

IN THE GLEN



Celebrating
the Outdoor
Education Center's
70th Anniversary,
featuring stewards
from 1972 to
today!

See page 4

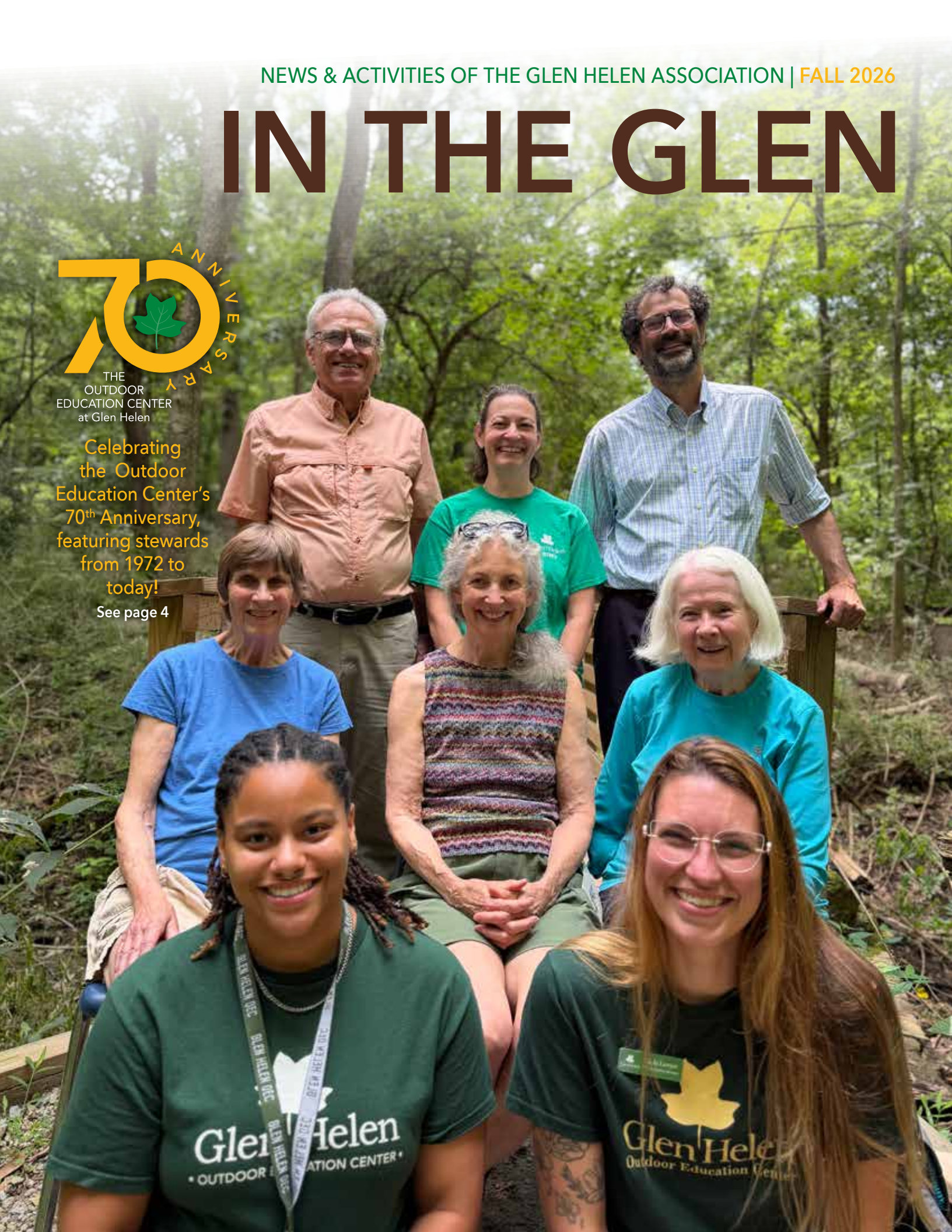




Photo: Craig Rucks

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

In the Glen Contributors

Editor: Sarah Strong; Contributors: Nick Boutis, Kat Christen, Rebecca Jaramillo, Kara Peters, Robyn Wright; Design: Jennifer Perry

