

In the Glen

Spring 2021 | News and Activities of the Glen Helen Association

The Raptor Center Turns Fifty

In this issue:

50 Years of Saving Birds and Shaping Lives

Ohio Senate Recognition

An Interview with Raptor Center Founder Steve Kress

Naturalists' Memories

In the Glen

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

Contributors

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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 and Nature Shop

Located in the Vernet Ecological Center
405 Corry Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Temporarily closed. Visit glenhelen.org for details.

Trailside Museum

505 Corry Street, Yellow Springs
Temporarily closed. Visit glenhelen.org for details.

Outdoor Education Center

Residential environmental education center for school groups and summer Ecocamps. 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs 937-767-7648.

Raptor Center

Raptor education and rehabilitation center
Visitors are welcome to visit the center and see the resident birds.

Winter hours: 9am-5pm, Spring Hours 9am-6pm. 1075 State Route 343, Yellow Springs 937-767-7648

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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On the cover: Steven Kress with a Red-Tailed Hawk in 1970

From the Director

Fifty years. It is hard – dare I say, impossible – to adequately compress the story of fifty years of raptor rehabilitation and public education into a few short pages, but in this issue of In the Glen, we’re going to try. Fifty years ago, the Assistant Director at the Outdoor Education Center, Steven Kress, started caring for a handicapped Red-Tailed Hawk named Big Red. Thus was born the Hawk and Owl Clinic, now the Glen Helen Raptor Center. It was a humble beginning for a program that has given thousands of birds a second chance at life in the wild, reached tens and tens of thousands of people with up-close educational encounters, and played a meaningful role in shaping the way people look at wildlife, especially predators.

When the Raptor Center was founded, DDT was still legal in the United States. The Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon were critically “endangered” species. I place the word “endangered” in quotes because it wasn’t until 1973 that the Congress passed the Endangered Species Act.

Steve Kress, for his part, went on to become one of America’s most consequential ornithologists for his work with the Puffin Project and his groundbreaking efforts to restore populations of locally extinct seabirds.

My history with the Raptor Center goes back to 1990, when I was a naturalist intern at the Outdoor Education Center. I was one of nearly a thousand interns who took a turn doing our small part to see that the resident birds had food and a clean enclosure. It was an amazing and memorable experience to care for Alba, a diminutive



and neurotic Barn Owl. But, I also learned that I wasn’t cut out for wildlife rehabilitation. I was way too squeamish, and when we took in birds that we were unable to help, it hit me too hard. Through that lens, I have unwavering appreciation for the folks who stuck with it and developed a passion for working with the birds.

Day in, day out, in 100 degree summer heat and 10-below winter chill, the Raptor Center team has selflessly done what it takes to keep the center going, keep the birds healthy, and keep broadening our educational outreach. In addition to the naturalist interns, we have typically had a more advanced intern who serves as the Raptor Center Assistant, plus the Center director. And that’s it. Recently, a few skilled volunteers have come forward to help as well. That this small group could achieve what they have is a testament both to longevity of the Raptor Center, and to the grit of the people involved.

In 2010, for the first time, we started a fundraiser for the Center. Called “Whoo Cooks for you,” after the call of the Barred Owl, the gala

"...we are pleased to pay tribute to the Glen Helen Raptor Center on the occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary."

- Senate of the 134th General Assembly of Ohio



HONORING
THE GLEN HELEN RAPTOR CENTER
ON ITS ANNIVERSARY

On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 134th General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to pay tribute to the Glen Helen Raptor Center on the occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary.

This is an important milestone, and it provides an ideal time to acknowledge the exceptional work done by the Glen Helen Raptor Center. Since the facility's establishment by celebrated ornithologist Stephen Kress in 1970, countless visitors, hikers, and tourists have been drawn to Antioch College's Glen Helen nature preserve, and the organization has had a tremendous impact on the local bird-of-prey population through its wildlife rehabilitation program, which has released more than two thousand hawks, owls, eagles, falcons, and vultures back into their native Ohio habitat. Clearly, this group's impressive contributions to the community readily explain why it is so widely held in high esteem.

