been overwhelming. To date, we have received over 850 gifts totaling \$3.94M. As we near our fundraising goal, we are making solid progress on the projects funded with your support.

The Purchase

» We have secured the funds for the first six years of payments.

The Preserve

» We have started a major project to update bridges and boardwalks throughout the preserve, and to add new ones where needed. Our first order of business was to raise the boardwalk at the beaver pond on the Yellow Springs Creek.

» We have secured the funds needed to demolish the derelict Antioch College Power Plant, and to restore the site back to nature.

» We secured an experienced land manager who works full-time to maintain Glen Helen

trails and to steward the preserve. Meet Zach Bollheimer (lower left).

The Programs

» The Mercer Farmhouse, one of three houses needed for our naturalist team, received a top-to-bottom renovation. See the story on page 6.

» We built a smashing front porch for the office at the Outdoor Education Center, creating a badly-needed sheltered area where student trail groups can gather in inclement weather.

» We secured an experienced environmental education administrator to serve as Assistant Director at the Outdoor Education Center and an experienced non-profit and recreation professional to serve as our Outreach Manager working with volunteers, public programs, and the Nature Shop. Meet Kelsey Mazur and Laurie Freeman (right).

» After a nearly two-year closure precipitated by the pandemic, we restarted residential environmental learning programs out of the Outdoor Education Center.

» Schoolchildren attending the Outdoor Education Center will be able to use our new yurt classroom, which replaced the not-fit-for-human-visitation Fox Den. See the story on page 7.

We are so close to the successful conclusion of this campaign. Your support will help make our future possible. Please help us cross the finish line and be a champion for the Glen you love!

You may use the enclosed envelope to make your campaign gift today, or give online, at Glenhelen.org. To view all donation recognition opportunities, visit Glenhelen.org/naming. 🍀

- Nick Boutis, Aimee Maruyama



Beaver dam boardwalk



The derelict power plant.



Land Manager Zach Bollheimer

Stories from Our Supporters

Fred and Joy Bartenstein



Glen Helen, the “Nursery for Naturalists,” is an essential training ground for North America’s environmental educators and conservationists. While those of us living in nearby communities are fortunate to regularly enjoy the gorgeous (pun unintended) preserve, the Glen’s shadow extends far beyond Ohio’s borders. Our two daughters and several grandchildren have enjoyed Ecocamps. Wildflower spores from the Glen blow onto our property in Yellow Springs. Fred has served on the Glen Helen Association Board and the Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen. We believe that the separation from Antioch College is in the best interests of both institutions and are proud to be among early supporters of the “New Glen Helen.”

Bruce Bradtmiller and Carol Cottom



When we moved to YS in 1983 our two children were 2.5 years and 10 weeks old. Bruce worked at Anthropology Research Project (now Anthrotech) and Carol was at home with the children. We found that even with little ones we could take short hikes to Glen Helen throughout the year and loved experiencing it with visiting friends and family. As the kids got older they attended Ecocamps and became Junior Naturalists. They attended winter camps with their YS school mates. We believe that our children, and thousands of others, gained a great appreciation of the natural world and respect for the preservation of our resources through Glen programs.

We watched the facilities get more dilapidated, despite the efforts of the Glen staff. When we had a bit more cushion in our budget we decided to begin donating to the GHA. There were challenges for the Glen as Antioch College closed, reopened and had limited resources to offer. In 2020, when Glen Helen had the opportunity to become an independent entity, we were fortunate to be able to make a substantial gift to help achieve that goal. One of our grandchildren has been able to attend Ecocamp and with the greatest impact of Covid behind us, we hope the rest can participate in years to come. We want them to appreciate this natural treasure and become good stewards of planet Earth.

The Fisher Family (Mary, Trent, Anneliese, Dominick & Noelle)



“Why did we support the campaign to secure the future of Glen Helen?” When this simple question was posed to our family, all of us chimed in with:

The Glen is an important part of the history of our village.