Glen Helen Nature Preserve

Trails are open daily, sunrise to sunset. All wildlife, vegetation, and natural features are protected. Please leave no trace. 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
Thurs-Sun, 10am-4pm

Outdoor Education Center

Overnight environmental education center for school groups and summer Ecocamps. 1075 OH-343, Yellow Springs, 937-767-7648

Raptor Center

Raptor education and rehabilitation center. Visitors are welcome to visit the center and see the resident birds. Fall hours 9am-6pm.
1075 OH-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

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Emily Cook, Patrick Harney, Chris Muratore, Stephanie York

Grinnell Mill

Manager: Susie Butler

www.glenhelen.org

Cover: Photo: Kelsey Mazur. From bottom left, Krissy Lopez, Kayla Lawyer, Betty Ross, Mary Paterson, MJ Dodson, Dick Paterson, Rebecca Jaramillo, Nick Boutis.



Celebrating Connection to Nature

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Having chosen a career in regenerative agriculture and conservation for over 20 years, it probably comes as no surprise that I spent a ridiculous amount of time outside and in nature during my youth. Whether hiking, foraging mulberries, or catching frogs, I am so grateful nature was

valued and present in my childhood. So many gifts have come from this connection that it brings me great joy to now be at Glen Helen where our programs have such long reaching impacts.

This year, we proudly celebrate seventy years at the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center. Seventy years of immersive life-changing experiences for youth has no small impact on our community and region. This means thousands of children, now adults, living in our region have a connection to the natural world through their experiences at the Glen. Their children and grandchildren get to experience and be impacted by the Glen.

Visitors regularly tell us stories about their Outdoor Education Center experiences, clearly remembering details from their youth like their Naturalist's

name, a favorite nature song or game, or a special place in the Glen. These details have stayed with them for 10-30 years! Awe of the natural world, a strong sense of place, and a desire to protect and steward land and its creatures stems from these moments.

In this edition, you will find articles on the OEC's 70th anniversary, the impact of human sounds on raptors, and how beavers are changing the landscape. We hope these stories will continue to deepen your own connection with nature and the Glen.

Thank you for valuing our work, helping us to steward the land, care for its wild creatures, and impact the next generation. I suspect you've probably caught a frog or two yourself. If so, you're in good company here at the Glen.

Kat Christen

Kat Christen,
Deputy Director





Stewards In the Glen

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER CELEBRATES 70



This fall, **Glen Helen is celebrating the Outdoor Education Center's 70th anniversary.** It's such a significant milestone I'm having a hard time wrapping my head around it. I find it somewhat intangible, much like trying to comprehend how long ago mastodons roamed the earth. Perhaps, if I'm lucky enough to make it to my own 70th birthday, I'll understand better.

Trying to imagine the many cycles and seasons of Outdoor School, Eco-Camp, and the ever-changing cohorts of Naturalists and Counselors over the past 70 years (and over 50 for Eco-Camp) does feel intangible. However, the daily flow of these programs has remained largely unchanged over the decades. We have documentation going back to the early sixties that shows the same Outdoor School schedule we keep today. When I think about that, I can imagine it. A clear picture forms in my mind of groups of children going off into the Glen with their Naturalist

feeling excited, a little nervous, and taking in all the sensations of being outside.

As I continue to think about how long the Outdoor Education Center has conducted its programming and the value of the traditions and culture that have been preserved, I have realized that I, as well as the rest of the staff, are merely stewards of this legacy. Our current permanent staff includes Lead Naturalists, an Education Manager, Marketing and Partnerships Manager, Assistant Director, and Kitchen Staff. There have been over 1,000 Naturalist Teacher Interns who have been trained on-site, and second-year interns and former directors who have safeguarded this program.

As stewards, we are tasked with making sure these successful systems stay in place. We are here to make sure the Outdoor Education Center and all it entails continues to do this life-changing work for another 70 years and more. Our main job is to safeguard all the



things that make our programs work and work well. It's our responsibility to recognize what the essence of the programs are and keep them alive. It is also our responsibility to carefully navigate the changes we do implement as the decades, our audiences' needs, and the world continue to change.

I can only speak to the changes and challenges in Environmental Education that I have seen throughout my career. I have no doubt many of them are timeless, and previous directors have dealt with their own versions of them. Successfully, too, as we are still here hosting upwards of 3,000 young people each year



alongside several cohorts of young professionals as our Naturalists and Counselors.