All those associated with the Glen Helen Raptor Center are to be commended for their foresight, dedication, and selfless donations of time, energy, and ability far beyond what was required or expected. These fine people have earned the respect and admiration of many and have set an example of concerned and responsible citizenship worthy of emulation.

Thus, with great pleasure, we applaud the Glen Helen Raptor Center on its Fiftieth Anniversary and extend best wishes for continued success.



Matt Huffman
Senator Matt Huffman
President of the Ohio Senate

Bob Hackett
Senator Robert D. Hackett
10th Senatorial District

dinner featured a multi-course meal prepared by chefs from the Dayton-Springfield area's leading restaurants, all of whom donate their time. It has become the hot ticket in town, and we frequently, regrettably, need to turn people away. The success of the event helped make it possible to renovate the enclosures for our resident birds in 2015, and to build new enclosures for rehabilitating birds in 2020. While we weren't able to host the event last year, we hope to bring it back soon.

Our State Senator, Bob Hackett, when he learned of the fiftieth anniversary, wrote to convey his appreciation: "I would like to congratulate the Glen Helen Raptor Center on their 50th anniversary. The Raptor Center's positive impact on conservation is renowned throughout the Miami Valley and the State of Ohio. I look forward to celebrating these anniversaries for many years to come." We're grateful for his thoughtful words. Senator Hackett also worked with the Ohio legislature to draft a letter of recognition, which we were honored to receive.

With profound gratitude to everyone who has helped make the work of the Raptor Center possible, through their generous commitments of time and resources. Here's to fifty years of making a difference! 🍀

Nick Boutis
- Nick Boutis, Director, Glen Helen Association

Saving Birds and Shaping Lives

Fifty Years of the Raptor Center



I hope it's not too bold of me to proclaim that the Raptor Center is a well-loved feature of the Glen, the town of Yellow Springs, and the Dayton area. But what of the Raptor Center's influences beyond our region? To get a better understanding of the far-reaching and at times world-wide impact the Raptor Center has had on wildlife education and rehabilitation, I sat down with Betty Ross, who directed the Raptor Center for nearly 29 of its 50 years. What I learned was truly inspirational.

— Rebecca Jaramillo, Raptor Center Director

Advancing the Profession of Wildlife Rehabilitation

In the early years of wildlife rehabilitation, there were very few raptor centers and even fewer published resources for outlining best practices, medical procedures, or even basic rehabilitation skills. State and Federal wildlife rehabilitation regulations were in their infancy through the 1970s and 80s, and often relied heavily on input from individual rehabilitators and veterinarians. In 1984, the first national networking opportunity, the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA), was formed as a place for rehabilitators to network, learn from each other,

Former Raptor Center director Betty Ross releasing a young American Kestrel with Raptor campers.

and help develop the regulations that were being put into place.

Betty Ross, as the new Director of the Raptor Center, began attending the annual NWRA conference. After a while Betty went from merely attending conferences, to participating in the education committee, sharing ideas and resources, and chairing the raptor sessions. It was after her first conference, however, that she realized the need for these opportunities right here in Ohio. So it was, that, in 1988, we hosted a conference at Glen Helen, which led to the creation of the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (OWRA).

The Raptor Center has played a leading role in the OWRA ever since. Betty herself was the president of OWRA for years, planning yearly conferences that brought rehabbers from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan together to network and learn from experts around the world. The OWRA has been instrumental in establishing guidelines and standards, permitting regulations, facility inspections, protocols for dealing with oil spills and diseases, and has offered training for new wildlife rehabilitators as well.

Not only do the Raptor Center staff attend OWRA conferences, but the educational interns from the Outdoor Education Center have often participated as well. Many of these interns have taken the knowledge gained at the OWRA conferences, as well as the hands on experience they acquired at the Raptor Center, and built life-long careers in education, natural resources, wildlife rehabilitation and other opportunities further spreading



An early donation box.