It’s just a short walk away from our house, and we enjoy sharing it with family and friends. The views are beautiful, and change with each season.

The Glen is a great place to be – especially for physical and mental health.

It is important to preserve and protect biodiversity and green spaces. The Glen provides animals with their natural habitat as much as possible (think of the amazing beaver dam!).

The Glen Helen Association plays a vital role in sustainability and education.

We are glad to support such an important ecological gem and help preserve it for future generations! 🌿



The new porch at the Outdoor Education Center office



Kelsey Mazur



Laurie Freeman



Environmental education programs are up and running

Securing a Future for Our Programs

The Mercer Farmhouse Renovation

The Mercer Farmhouse – named in honor of supporters Glenora and Charlie Mercer – is one of three houses where Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center naturalists live. Over 500 naturalist interns have spent a semester or more in residence there. By 2020, when COVID forced the shutdown of the Center, the Farmhouse was in rough shape, requiring either a massive input of resources, or alternatively, a bulldozer.

We chose to renovate, knowing that the old house was a crucial component to restarting our environmental learning programs. Board member Paul Sampson, who had significant carpentry and renovation skills, stepped up to lead the project as a volunteer. He worked long hours in the house, month after month.

Outside, we fixed the draining, and the framing. The house got new cement-board siding, new exterior doors, and a new metal roof. An unneeded chimney came down.

Inside, Paul completely redid the two bathrooms and the kitchen. He repaired walls and painted, installed new floors on the lower level, added a washer and dryer, added new light fixtures. Even with Paul's donation of time, the renovation was a \$105,000 project. It's now an all-new old house. As soon as he had finished major work, a crop of Ecocamp naturalists moved in! 🌱



The Mercer Farmhouse, before and after



To keep water away from the foundation, we installed 300 feet of drain tile. Patrick Morrissey checks the slope.



Paul gets ready to paint

We chose to renovate, knowing that the old house was a crucial component to restarting our environmental learning programs.



The kitchen, before and after

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, family reunions, memorials and business retreats?

A one-of-a-kind setting at the edge of the Yellow Springs Creek gorge.



The Vernet Ecological Center is located in the heart of Glen Helen Nature Preserve. It features a spacious auditorium with stage, an atrium, and an outdoor natural stone patio. It is perfect for celebrations of life, business meetings, and small weddings for up to 140 people seated theater style or 80 seated at tables.

A stately and historic mansion, nestled above the Little Miami River.



Birch Manor is a 1930s mansion and outdoor space used for weddings, receptions, and business retreats for up to 150 people outdoors or 110 indoors. Located at the south end of Glen Helen, ten minutes from downtown Yellow Springs, Birch Manor features seven rooms spread over two stories, an outdoor patio, lawn area for a tent, and lawn space for wedding ceremonies under the natural arch of a large walnut tree.

A scenic, rustic and secluded event space.



Camp Greene is a former Girl Scout Camp near John Bryan State Park. It was acquired by Glen Helen in 2015 and is now used for larger events such as weddings and family reunions for up to 200 people. Features include an air-conditioned lodge with two fireplaces, a screened-in patio, two outdoor pavilions with picnic tables and fireplaces, dorm facilities, and an open-air platform overlooking the Little Miami River.

Excellent weekend retreat spaces.



Off the beaten path, but steps from the Cascades waterfall and the Raptor Center, the Outdoor Education Center Lodge and dorms provide warm and friendly, large spaces for a variety of gatherings.

Please visit glenhelen.org/rentals for photos and information. For rates, questions, or to schedule a tour of any of our facilities, please contact rentals@glenhelenassociation.org.

**Pull out
this section
for your
program
calendar.**

Glen Helen Fall Program Calendar

September–November 2022



Group sizes are limited. Register early to ensure your participation at glenhelen.org. Many programs are free or discounted for Glen Helen members. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. Visit glenhelen.org to learn more.