Changing trends in parenting and the impact of technological advancements are two of those challenges. Currently, we are helping kids learn and practice face-to-face socialization skills, and how to be out of constant contact with their parents. Our camp life gives kids space to engage in analog activities. Among many benefits, some activities, like crafts, coloring, and art projects, help them learn and practice occupational skills that are lost or underdeveloped due to the overuse of technology.



Fortunately, the very nature of overnight camp holds these skills useful and relevant in a timeless way.

Major changes have happened within the formal education sphere in just the past few decades, including consolidation of school districts and their campuses, the rise of standardized testing, and ongoing school funding issues. While all of these are out of our control, they have had a big impact on environmental education at informal sites like the Outdoor Education Center. Class sizes have grown, adherence to state academic standards is a must, and the need for scholarship monies is ever present.

As we accumulate more decades of Outdoor School and Eco-Camp we will continue to adapt to the challenges the future holds. Chief among them are funding, aging buildings, staffing, and extreme weather from climate change.

The past is the beacon for our future. We have a precedent of success through changes and challenges, and there is no reason to believe that we cannot rise to future ones. Stewarding the essence of the programs and traditions we hold dear is not in opposition to adapting to the times. We know our schedule and combination of academics and

traditional camp works, and we know nature always works. As a result, guests return to us year after year after year. Over 150,000 school children have experienced the magic of school camp since 1956, and some schools have been coming back to the Outdoor Education Center for decades. Celina Elementary, as an example, has been attending since the 1970s. Now, children in that community hear about the program from multiple generations of adults in their lives and arrive knowing it will be a week they will never forget. What a privilege to be the stewards of this life-shaping tradition.



Seven decades is indeed a long time, but in some ways, it makes the legacy easier to protect. I hope that I and the rest of the team who play a part in stewarding this incredible place can rise to the challenges, make the best decisions, safeguard the right things, and implement the correct changes. This is a bellwether program that works. We know this because it has lasted for so long. The endurance of it is our overwhelming evidence. I truly believe that this can be attributed to the dedication and thoughtfulness of all the stewards who have come before me. I have faith that my tenure here, as well as those that work with me, will provide the same lasting outcomes. I hope that whoever is celebrating the Outdoor Education Center's 80th, 90th, and 100th anniversaries can look back at the people that came before them and know that they all did their best to ensure those milestones! *Article by Robyn Wright, Outdoor Education Center Director*



Rent The Glen

FIVE UNIQUE SETTINGS TO CHOOSE FROM



Glen Helen has many 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



Cedar Center Dormitory



Birch Manor



Outdoor Education Center Lodge

Vernet Ecological Center

With its spacious auditorium and beautiful natural stone patio, Vernet Ecological Center is the perfect rental space.

Camp Greene

This cozy 200-person capacity wooden lodge with two stone fireplaces and gorgeous outdoor spaces makes this the ideal private location for gatherings of all kinds.

Birch Manor

Birch Manor's historic brick 1931 mansion and surrounding tree lined lawns are a welcoming setting for weddings, receptions, and retreats.

Outdoor Education Center Lodge

Great windows to the forest make this oversized cafeteria style dining room the ideal spot for any retreat.

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.



For rates, questions, or to schedule a tour, contact rentals@glenhelenassociation.org or 937-769-1902 x1101.





Glen Helen Program Calendar

Group sizes are limited. Register early to ensure your participation. Many programs are discounted for Glen members. Email sstrong@glenhelen.org for member discount code. Please visit glenhelen.org to learn more. Join Today!



SEPTEMBER

3 **Golden Morning Walkers Club**
9-10am
Gather in the Glen for a slow-paced ½ mile wooded, moderate trail walk. Enjoy the beauty of the Glen and each other's company while getting some mild morning exercise.
10
17 Geared toward older adults, but all ages and abilities are welcome. Weather permitting. Co-sponsored by the Yellow Springs Senior Center and the Glen Helen Association.
24
THUR Registration available, walk-ins welcome. Registered participants will be notified of cancellations. Program: Free. Parking is free for participants. Meet at the Vernet Ecological Center, 405 Corry St.