A laundry basket serves as a replacement nest for a young Great Horned Owl after its original nest fell.

the work and influence of the Raptor Center.

Pioneering Expertise on Rehabilitating Young Birds

Through hands-on trial and error, the Raptor Center became a leader in rehabilitating young raptors who have become separated from their parents. Our practice, which continues to this day, is to try to reunite young raptors with their parents whenever possible. When not possible, the Raptor Center had great success in fostering young into new nests with appropriately aged inhabitants. These practices were not widely used in the early stages of wildlife rehabilitation, and the Raptor Center became a source of knowledge for other rehabilitators within and beyond the state. Using local resources such as the Division of Wildlife and nest banding researchers, the Raptor Center had knowledge of many raptor nest sites and the status of the young within each nest. This provided valu-

able opportunities to select the best possible location for wild fostering as well as ongoing observational data that proved its success.

When reuniting or wild fostering were not possible, the Raptor Center learned ways to ensure the young raptors would be successful hunters on their own. Countless Barred Owls, Red-Shouldered Hawks, and even a group of Cooper's Hawks were successfully reintroduced into the wild right from the woods around the Raptor Center. The techniques we developed aided not only other rehabbers, but species reintroduction efforts as well.

Species Recovery: Bringing Back Eagles, Osprey and Peregrine Falcons

Perhaps the largest wildlife legacy from fifty years of the Raptor Center is that birds that were once endangered or extirpated (locally extinct) from

continued

Ohio can now be readily seen in the state once again. The first eagles to return to Ohio were in the Grand Lake St. Marys area in the 1970s, and the Raptor Center often received young nestlings or fledglings in need of a bit of TLC before returning to their nest. The Raptor Center was so involved in the eagle repopulation, that often times staff was invited to participate in banding events to monitor the young eaglets in the nest.

In 2006, the Raptor Center received its first adult Bald Eagle as a rehab patient. While not an uncommon occurrence now, this was a very big deal at the time. When the first eagles came to the Dayton area in 2008, the Raptor Center was on call year round, but especially during nesting season. Eagles were making a comeback to



The first adult Bald Eagle rehabilitated at the Raptor Center and released at Deer Creek State Park by former director Betty Ross.

Ohio and the Raptor Center was at the heart of it.

While the Raptor Center played an important role in the eagle recovery through rehabilitating and returning youngsters, the role it took in the Osprey repopulation was even greater. In 1996, the Ohio Division of Wildlife started an Osprey recovery project aimed at bringing nestling Osprey from the East Coast to repopulate the nearly extinguished population of Osprey in Ohio. The Raptor Center was at the heart of the local efforts in the nearby Spring Valley Wildlife Area. Nestling Osprey were picked up at the airport, carefully transported to hacking boxes at Spring Valley where they were fed, observed from a nearby tree blind, and had any mishaps or injuries attended to at the Raptor Center.

It was a labor of love and lots and lots of time, but over the years the program proved successful. At the start of the project, there was only one documented Osprey pair in Ohio.

Seven years later, more than fifty pairs had settled in Ohio. Presently, Osprey are a common site in nearly every large water way across the state, and are occasionally spotted above the Little Miami River in Glen Helen.

Another species that benefited from the Raptor Center's experience was the Peregrine Falcon. Like Bald Eagles and Osprey, Peregrine Falcons were detrimentally affected by DDT. The Ohio Division of Wildlife called on the Raptor Center for help in monitoring and supporting the fledgling population of peregrines that were taking hold in Ohio. Young Peregrine Falcons were placed in hacking boxes in Cincinnati in 1990. Shortly thereafter, a pair of peregrine falcons started nesting in Downtown Dayton.