September



Photo | Scott Salsenberg

Sat, Sept 3, Hops+Hike, 10am-1pm | A collaborative event with Yellow Springs Brewery, join us as we celebrate our second year as an independent not-for-profit nature preserve! Start the morning at the brewery then go on a guided hike in the Glen. Afterwards, grab a pint or 6-pack of Stone Stepper, a tangerine pale ale made in celebration of Glen Helen at the brewery and enjoy brunch items from a food vendor. While there become or renew your Glen Helen Association membership and receive a limited edition tote bag with the Glen Helen logo. [Yellow Springs Brewery Taproom, 305 Walnut St.](http://YellowSpringsBreweryTaproom.com) Please sign-up by emailing lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org

Sat, Sept 3, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. All ages welcome. Youth under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. [Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.](http://TrailsideMuseum.com) Repeats Saturdays: September 10, 17, 24.

Wed, Sept 7, Stiltgrass Removal, 9am-12pm | Come work with our land manager and other land stewardship volunteers in hand-pulling and removing the invasive plant Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). Work gloves will be provided. All ages welcome. Meet at [Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry Street.](http://VernetEcologicalCenter.com) Canceled in case of inclement weather. Repeats Wednesdays: September 14, 21, 28.

Fri, Sept 9, Honoring the Glen Benefit Concert #4, 7-9pm | Come enjoy an outside event 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. The concert features a bubble song for the kids to blow bubbles and a singalong entitled "All Hail to the Trees." This year other artists are invited to play, also. So come on by and sing outside with the trees! All proceeds go to the Glen Helen Association. **\$10 in advance \$12 at the door. Children under 6 free.**

Limited tickets. Please register online. Concert will be held in the auditorium in case of inclement weather. [Vernet Ecological Center Patio, 405 Corry St.](http://VernetEcologicalCenter.com)

Sat, Sept 10, Harvest Full Moon Hike, 8-10pm | Join Tom Sabin for a 3-mile hike (moderately strenuous) to the Pine Forest. **\$5, members free. All participants must register.** Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Trailside Museum.](http://TrailsideMuseum.com)

Sun, Sept 11, Fall Migration Birding, 8-10am | Join Glen Helen director Nick Boutis for a two-hour walk in search of southbound migratory birds. **\$5, members free. All participants must register.** Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.](http://TrailsideMuseum.com)

Thu-Sat, Sept 15, 16, 17, Glen Helen Garage Sale, 10am-2pm | Shop for a wide variety of items in the Vernet Ecological Center Auditorium. [405 Corry Street.](http://405CorryStreet.com) Check the website for further details.

October



Photo | Scott Stipple

Sat, Oct 1, Fall Migration Birding, 8-10am | Join Glen Helen director Nick Boutis for a two-hour walk in search of southbound migratory birds. **\$5, members free. All participants must register.** Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Trailside Museum.](http://TrailsideMuseum.com)

Sat, Oct 1, Guardians of the Glen, 1-3pm | Join our ranger to assist with graffiti removal, litter collection, and trail repairs. Great service opportunity. All ages welcome. Youth under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. [Trailside Museum, 505](http://TrailsideMuseum.com)

lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry St.](http://VernetEcologicalCenter.com)

Sun, Oct 2, Glen Helen History Hike, 1-3pm | Explore Glen Helen's history with a moderate 1-mile hike on the Inman Trail led by naturalist Patrick Dwyer. Learn about the natural features including Pompey's Pillar, the Cascades, Hopewell Indian Mound and the actual Yellow Spring. **\$5, members free. All participants must register.** Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Outdoor Education Center, 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs.](http://OutdoorEducationCenter.com)

Wed, Oct 5, Wintercreeper Removal, 9am-12pm | Come work with our land manager and other land stewardship volunteers in hand-pulling and removing the invasive plant Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*). Work gloves will be provided. All ages welcome. Meet at [Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry Street.](http://VernetEcologicalCenter.com) Canceled in case of inclement weather. Repeats Wednesdays: October 12, 19, 26.