5 **Fall Migration Birding**
8-10am
We'll search the Glen for fall residents and southward migrants on this one-mile walk. Program: \$5, free for members. Parking: Free. Meet at the Cascades Parking Lot, 1075 OH-343.
SAT

6 **Whoo Cooks for You**
SUN 4-8pm

"Whoo Cooks for You" is an extraordinary feast that showcases the Glen Helen Raptor Center and its vital work in wildlife conservation. This vibrant annual event features chefs from Nood Bar, Piccolo Orseto, Wheat Penny Oven and Bar, Hi-Hat Social, Blue Berry Cafe & Restaurant. Purchase your tickets today to support the center through a night of culinary excellence, silent and live auctions, up close encounters with birds of prey and a magical night in the woods. Limited seats available. Purchase tickets at glenhelen.org/event/whoo-cooks-for-you/.

13 **Glen Kids**
27 11:00 - 11:45am
SUN

Join environmental and STEM teacher Amber Good & guest teachers for an exciting and engaging activity! Tools and materials provided while supplies last. Open to all ages. Family friendly! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Walk-ins welcome. This program occurs twice a month (see calendar for more dates). Program: Free, donations appreciated. Parking: \$10, free for members. Trailside Museum, 505 Corry St.

16 **Speaker Series: History of Old Chillicothe**
WED 7-8:30pm

Join Ryan DiMisa, Great Council State Park Naturalist, to explore the pivotal history of Old Chillicothe. We will delve into three tumultuous years that shaped Shawnee history on the banks of the Little Miami River, including key events like the death of Cornstalk, the capture of Daniel Boone, and Clark's 1780 campaign. Learn how these events and figures influenced the Shawnee community and the broader historical landscape. Program: Free. Parking: \$10, free for members. Vernet Center Auditorium, 405 Corry St.



26 **Harvest Full Moon Hike, Pine Forest**
SAT 8-10pm
Experience the beauty of the Glen under a full moon! Join Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Anne Griffith for a 3-mile hike to the Pine Forest and nearby School Forest - Ohio's oldest educational forest. Moderately strenuous hike. We recommend bringing a small or red flashlight. Registration required. Program: \$8, free for members. Parking: Free. Meet at the Cascades Parking Lot, 1075 State Route 343.

OCTOBER

1 **Golden Morning Walkers Club**
8 9-10am
15 See September 3 Description. Program: Free. Parking is free for participants.
22
29 THUR



3 **Fall Migration Birding**
SAT 8-10am

We'll search the Glen for fall residents and southward migrants on this one-mile walk. Program: \$5, free for members. Parking: Free. Meet at the Cascades Parking Lot,

4 **Raptor Fall Photo Program**
SUN 10:30am-12pm

Get ready to capture incredible photos of our resident raptors around the Raptor Center and surrounding woods. Birds will be photographed in areas representative of their natural habitats while we talk about their natural history and individual stories. Bring your high speed lenses for a chance to capture some birds on the wing if the weather, and birds, cooperate! This program is appropriate for the novice to professional photographer and anyone in between. The program will proceed in light wind or rain, heavy rain will necessitate a reschedule to Oct 11. Program: \$45, members: \$40. Parking: Free with a paid ticket. Maximum of 12 tickets. Meet at the Cascades Parking Lot, 1075 State Route 343.

4 **Autumn Wreath Making Workshop**
SUN 3pm - 6pm

Join us for a fun Fall arts and craft afternoon! We will make Autumn-themed wreaths with a mix of natural and faux materials for you to take home. Though we invite you to bring your own dried, natural or faux favorites (berries, pine cones, pliers, miniatures, tools, glue guns, flowers, grasses, anything else your heart desires) we will provide a plethora of fun materials, including the wreath structure. Ages 16+. Registration required. Program: \$30, members \$20. Parking: Free for participants. Vernet Center Auditorium, 405 Corry St.

11 **Glen Kids**
25 11:00 - 11:45am
SUN

See September 13 for full description.

15 **Raptor Fall Photo Program**
THUR 10:30am-12pm

See details on September 4. Program: \$45, members: \$40. Parking: Free with a paid ticket. Maximum of 12 tickets. Meet at the Cascades Parking Lot, 1075 State Route 343.