Volunteers were assembled into the "Peregrine Patrol", walking the streets near the nest box in the early mornings, mid-day, and late afternoon during fledging season to be ready to rescue any unfortunate rough landings or FIDs (falcons in distress). These birds would be carefully scooped up and taken to the Raptor Center for some TLC before hopefully returning to the Dayton skies. As with the Osprey, this was a true test of the skills, knowledge, networking abilities, and dedication of the staff and volunteers of the Raptor Center.

The Raptor Center partnered with both the Division of Wildlife and Boonshoft Museum to create the "Falcon Cam", one of the early nest cameras that allowed the public from all over the world to watch the nesting, hatching, and eventual fledging of



Young osprey in rehabilitative care.

these majestic birds. Mercury, the male peregrine from Dayton, had over forty offspring and at least three mates during the time that the Raptor Center dutifully watched over them.

And as with the osprey, the peregrines are now true masters of the Ohio skies and can be found nesting in every major Ohio city.

Educational programs

Ultimately, beyond the difference that the Raptor Center has made for wildlife, the educational legacy of the Raptor Center is perhaps its greatest impact. Since its very beginning in 1970, the Raptor Center has placed an emphasis on environmental education and stewardship. Sure, raptors were the hook that brought people in, but the message of personal connection to and protection of the environment went far beyond that.

With its connection and proximity to the Outdoor Education Center just yards away, environmental learning was at the core of every personal interaction. Educating a grandparent who brought their grandchild to look at the first Bald Eagle (Solo) or Peregrine Falcon (Striker) on display in Ohio was just as important as educating the nervous good Samaritan bringing in an injured owl they found in their backyard. And the education did not stop at visitors. From its inception, the Raptor Center trained naturalist interns who take their training and spread it world-wide through their travels and work.

For every child who was captivated by the big brown eyes of a barred owl in their classroom, or every adult who was able to release a bird that they



Top: Current Raptor Center director Rebecca Jaramillo doing an owl talk for young Cub Scouts in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Above: Educational program on the Raptor Center lawn.

helped rescue, the Raptor Center's message spreads. Education, rehabilitation, conservation and connection have been at the heart of the last fifty years of the Raptor Center, and will continue to be for the years to come.



Back to the Beginning

An Interview with Raptor Center Founder Steve Kress



Steve Kress is a formidable force in the world of ornithology and conservation biology. Dr. Kress was the founder and executive director of the Seabird Restoration Program and Vice President for Bird Conservation of the National Audubon Society for many years. Especially notably, he established Project Puffin, and succeeded in reestablishing populations of the Atlantic Puffin in the United States, after they had long been extirpated. At the start of his illustrious career, he was the Assistant Director of the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center, during which time he founded our hawk and owl clinic, now known as the Raptor Center.

Raptor Center director Rebecca Jaramillo spoke with him about how the Raptor Center came to be, and its impact on the birds we serve, the people who visit, and on the arc of his work. (The text is edited for space and clarity)

How did the idea of a dedicated raptor education and then rehabilitation center at the Glen, come to be?

I was the assistant director of the Outdoor Education Center at that time. I held that position from 1969 to 72. It was probably about 1970 that we received our first raptor, and that was a Red-Tailed Hawk. It had been shot and was blind, or at least partially blind. We used it primarily for education and outreach. That bird's name was Big Red. I think she had a little vision in one eye, but the other eye was bad. She definitely could not be released, but otherwise was a perfectly beautiful bird.

The second bird that we got was the first rehab bird we received. And I'm not sure exactly why we even got the call, but a farmer nearby called to say that he had a Turkey Vulture in his barn and asked if we would come and take it. So, I went out to the farm and sure enough, there was a young vulture, probably born that year. Unfortunately, it had a very bad wing. I don't know why, what was wrong with it, but it couldn't fold the wing all the way out right. I don't recall if we, at that point, whether we took it to a vet or just what we tried to do, but we did keep it at the center and it lived there a long time. His name was Buzz. After that, the word got out that we were accepting birds. You know, I don't recall much about the permitting at that point whether what we did, if anything, for permits, but we were, I guess, considered legitimate enough that the state wildlife officer who was always desperate to find homes for injured birds started bringing things out.