Sat, Oct 8, Yellow Springs Street Fair, 9am-5pm | The famous Yellow Springs Street Fair is back! Come visit the Glen Helen booth, browse a selection of items from our nature shop, and learn about our programs and membership opportunities. [Xenia Avenue, downtown Yellow Springs.](http://XeniaAvenue.com)

Sat, Oct 8, Full Moon Haunted Hike, 8-9:30pm | Hear about the legends and stories of the unexplained as we walk the Inman Trail beneath the full moon with Naturalist Paul Sampson. A moderate 1-mile hike. **\$5, members free. All participants must register.** Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Trailside Museum.](http://TrailsideMuseum.com)

Sat, Oct 15, Rosé and Raptors Fundraiser, 4-6pm. | Celebrate Sweetest Day with our sweet raptors featuring five wine samples by One Hope, a wine company "Rooted in purpose, pouring for a purpose" www.onehopewine.com. Enjoy a raptor presentation while sampling wines along with snacks. Additional wine may be purchased at the conclusion with a portion donated to the Raptor Center. **\$35; \$5 off for members. Limited space, All participants must register and be over 21.** Contact

lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry St.](http://VernetEcologicalCenter.com)

Sat, Oct 22, Honeysuckle Daze, 9-12pm | Join our land manager and volunteers in managing invasive bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* species). Please bring your own loppers or hand saws if possible. Limited hand tools will be available. **RSVP** zbollheimer@glenhelenassociation.org. Meet at [405 Corry Street parking lot.](http://405CorryStreet.com)

Sat, Oct 22, Nature Photography, 1-3pm | Do you love both nature and photography? Want to move beyond snapshots and start taking photos worthy of framing and putting on your



Photo | Mary Lou Guizzio

wall? Join us for our nature photography class where you will learn to photograph what you see in nature in creative ways. This class will serve as an introduction to choosing subjects, composing your images, working a scene, and taking a photograph worthy of being called art. Whether you are a beginner, use a cell phone, or simply want an excuse to photograph for the day in beautiful Glen Helen, this class is for you. Instructor is Eric Wright, Fly Wright Photography. **\$20, members \$15. All participants must register.** Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry St.](http://VernetEcologicalCenter.com) Please note: Class will be held inside and outside weather permitting.

Sun, Oct 23, Grinnell Mill Open House, 1-4pm | Grinnell Mill is one of the oldest structures in Glen Helen. It once used the power of the Little Miami River to grind grain. Join us for this open house, with site tours, cosponsored with the Yellow Springs Historical Society. **Free.** [Grinnell Mill, 3536 Bryan Park Rd.](http://GrinnellMill.com)

November

Wed, Nov 2, Wintercreeper Removal, 9am-12pm | Come work with our land manager and other land stewardship volunteers in hand-pulling and removing the invasive plant Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*). Work gloves will be provided. All ages welcome. Meet at [Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry Street.](http://VernetEcologicalCenter.com) Canceled in case of inclement weather. Repeats Wednesday: November 9.

Sat, Nov 5, Late Fall Migration Birding, 8-10am | Join Glen Helen director Nick Boutis for a 2-hour walk in search of southbound migratory birds. **\$5, members free. All participants must register.** Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Trailside Museum.](http://TrailsideMuseum.com)

Sun, Nov 6, Glen Helen History Hike, 1-3pm | Explore Glen Helen's history with a moderate 1-mile hike on the Inman Trail led by naturalist Patrick Dwyer. Learn about the natural features including Pompey's Pillar, the Cascades, Hopewell Indian Mound and the actual Yellow Spring. **\$5, members free. All**

participants must register. Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Outdoor Education Center, 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs.](http://OutdoorEducationCenter.com)

Tues, Nov 8, Beaver Full Moon Hike, 7-8:30pm | Journey into the Glen for a walk on the Inman Trail. A moderate 1-mile hike. **\$5, members free. All participants must register.** Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Trailside Museum.](http://TrailsideMuseum.com)