21 **SPEAKER SERIES: Mushroom Log Cultivation Workshop and Talk with Marc Amante**
WED 5:30-7pm

Learn how to cultivate edible shitake and oyster mushrooms with Central State University Extension Educator, Marc Amante. Participants will use drills to prepare a pre-cut-log, insert mushroom spore plugs and cap the holes with wax. Take home a log ready to grow mushrooms! All materials provided. Registration required. Space limited. Program: \$10, members: \$5. Parking: \$10, free for members. Vernet Center Auditorium, 405 Corry St.

24 **Hunter's Full Moon, Haunted Hike**
SAT 8:00-9:30pm

A moderate 1-mile hike. Join Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Anne Griffith, to search for ghosts along the Inman Trail and hear about the haunted history of the Glen. Registration required. Program: \$8, free for members. Parking: Free for participants. Meet at the Steps Parking Lot, 405 Corry St.

NOVEMBER

7 **Fall Birding**
SAT 8-10am

We'll search the area around the Little Miami River for fall residents and southward migrants on this one-mile walk. Program: \$5, free for members. Parking: Free. Grinnell Mill, 3536 Bryan Park Rd.



8 **Glen Kids**
SUN 11:00 - 11:45am

See September 13 for full description.

8 **Wildcrafted Herbal Teas**
SUN 1:30-3:30pm

Join Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Deb Ruppensburg, to learn about tasty, wellness teas and blends you can make from common wild plants in your own yard. Tea time and samples included. Registration required. Program: \$5, free for members. Parking: Free for participants. Vernet Center Auditorium, 405 Corry St.

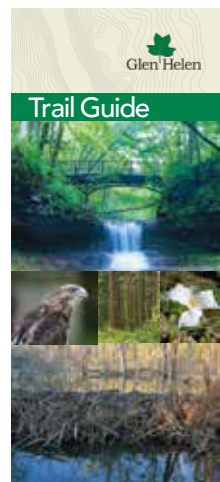
21 **Beaver Full Moon Hike, Beaver Pond**
SAT 7:00-8:30pm

Journey into the Glen for a moonlit walk on the Inman Trail. This moderate 1-mile hike, led by Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Anne Griffith, honors the spirit of the beaver moon. We recommend bringing a small or red flashlight. Registration required. Program: \$8, free for members. Parking: Free for participants. Meet at the Cascades Parking Lot, 1075 State Route 343.



Announcements

HOT OFF THE PRESS! Get your own Glen Helen Trail Guide



Our updated printed maps are in. Take note of the Cascades Parking Lot, Beaver Pond and two new trails: The Raptor Center Loop and ADA accessible trail with an upcoming viewing deck.

Visitors can now view our updated map at glenhelen.org or in person at all Glen Helen buildings and parking booths.

SPONSORSHIPS AND ADVERTISEMENTS AVAILABLE

Position your business alongside one of the Top 5 Most Visited Attractions in the Miami Valley area while supporting conservation, education, and community engagement. Contact Development Manager Tracey Tackett at ttackett@glenhelen.org or (937) 769-1902 for opportunities.

PRESERVE ACCESS UPDATES

If you've visited recently, you're well aware Glen Helen Preserve has improved access with newly paved parking lots, an accessible bathroom, and parking gate installation at both the Cascades and Steps locations to collect fees and secure the Preserve after hours.

Glen Helen Association members can continue to enjoy free parking by scanning the barcode on their membership cards at the gatehouse kiosks. Non-members can pay parking fees with a credit card at the kiosk, pay cash when an attendant is present, or join the Association to immediately receive the free parking benefit.

GLEN HELEN NATURE SHOP

Now located in the Trailside Museum. Open Thursday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Be sure to check out our new Fall merch! Plus, we are currently seeking volunteers to help around the shop.



A Cacophony of Sounds

THE OTHER POLLUTION

When I hear the word “pollution” I typically think of plastic bags, sticky tar floating in the ocean, or maybe the hazy glow above the city at night. I don’t often think about the seemingly endless symphony of noises the human species makes day and night. Nor do I think about the effects of this stream of sound on the wildlife trying to hunt, hide and mate all within the ceaseless noise. However, noise pollution is just as important to understand as trash piles, oil spills and the absence of visible stars over our cities. Both chronic and periodic noise events can have devastating and lasting effects on animals and wildlife populations that deserve to be studied, understood and hopefully reduced.