What do you see as the role of wildlife rehabilitation, and is it still the same as it was back then?

Well, it's still seems to me that most species that come into wildlife rehabilitation are common ones, so the biggest opportunity is education, to inform the public about wildlife and the challenges they face. It may not be a shooting these days, but the fact that it *was* shooting is still worth them knowing about. And, the fact that DDT affected these birds of prey. I think just seeing raptors up close and giving children a chance to see them is important. The closer you get to the bird, the more memorable the experience will be.

Additionally, now you do take on a few endangered species like Peregrine Falcons, and I know you've had Bald Eagles. Maybe some of those have been rehabbed and released, and when that starts happening there is a clear conservation population value as well. But, you know, whatever we learn about these birds in captivity can also inform conservation. And you're not just educating the public, but your teacher naturalists at the outdoor school as well.

Do you think wildlife education has had a positive impact on people's connection to and protection of animals over the past 50 years?

Well, you know, it's a hard thing to measure as a scientist but it certainly must have had some effect on kids. I don't think you need numbers for everything. And the thing is, all those kids, you know, their eyes got wide and jaws dropped. They had these close-up experiences that have got to count. It's hard to quantify it. You can look at things like shooting incidents but it's hard to connect that directly to your outreach because number of hunters is declining everywhere. People are becoming more urban. So small farms are shrinking. These are all changes that are happening at the same time as the Glen was reaching out, but I think, we can probably feel good that we have done our part, and we've tried and at the end of the day that's about all we can do.

What do you see as the largest challenges that are left to overcome in wildlife education?

Well, I think that climate change is the biggest conservation challenge for wildlife and for humans, and the planet as we know it, and yet it's a very difficult thing for people to envision. To separate climate change from weather is really difficult for most people, because people are not programmed very well for understanding the changes in long-term weather, which is climate. That is a big change that's going to affect wildlife conservation in ways that we can't even predict. Range changes, habitat changes, diseases, parasite changes, all these things are interconnected. And, precipitation is an effect of the climate effect.

I'm sure that raptors in Central Ohio are affected by all these subtle changes as well. I think we can do a good job of keeping climate part of the conversation. Think of local ways to make that conversation relevant. And, really focus on what people can do to be part of the solution. Not just the problem, that's what the grind has always been about. I think that's very much what the story is moving towards. Make sure the successes are well-known and the stories about wildlife heroes are well known. Now more than ever we need heroes because sports heroes, political heroes have turned out not to be heroes after all. So, finding heroes for the causes that we think are important is more important, and there are a lot of them.

Any last memorable stories you would like to share?

There was a Red-Shouldered Hawk that we released. I think his name was Rufus. He built this nest on the porch, and you could watch him fly out and try to attract females. Sometimes he would pair up with a female and he would try to lure it back to his nest. He never did get a female to



Steve Kress gives schoolchildren an up-close experience with Hakki, one of our early education ambassadors in 1970.

come in to the nest. He had this big beautiful nest and he lined it, I didn't realize at that point that they line the nest with evergreens, but he was nipping off little cedar boughs and weaving them in together. He had learned all the tricks except that he had the wrong location. They say, you know, housing is mostly about location. So, then he started bringing little food items, I think there were snakes, bring them in and offer them to Big Red. Because she couldn't really see very well, but she knew there was somebody courting her, she was taking the food.

You know, that observation actually led to a project I was involved with as an advisor. In Florida, there's a rehab center that had kept a population of Brown Pelicans. They started breeding in the aviary. The breeding attracted wild Brown Pelicans who came in and built in the trees that were overhanging the aviary and so a whole colony sort of grew up from this. The nucleus was these captive birds, but wild birds started coming in, that became a substantial pelican colony right there. So, seeing that, I suggested that in Hawaii, where they wanted to start a Red-Footed Booby colony, that if they could get Red-Footed Boobies to breed in captivity, this might help attract more birds to that area. In fact, the same thing happened there. So captive breeding can actually lead to conservation gains.