Sun, Nov 13, Raptor Center Photography Program, 9-10:30am | Take advantage of this unique opportunity to photograph Ohio native raptors at the Raptor Center. Educational ambassador raptors will be held on glove or placed on perches for the opportunity to photograph them in all their splendor. This event is appropriate for beginners or advanced photographers alike. Program will proceed in light rain. Heavy rain or wind will necessitate a cancellation. Due to the up-close nature of the program, no non-ticketed observers will be permitted. **\$35 per ticket (\$25 for members). 15 ticket maximum. All participants must register.** Contact lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org for member code. [Raptor Center: 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.](http://RaptorCenter.com)

Sat, Nov 19, Honeysuckle Daze, 9-12pm | Join our land manager and volunteers in managing invasive bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* species). Please bring your own loppers or hand saws if possible. Limited hand tools will be available. **RSVP** zbollheimer@glenhelenassociation.org. Meet at [405 Corry Street parking lot.](http://405CorryStreet.com)



Announcements

Nature Shop Reopens



After being closed for quite some time, the Nature Shop will open beginning Thursday, September 1 at 10am. Staff and volunteers have worked hard to revitalize and reinvent this cozy shop located in the Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry St. We've procured new merchandise, including hiking supplies, new T-shirts, great Charley Harper accessories, fun mugs, children's books and nature toys, along with decorative accessories and many new surprises. The shop even features beaver items paying homage to our beaver dam. Of course, we still have excellent bird seed and suet available.

Members receive a 10% discount on items. The shop will be open Thursdays through Sundays from 10am to 4pm.

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. 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 these specialty plates, the Glen Helen Association receives \$15.

Support the Glen – Shop at amazon.com



Participating is very simple. All you have to do is go to "smile.amazon.com" any time you'd like to make an Amazon.com purchase. When you are prompted to select your charity, select "Glen Helen Association." Everything else about your Amazon shopping experience stays the same – the shopping cart, wish lists, shipping options and prices. You shop. Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase to us.

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. 🌿

If you are interested in volunteering at the Nature Shop email lfreeman@glenhelenassociation.org



Photo: Ron Baker



Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/glenhelen

Glen Helen Yurt Project

New Learning Space for Outdoor Education

The Glen Helen Association has embarked on renovation and restoration of numerous properties in the preserve. One building which desperately needed replacement was the 'Fox Den,' a building used for Outdoor School and Ecocamp. Twenty years ago, board members knew that it had outlived its usefulness. With the purchase of the Glen Helen Nature Preserve by the GHA in September 2020, and with the support of generous donations to the Capital Campaign, we needed a suitable replacement that would be ready by March of 2022.

Executive Director Nick Boutis suggested looking at a yurt for an option. Board members Dan Rudolf and Scott Geisel took on the project of finding the best options. After much research a yurt did seem like it best met the needs. Outdoor Education Center Director Sarah Cline approved the choice. Dan found a good deal with woman-owned yurt builders, Blue Ridge Yurts. Dan and his wife, Libby, made the trek to the mountains, stayed overnight in a very nice yurt in Virginia, then drove back to the Glen with a trailer full of yurt!



Sunrise over the new yurt



Dan and Libby (and Lucky) ready to head home from Blue Ridge Yurts in Virginia

Jim Mayer and a large crew tore down the Fox Den and cleared the debris, recycling as much as they could. The dead trees and large pines cut down to prepare the area for the yurt were milled for use in the building supports, benches, and other places. With the platform base in place, another crew of staff and volunteers assembled and put up the yurt step by step in one day!

Next came building the front porch deck, and installing windows, doors, electric and a mini-split, stairways, wooden floor, an entry overhang shelter, and benches for kids to take off muddy boots before entry!

And – ready for Outdoor School as of March, just in the nick of time. Many thanks to all who helped and to all who contributed to Glen Helen to make this happen. 🍀

- Dan Rudolf, Glen Helen Board



Jim Mayer knocking down the Fox Den.



It's up!