Birds use sound to communicate with each other often over long distances. This communication is especially critical during nesting and mate selection. It is easy to assume that birds in areas with a high amount of noise pollution would therefore have lower rates of reproduction. An analysis of 160 global studies found that not only is this assumption correct, but that birds in areas with higher noise pollution

also displayed increases in aggression. Even a single noise source was shown to correlate with measurably higher stress hormones. Owls, primarily auditory hunters, are rendered “blind” by noise pollution. For every decibel of added noise in an area, an owl is 8% less likely to catch food. Considering North America alone has lost 3 billion breeding adult birds since 1970, any additional stressor is worth investigating and mitigating whenever possible.

The effects of noise pollution are not confined to “out there” in the wild either. Zoos and national parks have taken active steps to reduce anthropogenic noises. A study on mammal behavior at a zoo in Brazil prompted many zoos to redesign habitats with auditory barriers rather than reduce the number of visitor days after finding that individual sound events were linked to an increase in stress hormones as significant as prolonged exposure. Similarly, national parks and the federal air administration have reduced air traffic above parks for a quieter environment.

Barn Owls use their facial disk to pinpoint the quietest sounds that aid in hunting.
Photo: Jean Kuns



At the Raptor Center, the severe effects of noise pollution are most evident on days following big fireworks displays like July 5th and January 1st. Every year we see the behavioral changes in the birds for days or weeks after the “ooo’s” and “ahhh’s” have long been forgotten. I can’t help but wonder what the rest of the animals in the Glen must have felt during those terrifying nights. *Article by Rebecca Jaramillo, Director, Raptor Center*



Birds such as this crow that are found in urban environments are more likely to have an increase in stress hormones due to noise pollution than those found in more remote locations. Photo credit: Photo: Staff

ECO-Birthdays

at Glen Helen

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

Yurt party space!

Outdoor activities!

Live animal encounters!

- Eco-Birthday party for ages 4 to 12
- Private party space for two hours (up to 20 people)
- Party room set-up with tables & chairs
- Four program themes to choose from
- Animal encounter & outdoor activity included

Packages start at \$250

rentals@glenhelenassociation.org
937-769-1902 ext, 1101 | glenhelen.org



Building a Wetland

BEAVERS IN THE GLEN



The beaver family, who moved to Glen Helen in 2021, is transforming our ecosystem before our eyes.

Did you know beavers are a keystone species? Just like humans, they play a disproportionately large role in shaping the structure and function of entire ecosystems. As these beavers fell trees and dam Yellow Springs Creek to adapt their home, they are also constructing an evolving wetland. This wetland area is called the “Beaver Pond”, and it is now included on Glen Helen’s newly updated map!



This is a “trust the process” time for our community. Many trees have drowned, but from death springs new life. As the sycamores that stand in the valley slowly decompose, they will become homes and buffets for owls, herons, wood ducks, woodpeckers, blue-winged teals, bats, wood-boring insects, and frogs, all while returning vital nutrients to the environment. When the trees fall, they will also provide habitat to fish, turtles, and other aquatic life.

What a gift to witness this beautiful restoration process firsthand, thanks to Mother Nature’s engineers—the beavers.

Ohio has lost 90% of its wetlands over the last 200 years, making the beaver activity at the Glen a huge ecological boon. Wetlands improve the health of our lands and waters. They rival rainforests and coral reefs in biodiversity, remove toxins from water, store nutrients, mitigate flood damage, and more. Expect to see more wildlife and cleaner water over the coming decades. This summer, a black bear and a river otter were even spotted in the Glen!

Article by Kara Peters, Glen Helen Volunteer



In May, visitors were treated to views of a river otter sunning itself in the beaver pond. Like beavers, river otters were once completely wiped out of Ohio, and have made a comeback. There is plenty of otter food in the pond, so perhaps they will return for good.



Glen Helen

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Outdoor Education Center

Seventy years ago, in the fall of 1956, the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center welcomed its first groups of schoolchildren. Over the years, clothes, hair styles and school buses have changed, but the core of the experience endures. Children spend four days and

three nights in residence in Glen Helen. Immersed in the nature of the preserve and guided by our Naturalist Teacher Interns, they come to understand we are part of our environment, and our environment can support and nurture us if we do the same for it.