But, you know, I think the beginning of those thoughts probably had their origin for me at Glen Helen, seeing the situation of a captive bird attracting a wild bird. The challenge is learning conservation techniques from these captive birds that can be applied to wild populations. That's the step that most groups don't take. 🌱



Raptor Center Memories

The resident and rehabilitating birds are cared for by a succession of interns from the Raptor Center and Outdoor Education Center. These experiences often leave lasting impressions...

Kris Fister: 1975-76

I took care of the two barn owls that were permanent residents at the time, Tyto and Alba. It was a wonderful opportunity to obtain in depth knowledge of these birds by taking care of them. Working with the birds, doing other bird-related activities with students, and learning from other staff at the Glen ignited my what has become a life-long interest in birds. I still schedule trips around places where I can potentially see new species (I'm not a wild and crazy lister, but do keep track of species I've seen). I did have one mishap with Bubo, the Great-Horned Owl permanent resident at the time. While feeding him, he was able to grip me through the leather glove and it was dif-

ficult to get him to release. Through the glove his claw was able to go deeply into the upper part of my middle finger, and the small scar from after it healed is still visible today.

My time at the Glen was life-changing. I had been out of college for over a year and was trying to figure out what I wanted to do. This experience set me on a path to a career in education, outreach and resource protection. I will retire by the end of this year after serving more than 37 years in the National Park Service.

Nick Boutis: 1990

As an intern at the Outdoor Education Center, I was assigned to care for Alba, our Barn Owl. Raptor Center director Betty Ross had advised me that Alba was a difficult bird to work with,



Above: Naturalist Nicole Kabey with Grinnell, a Barred Owl, in 2019

Inset: Naturalist Kris Fister with a trail group, 1975

possibly as a result of neurological damage before he came into our care. But I never felt like Alba gave me much grief. Once, when I had Alba out and was giving a talk to a school group, I watched as the group of kids suddenly became wide eyed and aghast. I turned my attention to Alba, who was gagging so deeply that it looked like he might split open. Then, we all watched as he regurgitated a huge gooey pellet of fur and bones. And I, and the group of kids, felt this transformation of emotions, from worry and a bit of horror, to amazement and a bit of repulsion.

There's nothing quite like nurturing a raptor back to health, then eventually releasing it from your arms, and watching it fly free again!



Naturalist Lori Rios shows off Velocity, a Peregrine Falcon, in 2009

Toward the end of my internship, we took on Dudley, another resident barn owl who moved in with Alba. Dudley had been trained to work with people before coming to Glen Helen, and her behavior was totally different from Alba. When I went into their enclosure, she would fly over and perch on top of my feet. I quickly learned to wear boots when I went in to feed them.

Cindy Morford: 1994-96

A Red-Tailed Hawk came in with a broken wing. It healed ok, but had a little droop. Nothing that a little exercise couldn't fix. Well, this was the laziest bird I had ever seen. A few times a day we would go in and try to get him to fly perch to perch. We would have to nudge him off the perch with a broom until he got savvy and would face the broom! Rakes, nets, anything to get him to move.

If I remember correctly, his cage-mate was ready to get live mice in preparation for release. When I entered the holding with the little bucket of mice, this bird flew at me trying to get the mice! He was on them immediately! He even landed on the bucket one time. At the time, we had screech owls next door separated by sheets and towels. This bird found a tiny opening in the sheet and had grabbed one of the owls. I had heard the owl scream so I knew what happened. At that time Bet and I decided his killer instinct was so strong he'd be fine with a droopy wing. We released Killer at the Raptor Center and when I visited almost 20 years later, Bet said he could still be seen in the Glen!