The team, from front to back, left to right: Sarah Cline, Scott Geisel, Jim Mayer, Ike Pouliot, Jerry Papania, Paul Sampson, Dan Rudolf, Lilli Rudolf, and Kelsy Mazur. Not pictured but also helping out were: Shahkar Strolger, Zach Bollheimer, Sam Crawford, Libby Rudolf, Betty Ross, and Stanley and Miriam Benham.

Ecocamp Celebrates 50 Years



As I sit down to work on this article, I have a living room full of Ecocamp Naturalist Counselors. It's Sunday evening, and we've gathered for dinner and a movie night. One of our naturalists is a foreign exchange student from Nicaragua and has graciously offered to cook dinner. Over bowls of carne molida con papas the naturalists' conversation keeps drifting back to their Ecocampers: funny things campers have said, proud stories of the engaging learning they've facilitated, and discussions about plans for the week ahead. As I look around at this team, I see the genuine joy they have for their work. I also see that they're tired and working hard to psych themselves up for the week ahead.

We've had a difficult season. Summer camps across the country have struggled to hire enough staff. We're two years out of touch with the teenage campers who often come back as staff for the summer of their first year of college and with plentiful job opportunities with higher pay rates, we had quite the challenge on our hands. In June, we started our season short staffed and were forced to limit our camper capacity as a result. From day one, this crew has stepped up to carry that extra burden with remarkably good spirits and an unfathomable amount of hard work. I am immensely proud of them and



(Top) New friends sign each other's shirts at the end of camp.

(Above) Campers weigh wasted food to measure environmental impact.

so honored to be a part of this amazing community tasked with creating magic and fun for our campers (and ourselves) this summer!

We have good reason to be hopeful and dedicated to our work: this summer we're celebrating the 50th



Camper's curiosity grows with observation and exploration.

anniversary of Glen Helen's Ecocamp! Since 1972, Ecocamp has been a staple for children from throughout the region and beyond. This program has evolved over time, but has always held true to its core mission of joyfully cultivating nature connection and community amongst our campers, families, and staff. While we're constantly looking for ways to improve, if you look back through old files or hear stories from former campers, it is amazing to me how much of our program is steeped in tradition. We're still using the same daily camp schedule, campers still 'caterpillar walk' cooperatively, are challenged to limit their wasted food, and sing the Yellow Springs Song a handful of times each week. While we no longer handwrite our attendance lists (thank goodness!) and parents complete a bit more pre-camp paperwork (sorry!), we still welcome each of our campers for a week of immersive exploration in the beautiful forests of Glen Helen.

I am viscerally aware of the value an Ecocamp experience has;

something I've felt even more keenly during the past few camp seasons in particular. The pandemics' continued and lasting effects on campers' social and emotional development, sense of community, and comfortability outside of the home combine to form a set of developmental challenges that Ecocamp is uniquely able to address. Our naturalists strive to create a safe, supportive space where we all can learn and grow with compassion; youth who are developing or practicing their self-regulation and interpersonal skills, especially when they are delayed in these experiences or out of practice, are in the perfect place to learn while having fun and getting all the benefits that come along with time spent in nature.

Our days are long. Sometimes challenging. Always full of learning and heart. We have an amazing team of people who are going to keep showing up for their campers and themselves. Here's to another fifty years of Ecocamp! 🍄

- Sarah Cline, Outdoor Education Director

Best Camp Quotes of the Summer: Ecocamp 2022

"I love a good yurt."

- C.D., age 7

"If we ever lost a camper, we should check (Naturalist) Kayla's backpack first. She's always carrying everything!"

- R.A., age 8

"If that floats your fancy?"

- L. M., age 11

"I can't work in an office building - I'm nine."

- C.D., age 9

"I'm grateful for triangles! They are just so great."

- G.A., age 16

"Oh, sorry dude. You're a live moth - I thought you were trash."

- O.R., age 9

Naturalist: "How is your day?" "My day is a big, fun day. My day is the best day of my life."

- Z. M., age 5

"My shirt says 'I'd rather be at Hogwarts' but I'd rather be at Ecocamp!"