Jessica Ruiz: 2009

My internship at the Glen Helen Raptor Center laid a solid foundation for not just my career, but also my philosophy in how to effectively share my passion



Naturalist Eve Smallwood shows off Orville, an American Kestrel, in 2009

for conserving nature. My experiences at the Glen sparked some of my fondest memories! There's nothing quite like nurturing a raptor back to health, then eventually releasing it from your arms, and watching it fly free again! As the Raptor Center Assistant, I learned a great deal about raptor rehab and care, and I felt so honored when Bet asked me to attend the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association conference with her! Since working at the Glen, I have worked with several other raptor centers, and now I am the Aviary Education Specialist at the Grey Snow Eagle House in Oklahoma. As for the birds of the Raptor Center, Orville will always hold a special place in my heart. I'll never forget the way he would greet me enthusiastically every morning, when I opened his crate, or tell me when it was his bedtime, at the end of the day!

Nicole Kabey: 2017-19

Some of my favorite memories from my time at the Glen Helen Raptor Center were when I was teaching educational programs. Seeing the sparks light up in the eyes of a child as they saw an owl for the first time is something that I will hold with me forever. Education is the key to conservation. We can't expect people to want to save things that



Naturalist Jessica Ruiz holds Orville, one of our American Kestrels. Jessica continued her work in raptors, and is now an aviary education specialist at the Grey Snow Eagle House, a facility run by the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma.

they don't know anything about. Good things happen when people feel a connection to the world around them and I am so glad I was able to provide that spark for so many people throughout my time at the Raptor Center. It was an honor and a joy to be a part of an organization that not only helps injured wildlife but also helps to educate the public about the importance of protecting our wild feathered friends and the habitat that supports them. 🌿

50 Years

A timeline of changes and growth at the Raptor Center

1970



Steve Kress starts the Glen Helen Hawk and Owl Clinic. The first educational bird is Big Red, a partially blind Red-Tailed Hawk.

1972

DDT, the potent pesticide implicated in the catastrophic declines in raptor populations, is banned in the United States.

1973

Federal Endangered Species Act passed.

Steve Kress leaves Glen Helen and starts Project Puffin in Maine. The Assistant Directors of the Outdoor Education Center are charged with managing the Hawk and Owl Clinic. Steve Kress is followed by Dick Paterson, then MJ Dodson, Roger Beatty, and Melinda Forist.

1980

Solo, a young Bald Eagle with a damaged wing, arrives at Glen Helen. A celebrated resident, he lives to the age of 39.



1996

Ohio Osprey recovery project begins; first hatchling Osprey released.

1992

Peregrine falcon nest monitoring begins in Dayton, part of Midwest Peregrine Recovery Plan.

1991

Betty Ross and professional peers establish the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association.

1987



Betty Ross becomes Supervisor, then Director, of the Raptor Center, a post she holds for nearly 30 years.



1997

Our first hatch-year Bald Eagle released; first hatch-year Peregrine Falcon released.

1999

Peregrine Falcons removed from the federal list of endangered species.

2002

West Nile Virus causes an unprecedented raptor die-off in the Midwest. 240 birds – the highest total to date – are admitted into our rehabilitation program.

2002

Our first adult Osprey released.

2004

Our new rehabilitation flight enclosure is completed. The first of its design in Ohio, with an L-shape that allows eagles, vultures and other large birds 150 feet of linear flight.

2006



Our first adult Bald Eagle released.

2007

Bald Eagles removed from the federal list of endangered species.

2015

Construction concludes on new enclosures for our permanent resident educational ambassadors.



2010



The first annual Whoop Cooks for You is held. The fundraising dinner, named for the call of the Barred Owl, features a multi-course meal from the Dayton-Springfield area's top restaurants.

2008

First recorded nesting pair of bald eagles in Dayton.



2015

Betty Ross retires and Rebecca Jaramillo, who had spent seven years as an administrator at the Outdoor Education Center, takes over as director.