- S.S., age 8

"Life is more fun when you're skipping."

- S.C., age 31

Field Notes

A Land Stewardship Update from Land Manager Zach Bollheimer

With this edition of *In the Glen* focused on the theme of Securing the Future, I want to discuss the future of what I work with every day: the ecosystems of Glen Helen.

Our forests, prairies, streams, and wetlands are all continuously growing and changing, every moment of every day! From photosynthesis and nutrient cycles in our soil, to the erosion and deposition of sediments, everything is moving and growing all the time. With all of the constant change, especially with ecosystem changes caused by humans, the outlook for their future can sometimes be unclear.

From the perspective of land stewardship, our role is to ensure the ecosystems we are managing have a healthy outlook. Most commonly, this is in the form of invasive species management. Managing invasive plants like lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*) and bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera* species) is one way of ensuring an ecosystem's future health, as many invasive species sprout leaves earlier in the year than most native plants and inhibit native plants' growth. The longer they persist in a space, the worse off the health of the native plants.

One area where we have brightened the ecological future of the forest is below the intersection of Grinnell Road and Corry Street. There, woody-stemmed invasive species were removed last winter. Most of the herbaceous plant layer has been destroyed by heavy shading and by allelopathic chemicals produced by the honeysuckle that affect the growth and germination of other plants. Now, with the necessary sunlight and space, and with the removal of the allelopathic invasive species, the native vegetation that survived can now go to seed and spread. Cut-leafed toothwort, Hepatica, spicebush, and upland sedges now have the ability to revegetate this area.

I hope to supplement this ecosystem's vegetative re-establishment through additional native plantings and continued invasive species management and monitoring. This is what it takes to secure healthy forest ecosystems and



Tree of Heaven's pinnately-compound leaves can grow from 1 to 4 feet long and can have from 10 to 40 leaflets.



The thin, upright growth of *Ailanthus* is rapid, with alternate twigs whose bark, when scratched, has a scent that resembles burnt peanut butter.



Large V- or heart-shaped leaf scars are another key indicator of this species.

to set an ecosystem back on a course towards being a healthy oak-hickory forest.

Invasive Species Highlight: ***Ailanthus Altissima* - Tree of Heaven**

This invasive tree species, native to northeast China and Taiwan, came into North America through the horticultural industry in the late 1700s, as a fast-growing, ornamental shade tree. It spreads rapidly in disturbed areas within forests, along roadsides, and tree lines.

Often mistaken for Black Walnut or sumac species with similar pinnately-compound leaves, it can be easily distinguished by its foul and musky odor distinctly-shaped leaf scars (shown lower left), and smooth gray-brown, cantaloupe-like bark. It has large, pale-yellow/green terminal flower clusters that turn brown and remain into the winter.

When cut, it aggressively sends new sprouts from the stump and root system, so cutting without prior chemical treatment is not recommended. Hand pulling is also not commonly recommended, as you must remove the entire root system, or it will typically re-grow. The current best practice for management and removal is a penetrating basal-bark herbicide application with a penetrating systemic herbicide, though foliar treatments can also be effective. Once dead, reduce your hazard by cutting down the standing to a safe height that will not threaten structures and leave the remaining dead trunk for habitat purposes. For herbicide applications, we recommend hiring a certified commercial pesticide applicator.

New studies are being conducted and treatment methods are currently being developed utilizing native Verticillium Wilt Fungi (*Verticillium nonalfalfae*). These treatments are showing high rates of success, but are not yet commercially approved or available. Glen Helen land stewardship staff are hopeful new invasive species management techniques may come from this exciting research being conducted. 🌱

- Zach Bollheimer, Land Manager
(zbollheimer@glenhelenassociation.org)

Welcome New Staff



Glen Helen recently welcomed our new Director of Finance and Administration, Tabitha Guidone. Here's an opportunity to learn a bit about her.