2020



A new rehabilitation complex is completed. Featuring nine enclosures and movable walls, the complex immediately starts to fill with hatch-year birds. 🌿

From the Archives



Recognize this building in this old, discolored image? It was built in the late 1950s to serve as housing for the director of the Outdoor Education Center. It also included smaller rooms on the ground floor for interns.

In the foreground, cedars and other young trees are visible, signaling that the land is reverting to forest after years of intensive use as farmland. This image, while undated, probably was taken in the early 1960s, in the days before honeysuckle invaded Ohio.

In 1970 the building became home to the Glen Helen Hawk and Owl Clinic, now the Raptor Center. In the spot where the photographer was standing now sits the enclosure for our resident Barn Owls. 🌿

Announcements

Visiting the Glen Amid COVID

In what is hopefully the winding days of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are delighted to be able to welcome visitors back to Glen Helen. Trails are open daily, dawn to dusk. Also, the Raptor Center is open and welcoming visitors between 9am and 5pm during the winter months, and 9am to 6pm during spring.

In accordance with COVID safety guidelines, we have made a number of modifications to our operations to keep visitors, volunteers, and staff safe. While the trails are open, our buildings remain closed to the public. We ask that everyone plans accordingly. Bathrooms can be found at the Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce train station building. We also ask that all visitors have a mask with them, and that they wear it any time that they come within proximity of another party..

Sponsor a Raptor



We are not financially supported by state or federal funds, so your contributions allow us to continue our work. When you sponsor one of our resident raptors, you not only help us provide ongoing care for our educational ambassadors, but you also help provide specialized care needed

by sick, injured or orphaned birds undergoing care in our rehabilitation facility. Sponsorship levels start at just \$50 per year. Your sponsorship of \$1,000 or more will last for the lifetime of the bird.

Visit www.glenhelen.org/sponsor-a-raptor for full details, include a complete list of all of our resident raptors.

Ecocamps Returning This Summer

After a year-long closure, registration is up and running for summer Ecocamps. We have made a host of COVID-related updates and modifications at our Outdoor Education Center, designed to ensure that we can

safely operate. Give your child a truly one-of-a-kind summer camp experience where they have the time of their lives, while learning about the natural world. Investigation and exploration are in focus as campers hike the trails of Glen Helen and discover the wildness and joy of nature. A variety of day camps are offered by our qualified Naturalist staff.

To learn more, or to register your child, visit glenhelen.org.

Patio Sale Days Coming This Spring

The Glen Helen Nature Shop is a great place to stock up on gifts and other merchandise, including shirts, hats, water bottles, bird feeding supplies, children's items, books, and cards. Even better, all sales directly help support our work. Since our build-



Scott Stolsenberg



ings will be closed to the public for the foreseeable future, we're hosting an outdoor patio sale on Saturdays starting April 24. Stop by between 11 am and 4 pm for a selection of great Nature Shop items.

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.

Go Green with Glen Helen

We want to stay in touch with you. We also want to save trees, and save costs that can support our mission. Will you help us decrease our paper usage? By opting in for digital mail, you'll receive an average of four email messages monthly, including In the Glen magazine, our quarterly calendars, and current news, events, and invitations. To receive these mailings in a digital format, simply send an email to tclevenger@glenhelen.org. Put "Go Green" in the subject field, and put your name in the message body.



Support the Glen When You 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 the Glen.

Join Our Family of Volunteers

We depend on volunteers to carry out the programs, events, and initiatives that help preserve Glen Helen. From fundraisers, to mailings, to trail maintenance, volunteers at the Glen not only participate in our important efforts, they have fun while they do it! Whether you are a short-term volunteer with a service requirement, or seek a longer-term position, we may have an opportunity for you. 🌱

To learn more, and to join our family of volunteers, visit glenhelen.org/volunteer



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



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"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous."

– Aristotle



Members provide direct support to Glen Helen's land, trails, and programs. You hike it. You love it. Support it. www.glenhelen.org/membership