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

My love for the Glen was planted as a young student visiting the Outdoor Education Center with my school group, and that blossomed into regular biking trips from Beaver-creek to visit the Spring. My husband and I were married at Birch Manor in 2010 and we've been bringing our boys here since they were little. In my previous career, we partnered with the Raptor Center for creative programs and to adopt Henry, so I was beyond excited to join the Glen Helen Association team in June. It's a dream to do what I love for the Glen.

What is your favorite place in the Glen?

There are many scenic spots, and important areas that earmarked milestones in my life, but there is something magical about the limestone steps trailing up to the water and walking to the cascades. I love the quiet in nature, but seeing all the hikers - especially young ones - enjoying the scenery is extra special.

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

Hands down, owls are adorable. Henry at the Raptor Center is my favorite little guy. I'd take him home but I don't think Rebecca would advise that. Nor would I get any sleep.

Do you have a favorite vacation or adventure?

We love to travel, especially taking weekend road trips to neighboring areas like Pittsburgh, Chicago, Norris Lake and Buffalo. We're packing for a trip to Europe to visit Italy, Croatia and Germany this September... this may top them all.

What is the best part of your job?

Everyone that I work with. The team at GHA is very special - we're each here for a personal reason that aligns with the Glen's mission - and are genuinely the nicest and most sincere group of people.

Tell us your tastiest meal or treat!

Nearly anything with chocolate or salt - or just straight coffee.

Do you have a motto or favorite quote?

"You can do it!" And my husband's favorite that I repeat when necessary: "It can't rain all the time." 🍀

A Rehabber Goes on Vacation

Last week my family and I took a vacation to Cleveland, Ohio. We had never been up that way and it was a convenient place to meet with family. We visited the Cleveland Zoo (the rainforest exhibit was phenomenal); and the Natural History Museum with its beautiful gemstone exhibit and fabulous native wildlife area; but the shining jewel of the trip was the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. For a nature lover like myself this may not be surprising, but my nine-year-old son was blown away by what he thought was going to be "a bunch of boring plants." The indoor gardens were airy and bright and the outdoor gardens were just the right size to delight the senses before moving to the next style. The indoor natural sensory area was incredible, and fully captivated both my nine *and* fourteen year old! They laughed, explored, and generally had a great time.

So what does this have to do with the title of the article? Well, a true wildlife rehabilitator never finds oneself too far from the job. While exploring the Costa Rican cloud forest, we were delighted by the free flying butterflies and birds. There were a number of rusty red Costa Rican doves that were primarily ground dwelling, but would dash up for a quick flight if a passerby got too close. We just passed a display of chrysalises and took the elevator to the upper walkway when my husband pointed out a dove lying awkwardly on the ground where we had just walked. We watched it for a minute, but once it moved its head we figured it was fine. Just



Red Costa Rican doves

as I was about to continue on, the dove tried to stand and immediately I realized what happened. The dove was dizzy and spinning and looked like it had one too many drinks at the bar which are all signs of head trauma, in this case from a quick flight into the glass wall of the greenhouse. I looked around for an employee, then carefully scooped the dove up to move it out of the middle of the walkway. Moments later a caretaker appeared and I left my feathered charge in his capable hands.

Just like that, I went from visitor to rehabber and back to visitor. Even on vacation, it felt good to offer what help I could to that beautiful little bird in her moment of need. An hour later, I got a very good laugh when I discovered a little drop of her "thanks" on the front of my shirt. I guess it really is true: You can dress rehabbers up, but you can never take them away from nature. Thank you Cleveland Botanical Garden for your dedication to bringing people and nature together, and I hope the little dove is feeling better soon! 🍀

- Rebecca Jaramillo, Raptor Center Director rjaramillo@glenhelen.org



From the Archives

The bridge over the Birch Creek Cascades, probably from the 1930s, plus or minus. Looking east, the fence in the background shows how close grazing lands came to the edge of the gorge.

Although the photo is unattributed, we believe that it may have been captured by Axel Bahnsen, a highly regarded photographer who specialized in pictorialism, an approach designed to showcase the potential of photography to be a creation of art. 🌲